**County Wexford Grand Jury collection finding aid**

IE WXCA/GJ/1 – WXCA/GJ/6/

Wexford County Archive

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**IDENTITY STATEMENT**

IE WXCA/GJ/

**Title:** County Wexford Grand Jury collection

**Level of description:** Item

**Date:** 1832-1900 (with gaps)

**Extent:** 39 volumes, 2 items

**CONTEXT**

Creator

County Wexford Grand Jury

**Biographical / Administrative History**

The grand jury of County Wexford was the principal body responsible for administration of the county unit since the time of Charles I. It comprised twenty-three members from the leading property owners in County Wexford who were selected by the sheriff of the county. Grand jury meetings were associated with the sittings of the assize courts which took place each spring and summer. The justices met at the opening of the assize, were sworn, carried out their judicial and administrative duties and were dissolved when discharged by the judge at the end of the sessions. There was no continuity of membership unless the sheriff decided to summon the same persons for succeeding assizes.

In terms of local government, the main function of the grand jury was to consider and recommend to the assize judge the presentments recommended by the county-at-large and the baronial presentment sessions which preceded the assize. Membership of the sessions comprised a combination of justices of the peace, cess payers listed by the grand jury of the previous session and nominees of the sheriff, so the process was not a democratic one.

Presentments mainly involved proposals for work (for roads, bridges, walls &c.) to be financed by levy on the baronies or the county-at-large. The work was authorized when the presentment was approved by the grand jury and the judge of assize, and the cost was then levied on the property owners by means of a charge, known as the county cess. Although there was no continuity of membership of the grand jury, some employees did hold permanent positions including the county surveyor, secretary and treasurer, all of whom had specific statutory duties.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the grand jury system remained the preserve of the landlord class and was often criticized for its partisanship, corruption and abuse

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of power. The Grand Jury Act 1836 brought about reforms to the system and gave cess payers a limited role in deciding how local taxes should be spent. Until they were relieved of their administrative functions under the Local Government Act, 1898, the grand juries were responsible for the making and repair of roads and bridges, the construction, maintenance and levying of rates for court houses, lunatic asylums, county infirmaries and industrial schools, and responsibilities for coroners and certain constabulary charges.

**CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

Scope and Content

All volumes in this Grand Jury collection are printed with instances of handwritten notes and amendments in some volumes. The Schedules of Applications for Presentments cover the period 1847 to 1900. These presentments detail the names of applicants presented to the jury, a brief description of the work to be undertaken in the contract (whether a new contract or a renewal of one) or of the claim lodged, the amount of the contract or award, and the jury’s decision to approve or disallow same.

Special presenting road sessions for each barony and for the county-at-large were presided over by magistrates, chairman and cesspayers. The applications vary from road contracts (construction, repair, maintenance) to bridge construction, pier construction and maintenance, construction of public buildings including the county gaol, county infirmary, lunatic district asylum. Some of the new works proposed include road widening, paving of footpaths and flagging, erection of protecting walls and fences, new gullets and pipes, and enlargement of cisterns. There are also entries for the repair of sudden breaches where sums are presented for emergency repairs to roads and bridges.

Financial accounts are included in each volume usually for half-year intervals – abstracts of accounts are detailed for the county infirmary, county gaol, bridewells and the new district lunatic asylum including for provisions and contingencies, officers’ salaries, conveyance of prisoners, coroners’ expenses relative to holding inquests, bridewell expenses, and money from government for support of convicts.

Other financial material includes the registration of parliamentary voters, the rent of court and sessions houses and necessary provisions such as coals, provisions and sundry repairs.

The salaries are detailed for the main officers of the county, including the treasurer, clerk of the Crown, clerk of the peace, secretary to the Grand Jury, sub-sheriff, surgeon and matron in the county infirmary, local inspector of the county gaol, chaplains of the county gaol, apothecary to the county gaol, county surveyor and his assistant, Bridewell keeper, court house keeper, judge’s crier, assistant barrister’s crier, inspector of weights and measures.

