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Evidence in relation to the killing of a Soldier by Mr. Edwards.

Rec'd Hd Qrs D.C. Apl 15 1863

Office of the Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland

The following evidence was taken before Wm. Innesdail, Chief of Army Police in relation to the Killing of a Soldier by Mr. Edwards, – the Soldier at the time being in the act of breaking into Mr. Edwards dwelling in the night.

Office of Chief of Police
Nashville, March 16th 1868.

Statement of M. Edwards,

I live 16 miles from Nashville on the Hydes Ferry Pike, last night or rather this morning between the hours of two and three o.c I was awakened by voices on my Porch, I at once called my wife and told her I thought they were robbers, she at once got up, so did I, and took my gun from the Wardrobe she asked them what they wanted, they said something to Eat, she replied if they would go off the Porch a few steps she would set something out the door, no they must have chicken, fried meat and Coffee, she replied we are afraid of robbers and you can not come in. I said men, there are two of us here and if you break in it is at your peril, they were threatening all the time to fire in at the doors & windows if they were not let in, this continued with all kind of threats such as burning the house &c for ½ an hour at least. they then did break the whole of a window in over the Trundle Bed in which two of my children sleep, I saw a gun poked through the sash and my wife and children four, calling, dont shoot; wait: as she put a child in the room where I was

she whispered why dont you shoot? I said I cant see them, I at once opened the front door about 12 feet from the window, at which they stood, and fired at each of them as quick as I could, killing the first one, after reloading (reloading) we heard more coming, I at once left the house by the back way and went to Dennis Dozier's 1/4 miles from my house soon after day started back with several of my neighbors, when we got home my wife said Lieut. Moore and some dozen others came up, broke open the door and called her down stairs, saying she should be protected, says they treated her like gentlemen, and that they went in to my barn some time or at night and did not know these two men had left the barn and could not think it was so, when this man came to the barn and reported one of their men killed, they took the body in the house and afterwards buried him in my orchard and then left. so that I saw none but the two first mentioned, and just a glimpse of them as I fired. what made me sure it was robbers was the fact that not long ago at Ashland 4 miles from my house two

men were robbed in one night and I had in the last six weeks sold over four hundred dollars worth of Hay which the neighborhood was knowing to, and they also knew I had not been to Nashville during that time to deposit any money. The above I affirm under oath to be a true statement.

Melzar Edwards.

I think these men belong to Col. Stokes 1st. Middle Tennessee Cavalry, from the fact that Lt. Moore who came to my house I learn his father is Surgeon of Stokes Regiment.

Melzar Edwards,

Subscribed & sworn to before me this March, 16 1863

J. M. Brien. Clk

Head Quarters U. S. Forces
Nashville Tenn.
Mar. 16 1863

Genl. Morgan has heard Mrs. M. Edwards statement of the shooting of a soldier at his house last night and refers the matter to you for investigation. The General does not see any necessity of confining Mr. E. but requests that you take all possible

measures to arrest the other parties who ought to have been shot to.

Yours
Isaac Gannett
Lt. & A.A.A.G.

Wm Truesdail
Chief of Army Police.

Office of Chief of Police
Nashville. March 18/63

Statement of Dennis Dozier.

I live near Mr. M. Edwards, on Monday morning last Mr. Edwards came to my house and told me that he had killed a man, That two men had come to his house and acted in such a manner as to lead him to think that they were robbers. that they threatened to break open his house, to shoot in, and cursing frightened his family &c. and that he had shot at them and killed one. This was done while they were at the window threatening to come into his house, that these men were armed and threatened to shoot at the same time.

Mr. Edwards, seemed to be very much alarmed, He said after he had shot, he saw more men coming and left through fear and came immediately to my house.

He was fearful that they would rob and burn his house in his absence, He advised with me, as to what he should do. He also said that he had been selling a good deal of hay lately and that these men had probably found it out, knew that he had money and came to rob him. We went to his house. when we got there, his wife told us about others coming, that they were soldiers and had buried the man he had shot. She said that a Lieutenant was with them, that this Lieut. said these two men had left the company without authority. This Lieut. said that the cause of his company being there was that they were in search of deserters, and had camped near there. and that these two men slipped off from the rest, This Lieut. was name Moore.

I know Mr. Edwards to be a gentleman and every way reliable

Dennis Dozier

Subscribed & sworn to before me
this March 18 1863

J M Brien, Clk

Statement of George W. Abernathy

I live between Mr. Edwards and Mr. Dozier. Mr. Edwards first came to my

house and from there he went over to Mr. Doziers. He told me the same thing that Mr. Dozier states. He was very much alarmed and had fears that these men would burn his house or injure him and his family I know Mr. Edwards to be a clever man and a gentleman.

George W. his X mark Abernathy

Subscribed & sworn to before me
this March 18th 1862

J. M. Brien, Clk.

Office of Chief of Police
Nashville March 18 1862.

