

Lappagh  
to Waterford  
7<sup>th</sup> Sept. '87

Dear Bob  
Delighted to hear from you, I was  
beginning to wonder what happened, sorry to  
hear that you haven't been so well I do  
hope you're feeling good again.

I'm glad that all your young  
dogs are shaping up well and that Jarvis  
is coming good, but I'd say it's about time  
for him, some of our dogs are slow to  
develop, particularly if they're large, but very  
few take as long as him. I'm not sure  
I picked you up right when you said  
he wasn't bred to be steady to wing and  
shot, I hope you meant that he wasn't  
bred to determine his point, while the handler  
flushes, because all our have to have good  
manners to flush and shot to win field trials.  
I'm also glad to hear that Jane Deryn's  
pup is turning out good. By the way have

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you heard from her it must be twelve months since I wrote to her and she was always very prompt in replying, I wonder did I say something to offend in my last letter.

You're lucky to have had a good breeding season I've never seen grouse so low in this country I sent about 6,500 acres of moor, one covey Bob, that's all we had this year and that strangely enough was a huge one - 14 chicks. How successful do you find the flight pen and Quail for training - the way things are going here I'll have to try something like that.?

I was interested in your comments regarding the cross-breeding practices and no doubt you know my ideas regarding it by now. I really think your clubs should get away from all such practices at this stage and look for good Irish Setter blood, but then I think I preach to the converted!

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The trials on grouse are now finished, I didn't have a great season and had a lot of problems with the health of my dogs for the summer, with, too serious but enough to know the edge of my dog performances. I did win one stake with Jamie a half sister to Darby but she came in heat straight after that thus finishing her season. We had very good shooting in Scotland unbelievably grouse, <sup>numbers.</sup> we were up there despite the fact they are more northerly than ours.

13<sup>th</sup> October 1987.

Bob, I was rumaging about in one of the drawers in my desk and <sup>found</sup> this letter which I thought I'd completed and sent to you ages ago. Well, there is not a lot after happening since, I won an Open Stake with a young dog Sheantullagh Hailstone (Mr. GARRYBOY x Judy) he was also placed in a few pheasant trials. He's not a great dog but very honest and does his best to please, hasn't the pace

1890

Dear Mother  
I received your letter of the 15th and was  
glad to hear from you. I am well and  
hope these few lines will find you the same.  
I have not much news to write at present.  
The weather here is very warm now.  
I have been thinking of writing to you  
often but have not had time. I hope  
to write more fully next time.

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or the clam of his mother I'm afraid.  
If you are looking for a commemora  
Ray, one of my overseers is a sound  
judge of horse flesh and I think he'd  
help you if I asked him; at least he'd  
be able to tell you where to look and  
advise on price etc.

I better finish this letter and  
get it off to you. Bob, by the way, I'd  
like to get the American Field - Christmas  
Edition - this year, tell me the price and  
I'll forward it to you. I used to get  
the magazine for some years but the  
Xmas edition was really the only one  
I got anything out of. Bye for now

Kind regards

Ray.

