



## Clara Emma Sweinhagen

September 10, 1920 - December 22, 2019

Clara Emma Sweinhagen, 99, of Defiance, Ohio passed away on December 22, 2019. She was born in Defiance on September 10, 1920 to William and Helen (Bachkaus) Arps. Clara married Ralph Sweinhagen on August 21, 1940 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners, Ohio and was officiated by Rev. Henry Ide.

Clara took over caring for the household at a very young age after her mother passed away. She spent a lot of time with her grandmother learning to cook and care for her younger brother. She had a green thumb and enjoyed growing African violets indoors and tending her flower beds outside. Clara kept busy volunteering with the Ridgeville Legion Auxiliary, Jewell Fire Department Auxiliary and the Ladies Aide Society at church. The family operated a registered guernsey dairy farm for over 60 years. When she wasn't working on the farm, Clara worked as a waitress at Rainbow Restaurant and was a clerk at the Murphy Store in Defiance. In her later years she spent 25 years helping at her son's store, Ken's Kerryout in Liberty Center.

Clara is survived by her children, Ronald Sweinhagen of Hillsdale, MI; Karl (Pat) Sweinhagen; Kenneth (Ann) Sweinhagen and Vernon Sweinhagen all of Defiance, OH; 12 grandchildren; 43 great grandchildren; 20 great-great grandchildren with 3 more on the way and her brother William Arps. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph,

daughters-in-law, Sandy and Donna; grandchildren, Michelle and Rodney; and sister-in-law, Lois.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, 1010 Westmoreland Avenue, Napoleon, Ohio 43545 on Friday, December 27, 2019 from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 20191 US-6, Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555, on Saturday, December 28, 2019 at 11:00 am with an hour of viewing prior to the service. Interment will follow at Riverview Memory Gardens, Defiance. Memorial contributions may be made to the church or CHP Hospice. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [rodenbergergray.com](http://rodenbergergray.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Riverview Memory Gardens

29321 County Rd 424  
Defiance, OH 43512

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 27. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
(419) 592-2333  
[help@rodenbergergray.com](mailto:help@rodenbergergray.com)

## Visitation

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery  
CO RD X  
Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555

## Funeral Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Lutheran Church  
20-191 US Highway 6  
Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555



# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



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**Rodenberger Funeral Home** - December 29, 2019 at 02:16 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Clara Emma Sweinhagen.



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December 27, 2019 at 09:50 AM

BW

“ Vern, Karl, Ken, and Ron - I was sorry to learn tonight of your Mother's death. She was very proud of the four of you and of your families. Take comfort as you mourn her by thinking of the happiness you brought to her and of the fine care you gave her as she aged. I last visited with Mrs, Sweinhagen in early in September when I was in Defiance for a class reunion. As she and I talked in the house, Ken and Karl were mowing and doing other things around her house and Vern was coming later to prepare her dinner. During our talk she was cheerful, as usual, and her eyes sparkled as she chatted. She was looking forward to her 99th birthday and invited me to come back for the celebration. As I drove back to Chicago after our visit I thought of how kind and supportive Mrs. Sweinhagen had been to my late sister, Donna, Mrs. Sweinhagen's daughter-in-law, during the whole time Donna was part of her family and especially during the last few years of Donna's life as she dealt with a serious illness. I thought of how kind Mrs. Sweinhagen had been to everyone in my family at the time of our Mother's death in 1974 and our Dad's death in 2002.

*Mrs. Clara Sweinhagen was one of the kindest and most caring people I have ever known. And her sons and their families have followed in her kind and caring footsteps, creating a fine legacy for this wonderful woman. I am thankful that we had that last visit in September and that my sister was a member of her family.*

*I regret that I will not be able to come to Mrs. Sweinhagen's funeral service. She and all of her family will be in my thoughts in the days to come.*

*Bob Wagner*

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**Bob Wagner** - December 26, 2019 at 08:21 PM

HE

“ Thoughts and prayers to all of you. Many memories working at the Kerryout with her.

Heather (Nye) Eding - December 26, 2019 at 08:06 PM

GF

“ Gene & Sandy Hasselschwert--and family purchased the Garden Accent - "My Mother kept a garden..." for the family of Clara Emma Sweinhagen.



Gene & Sandy Hasselschwert--and family - December 26, 2019 at 03:35 PM