

MARINE HOSPITALS.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the last Congress, relative to the establishment of Marine Hospitals at Buffalo, Oswego, Galveston, Detroit, Wilmington, North Carolina; Newport, Rhode Island; Erie, Pennsylvania, and Apalachicola.

APRIL 9, 1850.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 20, 1850.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives directing the Secretary of the Treasury "to inquire and ascertain the most favorable terms on which suitable sites can be obtained for marine hospitals at Buffalo, Oswego, Galveston, Detroit, Wilmington, North Carolina; Newport, Rhode Island; Erie, Pennsylvania, and Apalachicola; and that he report the same, with his opinion upon the expediency of erecting hospitals at those places, to Congress at the next session," I have the honor to transmit, for the information of Congress, a copy of a letter (marked A) addressed by my predecessor to the collectors of the several districts named in the resolution, soon after its passage, in which they were requested to report the reasons which, in their opinion, would recommend the establishment of a marine hospital within their district, and the terms on which suitable sites could be purchased.

Answers to the call thus made have been received at the department, and are now herewith transmitted, (see papers Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.)

It will be seen, from the information communicated in these papers, that grounds affording the best sites for the location of such institutions in the districts of Newport, Rhode Island, Oswego, New York, and Erie, Pennsylvania, are now owned by the United States, and may be had without charge.

Five sites, varying in price from \$4,250 to \$6,500, are offered in the district of Buffalo. That preferred by the collector will cost \$6,000.

Three sites are offered in the district of Detroit—one at \$3,000, one at \$4,500, and the other at \$5,600.

The only site recommended in the district of Wilmington, North Carolina, is that known as Mount Tirza—price \$2,500.

Two sites are offered in the district of Apalachicola—one at \$250, the other at \$500—the latter recommended by the collector; and two sites also offered in the district of Galveston—one at \$700 and the other at \$800.

According to the reports of the collectors and others, the establishment of marine hospitals would be judicious at every place named in the resolution; and reasons in detail, of more or less force in favor of such structures, are assigned for each district in their several communications.

Looking only to the comforts and advantages of hospital treatment and accommodation over the existing system of relief at the places indicated in the resolution, public hospitals would undoubtedly be desirable in them all. But, in judging of the expediency of such establishments in the particular districts referred to, the wants and claims of other districts, the insufficiency of the fund as constituted by the acts of 16th July, 1798, and 3d May, 1802, for their maintenance, and the consequent dependence of the fund on appropriations to be made by Congress, are considerations which cannot with propriety be overlooked. Giving to these considerations their proper influence, I cannot recommend so large an addition to the number of hospital institutions at one time; nor, indeed, any addition merely for the sake of improving the relief of the fund. In the opinion of the department, the increase of such establishments should be gradual, and regulated, 1st, by regard to the present and prospective trade and commerce of the several districts, and to the causes, local or otherwise, calculated to originate or introduce disease; 2d, regard to the facilities offered for other modes of relief by the use of local institutions or private boarding-houses within such districts; 3d, regard to the increased, permanent, and unavoidable charges resulting from such institutions; 4th, regard to proximity of hospitals already established by law.

In the belief that the reasons and facts upon which discriminations may be made, founded upon greater or less demand for public hospitals in the districts named in the resolution, and upon their relative commercial importance, will be more acceptable to Congress than the opinions of the department formed upon such facts, I have, in addition to the information furnished in the reports of the collectors, caused to be prepared—1st, statement showing the amount of American and foreign tonnage entered and cleared within each district during the last fiscal year; 2d, statement showing the number of seamen annually relieved, the amount of money expended for that purpose, and the sums collected in each district under the acts for the relief of seamen, for the five years preceding 1st July last.

These papers, (marked B and C,) containing, as they do, all the data upon the points referred to in the possession of the department, are herewith transmitted.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 W. M. MEREDITH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

HON. HOWELL COBB,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A.

[CIRCULAR.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 29, 1849.*

SIR: Herewith you will receive a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives, by which this department is directed to inquire and ascertain the terms on which a suitable site for a marine hospital within your district may be purchased.

The department is further directed to report upon the expediency of such an institution in your district at the next session of Congress.

That the department may be in possession of the information required to answer the call thus made upon it, I will thank you to inquire and ascertain the price for which a suitable and convenient piece of ground for such an institution may be purchased, and to make report thereof, accompanied by a diagram and description of the site so selected and offered for sale.

I will thank you, also, to report the reasons which in your opinion would recommend the establishment of such an institution in your district. Your early attention to the subjects thus indicated is requested.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBT. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

_____, *Collector of the Customs.*

THIRTIETH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 25, A. D. 1849.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to inquire and ascertain the most favorable terms on which suitable sites can be obtained for marine hospitals at Buffalo, Oswego, Galveston, Detroit, Wilmington, North Carolina; Newport, Rhode Island; Erie, Pennsylvania; and Apalachicola; and that he report the same, with his opinion upon the expediency of erecting hospitals at those places, to Congress at the next session.

Attest:

TH. J. CAMPBELL, *Clerk.*

No. 1.

CUSTOM-HOUSE,
Buffalo, December 3, 1849.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the circular of the Treasury Department dated January 29, 1849, directing me to inquire and ascertain the price for which a suitable and convenient piece of ground for the erection of a marine hospital at this port can be purchased, and to make report thereof, and also asking me to report the reasons which in my opinion would recommend the establishment of such an institution in this district. In pursuance of said circular, I herewith enclose the propositions of Messrs. John Hollister, Alanson Palmer, and William T. Miller, for the sale of three several lots of land for that purpose, accompanied by maps of the lots and a map of this city, by which you will see the location of the several lots offered for sale. I also enclose a letter

from Samuel Haines, esq., superintendent of the county work-house, recommending the lot offered by Mr. Alanson Palmer as a healthy and suitable location for the erection of a marine hospital. I have examined the several lots of land offered for sale, and also the terms, and would respectfully state that in my opinion either of the lots would be a good location for the purpose required, but that the lot offered by Mr. A. Palmer is in my opinion the best location for a hospital, and is better adapted for that purpose on account of its size than the other lots offered. In my judgment the erection of a marine hospital in this district is more required than at any other point on the lakes. There is a much larger amount of shipping owned at this port than at any other point, and consequently a larger amount of hospital dues received here than at any other port. The collector of the district is therefore constantly called upon to take care of the sick seamen of other districts, the fund in those districts having become exhausted; and besides, Buffalo lies at the foot of lake navigation on Lake Erie and the upper lakes. Crews shipped generally commence or end their voyages here; hence, leaving at all times a large number of seamen at this port. The fund for the relief of sick seamen is very often entirely exhausted, even with the additional sum provided by Congress in aid of the fund. The sick are taken care of at great disadvantage, being scattered in all parts of the city, and cannot be cared for as well for themselves or the benefit of the fund. They are generally taken sick in the low and unhealthy parts of the city, and there being no proper place to remove them to, they have to be cared for where they are found. They are much longer and much oftener under the care of the physician, and at a greater expense to the fund, than they would be if a hospital was erected for their reception. I have no doubt but that at least three times the number of seamen could be provided for at a hospital than are provided for in the usual way for the same amount of money. I understand from those connected with the custom-house for the past four years, that during that period at least one-third of the applicants for relief out of the marine hospital fund had to be rejected on account of failure of the funds, although sick and destitute, and coming strictly within the instructions of the department on that subject. Of that number many were sent to the poor-house, and others left to suffer, or be provided for by individual charity. The masters and owners of vessels, as well as seamen, have been loud in their complaints, that under this state of things Congress has not appropriated for the building of a suitable hospital for their reception.

