



*Giovane Viennese di 23. Anni*

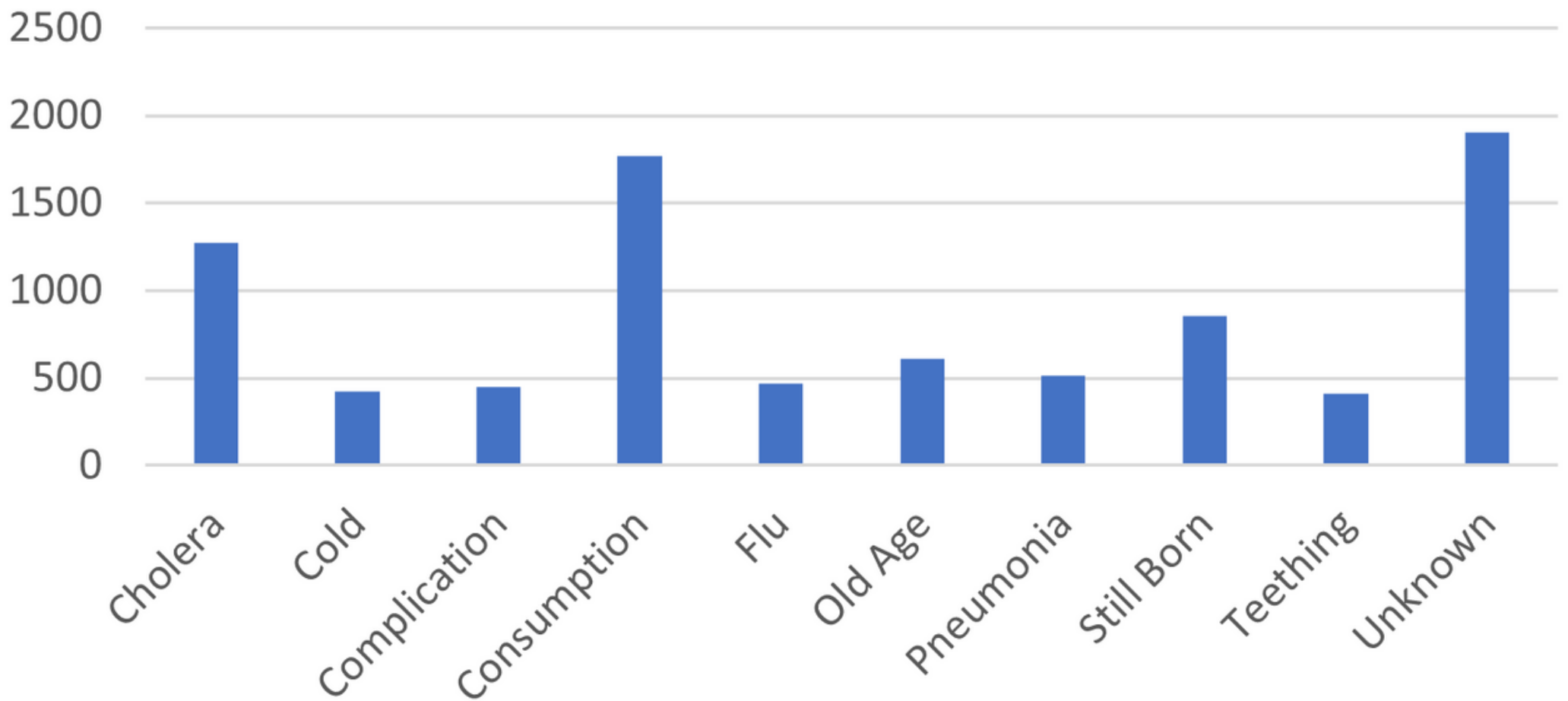


*Da med' un' ora appresso l'invasione  
del Cholera, e quattro ore prima della morte*

