
FINAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT
Prepared by the Town of Montague, Massachusetts
for the
American Battlefield Protection Program

Heritage Preservation Services Division, 1849 C Street NW (2255), Washington, DC
20240

Date: May 4, 2016

Grantee/Cooperator: Town of Montague, Ma
One Avenue A Turners Falls, Ma 01351

Grant Number: GA-2287-14-012

Project Title: Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation Plan for the Battle of
Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut

I. Background

The Town of Montague completed a Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation Plan for the *Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeomskut* (GA-2287-14-012), with support from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). The purpose of the project was to identify the likely locations of the King Philip's War (1675-1676) Peskeomskut (Turners Falls) battlefield and associated sites, including the Native American community Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag through the examination of historical records, archeological collections, Tribal and Yankee oral histories, and the use of military terrain analysis. The project also intended through public awareness to help protect the battlefield by actively engaging local officials, landowners, academics and the interested public. This project set the groundwork for an upcoming Phase II Battlefield Archeology project, and future national register designation for the *Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeomskut*. The project design incorporated all Project Tasks (Section III) which created exemplar Project Results and Project Accomplishments (Section IV).

II. Project History

The Town of Montague submitted a funding application to the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program in January 2014 for a Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation Plan (*Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeomskut* GA-2287-14-012) to conduct a pre-inventory project and the examination of surviving historical materials in support with the Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Narragansett, Nipmuc, and Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican tribal historic preservation offices, alongside

representatives from the Nolumbeka Project, Deerfield Historic Commission, Northfield Historic Commission, Greenfield Historic Commission and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. The Town of Montague was awarded by the National Park Service a Grant Agreement sum of \$60,000 to conduct the following project from August 1, 2014 to August 1, 2016.

III. Project Tasks

Project Timeline Established:

PROJECT SCHEDULE																	
Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation Project Battle of Great Falls/Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center																	
	Jan 2015	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2016	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Introductory Meeting with Battlefield Advisory Board, January 6, 2015	X																
Task 1: Submit archeological research design, February 1, 2015		X															
Task 2: Conduct Military and Colonial History Research, March 16 – late-June, 2015			X	X	X	X											
Task 3: Conduct Historical Archeological Research, March 16, 2015 – August, 2016			X	X	X	X	X	X									
Task 4: Coordinate Tribal History Research, April 1 – November, 2015				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Task 5: Coordinate a public planning process, February 15, 2015, September 15, 2015, March 15, 2016		X							X						X		
Task 6: Prepare GIS map of project area using NPS battlefield survey data dictionary, November 2015 – February 2016											X	X	X	X			
Task 7: Prepare Technical Final Draft and Performance Final Draft, November 2015 – February, 2016											X	X	X	X			
Task 8: Coordination with specific agencies, February 1, 2015 – May 30, 2016		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Task 9: Submit final Technical Report and Performance Report, May 15, 2016																	X

Figure 1. Project Timeline

The Scope of Work and Summary of Objectives and results approved by the NPS ABPP:

SoW: Task 1 Attend training with ABPP

Walter Ramsey, Montague Town Planner and ABPP Grant manager attended training on 8/26/2014

SoW: Task 2 Submit a workplan

The workplan for the project was approved by ABPP and implemented by the Town of Montague. The project was completed on time and under budget, with an in-kind match from Town of Montague.

SoW: Task 3 Hire needed consultants

The Town conducted a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to find and contract the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center to produce the research design and technical report. The RFP was reviewed and approved by ABPP. Two proposals were received.

The Town executed three individual Memoranda of Agreement with the Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah THPO, and Chaubunagungamuaug Nipmuck THPO for their participation, consultation, and production independent tribal historical narratives as a component of the technical report. The Town received sole source approval from ABPP.

SoW: Task 4 Submit an archeological research design

The Research Design was prepared by Kevin McBride, Principal Investigator from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center for the Town of Montague in March 2015. The research design was approved by the ABPP

SoW: Task 5 Coordinate the public planning process

Three public information sessions were held at the beginning, middle, and end of the project. Each event had between 100 and 130 people in attendance. The meetings were recorded on video. The recordings were posted online for public viewing. The Town has DVD recordings on compact disc for public use.

Monthly meetings of the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board were held between August 2014 and July 2015, totaling 23 meetings. Minutes and agendas are on file at the Montague Planning Department.

SoW: Task 6 Complete the technical report and plan

The technical report was prepared by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center under the direct oversight of the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board appointed by the Montague Board of Selectmen. Tribal narratives are included in the technical report.

SoW: Task 7 Coordinate compliance and review of entire project

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. THPO's were closely involved at every level review and they attended the monthly meetings and all public presentations. The Town is currently awaiting SHPO comments on the final technical report.

SoW: Task 8 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

	Budgeted	Actual
Personnel	\$0	\$0
Consultants*	\$58,326	\$49,800
Travel	\$1000	\$529
Supplies**	\$674	\$1,000
Other	\$0	\$0
	\$60,000	\$51,329

Figure 2. Project Cost Summary.

*The Narragansett THPO was unable to deliver a tribal narrative and per the MOA with the Town of Montague did not request the budgeted consultant compensation of up to \$8,500.

