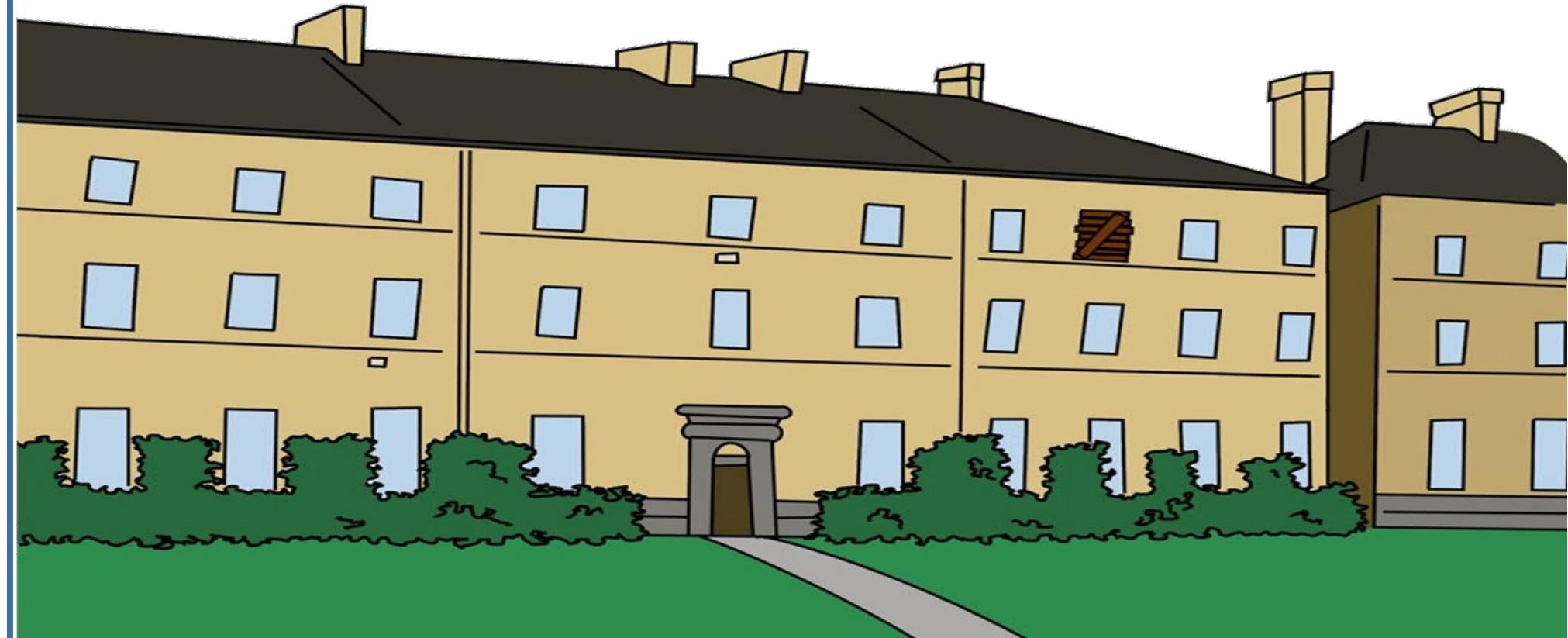


Baker Street Elementary

Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London

070 -- A Deadly Import -- Yellow Fever -- February, 2022





Welcome to topic # 070... today we will be looking at the disease "yellow fever" during the Victorian period.



