

THE FIERY CROSS



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

AFTER ACTION REPORT

FREDERICA MOVIE SHOOT

Clan An Cu participated in the shooting for the new movie for *Fort Frederica National Monument*. Our clansmen portrayed the Highland Independent Company of Darien during sequences depicting the Battles of Gully Hole Creek and Bloody Marsh. The filming took place at *Fort King George*, near Darien, which stood in for *Fort Frederica* in its early days. The shoot was held Friday through Sunday, August 27-29, 2004. With 13 men in attendance, this was the largest turnout we've ever had for any event.



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SEPTEMBER 2004

Larry Lynch and **Neal Fitzgibbons** were the first to arrive, followed soon after by **Philip Boyd**, **Britt Brinson**, **Ed Lunderman**, and **Mark Tippens**. After moving into the barracks and officers' quarters, Boyd, Brinson, Fitzgibbons, Lunderman, and Tippens were asked to go down to the ranger campsite so the *Great Divide Pictures* crew could film scenes depicting the Highlanders building temporary quarters shortly after their arrival at Darien. After filming for about an hour or so, we went over to *Mudcat Charlie's* to grab a bite to eat. When we got back, we were joined by **Cody Bennett**, **Collin King**, **Amos McCall**, and **Skin Neal**. His wife Mary and daughter Morgan joined Collin. That evening, we got our first looks at new recruits **Steve Henderson** and **Chad Heckle**. **James Heldreth** arrived during the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Friday night was quite uncomfortable for our clansmen. It was hot and humid. After sundown, there was no air movement and the mosquitoes came out in droves. After a production meeting with the movie folks, we doused ourselves with bug spray and, one by one, lay down to try to get some rest. Mercifully, the morning came pretty early.

In return for us saving them the money they would have spent on motel rooms (which the English and Spanish troops took advantage of), the movie people had breakfast catered for us. The caterers arrived about 0700 with bacon, eggs, hash browns and biscuits.

Saturday morning dawned clear and relatively cool. There was a tropical storm looming off the coast and there were concerns that it would come in and ruin the shooting schedule. After they filmed some shots of the Spaniards, they called for our clan to go on the set for the Battle of Gully Hole Creek scenes.

Starting about 1000, we put in about four hours work before breaking for lunch. By the time we arrived on the set, it had turned muggy. Down in the woods where we filmed, there was little air movement. This would take its toll on us as the day wore on.

The *Great Divide* crew started out shooting scenes of the Highlanders and their Indian allies (portrayed by Jim and Cody Sawgrass and Swamp Owl) running down the military road to execute a Highland charge on the Spaniards. We executed this maneuver again and again. After shooting the scene from a wide view, they moved in for close-ups of us overrunning the Spaniard's advanced guard, including hand-to-hand combat scenes. Reports from *Great Divide* are that this footage came out quite good.

Those of us who have reenacted for a while know that reenacting is a contact sport. It turns out that movie making is, too. During filming of the Highland Charge, Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch accidentally dirked himself in the thigh. The dirk blade penetrated about an inch, only stopping when it hit bone. Though it struck nothing vital, it was quite painful for "Lone Dog" and a bit embarrassing to boot.

After taking a brief lunch break, we were called back to film some scenes for the Battle of Bloody Marsh. Just like with the filming, this battle occurred just a short time after the

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Battle of Gully Hole Creek. And just like the original battle, rain began to fall shortly after the filming began.

By the time we arrived on the set, it had become even muggier. *Great Divide* had been filming the English troops. Though Bloody Marsh was an ambush, the English troops were treating it like it was some type of standup battle, shouting orders and creating much mayhem. When we arrived, it was suggested that they tone down the noise. The film crew, as they did on so many occasions, was very open to suggestion and relayed this observation on to the English troops. As we took our place in the line, several shots were made of our Highlanders firing from their concealed place.

During this segment, James Heldreth suffered a problem with the heat. After he was moved back from the line to cool down, the filming continued. He was later carried to the park office to continue to cool down.

It wasn't long before the rain hit. Within minutes of the rain our powder became useless, forming a black muck in the flash pans of our muskets. Here, the experience of the English troops seemed to come into play. They were actually able to get off a volley.

By the time we got back to the fort, the rain had stopped. We set about cleaning our weapons and checked on Heldreth. Before our day would end, *Great Divide* wanted to get a few more shots. We ended our day's work performing scenes that would have prefaced the attack at Gully Hole Creek. The scenes included Highlanders grabbing their weapons to fall in for the attack and following General Oglethorpe, portrayed by **Scott Hodges**, out the gates of the fort and down the military road. Filming ended for the day at about 1930.

