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In the “howling wilderness” (as Edward Hogan [Hogan 1974] characterized the 17th century Anglo-American colonies), plane trigonometry was considered higher mathematics. Contrasts between the higher mathematical landscape in these colonies and that of the mother country, especially with regard to plane trigonometry, narrowed somewhat during the 18th century. We trace the development of plane trigonometry in the United States up to the early decades of the 19th century, by which time it had come to closely resemble that which we teach today. The term “Bridges” has at least two senses for us: (i) those plane trigonometric facts and practices brought from England to the colonies and the United States; and (ii) a Platonic summary. (Received August 26, 2010)