

2, Wiswell Close,
BURNLEY, Lancs.
BB10 2BW
15.12.98.

Dear Betty,

Thank you for your card and letter and enquiries on your daughter's behalf for information to help with the family tree. Lil did indeed have a son, but he did not die in an accident. That may have been a convenient way of erasing him from the family history. I am not at all sure that you would be happy or comfortable to know the truth. As Lil was made to feel wholly responsible for the pregnancy from an early age, suffered the anguish and trauma of separation for many years and was sent away and made to keep the whole affair secret, I feel I would be betraying her if I revealed any of the story now. I only learned the truth from Lil and her son about 20 years ago.

Lil lived with me for more than 40 years and with my aunt &/or grandparents since I was a baby. I am 77 years old. I am not related to Lil, nor were any other members of my extended family.

Lil came up to the north when she was 23 years old, ostensibly to help run a Post Office in Prestbury with an elder brother Dick (whose real name I believe was Harry). Things didn't work out and she found other work in service and looking after other people's children. That is how she became involved in our family, which she more or less adopted as her own, living with one branch of the family or another for roughly 80 yrs.

Dick (Harry) was your father's (Phil's) brother and Hilda was his daughter. Hilda died in August this year. She would have been 90 on December 12th. I believe she visited Hazel in New Zealand and she was your cousin.

I am surprised that you don't know who Annie is, as she is your cousin Win's daughter, Win being the daughter of your uncle Ger (Gerald). Peter is Annie's partner. They used to visit Hilda frequently in Bramhall when they lived nearby in Cheadle, I think. They also visited Lil in Burnley and were present at Lil's 100th birthday celebration on July 24th 1995.

I feel this is all I am willing to divulge and hope it will be of some use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Freda..