



Washington Sep. 18 /62

My Dear father and Mother

Thinking that you would like to hear from me, I now set down to improve a few spare moments in writing you a few lines we are still in camp just out side of the city of Washington and some thinks that we shall stay here all of a month but I hardly think we shall. There is a great difference between Maine and Maryland when we left Augusta the nights were quite cold but here it is different the

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 184, Box 1/1)
MMN #55494

Date: Sept. 18, 1862
Description: John Sheahan on conditions in Maryland

days are as warm here
now as ever I saw in
the middle of summer at
home. O the people they
are no more like those
in Maine than nothing
at all the poor whites are
worse than the negroes
by far, for they dress better
and keep cleaner people wont
believe this but it is so,
their houses are miserable
things, enclose you will
find a drawing of a rich
mans house built of
boards put on in clapboard
style every chance I
get I am taking pictures
I shall send them home
and I want you to
keep them for me if
I come home and
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be very soon. I was
on a tramp the other
day and I came across a
grave yard went into it
and found some new graves
all stuck round with
little earthen images of
angels and so on. I just
picked up the virgin Mary
and put her down my boot
leg and went to camp if
I get a chance I will send
it home we shall be
paid off in two or three
weeks and I shall send
my money home you may
let Vase have it on interest
if you see fit. keep the
date when you let him
have it and how much
you let him have at
a time. | who volunteered for
nine months? who was

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drafted? dont forget
to tell me all the
news for you dont
know how it makes a
fellow feel to have a
letter from home, where
is William, I want you
to tell Ned to write to
him and me too you
dont know what it is to
be a soldier and how
much he has to suffer
dont you let ned go
anyway for it is no honor
to be a private they are
used like dogs, you never
got used as I have since I
left home

I cant tell you
any more now

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