

instead played it safe by hiding indoors. They kept busy, however. Day after day was spent scrubbing floors, walls, and ceilings. Rooms were whitewashed and then sprinkled with vinegar. Logs burned day and night in fireplaces despite the oppressive heat, and gunpowder and other noxious chemicals were tossed in frequently.

Charles Willson Peale, noted painter, inventor, and collector of natural history objects, shut himself, his wife Betsy, and six of his children inside his large museum-residence. He spent a great deal of time classifying his mineral collection, though he made certain "the house is fumed with Vinegar" and that he performed "about 6 firing of a [musket] within the House" every day. The live birds he had collected as specimens were cooked and eaten, eliminating the need to go to the market.

All went well until Betsy ventured into the garden and, according to Peale, smelled something disagreeable. The next day she fell ill and was confined to bed. Their family doctor had already died of the fever, and his replacement soon caught it also. After this, Peale took over the doctoring chores himself even though he too eventually contracted a mild case of yellow fever. Both would survive, though they never got over the fear these near escapes caused and kept their doors securely bolted against all visitors throughout the plague.

Dr. Benjamin Duffield, a member of the College of Physicians, had his own recommendation for dealing with the fever, which he gladly published in the newspapers for all to read. Fresh dirt should be strewn around every room to a depth of two inches, he wrote, and that dirt should be changed every day. For additional protection, he suggested taking frequent warm baths and inhaling finely ground black pepper.

Ordinary citizens also offered advice and preventives through the town's newspapers. One writer who signed his name "A Hint" said the