

Thoroughfare Gap, November 11, 1862

Dear Frant,

I was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well, but I was surprised to learn that you had not read any of my letters. They must have been directed wrong, or else they have got stopped on the way.

Now we will commence new. Frant, I want you to write once or twice a week, and I will do the same. It is a great pleasure for me to receive and to answer letters from my friends. Our privileges for writing are rather poor. All we have for a bench is our knee and a lead pencil for a pen.

We did our first foraging near Fairfax. We drove in ten head of cattle, and had them shot and cooking in less than an hour. At Haymarket, we just walked right into the houses and helped ourselves to what we liked best. How the geese, hens, turkeys, sheep, hogs and cattle came into camp! Yes, and honey, preserves and pickles--and they broke open a store, and there was everything you could think of.

Today has been washing day with us. We had a regular old-fashioned washing, and it looks clean and nice. You see, us soldiers will make nice husbands when the war is over. We can do the washes as well as the women.

Frant, I hope you will get those letters I wrote for they are good long ones. It is getting pretty dark, so I will close.

Believe me to be, as ever, your true and affectionate friend,

Edgar Shannon

[*The Jamestown Sun*, Monday, July 3, 1961]