Malicious injury applications for compensation are recorded for each baronial presentments session and range from the loss of livestock and crops to farming implements and destruction of property.

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There are frequent entries in the baronial presentments to deserted children, with the cost of their maintenance to be raised off the parish and paid to a named individual for their care and upkeep. The names of the children and their guardians are given.

Reports on industrial schools are detailed in the grand jury orders with entries ranging from statistical information on the number of admissions and discharges to named children and juveniles where parents are in a position to contribute towards their maintenance. The grand jury was authorized by Act of Parliament to appoint and empower a committee to enter into an agreement with the managers of any reformatory school for the reception of juvenile offenders. Many of these schools are listed including those for Roman Catholics – St Michael’s schools for girls in Wexford; St Aidan’s schools for girls in New Ross; Artane school for boys in Artane, county Dublin, and for Protestants – Heytesbury school for girls, Dublin; Meath school for boys, Blackrock. The names of children sent to industrial schools were laid before the grand jury at each assizes. The grand jury orders include the return of building debts of each industrial school and its reduction by means of the monies presented and granted by the grand jury.

The research potential in this collection is considerable not only in terms of the history of the grand jury system and the developments in infrastructure and services across the county but also in terms of those researching their family history. Individual names are given in the contracts (these include the names of a number of women) and in the claims for malicious injuries, in addition to salary payments to staff in the county infirmary, county gaol &c. and the many names of those from whom court and session houses were rented and suppliers of gas, coals and provisions to those houses. Names are also recorded for deserted children and those who were sent to industrial schools. A number of members of the Royal Irish Constabulary are named in one of the Treasurer’s Query Books where they are appointed as Inspectors of Weights and Measures, with the location given of their station and the petty sessions district (GJ/5/2, p38). The county-at-large presentments in each volume list the name and address of the cesspayers appointed in each of the baronies to be associated with the Justices at their respective baronial sessions.

In addition to the county-at-large, there were ten baronies in total across County Wexford – Bantry, Bargy, Ballaghkeene North and Ballaghkeene South, Forth, Gorey, Scarawalsh, Shelburne, Shilmalier East and Shilmalier West.

The volumes are printed by Thomas Roche, printer to the Grand Jury.

**System of Arrangement**

Volumes are bound chronologically. There are considerable gaps in the collection, and the missing volumes have not been given a reference code in this finding aid as it is highly unlikely that they will materialize in the near future.

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**ALLIED MATERIALS**

The following documents relate to the County Wexford grand jury system but are itemised separately as they relate to private deposits within Wexford County Archive’s holdings:

Minute books and accounts of Wexford County Infirmary, 2 May 1769 – 21 December 1923. 4 items (WXCA/P 327)

‘A new map of the County of Wexford from actual survey’ by Valentine Gill, August 1811 (WXCA/P 456)

Printed Charge of the Hon. Justice Fletcher to the Grand Jury of the County of Wexford at the Summer Assizes, 1814. 35pp. Printed by HU. K. Gordon, Hamilton’s Court, 1814 (second edition)

Presentments (handwritten) granted unto the county-at-large, County Wexford from Summer Assizes, 1817 to Spring Assizes 1823, 227pp (WXCA/P 436)

Applotment by George A. Craig, JP of the grand jury cess on townlands in the parishes of Kilscanlan and Ballyanne in the barony of Bantry at the Spring Assizes for 1852 and 1853. 2 items (WXCA/P 227)

Plans (sections and elevations in watercolour) for the improvement and enlargement of the County Court House, Wexford, 1862-3. Prepared by James B. Farrell, County Surveyor. 6 items (WXCA/P 387)

**Rules / Conventions Used**

This finding aid has been produced in accordance with ISAD(G)

