

Justice and Authority in England: County Quarter Sessions and Related Records

Series One:

CHESHIRE



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JUSTICE AND AUTHORITY IN ENGLAND
COUNTY QUARTER SESSIONS AND RELATED RECORDS

PART THREE: Quarter Sessions Files
1603 (Trinity) - 1616 (Michaelmas)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Harvester Microform are proud to announce the publication of the Cheshire Quarter Sessions, which are regarded as one of the finest sets of documentation for the study of crime and the administration of justice in the Elizabethan and early Stuart period. It is an indispensable source which will prove invaluable to both the social and economic historian alike.

As a county palatine, Cheshire differed from most counties in that it possessed a certain degree of autonomy with regard to the dispensation of justice and control over local administration. These aspects of its jurisdiction are clearly reflected in this programme as are its links with the Welsh circuits for the purposes of assizes.

Following the publication of Cheshire Order Books, Recognizances, Indictments and Presentments, parts two and three of our programme offer the Quarter Sessions Rolls or Files.

The session files consists of original documents generated by the business of Quarter Sessions and include many major classes of records. Of these, the largest comprises the records of criminal jurisdiction in the court. Insight is offered into the procedure of justice and the structure of authority in the county. At Quarter Sessions, the collective jurisdiction of the justices was at its most extensive and their involvement in all aspects of county and parish administration is clearly portrayed.

Of interest also are those classes of records found on the rolls which derive from jurisdiction of petty sessions. Quarter Sessions heard appeals from and decision and convictions by petty sessions, some of which referred to issues like the operation of poor law.

Order for the filming of the cheshire Quarter Sessions Files.

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