



Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith

April 22, 1999 - March 25, 2021

Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith, 21, of Rossville, passed away Thursday, March 25, 2021, along with her husband, Austin Smith and infant daughter, Aurora Gracelynn Smith. She was a lifelong resident of the North Georgia area and was of the Christian faith. She was a true tomboy through and through, but could dress like a DIVA in the blink of an eye. She loved taking pictures, especially selfies, she enjoyed being outdoors, hiking, traveling and just spending time with her family & friends. She was a loving sister, mother, daughter and granddaughter that will be truly missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Teddy “Papaw T” Ownby, Wanettia Ownby & Gary Skiles.

Survivors include her parents, Teddy & Jennifer Ownby; son, Sterling Smith; step-daughter, Justice Cates; brothers & sister-in-law, Stewart (Georgia) Kelley and Teddy “T.J.” Ownby; sisters & brother-in-law, Christina Smith, Autumn (Nathan) McCarty and Gwendolyn Ownby; grandparents, Pam and Donald Smith; grandfather, James Ellis and grandmother, Janice Ownby; nephews, Stewart Kelley and Wesley Kelley; niece, Arrabella Kelley and numerous extended family & friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, 2021 in the Fort Oglethorpe Chapel with Bro. Chris Spears and Bro. Jeremy Hanrahan officiating. Burial will follow in the Tennessee-Georgia Memorial Park. The

family will receive friends from 3 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday and prior to the service on Wednesday at the funeral home. Online guest book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by W.L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

Cemetery Details

Tennessee/Georgia Memorial Park

724 Hogan Rd.
Rossville, GA 30741
(706) 866-5533

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel
555 West Cloud Springs Road
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
(706) 866-5555
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel
555 West Cloud Springs Road
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
(706) 866-5555
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

TW

“ *Tina Whaley sent a virtual gift in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



tina whaley - September 06, 2025 at 11:12 AM

TW

“ *Tina Whaley lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



tina whaley - September 06, 2025 at 11:11 AM

JF

“ *My family & I were on I75 (on our way to Florida) not much behind your tremendous loss. We prayed for all involved and are saddened the news of all this. May God give you comfort and heal your pain.*
Jen & Ethan Fuller

Jen Fuller - April 09, 2021 at 09:35 PM

TF

“ *Tammy & Aerial Fowlkes lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Tammy & Aerial Fowlkes - March 31, 2021 at 09:55 PM

KB

“ *Kathy Smith Benson lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Kathy Smith Benson - March 31, 2021 at 06:05 PM

WN

“ *My deepest condolences for your tremendous loss. Continuing to pray for you and your family.*



Walt Nichols - March 31, 2021 at 12:32 PM

AB

“ *I'm gonna miss you , you were such a light when we worked together many moons ago .. your smile , your infectious laugh , your all around bubbly attitude your everything , you could turn around my days at the drop of a hat ... your in a better world watching over us all ... I love you Kels ,*
❤️



alexis boggs - March 30, 2021 at 10:54 PM

TG

“ *Prayers for the family from Lake Park, Ga.*

Tina Sirmans/Lake Park, Ga - March 30, 2021 at 05:50 PM

EC

“ Elaine Chambers lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith



Elaine Chambers - March 30, 2021 at 02:53 PM

EC

Will always remember you and Blake in Jr. ROTC Competitions and how dirty y'all got. But you had so much fun. Blake said many times he loved you like his little sister. Then y'all were crowned King and Queen of the ROTC Military Ball.

