

Gettysburg: The American Culloden - A Clan Davidson Tragedy? By Dave Chagnon, The Sennachie

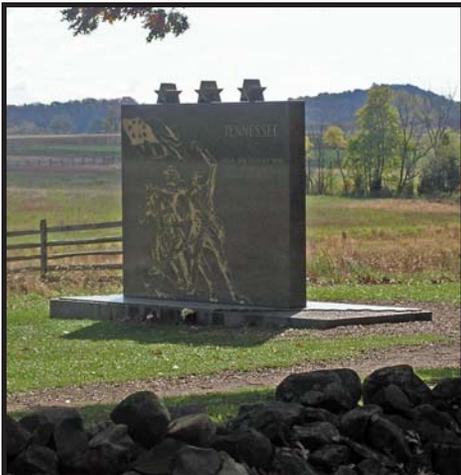
Six years ago, when my family and I were touring in Scotland, one of the items on my “Must Do” list was to visit the moors of Culloden at dawn to commune with the ghosts of the lost Highlanders bound through eternity to inhabit that sad place. I imagined a toast in their honor with a wee tot of Uisghe Beathe. When it became apparent that dawn came awfully early in those northerly lands (around 02:20 AM when we were there), this dream, like the dream of those who fought there in support of the Jacobite cause, was doomed to failure.

I did visit Culloden later in the day, however, and I did have that toast to the ghosts of those who died there 260 years ago.

Let’s let the idea of Culloden rest for a bit...

Recently, I had occasion to visit family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Having the opportunity, I took a day to wander over the hills of the site of the American Civil War [see Note 1] Gettysburg Nation Military Park, just 70 miles west down the Lincoln Pike (US Hwy 30). It was a magnificent day, cool, breezy, big puffy clouds tacking across a Delft blue sky, gorgeous autumn foliage all aflame. Although the main attractions and information centers had their usual quota of crowds, out on the gentle slopes of Seminary Ridge and Cemetery Ridge, and the steeper sides of Culps Hill, Little Round Top and Big Round Top, a man could wander at will and actually commune alone with the past.

I was standing near the crown of Cemetery Ridge next to the famous “Copse of Trees”. This was the focal point that my Great Great Grand Uncle, Robert E. Lee, had chosen as the primary target for the Confederate assault on Day Three of the battle. This action is more commonly known as “Pickett’s Charge” [See Note 2]. I looked over the gentle rolling slope towards the tree line of Seminary Ridge nearly a mile away to the west. I could “see” the long lines of those 12,500 incredibly brave, doomed men of the Confederate Divisions start the advance that would see 50% of their number remain on the field just an hour after the “charge” was broken by the guns of the Union defenders.



Monument to the Confederate Tennessee troops. There were also Tennessee Regiments on the Union side. Little Round Top (l) and Big Round Top (r) can be seen in the distance.



Memorial Cairn at Culloden.

As I stood there, leaning on my trusty walking stick, my view became blurred, due, no doubt, to the gusts of wind cresting the ridge from below. Suddenly I became lost in time, unsure if I was at Gettysburg, or if... at Culloden six years ago. An unseen hand reached from the sky and slapped me. The parallels and similarities of the two events, separated by all the years of two and a half centuries and all the miles of half a world, were as clear to me as if etched on a US Park Service panel in front of me. It was down-right spooky.

What follows is my attempt to make these similarities and parallels just as clear to you, too. I make no claims to being a scholar of either the history of the American Civil War, or of the history of the various and sundry Jacobite rebellions in Scotland. I have, however, read more than one book about both of these areas of interest along with many more about the history of the land of our ancestors’ birth in the Old World and the land of our forefathers in the New World. I will certainly take no offense if one of the readers of this article takes umbrage with my observations or wishes to debate the subject. These are, after all, just my own thoughts on the matter and my own “high level” view of events about which many thousands of books have been written. This is not intended to be a detailed, foot-noted, rigorously pursued, academic treatise.

The reader should note there is a lack of consistency in the historic records concerning the details about both battles, particularly in such areas as exact numbers of combatants, killed-in-action, wounded, missing-in-action and captured. I’ve used what I feel to be reliable sources for the numbers I quote. I

guarantee anyone with a computer and Internet access could come up with different numbers in about 30 seconds. In any event, the exact numbers themselves are irrelevant to the points I am trying to make.

