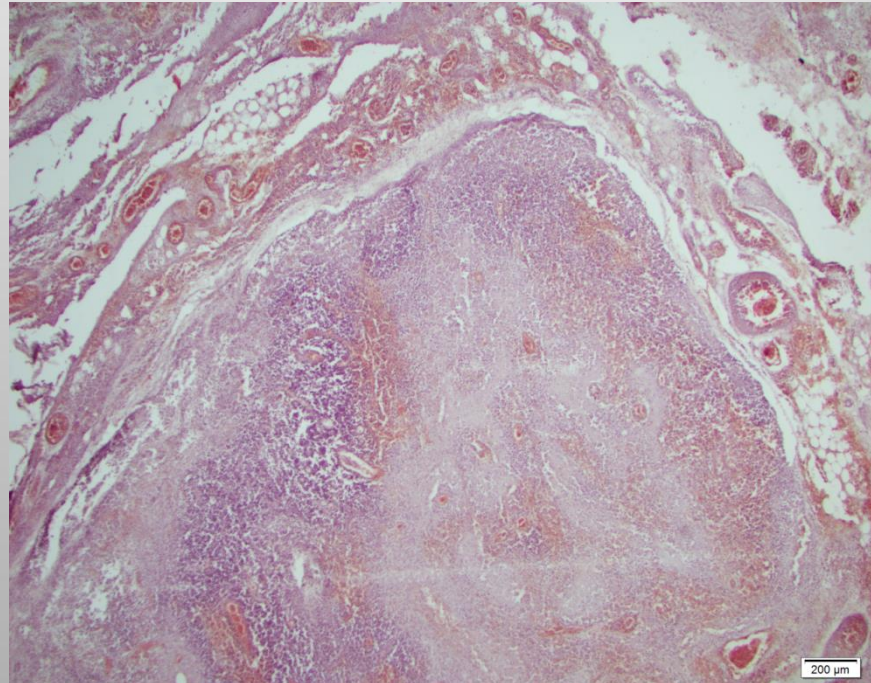


Bubonic Plague in Galveston: A Historical and Contemporary Narrative



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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



Medical Department, University of Texas, Galveston, founded in 1891



Former Pathological Museum, "Old Red", UTMB

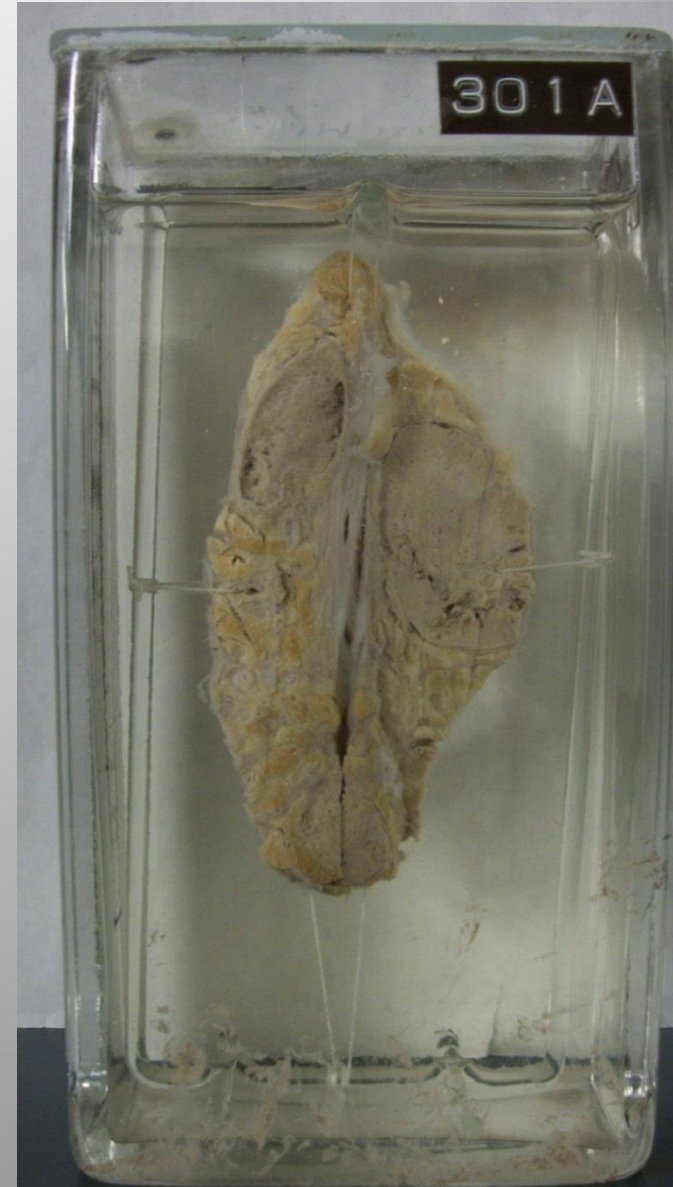
[Summer, 2014]

