

[Alexandria 1782, 5 27, Church 1614P; Record Group 78, The Library of Virginia]

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of
Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Alexandria Humbly
Sheweth

That your Petitioners conceive that a Ferry or Ferries from the Town aforesaid to Hawkins', Adison's or Rozier's on the Maryland side of Potomac River under the immediate Direction and management of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town would add greatly to The Ease and Convenience of the Inhabitants, would Facilitate the Passage of Travelers and Public Expresses and prevent great Impositions. Boats kept for that purpose have been generally in bad order, not sufficiently manned or well attended, besides at present and for some time past, such as have been and still are kept for the purpose, are owned by persons living on the Maryland Shore, who claim an exclusive right to the Ferry in consequence of paying an annual Rent to the Proprietor of Hunting Creek Ware House, whose ground or the Shore hath not for a length of time been used for that purpose, The Boats constantly landing and taking off passengers from Point West which is the most convenient and best Landing and belongs to the Publick.

Your Petitioners further beg Leave to mention that the Persons renting the ferry have contrary to the Law they claim under, detained travelers, keep publick Expresses waiting and constantly exacted payment from them and in many Instances taken more than they are entitled to, which your Petitioners consider as gross Impositions and think would be remedied if the Ferry was under the immediate Direction of the Mayor and Common Council and therefore humbly pray the Honorable House to establish a Ferry from Point West which is the Property of the Corporation to Hawkins', Addison's, or such other Landings upon the Maryland Shore as they shall Direct and rent the same in the Mayor and Common Council of the said Town and their Successors upon their paying unto M^r Sybil West who sets up a Claim to the Ferry across the River, such annual Compensation during her Life as the Honorable House shall deem just and reasonable.

Your Petitioners further beg Leave to mention to the Honorable House, that when the Town was first laid off a Piece of Ground known by the name of Point West was allotted and given for the use of the said Town together with the Wharff adjoining and was by an act of Assembly passed in Nov. 1771 vested in the Trustees and their Successors for ever with a Power of Charging Wharfage to any Vessell except Country Crafts ~~and~~ and Tobacco Vessells, That the inhabitants of the said Town have lately paid near one hundred pounds Specie for repairing and putting the said wharff in order and as the same will need and require frequent Repairs and is much frequented by Tobacco Vessells they humbly conceive it to be just and equitable that such tobacco Vessells as well as others, should be liable to Wharfage and therefore humbly pray that an act may be passed to enable the Mayor and Common Council to Collect from all sea Vessells the customary Wharfage to be applied to the use and Benefit of the Town.

Your Petitioners further beg leave to mention that when the Town was originally laid out a Street at that time next to the River known by the name of Water Street was omitted to be extended quite through the Town from whence great Inconveniencies arise to the Publick and that since the laying out of the Town great additions have been made to it next to the River by runing out wharfs and Banking out the River so as to render it necessary to lay off another street between Water Street and the River, known by the name of Union Street, which was done by private agreement entered into by several of the Proprietors of water Lotts without any publick sanction and without the Concurrence of some other of the Proprietors of the Water Lotts, and the Property of the Proprietors through whose lots the said Streets will run will be greatly raised in their value by continuing the said Street called Water Street quite through the Town and by establishing the said Street called Union Street and extending the same in like manner quite through the Town Your petitioners therefore humbly pray than an act may be made to enable the Mayor and Common Council of the said Town to open and extend Water Street quite through the said Town from north to south as far as it runs either by the Original Location or late additions and in like manner to open and lay off Union Street from north to south through the Wharfs made [illeg word stricken] land and other
Grounds

Grounds as far as the Town extends either by Original Location or late additions, ~~[illeg word struck] the proprietors of Water Street~~ saving to the Proprietors of the ground through which Union Street may be extended, their right to make use of the Earth that it may be necessary to take away in regulating the said street.

[“not considered” noted in margin by next paragraph]

Lastly your petitioners beg leave to represent that by the Constitution of the Commonwealth they have had for some time past and now have by greater number of Inhabitants a Right of being represented by a Burgess in the House of Delegates as may fully appear by a List of Freeholder herewith transmitted. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that they may be indulged with the Privilege of electing and sending to the present and all future Assemblies a Burgess to represent them in General Assembly and that they may be permitted to vote by Ballots for their Burgess in the same manner as they vote for their Town Council--

Your Petitioners humbly pray that the Honorable House will take the several matters contained in this their petition into consideration and make such order therein as to them shall seem most proper –

and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall pray

Oliver Price	John Hendricks	W ^m Ramsay
Robert Lyle		
W ^m Paton		
Jacob Cox	Peter Wise	R. Hooe
John Harper	W ^m Hartshorne	Robert Adam
John Saunders	Josiah Watson	Rich ^d Conway
Lewis Weston	W ^m Hepburn	James Adam
Washer Blunt		John Lomax
Robert M. Crea	James Parsons	Jesse Taylor
Robert Allison	Joseph Robinson	Josias P. Adams
W ^m Duvall	Benjamin Shreve	W ^m Lyles j ^r
Lawrence Hooff	John Butcher	
Philip Webster	Aaron Herves/Henres	Henry Lyles
Geo Duncan	Edward Ramsay	Robert Harper
Sam ^l Arell	James Lawrason	James Hendricks

A Bryan
W M Knight
Charles Bryan
Robert Muir
Adam Lynn
W^m Hunter
Ch. Simms
Jos Caverly
John Sanford
Tho^s Wilkinson
Michael Thorn
And^w Walez
W^m Bird
John Finley

Alexandria
Petition
May 27th 1782
referred to Propositions

June 7th 1782 reasonable in part
rejected in part
bill drawn