

Dear fellow Re-enactors,

This has been a year of ups and down. On October 22, 2009 our soon to be adopted son, Stephen Alexander, was born. Then on December 20, 2009 John entered the hospital with severe back pain which in the coming days was found to be caused by a 5 inch diameter tumor in his abdominal cavity which was wrapping around one of his vertebra. Further testing showed the mass to be cancerous and revealed numerous tumors on John's lungs and a mass in his testicle which confirmed the diagnosis of testicular cancer.

On December 22, 2009 John's paternal grandmother also died. The next day John started a five day cycle of chemotherapy. He became extremely sick after the third day but was still released from the hospital the next week.

John went home for three days and received one outpatient chemo treatment that week but was re-admitted into the hospital with extreme dehydration and malnutrition from not being able to keep anything down. He stayed at the hospital for a week and received another day of chemo as well as IV nutrition and fluids. John also had surgery while he was in the hospital to remove the testicle that was affected.

John did well starting his second three week round of chemo (one week with five days of treatment and then one treatment each Wednesday for the 2nd and 3rd weeks). He didn't get sick at all the first two weeks and except for feeling tired he was back to his old stubborn self! Then after his chemo treatment the third week he developed a fever and vomiting and was found to have extremely low white and red blood cell counts as well as a staph infection. John had to be admitted into the hospital again for three days where he was put in reverse isolation and given IV antibiotics as well as shots to increase his white blood cell count and blood transfusions for his red blood cell count.

John has been home for a little over a week now and is feeling pretty good. He started his third round of chemo this week with a five day treatment. Then he will need to go for two more Wednesday treatments which hopefully will be his last! So far blood tests and X-rays show that the chemo is working extremely well with most of the tumors on his lungs gone! CAT scans and PET scans when the chemo is done will show the effects on the abdominal tumor. The doctors are greatly optimistic that John will be completely cured soon! Thank you to all of you who have been supportive to us through your prayers, cards and support. We now know just how much the re-enactment community is more than just friends but truly is a FAMILY!!

Thank You,

John, Trisha & Stephen Sutliff

