

[Alexandria 1778 11 20, Church 848P, Record Group 78, The Library of Virginia]

To the Honorable, The Speaker and Gentleman of the  
House of Delegates of Virginia ~

The petition and remonstrance of the Trustees  
of Alexandria in the County of Fairfax humbly sheweth.

That by an Act of Assembly passed in the year 1748  
to erect a Town at the Hunting Creek Warehouse in said County  
on the lands of Hugh West, Phillip Alexander Sr. & John  
Alexander reserving the Point on Hugh West's land  
and the Point on Philip Alexander's land for publick uses.  
They, the Trustees, in the year 1755 built a warehouse on  
the land of Phil. Alexander at the expense of One Hund  
& Fifty Pounds, which in time was paid for out of Money  
received for some lapsed lots & some funds they formed for  
the use of the Town, - From that time it became the  
Property of the Town & has been & now is rented out for the  
benefit thereof. They have also rented out a small piece  
of s<sup>d</sup> Point to Thomas Flemming, Ship Carpenter for the  
purpose aforesaid, which in no manner obstructs the  
landing of Goods but leaves sufficient room for that purpose  
as well as accommodating merchants with storage etc.

They have also rented out three parcells of Ground  
on Point West on the land of Hugh West to Thomas Mox  
ley by 36 feet on Oronoko Street and extending on  
the Flats & Water 72 feet for 63 years, paying a ground rent as follows....

For the first 21 years .....	£3.12...	
2 <sup>nd</sup> " " .....	7.4.....	per Annum
3 <sup>rd</sup> " " .....	14.8...	

Also rented to Richard Conway on Oronoko Street adjoining  
to Moxley 36 feet in front on the s<sup>d</sup> Street and extending

36 feet back--on the following terms  
the Flats & Water 72 feet for 63 years, paying a ground rent as follows....

For the first 21 years .....	£1.16...	
2 <sup>nd</sup> " " .....	3.12.....	per Annum
3 <sup>rd</sup> " " .....	7.4...	

Also to the before mentioned

Thomas Moxley a Piece of sandy & Wet ground behind the  
Lot rented to Rich<sup>d</sup> Conway containing 36 feet square

For the first 21 years .....	£2.5...	
2 <sup>nd</sup> " " .....	4.10.....	per Annum
3 <sup>rd</sup> " " .....	9...	

Also rented to Robert McCrea & Robert Mease 25 feet  
In front on Oronoko Street adjoining Rich<sup>d</sup> Conway and estend<sup>g</sup>  
Back on the Flats & Water 72 feet as follows

For the first 21 years .....	£2.16.3...	
2 <sup>nd</sup> " " .....	5.12.6.....	per Annum
3 <sup>rd</sup> " " .....	11.5...	

Also to Robert Adam 25 feet in front

And extending back 72 feet as follows

For the first 21 years .....	£4.7.6...	
2 <sup>nd</sup> " " .....	8.15.....	per Annum
3 <sup>rd</sup> " " .....	17.10...	

These Lots or parcels of Gournd were [illeg] of at publick  
Vendue and when the last term is expired revert to the use  
Of the Town with all the Improvements thereon

On the South side of Oronoco Street they have erected  
a Warehouse by subscription at the expence of £700 & upw<sup>d</sup>  
the first Story of Stone the 2d Story framed 60 feet Long  
& 40 feet wide. The Money arising from the rents of s<sup>d</sup> House  
To be applyd to the payment of the Subscribers which being  
Done, the said House is to become the property of the Town  
and the future rents arising therefrom to be applyd to such uses  
as the [illeg] or future Trustees may judge proper

Notwithstanding

These Leases & buildings. Oronoko Street between them is 66 feet wide and from the buildings. The County & Town Wharfs with the Street extended to the Water gives a clear Area for Mercantile Business & which is not to be built on of upwards of 18000 square feet--- These things will be presented to you with this

There is also a piece of sunken ground & Water between the Wharves of W<sup>m</sup> Ramsay & Andrew Wales extending from Water Street with the River and opposite to the Lots N<sup>o</sup> 52 now the property of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Fitzgerald & Peers, which sunken ground & wateradjoins the land formerly Philip Alexanders, but purchased from him after the Act of Assembly passed to erect a Town here—by Major Lawrance Washington, Nathaniel Chapman, W<sup>m</sup> Ramsay, & Mess<sup>rs</sup> Carlyle & Dalton, being thirty five acres for which they paid the said Alexander Two Hundred Pistoles The Money arising from the Sales of he Lots on said Land to be their property which was done accordingly—Now John Carlyle & W<sup>m</sup> Ramsay as the price of sunken ground or Water was not Included in the Limits of the Town is a part and parcel of the Land purchas'd of Alexander & they being the only surviving partners of the purchase Apprehend the right to be in them & have sold the s<sup>d</sup> sunken ground & Water /with the concurrence of the other Trustees to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Fitzgerald & Peers for a moderate Sum with an Intention to give the Mney to the use of the Town—But some doubts having arisen from captious & Insidious Men—That the Trustees have assum'd Power they had no right to in leasing out the ground on the Points before ment<sup>d</sup>—And that John Carlyle & W<sup>m</sup> Ramsay has not right I that sold to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Fitzgerald & Peers--

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In order to clear up the matter and remove all doubts, they, the Trustees take the liberty to lay it before your Honor and pray, That if it appears reasonable to your Honors That you may pass an Act to confirm what they have done in the Premisses ~

This they are encouraged to hope will meet with your approbation and they have acted entirely on disinterested motives and solely for the benefit of the Town.

Alexandria Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1778

Wm. Ramsay  
Robert Adam  
John Muir  
Thomas Fleming  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Conway  
Petition from  
Alexandria

[later postscript:]

(reasonable)

bill drawn

Nov 8, 1778

Nov. 26, 1778