

Memories of Grandfather Franz Thiessen

Grandfather Thiessen was a man of strong character and convictions. After gaining victory over his smoking habit he promised God that he would fast every Friday from sunup to sundown. To the family's knowledge he always kept this promise.

Grandfather always had several dogs. He explained that the dogs were used in spring to scare off birds while they were hand seeding till they could get the seeds covered.

Jacob remembers his Dad showing him a spot in the creek near Altona where Grandfather and Grandmother wintered in a hole in the embankment, keeping a cow and her calf with them for extra warmth.

Memories of Grandmother Thiessen

When the grandchildren came to see Grandmother Thiessen they would gather around her in anticipation. She was usually wearing a big apron common to that day. She would slowly put her hand under her apron and draw it out with some candies in it. Candies of course were a real novelty in those days. She loved to surprise the children with her dry sense of humor.

Jacob (a grandson) remembers when his Grandfather came to notify his parents of Grandmother's death by knocking on the window till someone noticed him and then without a word he left. He was too grief stricken to talk. The family knew something was very wrong so they went to be with him.

They resided at Schoenau, which was near Altona