** Printing of final drafts to all partners exceeded the initial budget by approximately \$325.

Budget to be finalized by 8/1/2016

IV. Project Results and Accomplishments

- A unique partnership of four Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, five local historic commissions (aka Montague, Deerfield, Greenfield, Gill, and Northfield), and prominent local historians was organized by the Town of Montague to implement the study. The group plans to continue meeting regularly after the current grant period.
- During the course of the grant, an Annual “Pockumtuck Homeleands Festival” was established at the battlefield site with support from the Battlefield Study Team. This is an important opportunity to engage the public and step toward cultural preservation. For the “2nd Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival” held on August 1, 2015 (11AM-7PM), the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center set up a table with artifact reproductions, archeological instruments for the public to look and touch, and project panels describing the history, event significance, and goals of *Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeomskut* (see Figure 3 below and Appendix Section II).



Figure 3. August 1, 2015, 2nd Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival

- Four Tribal Historic Preservation Officers provided their tribal accounts on the battle for the first time in 340 years. These narratives and pertinent perspectives were also shared with the public (and the public was allowed to question) during the third and last public informational meeting held on March 26, 2016.
- The investigation of all relevant archeological and material cultural collections attributed to the *Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut* region. This included materials belonging to museum collections, university archives, local historical societies, antiquarian collections, and artifacts recovered by local collectors. The public was (and continues to be) encouraged to share their personal collections with the MPMRC research team if they believe their artifacts to be related the battle or if they were collected in the local region. Institutions that MPMRC researchers visited included the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA; Beneski Museum, Amherst College, Amherst, MA; Carnegie Library, Turners Falls, MA; the Deerfield Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Library; the Deerfield Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Museum; the Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York; the Gill Historical Commission, Gill, MA; Harvard Peabody Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Cambridge, MA; Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, CT; Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts; Nolumbeka Project, Non-profit, Western Massachusetts; Northfield Mount Hermon School, Northfield, MA; Peabody Museum at Yale University, New Haven, CT; Springfield Science Museum, Springfield; and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. This is an invaluable body of information to compile before any more time passed, and the knowledge of various collections and individuals was lost.

- To reach out to the larger community, enthusiasts and academics a website, Kpwar.org was created to share project news, reports, meetings and informational sessions (see figure 4 below).

