Sunday, Vera Cruz, Jan 15 1849.

My Dear Parents,

I can sit down in the harbour of Vera Cruz to write to you, I am well and have been all the voyage. so far, I have often thought of you during my watch how you were sitting by the fireside engaging yourselves. I arrived safe at Boston that sunday morning and attended mr Wrights to Church, and in the Evening I went to the Handel & Haden Society at the Melodian, I ~~supose~~ suppose you would like to hear an acount of my voyage. so far. We set sails on Tuesday the 21st. day of December, we stayed nearly two Days at Boston as the wind was dead head, very cold so that I had to put on my Jacket and all my thick clothes, the first sunday that we were out it was very stormy and had all the battening, ~~neck~~. but when we got in the Gulf Stream the Vessel would dip over her sides, I have many times in the gulf Stream have I slid from side of the Vessel to the other. endangering my neck and the arms, I did not have the misfortune to be sea sick during all the rought weather so I got along in the fine. Christmas we were on the coast of Florida and new Years day we were about a hundred

miles from the West Indies, and to day I am in the harbour of Vera Cruz, anchored abrest of the United States ~~Frigate~~ Ship of war, and the Castle of San Juan Dullo, I have not had a chance to go ashore yet but think I shall soon, Capt. Bangs is a Gentleman, and all his Officers, he asked my the other day if going to sea was as good fun as I thought it was, Yes, I ever like him well, the second Mate told me if I wanted to find out any thing on board the Ship to come to him and he would show me, So I think I have a good chance, they have a band of music on board the man of war and they play nearly all the time, near neighbours make friends or enemies, I expect the Ship will stay in Vera Cruz harbour weeks, and from there to Mobile or New Orleans, the second mate said that he thought the Ship would not go to England but from New Orleans to Boston, if so I shall be to home in the months of march or april, do not dear Parents worry about me more than you can help, for I will do as well as I can, I thank you mother for them tracks you put in my Chest, and I will endeavor to leave them do me some good, at this present the band is playing such tunes as

always delight to hear. I suppose it is very cold weather at home but I assure you it is very warm here. a salute is fired out of the castle and many a war every morning. this noon a Genoese came along side of the vessel with fruits and bread. I shall visit the city and castle if I can and collect what curiosities I can. it is getting dark. I shall have to cut short. give my love to all. to father Mother Brother Sister & Cousin & Nancy and friends.

From your affectionate
Son,
Rodney G. Davis.

Fourth sunday out.

Sunday Vera Cruz Jan 15 1848

My Dear Parents

I now sit down in the harbour of Vera Cruz to write to you, I am well and have been all the voyage, so far. I have often thought of you during my watch how you were sitting by the fireside, enjoying yoursleves. I arrived safe at Boston that Sunday morning and atended Mr. Wright to church and in the enening I went to the Mandel Haden Society at the Melodion. I suppose you would like to hear an acount of my voyage so far. We set sail on Tuesday the 21st day of December, we stoped nearly two days at Boston lights as the wind was dead head, very cold so that I had to put on my jacket and all my thick clothes. The first Sunday that we were out it was very stormey and had all the following week, but when we got in the Gulf Stream the vessel would dip over her sides.How many times in the gulf stream have I slide from side of the vessel to the other endangering my neck and the , I did not have the misfortune to be sea sick during all the rough weather so I got along in the fine Christmas we were on the coast of Florida and new years day we[were] within a hundred miles of the West Indies and to day I am in the harbour of Vera Cruz anchored abrest of the United States Ship of War and the Castle of San Juan Dulloa. I have not had a chance to go ashore yet but think I shall soon Capt Bangs is a Gentleman and all his officers he asked my [me] the other day if going to sea was as good fun as I thought it was, his crew likes him well. The second mate told me if I wanted to find out any thing on board the ship to come to him and he would show me. So I think I have a good chance , they have a band of music on board the man of war and they play nearly all the time. Near night hours make friends or enemies, I expect the ship will stay in Vera Cruz for four weeks and from there to Mobile or New Orleans. The second mate said that he thought the ship would not to go England but from New Orleans to Boston. If so I shall be home in the month of March or april, do not dear parents worrhy about me more than you can keep for I will do as well as I can....

From your affectionate son

Rodney C. Davis

Cover New Orleans STEAM 10 to Mr. Samuel Davis Worcester Mass. United States



1848

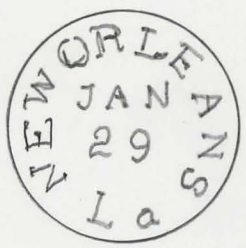
U.S. transport Steam Ship Edith

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO TO NEW ORLEANS

The U.S.S. Edith in 1848 when this letter was written, was in the service of the War Department. She was transferred to the Navy on March 3, 1849, and became part of the Pacific Squadron. Unfortunately on August 4, 1849, she went aground while en route from Sausalito to Santa Barbara in a dense fog and was lost.

This 400 ton screw steamer was 120' in length, 26' breadth and 14' depth, complement of 25, armament 2 guns.

January 15, 1848. A letter to his parents from Rodney H. Davis who was aboard the ship Faneuil Hall at Vera Cruz. He describes his voyage aboard her, having left Boston, Capt. Bangs, for Vera Cruz There is a U.S. Man of War in the harbor at Vera Cruz that has a band aboard that plays music "all the time."



STEAM

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N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List, Feb. 9, 1848. Arrived New Orleans Jan. 28: U.S. transport Steam Ship Edith, Couillard...Vera Cruz.

This letter was transported on a War Department steamer, so was treated as an incoming Steam Ship Letter at the 10¢ rate.