

1857
Apr. 15

PERSONAL LETTER from Henriette St. Clair in St. Martin Parish,
to her nephew, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland School in Greenwood
Depot, Virginia.

St. Martin Parish, April 15, 1857

My dear Clouet,

B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

It was with great pleasure that I received your letter as I was
beginning to think that you had forgotten me. I who think so often of you. I
would have answered right away to encourage you to continue, but I had to
leave right away to come here, this dear little Titite (Christine, your sister)
had swallowed the seed of a plum, and it had lodged in the windpipe and she
nearly suffocated. Since then she would cough up some blood. The doctors
said it was very serious and that she could have died. They wanted to perform
the same operation as for the croup, so your father (Alexander Declouet)
wrote to town to get the opinion of the doctors there. If necessary he will go
to town, with your mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) and Christine.
We are all very worried. Your uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit) and Henri (my
brother) send their best wishes and Yeyette would like you to send her a
prospectus of the University. I don't know if Henri will join you this year, he
does not like to be away from home. I forget to tell you that all they are
talking about in town is the scarlet fever and smallpox and that scares your
dear parents on account of this dear child being in this bad air. The work is
coming along nicely, it is a pity that you cannot be here to see the new saw
mill, the sound is deafening. We have had some cold spells the last few days
which has hurt the corn and the cotton. I hear that Aunt Tonton (Josephine
Declouet de l'Homme) has just arrived so I will leave you to say hello to her.
Kiss my dear Paul (your brother) and ask him to write me. Yours with all
my heart - your friend, Henriette St. Clair

Handwritten in French. In 1980 original owned by Mrs. Marty Sims of
Nederland Texas

.pr. 15 PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Convent
in Grand Coteau, La., to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in
Greenwood Depot, Va.

Grand Coteau, April 15, 1857

Dear Paul,

I have received your letter with a great deal of pleasure. You told me that you have written me several letters. I received only three, I answered you once but as you are now in the same college I thought that when I wrote to Alexander (our brother) you saw my letters and it was as if I was writing to both of you. I assure you that I have not a minute to write more often, I write every week two or even three letters a week. I wrote three this week. That must not make you believe that I do not like to write, on the contrary it is all my pleasure but the reason is that I have no time.

Maria Allison has written to me a pretty little letter and I answered her. I wrote to Claire (Nee, our cousin) a long time ago. It is to be believed that she has not received my letter as she did not answer me yet. I should have done so again but we are allowed to write our cousins or friends only on holidays.

I believe I have already written to Alexander that lately Noemie had a fourth little boy and that she named him Paul. She told me that he looks a great deal like Alexander, his little brother. I shall tell you with sorrow that our dear little (sister) Christine is very sick; she has a severe cold. Papa (Alexander Declouet) sent me a few lines through Guerrez who came to bring me my summer clothes. I do not expect to see Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) soon as Papa told me that she is very busy and you can believe that Papa is busy also. All the family is feeling very well.

Good bye, dear brother. Tell Alexander I have received his letter

1857 and will answer him soon. Write to me often, I promise to answer you. Kiss
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(con't.) Alexander for me.

Your sister who loves you with all her heart,

Blanche Declouet