

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**CORPORATION OF LONDON RECORD OFFICE**

**Records, 1756-1834**

**Reels M580, M1363 – 1367**

**Corporation of London Record Office  
The Guildhall  
London EC2P 2EJ**

**National Library of Australia  
State Library of New South Wales**

**Filmed: 1964, 1981**

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Sessions House of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London stood on the street named Old Bailey, next to the medieval Newgate Gaol. The original courthouse was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666 and was rebuilt in 1674 and again in 1774. From 1674 to 1834 the Old Bailey was the criminal court for both the City of London and the County of Middlesex.

The Old Bailey sessions generally took place eight times a year. The court met at the same time as the sessions of the peace, which were held in the Guildhall. The sessions of the peace dealt with minor offences (misdemeanours), while the Old Bailey sessions dealt with felonies such as murder, burglary, larceny and forgery. The grand jury would assemble at the Guildhall and then move to the Old Bailey when the sessions began. The recorder and the clerical staff of the two courts were identical or very similar. The jurors usually served through the entire session.

Criminal jurisdiction was exercised by virtue of three commissions which were issued regularly: the commission of the peace, the commission of the gaol delivery at Newgate, and the commissions of oyer and terminer for London and Middlesex. The commission of gaol delivery required the justices to try all the prisoners held in Newgate Gaol. The commission of oyer and terminer authorised the justices to hear treason and felony cases. In 1834, following the establishment of the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey, the scope of the Gaol Delivery Sessions was widened. It dealt with capital and other serious offences arising in the City of London, Middlesex and parts of Essex, Kent and Surrey.

Before 1785 the sessions minute books covered both the sessions of the peace and the general sessions of gaol delivery. From 1785 to 1834 there was a separate series of minute books for sessions of gaol delivery and oyer and terminer.

In 2005 the Corporation of London Record Office merged with the London Metropolitan Archives, which is located at 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell. The gaol delivery and oyer and terminer minute books (1785-1834) are now held at CLA/047/LJ/05.

## CORPORATION OF LONDON RECORD OFFICE

### Reel M580

#### SESSIONS FILES

Index of prisoners indicted, vol. 2, January 1756 – December 1792

Arranged chronologically within each letter of the alphabet, the index gives the full name of the person, the date of the indictment, and the offence (eg grand larceny, forcible entry, assault, highway robbery) and in some cases the sentence (eg fined, transported, not guilty).

#### SESSIONS MINUTE BOOKS

Sessions minute book, December 1783 – January 1785

The book records hearings of both the Quarter Sessions of the Peace at the Guildhall and the General Sessions of Gaol Delivery at the Old Bailey. It gives the dates of the sessions and adjournments, the names of the justices, recorders and jurors, and lists the prisoners with summaries of their alleged offences and their sentences. Many of the prisoners were sentenced to transportation.

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 1, February 1785 - February 1789

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 2, April 1789 - June 1793

The books record hearings of the General Sessions of Gaol Delivery at the Old Bailey, together with General Sessions of Oyer and Terminer which were held at the same time. It gives the dates of the sessions and adjournments, the names of the justices and jurors, and lists the prisoners with summaries of their alleged offences and their sentences.

#### TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNTS

1. Transportation account, July 1829 – December 1840

Arranged by ship, the account records payments for drawing up contracts and bonds, attending the execution of contracts, attendance at the Home office, messengers and postage. The principal charge was for perusing and arranging documents transmitted by the Home Office relating to convicts sentenced to transportation and preparing lists of transported convicts.

### Reel M1363

## MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS 327.11

Keeper of Newgate transportation bills, 1791

Bills of Richard Akerman, Keeper of Newgate, relating to convicts sentenced to transportation at the London Sessions of Gaol Delivery and Oyer and Terminer and delivered to:

- (i) Several named hulks, 1785-89 (210 names)
- (ii) Duncan Campbell, overseer, for hard labour on the Thames, 1786-89 (138 names)
- (iii) James Bradley, overseer, 1789 (81 names)

Warrant to pay (i), (ii) and (iii), receipted 31 March 1791.

## SESSIONS FILES

Index to persons indicted, vol. 3, 1793-1820

Index to persons indicted, vol. 4, 1821-34

## SESSIONS MINUTE BOOKS

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vo. 3, September 1793- February 1797

### **Reel M1364**

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 4, April 1797-July 1800

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 5, September 1800-November 1804 (very poor condition)

### **Reel M1365**

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 6, January 1805-September 1809

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 7, November 1809-October 1813

### **Reel M1366**

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 8, December 1813 - July 1819

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 9, September 1819 – February 1825

## **Reel M1367**

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 10, April 1825 - April 1830

Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Fair Entry Book, vol. 11, May 1830 - October 1834