**Conditions of Access and Use**

The collection is available to all bona fide researchers by appointment only

**Archivist’s Note**

This finding aid has been prepared by Gráinne Doran, Archivist, June 2014 and updated in March 2021

iv**List of Contents**

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/1

**Title:** Printed report of the trial of William Kilfoyle for murder at Newtownbarry before The Hon. Baron Foster at the Spring Assizes of Wexford, 1832

**Date:** March1832

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 83pp

**Scope and Content:** William Kilfoyle, a sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary, is charged with the murder of Mary Mulrooney at Newtownbarry (present day Bunclody) on market day in the town on 18 June 1831. Several people were killed during clashes between locals and the RIC and yeomanry when three cattle, seized for tithe composition rent due to Rev Mr. McClintock, were placed on sale.

The charge of murder was subsequently altered to that of manslaughter with the defendant acquitted on 5 March 1832.

Taken in shorthand by James Mongan, Esq. barrister-at-law. Printed by Richard Milliken and Son, 104 Grafton Street, Dublin, 1832

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/1

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1847 – 1850

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 863pp

**Scope and Content:** the presentment applications mainly refer to contracts entered into for the building and repair of roads, bridges, walls &c. with precise geographical locations given, e.g. at the 1847 Spring Assizes held in the barony of Ballaghkeen, the sum of £13 is approved for payment to Thomas Monaghan to repair 65 perches from Enniscorthy to the fishery of Ballyconigar, ‘between the crossroads of Mondaniel and Mr. Sinnott’s thorn hedge in Kilbride’. A number of payments approved for malicious damages are also detailed, including the payment of £7 compensation approved to Robert and Mary Lambert for the malicious burning of their property at Kyle, said amount to be raised off the townlands of Kyle and Ballydicken.

The assizes of the county-at-large include the payment of half-yearly salaries to various personnel of the county gaol and the county infirmary in addition to the county surveyor and his assistants, the inspector of weights and measures and the bridewell keepers. The rent of ground occupied by these public buildings is also included. The names of deserted children are included with monies raised off the parish for their maintenance including the payment of £2 to be raised off the parish of Clough in the barony of Gorey and paid to Catherine Byrne for the maintenance of a deserted child exposed in the parish, and named James Burke.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/2

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1858

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 671pp

**Scope and Content:** in the Spring assizes for the county-at-large, a report was submitted from a committee appointed by the grand jury to enquire into the proposed Free Bridge over the river Slaney at Wexford town. With efforts having failed to substitute an iron bridge for the present wooden one, the committee recommends that the original proposition to build ‘a substantial and sufficient Timber Bridge’ should now be carried into effect as quickly as possible, and that the county surveyor be directed to prepare a plan and specification for same.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/3

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1859

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 640pp

**Scope and Content:**  at the summer assizes for the county-at-large contracts, a decision to appoint a committee to prepare a division of the barony of Bantry into two with the assistance of the county surveyor in bringing this before the grand jury at the following spring assizes. Ordered at the summer assizes that a memorial is to be prepared to the Lord Lieutenant requesting him to separate the County of Wexford district and constitute the county a lunatic district in itself ‘with an Asylum to be built within the County for the care and cure of poor Lunatics’.

Includes proposal that the grand jury’s sanction be given to the Trustees of the Wexford Free Bridge in the preparation of a bill for the construction of new approaches to the structure.

At a special presenting roads sessions held at Taghmon, the magistrates and cesspayers highlighted the inconvenience ‘arising from the insufficient accommodation afforded by the current sessions house’, and request the grand jury to direct the presentment sessions for the barony ‘at the new house lately prepared for that purpose by Mr. James Howlin’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/4

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1864

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 579pp

**Scope and Content:**  approval of payment of £49.19.4 poundage to Mr. Thomas Sharpe, High Constable and Collector of the Public Cess for the barony of Bargy, on the sum of £1199.3.5 lodged by him in the bank to the credit of the barony pursuant to the Treasurer’s warrant issued after the 1863 summer assizes. Approval is given for Sharpe to continue in the post, with John Rowe of Ballycross and Richard Jeffares of Bridgetown appointed as his sureties.