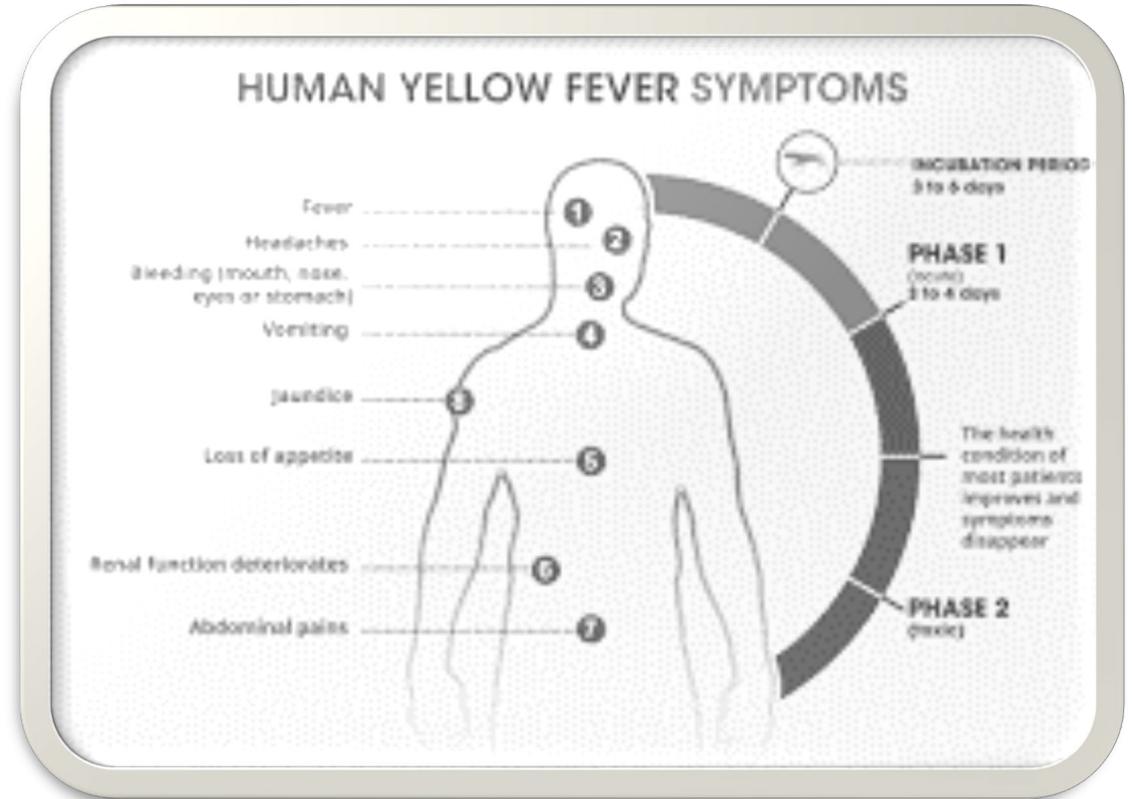
Yellow fever caused the death of Rodger Baskerville in Central America in The Hound of the Baskervilles and Effie Hebron's husband in Atlanta in "The Adventure of the Yellow Face."



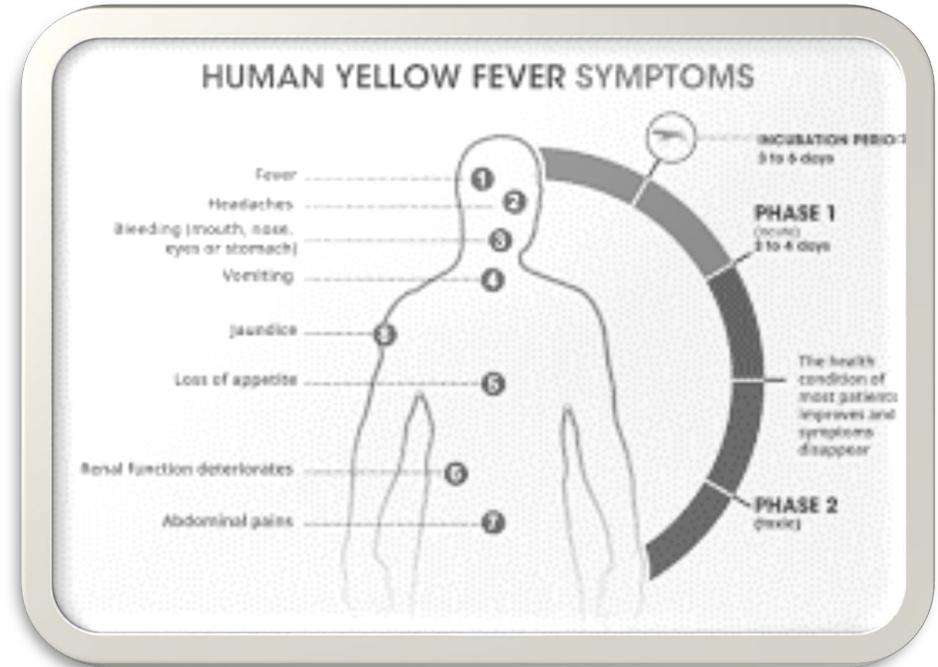
Primarily a tropical disease—as in Rodger Baskerville's case — outbreaks prior to and during the Victorian era were documented in cooler climates, such as Atlanta and England, as well.



