

Bessie Thompson, 89 ↓

Dec. 31, 1915 - Oct. 20, 2005

MARION — Bessie Ione Thompson, daughter of DeWitt and Alice Florence (Vernon) Kohl, was born Dec. 31, 1915, in Martelle. She was raised in Mt. Vernon, and graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in 1934.

June 18, 1934, Bessie married Melvin Arthur Thompson in Mt. Vernon. The couple lived most of their married life in Marion, and Bessie worked as an office manager for Wray, Robb, and Bickel Orthopedic Medical Clinic in Cedar Rapids, for many years. Melvin died in August, 1979, in Cedar Rapids. Bessie had been active in the First Presbyterian Church in Marion, and was a member of the Pythian Sisters Lodge in Cedar Rapids. She died Oct. 20, 2005, at the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn at age 89 years, nine months, and 20 days.

Bessie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Melvin Arthur Thompson; one sister, Elda Kohl; and one brother, Vernon Kohl. Her survivors include two sons, D.A. (Karen) Thompson of Harlan and Dennis (Marciene) Thompson of De Forest, WI; one daughter, Alice (Charles) Johns of Bismarck, ND; eight grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and other relatives.

A memorial service was held Oct. 28, 2005, at the First Presbyterian Church in Marion, with Rev. Howard Chapman officiating. Burial of ashes was in the Campbell Cemetery in Mt. Vernon. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in Harlan and Baxter-Stewart Funeral Chapel in Marion were in charge of arrangements.