It should be noted that a number of presentments at the summer assizes onfor the barony of Bantry have been cut out of the volume, notably on pages 51-52; 55-56; 57-58 and 59-60.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/5

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1865

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 547pp

**Scope and Content:** includes payment of £2.10.0 to John Brien for half a year’s salary as caretaker of Kilmore Pier and of £8 to Patrick Foley of Kilanure as compensation for the malicious killing of two ewes and one ram on 7 May 1864. The payment of salaries include the sum of £15 to Mrs. Mary Needham for a half-year’s salary superannuation allowance as matron of the County Gaol and of £115 to William C. Harvey, Treasurer of the county for a half-year’s salary due to him at these assizes. One of the presentments for new works approved during the summer assizes in the barony of Scarawalsh included the sum of £11.10.0 paid to Thomas Abraham to build the abutments, arch and parapet wall of a bridge on the road from Newtownbarry to Enniscorthy in the townland of Upper Ryland.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/6

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1866

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 573pp

**Scope and Content:**  includes schedule of expenditure of Wexford Gaol for half year, 1 October 1865 – 31 March 1866 including such discharges as meat for lunatics, cost of fuel; soap, candles and gas; hospital expenditure; male and female prisoners’ clothing; furniture, bedding and straw; gaol repairs; male and female officers’ clothing; officers’ salaries; prison expenses; printing, postage, stationery and advertisements. Also expenditure on conveyance of prisoners, bridewell expenses, bridewell keepers’ salaries; matron’s salary in bridewells and the maintenance of juveniles in reformatory, all amounting to £2,953.8.11.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/7

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1867

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 560pp

**Scope and Content:** under miscellaneous payments at the county-at-large summer assizes, the sum of £100 is approved for payment to the county surveyor for hanging the ordnance maps in the grand jury room and for altering the water closets.

Arising from the ‘great public inconvenience’ of having no bridge at New Ross, the former wooden structure having been ‘carried away by ice’ on 18 January last, a memorial is sent by the Grand Jury of County Wexford to James Marquis of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant and Governor of Ireland for the bridge to be rebuilt and to be toll free ‘for the benefit of the public and in future maintained as a public bridge by said counties of Wexford and Kilkenny’. The proprietors of the present bridge and ferry have indicated their willingness to sell their interest ‘to any parties in a position to buy’ for the purpose of a free bridge ‘provided they obtain a fair and adequate sum for their interests in said bridge and ferry’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/8

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1870

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 518pp

**Scope and Content:** at the spring assizes for the county-at-large, approval is given for payment of £50,008.0.6 sterling to the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland in repayment of the amount advanced by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury for the erection and establishment of an asylum at Enniscorthy for the lunatic poor of the district, said sum to be levied off the county by 28 successive half-yearly instalments, each instalment amounting to £1,786.0.6.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/9

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1871

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 512pp

**Scope and Content:** in the contracts entered into at the Spring Assizes 1870 for the barony of Ballaghkeen North, the sum of £7.18.0 is approved for payment to Walter Lawless for a half year’s contract for keeping in repair for 2½ years 316 perches between the basin of Courtown harbor and the limeworks, and from the street of Courtown harbour to Riverchapel, at 1s. per perch. An application by James Molloy of Dunganstown for the malicious burning of three carts, two cars, 30 barrels of potatoes, a number of fowl and three horses was disallowed as it was not believed that the damage was malicious.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/10

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1872

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 523pp

**Scope and Content:** includes the appointment of a committee at the Spring Assizes for the county-at-large to enquire into the advisability of adopting the provisions of the Industrial School Act in the county and a recommendation to the grand jury that the attention of the magistrates of the county ‘be drawn to the necessity of making strict inquiry into each case through the constabulary’. They outline a number of schools with which they recommend a contract to be made and advise that each child will cost the county 2s. 6d. per week, ‘to which the Treasury will add 5s’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/11

