



Camp near Bell Plain Dec 26 1862

My Dear Father, Mother and Sister Mary,

As I have got a few moments to spare I will write you a short letter, a short one because there is just nothing at all to write about. We are now in camp near Bell Plain as you see by the heading of this letter we came here last tuesday and most likely we shall stay here for some time most of the men are logging up their tents already as if they were going to stay here all winter but that is not at all probable. Burnside in my opinion will ^{not} go into

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Coll. 184 Box 1/

Date: Dec. 26, 1862

Description: Letter from John Parris Sheahan of Dennysville, Maine to his family, about conditions in the Union Army during the Civil War, around Belle Plain, Virginia.

winter quarters and leave undone
the great work which he so plainly
sees before him, he will not do
as McClellan did last winter lay
in camp and let the rebels fortify
every hill that we must pass
over in our advance upon the
city of Richmond, to talk of
going to that place the way
either McClellan or Burnside first
attempted has proved folly,
we cannot do it and we might as
well wind up, they have fortified
the whole line of our advance
see how our men were slaughtered
at the Battle of Fredericksburg and
what did we gain by it? I will
tell you, we gained nothing but disgrace
we must start on some new
route or we never will reach
the rebel capital

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Can you not see it? of course you can. I am in hopes that we shall whip them but truly things look dark. Perhaps you would like to know how I spent Christmas well I will tell you. I was on guard till 7 in the morning when I came off from guard I got my breakfast and then went to see the Coln., and he signed a pass for me for all day so I put the saddle on my horse and started I rode about two miles and I came to the 6th Me. I inquired for company F. and found it Bill was sitting on a stump back to me. I spoke to him and he left the stump quicker. I stayed with him all day

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we had a big dinner - hard
bread and pork fried - you
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letter and as he had no
paper and no money I gave
it to him,

I must close for it
is time to get supper
I got your letter of the 13th
two days ago,

Your Obedient
John P. Sheahan

here is a piece of the Capital
which I got when I was in
Washington

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