

# ***THE FIERY CROSS***



*Award-Winning Newsletter For Clan An Cu, The Highland Independent Company of Darien*



*You're a funny man.* Mark Tippens shares a laugh with Skin Neal, Britt Brinson, and Ed Lunderman during the Black Powder Certification Course, which was held at Fort Frederica National Monument in January 2005.

## ***THE LATEST NEWS***

### **UPDATE: 260TH ANNIVERSARY OF CULLODEN**

Our good friend **Brian Carpenter**, of *Clan Donnachaidh*, was kind enough to forward me some of the roundtable email discussions concerning this event. He has really gone to bat for us on setting the date for next year's event, but at this point, it seems to have been in vain. Several of the larger groups have pushed for the 3rd weekend in May (Resaca weekend) for several reasons:

1. It is the *traditional* weekend for the event.
2. The second weekend is Mother's Day.

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3. The first weekend is a French & Indian War event that would draw away many of the Hanoverian (English) troops.
4. The actual weekend in April is not good because the weather would not be as nice, and several of the key participants will be in Scotland that weekend.
5. It is, apparently, a long holiday weekend for the Canadians.

Some of the discussions were pretty impassioned. One clan was concerned that if they conduct the event in Pennsylvania that they will have to travel 12 to 14 hours. Imagine that. Apparently there is some discussion about rotating the site across the north. If this happens, we will ask that the South also be considered. Brian rightly pointed out that the event must be held in some proximity to concentrations of English troops. Perhaps they will make some contacts with the garrison at **Fort Loudon**, Tennessee. They were the high quality troops that participated in the filming of *History Uncovered*, the new film at **Fort Frederica National Monument** on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

We appreciate Brian's efforts on our behalf. Maybe one day we can return to support the Army of King James. The men of *Clan An Cu* are neither concerned about the length of the trip, nor the weather conditions. You men have admirably dealt with both.

## CLAN INVITED TO NORTHEAST FLORIDA

*Clan An Cu* has been invited to participate in the **Northeast Florida Scottish Games**. We met **Richard Gordon**, president of the games, at Savannah back in April. He writes, "I spoke with you at the Savannah Games about the possibility of Clan An Cu setting up camp at the NEFL Games on the last Saturday of February, at the Clay County Fairgrounds (Green Cove Springs, FL). The actual date is **February 25, 2006**. We will have access to, and control of, the entire Fairgrounds beginning on Wednesday evening (5:00 pm) February 22, 2006. If anyone wants to set up early, we will be there and ready for them."

"At Savannah, you mentioned that you required fresh, clean straw for bedding and firewood for a campfire. I can guarantee the straw, and we are working with the Fairgrounds (and our RV/Camping director) to make sure the fire will not be a problem. The first year, the Fairgrounds asked us not to have fires due to the drought situation at the time; last year, they said we could have campfires if we wanted. I am sure that the campfire situation will be worked out in the next couple of weeks."

"At our last Board meeting, the budgets were assigned for this year, and a total of **\$300.00** was budgeted for travel money for the reenactors if you are able to attend."

"I hope I have covered the concerns you raised when we spoke at Savannah, if you have any questions, please let me know. Our website address is [NEFLGames.com](http://NEFLGames.com). The website still lists last years' (Feb 2005) details, but should be updated in the next couple of weeks.

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There will probably be only minor changes to the times, and the rest of the information should remain the same."

While not a big-paying gig like the movie shoot, the \$300 offered by the games committee should certainly help offset some of our travel expenses. Please make plans to attend. It is a one-day event (Saturday). We will be able to go in on Friday, break down camp Sunday morning & ease home at our leisure.

## BLAIRSVILLE GAMES COMMITTEE EXPRESSES THANKS

The *Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games committee* has expressed their thanks to *Clan An Cu* for our participation in their event in June. Jim McAfee, Chairman, Renai Brock, President, and Michelle Collins, Vendor Coordinator all signed the letter, which said, "On behalf of the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games committee, we want to thank you for coming to our second Scottish Festival the weekend of June 11 and 12, 2005, and for your contribution in making it successful again this year (despite the uncooperative weather on Sunday). We sincerely hope that your weekend was rewarding, and that you will consider coming back next year for this exciting event and annual celebration."



Clan An Cu had a good turnout at the Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games.

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"Thank you again for your participation in Blairsville's second Scottish Festival and Highland Games. We shall look forward to seeing you in 2006, and to your being, once again, a tremendous part of the success of next year's Festival."

## McCARTHY LEAVES FORT KING GEORGE

Kevin McCarthy's last day at Fort King George was June 6th. He has accepted a term-employment position back at the *Castille de San Marcos* at St. Augustine. Hopefully, he can help resolve some of their issues and unify the garrison. We shall certainly miss him. He added a lot of energy and dedication to making the fort a greater showplace. Like all of the staff at the fort, Kevin has been a good friend to *Clan An Cu*. Good luck Kevin.

