

Galena Times-Republic

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GALENA OFFICER EXONERATED IN DANLEY SLAYING

Coroner's Jury Finds That
Police Chief Bankhead, Him-
self Wounded, Fired in
Self-Defense.

LATTER'S CONDITION REMAINS SERIOUS

Night Patrolman Todd Wis-
ner and Two Other Wit-
nesses at Inquest De-
scribe Gun Battle.

Galena, Kan., June 14.—A coroner's jury tonight exonerated Police Chief Henry Bankhead of Galena of any blame in the slaying of Jack Danley in a shooting in Galena Heights Sunday night, holding that Bankhead fired in self-defense.

The verdict was returned following an inquest at the city hall, conducted by Coroner Victor Winter of Columbus, and at which all eyewitnesses to the shooting testified that the Galena chief of police fired upon Danley only after the latter had shot him.

Bankhead, suffering from a bullet wound from a .38-caliber pistol through his right chest, is in a serious condition in St. John's hospital in Joplin. His condition tonight was reported by his attending physician as unchanged.

Witness Describes Fight.
The shooting took place shortly after 6 o'clock Sunday night in front of the home of Mrs. Lottie Hamilton on Vine street in Galena Heights, and climaxed the questioning and searching of Danley for a stolen watch. Mrs. Hamilton is Danley's sister-in-law.

Principal witness at the inquest was Night Patrolman Todd Wisner, who had accused Danley of taking the watch from a dresser in the Wisner home on Columbus street, next door to the Danley home, about 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Wisner said he missed his watch soon after Danley had visited his home. When Bankhead called at Wisner's residence at 6 o'clock to take Wisner to police headquarters for the night shift, Wisner testified that he requested the police chief to accompany him in the police car to the Hamilton home to question Danley.

Wisner said they found Danley and Mrs. Hamilton at a chicken house in the yard, and that he called Danley aside, accuses him of taking the watch and demanded its return.

Shot in Gun Battle



Police Chief Henry Bankhead (above) of Galena, Kan., dangerously wounded Sunday night in a gun battle. Jack Danley, a former miner, was shot and killed in the fight.

Felt Two Watches.

Wisner testified he "felt two watches" in Danley's shirt pocket and told Danley to surrender the watch when the latter suddenly struck him. He said he then pulled his pistol and struck Danley over the head. The two men grappled and Danley gained possession of the gun.

Bankhead, who had remained at the police car, then rushed up to grab Danley, Wisner testified, and Danley opened fire on the police chief. Bankhead retreated to the street and Danley pursued him, firing four shots, the witness said, before Bankhead finally turned around and returned the fire.

Bankhead fired twice, but only one bullet took effect. It struck Danley in the face and emerged behind his right ear. Danley pitched forward into a ditch beside the road and died instantly.

Shot in Back.

Bankhead was shot in the right side of his back, the bullet passing through his chest, puncturing a lung. A second bullet grazed his chest, but inflicted only a minor flesh wound.

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Wisner testified that he drove Bankhead back to town and with Patrolman Fred Link removed him to the hospital in a police car. Danley's body was taken to the Allison funeral home.

Mrs. Hamilton and Danley's widow, Lilly Danley, told stories of the shooting similar to that related by Wisner. They said Wisner and Danley scuffled, that Danley gained possession of the gun and fired upon Bankhead before the latter returned the fire. Mrs. Hamilton said she heard Danley fire only three shots, but Sheriff Maurice Harley testified there were four empty cartridges in the pistol. He also testified that Bankhead's pistol was fired twice.

Other inquest witnesses were Dr. Frank James and Dr. Gordon Cook, who examined Danley's body; Deputy Sheriff Herman Jackson, who investigated the case, and Flex Shewmake, embalmer.

Wisner said that after Danley's body was removed to the funeral home he found his watch in Danley's shirt pocket.

Danley, a former miner, was 42 years old. He had been employed recently by the city in street work. Bankhead is 49 years old is a veteran Galena officer.