Points of Similarity

I. The Causes For Which Men Were Willing To Die

Culloden: The stated issue at stake at Culloden was the attempt of the House of Stuart (in exile) to reclaim the throne of the United Kingdom. The Stuarts reigned over Scotland for nearly 340 years and the United Kingdom (or its earlier variations) for 111 years. Without getting into a long and detailed explanation of how the Stuarts lost the Crown, suffice it to say that the supporters of James Francis Stuart, the Stuart Monarch-in-exile, tried on a number of occasions to regain the throne from 1707 until the last Jacobite rebellion (Jacobite - the historic term for the political party headed by the Stuarts) in 1745/46.

This last effort, frequently called “the ‘45”, was the rebellion that was extinguished under the guns of the Hanoverian Government’s commanding officer, the Duke of Cumberland, on the moors of Culloden, 5 miles east of Inverness in the north central highlands.

The Clans which rose in support of the Jacobites were making an effort to restore a Monarchy which ruled their lives (more or less) for three and a half centuries. Their Highland Clan way of life was being threatened on many fronts. Many historians feel the Jacobite cause had at its roots a last-gasp effort to preserve the past despite the ebb and flow of history (viewed from a larger perspective) leaving the Highlands awash in a poor and lonely northern tidal pool. The Clans lived an agrarian life with the low-revenue producing economy associated with such a lifestyle; while the Industrial Age and its high-powered, high revenue-producing economy was roaring to life in most of the rest of Britain.

Following the battle, Parliament’s passage of the infamous “Acts of Proscription”, vigorously enforced by government troops for the better part of the lifespan of two generations, finally succeeded in killing off the vestiges of the “wild Hieland Clans” the Government, dominated by the English and its commercial interests, had been trying to exterminate for centuries. The Acts of Proscription (and other legislation and economic manipulation) led to the period in Scotland’s history we know today as “The Clearances”.



Clearly, the tragic slaughter of the Highland Jacobite Clans under the guns of Cumberland at the Battle of Culloden is the watershed event that tolled the death knell of the Scottish Highland Clans and their ancient way of life.

Gettysburg: In 1863, Gettysburg PA was a sleepy village in south central Pennsylvania which manufactured shoes, had a Lutheran Seminary, and was the focal point for several roads with strategic value. It also became the site for what is arguably the most significant battle between the armed forces of the Confederate States of America and the United States of America.

Although “the main cause of the American Civil War” is still a source of much controversy, there is little doubt that regional “North & South” differences in economy and “way of life” were certainly major causative factors of the conflict.

The antebellum South enjoyed a life style very similar to that of the United Kingdom of that era – a class system based on aristocratic landed families ensconced in their Georgian manor houses, a commercial class, small farmstead holders and, at the bottom of the scale, Negro slaves to provide both the aristocracy and lesser land owners with cheap labor. The economy was mainly agrarian, geared to the raising and sale of “King Cotton”, then much in demand by the weavers and mills the North and the European powers of England and France.

The North, on the other hand, was a beehive of frenetic industrial activity, with cheap labor being supplied by the ever increasing waves of European emigrants. A growing sense of social awareness meant a sharp increase in individuals and groups concerned with the upheaval inherent in the resettlement of so many “outsiders” and the struggles between “labor” and “management” in the mines and factories of the North... and the issues surrounding slavery in the South. The social, cultural and economic differences between the North and South could not have been any more polarized than they were in the mid-19th century United States of America.



Many Southern leaders, seeing the growing political strength of the North fueled by the impact of the explosion in population and wealth due to industrial growth, feared the North would be successful in enacting legislation which would cripple the South and force an unwanted end to a very comfortable way of life... at least comfortable to those who held the reins of power.

It was these leaders who whipped up the support of the Southern common man for their efforts to preserve their lifestyle with threats of loss of individual rights, and State's rights, etc.

On the other hand, the Federal Government was not above using the vocal support of groups espousing the cause of the abolition of slavery to whip up the masses in support of its agenda, maintaining its power through the preservation of the Union.

