

*Quarterly Newsletter
of the*

**MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Founded 2001

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Editor,
Jarrelyn Lang

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Assistant Editor,
Dianne Middlebrooks

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ON-GOING PROJECTS

Cemetery Project – J.A. MIDDLEBROOKS

MFA Website – DAVE CLARK and
LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS

DNA Project – BOB MIDDLEBROOKS and
DAVE CLARK

Family Repository – JEAN SHROYER

Family *Register* Update – LEONARD
MIDDLEBROOKS

Military *Register* Update – KERRY

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This year's family meeting will be in Hope, Arkansas. With the continuing escalation in postal rates and the very low return from mailed announcements, MFA has discontinued public mailers. Previously we have mailed, typically 500 mailers, to Middlebrook/e/s in the meeting place's general vicinity. This year we will advertise locally and depend on family members to spread the word. Team leaders are to contact their group(s) and ask each of you to spread the word as well as to attend.

We have returned to an early fall meeting time. This will hopefully eliminate the conflicts with family visits and be a slightly cooler time of the year. Arkansas is a wonderful state and will make a wonderful backdrop for our annual meeting, both in scenery and in family history.

If your local newspaper has a family-interest ad section, you can assist by placing a local announcement. Contact Henry Middlebrook, henrym@bga.com, for ad text. Let's get this year's meeting information to as many relatives as possible.

The 2009 *Register* update is progressing, ever so slowly. File cleanup and documentation is tedious and does take additional time, but, as I tell my group, "document as you go." I sure wish that I had followed my own advice years ago. Even if it is a flaky source, make note of it. It will save you many minutes when you come back to a piece of event data and wonder where it came from.

Currently I am working on the Connecticut branch of the family. This group started out small and was stagnant for some time. Now these family members are showing more interest in their history. Part is due to increased exposure to our Web site, part is due to member interaction, and part is due to being retired, with more time to devote to one's history. The problem with being retired is that there seems to be less time to get things done.

Two things in closing: One – send your update information to your group leader as soon as possible. Two – please spread the word about the annual meeting. I hope to see each of you in Hope, Arkansas.

– Leonard



The **handshake** has its origins in medieval history. By offering a right hand to a stranger, a hand that could otherwise be used to draw a sword, men were overtly displaying their intentions of peace toward one another. It is still a custom to "shake on it" as a sign of agreement between nations or just between friends. (10 Everyday Mysteries – MSN Encarta)

**MFA Meeting/Reunion
Hope, Arkansas
August 13-15, 2009
“Bridges from the Past”**

Thursday August 13th

BancorpSouth Farmhouse, Patmos Road

Morning

Registration and Meet & Greet – Review of activities

Lunch

Williams’ Tavern Restaurant at Historic Washington State Park

Afternoon

Tour of Historic Washington State Park

Research at Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives –
Peggy Lloyd & Gail Martin, archivists

Dinner

BancorpSouth Farmhouse (Catered)

Friday August 14th

BancorpSouth Farmhouse

Morning

Registration

Presentations by Neal Middlebrook, Henry Middlebrooks,
and Charles Middlebrooks

Lunch

Hope – TBA

Afternoon

Research at Hempstead County Courthouse and City
Library, Genealogy Room

Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Peggy Lloyd* of SARA

Saturday August 15th

BancorpSouth Farmhouse

Morning

Registration

Presentation by Mary Nell Turner**, Hempstead County
Genealogical Society
MFA President’s and Projects Reports

Discussion Groups

Lunch	Farmhouse – Working Lunch (Catered)
Afternoon	Field Trips to Homesteads, Cemeteries, Churches, Schools, and Towns
	Meeting Critique and Close-out at Farmhouse
Dinner	Family Social and Dinner – Restaurant TBA

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***Peggy Lloyd** is a native of Hope, Arkansas. She graduated from Southern State College (now the University of South Arkansas) in Magnolia, Arkansas, in 1965, with a BA in English and history. She earned an MA in English at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1967, before joining the Peace Corps and spending two years in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a teacher of English. After returning to the States, she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to study history.

In 2002, Peggy moved back to Hope. She became curator of the Nevada County Depot and Museum in Prescott, Arizona, in early 2003 and served in that position for nearly three years. In November 2005, she became the Archival manager of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas, now a branch of the Arkansas History Commission. Peggy's research interests are the history of Southwest Arkansas, cemetery preservation, African-American history, maps, history of the land, and family history.

****Mary Nell Turner**, also a Hope native, received her education in Hope schools and at Henderson State Teachers College (now Henderson State University), in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where she earned her BA degree in Business Administration. In 1946, after her husband's return from serving the U.S. Army in the Pacific area, they returned to Hope.

Mary's teaching career of twenty-eight years began in two rural schools and ended at Hope High School, where she taught journalism and sponsored the school yearbook and newspaper.