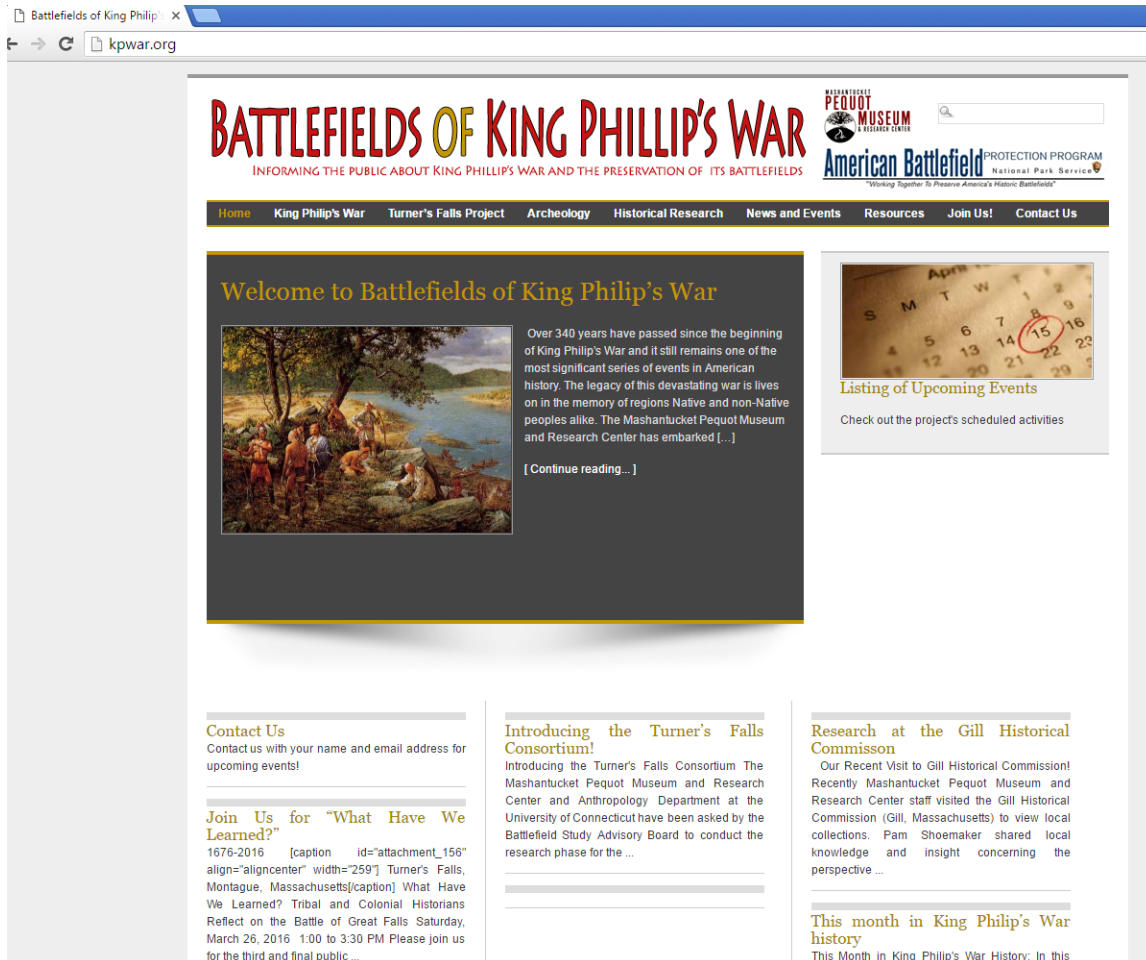


Figure 4. Website "Home" screenshot for KPWar.org

- A Turners Falls Consortium was undertaken by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center in support with the Battlefield Advisory Board, and the Anthropology Department of the University of Connecticut. The consortium was able to draw scholars from the University of Connecticut, Mount Holyoke College, University of Massachusetts, Amherst College, U.S. Army War College, Brown University, and Smith College who are willing to participate in a research collaboration to uncover and analyze Native and Colonial Histories of the region. This initiative was also given a webpage on KPWar.org to draw in students, and non-academic perspectives of the region.
- In addition to monthly project meetings (usually 20-25 people in attendance) open to the public, three public informational sessions were held at the beginning, middle, and end of the project. Each event had between 100 and 130 people in attendance.

These events evolved into a forum of tribal and colonial experts who debated the facts and accounts from the archeological research team. During these meetings and sessions, the Battlefield Advisory Board was able to obtain landowner permissions in support of second phase archeology; a testament to the community support and effective citizen engagement.



Figure 5: March 14, 2015, First Public Informational Meeting



Figure 6: September 19 2015 Second Public Informational Meeting



Figure 7: March 26, 2016, Third Public Informational Meeting

- The Town of Montague has secured 20 landowner permissions from the respective towns of Montague, Gill and Greenfield for future archeological study of the battlefield.
- The drafting of a final technical report by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, including tribal histories that provided a unique and unfiltered narrative of the war and its lasting legacy that will help incite further research.

Copies of the final report are being provided to Historic Preservation Officers, local Historic Commissions, the MA State Historic Preservation Office and prominent public stakeholder groups.

APPENDIX

II. Promotional Materials

What Really Happened at the Falls?

***Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls/
Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut***

1:00 to 2:00 **Mid-Team Update on the Mapping Study from the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum Research Team**

2:00 to 2:15 **Break**

2:15 to 4:00 **Panel Discussion** featuring colonial historians, tribal historians, and academics

The purpose of this collaborative research project is to identify the likely locations of the King Phillip's War (1675-76) Peskeompskut (Turners Falls) Battlefield and associated sites, including the Native American community Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag through the examination of documentary records and archeological collections, collection Tribal and Yankee oral histories, and the use of military terrain analysis. The project is intended to engage local officials, landowners and the interested public in effort to locate and encourage the protection of the battlefield.

Hosted by the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board: A consortium of 5 Towns and 4 Tribes
Sponsored by the Montague Planning Department and the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program

Saturday, September 19, 2015
1:00 to 4:00
Turners Falls High School
Auditorium
222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA



Public Informational Meeting



Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut

The first of the three public sessions about battlefield mapping study of the 1676 battle at present Turners Falls that was one of the most significant events in King Phillip's War.

The purpose of the project is to identify the likely locations of the King Phillip's War (1675-76) Peskeompskut (Turners Falls) Battlefield and associated sites, including the Native American community Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag through the examination of documentary records and archeological collections, collection Tribal and Yankee oral histories, and the use of military terrain analysis. The project will also engage local officials, landowners and the interested public in effort to locate and encourage the protection of the battlefield.

Sponsored by the Town of Montague and the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program

Saturday, March 14 1:00-2:30PM
Great Falls Discovery Center- Great Hall
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376



1676 – 2016

What Have We Learned?

Tribal and Colonial Historians reflect on the Battle of Great Falls



Saturday, March 26, 2016
1:00 to 3:30

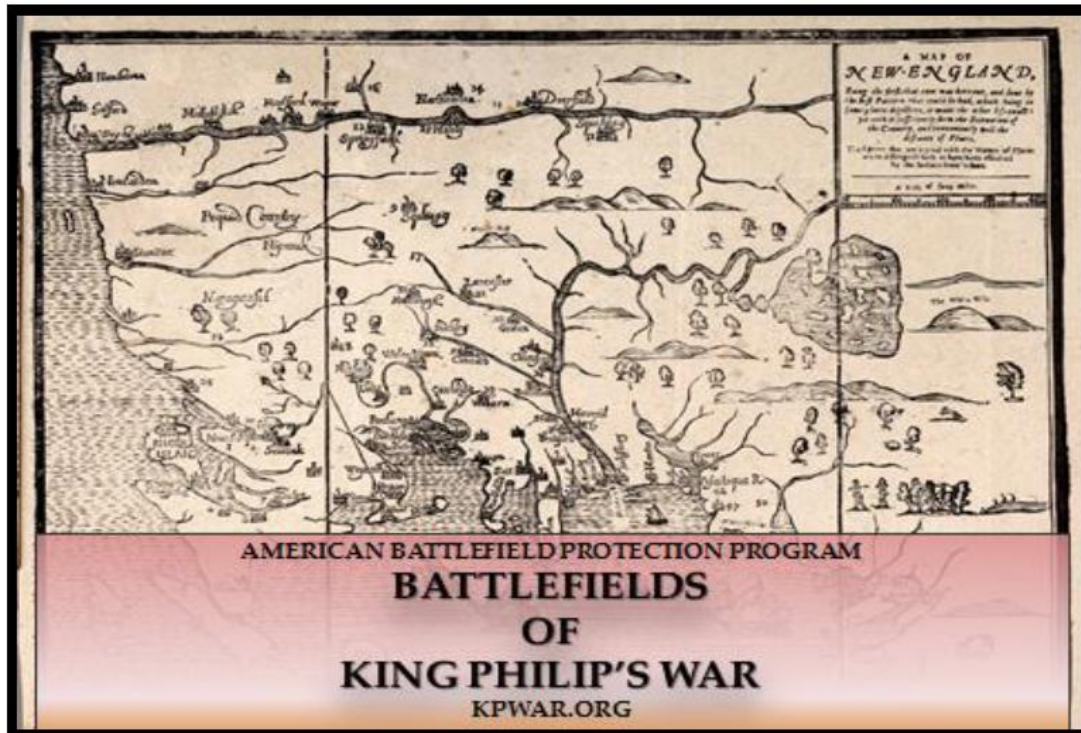
Please join us for the third and final public presentation of the Battlefield Mapping Study to discuss the Phase I findings of the King Phillip's War (1675-76) Peskeompskut (Turners Falls) Battlefield project by the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum Research Team.

