

Jesse Lazear decided to test Finlay's theory on himself, and he allowed himself to be bitten by mosquitoes (13). Lazear died 13 days later of yellow fever. After Lazear's death, Reed created the first written informed consent form, which outlined the risks of the experiments and their possible benefits. Those who agreed to be subjects in the experiments had to sign the forms. Spanish immigrants who volunteered received \$100 in gold to participate and \$100 more if they got sick. In all, 29 people contracted yellow fever while participating in the *Commission's* experiments and five died.

b. The consent form of the *Yellow Fever Commission*

The consent form, as signed by one of the volunteers in Walter Reed's study, is shown in its English translation:

Antonio Benino

The undersigned, Antonio Benino being more than twenty-five years of age, native of Cerceda, in the province of Corima, the son of Manuel Benino and Josefa Castro here states by these presents, being in the enjoyment and exercise of his own very free will, that he consents to submit himself to experiments for the purpose of determining the methods of transmission of yellow fever, made upon his person by the Commission appointed for this purpose by the Secretary of War of the United States, and that he gives his consent to undergo the said experiments for the reasons and under the conditions below stated.

The undersigned understands perfectly well that in case of the development of yellow fever in him, that he endangers his life to a certain extent but it being entirely impossible for him to avoid the infection during his stay in this island, he prefers to take the chance of contracting it intentionally in the belief that he will receive from the said Commission the greatest care and the most skillful medical service.

It is understood that at the completion of these experiments, within two months from this date, the undersigned will receive the sum of \$100 in American gold and that in case of his contracting yellow fever at any time during his residence in this camp, he will receive in addition to that sum a further sum of \$100 in American gold, upon his recovery and that in case of his death because of this disease, the Commission will transmit the said sum (two hundred American dollars) to the person whom the undersigned shall designate at his convenience.

The undersigned binds himself not to leave the bounds of this camp during the period of the experiments and will forfeit all right to the benefits named in this contract if he breaks this agreement.

And to bind himself he signs this paper in duplicate, in the Experimental Camp, near Quemados, Cuba, on the 26th day of November nineteen hundred.

The contracting party,

Antonio Benigno

On the part of the Commission:

Walter Reed

Maj. & Surg., U.S.A.

¹³ Editorial. Jesse William Lazear. *Science*. 1900;12:932–933.