

Quarterly Newsletter
of the

**MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY
ASSOCIATION, INC.**
Founded 2001

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MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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ONGOING PROJECTS

Cemetery Project – J.A. Middlebrooks

MFA Website – Jennifer Braswell and
Leonard Middlebrooks

DNA Project – Bob Middlebrooks and
Dave Clark

Family Repository – Jean Shroyer

Family Register Update – Leonard
Middlebrooks

Military Section of Register Update –
Kerry Middlebrooks

Privacy Notice: If you prefer that
your name be withheld, please notify
thelangs@hotmail.com.

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. was founded in 2001 for the purpose of assembling and preserving genealogical and historical material for future generations.

MFA Quarterly NEWSLETTER is published four times a year (December, March, June, and September) by the Middlebrooks Family Association, 5721 Fullerton Phillips Road, Monticello, GA 31604.

Subscription is free to paid members of MFA. Articles for inclusion in the Quarterly, or suggestions for topics, may be sent to thelangs@hotmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

Leonard Middlebrooks

We are about five weeks away from the kickoff of our 2008 annual meeting. I'm looking forward to the changed format and, hopefully, the new folks who will attend. Thursday's and Friday's formats will be the same as previous years, but Saturday will be more of a relaxed open-house event. This will give everyone an opportunity to enjoy each other's company. If you have not made your reservations, now is the time to do so. Call the Holiday Inn Express in Hillsboro, TX, to make your reservation, 254-582-0220.

Friday's highlights will be Neal Middlebrook's presentation on linking the Virginia Middlebrooks to the family. Also, Dave Clark is arranging a DNA talk on our progress, and lack of progress, as well as smoothing out the confusion on the mismatches with some of the test results. Both presentations will be highly informative as MFA positions itself to begin connecting the family to our English ancestors.

Another high point is that Dave Clark is assuming the Team Leader role for the Joseph, born 1770/73, line of the family. This is a segment of our family that I have been casually babysitting, and I'm looking forward to Dave's efforts in helping move the research forward in this area. Dave will be the overall coordinator for this branch, and Geneva Garrett will continue in her ongoing research of the Ibzán line.

The reason for Joseph's two birth years is due to the 1770 date from the 1909 Register and the 1773 date from his tombstone. Adding to the mystery is tombstone information listing Joseph's birth county and state as Caswell County, North Carolina. To date there are no records of Joseph in Caswell County, yet he is found in the very early years of the 1800s, living near known Middlebrooks brothers in Georgia. He is also found swapping property with these brothers. Compound this mystery with the fact that Isaac Middlebrooks, born 1727 and Joseph's reported father, died in 1771.

Previous meetings have not allowed the opportunity to copy family documents. This year we will have two cameras set up and dedicated to reproducing family photos and documents. Along with the cameras will be two volunteers to do the digital reproducing. This will be quicker and of higher quality than scanning, so dig out those old family photos and share your family history.

Something new within the last few months is the creation of the MFA Veterans project. The goal of this project is to update the 1909 Register military section. Kerry Middlebrooks, mbrooks@gci.net, is the project leader and has already created a fifteen-page data base with 401 family members who have fought for our country. The sacrifices of these military personnel, and others like them, are the reason that we have the freedom to enjoy our personal lifestyles.

One of the topics at this year's MFA board meeting will be project leader back-up. Currently only the DNA project has an active assistant. Jarrelyn will be looking for a second newsletter editor assistant, J.A. will be looking for help with the Cemetery project, Kerry will be looking for help with the Vets project, and I will be looking for help with the 2009 *Register* Update. If you have items that you would like to bring before the board, join us at the annual board meeting, or email me with your thoughts and I will present them for you at the meeting.

Remember, it will be hot in Hillsboro, so bring your sunblock, a hat, extra batteries for your camera, and, just in case, an umbrella. See you there.

Leonard

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MFA Meeting, July 17-19, Hillsboro Texas: It's not too late to join us.

OUR TEXAS ROOTS:

SHARING OUR FAMILY HISTORIES

Please join us for this year's reunion in Hillsboro, Texas. Come help us explore Our Texas Roots. Do you know where or when your ancestors first arrived in Texas? Why did they move to Texas? Come and meet your extended family. Let's learn more about our ancestors and share family histories, stories, and those old photographs and documents.

Agenda HIGHLIGHTS:

Thursday, July 17

10:00 A.M – 12: P.M.
Hillsboro Town Center

Tour: 1881 MKT Depot, Hill County Cell Block Museum,
and Hill County Courthouse
Given by Chamber of Commerce

Friday, July 18

8:30 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.
Hillsboro to Whitney, TX

Tour: Pertains to Dr. Francis Middlebrook (grandson of Robert '66). See family plots at the cemetery, visit Whitney Museum, drive by properties, houses, historic buildings where his children had businesses. Have lunch at the Colorado Grill, located in the building that was once owned by William Talbot Middlebrook and his son, Thomas Middlebrook, located in Whitney.

By Bill & Joan Miller

1:30 – 4:00 P.M.

Texas Heritage Museum
Theater

Presentations:

1. Dr. Francis Middlebrook, grandson of Robert 1766, given by Joan Miller
2. Virginia Middlebrook/s Research Update
by Neal Middlebrook and Lana Shelton
3. Middlebrook/s DNA Update by Dave Clark
4. Seaborn Sims Middlebrooks by Dave Clark

Dinner: 6:30 – 8:30 P./M. Speaker: **War Between the States**

Saturday, July 19
9:00 A.M. – 4:40 P.M.
Hotel Lobby and
Hotel Conference Room

REUNION DAY: Bring family history and pictures (see Joyce's note, below). **Sharing our Family Histories**
-Lunch-

Middlebrooks Family Association Inc.:
What are we all about?
Speaker: **The Trials and Tribulations of our Early Texas Ancestors**

Dinner: 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Visit the Hillsboro website: <http://www.hillsborochamber.org/attract.htm>.

Motel reservations at the Holiday Inn Express may be made by calling 254-582-0220. Mention that you are with the Middlebrooks Reunion, to get the reunion rate of **\$75.60** per night. **This rate is only good through June 17, 2008.**

Registration fee is \$10.00 per member's family. Non-members pay \$10.00 to register or \$20.00 to become an MFA member through Sept. 2009 (includes registration). Make checks payable to the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. Please mail your check and your completed registration form to: Middlebrooks Family Association Inc., C/O Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 77584.

Please contact me, as I need to know how many people to plan for in arranging tours and meals.
Come and meet other cousins.

We are planning to make displays of each family group. Please send me the following information for your Middlebrook/s family **before** you come to the meeting:

1. From what line (NC, VA, CT, or other)
2. When they arrived in Texas
3. Where in Texas they first arrived
4. How they arrived (horse, wagon, train, boat, walking, etc.)
5. Did they come with a group or just the immediate family?
6. Where did they move to in following years?
7. **Please send pictures.**

Pictures and information can be sent to me by e-mail: joycenjim@sbcglobal.net

or mail to: Joyce Arnold
2904 Trinity Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Joyce Arnold
Meeting Coordinator
MFA Secretary & Treasurer

Registration Form: To help with planning, please complete and mail the form to Joyce Arnold.

**Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.
2008 Meeting/Reunion Registration Form
Hillsboro, Texas July 17, 18, 19**

Motel reservations at the Holiday Inn Express may be made by calling **phone # 254-582-0220** and mentioning you will be with the Middlebrook/s Reunion, to get the reunion rate of **\$75.60** per night. **This rate is only good through June 17, 2008.**

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

I will attend (circle days): Thursday Friday Saturday

A buffet lunch of sandwiches, raw veggies, fruit, chips, drinks, etc will be available on Friday and Saturday. Cost will be \$8 per person per day.

Registration fee is \$10.00 for members.

For non-members \$10.00 to register or \$20 to become an MFA member through Sept. 2009 (includes registration).

Please mail to: **Middlebrooks Family Association Inc.**, C/O Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Drive, Pearland, TX 77584, or scan and email to joycenjim@sbcglobal.net

MFA Membership Information:

The MFA's annual meeting, quarterly newsletter, family register update, cemetery and DNA projects provide ample opportunities to become involved in the Association's events and activities. Visit our website for more detailed information on the Association's goals, projects, mailing lists, and history. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~midregerrata/>

Please consider supporting the MFA by joining. Our annual membership fee is \$20.00 (October thru September). Send your check to our association's treasurer: **Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 77584.**

Hotel Location:

Hillsboro is on Interstate 35, halfway between the Dallas/Fort Worth area and Waco. Take Exit 368A east onto Highway 22 and go north on the service road to the Holiday Inn Express, 1505 Hillview Drive, Hillsboro, TX 76645 (254-582-0220).

Americans Lack Family History Knowledge

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

A recent survey conducted by The Generations Network reports that few Americans know very much about their family trees. Among other facts, the survey discovered that:

- ❖ One-third of Americans cannot name any of their great-grandparents. Half of those surveyed know the name of only one or none of their great-grandparents.
- ❖ Six out of ten Americans do not know both of their grandmothers' maiden names.
- ❖ Twenty-two percent of Americans do not know what either of their grandfathers do / did for a living.
- ❖ Although America is known as a nation of immigrants, 27 percent don't know where their family lived before coming to America.

Commissioned by Ancestry.com and conducted by Omnibus Survey, the survey does make some positive statements. For one, results show that 83 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds are interested in learning their family's history. Following closely are the 35- to 54-year-olds at 77 percent and Americans aged 55+ at 73 percent.

These figures suggest that there are millions of Americans who have at least a casual interest in their family trees but have no idea how to get started. It is impressive that younger Americans reportedly are more likely to be interested in their ancestry than are senior citizens. This is a good opportunity for all of you who have an interest in genealogy to reach out to younger members of your family. In your casual conversations with them, you might ask a few questions:

- ❖ Where does your family come from?
- ❖ What did your grandparents do for a living? How about your great-grandparents?
- ❖ Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
- ❖ Can you remember any family stories that were told to you as a child? Do you believe those stories are accurate?
- ❖ Does your family have any memorable holiday or other traditions that were passed down from previous generations?

Of course, when the other person says, "I don't know," you should be ready to step in with a few suggestions of good books for beginners, a few websites of genealogy interest, and perhaps the address and meeting dates of a local genealogical society.

If we start "spreading the word," we can greatly increase the percentage of Americans who *do* know about their roots.

For more information about the survey, go to:

<http://tgn.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=115>.

The first football field to use artificial turf was the Astrodome in **Houston, Texas**. The first public rodeo took place in **Pecos, Texas**, in 1883. The world's largest rattlesnake roundup is held in **Sweetwater, Texas**. Fritos™ corn chips were first introduced in **San Antonio, Texas**. The first shopping center in America was Highland Park Shopping Village in **Dallas, Texas**. The town of **Kilgore, Texas**, once had 1,100 oil wells within its city limits. (Kirk Dooley, *The World's Best Texas Trivia*)

Genealogists Push for Open Records

Submitted by Neal Middlebrook

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) contends that there is no proof that open records significantly contribute to ID theft or terrorism. In a position paper that outlines the case for open public records, APG asserts that open records are rarely used by identification thieves and maintains that the benefit of open access to records far outweighs any potential abuse.

APG has joined forces with other genealogical organizations, including the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) in endorsing the position paper and calling on legislators to keep records open.

"Public records allow genealogists and other professionals, such as medical researchers, journalists, historians, and academic researchers to do their jobs," explains APG President Jake Gehring. He urges that "concerned citizens tell their representatives that they want to keep public records open."

A group of professional genealogists within APG formed the Keeping Genealogical Records Open Workgroup (KGROW) in 2007 and prepared the position paper. Melinde Lutz Sanborn, FASG (Fellow, American Society of Genealogists) and member of the committee, says, "Open records and transparency in government are the best protections we have against twenty-first century fraud."

The KGROW committee recommends in their paper that "lawmakers respond to the ID theft problem, not try to prevent a nonexistent problem." Further, they encourage that "private companies and government improve their protection of personal data." The Case for Open Public Records position paper is available on the APG website at <http://apgen.org/publications/press>.

APG is an independent organization whose worldwide members number over 1,800. The group's principal purpose is to support professional genealogists in all phases of their work, from the amateur genealogist wishing to turn knowledge and skill into a vocation, to the experienced professional seeking to exchange ideas with colleagues and to upgrade the profession as a whole.

Contact: Kathleen W. Hinckley, CG, Executive Director, Association of Professional Genealogists, P.O. Box 350998, Westminster, CO 80035-0998; phone 303-422-9371; fax 303-456-8825; e-mail admin@apgen.org.

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Texas ranks #1 in the U.S. in production of oil, natural gas, cattle, sheep, wool, rice, watermelon, and cotton.

The largest military base in the world is Fort Hood, located in Killeen, Texas.

Texas has more churches than any other state – 16,969.

Texas has been under 6 different flags: Spain, France, the United Mexican States, the Confederate States of America, the Republic of Texas, and the United States of America.

With 6,736 lakes, Texas has 4,859 square miles of inland water.

Texas ranks first in the U.S. in highway mileage – 70,000 (some of which is guaranteed to be under repair on any given day).

source: traveltexas-online.com

New Additions to Footnote.com

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

Recent Releases on Footnote.com:

- *The London Times*, 1788-1820 – historical newspaper documenting the major events and daily activities in 18th and 19th century England
- World War II JAG (Judge Advocate General) Case Files, Pacific – Army and Navy trial documents relating to Japanese prisoners of war and crimes
- Naval Press Clippings – Newspaper clippings from World War II through 1960
- Japanese Air Target Analyses – World War II Japanese air target analyses, objectives, and serial photographs
- World War I Military Cablegrams, 1917-1919 – Cablegrams exchanged between General Headquarters and the War Department
- American Colonization Society, 1792-1919 – Documents relating to the organization best known for its role in founding Liberia
- Admiralty Records, Key West, 1829-1911 – Records covering ransom and salvage cases and maritime contracts
- Utah Territorial Case Files – Judicial records prior to Utah statehood

Coming Soon to Footnote.com:

- Confederate Soldier Service Records – North Carolina and Georgia
- Papers and Minutes of Principal World War II Allied Military Conferences
- World War II Missing Air Crew Reports

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In New Hampshire, a man returning home following his Civil War discharge in 1865 initiated divorce proceedings against his wife due to his "willing absence" from home.

