

# An Crann Tara

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

## AFTER ACTION REPORTS

### BLAIRSVILLE HAS RECORD TURNOUT



L-R: J. P. Hackney, Nate Brubaker, Jeremy Crouse, Neil Fitzgibbons, Britt Brinson, Clifton Gorden, Michael Ramsey, Nick Honzik, & Caleb Geren. Not pictured is Cody Hackney.

*Uaireigin Cu, Doannon Cu*



**JULY 2007**

The **Blairsville Highland Games** were held at Meeks Park in Blairsville, GA on June 9-10 before record crowds. **Clifton Gorden**, along with his wife **Nan** were the first to arrive. They were followed shortly thereafter by **Neil Fitzgibbons & Nate Brubaker**. **Michael Ramsey, Jeremy Crouse, Nick Honzik & Britt Brinson** all pulled in around 7 pm, shortly before a driving rainstorm hit. Most of the tents were quickly set up along the stream. There we waited out the weather, before finishing up our camp. After a quick trip into town for supper, we returned to camp for some fireside fellowship. **Caleb Geren**, brought up from Tampa by his Grandmother **Laurie & Chuck**, arrived just ahead of **J. P. & Cody Hackney**. A light rain fell on and off throughout the night. The temperature was in the low 60's.



Our camp has been moved from the center of the Vendor's area to the beginning. It is a grand area, with room for 12-15 tents.

Most of us rose to the sounds of old-time rock-and-roll, as the sound crews for some of the musical performers started testing their equipment about 6:30 a.m. We set about tidying up the camp & preparing a breakfast of sausages. Everyone climbed into their Highland attire and was ready to go when the first visitors began to arrive, about half past eight.

We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Just before noon, we marched down to the athletic field to participate in the parade of tartans. As we stood in our traditional position at the end of the line, a fellow came up & wanted to know if we were

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with a clan. He was told that we *were* a clan; a clan of reenactors and that we have marched in the parade every year we have been there. He popped back that we had never been in the parade, that he had been there for four years & never seen us. Clan Chief Britt Brinson replied, "We've been in the parade each of the last four years and have always taken our traditional position at the end of the clans. If I had time, I'd go back to camp & get you a photograph showing us leading the athletes in." As the guy mouthed back, Brinson said, "We're fixing to march in this parade." As he stalked off, we prepared to move. As we marched onto the field, we met *The Wild Highlanders*, who were functioning as the guard for Clan Cameron. **Scott Cameron** yelled over that he had taken up for us with the official, who had stated in his presence that reenactors had no place in the parade of tartans.

We tramped around the field the much applause from the crowd. Afterward, we returned to camp, where we spent the rest of the day conducting musket drills & talking with the visitors. Over 4000 people attended the first day. We had several hundred stop by to visit us.

During the evening, cooked our meal over the fire. Neil Fitzgibbons had brought pork roasts, potatoes, rice and other items to eat. Everyone ate their fill before we headed down to the *Hunting MacLeod* concert. Everyone enjoyed the music, before returning to camp for our own entertainment. Fitzgibbons performed, among other things, *Pride of the Cu*, accompanied by several members beating on bodhrans. Before midnight, our clansmen began to seek out their tents. The night was cooler than the previous one, but everyone slept a little better. It was a long day for all.

Sunday morning dawned in the high 50's. We got our fire rekindled & Clifton Gorden prepared us a sumptuous breakfast of bacon & eggs. After breakfast, we spent time photographing members of the clan. The afternoon was once again spent talking to visitors & demonstrating our musket drill. We broke camp about 3:30 p.m. and were on the road toward home a couple of hours later. Organizers said 3000 to 4000 people attended Sunday's festivities.

We had our largest turnout ever for Blairsville & one of our all-time largest turnouts for any event, with 10 clansmen & one camp follower. Thanks to each of you for making the effort to be there.

## **TASTE OF SCOTLAND**

*Clann Nan Con* was graciously welcomed to *A Taste of Scotland* in Franklin, NC on Saturday, June 16. Representatives of the event discovered our clan at Blairsville in 2006.