Statements of Mr Curtis, Marion Curtis & Mr Adkinson,

Upon learning of the killing of a man by Mr. Edwards and at Mr. Edwards request we went to his ~~house~~ on Monday morning last, Mrs. Edwards related the circumstances of the killing. She said that two men came to the house about two o'clock in the night, the night previous, that they were aroused from their sleep by those men trying to break the door open, that they told her they would shoot in if she did not open the door, that she refused to open the door; that she believed they were

robbers, that after threatning about three quarters of an hour they went to a window & broke the sash and glass all to peices - She said that they presented two guns through the window and demanded admission, stating that if they were not admitted they would shoot - She told us that when they were trying to break in at the window she remarked to Mr. Edwards, why dont you shoot? That he stated he could not see; that he Mr. Edwards passed immediately around through the hall to the front door and turned and saw the two men one of them with his head in through the window and the other standing near - that he immediately fired twice, killing one of the men - The other ran,

We all saw the broken window - all the lower sash and glass were broken out - We saw the new made grave. We think from our acquaintance with Mr. Edwards that he would become frightened pretty quickly - that he would defend himself. He is not a quarrelsome man -

Mr. Edwards statement to us corroborates those of Mrs. Edwards.

Mrs. Edwards said that she did not think the two men were soldiers until

Lieut. Moore with his men came up

N. Curtis

Wm Adkisson

Marion Curtis

Subscribed sworn to before me
this 18th day of March. 1863.

Wm Bremner

Asst Provost Judge.

Office of the Chief of Police
Nashville March 20th 63

Statement of James W. Horrington,

I reside ten miles from Nashville on the Hydes Ferry Pike, on sunday night last about 10 o'clock Lieut. Moore with a party of Cavalry, twelve in number, called at my house, They surrounded the house and demanded entrance to the house, I met them at the door and asked them their business. They told me they were looking for deserters, I then asked them to come in, They demanded candles. I furnished them candles and they went to searching. I asked them what they were looking for - they said guns, They made a general search and found one gun, It was a gun left at a neighbors house when the Confederate Soldier

passed on their way from Th. Doulson
One boy of said neighbor brought the gun to my house and left it there some three months ago. It was left by the boy in payment of a half bushel of salt. He proposed to leave it there - I knew it was a government gun - Before finding the gun the soldiers conducted themselves properly and gentlemanly, but afterwards were not so scrupulous. Lt. Moore previous to the finding of the gun was in the negro house, or he was standing at the door talking to the negroes at their kitchen. upon finding the gun he was sent for by the soldier and came in - After finding the gun they behaved very boisterously, turned everything upside down. I think at least two thirds of the party were under the influence of liquor. Mr. Moore did not appear to be under its influence. The soldiers took away a few small articles.

Lieut. Moore could not have checked the soldiers had he tried to do so. Moore did nothing himself. Moore took my horse and promised to leave it in town where I could get it, which he did - They remained my house about an hour - The gun was found

in the garret.

Mr. Edwards has been considered by his neighbors as a Union man who has always minded his own business,

J. M. Horrington

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of March. 1862.

Wm Brenner
Asst. Provost Judge

Statement of Lt. M. L. Moore.

I was ordered by my company to go down into Cheatham county to get some deserters. I was furnished with an escort of 11 men & one sergent from the 4th Tennessee Cavalry. We started from Camp on last Sunday the 13th Inst. At night we stopped at my Fathers & got supper. then started and marched until about 1 oclock at night and haulted at the barn of Mr Edwards in Cheatham county. I ordered the Escort to hault there and feed. to take their blankets and lay down until ordered up. Two of the men went up to the house of said Edwards without my

down until ordered up. Two of the men went up to the house of said Edwards without my knowledge or consent; shortly after I had laid down and was resting I heard the report of a couple of shots from a gun. I then got up, listened, but could hear nothing further. In a short time after the comrade of the man that got shot came down to where we were and told me that one of our men was dead at the house. I then ordered the men to mount and was soon up at the house. I found the man lying dead near the window. His name was Barlow. The soldier who was with Barlow said that they went up there & asked for something to eat. They were told by Mrs Edwards that they could be supplied with cold food from the window. Barlow he said did the talking, and swore that he would have something warm to eat, or break the door down, he then struck the door two or three licks. They then went to the window and broke out several paines of glass with the saber, just at that time he recieved a shot from the inside & killing him. and that he was shot at, the shot merely touching the skin.

On my arrival at the house Mrs Edwards told in substance about the same thing. and that she and Mr Edwards were very much alarmed. That they did not know who the men were that she thought they were

robbers or guerrillas, and that some robbers had been committed in the neighborhood.

I buried the man there before I left. I learn that this man was a man of bad character, that he had not long been out of the penetentiary for larceny.

Mr Edwards as the character of being a good citizen & a loyal man. Mr Edwards or his family did not know that we was coming near him —

W. L. Moore
1st Mid Tenn Infty Regt.

Statement of Lt Moore (in regard to searching Howington House)

I further state that I called at the house of Jas. Howington in search of his two sons who were deserters from our regiment. We first rode up and surrounded the house. the sergeant & four or five men went in & began the search, but did not find his sons. They found a young man in the house & reported it to me. I then got down & went in the house. I saw the man but did not know him. I also found a U.S. Springfield Musket in the house. I asked this man some questions and thought that it might be possible that he belonged to the Confederate Army. I was not satisfied that he was all right and

brought him to the city with me. I also took one horse for him to ride, a small piece of rope for one of the men to tie his gun with. This was all that was taken from him. there was no demand made by me or any of my men for his money, that I am aware of.

On my arrival at town I was satisfied that there was nothing against the man I had taken prisoner. I released him & the horse he was riding.

During my trip neither I or my men did anything that I am aware of that was improper and treated every one we had anything to do with, with improper respect.

M. L. Moore
1st Mid Tenn. Infty Regt.

Subscribed & Sworn to before me this 19th day of March A.D. 1863.

J. N. Brien, clk.