Oscar W. and Maud Anderson

At eleven years of age, the former Maud (also known as Petra) Nordhus was the eldest of five young children left both fatherless and motherless on November 6, 1893. Her mother Randi Nordhus had died of consumption at their rural home, just east of Fosston in Rosebud Township.

Her death followed only a few months that of Maud’s father, Edward, on April 21, 1893 from the same disease.

Born November 3, 1881 at Fergus Falls, Maud traveled as a baby with her parents by oxcart to Fosston to settle on their rural Fosston farm, where her three brothers and sister were born.

On December 6, 1902 she was married in Crookston to Oscar W. Anderson, a young newcomer from Norway, who came here to be with his uncle and aunt, the Hans Clausen family, area farmers.

Oscar, who was born November 17, 1876, became affiliated with the Great Northern Railway as a brakeman. For a time they lived in Bemidji, where their first-born, a girl, died at birth, April 6, 1904. They returned to Crookston where a second daughter, Glenna Lorraine, was born November 6, 1905. She died of spinal meningitis in August, 1909.

Their son Walter Eugene was born here, April 17, 1911. Another daughter was added to the family with the arrival of an adopted baby girl Monica Lucille, born June 27, 1923 at Glyndon, Minnesota.

Maud died of cancer in Crookston on March 3, 1938. Oscar remained here with the railroad until his retirement. He died August 14, 1961 at 85. Both are buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

Their son, Walter, married Margaret Buckley at Harlem, Montana, May 31, 1935. They were parents of a daughter, Constance, and three sons, Walter Jr. (Pete), Philip and John. Walter Sr. died December 23, 1966 in Los Angeles, California. He is buried in Spokane, Washington with his wife, who died six years earlier.

Daughter Monica, now of Sacramento, California, is the mother of four grown daughters, three married. They are Kathryn Lee, twins Susan Marie and Linda Jean, and Carol Jane. The girls’ father is Charles L. Upton of Bandon, Oregon.

Jacob and Ellen Jane Francis

Jacob Francis was born in Cornwall, England in the year of 1853. At the age of 12, he came to the United States with his mother, three brothers, and one sister after the death of his father in a mine accident in Wales. The family first settled in Dodgerville, Wisconsin. They then moved on to Kittson County, Minnesota and from there to Crookston, Minnesota. Jacob vividly remembered seeing Civil War soldiers returning from the battlefields when his family landed in New York City.

His sister, Grace, opened a photography studio in Crookston and later married Charles Greenalgh, a Crookston resident. Jacob shoveled coal from freight cars at a salary of $1 a day and later worked as a cement and stone mason. Included in the buildings that he helped to build are the Crookston Cathedral and the Cathedral School, the Eagle Building, and some of the buildings at the Minnesota Technical College.

After his retirement from masonry, he raised quantities of potatoes and other vegetables which he sold to Ralph Lycan at the Hotel Crookston, to Charlie Rapin at the Grill Cafe, and to the local grocery stores.

On February 13, 1882, he married Ellen Jane Kyle at the Methodist Church in Crookston. Ellen Jane was born in 1859 in Medford, Canada. Her parents had emigrated to Canada from Belfast, Ireland. Several years later they, too, moved their family to Crookston. (Kyle family photo enclosed)

Jacob and Ellen Jane became interested in the Salvation Army and both became Salvation Army Soldiers. Jacob often marched with the Army to a Crookston street corner with his drum and participated in the open air services. His grandson, Lyle Francis, often assisted by carrying the large drum from...