She has edited the Hempstead County Historical Society *Journal*, the Hempstead Genealogical Society's *Hempstead Trails*, the First Baptist Church *Mailout*, and The Delta Kappa Gamma *Kappa State News*. In addition, several of her feature stories were published in the late *Arkansas Gazette*.

Mary Nell has been a member of the First Baptist Church for more than fifty years. Other community activities have included serving on the Southwest Arkansas Arts Council Board, the Clinton Birthplace Board, and the Rose Hill Cemetery Board. She has held offices in Arkansas Press Women and in Arkansas Daughters of the American Revolution. The Hempstead-Hope Chamber of Commerce honored Mary as their Teacher of the Year in 1974 and as their Citizen of the Year in 1995.

GENEALOGY BOOKS FOR SALE

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

The Ancestors and Descendants of James L. and Francis D. Middlebrooks of Hempstead County, Arkansas, by Neal R. Middlebrook, chronicles the migration of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks, the son of Isaac R. Middlebrooks, from Jones County, Georgia, to Hempstead County, Arkansas. The migrations of other allied families are also documented. Isaac R. Middlebrooks is the son of Sims Middlebrook, born 1762 in Orange County, North Carolina.

The descendants of Samuel Cannon's eldest son, James L., James's wife Francis D. Hinton, and their allied families residing in Hempstead County 1850-1960 are discussed in detail. Throughout the book, many old photos of relatives, court documents, vital records, homestead maps, and gravestones are provided. Other topics include family migrations, military service, schools, churches, cemeteries, and family stories.

Printed: 373 pages, 8.5" x 11", perfect binding, white interior paper (50# weight), black and white interior ink, white exterior paper (100# weight), full-color exterior ink.

If you would like to order a copy of *The Ancestors and Descendants of James L. and Francis D. Middlebrooks of Hempstead County, Arkansas*, please follow the link below. Let Neal know – susan.middlebrook1@verizon.net – if you have any questions, and feel free to share this link with other family members.

<http://www.lulu.com/content/5231134>

MARCH SALE ON GENEALOGY BOOKS, from Mountain Press: These are books that are no longer listed in the Mountain Press catalog. There are only one or two copies for each of the books, all available on a first-come-first-served basis. To reserve books, call the Mountain Press office at 423-886-6369, send a fax to 423-886-5312, or e-mail them at jimd@mountainpress.com. Their entire collection can be viewed at www.mountainpress.com.

NORTH CAROLINA:

Cowpens Battlefield – a Walking Guide, Lawrence E. Babits – soft cover, vi-74 pgs. - \$5.00

A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina, Bisher & Southern – soft cover, viii-191 pgs., many photographs of towns and railroads - \$40.00

TENNESSEE:

Place Names of Tennessee, Ralph Fullerton – soft cover, a listing of all the place names by counties that appear on the USGA seven-minute maps of the state, with map number and titles, 425 pgs. - \$20.00

1850 Tennessee Census, Sistler – 4 volumes, the entire state listed alphabetically by last name of the head of household – was \$350.00 per set, one set available for \$250.00

1880 Index to East Tennessee, Sistler – one volume, hard cover – was \$54.00, now \$45.00

1880 Index to Middle Tennessee, Sistler – one volume, hard cover – was @120.00, now \$75.00

1880 Index to West Tennessee, Sistler – one volume, hard cover – now \$75.00
1880 Census, Weakley County, TN, Sistler – soft cover, 140 pgs. - \$15.00
1880 Census, Sumner County, TN, Sistler – soft cover, 134 pgs. - \$15.00
1880 Census, Putnam County, TN, Sistler – soft cover, 61 pgs. - \$10.00
1880 Census, Marshall County, TN, Sistler – soft cover, 113 pgs. - \$12.50
1880 Census, Jefferson County, TN, Sistler – soft cover, 101 pgs. - \$12.50
1880 Census, Hawkins County, TN, Sistler – soft cover, 148 pgs. - \$16.50
Thrilling Adventures of Daniel Ellis, Daniel Ellis – hard cover, 438 pgs., the story of east Tennessee during the four years of the Civil War - \$22.50
East Tennessee and the Civil War, Oliver P. Temple – hard cover, xviii-588 pgs. - \$28.50
Torchlights to the Cherokees, Robert Sparks Walker – hard cover, x-344 pgs. - \$22.50
History of the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, Alexander Eckel – hard cover, 150 pgs. - \$20.00
History of the Thirteenth Regiment – Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry U.S.A., Scott & Angel – hard cover, 520 pgs. - \$20.00
Life of General John Sevier, Francis Marion Turner – hard cover, xiv-128 pgs – \$16.50
John Sevier as a Commonwealth-BUILDER, James R. Gilmore – hard cover, xvi-336 pgs. - \$18.50
Jewish Community of Chattanooga [Hamilton County], Joy E.A. Adams – soft cover, 127 pgs., mostly photographs - \$15.00
Historic Sullivan, Oliver Taylor – hard cover, xvi-442 pgs. - \$28.50
Sullivan County, Dena Williams Porter – soft cover, vi-54 pgs., lots of photographs - \$6.00
Ervin [Unicoi County], Viola Ruth E. Swingle – hard cover, 60 pgs. - \$8.50