Wellcome Images

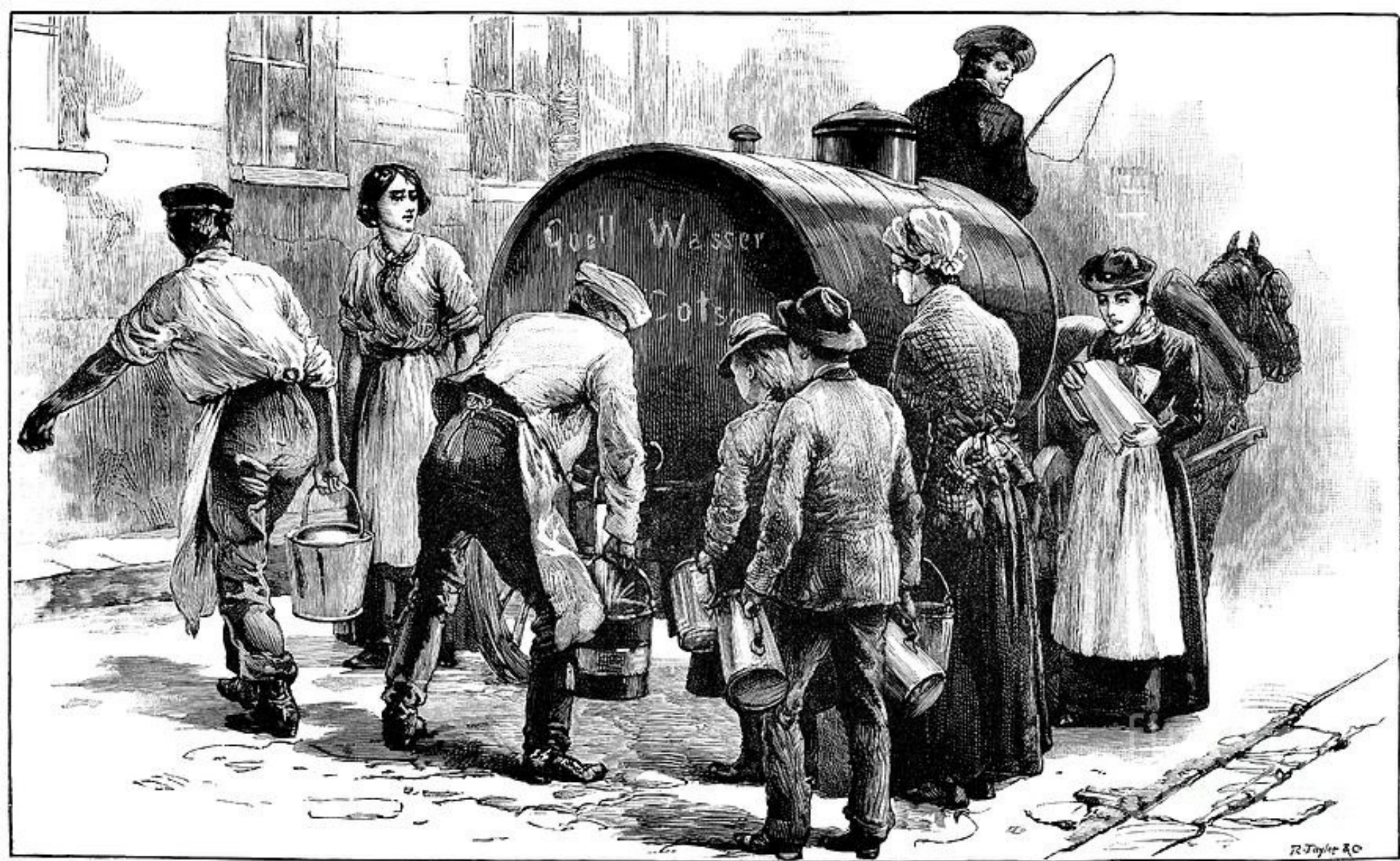
Nashville City Cemetery houses many prevalent people and interesting events in the history of the city.

## Top causes of death



One of the most common causes of death is cholera. When looking at occurrences of the disease it becomes obvious there were multiple outbreaks within the city's history. What is cholera, and why did it occur at these times?