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1875

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 503pp

**Scope and Content:** volume is inscribed on the inside of the title page with Henry E. Wynne’s signature as secretary to the grand jury. Includes account of income and expenditure for the county gaol for the half-year ending 31 March 1875 of £1,584.12.7 and a return showing the amount of works undertaken in the gaol during 1874 – the total amount saved by virtue of the prisoners’ labour is £67.2.3 with profits on works sold out of the prison totalling £31.5.5½.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/12

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1878

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 517pp

**Scope and Content:** the grand jury orders include one in Spring 1872 that when a specified quantity of stone is to be used for any road, ‘it must be prepared during the Summer months, so as to have it ready broken for measurement, according to specification, within the first fortnight in September; and that the County Surveyor be directed to refuse any extension of time except in cases where peculiar circumstances are sufficient to justify such extension’ (p128).

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/13

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1881

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 501pp

**Scope and Content:** in the county orders, a new infirmary has been recommended by the Inspector and Medical Officer at St. Michael’s Industrial School at a cost of close to £1,000. The manager of the school requests that this sum be added to the debt and liquidated gradually by presentments, with the grand jury ordering that they pay only the principal of the building debt, ‘and nothing towards interest of same’. Includes details of a new industrial school called The Kilmore Probationary Industrial School which will receive children under 12 years of age who have been convicted of offences punishable as misdemeanours and will pay 2s. 6d. per week per child.

Includes an order that the grand jury ‘urgently press’ on Her Majesty’s Treasury ‘the importance of giving further aid by way of loan for the extension of Rosslare Harbour, which if extended, would prove ‘a boon to the passing trade, and a great public gain to this improving part of Ireland’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/14

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1882

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 505pp

**Scope and Content:** the grand jury orders include a report of the industrial schools committee which finds that in the majority of cases of children committed to industrial schools, their parents or guardians were in a position to support them. They recommend that the secretary be directed to report to the Inspector of Industrial Schools the names of those children whose parents are in a position to contribute towards their maintenance and to compel such parents to do so. The orders also detail those children returned for committals to the various industrial schools including Bridget and Eliza O’Brien who were sent to St. Aidan’s Industrial School from New Ross petty sessions ‘having been found begging on the public street’ and of John and William Dempsey who were sent to Artane Industrial School from Wexford ‘having been proved destitute and orphans’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/15

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1886

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 540pp

**Scope and Content:** the grand jury orders include an order that the solicitor to the grand jury be authorized to continue with prosecutions in the cases of ‘infractions of the bye-laws prohibiting traction engines from crossing New Ross bridge’.

In the summer assizes for the barony of Scarawalsh, approval is given for Thomas Merna to be paid £84.18.11 for a half-year’s contract for road repairs on a number of streets in Enniscorthy town including Main Street, Church Street, Slaney Street and Slaney Place, Back Street, Pie Lane, Fagan’s Lane, Lett’s Lane, Hospital Lane and Lymington road.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/16

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1887

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 531pp

**Scope and Content:** presentments at the summer assizes for the county-at-large with regard to the rent of court and session houses includes the sum of £5 paid to Francis Rutledge, Esq. for a half-year’s rent of the house occupied in holding the road and petty sessions at Oulart, and £3.13.3 to Mrs. Mary O’Connor for sundry repairs on the county courthouse. The payment of salaries are detailed to various officers including £10 to Sir Charles Cameron for a half-year’s salary as county analyst and the sum of £300 to James Barry Farrell, county surveyor for a half-year’s salary due to him at the assizes, and £25 for a half-year’s rent for office and salary for Farrell’s clerk.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/17

