



POST BOX

Letters to the editor

▶ *Star letter - Postcard from America*

The Lincolnshire Life article about Lincolnshire-born Captain John Smith (May 2007); the celebrations commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia; and Heritage Open Days events, prompted me to search for a postcard which I sent home when I visited Jamestown in 1970.

The postcard shows a silhouette of the statue of Captain John Smith on Jamestown Island overlooking a magnificent sunset and the Virginia shoreline. On the back I wrote: "On Tuesday (Oct 13th) I visited Jamestown. It was the place where the first 144 British made the first permanent English settlement. There was much disease; two fires, and fights with the Indians; but the settlement survived and finally the settlers moved inland a few miles to Williamsburg."

The story of how Pocahontas saved the life of John Smith is well known, and at Jamestown there is also a Pocahontas Monument. Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, married John Rolfe in 1613, and in 1616, with young son Thomas, the family visited England. The following year on 20th March, 1617, shortly after boarding a Virginia-bound ship, Pocahontas became ill and later died in Gravesend, Kent. She was buried in St George's Church, Gravesend.

Some years ago, when visiting Gravesend, I experienced a sense of déjà-vu on seeing a bronze statue of Pocahontas - identical to the one at Jamestown - in St George's Church gardens.

Will we one day see a statue honouring Lincolnshire's controversial explorer Captain John Smith in his homeland or the county where he was born and educated?

Joyce Stevenson
Thurlby, Bourne

▶ *A warm welcome*

I was inspired by my warm welcome to Lincolnshire, and to Cranwell/Sleaford in particular, to respond to the invitation in your November issue of Lincolnshire Life to write a poem for the national poetry competition.

Last year I retired at the age of sixty-one, following eight years in NATO JHQ Germany where I had worked as a senior education officer for Service Children's Education, an agency of MoD, providing schools worldwide for children of tri-service personnel. My husband Peter and I bought our new house in Cranwell from a developer visiting the

NATO JHQ Summer Show and we moved her in October 2006. We had never lived in Lincolnshire before. In fact our only distant memory of Lincolnshire was of a very wet arrival by bicycle of our family at Lincoln Youth Hostel, up a very steep hill, on one of our cycling holidays about thirty years ago!

We are so pleased to have been made very welcome, both locally and wherever we have visited around Lincolnshire so far. We have really enjoyed our first year exploring this beautiful and varied county and its wonderful historic city of Lincoln. Everywhere there is a real sense of community and of shared values for a quality of life not just centred on commercialism, which have sadly been lost in other parts of the UK where we lived previously. I ordered Lincolnshire Life by annual subscription shortly after we arrived, to help us to get to know our new home county better, and it was a very good decision!

Each month I look forward to my copy arriving and to learning more, so thank you for a helpful and interesting publication.

Rosemary Segebarth
Cranwell

▶ *Present success*

My dad is the most difficult person to buy presents for and he absolutely loves the Lincolnshire Life subscription - think mum likes it just as much, so credit to you all for making my Christmas easier!

Christine Ramsey



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Waterstone's

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