Captain John Smith
New England Map 1616

Jim Cerny
New Castle Historical Society
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Orientation.

- Captain John Smith cruised and mapped the New England coast in 1614.
- In 1616 he published his book “A Description of New England” and accompanying map (designed by Simon de Passe).
- A series of small edits were made to the map over the years, including updating his image and adding “1614” below the scale bar.
- On the 400th anniversary in 2014, ceremonies were held at Star Island (Isles of Shoals) and at Rye Harbor State Park (aka Ragged Neck).

NEW ENGLAND

The most remarquable parts thereof named by the high and mighty Prince Charles, Prince of great Britaine

These are the Lines that show thy Fate, but those
That show thy Grace and Glory, brighter bee:
Thy Faire-Dyamonds and Pearle-Overbrowes
Of Salvages, much Civilized by thee.
Brasse show thy Spirit, and to it Glory Gives:
So, show are Brasse without, but Golde within.

If so; in Brasse, few soft Smiths Arts to feare,
If for thy Fame, to make Brasse steele our weare.

Things thou art Worthy.
Forth Devon. Hierf:

Cape Anna
Talbotts Bay
The River Charles
Cape James
Stuards Bay
Cape Elizabeth
Harrington Bay
Pembrocke Bay
Cambridg
Sandwich
Dartmouth
Ipsw.
Yorke
Southampton
Bristow
Newtowne
Folleroon Hs
Chawet hills
London
Oxford
Plimouth
Kent
Hull
Boston
Aberdon
Lancaster
Norwich
Gernsey
Hughen Hs
Barry Hs
Wallop Hs
Cape Ann Hs
Smale Hs
Sandown hill
Schittops hill
The Dyke
The River Yorke
The Towne
Fowy Bastig
Pemaquid
Penobscot
Pemmaquid
Monhegan
Matinicus
Isle of Shoals
Casco Bay
Sagadahock
Kennebec
Penobscot Bay
Mount Desert
Long Island
Nantucket
Martins Vineyard
Block Island
Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay
Buzzards Bay
Cape Cod
Plymouth
Massachusetts Bay