According to Google Books, two 17th century State of New Hampshire laws addressed the definition of "willing absence" as:

"XI. When the husband has willingly absented himself from the wife for three years together, without making suitable provision for her support and maintenance.

"XII. When the wife of any citizen has willingly absented herself from her husband without his consent for three years altogether."

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

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According to texasrebelradio.com, the 60,000-acre King Ranch, in south Texas, is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

With 267,330 square miles, the state of Texas covers 7.4% of the nation's total area.

See you in Hillsboro, Texas, July 17, 18, and 19!!

I Didn't Know This, Did You?

Contributed by Charles H. Middlebrooks

Why are so many coin banks shaped like pigs? Dishes and cookware in ancient Europe were made of a dense orange clay called *pygg*. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as "pygg banks." One English potter misunderstood the term and made a coin bank that resembled a pig – and it caught on.

Why do dimes, quarters, and half dollars have notches, while pennies and nickels do not? The United States mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage people from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters, and half dollars used to contain silver, but pennies and nickels do not; therefore, these coins are not valuable enough to shave.

Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left? When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right, which would be on the garment's left. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left.

Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses? In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the documents. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast? There was once a time when it wasn't uncommon for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. As a way of proving that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small portion of his drink into the glass of his host; both men would then drink simultaneously. If a guest trusted his host, he would just touch – or clink – the host's glass with his own.

Why are people in the public eye said to be "in the limelight"? Limelight, forerunner of the spotlight, produced a brilliant light when an oxyhydrogen flame was directed at a cylinder of calcium oxide, commonly known as burnt lime or quicklime. Limelight was invented in 1825 for use in lighthouses and stage lighting. Being "in the limelight" (spotlight) onstage allowed an actor to be the audience's center of attention.

Why do ships and aircrafts in trouble use "mayday" as their call for help? This comes from the French expression *m'aidez*, meaning "help me" and pronounced *mayday*.

Why is someone who is feeling great "on cloud nine"? Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

Why are zero scores in tennis called "love"? In France, where tennis first became popular, a big, round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called *l'oeuf*, meaning "the egg." When tennis was introduced into the United States, Americans pronounced it *love*.

Where did the golf term "caddie" come from? Mary (later Queen of Scots) was sent to France as a young girl and remained there until she was around nineteen. France's King Henry II, who would become her father-in-law, learned that she loved the Scot game golf, so he built a golf course for her. Henry provided a chaperone/guard for Mary while she played, usually a cadet (pronounced kuh-DAY) from a nearby military school. When she returned to Scotland (not a good idea in the long run), the Scots changed the pronunciation to *caddie*.

Old Occupations

Contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks

(from the Quarterly of the Northwest Georgia Historical & Genealogical Society, Winter 2001, compiled by Dan Burrows)

Accomptant – Accountant

Almoner – Giver of charity to the needy

Amanuensis – Secretary or stenographer

Artificer – Highly respected skilled or artistic worker or craftsman

Bailie – Bailiff

Baxter – Baker

Bluestocking – Female writer

Boniface – Keeper of an inn

Brazier – One who worked with brass

Brewster – Beer manufacturer

Brightsmith – Metal worker

Burgomaster – Mayor

Caulker – One who filled up cracks in ships' windows or seams to make them watertight by using tar or oakum (hemp fiber produced by taking old ropes apart)

Chaisemaker – Carriage maker

Chandler – Dealer or trader who made or sold candles; retailer of groceries; ship's supplier

Chiffonnier – Wig maker

Clark – Clerk

Clerk – Clergyman, cleric

Clicker – The servant of a salesman, who stood at the door to invite customers in; one who received material in galley form and arranged it in due form ready for printing; one who made eyelet holes in boots using a machine that clicked

Cohen – Priest

Collier – Coal miner

Colporteur – Peddler of books

Cooper – One who made or repaired vessels made of staves and hoops, such as casks, barrels, tubs, etc.

Cordwainer – Shoemaker, originally any leather worker using leather from Cordova/Cordoba, Spain

Costermonger – Peddler of fruits and vegetables

Crocker – Potter

Crowner – Coroner

Currier – One who dressed the coat of a horse with a currycomb; one who tanned leather by incorporating oil or grease

Docker – Stevedore, dock worker who loaded and unloaded cargo

Dowser – One who found water by using a rod or witching stick

Draper – A dealer in dry goods

Drayman – One who drove a long, strong cart without fixed sides, used for carrying heavy loads

Dresser – A surgeon's assistant in a hospital

Drover – One who drove cattle, sheep, etc. to market; a dealer in cattle

Duffer – Peddler
Factor Agent – Commission merchant; one who transacted business for another; Scottish steward or bailiff of an estate
Farrier – A blacksmith; one who shod horses
Faulkner – Falconer
Fell monger – One who removed hair or wool from hides in preparation for leather-making
Fletcher – One who made bows and arrows
Fuller – One who shrank and thickened woolen cloth by moistening, heating, and pressing; one who cleaned and finished cloth
Gaoler – Keeper of the gaol; jailer
Glazier – Window glassman
Hacker – Maker of hoes
Hatcheler – One who combed out or carded flax
Haymonger – Dealer in hay
Hayward – Keeper of fences
Higgler – Itinerant peddler
Hillier – Roof tiler
Hind – A farm laborer
Holster – A groom who took care of horses, often at an inn
Hooker – Reaper
Hooper – One who made hoops for casks and barrels
Huckster – A seller of small wares
Husbandman – A farmer who cultivated the land
Jagger – Fish peddler
Journeyman – One who had served his apprenticeship and mastered his craft, not bound to serve a master, but hired by the day
Joyner / Joiner – A skilled carpenter
Keeler – Bargeman
Kempster – Wool comber
Lardner – Keeper of the cupboard or pantry
Lavender – Washer woman
Lederer – Leather maker
Leech – Physician
Longshoreman – Stevedore
Lormer – Maker of horse gear
Malender – Farmer
Maltster – Brewer
Manciple – A steward
Mason – Bricklayer
Mintmaster – One who issued local currency
Monger – Seller of goods (ale, fish, etc.)
Muleskinner – Teamster
Neatherder – Herder of cows
Ordinary Keeper – Innkeeper with fixed prices

