

THE FIERY CROSS



Official Newsletter For Clan Am Cu

JANUARY 2004

THE LATEST NEWS

OGLETHORPE VISITS DARIEN

Fort King George will commemorate the first visit of **General James Oglethorpe** to the Highlanders at Darien, Georgia. The event, which is publicized statewide as part of the Georgia Days celebration, will be held at 10 a.m. on **Friday, February 13, 2004** at the fort. Hundreds of school children will be there to welcome the General, who is portrayed by **Scott Hodges**. The actual event occurred on February 22, 1736, almost 268 years ago.

HACKNEY PLACES IN RACE AT STONE MOUNTAIN

Joseph Hackney, our youngest clansman, finished second in the kilted mile foot race at the Stone Mountain Highland games in October 2003. He beat out about 40 other runners to claim the prize.



Clansman Joseph Hackney pulls into the lead.

Joseph became affiliated with Clan Am Cu after the Culloden Highland games in April of last year. He also attended the Indian Springs Scottish Festival with the clan.

Uaireigin Cu, Doannon Cu

A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE PRINCE

December 15, 1744

Paris

My Dear Friend,

I could not help but write, as we enter into this festive period, to let you know how much you are on my mind these days, as always. With Christmas upon us I desired to send you my very best wishes and highest regards for you and your clan. Do remember me to them as they are dearer to me than my own family. You may find this strange as we have yet to meet but your letters and encouragement, plus the great history and fidelity that you have shown to my suzerain father has touched my heart.

I have every anticipation of journeying at the earliest possible convenience in the new year with what succor I am able to procure, but please know that I am ABSOLUTELY committed to our cause and to freeing you from the shackles of tyranny of the Usurper and his henchmen. I am indeed so committed that I will come alone if need be and throw myself into the bosom of what friends I can find.

But at this time of year let us think happier thoughts and so ponder the future and let us celebrate this Christmas season with the vision that perhaps next year we will celebrate it together, with my father upon the throne in Edinburgh, that ancient seat of governance of our fair land. That is truly a gift to hope and pray for.

**With every best and warmest wish,
I remain,
Your humble Servant,**

Charles

Prince Regent

UPCOMING EVENTS

Landing of General Oglethorpe. February 13, 2004. Fort King George



Coastal Heritage Week. March 30-April 3, 2004. FLETC, Brunswick, Georgia.

Culloden Highland Games. April, 2004. Culloden, Georgia.

Indian Springs Scottish Festival. June, 2004. Indian Springs, Georgia.

Highlander School of the Soldier. July, 2004? Fort King George.

Frederica Festival. February 14, 2004. Fort Frederica.



March On London. September, 2004. Bedford, Pennsylvania.

Scottish Heritage Days. March 27, 2004. Fort King George.



HEAD COUNTS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Will you rise for Am Cu? We need a head count for each of the following events by Sunday, January 25:

Landing of General Oglethorpe: Friday, February 13, 2004.

Frederica Festival: Saturday, February 14, 2004

Scottish Heritage Days: Saturday, March 27, 2004

Coastal Heritage Week: Tuesday, March 30 thru Saturday, April 3, 2004

Obviously, the two events in February will conflict with Olustee. Your Chief plans to attend all three, probably heading to the Georgia coast on Thursday night, then arriving at Olustee on Saturday night. Fort Frederica is where we have traditionally sworn in new members.

Scottish Heritage Days will include the Battle of Bloody Marsh. The Sunday afterward might be a good time to conduct part of our Highland School of the Soldier. During Coastal Heritage Week, any day you can attend will be appreciated.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

TARTAN COLORS

Submitted by Collin King

No cloth has more romantic connotations or has become so closely linked with a country's national identity. The dazzling colors of tartan materials are recognized globally as the uniform of Scots everywhere. For years it was assumed the distinctive reds, blues, yellows and purples on which modern designs are based came from dyes derived from native Scottish plants. But a new scientific study has nailed that view as a myth. Sophisticated tests carried out on dozens of 18th-century tartans have proved the vibrant colors were provided by exotic foreign dyes.

The research confirms what many scholars have long suspected: that dyes from native plants were too dull and in too short supply when demand boomed before the Jacobite rebellions. As a result, they were replaced by brighter dyes from the Americas and India, even though the price could be four times as high.

One example is a sliver of tartan from the Highland suit worn by Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1743 and which is now on display at the National Museums of Scotland, which carried out the research. Analysis of the dyes used shows the red is cochineal, made from crushed South American beetles, indigo from India, and Old Fustic, a yellow flowering plant from North America.

Samples from another 48 18th-century examples also show that the use of imported dyes was commonplace. **Anita Quye**, the NMS's analytical chemist, said: "The myth is that tartan of this age was colored by plants native to Scotland. The perceived wisdom is that there was a wee Highland cottage industry producing these dyes. "It is now clear that Scotland was importing good quality dyes, probably from well before the start of the 18th century and these were all very bright."

