



Gladys Whitaker Smith White Brown

May 20, 1942 - May 16, 2025

Funeral Service - Zoom Link - <https://zoom.us/j/93324395303>

Gladys Whitaker Smith White Brown, beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend pass through the veil into our Heavenly Father's arms on May 16th ,2025 in West Jordan, Utah, following a courageous battle with cancer. She will be missed by many and in her last moments in this life she was surrounded by her family.

She was born May 20, 1942, to Samuel Schwartz Smith and Jeannette Taylor Whitaker in Salt Lake City, Utah. A proud pioneer family. She was the youngest of eight children, with three older sisters and four older brothers. She was proud of her pioneer heritage and her wonderful parents who loved her and who she loved dearly.

As a young adult, Gladys attended the University of Utah for a year then Brigham Young University for the rest of her university education. While at BYU, one of her roommates asked her to write her older brother who was serving in the army overseas. Which Gladys did gladly, and thus began her courtship with David Edward White. Their love for each other grew quickly as they exchanged letters over the next few months. Until letters were no longer enough. Then once David was stateside, he obtained leave from the army and drove up from Texas to BYU in order to ask Gladys to marry him. And though

that was their first meeting, Gladys said yes. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on September 16th, 1963. Then for 38 years they were inseparable on earth until David passed away on July 7th, 2001. Later that year after a lonely time, she met and married the widower Marvel Kent Brown on October 19th, 2001; they were married for 18 years until Kent passed on April 16th, 2020.

Gladys loved drawing and painting and studied those specialties at BYU. Throughout her life she painted many portraits of family, friends, and strangers. The hardest portrait she ever painted was of a little girl who died from cancer. The girl's parents were exceedingly grateful for Gladys's work, especially how she's made their little one's face gleam with life.

Another of Gladys' passions was Family History. Which she worked tirelessly at until the last month of her life, recording both the names of her family and others. When she first married David Edward White, David did not know who his great grandfather was. For David's father was orphaned in his youth. So, Gladys delved through microfiche tapes from the Genealogical Society of Utah in search of David's Great Grandfather. Whose name she found after many years of research. That discovery open David's family tree back through the Revolutionary war and all the way to Europe. Gladys also enjoyed serving in the Church Genealogy and Family History library, helping others with their genealogy.

Gladys was a devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She served in many callings including Pianist, Primary Teacher, Primary president, young Women's President, Family History, Ward Historian, Temple Coordinator, and Service Missionary. Her favorite calling was teaching in Primary for she loved interacting with and teaching the children. She always kept candy in her bag to give to them.

Her greatest joy in life was her family. She loved being a wife, mother,

grandmother, and great grandmother.

She is survived by John Whitaker Smith (Brother), Esther Whitaker Bowen (Sister), Teppi and (Lance) Sessions, Teresa and (Hunter) Haight, and Paul and (Teresa) White; eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild; stepchildren; Connie and (Leonard) Gundersen, Charlene (Samuel) Craghead, Ronnie and (Deborah) Brown; nine step grandchildren and sixteen step great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her first husband David Edward White (2001), her second husband Marvel Kent Brown (2020), grandson Samuel David White (2002), sisters Avon Whitaker Oakeson (2003), Joan Whitaker Scott (2020), brothers Samuel Whitaker Smith (2001), Joseph Whitaker Smith (2016), Hyrum Whitaker Smith (2022), stepson Steven Kent Brown (2007), step grandson Benjamin David Brown, and step granddaughter Crystal Dawn Brown.

Viewings will be held on Thursday May 29th, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Friday May 30th, 2025, from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at the Winder 3rd Ward at 4551 South 1200 East, Millcreek, Utah.

Funeral services will be held on Friday May 30th, 2025, at 11:00 am at the same location at the Winder 3rd Ward, 4551 South 1200 East, Millcreek, Utah.

