

# ***THE FIERY CROSS***



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

## ***THE LATEST NEWS***

### **WEBSITE REACHES MILESTONE**

*Clan An Cu's* website received its four thousandth hit on September 19. Started in August 2002, the site contains a roster (including pictures and brief biographies of our members), pictures, news, upcoming events, after-action reports, links to other websites, vendors and a guest book. The site can be found at [www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html](http://www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html). It was created by Clan Standard Bearer **Amos McCall** and has been periodically maintained by Clan Chief **Britt Brinson**.

## ***PHOTO GALLERY***



The Highland Independent Company holds the line at the Battle of Bloody Marsh. Mark Tippens & Philip Boyd are in the foreground.

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*\*Winner of the Scottish Clan Organization Notebook Newsletters Category, The Family Tree 2004 Newsletter Contest*



The Highlanders await the call to battle. (L-R: Ed Lunderman, Steve Henderson, Collin King, & Neal Fitzgibbons)

## *AFTER ACTION REPORT*

### **MARCH ON LONDON**

**Chris Timm**, aka Prince Charles Edward Stuart, submitted the following report.

I wanted to give you all a brief update on this past weekend's event. Overall it went quite well. The weather was a bit hot but everyone persevered. *The Army of King James* was represented ably by *Elcho's Life Guards*, *Clan Cameron*, *Clan Donnachaidh*, *Clan MacLaren*, *Stuarts of Appin* and *the MacKintoshes*. We even welcomed to our line a representative of the newly formed *Irish Picquets* (impressively, in full kit!)

On Saturday morning we did a tactical march and occupation of the village, which turned into quite the running fight with Hanoverian infantry and even a mounted dragoon harassing the advance. After declaring King James and demanding billets, guards were posted and patrols sent out. They ran into resistance and it too became quite the event. The Saturday afternoon battle was well led and the troops handled themselves excellently.

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OCTOBER 2004

In the afternoon the ladies of Clan Cameron hosted a nice tea for the ladies with Prince Charles.

Sunday once again witnessed the sweep of the village by the Hanoverians for Jacobite fugitives. While one, from Clan Cameron, was able to evade capture, in the end several who were captured were successfully rescued due to the ingenuity of the MacLarens. Sunday's battle was a spirited affair as our forces fought a rear guard action to protect our (movingly vocal) baggage train retiring from Cumberland's advance.

While we took advantage of the opportunity over the weekend to try out some new tactics and drill there were also some new civilian additions. A very successful English coffee house was presented much to the enjoyment of all who visited by **Tim** and **Gretchen Davis**, adding to the event.

All in all, it was an excellent weekend at a delightful site. My thanks to Lord George Murray (**Wesley Weaver**) and Lord Elcho (**Elliot MacFarlane**) for their professionalism at leading and supporting HRH Prince Charles throughout the weekend and to the individual group commanders who did such an exceptional job with their troops during our largely unscripted tacticals and battles. My congratulations to those of you who came out putting on a fine camp display and making *The March To London* at *Old Bedford Village* such a success.

This is an event I hope to repeat and would encourage you to join us if you could not make it.

## COMMENTARY

### WEAPON MAINTENANCE A NECESSITY

Why is maintenance of our weapons important? What does it matter? We're not going to use them in a real battle, are we? No body really cares, right?

Well, a great many of us do care. I know from personal experience the embarrassment one feels when your musket won't fire. I've had similar feelings when I got to an event and realized that my musket wasn't clean. More than your personal embarrassment though is the shame you bring on your clan. Other clansmen, who have taken time to properly maintain their weapons, feel embarrassed when a fellow clansman is chastised for a dirty or improperly functioning weapon. We have all worked hard to attain a reputation as a high quality Highland company.

Showing up with a dirty weapon, or one that is not working properly shows our hosts a lack of professionalism. Now, professionalism has nothing to do with a pay check. It is an attitude that one has having to do with doing your best.

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Proper maintenance of your weapon must be a top priority. Muskets and pistols require regular maintenance to ensure that they operate properly. Barrels must be free of powder residue and rust, both inside and out. The touchhole must be clear. The barrel should “ping” when the rammer is dropped into it. Blades must be free of rust. Their scabbards must cover the entire blades.

Please take care of your weapons. Our safety and our reputations may be riding on this.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Folktales of the Rails.* October 9, 2004. Kennesaw, Georgia.

*The Fort by Candlelight.* October 16, 2004. Fort King George. 7-10 p.m. Friends of the Fort Dinner with Scottish and garrison eye-candy.



**DNR Board dinner.** October 26, 2004. Fort King George. 6-8pm. Chance to show off the fort to those who have much control over purse strings.

**School tours and Veterans ceremony.** November 11, 2004. Fort King George. 9:30 am until. Tours usually finished by 1-2.

**School tours.** November 12, 2004. Fort King George. 9:00 am until.

**Drums on the Altamaha.** November 13, 2004. Fort King George. Hourly cannon firings, drills and demos.

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