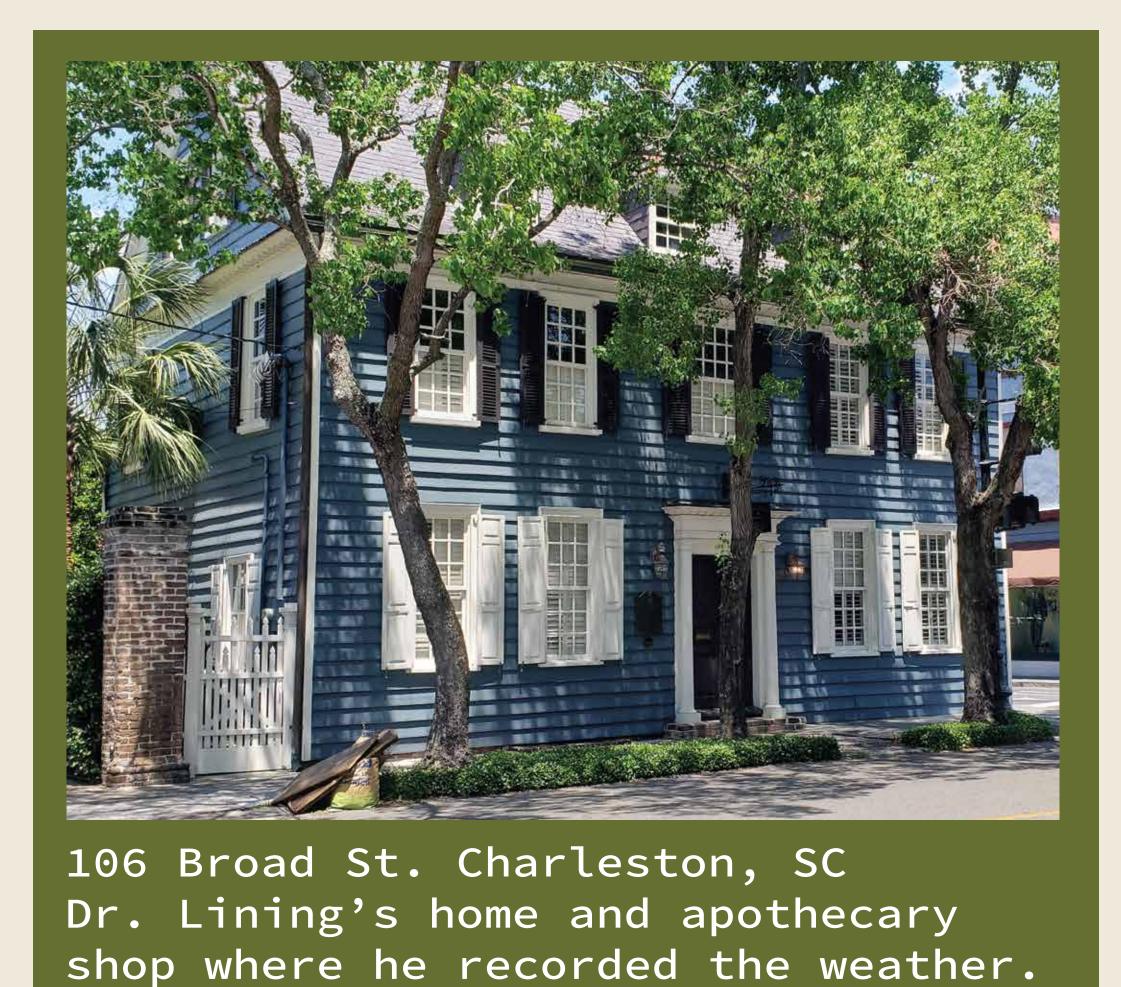
Charles Town Doctors



South Carolina Historical Society

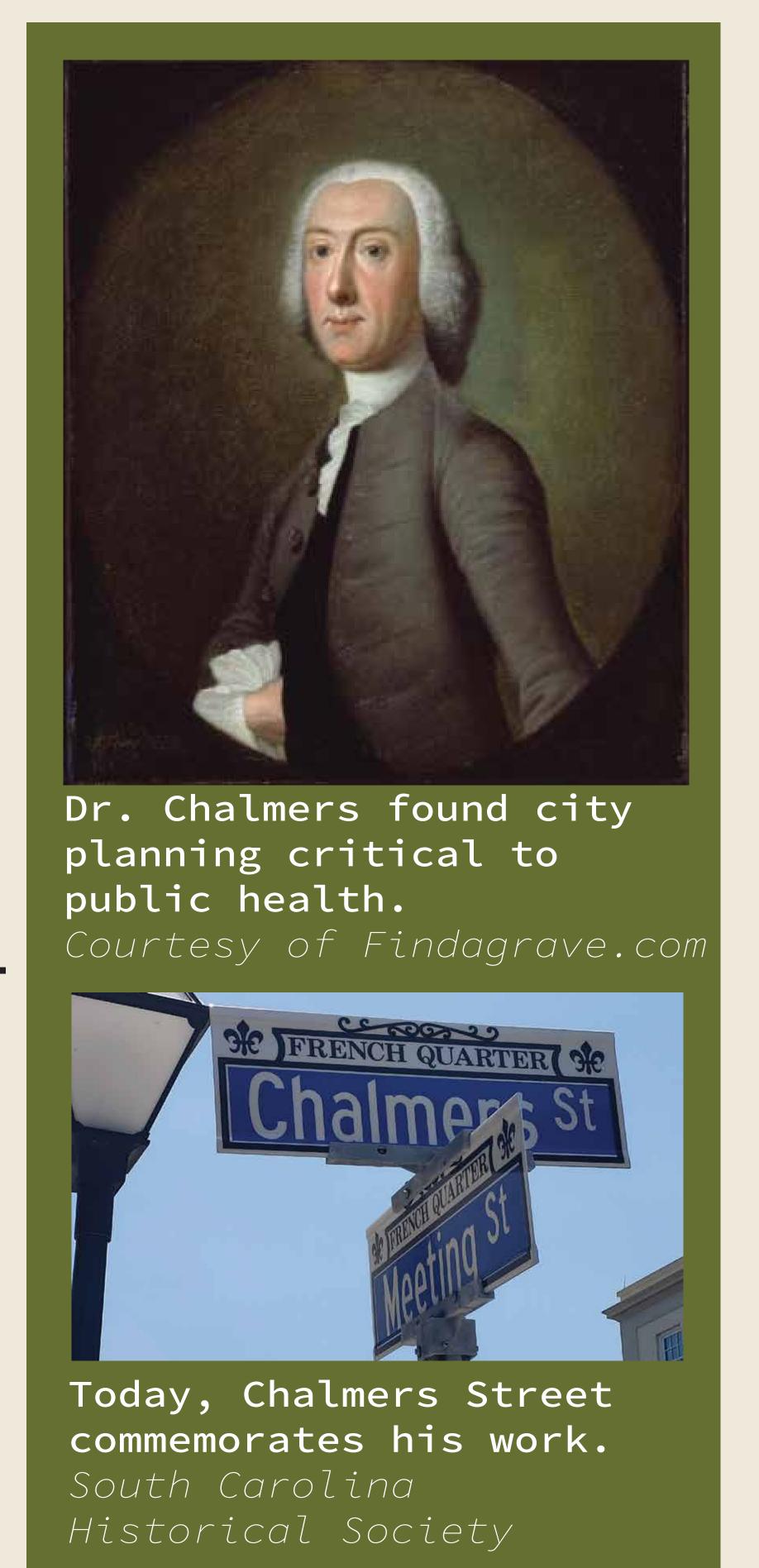
Early physicians practiced more than just medicine. Many came to the new world on business ventures or for political gain. As the Carolina Colony grew, doctors faced frequent and deadly epidemics, many