The increasing commerce of the lakes is of course adding continually to the demand at this port for relief.

The above are the principal reasons which suggest themselves to my mind, and which induce me to recommend the establishment of a marine hospital at this port as the only means to effectually provide for the large number of sick and destitute seamen asking for relief.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEVI ALLEN, *Collector.*

HON. WILLIAM M. MEREDITH,

Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have received another proposition from P. Brigham, which I also herewith enclose. I see no reason to change the opinions above expressed.

BUFFALO, *December 4, 1849.*

DEAR SIR: Herewith you will receive a small map giving the outlines of a piece of land which I propose to sell to the government for a marine hospital.

The plot contains two acres and nineteen hundred and ninety feet, and you will please say to the department that they can have the same for \$6,000, allowing me to remove the small house and barn now on the premises.

The location for the purposes for which the government want the land I think cannot be excelled in this city, lying high and sufficiently elevated to overlook the city and have a perfect view of the lake.

You will be so kind as to give the department a statement and your view in regard to location and value.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. BRIGHAM.

LEVI ALLEN, Esq., *Collector.*

NATIONAL HOTEL, *December 25, 1849.*

DEAR SIR: I am informed that several propositions have been submitted to you by Captain Allen, the collector at Buffalo, to sell to the United States a suitable lot for a *marine hospital* at that place. I have received two letters on the subject, which I now send you herewith, viz: one from John Jay Hollister, and one from W. F. Miller, both of whom propose to *reduce the price* of their lots, provided you conclude to accept their lots.

If I can be of any service to you in determining the matter, let me know, and I will be happy to call and see you on the subject.

Yours, truly,

E. G. SPAULDING.

HON. W. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

BUFFALO, *December 20, 1849.*

DEAR SIR: I received your favor some time since. Upon your *hint* that the lowest bid would probably be accepted, I have concluded to come down on my price for the lot running from Fifth street to Fourth street, to four thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, (\$4,250,) instead of five thousand.

The location of my lot cannot help but suit, I think; and the price as I now offer it is low. If you will please hand in to the department the above alteration of my bid, you will greatly oblige yours, truly,

JNO. JAY HOLLISTER.

E. G. SPAULDING, Esq.

BUFFALO, *December 10, 1849.*

DEAR SIR: Father wishes me to say to you that he is anxious to effect a sale of his land to the government, and if it becomes *necessary* to effect it he will fall a dollar or a dollar and a half from his price, bringing it down to \$13 50 or \$14. He deems it better than the other prices that have been offered, inasmuch as it fronts on a wider street, and is also on the corner of two streets.

Accept his and my thanks for your kindness in sending us documents, and believe me yours, very respectfully,

WM. F. MILLER.

HON. E. G. SPAULDING.

BUFFALO, *December 1, 1849.*

We, the undersigned, offer to sell the piece of land running from Fifth street to Fourth street and along the line of Hudson street—166½ feet on Fifth and Fourth streets, and 401½ feet on Hudson street—for the sum of five thousand dollars, (\$5,000;) or the whole lot from Fifth street to Third street, (on the bank of the Erie canal,) being 166½ feet on Fifth street and Third street, by 667½ feet on Hudson street—Fourth street not being yet opened—for the sum of six thousand five hundred dollars, (\$6,500.)

JOHN JAY HOLLISTER.
PETER CURTISS.

BUFFALO, *December 1, 1849.*

DEAR SIR: I send you herewith a plan of a lot, for your consideration, as a site for a *marine* hospital. You will see that it is the *high*, healthy, and fine grounds—part of blocks Nos. 81 and 82, of this city—fronting on Fifth street.

The pleasant location and beauties of the place are so well known to every one, that I need only say it is the “Blossom Grove,” to satisfy you at once that it is the most *eligible* and appropriate, at the same time most beautiful spot, for the purpose mentioned, there is in this city or *vicinity*.

I hereby offer to sell two acres of that land, as laid down on the plan referred to, for the sum of six thousand dollars. Title *indisputable*.

I am, sir, yours, truly,

ALANSON PALMER.

Captain LEVI ALLEN,

Collector of the port of Buffalo Creek, New York.

ERIE COUNTY WORK-HOUSE,
Buffalo, November 28, 1849.

DEAR SIR: In answer to an inquiry made by Colonel Alanson Palmer, as to the number of convicts confined in the Erie county work house, and other persons employed about the premises, I would state:

I have averaged the number, and it amounts to eighty persons during the cholera season last summer. We have been remarkably healthy, having only two deaths, and they were cases of consumption; (no cholera.) As for the location, I think the lot south of the prison one of the best locations about the city for a marine hospital, it being high and dry, and has all the advantages of the lake breeze.

Respectfully, yours,
SAMUEL HAINES, *Superintendent.*

Captain LEVI ALLEN.

No. 2.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, OSWEGO,
May 5, 1849.

SIR: I herewith transmit a certified copy of the act of the New York legislature, giving assent to the erection by the United States of a marine hospital at the old fort, military or parade ground, at Oswego.

In my report upon a marine hospital site at Oswego, under date of March 12, 1849, I stated that I had taken measures to procure the passage of this act, and would report thereafter the action of the legislature.

I would now respectfully request that this communication may be filed with and made part of that report.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. H. McWHORTER, *Collector.*

The Hon. W. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

CHAP. 288.

AN ACT giving assent to the erection by the United States of a marine hospital at the old fort, military or parade ground, at Oswego.—(Passed April 9, 1849.)

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. None of the provisions of the "Act to cede the jurisdiction of certain land near the mouth of the Oswego river to the United States," passed March 27, 1821, or of the "Act to cede the jurisdiction of certain land near the mouth of the Oswego river to the United States," passed April 25, 1839, shall be construed to prevent the erection by the United States of a marine hospital on any part of the said land.

SEC. 2. Consent is given to the location or setting apart of any of the said land for the uses of a marine hospital.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Secretary's Office:*

I have compared the preceding with the original laws on file in this office, and do certify that the same are correct transcripts therefrom, and of the whole of the said originals.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,
Secretary of State.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, OSWEGO,
May 5, 1849.

The above scraps are cut from the Albany Argus, the New York State paper. The secretary's certificate is detached, it being at the foot of a column, and several laws intervening between it and the above act.

