

1-8

1859
Dec. 24 PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to
her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, December 24, 1859

Dear Paul,

I received with pleasure your letter of the 5th. I would have answered it if I had not gone to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) last Friday. Everyone is well at her home and also at the home of Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit, our aunt) who has been here since yesterday. She is suffering with stomach cramps. Little Uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit) came also. It has been very cold here for three or four days. The pond is still frozen but I assure you that Miss Laurent did not go to skate on it a second time. I am sorry I am unable to give news of the ball. I believe it fell through as no invitations have been sent. I assure you that we regretted it a great deal as all our outfits were ready.

Gabie (Gabrielle, our sister) has been punished for two days because of her . Miss Laurent told her that on Christmas day instead of receiving some pretty gift, she would be given a bundle of sticks to be used to punish her. But she urged me to tell you that she is not going to be punished today. She wants you to know that she has just eaten an oyster for your sake.

Soon, we should leave for the city but I don't know if Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) will be ready at the beginning of January as she has a great deal of work. Luckily, the machine runs very well and she has been able to do a good deal of sewing.

Goodbye, dear Paul, all of us including Miss Laurent kiss you.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet

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