TEXAS:

Texas Mortality Schedules – 1850-1860, Kathryn Hooper Davis - \$28.50
Tales From the Old Stone Fort, Devereaux – six tales of the early development of Texas – \$10.00
Judges of the Republic of Texas – 1836-1848, Ericson – a biographical sketch of each of the various judges, hard back - \$20.00
The First Settlers of Austin Co., TX - \$10.00
Coleman Co., TX Marriage Records – 1873-1890, Emma Barrett Reeves – \$9.00
Land Certificates From Harris Co., TX 1838 Class 1, G. White – \$12.50
Lamar Co., TX Marriage Records 1841-1874, Ingmire – \$12.50
Leon Co., TX Marriage Records 1885-1910, NSDAR – \$20.00
First Settlers of Matagorda Co., TX, Gifford White – \$12.50
1847 Nacogdoches Co., TX Census, Carolyn R. Ericson – \$6.00
Nacogdoches Co., TX Cemetery Records Vol. 2 - \$15.00
Nacogdoches Co., TX Marriage Records 1889-1894, Carolyn Ericson – \$10.00
1850 Panola Co., TX Census, Kathryn Hooper Davis - \$10.00
Rains Co., TX Marriage Records Book 1&2, June Applen - \$9.50
Rusk Co., TX Marriage Records 1843-1877, Francis T. Ingmire - \$10.00
1835 Sabine Co., TX Census, Schluter - \$12.50
1880 Sabine Co., TX Census, Toole & Speights - \$12.50
Sabine Co., TX Marriages 1875-1900, Toole - \$12.50
1900 Shelby Co., TX Census, Kathryn Hooper Davis - \$20.00

1910 Shelby Co., TX Census, Kathryn Hooper Davis - \$35.00

LOUISIANA:

First Settlers of the Louisiana Territory Vol. 2 - \$20.00

1850 Sabine Parish, LA Census, Kathryn Hooper Davis - \$15.00

MARYLAND:

Westward of Fort Cumberland – Military Lots set off for Maryland's Revolutionary Soldiers, Mary K. Meyer [with an appended list of Revolutionary soldiers granted pensions by the state of Maryland] – soft cover, xiv-203 pgs. - \$18.50

FAMILY BOOKS:

Walking With the Walkers, Edward R. Walker III – soft cover, xii-114 pgs. - \$8.00



Hope, Arkansas, a small town in the southwestern part of the state, is the birthplace of former President Bill Clinton. The Clinton Center preserves the President's first home, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is open for tours.

The word *Arkansas* is from the French interpretation of the Sioux word *acansa*, meaning "downstream place."

Arkansas has over 600,000 acres of lakes, 9,700 miles of streams and rivers, six national park sites, 2.5 million acres of national forests, seven national scenic byways, three state scenic byways, and 50 state parks.

Notables who have enjoyed bathing in the state's Hot Springs National Park include Franklin Roosevelt, Babe Ruth, and Al Capone. Forty-seven hot springs flow from the southwestern slope of Hot Springs Mountain, at an average temperature of 143°F.

Sam Walton founded his Wal-Mart stores in Bentonville, Arkansas. General Douglas MacArthur was born in Little Rock in 1880. Musician and composer Scott Joplin was born in Texarkana.

Other famous people from Arkansas: poet Maya Angelou; baseball player Lou Brock; football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant; singers Johnny Cash and Glen Campbell; Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones; NBA star Scottie Pippen

(50states.com/facts/arkansas; hotspringsrealestate.com/facts-and-trivia)

MARVIN MIDDLEBROOKS AND THE SPARTA DRUGSTORE

Contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks

In an article published in the *Atlanta Constitution*, Celestine Sibley tells about the Sparta Drugstore in Sparta, Georgia, owned and operated by Marvin Middlebrooks, and of the many people she spoke with who "associated [it] with childhood illnesses, childhood joys, and a more tranquil and innocent day when a walk down Main Street with your girl to have a chocolate ice cream soda was a joy indeed."

Marion Stapleton, who grew up in Mayfield, Georgia, located on the outskirts of Sparta on the Ogeechee River, was the town's piano teacher and organist for the Methodist Church. Marion recalled that her aunt, Miss Susie Yarborough, was courted by Dr. Middlebrooks until her death at the age of fifty years. Mrs. Stapleton described Marvin as "a delightful bachelor [and] a member of one of Sparta's old and distinguished families."

A friend of Mrs. Sibley's, John Rozier, related that his grandfather, Edward A. Rozier, was the original founder/owner of the store later run by Marvin Middlebrooks. The store was first called Rozier's, then Rozier's & Vardeman's, then Rozier's and Middlebrooks's, and finally Marvin Middlebrooks's store.