Summary of the Two "Causes For Which Men Were Willing To Die":



I see the causes of both conflicts (Culloden and Gettysburg) as essentially the same for both the "winners" and the "losers". At Culloden, the winning side, the Government forces, were able to put into practice the desires of the Government to rid itself of a constant thorn in its side. The dominance of the Highland Clans over a major portion of the island of Britain had been an ongoing impediment to the ability of the industrialists and money managers to expand their control into all the wee nooks and crannies of the Home Islands. The same efforts were at work in Wales, Ireland and all of the UK's many colonies, including North America. As future events would reveal, of course, the Government's tactics would not be nearly as successful in North America as they were in Scotland...

For the losing side at Culloden, the lost cause of the Pro-Jacobite Highlanders was the preservation of their agrarian lifestyle and cattle based economy. The men that died under the guns of Cumberland on the moors of Culloden that sad yet heroic day of April 16th, 1746, did so for a cause that was doomed by the tides of history making it a very tragic day, indeed. Even had they managed to carry the day, win the battle, and even succeeded in restoring the Stuarts to the Monarchy, the sure and steady grind of the cogs of industry would have just as surely ground their way through those lovely hills and glens of Scotland, destroying the "auld ways" in the process, just as they did in virtually all other parts of the world.

A hundred and seventeen years later at Gettysburg, the prevailing Union side went on to totally crush the Confederates' ability to wage war, and, ultimately, the very will of the people to continue the struggle. Under the tender ministrations of the Federal Congress, the seeds of the spread of the industrial revolution throughout the South were planted with a vengeance. The legislative acts passed under the guise of Southern Reconstruction were just as successful in their way as the Acts of Proscription were in an earlier time at stamping out a way of life that had become anathema to the realities of a modern economy.

For the losers at Gettysburg, the "Rebs"... although they managed to hang on for another two years to die a "death of a thousand cuts", the ultimate loss of their cause was just as predictable in 1861 when the war began as the rising and the falling of the tides and the setting and the rising of the sun. I believe even if the South had won the war and the Confederacy made manifest, the same sure and steady grind of the same cogs of that same industrial world would wend their course through the lovely valleys of the Blue Ridge mountains and over the rolling hills of Shiloh with the same destructive results as in Scotland, the ancestral home to so very many of the lost soldiers of the Confederate States of America.

The terms "lose" and "win" are, of course, a moot point in my musings. Both battles were fought in "civil" wars and there are no winners or losers in such brotherly conflicts, only losers.

My God - what a waste - on both sides - in both conflicts - and all for causes already doomed to the dustbins of history...



Points of Similarity

II. Frontal Assaults Which Never Should Have taken Place

[As previously stated, this discourse is not meant to be an exhaustive study of all the events which led up to either the Battle of Culloden or the Battle of Gettysburg. There have been literally thousands of books dedicated to these two specific events. My intent is to give the reader my thoughts concerning the tragic similarities between them... sadly...]



Culloden: The Government forces under the command of the Duke of Cumberland numbered about 9,000 troops. Their primary alignment was in two rows along a modest ridge line overlooking a shallow and somewhat marshy low depression of the moors to the front of the Government's troops. Cumberland's artillery, which outnumbered that of the Jacobites, was centered in front of the Government's troops. See the battlefield layouts on page 24.

The Jacobite troops were lined up in three rows with artillery on both flanks of the front row and at the center of the front row.

The Jacobite troops arrived on the field tired, unrested, and unfed after an abortive attempt at a decisive night engagement the previous evening. The weather was very bad with a gale wind driving sleety rain into the faces of the exhausted Jacobite forces.

There were maybe 300 yards separating the armies.

The Jacobite artillery open first, but due to the inexperience of the gunners, their fire was largely ineffective. The Government artillery opened fire and for the next twenty minutes battered the Jacobites. Prince Charles moved to safety in the rear and inexplicably left his forces arrayed under Cumberland's fire for over a half hour. Finally the order was given to make the assault on the Government forces and Clan Chattan was first away. Of course the assault was unsuccessful, given the conditions, the terrain, the exhausted men, and the lack of good Jacobite leadership. The Jacobite forces broke what ranks were left intact and ran for their lives.

In the 60 minutes the Battle raged on, about 1,250 Jacobites were killed, a similar number wounded and 558 prisoners taken. Cumberland lost just 52 dead and 259 wounded. Cumberland, in a show of typical English-dominated Government mercy, ordered the nearly 1,800 wounded men and prisoners executed on the spot. For this act he was known forever after as "The Butcher". Certain high-ranking prisoners were spared only to be tried and executed later in Inverness. Of the 5,000 Jacobites who entered the battle, nearly 60% never left the field... most of the remaining survivors were hunted down by the Government troops and killed where they were caught. For all practical purposes, the entire army was lost.

