

PENTLANDS,  
DUMFRIES,  
STRANRAER,  
WIGTOWNSHIRE.  
Tel Dumfries 225.

077-684

8<sup>th</sup> Aug 1980

Dear Mrs Costelloe

A few weeks ago - I  
read in a Sunday newspaper  
that you + your husband had  
purchased - The Tibbie Shield  
Jm. - a train of memories  
opened for me - because  
I am a direct descendant  
of Tibbie - and was a  
child at the Jm and  
grew up there. My grand-  
father - James Scott - + his  
wife Helen - took over the  
Jm at the death of  
Willie Richardson (Tibbie's  
youngest son. - the other  
two sons emigrated to  
Canada - where I am  
proud to say - made good  
+ rose to hold government  
positions -) I have visited



WILTONSHIRE  
STAFFORDS  
BRUMMAGE  
PENLANDS  
Tel. DEAKING 252

the Richardson descendants  
in Canada — & some of them  
have been over here — and  
of course were much distressed  
at the condition and  
degradation of the Inn and  
grounds. I must confess  
that I too was prepared to  
return 'home' and find  
it so changed — and I  
have not been back <sup>again</sup> ~~at all~~  
I visit the Borders every  
Sept. I do hope you  
have success in your  
venture to restore the Inn  
but I fear it will never  
be so. It was very old  
fashioned in our time.

The present 'room' with  
the rafters (and I might say  
now a sort of sitting room)  
and everything is quite  
different — only the lovely



3 papers remain original - & they took their lovely colour from the stain of the peat smoke over the years - from the wide open fire - where hung the cooking pots - from a sweet - in fact - I baked many many - huge girdle scones & pancakes - over the peat fire - and whole meal brown bread - as did my grandmother before me. The oven then was a 'hangup' one - into which went the brown fudge & bread - & the flat lid went on <sup>with hot peats on top</sup> & the sweet swung over the peat fire - it was a wonderful way to bake - I did this from the age of 14. I also made oatcakes.

Also in that fire stove a huge earthen cake in previous.

We call that room the Inn Kitchen - you may have seen pictures of it as it was then. There was two double box beds with beautiful - scrubbed pine sliding panel



It doors (which in Jubbies day  
closed to conceal the beds in  
the daytime) In front of  
one was a long pine settle  
with a well hinged gate in  
the back - & the story goes that  
Jubbie had the foiner cut this  
gate - because - it was in  
that bed that The Ethelred Goppar  
Slept after a night of jolly  
with his cronies - and  
of course he got very tipsy -  
& the settle gate was opened  
and his cronies swung  
him into the box bed - &  
in the morning - since the  
tale goes - that he sat up  
& was so dry - that he said  
'Oh Jubbie hummin - bring  
in the Loch!' (I have one  
of Hogg's Cousin's staves  
here with me - together with  
many old things - and one  
of the earliest visitors  
books - date 1848 - which  
has beautiful handwriting  
& sayings & verses)



5 I have - Tibbie's sugar bowl  
and cream jug - and other  
relics. Her tea set, and Bible  
+ ball of wool which she  
spun on the huge wheel -  
and also her toast rack - I  
gave to some of the Richardson  
families in Canada when I  
was there. However, at home  
here - I still have a piece  
of the most beautiful  
Shot silk taffeta ribbon  
which was on her wedding  
bonnet. I have the whole  
family tree - much of it  
in old photographs. In the  
kitchen - the floor had  
the most beautiful flag  
stones washed + scrubbed  
smooth through the years  
and every morning -  
the floor was scrubbed &  
each flag stone was done  
round with pipe clay -  
as was the open chimney  
back - it was whitened

x. I should a shame to cover them over with that plastic from



6  
Evening morning early - it  
was so open & wide that the  
feat flames did not seem to  
blacken it much - it was such  
a lovely glow spreading  
out into the old kitchen -  
& reflecting on the rafters  
where hung many guns &  
fowling pieces & benches of  
keys - my grandfather  
fiddle in a green velvet bag.

There was a dutch dresser  
quite covered in brass -  
jam pans - 13 pairs of  
candle sticks - much pewter  
& china hens & cocks (which  
I have) some I have given  
away to descendants. Then  
there was the magnificent  
grandfather clock - that had  
stood in the one place since  
Jubilee day. My grandfather  
kept it in good order - even  
at spring cleaning time it  
has never moved. It was  
a beautiful clock - made by a



7 James Leithhead in Moffat - it  
has a beautiful enamel picture  
on the top part - showing John  
Knox - admonishing Mary  
Queen of Scots - and in each  
corner the four seasons -  
I could lie in my wee box  
bed in the attic and hear  
its steady tick-tock &  
Ohime. That clock too is  
in Canada - in the Richardson  
family. We had the most  
beautiful oil lamps - all  
over the Inn - for we did  
not go in for electric light.  
In the back kitchen where  
the cooking was done -  
on a huge range - by my  
mother & grandmother before  
that (I did all the baking)  
my mother was a wonderful  
cook - nothing but the best &  
old traditional dishes. We  
had very distinguished guests  
among them 2 Prime Ministers  
and a Governor general  
- writers - painters &



8 a great many people to do  
people in those days. In August  
the house was full for the month  
for the grouse shooting - &  
the huge table in the dining  
room held 32 - and my  
mother laid it all out depicting  
a scene with heather, flock  
& grouse, as a centre piece  
- The wines were mostly  
French - & we had a well  
stocked cellar always -  
and of course we made lots  
of our own wines from old  
keepsies. There were 13  
box beds in the Inn in  
Tibbets time - but the building  
& rooms are so changed  
it is difficult to explain  
to you. Where the cocktail  
bar is now - was an old  
fashioned furnished parlour  
with a beautiful grate &  
mantle - & many old pictures  
on the walls. The spinning  
wheel & wonder stood in



9 the Inn hallway - that door  
was the main Inn door - which  
had the old sign over it  
'Licensed to sell Porter & Ale'

The stair way in the Inn is  
altered too - it came down  
into the wee cottage hall -  
next to your bar door - it  
was a lovely old wooden  
stair with polished steps -  
In the hall too was a huge  
~~Highland~~ mahogany chest  
on which stood three plaster  
busts - Hogg - Scott, & North.

