

## The Howson Patent

The Howson patent is the starting point for all titles to land for a considerable distance back from the Potomac from Great Hunting Creek in Alexandria as far north as the north line of Arlington Cemetery in Arlington County. A copy of this grant and its assignment to John Alexander is to be found in a volume entitled "Land Records of Long Standing" in the Fairfax County Record Room. It was introduced as evidence in a suit between Sibyl West and John Spinks brought in 1760. The text as recorded in Fairfax is given below.

To all whom these present shall come I Sir William Berkley Knt Governour etc now know ye etc accordingly give and grant unto Mr. Robert Howson six thousand acres of land scituate lying and being in the freshes of Potomack river on the west side thereof above the dividing branch of the same beginning at a red oak standing by a small branch or run of W——— [Wampakan] opposite to a small Island commonly called and known by the name of my Lord's Island [Theodore Roosevelt Island] Extending down Potomack river various courses 3152 pole making a south westerly line to a marked pohickory standing at a north point of a Creek named by the English Indian Cabin Creek which Creek divides this Land and a Tract of Land surveyed for John Mathews from the said Pohickory north west & by west up the said Creek & main branch 520 pole from thence north 1940 pole finally east 720 to the red oak begun at including several small Creeks or inlets for the said Quantity the Land being due the said Robert Howson by and for the transportation of one hundred and twenty persons into this Colony & To have and to hold etc Yielding & paying etc provided etc Given etc 21st Day of October anno 1669 annog. Domini R. C. 2. 21.

WILLIAM BERKLEY

Know all men by these presents that I Robert Howson of the county of Stafford Gent. do hereby assign make over and confirm from me my heirs Executors and adm'rs unto John Alexander of the said county Gent. his heirs and assigns for ever all and every part of this patent & the land therein contained it being for and in consideration of Six thousand pounds of Tobacco and cask received before the signing and sealing hereof of the said John Alexander. In witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my hand and set my seal the 13th of Nov 1669 An. R. 21.

ROBERT HOWSON L.S.

Signed sealed etc

THOMAS BUNBURY

SAMUEL HAYWARD

acknowledged & recorded 17 Nov 1669

Copy Test. H. TYLER cl. Staff.