## LATEST FROM THE WEB

### ROLLER BUCKLES EXISTED DURING OUR PERIOD

Larry Lynch emailed the following information to some of you. This is very interesting. "In the debate as to whether there were roller buckles in the use at the time period of Forts King George and Frederica, ca 1725-1742, it can be said that there were. The attached shows evidence that the Spanish in Florida, at least, had a form of roller buckle, even if different from the type that we are accustomed to seeing. This does not indicate that the British and Scots had these, or similar buckles, but we are not talking high tech and very likely roller buckles were in great use for heavy loads. This buckle and others may be found at the following website:" <http://www.artifacts.org/Bucklepage.html>



This robustly constructed waist belt or heavy strap buckle features a friction roller on its outer frame element. Made of an alloy bearing a very high copper content, this regulation issue pattern example was recovered from a presently unidentified, ca. 1660-1690 Spanish wreck site in the Atlantic coastal waters of central Florida. Further investigation is planned to more fully interpret this site and its contents.

Clansman **Ronald Brimer** added, "British Calvary had roller buckles on their saddles in the 17th and 18th century. You might want to check out the book, *Collector's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*. It's well documented in there."

Our website is located at [www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html](http://www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html).

## ON EAGLE'S WING FINALLY SET TO PREMIER

From The Belfast Telegraph

The lavish Ulster-Scots musical *On Eagle's Wing* which was due to be staged in Belfast this autumn has been hit by another delay, it was learned today. The show, scheduled to run at the Waterfront Hall on September 2-4 and 9-11, will not go ahead now until the New Year. A statement issued by a PR firm representing the musical, said it had been postponed to early 2006 to coincide with the American tour.

Last year, *On Eagle's Wing*, written by well-known composer and broadcaster John Anderson, had been due to have its world premiere in Atlanta in 2004. But the planned series of American performances were cancelled after US sponsors failed to provide the expected financial support for the venture. The world premiere was instead held at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast in May 2004. Ulster Unionist peer Lord Laird, an investor in the show, said it would still go ahead next year. The former chairman of the Ulster Scots Agency denied there was any financial difficulties and said it had been postponed merely to coincide with the American tour. "The show will be staged in Belfast before the US tour begins," he said. "It's a fantastic musical which is treated as a major show wherever it goes and I am confident it will be a smash hit in 2006."

Robert Pratt, the show's promoter, said: "It made no sense to rehearse and just play in Belfast in September, then lay the whole cast and crew off for four months, therefore it was decided to postpone the Belfast show until just prior to the US tour, which the way things are looking is likely to start at the beginning of February 2006."

*On Eagle's Wing* is due to be broadcast coast-to-coast on PBS in America in August. The televised version has already been shown on the BBC earlier this year. Negotiations are under way to secure television coverage in China, Taiwan and Australia. The creation of the £1.5m show in 2004 was subsidized by the public purse to the tune of around £160,000. The "Eagle" will soar on PBS in Atlanta on August 11th at 8:00 p.m.

## AFTER ACTION REPORTS

### FOURTH AT THE FORT

Submitted by Larry Lynch

It was a hot-HOT-HOT day at *Fort King George* for the Fourth of July Celebration. **Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch** and **Steve "Fetch" Henderson** attended. Lone Dog presented the "Soldiers' Life" in the Barracks, and friends of the clan, **Scott "Dr. Dazell" Hodges** and **Nan "The Herb Lady" Gorden** also gave presentations. Our friends from *H.M.S. Falcon* came up to assist and provided most of the cannon firings. The new superintendent, **Steve Smith**, provided the reenactors with a lunch consisting of fried chicken, mash tatties, and

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beans. Although threatened by the rain, we got but a few drops just to keep us looking up. It was a typically good day with about 200 visitors.

Following the Fort King George event, we packed up the 4-pound cannon and took it to St. Simons for their Fourth Celebration. Lone Dog and Fetch attended this also, along with **Dave** and **Carol Temple**, **Brad** and **Denise Spear**, **Cathy Lanier**, Nan Gorden and **Kevin McCarthy**. After sorting through a mix-up concerning the time for the cannon firing we established our time to shine to be from 7:00-7:30 pm. This was most opportune in that for our last shot Brad had a passing container ship to shoot at. Bet they were surprised! Over all, we were a crowd-pleaser and we looked real good in our 1725 period uniforms. The fireworks were pretty and shot right off the pier, so they were also close. The crowd was thick so it was about 11:00 PM before Lone Dog, who stayed to help Dave load his trailer, could leave the area. It made for a long-dog day for Lone Dog.

## CLAN AN CU TAKES THE STAGE

Submitted by Chris Zagst, FYLHS

*Clan An Cu* members **Neil Fitzgibbons** and **Chris Zagst** entertained guests at *Fort Yargo Station* in Winder, GA during the July 4th weekend. Wool and oppressive heat was no match for the two as they belted out traditional Scottish folk songs.



Chris Zagst and Neil Fitzgibbons rest in the shade at Fort Yargo Station.