Boston Bay
Charles River
Dorchester
Roxbury
Watertown
Cambridge
Ipswich
Salem
Marblehead
Lynn
Hingham
Weymouth
Braintree
Scituate
Duxbury
Marshfield
Sandwich
Barnstable
Yarmouth
Nauset
Pamet
Wellfleet
Truro
Provincetown
Cape Cod Bay
Stellwagen Bank
Cape Ann
Gloucester
Ipswich Bay
Plum Island
Newbury
Hampton
Portsmouth
Kittery
Piscataqua River
Isles of Shoals
Cape Neddick
York
Wells
Kennebunk
Saco
Biddeford
Scarborough
Falmouth
Portland
Cape Elizabeth
Casco Bay
Harpswell
Brunswick
Topsham
Bath
Sagadahock
Georgetown
Arrowsic
Popham
Phippsburg
Small Point
Harrington
Machias
Cape Split
Passamaquoddy Bay
Grand Manan
Campobello
Eastport
Moose Island
St Croix River
Schoodic Lake
Penobscot River
Penobscot Bay
Isle au Haut
Mount Desert Island
Frenchman Bay
Blue Hill Bay
Deer Isle
Isle of Holt
Fox Islands
Matinicus Isle
Monhegan Island
Pemaquid Point
Muscongus Bay
Damariscotta River
Boothbay
Sheepscot River
Kennebec River
Merrymeeting Bay
Androscoggin River
Lewiston
Augusta
Hallowell
Gardiner
Richmond
Bowdoinham
Woolwich
Georgetown Island
Arrowsic Island
Parker River
Merrimack River
Newburyport
Amesbury
Salisbury
Haverhill
Andover
Concord
Lexington
Medford
Charlestown
Boston
Roxbury
Dorchester
Milton
Quincy
Hingham
Cohasset
Scituate
Marshfield
Duxbury
Plymouth
Kingston
Bridgewater
Taunton
Rehoboth
Seekonk
Providence
Pawtucket
Warwick
Narragansett Bay
Newport
Rhode Island
Block Island
Martins Vineyard
Nantucket
Elizabeth Islands
Buzzards Bay
New Bedford
Fairhaven
Dartmouth
Westport
Tiverton
Little Compton
Cape Cod
Provincetown
Truro
Wellfleet
Eastham
Orleans
Chatham
Harwich
Yarmouth
Barnstable
Sandwich
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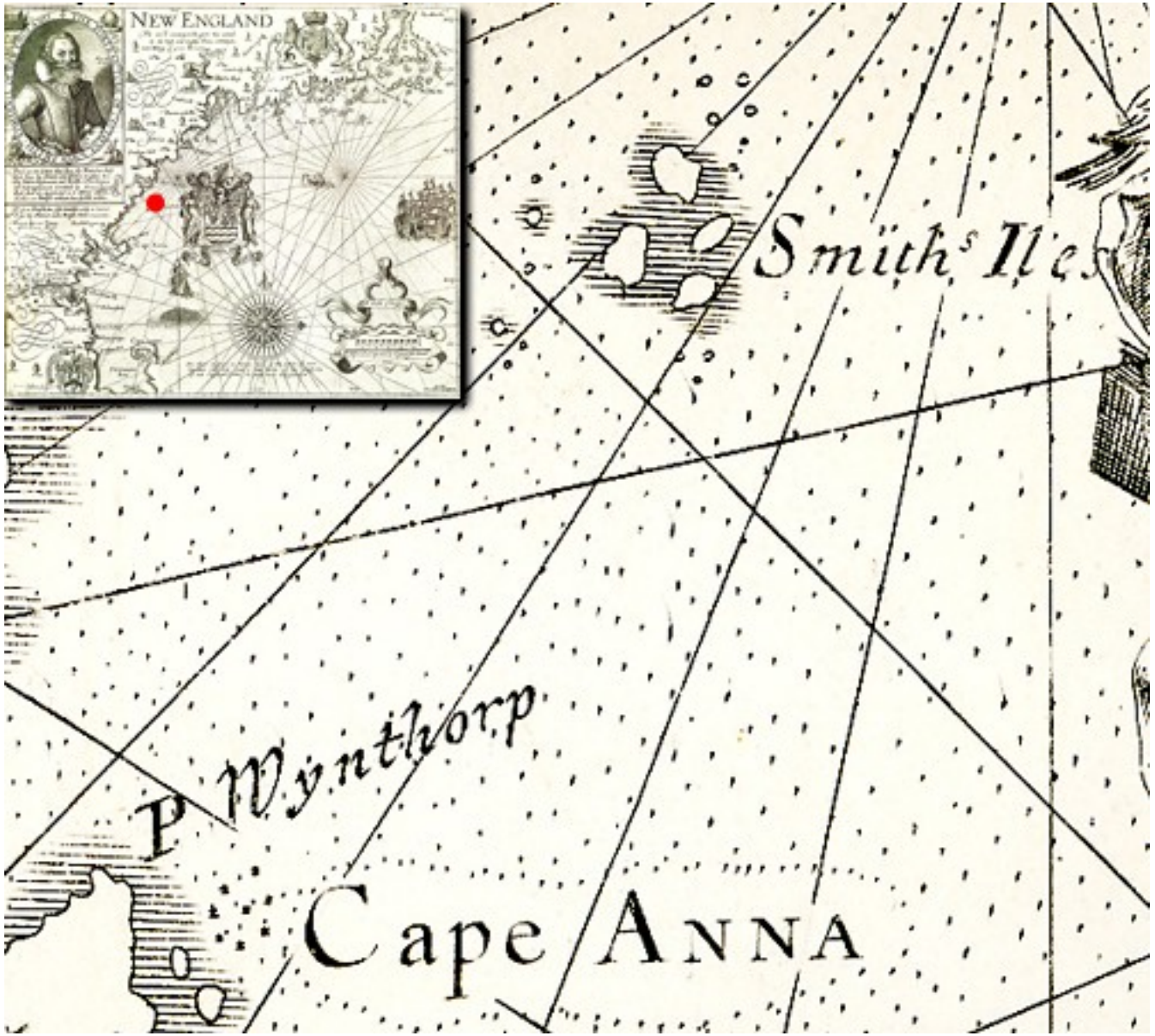
Provincetown
Truro
Wellfleet
Eastham
Orleans
Chatham
Harwich
Yarmouth
Barnstable
Sandwich
Falmouth