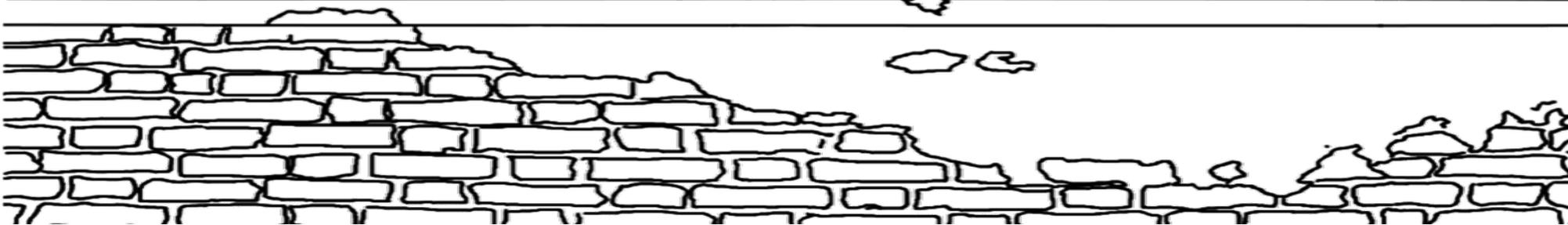
The symptoms initially appeared similar to the flu with headaches, body aches, and chills and fever.



The acute phase (lasting three to four days) was marked, in addition to those that first appeared, by a loss of appetite, shivers, and backaches.

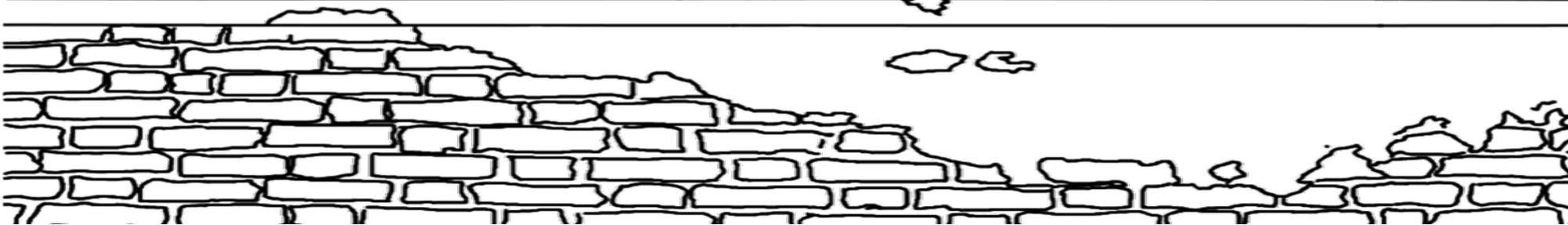


Following this period, most recovered, but about 15% progressed to the toxic phase, exhibiting decreased urination, jaundice (hence, the name "yellow fever"), vomiting, seizures, and delirium.

