

June 16, 1921.

State of Utah v. Lawrence Hamilton.

Honorable State Board of Pardons,
Salt Lake City.

Gentlemen:

The information in this action charged Lawrence Hamilton with the crime of robbery committed in Ogden City, Utah, on the 1st of March, 1921, by then and there taking from the person of one E. R. Wayne one gold watch by means of force and fear used upon said Wayne.

On March 7th, 1921, Hamilton was arraigned upon the information and at that time, not having an attorney and being unable to procure one, the court assigned James A. Howell, a member of this bar, to defend him. On March 8th Hamilton appeared in court with his counsel and entered a plea of not guilty to the charge in the information. Afterwards on May 2nd the defendant and his attorney appeared in court, as also did the District Attorney, and requested leave of the court to withdraw the plea of not guilty theretofore made and for leave to replead to the information. Leave was granted, and thereupon the prisoner personally withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty of grand larceny, waived time for imposition of judgment, and was adjudged to be imprisoned in the State Prison for a period of not less than one nor more than ten years.

There was no evidence of any kind taken in this case, and so far as I know Hamilton was a stranger in the community. No information was furnished to me as to his life history, altho there was a rumor that he had recently been discharged from the Federal Prison at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. No information reached me as to what he was in that prison for, nor under what circumstances he was imprisoned. I am therefore unable to make any recommendation in this matter. I will say, however, that Hamilton himself claimed that the man Wayne, from whom he took the watch, owed him \$20.00, and that he snatched the watch for the purpose of saving his \$20.00.

Yours respectfully,

James H. Hurball