A Scale of Leagues

Observed and described by Captayn John Smith. 1614

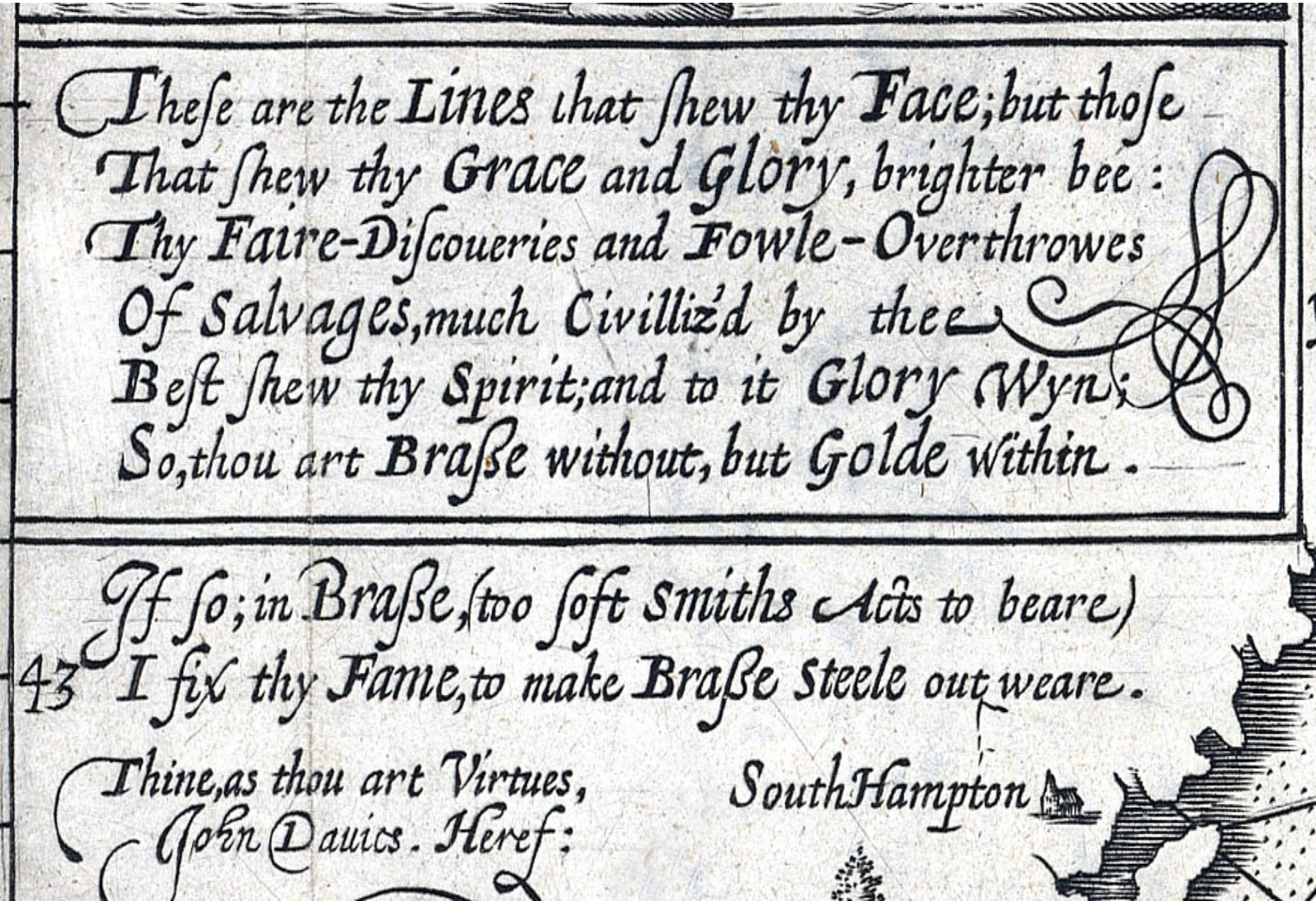
Simon Pass sculpsit.
Printed by Geo: Low