G. H. McWHORTER, *Collector.*

AN ACT to cede the jurisdiction of certain lands near the mouth of the Oswego river to the United States.—(Passed March 27, 1821.)

1. *Be it enacted by the people of the State of New York represented in Senate and assembly,* That the commissioners of the land office be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to cede to the United States the title and jurisdiction of this State to so much land lying at or near the mouth of the Oswego river, in the county of Oswego, as they shall deem necessary for the purpose of erecting a light-house thereon, not to exceed six acres in the whole: *Provided,* That such cession shall not impede or prevent the execution of any process at law under the authority of this State, except against the real or personal property of the government of the United States.

2. *And be it further enacted,* That the property so ceded shall be exonerated and discharged from any taxes which may be imposed under the authority of this State while the said land shall remain the property of the United States, and while the same shall be appropriated to the purpose intended by this act, and not otherwise.

AN ACT to cede the jurisdiction of certain land near the mouth of the Oswego river to the United States.—(Passed April 25, 1833.)

The people of the State of New York represented in senate and assembly do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The commissioners of the land office are hereby authorized to convey to the United States of America the title of this State to all that parcel of land lying near the mouth of the Oswego river, in Oswego county, known as the old fort, military and parade ground, containing fifty-four acres, be the same more or less, or so much thereof as may be required by the United States for the purpose of re-establishing the military post, of rebuilding the fort, redoubts, and barracks, and of improving the parade ground.

SEC. 2. The jurisdiction over such land as may be conveyed by virtue of the first section of this act, from and after such conveyance, shall be ceded to the United States of America for the purposes for which such land shall have been conveyed. Such jurisdiction shall not be construed so as to prevent or impede the execution of any process, civil or criminal, under the authority of this State, except so far as such process may affect the real or personal property of the United States within the said parcel of land.

SEC. 3. The property so ceded shall be exonerated and discharged from any taxes which may be imposed under the authority of this State, while the said land shall remain the property of the United States, and while the same shall be appropriated to the purposes intended by this act, and not otherwise.

SEC. 4. Whenever the United States shall cease to occupy the aforesaid mentioned land for the purposes mentioned in the first section of this act, then said land shall revert to the people of this State.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, OSWEGO,
March 12, 1849.

SIR: In reply to the circular from the department under date of the 29th of January last, communicating a resolution of the House of Representatives relative to sites for marine hospitals at this and other ports, I respectfully submit the following report:

Instead of a diagram of the site selected, as directed by the circular, I herewith transmit a map of the city of Oswego, which will convey a clearer idea of the localities hereafter mentioned as offered to the department than a diagram of the land and grounds adjacent. It will show the relevant situations of the proposed locations in regard to the harbor, the business localities, and to each other.

Referring to the map, either side of the river below the State dam is occupied by stores, warehouses, flouring mills, manufactories, &c. The population is more or less dense in proportion to the greater or less proximity to the river. The proposals made to me are as follows:

1st. The *east part* of a small tract, called the "Cove Property," situate on the right bank at the river's mouth, marked G. S.—\$8,000, measuring 200 feet front by 396 feet deep, comprehending nearly two acres. The figures indicate the price, which I think very high; but the site is the most eligible offered, except that on the Military Parade, as hereafter proposed.

2d. Lot 79, (Van Buren tract,) marked H. E.—\$3,000, on the west side of the map. It is distant from the river a little more than half a mile. The situation is good, healthy, and agreeable. It contains $2\frac{4}{7}$ acres. The price I think rather high, but not unreasonable. Lots, perhaps, are held too high anywhere in this city.

3d. Blocks 42, 43, 60, and 61, (on the northeast part of the map,) marked J. L.—\$600, \$500, \$900, \$900. The distance from the river is nearly a mile. The situation of these lots is somewhat objectionable, being low, moist ground. Each block is 200 feet by 396 feet, containing nearly two acres.

4th. Blocks 150 and 151, (on the southeast part of the map,) marked

O. R.—\$2,000, \$3,000. The price of both blocks is \$5,000, or either can be obtained at the price specified. The distance from the harbor is about one mile. The site is high, pleasant, and healthy.

5th. The piece of ground on the southeasterly part of the map, marked P. L.—\$1,200, 234 feet front, and 203 feet deep. The situation is high and healthful, and commands a beautiful prospect; though not far from the river, it is some three-fourths of a mile from the harbor. The price is much in the ratio of the other locations.

6th. Referring to the map, the department will perceive, on the right bank of the outer harbor, a large tract called the "Military Parade." *This tract is the property of the United States.* It is the old military ground of Fort Ontario, celebrated in the old French war of 1756, and the scene of a battle in the war of 1812. It was reserved by the State from sale in contemplation of public uses. The six acres immediately north of and adjoining the "Cove Property" was ceded to the United States for a light-house location, and for that purpose was occupied until the year 1838, when the beacon light was lighted on the west pier. A copy of the act of cession, dated the 27th of March, 1821, is herewith transmitted. The residue of the tract, containing fifty-four acres, was ceded to the United States by an act passed April 25, 1839, a copy of which is also transmitted.

It will be perceived that the first grant is clogged by no limitation or condition, except in regard to taxation in case the property should cease to be appropriated according to the design of the act. The second act is limited by a condition of military occupation; but I have already taken measures, through the member of the legislature from this city, to have the condition so modified as to permit the erection of a marine hospital, and will hereafter report the action of the legislature on the subject.

The section lying on the harbor adjoining the "Cove Property" is decidedly the best location for a marine hospital in my district. The shore (right bank) from the embouchure of the river to some distance east of the "Military Parade," is a high bluff, rising some fifty or sixty feet, and escarped to the water's edge. The site is commanding, the prospect exceedingly beautiful, the situation perfectly healthful, and its access so convenient to the harbor and scenes of the navigating business, that, in position, nothing can be more desirable. The War Department has taken possession of the whole tract, but can spare, without inconvenience, two or three acres adjoining the north line of the "Cove Property," which would be the most desirable location; or, with perfect convenience, it can spare all that can be required on the southeasterly or northeasterly parts of the tract. A large section of the land *beyond the glacis*, though fenced and cleared, lies in a rude, uncultivated state, and is practically unoccupied. As it is in the power of the President to designate any part of the ground for marine hospital uses, I would therefore respectfully report that the department can obtain a suitable site for a marine hospital at Oswego *without expense*.

The circular also requests me to state the reasons which, in my opinion, would recommend the establishment of a marine hospital in my district. I would therefore respectfully report:

1st. Oswego is the principal port on Lake Ontario, commanding nearly all the American trade on that lake, an immense trade with the upper lakes, and a very valuable foreign trade with Canada. Nine-tenths of

the United States trade with Canada West is carried on through the port of Oswego. Nearly all the United States navigation on Lake Ontario is tributary to it. The value of the imports and exports per annum approaches, and will soon exceed, twenty millions of dollars.

2d. The United States tonnage on Lake Ontario amounts to about 38,000 tons, of which about 23,000 tons belong to the port of Oswego; but nearly every American vessel on the lake is an Oswego trader, and nearly the whole tonnage depends on Oswego for freights.

