Camp Stoneman DC bet - 10th 1863 My dear mother or year has passed Succed left my home in good ald marine during That - time I have never written you a letter the many fime, I have thought - that -I would of course you have heard from me every fin days from the time 2 left-home my years soldier life has been crowded with " wents of great importance to my future life but bear mother I know you will be proved when I tell your 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 aford as a soldier had it not been for your kind advier and that of my Dear Charlatte who has since I left you died, the she was a dear good girl and knew how I advia me an inseferienced boy such as I really was when I first met her at East Machies Father strange to say never liked her but he little knows how much my now. being a steady and sobie, youry min insta of a gay drinking by 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

Camp Stoneman DC Oct 10th 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

-munton Succi-your letters to the her, yes charlotte was to me a dear and near friend such as I never had before such as ? never "sefect to have again. She was a rooman not a flirting girl Danugsville does not comtam such a person, They called her infidel but when she died she was perfect willing 2 go and almost her last words were I am willing to die, was sver an infidel known to lath like that .- was ever an infided known 1treat - The poor as Charlotte used to a poor Prish Woman in East Machias whom She would go to see and talk with for hours instead of going among the first-If she was an infidel the generous conduct - towards the needy was a better reproach to those who called Themselves Christians, Out she was not an infidel I know dear mother that your at least will believe me when I tell your 20, I was made very Sad when I learned of her death her mother weater 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 night - for Charlotte was an only girl and always hired at-home except- a few weeks each write-

[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 contain 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 conduct towards the needy was a bitter reproach 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

Carron Minina DC while teaching damany school I miss her long litters very much, I should like to come home this winter on a furlough and " will if there is any such thing as getty one I am very anxions to get to my regiment - as I am so lonerome time "in this camp I never like to be from the boys the when ? joined - these they were all strangers to me. You affect - Sun John Shich

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