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1888

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 531pp

**Scope and Content:** one of the grand jury orders at the 1887 summer assizes detailed the prohibition of locomotives propelled by steam ‘or other than animal power’ be driven over the bridge on the new road between Oulart and Enniscorthy, over the stream dividing the baronies of Ballaghkeen North and Ballaghkeen South. An application made by William Sinnott at the summer assizes for the barony of Ballaghkeen South for compensation in the amount of £100 for the malicious burning of a dwelling house was paid £20 compensation for same, which sum was to be levied off the townland of Garrynisk.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/18

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1890

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 532pp

**Scope and Content:**  includes specification for keeping roads in repair by contract as drawn up by James B. Farrell, county surveyor. In addition to the depths of crust for first, second and third class roads, the specification advises that immediately after the contract has been completed, ‘the Contractor must proceed to render the drainage complete, so that no water lodge on or near the road, at any time, by scouring the drains, pipes, water tables, and outlets &c.’ (pp117-119).

Includes payment of £8.5.1 to Mrs. Mary O’Connor for sundry repairs on the county courthouse and of £0.2.6 to Thomas H. Richards for repairing and winding the grand jury room clock for six months.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/19

**Title:** Printed Abstract of Presentments for County Wexford for Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1891

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 147pp

**Scope and Content:** having approved payment of the sum of £2 for a sudden breach on New Ross bridge, ‘the Wexford Grand Jury are of opinion that the Kilkenny Grand Jury should refund half of the said sum’.

It is also ordered that the attention of Sir Charles Cameron be called to the fact that on a recent occasion when some milk samples were sent up from Gorey Union, ‘his report was received too late to take any action’ and the grand jury request him to ‘send his report more speedily in future’.

The presentments at the summer assizes for the barony of Shelburne include the sum of £15.10.10 to be raised off the barony and paid to the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland for the Commissioners of Public Works, being the thirteenth of twenty instalments for the cost of repairing, raising and extending the embankment at Fisherstown. Also the sum of £16.3.9 to the aforesaid Governor and Company being the fourteenth of twenty instalments in repayment of advances for repairing the pier at Slade.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/20

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1892

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 554pp

**Scope and Content:** at the county-at-large summer assizes, the sum of £321.13.0 is approved for payment to the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland for Receiver-General of RIC Constabulary for extra police, ending 31 March 1892. The sum of £20 is approved for the Mayor and Corporation of Wexford for the maintenance of roads within the borough ‘on which Royal Mails are and shall from time to time be carried’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/21

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1893

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 569pp

**Scope and Content:** at the county-at-large summer assizes, the sum of £200 is approved for payment to the secretary of the grand jury for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred in the conveyance of prisoners, in carrying out the provisions of the Reformatory Schools Act, expenses incurred by coroners in relation to inquests and weights and measures expenses.

Includes report of the county surveyor on 21 July 1893 in which he cites the prosecution of eleven road contractors and their sureties at the Easter quarter sessions. He reports that in general, contractors throughout the county are ‘much better prepared with their supplies of broken stone for the coming winter than they were this time last year’. At the assizes, the county surveyor was instructed to survey and examine pier and harbour at Duncannon as to the most practical way of having it re-opened for traffic, ‘such examination to be made in conjunction with the Engineer of the Waterford Harbour Board’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/22

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1895

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 551pp

**Scope and Content:**  includes copy letter from Courtenay Croker, auditor, Local Government Board at the summer assizes regarding his audit of the grand jury accounts for County Wexford following the Spring assizes 1895. He notes that a payment of £16.15.0 to Patrick Whelan by order of the grand jury ‘is quite irregular as no presentment was made’ and that if such a transaction recurred, he would be ‘compelled to disallow it’ (p153).

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/23

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1897

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 566pp

**Scope and Content:** at the spring assizes for the barony of Forth, the sum of £27.8.10 is to be raised off the barony and paid to the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland for the Commissioners of Public Works which represents the twenty-third of twenty-four half-yearly instalments of the sum of £470 advanced by warranty of loan for the construction of Carnsore Pier – with details of the townlands and parishes in the barony which said sum is to be levied off.

