

Mr. Armstrong relates an account of a killing that happened in the town of Catale, in northern Rogers County. Nothing remains of this once-busy town of Indian Territory days, but some of its history lives on. A Cherokee by name of George Dick and another fellow by name of Faye Beard had a long standing dislike for each other. What prompted the bad blood between them was not known. Sometime a year or two before statehood the two men chanced to meet in front of the depot in Catale. Faye Beard was depot agent then. As in those days nearly every man wore a gun. Beard called to Dick, asking him if he was ready. Dick told him that he was. Guns were drawn and when the smoke cleared Beard lay dead. Dick was brought to trial at the Vinita Court. The prosecuting lawyer displeased the judge by playing heavily on the sympathy of the jury, using various means to get a conviction. The judge knew both parties, and called a recess. The judge had George Dick's mother brought in, and at mid-afternoon resumed the trial. As long as sympathy was to be used as a basis for conviction or acquittal, the judge thought it fair for both sides. George's mother came in and embraced her son, saying "Oh, George, you are in trouble." and cried bitterly. Tears came to all those in the courtroom. George Dick was freed on grounds of self defense by Judge Preston Davis.