Smith's Isles (Isles of Shoals) detail relative to the whole map (red dot).

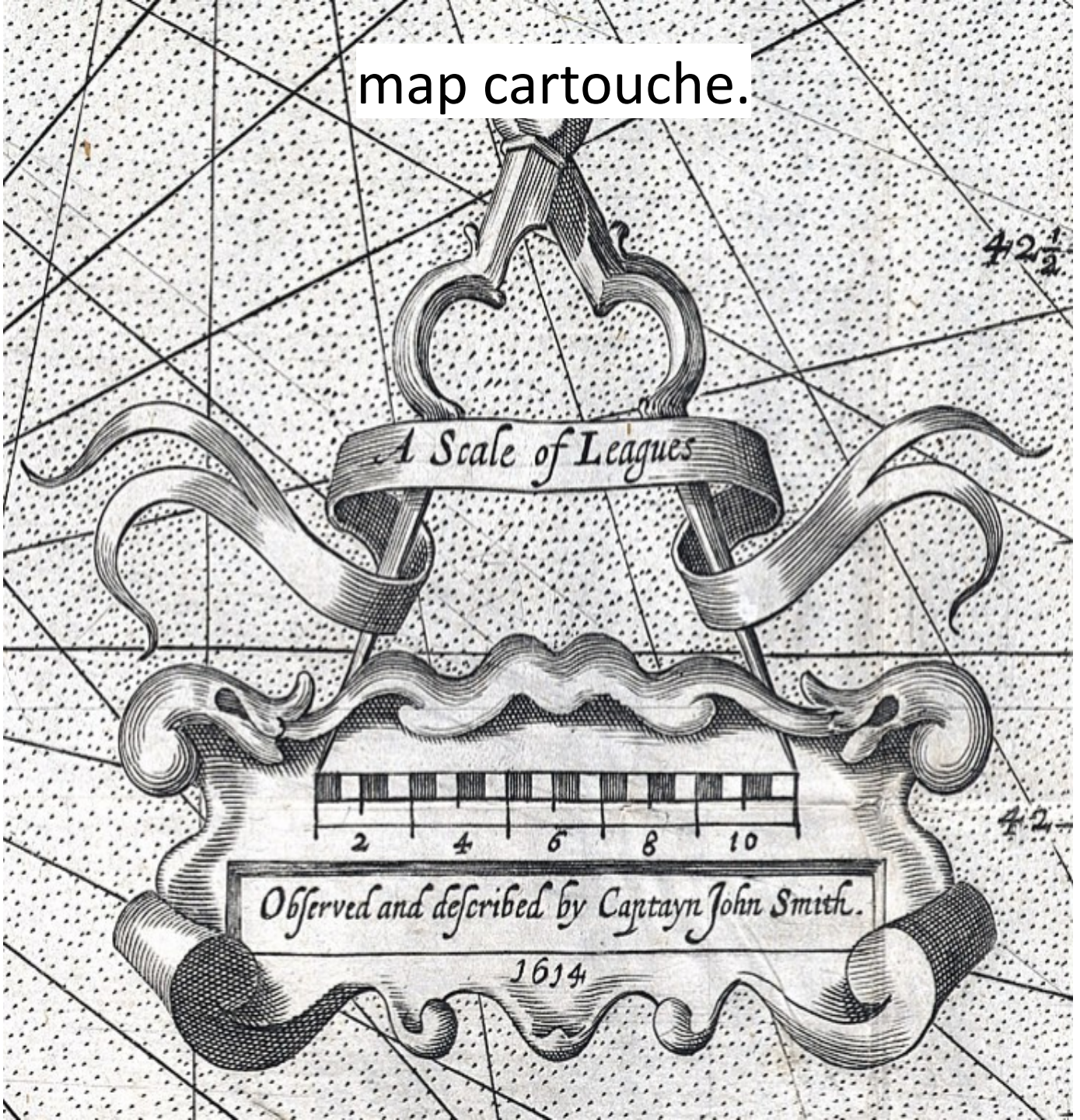


map portrait of Captain John Smith.

verse beneath John Smith's map portrait.



map cartouche.



Names changed by Prince Charles, with “old” = book and “new”= map. Partial list from Edney [2009].

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PAIRS OF TOPONYMS AS IDENTIFIED IN SMITH’S CONCORDANCE OF “OLD NAMES” IN HIS *DESCRIPTION* AND THE “NEW NAMES” ON HIS MAP, WITH CROSS-REFERENCES TO THE LISTS IN THE APPENDICES, IN THEIR ORIGINAL ORDER.

