Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization

BRAVO
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History: BRAVO was founded in 1999 as an organization of people from varied backgrounds with interests in history and archaeology. It a nonprofit organization of more than 80 members and has a Federal 501(c)(3) exempt status (EIN 22-3651377). It has become a leader in developing and using new methodologies for battlefield archaeology.

Experience: Members of BRAVO have been involved in conducting archaeological studies for many years specializing in the Revolutionary War and more recently prehistoric New Jersey Native American sites.

BRAVO is currently working on Phase I and II archaeological studies at Monmouth Battlefield State Park which includes excavations of battle sites, prehistoric Native American sites, and a Civil War training camp (Camp Vredenburg). This is being done with an approved archaeological survey permit under the direction of Dr. Garry W. Stone (Senior Historic Preservationist, State of New Jersey).

Extensive work done in developing the area of electronic archaeology using metal detectors, a total station laser transit, GPS, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and layered site mapping using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Numerous papers have been published or presented at professional archaeological conferences by Dan Sivilich in the area of Revolutionary War archaeology.

Sites Excavated:

1990 - Present	Monmouth Battlefield State Park - Numerous excavations conducted identifying major lines of battle, the American artillery line which included the position of "Molly Pitcher", and the location of British lines of fire. Identified the only known excavated lead canister shot. Computer analysis of data has located the site of the Parsonage, several 18th-century orchards, and the location of the John Sutfin homestead.
1999 - Present	Princeton Battlefield State Park - Several excavations conducted identifying lines of battle and artillery positions.
2006 - Present	Washington Chapel, Valley Forge, PA. Working with David Orr, Ph.D., and Carin Bloom, Ph.D. candidate, of Temple University. Located potential hut site.

2009 - Present	East Pikeland, PA - Phase I metal detecting survey of Continental Arms Factory at Pickering Creek for John Milner Associates, Inc. East Pikeland Historical Commission.
2011 - Present	1897 Lattimer Massacre, Lattimer, PA - Working with Mike Roller of University of MD on his doctorate project.
2012 - Present	Battle of Cooch's Bridge, Newark, DE, Phase I metal detecting project for John Milner Associates in and around Judge Cooch's property. Significant battle segments found.
2015	Manalapan, NJ - Worked with Police Detectives to assist in locating items related to a crime.
2015	Red Bank Battlefield, National Park, NJ. Phase I metal detecting project for John Milner Associates for the Gloucester County Park System ABPP grant. Significant battle-related artifacts were found.
2015	Petersburg National Battlefield, Petersburg, VA. Phase I metal detecting project. Joint project with Adrian Mandzy, PhD of Morehead State University and Michelle Sivilich, PhD Assistant Director of Gulf Archaeological Research Institute, excavating at the site of the crater. Approximately 750 artifacts recovered.
2013	Gentile Farm, owned by Manalapan Township, NJ. Phase I metal detecting project in which a new skirmish area was discovered and may be associated with Tennent Church.
2012 - 2013	War of 1812 - Caulk's Field, Chestertown, MD. Phase I metal detecting project for the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland State Highway Administration and the University of as part of an American Battlefield Protection Program grant. Significant battle segments found.
2012	Governor Wolf Historical Society, Bath, PA. Phase I metal detecting survey of 18th century house and academy site owned by GWHS.
2011	Jacob's Crossing, Ewing, NJ - segment of the December 25, 1776 attack on Trenton - Phase I metal detecting survey of Smith farm for David Bertrand Associates, (ABPP grant).
2011	Quaker Bridge Project, Princeton, NJ - Phase I metal detecting survey for Richard Grubb & Associates (NJDOT project).
2011	Picatawaytown Commons Edison, New Jersey: Archaeological investigation of the 10.3 acres of the colonial era. The project site has a possibility of containing artifacts associated with the American Revolution, specifically to the Battle of Short Hills. (Metuchen-Edison Historical Society)
2010-11	Battle of Short Hills, Edison, NJ - Phase I metal detecting survey of Smith farm for John Milner Associates, Inc. Edison Historical Society (ABPP grant).
2010	Fort Montgomery State Park, Ft Montgomery, NY - Working with Dana Linck (Phase I metal detecting).
2010	Paoli Battlefield, Malvern, PA - Working with Dr. David Orr of Temple University (Phase I metal detecting).
2010	Freehold, NJ - Phase I metal detecting survey of Wemrock LLC, for Freehold Township.
2010	Middletown, DE - Phase I metal detecting survey of farm for Richard Grubb & Associates (DELDOT project).
2009	Battle of Connecticut Farms, Union, NJ - Phase I metal detecting survey for Richard Grubb & Associates (NJDOT project).
2008	Battle of Cooch's Bridge, Newark, DE, Phase I metal detecting project for W.L. Gore, Inc. to determine if any battlefield segments are on the newly acquired property. There are plans to develop the site. Significant battle segments found.

