

Camp Stoneman DC  
Oct - 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Mother

Over a year has passed since I left my home in good old maine during that time I have never written you a letter tho many times I have thought that I would of course you have heard from me every few days from the time I left home My years soldier life has been crowded with events of great importance to my future life but Dear Mother I know you will be proud when I tell you that I have obeyed your last request "be a good boy" I am naturally weak and no doubt should have given up to some of the temptations to which I have been exposed as a soldier had it not been for your kind advice and that of my Dear Charlotte who has since I left you died, oh she was a dear good girl and knew how to advise me an inexperienced boy such as I really was when I first met her at East Machias Father strange to say never liked her but he little knows how much my now being a steady and sober young man insted of a gay drinking boy depended upon

Camp Stoneman DC  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Mother

Over a year has passed since I left my home in good old maine during that time I have never written you a letter tho many times I have thought that I would of course you have heard from me every few days from the time I left home My years soldier life has been crowded with events of great importance to my future life but Dear Mother I know you will be proud when I tell you that I have obeyed your last request "be a good boy" I am naturally weak and no doubt should have given up to some of the temptations to which I have been exposed as a soldier had it not been for your kind advice and that of my Dear Charlotte who has since I left you died, oh she was a dear good girl and knew how to advise me an inexperienced boy such as I really was when I first met her at East Machias Father strange to say never liked her but he little knows how much my now being a steady and sober young man insted of a gay drinking boy depended upon

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 97592

Date: Oct. 10, 1863

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan to mother on one year in army

Direct your letters to the  
Regiment

her, Yes Charlotte was to me a dear and new-  
friend such as I never had before such as I  
never expect to have again. She was a woman  
not a flirting girl Dennysville does not con-  
tain such a person. They called her infidel  
but when she died she was perfectly willing to go  
and almost her last words were I am willing  
to die, was ever an infidel known to talk  
like that, was ever an infidel known to  
treat the poor as Charlotte used to a  
poor Irish woman in East Machais whom  
she would go to see and talk with for  
hours instead of going among the first  
people of the place where she was invited  
If she was an infidel her generous con-  
duct towards the needy was a bitter re-  
proach to those who called themselves  
Christian. But she was not an infidel I know  
dear mother that you at least will believe  
me when I tell you so, I was made very  
sad when I learned of her death her  
mother wrote and told me about it and  
wanted me to write to her I did so and  
I got another letter from her a few day  
ago she is a good woman I should  
judge and has taken Charlotts death  
very hard and well she might for  
Charlotte was an only girl and always lived  
at home except a few weeks each winter

[Upside down in the top margin]  
Direct your letters to the  
Regiment

her, Yes Charlotte was to me a dear and new  
friend such as I never had before such as I  
never expect to have again. She was a woman  
not a flirting girl Dennysville does not con-  
tain such a person. They called her infidel  
but when she died she was perfectly willing to go  
and almost her last words were I am willing  
to die, was ever an infidel known to talk  
like that, was ever an infidel known to  
treat the poor as Charlotte used to a  
poor Irish woman in East Machais whom  
she would go to see and talk with for  
hours instead of going among the first  
people of the place where she was invited  
If she was an infidel her generous con-  
duct towards the needy was a bitter re-  
proach to those who called themselves  
Christian, but she was not an infidel I know  
dear mother that you at least will believe  
me when I tell you so, I was made very  
sad when I learned of her death her  
mother wrote and told me about it and  
I got another letter from her a few day  
ago she is a good woman I should  
judge and has taken Charlotts death  
very hard and well she might for  
Charlotte was an only girl and always lived  
at home except a few weeks each winter

~~Camp Stoneman DC~~

whil teaching dancing school I miss her  
long letters very much.

I should like to come  
home this winter on a furlough and  
will if there is any such thing as getting  
one I am very anxious to get to my  
regiment - as I am so lonesome here in  
this camp I never like to be from the  
boys tho' when I joined them they were  
all strangers to me.

Your affectionate Son

John P. Sheahan

~~Camp Stoneman DC~~

whil teaching dancing school I miss her  
long letters very much.

I should like to come  
home this winter on a furlough and  
will if there is any such thing as getting  
one I am very anxious to get to my  
regiment as I am so lonesome here in  
this camp I never like to be from the  
boys tho' when I joined them they were  
all strangers to me.

Your affectionate Son

John P. Sheahan