12:30 King Phillip's War 101: General Orientation Pre-Session
1:00 Opening Ceremony
1:15 Presentation Tribal and Colonial Perspectives
2:15 Presentation Battle of Great Falls Study Project Final Report

Hosted by the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board: A consortium of 5 Towns and 4 Tribes
Sponsored by the Montague Planning Department and the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program
For more info call 413-663-3200 x 207 or www.bgrwv.org

Auditorium of
Turners Falls High School
222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA





What Really Happened at the Falls?

Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls /
Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut

JOIN US!

WHAT: *Battle of Great Falls Project Update
& Community Panel Discussion*

WHEN: **Saturday September 19, 2015**
1:00pm - 4:00pm

WHERE: *Turners Falls High School - Auditorium*
222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA

For more information please visit our website
www.KPWar.org

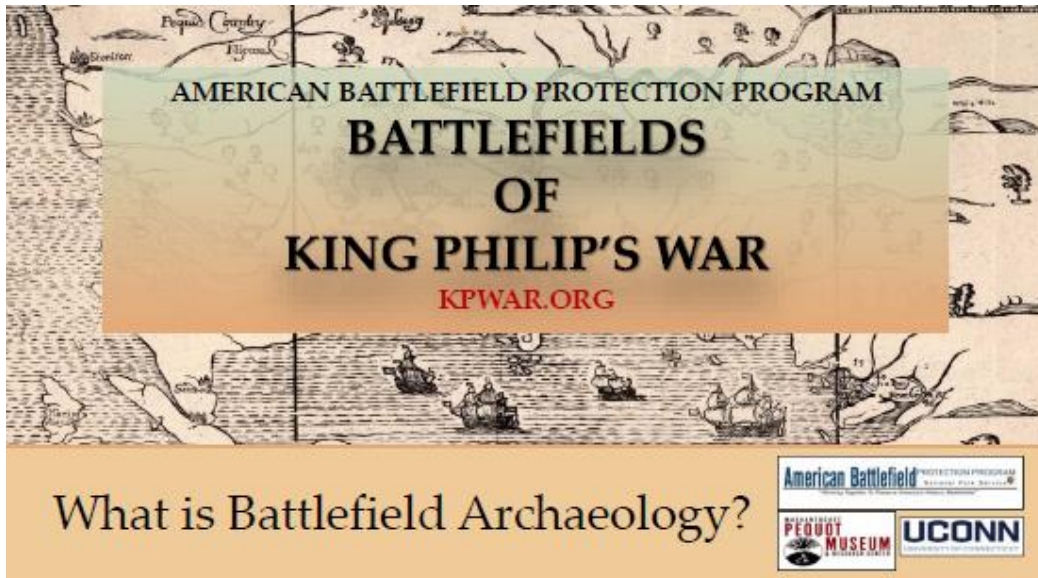
We look forward to seeing you there!

Mashantucket Pequot Museum
& Research Center
110 Pequot Trail
Mashantucket, CT 06338
www.pequotmuseum.org



Place your
stamp here





What is Battlefield Archaeology?

Battle of Great Falls Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut

The Battle of Great Falls, began on the morning of May 19, 1676 when over 150 Massachusetts Militia attacked a village of several hundred Native people killing more than two hundred in less than an hour. Soon after, hundreds of Native men mobilized and attacked the English as they retreated south to Deerfield, killing 38 including their commander, Captain William Turner.

The Falls Fight project has begun to identify the likely locations of the battlefield and associated sites, including Peskeompskut-Wissantinnewag and other villages. This involves researching documentary records, archaeological artifacts, terrain analysis, and collecting oral histories from the descendants of Natives and Colonists who fought there.

This multifaceted approach is designed to provide a better understanding of the events of May 1676.

For more information, visit www.KPWar.org!



Native forces prepare to ambush English Dragoons "Wheeler's Surprise" by Russell Buzzell



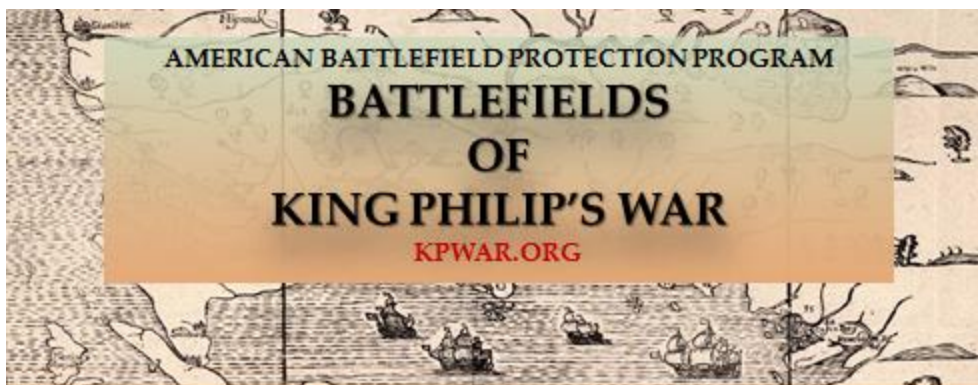
Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut was an important meeting place for Native peoples



Pewter buttons and a brass aglet found at the Second Battle of Nipsachuck



Musket Balls from King Philip's War



What is Battlefield Archaeology?