At the summer assizes for the barony of Bantry, the sum of £54.9.2 is presented to be raised and paid to the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland for the Commissioners of Public Works, which represents the fifth of 44 instalments for principal and interest for the purchase of Mountgarrett bridge.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/24

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications and Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford for Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1898

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 585pp

**Scope and Content:** the presentments at the county-at-large summer assizes include the analyst’s report for the sergeants of the Royal Irish Constabulary in respect of a number of articles of food, alcohol, milk and water. Four specimens of milk were analysed for Sergeant T. Rourke, New Ross and were all of poor quality. Two specimens of water were analysed for the guardians of New Ross Union – one was ‘a bad water’ while the other ‘was very inferior’. A specimen of butter analysed for the medical superintendent of the District Asylum in Enniscorthy ‘was very mild and of good flavour’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/25

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Applications for Presentments for County Wexford for Spring Assizes

**Date:** 1899

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 124pp

**Scope and Content:** a recommendation from the magistrates and cesspayers at the county-at-large sessions that the charges for maintenance of New Ross bridge be levied equally on counties Wexford and Kilkenny was passed unanimously. Includes payment of £30 to Catherine Hore for compensation for the malicious destruction by fire of 40 tons of hay which is to be levied off the county at large. The specification for keeping roads in repair by contract is detailed by H. Webster, C.E. County Surveyor (pp120-2).

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/2/26

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Presentments for County Wexford apportioned to Rural Districts

**Date:** January – September 1900

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 362pp

**Scope and Content:** includes changes to some electoral divisions within union under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The volume details schedules of road contracts in the various baronies within the four rural districts of Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross (No. 1) and in the county-at-large – with list of deferred payments for special works detailing the name of each contractor, the number of perches and the amount paid for such work. One of the special works listed for Gorey Rural District (RD) includes the payment of £49.15.0 to Denis Murphy of Gorey Bridge for flagging and kerbing 200 square yards of pathway in Grattan Terrace and St. Michael’s Place ‘including a paved channel course of 18 inches in width’ in Gorey township. The volume includes the statutable and general resolutions adopted by Wexford County Council at their meetings and cover the period from 13 November 1899 to 6 February 1909. In the county council meeting of on 13 November 1900, it was proposed by Mr. Peacocke and seconded by Mr. Cummins ‘That this Council strongly support the Wexford District Council in their resolution to reduce the rents of the labourers’ cottages in the Wexford Union to 9d. per week, and we request the Local Government Board to give their sanction to that resolution’. At a later county meeting on 11 December 1900, on the motion of the chairman, Sir Thomas Esmonde, it was decided that Surgeon-Major Stafford ‘be asked to retain the books which he had offered to present, as the nucleus of a public library for Wexford, for the present’.

The volume details the payment of monies to the managers of industrial schools, of county officers’ salaries and superannuation, of rents, water rates and collectors’ poundage in respect of warrants. Includes printed report from Henry Webster, county surveyor to Wexford County Council detailing roads within each rural and urban district in the county that should be classed as main roads (19 April 1899).

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/3/1

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Presentments for County Wexford made and fiated at the Spring Assizes

**Date:** 1890

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 120pp

**Scope and Content:** handwritten entries made throughout the volume with some contracts &c. crossed out, while the sureties are handwritten in some entries. Includes handwritten order that the work approved at road sessions and advertised for tender in relation to the keeping in repair of 401 perches of the road between Ely’s walks and the borough boundary at Creywell, including Charles street and Bridge street ‘shall be given in charge to the County Surveyor to execute the same for half a year for £30.0.9 being the amount approved of for the execution of such work at Roads Sessions’.

