The LAST WORDS and DYING SPEECH

Of SAMUEL L. HADLOCK, who is this day to be executed at Pownalborough.

Of SAMUEL L. HADLOCK, who is to a status of the status of fert; where I had never been before. I found a finall harbour, lived on board my veffel, and worked on flore, until I built me a log houfe. In about three weeks I went back to Chebacto, and brought my wife, and the remainder of my goods; where I lived and laboured exceeding hard, and was too much fet upon getting the world, and too much neglected preparing for another. But I have this for my comfort, that I never knowingly cheated or de-frauded any perfon; but always endeavoured punctually to fulfi my aronife, and ray on with dothar-inhough I was received in a my promifes, and pay my just debts-although I was treated in a very different manner, and used ill by others.

 \mathbf{C}

very different manner, and nied ill by others. On the unhappy twenty fixth day of October, 1789, I rofe ear-ly in the morning, went out to work as ufual for about two or three hours, and then went into the houfe. Being very thirthy I made fome drink with water, rum and molailes, and drank once or twice. I felt dizzy in my head, and a good deal difordered in my mind-went out and travelled about my field for fometime ; and going near to the boule of Jyhn Mancheiler, his wife began to abufe me, i dd take it' very provoking manner. Her kuf-bend defined ier to house, tongut, i th kept en till provoked with her, tha ' book hold oi her, and pulled her de backwards on the floor iywor three times. Then Jums kichard-fon, jun. came in and defired her to be quiet, but the fail balted

ion, gua, came in and delired her to be quiet, out me that adhed me. I then famped on the floor, and faid never was a man fo ill uied-left the houle, and went directly houns. I tarried but a fhort time, went again into my field, and from theuce faw the un-fortunate Eliab Littlefield Gott, and one Daniel Tarr, croffing the fortunate has bettenein Gott, and one District rate closing use tiver in a case. I called to Gott, and he came to the flave. I took hold of him, afted him to go to Manchefler's, and told him that James Richardfon was there. He fuddealy twitched from me and feil over the other fide of the cance into the water. He got, up immediately, and went with me to Manchefler's houfe. While have flavding on one file of the dore, and Gott on the other. that James Richardfon was there. He fuddedly twitched from me and feil over the other field of the cance into the water. He got up immediately, and went with me to Mancheller's hould. While I was flanding on one field of the door, and Gott on the other, James Richardfon came out of the houfe, fizzed me by the threat, the weat magning the finan and by the nole, mile Richardfon bene my neck over the fence, and by the mile Richardfon bene my neck over the fence, and by the mole, fizzed me by the threat, the financial state is a state of the mole of the other of the fizzed me by the hair and by the nole, while Richardfon bene my neck over the fence, and alwoft firangled me. Mancheller of the left of besting me, and they all wareful the the state way the bloody, my frace brailed, and my lips to broken that I could hardly firsk. Putting my hand down to raite myfelf up, Hound i firsk that lay by the fence; and feing Gott run away, being in the hear of palline, I run atter him. Juft as I came up with him, he fell down, partly on his face. I then first kin on the under fide of his thigh, and faid to him get up and go along with me alter that indian (meaning James Richardfon) that is running away. Gott then turned himself over, and I thought he was riling up. I firsk his houfe, but could fee nothing of him. — Mr. Stephen Sargins forme to me and davied me to go hom. — Mr. Stephen Sargins for of them, and that I had better not go in the road, for they might wayshay and kill me. I took his advice, went home by the warse fide, and went to bed. The nexet day I heard that Gott was not like to live z and went immediately to feelin. Andrew Tarr, his fon, and James Richardfon were all there, and arm-et. They refind to let me come in a divide due to kill me j and appendent to be findled. I defined Tarr to go for a Dottor and ther dore to be findled. I defined that my houte, and have, where do be mode have any thing the my houte. They have, where do be indiale. I define to the mode. They was define to be findled. I define to than

ing plundered my fubfiance to the value of about fixty pounds, they carried me to goal; where I was confined till brought before the Supreme Judicial Court. I had a first and impartial trial by the Gourt and Jury; but God knows, and I know, that a great part of what the winterfiles tellfield againt me was faile-by means whereof I muft now looke my like. Yet, as a dying man, I hearri-terior to the mean of hear at a meeting God to give them mus ly forgive them; and beg of a merciral God to give them true repeatance for this and all their other iniquities.

