
FINAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT
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Naumec _____

for the
American Battlefield Protection Program

1849 C Street NW (7228), Washington, DC 20240

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Grantee/Cooperator: Town of Montague

Grant Number: GA-2287-18-007

Project Title: 1676 Battle of Great Falls Site Identification and Evaluation Project (Phase II)

Overview

Project Accomplishments

Project Report

Extensive archeological investigations were conducted to locate the locations of the King Philip's War (1675-1676) Peskeompskut (Turners Falls) Battlefield and associated sites. The report was drafted by Principle Investigator and Project Director Dr. Kevin McBride, Senior Historian Dr. David Naumec and Senior Researcher Dr. Ashley Bissonnette. The report is a remarkable accomplishment made possible by the Town of Montague, the Battlefield Advisory Board comprised of members from the towns of Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Montague and Northfield and cultural specialists from the Narragansett, Nipmuc, Stockbridge-Munsee, Mohican, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) tribes. The technical report includes background history, project framework and plan of action, results, appendix material and works cited pages. Copies of the report are provided to the Town of Montague, the Battlefield Advisory Board, contributing Native experts and other prominent public stakeholders.

GIS (If Applicable)

Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the battlefield boundaries that encompass all relevant artifacts and cultural and physical features are represented in an appropriately scaled topographic base map. The boundaries were defensible based on historical and archeological evidence.

Project Results

As a result of the contacts made and the work produced through this project, a number of important results were achieved:

- Research collections that included artifacts and accounts of King Philip's War, and in particular the battle were identified and interpreted in the final report
- Perspectives from Native experts to interpret the artifacts, battlefield signatures and the course of the battle

- Incorporating Native perspectives into the final report to offer a balanced history of King Philip's War, and illustrate the war's complexity
- Creation of a preliminary community survey and a series of interviews were recorded and transcribed concerning the historical preservation and history of the battlefield. Interviews are included as an appendix in the final report.
- Relationships were built and enhanced between the community (i.e., project volunteers, landowners, etc.), the Battlefield Advisory Board, Native experts and project staff. Holding public meetings, contacting and interacting with landowners are needed to ensure physical and cultural preservation of the battlefield, and interacting with all project stakeholders that is key to preserving local history and traditions that foster cultural identity.

Work Detail

The following summary provides more detailed description of efforts to meet the requirements of the **Scope of Work**.

SoW: Task 1 Consultants

Throughout this project, efforts were directed by MPMRC's Principle Investigator Dr. Kevin McBride, Senior Historical David Naumec and Senior Researcher Dr. Ashley Bissonnette alongside the Battlefield Advisory Board and Native experts.

Field work begin in June of 2017, and during that time emails and other correspondence were sent to solicit the input from Native experts from the following respective tribes, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Stockbridge-Munsee, Mohican, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) tribes, the community and the Battlefield Advisory Board.

SoW: Task 2 Workplan

The workplan for the project was followed and expanded. Our final product was extensively researched and thorough in its breadth. We operated within the project and the supplemental budgets. The following scope of work has been completed:

Task 1: Developed an archeological research design to standards acceptable by the ABPP and in accordance with Massachusetts Historic Commission permitting and standards. Research design addressed the NAGPRA and protocol for discovery of human remains. Review Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation Report (Phase I Report).

Task 2: Prepared and Submitted Permit Application for archeological investigation to the Massachusetts Historic Commission. The Battlefield Grant was responsible for obtaining landowner permission for excavation and artifact donation.

An archaeological permit application was submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center was awarded the contract.

Task 3: Conducted the Field Survey in accordance with Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Documentation. This included the walkover survey, remote sensing, subsurface testing, and the creation of a GIS map of the Battlefield Area using NPS battlefield survey data dictionary.

Task 4: Laboratory analysis and curation was conducted at the MMPMRC

Task 5: Coordination of a public planning process which included more than three meetings

Task 6: Preparation of the technical report and performance report

Task 7: Drafted regular updates to the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board through a written report and/or participation in the monthly board meetings.

