

Sandy Snowball
Feb 4, 1942 - Oct 11, 1998
AAFA# 0895

Some of AAFA's most active participants are spouses of the "Alford" descendant. Sandy Snowball was one of these active non-Alford spouses. We'd like to remember her here as a very special AAFA member.

SANDRA JEAN
LAMESFIELD BROWN
SNOWBALL
1942-1998
AAFA #895

Sandy died following surgery for a brain tumor. Even throughout the treatment she managed to do work for AAFA and was part of the team doing input for the Master Book List. She received a Distinguished Members citation at the Kentucky meeting. On 3 June 1998, Sandy wrote to Gil to discuss some genealogical work she had been planning to do. Her email is filled with her special spirit:

Lots been happening at this end; I've lost half of my eyesight and so can't drive anymore. Tom and I live way out in the country just to add to the fun. It's just possible that I will never be able to drive again. I've had a brain tumor removed, then lots of radiation—I am no longer 1/2 baked, but as of yesterday I am 100% cooked. :))—and in a month chemo is to start. As you can tell it's been real boring all the way around. I do know one thing; I am tired of seeing doctors and medical professionals of all sorts, but it seems they aren't done seeing me and won't be for some time to come. But I shouldn't complain; I've been seeing

Neuro thises and thats since I was 12 and I am now in the hands of the best group of Drs I've ever run across—bar none. They are totally patient oriented and very caring and on top of it all they are world class Doctors who aren't full of themselves (you know the sort—I'm a doctor; kiss my feet.). Confidence is half the battle and they're doing a lot of the fighting for and with me which certainly helps. That and my Tommy is a wall that I can lean on when needed....

We had been planning on coming to Kentucky and all of my medical stuff has sort of knocked everything out of kilter and it doesn't look like we'll be getting there after all. And we were really looking forward to it....



Oh, and I have quite a bit more information about Martha. Just after the blindness started I rcvd Henry Snowball's entire military records. They included several affidavits re Martha and her first two husbands, who they were, how they died, when, etc. in with her Widow Claim or whatever it's called.

I could read some of it and now that the surgery is over I might be able to make a little better headway on it. But I'll have to send those the same way and it will take time for me to decipher some of what is there because half of my eyesight just comes and goes with no real consistancy.

Oh, one last thing, Martin Alford (I sent you an affidavit that he had signed re Henry Snowball's claim for pension/disablility) was a brother of Martha. I saw it somewhere in the 229 pages of records that came re Henry. Now if I can just relocate it. That one may take more time, because reading has become so difficult and time consuming for me.

Regards,
Sandy in cold, stormy MI

Sandy's obituary, photos, and niece's remembrance in this article are posted on her family's Web site, a memorial to Sandy:

<http://www.tir.com/~sandy/sandy.htm>
(7 Feb 1999)

No source

SNOWBALL, Sandra Lamesfield (Brown)—Of Goodrich, age 56, passed away with her family at her bedside Sunday, October 11, 1998 in Sparrow Hospital, Lansing. Funeral services will be 11 PM Friday October 16, 1998, at Hill Funeral Home, 11723 S. Saginaw St., Grand Blanc, MI, ... with interment at Evergreen Cemetery....

Sandy was born in Flint on February 4, 1942, a daughter of Frank and Vivian (Woods) Lamesfield and lived in Genesee County for the past 16 years. She married Thomas Snowball on December 23, 1989 at the Crossroads Village Church. She was a 1960 graduate of Grand Blanc High School. Sandra attended Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University and U of M. She was a member of the Flint Genealogy Club. Sandra was a volunteer in the Ann Arbor and Flint area for Braille and sign language. Mrs. Snowball had been employed as a secretary at the English Meadows Mobile Home Community in Jackson.

Surviving are: her husband Thomas, 2 children Kimberly and husband Scott Weinholt of OH and Kevin and wife Cherise Brown of GA; 2 stepchildren, William Snowball and Tonya Snowball both of FL; 4 grandchildren; father, Frank Lamesfield and Trudi of Boyne City, MI; brother, Chris and Sharon Lamesfield of Lapeer; 2 nieces; former husband Gary Brown of Ann Arbor.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Vivian (Woods) Lamesfield, grandparents, John George Woods/Charles I. Bates and "Peggy" Vena

Mildred (Burnam) Woods, Frank Nicholas and Elizabeth Ann (Crook) Lamesfelder/Lamesfield.

The following was written by Sandy's 16 year old niece, Nicki Lamesfield, daughter of Sandy's brother Chris:

Born into this world as Sandra Jean Lamesfield, leaving as Sandra Lamesfield Snowball. To me she was just Aunt Sandy. And I was her Munchkin.

Aunt Sandy was my first babysitter—and last. She always looked out for me and did what was in my best interest. She was the only one throughout my life never to let me down on anything. She was always there for me whenever I asked. She was at all of my concerts and performances. She instilled a confidence in me like no one else. When she said I could do something, I genuinely believed it. She never lied to me, which is probably why I had such confidence. No matter how sick or busy she was, she was always there for me one hundred and fifty percent and made sure that I knew it. We were not only Aunt and niece, but we were also friends. I could tell her anything and everything, which I did, and know that it was between us and the four walls surrounding us.

She and I looked at ourselves the same way. "We are the normal ones," she'd say, "everyone else is just trying to be like us." She was the one person in the family that I could even begin to compare myself to. She was the only person in my entire life to give me a straight answer when I asked a question. Sure, she told me every detail in-between, but I eventually got the answer. She was a great story teller. I loved to listen to her. I would just listen to her for hours in silence (a great feat for me).

And it wasn't just because she wouldn't give me a chance to talk, simply because I idolized this woman. Those of you who knew her, know that she could go on and on for hours. And you never dared to ask another question or she may lose all other train of thought.

This woman was the most important person in my life. And it took her dying for me to realize it. I regret not spending more time with her, but cherish the time that I did spend with her. She may not have been anyone else's hero, but she was my hero. The fact that she would continue smiling knowing that she only had months to live really shows courage and strength, the strength that I hope to have eventually. She continued to have fun. She still had the same vivacity for life as she always did. It was just a little bit slower and some time in slow motion, but she still wanted to live.

We must continue to live on as she would...full of fun. That is a true hero in my eyes. So I close this by sharing advice that was between the two of us. Wherever in life you may go, always remember three things: always have a map, live for the fun times in life, and always pack lots of banana chips. I love you, Aunt Sandy. ❖