

1860
June 20

PERSONAL LETTER from Alfred Lastrapes in St. Martinville, to
his cousin, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, June 20, 1860

My dear Paul,

A few days ago, I had the pleasure to receive your affectionate letter of the 6th of this month. It was a sweet surprise for me and I see that your good heart turned toward us in this unfortunate circumstance. (NOTE: Alfred Lastrapes son, Joseph Jules Lastrapes, died May 27, 1860). I am touched by your young heart's emotions. I hope it is the blood that speaks and that you will remember your little cousin who does not live any longer and was so well inclined to love all of you. Alas, for us it is hopeless and what is left is the hope to see him in the other world. My soul keeps his memory forever.

All the family thanks you for your remembrance and hope that now you have started writing you will continue to do so. At least, write to your godfather (me) who often thinks of you and keeps for you all the affection one can have for a dear cousin.

Alfred (my son) has been with us for a few days and sends his greetings. We embrace you with all our affection.

Alfred Lastrapes

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