# in Appendix A	The old names	The new	# in Appendix B
1	Cape Cod	Cape Cod	4
		Milford haven	25
18	Chawum	Barwick	7
11	Accomack	Plimouth	29
32	Sagoquas	Oxford	27
20	Massachusets Mount	Chevit hill	9
21	Massachusets River	Charles River	2
36	Totant	Fawmouth	21
6	A Country not discovered	Bristow	18
26	Naemkeck	Bastable	16
4	Cape Trabigzanda	Cape Anne	1
13	Aggawom	Southhampton	33
3	Smiths Iles	Smiths Iles	43

John Smith re-enactor Paul Strand, Star Island, 2014

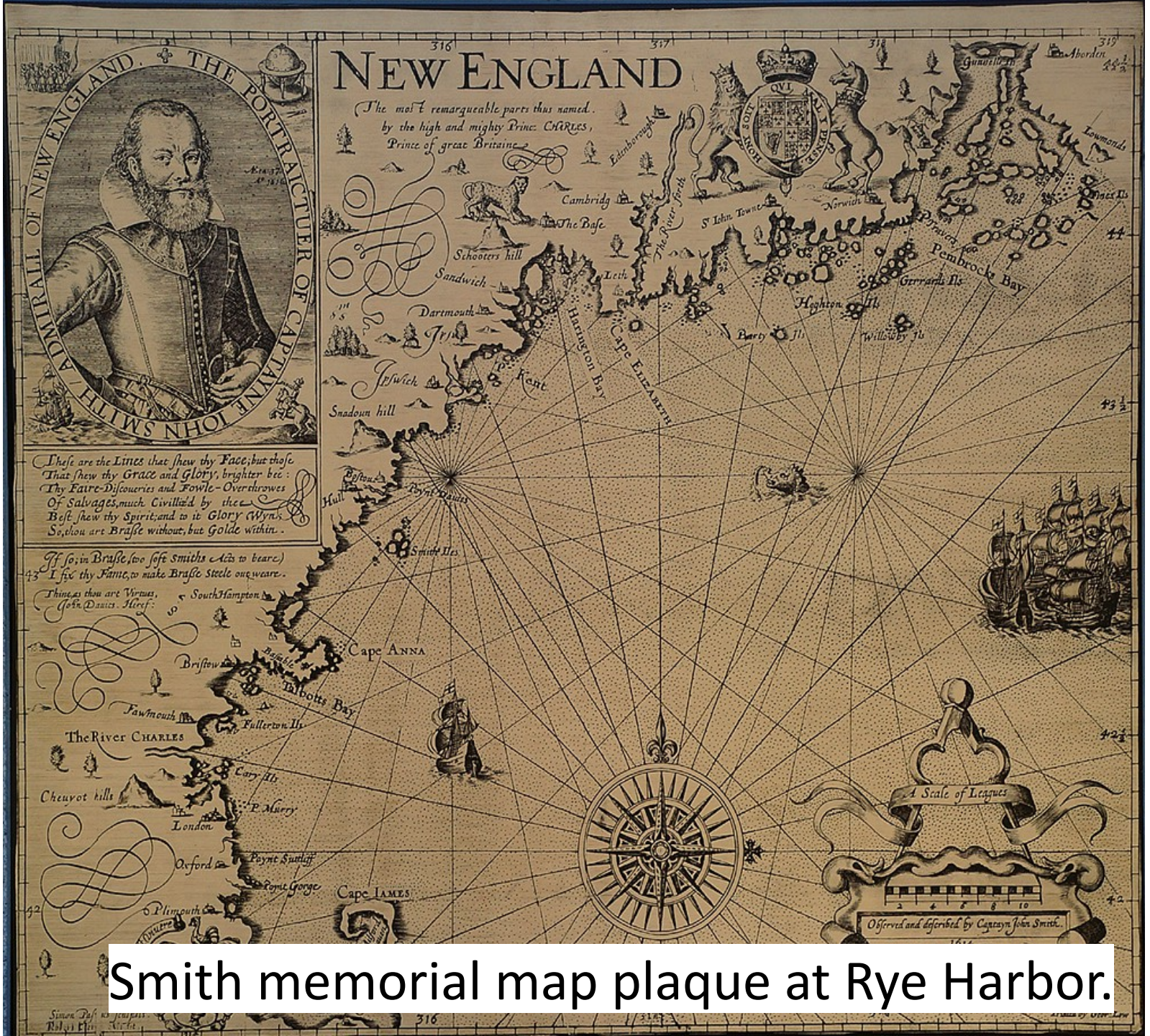
Paul Strand at Gosport Chapel
with picture of Smith memorial.