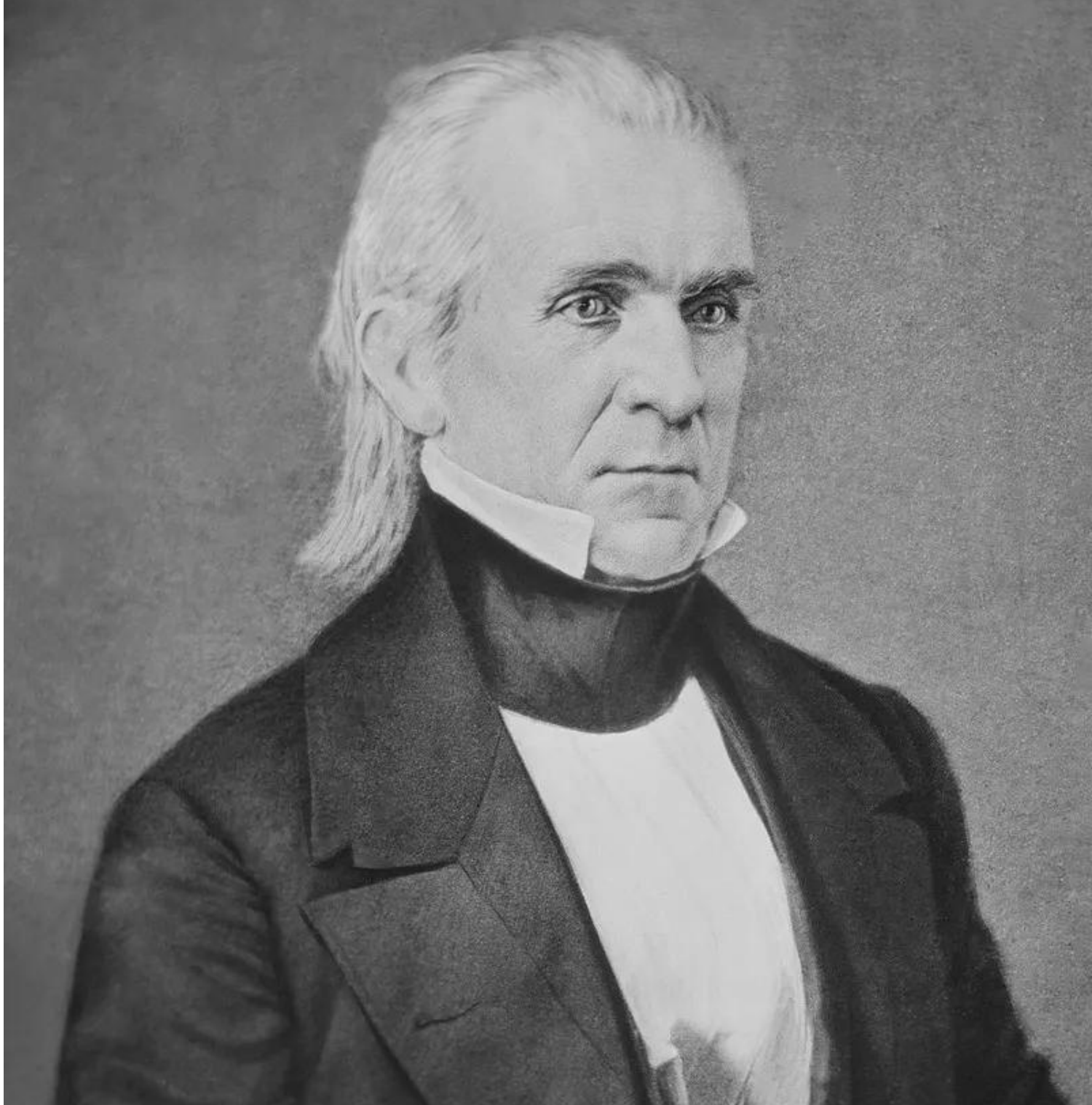


Cholera is caused by the cholera bacterium that can contaminate food or water from an infected person's feces. Some have only mild symptoms while others can have severe symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea. The rapid loss of body fluids can cause dehydration and death.





We know cholera began occurring in Nashville beginning in 1849, but why this year? Addressing this question involves looking back and toward South Asia beginning in 1817. The disease was first recorded here but spread quickly due to trade. Before long, Cholera had spread to Europe and eventually North America. Cholera was first detected in New York and New Orleans in 1848 but soon spread to Nashville. The most likely scenario is that passengers on river boats brought in the disease beginning in 1849. Frequent flooding of the Cumberland River made Nashville especially susceptible to diseases spread through water.

