

A BLOODY BATTLE -- TWO DEAD AND FOUR WOUNDED

At a Justice of Peace court held in Betheden, 12 miles northeast of this place last Wednesday, a difficulty occurred between the Ivy's and McKay's which terminated in the death of Rush McKay and John Ivy and the following wounded. Bob Ivy's [Robert W. Ivy] throat cut probably fatal, " Cricket " Ivy [Crickett F. Ivy] cut not dangerously, John McKay shot through the body and through the neck. Mrs. John Ivy [Eliza Catherine McKay, John Ivy's 1st cousin], sister of the McKay's, shot in the breast -- slight flesh wound. From we have been able to gather relieve to the difficulty it was brought on by John Ivy having abused his wife and run her away from the day before. She went to her brothers for protection and assistance in the recovering of her two children and prosecuting him for abusing their sister, but the case was postponed, and the crowd was dispensing when Jesse McKay and Bob Ivy got into a difficulty. An eye witness sends us the following statement of the fight.

" Jesse McKay fired the first shot at Bob Ivy, then John McKay cut John Ivy's throat with a knife, who then died suddenly and he then cut the throats of "Cricket" Ivy and Bob Ivy and then Bob Ivy, after his throat was cut, shot and killed Rush McKay and also shot and seriously wounded John McKay. John Ivy's wife, Rush McKay's daughter, received a flesh wound in the breast by unknown parties."

There was a large crowd on the grounds and it was impossible to get a correct detailed account of the affair. Sheriff Gully repaired to the scene soon after it happened but as all concerned were either killed or dangerously wounded, no arrest were made. It is a sad affair and one to be deplored by any community. The last report we have had of the wounded, was yesterday evening which was to the effect that John McKay and Bob Ivy were still alive and likely to die.

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL April 1, 1898

The last report received here from John McKay who was wounded in the stomach in the Ivy-McKay difficulty at Betheden last week was that he was doing well and improving. If Mr. McKay recovers from his wounds which seems very probable now, the operation by Drs. Kirk, Fondren, and Gillis will be a credit to these gentlemen, especially to Dr. Kirk who used the knife.