



## Clara Louise Stephens Smith

June 9, 1938 - January 14, 2019

Clara Louise Stephens Smith, age 80, born June 9, 1938, passed away January 14, 2019 at Forrest General Hospital.

Visitation will be held on January 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at First Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel followed by a funeral celebration of Clara's life.

Mrs. Smith was the daughter of H. Stroud and Libby Brush Stephens, the granddaughter of Al G. and (Ione) Brush and James and Agnes Stephens.

She was a 1956 graduate of George S. Gardiner High School and a graduate of Southwestern College at Memphis (now Rhodes College) where she was an avid golfer and the first female on an all boys' golf team. While in college, she was elected Miss Southwestern.

For many years, Clara and Dr. Stover Smith lived in New Orleans where she was past president and chairman of the Southern Women's Golf Association, an officer of the U.S. Senior Women's Golf Association, Women's golf champion at New Orleans Country Club in 1982 and 1987, and New Orleans Women's Golf Association City Champion. Clara was also an active member of the Laurel Garden Club of America.

Besides her many golf awards and honors, Clara won numerous awards for

growing beautiful orchids, and she frequently gave lectures to gardens clubs about orchid growing. Those that knew her always commented on her warm, infectious smile coupled by her magnetic dancing blue eyes. Clara never met a stranger.

Clara is survived by her loving husband of fifty-eight years, golf partner and best friend, Dr. Stover L. Smith of Laurel; son, Stover L. Smith, III and wife (Amy); daughter, Mrs. William Rudolf (Stephenie); sister, Mrs. William T. Green (Bette); and grandchildren, William Rudolf, Farrell Diliberto, Stroud Rudolf, Libby Rudolf, Briedie Smith, and Laurel Smith.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to First Trinity Presbyterian Church of Laurel.

To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Lake Park Cemetery

1303 Old Bay Springs Rd  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Trinity Presbyterian Church  
500 N 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS 39440

## Service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Trinity Presbyterian Church  
500 N 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Tribute Wall

BT

“*Mrs. Clara Smith had such a sweet and gentle demeanor. Whenever we saw her at the club or the museum, she had a way of making us feel that she was genuinely delighted to see us. My husband’s words were true and succinct: “It is hard to find someone like her. She was as sweet as an angel.”*

*Dr. Stover Smith and Mr. and Mrs. William Green, you remain in our prayers.*

*Bonnie and Armia Tanious*

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**Bonnie Tanious** - July 30, 2019 at 05:40 PM

CT

“*Carolyn and I were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Clara. We have many fond memories of our time with Clara and Stover at the Eastern Radiological Society meetings. Clara was a force in the ERS ladies golf group and her wit and leadership capabilities were a big part of the golf group. Our thoughts go out to Stover and family. Larry and Carolyn Thorley*

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**Carolyn and Larry Thorley** - January 23, 2019 at 02:52 PM

CF

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of my sweet friend, Clara Stephens Smith.  
Clara was a radiant presence, in the lives of so many people! I have happy memories of tap dancing with Clara in New Orleans, where she was the best dancer on stage!  
I remember her delight and pride in her grandson, Farrell, as she watched him perform in "Julius Caesar" or excel at golf. My last memory of Clara is of gathering around a piano with Clara, Stover, and other friends in Laurel about twelve years ago, and singing Broadway show tunes. As always, her bright blue eyes sparkled and she sang with joy!  
Stover, Stephanie, and Farrell, my heart is with you, as you mourn the loss of your beautiful wife, mother, and grandmother.

