

List of Jurors in the Town of DeKalb September 9, 1806

The following document lists the DeKalb voters eligible for county jury service in 1806. The Juror's list serves as one of the earliest lists of the citizens and their occupations in the township. The list was compiled just 9 months after the town was officially incorporated. Although the list does not include voters who served as constables and some other town officials, it clearly illustrates the cross section of occupations in a frontier settlement. The Town Jurors list is from the DeKalb Town Clerk's Office, Town Meeting Book One.

Suggested Lesson:

Disciplines: Social Studies, Language Arts and Math

Grade Levels: 4-8

Time Frame: 1 class period

Materials Needed: - Copy of original 1806 Town Juror's list (provided)
*Duplicate on 8.5 by 14 paper.
- Transcription of Juror's list (provided)
- Worksheet

Learning Objectives: The students will:

1. Gather information about the Town Jurors of 1806 from the original list.
2. Identify and define the occupations of potential town jurors in 1806.
3. Determine the occupation of the majority of town jurors in 1806.
4. Use their own judgment to interpret why Town Constables and women might be disqualified from serving as jurors.

Procedures:

Lesson one

1. Distribute copies of 1806 town juror list and worksheet. (Have transcription of jurors list available for students who have difficulty reading original script.) **Note:** This document uses the archaic fs form for double ss in words. The students should be introduced to this format before they begin.

2. Set the historical context for the documents. Explain that, each year, the Town Clerk was required to submit a list of eligible jurors to the County Clerk. An eligible juror was anyone who was a registered voter, except for certain town officials. Define any unfamiliar term for the students or direct them to use a dictionary.
3. Ask the students to complete worksheet by analyzing the provided document.
4. Discuss with the class how it would feel to be a disenfranchised woman in 1807.

Follow Up Activities:

Attend a current jury selection session of your municipal court.

Read a book such as:

Trial By Journal by Kate Klise (Harper Collins 2001) the story of one child's participation on a jury using newspaper clippings and journal entries.

NYS Social Studies Standards correlation:

Standard 1: Key Idea 4

-Consider different interpretations of key events and /or issues in history and understand the differences in these accounts.

-Explore different experiences, beliefs motives, and traditions of people living in their neighborhoods, communities, and State.

-View historic events through the eyes of those who were there, as shown in their art, writings, music and artifacts.

Intermediate

-Consider the sources of historic documents, narratives, or artifacts and evaluate their reliability

-Describe historic events through the eyes and experiences of those who were there.

Standard 5: Key Idea 4

-Explain the role that civility plays in promoting effective citizenship in preserving democracy.