What makes a battlefield?

A battlefield is a site where armed conflict, fighting, or warfare occurred between two opposing military organizations recognized by their respective cultures.

King Philip's War Battlefields

King Philip's War (1675-1677) was a war fought throughout New England involving the region's Native American and Colonial English inhabitants. Numerous battles were fought in New England and New York. They involved thousands of people resulting in the destruction of communities on both sides.

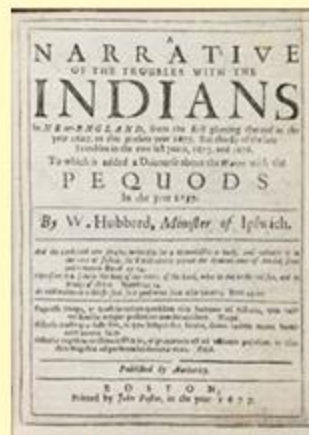
How do we find battlefields sites?

Researchers rely on a variety of sources including oral history, historical documents, and original artifacts to identify potential battlefield sites. A technique called "KOCO" is also used to consider how the natural landscape impacted the course of a battle. KOCO stands for Key Terrain, Observation & Fields of Fire, Cover & Concealment, Obstacles, and Avenues of Approach.

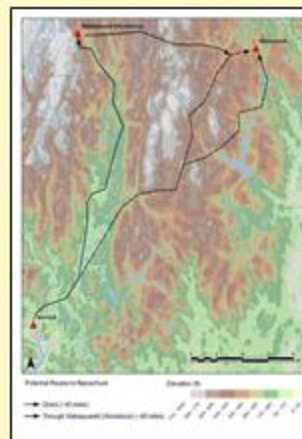
For more information, visit www.KPWar.org!



Selected King Philip's War Sites



William Hubbard's 1677
History of King Philip's War



KOCO can be used to create
modern terrain battlefield maps

This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

VI. Published Materials

Greenfield Recorder 06/04/2015, Page A01

Digging into the Peskeompskut massacre

Archaeological team takes first steps toward mapping historic Montague battle site

By AVIVA LUTTRELL Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS — The Battle of Great Falls/Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut, also known as the Peskeompskut massacre, was arguably the most decisive battle of King Philip's War. Now, a Connecticut-based archaeological team is taking the first steps to unearth and map the sites of the gruesome, but historically significant event.

The project is funded by a \$60,000 site identification and documentation grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, and aims to identify the likely locations of King Philip's War, which took place from 1675 to 1676, and to engage local officials, landowners and the public in efforts to protect the battlefields and associated sites.

The Town of Montague, with support from the Battlefield Study Advisory Board composed of representatives from Montague, Greenfield and Gill and five Native American tribes, selected the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center and its research director, Dr. Kevin McBride, to conduct the study. In the first phase of the project, researchers are gathering data and visiting institutions and repositories across New England to search for relevant artifact and document collections.

"We've been trying to track down many of the leads we've been turned on to over the last few meetings," military historian David Naumec told the advisory board Wednesday.

Naumec is one of four researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum involved in the project. He said the team's findings have been hit-or-miss. While some institutions have partially lost collections of mostly pre-contact artifacts, researchers have had success with others, such as the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Conn.

See BATTLE SITE Page A2

Battle site

From Page A1

"Things have been lost in the mix," Naumec said. However, a collection belonging to the institute contains artifacts from the vicinity of Turners Falls, including brass and wampum beads attributed to seven contact-period graves excavated on Fort Hill at Riverside between 1914 and 1915. Naumec said the team is pursuing those leads.

Project coordinator David Brule of Erving suggested the advisory board discuss how to coax out local individuals with collections of their own.

"Through the course of this research, we'll be able to fully document (artifacts), figure out where they came from and where they should go now," Naumec said.

He added that the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Historical Commission are two

stones that the team has not yet turned, and contacting those institutions is one of the next big steps in this phase of the project.

Researchers will also gather oral histories from the Narragansett, Mashpee Wampanoag, Wampanoag of Gay Head, Nipmuck and Stockbridge-Munsee-Mohican tribes.

“This is a unique opportunity to allow the tribes to give their narratives of what happened,” Brule said.

During the battle, which took place May 19, 1676, more than 150 colonial militia attacked a village and killed approximately 200 Natives in less than an hour, according to a historical context provided in the team’s proposal. After the massacre, Native men from several other area villages mobilized and attacked colonists, killing 38, including commander of the English militia Capt. William Turner, after whom the village of Turners Falls is named.

In the first phase of the project, researchers will also study existing written and oral records from both the colonial and Native perspectives, historical archaeological research, military terrain analysis and conduct windshield and walkover surveys.

