

A GROWING FAMILY

DADDY'S RETURN

End of the Great War, 1914 - 1918

I close my eyes on all around,
And allow my thoughts to roam,
Far from old England's hills and dales,
Over the seas to another home.

Swiftly they fly over mountains and lakes,
By rivers and valleys and forests forlorn;
Lingering awhile on the prairie wilds,
Then on through the golden, waving corn.

They wander on till their goal is reached,
Which is Alberta Province in Canada West.
Up to the capital, Edmonton,
At a cosy house they settle and rest.

Restful it is to gaze awhile
On that family group-each expectant face -
Betrays the joy of a throbbing heart,
Dad is coming, his own armchair to grace.

"He's here!" Imagination's vain--
My thoughts are drowned in loving words
and kisses.
Oh, the satisfaction in his eyes,
Daddy's realized at last his wishes!

One arm clasped round his faithful wife,
The other, methinks, round Lally and Jack;
Edna and Ted each claim a knee,
While Harold and Phil climb up on his back.

Baby Ken hangs round his mother's neck,
He's rather shy, Dad's been gone so long;
He left when Kenneth was six months old,
Before he could prattle his baby song.

At home again! Can it be true?
The space between them gone, and no more
fighting.
None can conceive the joy they feel,
A happy family re-uniting.

Methinks I see the supper through,
The children gone obediently to bed;
Mother and Dad sit talking long,
Telling each other how they've been led.

How many sighs, how many tears,
Long months of separation cost them both,
'Tis sacred now, I will not pry,
am loath.

R.N.W.

Ruth Naomi West
Grampa's sister

Composed & sent in 1919



1914 - Elsie, Family friend, , Grandma, Harold, baby Fred, Edna, Phil, Jack



1917 - Phil, Harold, Jack, Edna, Elsie, Fred, Gramma & Baby Ken



1922 - Gramma, Grampa, Ruth, Edna, Harold, Ken, Jack, Elsie, Phil, Fred