**Britt Brinson, Neil Fitzgibbons & Ed Lunderman** arrived in Franklin on Friday afternoon about 4 p.m. Not knowing where to set up, we stopped by the Scottish Tartans Museum. The museum staff members hooked us up with event staff members who directed us to

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our campsite and invited us to the Celeidh. After touring the museum, we set up camp. Just as we finished setting up the tents, we were joined by **Michael Ramsey & Jeremy Crouse**. After taking time out to greet each other, we continued to tidy up the camp, then climbed into our Highland attire & went down to the Celeidh. Since we missed the barbecue, we didn't stay long. We went out to eat, then out to find straw and other essentials. Before we could return to camp, a heavy rain drenched the area. Upon our return, we used to straw to fix up our bedding, and then spent time in fellowship. Intermittent rain continued throughout the night. The temperature was in the low sixties. All slept soundly.



Neil Fitzgibbons, Ed Lunderman, Britt Brinson, Jeremy Crouse, & Michael Ramsey pose in camp.

We rose early to get our camp ready for the visitors' arrival and to prepare our breakfast. The first visitors began to arrive around 9 am. A steady stream passed through camp throughout the day. A number stopped to visit. The clan marched in the parade. **Skin Neal**, along with his friend **Rachel** & dog Bertrina, arrived before noon. The afternoon was spent talking to visitors & conducting musket demonstrations.

Our public activities ended shortly after 4 p.m. We walked down to the square for supper & listened to the entertainment for a couple of hours, then returned to camp. More people stopped by our camp, up until about dark.

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After dark, a fealty ceremony was held to induct Crouse into the clan. Fellowship continued up until about midnight. It was a beautiful evening, with temperatures in the low sixties.

We rose early on Sunday and began to break camp. We said our goodbyes and were on the road before 10 a.m.

## ***THE LATEST NEWS***

### **CROUSE TAKES FEALTY OATH**

**Jeremy Crouse** was sworn in as a member of *Clann Nan Con* on Saturday, June 16, 2007. He was brought into our clan by Tacksman **Michael Ramsey**, his brother-in-law. Jeremy first attended one of our events at Blairsville, in 2006.

Crouse began his reenacting career in 1997 and has slowly gained a love for history since then. He was a medieval reenactor for seven years.

Jeremy is a veteran of the United States Army, serving a tour of duty in Somalia. He is married & has three children.

He has ancestral links to Clans Bowie & MacDonald.



### **HACKNEY THREEPEATS IN KILTLED MILE**

**J. P. "Hotdog" Hackney** defended his title in the 1997 "Kiltled Mile" footrace at the Blairsville Highland Games. His brother, Cody Hackney, was runner-up again. Congratulations guys. Once again, you have upheld the honor of the clan. J. P. previously smoked the competition in 1995 and 1996.

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## WEBSITE NEWS

The site has been updated again. Those of you who have taken the fealty oath now have the appropriate date of your ceremony documented on your Roster page. The photographs of **Neil Fitzgibbons & Jeremy Crouse** have been updated on their Roster pages. A picture from Blairsville has been added to the Artwork pages. The website can be found on the worldwide web at [www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html](http://www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html).

Our website, which was created by Clan Standard Bearer Amos McCall on March 8, 2002, received its 7500<sup>th</sup> hit on July 1, 2007.

Information about our clan can now be prominently found on websites for the Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games and the Foothills Highland Games. The Blairsville site can be located at [www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org/workshop.html](http://www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org/workshop.html). The Foothills site is located at [www.kiltsnquilts.com/foothills2/livehist.html](http://www.kiltsnquilts.com/foothills2/livehist.html).

## 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 bhor 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-eekh uh th' un-tah

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

Andrews Highland Games. September 8, 2007. Andrews, NC.

Tennessee Highland Games. October 6-7, 2007. Murfreesboro, TN.

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.

Scottish Heritage Days. March 2008. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

Savannah Highland Games. May 2008. Savannah, Georgia.

Battle of Culloden. May 2008. Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania.

Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games. June 2008. Blairsville, Georgia.

A Taste of Scotland. June 2008. Franklin, North Carolina.