

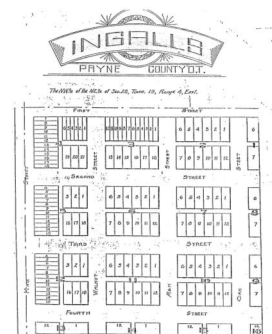
Ingalls, Oklahoma



Ingalls is located about 10 miles east of Stillwater. In 1889 Dr. A. G. McMurtry and Robert Beal had leased 40ac from their original quarter-sections to be used as a town site and named it for John J. Ingalls, a U.S. senator from Kansas who had been instrumental in getting Oklahoma opened to settlement. The east forty was surveyed and platted into nine full and seven fraction blocks, with four streets (Main, Walnut, Ash, and Oak) running north and south, and four avenues (First, Second, Third, and Fourth) running east and west. McMurtry opened a drugstore, and undertaking parlor in a small frame building at Oak & Second, and Beal opened a general store on First. A. J Light put in a blacksmith shop on Ash & First, where the wagon road from the west entered the town limits. A block south a dry-goods store and, hardware/implement yard was constructed. At first people got their mail at Falls City or Stillwater until Dr. McMurtry obtained a grant for a post office, which he set up in the corner of his drugstore. Soon followed a grocery store located just to the east of the hardware store.

In 1891 a man named Shassbury, living just west of Ingalls, filed a contest on the west forty of the town site, claiming abandonment. After the town's progress was reported to the land commission and many delegations later the contest was settled. Shassbury got the west forty, but Ingalls was there to stay the survey and plat of the east forty was adopted by the town trustees on September 26 and the town lots were deeded in October, 1892.

Afterward, more businesses began to move in. Vaughn's saloon, livery and feed stable, Ketchum's boot and harness store, a cotton gin, a gristmill, a flour mill, another blacksmith shop, two restaurants, and Sanders' barbershop. The town's population jumped to 150. Ingalls was described as the most prosperous and thriving trading points of Payne County in 1893 by the Oklahoma Hawk. The town had twenty-two businesses at this time.



On the morning of September 1, 1893 was the scene of one of the fiercest gunfights in the history of the state known as "The Battle of Ingalls". Ingalls at the time was the hideout for the Bill Doolin gang. It included Arkansas Tom, Bitter Creek Yocum, and Bill Dalton, a brother of the infamous Daltons who attacked Coffeyville, Kansas. These men in a sense owned the town. Many of the townsfolk were grateful to them because they spent money generously and created much commerce for the growing town.

When the lawmen in Guthrie and Stillwater found out the outlaws were in Ingalls they formed a posse to capture them. A gunfight ensued and the outlaws escaped with the exception of Arkansas Tom who was captured. Three U.S. Deputy Marshalls and one local citizen were killed. The gunfight marked the beginning of the end for the Doolin-Dalton gang, with all of the gang members eventually captured or killed. A stone monument still stands as a marker for the famous gunfight battle.

