

[Alexandria 1778 11 20, Church 847P, Record Group 78, The Library of Virginia]

To the honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the General Assembly The Petition of the Subscribers humbly sheweth that John Alexander of the County of Stafford in the year of our Lord 1774 laid off a number of Lotts adjoining to the town of Alexandria and conveyed them to the Subscribers, your Petitioners, in Fee Simple, reserving thereon an annual Rent with a Condition that if the Feoffees did not within the space of two years build a brick, stone or framed house twenty feet square at least with a brick or stone chimney, that in that case or in default of the Payment of the Rent, it should be lawfull for the said John Alexander or his Heirs to reenter; Now Your Petitioners humbly represent that, during the contest with Great Britain it has been impracticable to comply with the condition for the improvement of the said lotts as well by reason of the scarcity and extravagant price of materials of all kinds for building as the want of the necessary workmen; And that by the descent of the said lotts on the infant heir of John Alexander deceased it is impossible for your Petitioners to come to any agreement or compromise with him, and are therefore in a very precarious & uncertain situation. Your Petitioners are aware that it may be objected that the Rents are unpaid & that the Lotts are forfeited by the nonpayment thereof – Your Petitioners declare that they are ready & willing to pay them so soon as they are confirmed in their property, and the payment of the Rents, they humbly conceive might be made the Condition of their further assurance; Your Petitioners beg leave further to shew, that the said John Alexander covenanted that the streets of the town of Alexandria which run to the said lotts should be produced and extended to the outer bounds Thereof, and that two new streets, to be called Wilkes and St Asaph Streets, should be opened; running from the town westerdly & running parallel with the other westardly running streets of the said Town, & of the same breadth thereof; and further the said Lotts not being considered as part of the Town of Alexandria, Your Petitioners are deprived of some advantages annexed to the town lands. They therefore humbly pray that the assembly will prolong the time for improving the said Lotts & that the said Lotts & Streets may be made Town lands

Edward Ramsey
John Butcher
W M Knight
Adam Lynn
John Fitzgerald
William Munday
James Parsons

John Finley
W^m Harshorne
W^m Hartshorne for
John Saunderses
Peter Wise
W^m Herbert
Patt. Murray

[reverse]

Petition from Alexandria
refer^d prop^s
20th November 1778
Dec 9 1778
Reasonable
~~bill drawn~~
recommitted
No^r 1779 reasonable

*Feoffee - a vassal holding land granted by a feudal lord (Definition - Not part of text)