vacating a state which saw the heaviest migration from Norway. In the locality of Sogn as early as 1854, it was said that nearly every family had relatives in the United States.

Upon arrival in America, Lars Njus journeyed to the region where most Scandinavians lived. He stayed for some years in the vicinity of Garretson, South Dakota, working for potato farmers for three cents a day, board and room included. From 1890 to 1893, he attended Sioux Falls Lutheran Normal School, a one-building school perched on the prairie. It still exists as part of the 100-acre campus of Augustana College. Upon graduation, he taught school for several years before entering Luther Seminary in St. Paul. In 1901, he was ordained into the Lutheran ministry.

His first calling as a pastor was at Lakesfield, Minnesota and later he served at Atwater and Grove City, Minnesota. He came to McIntosh, Polk County, in 1905 where he served faithfully for seventeen years. He served St. Luke’s at McIntosh, Sandhill in Sletten Township, Sannes at Erskine as well as Mentor, Minnesota. In summer he drove with horse and buggy and in the winter with a two-seated cutter.

For the next several years beginning in 1922, he played an important role in developing one of the largest Norwegian American newspapers, the Decorah Posten, out of Decorah, Iowa. As associate editor until 1929, he translated English works into Norwegian, wrote editorials and editorialized. Later, upon returning to the Red River Valley, Pastor Njus made an unsuccessful bid for Polk County treasurer, running against Pauline Lindberg, Mrs. Frank Lohn.

In 1917, Rev. Njus aided in the development of merging three major Lutheran bodies to form the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. He and his brother, Rev. Nils Njus of Benson, Minnesota (another pioneer pastor) were also among the original members of the fraternal insurance society named Luther Union, a life insurance union designed for retiring Lutheran pastors. That company is now the well known Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Company. Rev. Nils Njus holds policy number sixteen and at the age of 100 still outlives his policy. Pastor Njus was also a respected poet and essayist. An article in the McIntosh Times datelined August 8, 1922 states: “He has contributed much to Norwegian literature in America. His productions in poetry and essays written for conferences and journals have been duly recognized. Rev. Njus wrote a number of poems, essays and short stories which were published in a Norwegian Christmas magazine entitled “Jull i Vesterheimen”.

In 1902, Lars Njus married Susie Johnson, who died in 1910. On June 11, 1912, he married Ingeborg, a native of Albert Lea, Minnesota. They had five children, the youngest of whom died at the age of eight. The oldest, Ingmar, died in 1973, at the age of sixty. One daughter, Mrs. Melvin Moe (Mathilde) is a resident of Polk County. Her son, Roger Moe of Ada, is Minnesota State Senator for District 2. Rev. Njus was one of many pioneer pastors whose influence helped shape the moral character and influenced the social and political life of their era!

EDWARD AND RANDI NORDHUS

For their honeymoon, following their marriage January 4, 1880, in Norway, Edward and Randi Nordhus emigrated from Norland, Norway to the United States and the Fergus Falls area of Minnesota. Accompanying them were his two brothers, Simon Kroken and Martin Tangen. I was told they took their names from places they were employed. The former Randi (Olsdatter) Vigen and Edvard Ingebratson (Nordhus) were married by M. L. Foshaug at Trondjheim, Norway. He was born at Bardu, northern Norway in 1854, and she was born in 1856 at Trondjheim, Norway. They sailed from Norway May 8, 1880. In 1882, the Nordhus, Tangen and Kroken families traveled from Fergus Falls by oxcart to Fosston, where they all settled on farms in Rosebud township, just east of Fosston.

The Nordhus family then included a daughter, Petra (Maud), born November 3, 1881, who later became Mrs. Oscar W. Anderson of Crookston, wife of a longtime Great Northern Railway brakeman. She died March 3, 1938. (See history under their name.) A son, Ingvold was born December 13, 1883, at Fosston. He died February 15, 1948, at Havre, Montana and is buried at Harlem, Montana. He never married. Ingvold was a carpenter. Marie, born June 16, 1886, was married at Crookston in 1905 to Otto Rasmussen. She died November 4, 1965, in Crookston. (See history under Rasmusen). Olaf (Albert E.) born August 1, 1888, and died November 25, 1956, at Kalispell, Montana. He is buried at Columbia Falls, Montana. He was married to Lily Martha Johnson of Gonvick, June 5, 1911. There were three children, Kermit was born June 5, 1912 and died in 1945 at Hoquiam, Washington, in a bus accident. Glenn was born February 24, 1913, and died in Crookston in 1920; Lorraine Mae, born in 1928, died July 4, 1930, at Mineral, Washington. Olaf was a barber. John Bendik was born August 3, 1890 and died May 30, 1952, in Minneapolis. He was married June 7, 1916, to Hilda Hesselton at Fosston. They had no children. He was employed by the Jensen Printing Company in Minneapolis.

Eleven years after moving to Fosston, tragedy struck the