Edward Amiel Cleppe, 82

Edward Amiel Cleppe died Nov. 28, 2002, at Brookhaven Nursing Home in Brooklyn, at the age of 82.

A funeral mass was held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Dec. 2, at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Victor. Rev. Richard Okumu officiated. Eulogist was Dan Kurovski, Stephanie and Christin Beran served as lectors, and Nick and Pat Blomme were altar servers. Verabeth Bricker was the organist. Pallbearers were Brent Cleppe, Cory Cleppe, Kevin Votrobeck, Charlie Votrobeck, Matt Beran and Ben Beran. Honorary bearers were Shellie Votrobeck, Deanna Votrobeck, Stephanie Beran, Christin Beran, D.J. Cordano, Bradley Cleppe, Becky Cleppe, Shaun Cleppe and Amber Robertson. Interment was at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Tama. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Idella Cleppe Memorial Fund.

The son of Amiel Edmond and Della Eva (Remery) Cleppe, he was born on Jan. 30, 1920, in Grand Mound, (a first generation born in America). He grew up on several rented farms near Brooklyn, Hartwick and Chelsea, where he helped farm and attended country schools until eighth grade. He worked as a hired farm hand for Walter Rich near Chelsea, and later he lived at home and farmed northwest of Chelsea. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he entered the Army Air Corps on Feb. 10, 1942, at Fort Des Moines and was sent overseas to the European Theatre of Operation. When the war was over, he returned home a Corporal on Dec. 16, 1945 and returned to farming with his brother, Theophile, east of Tama. Cleppe was married to Idella Christian Dutoit on Feb. 6, 1950, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Tama. The couple farmed near Tama, Chelsea, Belle Plaine and Victor where they had a family of their own. In December of 1975, he sold his farm animals and equipment and moved to Victor. He owned a truck and hauled grain and livestock; he also worked for M&N Grain and Rohrer Brothers. He later retired from the elevator, but continued to help his son-in-law, Bill Beran, farm south of Victor.

He was a member of St. Bridget Catholic Church in Victor, a member of the American Legion Hall, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include four children: John of Belle Plaine, Maxine Votrobeck of Elberon, Ruth Beran of Victor, and David of St. Petersburg, Florida; fifteen grandchildren, Brent and Corey Cleppe, Kevin, Shellie, Deanna and Charlie Votrobeck, Matthew, Benjamin, Stephanie and Christin Beran, Amber Robertson, D.J. Cordano, Bradley, Becky and Shaun Cleppe; six great-grandchildren, Jadie and Lane Votrobeck, Brendan, Colton and Danae Cleppe and Chase Votrobeck; three sisters, Charlotte Mayer of Leroy, Minn., Mary Tomas of Tama, and Teresa Rund of Toledo; and two brothers, Ferdinand of Brownsville, Minn., and August of Cedar Rapids.

He was preceded in death by his parents: his wife, Idella on Sept. 11, 2000; an infant son, Albert; a grandson, Brian Cleppe; a granddaughter, Shannon Cleppe; and a brother, Theophile.

BC Dec. 4, 2002