

THE FIERY CROSS



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

AFTER ACTION REPORT

BLAIRSVILLE HIGHLAND GAMES

The 2nd Annual *Blairsville Highland Games* were held June 11-12, 2005 at Meeks Park in Blairsville, Georgia. Members of *Clan An Cu* began to arrive about 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 10 and set up camp alongside the stream that meanders through the property. A canopy of trees hung overhead. The sky was overcast.



Clan An Cu charges out of the creek near their camp at Blairsville (L-R: Skin Neal, Britt Brinson, Ed Lunderman, Cody Hackney, Larry Lynch, Neal Fitzgibbons, & J.P. Hackney).

Britt Brinson, Neil Fitzgibbons, Ed Lunderman and Larry Lynch all showed up together. They were followed closely by **J.P. and Cody Hackney**. Camp was set up by 9:00 and the crew went into Blairsville to look for some nourishment. They found it at Zaxby's. While

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they were eating, the rain came. Choking down their meals, the clan quickly returned to check on the camp. All was well. The rest of the evening was spent in the usual fellowship, sitting under Lone Dog's fly and shooting the breeze. Friday night was great sleeping weather. The temperature was in the high 60's. There was a light breeze. It was just about right for one thin blanket.

Saturday dawned with overcast skies, which held throughout the day. The temperature only rose into the low 70's. **Skin Neal** made it in about 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. The day was spent, as usual, talking with the visitors about the Darien Scots and Jacobites, showing them our weapons and camp.



Clan An Cu camped along the creek that meanders through Mills Park. (L-R: Larry Lynch, Britt Brinson, J. P. Hackney, Skin Neal, Ed Lunderman, Neal Fitzgibbons, and Cody Hackney.

The afternoon's activities ended about 5:00 p.m. We got a fire going and cooked our traditional meal of marinated pork backstrap and baked potatoes. Each clansman ate his fill. Afterwards, we strolled down to the athletic field to listen to a concert by *The Hunting MacLeods*, a Celtic rock band out of Canada. They reminded us of *7 Nations* before they got so big. J.P. and Neal both got up and cut the rug, or should we say, the grass. After the

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concert wound down, we returned to camp to visit some more. Most of us turned in about 10:30. Saturday evening started out as another beautiful night for sleeping.

Skin went out to sleep under a nearby gazebo so he could enjoy the breeze. He got much more than he had bargained for. Sometime about midnight, the rains came with a vengeance. The wind was howling and the water was beating down on our tents. It continued to rain off and on throughout the night. Skin pulled his blanket up around his head and weathered the storm. When he came too, he found his bonnet and hose blown all over creation.



Morning brought heavier rains. Skin was able to get our fire going again and cooked up some Stripling's sausage and eggs. Once again, we ate our fill. While the cooking and eating were going on, we kept watch on the creek, which had begun to rise. It rose a couple of feet in just a couple of hours. As the rain continued, the organizers came by and told us that the Sunday schedule had been cancelled. Over the next two hours, we broke camp and loaded our vehicles. Sliding up and down the hill with our stuff took its toll. Several of our clansmen were lucky enough to avoid slipping on the mud and busting their behinds. Lone Dog was not so lucky.

By 1:00 p.m. we had finished packing and were on our way home. We stopped in Ellijay for some barbecue, and then all headed their own way.

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THE LATEST NEWS

ST. SIMONS ISLAND INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our old friend **Dave Temple**, the FLETC event coordinator, is helping set up some kind of shindig for the Fourth of July at St. Simons. **Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch** has forwarded some limited information about the "goings-on." Writes Lone Dog, "It would be ever-so-cool to have a good turn-out at St. Simons and the Chamber of Commerce has given approval for a super spot near the pier, and a cannon firing to start the fireworks. Dave will have his tent sans sides for shelter and we would advertise the two forts. It would be an all-day event with plenty of restaurants nearby. Although I have limited facilities, I would still be glad to have whomever wished to crash at the Dog's den."

Fort King George State Historic Site will also hold their "**Cannons Across the Marsh**" event on the 4th. It is a day of living history, and a celebration of our Independence, with cannon firings and other soldierly activities. Any of you wishing to help would be welcomed by the fort.

PLANNING BEGINS FOR 260th CULLODEN EVENT

Our good friend **Brian Carpenter** sent us an email concerning planning for next year's major spring event, which will commemorate the 260th anniversary of the battle of Culloden. Brian writes, "Chris and I are already discussing plans for a major event for next spring. We're looking at either *Old Bedford Village* or *Fort Loudoun, PA* (near Chambersburg www.fortloudoun-pa.com) as possible sites."

Brian says they are looking at either May 12-14 or May 19-21, 2006. He has asked us if either of those dates would work for us. The 19th thru 21st would be out for many of our clansmen who do Civil War reenacting since the third weekend of May is the traditional date for the Battle of Resaca. Lets all hope they can work it out for the 12th thru 14th. Next year being the 260th anniversary, it should be a very special event.