Smith memorial at Star Island.

Smith memorial plaque at Star Island.

Smith memorial at Rye Harbor State Park.

Rye memorial (foreground) with Star Island landmarks (background, foreshortened).



Smith memorial map plaque at Rye Harbor.

Sources.

- Edney, Matthew H. [2009] “The Anglophone Toponyms Associated with John Smith’s *Description* and Map of New England,” *Names*, v. 57, n.4, pp. 187-204.
- Edney, Matthew H. [2010] “Simon de Passe’s Cartographic Portrait of Captain John Smith and a new [sic] England (1616/17),” *Word and Image: A Journal of Verbal/Visual Inquiry*, v. 26, n. 2, pp. 186-213.
- Edney, Matthew H. [2011] “A Cautionary Historiography of John Smith’s *New England*,” *Cartographica*, v. 46, n.1, pp. 1-27.

Appendix:
John Smith on the abundance of fish in "A Description of New England"

"You shall scarce finde any Baye, shallow shore, or Coue of sand, where you may not take many Clampes, or Lobsters, or both at your pleasure, and in many places lode your boat if you please; nor Isles where you finde not fruits, birds, crabs, and muskles, or all of them for taking at a lowe water. And in the harbors we frequented, a little boye might take of Cunners and Pinacks, and such delicate fish, at the ship's sterne, more than six or tenne can eate in a daie; but with a casting-net, thousands when wee pleased: and scarce any place, but Cod, Cuske, Holybut, Mackerell, Scate, or such like, a man may take with a hooke or line what he will. And, in diuerse sandy Baies, a man may draw with a net great store of Mullets, Bases, and diuerse other sorts of such excellent fish, as many as his Net can drawe on shore: no Riuer where there is not plentie of Sturgeon or Salmon, or both; all which are to be had in abundance obseruing but their seasons."

Model of a codfish *(Gadus morhua)* in the *Underneath the Shoals* exhibit at the Discover Portsmouth Center, 2012. (Jim Cerny photo)