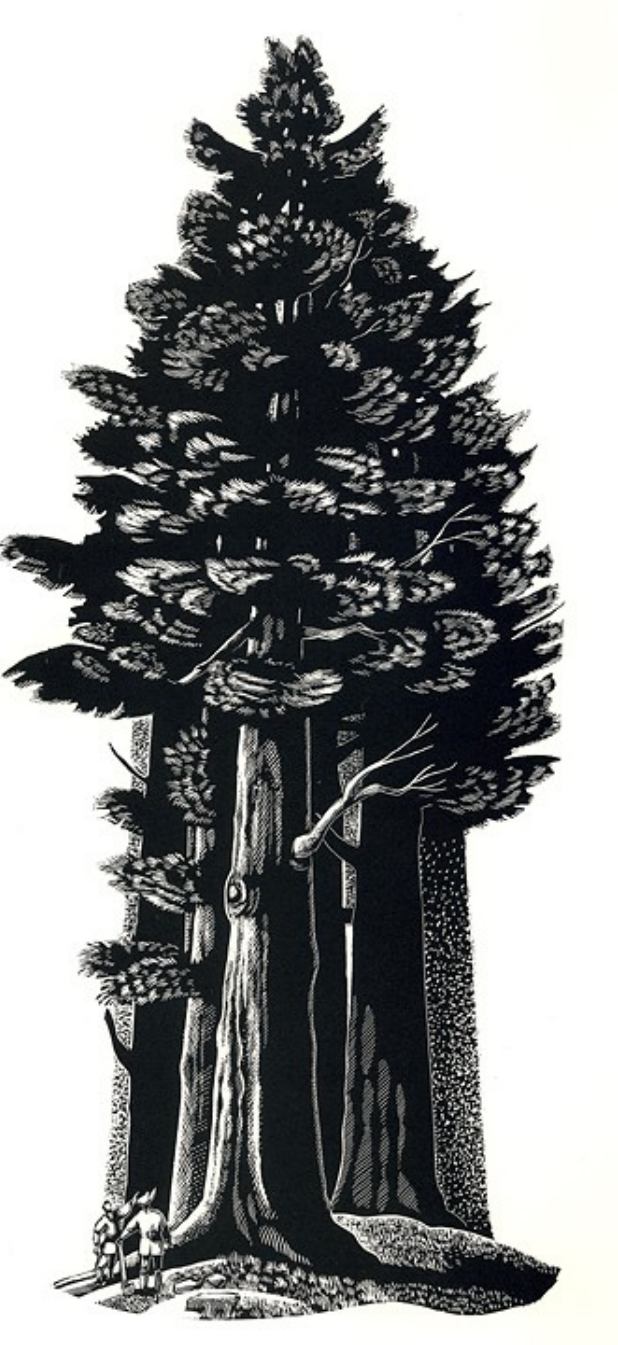


Bridger Map ca. 1700
Piscataqua Estuary
Indian Burn

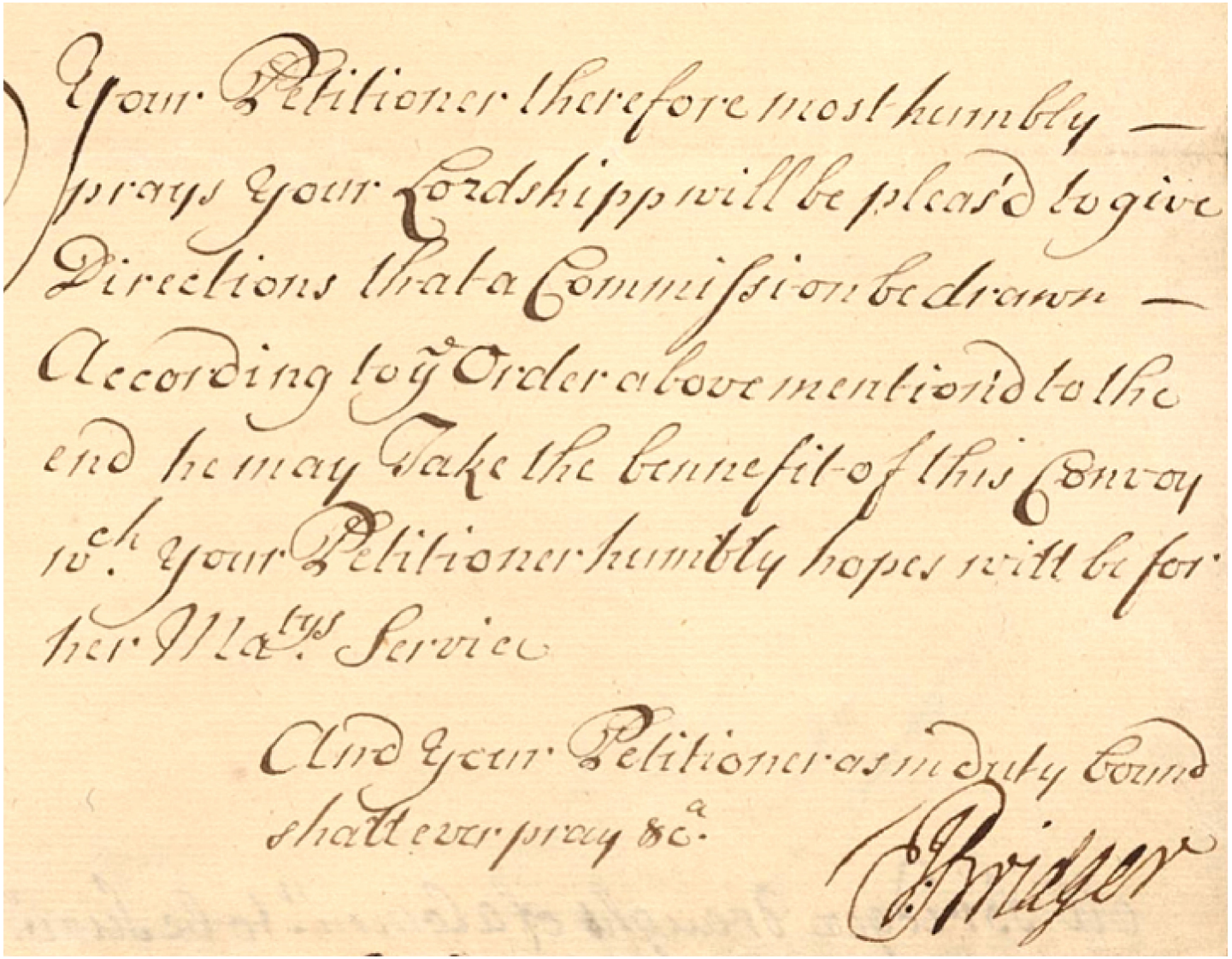
Jim Cerny

New Castle Historical Society

rev. 2024-11-24

John Bridger.

- Surveyor-General of Her Majesty's Woods on the Continent of America. (petition, partial, to 1st Earl of Godolphin - Huntington Libary.


Your Petitioner therefore most humbly —
prays your Lordshipp will be pleas'd to give
Directions that a Commission be drawn —
According to y^e^ Order above mentioned to the
end he may take the benefit of this Convoy
w^ch^ your Petitioner humbly hopes will be for
her Ma^tys^ Service

And your Petitioner as in duty bound
shall ever pray &c.^a^

J. Bridger

William B. Leavenworth, “Masting on the Piscataqua, 1641-1814,” pp. 179-181 in *Cross-Grained and Wily Waters*, ed. Jeffrey Bolster, [2002], Peter E. Randall Pubisher.

- map caption, p. 180:
  “A Survey of Piscataqua River,” attributed to Jonathan Bridger, circa 1700. Native Americans attacked masting operations at times, but this map may misrepresent who “burnt” the pine woods. Historian Faith Harrington has suggested that the fire was probably by colonists to stop Jonathan Bridger from enforcing the King’s timber laws and that Bridger blamed the Indians to hide his poor relations with the colonists. No one really knows.

Bridger map, ca. 1700, showing Piscataqua River and Great Bay.

NCHS catalog 2017.005.04 (original in British National Archives)

Bridger map, ca. 1700, detail at Piscataqua entrance.

Sources.

- Malone, Joseph J. [1964] *Pine Trees and Politics: The Naval Stores and Forest Policy in Colonial New England 1691-1775*. University of Washington Press, hardbound, 219 pp.
- Vietze, Andrew. [2018] *White Pine: American History and the Tree that Made a Nation*. Globe Pequot, paperback, 186 pp.