



## Samantha Smoot

November 25, 1973 - August 13, 2010

Samantha Marie Smoot, 36, of Kingsford, passed away on Friday, Aug. 13, 2010, at her home with her family by her side after a long courageous battle with brain cancer.

She was born on Nov. 25, 1973, in Iron Mountain, daughter of Robert Staple and the late Marcella Hoyum. She attended the Breitung Township Schools, graduating from Kingsford High School in 1992.

She married Will Smoot on Aug. 8, 1998, in Iron Mountain.

Sam currently worked as a librarian at the Dickinson County Library. Her love of reading and children made going to work a real joy for her. Her passion for animals previously led to employment at the Spring Lake Humane Society. Her amazing free spirit, kindness and determination will be missed by many.

Sam is survived by her husband, Will; son, Charlie of Kingsford; her dad, Robert "Bob" (Tracy) Staple of Breitung Township; her brothers, Robert "Bobby" Staple of Iron Mountain and Kyle Gunville of Quinnesec; her sisters, Kim (Jeff) Polkinghorne and Katie (Jeff Schroeder) Gunville of Green Bay, Wis.; her nieces, Dani, Nikki, and Lexi Roberge of Kingsford, Mya Erickson of Manhattan, Kan., and nephew, Cooper Bolt of Birmingham, Ala.; and her grandmother, Elizabeth Hoyum of Green Bay.

She is further survived by her in-laws, Carl (Tammy) Smoot of Spread Eagle, Wis., Clara (Vic) Weyland of Roberts, Wis.; brother in-law, Paul Smoot of Kansas City, Mo.; sister in-laws, Liz (Stephen Bolt) Smoot of Birmingham, Ala. and Stephanie (Adam) Erickson, as well as many remarkable friends who loved, encouraged, and supported her throughout her life and in her final days.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Marcella (Hoyum) Collins.

Friends may call on Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Services will follow at 7 p.m. at the funeral home, with Rev. David Anderson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in her memory, to be directed to her favorite charities.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Samantha Smoot online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Funeral Service

AUG 17. 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

MN

“ Please accept my deepest sympathies. Sam was a fighter and never let things get her down. I will always remember her for her smile and the clever things she had to say. She will truly be missed by those who she has touched over the years.

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**Melissa Erickson - Alton, NH** - August 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Will, Mr. Staples, and family-  
My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very sad time.  
May you find peace~

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**Andra (Johnson) Pietrantonio** - August 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ My deepest sympathies to you Bob, and the rest of your family.

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**Bob Morin Jr. and Family** - August 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ When you think of Sam, you can't forget the smile! Sweet, kind, thoughtful and selfless, she personified the kindness of heart and adventurous spirit that we could all learn from. Our most recent contacts were few, but they were familiar. A true friend feels that way. :) To Will, Charlie, Bob, and the rest of her family, know that we are thinking of you, and we send prayers back to the U.P. Lean on the shoulders of loved ones surrounding you during this time. Much love- Tim, Deanne, Grace, Roen and Digg'r (the pup) Casari. XOXO

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**Tim Casari - Arvada, CO - Friend/classmate** - August 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sam was a classmate of my oldest daughter in junior high and high school and was always so very sweet and kind. She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. My prayers will be with you.

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**Dana Fitze - Ishpeming, MI** - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ Last night's service was such a beautiful tribute. Standing room only--a real show of respect and gratitude for all that Sam shared with the world. I can't stop thinking about her smile. I'm sad to know I'll never see her again. I'm very happy to know, however, that her very close friends and family were there with her to the end, sharing in her life and love.

*Will and Charlie: my heart goes out to you.*

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**Vikki Baumler - Green Bay, WI - Friend from High School** - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ First of all, my heart goes out to the Staple and Smoot families. Will, I wish I was there to give you and Charlie a hug in person. This is one of those times when it is so frustrating to live so far from "home". You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

When I think of Sam, I think of such a vibrant person who always brought life and energy to everything and everyone she was involved with. Her smile could light up a room and was so contagious. She was always so kind to everyone and held you to do the right thing. I always think of Sam when I am talking to my high school students about the importance of being nice to everyone. I have asked students, "How do you want to be remembered by your classmates in 20 years?" It is not what you wore or who your friends were, it is how you treated people and the way you made them feel. There is good reason why Sam was loved and respected by so many.

