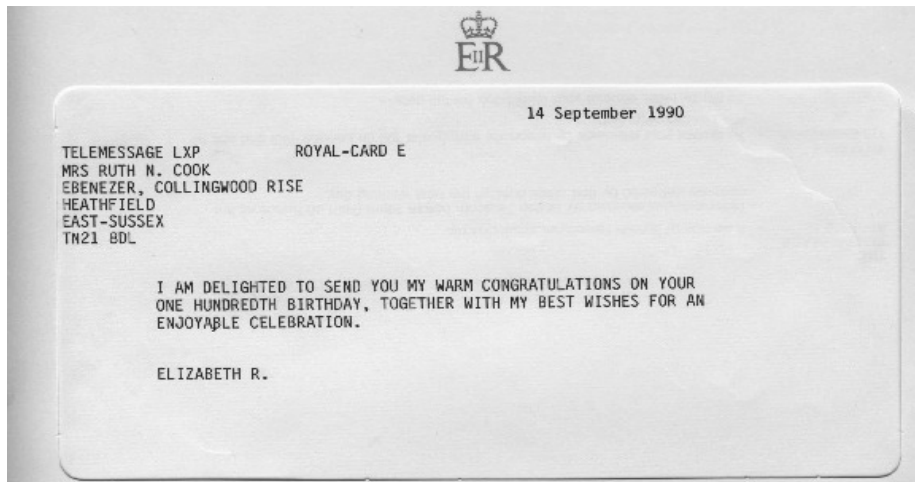




Grampa in 1969 - always the farmer



and always the carpenter



The Queen sends her greetings to Aunt Ruth on her 100th birthday 1990



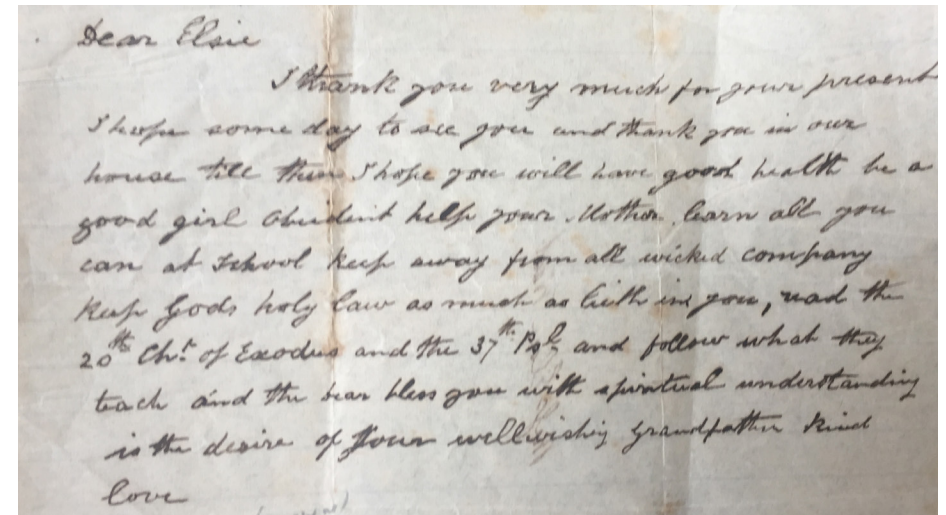
Cousin Helen's family tree t-shirt 1995



Marina Cotter's "participation tree" 2017

9. Letters and Wills

I have a dozen letters to and from our England families written in the first part of the 20th century. One of these is a fragment of a letter that WWW wrote to (I assume from the context) Grampa and Gramma in 1915. At this point, they had lost the homestead and moved to Edmonton. Grampa was a labourer for Edmonton City Power department, the Saskatchewan River was about to overflow, and within a short time, Grampa would sign up for the First War. Jack was 10 years old and Elsie was 8 (both mentioned in the letter). To experience our great grandfather's handwriting, I have included a shorter letter to Elsie (apparently enclosed in the same envelope), in its original form. The following fragment of the full letter to the family, I have transcribed:



Frederick hurt himself but he didn't say so in his letter, had been planting his land. We have not heard from Asher for a very long time. If you do, tell us when you write. We have had your Aunt Rose and her two daughters to stay with us. They were well. mother and I went to see uncle Daniel lately. They were about as usual, have sold their house and bought another 6 miles further from us. Your Uncle Jabez has come to light after being out of sight for many years. He talks about coming to see us this summer. Wish it was some of your children. Emmie and Ruth are at home but i think Emmie is soon off on a cycle tour into West Sussex, Wiltshire and Berkshire. We are very well. Daresay you have heard that Mary is a at Aldershot and seems to get on very well. Don't think it has been a very favourable season for Elsie. William seems going on about the same. Percy is getting on at Birmingham. Don't think I have any more to tell you that would interest you. The friends are still very kind to us and we have a comfortable home. Mother talks of enclosing a likeness of the front of it. Wish it was plainer of the whole. Jack and his sister have lived to an age to be put to something. Hope you will be able to put them into something that will be useful to them through life. Hope they will continue to respect the sabbath day and that you parents will continue to set them a good example. Mother sends her love. She would like to write, but her hands are so weak. So good morning with all our love to all and every good wish.

Your well wishing father, WWW.