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Neil arrived just after Chris on Friday night and was introduced to other members of the *Fort Yargo Living History Society* (FYLHS). Before long, with tents in place and camp made, Neil and Chris broke out their instruments and the entertainment began. **David Brown** of Summerville, GA joined Chris on guitar and mandolin as Neil awed the audience with his flute and whistle playing. The evening was a huge success, and the entertainment continued throughout the day on Saturday despite the heat. The two hardy Highlanders played for park visitors and discussed the role of the Scottish in the founding of the state.

**Captain Joseph Humphries** constructed Fort Yargo Station blockhouse in 1792 under contract by the state of Georgia. The small structure was one of five such buildings constructed throughout the state for protection of settlers against both the Creek and Cherokee. It is the only one remaining. In 2004, the state of Georgia granted the FYLHS incorporation and authorized them to begin fundraising and preservation efforts in conjunction with the **Will-A-Way Recreation Area/Fort Yargo State Park**.

The society moved the structure in May 2005 to a new location closer to the ranger station for better preservation and protection. Insects and vandals have taken their toll on the beautiful, old building during its lifetime. The new location and ongoing preservation efforts will allow future generations to understand their history. This is the second move for the blockhouse, as it is believed the DAR moved it from its original location in the 1920s. Unfortunately, no one is 100% sure, and some speculate it has never before been moved. Regardless, any indication of an original location has been lost to time. A well and single grave are all that remain of what may have been the original location.

Members of the FYLHS have all spent long, cold evenings in the blockhouse camped in front of the fireplace. Each person has seen, heard or experienced things that could not be explained. It is believed the spirit of a young girl, who died there from fever, still paces the second floor at night. Some say the spirit of a black man, who used it as a cabin in the 19th century, still wanders the structure and does his best to taunt the living by banging on the walls and doors. A lengthy discussion ensued Friday evening as to whether or not the spirits followed the blockhouse in the two-mile move. Only time will tell, but all are hopeful the spirits remain.

Neil had to leave Saturday evening for other obligations. He and Chris said their farewells and agreed to practice their repertoire in anticipation of their next event, whenever it may be. The society was grateful to have Neil join them for the celebration and *Clan An Cu* is hardily welcomed to all future events.

## OTHER VOICES

**Michael Corby**, our friend from *MacKenzie Frain, Ltd.* in Great Britain sent us an email with the following interesting information.

"Whilst all was quiet we did get on with a few things such as getting brass cantles organized for our sporran range and we have also arranged for an engraver to beautify our dag pistols. Whilst on this subject, we have also decided to add blunderbusses to our range."

"The blunderbuss was, of course, one of the weapons of the Highland Army. It was possibly the most common weapon in Britain at that time and was used to deal with footpads and miscreants when traveling. All farmers had them - right across the British Isles - and there *are* captured ones from Culloden still surviving. Bearing in mind the large amount of farmers at Culloden it would be ridiculous to imagine the Highland Army without quite a lot of them. The entire third rank was made up out of lads dragged off of farms."

"Naturally, there were also plenty of Besses captured off of German George's Scumbags, too. However, I have always been curious as to why no one has ever picked up on the presence of Blunderbusses. It would not be surprising to me if there were as many as a couple of hundred or more and I must say that at close quarters I'd rather face a dag than a blunderbuss. Accordingly, I intend to offer them during the fall."

"The dags that I'm getting are probably sourced in India and are also probably the same as those available in the States. The price would be roughly the same. However, it's the engraving where we might be able to get a few extra points for. The guy who does the engraving does 12-gauge shotgun engraving, which is basically 18th century. At the moment, I don't know how much the price will be but obviously our markup will be fairly small. I will keep you informed."

"Expect us to be quiet for a few months but be sure that there is plenty going on behind the scenes. We should emerge with a mainstream highland wear range, possibly on a different MF website and also we should be expanding the original site considerably. Ultimately, we intend to have MF Ancient and MF Modern."

"I am adding a new sword smith to the range also. Slightly more expensive than *Armour Class* but there again it gives more choice."

The MacKenzie Frain website is located on the web at [www.mackenziefrain.com](http://www.mackenziefrain.com).

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## PHOTO GALLERY



*Waiting for action.* Clan An Cu awaits their call to action at Blairville. Pictured (L-R) are Skin Neal, Ed Lunderman, Larry Lynch, J. P. Hackney, and Neil Fitzgibbons.



Larry Lynch and Neil Fitzgibbons play their instruments under the fly at Blairville. Cody and J. P. Hackney are pictured in the background.

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## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**Appalachian Highland Games. September 10, 2005.** Andrews, North Carolina.

**Foothills Highland Games. November 5, 2005.** Hendersonville, North Carolina.

**Frederica Festival. February 11, 2006.** Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

**Northeast Florida Highland Games. February 25, 2006.** Green Cove Springs, Florida.

**Scottish Heritage Days. March 18, 2006.** Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

**Coastal Heritage Week. March 2006.** Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Brunswick, Georgia.

**Savannah Highland Games. April 2006.** Richmond Hill, Georgia.

**Culloden Highland Games. May 6-7, 2006.** Culloden, Georgia.

**Battle of Culloden. May 2006.** Pennsylvania?

**Blairsville Highland Games. June 10-11, 2006.** Blairsville, Georgia.