

**Table 2: Demographic Data from 222 Certificates of Freedom**

*N.B.* I have collected 222 certificates. In three instances, the same individual man obtained a certificate on two distinct occasions (using the same name, birthdate, etc.). It is likely the initial certificate had been lost, stolen, or destroyed. The data below represents 222 separately filed certificates for 219 men.

	Number	Percent
<b>Year in which certificate issued<sup>1</sup>:</b>		
1811 (year of first certificate law)	81	36.5%
1812-1820	104	46.8%
1821 (year of Constitutional Convention)	37	16.7%
<b>Month in which certificates issued:</b>		
April-May (near the date of annual state elections)	186	83.8%
June 1821 (Constitutional Convention special election)	13	5.9%
All other months	23 <sup>1</sup>	10.4%
<b>Certificate signed by<sup>2</sup>:</b>		
Judge of Court of Common Pleas	110	49.5%
State Supreme Court Justice	13	5.9%
Mayor	32	14.4%
Recorder	15	6.8%
Alderman	47	21.2%
Unknown	5	2.3%
<b>Age of voter:</b>		
21-35	92	41.4%
36-50	85	38.3%
Older than 50	30	13.5%
Unknown	15	6.8%
<b>Status at birth of voter:</b>		
Born free	66	30.1%
Born enslaved	137	62.6%
Unknown	16	7.3%
<b>Place of birth of voter<sup>3</sup>:</b>		
New York State	109	49.8%
New Jersey	18	8.2%
Connecticut, Maryland, and Massachusetts	11 each	5.0% each
Africa	5	2.3%
Virginia	4	1.8%
Pennsylvania and Vermont	3 each	1.4% each
Delaware and South Carolina	2 each	0.9% each
West Indies	2	0.9%
Rhode Island and North Carolina	1 each	0.5% each
Unknown <sup>3</sup>	36	16.5%

<sup>1</sup> Fifteen of the twenty-three certificates not filed in late April/early May were filed in New York City in December 1812. See p. 20 for more details.

<sup>2</sup> Hundreds of black men voted in New York City, where aldermen commonly issued certificates. However, not all of the city's certificates have survived. The unbound certificates in the New-York Historical Society's Indentures collection, dated from 1811 to 1814, are numbered; the highest number is 124, on a certificate from 1813. It is unclear if this was the 124<sup>th</sup> certificate signed by that particular alderman, the 124<sup>th</sup> filed by the clerk that year, the 124<sup>th</sup> certificate filed since the 1811 law passed, or some other quantification. Contemporary reports cited 500-600 black voters in New York City.

<sup>3</sup> Most of the voters in the "Unknown" category are described as having been formerly owned by New York masters. Unless a specific birth place is named, however, I have categorized the birth place as "Unknown."