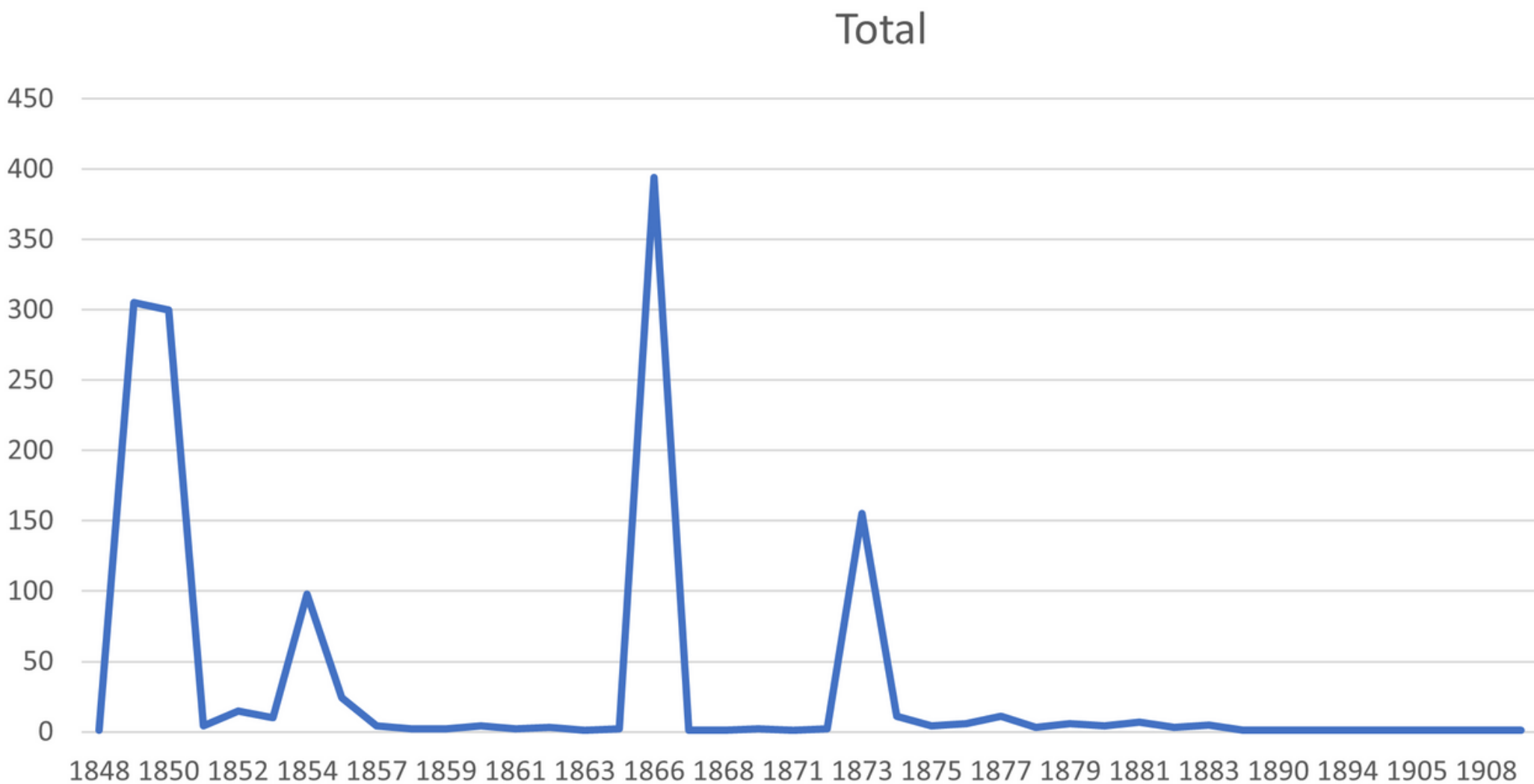


One of the more notable persons buried in the cemetery, who is an assumed victim of the 1848 outbreak, is former president of the U.S. James K. Polk.





One of the more notable points of infection within the city is the Great French Lick Spring on the corner of 5th Ave and Jefferson Street.



Once cholera was established within Nashville the disease would periodically spike. The notable years include 1848-1850, 1854, 1866, and 1873.





The city began to actively filter drinking water beginning in 1878 in response to the 1873 outbreak. Finally in 1908 Nashville began to chemically treat water to reduce harmful bacteria.



<https://www.cdc.gov/cholera/general/index.html>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1538-4632.1969.tb00605.x>

<https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/ext/cholera/PDF/34720190R.pdf>

<https://thenashvillecitycemetery.org/tours>

<https://mishmish3000.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/the-great-cholera-of-1873.pdf>

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/water/about-us/history>