

FORT DONELSON MONUMENT COMMITTEE 2023 REPORT

This will be the Fort Donelson Monument Committee 2023 Report, the second annual report of The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort Donelson Committee (the Committee), as required by NEB. REV. STAT. § 82-803(7). At the end of 2022, the Committee and Secretary of State Evnen submitted the State of Nebraska's Proposal to Brian McCutchen, the Fort Donelson National Battlefield Superintendent.

Committee Member Steve Guenzel has been in touch with Superintendent McCutchen several times this year. In January and May of this year, archeological work was done in the area that the Committee proposed for the Monument location. Additional archeological work needs to be done to complete the process of complying with federal criteria for the placement of structures on a National battlefield, but initial findings suggest that the line of battle may have been a little way to the east of the proposed location for the Monument. On October 21, 2023, Steve Guenzel met with Superintendent McCutchen at the Battlefield and they walked the area in question, discussing the preliminary findings and how they might impact the State's Monument Proposal.

Steve Guenzel spoke with Superintendent McCutchen by phone on December 28, 2023. Mr. McCutchen is preparing a formal response to the State of Nebraska's Monument Proposal, which he will submit to the National Park Service regional office before it is finalized and sent to the State of Nebraska, but it is hoped that this may happen in January.