

THE FIERY CROSS



**Award-Winning Official Newsletter For Clan Am Cu*

JUNE 2004

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SAVANNAH HIGHLAND GAMES

The Savannah Highland Games and Gathering were held for the first time in Richmond Hill, Georgia on May 8, 2004. It was also the first time *Clan Am Cu* was asked by the event organizers to participate. **Mark Tippens** and **Britt Brinson** attended back in 1999, as guests of the *Georgia Highland Rangers*. We were noticed by some of the organizers at Fort King George back in March. They liked our look and our professionalism. We have been invited back for next year.



Clan Am Cu poses for photographers after the opening ceremonies. (L-R: Neil Fitzgibbons, Britt Brinson, and Philip Boyd)

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The clan arrived at Richmond Hill late on Friday afternoon and dropped our tents and firewood off at the campsite. Britt Brinson and **Philip Boyd** had come early to eat at Mrs. Wilkes' Boarding House. **Neil Fitzgibbons** arrived about 4 o'clock. We went by Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch's to pick up Neil's targe. "Lone Dog" was kind enough to loan Neil his sword, since he's still working on Neil's scabbard.

After we finished at Larry's, we headed back to Savannah for an evening of frivolity at *Kevin Barry's* Irish Pub. A large time was had by all as we ate, drank, and beed merry. Neil even got on stage with the Irish singer and accompanied him on the tin whistle. We finally got back to camp about 1 a. m.

It was a beautiful night for sleeping under the stars; just cool enough to sleep beneath a great kilt.

Needless to say, it was tough to rise in shine on Saturday morning. We had no choice, though. The games organizers wanted to start the day with an opening ceremony at 9 a. m. Clan Am Cu and the Scottish American Military Society did their duty to get the games kicked off. The ceremony was repeated at the traditional noon gathering with the clans.

Throughout the day, we talked with visitors and fired our weapons. The firing demonstrations were definite crowd-pleasers. Brinson's new Murdock pistols were a real treat to fire.



No, he's not hung over, but he did stay at a Holiday Inn Express once.

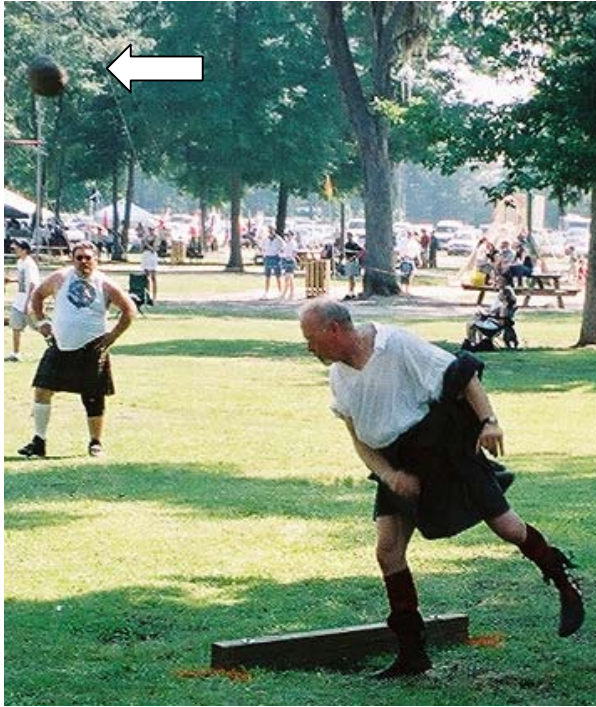


Getting dressed for success. Firing the Murdock pistols was a highlight of the event.

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Fitzgibbons participated in the Highland Games. Though he didn't win, he upheld the honor of his clan.



Heave-ho. Fitz tosses the stone.



Fitz at the ready.

Numerous people commented positively on our impression. One of the vendors has asked if we would be willing to come to Tennessee in September or November to do a living history. We suggested that he tough base with the English troops in the Fort Loudon area about supporting a '45 event. We are in discussions with him. It would be great to involve the Army of King James. We'll see where this all leads.

Hopefully, we can get an even better turnout for next year.

The trip to the Savannah Highland Games and Gathering was well worth the effort for those of us who were able to attend. Considering that it was such short notice, we made a good showing. Our thanks go out to **Gary Adams** of S.A.M.S. for securing us an invitation. We also want to thank **Gil Clarke**, president of the games for the invitation.



"I've got your back."

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CULLODEN HIGHLAND GAMES

Clan Am Cu took up our usual residence at Culloden on Friday evening, May 21, 2004. **Skin Neal** had set up our camp along the fence line, just outside the clan/vendor area. Skin did a great job. He had set up about half a dozen tents, under the only shade trees on the site. **Larry Lynch** was next to arrive, setting up his wall tent alongside the others. **Britt Brinson** and **Ed Lunderman** followed, coming in around 8:30 p.m. After a little supper, the four clansmen sat around and discussed the upcoming event before turning in. The night was very pleasant, just cool enough for one fold of a great kilt over your legs. Best of all, there were no mosquitoes.

