

Where Robert Burns wrote "Scots Wha Hae"



MURRAY ARMS HOTEL

GATEHOUSE-OF-FLEET
GALLOWAY



Two Centuries of Hospitality

**Letter from Mr. Syme acting for Mr. Murray of Broughton and Cally
to Robert Oliphant Esq., Postmaster General of Scotland in 1773.**

Sir

I hope you will pardon me for troubling you with this upon a Subject I could better have explained in Conversation. It is in relation to fixing a Post Office & Post Master on the High road leading from Dumfries to Port Patrick, concerning which Mr. Murray of Broughton and Lady Catherine Murray have wrote me in the most pressing manner to inform you and beg your assistance so far as consistent with your duty to the public. . . . For time past memory this Post Office has been fixed at Gatehouse of Fleet, which is at the Foot of the avenue of Mr. Murrays house which he has lately built and where he has laid out a very extensive policy. Before he did that Gatehouse was an inconsiderable place, but as it is situate in a fine open Country on the side of a Navigable River where the Tide flows, and there is now built there a great many very neat Houses upon Ground which Mr. Murray has fewed, and which is still increasing so that it has the prospect of being one of the prettiest Villages without exception in the whole South Country. There is a very considerable Tannerie & Brewerie lately erected there where Mr. Murray several Gentlemen of the Country & some from England are concerned. Manufactories are established there, a Stamp Master is appointed, Public Shops are kept and there are Artificers of almost every kind employed. The Gatehouse is not half a Mile distant from Mr. Murrays principal House, he has built a fine Inn there containing above 15 or 16 good Rooms with Stables and every conveniency and Where Post Chaises are to be had in the same manner as in England, one could therefore not imagine a better situation for a Post house. It would therefore require some exceeding good reason to make any Alteration therein. He admits the last Postmaster was very negligent and unworthy of his Trust, an exceeding good reason for removing him, but none for removing the Post Office itself, however it so happened that having met with one deputed from the Postmaster of England to fix the Stages, they have altered the Situation of the Post Office & removed it to an Obscure part tho' on the Post road, called the Clachan of Aynworth about two Miles further than the Gatehouse so that the Stage from Carlingwark to Gatehouse which is about 15 miles is now lengthened out to 17 & the remainder of Stage to Ferrytown of Cree is only Six or eight Miles which Mr. Murray apprehended is a very improper division. The place . . . where it is proposed to be fixed is a new erected two penny House and two or three poor Cottages where no horses ever where kept for the Service of the Public, situated in a sort of Glen and very solitary when compared with the Gatehouse, the former Situation. What could be the Inducement to make this improper Alteration Mr. Murray cannot say. . . . Hoping for your Answer at Conveniency. I am &c.

John Syme

Edin. 24 June 1773



Best Wishes for Christmas
and New Year
from
Mrs. Murray Usher

