

An Crann Tara

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

THE LATEST NEWS

BOYD RESIGNS FROM CLANN NAN CON

Tacksman Philip Boyd, Clan Captain & Am Marischal-tighe for Clann Nan Con, has resigned his membership and all positions within the clan. His letter states in part, "I would like to tender my resignation from the position of Tacksman, and my membership with in the Clan."

Clann Chief Britt Brinson has accepted the resignation. "Philip brought a lot to our clann. His fire and spirit will be missed," Brinson said. Boyd further stated, "I will always keep a fond place in my heart for the Clan, and I do wish you guy's well."

Philip felt he has not been as active with the clan as he needed to be. He has also recently left the 12th Georgia Volunteer Infantry, a Civil War reenactment group, to form the 21st Georgia.

We wish Philip well in his future endeavors.



CULLODEN GAMES CANCELLED

The *Culloden Highland Games*, held for the last 10 years or so in Culloden, Georgia, have been cancelled. Causes for the demise of the games are unknown at this time, but it is suspected that a combination of factors played into the decision of the organizers. There is a rumor that they might resurface as a fall event, leading up to the **Stone Mountain Highland Games**.

SCOTTISH HERITAGE DAYS AT FORT KING GEORGE



The Highland Independent Company of Darien marches along the edge of the marsh with General Oglethorpe.

Fort King George State Historic Site will host its annual **Scottish Heritage Days** event on Saturday, March 24. The program will include various historic demonstrations throughout the day. *Clann Nan Con* will conduct ancient Highland Games during morning & afternoon sessions. We will also conduct brief drill sessions and interact with the public throughout the day. The "Battle of Bloody Marsh" will be reenacted at 2 pm.

The preceding day (Friday), hundreds of school children will come by the fort. We have been asked to demonstrate the highland games for them, just as we did so successfully last year.

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BLOODY MARSH ANNIVERSARY

July 7 marks the 165th anniversary of the battles of Gully Hole Creek and Bloody Marsh. Following the landing of Spanish soldiers on St. Simons Island on July 5, 1742, British troops, lead by the **Highland Independent Company of Darien**, inflicted a stunning defeat on the invaders. *Fort Frederica National Monument* is considering commemorating the event some time in July. Clan Chief **Britt Brinson** discussed the possibility of such an occurrence with Park Ranger **Jon Burpee** during the Frederica Festival weekend. They discussed performing living history at Frederica, then transporting over to the Bloody Marsh site where Scottish and English soldiers would simulate their ambush on the Spaniards. Having some of the English soldiers break & run could be part of the scenario.

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

OGLETHORPE VISITS DARIEN

Fort King George State Historic Site hosted its annual program to commemorate General Oglethorpe's visit to Darien on February 9. The event usually plays host to about 300 school children, but this years' commemoration saw only about 25 kids and 20 or so adults. The crowd was big enough to fill up the barracks & they were very enthusiastic.

Things got off to a bit of a rocky start when **Scott Hodges** (General Oglethorpe) called in sick. **Dave Temple** ably filled in with his usual knowledge & comic timing. **Britt Brinson** filled the role of Capt. MacPherson, Oglethorpe's guide. **Steven Smith**, the park superintendent, portrayed the watchman at old Fort King George. **Nan Gorden** was also there to prod Oglethorpe about women's' property rights.

This year's event centered on Oglethorpe's visit to the area in 1734, looking for sites to establish communities & fortifications. After, the lecture/discussion/play in the barracks, the students were taken outside for drill by Smith & Temple. Brinson then gave a brief lecture about the Highlanders, their weaponry, attire & tactics.

FREDERICA FESTIVAL

Fort Frederica National Monument can be a very dark and lonely place when you are there alone at night. It is also quite peaceful and awe-inspiring.

Britt Brinson was the first reenactor to arrive at Frederica, on Friday. He would be the only guest that night. After setting up camp, he strolled down Broad Street to the magazine and watched the sun set across the marsh. Following supper on the mainland,

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he returned to the fort, where he spent a little time alone by the fire. Before turning in, Brinson visited with **Jon Burpee**, his wife & newborn baby in the Ranger office. It was a beautiful night, clear and cool, the temperature in the low thirties.

Neil Fitzgibbons roused his Chief from sleep about 6:45 by rekindling the campfire. The two men set about putting their campsite in order before the visitors started to arrive. **J.P.** and **Cody Hackney**, along with their mother **Catherine**, arrived about 8:00 and helped bring the camp to life. **Clifton Gorden** made a brief appearance in a British uniform, before leaving for work. **Nan Gorden** was there organizing the children's games.

