

## Primary Source: "My dear I ha'n't forgot you" <sup>[1]</sup>

*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.*

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Oct 29 1861  
North carolina Jackson Co

Dear friend and husband

it is with grate pleasure that i rite to you to let you now that mea and my children is well hoping these few lins will find you in good health I have Just red the leter that you sent mea and was glad to her that you was alive But you did not say whether you was well or not But I hope you was I have red 4 leters from you and has rot you 2 and my dear I hant forgot you for i think of you every hour in the day and would all most give up my life if you could bea back at home to stay with mea and your children for Alexand talks about you a many atime times in our county is hard for the poor class of people for every thing is giting so deer that tha cant By hardly a naught to gan an [salt is from nine to ten dollars a sack](#) her and every other thing is proportion thier is good crops made in our county I think corn can bea bought at 50 cts all through the winter and now this people is debard [?] of halling off thir meet I dont now how wee will git our nessaryes for money is scerce here I have got all of our property yet I have not sold eny 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 hant got eny of that so turn over

your fathers folks is all well and giting along very well allison is a working for mea and epects to work 10 or 12 [?] days he has left home and expects to marry before he gos back he is a 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 thar are increesing and doing well franklin was up a bout a week a go and tha was all well and franklin has a fine son miss Mckiney is deed has Bin dead some 4 weeks thir has bin several deths in our county and her dying words was pray for mea S I Calhoun came clare of killing crane thir is 3 company of volenteers made up in macon county one starts to day thir capt is Alfred Bell and allen amons will start before long wea have quite wram [sic] wither her for this time of year and the most rain i ere saw of afall wee have had some frost But it hanet done now inJury thir is good crops made in hamburg but it is to warm and wet to gether yet I hope ther will Bea a chang of Wether for a litle cooler Wither would Bea the Best and perhaps would bea helther for you my deer I wish I could see you Wee could have a heap of good fun look on nex page

hold on till I git a nother lamp for my lite is Bad har I have got more [salow](#) and now i will rite on I would like to have [your likness](#) But the people ses that I have got it with mea for thae saz that Elizabeth hamton is a young gim James Franklins helth is a Bout like it was When you left John T [illegible] folks is all well an ant fany sed to send you howdy for her F..A. Hoopers Funeral was preecht last sabath 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 mea and all of your children

her is your shoo strings if you a git them

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### 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> <sup>[2]</sup>

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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 getting  
so dear that the cost by hardly a naught  
to you an salt is from nine to ten dollars  
a sack here 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 messages  
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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