Pattern Maker – A maker of a clog shod with an iron ring (A clog was a wooden pole with a pattern cut into the end.)
Peregrinator – Itinerant wanderer
Peruker – A wig maker
Pettifogger – A shyster lawyer
Pigman – Crockery dealer
Plumber – One who applied sheet lead for roofing and set lead frames for plain or stained glass windows
Porter – Door keeper
Puddler – Wrought iron maker
Quarrier – Quarry worker
Rigger – Hoist tackle worker; worked on a ship's rigging
Roper – Maker of ropes or nets
Saddler – One who made, repaired, or sold saddles or other furnishings for horses
Sawbones – Physician
Sawyer – One who sawed, a carpenter
Schumacker – Shoemaker
Scribbler – A minor, or worthless, author
Scrivener – Professional or public copyist or writer; notary public
Scrutiner – Election judge
Shrieve – Sheriff
Slater – Roofer
Slopseller – Seller in a slop shop, a store that sold cheap, ready-made clothing
Snobscat – One who repaired shoes
Sorter – Tailor
Spinster – A woman who spun cloth; an unmarried woman
Spurrer / Spurrier – Maker of spurs
Squire – Country gentleman; farm owner; justice of the peace
Stuff gownsman – Junior barrister
Supercargo – Officer on a merchant ship who was in charge of cargo and the commercial concerns of the ship
Tanner – One who tanned (cured) animal hides into leather
Tapley – One who put the tap into an ale cask
Tasker – Reaper
Teamster – One who drove a team for hauling
Thatcher – Roofer
Tidesman / Tide waiter – Customs inspector
Tinker – An itinerant tin pot and pan seller and repairman
Tipstaff – Policeman
Travers – Toll bridge collection
Tucker – Cleaner of cloth goods
Turner – A person who turned wood into spindles on a lathe
Victualer – A tavern keeper; one provided an army, navy, or ship with food
Vulcan – Blacksmith
Wagoner – Teamster not for hire

Wainwright – Wagon maker
Waiter – Customs officer or tide waiter, one who waited on the tide in order to collect duty on goods brought in
Waterman – Boatman for hire
Webster – Operator of looms
Wharfinger – Owner of a wharf
Wheelwright – One who made or repaired wheels, wheeled carriages, etc.
Whitesmith – Tinsmith; worker of iron who finished or polished the work
Whitewing – Street sweeper
Whitster – Bleacher of cloth
Wright – Workman, especially a construction worker
Yeoman – Farmer who owned his own land

Genealogy and the Candidates

According to a **posting on MSNBC.com** on March 25, 2008:

Genealogist Christopher Child, of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, found some interesting connections for the three major Presidential candidates, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton (Democrats), and John McCain (Republican).

Barack Obama is a distant cousin of Brad Pitt. The two men are ninth cousins, linked by Edwin Hickman, a founder of Albemarle County, Virginia, who died in Virginia in 1769. Son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, Obama can call six Presidents cousin: President George W. Bush and his father, George H.W Bush, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson, Harry S. Truman, and James Madison. Other distant cousins include Vice President Dick Cheney, British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, and Civil War General Robert E. Lee.

On the other hand, **Hillary Clinton is related to Brad Pitt's girlfriend, Angelina Jolie.** The two are ninth cousins once removed, both related to Jean Cusson, King's magistrate in his native Normandy who moved to Quebec and became a farmer. Cusson died in Quebec in 1718. Clinton, of French-Canadian descent through her mother, is also related to musicians Madonna, Celine Dion, and Alanis Morissette. Other relatives include beatnik author Jack Kerouac and Camilla Parker-Bowles, wife of England's Prince Charles.

Child said he had more difficulty tracing John McCain's ancestry because family records were not as complete as those for the two Democratic candidates. He did learn, however, that **McCain is a sixth cousin of First Lady Laura Bush.**

Outdated Laws, posted on Match.com

In Little Rock, Arkansas, engaging in public "playful banter," *i.e.* flirting, may result in a 30-day jail term.

In New York City, men may be fined \$25 for "gazing lasciviously" at a female; if convicted a second time, the offender is required to wear a pair of blinders whenever he goes for a walk.

At Home in Texas

By Jarrelyn Lang

John Floyd Middlebrooks (<Anderson Joseph Middlebrooks <William Sims Middlebrooks <Thomas 1763) and his wife, Mary Jane "Jenny" Jarrell Middlebrooks (<Elizabeth Williamson Middlebrooks Jarrell <William Sims Middlebrooks <Thomas 1763), along with their three oldest children (Joseph Anderson, John Randolph, and Emily Elizabeth), arrived in Panola County, located in eastern Texas adjacent to the Louisiana border, sometime in 1875. John Floyd resumed his pursuit of farming there, as he had done in his native land of Jones County, Georgia.

Panola County, Texas, was created from parts of Shelby and Harrison counties by the Fifth Congress of the Republic of Texas on June 30, 1841. The First Legislature of the State of Texas created the county on March 30, 1846, and the county had its organization election July 13 of that same year.

"Panola" is derived from the Cherokee word for cotton, *ponolo*. Judge John Allison, a Mississippi cotton grower who moved to Texas and became a leader in this new county, asked that it be given the name Panola because he had lived in the county of Panola in Mississippi. Not surprisingly, cotton quickly became the county's main cash crop.

It took two years for this new county to choose a county seat. The Texas legislature specified that the seat of the county's government was to be within five miles of its center. Only two real villages, Pulaski and Grand Bluff, existed within that area, and both were seven miles from the county's center. County commissioners put the choice to a public vote in the summer of 1846. By a small majority, Pulaski became the county seat.

Several dissatisfied citizens challenged the legality of the vote, so Judge Allison, who by now was Chief Justice of the county, ruled that Pulaski would remain as the county seat until appeals could be examined and an official legal decision made by the Texas legislature. In August 1848, voters were given the choice of keeping Pulaski or having an uninhabited townsite, later called Carthage, located near the county's center, as their county seat. The voters chose Carthage. That name was given to the town by a man named Spearman Holland, who had lived in Carthage, Mississippi, before moving to Texas.

According to the *Handbook of Texas Online*, "Carthage was little more than a location in a virgin forest of short-leaf pine, oak, hickory, and dogwood. The site was a mile west of the center of the county in order to use high well-drained ground."

The *Handbook* goes on to say that Jonathan Anderson, who lived four or five miles southeast of Carthage, offered to donate 100 acres for the town. The land was deeded to Panola County in 1848.

By 1850, farms in the county encompassed more than 116,000 acres. Almost 109,000 bushels of corn, 887 bales of cotton, and other crops such as sweet potatoes, peas, and orchard fruits, were produced that year. Livestock adding to the economy included 885 sheep, 2,253 milk cows, and 4,000 other cattle.

The 1850 United States census reported 2,676 people living in Panola County. There were four public schools, where four teachers taught 79 pupils.

By 1860, there were 585 farms, encompassing 237,000 acres. Almost 327,000 bushels of corn were grown that year, and cotton production had jumped to 8,272 bales. The 1860 census showed that 10,659 people called Panola County their home.

Panola County contributed at least one company of soldiers to the Confederacy during the Civil War. Late in the conflict, Carthage was invaded by Union troops, who took food and other needed supplies.

Following the Civil War, Panola County resumed its growth, although somewhat slowly. There were 911 farms and 10,119 people in the area in 1870 and 1,670 farms and 21,424 people by 1880. Corn and cotton, along with cattle and sheep, provided income for local farmers.

It was during this period, in 1875, that John Floyd, Jenny, and their children arrived on the scene. They had made the long, arduous journey from Jones County, Georgia, at the urging of Jenny's brother, John Randolph "Randy" Jarrell.

Randy's sweetheart, Emily Williamson, and her family moved to Panola County before Randy turned twenty-one. He had been promised by his parents that he would receive either ten slaves or their equivalent in money when he reached twenty-one; if he had left prior to then, he would forfeit that gift. Soon after he turned twenty-one, in March 1857, Randy made the journey to Panola County, where he married Emily in 1858. There are conflicting accounts as to which gift Randy received, the slaves or the money.