John Rozier said that his aunt, Mrs. E.C. Miller, often told of the appearance of ice cream at the drugstore each April 26, Confederate Memorial Day. After the children marched from school to place flowers on the graves at the cemetery, they would be dismissed for the remainder of the day. Many went straight to the drugstore, then owned by Rozier's father, to be treated with the first ice cream of the spring.

Marvin Middlebrooks's family is descended from Methodist ministers, one of whom was Bishop George F. Pierce, one of the 19th century's most powerful preachers. As of early 1999, the Pierce home still stood. The white-columned home, a Sparta landmark, was used as one of the buildings for the Sparta Female Academy, which operated in the early 1830s.

Rozier told of a Miss Middlebrooks, probably related to Marvin, who left Hancock County and went to Oklahoma "to give some teaching to the Indians." Returning to Sparta, she taught many years there. Among her pupils were John Rozier's grandmother, his mother, and John himself, as well as hundreds of other Sparta children.

A Sparta citizen by the name of Herbert Bowers wrote of his experiences working in the drugstore: "I worked in [the store] for 48 years as Dr. E.A. Reese's assistant. He bought the store after the death of Mr. Marvin Middlebrooks in 1927. There were some handsome fixtures in the front part of the store, which were installed in 1912, as was the counter. I rolled many pills on that counter and made up ointments of different kinds. I have pleasant memories of my work there."

Another Spartan, John Gaissert, writes: "Mr. Marvin, the name by which all citizens of Sparta and Hancock County referred to him, was a native-born, most-loved man. He was born in 1871 and died in 1927. I stood as a 13-year-old Boy Scout as we lined the walkway from the house to the street that day in 1927 when this grand man was carried to his final resting place." Mr. Gaissert, 71 years of age in 1999 when Mrs. Sibley wrote her column, had access to the day book that Middlebrooks kept, which recorded daily every item bought in his drugstore. Mr. Gaissert tells of one entry, recorded on the day he was born. Gaissert's father, in his excitement, had left home without any money and charged ten cents for a package of cigarettes, duly recorded in the record book on June 9, 1913, and paid for the next day.

Gaissert goes on to say, "The first pill that found its way down my gullet was rolled in that old drugstore, if not by the good doctor (Middlebrooks) himself, then by his trusty assistant, the late Dr. Edward Alfriend Reese. We didn't call him 'doctor' either, just plain Ed by young and old."

As an example of how the old drugstore figured into the social life as well as the physical well-being of the area, Mr. Gaissert related that, after church and Sunday School, Mr. Middlebrooks broke the Sabbath-closing tradition of the community by holding a sort of open house for one hour. During this time, free Coca-Cola®, mixed the night before in gallon jugs, was served up to all comers in six-ounce glasses.

Mrs. Sibley speaks of her conversation with Mrs. Harry Middlebrooks of Thomaston, Georgia. Mrs. Middlebrooks's late husband was a brother of Marvin Middlebrooks. When Marvin died in 1927, he left the drugstore to his nephews, who ran it themselves for a time before selling it to Dr. Reese.

Information from "Old Drugstore Shelf Now Has a Full History" and "Memories of a Counter Culture," by Celestine Sibley, published in the *Atlanta Constitution* in early 1999. (Mrs. Sibley had purchased the counter from Middlebrooks's drugstore at an antique shop and researched its history for these two columns.)

TOYS HAVE BIRTHDAYS, TOO

In 2008, the game of Scrabble® celebrated its 60th birthday. The 64-pack of Crayola® crayons and Lego® bricks reached the half-century mark.

Other toys celebrating birthdays in 2008:

45 years old:

Easy-Bake Oven®

40 years old:

Hot Wheels®

25 years old:

My Little Pony®

Trivial Pursuit®

Cabbage Patch Kids®

20 years old:

Barney® the dinosaur

From Southwest Airlines' *Spirit* magazine, July 2008.

Madam C.J. Walker: America's First Self-Made Female Millionaire

By Jarrelyn Lang

"I am a woman who came from the cotton fields of the South. I was promoted from there to the washtub. Then I was promoted to the cook kitchen, and from there I promoted myself into the business of manufacturing hair goods and preparations." These words were spoken by Madam C.J. Walker as she introduced herself to the National Negro Business League at their 1912 convention. Five years later, this daughter of former slaves would own the largest company in the United States owned by an African American.

Sarah Breedlove was born to Owen and Minerva Breedlove on December 23, 1867, on a cotton plantation near Delta, Louisiana. Her parents had been slaves on Robert W. Burney's Parish farm, which was a battle-staging area during the Civil War. After the war, they chose to remain there as sharecroppers.

Sarah's parents died during an epidemic of yellow fever when she was seven years old. At first she and her older sister, Louvenia, stayed on the Delta plantation. In 1878 Sarah and Louvenia moved across the river to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where they obtained work as maids.

