

1856  
May 1

PERSONAL LETTER from Jean Baptiste St. Clair in Vermillionville,  
to his nephew, Paul Declouet at Louisiana College in Convent, La.

May 1, 1956

My dear Paul,

Three days ago, I received your letter. I hope that now that you have started writing to me you will continue. When I told you that I had something to tell you it was to incite you to write to me, it was nothing at all.

Much rain has fallen for some days but above all last night. Everything is flooded, the rivulet, my house, within an arpent in width. This rain brought us a good amount of crawfish. I have been eating only that since yesterday.

(Henriette Lebreton Benoit)

Nothing new here, yesterday, I received a letter from Mimi./ She (Henri, her son) was not feeling very well and Tato/had an outburst of fever, however, he was getting better. I don't know yet when they are supposed to come back.

I have no news from your father's (Alexander Declouet) home. I shall have some today through Victor whom Aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) sent to St. Martin.

I shall tell you that July gave birth to a colt which is healthy. The day he was born, Joachim offered me \$50 cash for him but I refused. In two years, he will be ahead of all your horses. Washing is magnificent, I have him taken care of in view of the race or rather to find out what he is able to do.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, kiss Clouet (Alexander, your brother) for me, express my friendly feelings to Fery when you see him and, all of you, believe in the affection of your uncle,

B. St. Clair

Handwritten in French. Original on file at Dupre Library at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La.