The Scottish Tartan Authority, the charity which keeps the International Tartan Index, said the research was a valuable attempt to improve knowledge of one of Scotland's "great assets". Secretary **Brian Wilton** said: "One of the inferences has been that good, wholesome tartan from this time was always made from good wholesome dyes from native heathers and lichens. If that is not accurate then we need to know what the true picture is. Research of this quality is immensely useful."

The 49 samples were taken from the Highland Society of London's *Book of Certified Tartans* dating from 1812. The bound volume, kept at the museum in Edinburgh, is believed to be the first official attempt to link tartans with certain clans. It includes samples from the Stewarts, Colquhouns, Frasers, Macdonalds, Gordons and McPhersons among others, and became the definitive Tartan 'bible' of the time. Many of the designs became the template for the 5,500 tartans now on the STA's index, the closest thing to an official register.

Quye expected to find that the reds in the woven designs came from native flowering plants such as Ladies' Bed Straw. In fact, all the samples tested revealed they were cochineal. "Cochineal was present in all of them, and although it was four times the price of native dyes at this time, it was a very specific, bright color that didn't fade easily. One of the problems with native dyes was that they tended to fade in sunlight and became very muted." Blues used in tartan cloth originally came from the native plant woad, which was also used as a form of ceremonial face and body paint by ancient Scots. It was supplanted by indigo from India. Yellow dyes from native lichens and tree bark were replaced by Old Fustic, a flowering plant, and quercitron bark, both from North America. Shipping records show it being imported into Greenock.

According to **John Burnett**, an NMS historian, the widespread use of imported dyes showed how sophisticated trade had become in Scotland by that time. "Scotland was a poor country on the edge of the Europe but that didn't mean it didn't have commercial markets. Clan chiefs manufacturing their own tartans probably sent their servants to trading centers like Edinburgh and Glasgow to obtain dyes, or they got them from traveling peddlers or from country fairs. It was probably easier to buy the stuff rather than make it yourself."

Tartan dress has evolved over many centuries. The plaid, a large piece of cloth belted in the middle to form a combined kilt and upper garment, gradually developed into the kilt as it is known today.

The wearing of tartan north of the Highland Line - which ran roughly from the north of Glasgow through what is now Perthshire to the west of Aberdeen - was proscribed after the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army in 1745. But demand soared when the ban was lifted in 1782 and the cloth was popularized by romantic writers such as Sir Walter Scott.

Rehabilitation was complete when Scott engineered the visit of **King George IV** to Edinburgh in 1822 dressed in a kilt. Another official seal of approval came in 1852 when **Queen Victoria's** husband plastered the walls, floors and furniture of Balmoral Castle, their new Highland residence, in a tartan of his own design. By this time natural dyes, imported or otherwise, had been replaced by synthetic versions.

Tartan experts say the skills of the early manufacturers have never been properly recognized because the cloth's image has been subverted by "shortbread tin tourism". "It is a wonderful, colorful material and tartan weaving should have been recognized as a Highland art form long ago," said Jamie Scarlett, author of the Tartan Weavers' Guide.

Full details of the research into tartan coloring will be revealed at a lecture entitled 'Scotching the Myth of Old Tartan Colors' at the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, on January 20.

SECRETS OF THE KILT

A PIECE of tartan actually worn by Bonnie Prince Charlie was among the 49 samples tested by the National Museums of Scotland. Here are examples of some of the foreign dyes discovered in the clan tartans analyzed.

Colquhoun (red, blue, purple, white): cochineal (red), old fustic and indigo/woad (green)

Fraser (red, blue and green): lac (red), old fustic and indigo/woad (green)

Gordon (blue, black, green and yellow): old fustic and indigosulfonic acid (green), quercitron bark extract (yellow)

MacDonald of Clanranald (red, blue, black, green): lac (red), old fustic and indigosulfonic acid (green)

MacPherson (red, blue, black, green, yellow, white): lac (red), old fustic (green)

Menzies (red, blue, green, white): cochineal (red), old fustic and indigo/woad (green)

Stewart (red, blue, black, green, yellow, white): lac (red), old fustic and indigo/woad (green), quercitron bark extract (yellow)

Stewart (Hunting): lac (red); old fustic and indigo/woad (green), quercitron bark extract (yellow).

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER
UNITY HERITAGE ENCAMPMENT WEEK
Registration Form

Fill out all information below (Please Print)

Name:

Participating as re-enactor: Member of Clan Am Cu
Representing 18th Century Darien Scot

As Male[] Female[]

Mailing address:

Phone work:

Phone home:

Period food for Thurs. evening- (optional)

Encamping with: 18th century Scots

Attending on which days: []Tues. []Wed. []Thurs. []Fri. []Sat.

Security/weapons: Identify the number of weapons being brought on-Center that are period (black powder) weapons, and the type and use. [Example: 4- muskets (display only), 2- pistols (1- display, 1- to demo), and 1 cannon (to demo).] Edged weapons do not need to be listed. (Note: no non-period weapons may be brought onto the FLETC. Any personal weapons other than those defined above, must be reported to Security at Bldg. 1 before entering the Front Gate.)

List weapons and use as shown above:

Please sign and date below. Registration is not complete without this.

Signature:

Date: