December 4th '91

Dear Sandy

Many thanks for your letter of November 24th and for all the enclosures. We enjoyed the family snapshots - so now the cousin I have been corresponding with for several years has stepped out of the shadows and assumed a face and form! I will have to see if I can find some of us, though for some years we have assiduously avoided anyone with a camera. Your family all look cheerful and friendly. Have you ever thought of making a tape recording of all your family's voices?

I'm looking forward to seeing the Who's Who etc. Thank you for the tremendous amount of time and trouble you have taken.

I did enjoy your talk of your boyhood in the choir of St. George's Chapel when you sang the solo and "went sharp". I would have given a lot to be musical and athletic when I was young - Margaret and I were both "excused" from singing class because we had tin ears, also, I remember the tennis coach at the V.L.T.C. saying to me (I was ten), "Mollie, I think you could run almost as fast as most if you'd just get started a little sooner."

Yes, I have the Wisbech Tree. Margaret has sent me a couple of photographs of

admiral John Wishart. Lord Mountbatten refered to him as "an extremely stupid man" - I don't know on what grounds but Margaret has never never forgiven him.

The relationship I'm most proud of is that Margaret and Lexie and I are all first cousins of Robert Louis Stevenson (umpteen times removed of course!) (His mother and my great great grandmother were sisters) So the 6th Gurkhas may become part of history. Sad.

Congratulations, Joan, on your winning the award for your "Border in Europe" painting I often wish you didn't live so far away I'd love to see some of your paintings - some day perhaps although it's not too likely.

I phoned Jane the other day - it was so nice to chat for a few minutes. Her voice sounded just the same and it was hard to realize that it was eleven years since we last met. She sent us a snap of herself and Maurice in Beacon Hill Park - a very attractive villa but they are so far away!

I don't know whether Jane has told you that Margaret's husband Andy Stirling died on Nov. 7th. He had been an invalid for quite some years and his family all thought that they were prepared for it but none of them were. Jan and Helen were

with Margaret for about a week and they will all be going to Kimberley for Christmas.

I have been putting off writing till I got the prints of the Engagement pictures of Dr Robert Little and Mary Elizabeth Campbell (Taken 1870) Michael looked at his great grandfather and said "Mum, we're lucky to be here!" Actually, he was only fifty and she, poor girl was twenty one and had fourteen more years to live. I phoned the photographer yesterday and at last the prints have been made but when we tried to pick them up today the assistant couldn't find them. a bit worrying but I'm sure they'ye turn up.

Best wishes to you both

Affectionately,

Mollie