I am thankful for all the great memories I have of Sam. I can still picture our 8th grade basketball championship picture with her standing next to me (we were 2 of the tall girls at the time :), our 6th grade play that had some patriotic theme that we all had so much fun being involved in (this is the year that both Sam and Will arrived at Garden Village--who knew it would be true love down the road?!), Sam and Will meeting up with Jodi and I on Spring Break in Fort Lauderdale to catch up and share some laughs, and I will never forget our 15-year class reunion at Cowboy Lake where Sam had all her photo albums/scrapbooks laid out to share with everyone and reflect on the good old days once again.

Thank you, Sam, for being such a great person and positive influence on so many. Your memory and lessons taught will live on forever as those you have touched will continue to teach others about the importance of perseverance and kindness. Good bye and I love you.

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Lori Linnert - Naperville, IL - classmate and friend - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *Bob & Tracy-*

*I never knew your daughter but my heart goes out to you. Losing a child is something I can not comprehend, but I hope you can get through it all OK as well as the rest of your family. My sincere sympathy for yous and God Bless.*

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**Paul Taff - Iron Mountain, MI** - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dear Will, Charlie and Staple and Smoot Family Members,

*This evening's memorial service was a wonderful tribute to Sam's life - a life too short, but so fully lived - for all who gathered in her memory. She abundantly shared her many gifts and talents with her beloved family, countless friends and virtually all who were touched by her as she spread her joy and enthusiasm.*

*I came to know Sam best as she worked at the Dickinson County Library, cheerfully greeting patrons as they came in, willingly assisting them in every way and putting her special touch on the young adult programs. She touched many people of all ages there, as she did wherever she went.*

*The meaningful words from Rev. Anderson recounting her bravery and determination in fighting her cancer, the tribute from her two friends who obviously were able to capture her true character from every angle, the inspiring music and most of all the comforting words from the Scriptures helped us all to appreciate the gift Sam's life was to all of us, and to inspire us to "live each day as if we were dying" to make the most of the time we have together here. Knowing we will be reunited with our loved ones one day in Heaven helps to ease the loss as time passes.*

*Please accept our sincere sympathy.*

*Bill and Jan Cummings*

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**Bill and Jan Cummings - friend of family - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM**

KF

“ Even though I hadn't seen Sam often since high school, she will always be one of the great inspirations in my life. I moved to Kingsford in 8th grade. I didn't know anyone and was scared, nervous, and lost. She sought me out and instinctively knew how to make it ok. We sat the bench together our junior year of basketball, and it was the same story. She made it twice as much fun to sit as to play. Her sense of humor and compassion for others set her apart. She wasn't given a lot of years, but I know she touched more people in those few than most do in a lifetime. I am honored to have know her. Will, you and Charlie are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Katie Ellet - Lake Jackson, TX - Friend** - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I got to know Sam while volunteering at the Springlake Humane Society when I lived in Iron Mtn. She was passionate in caring for the animals and just a nice, genuine person to be around. We shared some good times on our cross-country skis/fall hikes with our dogs and I will now cherish those memories. To all of her family, please know you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

*Anne Tikkanen*

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**Anne Tikkanen - Baraga, MI** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ You're pretty smile, your laugh and giggles, your kind and generous heart are with us all forever!!! We will miss you dearly!

