

## Deposition on the killing of Moses Talbot by John Hocking in 1634, in a dispute over Kennebec River trading rights.

This deponent saith that upon the \_\_\_ day of April, John Hocking riding at anchor within our limits above the house; Mr. John Howland went up to him with our bark and charged the said Hocking to weight his anchors and depart; who answered he would not, with foul speeches, demanding why he spoke not to them that sent him forth: answer was made by John Howland that the last year a boat was sent having no other business to know whether it was their mind that he should thus wrong us in our trade, who returned answer they sent him not thither and therefore Mr. Howland told him that he would not now suffer him there to ride. John Hocking demanded what he would do whether he would shoot; Mr. Howland answered no but he would put him from thence. John Hocking said and swore he would not shoot but swore if we came aboard him he would send us.

Thus passing by him we came to an anchor something near his bark; Mr. Howland bid three of his men go cut his cable, whose names were John Irish, Thomas Savory and William Reinolds, who presently cut one but were put by the other by the strength of the stream. Mr. Howland seeing they could not well bring the canoe to the other cable called them aboard and bade Moses Talbot go with them who accordingly went very readily and brought the canoe to Hocking's cable; he being upon the deck came with a carbine and a pistol in his hand and presently presented his piece at Thomas Savory but the canoe with the tide was put near the bow of the bark which Hocking seeing presently put his piece almost to Moses Talbot's head, which Mr. Howland seeing called to him desiring him not to shoot his man but take himself for his mark saying his men did but that which he commanded them and therefore desired him not to hurt any of them; if any wrong was done it was himself that did it and therefore called again to him to take him for his mark saying he stood very fair; but Hocking would not hear nor look towards our bark but presently shooteth Moses in the head, and presently took up his pistol in his hand but the Lord stayed him from doing any further hurt by a shot from our bark; himself was presently struck dead being shot near the same place in the head where he had murderously shot Moses.