

# The Yellow Fever Epidemic



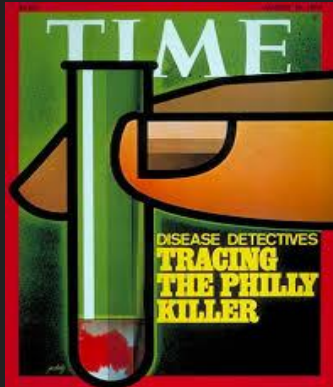
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Pennsylvania History

# Deadly Diseases

- There are many deadly diseases that **plagued** the earth that not many talk about
- Some examples are as follows:
  - Influenza killed 80 thousand in the United States alone last year
  - 23 died after a Smallpox outbreak in Philadelphia
  - 29 died after a Pneumonia outbreak in Philadelphia
  - From 1981 to now, AIDS has been plaguing Philadelphia
  - The Yellow Fever outbreak killed thousands in Philadelphia in 1793

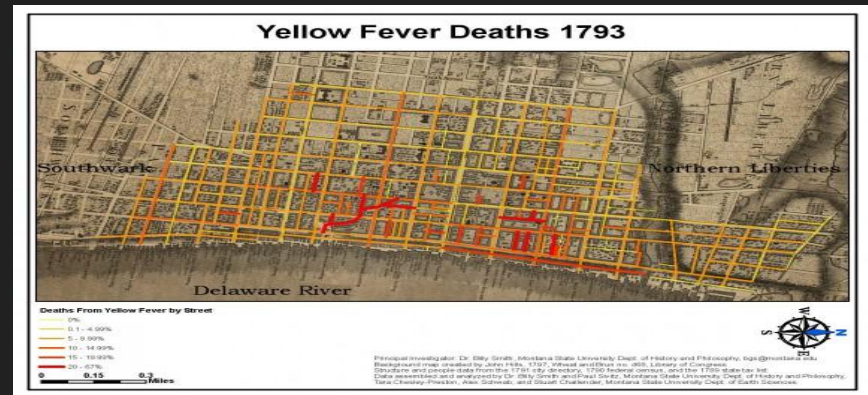
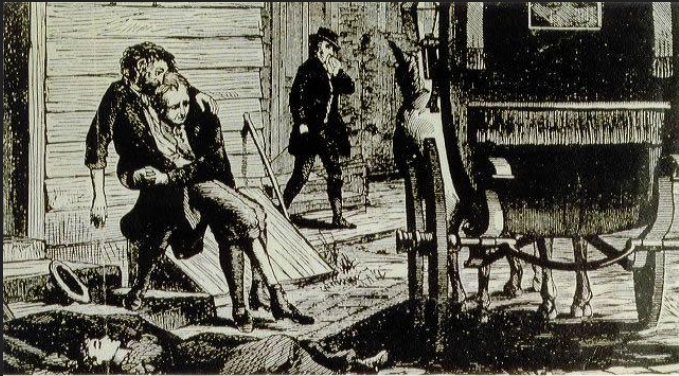
# Why Philly?

- You may be asking, why is Philly so common in the list of diseases?
- Well, the answer to that is actually more clear than you think...
- Philadelphia is a **port city**, and with that, comes a lot of travelers from other countries, who have potential to carry some deadly diseases
- During the early colonial period, many immigrants came to Philadelphia, causing multiple diseases to plague the area, causing **thousands** of deaths over time



# History of Yellow Fever In PA

- The first Yellow Fever outbreaks in the United States occurred in the late 1690's.
- These outbreaks mainly avoided Pennsylvania until 1793.
- People fleeing from a Yellow Fever epidemic in the Caribbean came to Philadelphia, and within weeks, people were feeling symptoms
- By the time the epidemic ended, around 5,000 people died



