



# Letters to the editor

## ▶ *Hunt for the Hilliams*

I have been struggling to piece together my family history.

Both my parents were from Lincolnshire. My father's family, the Hilliams, came from Stamford, where my grandfather Herbert and great-grandfather William were stonemasons. I've been told that there are many fine examples of William Hilliam's artistic skills in and around Stamford – including the Angels in the nave of Uffington church.

My mother's maiden name was Goodacre – she was proud to tell me that it meant 'God's Acre', or 'churchyard' – and her family came from Billingborough. In fact both my maternal grandparents came from that village: Frederick Wallis Goodacre, who was a saddler, and Hettie Barker.

My mother was Victoria Beatrice Goodacre, born in 1901 in Donington, where she lived until she married my father George Hilliam in Donington Church.

Although my parents moved to Somerset, I was always taken back to Lincolnshire for the summer holidays in the 1930s and have vivid memories of the vast golden fields of wheat, climbing Boston Stump, visiting The George Hotel in Stamford (where grandfather Herbert had carved the fireplace in the main dining-room), and Billy Butlin's brand-new holiday camp, which had been just put up next to my great-aunt's house in Skegness – much to her annoyance!

Sadly, I know very little about the Hilliam family, and virtually nothing about the Goodacres. But delving into some old copies of 'Lincolnshire Life', I was astonished to find an article in the September 1987 issue about a Mary Elizabeth Stennett, née Goodacre, who had come from Billingborough. And amazingly, there was a family photo showing the Goodacre family in c.1900, consisting of Edwin and Mary Goodacre and their grown-up children. Mary, Zacharia, Annie and Abel. I can just remember my mother talking about Abel, who I believe was a watchmaker.

If anyone can help me find more about my Lincolnshire 'roots' I should be most grateful.

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## ▶ *'Good old days' really happened*

Further to the article by Penny Frazer and the letter from Mr Pemberton in the March edition of 'Lincolnshire Life', I would like to say I do not agree with them.

I was born in 1933 and grew up in the war years on a farm. I had a wonderful childhood even though we had no electricity or 'mod cons', but as we knew nothing else we accepted it.

Going to bed by candlelight was fun. Washdays – across the yard in the wash house was hard work, I admit. The toilet was also across the yard and even when I married the farmer down the road it was the same. We had two children before we had electricity or even a bathroom.

Yes, it was very cold in the winter but what fun we had in the snow and ice – we were used to it then. Summers seemed long and hot – no trouble with keeping our milk as we had our own cows. Pig killing times were exciting – helping to make the sausages, etc. We enjoyed summer walks down the fields picking violets and later brambles, helping with the harvest and threshing days, chasing the mice out of the stacks.

We never thought about holidays but had the odd day out to Cleethorpes which we found very exciting.

Five children, seven grandchildren and twin great granddaughters later, I still look back and think the good outweighed the bad and what wonderful happy times we had in the 'good old days'.

Mrs Mary Cooper, Glenthams, Market Rasen.

## ▶ *Lovely Leadenham*

I have recently received from a friend in New Leake a copy of your magazine. I would like to thank you for the article on Leadenham Hall and the lovely picture of Mrs Reeve and her dogs with 'my' cushions. I must say it gives an artist a great kick to see her work like that. Thank you.

Being a part Lincolnshire lass myself I thought you might like to know that. My husband and I often spend a great deal of our holidays in Lincolnshire and until recently my parents lived there.

My father was Grenville Merrill of Ingoldmells. His aunt, Miss Kathleen Merrill was a councillor there for many,

many years. My grandfather was a farmer and I have some wonderful old faded photos of his farm cart ready for a show. My father described it to me as "the most modern cart". Father died two years ago aged ninety.

'Lincolnshire Life' was my mother's favourite magazine and having my work appear in it makes it even more special to me. Thank you.

Patricia Scott, P.O.Box 84, Gilgil 20116, Kenya.

## ▶ *More on Mr Storr*

Further to Mrs Watson's letter in the February edition of 'Lincolnshire Life', I was pleased to see the corrected spelling of the name of Mr A C Storr, LRAM, ARCM.

In addition to conducting North Kelsey Choir, he gave singing and pianoforte lessons in the Corn Exchange at Market Rasen, travelling there and back on a motor bike. He was one of Grimsby's many talented musicians.

Mrs B M Hansard, Market Rasen.

## ▶ *Appeal for Digby picture*

I am currently helping to edit a book on Digby compiled by the village's history group.

To date we have been unable to find a photograph of Digby School. I suspect it was always missed by passing photographers since it is tucked away to the north-west of the church and quite hard to see.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who has such a picture, old or recent who would be willing to lend it for copying or send a good-quality copy. Every contribution will be acknowledged.

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