rependance for this and all their other iniquities. After being conviled, and having received my fentence, I was remanded to goal, and put in irons. In about feven days after, I got off my irons; and having beforehand prepared myfelf, made a hole through the hearth and timber under it, which I kept cover-ed in the day time. About miniph, can the 16th day of July, went through the hole I had made, erept along under the goal, dog under the fail unbeknown to any perfon, except my little Son (who was in the goal with me) and made my feinger-travelled Son (who was in the goal with me) and made my feinger-travelled Son jurisatly as politible intil arrived. Our house-kept's my barn one night and the sext day i... evening code my bars, and in two days and nights got to Palfamequady. Then took palfage to Sk. Andrews, and went by the name of Guiber's where I tarried about a fortnight. Then went in the pakket to St. John's, and travelled back in the country until Lame to Grand Palfage. I tarried about a fortnight. Then went in the packet to St. John's, and traveled back in the country until I came to Grand Paffage. Being fenfible in my own mind that insever was in my heart guil-ty or the murder charged upon me, and Gad having delivered me from the goal. I fail hoped that he w. Id protect and preferve me ; and the country being very po ; and I having fo great a concern about my poor young childi sa I was determined to re-time home. I went on board a finitige fehooner bound to Portf-mouth ; and was fet on thore on Mount Defert, shout three miles mouth 1 and was fet on flore on Mount Defert, about three miles from my hours. I got home in the night, and tartied there about one week--lodged fometimes in my barn, and fometimes in the words; where I tuffered much by hard rains and cold nights. At Lift Ventured to my houfe; and the faid James Richardlon Craw there and diffeovered me. I went away from my houfe about fun-fet, and was diffeovered by a girl in the woods. I then went on board of a fmall filling (chooser belonging to my fon in law Man-ehelter. He came on board that night and found me there. C went out a fifting with him about a week, and then a florm arofe, which olived my complex - horboar in long filland : where I was which oliged us to make a harbour in Long Ifland; where I was taken by nineteen armed men, who robbed me of fix dollars and taken by infectent armed men, who robbed me of it double and an half in call, one filk handkerchief, a pair of flockings, fundry fifting geers, and my gun and bayonet. I was then carried to Portland goal, where I was confined about a week. Then brought back to Pownalborough, where I have remained in irons until this fattih

og man, do folema ad now before i leave the world as and now befort Trave, the world as any man, so following by declare in the preferce of that Godd is an as whom i mult from appear. That the many feindalous reports which have lately been propagated and fpread abroad in the world about me, **T** bad from year log been guilty of marker and many other attraction comma, are all table and without the least foundation of truth. I defire to been found marker and the first foundation of truth. I defire to be God much bay gives me for much of his orth almost graves and blefs God, who has given me fo much of his reft aining grace and kept me from commiting thole, or any fuch like heinous crimes as I have been malicioully and falfely charged with. Although I as there been mancounty and ratery charged with Attimuted to acknowledge with grief that I have been too much taken up in a perfuit of getting the world; and thereby too negligent in the great concerns of my foul and a future flate.

The second secon

SAMUEL L. HADLOCK. foul.

Atteft. EZRA TAYLUR. Pownalbercugh, October 28, 1790. As recounted in a 1998 article in The History Journal of the MDI Historical Society, Samuel L. Hadlock of Manchester Point, Mount Desert, was tried and convicted for the 1790 murder of Eliab Littlefield Gott, age 22. In "Hadlock Executed This Day," authors Mary H. Jones, Alice MacDonald Long, and Ralph Hamilton Long, Jr. presented the extensive testimony of witnesses to the murder.

In bringing to the attention of the MDI Historical Society this broadside telling Hadlock's version of events, Raymond Strout and his sons Michael and Peter have helped to round out the story of this infamous event.

As is often the case, more information about an event provokes more questions. Was Gott's death an accident or cold-blooded murder? Did Hadlock's neighbors, who were the prime witnesses against him, use Gott's murder as a pretext to steal his property and generally abuse him? In the end, was justice done?

The LAST WORDS and DYING SPEECH

Of SAMUEL L. HADLOCK, who is this day to be executed at Pownalborough.

