

1861  
Sept. 24

PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville to  
her brother, Paul Declouet in Virginia.

St. Martinville, September 24, 1861

Dear Paul,

I am writing to you with pleasure. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) came here Thursday. She brought Charles. Miss Laurent and Ninise (Blanche, our sister) went with them and Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) went on Tuesday. She remained a week. She had a fever for four days. Guerry sent me a little toy which can do the noise of a cicada. He sent his portrait to Silesie. Yine asked me to send her greetings. You must come to see us with Papa (Alexander Declouet) when he comes here. There are many sick negroes here. Noe had a little girl last Tuesday. Her little boy was very ill Sunday evening but he is a little better.

You must answer me soon because you have not written to me for so long. We had Mrs. Dubernard at Tonton's. She is one inch taller than Christine (our sister). Henri (Benoit, our cousin) is much bigger than her. Christine and I went to sleep at Mimi's (Henriette LeBreton Benoit, our aunt) but Mama did not come. We rode on horseback.

Goodbye, my brother.

Your little sister who loves you,

Gabrielle Declouet