

Burying the Dead: Victims of the Yellow Fever Epidemic

GATHERING THE INFO: *As you watch the webisode, complete this sheet. You may need to pause the webisode and/or watch it more than once to get all of the information.*

1. Fill in this chart.

Church and/or denomination	Role in the yellow fever epidemic of 1793
St. Mary's German Catholic Church	Opened its graveyard to refugees from far and wide; black Haitians buried in same place as whites. <u>All</u> of their clergy died during the yellow fever epidemic.
St. Michael's Zion Lutheran Church	Pastor Henry Helmuth kept a record; he buried 641 Lutherans. Went to cemetery and waited for carts to arrive.
Baptists	One church lost 150 of its members in one week.
Richard Allen's African American congregation	Nursed and buried fever victims. Over 200 died even though Rush told them that they were immune.
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	In 1798, created the first orphanage in the nation to care for children of people killed in later yellow fever outbreaks

2. How many people died during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793? **Over 5,000**

EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:

1. *What do the images at 2 minutes, 43 seconds and 3 minutes, 4 seconds illustrate about death and burials during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793?*

People were carted off and buried quickly and in large numbers.

2. *Pause at 4 minutes, 5 seconds. Which of the churches listed at the top of the document lost the most people in September of 1798?*

St. Mary's Church

ANALYZING THE INFO: *Professor Allen Guelzo says that the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 erased **Deism** (the belief that human reason, rather than organized religion, can explain the natural world and the existence of God) in the United States. Why does he say this occurred? Does this reaction make sense to you?*

Answers will vary.