Soon after Randy and Emily married, he bought land near her family's farm in Panola County, west of Clayton, and became a prosperous farmer. Randy and Emily had no children. Emily died November 6, 1892, and was buried in the Williamson family cemetery in Panola County.

At the age of fifty-eight, Randy married Emily's niece, Mollie Williamson, who was only twenty-two at the time. A family story relates that Mollie didn't want to marry someone who was so much older, but her mother insisted because Randy was wealthy and a good catch. Randy died April 10, 1913, from injuries resulting from being kicked in the chest by a horse. Following his death, Mollie moved to San Francisco. She later returned to Panola County and married J.H. Phillips, a Methodist minister who lived in Carthage.

John Floyd resumed his pursuit of cotton farming in Panola County, as he had done in Georgia. A son, Thomas Lee Middlebrooks, enlarged the family on April 8, 1875. A daughter, whom they named Mary, was stillborn on August 7, 1876, and is buried in Panola County. Another son, Atticus Floyd, made his appearance on November 7, 1877. John Floyd and Jenny now had five living children.

By 1880, John Floyd and Jenny had moved their family to Jacksboro, Jack Co., Texas. Their oldest son, Joseph Anderson, around 13 years old at the time, moved with them but returned to live in Clayton, Panola County, sometime before the end of the year 1891. At the age of 24, Joe married Nellie Ann Allison in Clayton on December 2, 1891.

Joe and Nellie reared seven children in Clayton: John Otis, b. September 14, 1892; Bessie Mae, b. May 4, 1895; Frank Davis, b. December 23, 1897; Ruth Lee, b. August 28, 1901; Joe Jarrell, b. June 3, 1904; Mary Carolyn, b. June 25, 1908; and Robert Walter, b. June 11, 1911. Descendants of Joe and Nellie still live in Panola County.

A lumber industry, begun during the Civil War, increasingly became an important part of the economy of the region. By the 1880s, millions of board feet of lumber were being taken from Panola County's pine forests. In 1885, when a narrow-gauge railroad was built into the county out of Longview, Texas, logging intensified. The tracks were upgraded to standard gauge in 1888, and the line eventually became part of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway, tying the area to national markets.

Panola County's population continued to grow, reaching 24,063 by 1930. During the Depression years, however, almost one-third of the cotton farmers in the county were forced to

leave due to the expense of maintaining their croplands. Cotton production continued to drop. By 1940, only 41,400 acres were planted in cotton, and the population had dropped to 22,519.

With the growing mechanization of the farming industry following World War II, farmers who could ill afford the new machinery were forced to move elsewhere. Population fell to 19,250 by 1950, 16,870 by 1960, and 15,894 by 1970.

Meanwhile, however, the oil and gas industry was rapidly growing in the area. Oil was discovered in Panola County in 1917 and gas in 1936, but the first well wasn't drilled until 1944. The well, located about a mile west of Carthage, tapped into a huge reservoir that lay under almost half the county. Oil production reached an amazing 3,816,000 barrels in 1963, and production was steady into the 1990s.

With these new developments, the population began a steady re-growth, reaching 22,035 in 1990. By the 1980s, there were seventy churches in the area, a small privately owned airport, two weekly newspapers, a radio station, a cable TV station, a hospital, two nursing homes, and two libraries.

The 2000 census count showed 22,756 people living in Panola County, 78 percent Anglo, 18 percent Black, and 4 percent Hispanic. The economy is supported by gas and oil-field operations, agribusiness, timber, livestock, and food processing. Carthage, the largest town, with a 2000 population of 6,664, is still the county seat and the location of Panola College, a two-year community college. The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame is located there, also.

Notable people born in Panola County include: County Music singers Linda Davis, Tex Ritter (father of John Ritter), and Jim Reeves; electrical engineer Robert H. Dennard, who invented the Random Access Memory (RAM) computer chip; and author and historian Walter Prescott Webb, who headed the project that created the *Handbook of Texas*.

A bit of trivia: twenty percent of the mules used in building the Panama Canal were raised in Panola County, Texas.

Sources: *Handbook of Texas Online*, article written by Leila b. LaGrone, taken from *History of Panola County* (Carthage Circulating Book Club, Carthage, Texas, edited by Ms. LaGrone, 1935); *History of Panola County* (Panola County Historical Commission, Carthage, Texas, 1979); and "History of Panola County, Texas to 1860" by Lawrence R. Sharp (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1940); "The Jarrells Who Went West to Texas," compiled by Rebecca Garrett for the Jarrell Family Reunion at Jarrell Plantation, 2007.

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Wells Teague, in his book *Calling Texas Home* (Wildcat Canyon Press, 2000), informs us that **Texas is the only state that permits residents to cast absentee ballots from space.** Astronaut David Wolf cast his vote for Houston mayor via e-mail from the Russian space station *Mir* in November 1997. This was the *highest* voter participation in history!

THIS-AND-THAT

Hotel rate for 2008 MFA meeting:

The agreed-upon rate for the Holiday Inn at Hillsboro is **\$75.60** per night. At least one person has been told otherwise when calling to make a reservation. If you were given any rate other than \$75.60, call back and have the rate corrected. If there is a problem doing so, refer the person on the other end to an assistant manager by the name of Trisha, who verified with Joyce that this rate is the correct one. **REMEMBER: this rate is good only through June 17, 2008.** The rate increases substantially after that date.

New Texas Land Survey Maps Series – from Jean Shroyer

Arphax Publishing of Norman, Oklahoma, has announced publication of the first three books in its new series of *Texas Land Survey Maps*. These three books cover Cooke, Lavaca, and Rusk Counties. Plans are to publish one new Texas map book each week. At that pace, it will take five years to complete all 254 Texas counties. Requests for having a particular county's map published at the top of the list can be made by contacting Arphax at info@arphax.com, via the "Contact" form on its website, www.arphax.com, or by phone at 1-800-681-5298.

The maps are cut up into individual maps, each six miles high (north and south) by four miles wide (east and west). The result is a highly readable map, where landowners, creeks, roads, railroads, and other features are very easy to distinguish.

HELP!

The MAZE, a shortened newsletter, is sent to non-MFA members who are on the mailing list. Several of these people do not have e-mail, making it necessary to send copies of the MAZE the old-fashioned way. I have been doing this for the last several issues, but it is getting difficult to find time to fit it into my schedule. Would some kind soul please volunteer to take over the job? It would involve printing out, stapling if necessary, folding, inserting into envelopes, addressing and stamping, and dropping them into a mailbox. If you will keep a record of expenses, MFA will reimburse you at the end of each fiscal year (September). For more information about how this is done, you can e-mail me at thelangs@hotmail.com or Joyce, MFA Treasurer, at joycenjim@sbcglobal.net. You will have my everlasting thanks! –Jarrelyn

The Five Friendliest Cities in America, according to Barbara Corcoran (posted online at TODAYShow.com, May 28, 2008:

- 1. San Antonio, Texas**
2. Denver, Colorado
3. Davis, California
4. Nashville, Tennessee
5. Madison, Wisconsin

OBITUARIES

Shirley Middlebrooks Hughes, a Robert (1766) descendant, passed away March 17, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas. Shirley was born in Vienna, Georgia, on September 18, 1936, to John David and Rose Mary Middlebrooks. She was a part of the Mommy Patrol with the East Central School system of San Antonio for over twenty years and loved gardening and her many pets.

