



## Clare Austin Ash

June 12, 1925 - November 27, 2023

Clare Austin Ash Jr., 98, peacefully passed away on November 27, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. with his boys at his side.

Clare was born June 12, 1925 in Lansing, Michigan to Clare Ash and Thelma (Root) Ash. He grew up on the family farm in Chester attending country school and then Charlotte High School graduating with the class of 1943. After high school he attended Michigan Agricultural College (MSU) in the 2-year agricultural short course program.

January 1, 1946 he married the love of his life, Shirley Tellas, and they began a life together, raising 3 sons, Dennis, Mark and Steve. Clare was destined to become a farmer and it was his passion. Together with his family, he built a large farming operation that continued until his retirement in 1994.

Clare served on many boards and was active in local Farm Bureau, FHA, MABC, 4-H, and Masonic Lodge in his younger days. After retirement he began restoring antique farm tractors. He was not color specific as he had John Deere, Minneapolis Moline, Oliver, Silver King, Massey Harris, and Farmall in his collection.

He made many friends and contacts in the agricultural business whether it be in the cattle, hog or seed business. He was not only a seed corn dealer for Pioneer, Funks and Golden Harvest, the family also grew Foundation, Certified and Breeder classifications of Red Kidney Bean and Barley seed from the crops grown and processed on their farm. Clare was also instrumental in selling calves through video sales at Michigan Livestock

Exchange, something new in that day.

In addition to his love of farming, he had a strong love of family. He and Shirley were married until her passing in 2016 and worked side by side in the farming operations. Their sons also were involved in the farm and all 3 followed in Clare's footsteps attending Michigan State University in the agriculture programs.

Clare is survived by his brother, Roger; sons Dennis (Danette), Mark (Judy), and Steve (Judy); and grandchildren, Mike, Austin, Adrienne, Matt, JoAnne, Joe, Steve Jr. and Christopher; along with 14 great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death are his wife, Shirley; his parents, Clare, and Thelma; sister-in-law, Mary; and granddaughter, Kristen.

Friends are encouraged to support Clare's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). Visitation will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, from 3-5:00 p.m. and 7-9:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Funeral Services will be on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Pray Funeral Home with Laura Cooper officiating. Interment will take place at Gresham Cemetery. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Clare's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Gresham United Methodist Church. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 4. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

DEC 4. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral

DEC 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Clare Austin Ash



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 05, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Clare Austin Ash



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 30, 2023 at 03:40 PM

JF

“ I will miss Uncle Clare. His laugh, stories and his smile. My memories of early childhood and 4-H days to my 80s', I could always expect kindness and welcoming. Uncle Clare & Aunt Shirley were very special to me. Happy we had him for so long.

Jo Anne Fogle - December 05, 2023 at 10:11 AM

DC

“ David And Ruthann Clarke lit a candle in memory of Clare Austin Ash



David and Ruthann Clarke - December 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM

LR

“ Love you guys, Dave & Darcy Robere planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clare Austin Ash.

Love you guys, Dave & Darcy Robere - December 04, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clare Austin Ash.



December 04, 2023 at 08:33 AM

CW

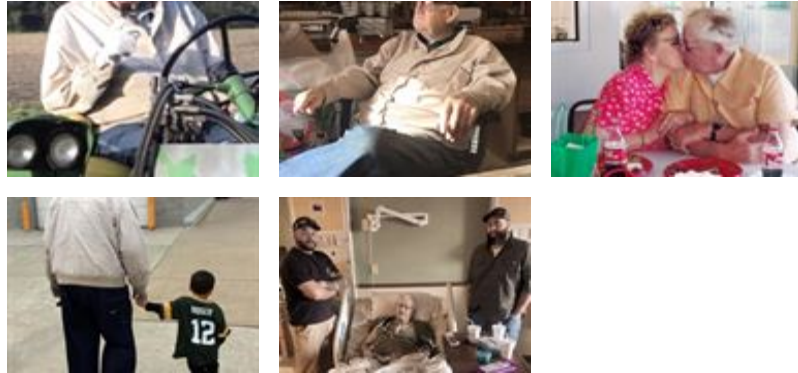
“ Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Clare Austin Ash



Chad & Carol Walker - December 01, 2023 at 09:17 AM



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 30, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for your family.



Alex Winter - November 28, 2023 at 05:51 PM



“ Ms. Jeri toner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clare Austin Ash.

Ms. Jeri toner - November 28, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Clare Austin Ash.



November 28, 2023 at 02:36 PM