Historical Pathological Collection, UTMB 880 wet and dry specimens

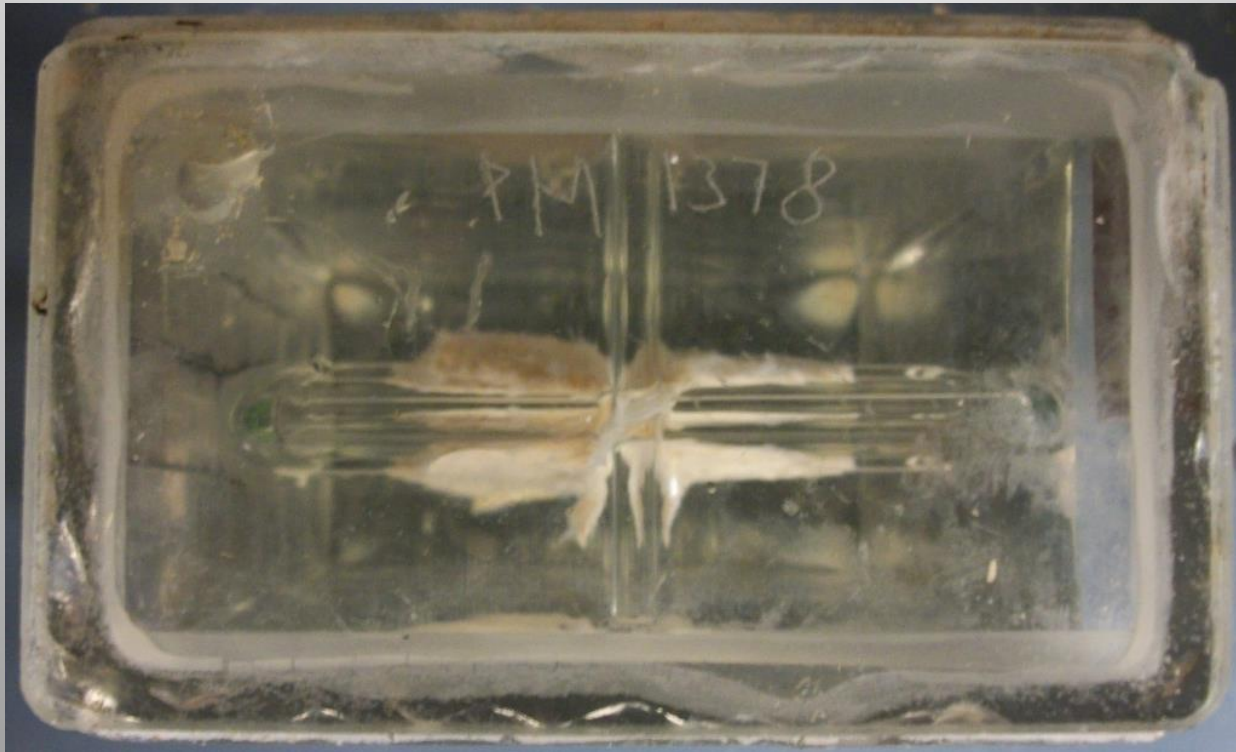


[Summer, 2014]

Wet bubonic plague specimen:
acute hemorrhagic
lymphadenitis



Post Mortem no. 1378
etched on jar lid



Linking specimen to Autopsy protocol-1378

Autopsy protocol

1378

Died 6/16/20; 4 P. M.

Autopsy 6/16/20; 6.30 P. M.

Dr. Hartman.

Clinical history:

External description: Body of well nourished, fairly well developed white male 17 years of age. Height about 5 ft 7 inches and weight about 135 lbs. Pupils dilated and equal. Body warm, rigor mortis not present. The anterior surface of upper part of right thigh presents a reddish appearance. This reddened and indurated area extends down the thigh from slightly below Pupart's ligament for a distance of about 10 centimeters and measures about six centimeters across. Preliminary incision presents nothing unusual.