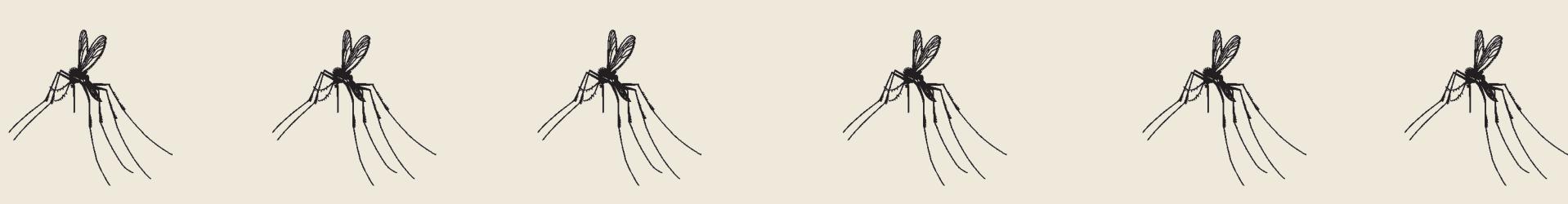
occuring simultaneously in a year, and they desperately sought answers to the high mortality rate of disease.

By the early to mid 1700s, doctors and scientists began collaborating and sharing

ideas. Dr. John Lining believed that weather played a role in health and kept track of climate and weather patterns. Dr. Lionel Chalmers thought that the layout of the city affected epidemics, stressing that tight alleyways promoted ill health and the water drains under the city helped prevent yellow fever.

Dr. David Ramsay, a politician at heart, looked to his scientist peers for advice and experimented with new ideas to save his city. Regardless of their scientific point of view, these physicians faced an onslaught of viral outbreaks.





Virus Outbreaks

Smallpox

ox Smallpox is not a new virus. For centuries, people from around the world experimented with cures trying anything to stop

this deadly disease from spreading.

Characterized by high fever and boils, survival often proved worse for those left with deep pitted scars, disfigured for life.

Europe regularly battled smallpox and spread it through exploration to North America decimating the Native American population. The world would not see relief from smallpox until the World Health Organization deemed it eradicated in 1980.



Doctor's Note:

Exposure to Malaria weakened a person's immune system, making them susceptible to other diseases like Influenza, Dysentery, Measles, Mumps, Flux, Pleurisy, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Typhus, and Scarlet Fever.

Major S.C. Yellow Fever Outbreaks



Doctor's Note:

In 1832, the U.S.

created a free
smallpox vaccination
program for Native
Americans. By that
year, smallpox had
killed 90-95% of
Native Americans.

Major S.C.
Malaria Outbreaks
1684 1709 1711

Yellow Fever requires a vector to carry the virus. Mosquitoes transmitted the virus between people in tropical climates.

Called "yellow" because of the jaundice coloring that appears in most victims, the virus also causes people to suffer from fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, and muscle pain.

Yellow

Fever

Epidemics occur when infected people travel to or live in areas with a dense mosquito population. Without a vaccine, the best way to prevent an outbreak is to remove standing water.

The World Health Organization created a global initiative to eradicate Yellow Fever in 2017.

Major S.C.
Smallpox
Outbreaks

 1697
 1732
 1760

 1698
 1738
 1763

 1711
 1740
 1781

 1718
 1816

Malaria

Like yellow fever, malaria requires mosquitoes to pass the virus from person-to-person. Once infected, symptoms can take 10-15 days to emerge, ted in the first 24 hours, it

and if not treated in the first 24 hours, it can be fatal. Some people acquire partial immunity to the disease and they serve as asymptomatic carriers to their communities.

Without a vaccine, cities must keep areas dry and free from standing freshwater.

In 2018, the world had 228 million cases with 405,000 deaths, and 67% were children under age five. Scientists have yet to discover a vaccine, but with preventative methods, the World Health Organization adds countries with zero malaria cases to an ongoing list each year.



Doctor's Note:

In June 1900, Major
Walter Reed led a
medical task force to
combat yellow fever.
Reed and his team
proved that mosquitoes
transmitted the virus
and disproved the
person-to-person
contact theory believed
for 200 years.

