

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

MIDDLESEX COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Records, 1774-93

Reel M581

**Middlesex County Record Office
1 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings
Dartmouth Street
London SW1H 9BS**

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

Filmed: 1964

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Middlesex County Record Office evolved from the collection of records of Middlesex Quarter Sessions which the Clerk of the Peace was required to preserve, together with other records such as enclosure awards. At the direction of a committee of the justices of peace, the old records were first sorted and listed in the 1880s. The new Middlesex Guildhall at Westminster, which was equipped with muniment rooms, opened in 1913 and in 1923 a full-time assistant was placed in charge of the records. The first county archivist was appointed in 1946, initially on a part-time basis. In the late 1950s the record office moved into new premises in Dartmouth Street.

In 1965 the new Greater London Council took over the record offices of the London County Council and the defunct Middlesex County Council. However they remained in separate premises until 1979, when the Dartmouth Street premises were sold. Both archives were then housed in County Hall. In 1982 the Greater London Record Office moved to a new building in Clerkenwell. In 1986 the Greater London Council was abolished and the record office became the responsibility of the City of London Corporation. Its name was changed to the London Metropolitan Archives in 1997.

In addition to the Middlesex Sessions records, selected records held in the Greater London Record Office were filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project and can be found on reels M3087-3105.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Reel M581

Records of Middlesex (Old Bailey) Sessions, 1774-93

OB/C/J Old Bailey. Calendars of indictments, 1754-1832 (5 vols.)

The magistrates at Middlesex Sessions prepared bills of indictment which were presented to the jurors. The jurors then decided if there were enough evidence to put the defendant on trial. If so, the bill of indictment would be annotated 'true bill' and the case would be heard at the gaol delivery sessions at the Old Bailey.

The calendars are arranged alphabetically by the name of the defendant and, under each letter, the order is chronological. Next to the names are annotations, usually abbreviated, such as NG (not guilty), GD (gaol delivery), 'G. House of Correction', 'G. Newgate', 'sent to Essex' etc., 'died in gaol', 'indicted in London'. Many entries also record the crime, such as larceny, highway robbery, vagabond and coining, or personal comments, such as 'incorrigible rogue'.

Select:

OB/C/J/2 Old Bailey. Calendar of indictments, January 1774 - December 1790

OB/SB Old Bailey, Session books, 1754-1834 (36 vols.)

The session books contain minutes of proceedings of the trials of Middlesex and Westminster prisoners in Newgate Gaol held under the Commission of Gaol Delivery at the Old Bailey Sessions House. Old Bailey sessions were held eight times a year. The session books record the names of the justices and jurors and defendants, details of the charges, and sentences. From volume 18 onwards, the session books also contain calendars of prisoners in Newgate Gaol, with the verdicts and sentences for each prisoner and in some instances details of transportation arrangements.

Select:

OB/SB/17 Old Bailey. Session Book, January 1785

OB/SB/18 Old Bailey. Session book, February 1785 – September 1787

OB/SB/19 Old Bailey. Session book, October 1787 – July 1790

OB/SB/20 Old Bailey. Session book, September 1790 – June 1793