

# THE FIERY CROSS

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

## THE LATEST NEWS

### SCHEDULE CONFLICT

The annual *Battle of Culloden* has been scheduled for **May 13-15, 2005**. It will be held at Fort Meigs, in Perrysburg, Ohio. The *Savannah Highland Games and Gathering* has been moved from its traditional "Saturday before Mother's Day" date to **May 14, 2005**. For those of us who are Civil War Reenactors, **Resaca** well be held on **May 21-22, 2005**. Some members within the clan think we can support all three events.



Neal Fitzgibbons, Britt Brinson, and Philip Boyd attended the Savannah Highland Games & Gathering in 2004.

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Last year, we were able to get our foot in the door at Savannah and set up a living history encampment. It is a great site (at Richmond Hill) and an awesome opportunity to recruit. We need to continue our presence there. If we do not show up, last year's effort will be for naught. We may not get another invitation.

Culloden is a chance for our clan to go into battle against the English. Many of you relish a chance to fight. Culloden is the largest Jacobite Rebellion event in North America. They usually have 200-300 reenactors. Chris Timm (aka Bonnie Prince Charlie) has sent Clan An Cu several emails in hopes that we will be able to attend. (There was some concern that Culloden & Resaca would be on the same weekend.)

With every clansman's participation, we may be able to send one contingent to Ohio and another one to Savannah. We would need for each man that can't go to Culloden to take up the slack in Savannah.

Please contact Britt Brinson with feedback on this plan as soon as possible. It will help determine if we can truly make this happen.

## **BLACK POWDER CERTIFICATION**

**Jon Burpee**, of *Fort Frederica National Historic Site*, is planning to conduct the NPS Black Powder Certification Course sometime in **January, 2005**. The date should be firmed up by December 4. It is expected to be held during the mid to latter part of the month.

## **POTENTIAL NEW VENDOR**

We have been trying to find some period footwear for clansman **Dennis Frazer** to disguise special shoes he has to wear since a work-related injury some years ago. We had put our feelers on the *Highlanders and Hanoverians* chat room, looking for any advice. On November 13, 2004, *Clan An Cu* was contacted by **Michael Corby** of *MacKenzie Train, Ltd.* They are a vendor in Scotland who deals in both modern & ancient Highlander attire. The following are some selected quotes from our correspondence.

"We wish to help highland wear get back to it's roots and in doing so will endeavor to work on many products such as other buckle shoes, hose without turnovers, coatees, weskits and so on. We have a lot to do and will need your support and encouragement. We are always very grateful of historical advice from experts and customers alike - often the same person."

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"Yes, we do offer Garth's fine work and also that of *Armour Class*. We also supply some *TartanWeb* sporrans and naturally, *Joe the Targemaker* is amongst our suppliers. We are extremely proud of these great suppliers and craftsmen. We think these brilliant artisans should be encouraged and we are always on the lookout for those whom we deem suitable for our range. Accordingly we are going to be unleashing some more of these geniuses and we need to have a tartan/plaid service. Hopefully we can just get as large a range of high quality footwear and belts, dirks, cockades etc as we can. I've got some more authentic mid-18th century period shoes in the pipeline."

"It's going to take time, we know that, we're new and we're small. There is much in the pipeline including the possibility of a special *Mackenzie FRAIN* range of *Armour Class* dirks. This is still in the planning stage but AC does seem keen to explore this with us. Incidentally, our baldrics are AC."

"What we will *not* be doing is selling rubbish unlike a far too large and growing contingent of highland wear stores!"

"*Mackenzie FRAIN* is for you, for Scotland and for me. Bear with us, guide us, stick with us and I will do my very best to serve you. If I can't supply you with an item I will be delighted to try and redirect you to a competitor who can."

"Your satisfaction is our business and we are prepared to earn your respect the hard way. I sincerely hope that we can not only serve you well but also learn with you."

"The photo on your website...fantastic! Best re-enactor photo I've ever seen so far, well done."

"By the way, if you want something a bit special made up and I can get one of our craftsmen/women to do it, you only have to get in touch. It costs what it costs. We do not work on very high profit margins. In fact on quite a lot of items we actually make less than 10 per cent, and that's before tax. Hence you will see selected high quality pieces that are available on other sites such, as Joe's targes. These items are the same price as Joe at MF. Other stores price them considerably higher. Same deal with quite a lot of our weaponry. We just oversee the deal and shepherd it through with considerable influence... same price."

