

Grand Juries Presentments

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Introduction

Grand Juries were local government bodies dating from the seventeenth century. They were comprised of prominent local landowners, who were appointed by sheriff. They were initially concerned with the administration of Justice. However, their functions gradually expanded to include the provision of roads and bridges, and the maintenance of dispensaries, county infirmaries, lunatic asylums, courthouse and gaols.

A tax was levied on the county or barony for the cost of roads and bridgework and collectors appointed for the collection of these local taxes, known as the county cess. The grand juries met twice yearly at the Spring and Summer assizes for the purpose of passing presentments. These presentments constituted printed list of proposed and approved works to be undertaken and were financed by cess papers.

The powers of the grand juries were significantly diminished with the introduction of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898.

This collection consists of printed accounts of Limerick grand jury 1811-1821 and printed presentment lists for Limerick for 1821. Limerick County Library, Local Studies holds a more complete set of presentment lists for Limerick, dating from 1809-1900.

Source: Local Authorities Archivist Group *Local Authority Archives in Ireland* (2003).

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|---|--------------|--|-------|
| 1 | 6 March 1821 | Printed document
consisting of Returns to
Orders of the Honourable
House of Commons, dated 8 February 1821, showing returns of all sums presented in
last ten years, and appointment of Edmond Moroney 1811. | 8 pp. |
| 2 | 7 May 1822 | Printed document
titled 'Account of
presentments made by the
Grand Juries of the county of the city of Limerick, in the year 1821. Document shows
presentments ordered at Spring Assizes (16 March 1821), and Summer Assizes (14
September 1821). | 6 pp. |