

Station: INSPECTION AND DISINFECTION

PASSAGE 1: Excerpted from a report submitted to the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) by Rebecca H. Sell and "The Lazaretto: The Cultural Significance and Preservation Plan in the Spirit of the Burra Charter" by Rebecca H. Sell, A Thesis in Historic Preservation, Master of Science in Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania, 2005. Credit: Board of Health, Philadelphia, PA

1. What are the three things that the lazaretto physician and the quarantine master inspect on a vessel?

2. Why do you think it would be important to know from where a vessel is coming?

3. Why is the physician asking a lot of questions about the number of people of and crew on board, and if they are all accounted for?

4. Question 14 asks about "apparel or bedding belonging to deceased persons." If the commander did have apparel belonging to someone who died from disease, what do you think the quarantine station might do with it? (Hint: see PASSAGE 2.)

5. If you had to add a question to the physician's list, what else would you ask?

6. Is the list of questions from the "Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Lazaretto, May 17, 1799," a primary resource? Explain your response.

PASSAGE 2: Excerpts taken from *Public Ledger*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: August 14, 1879. Courtesy *Public Ledger*.

7. Name two buildings at the Quarantine Station that help to inspect and disinfect for disease. Then explain the function of the buildings.

PASSAGE 3: taken from Morman, E.T. "Guarding against alien impurities: the Philadelphia Lazaretto, 1854-1893" *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 1984;108 (2):131-52; quotations from p. 139, Courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

8. Cholera can be spread from person to person through clothing and bedding of the sick or diseased. But yellow fever was only transmitted through mosquitoes. Cleansing or burning affected materials was common. What did the newspapers say about "disinfecting" steerage passengers and their belongings?

9. What did the Board of Health say about disinfecting the immigrants' belongings?

PASSAGE 4: From The Philadelphia Maritime Exchange, *Hand Book of the Lower Delaware River* (Philadelphia: George S. Harris and Sons, printers, 1895)
<http://www.archive.org/details/handbookoflowerd00philrich>

10. How was the mail treated before it left the Lazaretto Immigration station in the 1800s?

11. Why was the mail treated in this manner?