Includes order that after the spring assizes 1891, ‘no payment out of the County Cess will be made for the support of children in the industrial school of St Michael’s Wexford or in the Industrial School of St Aidan’s New Ross, and that the several resolutions & orders of the Grand Jury of this County with respect to the payment for the support of such children out of the County Cess be hereby rescinded and that a copy of this resolution and order be duly sent to the Managers of the said Industrial Schools as notice to them of the termination of any agreement previously existing or supposed to exist between the Grand Jury of the County of Wexford and the managers of such Industrial Schools’.

Includes an order ‘that the Grand Jury believe that any system of transmission of dead meat to England by means of artificial refrigeration would be of great value to the livestock industry of Ireland, inasmuch as it would avoid the loss that cattle are subject to from the exposure inseparable from cross channel shipment, & would be calculated to develop new industries connected with the disposal of offal which are at present little known in this County’.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/3/2

**Title:** Printed Schedule of Presentments for County Wexford made and fiated at Spring Assizes

**Date:** 1896

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent:** 1 volume, 122pp

**Scope and Content:**  numerous handwritten entries in red ink of additional orders, amendments made to orders, and newspaper cuttings relating to the county surveyor’s reports and the list of ratepayers appointed with the justices at the presenting sessions of each barony. Includes proposal by two of the grand jury members, Viscount Stopford and C. G Tottenham, that in future the grand jury secretary be allowed £120 annually ‘for making out the applotment books for the County Cess and providing copies of same’. Also proposed by three of the grand jury members that the secretary be instructed that all future contracts for the maintenance &c. of roads ‘be entered into for seven years instead of five years’.

One of the handwritten orders states that the securities of Matthew Murphy of Aske ‘be prosecuted for bad state of repair of road No. 56 Gorey’.

Reference is also made to the appointment of William Henry Samuel Pigott of Kyle as secretary to the grand jury.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/4/1-3

**Title:** Printed Abstracts of Presentments for County Wexford at Spring Assizes

**Date:** 1897 – 1899

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent:** 3 volumes

**Scope and Content:** these abstracts of presentments, while copies of GJ/2/23-25, are listed separately as they are each inscribed with Captain W[illiam] H[enry] Pigott’s name in his capacity as secretary to the Grand Jury, Court House, Wexford.

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/5/1-7

**Title:** Treasurer’s Query Books for County Wexford Spring and Summer Assizes

**Date:** 1888 – 1898

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent:** 7 volumes

**Scope and Content:** these volumes mirror the layout and content of the schedules for applications for presentments – the exception being that the payments are marked ‘Ord’ (Ordered), ‘Dis’ (Disallowed), ‘Rep in aid’ and ‘Hold Cheque’. They detail the payments for contracts of roads, bridges, walls &c. and refer to the baronial and county-at-large presentments at the previous assizes. Includes an order that the sergeants of the RIC now acting as Inspectors of Weights and Measures be appointed as Inspectors under the Drugs and Food Act, 1875 with the necessary expenses to be advanced by the RIC authorities and repaid by the secretary of the grand jury out of the funds for casual expenses. The name of each sergeant is provided along with their station and the petty sessions district.

GJ/5/1 Summer Assizes 1888 (Spring Assizes 1888) 192pp

GJ/5/2 Summer Assizes 1893 (Spring Assizes 1893) 163pp

GJ/5/3 Summer Assizes 1895 (Spring Assizes 1895) 154pp

GJ/5/4 Spring Assizes 1896 (Summer Assizes 1895) 154pp

GJ/5/5 Summer Assizes 1896 (Spring Assizes 1896) 158pp

GJ/5/6 Summer Assizes 1897 (Spring Assizes 1897) 164pp

GJ/5/7 Spring Assizes 1899 (Summer Assizes 1898) 163pp

**Reference Code:** IE WXCA/ GJ/6

**Title:** Memoranda from the office of the Secretary to the Grand Jury

**Date:** Undated

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent:** 2 items

**Scope and Content:** Memoranda sheets printed ‘From Office of the Secretary to the Grand Jury, Court House, Wexford’. Blank.