3d. Although the city of Oswego in the healthfulness of its location is probably not excelled by any place in the Union, it is engaged in an extensive and active trade with the ports on the upper lakes, which are annually subject to endemic fevers, which are there contracted by the Ontario seamen, most of whom are brought to Oswego and there discharged. Every summer and autumn the cases of sick seamen are very numerous; and in two or three seasons which have come under the cognizance of the collector, the sickness among the seamen has been very distressing. In 1848 the number of cases receiving relief from the marine hospital was *one hundred and eighty-three*. As relief is extended only when the hospital is in funds, a large number of sick seamen who have regularly (and often for ten to fifteen years) paid the hospital tax receive no relief whatever. The actual number of sick seamen is, therefore, much greater than appears on the registers of the marine hospital.

4th. Oswego is not merely the centre of commerce on Lake Ontario, but it is the topographical centre—being about equidistant from Niagara on the west and Ogdensburg on the east, and therefore in local position the most convenient site for a marine hospital especially designed for the relief of the lower lake seamen.

5th. The collector communicated to the mayor and common council of the city the circular from the department relative to marine hospital sites. The latter raised a committee, who have conferred with the collector. In the course of the conference it was stated by one of the aldermen, a gentleman perfectly familiar with the navigating business of the lakes for a long period past, that marine hospital relief was not authorized on Lake Ontario until some years subsequent to the war of 1812, while for many years previous, hospital money had been retained from seamen's wages and paid into the hospital fund. The number of seamen, both in public and private employ, on Lake Ontario, in the period prior to the allowance of hospital relief, was very great—never greater than during the war. The gentleman referred to supposes some *ten thousand dollars* was collected from Lake Ontario seamen, for which not one dollar has been disbursed on their account. I apprehend the facts can be ascertained at the Marine Hospital Bureau. If I state them correctly, they constitute, in my judgment, a most cogent claim on the justice of the government.

These reasons, it is hoped, will sufficiently recommend the establishment of a marine hospital at Oswego.

Respectfully submitted :

GEO. H. McWHORTER, *Collector*,

HON. WM. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 3.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, GALVESTON,
July 26, 1849.

SIR: I have before me the circular of the late Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing a resolution of Congress of January 29, 1849, calling for information as to the terms on which a suitable site for a marine hospital at this place may be purchased, &c., and also requesting me to report the reasons which, in my opinion, would recommend the establishment of such an institution at this place.

I enclose you herewith the proposition of M. B. Menard, esq., president of the Galveston City Company, (marked No. 1;) by which you will see that two squares, containing each two acres and a half, are offered for the marine hospital site, at seven and eight hundred dollars, respectively. The block No. 487, at the price of eight hundred dollars, I would recommend as preferable. I send also herewith a plat of the city; by which you will be able to see the diagram of the grounds.

The reasons which strongly impress upon my mind the absolute necessity of the establishment of a marine hospital at Galveston, are:

1st. There is no establishment of the kind from New Orleans to the mouth of the Rio Grande—a distance by the coast of nearly one thousand miles.

2d. The commerce of this coast is already considerable, and promises still a large increase, as the resources of the country are being developed.

3d. Because Galveston is near a central position from the Mississippi to the Rio Grande, and is and must continue to be the largest commercial city within this extensive range of seacoast.

I am, very respectfully,

H. G. RUNNELS,
Collector port of Galveston.

HON. W. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury United States.

No. 1.

OFFICE GALVESTON CITY COMPANY,
Galveston, March 1, 1849.

SIR: Herewith you have a plan of this city, upon which I have colored the two blocks of lots, Nos. 427 and 487, which you have designated as eligible for a hospital.

The price of block No. 427	-	-	-	-	\$700
The price of block No. 487	-	-	-	-	800

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

M. B. MENARD,
President of Galveston City Company.

HIRAM G. RUNNELS, Esq.

By taking the two blocks, being adjacent, the privilege of the street could be enjoyed, and which would add much to the interest of such an institution, as it enlarges the grounds and gives a greater scope for the circulation of air and for gardening purposes.

H. G. RUNNELS,
Collector port of Galveston.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, GALVESTON, TEXAS,
February 15, 1850.

SIR: Our representative, Mr. Howard, has requested me to communicate to you my views in relation to Galveston as a location for the marine hospital. Similar information was required of my predecessor, to whose communications I respectfully refer—especially the one dated July 26, 1849. I feel almost warranted in saying that this is the only point at all eligible for such an establishment. It is now, and ever will be, the most commercial port in the State. It is nearly equidistant between New Orleans and the Rio Grande—about one thousand miles of seacoast—having constant intercourse with all the other ports, thereby giving the greatest facility for the diseased seamen to be benefited by the institution. No other place would, I think, combine one tenth of the advantages. The Brazos, Trinity, and Sabine rivers, are navigable for hundreds of miles. Many of the intermediate streams are also navigable, and by small improvements other rivers and sections of country will be tributary to Galveston. Considering the richness and extent of country watered by those streams, the varied climate and productions, embracing the sugar, cotton, grazing, and grain-growing interest, we may safely predict the rapid advance and great importance of this place in a commercial point of view. Besides, the pleasantness and healthfulness of this island are unsurpassed, and it is the only one of our ports that gives the promise of a foreign commerce. Last fall and winter ten vessels from Europe arrived here with emigrants and merchandise, and our merchants give me the assurance of an immense increase next fall. A vessel with a full cargo recently left this place for Liverpool, to be there freighted and returned here—the commencement of a direct trade sanguinely believed to be practicable by intelligent merchants. I might make other suggestions as to the advantages of this location, but I hope what has been said will suffice to direct your favorable attention to it.

My predecessor, as instructed, selected two blocks; on one of which the buildings might be placed. They are judicious selections and price moderate; but others equally suitable, and perhaps more convenient, can be commanded. This, however, will be for future and special consideration when the place and work is determined on.

I may here add that for several years I had charge of the city hospital and marine patients, which circumstance, in the way of experience and information, cannot lessen the consideration that may be given to my views and recommendations; and, for intruding my views on the subject, my apology must be found in the request of our representative and the interest it is natural I should feel in the prosperity of this community.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. R. SMITH.

HON. WM. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 4.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, DETROIT,
October 25, 1849.

In obedience to the request contained in the circular addressed from the department to this office, bearing date the 29th January, 1849, ask-

ing that this office "report reasons which in their opinion would recommend the establishment of a marine hospital in this district," I beg leave to submit the following report in support of my views, that are fully and firmly established, of the necessity of such an establishment at this port.