Shirley is survived by a son, Daine H. Hughes, a daughter, Glenda Hughes, a sister, two brothers, and one granddaughter. A memorial service was held March 20, 2008, at the Jehovah Witness Assembly Hall in San Antonio.

Middlebrooks Family Association wishes to extend its sympathies to Shirley's family.

Margaret Middlebrooks Dyer died April 9, 2008 in Moultrie, Georgia. A memorial service was held April 12 at Harrell-Faircloth Funeral Home of Moultrie.

A resident of Moultrie for more than fifty years, Margaret was born in Barnesville, Georgia, and spent most of her childhood years in Norman Park as the daughter of a successful farmer. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Moultrie and a graduate of the University of Georgia, with a degree in home economics.

Margaret married Dr. William R. Dyer, a chiropractor, who died in 1980. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Middlebrooks, and her brother, Billy Middlebrooks, also preceded her in death. Margaret is survived by sons William J. Dyer, Clifton E. Dyer, and Braven L. Dyer, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

The sympathies of Middlebrooks Family Association go out to the family of this Thomas (1763) descendant.

Harry Matthews Oldham, Jr., MD, died April 14, 2008, at Trinity Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. Harry was born in Rome, Georgia, August 3, 1934, to Harry Matthews Oldham and Martha Middlebrooks Oldham, an Isaac (1753) descendant.

Harry received his M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia in 1962. He served in the Navy, at the United States Naval Hospital in Key West, Florida, from 1967-1969, after which he established private practice in Augusta, Georgia. Harry served as Chief of Staff of St. Joseph Hospital from 1990-1991. During his forty years at St. Joseph, he delivered over 6,000 babies.

Harry is survived by his wife of fifty years, Billie Ann Strickland Oldham, daughters Stacey Oldham Saunders and Kimberley Oldham Dismukes, sons Harry Matthews Oldham III and Gregory Strickland Oldham, five granddaughters, and six grandsons.

A memorial service was held April 17, 2008, at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Augusta. Middlebrooks Family Association extends our sympathies to Harry's family.

Ralph Lowell Cooper departed this world May 1, 2008. Lowell was born in Jack Co., Texas, August 24, 1932, to Ralph Raymond Cooper and Thomas (1763) descendant Iva Middlebrooks Cooper.

Lowell served on the Jack County Hospital Board and Jack County Farm Bureau. He retired from Anadarko Oil Company in Jacksboro after thirty-five years of service and was a farmer and rancher in the Post Oak, Texas, area until his death. In addition, Lowell was the owner and operator of Six C Oil, and he served two years in the Army as a young man.

Lowell was preceded in death by his birth father, his mother, and the dad whom he loved and who raised him, Ellis Stark. He is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Rosemary Simons Cooper; daughters Pam Cooper Wolf and Paula Cooper Epperson; sons Mark Cooper and Michael Cooper; sister Lilly May Stark West; and nine grandchildren. Lowell was also the cousin of MFA members Joyce Arnold and Jarrelyn Lang.

Funeral services were held May 4, 2008, at the First Baptist Church in Jacksboro, Texas, with burial in Oakwood Cemetery in Jacksboro. Middlebrooks Family Association extends deepest sympathies to all of Lowell's family.

Thomas Lawrence Middlebrook Sr. passed away May 21, 2008. Thomas was born in Whitney, Texas, January 6, 1921, to W.T. (Talbot) and Lelia Agnes Morgan Middlebrook. He attended Hillsboro Junior College, where he met Evelyn Frances Allen. They were married August 13, 1941. He spent time in Civil Service and served in Korea while in the Army.

Thomas and his father owned the Middlebrook Grocery & Market from 1951 to 1960, when Thomas became sole owner. After closing the business in 1979, he became a butcher, a trade he continued until his retirement at age 80. He was a member of the Whitney Church of Christ and of VFW.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and one sister. Survivors include his wife Frances Middlebrook; sons Thomas Lawrence Middlebrook Jr., Gary Allen Middlebrook, and Charles Keith Middlebrook; daughter Sharron Middlebrook Booth; one sister, twenty-one grandchildren, thirty-eight great grandchildren, five great-great grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were held May 21, 2008, in the Whitney Church of Christ, with burial in the Bethlehem Cemetery. Middlebrooks Family Association conveys its sympathies to the family of this Robert (1766) descendant.

Sharron Middlebrook Booth, a Robert (1766) descendant, departed this world May 20, 2008, just one day after losing her father, Thomas Lawrence Middlebrook Sr. Born in Hillsboro, Texas, October 3, 1944, Sharron was a lifelong member of the Whitney Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by a great granddaughter. Survivors include her husband, Ronnie Booth; mother, Frances Middlebrook; son, Aaron Booth; daughters Donna Booth Russell, Sherri Booth Andrews, Missy Booth Kirby, and Mishelle Booth Claridy; three brothers, eighteen grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Graveside services were held at the Bethlehem Cemetery May 23, 2008. MFA wishes to extend our sympathies to all of Sharron's family.

Elinor Louise Watson Middlebrooks left her earthly life in Macon, Georgia, behind on May 20, 2008, at the age of eighty-one. Services were held May 23 at Ingleside United Methodist Church, with burial in Macon Memorial Park.

After graduating from Georgia College for Women, Elinor taught in Cuba and, later on, in Atlanta and Macon, Georgia.

Elinor was preceded in death by her parents, Hubert and Annalu Watson. She is survived by her husband, Robert (1766) descendant Paul Middlebrooks; a son, David Middlebrooks; a daughter, Julie Middlebrooks Sutton; and four grandchildren.

We at Middlebrooks Family Association offer our sympathies to Elinor's family.

Jane Middlebrook Nash Creel Higbee, M.D., 91, of Salisbury, North Carolina, died June 3, 2008. Born in Palestine, Texas, on April 6, 1917, she was the daughter of C(leve) C(rumby) Nash, M.D., and Jewell Middlebrook Nash, a Thomas (1763) descendant.

Jane attended Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She received her M.D. from the University of Texas School of Medicine in Galveston, Texas. Jane had a long career in psychiatry, working for many public and private institutions.

An avid reader and lifelong lover of classical music, Jane is survived by sons Richard Nash Creel and Sidney Lee Higbee, daughter Catherine Higbee Maze, brother C.C. Nash Jr., and a sister, Eugenia Nash Belden.

MFA sends our sympathies to Jane's family.

