

Monocacy Md Nov 1st/62

My Dear father,

I will write a letter as I have a few moments to spare we are as you see by the heading of this letter at the junction but I heard this morning that we were going back to Frederick and I am glad of it for it is awful lonesome here all one can hear is the clatter of cars and that you can hear all times of night and day I only wish that you were here two or three day that you might see the passing one day there was 10,000 cattle 10,000 horses passed our camp for the front of the army

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 184, Box 1/2)
MMN #55496

Date: Nov. 1, 1862

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan on conditions in cavalry, Maryland

I heard a captain say the other day that we were to remain here all winter. I mean at Frederick I hope we shall for they say that those who are at the front now suffer on account of the cold nights I wish William was in the cavalry cavalry dont have half as much to do as infantry and if a place is to be guarded cavalry usually does it they are never put into a fight untill the enemy is on the retreat, such a thing as cavalry charging on fixed bayonets has never been known in this war, am glad I enlisted in the cavalry, I dont like our officers at all, the capt I dont know anything about for he has been in Washington ever since I joined the regiment the 1st Lt. plays sick most

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Of the time, the 2^d L^t is nothing but a boy and the Orderly a perfect tyrant there is not one in the company that likes him. I dont want you to say a word about this to any one. I will tell you why at some future time. I have not got the Transcript atall yet Miss Hill has sent me a paper every week since I enlisted and I have only got two of them yet they are stolen at Washington or some other office I saw a piece in a paper about it we have been mustered but when we shall be payed off I do not know it may be soon and it may not how do the folks in Denneyslle feel about the war do they think it will end soon

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or not? dont forget to
tell me, the last letter.
I got wast dated the 17th
of last month, when
did you hear from Bill
last dont forget to write
and let me know, when
I commenced this letter I had
just washed my hands
in cold water and they
were so numb that I
could hardly hold the pen
and that is the reason that
the writing is so poor

John Sheahan

show that letter to sam
Eastman keep it for a
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