SAMUEL HADLOCK, now in the forty fourth year of my age, was born in Cape Ann, in the county of Essex. My father died when I was put to one Thomas Bryant, of I was about six years old. Chebacco-lived with him about two years ; and was very cruelly treated by him. My mother took me away from him, and bound me to one Deacon John Sawyer, in Cape Ann, who was a very kind and good master, and with whom I lived until I was fourteen years old. I then went home to my mother, and went out to labour until my twentieth year. Then my mother died ; and I went and improved the farm my father left me by his last will. I remained in that situation about three years, and then married. I was very zealous in my pursuit after the world, and laboured exceedingly hard—bought several tracts of land, and got into a good way of living. God prospered my undertakings, and my estate encreased very fast.——About nine years ago I moved into Chebacco, and kept a tavern two years. Then a constable came from Cape Ann, with a tax for my poll and personal estate, which I refused to pay, having the same year payed a tax on my poll and personal estate in Chebacco. The said constable took a pair of oxen from me and unjustly sold them at Vendue ; which made so uneasy that I was almost crazy, and determined to leave that part of the country. I advertised my lands for sale, and disposed of the greater part of them. Then took a small schooner, and put on board some stores, and as much of my household goods as I could carry-took my two sons and two daughters with me, and sailed along the Eastern Coast, until we arrived at Mount Desert ; where I had never been before. I found a small harbour, lived on board my vessel, and worked on shore, until I built me a log house. In about three weeks I went back to Chebacco, and brought my wife, and the remainder of my goods; where I lived and laboured exceeding hard, and was too much set upon getting the world, and too much neglected preparing for another. But I have this for my comfort, that I never knowingly cheated or defrauded any person; but always endeavoured punctually to fulfil my promises, and pay my just debts—although I was treated in a very different manner, and used ill by others.

On the unhappy twenty sixth day of October, 1789, I rose early in the morning, went out to work as usual for about two or three hours, and then went into the house. Being very thirsty I made some drink with water, rum and molasses, and drank once or twice. I felt dizzy in my head, and good deal disordered in my mind-went out and travelled about my field for sometime ; and going near to the house of John Manchester, his wife began to abuse me, and talked in a very provoking manner. Her husband desired her to hold her tongue ; but she kept on till [I was so] provoked with her, that I took hold of her, and pulled her down backwards on the floor two or three times. Then James Richardson, jun. came is and desired her to be quiet, but she still abused me. I then stamped on the floor, and said never was a man so ill used-left the house, and went directly home. I tarried but a short time, went again into my field, and from thence saw the unfortunate Eliab Littlefield Gott, and one Daniel Tarr, crossing the river in a canoe. I called to Gott, and he came to the shore. I took hold of him, asked him to go to Manchester's, and told him that James Richardson was there. He suddenly twitched from me and fell over the other side of the canoe into the water. He got up immediately, and went with me to Manchester's house. While I was standing on one side of the door, and Gott on the other, James Richardson came out of the house, seized me by the throat, shoved me against a fence, and kept smiting me in the face. Then Gott seized me by the hair and by the nose, while Richardson bent my neck over the fence, and almost strangled me. Manchester called on them for God's sake not to commit murder. Richardson then left off beating me, and they all went off. I was left very bloody, my face bruised, and my lips so broken that I could hardly speak. Putting my hand down to raise myself up, I found a stick that lay by the fence ; and seeing Gott run away, being in the heat of passion, I run after him. Just as I came up with him, he fell down, partly on his face. I then struck him on the under side of his thigh, and said to him get up and go along with me after that indian (meaning James Richardson) that is

running away. Gott then turned himself over, and I thought he was rising up. I struck him no more, but left him ; and did not see him again till the next day, when on his mother's bed.------ Richardson run toward his own house. I followed him, knocked at his door, went into his house, but could see nothing of him.-----Mr. Ste-phen Sargent came to me and advised me to go home--said there were three or four of them, and that I had better not go in the road, for they might way-lay and kill me. I took his advice, went home by the water's side, and went to bed. The next day I heard that Gott was not like to live ; and went immediately to see him. Andrew Tarr, his son, and James Richardson were all there, and armed. They refused to let me come in, and threatened to kill me ; but after some time I was admitted. Poor Gott lay on the bed, and appeared to be senseless. I desired Tarr to go for a Doctor; and told him that he should have any thing that my house afforded. I then went home ; and about twenty four hours afterwards, five men came, took me, said Gott was dead, & carried me to Tarr's house, where Gott was : and then back to my own house. They stole my watch, used half a barrel of rum, killed one of my oxen and a fat hog-took from me my money, desk, notes of hand and all my papers. After tarrying several days at my house, and having plundered my substance to the value of about sixty pounds, they carried me to goal ; where I was confined till brought before the Supreme Judicial Court. I had a fair and impartial trial by the Court and Jury ; but God knows, and I know, that a great part of what the witnesses testified against me was false-by means whereof I must now loose my life. Yet, as a dying man, I heartily forgive them ; and beg of a merciful God to give them true repentance for this and all their other iniquities.

