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1 Sunningdale Grove
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19th June 2001

Dear Colin,

Here's the copy of Rachel Lee's book you asked for. She was thrilled to bits to hear that we had been able to see Cambusmore and had talked to you. She has passed her mother's photo-albums over to me to scan on the computer, and I will let you have a 'contact sheet' as soon as I've done - could be a while as there are more than I thought and some need tweeking because they have faded. I hope they will prove to be as much of interest to you and your friends up there as they have been to us.

We tried a couple of times to get Mr McKay on the phone but couldn't get through; perhaps you could show him the book, and particularly the names connected with Cambusmore, to see if they ring any bells?

If you remember I explained that Rachel had composed her book as a manuscript and there was no index; I have generated one on my computer and enclose a copy with the book. It will help you to find the Cambusmore bits quickly amongst all the cricket matches and hunts in Sussex!

We enjoyed very much meeting you and appreciate your kindness in giving us your time and letting us see the lodge and grounds as they are today. I hope you will have as much pleasure from seeing what they were like over a hundred years ago.

With very best wishes,

Dan Robinson



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29th July 2001

Dear Colin,

Thanks for your letter - we were beginning to get rather worried that the Post Office had swallowed our parcel!

As you can see, here are some thumbnails from the diary photos as promised. The originals are of variable quality so I've printed them uniformly at a low resolution. If you look at them with a magnifying glass you will be able to spot which are the better images. As far as my detective work can sort them out, I think Brenda had some of the photos developed at the chemists and did some development of her own [which is mentioned in the diaries].

The Embo pictures are particularly sharp, as is the view along the Mound causeway showing the railway bridge and the station in the distance. I have included all the pictures of the garden which I could find - I think you said you were particularly interested? - but they don't give much clue as to where it was. There is definitely something on one of the pictures which shows something immediately in front of the terrace, but it hardly seems big enough for a garden. The views from the terrace out across the bay are all rather fuzzy, but you will be able to spot the changes in tree line etc.

I must say [as a stranger] that it all looks remarkably similar to what we saw in June, with the exception of the Virginia creeper on the house - so little change in a century!

You mention in your letter that some of the 'diary families' are still on the scene. There are lots of people on the Cambusmore photographs - most of them I didn't bother to scan because they didn't show much of the background. The people are all named, so I don't know if these shots may be of interest to someone? If you could let me know some names I could check if there are pictures to go with them. I think we said when we met that we were in touch with Lt Cdr. Colville who is the son of 'cousin Kenneth' of the diaries; he tells us that his family frequently come up to Dornoch.

I expect things are going to be pretty hectic for you during the next few weeks, so I hope everything goes well for you, and look forward to hearing from you soon,

Best wishes,

Dan 

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