The fabled and once-feared "highland charge" of the Jacobites was broken through exhaustion, marshy ground, poor leadership and the guns of Cumberland...



Gettysburg: The Battle at Gettysburg took place over three days.

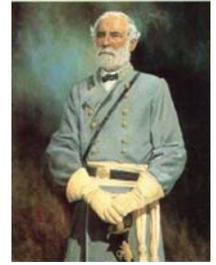
At the end of the first day's action (primarily centered around MacPherson Ridge on the western side of the village of Gettysburg), the Union was left holding the high ground of Cemetery Ridge (running due south away from the village) while the Confederates held Seminary Ridge which ran parallel (more or less) to the west of Cemetery Ridge, the village, and the low ground to the east of the village and north of Cemetery Ridge.

The action on Day Two saw the Confederate troops assaulting the Union's flanks at Little Round Top (south end of Cemetery Ridge) and Brenner's Hill and Culp's Hill (north east end of Cemetery Ridge). Both assaults were successfully defended by the Union. There were some minor adjustments of the disposition of both side's troops at the end of Day Two, but both side still faced each other across the modest valley lying between Seminary Ridge (Confederates) and Cemetery Ridge (Union).

It was the actions of Day Three that so brought to my mind the Battle of Culloden...



Having tried to defeat the Union Army by unsuccessfully assaulting its flanks on Day Two, Confederate Commanding General Robert E. Lee ordered a frontal assault on the middle of the Union's position on Cemetery Ridge centered on a spot called the "Copse Of Trees" (see photos and maps). The decision to make this frontal assault has probably been the source of the greatest debate among Civil War historians more so than any other single facet of that conflict... with the possible exception of the question of what "the main cause of the American Civil War" was. Regardless of all the possible reasons for the decision, that it was a bad decision there is no doubt.... just look at the results...



The assault began around 1 PM when the Confederates opened with an artillery barrage that lasted nearly two hours. This was countered with Union artillery fire. All told, there were some 300 cannon on both sides, "vomiting their iron hail upon each other". Because of the placement of its guns below the summit of Cemetery Ridge, most of the Confederate efforts to "soften" the Union forces holding the ridge were ineffective. Rounds aimed just a wee bit too low struck the field in front of the Union lines while rounds fired just a wee bit too high sailed over the Union lines. Union fire, on the other hand, had great effect during the preliminary barrage and even more so during the time that the Confederate troops were making their passage of the nearly one mile of open ground laying to the front of the Union lines. In addition to the frontal artillery fire faced by the Confederates, they also had to suffer the effects of Union artillery batteries on their flanks.

The final assault started around 3 PM. 12,500 Confederate troops began their assault looking up the gentle slope of Cemetery Ridge directly into the Union batteries. Although the smoke of the cannon and rifle fire obscured much of the details of the action from observers, it was very apparent the assault was taking a great toll on the Confederate troops. Several hundred men of Brigadier General Louis Armistead's Brigade actually came within a few yards of reaching their objective at the Copse of Trees before their charge was broken at "The Angle". General Armistead himself was killed just 30 yards from this place.



The "charge" took just about an hour... about the same amount of time for the entire Battle of Culloden. Of the 12,500 Confederate men starting the assault, 50% never came off the field; 6,555 lying dead, wounded or captured. Union losses were 1,500 dead or wounded. It is considered, by far, the most bloody single military attack in American history...

Summary of the Two "Frontal Assaults Which Never Should Have taken Place":

The frontal assaults of both battles were clearly bad decisions on the part of their respective commanders. The Culloden Jacobite assault resulted in a 60% casualty rate (counting the after-battle executions) with negligible losses on the part of the Hanoverian defenders. The Gettysburg Confederate assault resulted in a 50% casualty rate with minimal losses on the part of the Union defenders. Both actions, ultimately, led directly to the loss of the cause for which the men making the assault believed was worth their sacrifices. What a sad and tragic waste...



