

Camp 1st Me Cav
Warrenton Va
Febru 64

My Dear Father

I received your
most welcome letter last night
but I was much surprised to
think you had the least idea of
enlisting or letting Henry or
Ned have you not been
out here and seen how
soldiers live, we were taking
comfort when you saw us,
and have you not done enough
already? is it not enough for
a father to lose one son in
battle and have another at
the disposal of the fortunes
of war, without coming himself
or even letting any more of
his family, never let them
be tempted by money for

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Date: February, 1864

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan advice to not enlist

what is money to a brothers blood
if they were even compelled to come
(and they never will be) dont you
come for you could be of no pro-
tection to them in battle, you might
see them shot you could not stop
to bind up their wounds or to
listen to their dying words, they
might fall into the hands of the
enemy wounded you would feel
better were you at home and only
knew they were prisoners than you
would to know they were prisoners
and badly wounded and it would
be as well for you could be of
no assistance to them, take the
advice of one who has seen what
it is to be a soldier and keep
Ed and Henry ^{at home} it may seem fun
to be a soldier but on the battle
field where men fall like grass
it is a sad reality—

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