St. Louis, May 23, 1809,

My dear Marie Louise,

You have learned without a doubt the misfortune that has arrived to me last spring on my way out to the Upper Missouri. I admit that the blow was very fatal for us. At the same time I would observe to you, without seeking to excuse myself that it was not at all committed from hate, malice, or rancor. A loss of self-control on my part is a loan of reflection. This unfortunate unhappy moment was the sole cause, besides hurried and excited by my associate Bruneau, who ought to be considered in this affair as guilty as myself, for without him the thing would have never taken place; the
recollected of this unhappy affair has thrown me often into a deep reflection and certainly I think that would have caused much sorrow. The grief of all my family which causes me much pain and modification. I was not at all being able to understand so terrible an action in an American. This evil reason is this: that I have not felt any sense of the affection that my old friends.

I would have had the pleasure of seeing you in the course of the winter if it were not for the lack of money to suffice for the expenses of such a journey. The expenses that have incurred in my law suit for this affair here more than absorbed all the savings that I have made in the Upper Missouri.
which obliges me now to return in this part with a brother of Governor Lewis who continues to employ me as before for the United States. (I want to say the last one).

I do not believe I shall be able to return from the Upper Missouri before three years and just as soon I will make it my duty to so and see you all. If any one of my family will want to do me the kindness of writing they will address their letter to Monsieur Pascal Carrière at St. Louis. Though this man and his wife entirely unknown by my family in Detroit join with me and beg of you to accept their civility.
There are the best friends that I now possess in this country.

My respects to our Maman that I embrace well, as well as all my brothers & sisters that I desire much to see.

From your affectionate brother,

George Drouillard

M.B. do not forget me or say is please at Madame Maisonneville and her family.

Madame Jaques Parment

Devoil - Sandwich.