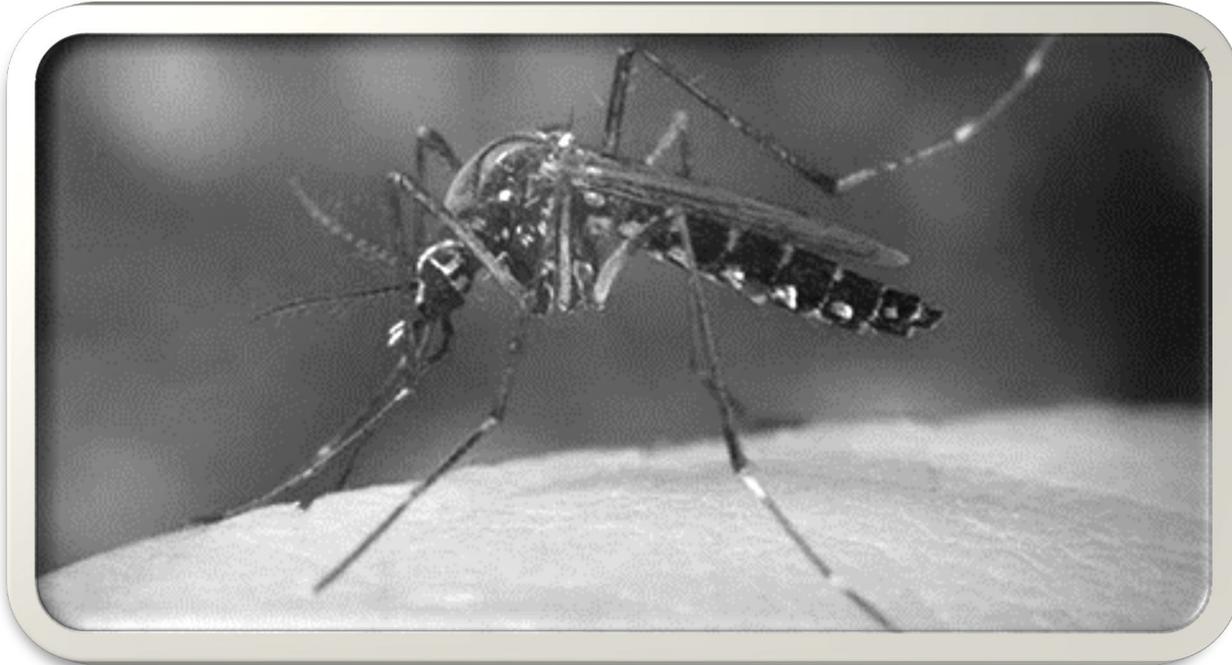




*About 50% of those
experiencing these advanced
symptoms would die.*



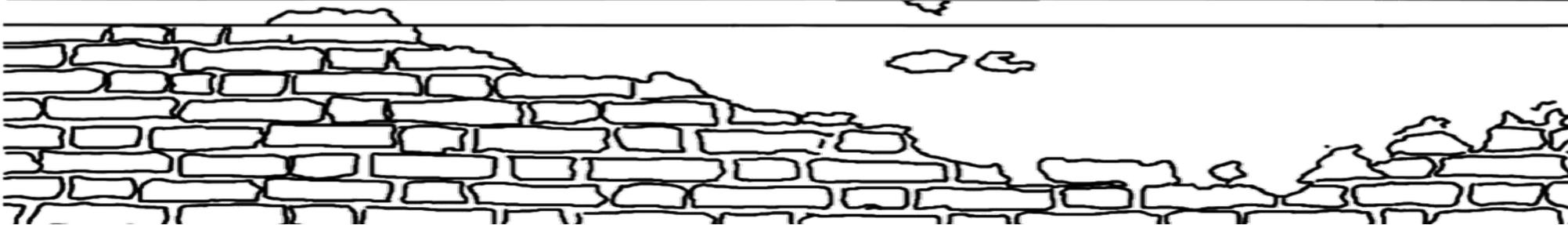
*While it is known today to be carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito (associated recently with the Zika virus outbreak) during Sherlock's time, two competing theories existed related to its transmission.*



The "contagionists" believed yellow fever could be passed from person to person through close association with an infected person.



The "infectionists" insisted that miasma, air pollution created by putrefying plant and animal waste, sickened those who breathed it.



Both these theories relied, in part, on the idea that such diseases were "filth diseases," primarily carried by African slaves transported to different countries.



Such episodes originated in the summer in port cities where infections passed from those on the ship — such as those importing sugar from Cuba (1802) or Brazil (1820) — to the port city's population.



*Given the mosquito's
lifespan and the duration
of transatlantic journeys...*

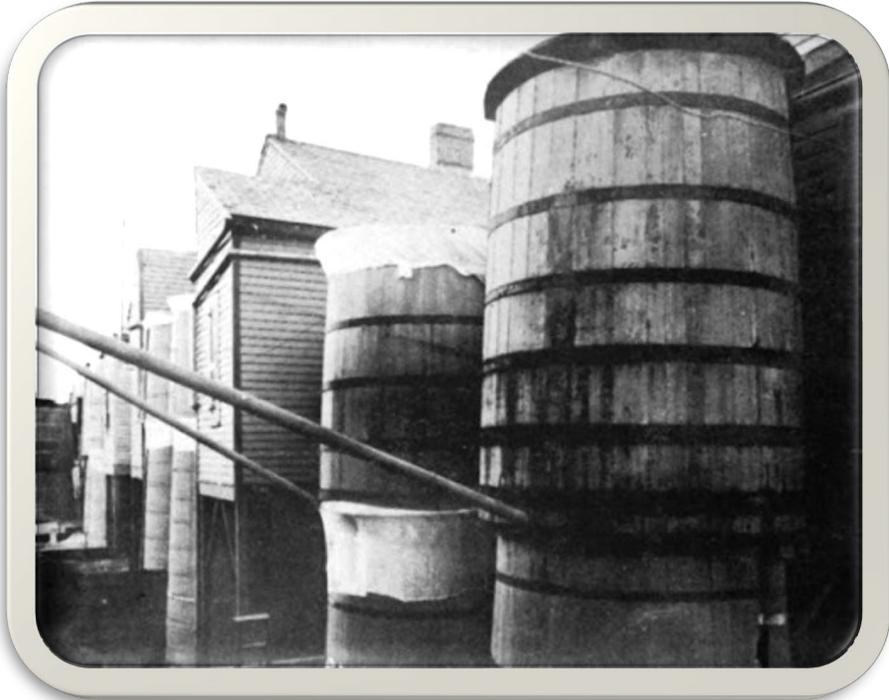




...theories identified water barrels as the most likely means for transporting the disease from port to port.



Once onboard, female mosquitos laid their eggs in the barrels, allowing generations to live and breed until their arrival in a new port where they could infect the local population.



