

## **Incidents at Shelton-Laurel, N.C.** and related documents

On February 24, 1863, in a letter to Zebulon V. Vance, the North Carolina Governor, Augustus S. Merrimon, wrote:

Thirteen prisoners, at least, were killed by order of Lieut. Col. J. A. Keith. Most of them were taken at their homes, and none of them made resistance when taken; perhaps some of them ran. After they were taken prisoners the soldiers took them off to a secluded place, made them kneel down, and shot them. They were buried in a trench dug for the purpose. Some two weeks since their bodies were removed to a grave-yard. I learned that probably 8 of the 13 killed were not in the company that robbed Marshall and other places. I suppose they were shot on suspicion. I cannot learn the names of the soldiers who shot them. Some of them shrank from the barbarous and brutal transaction at first, but were compelled to act.

Early in 1863, thirteen men and boys were executed after being taken prisoner by the Confederate Sixty-Fourth North Carolina Volunteer Infantry. This document is a compilation of two 19<sup>th</sup> century accounts of the affair and material from the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies—primarily Confederate communications and reports.

## Incidents at Shelton-Laurel, N.C.

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**This is a partial document.**

**The full document may be found at:**

**<http://www.pddoc.com/skedaddle/events/shelton-laurel.htm>**