

American Battlefield Protection Program 2018 Grant Awards

The NPS's American Battlefield Protection Program is pleased to award 20 grants totaling \$1.043 million to assist in the preservation and protection of America's significant battlefield lands. The funds will support a variety of projects at battlefield sites in 13 states.

This year's grants provide funding for projects at endangered battlefields from the Second Seminole War, Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, Pequot War, World War II, and the Civil War. Funded projects include archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education, and interpretation.

The American Battlefield Protection Program funds projects conducted by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. The ABPP's mission is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands for present and future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. Since 1990, the ABPP and its partners have helped to protect and enhance more than 100 battlefields by co-sponsoring 600 projects in 42 states and territories.

Brief descriptions of each grant project follow, listed by grant recipient.

(**Note:** states indicate location of grant project.)

Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians

California

\$39,000.00

This project will research and document the 1846 Temecula Massacre to develop a historical foundation for long-range battlefield preservation planning. The Temecula Massacre was the direct result of the Battle of San Pasqual, the bloodiest conflict in California during the Mexican-American War. The ambush encounter along a narrow canyon and creek bed resulted in the killing of reportedly 100 Luiseño/Temecula Indians.

Stonington Historical Society

Connecticut

\$52,000.00

This project will document the Battle of Stonington through archeological and historical survey. The Battle of Stonington, the last time the British fired a shot in New England, served as a psychological boost to U.S. troops as the British were unable to meet their objective of capturing the town of Stonington. Documenting the battlefield will support improved public outreach and future preservation planning.

Gulf Archaeology Research Institute

Florida

\$74,000.00

This project will identify, recover, and record historic, ethnohistoric, and archeological data related to Chucochatti Town, the largest and oldest known Seminole town which played a vital role in the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). This study will be used to draft a nomination for the National Register for Historic Places that will be imperative in preserving the battlefield and the future study of this relatively unknown site. The town acted as a vital source of personnel, supplies, and logistics for Seminole combatant forces and as a result, General Winfield Scott dedicated a specific part of his campaign to the destruction of the town.

American Veterans

Hawaii

\$63,000

This project will research and catalog historic maps, photographs, and other sources to better document the location of the Ewa Plain Battlefield. In addition to being a part of the surprise attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy in December of 1941, the Ewa Plain airfield acted as a major staging area for the Battle of Coral Sea and the pivotal Battle of Midway. More conclusive research on Ewa Plain will help to inform future preservation efforts and outreach to state, local and national partners.

Town of Montague

Massachusetts

\$81,000.00

This highly collaborative project between the Town of Montague, five adjacent municipalities, and four Tribal Historic Preservation Offices will complete a survey of the battlefield and the completion of a National Register of Historic Places nomination. The Battle of Great Falls/Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut, one of the first engagements during King Philip's War in which a broad coalition of Native leaders coordinated an attack, presents an opportunity to preserve and to learn more about the nature and evolution of Native and English strategy and tactics.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

Maryland

\$20,000.00

This project will fund a part-time staff person over two years to build consensus around the preservation and commemoration of the Battle of Bladensburg Battlefield. The Battle of Bladensburg was the first and last major resistance the British encountered before entering Washington, D.C. American forces under Commodore Joshua Barney, kept the British at bay held back the British at the third line for a period of time, ensuring that the priceless papers of the young country were taken out and citizens were evacuated.

Preservation Maryland

Maryland

\$51,000.000

This project will inventory the historic resources and cultural landscape of Fort Tonoloway, conduct military terrain analysis (KOCOA), and develop an archeological research plan. Fort Tonoloway was quickly constructed in the summer of 1755 by the retreating expeditionary force under the defeated British General Edward Braddock after he attempted to capture the French held Fort Duquesne (modern day Pittsburgh) during the French and Indian War. Documenting the location and configuration of the fort and subsequently recovering and preserving artifacts from the site will be steps toward creating a preservation plan for the battlefield.

Friends of the VNMP and Campaign

Mississippi

\$75,000.00

This project will develop a planning and feasibility study for interpretation of Port Gibson, Raymond and Champion Hill Battlefields. The three battlefields tell the complete story of General Ulysses S. Grant's approach to Vicksburg including the complete retreat of the Confederate Army to Vicksburg. Previous

research has documented the significance of these sites, and this grant will support collaborative planning to educate landowners and the larger public.

University of Mississippi

Mississippi

\$60,000.00

This project will use geophysical instruments and soil coring to help identify two Indian forts and two mounds belonging to the Natchez that served as firing positions during the 1730 French siege of Grand Village, the Natchez Indian's principal town. The battle marked a major turning point in relations between the Natchez and the French in the Lower Mississippi, and resulted in the dislocation of the Natchez off their ancestral homelands and eventually their diaspora across the South. This project will support future development decisions for a battlefield that is highly threatened by road and commercial development.

Regents of the University of New Mexico

New Mexico

\$56,000.00

This project will complete boundary determinations for the Vásques de Coronado Battlefield using the results of geophysical survey and metal detection. The Piedras Marcadas Pueblo site contains the largest and most intact battle-related artifact assemblage found at a contact period site in the U.S. This project will afford local and federal land managers the opportunity to learn more about this rare accumulation of late medieval European warfare technology, Mexican Native weaponry, and Puebloan defensive artifacts.

