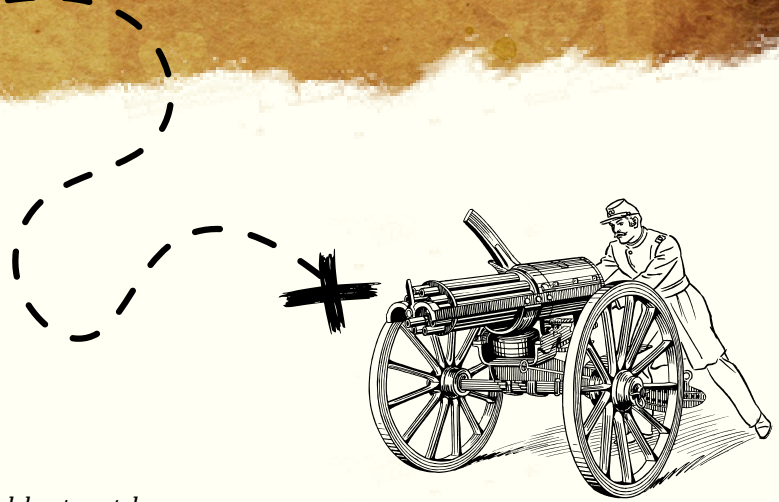




NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY SCAVENGER HUNT



Welcome to the Nashville City Cemetery, Nashville's oldest outdoor museum. The City Cemetery is not only the final resting place for many of our city's earliest residents, but a fascinating window into history reaching deep into the 19th century. Explore our roots today through a scavenger hunt designed to highlight some of the representative interments of our shared story. Google form alternative [here](#).

1. Find the first* named person buried here.
2. A Sexton is the title for a person who is in charge of a cemetery. Find the first Sexton of the cemetery, buried on September 28th, 1846.
3. Several of Nashville's former mayors are also buried here. One also served as the doctor and friend to former President Andrew Jackson. Who is it?
4. Consumption (or tuberculosis) was the most common cause of death well into the 20th century. Find the last person who died of it in November 1912.
5. The Nashville City Cemetery is also home to the remains of many free and enslaved people from the pre-Emancipation period. Find one free person of color who was born and lived during this time.
6. There are numerous Confederate soldiers buried here, including one general who was killed in action at the Battle of Mill Springs, KY and buried February 2nd, 1862. What was his name?
7. Find the first person buried in the 20th century.
8. Find someone with the most common last name in the cemetery: Smith.
9. There is only one person buried here from the year 1969. What is their name?
10. There was a former president of the United States also buried here. Who is it?

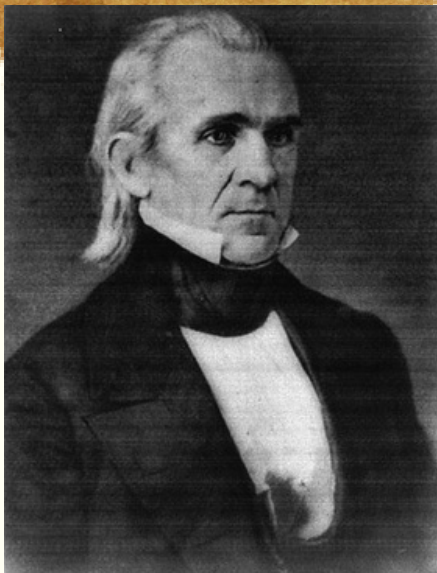
*First named person will be in 1846. See the answer key and notes.



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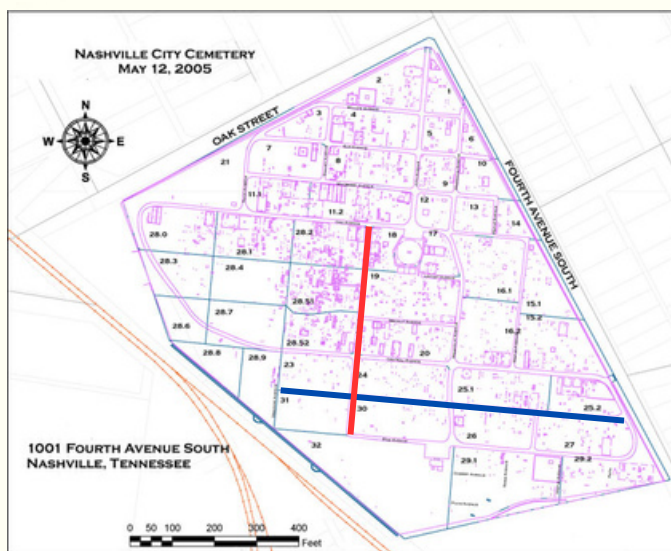
If you would like to work to preserve the final resting place of Nashville's earliest residents, please consider [donating](#) or becoming a [member](#).

