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OBITUARY of WILLIAM J. THIESSEN

William J. "Bill" Thiessen, son of John P. and Helena (Ratzlaff) Thiessen, was born March 4, 1887 at Mountain Lake, Minnesota and expired on December 29, 1979 at the age of 92 years, 10 months and 25 days.

In 1900 he moved with his parents to Richmond, Texas, arriving just a few months ahead of the Galveston storm that killed four people in the Mennonite settlement, including John Remple's sister, Rev. Bernard O. Kroeker's wife, Mrs. Jake Klassen and Tena Wiens.

In the fall of 1908 he moved with his parents and family to Gotebo, Oklahoma where he started farming and later worked for Wedel's Department store in the grocery department.

In about the fall of 1917 he found the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He was baptized upon confession of his faith by Rev. Henry Riesen and was accepted into the fellowship of the Ebenezer Mennonite Church east of Gotebo, Oklahoma.

In 1918 he was inducted into the army. He served his country during World War I. After his discharge he came back to Gotebo, where he purchased a grocery business and stayed 42 years or until his retirement in 1968.

In about 1974 he came to Corn and entered the Home for the Aged, where he lived until his death.

On October 3, 1976 he transferred his membership to the Corn Mennonite Brethren Church.

On November 2, 1979 he had a bad fall in the Home and entered the hospital at Cordell staying 15 days. On December 24 he had to enter the hospital again. After 6 days, on December 29 he went to meet his Redeemer.

He leaves to mourn, 2 brothers: Henry and wife, Anna of Corn, and Aron of Cordell, and one sister, Anna Bergmann of Corn and a host of nephews and nieces. Four brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.