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 Peskeomskut-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/Wissantinnrewag-Peskeompskut
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Jan 2015</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
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<th>Dec</th>
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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Meeting with Battlefield Advisory Board, January 6, 2015</td>
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<td>Task 1: Submit archaeological research design, February 1, 2015</td>
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<td>Task 2: Conduct Military and Colonial History Research, March 16 – late June, 2015</td>
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<td>Task 6: Prepare GIS map of project area using NPS battlefield survey data dictionary, November 2015 – February 2016</td>
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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 theNarragansett 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.

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**Project Cost Summary**

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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Supplies**</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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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).
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).

![Battlefields of King Philip's War](kpwar.org)

**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
• 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-Peskeomskut

Mid-New England Muster Study of the Massachusetts-Provincetown Historic Research Team

10:00 to 12:00
Medford Public Library

12:00 to 2:00
Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Montague, MA

Public Informational Meeting
Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeomskut

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 Philip’s War.

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

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

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

Auditorium of
Turners Falls High School
225 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA
What Really Happened at the Falls?
Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls / Wissatinnewag-Peskempskut

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
What is Battlefield Archaeology?

**Battle of Great Falls**  
**Wissantinnewag-Teskeompskut**

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-Wissatinnaweg 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.

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.
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 “KOCOA” is also used to consider how the natural landscape impacted the course of a battle. KOCOA stands for Key Terrain, Observation & Fields of Fire, Cover & Concealment, Obstacles, and Avenues of Approach.

For more information, visit [www.KPWAr.org](http://www.KPWAr.org)!
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
Sunderland nursing home hopes to reopen this week

By CHRIS CURRIE
Recorder Staff

SUNDERLAND — A Cumberland County team from the Massachusetts Project Museum & Research Center will look for clues to the island's history this week.

The team, which has been working on the site since last fall, will be conducting archaeological surveys on the site.

David Brooks of Evag said the study will help protect the site and its surrounding areas by providing new information about the area's history.

The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program has approved the team's 868-acre proposal for a new park to be built at the site.

The project is expected to be completed by late spring 2023.

Drunk driver jailed after injuring pregnant woman

By JEN ROMAN
Recorder Staff

A man who drove his vehicle into a tree in Montague has been charged with drunk driving and other offenses.

The accident occurred on Route 68 at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

The driver, a 23-year-old man from Montague, was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment of head injuries.

He was later charged with drunk driving, reckless operating and failure to stop at a stop sign.

He was arraigned in Montague District Court on Thursday and is due back in court on Feb. 28.

Field Marshal Sir John Coverdale, who commanded the British forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill, is among those who will be remembered for their contributions to the American Revolution.

The battle, fought on June 17, 1775, was one of the most important of the war.

The British were successful in driving back the American forces, but Coverdale was killed in the conflict.

The National Park Service is planning to build a memorial to Coverdale at the site of the battle, which is located on the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

The monument commemorates the sacrifice of those who fought and died during the American Revolution.

The dedication ceremony is expected to take place in 2023.
A fair understanding
Mapping effort seeks insights into Battle of Great Falls

Story by
Arti Luttrell

This aerial view shows the village of Farmers Falls, in the foreground, and the
Davison River valley, in the background in this map. The village area around the
Great Falls which is to be named for the Battle of Great Falls, is where
veterans will build a park to honor American troops who fought in the
1779 Battle of Great Falls. The village is on the National Register of Historic
Places.

"You can't take history as a simple good versus evil thing... The picture is way more complex than that," David Breit of Gring."
Battle: Public presentation on Sept. 19

According to Clark, a few English settlers had come into Hadley to tell Turner about the enemy at the Greenfield-Williamstown Road. The soldiers deployed three times in Hadley, hitting the enemy, turning them around, and searching for supplies.

The Native American fought back as best as they could, and its people, Turner's troops finally broke off and retreated to several different groups and directions.

Now, researchers are trying to piece together the story of the battle and recreate the Native American camp during the Pequot War of 1637.

During a recent workshop at the Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut and leader of the Pequot Project, Melissa Morales, she said that the Pocahontas Project has worked with hundreds of Native American communities across the United States to document their history and culture.

The event will feature a parade, reenactment of the battle, and a musical performance by a Native American drum group.

The public is encouraged to attend and learn about the history of the Pequot War and the impact it had on the people involved.