

To the general assembly of Virginia, The Petition, of the Subscribers  
inhabitants of the town of Petersburg, respectfully, sheweth,

That within the limits of the said town, there are several springs,  
which furnish ~~and~~ constant and copious streams of pure and excellent fresh  
water, more than sufficient to supply the wants of the citizens:

That altho' the inhabitants of the said town, resort to these springs  
at present, and have done so for many years past, the inconveniences to  
which they are exposed are, ~~considerably~~ numerous and oppressive:

1. The lots from which these streams flow, being private property, your petitioners  
have no legal right to take water from them, and are therefore liable at any  
moment to experience serious if not fatal embarrassments, if in the  
course of time and events, they should be excluded by the present or  
future proprietors:

2. The water which is not received by the persons at the springs, is obstructed  
in its progress towards the river, by the two principal streets, and forms  
several ponds, which in a short time become putrid, and lying to the south  
and southwest of the most populous parts of the said town, are every summer,  
productive of dangerous and fatal disorders:

3. The distance between the houses of the great majority of the people, and  
the said springs, is so considerable, that the labor of one servant is not suf-  
ficient to furnish with water, a family of ordinary size:

4. That poor people who have no servants, lose much of that time which  
might otherwise be devoted to profitable labor, and are besides exposed  
to the necessity of drinking water, rendered impure and unwholesome  
by heat and stagnation:

Your petitioners, respectfully, represent, that these evils would  
in a short time be greatly diminished, and in a few years perhaps be  
entirely removed, if they were at liberty to conduct water, thro' subterra-  
neous pipes, from the said springs, or such of them as might be selected,  
for the purpose, to convenient places, in the different streets of the  
said town:

The accomplishment of the plan contemplated by your petitioners,  
would not only diminish or remove the evils before mentioned, but would enable  
them, by means of reservoirs properly disposed, to encounter a fire, with  
effect, at its commencement, and thus to render less formidable and destructive  
one of the greatest calamities to which the inhabitants are exposed of  
cities exposed:

Your petitioners, conceiving that the water, with which na-  
ture has refreshed the earth, ought to be as much <sup>as possible</sup> ~~profitable~~ common be-  
nefit, to all its inhabitants, respectfully, pray, that the General assembly

of Virginia, may take the premises into their consideration, and pass such a Law on the subject, as will authorize and enable them, upon making a reasonable Compensation to be assessed by a jury, to the owners of the soil, from which the Springs flow, and thro which the pipes may be conducted, to bring water, without depriving the proprietors of any advantage or accommodation, which they now enjoy, completely within the reach of all the inhabitants, and your Petitioners will pray &c. &c.

James Geddy  
 William Prentis  
 Geo. Kay  
 John L. Mansfield  
 J. Gibbons  
 Robert Mailland  
 Donald Mackenzie  
 W. Marshall  
 Wm. H. Smith  
 Wm. W. Saunders  
 Charles Sumner  
 Wm. M. Moore  
 Grand Spencer  
 Wm. Johnson  
 Napale  
 The Tavern  
 Robert Harrison  
 William Gentry  
 Thos. Bennett  
 Thos. Lusk  
 James Campbell  
 James Ireland  
 Jesse Newcomb  
 M. D. [unclear]

James Dunbar  
 Robt Moore  
 Lewis Edwards  
 Will Sharp  
 William Douglas  
 Wm. Myers  
 John Bell  
 Patrick White  
 Robertson Jr  
 J. Grammer  
 Wright Lamb  
 Thos. Dent  
 Nathl Friend  
 David Mailland  
 Joseph Murdoch  
 William Cumming  
 Thos. Colquhoun  
 James Cumming  
 John Wilder  
 J. G. Wilder  
 James Dunlop  
 John Stuart  
 John C. Morrison  
 Arthur Adams  
 Wm. Brewster

Will. Dively  
 E. Holloway  
 Robert [unclear]  
 James Annot  
 (Samuelson)  
 John Malan  
 Nathaniel Harris  
 Wm. Moore  
 Robt. Colquhoun  
 Wm. Colquhoun  
 John J. Davis  
 John Chalness  
 Allan Barnes  
 R. Ellis  
 Saml. White  
 James Geddy Junr  
 Ben. Edwards  
 John Taliaferro  
 Wm. Bidwell  
 Gregory Johnson  
 Jeanvalley  
 John MacRae Esq  
 MacRae Esq  
 Colin MacRae  
 Duncan MacRae  
 Archib. MacRae  
 William Parkin  
 Sylvanus Johnson

Heater McNeil  
 Hugh Blair  
 Nathl. Inelson  
 Jun. Harding  
 Thos. Mapp  
 William Clarke  
 James Mitchell  
 Henry Elliott  
 Allen Simpson  
 Thomas E. Gary  
 James [unclear]  
 Wm. W. Geddy  
 John Fisher  
 John Malan  
 Charles Simpson  
 Jas. Hammond  
 W. Vaughan  
 Thomas Hobbs  
 Sam. Pope  
 Paul Nash  
 Peter Bingham  
 David Halliday  
 Frederick Williams  
 Allan Stokes  
 Robt. Walker  
 James H. Baird  
 William Durell  
 Dav. Anderson  
 James Williams  
 Ben. Tucker Junr  
 Thomas Street  
 John Ellis  
 Mr. Baird  
 Geo. Ferguson Jr  
 Robert Evans

Simon Turner  
 W. Pleasant  
 David Boyd

Notice is hereby given,  
 THAT a Petition will be presented to the next General Assembly, praying that a Law may be passed, to authorize the inhabitants of the Town of Petersburg, to convey water from private Springs to such parts of the town as may be found most beneficial to the inhabitants, on making a reasonable compensation to the proprietors of said Springs, to be ascertained by a jury, for any damages they may be supposed to sustain thereby.  
 Petersburg, July 22, 1799. 6

Town of Petersburg  
 I certify that the above printed Notice was published seven times in my Newspaper of July and August last. Given under my hand the 9th December 1799.  
 William Prentis



Petition from  
- Petersburg  
~~concerning water~~

- Dec. 10. 1799.

Sts Inst. <sup>o</sup>

Decem. 11. 1799 Reasonable.

rep<sup>d</sup>

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*