

*A Celebration of Life
For
Thomas Sanderfer Sr.*

Sunrise
June 1, 1917

Sunset
July 11, 2004



*I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me
A crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the
Righteous judge shall give me at that day.*

II Timothy 4:7-8

**Thursday, July 15, 2004
11 AM
Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church
Athens, AL
Pastor Eugene English, officiating**

Order of Service



Processional

Song & Prayer.....Deacon George Binford

Selection.....Little Elk Choir

Scripture.....Rev. Anthony Stewart

Remarks & Prayer.....Rev. Wendell Thompson

Acknowledgements.....Sis. Linda Yarbrough

Song & Words of Comfort.....Rev. Kenneth Lankford

Selection.....Little Elk Choir

Eulogy.....Pastor Eugene C. English

Solo.....Rev. Alvin Anderson

Recessional

Obituary

Thomas Sanderfer Sr. was born June 1, 1917 in Limestone county to James Eddie and Estella Thatch Sanderfer. He was united in holy matrimony to Earnestean Adams. To this union twelve children were born.

Thomas confessed hope in Christ at an early age and attended Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Limestone County. He later joined Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and was recently honored for being a mighty prayer warrior.

Thomas, fondly called "Lil Bruh" was an avid farmer and hunter. After retiring from construction work, he spent his summers planting gardens and providing fresh vegetables for his family and neighbors. His love for the Lord was no secret; he shared his testimony of receiving salvation on many occasions. Many Sunday mornings his booming voice filled the sanctuary of Little Elk as he petitioned the throne of grace. He knew that the fervent prayers of a righteous person had great power and results (James 5:16). He loved attending his home church and visiting others. Not only did he love preaching but he also loved good gospel singing. He never missed an opportunity to hear his favorite gospel singer, Lee Williams, in concert. Once he put his hands to the plow, he remained faithful even when his health began to fail. After battling a long-term illness, he departed this life on July 11, 2004.

His parents, Eddie and Estella Sanderfer; his wife Earnestean; his brothers Leo, James and Bennie Sanderfer; his sister Nancy Garth; his grandchildren Chad and Jarvis Sanderfer and his sons in law Monte Johnson and Edward Jones preceded him in death.

He leaves to cherish his memory five sons, Thomas Jr. (Bernice), Robert (Violet) and George (Loretta) Sanderfer all of Athens, AL, Sam (Doris) Sanderfer of Nashville, TN and Greg (Regina) Sanderfer of Springhill, TN; seven daughters, Martha Jones, Earnestine (Leo) Williams, and Sharon Johnson all of Athens, AL, Maxine Jobe of Harvest, AL, Evelyn (Leroy) Smith of Oak Park, MI, Beverly (Henry) Patrick of Maple Heights, OH, and Bonita (Tim) Harkness of Charlotte, NC; three brothers, Daniel Sanderfer of Cleveland, OH, David(Charlotte) Sanderfer of Southfield, MI and John Lewis (Louise) of Chattanooga, TN; two sisters, Estella Hall of Chattanooga, TN and Mary Koger of Detroit, MI; five sisters in law, Mary Sanderfer of Athens, AL, Nancy Sanderfer of Mansfield, OH, Bertha Garrett and Idell Sanderfer of Chattanooga, TN, and Ealler McGhee of Madison, AL; one brother in law George Garth; twenty-six grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, one great great-grandchild. He also leaves a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. He leaves to treasure many special memories his devoted friend Ms. Helen Cameron.



"Daddy"

The rattle of his ol' white Chevrolet truck was music to our ears,

Out stepped a portly man,
Indignant toward the world,
focused on things above.

In his lunch box, we found intentionally, uneaten
bananas, crackers and cookies.

His orders were endless: "Get me some ice water," "Pull off my
shoes,"

"Get the comb and scratch my head," "Gal turn this here TV"

The lessons were tiring: "This is how you churn butter, Plant
potatoes, skin a rabbit"

On any given summer day, he could be found under the big
shade tree shucking corn, snapping beans and waving to the
neighbors as they passed

At night, he ran behind his barking dogs hunting for possum
and 'coons

On Sunday mornings, hair slicked back, a clean shaven face,
dressed in a suit and tie; he would pray: "Our Father which is
which art in Heaven...Lord bless my chulin and my chulin's
chulin

Dogs, chickens, turkeys, cows, pigs and children: he left his job to
come home to his work. His God, family and farm were his life,

His life was "uh-ru good."





*When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed many tears,
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.
But start out bravely with a gallant smile:
And for my sake and in His name,
Live on and do all things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days
But fill each working hour in useful ways
Reach out your hand in comfort and cheer.
And it in turn will comfort you and hold you near.
And never, never be afraid to die,
For on resurrection morn,
I'll be waiting for you in the sky.*

***Flower Bearers
Granddaughters***

***Pallbearers
Grandsons***

***Interment
Little Elk Church Cemetery
Snake Road
Athens, AL***

Acknowledgements
Our hearts have been lifted by the outpouring of love and sympathy shown during the passing of our love one. We thank you for your calls, visits, cards, flowers, other services rendered, and most of all your prayers. May God bless and keep you always.

***Arrangements Entrusted
To
People's Funeral Home
Tanner, AL***