Task 8: Followed approval of the final report document, the consultant provided the Town with ten (10) acid-free paper copies of the Technical Report and GIS map. One copy WAS ARPA redacted. One (1) digital copy on CD was also delivered at that time.

SoW: Task 3 Resource Identification

Researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center conducted an exhaustive search for materials that relate to the significance and geographic breadth of the battlefield.

Sources of research (identified in report bibliography) included:

- Photographic and map research from the federal National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress;
- Archeological collections related to the battle: private collections, Montague Town Library and Museum, Springfield Museum, Massachusetts State Library;
- Printed local town histories and traditions;
- Site visits and discussions regarding the battlefield with representatives from the Narragansett, Nipmuc, Stockbridge-Munsee, Mohican, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) tribes;
- Site visits to monuments commemorating the battlefield and associated battlefield sites to gather relevant information on place and the memory and legacy of the Great Falls Fight;
- Community surveys and interviews were conducted with members of the Battlefield Advisory Board, and local landowners regarding the history and historical preservation of the battlefield.

A chief concern was to find a Native voice in the telling of the Great Falls Fight and the experiences of Native men, women and children who lived through King Philip's War. Other collections were consulted from the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, the Boston Public Library, the American Antiquarian Society and the Connecticut State Library.

SoW: Task 4 Public Planning

Researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center and the Town of Montague contacted local holders via mailings that included project background, project goals and methods and permission forms to conduct archeological testing. Researchers from the MPMRC also went door-to-door to introduce themselves and the project, and were active in soliciting their knowledge as to the integrity of their properties. The result was ongoing cooperation between the researchers and the local community.

Invited by a local organization, the Nolumbeka Project, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center set-up a table at the *3rd Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival* to display project materials and answer any questions the public had about their local history, archeology and the project. Community volunteers were also encouraged to join during archeological investigations.

To inquire public feedback and participation the Principle Investigator Dr. Kevin McBride sent regular updates to tribal representatives and the Battlefield Advisory Board, who also meet the first Wednesday of each month which began May 3, 2017. All Battlefield Advisory Board meetings were open to public and announced via email, in addition to three formal informational series held on May 6, June 22, and November 16, 2017 to present project goals and results, and a panel so that Native experts could publically share their interpretation of the project, battle and King Philip's War. During the monthly meetings on average 10 people from the community and local

historians attended to contribute to project discussions and during the June 22 and November 16, 2017 meetings roughly 60 people from the community were in attendance.

To keep the public and the landowners up to date on project findings Dr. Kevin McBride emailed project updates directly to the Battlefield Advisory Board and consenting landowners and identified stakeholders, and on the project website KPWar.org.

January 8, 2020 Dr. Kevin McBride and Dr. Ashley Bissonnette presented new battlefield information at the Society for Historical Archeology 2020 Conference session titled “The Social Experience of Conflict.”

August 19, 2020 Dr. Ashley Bissonnette attended a Zoom meeting regarding future plans for historic panels, incorporating new perspectives learned from this battlefield project.

SoW: Task 5 Preservation Plan

While the information needed to submit a National Register nomination has been compiled in the technical report, it is our intention to eventually submit a completed form for this Archeological District for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

SoW: Task 6 Compliance

Applicable guidance and requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, along with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation were observed.

SoW: Task 7 Reporting to ABPP

Quarterly project status and financial reports were submitted. This report is the final submission needed to fulfill requirements of this grant.

Project Cost Summary

| <i>Tasks</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Products</i> |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Meeting with landowners, walkover survey, reconnaissance | \$14,000 | Research design, strategy, disturbance, assessment, GIS |
| Three public meetings, NPS meeting | \$3,000 | PowerPoint presentations |
| Remote sensing survey (metal detecting) | \$28,000 | Artifact distribution, GIS maps, tribal consultation |
| Sub surfacing testing (small shovel tests in village sites) | \$16,000 | Artifact and feature distributions, tribal consultation |
| Lab reports, data synthesis and final report preparation | \$19,000 | 20 copies of the final technical report and 3 acid free copies/1 digital copy for the NPS |