INEXPENSIVE TARTAN SOURCE FOUND

Chris Zagst, whom we are recruiting to join our clan, has come across a limited amount of tartan on eBay at a very good price. He has contacted the lady who is trying to sell it. Chris writes, "She is selling what appears to be 13oz Buchanan plaid for approximately **\$35 per yard**. This is tartan by Strathmore, which is some of the best and sells for around \$70 per yard typically." He has ordered some of the Buchanan. **Neal Fitzgibbons** has ordered some as well.

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The lady selling the material is named is **Louise Watson**. She writes, "I have 5 different Tartans: Buchanan, Finzean, Red Menzies, Black Menzies, and one whose name I forget. They are 100% wool, I would say medium to heavy weight (but I don't know the exact weight), excellent quality: soft, bright colors, 54" wide. The amount varies with the plaid. Some bolts I can't tell exactly how many yards I have. The smallest bolt is 9.5 yards." Ms. Watson may be reached by email at lwatson@middlebury.edu or phone at (802) 443-2114.

CLAN INVITED TO TWO MORE GAMES

The **Blairsville Highland Games** were a success in many ways, but one of the most important ways was our receiving of invitations to additional games. *Clan An Cu* has been invited to attend two more Highland games, both in the fall.

The first is the **Appalachian Highland Games**. They will be held on Saturday, **September 10, 2005** in Andrews, North Carolina. We have been invited to set up a living history encampment and have been offered some travel expenses, firewood, etc.

The second invitation is for the **Foothills Highland Games**. They will be held on Saturday, **November 5, 2005** in Hendersonville, North Carolina. We understand this to be a very prestigious game. They are interested in us setting up our camp and performing our demonstrations.

OTHER HAPPENINGS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Chris Zagst reports of an Independence Day happening in the metro Atlanta area. Some of you may be attending the St. Simons event. Others will be spending that time with family and friends. In any case, Chris highly recommends the following, "There is an event in Winder, GA (between Atlanta and Athens) that weekend, too. It is sponsored by the Fort Yargo Living History Society. There is an actual blockhouse there that was built in 1792. They just moved it the past 3 months to another area of the park for better preservation and protection. I mention it to you because some of *Clan An Cu* live in and around Atlanta and may be looking for something close and fun to do that weekend. They should have music Saturday night. It's always hot, but there is a lake nearby that folks can swim in to cool off. There is also a bath house with showers."

"The time period is late 18th century, but it is not juried and anybody from any time period/persona who so desires to attend is welcomed. The park just really appreciates having reenactors/interpreters out to talk to the public to generate interest. Traders/sutlers are encouraged, and last I heard, there are no fees associated with that. Occasionally, we have people march in the parade thru Winder. Often we go to dinner on a Friday or Saturday night in our attire to generate curiosity."

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"We hope to have a Scottish camp. I think a Scottish camp would be appropriate as so many of Georgia's settlers were of Scottish decent. Good chance to educate people on that."

LATEST FROM THE WEB

Clan An Cu's website Homepage received its 4800th hit during the month of June, reaching 4845 hits by June 16. Clan Standard Bearer and founding member **Amos McCall** started the site on March 8, 2002. There have been 16453 viewings of all of the pages on the site combined. In addition to the Homepage, which is the busiest, the Roster page has received 1880 hits, followed by Links (974), Latest News (809), Upcoming Events (728), Pictures (719), Vendors (673), and After Action Reports (549).

A summary of the visits to the Homepage as of June 17, 2005 include:

- Total page views to date 4845
- Highest monthly page views 424 in July 2004
- Top search engine used to access this page 83.46% use www.google.com
- Top search word used to find this page 99.88% typed "clan an cu"
- This page is linked to most often from this URL 73.22% of visitors link from <http://www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html>

The top five most visited individual Roster pages are Britt Brinson (315), Philip Boyd (277), Cody Bennett (264), Mark Tippens (264), and Amos McCall (243).

Our website is located at www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Appalachian Highland Games. September 10, 2005. Andrews, North Carolina.

Foothills Highland Games. November 5, 2005. Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Frederica Festival. February 11, 2006. Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Northeast Florida Highland Games. February 25, 2006. Green Cove Springs, Florida.

Scottish Heritage Days. March 18, 2006. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

Coastal Heritage Week. March 2006. Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Brunswick, Georgia.

Savannah Highland Games. April 2006. Richmond Hill, Georgia.

Culloden Highland Games. May 6-7, 2006. Culloden, Georgia.

Battle of Culloden. May 2006. Pennsylvania?

Blairsville Highland Games. June 2006. Blairsville, Georgia.

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PHOTO GALLERY



Members of Clan An Cu pose in camp at the Savannah Highland Games and Gathering on April 30, 2005.



J. P. Hackney cuts the rug with two local lovelies during the Hunting MacLeods' concert at Blairsville.

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