Died: 16 June, 1920
Male
Age 17

Human Case 1 Galveston

Age 17, Male, White

Res. 1601 Mechanic.

Collector

Davison's Feed Store

Not out of Galveston before onset

Onset about 6/8/20

Death 6/16/20

Diagnosis of bubonic plague confirmed
bacteriologically 6/16, confirmed 6/20 by
P.O. Surgeon C.L. Williams

Infection probably contracted at place of
employment

Rt. femoral bubo.

Dead rat found in Davison's office
about a week before the onset of this case.
Rat yielded to be a nuisance here.

Dr. Chase. diag. "Bubonic Plague"

Galveston Plague Laboratory, Notebook, 1920

Name: E. H.

Age: 17

Residence: 1601 Mechanic

Occupation: Collector

Davison's Feed Store

Truman G. Blocker, Jr.
History of Medicine Collections, Moody
Medical Library, UTMB

[17 June, 1920]

One day after death and autopsy,
E.H. was buried at 10:00pm

NOTE WELL—INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

Where stillborn is given as cause of death, the birth certificate. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH			Reg. Dis. No.	B.O.V.S.
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS			Registered No.	D
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				
1 PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Galveston</u> City <u>Galveston</u>			(No. <u>1601</u> St. <u>C</u> Ward <u>2nd</u>)	
2 FULL NAME <u>[REDACTED]</u>			(a) RESIDENCE No. <u>1601</u> St. <u>C</u>	
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred <u>17</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds.			How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? <u>19584</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds.	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Single</u>		
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>don't know</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)				
7 AGE <u>17</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds. If less than 2 years state if breast fed If less than 1 day Yes <u>No</u> hrs. mins.				
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <u>Collector</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)				
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Galveston Texas</u>				
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>[REDACTED]</u>				
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>[REDACTED]</u>				
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>[REDACTED]</u>				
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Germany</u>				
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE (Informant) <u>From Hospital Register</u> (Address) <u>Health Hospital</u>				
15 Filed <u>June 23 1920</u> <u>R. L. Russell</u> Registrar				
MEDICAL PARTICULARS				
16 DATE OF DEATH <u>June 17</u> , 19 <u>20</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)				
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>10:30 A.M. June 16</u> , 19 <u>20</u> , to <u>5:10 P.M. June 16</u> , 19 <u>20</u> that I last saw h. <u>in</u> alive on <u>June 16</u> , 19 <u>20</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>5:10 P.M.</u> The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Bubonic Plague</u> <u>about</u> (duration) yrs. <u>7</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds.				
Contributory (Secondary) (duration) yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds.				
18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?				
Did an operation precede death? <u>No</u> Date of				
Was there an autopsy? <u>Yes</u>				
What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) <u>J. W. Dimmitt</u> M. D.				
*State the Disease Causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for State Statutes.)				
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Lake View Cem</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>June 17-10 PM</u> 19 <u>20</u>				
20 UNDERTAKER <u>F. P. Mally, Son</u> ADDRESS <u>2319 E.</u>				

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.

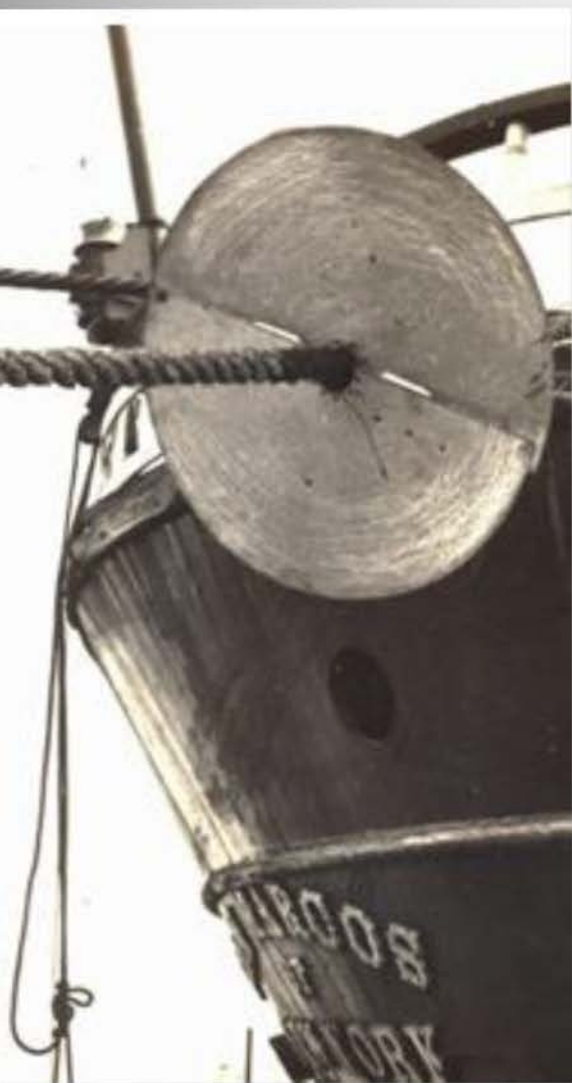
What is probably bubonic plague has appeared in Galveston, according to the diagnosis of Drs. M. F. Boyd, M. D. Levy and Henry Hartman on the disease which resulted in the death at John Sealy Hospital Wednesday afternoon of a youth 17 years old, who had been ill a week, and who, previous to his illness,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

