

THE FIERY CROSS



Official Newsletter For Clan Am Cu

MARCH 2004

THE LATEST NEWS

AT LAST, A PIPER HAS ARRIVED

The trip to *Fort King George* on February 13 was great for several reasons. Your chief was given the honor of portraying **John MacIntosh Mohr**, leader of the Darien Scots, during the *Georgia Days* celebration. We spent Friday night in the officer's quarters with a roaring fire. We even got to renew our ties with our good friends and supporters at the fort, **Ken Akin** and **Brad Spear**.



The Darien Highlanders pose with General Oglethorpe. [L-R Neil Fitzgibbons, Britt Brinson, Scott Hodges (portraying General Oglethorpe) Larry Lynch, and Ken Bloom]

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Without a doubt though, the highlight of the weekend was meeting up with **Ken Bloom**, a piper from North Carolina. He had been invited down to *Forts King George and Frederica* by Brad & **Denise Spear**. I'm glad to say that we seemed to hit it off famously. He went out and ate some dinner with us. Afterward, he decided to join our merry little clan and has been appointed Clan Piper for *Clan Am Cu*. In fact, Ken said, "It was a great pleasure for me to meet you and your fellow clan members. I enjoyed the camaraderie, music, and especially the long discussions. I look forward to the next time we can do it." He has offered to contribute articles to *The Fiery Cross* when he can.

Ken is a musician and instrument maker by trade. He built his pipes. He builds and plays bowed dulcimers, predecessors of the dulcimers we know.

Moving to North Carolina in 1989, he joined the North Carolina Rangers, a Revolutionary War reenacting group that portrayed Tory militia, in 1990. Said Ken, "Considering my age I chose the persona of the third son of the dispossessed Jacobite Lord. That meant I had no money but neat stuff."

"I continued with the Rangers for several years but longed to do something more 'regular' so, along with a few other disreputable reprobates we formed a company of the Royal Highland Emigrants, the 84th Regiment of Foot. We endeavored to make ourselves the most 'Scottish' of companies and our ranks grew rather quickly. We were also known as the 'party-hearty Highlanders'. We have done our best to live up to that. I have been Sergeant in the company since it started. Our beginnings were very rough but within a year we were one of the better field-ready companies able to do Line duty as well as Light duty. When we do militia events, we are Highland militia and orders are given in Gaelic."

"I have tried to learn the proper use of the broadsword and dirk as well as be familiar with all that Sergeant in the British Army should know."

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Most of Ken's "time is spent building instruments for other people and playing with a number of groups." His music may be found on the following websites:

<http://www.bolick.net/bloom>
<http://www.bolick.net/Music>
<http://www.mappamundi.com>

WHO'S COMING AND WHO'S NOT

The Scottish Heritage Days event is coming up at Fort King George on Saturday, March 27, 2004. The Battle of Bloody Marsh will be reenacted at that time. Each member of the clan should contact Britt Brinson, either by phone or email, and let him know whether or not you will be attending. In the past, the fort has been good about loaning muskets to those who don't have one, but loaners have been first-come-first served. Call Britt as soon as possible at 229-273-7864 or email him at bbrinson@gpstc.state.ga.us.

LATEST FROM THE WEB

Just another reminder for each of you to visit Clan Am Cu's website at www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html. We will be updating the pictures section with images from the Winter/Spring campaign.

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

LANDING OF GENERAL OGLETHORPE

Members of *Clan Am Cu* participated in the re-creation of the *Landing of General Oglethorpe* at Darien, which originally occurred on February 22, 1736. This year's event was held at Fort King George on Friday, February 13, 2004. **Scott Hodges** portrayed General Oglethorpe, as usual. Due to an insufficient number of oarsmen for the boat, **Ken Akins**, Superintendent of the Fort King George State Historic Site, portrayed John MacIntosh Mohr during the landing. Clan members attending the program included **Britt Brinson**, **Neil Fitzgibbons**, and **Larry Lynch**. When we arrived at the fort, we met the event piper, **Ken Bloom**, and convinced him to join our clan later in the day.

Brinson & Fitzgibbons helped row the General in to the fort. After being greeted by MacIntosh, Oglethorpe gave a rousing speech to the assembled crowd, which included about 300 school children and their teachers. Brinson, Lynch, and Fitzgibbons escorted General Oglethorpe over to the battery for a ceremonial cannon firing. The cannon crew apparently forgot to tip the cannon barrel down before loading. After a night of heavy

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rain, the powder charge soaked up the contents of the tube, so the initial attempt at firing did not exactly go off with a bang. After a bit of scrambling, the salute was fired.



General Oglethorpe arrives at Darien.

Following the cannon salute, Bloom piped the contingent from the fort to the cemetery, where Ken Akins gave a brief, but stirring talk about the British soldiers buried there. It was an impressive ceremony. Afterward, we all talked with the school kids & showed them our weapons.

During our lunch break, we listened intently as Ken Bloom regaled us with stories. We later returned to the fort to prepare for the evenings festivities. The fort hosted a fundraiser, beginning at 7:30 p.m. About 75 guests were seated in the barracks & officer's quarters. A meal of ham, vegetables, scotch eggs, scones and soup was served. General Oglethorpe repeated his speech to those assembled, then offered a toast. John MacIntosh Mohr, now portrayed by Brinson, offered a toast in Gaelic (thanks to some coaching from Bloom) to the health of King George.

After the guests left, the reenactors gathered in the officer's quarters for some additional fellowship. Brinson and Fitzgibbons later visited Bloom's quarters (the hospital) for music

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and merriment. Before calling it a night, they also stopped by the barracks to visit with Ken A. and his lovely wife. The next morning, the clan traveled to Fort Frederica.

THE FREDERICA FESTIVAL...RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

Clan Am Cu members **Britt Brinson**, **Neil Fitzgibbons** and **Ken Bloom** awakened in *Fort King George* to the sound of rain. There was a chill in the air. It was a fine morning to sit next to a roaring fire. What else could such weather mean but that the time for the Frederica Festival had arrived.

The *Frederica Festival* has traditionally been held the first weekend in March. Hoping for an improvement in the weather (it has rained each of the last three years) and because Frederica was founded on February 12, the event was moved to February 14, the Saturday closest to the original date.

Our hearty clansmen arrived at Frederica about 9:45 Saturday morning and immediately set about building a fire at our usual site under the towering oak trees. Shortly after 10 o'clock, clansmen **Larry Lynch** and **Joseph Hackney** joined us. There was a large Spanish contingent and a small English group, including **Scott Hodges** portraying General Oglethorpe.

Despite the weather, a number of people turned out to see the various exhibits & tour the fort. The fort held the lime burning, demonstrating part of the process for making tabby. It was a fine fire. About 4:30, each group called it a day & dispersed to the various points of the compass.



Reenactors & clan representatives participated in Oglethorpe's Landing at Fort King George.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Scottish Heritage Days. March 27, 2004. Fort King George. Battle of Bloody Marsh



Indian Springs Scottish Festival. June 12, 2004. Indian Springs, Georgia.

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



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

Culloden Highland Games. May 22-23, 2004. Culloden, Georgia. Sword & musket drills?



March On London. September 4-5, 2004. Bedford, Pennsylvania.

