Question 7: LOT DATA

Question 5:

When looking at the burial data, it becomes apparent that June, July, and September are by a noticeable margin the busiest months for the gravediggers. Why?

There’s a simple answer for that: Cholera

When we look at the causes of death by month (where the cause of death is known), we see *huge* spikes in cholera cases June, July, and September.

1849, 1850, 1854, 1866, 1873 – Cholera Outbreak Years

1849 and 1850 were part of a global cholera pandemic. At the time of the 1849/50 epidemic, the population of Nashville was only about 10,000 people. So roughly 3% of the population died, EACH SUMMER. It got so bad that the University of Nashville suspended its operations. Everything old is new again. Among those killed in the epidemic of 1849 was the Nashville City Cemetery’s most famous resident, President James K. Polk, fresh off his triumphal tour following his leaving office.