

An Crann Tara

Award-Winning Newsletter for Clann Nan Con, The Highland Independent Company of Darien

THE LATEST NEWS



WILL YOU RISE FOR YOU CLAN?

Clann Nan Con has been invited to participate in three events during the month of February.

Uaireigin Cu, Doannon Cu

Oglethorpe's Visit to Darien will take place at **Fort King George State Historic Site** on Friday, February 9. Hundreds of school kids will be there to witness the recreation of an event that happened 270 years ago.

The *Frederica Festival* will be held at **Fort Frederica National Monument** on Saturday, February 17.

The *Northeast Florida Highland Games* will be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds, south of Jacksonville, on Saturday, February 24. The organizing committee has upped their stipend to the Clann to \$500. The stipend will be split among the participants.

Please let Clan Chief **Britt Brinson** know if you are planning to attend any and/or all of the events. Additionally, you need to let the staff at **Fort King George** know if you plan to attend their event.

SPEAR UNDERGOES SURGERY

We have received word that our good friend, **Brad Spear** of *Fort King George State Historic Site*, has had major back surgery. Brad has suffered with back problems on & off since we have known him. He will be out of work about three months, before being allowed to return to light duty.

Brad & his wife **Denise**, a ranger at *Fort Frederica National Monument* have been very good friends of and a great help to our clan. Get well soon, Brad.

NEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Amazing discoveries, 250 years after Culloden

By Will Springer

WEARING a bonnett and dressed in a tartan coat, Bonnie Prince Charlie, astride his grey gelding, rode toward the flat but soggy battlefield known as Culloden Moor. Ahead of him on the right flank were the Atholl Brigade, the Camerons, the Stewarts of Appin and the Frasers – all under the leadership of Lord George Murray.

Murray, recognised as the most skilled of the Jacobite commanders, was strongly opposed to the prince's wishes to engage government rivals on this exposed site. These concerns were quickly demonstrated on 15 April 1746, when Murray's horse was shot beneath him and his wig tossed into the air. Clouds of smoke from firearms languished above the fray, punctuated by the sounds of

guns thundering and men screaming in agony.

Even now, more than 250 years later, the site of the last pitched conflict on British soil and where thousands died in an hour of fighting, continues to shed more secrets for experts to examine. Some 600 musket and artillery balls, the lid of a canister of shot, pieces of firearms - even a Celtic cross - have recently been uncovered by a team directed by Dr Tony Pollard, an internationally recognised expert in battlefield archaeology.



The remains of a bayonet found on the battlefield. Picture: Courtesy Tony Pollard

Pollard's regular visits to Culloden, near Inverness, started in 2001 when, researching for his BBC programme *Two Men in a Trench*, he discovered the battlefield to be much larger than originally believed. His return in 2005 followed plans by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) to develop a new visitor centre and subsequent need to investigate the site before building started. And so began a rare opportunity to rewrite history based on what is known as forensics archaeology.

"That to my mind," Pollard says, "is certainly unique in Britain and possibly in the world. Very few sites have ever been reinterpreted on the basis of archaeological field work." His discoveries have been eye-opening.

Pollard's team found that what was long thought to have been a quick and lopsided conflict was actually hard-fought and more intense. The Jacobites put up a greater fight, but were they closer to victory?

"It's not without a grain of truth," Pollard says. "From the archaeological evidence that we've found, we for one think that



Hundreds of items from the Culloden battlefield have been recovered in recent months, the most personal being a pewter-made Celtic cross believed to be worn by a west coast Scot. Picture: Courtesy Tony Pollard

"We are now starting to peel back the pages of history and we're giving it a unique insight," says Pollard, project manager for Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division. "Culloden has proved itself as a really valuable laboratory."

the Jacobite musketry was a lot heavier than all of the accounts say. They were using their muskets a lot more effectively and for a lot longer than the traditional accounts would have us believe.

"The British army fired the mortars in; these are explosive shells, where you've got explosive shells and fragments of hot iron floating through the air," he says.

"What we found - and one of the biggest surprises that we had - were huge fragments of mortar shell actually right in the thick of the hand-to-hand fighting. So these obviously had been fired at very close range - probably over the heads of the British troops - and to my mind that is indicative of a last-ditch effort to break up the Jacobite charge with the full realization that this is potentially a breakthrough. And that - if nothing else - indicates the seriousness with which the Jacobite assault was being made. At least at one point, it looked as though it was going the Jacobite way."

Another aspect of the conflict that Pollard and his team would like to investigate further is the cavalry-on-cavalry exchange in the rear of the Jacobite line - but this took place on what is now private land. The battlefield is bigger than the present Culloden site owned and operated by NTS.

Now that Pollard and his team have made these exciting discoveries, there is little doubt that an insignificant obstacle such as boundries will hold them back

from getting to the bottom of this historic turning point.

"It's a very complicated issue - how you actually protect something as large and as abstract as a battlefield. Culloden has proved itself as a really valuable laboratory ... [and] a figurehead of battlefield research."



Pollard's favourite discovery is of a nearly severed musket ball after being fired. "There can be little doubt that this hit the sharp blade of a broad sword," he says. Picture: Courtesy Tony Pollard

"The Jacobites and the British army were using different sizes of ammunition. We can actually tell who was firing what," he says, explaining that the British used 0.75-calibre lead musket balls, slightly larger than the French-supplied ammunition used by the Jacobites. "For a period prior to rifle bullets ... it's a really quite rare and special thing to be able to recognise one side from another just using musket balls."

On the web

[Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division](#)
[The National Trust for Scotland](#)

COMMON GAELIC PHRASES

ENGLISH	GAELIC	PRONUNCIATION
Fall in	Cruinnichibh	Krayn-yih-kiv
Shoulder your musket	Gualainn bhor musq.	Goo-ulin ur kool-ih-ver
Load your musket	Luchdaich ur cuilethar	Loochaich ur kool-ih-ver
Make ready	Dean ullamh	Jee-un oo-love
Present	Thoir	Hore
Fire	Loisg	Loshg
Recover	Faigh air ais	Feye er ash
Forward march	Air adhart	Er ursht
Company halt	Companoch stad	Comp-an-ukh stad
Order your musket	Socraibh bhor musq	So-kriv oor kool-ih-ver
Dismissed	Fagibh	Fah-kiv
Attack	Gabhaibh orra	Gahv-iv or-uh
Welcome.	Fàilte.	Fal-chuh
How are y'all?	Ciamar a tha sibh?	Kimmer a hah shiv
I am fine	Tha gu math.	Hah goo mah
Are they pulling my leg?	Bheil iad tarraing asam?	Vale aht tar-ing as-um
No. They are English.	Chan eil. 'Se Sassanaich a th'annta.	Khan-yale. Shay Sass-un-eekh uh th' un-tah

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oglethorpe's Visit to Darien. February 9, 2007. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

Frederica Festival. February 17, 2007. Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Northeast Florida Highland Games. February 24, 2007. Green Cove Springs, Florida.

Scottish Heritage Days. March 24, 2007. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

Culloden Highland Games. April 28-29, 2007. Culloden, Georgia.

Savannah Highland Games. May 5, 2007. Savannah, Georgia.

Battle of Culloden. May 18-20, 2007. Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania.

Blairsville Highland Games. June 9-10, 2007. Blairsville, Georgia.

Uaireigin Cu, Doannon Cu

A Taste of Scotland. June 16, 2007. Franklin, North Carolina.

Folktales of the Rails. October 2007. Kennesaw, Georgia.

Foothills Highland Games. November 3, 2007. Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Cannons Across the Marsh. November 2007. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.