But despite the technical aspects of the project, Stockbridge-Munsee-Mohican tribe representative Bonney Hartley said, “The whole purpose behind this should be to understand and heal and be cognizant that these are people’s lives we’re talking about.”

The board hopes this research will be the first step in a longer-term project. A draft of the team’s technical report is due Oct. 1 and if all goes well, the board plans to apply for further funding in January to support a second phase of the study.

According to Brule, the next stage will involve the support of the community, as researchers will need the permission of landowners to conduct archaeological excavations on their property.

“We all need to work close enough with community members,” Naumec said. “Ultimately, the landholder has the complete power.”

Joe Graveline, advisory board member and president of Franklin County native advocacy group the Nolumbeka Project, warned that many residents have had bad experiences in the past dealing with researchers.

“Folks in this area are really gunshy,” Graveline said. “... It’s not a light matter around here; it’s really serious stuff. Folks around here have gotten hurt a lot.”

Naumec said the team will have to “nip (that fear) in the bud” through education and outreach.

“It’s up to the landholder. If they let us dig up their whole yard, we’d be happy to do it. That’s how you get the ceramics, the lead flints,” he said, adding that lead and brass, typically found six to eight centimeters below the ground, will help identify village sites.

Ideally, the National Park Service would like to place all recovered artifacts in a single repository, according to Naumec.

“Ultimately, it would be curated somewhere pretty close by,” he said.

The board hopes results of the project will also benefit the village by increasing scholarly and tourist interest in the area.

Already, Brule said interest is “exploding” around the issue.

Last month, two walking tours of Native American historical sites drew about 100 participants each. And

on Aug. 1, the community will celebrate its people, history and culture with the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.

As far as next steps in this phase of the project go, Naumec said the team would like to get walkovers underway by late July to actually see the land. The board is also planning to host a public information session and panel discussion in September.

"You have years of projects around here if you want to," Naumec told the advisory board. "This is a couple of miles of combat we're dealing with," he said. "This could possibly be two or three grants."

You can reach Aviva Luttrell at: aluttrell@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 268

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LOCAL

Sunny outlook
Solarize Plainfield-Ashfield-Buckland program growing.
PAGE C3

C
SECTION

TALK OF THE TOWNS • NATION/WORLD NEWS • ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY
August 12, 2015

Phase 2 of Great Falls battlefield study looms

By AVIVA LUTTRELL
Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS
Researchers are wrapping up the first phase of a project to study the Battle of Great Falls, a decisive event in King Philip's War that took place on the Connecticut River between present-day Gill and Montague in May 1676.

They plan to present their findings to the public next month.

Although all the details have not yet been finalized, representatives from the Town of Montague and the Battlefield Study Advisory Board said the event will be held at Turners Falls High School Sept. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. It will feature a presentation by researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center and its research director, Dr. Kevin McBride, who is leading the study as well as a panel discussion with tribal representatives and non-Native experts.

During their monthly meeting Wednesday, researchers and the advisory board discussed potential next steps, including applying for a grant to fund a second phase of the project and creating a curriculum around King Philip's War that would interest youth.

During the first phase of the project, researchers gathered data and visited institutions and repositories across New England to look for artifact and document collections pertaining to the war. McBride said that work is nearly complete — his team has identified most of the primary sources and are now synthesizing them. However, he said the researchers still need to visit the Massachusetts Archives and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester and are planning a trip to look at the University of

Massachusetts Amherst's collection within the next few weeks.

A draft of the team's technical report is due Oct. 1 along with narratives from participating tribes detailing their perspectives of the battle. The final report is due April 1.

This initial phase of the project was funded by a \$60,000 site identification and documentation grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. McBride said the plan is to apply for a second grant through Park Service for Phase II, which would involve mostly field work.

"It sounds like that phase is really specific, working on the ground looking for artifacts, doing archaeology," said Project Coordinator David Brule.

McBride told the board Wednesday two factors that may

See **BATTLEFIELD** Page C3



The Turners Falls Dam currently sits in the area where the Battle of Great Falls was fought in 1676, during King Philip's War.

Recorder/Paul Franz

Sunderland nursing home hopes to reopen this week

Montague battlefield researcher OK'd

By CHRIS CURTIS
Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS — A Connecticut team from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center will have the lion's share of the research into the submerged 17th-century battlefield between Gill and Turners Falls.

An advisory group appointed by the Montague Board of Selectmen selected the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center and its research director, Dr. Kevin McBride, to undertake the National Park Service grant-funded study. The Board of Selectmen accepted the recommendation this week, signing a \$31,500 contract.

Battlefield Grant Advisory Board head

David Brule of Erving said the study will culminate in a document to be filed with the National Park Service, with the town and the town library. Brule said the board will return with contracts currently circulating to pay 3 to 4 of the involved tribes to produce their own histories of the event. Brule said the opportunity for the tribes to write their own points of view for future debate was the original aspect of the grant application and what caused the Park Service to go for the proposal.



MCBRIDE

The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program awarded the town \$80,000 after proponents lobbied the Board of Selectmen to apply.

McBride has said the battle that began under present-day Barton cove and ranged through what would become the surrounding towns was arguably the most important of King Philip's War. A major early conflict between English colonists and tribes native to New England, King Philip's War is remembered for the Bloody Brook Massacre or Battle of Bloody Brook in Deerfield and Turners Falls Massacre or Battle of Turners Falls or Falls Fight, which began in present day Gill.



in the reactor core — the source of the 620 megawatts of power the plant produced annually — have been transferred to the nearby spent fuel pool, which is on the top floor of the five-story reactor building.

