



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Supreme Court of Judicature (Albany) Lists  
of Freeholders Qualified to Serve as Jurors J4011**

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New York State Archives  
222 Madison Avenue  
Albany, NY 12230  
[archref@nysed.gov](mailto:archref@nysed.gov)  
URL: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This fragmentary series consists of lists of freeholders qualified to serve as jurors in the trial of issues in the Supreme Court of Judicature, as returned by sheriffs or county clerks. Each list gives the names of freeholders, their places of abode, and their "additions" (occupations or ranks). Most of the lists were compiled and returned for the empanelling of struck juries.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Supreme Court of Judicature (Albany)
<b>Title:</b>	Lists of freeholders qualified to serve as jurors
<b>Quantity:</b>	1.3 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	3 boxes
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1789-1821
<b>Series:</b>	J4011

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## Arrangement

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Alphabetic by county, then chronological by year.

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## Scope and Content Note

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Sheriffs and county clerks compiled lists of freeholders qualified to serve as jurors in the trial of issues in the Supreme Court. Lists provide jurors' names, places of residence, and occupations or ranks.

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forty-eight disinterested persons was compiled by the court clerk. From this list the attorneys for the opposing parties struck off names alternately until a panel of twenty-four jurors was left. A law of 1798 transferred the duty of preparing lists of freeholders for struck juries to the county clerks and stated that these special juries would not be allowed except in cases distinguished by their "importance or intricacy."

The lists of freeholders for struck juries in this series include the names of the parties in the cause to be tried, and sometimes the names of freeholders have lines drawn through them, made as they were "struck off." The law of 1786 also required sheriffs to attach lists of freeholders and judges and justices of the peace to writs of venire facias juratores. Only one example of such is found (Columbia County, 1793). The same act directed sheriffs to compile and return annually lists of all persons qualified to serve as jurors in their counties. Several of the lists in this series were prepared for this purpose. The returns of jurors for New York City and County for 1816, 1816/19, and 1821 are actually statistical summaries by ward. For 1816 the total number of jurors is given, along with the number of male and female whites, free blacks, slaves, and aliens. Additional totals for the city as a whole are given for 1819, through the figures by wards are repeated from the 1816 return. The return for 1821 is made on the printed form used for the New York State Census of 1821. The number of jurors is added to the other statistics concerning electors, livestock, and manufacturing establishments.

Freeholders were defined in the law as persons possessed of real property worth at least 60 pounds, above all mortgages and other encumbrances thereon. Property held by leasehold did not qualify. Residents of incorporated cities might qualify if their personal property exceeded the same amount.

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## Related Information

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### Related Material

### Related Publications

Lists of jurors from Albany County are published in: Arthur C. M. Kelly, comp., *Book of the Freeholders, 1797, Albany County, New York : persons qualified to serve for struck juries.* Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Kinship, 2000.

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## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

Container list is available at the repository.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

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## Administrative Information

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### Custodial History

The Court of Appeals placed these records on deposit at the Historical Documents Collection, Queens College, from 1973-1982.

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## Access Terms

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- Adjudicating
- Courts
- Sheriffs
- Judicial records
- New York (State)
- New York (N.Y.)
- Appellate courts
- County clerks
- Writs
- Jury
- Appellate procedure

- New York (State). Supreme Court of Judicature
- New York (State). Court of Appeals