

1861
Jan. 24

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PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, La.
to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, January 24, 1861

Dear Paul,

Your letter dated on the 6th of this month reached me several days ago but I had so few news, especially since Papa's (Alexander Declouet) departure that I delayed answering until today.

Last Wednesday we went to a big ball in New Iberia where we had a very good time. We went to sleep at Mrs. Dubuclet's home and there we found Celestine and Mathilde (Mrs. Tisson) who also were getting ready to go to the ball. We danced until 3 or 4 in the morning. Guess with whom Miss Laurent and I have danced the most often? I am going to tell you because I am sure that you would never suspect it. With Mr. Mathias Poules who is, according to the saying, very good at waltzing but I assure that it is not my opinion as he makes his partners fly around a little too much. I believe he could wear out at least six ladies in less than a quarter of an hour. I danced with several young men from New Iberia, among them, one of your schoolmates, Mr. Devalcourt, who seemed greatly interested in getting information about you and Clouet (Alexander, our brother). Papa danced like mad with Celestine and other ladies and young girls. Miss DeBlanc, one of the prettiest persons in the ball, invited him to dance another dance with her. You can imagine that he did not let this amiable offer go begging.

Goodbye, dear Paul. Nothing else to tell you. We have not heard from Papa since his departure. Last night, poor Johnson lost his daughter who had been ill only for two weeks. Goodbye for the second time. All the family kisses you, Miss Laurent sends her greetings. Your sister, Blanche Declouet

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