Detroit is healthily located on the river of that name, whose broad and deep channel forms the only medium of communication by water from all the ports on Lakes Erie, Ontario, and the river St. Lawrence, and the ocean itself, and the broad inland waters of Lakes Huron, Michigan, Superior, and Lake St. Clair, together with the lateral channels opened by the Illinois canal and Fa river to the valley of the Mississippi; and these waters bearing continually during the season of navigation, on their surface, the many thousands of tons of United States mercantile tonnage, to navigate which thousands of American citizens are yearly employed. The number of vessels entering at this port that are required by law to present a manifest at the custom-house during the quarter ending the 30th June, 1849, was 683, and tons burden 188,420, reporting the number of seamen employed on board at 9,167 men and boys—making a mean average of 101 seamen per day arriving at this port. To this number should be added all the vessels plying within this district exclusively, that are not required by law to present a manifest or report at the custom-house, which at a low estimate, the correctness of which all our commercial citizens would attest, is equal to one-half of the number of those entering at the custom-house. To this must be added the tonnage of vessels employed in the coasting trade clearing at ports below or above and passing this port to their destination, having no articles of cargo to land or lade, as well as those who have, and not embraced in the foregoing. They are equal to the number above quoted as entering at this port. The whole numbers in connexion would make the average number of seamen entering or calling at this port 200 per day and upwards. For the disabled and sick of this number, the provisions of the present arrangement are entirely inadequate. Very few of the sick can be provided for in the manner that seamen are receiving along the seaboard, and such that many of them incur indebtedness rather than be exposed to contagion in the places where diseased persons, not seafaring, are daily coming in contact with them. The relief extended at this port during the past four years has exceeded the amount of the collections by a small amount, and yet, as my predecessor has informed me, but a moiety of worthy applicants have been assisted; and many have not applied, equally entitled, who have been apprized of the state of the fund by disappointed comrades. The amount of compensation for board allowed at this port, \$2 per week, (though much lower than at many other ports, as the annual report to Congress exhibits,) is believed can be reduced still lower with a hospital here; and, should a hospital be established, I am convinced the amount of relief could be doubled for the same amount of money as is now expended. I would also present the position of Detroit as a consideration why it should have an institution located here. The channels of trade already opened, centering here, render it easy of access for sick seamen from ports where no provision is made for their relief, and daily the experience of the past shows conclusively that a hospital here would be more central than at any other point on the lakes. Vessels coming from ports on Lake Ontario, bound to Chicago, make this their first port in the

United States after leaving Canada and the Welland canal, where seamen often contract sickness, and here expect to obtain relief. All vessels also engaged in the fishing trade of the lakes find this the best place to seek supplies and bring in their sick seamen for relief; also the vessels employed in the trade opening to the mining districts of Lake Superior find this the only convenient, I may say the necessary, depot of the trade, and that many seamen will be engaged in this trade who must necessarily find relief at this port, if anywhere. That the already large business of the lakes is but in its infancy, all of our commercial men readily admit. The products of portions of seven States must pass this port, which, with the minerals and return commodities, will swell this large trade into a much larger one, and all of which must pass within a few rods of our wharves, and do call here for supplies and leave all their sick seamen here for medical aid and nursing, and leaves not a shadow of doubt as to the importance and necessity of a marine hospital establishment at this port, unless it be that to afford as little help as possible to seamen is the governing maxim, to save their contributions for other portions of the United States.

Many other reasons cogent to my mind could be urged with propriety; but I am persuaded that at a glance the position of Detroit and the claims of seamen are set forth clearly in the foregoing, as is necessary for the purpose of bringing the matter before Congress for their action.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. M. HYDE, *Collector.*

HON. WM. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 5.

WILMINGTON, N. C., *November 20, 1849.*

DEAR SIR: The receipt of your letter of the 14th instant roused again our feelings in regard to an hospital.

A meeting was called, and Mr. Gardner undertook to arrange a plan of our premises, which I have now the satisfaction to furnish you herewith, for the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury. My reliance would be strengthened if he could see our appeals made in 1835, 1836, and 1845 to our late representative at Washington.

Having long paid duties and hospital fees, and experienced a deal of suffering, it is quite time that poor fellows who had been charged all their lives should no longer be without suitable quarters at this place, the chief seaport of North Carolina.

This location, on the track of vessels coming up, is at once convenient for landing the sick on a clean beach, or wharf, if one should be fixed, about two and a half miles below; is detached, and also very convenient to be visited by land or water; on a handsome elevation—dry sand hill—where wells of good water can be had, and ample grounds for a field, gardens, &c.; and, as you know, there is a fine growth of *large oak trees*, offering great comfort in our climate; and, as Doctor Edwards went with us to it last summer, who thought highly of the place, and indeed remarked that he knew of no more suitable position anywhere, we are

flattered that his recommendation will aid in the very desirable relief we aim at and have so many years desired.

You will please observe, too, the enclosed resolution of our association, offering to take from the government, for such portion of said premises—"Mount Terza"—as shall be deemed necessary, at the sum of \$2,500, to establish and keep up a marine hospital, which is less than our outlay, to say nothing of interest, with the wooden buildings we have there, including one large two-story house.

The act incorporating our association by the legislature is deemed sufficient to authorize a thorough transfer by the existing managers, and doubtless will be readily confirmed by our next legislature, as it seems the United States require it.

From this plan, executed from the deed as we understand it, I have no idea the department would want over half (if as much) of the *back* ground.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. W. BROWN.

Col. R. G. RANKIN, *Collector*.

At a meeting of the contributors to the "Wilmington Marine Hospital Association," held on Thursday evening, November 15, 1849, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That so much of the Mount Terza tract of land, held by the Wilmington Marine Hospital Association, as may be required for hospital purposes, be offered for sale to the United States for the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars."

Copy from the minutes:

H. R. SAVAGE,
Secretary.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, WILMINGTON, N. C.,
November 21, 1849.

SIR: Yours of the 10th instant has been received, on the subject of a marine hospital. That subject has occupied the attention of our citizens for the last fifteen years, and every possible effort has been made to claim the attention of the general government without success. Petition after petition has been forwarded, and volumes written to our representative in Congress, which met with no action upon his part.

Wilmington, from its situation, is, and must continue to be, the principal seaport in North Carolina, and at this time vast improvements are in contemplation, and under way, which must tend to increase its now increasing commerce and make the establishment of such an institution indispensable.

At present, seamen are boarded at places (the best that can be obtained) not conducive to morals or health.

Some twelve years since the suffering among seamen with contagious diseases was so great that the sympathies of our people were aroused, and feeling that from the general government the aid we thought justly our

due could not be obtained, they combined and selected the most suitable site, out of a greater field than is now open for selection, erected buildings, and fully expected that the government would allow the moneys collected here to be expended in maintaining the sick at this place, and extend to them further aid; but even in this they have been disappointed, and the association has not progressed for want of means.

I would respectfully call your attention to the printed letter, herewith, to the representative in our general assembly, written in 1846, by one of our oldest and most respectable merchants, who for upwards of forty years past has been ardently devoted to, and intimately connected with, our commerce. It sets forth the necessity of such an institution more forcibly than I can.

Herewith you have a diagram and description of "Mount Terza," with the terms for which it may be obtained. It possesses more advantages than any other location—the distance being the only (but I consider slight) inconvenience in comparison with its other conveniences.