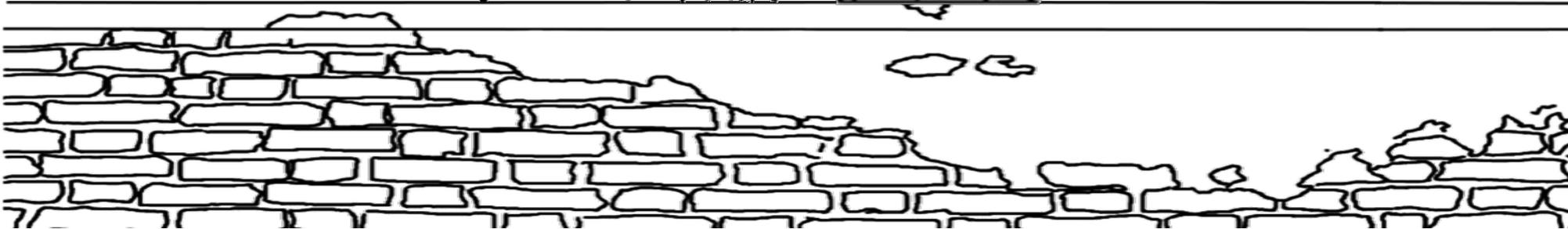
One of the deadliest outbreaks affected a number of ports in 1793.



The Hankey picked up the survivors of an ill-fated colony on the island of Bolama off the west coast of Africa.



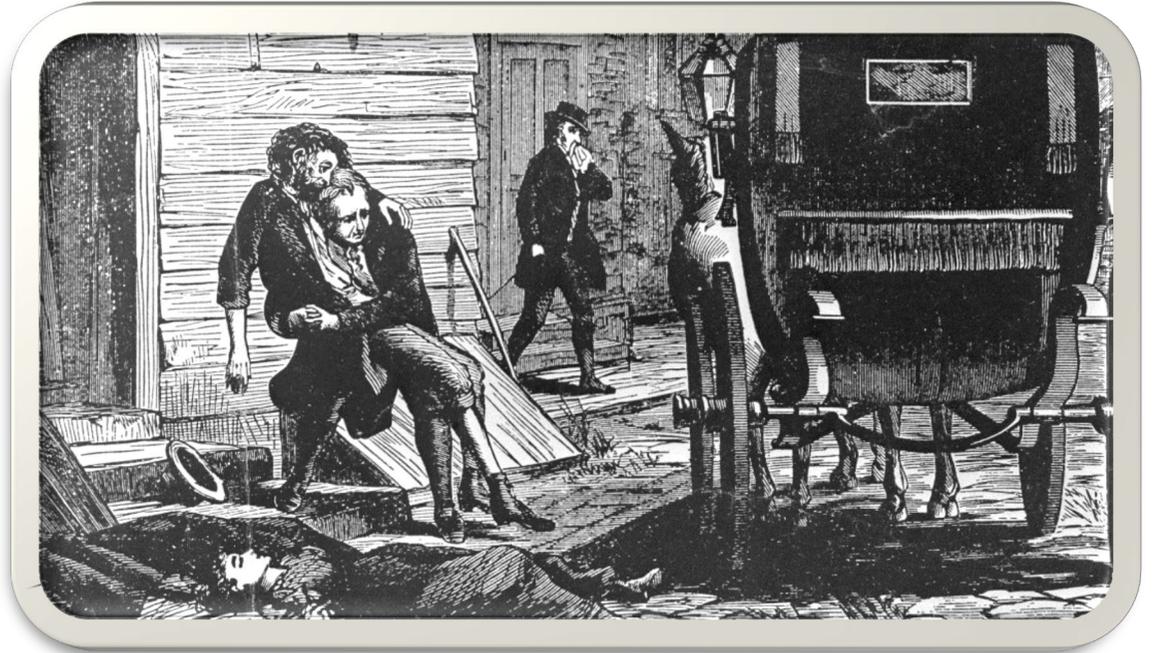
Many had already succumbed to yellow fever, and as the ship stopped in Barbados, Grenada...

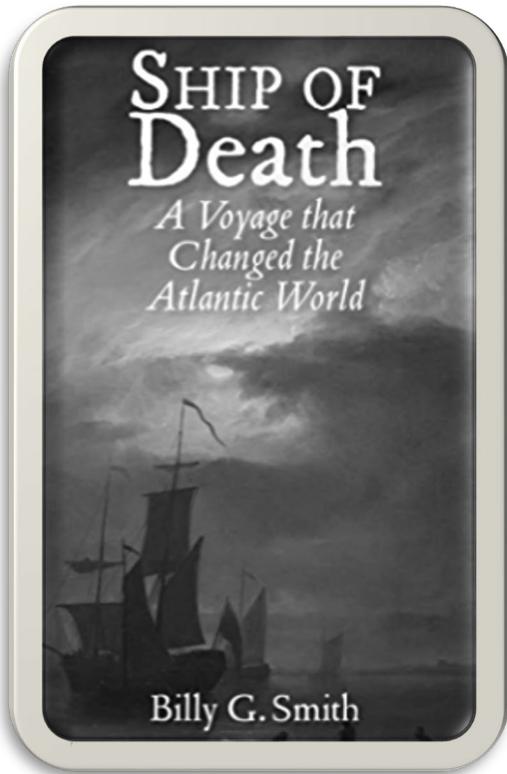


...Saint Dominique, and Philadelphia, the disease would break out within days of the ship's arrival.

