

**Manassas Journal 13 June 1929**

**NOT GUILTY IN MADDOX MURDER  
JURY ACQUITTAL IN MURDER CASE  
Willie Davis and Richard Davis, Exonerated of Blame  
OTHER INDICTMENTS ARE NOLLE PROSSED  
Acquittal Verdict after Deliberating 45 Minutes**

With the acquittal yesterday of Willie Davis and Richard Davis under trial for the murder in January of William Maddox near Joplin, this county, a case which has held the attention of the public since April, at which time the men were indicted, came to an end.

Indicted with the two men acquitted yesterday were Coleman and John Davis, and Caton Carney, but the cases against them were nolle prossed following the acquittal yesterday of the other two men.

At the time of the death of William Maddox in January a doctor's certificate was given showing that death resulted from natural causes. Neighbors of the dead man insisted that the death was the result of a fight or general mix up following a drinking party in which Maddox and the five men accused took part. Witnesses appearing before the grand jury in April told of the fight and an indictment resulted.

Confusion among the witnesses and inability of the state to prove that either of the two men on trial had been involved in a fight, despite the testimony in April before the grand jury, led to an acquittal after the jury had deliberated on the case but 45 minutes. Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas H. Lion was the prosecutor while Charles Henry Smith, of Alexandria, represented the accused.

The jury bringing in the acquittal verdict was composed of the following men: A. R. Rust, foreman; H. C. Teel, A. C. Hart, J. T. Bean, R. A. Pearson, E. P. Davis, Charles H. Keyser, A. H. Breedon, George H. Ayres, R. T. Ellis, O. W. Hedrick, and J. E. Marshall.