Interment at the Salt Lake Cemetery, 200 N Street East, Salt Lake City, Utah

Previous Events

Evening Viewing

MAY **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Winder 3rd Ward
4551 S. 1200 E.
Millcreek, UT 84117

Viewing

MAY **30**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Winder 3rd Ward
4551 S. 1200 E.
Millcreek, UT 84117

Funeral Service

MAY **30**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Winder 3rd Ward
4551 S. 1200 E.
Millcreek, UT 84117

Interment

MAY **30**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (MT)

Salt Lake City Cemetery
200 N St E
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Tribute Wall

TV

“ 2 years ago I reconnected my mom(Kathleen Olsen Kennedy) who was her friend in high school, she told us she was in hospice so 2 years i kept looking via Google to see if she passed so my mom could know, im glad I did cuz my mom gets to look at her obituary and remember her friend RIP GLYDAS YOU WILL BE MISSED

Tami venegas - September 27, 2025 at 09:04 PM

TV

Gladys sorry for the misspelling

Tami venegas - September 27, 2025 at 09:05 PM

CC

“ Gladys was an Amazing 2nd mom to me. My dad Kent Brown swept her off her feet when they first met at a dance. I've been so grateful to have her in my life. She was so kind, loving and caring to my children and grandchildren. We were close. Gladys has a beautiful testimony of our Savior Jesus Christ. She loved my dad very much. She showed love to everyone. I will miss her dearly.

Charlene Brown Craghead - May 30, 2025 at 12:59 AM

AC

“ I have known Gladys since she lived in Texas and we went to church together. She was married to David White. We have been close friends since. My sister Ruth and I visited her and David in Salt Lake after they moved. I will miss talking to her especially on her birthday. Mine was the 13th of May and hers the 20th. That's when I learned she had passed. I wished her happy birthday after she did the same on my birthday. I loved her like a sister since 1964. Rest in peace dear friend.

Alice Capehart - May 29, 2025 at 10:58 PM



“ I grew up knowing Gladys from when she came to all the family gatherings from birthdays to ginger bread house making to spending Christmas sometimes at my aunt's house I grew up knowing Gladys not as a neighbor but as a family friend. I am so happy I have one picture with her for my memories I will miss her dearly but I'm sure she's catching up with Kent across the veil I miss this both so much. She was like a bonus grandma to me her memory will live on in me until we meet again



Kayla Spiars - May 29, 2025 at 05:50 PM

SH

“ 1 file added to the album Gladys Brown Album



Serenity Funeral Home - May 28, 2025 at 11:32 AM

TE

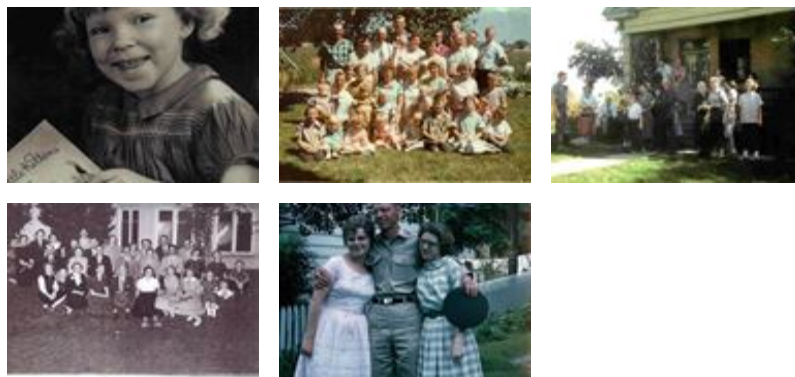
“ I first met Gladys when I became her Hospice volunteer many years ago. However, when she no longer was with Hospice, I continue to visit her because she had become such a good friend!
She was such a wonderful example to me of a Christlike person!
She taught me to look for the good in others, to be positive about life, and to draw closer to my Savior each day.

I will miss you, Gladys, but I know you have been welcomed to your heavenly home by your Savior, Jesus Christ who you served and knew so well!