The Inn was all there  
was when my grandfather  
took over - just the cottage  
part - he built on the  
stone section which had  
a sitting room & dining room  
& bedrooms - etc. and in  
that recess near the front  
door there was also a  
huge unusual tree chest  
which weighed 3 cwt &  
played 12 Scotch tunes  
The sitting room (which is the

have all the old pictures of the Inn in different stages of evolution.



10 These I noticed - was hung  
with old pictures - portraits &  
views (one of which I was  
very vexed I forgot to pack.  
- it shows the Inn - with  
its thatched roof just as it  
was. Could I tempt Tom  
with something in exchange  
for it? if the local people did  
not remove it. I asked them  
for it - but they would not  
sell or exchange it for  
anything. Then my  
grandfather as the year  
went on & he prospered &  
more & more visitors came  
he built on another section  
with 3 bedrooms, 1 sitting  
room and a gent's smoking  
room. and a lovely  
verandah where the fishers  
came in & hung their  
rods on special hooks  
& I kept a chart of all  
fish caught & where &  
what date & what weight -



"The verandah was a lovely open place - with many hanging baskets of flowers & ferns. I cannot say I like the closed in thing that is there now - it is NOT in keeping. Around the yard & house were many huge plane trees full of the humming of Bees in summer - with lovely circular seats built around them - they are alas no longer there. The hedges which ran along to the huge ornate white gate were beautiful white & red thorn. Small white fencing ran along to the main gate. And in front of the farm - a row of dear little white posts - to keep the coaches & cars from getting too near the doorway.



12. Our old fashioned 3 legged  
hugel pots - stood in various  
places outside full of  
geraniums, lobelia - &  
Calceolonia - I have 2  
or 3 here - also the old  
grain queen - I too have.  
(You may wonder why I  
have so much that should have  
have been removed from its  
original setting - well  
after the war when my mother  
was no longer fit - & the good  
old fashioned visitor that  
would come & stay for a few  
weeks at a time - were gone  
or too old - & I married  
& so with aching heart -  
we moved out - and those  
that took over - did not want  
any of the relics - they had  
visions of making it into a  
modern road house - with  
a view of catering to the  
new fast moving young people.



Band so that is why there is  
nothing what so ever left of  
anything original - we  
gave away much - + kept  
what we wanted. It  
would be wonderful if you  
could turn the page back  
+ convert it as it was but  
I cannot see how -

It was every stick + stone  
we had beautiful stables  
in the yard - for horses  
+ coaches + traps - +  
so wonderfully kept.

The fields were lush  
hay fields - with grand  
old out buildings - and  
the kitchen garden had  
everything he wanted  
full of fruits + veg.

We kept cows, I made  
butter every week - we  
kept pigs - we cured  
our own ham - Oh if  
only you could get it



14 back - to something like  
I'd be pleased to advise  
Since we left (the direct  
line) there has been either  
13 - or 14 changes. I do  
hope you will succeed  
where the others did not.

There is a ghost of a  
dog - not Tibbie's - but  
my grand father's we do  
called Cluny.

Forgive my ramblings  
but I just felt I had to  
write - altho I am here  
in Bonnie Gallway - my  
heart is in Yarrow.

Good luck.

Sincerely

Tibbie Scott. S. Shaw  
(SHAW.)

P.S. I attended Chapelhope School as did  
my father when it was a school  
& we walked the 1/2 mile home daily.



P.S. All the years that we were in  
the Inn we had on show the  
huge 7 gallon whiskey  
bottle said to have been used  
by Scott - Hogg - & Cronie.

When we left - we took this  
with us - but the second  
owners after we left - we  
knew slightly, and they  
begged us for the possession  
of this famous bottle -  
we relented - and if they  
did not keep it or pass it  
on - you may still have  
it - it had a silver tag on  
a chain hung round the  
neck - with the following  
verse engraved -

" This bottle was used by  
Sir Walter Scott <sup>& James Hogg</sup> and the  
Cronie, when they met  
together in this room "

" 'Tis blithe at eve to tell the  
tale - while gay tapers  
cheerily shine -  
Bicker the friend ->



flows the wine —  
Days free from thought — +  
Nights from care."


---

We also had special  
stick on whisky labels  
printed — so that we could  
make up our own bottles  
+ half bottles + gills  
of whisky —

The label showed "Jibbie  
at her spinning wheel  
and it was named —  
"The Jibbie Shiel's DREAM."

We bought our whisky in  
bulk + "proofed" it down  
to the various strengths  
ourselves — he had all  
the instruments for doing  
this.

---

You may notice in the old  
tapered room — a pane in the  
window  the one marked X  
has a small hinge + it used to  
open. It was an idea of Jibbie's  
to let air in + the fumes out.