[21 June-November, 1920]

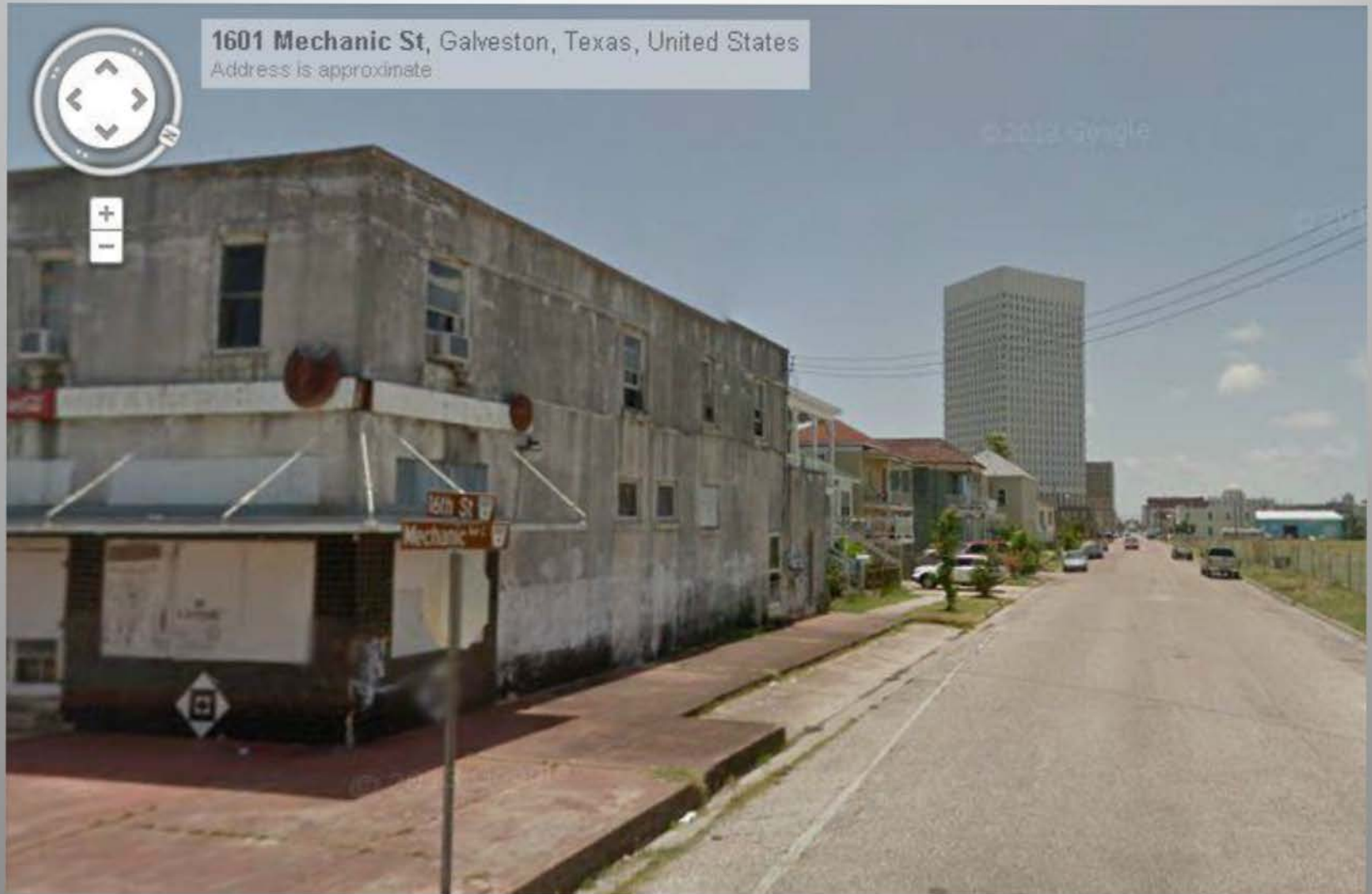
Galveston Plague Laboratory



Dr. Mark F. Boyd



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



Henry C. Hartman, M.D.
(1881-1963)



