

Station: Fever!

PASSAGE 1: "Yellow Fever at the Lazaretto," *Delaware County American*, August 10, 1870, Courtesy of Pennsylvania Newspaper Record

1. Philadelphia suffered through difficult bouts of Yellow Fever at various times in its history. In 1793, many of the inhabitants of Philadelphia either evacuated the city or suffered Yellow Fever; thousands died. What year and month did this particular epidemic occur at the Lazaretto? Where is this information located?

August 1870 – it is the date of the source from the newspaper

2. Although Yellow Fever was carried by mosquitoes, many believed that isolated fever victims could limit the spread of the disease. The ship from the West Indies or Carabean had to be stopped at quarantine. Why were the passengers on this ship put in isolation?

Some of those "on board" were "ill of yellow fever" and two people died during the journey

PASSAGE 2: "Yellow Fever At the Lazaretto And On Tinicum," *Delaware County Republican*, August 12, 1870, Courtesy of Pennsylvania Newspaper Record

3. Where did the sick stay on Tinicum Island while they were in isolation?

When people were sick and put in quarantine or isolation at Tinicum, they stayed at the Lazaretto Dutch hospital. If they died, they were buried there as well.

PASSAGE 2: Ulrich, WM. B, M.D. "Letter to the Editor," *The Evening Telegraph*: Chester, Pa., Aug. 10. 1870. Courtesy *The Evening Telegraph*.

4. Who wrote this Letter to the Editor? And would you consider this a primary resource?

This letter was written by Dr. Wm. Ulrich. I would consider it a primary source because he was treating patients stricken with yellow fever, as well as being present at the Lazaretto (visiting it twice a day when the Lazaretto physician fell ill).

5. Why was he called in to examine Mr. Pepper? And why is his condition alarming?

Dr. Ulrich was called in by Mr. Pepper's friends because they knew he had experience treating Yellow Fever in Louisiana "where [it] was of frequent occurrence." Mr. Pepper's condition is alarming because it means that the Yellow Fever might begin spreading further from the quarantine.

6. How did he find the state of the Lazaretto? Does his findings match those of Mary Riddle's in PASSAGE 3 article?

He found the Lazaretto was not properly prepared. Yes, it matches the "chaos" described by the article regarding Mary Riddle (PASSAGE4).

7. Name two things the doctor feels the Board of Health has not delivered to help the Lazaretto.

They have not supplied a nurse for the ailing officials or enough ice to treat the fever.

PASSAGE 3: "Yellow Fever At the Lazaretto And On Tinicum," *Delaware County Republican*, August 12, 1870, Courtesy of Pennsylvania Newspaper Record

8. What was the name of the Lazaretto physician and nurse? What happened to them?

"Dr. William S. Thompson" was the name of the physician at the Lazaretto "who had been sick for a week, [and] died" and "Mrs. Gartwell, a nurse, who had been in attendance at the hospital for thirteen years, died"

PASSAGE : "A Heroine At the Lazaretto," *Delaware County American*, September 14, 1870, Courtesy of Pennsylvania Newspaper Record

9. Why was Mrs. Mary Riddle near the Lazaretto in the first place She "lost a friend with the yellow fever, ... at the Lazaretto." After "visiting [the Lazaretto] to attend the funeral of her friend..." she stayed. Funerals and burials of the sick were on the Lazaretto grounds. **Some of these burial sites have been discovered, but not all.

10. What did Mrs. Riddle do? (Name two actions.)

Mrs. Mary Riddle "cook[ed] for over thirty persons" all by herself.

She took charge of the Lazaretto (ordering, administering), creating order out of chaos.

11. Did everyone who worked with sick Yellow Fever victims die? Explain using the story.

Mrs. Mary Riddle got yellow fever from staying at the Lazaretto, but she "recovered." (Extra note: Once people suffered from yellow fever and survived, they actually built a resistance to getting it again. Once someone got yellow fever and lived, in other words, they could face anyone with yellow fever and not fear catching the disease.)

12. Based on the article – what is a heroine? Do you agree that this person deserves to be recognized in this manner?

I believe the article describes a heroine as someone who "in times of public danger and calamity, can put aside thoughts of peril to themselves and to those they love, and regard all suffering of men and women as brothers and sisters, children of the same great Father..."
Students opinions on Mrs. Mary Riddle will vary. They might say that she is a heroine because she was willing to put her own life at risk to help others. Mrs. Mary Riddle faced the danger of death while helping those with Yellow Fever. She got sick, but survived – and this too shows her strength. She did not leave the Lazaretto in fear: she was committed to helping the sick until the situation improved. She even sacrificed the needs of her own family to help strangers. She could have been grief stricken due to the death of her own friend, but instead, she turned a tragedy into a story of hope and courage. While most citizens were concerned with their own welfare, Mrs. Mary Riddle's selfless service to the sick makes her a heroine of her time!

13. The Lazaretto hospital building still stands on the grounds today. It is said that the dead were buried on the grounds, as no one wanted to transport fever victims close to Philadelphia. Based on this article, explain why being a doctor/nurse at the Lazaretto is a difficult job?

Again, student opinions will vary. But facing disease, burying dead, etc., should be part of thought processes.

14. According to a newspaper article dated August 17, 1870, by the *Delaware County American*, there was “not...a single case of yellow fever in Philadelphia.” Does this mean the Lazaretto is a success? Explain

Yes, it means that the quarantine contained the disease/cause of the disease so it did not spread to the populated city of Philadelphia.