

**Letter to Florence (Mrs. James Y.) Paris from “Hallie”**

**08 August, 1933**

**Hunter Library MSS 80-14-01-02-05**

**Transcribed and Edited by**

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**For ENGL 618: Research Methods in English**

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## Introduction to the Series

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography were prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English at Western Carolina University. The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship
  - a. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
    - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
  - b. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
    - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
  - c. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
    - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
  - Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate the editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the students. While these students take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are always possible. As these students learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources.

It is hoped that the transcription and annotation of WCU Special Collections materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections materials.

## **Introduction**

**By John Falter**

This is a simple postcard, addressed to “Mrs. James Y. Paris,” in the care of Dan Tompkins, written by someone named “Hallie.” The identity of Hallie is unknown, but she listed her return address as a postbox at Duke University. Mrs. James Y. Paris is Florence Paris (1871-1954), wife of James Paris, a farmer in Sylva with whom she had many children. Records show Florence’s last name spelled both “Paris” and “Parris” but the other biographic information is identical.

Presumably, Paris was staying with Tompkins at the time, but it is unclear why. Census records from 1940 show that Dan had more than just himself and his wife Emily in the house; he also had his mother, Annie Tompkins, 21-year-old Marjorie Grindstaff, and Addie and Sadie Luck (70 and 62). Evidently, Dan was in the practice of letting women stay at his house. So, perhaps it was under similar circumstances that Florence Paris was staying with him.

This letter is housed in the Special Collections department of the Hunter Library at Western Carolina University.

## **Editorial Statement**

There is one copy of the postcard. It is addressed on one side and the main text is written on the other. The handwriting is quite aesthetic but small, so it is at times difficult to read. The writer leaves words out, almost in a telegraph style. She also marks periods sometimes as dashes, which are in the transcription marked as periods, except once where a dash makes more sense (marked in footnote 7). These dash-style periods are annotated with the note “dash.”

The following transcription faithfully matches the line breaks of the original postcard. I have included both sides, demarcated with the bracketed phrase [SIDE FLIP], with the main text shown first. The original margining and indentations are also preserved as best possible.

Annotations are listed in footnotes.

MS 1

Duke.<sup>1</sup> Box 4228

Aug 8. 1933

Dear Mrs. Paris;

Your letter rec'd  
this a.m.<sup>2</sup> am so glad  
you can come by to  
see me. Shall expect  
you on Fri. P.m.<sup>3</sup> at  
7:20. <sup>4</sup>Will be at the  
station unless something  
unforeseen happens to  
prevent. <sup>5</sup>Did not plan to  
leave the city this weekend.  
Went home last week.<sup>6</sup>  
Excuse errors –<sup>7</sup> must be  
nervous or excited or  
something.<sup>8</sup>

Until Fri. Au revoir. Hallie.

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<sup>1</sup> Dash

<sup>2</sup> Dash

<sup>3</sup> Dash

<sup>4</sup> Dash

<sup>5</sup> Dash

<sup>6</sup> Dash

<sup>7</sup> This is the dash mark that made more sense as a dash.

<sup>8</sup> Dash

MS 2

[SIDE FLIP]

[Stamp Text:]

(DURHAM, N.C.

Aug 8

2 PM

1933

DUKE STA.)<sup>1</sup>

Mrs. James Y. Paris

c/o Mr. Dan Tompkins

Sylva,

N.C.

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<sup>1</sup> A circular stamp

## Works Cited

“Dan Tompkins in the 1940 United States Federal Census.” *Ancestry Library Edition*, 2012,  
<https://ancestrylibrary.proquest.com/>

“Delphia Florence Parris.” *U.S. Find a Grave Index 1600s-Current*, 2014,  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33194298>