Dr. Edwards, I understand, has examined and thinks highly of locating a hospital at this port and on this site.

I am your obedient servant,

ROBERT G. RANKIN,
Collector.

WILMINGTON, N. C., December 3, 1846.

To the Representative from New Hanover:

SIR: Your letter of the 10th instant, to the commissioners of the town, on the subject of a marine hospital, has been handed to me for reply. Having, with others, entertained this matter, using great efforts for ten years past with the general government to accomplish this thing, so long desirable at the port of Wilmington, we are pleased to see that you interested yourself, and I shall with pleasure detail such points as are recollected, for your action, to benefit public interest if it be possible.

For forty years past, I am aware that we have had a great deal of business in general commerce and vessels—formerly much more foreign commerce than of late years; and I do know, too, that the United States hospital fees have been fully paid into our custom-house, and no public arrangements yet for relief of the disabled and sick, nor protection of this place or its inhabitants, as well as to guard the neighborhood from infectious diseases. Previous to 1835 we experienced great distress, by crews of vessels who happened to arrive with small pox and the like—not admitted into town. The vessels were ordered below, where the wretched and sick had to suffer and die, be thrown overboard, or cast on the beach in the best way their shipmates could dispose of them; which to the American tar, who had paid hospital fees all his life, was horrible. They would complain and tell us of this fact, and that elsewhere provision was made and relief given. In smaller cases of common sickness the custom-house paid limited sums to such persons as would take in a poor sick sailor; and where his chance was very bad at best, in some cases the collector had paid all or remitted all to headquarters, and no funds. It is hardly possible to detail all the facts experienced in this line; but they were hard cases, and not such

as was at all proper in regard to the treatment of those people at a port like this—the chief one in North Carolina, where so much commerce resorted, and all paying fees fully, as demanded, on entry of each vessel.

In 1835 or '36, we experienced here so much distress among crews abandoned to their fate, that our merchants and many of our citizens contributed, raised a fund, and bought a place two and a half miles below town for \$1,000, repaired buildings, and outfitted several hundred dollars more to have a situation where the distressed could be landed, detached from town, the vessel relieved, and that such care might be taken quietly of the unfortunate sick as the captain or consignee could bestow: this as a means to separate the healthy from the sick, for without it all were liable to take the disease, and probably all die on board.

The legislature incorporated those contributors under the style of the "Wilmington Marine Hospital Association." We likewise *procured an act* to authorize the collector here to collect from each seaman an *additional* monthly tax of 30 cents per month, as I now recollect that a separate and distinct fund could be had in aid of this coporation for relief and comfort of these sick persons—which act, observe, was first to be sanctioned or confirmed by Congress, as you will see in 1st volume of Revised Statutes, pages 560 and 561; and in that volume it is printed as having been *confirmed*; but this is not true, as we have ever been able to find out, and it to be a mistake. Hence nothing could be got for it, as the collector was not authorized. At this time, 1835 or '36, we made known fully all our past grievances, and also made known our arrangement of purchase—company formed, and, with a copy of the new act, sent the papers to our representative. But nothing accrued from it; we could not advance more to keep up by individuals our projected plan, and there the matter rests. Failing in our chief object, suffering along, offering our place, and doing otherwise whatever we could in the several distressing cases, our community became aroused again last winter (1845.)

Members of Congress were written to; a long list of names attached to a petition by the citizens generally; one, separate, signed by all the masters of vessels in port, and a distinct petition executed by the board of commissioners of navigation, who knew well all the facts—all sent to Washington, *and it failed!* We offered our place, Mount Tirza, to the general government, free, unless they chose to pay us for it, if the government would organize and keep up the marine hospital, or appropriate a sum of money in aid of it, &c.; but, as before said, nothing was done, and we then gave up the ship as a fruitless job.

You may see in one of the books the act incorporating our association. Here we are, helpless as ever; and it is too bad that a port of this magnitude, connected with extensive trade from other States and abroad—having raised a deal of fees for a long period of time—should be still without an hospital. To hear a poor fellow say he has paid hospital fees for fifty years, and never sick until he happened to come here, then no relief or a place to lay his head, would induce even any hard heart to feel for him!

Ocracoke, by far less important from many circumstances, we have heard, had the benefit of an appropriation of \$10,000 or more. Well enough for that, but it does us no good. Our location for an hospital is at once handy for the vessel to stop at on her way up, land on a clear beach, and thence convey sick to the houses on an elevated dry hill amidst forest trees; the main building, a large two-story house, double

piazzas front and rear; a keeper's house and a large barn, with a separate kitchen, all detached; also room for garden, field, &c. This place can be visited by water, and by a good road, easily, and is about the best situation for the purpose. We would take \$2,500 for it, which is less than our outlay, or the corporation would convey in fee, if the government will locate and keep up the establishment. From our inability to sustain the concern, the buildings lay exposed and unprotected; hence will require repairs and outfits. I think there is many a good man and his wife, or others, who might be glad to get this situation as keepers, and do well for themselves, having use of the grounds, &c., and be ready to attend sick as vessels happened to arrive. Here we stand, within a few days' sail—often a few hours—from the great northern ports where these diseases are mostly prevailing; (the men break out and show it soon after their arrival here;) as well as handily reached from all the West Indies, whence sickness is brought likewise. Other ports have these hospitals, and it is outrageous that we are still unfurnished.

We require and should claim attention on that score. Our private petitions and explanations do not avail; hardly a thought applied to them. I have been told that on attempts being made in Congress about hospitals, all western members start up and ask the same for their districts too, killing the project for the seaboard. Give it to them if they really stand in need; but their claims do not compare with ours; here we get the disease fresh and ripe. To these distant ports, and a long way up thousands of miles of great rivers, such cases break out, and parties all die or get well before the voyage is terminated.

Respectfully, &c.

No. 6.

DISTRICT AND PORT OF NEWPORT,
Collector's Office, February 13, 1849.

SIR: In reply to your circular of the 29th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives, by which the Treasury Department is directed to inquire and ascertain the terms on which a suitable site for a marine hospital within the district of Newport, Rhode Island, may be purchased, I have the honor to say that it is not in my power to state precisely for what sum such a site could be here purchased, but presume the maximum sum would not be one thousand dollars; that for that sum, and perhaps a less sum, a suitable site could be purchased in or near the compact part of this town.

I have further to state that the United States now own a piece of land, on which there was once a fort, called Fort Greene, (nothing of the fort now remaining,) in the suburbs of this town, which would furnish as good a site for a hospital as any which could be purchased, and a better one than I can now think of. If this lot could be used for a hospital, (and there is no pretence that it will ever be again used for a fort,) the sum required to be appropriated would be a thousand dollars less than that required if a site is to be purchased.