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**Jodi Barglind - Milwaukee, WI - Friend** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ *My maiden name is Babcock, and our family shared every Christmas with Sam's family, across our street at Grandma and Grandpa Hoyum's house. We grew up knowing Sam, Kim, and Bobby, and they were like cousins to us; even though not by blood. I remember many times at Grandma Hoyum's house, with her sewing various dresses for Kim, Sam, Jodi and us! Many years later, I was at Sam's wedding (by coincidence on the anniversary of my parents') and couldn't believe how grown up she was, even though she was only 5 years younger than me. I have many fond memories of our childhood and the Hoyum family was always a part of that. I know that Sam came from a very loving family and that she will be missed. I hope the family can find some comfort in knowing that she is at peace.*

*Love and prayers are with you, Wendy Kriekels*

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**Wendy Kriekels - Denver, CO - childhood friend** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ *To Sam's family--*  
*Appropriate words are tough to muster during times like this. I don't know that any can sum up what a wonderful person Sam was. She always had a zest for life, family and friends. She was one of those people who couldn't hide the joy she harnessed-- even through times when many of us would have fallen prey to weakness. Sam will be remembered in the hearts of more people than those who knew her will likely ever know.*

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**Jim Hagerty - Rockford, IL** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *My heartfelt sympathies to Sam's family. She was the little one in our gang of girls playing at her grandma's house. We could always make her giggle and I can't remember seeing her without her beautiful smile. The last time I saw her was a few years ago at the family party at Cowboy Lake, and though all grown up, she still had that smile. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Love and prayers coming to you all from England.*

*Traci, Rich, Sam and Maria*

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**Traci (Babcock) Blundell - OLD family friend** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Bob and family,*

*I am so saddened to hear of your loss. I hope that your family, friends, and memories of Samantha bring you comfort. I wish that I could be there to express my feelings to you in person. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Kim Perez*

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**Kim Perez - Lansing, MI - coworker of father** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Bob and family,*

*My deepest sympathies to you and your entire family during this time of sadness. There are just no words that could be said to help you through this, but please know that you will continue to be in my thoughts, prayers and close to my heart!*

*Alicia*

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**Alicia Perry - Lansing, MI** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Will, Charlie and the rest of the family, --Just heartbroken to see Sam's fight end. She was such an inspiration to so many. To see how proud she was of her little boy while he was playing Basketball, baseball and then soccer. You never heard her complain. she was just proud to be there, watching Charlie. Didn't matter when you seen Sam, she always gave you a "Sam" smile and a how you doing?? The class of 1992 is sure going to miss this special girl. So glad I got to know her, not only as Brad's classmate, but as Charlies mom. --Sure going to miss you , Sam.

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**Jean Koski - Kingsford, MI - FRIEND.** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I have had the honor of knowing Sam since she was a little girl. I remember Sam, Tricia, Marie, Mikal,Michelle and Carrie trying to do back flips in our front yard.....and then the girls grew up a little bit and it was time for prom. I had the honor of doing the girls hair and make up. And then there was high school and the days of riding around in my car, drinking at camp parties! .I moved away and Sam and I lost contact other then a Hi here and there.....until I found her again on Facebook.....we sat up one night a couple of months ago until like 4 a.m. talking and sharing stories. Sam you were like one of my little sisters and you will be missed tremendously by many. We will meet again one day my friend but for now I am comforted to know.....God gave you your wings Sam!

*My deepest condolences to Will and the boys, Sam's parents, Kim and the rest of your family.....Sam was an AMAZING woman!! Alot of love and prayers coming to you from North Carolina.*

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**Missi Pezzullo~Nobles - Jacksonville, NC - Friend** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I am honored to have been able to spend time with Sam over the past 1 1/2 years. I will miss her.

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**julia bowles - friend** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ I was never part of the elite group at school, but I will always remember Sam treating me just like everyone else. She was a kind soul and she didn't have a mean bone in her body. She was a very upbeat and happy person.

