

THE FIERY CROSS



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

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

SAVANNAH HIGHLAND GAMES

The *Savannah Highland Games and Gathering* was held at Gregory Park in Richmond Hill, GA on April 30, 2005.



Clan An Cu poses in camp at Savannah (L-R: Steve Henderson, Larry Lynch, Ed Lunderman, Philip Boyd, & Britt Brinson).

Members of *Clan An Cu* began to arrive during the afternoon of April 29. **Larry Lynch** was first on the scene. He made contact with event organizer **Gil Clark**, who showed him

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the location to set up camp. **Philip Boyd, Britt Brinson** and **Ed Lunderman** arrived about 2 p.m.

After setting up camp, they headed over to Love's to get some lunch. Later in the evening, they were joined by **Steve Henderson**. About 9 p.m. they went into Savannah to partake of *Kevin Barry's*. A large time was had by all and about midnight, we headed back to camp. Friday night was a cool, pleasant evening. None of us had any problems drifting off to sleep.

The clan awoke early Saturday to an attack of "no-see'ums," who continuously made vicious attacks throughout the day. Of all the times I've been to the Georgia coast, this was the worst I have ever seen them. Someone described the conditions as "air with teeth." They weren't far off. Lunderman prepared a great breakfast for the clan: bacon, eggs, potatoes, and toast. Each man ate his fill, then got the camp ready for our visitors.

The sky was overcast, but the temperature was in the high 60's during the morning. It would rise into the high 70's as the day wore on. The weather was great for reenacting and the rain held off until about 4 p.m.

Clan An Cu functioned as the color guard for the opening ceremonies and the parade of the clans. The rest of the day was spent talking with visitors to our camp. We made a number of contacts throughout the day, including an invitation to attend the *Northeast Florida Highland Games* next February. We also met the artisan from Crafty Celts, who makes the bodkins we use to hold the tops of our great kilts. He will begin work on a bodkin with a hound's head on it.

About 6 p.m., we broke camp & headed to Culloden.

CULLODEN HIGHLAND GAMES

The *Culloden Highland Games* were held in Culloden, GA on April 30 and May 1, 2005. **Skin Neal** was the first of our clansmen to arrive at the site, on Friday afternoon. He promptly set up camp in preparation for the rest of *Clan An Cu*, who would join him on Saturday.

Saturday dawned in Culloden to cloudy skies and it wasn't long before thunderstorms rolled in. There were reports of air-to-ground lightening and the wind and rain buffeted the site for about four straight hours. A few hearty souls ventured out to the site late in the afternoon, after the rain had quit.

Skin spent the day talking to the few visitors who braved the weather and various clan representatives who were trying just as hard as he was to stay dry. He left about 5 p.m. to help out at the Clinton Civil War event.

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Philip Boyd, Britt Brinson, and Ed Lunderman arrived from Savannah about 11:30 p.m., after the long trip from Savannah, and went straight to bed.



Clan An Cu poses before the parade (L-R: Philip Boyd, Ed Lunderman, Britt Brinson, J. P. Hackney, & Cody Hackney).

Sunday dawned clear and cool. It was perfect reenacting weather. Ed prepared a sumptuous breakfast of sausage, bacon, eggs, potatoes, and toast and we were off and running. Visitors trickled through camp all day. We talked to them about the Darien Scots, as well as the Jacobite Rebellion.

J.P. and Cody Hackney arrived, along with their parents about 10 a.m.

Clan An Cu was the color guard during the parade of clans and the closing ceremonies. Instead of our usual place at the end of the column, we were placed in front of the clans, right behind the pipe band.

We were there to the end, breaking camp & pulling out about 6:30 pm.

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THE LATEST NEWS

HELDRETH INJURED IN SINGLE-CAR WRECK

Clansman **James Heldreth** was injured in a single-vehicle accident on Sunday, March 27. He suffered a broken shoulder and cracked ribs. His truck was totaled.

Heldreth was traveling to *Cracker Barrel* in Perry when his Explorer hydroplaned about three miles west of town and hit three trees. He is expected to be out of action for about three months. James is recovering at the home.

The picture of James at the right was taken in front of the Stone House at Old Bedford Village in Bedford, PA. *Clan An Cu* was in Bedford for the *March On London* in September 2003.



CLAN AN CU INVITED BACK TO BLAIRSVILLE

We have been invited to return to Blairsville, GA for the *Blairsville Highland Games*. The event will be held on June 11-12, 2005. Our friend, **Alex Cameron**, invited us to attend last year. We made a good impression on the event hosts, so they have asked us to return.

The games are held at Meeks Park, just south of town. It is one of the prettiest sites we have ever camped, surrounded by the North Georgia mountains, alongside a stream.

In the picture at the left, *Clan An Cu* & Alex Cameron pose next to the stream.



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PRAISE FROM FREDERICA

Clan An Cu received a very complimentary letter from *Fort Frederica National Monument*, dated March 1, 2005. Park Superintendent Mike Tennent, Chief Ranger Kim Coons, and Living History Coordinator Jon Burpee all signed it. Because of all your hard work, "the Scots remain the backbone of the parks living history program."



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Fort Frederica National Monument
6515 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522



1 March 2005

Britt Brinson
116 Flintview Place
Cordele, GA 31015

Dear Britt;

Please accept our absolute appreciation for your participation representing the Highland Scots from Darien on 12 February 2005. We are truly grateful for all of your efforts in helping share the story of Fort Frederica – from the long distance traveled to the safe and effective living history demonstrations. Without a doubt the Scots remain the backbone of the parks living history program.

