I Ley = West Dec 29 1846 le you well dear wife - have hind lingels quarded you and our darling childe from from have Since last & Saw you -Sad in deed was my heart the morning I parted from you but Lader still has it sime been. I went to Lea on Latinelay the day I left home on monday the 23th in Nantuchel South Channel & Took a gale from the North East which exceded in violence any that I ever experienced before; we had to take all our sails imand let our vessel olive with the wind and sea as best the might The Sea um very high. Our half past Eleven on mond Me Gued my mate and three men were wath surpt from the cop of the Cablin and Terrible in deed was my agong when I thought that I saw Them all surps into the Sea; two of the men Struck on the ressel quare rail and fell inbrack one langht a tope and Saved himself, but from Reach fell into the Lea and was drowned, the gale was raging for These we could do nothing to save him, Could only writed his Struggles, his agong and see him sink to his dien grave, The gale continued with almost unabated fury except when it was changing from one quotion to an other for thirty days, it was mostly from West and NAth west sturing which time I lost my mate - Dechload, foresail and boat much injured and my other sails and riging nearly wouver, one of my then, young moston had his fort badley burner on the night of the 25 givor which disabled him during the remainder of the shope orgage. at the time I loss my goulait two men - very near being sweps overboard, it was blown and on the night the 25 Nor when lying to with it there reefed. We continued for Think days vanley melevering to get into Hampton Hoads. New-Usik, Wilmington and Challeston but all to no purpose we could do nothing but ships to the South East We got as fan East as about 59 degres of west comptande. on the 19th of see I had but one man with myself (Lith Galland) able to be on dech on do any Thing, one man having been taken Sich on the 19th from wet and exposine. We were wet day and night constantly

(Coll. 88, Box 1/1) Date: Dec/ 20. 1946 Description: Letter from John Davison to Eliza Ann Davison, his wife, written in Key West, about a drowning at sea. Key-West Dec 29 1846 Are you well dear wife – have kind Angels guarded you and our darling child from harm Since I saw you – Sad in deed was my heart the morning I parted from you but Sader still has it since been. I went to sea on Saturday the day I left home on Monday the 23^d in Nantucket South Channel I took a gale from the North East which exceded in violence any that I ever experianced before; we had to take all our sails in and let our vessel drive with the wind. and sea as best she might The Sea run very high. At half past eleven on mond Mr Reed my mate and three men were wast swept from the top of the cabbin and terrible in deed was my agony when I thought that I saw them all swept into the Sea; two of the men struck on the vessels quarte rail and fell inboard one caught a rope and saved him-self, but poor Reed fell into the

Sea and was drown^Ad, the gale was raging so, that we could do nothing to save him, could only witnes his struggles, his agony and see him sink to his ocien grave. The gale continued with almost unabated fury except when it was changing from one quarter to an other for thirty days, it was mostly from West and Northwest during which time I lost my mate - deckload, foresail and boat much injured and my other sails and riging nearly worn out, one of my men, young morton had his foot badly burned on the night of the 25th of Nov which disabled him during the remainder of the vorge voyage. At the time I lost my foresail two men came very near being swept overboard, it was blown away on the night of the 25 Nov when lying to with it three reefed. We continued for thirty days vainly indevering to get into Hampton Roads, New-York, Wilmington and Charleston but all to no purpose we could do nothing but drift to the South East. We got as far East as about 59 degrees of west longitude. On the 19th of Dec I had but one man with myself (Seth Garland) able to be on deck, or do any thing, one man having been taken sick on the 17th from wet and exposure. We were wet day and night constantly

on the 20th bee the gale had not abouted my remaining man began to complain, I fell my own health giving way "Our riging and sails could not stand it much longer. I concluded under Such committeenes, I considered that duty required me to get into port as boon as possible I accordingly put the vessel on a South Course and lan untill of god into The trade winds which was in about 28 degreed North Latotade I then stood for Coberco, passed the Bahama banks and arrived here about moon of this day - Vun Cargo is much decayed I forow not as yet how much I have had a damage Furny on it and Shall take all legal Steps to dispose of it There is no mail here the chame for communication is well eregnean dependent on vessels that may chance to be passing this Why a vessel sails tomorrow morning for New- york which is my only change for formalling this. my time for writing is Therefore Should. Fell Capt Ellis that I will white him the first opportunity after I ascertain how thing Stand with us Is will not be of any use for you to write me here as There is no mail it would be very uncertain about a letters ene getting here I Should the undoubtedy begoing tom have before you get This . I will write you again the first channel wants to dec him and wants him to be a good by Fell him of he will bear the reach all he can thick father will buy him something prets I have not time to write any more more in haste Affectionately your Husband John Danism the present the state of bat many and

On the 20th Dec the gale had not abated, my remaining man began to complain, I felt my own health giving way our riging and sails could not stand it much longer. I concluded under such circumstances, I considered that duty required my to get into port as soon as posible I accordingly put the vessel on a South course and ran untill I got into the trade winds which was in about 28 degrees North Latitude I then stood for Abaco, passed the Bahama banks and arrived here about noon of this day. Our cargo is much decayed I know not as yet how much I have had a surge Turny on it and shall take all legal steps to dispose of it. There is no mail here the chain of communication is very eregular dependent on vessels that may chance to be passing this way A vessel sails tomorrow morning for New-York which is my only chance for for maleling this. My time for writing is therefore short. Tell Capt Ellis that I will write him the first opportunity after I ascertain how thing stand with us It will not be of any use for you to write me here As there is no mail it would be very uncertain about a letters ever geting here I should to undoubtedly begone from here before you get this. I will write you again the first chance Tell Caleb H how much Father thinks about him and wants to see him and wants him to be a good boy Tell him if he will learn to read all he can that father will buy him something prety, I have not time to write any more now. In haste

Affectionately your Husband John Davison

Is Other Davidon Dengusta Alame

[sidways on left side] Key West Dec. 29. 1846

[postmark] New York SHIP Jan 14 12