

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

---

---

SENATE.

No. 7.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

The Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Resolve in favor of the County of Knox, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the same be printed, together with a Statement of Facts, for the consideration of the Legislature.

Per order.

JOHN P. SWASEY.

---

IN SENATE, January 29, 1875.

Read and accepted. Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

[No. 18.] RESOLVE in favor of the county of Knox.

---

*Resolved,* That there be paid out of the state treasury  
2 to the treasurer of the county of Knox, the sum of  
3 three thousand five hundred and ninety-four dollars  
4 and ninety-nine cents, it being the amount of costs and  
5 expenses incurred in the supreme judicial court in  
6 that county at the September term, eighteen hundred  
7 and seventy-four, in the trial of Charles Tilton Rob-  
8 bins for the crime of murder.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

---

*To the Senate and House of Representatives  
in Legislature assembled :*

The undersigned, County Commissioners of Knox County, respectfully represent that in the month of May last, one Charles T. Robbins, a citizen of Deer Isle, being then a passenger on board the British schooner, Annie B., on a voyage from Portland to St. John, N. B., and upon the high seas, committed an assault upon the master of said schooner with intent to murder, and escaped from said schooner into the County of Knox, where, on the 27th of May he was apprehended by the United States Marshal on complaint of the British Consul, charging him with the said crime, and removed to Portland for hearing thereon.

That said offence was not committed within the jurisdiction of this State or of the United States, but was committed within the jurisdiction of the British government and was cognizable only by its courts, and that the United States was bound by treaty to surrender the said prisoner to the British government for trial.

Your petitioners further represent that on the 28th of said May, and while examination was being held upon said complaint, one Solomon Camp, mate of said schooner, upon whom the prisoner had also committed a similar assault at the same time and place, died from the effects thereof at Rockland, whither he had been removed for medical treatment.

That thereupon the said Robbins became also guilty of the crime of murder, which offence was also committed within the jurisdiction of the British government and was punishable by its courts, and an additional complaint was made by the British Consul charging the prisoner with that crime, committed on a British subject on board a British vessel on the high seas; and such proceedings were had upon each of said complaints that the prisoner was held upon both to await extradition.

That by virtue of Revised Statutes, chapter 131, section 3, jurisdiction of the said charge of murder attached also to the courts of this State, and upon application of the executive of this State the United States refused the application of the British government for extradition, and remanded the prisoner to the Supreme Judicial Court in Knox County for trial therein.

That at the last September term in said County an indictment was found and a trial had, which resulted in a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity.

And your petitioners further represent that inasmuch as the prisoner, when the crime of murder became complete, was already under arrest charged with a capital offence, and there was no reason to apprehend an escape or failure of justice; there was no obligation upon or power in the County of Knox to claim the prisoner for trial or to assert the jurisdiction of its courts; that such jurisdiction attached by accident merely, and could be claimed and asserted by the State authorities only, and exercised by the courts solely in obedience to the executive, and to discharge in good faith the duty required by international faith and comity; that the case is therefore entirely exceptional in its character, and that justice and equity require that the expenses thereof should be borne by the State, and not by the County of Knox.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that the expenses of said trial may be paid out of the Treasury of the State to the County of Knox.

Dated this 20th day of January, 1875.

SILAS HAWES, } *County Commissioners*  
EDWARD HILLS, } *of Knox County.*

*Cost of Trial State v. Charles T. Robbins, Knox S. J. Court,  
September Term, 1874.*

Criminal bill.....	\$2,298 73
Service special venires.....	6 00
Trial Jury 15 days.....	360 00
Travel and attendance special jurors.....	24 00
Grand Jury, 15 men, 2 days.....	60 00
Reporter.....	85 00
Sheriff 15 days at \$3.....	45 00
Deputies (4) at \$2.....	120 00
Messenger.....	30 00

COUNTY OF KNOX.

5

Officers with jury (2).....	\$28 00
Feeding prisoner and watch of same .....	74 50
Keeping jury .....	423 76
	<hr/>
	\$3,594 99

CLERK'S OFFICE, Supreme Judicial Court, }  
Knox County, January 25, 1875. }

I certify the foregoing to be a true statement of the bill of Cost, and Sheriffs and other expenses attending the trial of the case, State v. Charles Tilton Robbins, at S. J. Court, Knox, September Term, 1874, as allowed by the Justice presiding.

Witness my hand and seal of office at Rockland the day and year above written.

EDWIN ROSE, *Clerk.*