Hartman's microscope

Microscope slides-1378
Department of Pathology,
UTMB

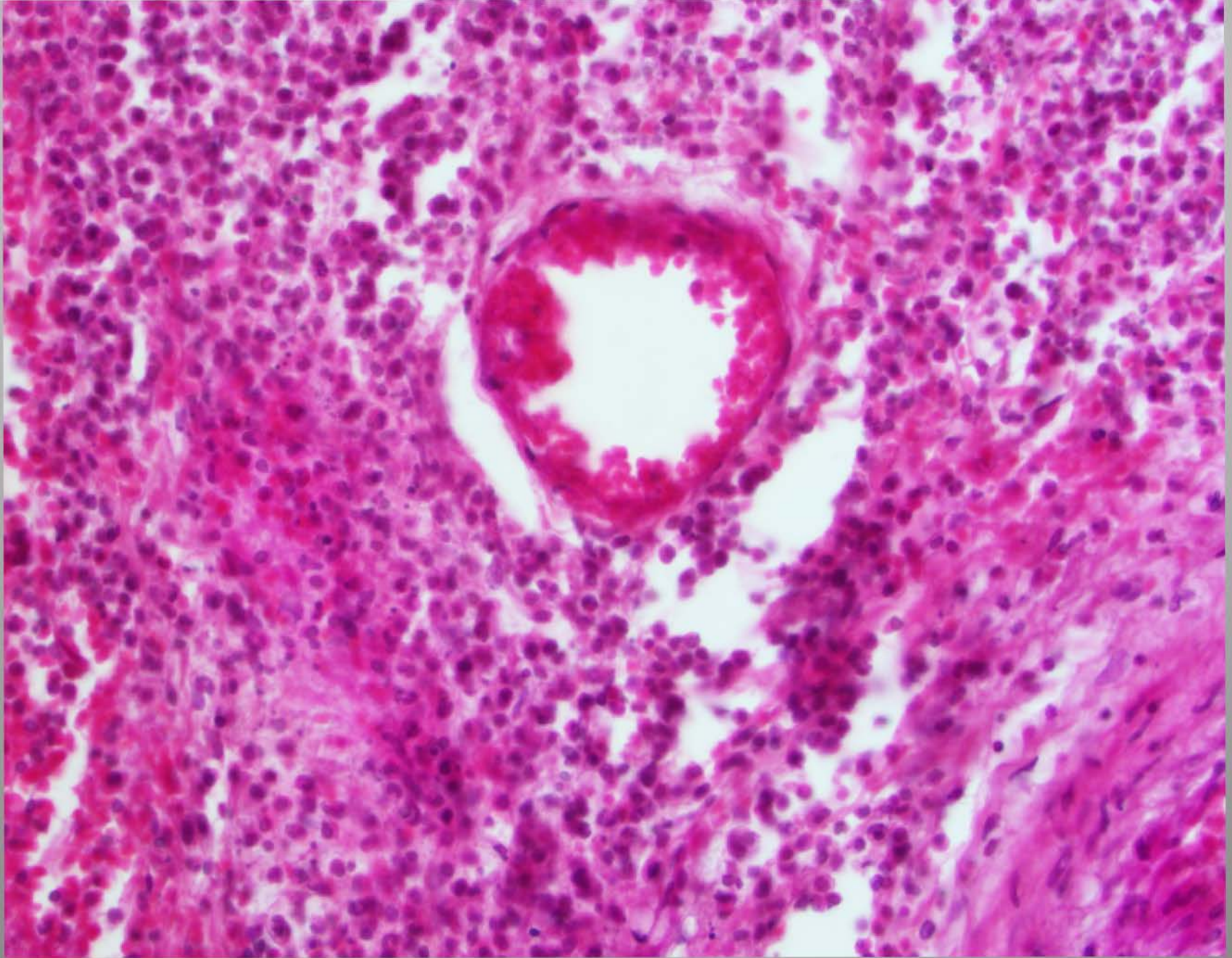


[March, 2015]