As usual, people started to arrive pretty early. Our clan was ready for the challenge. We had set up a display of weapons on our new table. We also displayed our muskets and pole arms on our new portable gun rack. **Joseph Hackney** arrived on site about mid-morning. He brought a new recruit, his friend **Carter Schock**. *Clan Am Cu* formed just before noon and marched to the Welcoming Ceremonies. While the other clans marched past and returned to their tents, the Clan of the Dog stood by with the pipe bands and listened to the dignitaries. The afternoon was spent doing musket demonstrations and talking to the public. James Heldreth arrived late in the day.



Clan Am Cu marches in the welcoming ceremonies. [L-R front rank: Skin Neal, Ed Lunderman, and Larry Lynch. Second rank: Carter Schock and Joseph Hackney (behind Skin). Britt Brinson (not pictured) leads the clan.]

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That evening, we shared a meal of marinated pork backstrap and baked potatoes. Afterward, we went down to the ceileigh, which lasted until about 10 o'clock. When it was over, we went back to camp and talked about the events of the day. Saturday was another pleasant evening. After the long, hot day, we had little trouble nodding off to sleep.

Sunday came early and once again we roused ourselves and got our camp in order. Our clansmen spent the day alternating between camp (talking with the public and demonstrating our weapons), strolling the vendor area, and listening to the music groups. *Clann An Drumma*, the group that performs *Sgt. MacKenzie*, from the *Mel Gibson* movie, *We Were Soldiers*, put on two shows on Sunday. They have a song we had not heard before called *Blue Bonnets*, about the Jacobites. In fact, the band recognized us to the crowd during their first show.

The crowd seemed smaller than in years past, but we had much higher visitation to our camp. The only difference between this year and years past is that we fired muskets on a more regular basis. It seemed to help draw the crowd. **Alex Cameron**, the Wild Highlander, Armorer

of our clan, invited *Clan Am Cu* to attend the *Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games* in Blairsville, Georgia June 12-13.



The Culloden Highland Games ended about 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when we all head our separate ways.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom -- for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself. – Declaration of Arbroath (April 6, 1320)

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THE LATEST NEWS

THE FIERY CROSS CAPTURES AWARD

The Fiery Cross, the Official Newsletter for Clan Am Cu, has won the **First Place** award in the *Scottish Clan Organization Notebook Newsletters* category of *The Family Tree* 2004 Newsletter Contest. The Odom Genealogical Library in Moultrie, Georgia sponsors the annual contest. The library is a repository for various Scottish clan genealogy records. *The Family Tree* is their newsletter.

Britt Brinson submitted the April and May editions of *The Fiery Cross* for the contest. The two judges awarded scores of 10 for writing style and content, punctuation, spelling, helpfulness to readers, general interest articles, use of photographs, overall appearance, typefaces, headlines, neatness, and balance and design. Quality of production scored a pair of eights. Overall quality averaged 8.5. General layout averaged 7.5. Both judges suggested using heavier paper would improve the quality of our newsletter.

Special thanks go out to the Odom Genealogy folks for their support, especially **Beth Gay**, editor of *The Family Tree*.

NEW FREDERICA VIDEO

Great Divide Pictures of Denver, Colorado has been contracted to produce a 20-minute interpretive video for *Fort Frederica National Monument*. The video will focus primarily on Frederica's dramatic history from 1736-44, culminating with the *War of Jenkins Ear*.

To bring this history alive, we are planning a significant **reenactment** of the Battles of **Gully Hole Creek** and **Bloody Marsh**. We are interested in having 8-10 Scottish Highlander reenactors to participate in the production. Clan Am Cu has been invited to portray the Highland Independent Company of Darien. Contact Britt ASAP to sign up. Each man will need to be properly attired.

The filming will take place at *Fort King George* in Darien on the weekend of **August 28 and 29**. We can **pay** each reenactor **\$150 each day** and provide food.

Larry "Lone Dog" Lynch shared these thoughts, "This is a hell of an opportunity for us and I am thinking maybe we could come in Thurs PM and spend Friday getting our (stuff) together and maybe drilling a bit, practicing our highland charge and insuring our muskets are firing properly. I would also suggest that those who need their frizens hardened do so ASAP. Most of the shooting will actually be done at Ft. K.G. because they have stuff, and Ft. Fred doesn't. (I always thought the previous film was just too cheesy

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with the imaginary buildings.) This also means Brad may be too busy later to harden any frizens.”

I expect the Forts can provide muskets to those who don't have them. I have one extra coat, but would suggest that those who don't have one get your material ordered & get in touch with Connie Garmon about making one for you.

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. The *Pictures* section has been reordered. Before, when you clicked on the *Pictures* section, those from *Culloden 2000* were the first to come up. You then had to proceed through each page of pictures until you got to the latest ones. Now, the latest pictures will appear first and the oldest last.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blairsville Highland Scottish Festival & Games. June 12-13, 2004. Meeks Park, Blairsville, GA. First-time games. Alex Cameron has invited us to attend.

NPS Black Powder Certification. July, 2004? Fort Frederica. This is a two day course which would be done on a weekend. Scott Hodges has also offered to conduct a short evening course on first-person impressions, which might be helpful during the filming for Fort Frederica.

Movie Shoot. August 28-29, 2004. Fort King George. A new movie is being created for Fort Frederica. It will include the Battles of Gully Hole Creek and Bloody Marsh.

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