



## Mrs. Mary Matheson Swain Pate

December 18, 1919 - May 31, 2019

### Mary Matheson Swain Pate

Graveside services for Mary Matheson Swain Pate, will be held Monday, June 3, 2019 at 4:00 PM at Riverside Cemetery. Visitation will follow the service. Mary died Friday, May 31, 2019 at her daughter's home in Putney. She was 99 years old. She accomplished her goal by living into her 100th year. She was born in Alturas, FL on December 18, 1919 and moved with her parents, David and Helen Matheson to Albany in 1937. She married L.T. Swain in 1954 and lived in Arlington, where they owned and ran the weekly newspaper "Tri-County Courier." They moved to Memphis, TN in 1959. Following Mr. Swain's death in 1990, she moved back to Albany. Mary served as a volunteer at PPMH, where she met and later married Sam S. Pate in 1995. In marrying Sam, she inherited a son, Sam Pate, Jr., two daughters, many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Her life was suddenly filled with new experiences and family activities. She embraced everyone with kindness and love. Following Sam's death in 2007, she continued to live in Putney, cared for by her daughter Phyllis Hodges and husband, Wendell. Mary moved to Pine Shadows Retirement Manor in Sylvester in 2014. In 2015 Mary returned Putney to live with her daughter Linda and husband Pat. During her lifetime, Mary demonstrated a strong Christian faith. As an adult, she served as a missionary on the streets of New York City. She always encouraged others to live righteously and follow Christ. Mary was a member of the First Baptist Church of Putney. She enjoyed gardening throughout her

life and had a great love for flowers. She cherished the cards and visits from friends and family. During her latter days she greatly appreciated the care provided by Phoebe Hospice and the special kindness of Kathleen Guy.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, David and Helen Matheson and six siblings. Three brothers, Harold Matheson, Kenneth Matheson and Leslie Matheson. Three sisters, Flora Matheson, Clara McGehee and Helen Davis.

Mary is survived by a number of nieces and nephews, including Jack Davis, Violet Johnson, Ida Mae Kummer, Barbara Norris and Scott Swain.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations for First Baptist Church of Putney of Phoebe Hospice.

To share your thoughts with the Pate family, you may visit our website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

200 Cotton Ave  
Albany, GA 31707

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

Riverside Cemetery  
200 Cotton Ave  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mary Matheson Swain Pate*

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May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Mary Matheson Swain Pate*

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December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *I met Ms Mary at her request, I had been sending her cards. She was a delight! I know you will miss her. May peace be with you, around you, now and in the days ahead.*

*Joann Arneson*

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**Joann Arneson** - June 09, 2019 at 05:58 PM

RB

“ I have known Miss Mary & Mr. L.T. all of my life. She was friends with my late parents, Henry & Veda Tison of Albany, GA. I have many precious & fond childhood memories of visiting them in their home in Memphis, TN. I remember their beautiful flower and vegetable gardens as well as the delicious meals cooked by Mary. My favorite dish was her Butternut Squash Souffle. They were both lovely and kind people who exemplified Christ in every way. Mary could not thank God enough for His goodness and even at her lowest, she thanked Him for His goodness to her. Following her 99th birthday she told me that her goal was NOT to live to be 100 because she wanted to celebrate her next birthday in heaven. I am so thankful the Lord heard her prayer. I can only imagine what she is doing now!

*Rena Tison Brewer*

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**Rena Brewer** - June 03, 2019 at 01:44 PM

CG

“ Miss Mary has been a friend to me for the last 31 years. I had the privilege of knowing Mr. L.T. And Miss Mary when I was a seminary student in Memphis. She made the best creamed corn I ever ate. She was always welcoming to me. My parents and later, my wife, Amanda, loved her. In 1995, I had the pleasure of performing the wedding for Mr. Sam and Miss Mary. They were blessed with 12 plus years of marriage. Mary Pate was a refreshing witness for Jesus to all who knew her. I feel so blessed to have known her. She was blessed to have all of you for a loving family. God took care of her in the latter years of her life with special blessings. Our prayers and love for the family, Chip and Amanda Gresham, Camille and Catherine Grace and my mother, Louise Gresham sends her condolences to the family.

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**Chip Gresham** - June 01, 2019 at 10:17 PM

BD

“ *I thought the world of my great aunt Mary and uncle LT Swain. I have lost touch through the years but loved her dearly. As a child I walked the garden with her while she told me all about her vegetables. I will always keep my memories of her in my heart. She was a very loving lady.*

*Beth Davis Dodd*

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**Beth Davis Dodd** - June 01, 2019 at 12:04 PM