*My condolences go out to her family and friends. I am sure she is watching over you all. She was a great person and I am glad that I had the chance to know her.*

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**Heather Gameon McLaughlin - Manlius, NY - classmate** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Will, Charlie and Family,

*Even though I was not a good friend of Sam's while in HS, she too treated me with much respect and kindness. I remember wishing I got to know her because there was something really special about her. Like many have commented - THAT SMILE! Such warmth, support and hospitality showed through that smile.*

*Will, you have been a faithful and loving husband - in good times and bad. Your love, devotion and faithfulness to Sam is a witness of how much you loved her and how much she loved you. I'm very sorry that you are experiencing this loss. Be assured of my prayers, support and love during this time. May you find comfort and peace during this time of grieving. Draw upon the prayers that are being said for you all. Blessings, Catherine*

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**Catherine (Calcaterra) Hardenbergh - Marquette, MI - 1992 KHS Classmate -**  
August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *I met Sam at the library and we started talking. She asked me if I was related to Carrie Pezzullo and I told her that she was my niece. Then, come to find out, that her mother Marcy and I went to grade/high school together. I brought Sam a few childhood pictures that I had of her mother and I...and Sam was so happy to get them that she cried. Everytime I saw Sam at the library, no matter what kind of a day it was for her, she ALWAYS had a smile on her face and something positive to say. We were also Facebook friends and her postings always made me giggle. I will miss her smile and encouraging words.....*

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**Kathleen Pezzullo - Kingsford - friend -** August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To Bob, Will, Charlie & all touched by Sam. Words, sympathy & condolences only go so far & cannot heal the pain you & all those touched by Sam are going through, but hopefully they can give you comfort in knowing how many people were touched by Sam in such a positive way. I will always have a special place in my heart for Sam and will never forget the times spent with her & the happiness she brought upon myself as well as those who had the joy of knowing her. So many memories of Sam's laughter, free spirit attitude, caring for others and above all..loving heart, resonate through & through as I think back to the time we all spent together. She will be sorely missed but the memories and times shared with her will never be forgotten.

My heartfelt prayers & thoughts are extended to Will & Charlie as well as Bob and the rest of the family.

Marie, Carrie & the rest of her "crew" - I know you are all saddened and dealing with a tough moment right now. The memories you all have with her are yours & with you for life to cherish and look back on. As Sam would probably say, think of the good times and not the present moment, she would rather you think back the good memories, the fun we all shared with her, the laugh out loud moments shared & the times spent while growing up together. I am saddened as well today but the memory of her, her care free spirit as well as her live life in the moment persona will resonate more with me than the pain being felt right now.

Goodbye Samantha..but never forgotten.

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Chris Bjork - Denver, CO - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I remembered Sam from school of course, but Facebook is was where I got to correspond with her. Not too often but a few times. I always laughed when she would update her fb page! She had a sense of humor that made me smile.  
I may not have been a personal friend but we did share a personal connection, cancer. I will be praying for Sam and all of her family during this horrible time. Lean on the Lord, he will carry you through this. I promise.

Joella (Schaut) Lindlbauer

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Joella Lindlbauer - we both share a cancer story. - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Dear Smoots & Staples Families:  
My heart aches for you and your families. I played for IM but we played pick up basketball and went to camps together as well as an occasionally bonfire. I enjoyed our exchanges of banter back and forth and looked forward to slapping her hand and hugging her at the end of the game. She had a wonderfully free spirit and inspired me to venture out. Sam's smile was contagious. Sam sent positive energy and made a strong lasting impact on the she people met. I consider myself fortunate to have shared part of life's journey with Sam. My thoughts are with you Will and Family. All my sympathy,  
Kristen (Stratton) Lane

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Kristen (Stratton) Lane - MN - Old friend - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ I am so sorry for your Loss.

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Jill - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I am so sorry to hear that Sam has lost her battle with cancer, and the world has lost Sam.. What a wonderful person she was! May your memories offer comfort when words cannot. I, for one, will always remember her with a smile on her face - I'm pretty sure it was a permanent fixture.

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**Carie (Casari) Carlson - West Bend, WI - Friend** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of this wonderful spirit. I knew Sam through a very good friend of mine Mikal Black. Every time I visited the area I honestly looked forward to seeing Sam and floating on the lake while we laughed and talked much "girl" talk. I know she has struggled and I truly hope she is at peace. I am so very sorry for the many friends and family who are suffering her loss.

