

RSAP Description for the Zion Cemetery Community Relations Project
Directed by Milton Moreland
Archaeology Program

1. Description of Position:

This RSAP position will help create a web-based database that will include photographs, a plat of burial sites, and a searchable electronic catalog of the Zion Cemetery's registry. The student will also help organize volunteer groups to work in the restoration efforts at Zion. The Zion Cemetery is the oldest and largest historical African-American cemetery in Memphis. It was officially founded in 1876 by a group of freed slaves to offer the dignity of burial on land owned by African Americans. This RSAP position will be part of a long-term Rhodes community relations project that is helping to restore the cemetery. Working with Prof. Moreland and the IT Department staff the student will help digitize the cemetery's registry and mark it so that it is a searchable electronic database. This searchable electronic database of the cemetery's registry will provide unlimited access to information on the approximately 23,000 individuals interred at Zion Cemetery. Most of the registry has previously been entered into a database by the Memphis Public Library. The student will work with the existing database and supplement it with additional information that is available from the original registry.

2. Specific Responsibilities of Student Associate:

- Assist in developing a database of the Zion Cemetery registry.
- Enter information into the database from a hand-written registry from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Add information to and help design the Zion Cemetery website.
- Help prepare a digital map and digital photos of the cemetery that will be keyed to the names in the database.
- Scan and copy documents, maps and photographs.
- Organize volunteer groups for participation in the restoration of Zion.

3. Benefits of Experiences to the Student Associate:

The Student Associate will gain technical and practical knowledge of web and database resources that are used in archaeological and historical field work. The student will work closely with faculty and administrators to design a searchable database that will increase their skills in computer technology and web interfacing.

4. Position Requirements:

Ability to do data entry from an historical registry. Interest in web design and software programs for the internet.