Elaine Chambers - March 30, 2021 at 02:57 PM

AR

“ thinking of you all today and sending prayers..Ronda family

april ronda - March 30, 2021 at 10:15 AM

DE

“ Deanie lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith



Deanie - March 29, 2021 at 09:11 PM

PT

“ Patricia Tate lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith



Patricia Tate - March 29, 2021 at 08:41 PM

VG

“ *Your OCA family is mourning with you for your great loss. You are all, every one, in our hearts and in our prayers~*

Vicki Garner~

Vicki Garner - March 28, 2021 at 08:50 PM

KC

“ *Kim, Josh And Alex Campbell lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Kim, Josh and Alex Campbell - March 28, 2021 at 05:17 PM

MM

“ *Matt Mcneese lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



matt mcneese - March 28, 2021 at 10:02 AM

MM

“ *I will never forget all of the times that we spent together just brightening each other's day, I'm going to miss you dearly, miss hearing your voice and your laugh, seeing your smile, and just kicking it with you*

matt mcneese - March 28, 2021 at 10:01 AM

LC

“ You were my best friend once and I love you always and still do my favorite memory with you would have to be either the wedding you went with me to where you pushed my car in heels because we ran out of gas & I was pregnant and I know you’ll laugh at this one the cave when I couldn’t make it back through for a moment and you laid there in the pancake squeeze laughing what I was doing I love you so much
Kelsey Smith



Lane Cates - March 28, 2021 at 09:53 AM

LK

“ Prayers for this family especially sterling



lee and tasha keeton - March 27, 2021 at 11:59 PM

DK

“ Dee Kirby lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith



Dee Kirby - March 27, 2021 at 10:47 PM

JH

“ *Judy Haymons lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Judy Haymons - March 27, 2021 at 08:43 PM

TE

“ *My heartfelt condolences and sending loving prayers for the family and friends. May the lord give comfort*



Teena - March 27, 2021 at 08:37 PM

AL

“ *Allison lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Allison - March 27, 2021 at 07:05 PM

PW

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!*



Pat Bethune Wasdin - March 27, 2021 at 06:39 PM

BW

“ *Brenda Woods lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Brenda Woods - March 27, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ *Katie Rockwood lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



Katie Rockwood - March 27, 2021 at 05:26 PM



I'll always remember Kelsey sitting on the floor going through old photo albums looking for pictures of Austin.a wonderful young woman .I'll miss her ,prayer for the ones she left behind ,RIP Kelsey we love you

Katie Rockwood - March 27, 2021 at 05:32 PM

TF

“ *The Russell Family lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith*



The Russell family - March 27, 2021 at 05:03 PM

TB

“ Prayers for the families through this tragic situation 🙏



tonya bledsoe - March 27, 2021 at 03:41 PM



“ Gayle Presley lit a candle in memory of Kelsey Layne Ownby Smith



Gayle Presley - March 27, 2021 at 03:28 PM



my heart goes out to the families, covering everyone in prayers may Jesus wrap each one in his big loving arms. love you guys

Gayle Presley - March 27, 2021 at 03:29 PM

CS

“ There will NEVER be another beauty such as you
We have sooo many memories with you baby girl I can't even start to post them . One memory is not even close YOU WILL FOREVER BE MISSED !!! Until we meet some sweet day

Charles & Michelle Simmons - March 27, 2021 at 02:55 PM

PT

Autumn, I'm so sorry for the loss of your beautiful sister. My deepest, heartfelt sympathy for you and the whole family. God Bless you ALL with strength and comfort in the days and months ahead!

Patricia Tate - March 29, 2021 at 08:46 PM

KM

“ So sorry for your tragic loss, all of you are in our continued prayers, much love to you.

Kay McGhee - March 27, 2021 at 01:30 PM

SB

“ You were an amazing friend and I regret not getting the boys together now 😞 you'll be so missed and never forgotten

Sara Biggers - March 27, 2021 at 01:16 PM

AH

“ I'll never forget such a loving soul like you, so sweet, when I first moved to RHS. You were my first friend there, when I was so shy to talk to anyone you popped up and we became inseparable. You were always so energetic, so happy, just outgoing, you never failed to cheer me up. You will definitely be missed !!

Ashley Henry - March 27, 2021 at 12:58 PM

DK

“ I will never forget the wonderful time Kelsey and I shared. She was such a beautiful young lady that's for sure. And I will always cherish the memories that I hold with her and the VTP praise team. Gone to soon baby girl, but will never be forgotten ❤️❤️

Dee Kirby - March 27, 2021 at 12:55 PM