

1859  
Oct. 1

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr. in St. Martinville,  
to his brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.  
St. Martinville, October 1, 1859

My dear Paul,

Only a few lines written hastily to answer your letter of September 21 that I received with much pleasure yesterday. I cannot write at length now as I have written by the mail of last Tuesday. All of us are leaving after breakfast to go to spend the day at Uncle St. Marc's. We will eat breakfast earlier this morning than we usually do.

Yesterday, it rained for at least two or three hours. Before that, it had not rained for at least two or three months. We really needed rain. As there was no longer any water in the savanna, one was compelled to take the animals to drink in the bayou. Old Zidore was delighted about this as he said that it exhausted him to take care of the animals twice a day. Yesterday, after it rained, I rode Jack all through the savanna. He jumped and danced as usual. He was terribly anxious to run a race.

This morning, there was a brisk Northern wind and if it does not rain it will be a splendid weather for a trip.

Your godfather (Alfred Lastrapes) sent his son (Poutoupe - Alfred Henry Lastrapes?) to school in town at Mr. Lord's. Petit Uncle (Jean Baptist Benoit) is expected also to send Henri (his son) to the city but I don't know to what school.

Goodbye, my dear Paul. I shall give you details about our trip in my next letter. My regards to (W.C.) Schaumberg, Mr. Phail Riley, Alex and all the I. V. A. Your brother who loves you, I. V. A.

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

1859 P. S. A million of greetings from every one. Miss Laurent greatly appreciated  
Oct. 1  
(con't.) your remembrance and sends her regards.

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