



An Crann-Tara



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

THE LATEST NEWS

SORRY FOR LACK OF NEWS

Please accept this apology for the lack of a newsletter over the last few months. The old laptop went down & there have been few opportunities to introduce the new one to An Crann-Tara. Hopefully, there will be no interruptions in the future. Also, this is your newsletter. Your articles will be welcome and appreciated.

OGLETHORPE'S VISIT TO DARIEN

General James Edward Oglethorpe, portrayed by **Scott Hodges**, will return to *Fort King George State Historic Site* in Darien, Georgia on Friday, February 9. The presentation is held annually for area school children.

Clann Nan Con has played a very important part in this program for several years now. During our time helping with this program, we have functioned as Oglethorpe's boatmen, rowing him into the site & we have welcomed him to Darien as the resident Highlanders.



Scott Hodges as General James Oglethorpe

Uaireigin Cu, Doannon Cu

FREDERICA FESTIVAL

The annual Frederica Festival will be held at Fort Frederica National Monument on Saturday, February 17. This has traditionally been a special event for our clan as Frederica was the first park (or any other organization) to call us “our Highlanders.”



Clann Nan Con's 2006 participants at the Frederica Festival included Chad Heckle, Neil Fitzgibbons, J. P. Hackney, Skin Neal, Britt Brinson, Steve Henderson, & Michael Ramsey.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA GAMES

Once again, Clann Nan Con has been invited to the Northeast Florida Highland Games. This year's games will once again be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds on Saturday, February 24, 2007.

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

FOOTHILLS HIGHLAND GAMES

Clan Nan Con returned to the **Foothills Highland Games** in Hendersonville, NC on Friday afternoon, November 3, 2006. It was a cold, blustery day. Larry Lynch and Clifton Gorden were the first to arrive. Finding our campsite & firewood supply, they proceeded to set up & get a fire going. It hadn't been going long when one of the organizers apologetically came over to camp & told them that they would have to put out the fire because of a county ordinance. No problem (well, it was a bit of a problem, since it started to get really cold once the sun went down), Lone Dog & Clifton just loaded up, went to Lowe's, and bought us a pretty cool portable fire pit. They had it roaring when Britt Brinson, Neal Fitzgibbons, & Ed Lunderman arrived on the scene. Their tents were quickly thrown up and everyone had a brief visit. Then it was off to bed.

The night was extremely cold. Spent breath condensed, and then froze on the inside of the tents. We exited our tents to a cold, clear morning. It was 22°. Clifton had the fire going pretty quickly. We got a little food in us, and then took turns strolling around the site. The crowds began to work their way down to us about mid-morning. We had numerous visitors and made a couple of potential contacts. About midday, we cooked up some country ham.

Saturday night, we went to the Ceilidh. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Afterward, we returned to camp and talked around the fire pit. Everyone seemed to be avoiding going into their tents. Around midnight, the Sandman seemed to win his tug-of-war. The night wasn't as cold as the previous one. We crawled out of our tents on Sunday morning to a balmy 27°.

The clan took breakfast at the local Denny's. By late morning, we had packed up our caravan & were headed back South.

DISPATCH FROM FORT KING GEORGE

It has been a busy time for *Fort King George*, a regular second home for **Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch** and **Clifton "Moon Dog" Gorden**. On November 10th Veterans Day was observed and Fort King George hosted about 100 school children as they toured the fort and were presented with an assortment of demonstrations which included Lone Dog's Soldiers' Story. The evening followed with another well attended Candlelight Tour with more presentations and Lone Dog once more played Col. John Barnwell hosting Don Francisco Menendez Marquez (**Roger Salas**) as the auditor from St. Augustine presented the Col. with an ultimatum to leave Georgia. As usual, Col. Barnwell rejects the ultimatum and the Spaniards attack the following day.

The highlight of the weekend was the annual *Drums Along the Altamaha* encampment on Saturday, Nov. 11th, the actual Veterans Day. As a reminder, Veterans Day was formed from the original Armistice Day of World War I, in which the Armistice was effective of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. A Veterans Day ceremony was conducted at 11 o'clock and it proved to be our best and most moving to date. A procession was led up the hill to the cemetery by Lone Dog (Col. Barnwell) and FKG Superintendent **Steven Smith**. Supt. Smith gave an admirable talk on the purpose behind our remembrance of the soldiers and warriors of all nationalities and led a moment of silence. Lone Dog announced the various presentations. The first presentation was the beautiful proclamation of remembrance by **David Temple**, followed by a releasing of doves by the Glynn Angels, which circled the field three times before heading home. Muskets were fired in salute by the English forces, then by the Spanish forces, followed by a Spanish cannon salute accompanied by a pike salute by the crew of the H.M.S. Falcon. It was a wonderfully well-done ceremony.