Sarah married Moses McWilliams when she was fourteen, largely to escape her sister's abusive husband. She and Moses had a daughter, Lelia. Sarah was widowed when Lelia was only two years old.

The young widow and her daughter moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where her four brothers—Alexander, James, Solomon, and Owen Jr.—worked as barbers. Sarah found work as a washerwoman and domestic. Though she herself had had a limited education, through hard work, she managed to see Lelia graduate from the St. Louis public schools and attend Knoxville College, a private college in Tennessee for African Americans. In addition, Sarah became involved with the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) there.

A second marriage, to John Davis in 1894, ended in 1903.

Shortly after moving to St. Louis, Sarah began to suffer from a scalp ailment that caused her to lose her hair. At the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, she met Annie Turnbo, a young African-American woman who was there to sell her hair-growing treatment. Sarah experimented with a variety of Malone's products as well as some of her own homemade remedies. In 1905 she became a sales agent for Turnbo and moved to Denver, Colorado. Before long, she had enough customers to quit working as a laundress, and she created her own hair care business.

Sarah met and married Charles Joseph Walker, a Denver newspaperman, in 1906. He was instrumental in developing advertising and promotional schemes for her products in various African American publications, as well as mail-order procedures.

In September 1906 the Walkers toured the country, promoting their products and training sales agents, while Lelia ran the mail-order operation from Denver. From 1908 to 1910, they operated a beauty training school, the Lelia College for Walker Hair Culturists, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1910 they moved their center of operations to Indianapolis, Indiana, and gathered a trusted group of individuals to run the company.

The marriage lasted only a few years (They divorced in 1910.), but from it Sarah developed a new professional name for herself and her company, the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company.

Walker traveled throughout the South and East, selling her products and teaching her hair-care methods. She established Lelia College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to train African-American hair stylists and beauticians. Lelia then moved to Pittsburgh to manage the school and the office that her mother had established there. Walker continued to travel extensively, introducing her preparations to African American women wherever she went.

Lelia (who had changed her name to A'Lelia Walker) moved to New York in 1913 to expand activities on the East Coast and to open another Lelia College.

Walker built an empire in the true American enterprise tradition—manufacturing the products in her own plant, employing a nationwide sales force to sell them, and owning the beauty shops that used and promoted her products. By 1917, the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company was the largest business in America owned by an African American, with an estimated annual intake of \$500,000. At one point, over 3,000 people were employed in her Indianapolis headquarters alone.

Following the East St. Louis Race Riot of 1917, Madam Walker devoted her time to seeing that lynching became a federal crime. She spoke at many National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) fundraisers for the anti-lynching effort throughout the Midwest and East and donated large sums of money to support that campaign. In that same year, she was honored by the NACW for making the largest contribution toward saving the home of abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

In 1918, Madam Walker built her dream home, Villa Lewaro, on Irvington-on-Hudson in New York City, designed by Vertner Tandy, the first registered African-American architect in the state of New York. The home, worth around \$250,000, was three stories high and boasted more than thirty rooms. Inside the home were such furnishings as an \$8,000 organ, bronze and marble statuary, cut glass candelabra, tapestries, and valuable paintings. Her neighbors included Jay Gould and John D. Rockefeller.

Walker died of kidney failure, and other complications resulting from hypertension, at Villa Lewaro on Sunday, May 25, 1919, at the age of 51. She was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Her obituary in *The New York Times* stated that "she spent \$10,000 every year for the education of young Negro men and women in Southern colleges and sent six youths to Tuskegee Institute every year."

Madam Walker became an inspiration to many black women. While lecturing to promote her own business, she empowered other women to enter the business world, also. She saw her personal wealth as a means to help promote and expand economic opportunities for others, especially African Americans. Agents in her company could earn from \$5 to \$15 a day, at a time when unskilled white laborers were making about \$11 a week.

Known for her philanthropy, Walker left two-thirds of her estate to educational institutions and charities, including the NAACP, the Tuskegee Institute, and Bethune-Cookman College, as well as various individuals, orphanages, retirement homes, YWCAs and YMCAs.

A'Lelia Walker carried on the traditions begun by her mother. She converted a section of her Harlem townhouse into a salon and tearoom, where Harlem and Greenwich Village artists, writers, and musicians of the 1920s gathered. Among those who frequented her tearoom was renowned poet Langston Hughes.

An employee of Madam Walker's empire, Marjorie Joyner, invented an improved permanent wave machine, patented in 1928, that curled women's hair for a relatively lengthy period of time. The machine was popular with women of every color because it created longer-lasting wavy hair

styles. Since the machine was patented by the Walker Company, Joyner was unable to profit directly from her invention. However, she went on to lead the next generation of African American beauty entrepreneurs.

