



Show that picture to  
John Shaw

Camp Buford DC Oct 31/63  
Send me all them pieces  
about Charlotts death dont  
forget to send them next

My Dearest Father

Again the  
mail has brought me a  
welcome letter I was  
most happy to hear that  
you were well but was  
indeed made sad to learn  
that Delia and Marys youngest  
had died how sad it makes  
me feel to hear of the death  
of friends while I am out  
here, but some must die  
we cannot live always, how  
narrow has been my escape  
from death surely God has  
been more than kind to  
me for while he has seen

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 97593

Date: Oct. 31, 1863

Description: Pvt. John P. Sheahan on desire for education, Washington

fit in his all wise providence  
to take my comrades he has  
spared me, I never have come  
out of a fight yet but what  
I seemed to hear a voice  
ask me "what has God spared  
you for" I can only answer  
this by repeating what I have  
so often told you before that  
God has some greater work  
for me to do than to help  
fight out this rebellion I  
am confident that he has  
I know it, I never drank any  
liquor or anything of the kind  
for this reason, a man has  
got to have a strong mind  
to refuse liquor in the army  
I have never drank a drop  
since I have been a soldier  
I have refused my commanding  
officer I have stepped out  
of the ranks when drawn

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up in line to get our whisky  
I never have seen any one but  
myself do such a thing but  
I have always been praised  
for it never laughed at yet and  
even if I should be it would  
not change my mind on the sub-  
ject

We have very fine weather  
now about as warm as a  
Maine summer I like this sea-  
son of the year out here.

In my last letter  
I sent you the picture of  
a young southern lady I wish  
you could see her She is as  
fine a girl as I ever came  
across we correspond all the  
time, she is a splendid scholar  
if I am called home I shall  
go to see her.

I am in hopes that  
I shall get a commission

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for then I would soon  
have money enough to study  
a long time I have not yet  
given up the idea of an education, I have heard it said  
that a person in the army has  
to get discharged before they could  
get a commission you had better  
find out about this the Gov  
can call me home and get  
my discharge and then I am  
all right - do what you  
do quick as possible don't  
be too late

Your aff

Son

John P Sheahan  
Camp Buford

Care of Let Ford  
Provost Marshall

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