The reasons why a hospital should be located in this district, in preference to any other district in this State, must be, I think, obvious to

every one acquainted with our localities. Ours is the outer port; our harbor accessible at all seasons of the year—acknowledged to be more so than any other in the United States; the sick and disabled seamen belonging to the vessels of the ports above us are generally, and are at all times liable to be, landed here; the sick and disabled seamen belonging to vessels coming from all the ports of the country during the inclement seasons of the year, which put in here because they can make no other port, are taken charge of and cared for. I will not enlarge upon this view of the subject, because I do not think it necessary. Annexed is a description of Fort Greene, made by the town clerk of this town.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,
EDWIN WILBUR, *Collector.*

Hon. R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Deed from Samuel King and wife to the United States, dated August 29, 1799, for consideration of eighty dollars, recorded in volume 7 of Land Evidence of Newport, pages 109 and 110, of two lots of land on Easton's point, in Newport, numbered 9 and 10.

No. 9, bounded easterly on a street fifty feet;
westerly on the sea fifty feet;
southerly on a street one hundred feet;
northerly on lot No. 10 one hundred feet.

No. 10, bounded easterly on a street fifty feet;
westerly on the harbor fifty feet;
southerly on lot No. 9 one hundred feet;
northerly on lot No. 11 one hundred feet.

Deed from William V. King, a bachelor, of two lots of land, to the United States, dated August 29, 1799, for consideration of eighty dollars, recorded in volume 7 of Land Evidence of Newport, pages 110 and 111, said lots numbered 111 and 112 on Easton's point, in Newport.

No. 11, bounded easterly on a street fifty feet;
westerly on the sea, or harbor, fifty feet;
northerly on lot No. 12 one hundred feet;
southerly on lot No. 10 one hundred feet.

No. 12, bounded easterly on a street fifty feet;
westerly on the sea, or harbor, fifty feet;
northerly on a street one hundred feet;
southerly on lot No. 11 one hundred feet.

No. 7.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, DISTRICT OF PRESQ' ISLE,
Erie, Penn., November 17, 1849.

SIR: In reply to the circular from the Treasury Department of the 29th January, 1849, covering a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 30th Congress in relation to marine hospitals, and the special inquiry

of the department at what price a suitable and convenient site could be purchased at this port, I beg leave to report that I have made no inquiries of private holders of property, knowing that there were large reservations of land in this neighborhood for this and similar purposes made by the State of Pennsylvania to the use of the United States government. These reservations are exactly suited for the purpose proposed, and are more spacious and commodious than any that could be purchased.

In the act of the legislature of Pennsylvania, passed the 18th of April, 1795, entitled "An act to provide for laying out and establishing town, &c., at Presq'isle, &c.," it is provided in the third section "that the said commissioners shall also survey, or cause to be surveyed, previously to and exclusively of the survey of the said town and outlots, one lot of sixty acres on the southern side of the harbor of Presq'isle, one moiety thereof on the bank, and the other moiety below the bank, comprehending the point at the entrance of the harbor; one lot on the peninsula of thirty acres at or near the entrance of the harbor, and one other lot on the peninsula, to contain one hundred acres, for the accommodation and use of the United States in erecting and maintaining forts, magazines, arsenals, and dockyards thereon, and in such other improvements as the United States may judge proper to make for their advantage and convenience. And the situation and form of the said three lots shall be chosen and fixed with a special reference to the uses aforesaid by the said commissioners and the engineer who shall be employed by the United States, if any such shall be appointed and shall attend for that purpose; and the said commissioners shall with all convenient despatch return and file in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth a draught of the location and survey of the said three last-mentioned tracts, and the said draught being approved by the governor and recorded by the secretary, shall be deposited in the office of the surveyor general; and it shall be lawful for the United States at any time thereafter to take possession of and occupy the said three last-mentioned lots, and thereon to erect, establish, and maintain all necessary forts, magazines, arsenals, and dockyards, and to make such other improvements thereon as they may judge proper, and the same to continue to possess, occupy, and hold so long as they shall deem it expedient to maintain, and shall actually maintain a fort, garrison, or other military establishment at or near Presq'isle, and no longer.

These three several tracts were surveyed off in pursuance of the law aforesaid, and the United States government in 1812 erected block-houses on two of them, which were occupied for many years subsequent as storehouses or magazines; one of them was accidentally burned, and the other was abandoned years since. Since the occupancy was abandoned by the United States, the State authorities have authorized the tract on the main shore to be rented, and the proceeds paid into the poor-fund. This grant to the poor commissioners is considered, and is no doubt subject to the right of occupancy by the United States. I suppose there can be no question on that point: the only doubt suggested is, whether the United States can claim the right of occupancy for the purpose of a marine hospital, without actually maintaining a fort, garrison, or other military establishment at this place. If this doubt is worthy of consideration, there is not the slightest possible doubt but the legislature would remove the difficulty by proper legislation. There is a war steamer and a revenue cutter constantly stationed here, but whether such would in a proper

sense constitute a military establishment, or what constitutes a military establishment, I have no knowledge.

The site on the tract on the main shore is peculiarly eligible—better, I think, all things considered, than any other in this neighborhood. But independent of a good and commodious site without cost to the government, there are other reasons in favor of the location of a marine hospital at this port. The harbor is probably the best on the lakes, has a very central position, and, since the opening of the canal to Pittsburg, a large commerce is growing up. But the chief and paramount reason is the proverbial healthfulness of the place. There never have prevailed here any of those annual and autumnal bilious fevers which are common to most of the lake ports. Indeed, this town has been almost entirely free of any of the prevailing epidemics of the country. Even the cholera, which severely scourged most of the lake region, passed it by. In 1832, 1834, and the present season, the sick and dead were almost daily landed here, and yet the disease never got a foothold. It is believed there never was a single case originating here; or if any, but now and then an isolated sperodic case; it certainly never prevailed as an epidemic. This fact, it strikes me, is important in the selection of a site for a hospital for the sick.

I do not know of any other facts or information pertaining to your inquiries.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. M. GALLAGHER, *Collector.*

HON. WM. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

ERIE, PENN., *February 18, 1850.*

There are many reasons in favor of the location of a marine hospital for the lakes at this port. In the first place, the site will cost nothing. There is a large reservation at the mouth of the harbor set apart by Pennsylvania to the use of the United States, for this and other public purposes. In the second place, this port and all the surrounding neighborhood are proverbially healthy. We have none of those bilious and autumnal fevers which are prevalent in most other lake ports. The cholera and other severe epidemics never prevailed here. In the third place, lumber and all other building materials are cheap here, and it is believed the necessary structures could be erected as cheaply as at any other place. Our port is central, and easy of access.

These several reasons, combining both cost and health, present a strong case—stronger, it is believed, than can be shown in favor of any other lake port.

With great respect, &c.,

CHAS. M. REED,
MURRAY WHALTON,
ROBT. COCHRAN,
THOMAS H. SILL,
DANIEL DOBBINS,
WM. M. GALLAGHER,

WILLIAM KELLEY,
 B. B. VINCENT,
 JAMES SKINNER,
 MILES W. CAUGHEY,
 J. H. WILLIAMS,
 H. L. BROWN,
 A. SCOTT.

