

Primary Source: "My dear I ha'n't forgot you" ^[1]

Below is a transcription of a letter written by Elizabeth Watson to her husband, James, a Confederate soldier in the Civil War. She discusses things such as the rising cost of food, town happenings, and how much she misses her husband.

Oct 29 1861
North Carolina Jackson Co

Dear friend and husband

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to let you now that me and my children is well hoping these few lines will find you in good health I have just read the letter that you sent me and was glad to hear that you were alive But you did not say whether you were well or not But I hope you are I have read 4 letters from you and has read you 2 and my dear I have not forgot you for I think of you every hour in the day and would all most give up my life if you could be back at home to stay with me and your children for Alexander talks about you a many a time times in our county is hard for the poor class of people for every thing is getting so dear that they can't hardly get aught to get an [salt is from nine to ten dollars a sack](#) and every other thing is proportioned to that is good crops made in our county I think corn can be bought at 50 cts all through the winter and now this people is debarred [?] of haling off their meat I don't now how we will get our necessities for money is scarce here I have got all of our property yet I have not sold any of it yet and I think that I will keep it for I can't sell it for its worth only Bacon or Beef cattle and I have not got any of that so turn over

Your father's folks is all well and getting along very well Allison is working for me and expects to work 10 or 12 [?] days he has left home and expects to marry before he goes back he is talking of coming to you but I think it is all a joke [illegible] is making a good crop of corn and is milking 2 cows that are increasing and doing well Franklin was up about a week ago and that was all well and Franklin has a fine son Miss McKinney is dead has been dead some 4 weeks there has been several deaths in our county and her dying words was pray for me S I Calhoun came close of killing a crane there is 3 company of volunteers made up in Macon county one starts to day their captain is Alfred Bell and Allen Amos will start before long we have quite worn [sic] wither her for this time of year and the most rain I ever saw of a fall we have had some frost But it hasn't done now injury there is good crops made in Hamburg but it is too warm and wet to gether yet I hope there will be a change of weather for a little cooler wither would be the best and perhaps would be better for you my dear I wish I could see you We could have a heap of good fun look on next page

Hold on till I get a nother lamp for my life is bad here I have got more [caldow](#) and now I will write on I would like to have [your likeness](#) But the people say that I have got it with me for they say that Elizabeth Hamton is a young girl James Franklins health is about like it was When you left John T [illegible] folks is all well and I am fany sed to send you howdy for her F.A. Hoopers Funeral was preached last sabbath By Corn From Henderson so I must come to a close By saying that I hope I will see you When your time is out so fare well

To James Watson
Elizabeth Watson
T.A. [?] Watson
J.F. [?] Watson
E. Hamton Watson

There is howdy for me and all of your children

Here is your shoe strings if you get them

Primary Source Citation:

Elizabeth Watson to James Watson, October 29, 1861. James Watson Papers, Hunter Library Special Collections, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC. <http://wcudigitalcollection.cdmhost.com/cdm/ref/collection/p16232coll5/id/169> ^[2]

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Oct 29. 1861

North Carolina Jackson Co

Dear friend and husband

it is with grate pleasure that i write
to you to let you know that me and my
children is well hoping these few lines
will find you in good health I have
just recd the letter that you sent me
and was glad to hear that you was alive
But you did not say whether you was well or
not But I hope you was I have recd 4
letters from you and has not you 2 and
my dear I havnt forgot you for i think of
you every hour in the day and would all
most give up my life if you could be
back at home to stay with me and your
children for Alexand talks about you a many
a time times in our country is hard for the
poor class of people for every thing is piting
so deer that the cost by hardly a naught
to you an salt is from nine to ten dollars
a sack her and every other thing in proportio
There is good crops made in our country I
think ~~corn~~ can be bought at 50 cts
all through the winter and now the people
is debord of halling off their meet if I dont
now how we will git our messarges
for money is scarce here I have got
all of our property yet I have not sold
enough of it yet and I think that I will
keep it for i cant sell it for its
worth only Bacon or Beef cattle and
I havnt got very shop that so turn over

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