

LANGSTON GOES FREE

Man Charged With Shirey Murder is Acquitted by Jury.

Walnut Ridge, Oct. 15.—(Special).—J. C. Langston, charged with the murder of A. W. Shirey at Minturn last March, was acquitted by the jury late yesterday afternoon, after several hours of deliberation on the part of the jurors. Three ballots were taken, the first standing seven to five for acquittal and the last being unanimous for acquittal. The verdict was received without any particular demonstration in the court room, Judge Coffin having warned the audience against any display of feeling one way or the other.

Following the close of the celebrated case Judge Coffin was presented with a handsome umbrella by the members of the bar and Sheriff W. K. Surrige received a valuable diamond ring as a present from the attorneys, both gifts being tokens of esteem for the manner in which these two officials handled their respective parts of the difficult case.

Shirey was shot in his store at Minturn one night last month, and after much work on the part of the detectives and the local officers Langston, a former telegraph operator at Walnut Ridge, was arrested, charged with the crime of having assassinated the aged merchant. He was arrested at his home in South Dakota, where he resides at present.

The case was prosecuted with much vigor, both by the State and the grand lodge of the Odd Fellows, the latter being interested in the case through the bequest of Shirey that a large portion of his estate go to the fraternal order.

In the course of the trial other arrests were made, including those of W. J. Smith, W. T. Blackburn and Jeff Hill, the charge being accessory to the murder. Smith was assistant counsel for Langston and Hill, a brother of Mrs. Shirey, widow of the dead merchant.

Nearly 120 witnesses were examined, the majority of whom were for the State. A large number, however, came from Dakota and swore in support of an alibi for Langston, and the case finally resulted in Langston's acquittal.

The charges against the other parties will go over for trial until the next term of court.

Langston acquitted of murder, 10-15-1910

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