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Sept. 20 PERSONAL LETTER from Christine and Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to their brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

September 20, 1960

My good brother,

I am writing to give news of your little sister (Corinne), she is well. Miss Laurent has been ill last night, she is feeling better yet with a little headache. Alice tells you "Good day". Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) came here yesterday afternoon. She will leave tomorrow morning. Today, Ninise (Blanche) is teaching us. I can tell you that it is not much fun. We went to the barbecue, I had a good time. We had dinner there. There was an old woman called Mrs. Grosbois. All the little girls at school send you their greetings, even Angela. Poor Noel died from a bad fever. The hurricane threw down Papa's (Alexander Declouet) beautiful little pecan tree and several lilacs. Papa had them put into the ground. I am composing my letter by candlelight with Gabi (Gabrielle, our sister) and Ninise who is writing her verg. She is scribbling on her copy book. Water is being pumped ever evening to wash the refinery beacuse the grinding will start soon.

Goodbye, my good brother, I have not much else to tell you, kisses from all the family,

Christine Declouet

Dear Paul,

A little word only to greet you. Miss Laurent sends her friendly remembrance and tells you that she takes care of your little goddaughter for herself and for you. She is not called Corine any longer. Lorenza is her name.

Your sister, Blanche Declouet

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