The park appreciates all the hard work you and the Scots have undertaken over the last several years. The high quality of your group's living history efforts reflects your passion for sharing this history.



Sincerely,

Mike Tennent
Superintendent

Kim Coons
Chief Ranger

Jon Burpee
Living History Coordinator

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LATEST FROM THE WEB

We have added two new vendors to our **Vendors** and **Links** pages.

The first is Mackenzie Frain, Ltd. They are located in Great Britain and offer period shoes, garters, sporrans, and weapons.

The second is J Byous Company. They are located in Savannah, GA and offer a very competitive price for tartan material. A couple of guys have ordered material from them and have been very satisfied. Prices are equivalent to J. Higgins, but they order more than twice a month, so you may get the material a little quicker.

The roster pages of Steve Henderson, Ed Lunderman, and Ken Bloom have also been updated with new backgrounds.

Our website is located at www.geocities.com/clanamcu/homepage.html.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED

Emergency contact information is still needed on most of you. After having faced some minor medical emergencies, it occurred to us that we need an Emergency Contact Information Sheet. Clan Chief Britt Brinson is compiling the sheet, but still needs information from most of you. Three or four key members of the clan who make the majority of events will carry copies. The list may be used if someone is injured or becomes ill at an event.

Information needed includes: Clansman's name, primary contact person with day and evening phone numbers and secondary contact person with day and evening phone numbers. If you wish, you may want to include any medical problems you have (allergies to medicines or insect bites, heart problems, etc.)

Please forward this information to Chief Brinson as soon as possible, either by email (bbrinson@gpstc.state.ga.us) or by phone (229-273-7864).

"HISTORY UNCOVERED" PREMIERS

Fort Frederica National Monument will roll out its new video program, *History Uncovered*, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2005. Initially shown during the Frederica Festival on February 12. It replaces its predecessor, *This Is Frederica*, which dates from the late 50's and starred John Ireland. *Clan An Cu* portrayed the Highland Independent Company of Darien in the new film.

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"BRITISH DRUMS" TO BE REPRINTED

The University of North Carolina Press will reprint *British Drums on the Southern Frontier: The Military Colonization of Georgia 1733-1749*, by **Larry Ivers** in the next couple of months. This is supposedly the "bible" for our era. It was one of the main reference sources used in *Scottish Highlanders In Colonial Georgia*. The ISBN # is 0-8078-5668-1 and the UNC Press number to call to place an order is 1-800-848-6224. They will cost \$22.50 plus shipping.

COMMENTARY

DID THE HIGHLANDERS CARRY TARGES?

There seems to be some dispute as to whether the members of the Highland Independent Company carried their targes into battle. There is no way we'll ever know for sure. All we currently have to go on is accounts in the book *Scottish Highlanders in Colonial Georgia* by **Anthony W. Parker**, which cited references in the *Colonial Records of Georgia*, **Francis Moore's Voyage to Georgia**, and *British Drums on the Southern Frontier: The Military Colonization of Georgia 1733-1749*, by **Larry Ivers**.

On page 39, the author quotes the CRG, "Each Freeman will have for his use in Georgia a Firelock, a broad Sword and an axe. And for the use of every five men there, a brass Kettle, a Shovel and Pick Axe will be provided. The better sort of Freeman will be provided with Targets."

On page 54, Francis Moore's *Voyage to Georgia* is quoted, "As Oglethorpe arrived to view the new settlement and meet his southern-most defenders, they turned out under arms and presented a "most manly appearance with their Plaids, broadswords, targets, and firearms"."

On page 77, Parker cites *British Drums on the Southern Frontier: The Military Colonization of Georgia 1733-1749*, by Larry Ivers. "They wore their colorful tartans and were armed with their traditional weapons—broadswords, dirks, muskets, and targets or targes—to go into battle, but there were few men left behind in Darien to wear their work clothes into the fields to plant."

On page 81, the author cites a letter from Captain Hugh Mackay, written following the battle of Fort Mosa. "The Highlanders inside the fort were vastly outnumbered by the Spaniards and were paying dearly for leaving their bayonets and targets behind at Fort San Diego. Having only their broadswords and no shields, the Scots were no match for the trained Spanish soldiers with bayonets."

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Again, there is no way we will ever know the whole story, but it might be inferred that those Scots who survived the massacre at Fort Mosa probably learned a valuable lesson there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blairsville Highland Games. June 11-12, 2005. Blairsville, Georgia. We had a great time there last year & they are really looking forward to us returning.

Frederica Festival. February 2006. Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Scottish Heritage Days. March 2006. Fort King George, Darien, Georgia.

Coastal Heritage Week. March 2006. Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Brunswick, Georgia.

Savannah Highland Games. April 2006. Richmond Hill, Georgia.

Culloden Highland Games. April 2006. Culloden, Georgia.

PHOTO GALLERY



What appears to be a watercolor of *Clan An Cu* is actually a computer-enhanced photograph, taken at Bedford, PA in 2003.

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Philip Boyd, Mark Tippens, Ricky Ingram and Britt Brinson pose on the parade ground at Fort King George.



Britt Brinson, Ed Lunderman and Skin Neal (barely visible on the right-hand side of the picture) visit the pier on St. Simons Island during the FLETC Coastal Heritage Week Program. Jekyll Island is seen in the distance. Just off the end of Jekyll, General Oglethorpe hosted the Spanish Governor of Florida on the sloop *Hawk*. Members of the Highland Independent Company and Oglethorpe's 42nd Regiment were drawn up in ranks on either side of the ship to impress the Spaniards to stay in Florida.