Demonstration#6
PM-1378, Slide 3
Lymph Node B. Plague

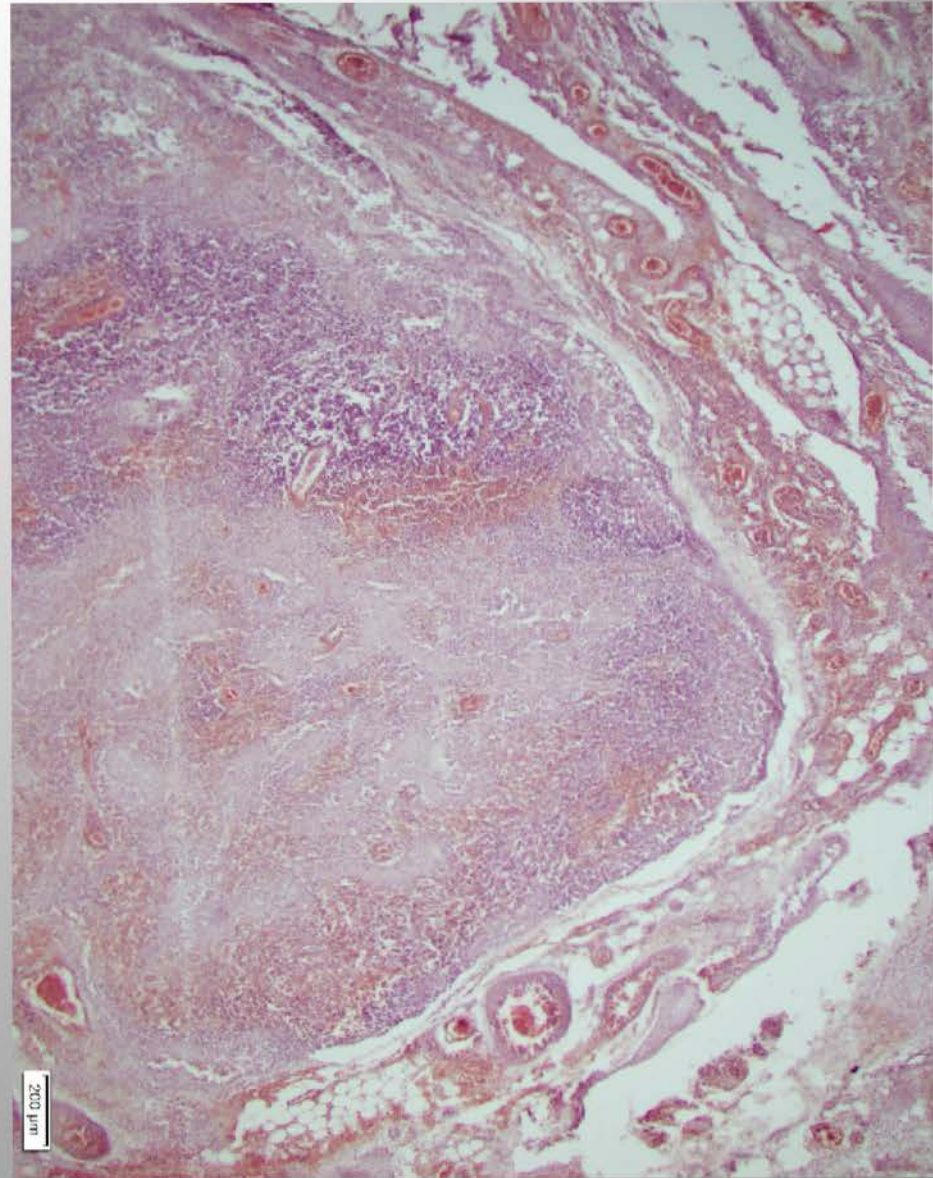
Judith F. Aronson, B.S., M.D.,
Director, Autopsy Service, UTMB



PM-1378, Slide 3, hemorrhage and inflammation



Anna Mary Bowie, M.D. (1890-1989)
Pathologist at UTMB, 1920



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

[Summer, 2015]

the
GALVESTON
GALVESTON
HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION
HISTORY PROJECT

Portraits of a Plague: 1920, A Summer of Pestilence

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.

Thank you

Questions?

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