"I'm trying to get all the really decent and useful crafts folk in the same place. To this end *Mackenzie FRAIN* will commission a whole lot of its own products too. So it's our stuff and everyone else's too. Hopefully we'll end up as a supermarket of high caliber Jacobite kit. As you know we also do the non-authentic bits so that we can keep one foot in the mainstream market both for financial common sense and also so that we can try and influence the market more in favor of wearing real highland wear."

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"I personally think the Darien idea that you've chosen to re-enact is fabulous and as a Scot (I'm actually half Irish - and you can't get more Scottish than that!) please know that you really do warm my heart with what you're doing. I'm an independence supporter and have long been in the Scottish National Party, not that I'm deeply involved in active politics, but obviously knowledge of this tragic epoch is fundamental to understanding our ludicrous national dilemma and ultimately the loss of Alba's nationhood. We need you folks over here! PLEASE come back and live in Scotland."

"I am deeply moved by your enthusiasm. As for the photos on your site, need I say (more)?"

"Let's put it this way - within our Jacobite catalogue we specialize in authentica, or as close as we can be."

You can view their website at [www.mackenziefrain.com](http://www.mackenziefrain.com).

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT**

### **NEWS FROM FORT KING GEORGE**

**Submitted by Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch**

October was a busy month for the clan, and even busier for *Fort King George*. The big news is that our dear friend **Ken Akins** interviewed for a position as superintendent of *Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site*, Cartersville, GA., and was accepted. He begins his new career near where he was raised and where he and Monica are building their retirement home. He begins (I believe) Nov. 9th. It is short notice and the gang at *Fort King George* has a big gap to fill. We shall miss him sorely and really need to support the Fort!

The events the clan has supported in October were:

### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION**

Held October 8, this was a presentation of the fort and firing the field piece for local chambers of commerce in which Lone Dog assisted.

### **THE FORT BY CANDLELIGHT**

October 16 was most a delightful evening during which several presentations were set up and groups rotated every 15 minutes or so from station to station. The stations included Dr. Dazell's medicines; Nan the Herbalist; Oglethorpe's Highlanders performing musket drills; the dock and boat; Sgt. Temple and Cpl. Lone Dog Lynch explaining soldiers' lives; cannon firing; and more. Both participants and visitors had a good time. A big

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special note that Neil "Song Dog" Fitzgibbons provided a steady stream of tin-whistle playing to the delight of the visitors at the officers' quarters.

## **GEORGIA DNR BOARD DINNER**

One of the fort's most significant events ever was held on October 26. In conjunction with the DNR yearly board meeting, this year held at Jekyll Island, the board held their final dinner at Fort King George, a location few of the board members had ever visited. At the director's request, our own Piper Humungous, Ken Bloom, provided entertainment utilizing a collection of tradition instruments. Lone Dog also attended in order to assist as needed and to provide additional schmoozing in hopes of influencing support for our beloved fort. The board was provided a sunset/torch lit tour of the new additions to the visitors' center and fort, provided a wonderful traditional Scottish meal by the local caterers with Scott "General Oglethorpe" Hodges as the Guest of Honor (re-enactors assisted with disposing of left-overs, like Scotch eggs and scones), boat rides in the scout boat (assisted by a magical trolling motor), and a cannon firing in which the commissioner had the honors of firing the cannon. Of special significance, this was Ken's last event at Fort King George as superintendent and it was the smoothest running event Lone Dog has seen yet. Everyone pulled together; even the director helped light torches, and made this truly a wonderful last huzzah for Ken. Recognition for his 23 or so years at Fort King George was made by Scott and the board was made well aware that all they saw and experienced was a result of Ken's long steady work and dedication to the fort. And, of course, Ken acknowledged that the re-enactors made the fort experience what it is today.

I think it safe to say for the clan that Ken will be sorely missed; but let us also renew our dedication to Fort King George and its staff and continue to serve the public by our faithful participation.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NPS Black Powder Certification Course. January ?, 2005.** Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

**Frederica Festival. February 12, 2005.** Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

**Scottish Heritage Days. March 19, 2005.** Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

**Coastal Heritage Week. March 29 thru April 2, 2005.** Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Brunswick, Georgia.

**Culloden Highland Games. ?** Culloden, Georgia.

**Battle of Culloden. May 13-15, 2005.** Fort Meigs, Perrysberg, Ohio.

**Savannah Highland Games. May 14, 2005.** Richmond Hill, Georgia.

**Blairsville Highland Games. June 11-12, 2004.** Blairsville, Georgia.

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## PHOTO GALLERY



Scott Hodges (right) as General James Oglethorpe, stands beside one of his Highlanders, Neil Fitzgibbons, at the Folktales to Rails event at Kennesaw in October.