



## Esther Freeman Smith

April 19, 1916 - September 13, 2019

Esther Christine Freeman was born in Sycamore, Georgia on April 19, 1916 and was the oldest of three daughters born to the late Alvin Burdette and Annie Mabel Royal Freeman. It is difficult to comprehend all the changes that have been witnessed by someone who reached the age of 103 years. There would have been the good times of a young person born to a family of successful businessmen, the difficult times presented by the agony of the depression and a family who lost all their worldly goods. People who have seen these good and bad times and lived through a world war as well, are referred to as "The Greatest Generation". They are more like the generation of miracles. They knew the good times of their youth, the horrors of depression and the aching uncertainty and loneliness of a war when the country offered its best men and women on the altar of freedom. It created a generation that learned how to pick up the shambles of life and keep going, in the hopes for a better tomorrow. It was quite a journey for Esther to leave life in Sycamore and Tifton and come to Newnan with her parents for a better life after the depression left them penniless. Esther, being the oldest of the sisters, was accustomed to looking after her younger sisters, Dorris and Aldine. Along that same line, she was also the ringleader for some high jinx and adventures. Esther met a young man in Newnan named Lamar Smith who announced on their second date that he was going to marry her! Theirs was a rollicking courtship as they fed off each other's good nature and loved music and dancing. They were married on January 10, 1937. Their marriage was

interrupted by the war after he enlisted in 1942. During his three years in the service, she remained in Newnan and worked at First National Bank. Life became more settled after Lamar returned home and he worked for The City of Newnan. Esther desperately wanted a family but was told that would not happen for medical reasons. The greatest joy of Esther's life was learning that she was carrying a child and always called Christy her miracle baby. Esther's life of 103 years was dominated by her care for her family, but her spare time would find her indulging her hobbies of music, painting, sewing, gardening, golf, bridge, needlework and in her later years, computers! Her career accomplishments were highlighted by her being the first woman to be promoted to officer status at C&S Bank. Her desk sat right outside the door of the president himself. She was the consummate volunteer of any organization lucky enough to have her as a member from Pilot Club to hospital volunteer, The Red Cross and Girl Scouts. Her faith was the bedrock of her life journey and she claimed Newnan First United Methodist as her home church. Esther never forgot what a blessed life she had. She will always be remembered for her jovial nature, her undying loyalty to her friends, her compassion for anyone with a need, her staunch care and unceasing concern for all her family. The last words she uttered as she was drifting into that journey to eternity was a credo taught her by her mother and served her well for all her 103 years, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Basil Lamar Smith and her sister, Dorris Freeman Gilbert. She is survived by her daughter Christy Smith Kline and her husband Bill. She was a doting grandmother to Brie (and Bryan) Wright, Courtney and Scot Humphreys. Her great grandchildren are Madeline and Marin Wright, Cole and Evie Humphreys. Also surviving is her beloved sister, Aldine Askew. Her nieces are Lee Clarke and her daughters, Michelle, Carole Ann and her husband Chuck Fields, Ann Headstream and her children Rob, Britt and his wife Jessica. Her nephews are Al Gilbert (and Susan) and their children Melissa, Justin and Andrew; Sonny Gilbert (Joan) and his daughter Laurie and his son Lon; a nephew Joe

Smith and his daughters Gina and Julianne. The life of this good and noble woman will be fondly recalled and celebrated in a service of worship and reflection to be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 2:00 PM in The Chapel at McKoon 38 Jackson Street in Newnan. The service will be led by Reverend Joan Kinrade. The family will receive friends at the funeral home beginning at 12:30 PM. Interment will be beside her beloved Lamar in Historic Oak Hill Cemetery. For those who may wish to honor her life it is suggested that a memorial gift may be made to her beloved Newnan First United Methodist Church 33 Greenville Church Newnan GA 30263 or to a favorite charity. Esther might also say that if you do not have money for a gift, just find someone that needs a good deed or cheering up and let them know that they are loved. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-3744

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 21. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com

## Service

SEP 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
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(770) 253-4580  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Esther Freeman Smith*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - September 21, 2019 at 01:56 PM

AH

“ *Esther Smith was the most sincere, wonderful, loving human being I have ever met. There are certain things about her I will never forget. The sparkle in her eye. The chuckle in her laugh. She never said an unkind word. And if she ever DID have something negative to say it would be along the lines of "bless your heart." She was a painter of the soul. An inventor when necessary. A southern lady with southern charm. A lover of chocolate. She was a mother to all. And in the end she was ready to go! God rest her soul! She deserves it! :) Esther Smith, we love you!*  
*-Your Agape Care Team*

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**Agape HC** - September 20, 2019 at 07:07 AM

TM

“ I remember when I first met Ester... I would be going on a walk and my son would be on his bike with his little helmet on and we would see Esther and her husband walking their little dog. At that time I had a garden I remember bringing her some tomatoes. You would have thought I brought her a pot of gold! I was very close friends with her sister Doris Gilbert, and boy did she tell some unbelievable stories about Esther!  
I am so grateful to have known such beautiful people❤️

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**THERESA (TERRY) MULVENNA** - September 19, 2019 at 10:12 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Esther Freeman Smith.



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September 19, 2019 at 09:22 AM

JP

“ Christy, always loved your Mom and Dad. You were lucky to be raised by two wonderful parents. Great times when we were growing up. They were great individuals always with a smile. I will be out of town over the weekend. Will be thinking of you. You were a great daughter to both parents.  
Jack Powell



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**Jack Powell** - September 16, 2019 at 01:33 PM

CO

She was a joy to come into the shop with her sister on many occasions .I did her hair several years Pure Southern Lady.Thoights and prayers for all of the family

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**ConnieSlaton** - September 20, 2019 at 01:06 PM

MC

*Christy, I am so very sorry that Tom and I are unable to attend Esther's service today. I hope you know that I loved and highly respected her. I loved the obituary that you wrote. She certainly did see a lot of ups and downs in her long life, but her resiliency, optimism, and her strong faith in God saw her through it all. She is a person whom I would wish to emulate. Love and Peace to your family*

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**Mary Helen Cissell** - September 21, 2019 at 09:16 AM