Calendar of State Papers Colonial, America and West Indies, Volume 12: 1685–1688, J. W. Fortescue, ed. (London: Longman, 1899), no. 748, p. 210–211:

## July 3. Court.

**748.** Order of the King in Council. Referring the petition of the inhabitants of **Hampton** New Hampshire to Lords of Trade and Plantations for report. *Signed*, Wm. Bridgeman. 1 p. Annexed.

> **748.** I. The petition referred to. We have lived for fifty years in peaceable possession of the lands now challenged by Robert Mason. On the creation of the new Government the Governor was instructed to settle and quiet the people in respect of Mr. Mason's title or to report the case impartially to the King. On the contrary Mr. Mason has been permitted to bring actions wherein the Government have arrogated the power of an absolute judgment, and have given costs of ten and twenty pounds in cases sometimes where the damage did not exceed two shillings. He has also challenged fenced and improved lands contrary to royal order. For the last two years and more one jury, and very often one foreman, has generally been returned to serve in all the issues connected with Mr. Mason's title, and this foreman was tampered with by Mason. Again, notwithstanding the royal prohibition of any further proceedings in Mr. Mason's title until the case were brought befor the King in Council, Deputy-Governor Walter Barefoot has permitted executions to be levied and persons to be imprisoned with excessive costs and damages. We gratefully acknowledge your goodness in allowing Mr. William Vaughan to appeal against several harsh and oppressive judgments here; and we send Mr. Nathaniel Weare to represent our grievances. *Nine columns of signatures and* marks, the first on the list that of Richard Waldern. 3 large sheets. Endorsed. Read at the Committee 6 July 1686. The appeal heard 6 Nov. 1686. [Col. Papers, Vol. LVII., Nos. 114–114 I., and Col. Entry Bk., Vol. LXVII., p. 156.]

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