The public began to trickle in shortly after 9:00 a.m. The morning started out kind of cool, though nice in the sunshine. By afternoon the wind had begun to howl, especially out near the water. We had a slow, but steady, stream of visitors throughout the day. Late in the clan worked on its musket drill near our camp. After lunch, we marched down to the magazine, in the company of General Oglethorpe (**Scott Hodges**). Once there, we were part of a program that showed the English, Scottish and Spanish musket drills. The crowd really loved it. We conducted a couple more firing drills during the afternoon.

When the event ended about 4:00 pm, over 600 people had walked through the various camps (despite an error in the local newspaper that said a fee would be charged for entry instead of the fact that the program was free). Once the public departed, Jon Burpee gave a heartfelt thank you to the twenty-five or so reenactors who showed up to bring the park to life (a number of people backed out on the event in the days leading up to it). In what has become a tradition at Frederica, each participant had his or her name drawn from a hat and was allowed to pick a prize, mostly donated by the Friends of Frederica.

Afterward, Brinson, Fitzgibbons, the Gordens and the Hackneys, now joined by father Bill, went out to eat at the Red Barn. It was a fabulous meal. Once the meal was over, the Chief and the Bard returned to camp, had a short visit around the campfire with Nan, then turned in for the night.

After another night in the low thirties, the two clansmen rolled out of their tents early to pack for the long trip home. Packing was just short of brutal, as the winds howled to such an extent that the 42° temperature felt like it was about 30°. Once packed, we headed our separate ways.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA HIGHLAND GAMES

Britt Brinson, **Neil Fitzgibbons** and **Ed Lunderman** arrived at the Clay County Fairgrounds about an hour behind **Clifton Gorden** and immediately set up their camp. This was our second annual trip to the **Northeast Florida Highland Games**. Our hosts went well out of their way for us. Hay and firewood were already on site when we arrived. Every time we turned around, someone was asking if we needed anything. Once our camp was in place, we went over to Orange Park and grabbed a bite to eat.

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Returning to camp, we visited around the fire for a while before turning in. The weather was beautiful, clear with temperatures in the mid-forties.

Saturday brought us an early start. As we tidied up our camp, Lunderman prepared a fine breakfast of bacon, eggs, & bread. It's a good thing, too. The gates opened about 9:00 a.m. and, after a brief tour of the vendors' area, we were wide open for almost the entire day. It seemed we constantly had a crowd of 15 to 30 people in our camp. About 10:30, we started our musket drill. Several times we had 50 to 100 people watching. Just before noon, we moved over to the arena to march in the parade of tartans, taking our usual position at the rear of the column. This year's parade was so big, the arena couldn't hold it all, so about a third of the pipe bands & clans marched around and exited, followed by the next third, followed by the last third. Just like last year, we received a good bit of applause from the spectators as we marched around the arena.

The games closed about 5:00 p.m. We grilled some beef and baked some potatoes for supper. It was great to sit down. One of the organizers stopped by camp to thank us again and let us know how pleased they were that we could attend. He said the early attendance estimates were that over 15,000 people had been there. Folks couldn't seem to get enough of us. Our camp hosted about 15 people during our after-hours-sit-around-the-fire-and-visit session. The Chief turned in about 11:30. Clifton said he lasted until about 2 am. Ed and Neil hung in until about 4:00. They appeared to have paid the price during the trip home, since they both slept for most of the 240 mile trip.

As we broke camp on Sunday morning, Eddie, the games vice-president, stopped by to thank us again. He said that they had completely filled the parking lot on Saturday, 8500 cars. Law enforcement personnel told him that they figure crowds like that using research that shows 2.5 people per car. If that's true, attendance would have been almost 22,000. Richard Martin, the fellow that first invited us last year thinks it was probably between the two figures sited.

Whatever the turnout, the organizers were pleased with our presentation. They eagerly look forward to our return next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Culloden Highland Games. **CANCELLED.**

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

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

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

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.

Oglethorpe's Visit to Darien. February 2008. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

Frederica Festival. February 2008. Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Northeast Florida Highland Games. February 2008. Green Cove Springs, Florida.

COMMON GAELIC PHRASES

ENGLISH

GAELIC

PRONUNCIATION

Fall in.	Cruinnichibh.	Krayn-yih-kiv.
Shoulder your musket.	Gualainn bhor cuilethar.	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.	Air adhart.	Er ursht.
Company halt.	Companoch stad.	Comp-an-ukh stad.
Order your musket.	Socraibh bhur cuilethar.	So-kriv orr kool-ih-ver.
Dismissed.	Fagibh.	Fah-kiv.
Attack.	Gabhaibh orra.	Gahv-iv or-uh.
Welcome.	Failte.	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-eech uh th' un-tah