

Camp 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry  
New Barrington Va  
Jan 27/64

My Dearest Father

Altho I wrote  
you quite a long letter a few days ago  
I cannot resist the temptation of writing  
you again. I have been thinking all  
day about trying for a commission in  
the negro troops nor have I been altogether  
thinking I have been studying the tactics  
it will take quite a while to fit for  
an examination in them and I shall  
not ask an examination until the last  
of March and then I have no doubt  
but I shall be well fitted. I could

Camp 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry  
near Warrenton Va  
Jan 27/64

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
(Coll. 184, Box 1/8)  
MMN #64474

Date: Jan. 27, 1864  
Description: John Sheahan, 1st Cavalry, on desire for commission in Negro  
troops

take a great deal more interest  
in getting a commission in a white  
regiment for here when a white officer  
is captured that is the last of him he  
is never exchanged and in most cases  
is killed on the field at Vicksburg  
where black soldiers fought so gallantly  
when we took the city no colored prisoners  
or their white commanders were found  
there — all killed — murdered — This of course  
will naturally takes ones courage away  
It is no use for the government to say  
they will retaliate they don't know  
and never can whether a prisoner is  
killed or not.

One great advantage of being  
an officer in the colored troops is that  
they are regulars and one can hold  
a commission as long as he pleases  
and in time of peace stay at home  
on half pay.

We are having dreadful hot  
weather here now so hot that it  
is really uncomfortable nearly equal  
to our hottest days at home

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in my last I sent to you for  
a geography Colton & Fitches large  
tear off the cover roll it up in  
a good stout wrapper and send  
to me immediately as I need it at  
once,

I don't hear any news now  
a days so I hardly know what is  
going on.

I am  
As ever  
Your Sincere  
And affectionate  
Son  
John P Sheeh

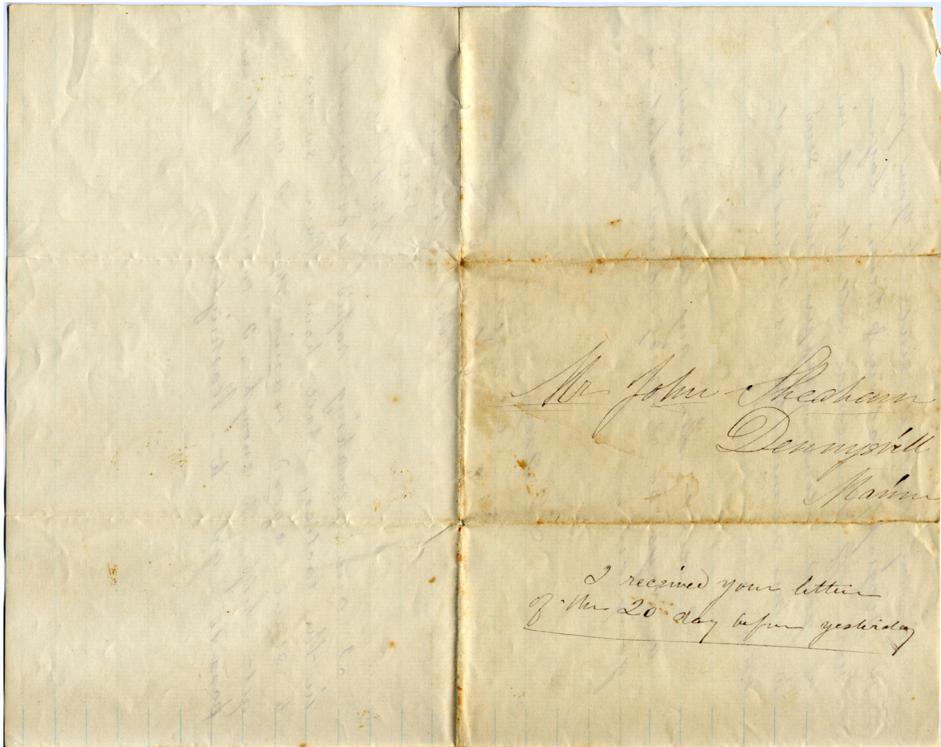
I am making rapid advancement  
in the tactics, shall have them so as  
to stand a good examination I can  
get help to enough. I cannot get a  
pass to get to Washington

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Mr John Sheahan  
Dennysville  
Maine

I received your letter  
of the 20<sup>th</sup> day before yesterday