

THE FIERY CROSS



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

AFTER ACTION REPORT

CLANSMEN RECEIVE BLACK POWDER CERTIFICATION

Clan An Cu attended a National Park Service Black Powder Certification course at *Fort Frederica National Monument* on January 15, 2005. Nine members of the clan (**Britt Brinson, Neil Fitzgibbons, J. P. Hackney, Chad Heckle, Steve Henderson, Ed Lunderman, Larry Lynch, Skin Neal, & Mark Tippens**) gave us our second largest turnout ever for an event.



Clan An Cu and friends completed the National Park Service Black Powder Certification Course at Fort Frederica (L-R: Dave Temple, Instructor Jon Burpee, Steve Henderson, Ed Lunderman, J. P. Hackney, Skin Neal, Britt Brinson, Larry Lynch, Mark Tippens, Neil Fitzgibbons, and Chad Heckle).

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Britt Brinson arrived at *Fort King George* in Darien around 5 p.m. on Friday, January 14. Kevin McCarthy, acting superintendent of the fort, greeted him. As he was unpacking, Steve Henderson made an appearance. After getting fires started in the fireplaces in each room, they accompanied a group over to Mudcat Charlie's for a bite to eat. The group included Larry Lynch, his wife **Sharon**, granddaughter **Kylie**, **Dave Temple**, **Scott Hodges**, **Nicki Sackrison**, Kevin McCarthy & his fiancée **Amanda**. A fine meal & much fellowship followed.

Upon returning to the fort, Brinson visited with **Nan Gordon**, who was occupying the other part of the officer's quarters. Between 10:30 and 11:00 p.m., Ed Lunderman, Neil Fitzgibbons and J. P. Hackney arrived. They were quickly moved into the barracks, where fires burned in both fireplaces and candles cast flickering light around the room. After a short visit, all the guys turned in for the night. Though cool outside, the fort's buildings were quite toasty, for the most part.

The clan began to stir around 7 a.m., each man donning his Highland attire for the trip to Fort Frederica. Mark Tippens arrived about 8:15. We saddled up & headed to class. When we got to Fort Frederica, Jon Burpee, the instructor for the course, Larry Lynch, Steve Henderson, Chad Heckle, and Dave Temple, warmly greeted us. Warmly applied only to the greeting, as it was only about 49 degrees for most of the day. A fairly steady breeze made it seem even cooler.

During the brief orientation in the theater of the visitors, Skin Neal arrived. Burpee went over the safety rules and gave us some history of the black powder program. About 10:00, we went outside and started to drill. The men seemed to pick it up quickly, as most of us had performed a variation of *Bland's Drill* for a couple of years now. We broke for lunch around 11:30.

We started back about 1:00 p.m. While the morning drill had included only the manual of arms, with simulated loading and firing, the afternoon drill added black powder cartridges to the mix. The men were divided into two groups. Each group fired 8 rounds. Jon was kind enough to allow us to work on our Gaelic musket drill during this portion. The men each fired three rounds during the Gaelic drill.

Following the firing demonstrations, Jon demonstrated how to clean the musket. Each man then cleaned his own firearm. Several of our guys have not yet acquired muskets, but this was no problem. Fort Frederica had just received several new 1st model Brown Besses from Loyalist arms. The drill ended about 4:00 p.m.

Saturday night was spent in fellowship. Neil had purchased a couple of pork tenderloins, which he had marinated. Everyone ate his or her fill before turning in for the night.

Thanks to each of you who made the effort to get to the course, to Jon Burpee for conducting it, and to Kevin McCarthy for letting us make quarters at Fort King George.

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THE LATEST NEWS

KING BEST-DRESSED MAN

Our clan brother **Collin King** received the award as the **Finest Dressed Man** at the *Tallahassee Celtic Fest* the last weekend in October.

Susan Cromarty, of *Scots Heritage Magazine*, says that Collin will be featured on the Scots Heritage website, along with **Emma Lou Weldon**, the Finest Dressed Woman. The website is located at www.scotsheritage.net. King wears the Revolutionary War uniform of the **42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot** (ca. 1776-1783). His Creek Indian moccasins are authentic to the period. Congratulations Collin.

Collin has been a member of *Clan An Cu* since 2001. He often attends clan events along with his wife Mary and daughter Morgan.

CLAN INVITED TO SAVANNAH

Clan An Cu has received an invitation to return to the *Savannah Highland Games and Gathering*. The event will be held in Richmond Hill, just south of Savannah, on Saturday, April 30.

This will be our second appearance at the games as a clan. We will set up camp on Friday night and make the trek to Kevin Barry's Pub before calling it a night.

Rumor has it that the Culloden Highland Games have moved back to April 30-May 1. If this is the case, we will try to have a



small contingent at Culloden on Saturday. Those who can would attend Savannah on Saturday, then travel to Culloden that night to help them out on Sunday.