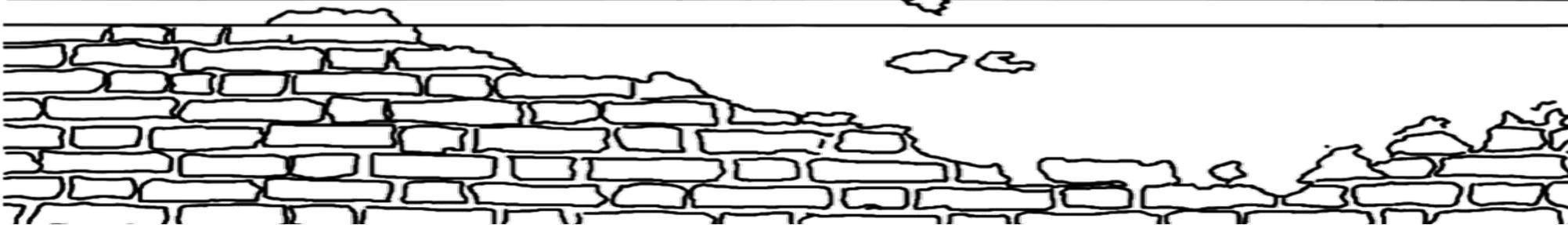


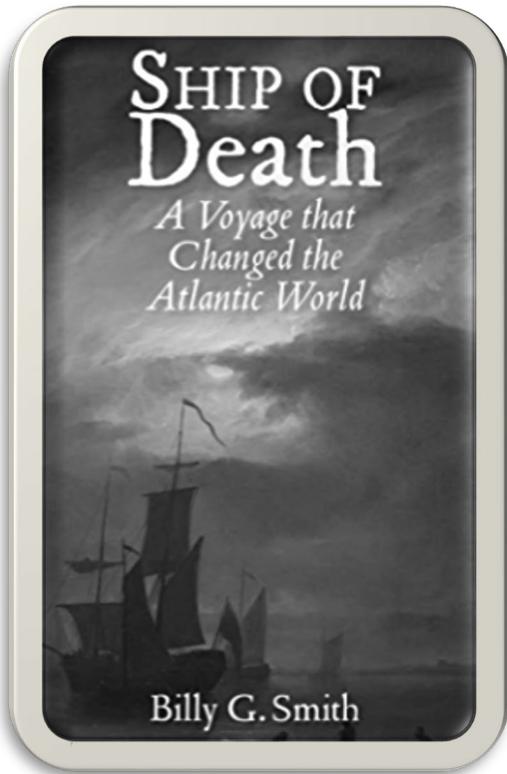
*The epidemic was so bad,
George Washington fled
Philadelphia to Mt. Vernon to
avoid contracting the disease.*



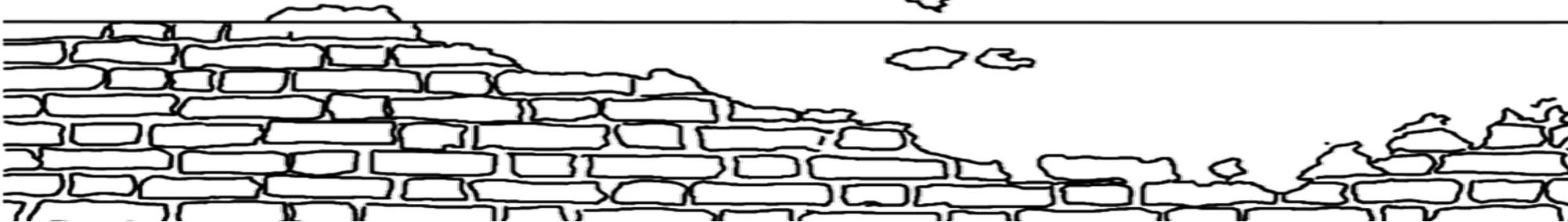


***In all 1/10 (5,000) of the city's
population died. The ship then
returned to England, but word
of its destructive path...***





...reached the country and after the passengers and crew disembarked, they burned the ship to the waterline and sank it to the bottom of the Thames.



Despite many of those on the ship succumbing to the disease, the captain never flew "the yellow Jack," a flag warning others of an infection onboard.