Review of Middlebrooks Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina, Records

Part III of III: Estates of Henry Dixon Jr. and Charles Dixon; Middlebrooks Land in Caswell Co., NC; Anne Middlebrooks's land conveyances; Isaac Middlebrooks's land conveyances; John Middlebrooks's land conveyances; Anne Middlebrooks and Richard Boggess; Leaving Caswell Co., NC
Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

The Estate of Henry Dixon Jr., in account with the Estate of Charles Dixon

As mentioned earlier, both Henry and Charles Dixon are close friends and neighbors of the Middlebrooks in the Hogan's Creek area. The will of Henry Dixon, Jr. was recorded August 4, 1795, and Charles Dixon's will was recorded November 24, 1805, both in Caswell County.⁵⁶ The estate papers for Henry Dixon Jr. list the following entries on an account ledger for Middlebrooks:

"Sept, 1784, To pd. Anne Middlebrooks for Boarding Bob Dixon to go to School £5."

"Sept 1, 1786, To Pd. Middlebrooks for Coopers work, £2, 4 schillings."

"Nov 10, 1784, To cash Pd. John Middlebrooks for Wheel 8 schillings."⁵⁷

Another item found in these estate papers is a letter dated August 13, 1783, and witnessed by John Middlebrooks and Ruth Bogess. Tillman Dixon wrote the letter to the Sheriff of Caswell County demanding payment of 36 pounds, 10 schillings to the estate of his father, Henry Dixon Jr. Decd. from Samuel Jones.

Other friends and neighbors mentioned in the estate papers include: James Boggis; John Bullock; Charles Burton; Franky, Susan, Martha (wife of Henry Dixon Jr. Decd.), Roger, Elizabeth, Henry, Robert, and Wynn Dixon; Joel McDaniel; James Miller; Pleasant and Col. Peter Perkins; and James and John Somers.

Middlebrooks Land in Caswell County, North Carolina

The first occurrence found of Middlebrooks land ownership begins with a warrant dated November 6, 1778, which would have been issued after Anne Middlebrooks made the initial entry for her property. The property consisted of 640 acres joining the line of Samuel Bullock on the waters of Hogan's Creek, and two including improvements bought from James Miller. What the improvements are is not known.

The final state patent for this land was not issued until the following year, on August 18, 1787.⁵⁸ The town of Providence, established some years later, is believed to be located near, or actually on, part of this parcel of land. Anne paid a total of 320 schillings for these 640 acres.

It is quite likely that many of the settlers were living on their land at the time they made their land entries. The complete land entry process would have consisted of a written land description in the county entry book, a payment of

the required fees, and then a wait through the three-month protest period before a warrant was issued to survey the land.

On October 1, 1781, John Middlebrooks began the same land entry process as his mother to purchase thirty acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek. The State patent was issued the same day as his mother's, on August 18, 1787.⁵⁹ Likewise, on December 21, 1785, Isaac Middlebrooks started the land entry process for twenty and one-half acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek, with the State patent also being issued August 18, 1787.⁶⁰

Anne Middlebrooks's land conveyances

August 31, 1782. Anne Middlebrooks, for the love of her son, Isaac, conveys to him 195 acres along the south side of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Henry Dixon, part of a larger tract. Witnesses: Presly Lutteral, Robert Lyon, and Abram Perkins.⁶¹

March 17, 1788. Anne Middlebrooks of Caswell County confirms the sale of 100 acres lying in Caswell County to Joel Cannon, adjoining Henry Dixon, being land Joel Cannon bought of Isaac Middlebrooks. Witnesses: John Middlebrooks, William Carmon, and James Perkins.⁶²

February 4, 1790. Anne Middlebrooks conveys 100 acres of the waters of Hogan's Creek to Captain John Sommers, adjoining Ware, Bullock, and John Middlebrooks. Witnesses: James Grant Jr. and John Middlebrooks.⁶³

October 16, 1795. Anne Middlebrooks conveys 109 acres on the waters of Hogan's Creek to James Grant Jr., adjoining Joel Kennon and John Sommers. Witnesses: William Norton, William Dixson, and Peter Smith.⁶⁴

December 30, 1795. Anne Middlebrooks conveys 237 acres lying in Caswell County to Wynn Dixon, adjoining Joel Kennon and Charles Dixon. Witnesses: Robert Dixon, Moley (Molly) Middlebrooks, Arter (Arthur) Toney.⁶⁵

December 12, 1801. Adjacent to Middlebrooks, the sale of 278.75 acres from Richard Boggess to Joel McDaniel, on the waters of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, where Boggess now lives, part of grant from State 1787. Witnesses: Robert Mitchell and Silva Stokes.⁶⁶

By December 30, 1795, Anne Middlebrooks has disposed of all her 640 acres of land in Caswell County. Her land sales listed above total 740 acres instead of 640 acres. The North Carolina State Grant entry was made on November 15, 1778, and the patent issued August 18, 1787, was for 640 acres. The 100-acre difference, land sold to Joel Cannon on March 17, 1788, is thought to be from a previous land grant issued to Isaac Middlebrooks (born 1727). Some researchers contend this was a 100-acre Granville District grant (or part of a larger grant) that was not issued before the office closed in 1763, which was later (in 1788) recognized by the State of North Carolina.

Isaac Middlebrooks's land conveyances

August 31, 1782. Anne Middlebrooks, for her love to son, Isaac Middlebrooks, gave him 195 acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek, Caswell

County, North Carolina, adjoining Henry Dixon, part of a larger tract. Witnesses: Presly Luttrell, Robert Lyon, and Abram Perkins.⁶⁷

October 8, 1786. Isaac Middlebrooks of Jackson County, Georgia, sold 382 acres along Moon's Creek to Abram Perkins of Fluvanna County, Virginia, adjoining James Miller, Bullock's claim, Anne Middlebrooks, and John Perkins. Witnesses: Charles and Henry Dixon, Jessie (Jesse) Perkins.⁶⁸

October 8, 1796. Isaac Middlebrooks of Jackson County, Georgia, conveys 20½ acres of land adjacent to Dixe's Road, Anne Middlebrooks on Hogan's Creek, to Charles Dixon of Caswell County, North Carolina. Witnesses: Jesse Perkins, Robert Boman, and Peter Smith.⁶⁹

November 27, 1792. Sheriff's sale of 137 acres on Hogan's Creek belonging to John Bullock sold to Jessie Carter to satisfy debt, adjoining Isaac Middlebrooks, widow Grayham, said land granted to Bullock, by State.⁷⁰

July 26, 1803. Isaac Middlebrooks is an adjacent landowner to the sale of 137 acres from Jessie (Jesse) Carter of Caswell County, North Carolina, to James Burton of same, on Hogan's Creek, adjoining Widow Grayham and Miller. Witnesses: Griffin Gunn and John Payne.⁷¹

The deed for 187 acres of land acquired by Isaac has not been discovered. He sold 382 acres to his father-in-law, Abram Perkins, in 1786, when only a total of 215½ acres are reported in existing deeds. It is also interesting to note in the deed records that Isaac is referred to as an adjacent landowner as late as July 26, 1803.