Many books have been written about Madam Walker, the most recent being *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*, by her great-great granddaughter, A'Lelia Bundles (Scribner, 2001). In a review of another biography, *Her Dream of Dreams, the Rise and Triumph of Madam C.J. Walker*, Kevin Baker of *The Chicago Tribune* wrote: "[Madam Walker spent] the first thirty-seven years of her life eking out a living as a washerwoman and domestic. Yet before she was forty, she ran her own 'hair culture' business; by forty-five she was a philanthropist and an intimate of Booker T. Washington, the most renowned African American of her day; and by the time of her death in 1919, at the age of 51, she was an outspoken race advocate and probably the richest black woman in American history to that point; the owner of a thriving international corporation, a fleet of luxury cars, an elegant Harlem townhouse, and a spectacular Westchester estate that sat nearly in J.D. Rockefeller's backyard."

In 1993, Madam Walker was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Her profile on the Hall of Fame's website states: "Madam C.J. Walker – Sarah Breedlove – was a highly successful entrepreneur, widely considered to be the first African-American millionairess. Walker was known and respected not only for her business acumen but for her inspirational political and social advocacy and her philanthropy. . . . As the wealthiest African-American woman of her time, Walker used her prominent position to oppose racial discrimination and her massive wealth to support civic, educational, and social institutions to assist African-Americans."

Madam Walker was also honored with her own stamp on January 28, 1998, one of the stamps in the ongoing Black Heritage series.

"There is no royal, flower-strewn path to success. And if there is, I have not found it, for if I have accomplished anything in life, it is because I have been willing to work hard." –Madam C.J. Walker

Sources: Kevin Baker, review of *Her Dream of Dreams* for *The Chicago Tribune*, online; "Wealthiest Negress Dead," *New York Times* obituary, May 26, 1919, online; "Two American Entrepreneurs: Madam C.J. Walker and J.C. Penney," online; "Madam C.J. Walker," *Women in History: Living vignettes of notable women from U.S. history*, online; "Madam C.J. Walker," Wikipedia, online; "Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919)," *inventors.about.com*; "Madam C.J. Walker," *afroamhistory.about.com*; "Madam C.J. Walker," *Women of the Hall*, online.

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918 medals were awarded to the first African-American military pilots during World War II. A museum, located at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Alabama, honors their legacy.

Texas Journey (AAA, January/February 2009)

SOME APHORISMS

Contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke

An aphorism, which is sometimes referred to as an adage, can be defined as "a short, pointed sentence expressing a wise or clever observation of a general truth." Thanks, Bobbie, for sharing these:

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business meetings are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are worse things than getting a call at 4:00 A.M. that is a wrong number; it could be a right number.
12. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is losing.
13. Be careful reading the fine print. There is no way you are going to like it.
14. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
15. Money can't buy happiness, but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo.

Always be yourself. The people that matter don't mind, and the ones that mind don't matter.

Life is short. Break the rules. Forgive quickly. Kiss slowly. Love truly. Laugh uncontrollably. Never regret anything that makes you smile. Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we should DANCE.



A Parting of the Waves: From msncareerbuilder.com comes the news that hair parts can affect the way others perceive you. Men who part their hair on the left are often popular, successful, and perceived as strong. Women who part their hair on the left are considered reliable and intelligent.

Men with parts on the right are seen as radical and open. Women whose hair is parted on the right are viewed as gentle and feminine.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST GRISTMILL

Contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks

"Big" industry was brought to the little town of Juliette, located in Jones and Monroe counties in Georgia, by a man named Joe Smith. He built the Juliette Milling Company Gristmill, hailed as the world's largest water-powered, rock-grinding gristmill, on the Jones County side of the Ocmulgee River.

Grist is defined as "grain that has been, or is to be, ground." The grain in this instance was corn, about 300 bushels an hour when all the rocks were in use. Grits and cornmeal were manufactured and distributed here even before the War Between the States.

Twenty pairs of rocks, each forty-eight inches in diameter, were used to crush the corn into meal. The rocks were situated in two rows of ten pairs each. Each row had a separate water wheel, enabling every stone to grind about fifteen bushels of corn per hour, or a total of an estimated 150 bushels an hour per row.

Sometime in the 1880s, a Dr. Glover built a cotton mill in East Juliette, on the Monroe County side of the Ocmulgee. Around 1900, Dr. Glover bought the gristmill from J.W. and Isaac Smith, sons of the original owner, and incorporated the two as the Juliette Milling Company. Hearing of a gristmill in England that boasted the same number of rocks as the one in Juliette, Dr. Glover added one more, to ensure that his mill was the largest of its kind in the world.

In 1904, Dr. Glover tore down the old gristmill and built a new wooden structure on the same foundation. That building burned down in 1926, and Dr. Glover replaced it with a concrete and steel structure in 1927. Not counting the basement, the building had four stories, with the grain elevator section extending two stories above that. In all, there were ten storage bins and one steel tank that held approximately 77,400 bushels of corn.