Hon. Wm. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury United States.

WASHINGTON, *February 25, 1850.*

DEAR SIR: I enclose you a map of the borough of Erie; and the red lines indicate the location of what is called the garrison grounds. It has been set apart for the use of the government, and is the prettiest locality in Erie, or adjoining it. The location is just at the edge of the town.

There is also a representation accompanying this, from some of the most prominent citizens of Erie, in regard to cost, health, and convenience of this point, which I beg you will read, as it is short. General Reed's acquaintance with the relative advantages of localities on the lakes is superior to any other man's on the shores of them.

Truly yours,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Hon. Wm. M. MEREDITH.

No. 8.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, APALACHICOLA,
February 22, 1849.

SIR: In reply to your circular, dated January 29, in relation to a site for a marine hospital at this place, I have the honor to report that there are two situations which I have selected as being suitable—one in rear of the city, marked on the map with red lines and the letter H, and the other on the bay, more remote from the inhabited part of the town, marked by red lines and the letters L C. The former is owned by D. K. Dodge, esq., of this place, who will sell four lots, sixty by one hundred feet, at \$250. The latter belongs to the Apalachicola Land Company. I am informed by their agent that it is for sale, and may be bought for \$500—four lots sixty by one hundred feet. The former (Mr. Dodge's) are good lots, and convenient to the habitable part of the town, but sufficiently remote to be unobjectionable. The latter, however, I think the most desirable location, as it is directly on the bay, opposite to where the shipping anchor, and perhaps more airy and healthy, and sufficiently removed from private dwellings.

It is believed that there is no place of its magnitude at which there is a greater necessity for a marine hospital than Apalachicola. The commerce and exports are annually increasing, and the number of seamen annually arriving will this year exceed two thousand, besides those

engaged on the steamboats. Many of the vessels arrive here from the most sickly ports of the West Indies, and at the most unhealthy season. The seamen making application for relief are generally strangers; and when the business season is protracted into the month of August, many of them are left by the vessels to be supported through the summer by the charities of the city, or suffer all the evils of poverty and disease. The allowance by the United States of \$3 per week is not enough to enable the superintendent to procure good board and nursing for sick seamen, the usual price of seamen's board being \$4 per week. If there was a house furnished for a hospital, the disbursement for board would be less, and the amount of relief greater. Occasionally, the allowance of \$1,200 per annum is exhausted before the year has elapsed, and then the superintendent is obliged to refuse relief to many who are fully entitled to it.

That you may be more accurately informed of the seamen probably making application for relief, I give below the number of vessels and men engaged in the commerce of the port for the last two years, to wit:

Vessels entered from September 1, 1846, to September, 1847, 179.

Number of seamen employed, 1,700.

Number of steamers on the river, 16.

Men employed thereon, 200.

Value of exports from September, 1846, to 1847, \$5,435,789.

Vessels cleared and entered from September, 1847, to 1848, 200.

Number of seamen thereon, 1,980.

Number of steamers, 17.

Men employed thereon, 215.

Value of exports from 1st September, 1847, to 1848, \$3,533,640.

Vessels entered from September, 1848, to February, 1849, 110.

Seamen employed, 1,090.

Number of seamen admitted to relief at Apalachicola from September, 1845, to September, 1846, 78.

Number of seamen admitted to relief at Apalachicola from September, 1846, to September, 1847, 92.

Number of seamen admitted to relief at Apalachicola from September, 1847, to September, 1848, 113.

Number of seamen admitted to relief at Apalachicola from September, 1848, to February 20, 1849, 40.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. W. SPENCER,
Collector.

HON. R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington.

B.

Statement showing the number of clearances and entrances by American vessels, number of their crews, and amount of their tonnage, at the ports of Detroit, Erie, Buffalo, Oswego, Newport, Wilmington, North Carolina, Apalachicola, and Galveston, during the year ending June 30, 1849; to which is subjoined a statement giving like information as to foreign vessels for the same period.

AMERICAN VESSELS.

Ports.	Cleared.			Entered.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men and boys.	Number.	Tons.	Men and boys.
Detroit	133	33,772	1,714	134	34,576	1,712
Erie						
Buffalo	3,421	221,003	8,427	3,391	215,958	8,254
Oswego	365	133,490	5,344	344	133,739	5,348
Newport	9	1,307	66	18	3,017	177
Wilmington, North Carolina.	106	18,318	778	40	6,378	269
Apalachicola	35	17,887	568	19	5,426	194
Galveston	5	1,035	46	14	2,499	115

FOREIGN VESSELS.

Ports.	Cleared.			Entered.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men and boys.	Number.	Tons.	Men and boys.
Detroit	381	89,222	5,297	388	93,597	5,528
Erie						
Buffalo	654	149,395	8,894	666	149,510	8,738
Oswego	567	43,486	2,804	595	49,406	3,075
Newport				2	195	12
Wilmington, North Carolina.	24	3,880	177	20	3,430	159
Apalachicola	16	9,447	327	13	7,929	264
Galveston	6	1,593	67	7	1,893	83

C.

Statement of the number of seamen relieved and of the expenditures and receipts of the Marine Hospital Fund, for the relief of sick and disabled seamen, in the following districts, for five years next preceding 1st of July, 1849.

District.	Year.	Seamen relieved.	Total expenditures.	Hospital money collected.
Detroit.....	1845	67	\$685 07	\$833 97
	1846	74	304 19	1,035 03
	1847	133	444 33	863 70
	1848	103	691 54	607 23
	1849	116	670 29	844 25
Presq'isle, Erie.....	1845	15	188 08	217 00
	1846	16	92 92	193 32
	1847	14	249 12	233 46
	1848	12	188 40	152 68
	1849	19	172 53	231 94
Buffalo.....	1845	272	2,075 99	1,034 04
	1846	164	1,211 22	1,208 07
	1847	264	3,233 92	1,417 76
	1848	185	1,790 10	1,747 37
	1849	134	2,150 44	1,832 85
Oswego.....	1845	178	523 58	541 46
	1846	79	377 02	612 83
	1847	167	594 37	584 85
	1848	180	584 17	568 70
	1849	169	560 13	694 22
Newport.....	1845	43	249 78	400 04
	1846	13	687 66	300 36
	1847	17	95 98	356 41
	1848	21	346 18	326 64
	1849	18	279 25	298 26
Wilmington, North Carolina.....	1845	160	1,876 80	707 17
	1846	126	319 87	788 21
	1847	107	982 26	633 54
	1848	94	725 00	590 74
	1849	167	1,389 13	523 25
Apalachicola.....	1845	101	2,157 68	719 57
	1846	73	990 04	483 88
	1847	72	1,462 34	546 18
	1848	74	1,302 38	568 72
	1849	84	1,262 75	449 66
Galveston.....	1845			
	1846			48 14
	1847	16	89 96	380 74
	1848	32	361 35	189 11
	1849	17	483 43	349 52

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, March 15, 1850.

TOWNSEND HAINES, Register.