

Miles Brownlie Clayton, 89

Miles Brownlie "Mike" Clayton, 89, a resident of Seeland Park, Grinnell, formerly of rural Brooklyn, passed away Jan. 14, 2012, at St. Francis Manor.

A Celebration of Life Mass was held at 10:30 a.m., Jan. 21, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grinnell. The Rev. Nick Adams will officiate. Cremation has been accorded and interment will be at a later time. Military honors were handled by the Brooklyn American Legion, Patriot Guard Riders, and the U.S. Army. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials may be made to the family with memorials going to Hospice, Seeland Park, and Honor Flight.

Miles was born on March 23, 1922, at the farm of his grandparents, Brownlie and Dora Hays Graham in Madison Twp., the son of Allen Paul and Jeanetta Graham Clayton. He was named after his grandfathers, Miles Clayton and Brownlie Graham. He was united in marriage to Margaret Chicoski on Sept. 12, 1947, in Haverstraw, N.Y.

Miles attended Grinnell High School for two years and graduated from Brooklyn High School. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from September 1942-December 1945, serving in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France. Boot camp was at Camp Crowder followed by study at the University of Wyoming and UCLA. He then was sent to Ft. Lewiston, Wash., before going overseas via New York. Miles and Margaret met because she was given an address while working at Camp Shanks, N.Y., and told to write to the soldier, which started a romance by letter throughout the war.

Miles and Margaret farmed in Madison Twp. for many years. He received many awards for outstanding soil conservation and was a Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District Commissioner leading him to never be on a country road he didn't love. He always told his children that he was never lost, but sometimes didn't know exactly where he was.

He also received a number of Iowa Master Corn and Soybean Grower awards from the Iowa Crop Improvement Association. Miles was the first in the area to bring Charlet cattle into his herd of Hereford and Angus. He also raised hogs. He was always interested in education and took many ag short courses at ISU. He was a John Deere farmer and competed in tractor pulls.

He was an active member of the Brooklyn American Legion since 1946, holding offices and being on the firing squad. As a Legion delegate, he attended a number of national conventions. After he retired from farming, he volunteered on Fridays at the Iowa City VA Hospital where he was credited for over 5,000 hours. He was involved with the Iowa River Campers and the Palm Shadow RV Park summer reunion. For many years he attended the Brooklyn HS class of 1939 monthly gatherings. He grew up in the Madison Church of Christ and later in life became a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grinnell. In 2008, he was on the first Honor Flight of the Quad-Cities to Washington, DC.

He was associated with the Scott County Settlers Descendants Association. He has many cousins in the area related to him through his mother's ancestors who settled in Long Grove in 1837 from Scotland via Canada, before Iowa became a state in 1846.

Miles loved fishing and traveling. His father was from Indiana, and Miles made sure his family made visits to his uncles, aunts, and cousins there. He and Margaret drove to Alaska twice on the Al-Can Highway with friends as well as eastern Canada. Over the years, they, with numerous friends and family members, went fishing in Northeast Iowa on the Mississippi, Minnesota, and Canada. They visited Europe several times, Australia, New Zealand, and Tahiti, El Salvador on a mission trip, as well as visiting every state of the USA. He never met a stranger.

In the 70s, Miles and Margaret started going south for longer and longer periods during the winter. After visiting Florida and Arizona, they bought a winter home in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas. He volunteered to organize bike rides, played pool, square danced, and still has a reputation there for his card playing skills. They traveled extensively in Mexico with their fellow part-time Texan friends.

He was interested in politics and current events and a faithful listener of KGRN following the grain and livestock prices, even after moving to St. Francis Manor.

He was very proud of his family, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed his great-granddaughters' visits, and they enjoyed visiting him. Many days were spent "at the pond" with family swimming, fishing, and watching nature. He was proud of his conservation measures that will be a legacy for his descendants. Miles will be remembered as a man of character, ethics, and faith.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret; sisters, Mary Dean and Pauline Phipps; brother, Paul Gene (Marge); sister-in-law, Helen Clayton Mayo, all of Grinnell; children, Ruth Ann (Mike) Clayton-Davis, Rock Island, Ill., and John, Grinnell; two grandchildren, Andrew Davis, U.S. Navy, and Katie Davis, Davenport; two great-granddaughters, Gabrielle and Skyler Davis; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Miles was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Roger, Graham, and Robert; and sister-in-law Helen Slaven Clayton.

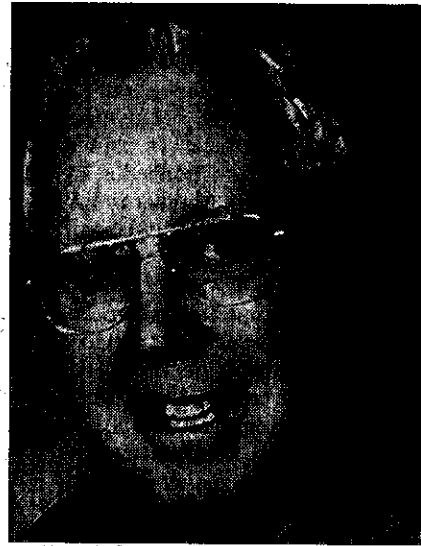
Share a message of sympathy with the family at www.smithfh.com.

PCCR 1-25-2012

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a luncheon at Seeland Park afterward. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials may be made to the family with memorials going to hospice, Seeland Park, and Honor Flight.

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CHH 1-19-2012

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