It was necessary to sharpen the rocks when the grooves located on the bottom, which aid in the grinding process, became dull. The sharper the rock, the more grain per hour it could grind. The rocks were removed by an elaborate overhead steel track with trolley and chain hoist. Each one was sharpened, or dressed, with an air hammer, a process that took around two and one-half hours per rock. In the early days of the mill, this dressing was done by hand, and it took one workman a day and a half per rock.

All the mill's power came from the Ocmulgee River. During the 1954 drought, the mill was not able to function during the months of October and November at all, and very little during the month of September. The Juliette Mining Company installed two diesel electric units as standby power.

Both mills, along with the community of Juliette, began to decline in the 1950s. The gristmill leased its facilities to the Dixie Lilly Mining Company and later to Martha White Mills, then ceased all operations in 1957.

The town of Juliette has been re-born, thanks to the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*, which was filmed there in the early 1990s. A railroad depot, built in Juliette in 1882 by the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad, was turned into a restaurant movie set for the filming and has since become an actual restaurant, which indeed serves up fried green tomatoes.

Sources: *The Monroe County Advertiser*; "Juliette's Local History," juliettega.com

What You Always Wanted to Know About St. Patrick's Day

By Jarrelyn Lang

St. Patrick's Day honors the patron saint of Ireland, who lived from about 389 to 461 A.D. His feast day, March 17, is also the anniversary of his death. St. Patrick, also called the Apostle of Ireland, was a missionary who worked to convert the people of Ireland to Christianity, and he became Ireland's first bishop sometime after 431. He used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity, and it later became the Irish national symbol. He is credited with driving the snakes out of Ireland; however, there were no snakes there to begin with.

A popular St. Patrick's Day tradition is to wear green, which symbolizes the lush landscape of the Emerald Isle. For reasons unknown, those discovered not wearing green get pinched by those who are.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade in the United States was held in Boston in 1737, organized by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston, the oldest Irish society organization in the Americas. More than 100 U.S. cities now hold St. Patrick's Day parades and festivals. New York City's parade, one of the biggest, began in 1762.

In Irish folklore, a leprechaun (from the Old Irish *lobaircin*, meaning "small bodied fellow") is a small, mischievous male creature with magical powers who supposedly has a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The leprechaun's usual job is that of cobbler (shoemaker). Leprechauns originally were not associated with St. Patrick's Day at all. In 1959, Walt Disney Studios released the movie *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*, which introduced a happy, funny leprechaun to American audiences, very unlike the crabby little creatures in Irish folklore. Soon after the movie's release, the cheerful leprechaun became a symbol of St. Patrick's Day and of Ireland—at least in America's eyes.

The traditional St. Patrick's Day meal in Ireland includes a dish known as colcannon, which consists of boiled potatoes mashed together with cabbage and butter. Another tradition is to greet one another with *Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh*, "May the blessings of St. Patrick be with you."

The shamrock is Ireland's national symbol. From the Irish word *seamrog*, which means "little clover," the shamrock is a variety of trifoliate (three-leaved) clovers native to Ireland. Any shamrock, but especially the four-leaf variety, has been considered a good luck symbol by the Irish from earliest times.

Chicago has an unusual tradition for celebrating St. Paddy's Day – the Chicago River has been dyed green since 1962. This "Irish green" color was originally used to detect the illegal dumping of sewage into the river. The city uses 40 pounds of a vegetable-based, non-polluting dye to turn the river green. Chicago's Sears Tower antennas have been illuminated with green lights on St. Patrick's Day since 1997.

On March 17, 2004, the Boston Red Sox were the first team to play in green jerseys on St. Patrick's Day—but their socks remained red. The green uniforms must have brought them "the luck of the Irish"—the Red Sox got their pot of gold, winning the World Series that year, the first in 86 years.

There are only three places in the world where St. Paddy's Day is an official public holiday. Montserrat, known as the "Emerald Isle of the Caribbean," hosts a week-long celebration. Other locations where March 17 is a national holiday are the Republic of Ireland and the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador. (" St. Patrick's Day Quiz," Myriam Gabriel-Pollack, msn.encarta)

HARDY WOMEN OF THE OLD WEST

By Jarrelyn Lang

The so-called "weaker sex" encountered savage, brutal, and obnoxious obstacles (and these were just the men!), not to mention less than pleasant environmental concerns and a plague or two. . . or three. In spite of, or maybe because of, these barriers, the American frontier attracted thousands of women, many of them mavericks, loners, eccentrics, and adventurers. Through it all, they kept their sense of humor. One widowed ranch woman said, "I've got 350 head of cattle and one son. Don't know which was harder to raise."

Immigrants from Europe who ventured out West were typically cut off from family, friends, their native culture, and even the "protective stricture" of Eastern society. Some were crushed by their experiences, others survived, and more than a few thrived. Of course many women were already living in the Wild West, making their homes in plazas, wigwams, hogans, and teepees across the Great Plains. Among both natives and newcomers were plenty of feisty women who weren't afraid to tangle with man or beast, should the occasion present itself.

