

Station: Rules and Regulations

1. What group was in charge of the rules and regulations regarding the Lazaretto?

The Board of Health of Philadelphia was in charge of the rules and regulations regarding the Lazaretto.

2. Name two of the positions at the Lazaretto and describe briefly what they do:

Position #1: The Lazaretto Physician

Description: This physician checked all the vessels for disease and cared for individuals who were sick at the Lazaretto.

Position #2: Quarantine Master

Description: This person inspected the ships along with the physician, and made sure rules were being followed at the quarantine.

PASSAGE 1: Excerpts from *Under the yellow flag : an account of some experiences of Henry Leffmann as port physician of the port of Philadelphia ; to which have been added a few notes and comments on the history of the port of Philadelphia*, Philadelphia : G.F. Fell et Societas, 1896. pp. 28, 33, 47-48, 54

3. On May 31, 1797, the Board passed a resolution or ruling that stated the vessel should “hoist a signal” or raise a flag to show that the ship needs to be inspected. What did it mean if the vessel “set a flag in the side...?”

A flag on the side of the ship (“set in the side-rigging”) represented a call to the Lazaretto physician and quarantine master to come and “inspect...” the ship.

4. What did domestic or American ships use as a signal?

American ships used an “American...flag” on the side of the boat

5. What did foreign ships use (that is, ships from other countries)?

Foreign vessels used “an ordinary square yellow... flag.” The yellow flag represented the symbol for “quarantine” or isolation. It is “code” for the letter “Q”

6. The first excerpt is written by a man named Henry Leffmann. He was the port physician in the late 1800s. As he waited to inspect the ships with the Quarantine Master, what did he think was the most difficult thing?

Leffmann felt the vessels – steam or sailing boats- were unreliable or “irregular...”. It was hard to tell when a boat would arrive. He was often “uncertain.” And “strong winds and low tides” could “delay” a boat from getting close to the Lazaretto. “Heavy ice and fog” could also delay a vessel for a number of “days.”

7. Henry Leffmann's book is entitled *Under The Yellow Flag*. Considering what you just learned, why is this title important? Why do you think the Lazaretto was "under the yellow flag." What is important about a yellow flag?

The Lazaretto was mainly a hospital to isolate sick passengers, crew. It is interesting that being "under the yellow flag" is a direct reference to the main purpose of the Lazaretto – that is, a quarantine station.

PASSAGE 2: "Quarantine Policy of 1803" Credit: Board of Health, Philadelphia, Pa.

8. Is the Quarantine Policy of 1803 considered a **primary source**? That is, a document written or created by someone who lived and/or was present during a particular period or event. Give one piece of evidence that proves your answer to be true.

YES. The policy is a document written by the Philadelphia Board of Health in 1803. The Board of Health created the rules and regulations of the Lazaretto Quarantine.

9. What kind of vessels were inspected under the Quarantine Policy of 1803?

The Quarantine Policy of 1803 stated that from "the 1st of May to the 1st of Nov. ALL vessels shall anchor and be examined at the Lazaretto" [that is American or domestic AND foreign vessels]

10. According to the "Quarantine Policy of 1803" how long did vessels from "sick ports" have to remain at the the Lazaretto? What was done to the vessel's cargo and passengers?

- a) Vessels from sick ports were quarantined at least 20 days
- b) During quarantine, the vessel's cargo and passengers were cleaned

11. How long could some vessels be forced to wait if it was in quarantine and showed signs of physical illness on board?

If someone was physically sick and their vessel was in quarantine, the Lazaretto officials could make the vessel wait until after November 1st before going to Philadelphia.

12. What was the punishment if a master or captain of a ship refused to answer questions or tried to lie to the officials of the Lazaretto during an inspection? What was the punishment for someone who tried to go into the Lazaretto hospital?

- a) If a master or captain of a ship lied to officials of the Lazaretto or refused to answer a

question during inspection, there was a fine of 500 dollars. And they could be imprisoned and forced into hard labor. *[Note \$500 then is the equivalent of about \$7,056 in 2009.]*

b) If someone tried to go into the Lazaretto hospital, they could be forced into quarantine

PASSAGE 3: Quotes of David Barnes, PhD, from the University of Pennsylvania. Courtesy David Barnes, PhD, from the University of Pennsylvania

13. Why were gates so important to the Lazaretto?

Gates were important to make sure that those who were contagious stayed within the quarantine. They also served to keep the healthy Philadelphia citizens away from diseases.

14. What rule was created to protect the central pavilion from contagion?

People walked outside and used other entrance ways to go from one hospital wing to the other.