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FEALTY CEREMONY SCHEDULED

Clan An Cu will hold a fealty ceremony on Saturday night, February 12, 2005. The clan will be participating in the Frederica Festival during. Neil Fitzgibbons and J. P. Hackney have not yet been sworn into the clan. The ceremony will take place after dark.

BATTLE OF CULLODEN UPDATE

The Battle of Culloden, the largest Jacobite Rebellion event held, is moving back to *Caesar's Creek*, Ohio for this year. This is *the* national event for this era. Caesar's Creek was the site when *Clan An Cu* was last able to attend in 2000.

Support is building within the clan for the trip. The event will be held **May 13-15, 2005**. We currently have commitments to attend from **Philip Boyd, Britt Brinson, Larry Lynch, Skin Neal, and Mark Tippens**. **Chad Heckle, James Heldreth, Steve Henderson and Ed Lunderman** have expressed an interest in going. We are currently planning to leave on Thursday morning, May 12. We will return home on Monday evening, May 16.

The Battle of Culloden traditionally has around 300 reenactors. While English troops are still outnumbered (usually about 2 to 1), they usually have a good many more than what you saw at Bedford (6). It will be well worth the trip, so each of you is strongly encouraged to go. The site is approximately 600 miles from the middle Georgia area.

TIPPENS APPOINTED CLAN SAFETY OFFICER

Mark Tippens has volunteered, and been appointed, Clan Safety Officer. We still have people show up with unsafe or dirty weapons. Tippens, or his designee, will inspect all weapons before our clan takes the field at an event.

Our weapon safety/maintenance rules are very simple. Barrels must be free of powder residue and rust, both inside and out. The touchhole must be clear. The barrel should "ping" when the rammer is dropped into it. Blades must be free of rust. Their scabbards must cover the entire blades. Please take care of your weapons. Our safety and our reputations may be riding on this.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED

Over the entire history of our clan, we have been very fortunate that we have never had a medical emergency. We've come close once or twice. In the interest of you safety, and so that we can inform your loved ones if something happens, we need to compile an emergency contact roster for our clan. Clan officers will carry copies in case a need for them arises. The information needed includes:

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Clansman's Name:

Primary Contact Person:

Secondary Contact Person:

Daytime & evening phone number(s) for each contact person:

If you wish, you can also let us know if you have any allergies (medicine, insect bites, etc) or other medical problems. Please forward this information to Clan Chief Britt Brinson.

Gaelic Command for Musket Firing

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>PRONUNCIATION</u>
Forward march	Air adhart marsail	Ar ajart marsil
Company halt	Cuideachd stad	Coojuhc stad
Shoulder your firelocks	Gualainn bhor musq	Goo-ulin vur musk
Load your firelocks	Luchdaich bhur musq	Loochaich vur musk
Make ready	Dean ullamh	Jian Oolar
Present	Thoir	Ho-ir
Fire	Loisg	Loshg
Recover	Faigh air ais	Fee ar ash
Attack	Lahm	Lav

PHOTO GALLERY



The Highland Independent Company of Darien & their Indian allies attack a Spanish patrol at the Battle of Gully Hole Creek.

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Hurry up and wait is typical for movie shoots, but the Great Divide Pictures crew did not subscribe to that old maxim. There was very little down time on the set. When you were called to the set you went right to work, did what was asked, then went to a break.

Here, the extras wait for "Action."

Shown at the left are (right to left) Amos McCall, Neil Fitzgibbons, Steve Henderson, Cody Sawgrass (Indian Warrior), and James Heldreth. Cody Bennett is hidden behind Amos (you can see his red & green plaid which appears to be hanging off of Amos' targe).

The movie shoot was conducted at *Fort King George* on August 27-29, 2004



The *Highland Independent Company of Darien* takes a break along the Military Road. This scene at the left was shot preceding the filming of scenes for the Battle of Gully Hole Creek.

The Battle of Gully Hole Creek was fought on the morning of July 7, 1742, preceding the Battle of Bloody Marsh, which was fought later that afternoon. The Highlanders were apparently already under arms when the Spaniards were discovered about a mile out of Fort Frederica. General Oglethorpe sent them and their Indian allies double-quicking down the Military Road, where they executed what was described as a Highland Charge into the enemy. The Spaniards were quickly routed, suffering numerous casualties.

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Clan An Cu, along with Jim Sawgrass and his guys receive instructions for a Gully Hole Creek battle scene in *History Uncovered*. Directors Sonny Hutchison and Chris Wheeler are in the foreground.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Savannah Highland Games. April 30, 2005. Richmond Hill, Georgia.

Culloden Highland Games. April 30 thru May 1, 2005. Culloden, Georgia.

Battle of Culloden. May 13-15, 2005. Caesar's Creek, Ohio.

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

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