Tamara Evans - May 28, 2025 at 09:43 AM

S

“ 50 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Serenity Funeral Home - May 27, 2025 at 11:40 AM

JS

“ Gladys was a kind and outgoing lady who was always welcoming to strangers. Her hand painted birthday cards were always a treat to receive.

J Sessions - May 26, 2025 at 09:49 AM

EB

“ 1 file added to the album Gladys Brown Album



Esther Bowen - May 24, 2025 at 09:27 PM

EB

Hurum Smith, John Smith, brothers & Esther Bowen Sister & Gladys Brown.

Esther Bowen - May 25, 2025 at 01:29 AM

TS

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Teppi Sessions - May 21, 2025 at 10:27 AM

TW

“ Gladys was the sweetest mother, mother in law and grandmother. We love her very much. With love, Her son Paul, wife Teresa, grandchildren Holly (Chance), James, Melissa and Samuel (in heaven).



Teresa White - May 21, 2025 at 12:32 AM

LS

“ Larry and I didn't know Gladys but we do know her daughter, Teppi, our sister in law. The qualities that Teppi show such as love, and kindness, being a devout member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and many more were instilled in her from her loving mother, Gladys. May she rest in peace. We love you and are so sorry for your loss Teppi!

Larry and Vicki Sessions - May 20, 2025 at 11:01 PM

JF

Our family new her and family, The Whites. Gladys was the very first person we (The Fillmore Family) met at church while we were waiting to introduce ourselves to the bishop. She came in with a great spirit and just brightened our family right up. She stay inspiring us from then on. Until she passed she was close friends with me on Facebook. I'm so saddened that, that beautiful soul has left this earth. RIP GLADYS, Loves, Hugs, and Prayers to all who loved Gladys.

Jill Fillmore - May 20, 2025 at 11:47 PM

EL

I remember meeting Gladys for the first time at a birthday party in Provençal, La. She and David had been married a short time and were living with David's parent's, Burton and Jessie White, in Tatum, Texas. My mother was Burton's first cousin. I was a Freshman at BYU in Provo, Utah, and was home for the summer break. Gladys was so friendly, and we enjoyed getting acquainted. When my husband and I moved from Orem, Utah, to West Jordan, Utah, in 1976 we lived just a couple of miles from where Gladys, David, and their three children lived. In 1986 we built a new home in the same LDS Stake in Taylorsville, Utah, as Gladys and David. Paul, their son and youngest child, would babysit our two sons occasionally. Gladys was always so kind and dedicated to following the Savior's example. She was an amazing lady who shared a lot of genealogy information and experiences with me. She had a spirit that was so in tune with our Heavenly Father. Now that she has passed through the veil I am sure she is having a great celebration with her loved ones who preceded her to Paradise. She will be a busy lady who will probably be a missionary and a genealogy specialist who will help others trace their lineage many more generations back to the beginning of time. She will help people feel the eternal joy of "finding" their relatives and reuniting families in Heaven. Thank you, Gladys, for helping me learn how to love genealogy. Prayers and love are on the way for peace and comfort to Teppi, Teresa, Paul, and their family members.

Elouise Stewart Lamb - May 21, 2025 at 12:36 AM

BL

Aunt Gladys was always smiling. She was a goldmine of information about our ancestors and their lives. Her dedication to family history and genealogy work was epic, and the temple work she performed has blessed thousands. She saw to it that each of her siblings recorded their memories of Grandpa and Grandma Smith, which can now be accessed on FamilySearch. She encouraged each of us to record our personal histories and she compiled and distributed them. She has been a blessing to the whole family and has left a legacy that will last forever. We will miss her, her service and her wealth of knowledge.

Becky Lowe - May 21, 2025 at 10:17 AM

KK

I went to high school at Granger High School and we ran around together with our friend Millie Butcher. We had a lot of fun together. We reconnected again about 10 or so years ago. I always remembered her and thought of her often. I am sad to hear of her passing. Rest in peace gladys. I love you. Kathy

Kathleen Olsen Kennedy - September 29, 2025 at 04:20 PM