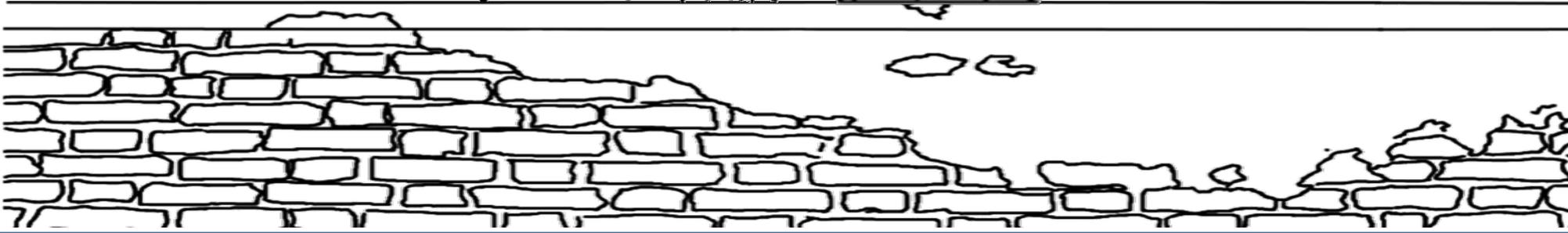
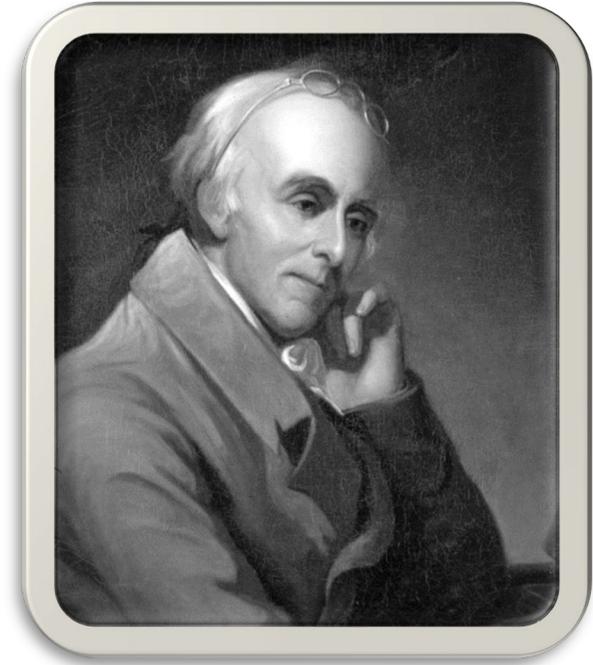




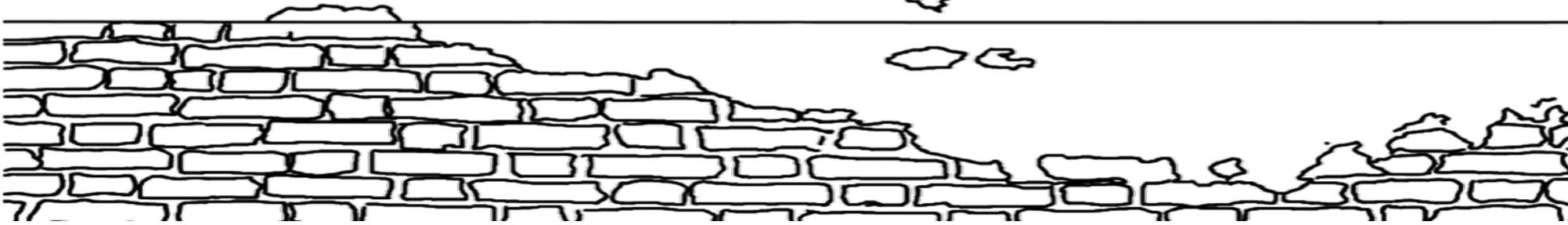
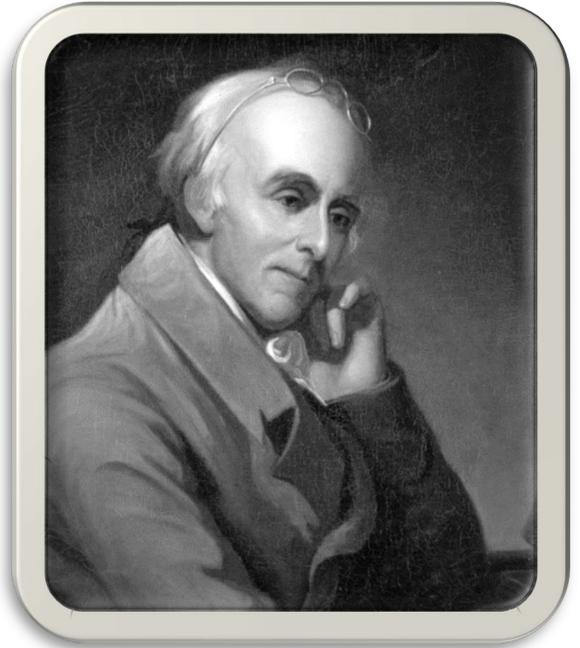
If he had, everyone would have been quarantined and the pandemic averted.