With love and happy memories,

Carole Hill Fairfield

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Carole Hill Fairfield - January 19, 2019 at 08:05 PM

SR

She loved telling me about y'all tap dancing. We are all so sad. Thank you so much for taking the time to write this. I will miss her every second of every day for the rest of my life. Love, Stephenie

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stephenie rudolf - January 26, 2019 at 01:03 PM

CF

“ I was deeply saddened today, to read of the death of my sweet friend, Clara Stephens Smith. Clara was such a shining presence in the lives of all who knew her! Although Clara grew up in Laurel and I grew up in Ellisville, we appeared in dance recitals together when we were young. It was only when we both ended up living in New Orleans, and sent our children to the same school, that we had the opportunity to meet and get to know each other. We tapped danced together in the Country Day Follies, and Clara was always the best dancer on stage! She was warm and kind and she literally sparkled, when she smiled! I was lucky enough to teach Clara and Stover's eldest grandson, Farrell, in fifth grade, and it was a joy to see Clara's involvement with Farrell and her pride in his accomplishments. She shared her talent for golf with him and took delight in watching him excel. My last memory of precious Clara, is gathering around a piano and singing Broadway show tunes with her and Stover, while our friend, Ellen Gunn, played. Such happy memories! I moved to Houston ten years ago, and don't get back to Jones County very often, but I know that Clara touched so many lives both in Laurel and New Orleans and that her bright blue eyes and sweet smile will be greatly missed.  
Stover, Stephanie, and Farrell, my heart is with you.

With love,

Carole Hill Fairfield

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Carole Hill Fairfield - January 19, 2019 at 02:45 AM

CW

“ I will miss my new friend Clara so much. My sister and I send our deepest condolences to our other new friend, Betty, Clara's sister. The two of you reminded us so much of ourselves. The love of a sister is one of the greatest loves of all. Our sympathies to all of the family, sincerely, Cynthia and Sandra Walker

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**cynthia walker** - January 17, 2019 at 07:55 PM

WB

“ So many Saturday evenings Clara's game room was the place close friends gathered...so many good memories with this beautiful girl and lady. A wonderful classmate in the class of 56. You will be missed. But we know you are now dancing with Jesus.  
Warren

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**Warren Beard** - January 17, 2019 at 09:18 AM

 Sharon Barham

“ , 🙏🙏 for the family, Sharon Barham

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**Sharon Barham** - January 16, 2019 at 04:35 PM

PS

“ Dear Clara was one of my favorite people ever!  
That winning smile that that never faltered even when she was hurting.  
I never saw her down and was always amazed by her incredibly sweet nature.  
The world and especially all of us who had the pleasure of knowing her has lost a great lady and friend! She brought so much joy to my life through the times I spent with Stover and her.

*Rest in peace Dear Clara.*

*Love,*

*Paul Schulman*

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**Paul Schulman** - January 16, 2019 at 04:26 PM

JS

“ Clara was always so happy and fun. I remember that dances at her house during high school were a big event. Clara and Bette were terrific dancers. What fun we all had together!

*Sincerely*  
*Jon Swartzfager*



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**Jon A. Swartzfager** - January 15, 2019 at 08:50 PM

CL

“ S. L., I am sorry for your loss. My deep sympathy to you and your children. Cherry Martin Lee

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**Cherry Lee** - January 15, 2019 at 08:27 PM

GB

*So deeply saddened to hear of Clara's death. She was such a bright light in everyones life. She will be missed by all who knew her.*

**Gwen Burton** - January 16, 2019 at 11:36 AM

GN

*We will miss Clara. She was always cheerful, fun, welcoming and inclusive. We will remember her bright smile and energy. Clara and Stover are such a large part of the heritage of the Eastern Radiological Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with Stover and his family.  
Linda and George Norton*

**George Norton** - January 16, 2019 at 07:51 PM

SS

*I feel blessed to have known Clara through the Eastern Radiological Society. We shared many rounds of golf, getting to know one another's life stories while riding around the course together. Clara was a loving and lovely lady, never without a smile on her face or a kind word to say to everyone. I feel blessed to have known Clara; her spirit will live on through the wonderful memories she has given all who have known her.*

*Suzanne Schulman*

**Suzanne Schulman** - January 17, 2019 at 12:12 PM

MO

*We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the the Smith family. Our families are connected through marriage and we share grandchildren with Clara. We have always enjoyed being around Clara and have admired her wonderful spirit and positive outlook. We will miss her and hope her example is demonstrated in our grandchildren.  
God Bless You Clara Smith.*

*Mike and Wanda Onofrio*

**Mike and Wanda Onofrio** - January 17, 2019 at 02:03 PM