After we finished filming, many of us made the trip into Brunswick to eat at *Spanky's*. When we got back, we held our fealty ceremony, inducting three new members, then began to call it a night. The evening was somewhat cooler. Our efforts at sleep were further aided when Brad Spear procured several fans for the barracks and officers' quarters.

Sunday morning didn't seem to dawn nearly as early as Saturday. Once again, the caterer's arrived with breakfast about 0700. The movie crew started out filming the Spaniards. Before the Highlanders were called to the set, Britt Brinson was stricken with a stomach malady that eventually purged his system and left him bed-ridden throughout most of the day. Skin Neal administered him an IV and oxygen and stayed with him the rest of the morning.

Our clan was called out about 1000 to finish the Highlanders' part of the film. Mark Tippens assumed command of the clan and got them through the rest of the work. Throughout the morning, the sounds of a hot fight could be heard. Chad Heckle, our new

piper who had only been able to make it out for Sunday's filming, piped the clan back into the fort.



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Thanks to each of our clansmen who participated in the filming, especially those who rose to the occasion on Sunday morning (Bennett, Boyd, Fitzgibbons, Heckle, Henderson, King, Lunderman, Lynch, McCall, Neal, and Tippens). Each of you stepped up after a tough day on Saturday. It was hard, but gratifying work.

Special thanks go out to **Sonny Hutchison**, **Chris Wheeler**, and **Kristin Heidbreder** of Great Divide Pictures. They were great to work with, always open to suggestion, and looked after the needs of our guys. Special thanks also go to **Kim Coons** and **Denise Spear** of *Fort Frederica* and **Ken Akins** and **Brad Spear** of *Fort King George* for inviting *Clan An Cu* to participate in this awesome project and seeing to our needs. Without a doubt, this is the biggest feather we've ever gotten in our bonnets. Images of *Clan An Cu* will be seen by tens of thousands of visitors to *Fort Frederica* for decades to come.

THE LATEST NEWS

FEALTY CEREMONY

Three new clansmen took the fealty oath to join Clan An Cu. **Ed Lunderman** has been a reenactor since the 1960's. Ed has been serving with us since the FLETC timeline event back in the spring. He has ancestral links to Clan Stewart. **Steve Henderson** is new to reenacting. He teaches school on St. Simons Island and ran into "Lone Dog" Lynch at Fort King George. He has ancestral links to Clan Henderson. **Chad Heckle** has reenacted for several years. He is in the jewelry business and comes to us from WWII reenacting. He has ancestral links to Clan Fraser



Ed Lunderman



Steve Henderson



Chad Heckle

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FOLKTALES OF THE RAILS

Clan An Cu has been invited to the *Folktales of the Rails* event in Kennesaw, Georgia. The event will be held at the depot across from *The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History* on Saturday, October 9, from 1600 to 2100. **Neal Fitzgibbons** is coordinating the event for our clan. Neal plans to set up a campsite, so tents are needed. Firewood should be provided.

The program will include storytellers, mountain men, Civil War infantry and artillery, etc. The plan is to camp Saturday night (maybe even Friday night if there is enough interest). The hosts will provide \$50 to \$75 per person for expenses, depending on the distance traveled. The director of the event is very enthusiastic about our appearance. **Please contact Neal as soon as possible** to let him know whether you can or cannot attend. Neal may be reached at (770) 795-9659 [home], (770) 321-4136 [work], or (404) 432-6702 [cell]. Details for the event can be found on the Kennesaw homepage.

DOG LOCK CARBINE FOR SALE

Our good friend, **Brian Carpenter** of *Clan Donnachaidh*, has "a sweet little Queen Anne-period dog lock carbine" for sale. It was custom made a few years back by **Jeff Lore** of Gardner, Mass. It has a hand-shaped walnut stock, a .69 cal tapered round ("Brown Bess" style) 37" barrel, iron furniture, the Rifle Shoppe #656 dog lock, sling swivels, and a leather sling with period brass buckle. It is an excellent hunting piece as both a fowler and deer gun, weighing less than 7 lbs. Brian is asking \$950.00, which includes shipping and insurance.

RUMORS AND TALL TALES

SENATOR LYNCH DEFENDS HIS SERVICE

Following the movie shoot at Fort King George, Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch forwarded this to the Fiery Cross.

"I wish to bring it to your attention that should a group calling themselves *Gully Hole Creek Veterans for Truth* starts making wild statements about me not being wounded in battle; they are jealous, have faulty memories, and weren't there. I wish the Clan record to reflect that during the Battle of Gully Hole Creek, I stabbed the man who stabbed me."

Let the record reflect Senator, uh "Lone Dog," that no such group has come forward.

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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.