

Bubonic Plague in Galveston: A Historical and Contemporary Narrative

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Bubonic Plague, Galveston, 1920

- **Historical Narrative**

Wet pathological wet specimen

Post mortem report

Galveston Plague Laboratory

Microscope slides

Cemetery

- **Contemporary Narrative**

Galveston National Laboratory

Galveston History Project



Former Pathological Museum, "Old Red", UTMB

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History of Medicine Collections, Moody Medical Library, UTMB

Galveston Plague Laboratory,
Notebook, 1920

Name: E. H.

Age: 17

Residence: 1601 Mechanic

Occupation: Collector

Davison's Feed Store

E.H.'s family gravestone, Lakeview Cemetery, Galveston

[18 June, 1920]

Death of a youth aged 17,
Galveston Daily News

WHAT MAY BE BUBONIC PLAGUE IS FOUND HERE

YOUTH WHO DIES AT HOSPITAL
THOUGHT VICTIM OF TROPICAL
DISEASE.

WAR ON RATS IS LAUNCHED

Federal, State, County and City Health
Authorities Discuss Plans to
Fight Malady.

What is probably bubonic plague has appeared in Galveston, according to the diagnosis of Drs. M. F. Boyd, M. D. Levy and Henry Hartman on the disease which resulted in the death at John Sealy Hospital Wednesday afternoon of a youth 17 years old, who had been ill a week, and who, previous to his illness, had been employed in an establishment near the water front.

[21 June-November, 1920]

