

Public Archaeology Days at Friendship Cemetery, Columbus

Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi
October 12-13, 2018



Military section of Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, Mississippi

This week, a project will commence to try and locate the lost graves of Union soldiers who were buried in Friendship Cemetery in Columbus during the Civil War. These graves are significant for the role they played in inspiring the creation of Memorial Day when in 1866 the ladies of Columbus, Mississippi placed flowers on the graves of all soldiers, Union and Confederate, buried in Friendship Cemetery. Recent research suggests that as many as 10 unmarked Union graves may have been overlooked in 1867 when other were relocated. These “missed graves” may have been the Federal Soldiers whose graves were decorated beginning in 1866. On October 12, 2018, the University of Mississippi’s Center for Archaeological Research will use non-invasive, remote-sensing technologies to search for these unmarked graves.

On Friday October 12, school groups are invited to come to Friendship Cemetery to view the archaeological work and learn about remote-sensing technologies. Classes will be welcome to visit from 9 a.m.-noon and from 1:30-4 p.m. October is archaeology month, and on Saturday October 13 the public is invited to come to the cemetery from 9 a.m.-noon and from 1:30-4 p.m. to learn more about this project and the use of remote-sensing technology in archaeology.

To schedule a time for a class to visit the project and observe the remote sensing in progress, please contact Visit Columbus on Tuesday (10/9) or Wednesday (10/10) at 662-329-1191.

This is a joint project of the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Mississippi, the U.S. Grant Association and U.S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University, and the Billups-Garth Foundation of Columbus, with assistance from the City of Columbus and the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau.