

THE FIERY CROSS



Official Newsletter For Clan Am Cu

MAY 2004

AFTER ACTION REPORT

COASTAL HERITAGE WEEK

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, Georgia hosted *Coastal Heritage Week* on March 31-April 3, 2004 and **Clan Am Cu** was right in the middle of it. It was a great time and the FLETC people went out of their way to make us welcome. Why, we even got paid. Paid?! For doing living history?! What a deal!!!



Clan Am Cu near their campsite. (L-R Larry Lynch, Britt Brinson, Skin Neal, & Neil Fitzgibbons)

Britt Brinson, Neil Fitzgibbons, Larry Lynch and **Skin Neal** all took time off to go down and participate. Brinson arrived about mid-afternoon on Tuesday, March 30, and hooked

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up with “Lone Dog” Lynch, who was already set up. The “No-see’ums” were swarming to beat the band. They were the worst I’ve ever seen.

A meeting was held about 1600 to let each of the participants know what was going on. The event was a time-line presentation of the history of coastal Georgia. Presenters included **Jim Sawgrass** and his son **Cody (Wildcat)**, the **St. Augustine garrison, English Rangers, German Jaegers, Union and Confederate soldiers, ladies from various periods, and us, the Scottish Highlanders of Darien**. Following the meeting, we headed back over to set up camp.

As we were setting up camp, a huge rainstorm hit. After a 30-minute shower, the sky cleared, the “No-see’ums” left & we finished setting up. By and large, that was the last we saw of the “No-see’ums. Fitzgibbons arrived before dark and got moved in. Sometime during the wee hours of the morning, Skin arrived. He had detoured through Ashburn to pick up his & Neil’s Highland jackets from **Connie Garmon**. It was a good thing too, because each evening and morning was rather chilly.

Wednesday came early. The student’s at FLETC start heading to breakfast about 0600. There wasn’t much need of lying awake in a cold tent, so about 0630, we started to stir. Skin got a fire going and, after we warmed up a bit, we began to ready ourselves for the shows.

The schedule called for two shows on Wednesday, three on Thursday, and one each on Friday and Saturday. All of the shows were put on for the local schools, except for Thursday night (FLETC staff and students) and Saturday (general public).

Overall, the shows were pretty neat. Each one started with a parade of reenactors into the site. Then, Sawgrass and Wildcat performed their awesome American Indian program. Sawgrass gives a great historical account of his people and demonstrates a number of weapons, musical instruments and games. Wildcat demonstrates native dances.

Members of the St. Augustine garrison were next, performing the Spanish musket drill. The English Rangers followed them. They were a kind of *Laurel & Hardy* meets the *Three Stooges* meets *Abbott and Costello*. Their skit involves a cannon drill on the “biggest gun you’ve ever seen.” The gun is actually about a foot and a half long, but at the end of their show makes quite a noise. Next came the Jaegers, demonstrating a rolling street fire used in the Revolutionary War. We were kind of plugged in with them, even though there was about a 40-year difference in our portrayals. We did our Gaelic musket drill during this segment. The Civil War skirmish followed us, including cannon firings. The programs ended with Sawgrass playing a drum and singing/narrating as Wildcat performed his hoop dance. I’ll tell you, that boy sure can dance. Following the presentation, the camps were opened to the crowd and we could tell them our stories.

Following the Wednesday morning parade, **Ed Lunderman**, who was kind enough to carry our colors, expressed interest in joining our clan. He had looked around at various groups and was impressed with our attitude & effort. Welcome, Ed.

Friday afternoon, FLETC went out of their way to show their appreciation for our efforts. After the morning show, we were bussed over to the ATF bomb range, where the staff gave us demonstrations of various explosives, culminating with blowing up a car. From there, we were taken over to the indoor firing range, where the firearms staff demonstrated various weapons, including the M-16, MP-5 and Uzi. They also had a police car arrive & the officers shot targets from behind their car doors & a SWAT team made an assault. Afterward, we were allowed to shoot several of the weapons ourselves. After shooting, we were taken over to driver training to ride along during evasive driving exercises and a high-speed chase. It was great.

Friday night, the English Rangers and friends invaded our camp for some “pickin’ and grinnin’.” Everybody had an extremely large time.

We finished up on Saturday, about 1100, and broke camp. After sharing one last meal, we all headed our separate ways.

We have been invited back for next year. It is well worth taking time off to go. Hopefully, the few glitches (shortage of firewood and our presentation put in with the Rev War people) will be improved on by then. Needless to say, the many, many positives far outweighed the few negatives.

THE LATEST NEWS

NEW VIDEO FOR FORT FREDERICA

Fort Frederica National Historic Site has contracted with a film company out of Colorado to create a new video to show at the visitor’s center. It would replace the current film, which was made in the late 1950’s.

The new film will focus on various aspects of the life of Frederica. Parts of the film will be made at Williamsburg and Fort King George. **Scott Hodges** has been asked to portray General **James Oglethorpe**.

The **Battle of Bloody Marsh** will be portrayed in the film as well. They will be looking for reenactors who can give a quality impression of 1740’s Highlanders to portray the *Highland Independent Company* of Darien, which played such a key roll in the action. **Denise Spear** tells me we will most definitely be invited.

The production company is looking to film one weekend in August. The date is not yet set. Reenactors are supposed to be paid. More information will be sent out as we receive it.

CLAN RECEIVES INVITATION TO SAVANNAH GAMES

Clan Am Cu has been invited to set up a tent at the *Savannah Highland Games*. It is short notice for both our clan and the games, which are to be held Saturday, May 8. That is the Saturday before Mother's Day. This all started after Clan Chief **Britt Brinson** met **Gary Adams** at the Kirkin' in Darien. Gary contacted **Gil Clarke**, President of the games. Gil issued the invitation on April 15. He wrote, "I think we can work something out. Can we keep it simple the first year and have you in a tent along "clan" row? I would like you to accompany the Scottish American Military color guard at the opening ceremonies onto the field as a unit behind the color guard, and I think we can arrange for you to perform musket drills in a different venue."

"The interaction with the crowd and discussing Darien, Oglethorpe, and the '45 would be a significant addition. The number of participants is not terribly important, but six or eight would be great."

"I looked at your web site before the first email and that was enough to make me consider you after the recommendation of Gary Adams. I think you would be an excellent addition to the Games."

If any of you are interested in going, we should be able to set up our tent on Friday night. Afterward, we could all head down to *Kevin Barry's* Irish Pub on River Street.

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. *Pictures* from *Fort King George* and *FLETC* have been added.

Our website is now linked to Electric Scotland, a website for all things Scottish. They are including copies of our newsletter and a link back to our website. You can view the Electric Scotland site at www.electricscotland.com, or go our *Links* page and click on *Electric Scotland*.

Collin King has set up a chat room for Clan Am Cu on the Internet. It is a great place for us to leave messages and talk amongst ourselves. To learn more about the Clan Am Cu group, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClanAmCu>. To start sending messages to members of this group, simply send email to ClanAmCu@yahoogroups.com.

WHO'S COMING AND WHO'S NOT

This is just a reminder about the **Culloden Highland Games**, coming up at the end of the month. The games have been moved to May 22-23, the weekend after Resaca. We will probably grill a meal, either pork back strap, chicken or steak on Saturday night. We need to know who would like to chip in on the meal. Depending on what we serve (back strap or chicken with a baked potato would probably run about \$3 to \$4 a head, steak about \$10 to \$12), we can eat cheaply or expensively.

Also, Culloden will be a good chance to work on our musket drill some more. Also, if Collin makes it up, we have talked about getting into some sword drill & 1st person impressions. We may also begin to develop our own program, combining history & a little humor, so we can begin to do more than stand around and talk to people when they visit our camp. After watching Sawgrass & the Spaniards, I have gotten a couple of ideas. Each clansman's presence is really and truly needed.

Call Britt at 229-273-7864 or email him at bbrinson@gpstc.state.ga.us to let him know *whether or not* you will be able to make it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Taste of Scotland Festival. June 12, 2004.
Scottish Tartan Museum. Franklin, NC

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