A Brave Apache Grandmother

The courage and determination of Native American women was tremendous. Daily they faced death and deprivation from their harsh environment as well as from a number of predatory enemies. One Apache tribeswoman named Dilchthe, a middle-aged grandmother, was captured by Sonoran mercenaries at Esqueda, Mexico (southwest of present-day Douglas, Arizona), in the mid-1860s. All the Apache men in her party were executed on the spot. Dilchthe and several other women were taken southwest to the Gulf of California, where they were sold into slavery and shipped across the gulf to a penal colony on the Baja Peninsula.

Many of the Apache women died in the camp, but Dilchthe managed to survive. Soon after their arrival, she and several others were sold again, this time to the owner of a nearby hacienda. In spite of her age, Dilchthe was a hard worker and earned the trust of her owners, all the while planning her escape and hiding food whenever she could. She was determined to make it back to her family.

On the night she put her plan into action, Dilchthe also freed several other women and took them with her. Traveling by night, the women made their way to the gulf then followed the coastline north. Under Dilchthe's skillful leadership, the group managed to evade the search parties sent out to track them down.

Even when their provisions ran out, the women pressed on—traveling by night, eating insects and desert plants, always trudging northward—for nearly 300 miles, until they reached the Colorado River. To reach their destination, they would have to cross the river, but none of them could swim. Undaunted, Dilchthe befriended a kindly old Mexican who told them that they could ford the river safely farther north, at the confluence of the Colorado and Gila Rivers. With Dilchthe leading the way, the women made it to the opposite shore safely and continued their trek eastward along the banks of the Gila River and into Arizona Territory, which was also Apache enemy territory.

On the third night after crossing the Colorado, a band of Yuma (or Mojave) raiders attacked, capturing one of the women and killing all but two of the others; Dilchthe and another woman had managed to hide in the brush.

The remaining two women walked for four days through enemy territory. Too weak from grief and hunger, unable to keep going, they made a signal fire. Suddenly Dilchthe's own son-in-law came into view, flesh and blood, not an apparition as she had supposed. The women were saved. Dilchthe was reunited with her family and welcomed as a hero.

Dilchthe had walked more than 1,000 miles with no map, no weapons, and very little provisions. She had outwitted all her pursuers in her determination to return to her Warm Springs clan. She was a courageous Apache grandmother with an ironclad will, a true woman of the Wild West.

Dainty Stitches

Women of the West were nothing if not practical. A common saying was "When I saw something that needed to be done, I did it."

A good example of that philosophy was Barbara Jones, who with her husband and ten sons settled on the Pecos River in New Mexico Territory in the 1870s and opened a store near Seven Rivers. When her husband was away hauling freight, Ma'am Jones, as she was called, managed the store.

One day one of her sons came running to tell his mother that his brother Sammy was hurt. When Ma'am Jones found her son, she discovered that he had fallen into some broken glass. As she cleaned away the dirt and blood, she saw that Sammy's eyelid was almost severed and barely hanging on. Carrying her hysterical son into the house, Ma'am Jones had one of his brothers bring her sewing kit to her. There was no doctor closer than 150 miles, so she sewed Sammy's eyelid back on herself, while he very likely was howling and squirming all the while.

Even though that eyelid was always a bit crooked, Sammy Jones lived to be a happy old man. His eyesight had been preserved, thanks to the quick thinking of his mother. This kind of bravery was typical in women of the old West.

Annie Oakley

When famous women of the West come to mind, the name of Annie Oakley is likely to be one of the first to be mentioned. Annie Oakley, born Phoebe Ann Moses (or Mozee) in Darke County, Ohio, was not really a Westerner but a star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. Joining the show in 1885, she was quickly dubbed "Little Miss Sure Shot," the darling of royalty throughout Europe. Annie married fellow performer Frank Butler; their courtship is the basis for the musical *Annie Get Your Gun*. When not touring, the couple led a quiet, religious life in Ohio. Annie Oakley Butler died in 1925.

The history of Western women has not ended. A new breed, in many ways even stronger than their mothers and grandmothers, has taken over the reins, looking back to their unsung frontier forerunners with pride.

(From "Wild Women of the West" by Bob Boze Bell, *Wild West* magazine, April 1997, published online at historynet.com)

OBITUARY

Patricia A. Strickland passed away February 4, 2009, in Pearland, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, F.O. and Bertha Middlebrooks, and her sister Charlotte Ray. Patricia is survived by a brother, MFA member Charles H. Middlebrooks and his wife Mary Tom; daughters Sharon Garrett and her husband Dale, Cynthia Strickland and her fiancé Chris; grandsons Matt Garrett and wife Jessica, Stephen Garrett and fiancée Kati; great grandsons Morgan and Logan; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Graveside services were held February 7, 2009, at Brookside Memorial Park. MFA extends our deepest sympathy to the family of this Sims 1762 descendant.