After being convicted, and having received my sentence, I was remanded to goal [*sic*], and put in irons. In about seven days after, I got off my irons ; and having beforehand prepared myself, made a hole through the hearth and timber under it, which I kept covered in the day time. About midnight, on the 16th day of July, went through the hole I had made, crept along under the goal, dug under the sill unbeknown to any person, except my little Son (who was in the goal with me) and made my escape—traveled as privately as possible until I arrived [at my] own house—kept in my barn one night and the next

day; [that?] evening took my boat, and in two days and nights got to Passamequady. Then took passage to St. Andrews, and went by the name of Gilbert ; where I tarried about a fortnight. Then went in the packet to St. John's, and travelled back in the country until I came to Grand Passage. Being sensible in my own mind that [I] never was in my heart guilty of the murder charged upon me, and God having delivered me from the goal, I still hoped that he would protect and preserve me ; and the country being very poor, and I having so great a concern about my poor young children, I was determined to return home. I went on board a fishing schooner bound to Portsmouth ; and was set on shore on Mount Desert, about three miles from my house. I got home in the night, and tarried there about one week-lodged sometimes in my barn, and sometimes in the woods; where I suffered much by hard rains and cold nights. At last I ventured to my house ; and the said James Richardson came there and discovered me. I went away from my house about sunset, and was discovered by a girl in the woods. I then went on board of a small fishing schooner belonging to my son in law Manchester. He came on board that night and found me there. I went out a fishing with him about a week, and then a storm arose, which obliged us to make a harbour in Long Island ; where I was taken by nineteen armed men, who robbed me of six dollars and an half in cash, one silk handkerchief, a pair of stockings, sundry fishing geers, and my gun and bayonet. I was then carried to Portland goal, where I was confined about a week. Then brought back to Pownalborough, where I have remained in irons until this fated hour.

And now before I leave the world, as [a dying] man, do solemnly declare in the presence of that God [before] whom I must soon appear, That the many scandalous reports which have lately been propagated and spread abroad in the world about me, *That I had some years ago been guilty of murder and many other attrocious crimes*, are all false and without the least foundation of truth. I desire to bless God, who has given me so much of his restraining grace and kept me from commiting those, or any such like heinous crimes as I have been maliciously and falsely charged with. Although I acknowledge with grief that I have been too much taken up in a persuit of getting the world ; and thereby too negligent in the great concerns of my soul and a future state.

But as to the murder of the poor young man, which I have been charged with, and for which I must soon die, I solemly declare before God and this audience, that I never had it in my heart to take away his life, or the life of any other person ; except it was in defence of my own. And although the great and holy God, who cannot do otherwise than right, has so ordered things that I must be cut off from the land of the living, yet I can safely appeal to him, and my own conscience, that I never did wittingly and willingly, take away the life of that poor young man.

I do now solemnly caution and warn all persons to avoid quarrels and contentions with any one ; especially with such as would irritate and raise your passions ; whereby you may rashly do that which may afterwards cause you bitter repentance. Shun and avoid their company, or bare their slanders and reproaches with a christian temper, knowing that a just and righteous God will surely punish him that stireth up strife, & unjustly slandereth his neighbour.

And now I desire to forgive all those who have injured me, even to the taking away of my life. I desire to leave the world without having the least hatred or illwill in my heart towards any one of my fellow creatures. And I do solemnly warn all persons not to practice any sinful courses, nor prophanely curse and swear, nor blaspheme the name of the great and holy God, which is too much the practice in these sinful and degenerate times. Remember that God will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain ; but for all these things will bring them into judgement. Live peaceable and quiet lives, in all Godliness and honesty.

I now desire the humble and fervant prayer of all now present, while I am alive and a subject of payer [*sic*], that he would of his infinite mercy pardon and forgive all my manifold sins, and graciously accept of my soul, through the merits of his dear son our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, into whose hands I commit my departing soul.

SAMUEL L. HADLOCK. Attest. EZRA TAYLOR Pownalborough, October 28, 1790