The spent fuel pool now contains a total of 2,995 fuel assemblies, plus one fuel debris container, said Entergy Nuclear spokesman Martin Cohn.

The NRC received a certified, sworn notice from Entergy Nuclear Site Vice President Christopher Wamsler Monday morning that the transfer had been completed, and as a result, the Vermont nuclear reactor was no longer generating power, said

rent employment are expected to jobs next week.

Entergy Nuclear tied the NRC and U

Vermont that to put the old reactor

is called "S" essentially in the Vermont up to 50 years the 16-year

missile cess t

The puny wait

decor ing trust fund gross billion, which is latest estimate of

would cost to dism clean up the reac site. About half th

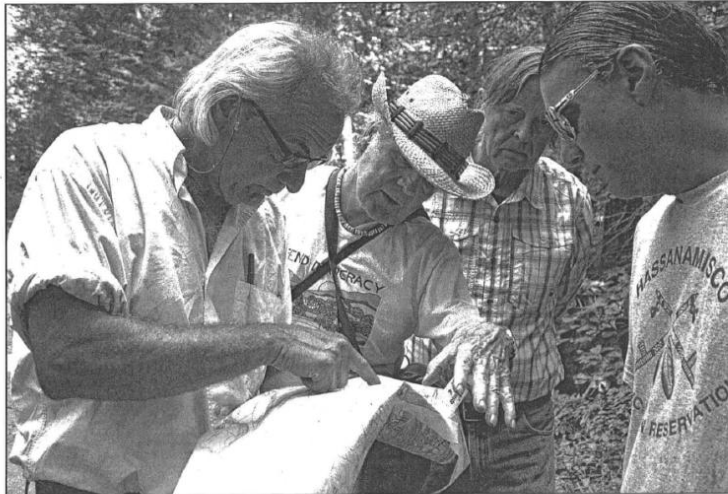
is already in the d soring trust fund.

—Housess: Gates





"You can't take history as a simple good versus evil thing ... The picture is way more complex than that," David Brule of Erving



From left, Kevin McBride, Howard Clark, David Brule and David Tall Pine White, who is of the Nipmuc tribe, examine a map of the area during a walk of key battle sites.

A fair understanding

Mapping effort seeks insights into Battle of Great Falls

Story by
Aviva Luttrell

For thousands of years predating the arrival of 17th century, colonial English settlers, a great Connecticut River waterfall spilling today's village of Turners Falls and the town of Gill was a rich springtime fishing ground—a place of high spirit that attracted generations of indigenous people from across the Northeast.

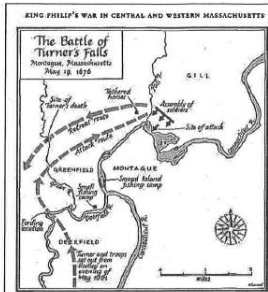
Standing on the bike path south of the Turners Falls dam on a recent morning, local historians David Brule of Erving and Howard Clark of Greenfield described how before the Connecticut River was dammed and diverted to create power and a canal, there was a violent, roaring waterfall where Native Americans harvested shad and salmon, traded news and goods, performed ceremonies and met future spouses.

"The landscape looked a lot different, that's for sure," Brule said. "The site carries a lot of spiritual energy because of the lay of the land."

The mist cascading off of the falls would create great rainbows in bright sunlight, Clark added, giving the area on the steep hill overlooking the falls its name of Wissetnewag, which means "shining hill" in the Eastern Algonquin language.

"This evolved into a truce zone," Brule said. "It was open to all tribes, as long as they came in peace."

We know this, Brule said, because of the oral history that has been passed down through Native tribes as well from English documentation.



This is an image from "King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict," by Eric B. Schultz, Michael J. Tougas.

But in 1675, King Philip's War began in southeastern Massachusetts and a series of skirmishes followed, taking place across the state. The warring parties were Indian tribes against the English settlers and their Indian allies.

Brule and Clark, who are both involved in the Nohumbeka Project—a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Native American history—hope to change the way we learn about the past.

Growing up, Brule said he was taught about the "valiant settlers" who conquered the land, but that the reality is far more complicated.

"You can't take history as a simple good versus evil thing," he said. "The picture is way more complex than that."

"It's really not as simple as most of the history you read," Clark added.

Clark, Nohumbeka Project's senior researcher and anthropologist, has collected, analyzed and organized more than 50,000 pages of documents, books and maps in an effort to promote a fair understanding of the area's history.

Today, Clark and Brule are two key players in the town's effort to study that history—specifically, the Battle of Great Falls/ Wissetnewag-Peskeomakut.

Made possible through a \$60,000 site identification and documentation grant from the National Park Service, the project aims to map the decisive battle, also known as the Falls Fight or Peskeomakut



This aerial view shows the village of Turners Falls, in the foreground, and the Riverside section of Gill, in the background, to the north. The general area around the Great Falls, which is now tamed by the dam near the Gill-Montague Bridge, is where colonial militia and Native Americans fought in 1676.

Massacre, unearth artifacts and eventually create a cultural resource center in Turners Falls.

As the war progressed in 1675 and 1676, the historians say Peskeomakut—the Great Falls area—became a sort of refuge camp for mainly Wampanoag and Narragansett Indians who had fled from southern New England. They had gone west to the Hudson Valley to seek winter shelter and support from Hudson River Indians and the Connecticut Valley refugee tribesmen living with them, but the diplomatic attempt backfired when the Iroquoian Mohawks got wind of the plot and attacked them, sending the hungry, displaced warring people scurrying back eastward to what is now the upper Pioneer Valley.

