

Not Guilty Verdict- Terry Vick, right, stands with his attorney, Trae Gray, in front of the Coal County courthouse Tuesday afternoon following Vick's trial for shooting with intent to kill.



Photo by Wanda Utterback

Coal County Jury Trial Docket Begins - Terry Vick found not guilty

Jury trials are currently under way in the Coal County District Court.

The first case on the docket was the State of Oklahoma vs. Terry Glenn Vick, 63, for shooting with intent to kill. The trial began Monday afternoon following a jury selection of five men and seven women plus two alternates.

The jury began deliberation at 2:20 p.m. Tuesday and announced at 4:10 that they had reached a unanimous decision. Vick was found not guilty of shooting with intent to kill as well as a lesser charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Vick was originally charged in January 2008 with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon upon Gary Vaughn of Coalgate. That charge was amended last fall, following Vick's preliminary hearing, to the greater charge of shooting with the intent to kill. The jury foreman said that jurors had considered each charge.

Vick's attorney, Trae Gray, smiled and shook hands with Vick after the verdict was read. "I would like to thank the jurors for their services," he said later as he, Vick and several supporters visited in the courthouse lobby.

Due to a press deadline, time did not allow for a complete article on the trial. The trial will be covered in next week's edition of the paper.

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**Story from April 15, 2009 COALGATE RECORD REGISTER
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Vick Trial - Defense attorney Trae Gray, left, and Defendant Terry Glenn Vick



Photo by Wanda Utterback

Terry Vick Claims Self-Defense in Shooting Incident

It took a Coal County jury of five men and seven women less than two hours on April 7 to find 63-year-old Terry Glenn Vick not guilty of shooting with intent to kill as well as a lesser charge for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Vick was originally charged in January 2008 with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon upon Gary Vaughan of Coalgate. That charge was amended last fall, following Vick's preliminary hearing, to the greater charge of shooting with intent to kill. The jury foreman said the jurors considered each charge.



Photo by Wanda Utterback

Vick Trial - Coal County assistant District Attorney Preston Harbuck, left, and Bryan County assistant District Attorney Tim Webster.

State prosecutor Tim Webster told the jury during his opening statement of the two-day trial that Vick fired a shotgun at Vaughan on January 9, 2008 with the intention of killing him. Defense attorney Trae Gray argued that his client was protecting himself and that the shot was fired as a warning to Vaughan.

Vaughan was the first witness called by the state. He testified that he and Vick got into an argument the afternoon of January 9 while Vick was helping him with some horses on the east side of Coalgate. The argument had to do with Vick throwing hay on the ground for the horses. Vick left, he said, and he went home an hour or so later. At the time, both men were living at the home of Vaughan's mother, Jahree Standridge.

Vaughan said when he arrived home, he entered the back door and walked through the kitchen to his mother's office where his brother and niece were setting up a computer for his mother. He said he asked his mother one time where Vick was after he told her they needed to "get something straightened out," but he didn't get an answer. Then he heard a noise coming from a nearby bedroom "that sounded like something fell – a big thunk."

He had not seen Vick's pickup when he pulled into the driveway, he said, and did not know Vick was in the bedroom. He stepped into a small hallway into the doorway to the bedroom, and when he saw Vick raising a shotgun pointed in his direction, he jumped to the side before Vick pulled the trigger.

Vick, he claimed, was threatening to kill him. Vaughan's brother, Mike, jumped up and slammed the door shut.

Vaughan testified that he absolutely had not made any verbal threats toward Vick nor had he made any physical threats toward him at the feed barn. He had told Vick to leave the feed lot, he said, and Vick left.

Mike Vaughan testified that when Gary came home, he asked two or three times where Vick was but did not hear him make any threats toward Vick, nor did he hear Vick making any threats toward Vaughan.

He said when he heard the gunshot, he jumped to his feet and saw Gary backing out of the doorway. He pushed his brother to the side, he said, and shut the door between the two rooms. He told Vick to put the gun down and not shoot and then told him he needed to get out of the house. They drove around awhile, he said, and then he took Vick to a relative's home.

Other state witnesses included Mike Vaughan's daughter, Heather Vaughan, Kent Howell who was at the feed lot with Vaughan and Vick, and Michael Glasco, a City of Coalgate police officer at the time of the shooting.

Terry Vick took the stand on Tuesday morning. He and Vaughan had known each since about 1985, he said, and had never had problems prior to January 9. He testified about several incidents in which Vaughan had demonstrated aggressive behavior toward other people.

When Gray asked him, "When you heard Gary coming down the hallway, were you afraid of what was going to happen?" Vick answered, "Yes, I was."

He said Vaughan had started cussing him at the horse barn and followed him to his pickup after he told him to leave. He was in the bedroom sitting at a table reading a book, he said, when he heard Gary pull up in the driveway. He said when Gary came inside, he was screaming, "Where's that son-of- a b-- at?"

Then, when he heard Gary coming down the small hallway, he felt trapped and in danger. He believed Vaughan knew he was in the bedroom. When Gray asked him whether he shot at Vaughan, he replied, "No. Absolutely not. I heard Gary start towards the bedroom. I jumped up from the table and toward the bed and pickup up the shotgun. When he came in, I pointed the gun at him dead at his chest. He turned, and I shot the gun through the door. I thought I would scare him and make a diversion so I could get out."

He testified that he did not say anything to Vaughan as Vaughan headed into the bedroom. When Gray asked him what he would do differently if he had it to do over, he said he would have gone somewhere else instead of going home. "I thought it was all over at the barn," he said.

He said he never intended to hurt anyone. "I had to protect myself."

Webster alleged that Vick was upset because Vaughan had embarrassed him and hurt his feelings at the horse lot. And he knew Vaughan would be

returning to his mother's house, because he was living there. And even though Vaughan had not threatened him at the horse operation, he said he now felt threatened. Vick maintained that he thought he was in the right when he picked up the shotgun.

Two other defense witnesses were called — Jahree Standridge and former Coalgate Chief of Police Carlin Weeden.

Standridge testified that when her son returned home that evening, he was upset and “very loud” and asked where Vick was, but she didn't know whether he was wanting to fight Vick. “That's hard to say,” she said. He had recently undergone surgery, she said, and was “totally paralyzed” on one side. Vick had gotten home first, she said, and had told her that he and Vaughan had “had words” at the horse barn.

Weeden testified about a couple of incidents involving Vaughan that she had been called out on while serving as a police officer in Coalgate.

Gray and Vick released the following joint statement:

“We would like to thank the ladies and gentleman of the jury for the service they provided. Your service was a sacrifice from your families, work, and a disruption from your normal life. You should be commended for your service.

“Our country's founders had a vision for how the system should work. Juries are a major component in making sure the justice system works as intended. Here, we believe the system worked as it is intended to work. It is a great community service that should not be taken lightly.

Also, we would like to thank everyone at the courthouse for all of their hard work. Finally, I would like to commend the District Attorneys' Office of the 19th District, specifically Mr. Webster and Mr. Harbuck, for conducting a good trial. Their role in our system should never be taken lightly as they provide a very important component in our justice system, effectively serving to protect us all. Once again, thanks for all you do. We appreciate you very much.”

State prosecutors were Bryan County assistant District Attorney Tim Webster and Coal County assistant District Attorney Preston Harbuck.

District Judge Richard E. Branam presided over the trial.

Vick Trial – District Judge Richard E. Branam presided over the trial.



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