



## Mary Preston Foster

May 14, 1942 - May 21, 2020

Bitsy Foster passed away early Thursday morning, 21 May, at her home in Mount Pleasant after a pleasant gathering with her family Wednesday evening. Bitsy was born 14 May, 1942 in Columbia, South Carolina to Jack and Daisy Hayne Foster and christened Mary Preston Foster. She has been Bitsy ever since. When she was seven, Bitsy lost both of her parents. She, her sister Margaret and brother John were adopted by their aunt and uncle, Dr. and Mrs. James A. Hayne, of Hampton. Bitsy attended Hampton Elementary and graduated from Wade Hampton High School. After a year at St Mary's College in North Carolina she transferred to and graduated from the University of South Carolina. She taught English and history at the Baptist High School in Charleston, SC and the American School in Manila, the Philippines. During the Vietnam war, Bitsy joined the American Red Cross. She earned a Masters in Librarianship and became an elementary school librarian. She wrote a book on teaching children library skills and one on the structure of literature in the 1980's. Always interested in SC history, she developed a curriculum for teaching SC history to the third grades during their weekly library visits. She collected and told stories of SC history and heroes to help the students understand their heritage. She became a licensed tour guide for the City of Charleston in the 1990's. She wrote the Charleston Walking Tour book that gives pertinent data on the houses and buildings passed on three separate walking tours in the downtown area. That led to the creation of the 2009 and 2010 calendars featuring photographs from that book. Bitsy was pre-deceased by two sisters, Margaret Foster Curtis and Bay Hayne Jeffcoat; and a brother, Jimmy Hayne. Bitsy is survived by a brother, John Foster; three children, Susan Hayne Seaman, Anson Elizabeth Seaman, and Tommy Hayne Seaman; three grandchildren, Theresa Earls, Charles Eugene Seaman, and Lillah Taylor; and two great-grandchildren, Patrick Taylor and Dylan Taylor

# Comments

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“ I am sorry to hear this sad news. Bitsy and I shared many hilarious 'teaching' stories when we both worked and took courses together in Charleston County. We spent hours on the phone! Bitsy was so smart and so much fun to talk to. She had wonderful ideas for books and publication. She was also a genuine southern lady. I really will miss her. She was a one-of-a-kind treasure who was always smiling! Sending my deepest sympathy to Bitsy's family.

**Laura Crosby** - May 28, 2020 at 07:37 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Preston Foster.



May 25, 2020 at 02:19 PM

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“ Bitsy will always have a seat at the Eltzroth family table in my memories. She and my sister Judy and their friends Patsy and Carolyn were inseparable, except when it was time for lunch in the summertime. Patsy and Carolyn usually went home for mid-day "dinner," but Bitsy frequently stayed for rice and field peas or butterbeans, and stewed tomatoes with okra, heaped together on her plate. We were never sure what she liked best--Sara's cooking, sparring with Clyde, or Judy's friendship, but we all loved having her in our midst.

**Rose-Marie Williams** - May 24, 2020 at 09:43 AM

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“ I met Bitsy when she helped us make a video for Arcadia Publishing and Google Search. She was the essence of Charleston. Charming, gracious, curious, and feisty all in equal measure. A great lady. What a loss for Charleston.

**Kate Everingham** - May 23, 2020 at 01:03 PM

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“ So many delightful memories of when we and our families were young in Virginia. How we used to laugh and enjoy life and had the answers to all that was wrong with the world.!

And through the years even though we did not see each other regularly because of the distance we always could pick up where we left off no matter how the circumstances or the people in our lives changed.. You were truly my soul sister and will be in my heart always, Love, Trida

Trida - May 22, 2020 at 04:54 PM

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“ Trida lit a candle in memory of Mary Preston Foster



Trida - May 22, 2020 at 04:43 PM