2008	Peekskill, NY - Working with Dana Linck in locating the site of American barracks that were burned by the British in 1777. There are plans to develop the site.
2008	Cornwall, NY - worked with Paul Ackermann of West Point and Dana Linck to survey a possible Revolutionary War artillery road between West Point and New Windsor in the Black Rock Forest.
2008	Brandywine Battlefield, Birmingham Township, PA. Survey for the Brandywine Conseverancy.
2008	Battle of Blue Licks, Mt. Olivet, KY - Working with Dr. Adrian Mandzy of Moorhead State University and the Kentucky State Parks. Successfully located evidence of 1782 Revolutionary War battle.
2007	American Revolution Center, Lower Providence Twp. (Valley Forge), PA. Working with Wade Catts and John Milner Associates.
2007	Battle of Two Bridges, Branchburg, NJ working with Richard Veit, Ph.D. on an ABPP grant. Two musket balls excavated.
2007	Raritan Landing, Highland Park, NJ. Located evidence British encampment on Seward Johnson estate. This project was conducted for Cultural Resource Consulting Group (CRCG).
2006	Fort Montgomery State Park, Fort Montgomery, NY. Located artifacts at the West Redoubt and the Round Hill Redoubt. Worked with Paul Huey, Richard Goring, Joseph McVoy and Peter Cutul of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.
2006	US Military Academy, West Point, NY. Successfully located the tent locations at Redoubt #4. Worked with Douglas Cubbison, Travis Beckwith and Dana Linck.
2005	US Military Academy, West Point, NY. Successfully located the hut locations at Redoubt #3. Worked with Douglas Cubbison and Dana Linck.
2005	Aberdeen Burial Ground, Aberdeen, NJ. Attempted to locate evidence of early African American burials. This project was conducted for Cultural Resource Consulting Group (CRCG).
2005	Attempted to locate evidence of British troop encampment on the Barczewski Farm in Glasgow, DE. The encampment is reported to have been just prior to the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, September, 1777. This project was conducted for Kise, Straw & Kolodner, Inc.
2004	Tennent Church Cemetery, Tennent, NJ. Conducted metal detecting survey. Located site of 19th-century school house.
2004	Bass River State Park, New Gretna, NJ. Conducted surface collection and metal detecting survey of 1930's CCC camp site.
2004-2006	Voorhees State Forest, Glen Gardner, NJ Conducted surface collection and metal detecting survey of 1930's CCC camp site.
2004	American Revolutionary War artillery school and encampment, Pluckemin, NJ. Worked with Dawn Digrius of Drew University and conducted a Phase I metal detecting survey.
2003	Main Street Realty property across from Oak Tree Pond site in Edison, NJ surveyed. Two plain buttons recovered. No military ordnance was found.
2003	Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ. Conducted a survey of properties adjacent to Princeton Battlefield State Park for Hunter Research, Inc.
2003	Saint Mary's Abbey, Morristown, NJ. The site is adjoining to Jockey Hollow National Park. Worked on testing if land proposed for construction by the Abbey has any

Revolutionary War components that would be destroyed. No military artifacts were found. This project was conducted for Cultural Resource Consulting Group (CRCG).

2003 Two sections of the Oak Tree Pond site in Edison, NJ surveyed. One section for Cultural Resource Consulting Group (CRCG) under an ABPP grant and one section for Edison Township and the Save The Oak Tree Pond (STOP). Reported to be the site of a skirmish as part of the Battle of Short Hills (June 26, 1777). Numerous domestic artifacts from 18th - 20th centuries were excavated including a broken flintlock hammer. No military ordnance was found.