The Drums event went well with Lone Dog, as Col. Barnwell, strutting around like he owned the place and welcoming many a visitor to his fort. Moon Dog hung around performing duties as **Nan "The Herb Lady" Gorden** required and firing the cannon. **Ed "Old Dog" Lunderman** had his sutler tent set up so he could trade stuff with the other sutlers under the guise of trying to make a living. **Neil "Song Dog" Fitzgibbons** could be seen carrying on with nearly anyone he could, breaking out in song and blowing some tunes with his whistle. The highlight was the best battle we had in years. Finally, someone figured out that to come out of a perfectly good fort to fight in a line was insane, so the English forces stayed put behind the safer parapet of the fort. With much fan-fair and noise, we manned the wall, had the blockhouse manned with muskets and the Falcon crew manned the blockhouse cannon. The Spanish had their cannon plus the fort's field piece (obviously captured earlier). With the largest contingency in many years, nearly a dozen Spaniards with their Indian allies attacked the fort for over half an hour. The fort responded with cannon blasts, and multiple volleys, often coordinated between blockhouse and wall muskets with the cannon and wall gun. The show was indeed impressive with the Spanish eventually asking for a parley. Col. Barnwell, with an escort, met with the Spanish and secured the cessation of hostilities. Regular programming resumed with presentations by **Jim Sawgrass**, the Coastal Rangers, Spanish Camp and British Camp.

That evening was the time for reenactor festivities and awards. The bakery ladies won the cooking contest with their period-like venison stew. **Brad Spear** won the Captain's Cup for his immense work and coordinating for the multiple programs the fort has presented.

More activities were performed Sunday, but to a much lesser extent due to the majority of reenactors and sutlers began packing for their long journeys home. A great time was had by all.

FOLKTALES OF THE RALES

CNC limped into the field on a fine October day in Kennesaw.

"Lone Dog" Lynch had been delayed in arrival when a Protection One Alarm service driver tried to co-exist with Lone Dog's truck barely north of the perimeter, and got the worst of it. Clifton and Nan Gorden arrived with herself in pain from cat-bite fever. Though the situation worsened during our performance, earlier medical intervention was taking it's effect and Nan gave as many performances as she could handle, including "The Teeny Tiny Woman" and "Petite Rouge Riding Hood". James "Bog Dog" Heldreth, dressed as a dapper Medieval Englishman and Skin Neal rounded out the veteran contingent. Filling out our crew were Cody "Caoilte" Hackney, just back from Tennessee where the family witnessed J.P.'s stunning effort to WIN the Chattanooga Invitational XC race (Bill Hackney reported almost 150 total runners participated). The "Pup Prize" was taken by Nate Brubaker, 10yrs of age of Cassville, grandson of one of my friends. Nate professed having a great time and he and Cody livened up the show with their sword battles as well as assisting where needed. Scott Hodges joined us with his classic Governor-General James Oglethorpe interpretation, which always serves to gather a crowd. "Spuds" Neil was repeatedly unceremoniously removed from the speaker's chair by Skin and Lone Dog who disputed the melody line for "The Smokey Hut."

CNC had a constant crowd at the camp and we kept the tales and demos coming. This year we added a few disagreements, such as Skin and Lone Dog disputing the function of the claymore's "blood groove" or "fuller" and the time of appearance of family tartans. Clifton had to put James out of his misery a few times with a concealed weapon after James' matchlock wouldn't fire (intentionally and hilariously).

In attendance were also the mountain men, CW artillery, foot soldiers and cavalry, pirates and more. With the combination of planes, trains and cannons, it was disorienting at times, never a dull moment. We had the loan of a video camera and taped about 90 minutes of performance. I'll be trying to get copies made. We made acquaintance with some folks from Chickamauga who have involvement with their heritage days. We sent them off with a copy of "An Crann Tara" and them to contact Chief Brinson with the hope of an invitation for next year. If memory serves, the festival is held during the 3rd week of August.

Cockey-Leeky soup and baked (not completely burned) potatoes were on our bill of fare with cheese, bread and apples. The audience sampled and approved of the soup and potatoes and sampled the (raw) leeks.

This year, Kennesaw dispensed with the "taste of Kennesaw" and added "The Haunted Museum," well prepared by those who attended. "Spuds" Neil told a short ghost story up at the Storytellers' Stage. There were some fine story tellers there in need of a bigger audience. We broke camp after 9 pm and retired to house and hotel. James braved it out

in his truck. I believe we had a frost that evening yet James, ever the campaigner, was unfazed. We look forward to another invite to return.

GAELIC LANGUAGE REVIEW

The following is a list of the words and phrases we have worked on for the last few months.

COMMON GAELIC PHRASES

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>GAELIC</u>	<u>PRONUNCIATION</u>
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.

Panama City Scottish Festival & Highland Games. March 2007. Panama City, Florida.

Uaireigin Cu, Doannon Cu

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

Culloden Highland Games. April 2007. Culloden, Georgia.

Savannah Highland Games. May 2007. Savannah, Georgia.

Battle of Culloden. May 2007. Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania.

Blairsville Highland Games. June 2007. Blairsville, Georgia.

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

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

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

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