Even during the Philadelphia outbreak, mosquitos were never considered a carrier although Dr. Benjamin Rush...



*...(a local physician) observed
in his meticulous notes a
greater than usual number of
mosquitos that summer.*



In 1886, Dr. Carlos Finlay proposed that mosquitos transmitted the disease, but he was ignored for twenty years, until Walter Reed and other researchers visited him in Cuba to study the infection.

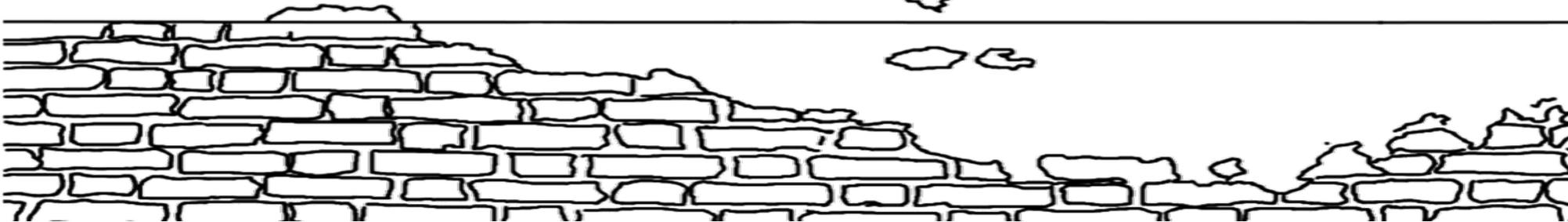


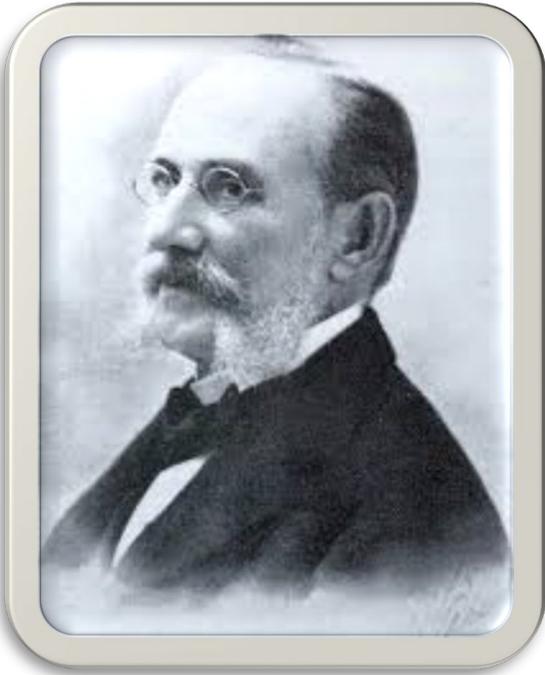
*They confirmed his assertion,
and the team ultimately
eradicated the disease from
Panama and Cuba.*





A vaccine, however, took more than thirty years before Max Theiler and his team developed it in 1937.





Had the findings of Dr. Finlay been given more attention, efforts to eliminate the disease might have progressed much sooner.



Unfortunately, such information would have come too late to save Roger Baskerville or Effie's husband.



**YELLOW
FEVER**

NEED A YELLOW VACCINE ?
WE GOT YOU COVERED
HERE AT SUNMED



Many others, however, would have been spared a disease that still claims about 30,000 a year.



YELLOW FEVER

NEED A YELLOW VACCINE ?
WE GOT YOU COVERED
HERE AT SUNMED



*So we have completed
topic # 070 in our
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be
back with another
topic soon...*



References for this topic:

- 1) <https://www.healthline.com/health/yellow-fever#prevention>
- 2) <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus>
- 3) https://www.jstor.org/stable/158263?seq=3#page_scan_tab_contents
- 4) <https://www.britannica.com/science/yellow-fever>
- 5) <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/6070/427464c1cd26aeb71c8c8d01b8661aaaa079.pdf>
- 6) <https://www.annmarieackermann.com/hankey-yellow-fever-nautical-signal-flags/>
- 7) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carlos-J-Finlay>
- 8) <https://www.historyofvaccines.org/timeline/yellow-fever>



Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON

&

STEVE MASON