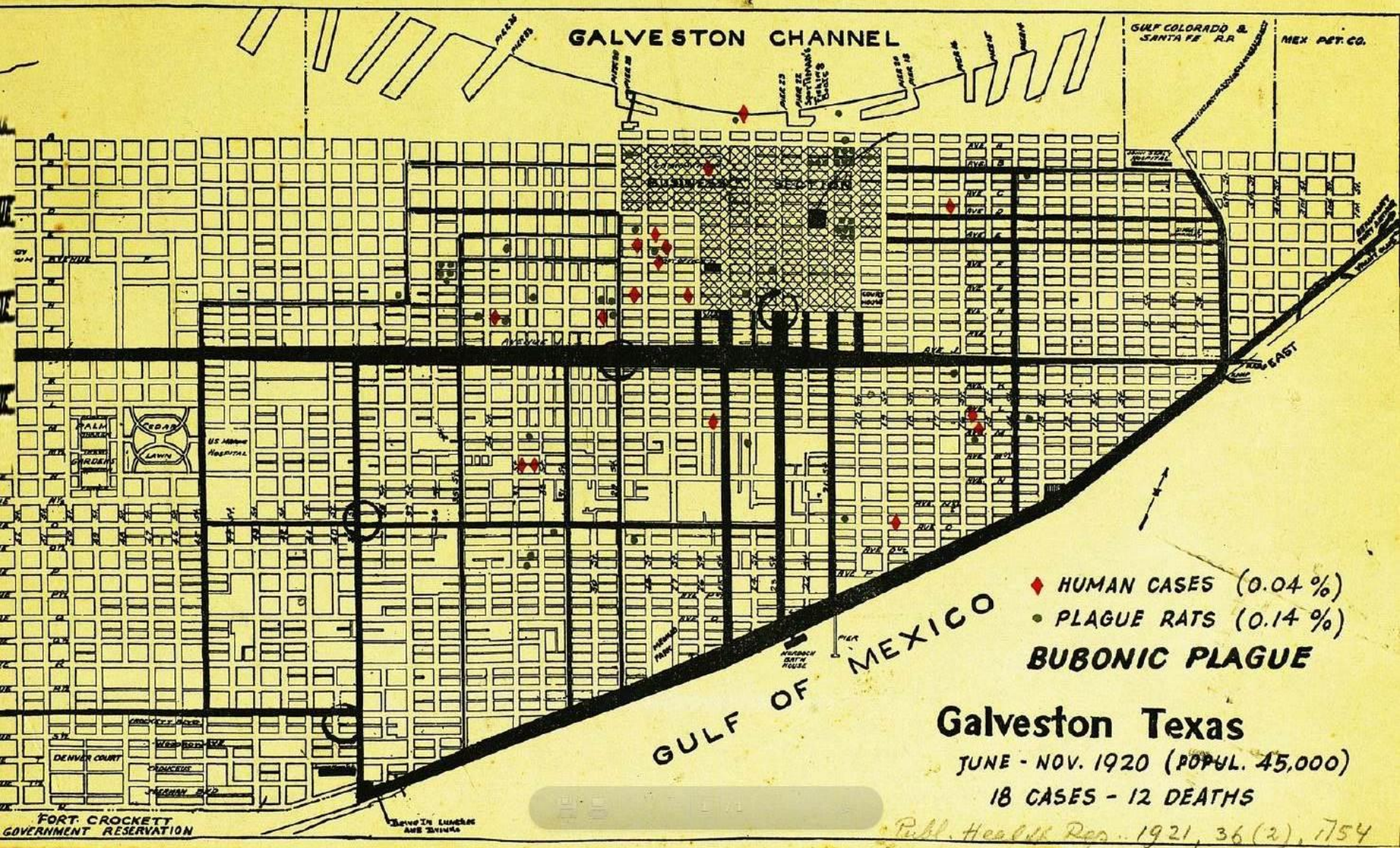
Galveston Plague Laboratory



Dr. Mark F. Boyd

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Location of E.H.'s former family home



[22 June, 1920]

One week after E.H.'s death,
his former employer place an advertisement in the
Galveston Daily News

DAVISON & CO.

TWENTY-NINTH AND STRAND

GRAIN, HAY, MILL FEEDS AND COAL

PHONE 5000

WE WANT YOUR ORDERS AND

PROMISE SATISFACTORY SERVICE

Contemporary Narratives



Bioterrorism & Emerging Infectious Diseases Planning & Preparedness

Agent-specific Recommendations:

Plague

- Description of Agent / Syndrome
- Infection Control Practices for Patient Management
- Treatment
- Laboratory Support and Confirmation
- Post-exposure Management
- Patient, Visitor and Public Information

Galveston National Laboratory, UTMB



UTMB's Thomas Geisbert highlighted among Time Magazine's Person of the Year Ebola Fighters

Rat proofing, basement of former corner store,
705, 25th Street, Galveston



Experience with Bubonic Plague (Human and Rodent) in Galveston, 1920

Author(s): Mark F. Boyd and T. W. Kemmerer

Source: *Public Health Reports (1896-1970)*, Vol. 36, No. 30 (Jul. 29, 1921), pp. 1754-1764

TABLE I.—*Incidence of human plague in Galveston, 1920.*

No.	Age.	Sex.	Race.	Occupation.	Date of onset.	Duration of illness of fatal cases. (Days.)
1.....	17	M.....	W.....	Collector, feed store.....	June 8	8
2.....	25	F.....	N.....	Bag sewer, feed store.....	June 16	.....
3.....	19	M.....	N.....	Longshoreman.....	July 2	6
4.....	30 (?)	F.....	Mex.....	Housewife.....	.....	(1)
5.....	13	F.....	Mex.....	.....	.....	(2)
6.....	35	F.....	W.....	Housewife.....	Aug. 3	.....
7.....	41	M.....	N.....	Waiter on steamship.....	Aug. 2	2
8.....	16	M.....	W.....	Machinist's helper.....	Aug. 7	4
9.....	27	F.....	N.....	Houseworker.....	Aug. 16	2
10.....	29	F.....	W.....	Pathologist.....	Aug. 23	.....
11.....	42	M.....	N.....	Longshoreman.....	Aug. 29	4
12.....	79	F.....	W.....	Houseworker.....	Sept. 2	5
13.....	17	F.....	N.....	do.....	Sept. 22	5
14.....	17	F.....	W.....	School girl.....	Oct. 2	.....
15.....	3	M.....	W.....	.....	Sept. 26	.....
16.....	35	M.....	N.....	Truck driver.....	Oct. 4	5
17.....	58	M.....	W.....	Night watchman.....	Oct. 17
18.....	10	M.....	N.....	School boy.....	Nov. 10	3

¹ Died July 28.

² Died July 29.

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