*You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Lisa Viliott*

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**Lisa Viliott - Melrose, MA, MA - friend through a friend** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My sincere sympathies to all fo Sam's family and friends. She was a remarkable person. If there are critters where she has gone, she will be one happy person. One very bight light has gone out of this world. Marci

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**Marci Picucci - friend** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Bob & Tracy:*

*Please accept our condolences during this very sad time for both of you.*

*Dennis & Andrea*

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**Dennis Harbour - Houghton, MI - friend** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *To the families,  
I did not know your daughter personally, but wanted to share my condolences for your loss. I am so very sorry. Our prayers are with you .*

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**Siri Sholten - Sagola , MI - friend of family** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *My prayers are with the entire family for the loss a such a wonderful young lady.*

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**Kay Boughner - Co-worker** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Sincere sympathy to Sams family...there are no words to express the true sympathy that many are feeling at her loss...had the pleasure of knowing and spending time with her. She was a very amazing person in all ways.....she will be missed by all that knew her...*

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**Mary Ann Hill - Springboro, OH - Tricia Anderson Wilkes Mom** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Sorry for your loss.

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**Barb and Joe Kaner - Roberts, WI - freinds of Clara and Vic Weyland** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Sam was a sweet, sweet woman, and a wonderful friend. She was a great mom. There are everyday things that will always remind me of Sam... She gave me “When You Give a Pig a Pancake” while I was pregnant with my daughter, and inscribed it as one of their favorites, and it is of course now one of our favorites. We’ll carry on that love of reading that Sam had. And when Stella wants to read just one more book, I’ll be excited and share another story with her. She passed the crib on to me that my son sleeps in every day. I think of her everytime I lay him down at night, feeling a bond with her that we watched our baby boys sleep peacefully in the same crib, years apart, and know that she watches over him. I think of her everytime I slice an avocado as she watched me in amazement the night of the Ugly Sweater party. Will there ever be a KHS football game that we don’t think of her? She lived a full life, of many experiences. I will cherish her friendship, and more than anything love my kids a little more in her honor because she was such a great mom. Our thoughts & prayers to Will & Charlie and the rest of her family.*

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**Jess Mindok - Kingsford, MI - Friend** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Sam taught me a lot through the past years. I loved hanging out and relaxing with her. What she loved she was very passionate about and I picked up little pieces of her that will live within me forever. There are so many memories, loved, loved, loved having you as part of the family.*

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**Liz smoot - AL - Sister-in-Law** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ *Sam was a beautiful person inside and out, she will be truly missed*

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**Tony and Alicia Guiliani** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Sam in this world. What a beautiful kind and loving person she was. She was so brave during this battle with cancer, and I hardly ever heard her complain about all that she was dealing with. She was an amazing spirited woman and so friendly to everyone. Our hearts and prayers go out to you Will and Charlie. Sincerely, The Jenkins Family*

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**Lance & Beth Jenkins and family - Kingsford, MI - Friends** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *To the Smoot & Staple Families,  
My sincere condolences on your loss of Samantha. Samantha graduated the year behind me in high school, but I will never forget her beautiful smile, spunk, and zest for life. May her strong, fun-loving spirit live on in your memories, and use these memories to get you through these very difficult times.  
Dina (Degenaer) Perrault*

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**Dina (Degenaer) Perrault - Former KHS graduate** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *I didn't know Sam really well, as I went to Iron Mountain High School and graduated in '92, but I wanted to give my condolences to her family. I remember Sam from basketball camps and games. She was a great athlete but more importantly she had great sportsmanship. She always had a beautiful smile on her face and was so friendly. She truly was a special person. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

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**Nicole Ehrhardt Passuello - Friend** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ To the Smoot and Staple families and Clara,

*Our prayers go out to you at this time of grief. We pray that God's grace will be with you to help you through this sad time. Sam antha was an angel whose time here was far too short. I hope that as Charlie grows up, he will always hear many stories about how special she was. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those whose presence she touched. I will always remember her as a kind and pretty young lady who was a strong and loving mother. In sympathy,  
Alice and Gordy Reed*

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**Alice and Gordy Reed** - August 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM