

DODGE CITY TIMES

Dodge City Daily

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THE COUNTY SEAT WAR.



Of the battle at Cimarron on last Saturday between the deputy sheriffs of Gray County and citizens of Cimarron an eyewitness gives the following particulars of the fight:

"On last Saturday morning the Sheriff of Gray County, with Fred Singer Neal Brown, Jas. Masterson, Edward Brooks, Benj. Daniels and Wm. Tilghman as deputies went to Cimarron with a wagon to convey the county records to Ingalls, for which they had an order from the Supreme Court.

On their rival at the building used for a courthouse at Cimarron, four of the deputy sheriffs stood guard over the wagon while the sheriff and the balance of men carried out the books. After they had got all the books loaded and nearly ready to start, the Cimarron people, who in the meantime had been; arming themselves, fired upon the officers.

This commenced the battle, and the officers returned the fire. From this out the firing was continuous, fully 1,000 shots being fired. The team was started for Ingalls as soon as the shooting began and was protected on its way out of the city by the four deputies who were left in charge, viz: Ed. Brooks, Benj. Daniels, Wm. Tilghman. Neal Brown, and although lead was flying as thick as hail around them succeeded in getting away. Fred Singer, [as. Masterson and Wm. Ainsworth who were in the court house when the firing commenced, were unable to escape on account of the mob surrounding the building and who riddled the win and floor of the room in which they were with bullets. The deputy sheriffs with the records drove to Ingalls as fast as possible, and then telegraphed to Dodge City for aid in order to release the other officers imprisoned at Cimarron. Upon the receipt of the dispatch a number of the friends of the officers took the afternoon train for Ingalls, but in the evening Sheriff [H. B.] Bell and a number of our influential citizens went on a special train to Cimarron and obtained the release of the Ingalls officers.

"After the battle was over it was found that of the Cimarron people, J. W. English was killed outright; Jack Bliss was wounded in several places buck shot but will recover; Lee Fairhurst was wounded in the breast will recover; and a man by the name of Harrington was wounded in the hand.

"Of the Ingalls people, Ed. Brooks fared the worst, being shot in the back just below the shoulder blade and two different places' in the legs, it thought at first that he would die but the doctors now report that he will recover; the teamster who drove the wagon received a wound in the leg; Wm. Tilghman sprained his ankle badly while crossing the irrigating ditch [A. T. Soule's Eureka Irrigating Canal]." It is very much regretted that the shooting took place, but there is no question but what the Cimarron people were to blame, as they started the fight with the officers from Ingalls, who went there with the proper authority to take the records. It is a wonder to all that any of the officers escaped when fully 75 men were firing upon them, none but brave and determined men would have lived to tell the story of how they were attacked.

Most every daily paper in the east has been filled with news of the fight written by Cimarron people in which they place the Ingalls men in the light of murderers and heap a great deal of abuse on Dodge City, but a true statement of the fight is given above. The citizens of Dodge, although they do not believe in county seat fights, cannot help but sympathize with the officers

of Gray county who were fired upon by the Cimarron mob while doing their duty. The Mayor of Cimarron telegraphed for state militia which was at once responded to by Gen. Murray Myers and two companies of militia who arrived at Cimarron Sunday and remained until Tuesday morning. No further trouble is now anticipated.