

Washington D.C. Sep 22 /62

My Dear father and Sister Mary
As I have a few
moments to spare I will improve them
by penning you a few lines I have
only had two letters from home since I
enlisted tho I have written you 5 or 6
the last one I got was dated the 5th
of this month. I want you and Mary
and Ned to write often for you must
remember that I am among entire stranger
I do not feel as tho' I was among
boys that I was acquainted with, to
be sure there is some good boys
with me in camp but then they
are not old friends and we cannot
sit down together and talk about

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Date: Sept. 22, 1862

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan on importance of letters, Washington, D.C.

the good times we used to have at home. I think you will be surprised when I tell you that I went to see the 18th regiment yesterday (Sunday) I have inquired of most every one where it was but no one seemed to know. one of our boys said that he would find them so he got a horse and went to George town and there he found out where they were and when he come back he told me where to go and find them they are on this side of the Potomac near fort Gaines like the 6th Maine they are cutting down the woods. I think that they will stay there quite a while. Ike Shaw was in high glee and so was Cape to see me Ike said that he wished that he was with me in the cavalry they all seem to like a soldiers life first rate I saw some East Machias boys and had a long talk with

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them about old times it is
about an hour and a half walk
to where they are encamped I am
going again wednesday if we do not
leave Washington tomorrow. we are
having good times here now and
I like it first rate. I do not
want you to think by what I have
said about being among strangers
that I am at all sorry that I enlisted
here for I am not I had rather
be here than in the nine months
man for I feel confident that
this war must end before that time.
There is a large number of
contrabands here, they talk about
sending them to Africa and I think
that they will have to for certainly
they cant always keep guard round
them and feed them as they do
now. they have better places to
sleep in and better grub than

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we do, and that is the way
all through the niggers as they
are called fare better than the
soldiers do. when I came
back from the 18th I got my
quantity of grapes along the road
they grow wild here and I tell
you they are good. when we
want apples we go into any
orchard we come across and when
we want pears we do the same
half of the folks are afraid of
the soldiers keep all the letters
that I write tie them up in little
bundles, dont let them lay round
for when I come home I shall
want them all.

I want Mary, Father, and Ned
to write to Mr John P Sheahan

I believe that
Bill is at Harpers
ferry, our boys
saw him when
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1st Maine Cavalry
Company K
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