2003 David Michael Motors building site, Route9 South, Freehold, NJ. This project was conducted for Richard Grubb & Associates to determine if construction at the site would disturb areas associated with the Battle of Monmouth. No military artifacts were found.

2002 - 2003 Conducted excavations for High Bridge Township, NJ at the Solitude House. The mansion was acquired by the Township and was being turned into a museum. Numerous artifacts found from 17th - 20th centuries.

2002 Consulted on excavation of 1649 battlefield sites in Zboriv, Ukraine for Moorehead State University. This was the first electronic survey of an archaeological site in the Ukraine. Two significant battle areas were identified and both having segments of activity from 1649 and World War I.

2002 Sandy Hollow section of the Battle of Brandywine, Chester County Park and Recreation Department, Birmingham Township, PA. Phase I metal detecting survey of a proposed parking lot and pathway around the perimeter of the property. The site is reported to have been part of the September 11, 1777 battle. Seven musket balls, two pieces of iron grape/case shot, and several other 18th century artifacts were located. This project was conducted for A.D. Marble & Company.

2002 Washington Valley Park, Somerset County Park Commission, Martinsville, NJ. Worked on locating the site of Wayne's Brigade encampment site of the summer of 1777. Four musket balls, a ramrod pipe finial, and several other 18th century artifacts were located. This project was conducted for Hunter Research, Inc.

2001 NJ Route 82 (Morris Avenue) Bridge over the Rahway River Project, Springfield and Union Townships, NJ. This project was conducted for Richard Grubb & Associates to determine if construction at the site would disturb areas associated with the Battle of Springfield. A musket ball was located outside of the proposed disturbance area and donated to the Springfield Historical Society.

2001 St. James A.M.E Zion Church Cemetery, Johnson Avenue, Matawan, NJ. Conducted a Surface Penetrating Radar survey, locating 58 potential interments. Conducted a metal detecting survey and several shovel tests, retrieving 53 artifacts.

2001 Old Scots Cemetery, Marlboro, NJ. Assisting Gerard Scharfenberger in attempting to locate the footprint of the original meeting house and associated features.

2000 - 2001 Joint Field Schools with Brookdale Community College. Conducted two Phase II surveys with Peter Pagoulatos, Ph.D., of a prehistoric Native American site (28-Mo-215) at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Three potential footprints of prehistoric wind breaks excavated. Numerous pottery sherds and lithics recovered.

2000 Hubbarton Battlefield State Park, Hubbardton, VT - Invited to participate as an expert in battlefield archaeology by Hartgen Archeological Associates in the first survey of this Revolutionary War site.

2000 Lake Topanemus, Freehold Borough, NJ - survey conducted for the Lake Association in an attempt to locate artifacts related to the Battle of Monmouth. The site was being

destroyed to construct a Township pump house. No battle related artifacts were found, however a late 19th - early 20th century bottle dump was identified.

2000 Presbyterian Burial Ground, Hackettstown NJ - metal detecting and surface penetrating radar survey. Over 300 potential graves found. Cemetery was abandoned and under consideration for destruction. Presently the cemetery is being restored.

Other Projects

2004 Prominently featured in "Battlefield Detectives - the Battle of Monmouth", a television series on archaeology produced by Granada Television of Manchester England for the History Channel.

2001 Archaeology at Monmouth Battlefield selected for filming for feature presentation on the Discovery Channel as part of the "Moments in Time" series.

Awards:

2001 - Present Volunteer Recognition Award by the State of New Jersey, Department of Parks and Forestry.

1999 Ralph Phillips and Dan Sivilich were recipients of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Award for accomplishments in archaeology.

1999 Ralph Phillips and Dan Sivilich were recipients of a State of New Jersey General Assembly Resolution for work done in archaeology at Monmouth Battlefield.

1999 Ralph Phillips and Dan Sivilich were recipients of the 1999 American Association for State and Local History National Award of Merit for archaeological work done at Monmouth Battlefield.