Points of Similarity

III. Clan Davidson Involvement In The Conflicts [See Note 3]

Culloden: While there is no documented evidence of any Davidson (or one of the sept names of the Clan) being a Jacobite combatant at Culloden, it is certainly a strong possibility. The Davidsons were a Cadet Branch of the Clan Chattan Federation. The Chattans had a prominent position in the Order of Battle of the Jacobite Army, being in the center of the front rank next to the Jacobite artillery, and Culloden, itself, is surrounded by the lands the Davidsons had long called home (the Spey Valley to the south and the Black Isle to the west).

Gettysburg: There were at least 60 Davidsons (or sept names) who gave their lives for the Confederate cause and a bit more than 40 Davidsons (or sept names) that died to preserve the Union at Gettysburg. These are names that are known and can be found in the lists of the dead of both sides in various historical records. There are many "unknown soldiers" on both sides who died for their respective causes and, clearly, some of these



might also be of the Davidson Clan. It is totally unknown just how many Davidsons or Davidson septs might have been combatants on both sides during the battle.

While this is information pertinent to the Clan Davidson, it is also a fact that the descendents of the Scots and the Scots-Irish provided a huge percentage of the combatants of both sides, although more notably for the South.

Points of Difference

Aside from politics, location and time of occurrence, there are two very large points of difference between the Battles of Culloden and Gettysburg.



Number of Combatants: The approximate total number of combatants at Culloden was 14,000 [5,000 Jacobites & 9,000 Hanoverian]; at Gettysburg this total was approximately 166,000 [94,000 Union & 72,000 Confederate].

Total Number of Casualties: The approximate number of casualties for both sides at Culloden was 3,369 [Jacobites 1,250 killed in action (KIA), 1,250 wounded, 558 POWs; Hanover 52 KIA, 259 wounded]. This represents a casualty percentage for the Jacobites of 61% and for the

Hanoverians 3.4%. Of course, since the Duke of Cumberland took care of his POW “room and board” problems by executing all the Jacobite wounded and POWs, that 61% is really a killed-in-action percentage.

The casualty count at Gettysburg is: Both sides combined: 45,286 [7,863 KIA, 27,224 wounded, 11,199 MIA/POW]; Confederate, 22,231 [4,708 KIA, 12,693 wounded & 5,830 MIA/POWs]; Union, 23,055 [3,155 KIA, 14,531 wounded, 5,369 MIA/POW].

These numbers represent an overall casualty percentage of: Confederate 32.3%; Union 24.5%.



Some Observations Concerning the Differences Between

Culloden and Gettysburg: Probably the most compelling difference between the two battles is the staggering, order-of-magnitude increase in the numbers of combatants at Gettysburg with the concomitant increase in the numbers of dead and wounded commiserate with such an increase. While the overall casualty percentages for Gettysburg are less than half that of the Jacobites at Culloden, the actual numbers of dead and wounded are huge, 2 1/2 times as many as all the combatants at Culloden combined. And it must be noted that many of the wounded at Gettysburg didn't survive for very long after the battle was over, so I suspect that the real number of dead which can be directly attributed to the battle was much higher than the numbers I am showing.



One of the reasons most often credited for the tremendous numbers of casualties of the American Civil war (some 700,000 of the total 2,500,000 combatants were casualties, a percentage of 28% overall) was the fact that the battle tactics used during the war were little changed since the days of the Battle of Culloden. Opposing armies would stand, face-to-face, and fire away at each other while cannons would rip through the lines taking out tens of soldiers at one swipe. The difference between Culloden and Gettysburg was the technology of the machinery of war. By war's end, many soldiers carried repeating rifles and virtually all soldiers carried weapons which were “rifled” (as opposed to “smooth bores”) which were accurate at several hundred yards. The cannons were also rifled and were accurate at ranges up to a mile or more... yet the troops still stood in line at distances of 100 yards or less. Sheer suicide...



Conclusion

As I stood in the shadow of the trees at the top of Cemetery Ridge looking over the ground where so many of my fellow countrymen, Scots descendants and Clansmen gave their “all” in a cause that was doomed by the tides of history, I could not help but think of those who faced their doom at Culloden under the cannons of the Duke of Cumberland so many years ago and so many miles away. How brave they were... what courage it took to face those blazing cannons... and how tragic they were.