Hudson Crossing Park, Inc.

New York

\$45,000.00

This project will conduct a battlefield inventory to identify the sites and key military terrain features of arts of the Saratoga Siege battlefield not previously studied, including Stark's Knob and Burgoyne's Bridge of Bateaux. After the Battle of Saratoga, British forces under General John Burgoyne attempted to make a northerly escape by passing between Stark's Knob and the Hudson River. American forces under General John Stark preempted Burgoyne and occupied Stark's Knob thereby preventing the retreat of the British. The surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga was a major turning point in the war as it ensured French intervention into the American Revolution. The project will inform expanding heritage tourism in the area and support protecting important sites under both public and private ownership.

Fort Plain Museum

New York

\$50,000.000

This project will collect and interpret data from the Battle of Stone Arabia in order to locate the areas of conflict and better define the boundaries of the battlefield. The 1780 raids on the Mohawk frontier were part of a British strategy to depopulate the Mohawk Valley, deprive the Continental Army of their grain supply and retain the lands for the resettlement of Loyalists. The body of information accumulated through this study will be used to develop a comprehensive plan leading to site protection and management.

The Research Foundation for the State University of New York

New York

\$68,000.00

This project will conduct a historical and military terrain analysis of the Fort Bull Battlefield to identify key terrain features, using geophysical and archeological methods. The Battle of Fort Bull was the first major raid against the British in the strategically important Oneida Carry during the French and Indian War. A joint French and French-allied Native American force successfully attacked the portage forts in the Carry thereby negating the British's ability to attack the French held Fort Niagara. The battlefield study will assist in the development of a strategic plan for preserving and interpreting the battlefield.

Town of Plattsburgh

New York

\$20,000.00

This project will develop an interpretive plan for physical installments, infographics, interactive displays, and smartphone applications or web based links for the role of Crab Island in the Battle of Plattsburgh. Serving as the southern flank of Commodore Thomas Macdonough's battle line across the entrance of Plattsburgh Bay, convalescents from the field hospital at Crab Island manned two six-pound cannons positioned at the northern tip of the island. An interpretive plan will provide the framework for preservation of the site through increased awareness and education.

The LAMAR Institute

New York

\$60,000.00

This project will conduct a historical and archeological study of the Revolutionary War sites of Setauket, Fort Franklin, and Fort Slongo on Long Island and raise public awareness of the island's Revolutionary War heritage. Setauket, Fort Franklin, and Fort Slongo all played major roles as Loyalist force strongholds and were settings for the slow elimination of Loyalist control of Long Island by the Continentals between 1777 and 1781.

Ball State University

Ohio

\$75,000.00

This project will delineate the boundary for the Battle of Peckuwe, the largest Revolutionary War conflict west of the Alleghenies. The Battle of Peckuwe, a major turning point in the history of the Northwest Territory, resulted in the Shawnees' forced removal after the attack of General George Rogers Clark and the Kentucky Militia. Historical research and battlefield archeological survey will support the Clark County Park District's long term planning and raise awareness about this important event in Revolutionary War history.

City of Cayce

South Carolina

\$23,000.00

This project will document and map the Battle of Congaree Creek Battlefield earthworks for the purpose of creating an Earthworks Preservation Plan. The last gasp of Confederate defense in South Carolina, Confederate General George Dibrell's dismounted cavalry brigade manned a system of earthworks using the natural barrier of the Congaree Creek to attempt to impede Union General William T. Sherman's approach to Columbia along the State Road. The grant will help insure the preservation of the most prominent landscape feature of the Congaree Creek Battlefield.

South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, Inc.

South Carolina

\$72,000.00

This project will record maps, property information, and characteristics of nine battles in the Charleston area in collaboration with stakeholders. These nine battles include Fort Sumter, regarded as the beginning of the Civil War, and the Battle of Secessionville, the Union's only attempt to capture Charleston by land. The project will serve as the foundation for preservation efforts including nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

Gloucester County

Virginia

\$39,000.00

This project will conduct a battlefield survey to discover the extent of the Hook battlefield, develop an archeological research design, and inform public outreach and preservation planning. The largest cavalry battle of the Revolutionary War, Lauzun's French Legion along with members of the Virginia militia refused access to the British of the strategically important Gloucester Point. Without much needed food and supplies, the Battle of the Hook played a role in Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown sixteen days later. The study will inform the drafting of a National Register of Historic Places nomination and a brochure to educate landowners, county planners, and elected officials about the battlefield's resources.

Shenandoah Forum

Virginia

\$20,000.00

This project will facilitate the successful launch of a new conservation alliance in the Shenandoah Valley to ensure that there is a strong and lasting voice for the preservation of rural landscapes and thriving communities. Collectively, the major battlefields of the Valley represent Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Campaign including Cross Keys and Port Republic, the Battle of New Market which was part of the 1864 Lynchburg Campaign, and Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign which successfully neutralized Major General Jubal Early and depleted much needed supplies for General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Planned residential and commercial development and road projects jeopardize Civil War battlefield lands as well as the region's historic character and rural landscapes more generally.