John Middlebrooks's land conveyances

September 17, 1788. Richard Boggass of Caswell County sells 202 acres to John Middlebrooks, of same, on Hogan's Creek, adjoining Boggass, tract granted him by State, and Charles Burton. Witnesses: James Grant Jr. and Sims Middlebrooks.⁷²

November 10, 1795. John Middlebrooks of Caswell County sold 202 acres to Jesse Carter and James Burton, of same, on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Boggass (tract granted by State) and Charles Burton. Witnesses: Jesse Perkins and W. Dixon.⁷³

December 1, 1801. John Middlebrooks is an adjacent landowner to the sale of 100 acres from John Summers to James Burton on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Ware and Bullock. Witnesses: Joel McDaniel and Marady Price.⁷⁴

It appears that John acquired the 202 acres from Richard Boggass as early as 1784. He was assessed for 232 acres (202 acres + 30 acres = 232 acres) on the 1784 tax list; the recording of the deed must have been delayed until 1788. The reference to John as an adjacent landowner, on December of 1801, could be for his thirty-acre tract not yet sold. No deed of sale has been found for his thirty acres.

Anne Middlebrooks and Richard Boggess

Some researchers believe that Anne Middlebrooks married Richard Boggess ca. 1795, in Caswell County.⁷⁵ Richard Boggess was a neighbor on Hogan's Creek and a friend of the Middlebrooks; however, no marriage bond has been discovered. Indirect evidence to support this claim is the signature of *Ann Boggess* on a deed record when 278.75 acres was sold by Richard Boggess to Joel McDaniel on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, on December 12, 1801, adjacent to the Middlebrooks.⁷⁶

The first record of Richard Boggess in Orange County was when he was a witness to the will of Stephen Norton, in July 1773. Then on July 31, 1775, he was a witness to the will of James Terry (Will Book A, Pg. 71).⁷⁷ Next, Richard Boggess was issued a patent of 445 acres on Hogan's Creek, on August 18, 1787, by the State of North Carolina.⁷⁸ The initial entry for this Hogan's Creek land was probably much earlier, ca. 1778. A Richard Boges was also listed on the 1777 tax list for 215 acres in the Caswell District.⁷⁹ Moreover, the 1784 tax list reported Richard Boggess as being assessed for 232 acres.⁸⁰ Then on September 17, 1788, Richard Boggess sold 202 acres on Hogan's Creek to John Middlebrooks.⁸¹ He next was recorded on a list of State Fines returned in 1790-91 (Will Book B, Pg. 379).⁸² In 1801 and 1802, he was enumerated on a list of insolvents for Caswell (Will Book E, Pg. 23, 38).⁸³ This means, even after selling his property, he did not have enough money to pay his taxes for those two years. On the 1803 tax list, a Richard Boggess is listed with no land.⁸⁴

Leaving Caswell County, North Carolina

We believe that Isaac (born 1727) died in 1771 and is buried near Hogan's Creek. If we accept the notion that Anne Middlebrooks married Richard Boggess (Boges, Boggus, Boggas, Boggers) ca. 1795, based on her co-signing a deed of her husband on December 1, 1801, then Anne could have been residing in Caswell County in 1801. A Richard Boggess was also reported in the 1803 List of Taxables for Caswell County, with no land. It is not known if Anne died in Caswell County or left sometime after 1803. No record of Anne Middlebrooks or Richard Boggess has been found in Caswell after 1803. If one speculates that Anne was born about 1726, by 1800 she would have been in her seventies.

Isaac (born 1753) and Elizabeth (Perkins) Middlebrooks are reported to have left Caswell County around 1787-88 and moved to Abbeville, South Carolina.⁸⁵ Having moved to Jackson County, Georgia, Isaac sells the remainder of his land, 382 and 20½ acres, on October 8, 1796, to Abram Perkins Jr. and Charles Dixon, respectively.

John (born 1755) and Millie (Sutton) Middlebrooks have moved to Hancock County, Georgia, by 1794.⁸⁶ It appears that John still owned land in Caswell County as late as December 1801, when he is mentioned as an adjacent landowner. This must be his State grant of thirty acres originally adjacent to his mother's 640-acre tract.

Micajah Middlebrooks (born 1760) is believed to have left Caswell County before 1793, when he is reported on the Muster Roll of Riflemen for Green County, Georgia, in 1793.⁸⁷ No Caswell County court, land, tax, or census records have been discovered for Micajah.

Sims Middlebrooks (born 1762/64) has moved to Wilkes County, Georgia, by 1794.⁸⁸ The only record for Sims in Caswell County is when he is reported as a witness to a deed between Richard Boggas and John Middlebrooks, his brother, on September 17, 1788.

Thomas Middlebrooks (born 1763) arrives in Hancock County, Georgia, ca. 1792/93, with the rest of his brothers – John, Sims, Joseph, Micajah, and Robert.⁸⁹ The only record for Thomas in Caswell County records is when he is listed in the 1786 census with his mother, Anne, and brothers Isaac and John.

Robert Middlebrooks (born 1766) is thought to have moved from Caswell County to Hancock County, Georgia, as early as 1797.⁹⁰ The first record of Robert in Hancock County was in 1801. No record of Robert has been found in Orange or Caswell County. He is listed in the *Register* as a son of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks.

Joseph Middlebrooks (born 1770) leaves Caswell County ca. 1794 and moves to Hancock County, Georgia.⁹¹ This is the last son born to Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks, before his father's death in 1771, and he is listed in the *Register* as their son.

The *Register* lists three more sons: David (born 1759 – died 1829); James (born ca. 1759 – died young); and Garland (born ca. 1774).⁹² The date given for Garland's birth was after the death of his father; Isaac died in 1771. No North Carolina records have been found for these three sons of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks.

⁵⁶ Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina, Will Books 1777-1814. Raleigh, NC: Privately published, 1979. 49,100.

⁵⁷ Estate Records of Caswell County, North Carolina, C.R. 020.508 box 20, NC State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

⁵⁸ Caswell County, Deed Book D. Pg. 362-3, #899, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁵⁹ Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 334, #864.

⁶⁰ Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 286, #872.

⁶¹ Caswell County, Deed Book A, Pg. 602, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁶² Caswell County, Deed Book E, Pg. 186, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁶³ Caswell County, Deed Book H, Pg. 118-19, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁶⁴ Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 152-53, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁶⁵ Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 182-83.

⁶⁶ Caswell County, Deed Book M. Pg. 164-65, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁶⁷ Caswell County, Deed Book A. Pg. 602.

⁶⁸ Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg 349-50.

⁶⁹ Caswell County, Deed Book H, Pg. 349-50.

⁷⁰ Caswell County, Deed Book N, Pg. 54-5, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁷¹ Caswell County, Deed Book N, PG. 58-9.

⁷² Caswell County, Deed Book F, Pg. 117-18, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁷³ Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 156-57.

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- ⁷⁴ Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg. 170.
- ⁷⁵ Goodrum, *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, 10.
- ⁷⁶ Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg. 164-65.
- ⁷⁷ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-181*. 3,4.
- ⁷⁸ Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 270, #896.
- ⁷⁹ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, 26.
- ⁸⁰ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, 136.
- ⁸¹ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, 108.
- ⁸² Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 33.
- ⁸³ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 89.
- ⁸⁴ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, 41.
- ⁸⁵ Goodrum, 13.
- ⁸⁶ Goodrum, 30.
- ⁸⁷ Goodrum, 42.
- ⁸⁸ Goodrum, 54.
- ⁸⁹ Goodrum, 86.
- ⁹⁰ Goodrum, 65.
- ⁹¹ Goodrum, 85.
- ⁹² Middlebrook, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield, Connecticut*, 46.

HILLSBORO, TEXAS

JULY 17, 18, 19, 2008

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