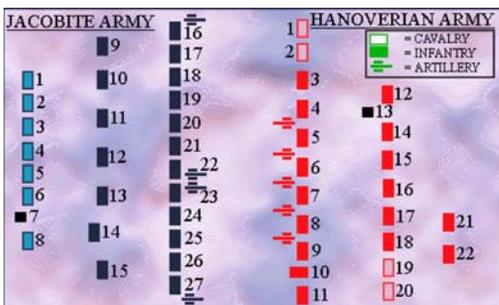
And... what would I do... if I were in their shoes at that time... for I, too, was a soldier, many years ago.



Cemetery Ridge and Copse of Trees (center of photo) as seen from the Confederate lines just prior to Pickett's Charge

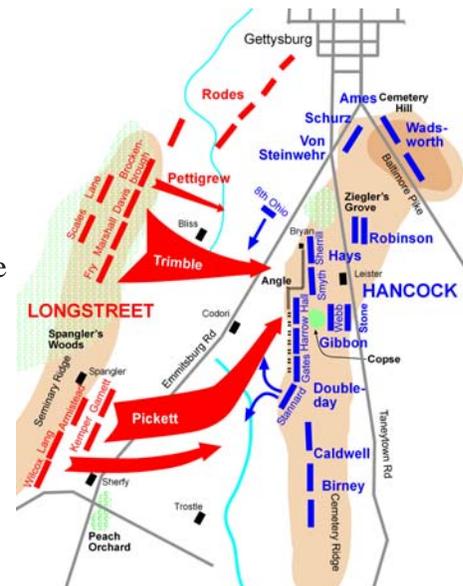


View from Copse of Trees over the mile of ground the Confederate forces had to cover to reach their objective on the last day of the battle.

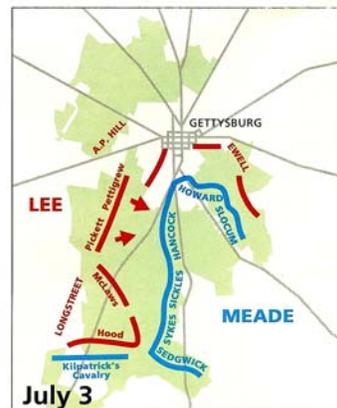
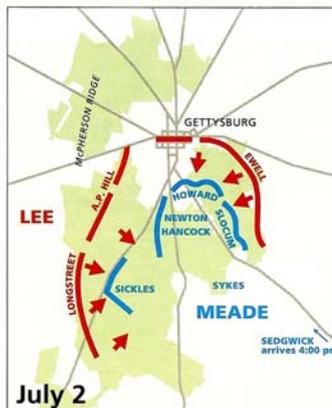
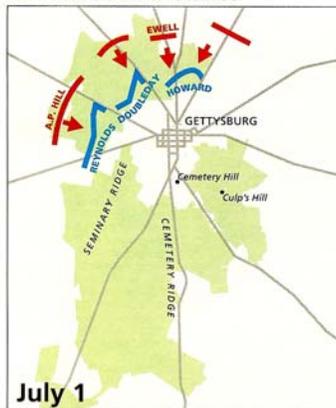


- JACOBITE ARMY - numbering nearly 5,000 men:
- 1 Baggot
 - 2 Kilmarnock
 - 3 Strathallan
 - 4 Fitzgig
 - 5 Elcho
 - 6 Balmerino
 - 7 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'
 - 8 Fitzjames
 - 9 Iain Piqueab
 - 10 Scots Royal
 - 11 Duke of Perth
 - 12 Glenbuket
 - 13 Lord Lewis Gordon
 - 14 Gordon of Avonchie
 - 15 Lord Ogilvie
 - 16 Glengary
 - 17 Keppoch
 - 18 Clanranald
 - 19 Chisholm
 - 20 John Roy Stewart
 - 21 MacLachlan / MacLean / MacLeod
 - 22 Farquharson
 - 23 Clan Chatan
 - 24 Fraser
 - 25 Stewarts of Appin / MacLaren
 - 26 Cameron of Locheil
 - 27 Athol
- HANOVERIAN ARMY - numbering over 8,000 men:
- 1 Kingston
 - 2 Cobham
 - 3 Putney
 - 4 St. Clair
 - 5 Cholmondeley
 - 6 Price
 - 7 Campbell
 - 8 Munro
 - 9 Sarrell
 - 10 Wolfe
 - 11 Argyll Mills
 - 12 Battersau
 - 13 'The Duke of Cumberland'
 - 14 Howard
 - 15 Fleming
 - 16 Ligonier
 - 17 Bligh
 - 18 Sempill
 - 19 Cobham
 - 20 Kerr
 - 21 Blakeney
 - 22 Independent Companies
- Legend:
■ = CAVALRY
■ = INFANTRY
■ = ARTILLERY

Battle Maps: Left, Order of Battle for Culloden; Right, troop movements of Pickett's Charge; below, troop movements for the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg



The Battle at a Glance



Notes

1 [Yes, I know much of the population of the modern American South prefers the term “War Between The States”, or “The War Of Yankee Aggression” (the more militant term). Personally, I prefer the term “The Second American Civil War”, since I view what others call “The American Revolution” as the “First American Civil War”. The fighting in the American Colonies during the later half of the 18th century was every bit as much “brother against brother” and “family against family” (with all the bitterness and tragedy those terms evoke) as the struggle between the Confederates and the Unionists in the second half of the 19th century]

2 [Although the final Confederate assault on Day Three of the Battle of Gettysburg is generally referred to as “Pickett’s Charge”, I feel the truth of the matter needs to be at least acknowledged here. There were actually three Confederate Divisions and part of a fourth involved in the assault on Cemetery Ridge. The Division to the extreme left of the Confederate position (nearest the village) was led by Brigadier General James Pettigrew; next in line was the Division led by Major General Isaac Trimble; then came the Division led by Major General George Pickett; to the far right of the Confederate line were two Brigades of Major General Richard Anderson’s Division. The assault was actually under the overall command of Lt. General Thomas Longstreet acting under the direct orders of General Robert E. Lee]

3 [I’m taking a bit of artistic license with this Section of my treatise in referring to persons with the surname of “Davidson” or variants of that name as being *members* of “Clan” Davidson. There is little to no historic evidence that “Clan Davidson” enjoyed an existence as an organized group or political entity along the lines of the MacDonalds or the Campbells at any time after Robert the Bruce’s capture of the Scottish throne in the early 14th c. Considering the Davidsons were reported to be supporters of John Comyn, the Lord of Badenoch, and further considering that it was the murder of John Comyn by Bruce that gave the Scottish crown to Bruce, it doesn’t take a great leap of imagination to understand that it was in the best interests of the ancient Davidsons to take a low profile.

It is not until the 19th c. when a Davidson of prominence (Duncan, 4th Davidson of Tulloch) was mentioned as being the “Chief of the Clan Davidson” (in the 1845 edition of MacIan’s and Logan’s book, “*The Clans of the Highlands*”), and that reference was not supported by the records of the Lyon Court of the day. Indeed, the first known petition to the Lyon Court for the recognition of the arms of any Davidson as being the “Arms of the Chief” of Clan Davidson did not occur until 1906!

Nevertheless, there were a large number of Davidsons, Davis’, Dawsons, Deans, MacDavid’s, Davisons, et al who died for their beliefs at Gettysburg on both sides... and that’s a fact.]



Above, looking up the slope at Culloden where the guns of Cumberland waited to end the battle; right, an 18th c. soldier’s prayer on display in the main entrance of Ft. George.



THE SOLDIERS' PRAYER

Frae a' lang marches on rainy days,
And frae a' stoppages out o' our pays,
And frae the washerwoman's bill, on the damned claise,
Gude Lord deliver us.

Frae moun'tin' guard when the snaw rides deep,
and frae standin' sentry whan ithers sleep,
And frae barrack beds, whar lice and bugs do creep,
Gude Lord deliver us.

Frae a' bridewell cages and blackholes,
And officers' canes, wi' their halbert poles,
And frae the nine-tailed cat that opposes our souls,
Gude Lord deliver us.

May a' officers wha make poor men stand,
Tied up to the halbert, foot, thigh and hand,
Die rotten in the p-x, and afterwards be da--nd,
Gude Lord deliver us.

Sergeant 'Bauldy' Corson

Above: Ft. George, constructed immediately following Culloden, guards the Firth of Inverness from invasion by future Jacobite Rebels. Located about 5 miles north of Culloden, it is the oldest continuously manned military garrison in Britain. I guess the Government is still worried about that Jacobite invasion...