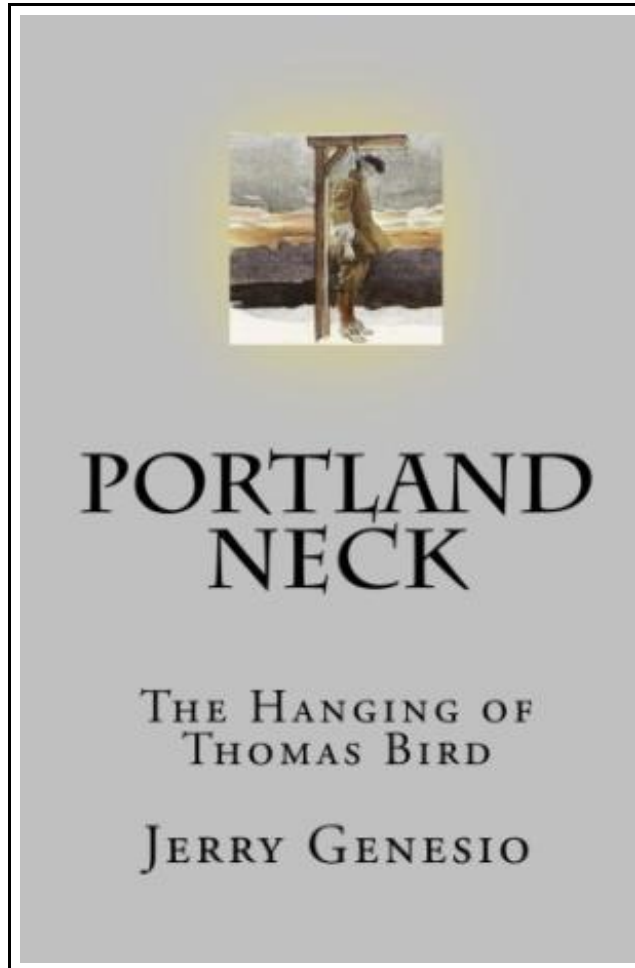


## PORTLAND NECK The Hanging of Thomas Bird



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Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 142 pages. This is an account of the first death sentence handed down by a U. S. District Court judge under the authority of the United States Constitution. Thomas Bird, 40, an Englishman, was tried for murder and piracy in Portlands First Parish meeting house and was hung from a gallows at Bramhall Hill on June 25, 1790. The execution was carried out by U. S. Marshal Henry Dearborn, who would later be appointed Secretary of War by President Thomas Jefferson. Bird was convicted of murdering his master, John Connor, captain of the slave ship Mary, off the coast of Africa. The Marys crew then sailed to the coast of Maine. When captured by Portlands Naval Officer, there were but four people aboard: Bird; Hans Hanson, 19, of Norway; Josiah Jackson, 32, of Newton, MA; and an African boy known only as Cuffey. Bird and Hanson were held in the Cumberland County Jail for nearly a year pending the organization of the U. S. Federal Court system. Jackson was immediately released and later testified for the prosecution. Hanson was charged with aiding and abetting in the death of Captain Connor and was acquitted. This book is based primarily on a handwritten record of the trial found in the National Archives, Waltham, Massachusetts. It includes a narrative of the Marys voyage from England, Connors murder, the crews capture, the trial, and Birds execution, as well as biographical sketches of key Maine figures involved, and a description of Portland at the time of the trial and execution. This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from Roseburg,OR, La Vergne,TN. Paperback.



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