deck beams to the upper surface of said lockers or enclosed spaces, which shall be deemed and taken to be the deck or platform from which measurement shall be made for all the purposes of this act, and the spaces occupied by said lockers or enclosed spaces shall be deducted from the spaces allowable for the use of passengers.

For example: The spaces in the main and poop decks or platforms, and in the deck houses, if any there be, will be, 16 by 6 — 96 feet; lower deck, 18 by 6 — 108 feet; two-deck vessels, 14 by 7½ — 105 feet.

The encumbering by merchandise or stores, not the personal baggage of the passengers, except in lockers or enclosures prepared for the purpose, of any part of the space occupied by the passengers, will vitiate the whole space, unless the part so encumbered be separated from that so occupied, by a substantial bulkhead.

The deck or platform must be of a permanent nature, flush, and impervious to water.

Collectors will keep a special account of the moneys received under the 14th section of this act on account of deceased passengers; and, before making payments to any board or commission of the description mentioned in the law, will make a report to the Department of the number and designation of the boards or commissions appointed and acting under the authority of the State in which their respective ports are situated, to enable the Department to determine which is entitled to receive the same.

It will be perceived that the 19th section of this act expressly repeals all former laws on the subject, except so far as concerns the prosecution, recovery, distribution or remission of any fines, penalties, and forfeitures which may have been incurred under former laws prior to the day this act shall go into effect; which, with respect to vessels sailing from ports in the United States on the eastern side of the continent, is within thirty days from the time of its approval; with respect to vessels sailing from ports in the United States on the western side of the continent, and from ports in Europe, is within sixty days from the time of its approval; and with respect to vessels sailing from ports in other parts of the world, is within six months from the time of its approval. The provisions of existing laws will be enforced until this act shall go into effect, as above specified.

It is deemed sufficient only further to call your particular attention to the 1st, 2d, 6th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th sections of this act, in which certain provisions, different from existing laws, have been enacted, and to state that all the requirements of said sections must be strictly enforced.

Collectors are directed to furnish the masters of all vessels engaged in transporting passengers between their respective ports and foreign countries, and each owner or consignee of any such vessels residing at their ports, with one copy of this circular.

JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

AN ACT

TO

REGULATE THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS IN STEAMSHIPS AND OTHER VESSELS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no master of any vessel owned in whole or in part by a citizen of the United States, or by a citizen of any foreign country, shall take on board such vessel, at any foreign port or place, other than foreign contiguous territory of the United States, a greater number of passengers than in proportion of one to every two tons of such vessel, not including children under the age of one year in the computation, and computing two children over one and under eight years of age as one passenger. That the spaces appropriated for the use of such passengers, and which shall not be occupied by stores or other goods not the personal baggage of such passengers, shall be in the following proportions, viz: On the main and poop decks or platforms and in the deck houses, if there be any, one passenger for each sixteen clear superficial feet of deck, if the height or distance between the decks or platform shall not be less than six feet; and on the lower deck, (not being an orlop deck,) if any, one passenger for eighteen such clear superficial feet, if the height or distance between the decks or platforms shall not be less than six feet, but so as that no passenger shall be carried on any other deck or platform, nor upon any deck where the height or distance between decks is less than six feet, with intent to bring such passenger to the United States, and shall leave such port or place and bring the same, or any number thereof, within the jurisdiction of the United States; or if any such master of any vessel shall take on board his vessel, at any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, any greater number of passengers than in the proportion aforesaid to the space aforesaid, or to the tonnage aforesaid, with intent to carry the same to any foreign port or place other than foreign contiguous territory as aforesaid, every such master shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof before any circuit or district court of the United States, shall, for each passenger taken on board beyond the limit aforesaid, or the space aforesaid, be fined in the sum of fifty dollars, and may also be imprisoned at the discretion of the judge before whom the penalty shall be recovered, not exceeding six months; but should it be necessary for the safety or convenience of the vessel, that any portion of her cargo, or any other articles or article, should be placed on, or stored in, any of the decks, cabins, or other places appropriated to the use of passengers, the same may be placed in lockers or enclosures prepared for the purpose, on an exterior surface impervious to the wave, capable of being cleansed in like manner as the decks or platforms of the vessel. In no case, however, shall the places thus provided be deemed to be a part of the space allowable for the use of passengers, but the same shall be deducted therefrom, and in all cases where prepared or used, the upper surface of said lockers or enclosed spaces shall be deemed and taken to be the deck or platform from which measurement shall be made for all the purposes of this act. It is also provided that one hospital in the spaces appropriated to passengers, and separate therefrom by an appropriate partition, and furnished as its purposes require, may be prepared, and, when used, may be included in the space allowable for passengers, but the same shall not occupy more than one hundred superficial feet of deck or platform: *Provided*, That on board two-deck ships, where the height between the decks is seven and one-half feet or more, fourteen clear superficial feet of deck shall be the proportion required for each passenger.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

12. January 1853—April 1855

1855