

Camp near Bell Plain  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear father and Mother  
I received a letter  
from you just now and  
I was very glad to hear  
from you I had been  
expecting a letter from  
Mary every day as she  
told me that she was  
going to write in a few  
days, You can see by  
the heading of this letter  
that we are still in camp  
near Bell Plain we have  
had an awful lot of  
duty to do since we  
came into this camp  
I have only had time  
to write once in a

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
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Date: Feb. 18, 1863

Description: John Sheahan on talks with Rebels

while and just when I  
could get a chance, John  
Shaw wrote to me when  
I was in Maryland and  
I did not get a chance  
to answer his letter till  
a few days ago so you  
can judge by that that  
we are kept pretty busy  
General Stoneman came  
to see us and he said  
that our horses and men  
were going down hill fast  
and that we could not  
do so much picket duty  
the Rebels are sociable.  
as you please I had a  
long talk with them when  
I was on my post  
they asked me if I would  
like to have a southern  
paper I told them that  
I would, and they all  
set up a laugh and  
said one fellow I thought  
you would so he  
came down to the  
edge of the river and  
put a mast in a board  
and put the paper in  
it for a sail and then  
sent it across but I did  
not get it and then he  
sent me two other  
Richmond papers but  
I did not get them, we  
joke and laugh all  
the time we are on  
guard.

We had quite a  
little snow storm the  
other day but the snow  
dont last more than a  
day or two in Virginia  
you will see by this drawing  
how I live

Write again soon  
J P Sheahan

I got the Stamps

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you will see by this drawing  
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Write again soon

J P Sheahan

I got the stamps

send me a fine comb  
in your next letter

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in your next letter