"They were starving, they didn't have any way to make it without coming here to get the fish and plant the corn," Brule said.

But on May 19, 1676, Captain William Turner, a tailor by trade, led a group of about 150 English militiamen from Hadley on an attack against the camp.

"There had been some fairly recent cattle raids in and around Hatfield and Hadley—the settlers were just exasperated with what seemed to be the Indians' easy pickings," Brule said. "I think that probably set the spark off."

Brule said the attack may also have been, in part, retribution for the Battle of Bloody Brook, during which Native Americans ambushed

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■ Battle: Public presentation on Sept. 19

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colonists from Hatfield and Hadley as they were returning with corn from then then abandoned Deerfield in September 1675.

"As they got near Mount Sugarloaf, there was a brook called Muddy Brook," Brule said. "Because there was so much blood spilled (in an overwhelming Indian victory) it became known as Bloody Brook instead of Muddy Brook."

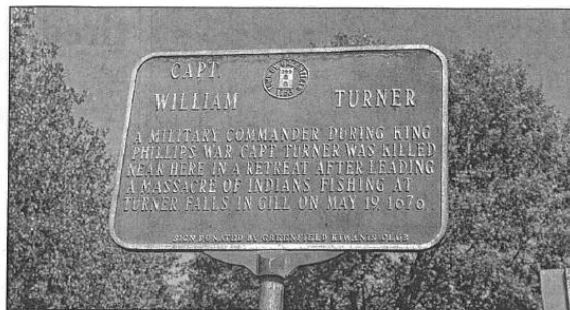
According to Clark, three English captives had come into Hadley to tell Turner about the camp at the Great Falls, which would be easy to strike because there were no guards posted and all the Indians' dogs had been killed for food. He said it was unclear who the captives were, where they came from and whether they escaped or were released, but historical documents indicate they tipped off Hadley/Hatfield settlers and Turner.

Turner gathered a local militia and the English colonists set off, traveling through the contemporary towns of Whately, Deerfield and Greenfield, where, around what is today known as Factory Hollow, they set up a staging area, hitched their horses, climbed a "very steep hill" (toward Main Road in Gill), according to accounts, and waited for daybreak.

"The militia came swooping down and began firing into tents," Brule said, adding once they realized how little resistance there was from the Indians, who were mostly women, children and elders, they began hacking with long swords.

Clark took it a step further, speculating "They were purposely going after the women and children to stop the continuation of the tribe" and break the morale of their people.

Brule didn't disagree, adding that it was a common English strategy for demoralizing the enemy with unspeakable mayhem, a tactic carried across the ocean by 17th century soldiers who had fought campaigns against "pagan" Scots/Irish tribes."



Recorder photo/Paul Franz
These two markers — located adjacent to each other near the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area and clearly visible along Nash's Mill Road in Greenfield — identify the area as where Capt. William Turner likely lost his life during the colonists' retreat from The Battle of Great Falls.

The Natives fought back as best as they could, and in a panic, Turner's troops finally broke off and retreated in several different groups and directions.

Now, researchers are trying to pinpoint those approach and retreat routes as well as map the actual Great Falls battleground.

During a recent walkover of the land, Kevin McBride, director of research at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut and leader of the Battlefield Grant study, surveyed potential sites related to the battle along with 10 or 15 local residents, historians and interested members of the public. The sites were identified based on narratives and



documents the Connecticut team collected as well as oral history from local residents.

"No one person has the whole story," said Northfield resident and Nolumbeka President Joe Graveline during the walkover. He added that patterns start to emerge once you put together everyone's accounts.

"It's an obscure war," Brule said.

Once the sites are agreed upon, the team will begin to contact landowners with the hopes of getting permission to search for artifacts on their property including brass, lead and copper associated with the early colonial period.

Stops on the walkover included the Riverside Archaeological District in Gill, where the Native Americans were attacked; an

Indian burial ground in Gill; Factory Hollow, an area near the Greenfield-Gill border, north of the falls, from which researchers believe the troops likely approached and retreated, and the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area, near where it's widely believed Turner was killed.

"Basically we're looking at the integrity of the land ... if it's impacted or not," said David Nance, senior military historian and archaeologist with the Connecticut team.

For example, Clark said he believes the Riverside neighborhood has probably changed very little. He said while earth may have been moved around when the houses were constructed, the land is likely fairly intact, making it a good spot to look for artifacts.

"We know that Riverside is hugely critical," Brule said.

Because the archaeological phase of the study will involve using metal detectors and digging for artifacts on private property, McBride said it's crucial to get the entire community involved as much as possible.

"There's a level of comfort people are going to need," he said.

'What Really Happened at the Falls' Sept. 19

For those interested in learning more about the area's history and the battlefield mapping project, the research team will hold a public presentation called "What Really Happened at the Falls? Mapping in 1676 Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut," on Sept. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School auditorium.

The event will feature a midterm update on the mapping study from the Connecticut research team, followed by a panel discussion featuring colonial historians, tribal historians and academics.

Staff reporter Arika Luttrell started working at The Recorder in 2015. She covers Gill, Montague, Erving, New Salem and Wendell as well as criminal justice in Franklin County. She can be reached at aluttrell@recorder.com or 413-772-0251 ext. 208.