# Yellow Fever Symptoms and Treatment

- Yellow Fever is a disease that originates from **mosquitos**
- In mild cases a person with Yellow Fever will experience a **fever**, a **headache**, **nausea** and **vomiting**
- In more severe cases, Yellow Fever can cause **heart**, **liver**, and **kidney problems**, along with **hemorrhaging** (internal bleeding)
- There is no real treatment to Yellow Fever, but getting a specific injection can **prevent** it





# Other Yellow Fever Tells

- There are also other ways to tell if someone has Yellow Fever
- In acute cases, the person will complain of **muscle pains**, especially in the **back and knee area**
- They will also have a **sensitivity to light**, **loss of appetite**, **dizziness**, and redness in the **eyes**, **face** and/or **tongue**
- In toxic cases, a person will appear **yellow** in the **skin** and **whites of eyes**
- Along with that, the person will **urinate less**, bleed from the **nose**, **mouth** and **eyes**, suffer **bradycardia** (slow heart rate), and suffer **brain dysfunction**

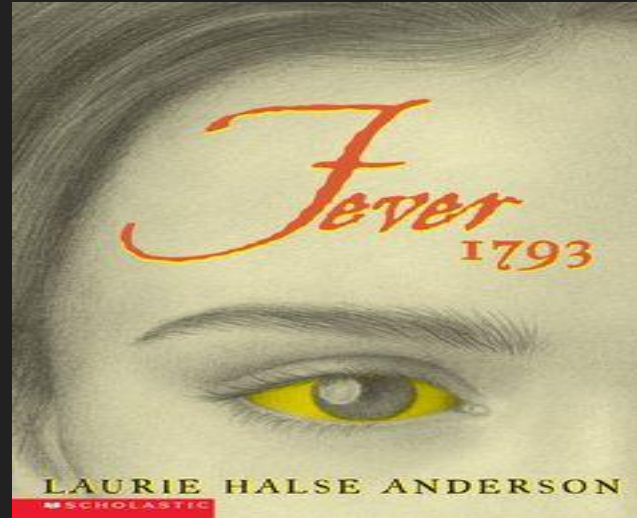


# Significance of Yellow Fever

- Yellow Fever caused a massive population decline in the state of Pennsylvania in the 1790's
- Due to the decline in population, the economy **declined**, as jobs were not being completed
- Yellow Fever was known to the United States as "**The American Plague**"
- Due to its severity, Yellow Fever will remain **unforgotten** in Pennsylvania's history

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Autumn in different parts of the West Indies and America, visited Philadelphia, where it raged with the greatest fury from the end of July to the beginning of November; and, in that space of time, carried off upwards of 5000 of the inhabitants—an enormous mortality in a town whose population was only 60,000 souls, and which had been almost deserted through the dread of this pestilence. On its first appearance, it assumed the form of a most malignant typhus, and generally finished its course in three, five, or seven days, with hæmorrhages, petechiæ, black vomit, and universal yellowness.  
The cause of this epidemick, like that of all epidemics, was in the atmosphere, which had at that period undergone some change, destructive to the purposes of life, by an unusually hot and dry Summer and Autumn.  
Alarmed at its appearances, the physicians took their idea of treatment from its terminating symptoms, and began, according to custom, with bark, wine, cordials, and with the most powerful external as well as internal stimulants. But this practice was used to little purpose, and the disease continued with una-





# Reflection

- I picked this topic due to my interest in medicine
- I had always found diseases, what caused them, and their outcomes interesting
- A very interesting thing found while researching, was a doctor named Stubbins Ffirth who would drink the vomit of his patients to prove his theories about Yellow Fever
- His mission was to prove that Yellow Fever was not contagious, but happened due to the stresses of summer, and turns out, he was incorrect
- He however, did not contract Yellow Fever, and saw this as proof for his hypotheses
- Sadly, though, it was later found that Dr. Ffirth used samples from patients who were no longer contagious

# Sources

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# Fin.

- This concludes the presentation
- At this point, any and all questions will be accepted
- Including Dallas' "smart" questions
- I hope you all enjoyed!