James K. Polk (right):
11th
President of
the United
States and
former
resident of
the Nashville
City
Cemetery



Scavenger Hunt answer key and notes

1. There are many unnamed infants buried in the cemetery, but the first named gravestone is marked for S.P. Davis on January 1st, 1846.
2. The first Sexton of the cemetery was Captain Alpha Kingsley. He served as Sexton of the cemetery from 1822 until his death in 1846.
3. Dr. Felix Robertson, known as the first white male child born in the settlement of Nashborough in 1781, also served as mayor of the city in 1818 and from 1827-1828. He was buried in Nashville City Cemetery on July 11th, 1865.
4. The last person to die of consumption was Mrs. S.E. Pickett, buried on November 10th, 1912.
5. The majority of the pre-Emancipation free and enslaved people can be found in lots 50, 100, and 200, closest to Poplar Ave and known as the "Negro lots" at the time (shown on the map left). The majority of the gravestones do not have family names, indicating that they were likely enslaved at the time of their death.
6. General Felix Zollicoffer was indeed a brigadier general in the Confederate Provisional Army of Tennessee, but he was also a State Senator and peace convention attendee following the secession of the Deep States in 1861.
7. Benjamin Rucker was buried January 6th, 1900.
8. There are over 100 different burials for Smiths in the Nashville City Cemetery, including free men and women of color.
9. There was a sharp decrease in the number of burials in the Nashville City Cemetery in the second half of the 20th century, possibly due to its status in the National Register of Historic Places (1972). The only person buried here in 1969 is Robert Luck.
10. James K. Polk, the 11th President of the United States, was originally buried at the Nashville City Cemetery after his death in 1849. However, his remains were reburied at the Tennessee State Capitol in 1893.



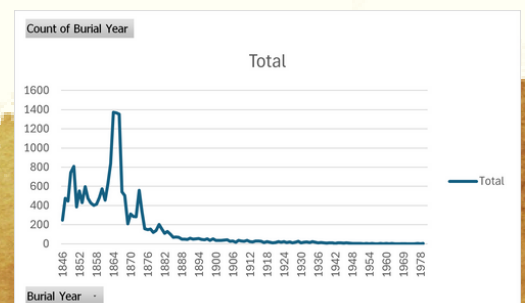
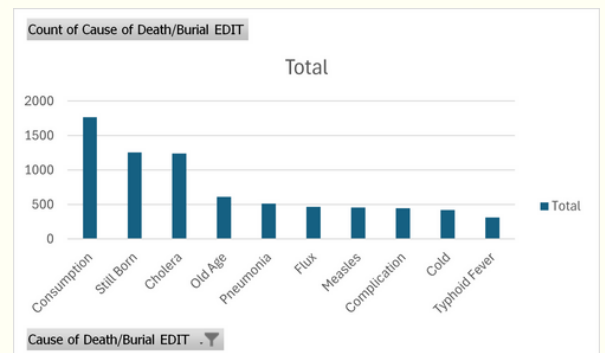
Map (left): Shows the intersection of Poplar Ave (blue) and Cedar Ave (red), along which the majority of the free and enslaved populations of Nashville were buried in the pre-Emancipation period. At the time, they were known as the "Negro lots" in the public records, which may indicate a segregated cemetery. More on African Americans in the Nashville City Cemetery [here](#).

Did you know?

The Nashville City Cemetery opened in 1822 and included burials for individuals pre-Civil War. However, during the chaos of the fighting, many handwritten records were lost. This is why we have databases only starting with the year 1846. The work to recover and record the lost information continues today.

Top 10 causes of death 1846-1979 (top): After consumption, the next leading cause of death was being still born.

Burials at the Nashville City Cemetery over time (bottom): After the spike in burials during the Civil War, overall burials in the cemetery drastically decreased starting the 1870s.



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