

*Quarterly Newsletter  
of the*

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

July/September 2009  
Editor,  
Jarrelyn Lang

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Assistant Editor,  
Dianne Middlebrooks

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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.

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Subscription is free to paid members of MFA. Articles for inclusion in the quarterly, or suggestions for topics, may be sent to Jarrelyn Lang, Editor, at [thelangs@hotmail.com](mailto:thelangs@hotmail.com). All submissions are subject to editing.

## *President's Message*

### **Meeting Highlights**

Our 2009 meeting/reunion in Hope, Arkansas, was a great success, with 45 people in attendance. We would like to thank Henry Middlebrook, Charles Middlebrooks, and Joyce Arnold for all their hard work in putting this year's meeting together. Many others helped out during the meeting. The Bancorp Farmhouse provided a perfect country setting for the meeting. A few of the meeting highlights included lunch at the beautifully restored Williams Tavern built in 1832 and a guided tour of the Washington State Historic Park.

Our speakers, Mary Nell Turner, Peggy Lloyd, and Josh Williams, did an outstanding job in helping us understand the history and culture of this part of Arkansas. Presentations by Henry, Charles, and me, and the field trip on Saturday gave everyone insight into our Middlebrooks ancestors that settled in Hempstead and Nevada Counties about 1882. Henry shared information about the ancestors and descendants of Thomas Anderson and Lou Ellen Middlebrooks. Charles told us about the Patmos, Arkansas, Middlebrooks, Charles Deems, Samuel Isaac, and Lewis L. Middlebrooks. My speech dealt with the ancestors and descendants of James L. and Fannie D. Middlebrooks.

The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, the Hempstead County Courthouse, and historic Washington State Park also provided us with excellent research opportunities. Josh Williams and Peggy Lloyd shared interesting artifacts, among which were an old hair wreath, an old doctor's kit, and maps showing the Washington and Hempstead county areas in 1834 and 1936.

If you are ever passing through Hope, be sure to eat at Big Jake's Barbeque. The Hope Country Club also did a great job of catering our Saturday night dinner of catfish and chicken.

We will not be doing a CD for this year's meeting, unless someone would like to volunteer to do one. If you would like copies of articles or presentations from the meeting notebook, please e-mail Joyce Arnold, [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net). We will, however, be sending out group pictures to attendees.

### **Meeting Election Results**

I would like to welcome Tom Middlebrooks as our new Vice President and Kathleen Hunter and Charles Middlebrooks as new Board members. I replaced Leonard as President. Joyce Arnold has agreed to stay on as our Secretary/Treasurer for another term.

A big thank you to Leonard and Toni for all the time and hard work they have devoted in keeping MFA alive and well. Joyce has done a great job these last two years in setting up the Texas 2008 meeting, helping with this year's meeting and keeping our finances in order, as well as many other things. Also we would thank Bob Middlebrooks and Joan Miller for serving as Board members these last two years. A special thanks to Jarrelyn Lang as well for doing such a great job on our newsletter and editing the MAZE. By the way, Jarrelyn needs an assistant editor. Let her know if you are interested.

## **Next Year's Meeting**

At our meeting in Hope, it was decided that we would go back to Georgia. It was also agreed that the Board of Directors will make the final decision on the location. Our last meeting in Georgia was in 2007. We will plan on having the next meeting a little later, early- to mid-September.

To ensure that we have a successful meeting, we need volunteers to serve on the planning committee. You do not need to live in Georgia to help with the meeting. A team of three works best so the workload can be shared. *Please contact us if you would like to be on the 2010 planning committee or if you would like to suggest a meeting location for the Board to consider.* So far we have two suggestions for a location: Barnesville and Macon (or the surrounding area).

Below are the more detailed notes for the MFA business and general meeting. We would like to encourage you to read the notes and contact any of the officers or Board members if you have questions or suggestions.

Neal Middlebrook

President

## ***Agenda***

### ***MFA Business Meeting, Hope, Arkansas***

#### ***Board of Directors***

***August 13, 2009***

***Called to order: 8:15 P.M.***

***Last year's minutes approved as written***

***Meeting adjourned: 9:49 P.M.***

#### ***Officers Present:***

***Leonard Middlebrooks, Pres.***

***Neal Middlebrook, VP***

***Joyce Arnold, Sec./Treas.***

## ***Board Members Present:***

***Betty Holland***

***J. A. Middlebrooks***

***Henry Middlebrook***

## ***Membership/Outreach***

1. Membership chairman position and duties. Online surfing and actively mining the genealogy boards and systematically marketing the MFA. General rule is for every five contacts, one member.
2. Attracting young researchers.
3. Developing a membership package to send out to prospective members.
4. What does the MFA have to market that people/members want?

### ***Discussion:***

1. We need to develop a new member profile; many are not returned.
2. Look more closely at our own families/relatives for new members.
3. We need to send out e-mails to Ancestry's Family Tree contributors after weeding out duplicates. Team leaders could do this task.
4. Membership Package contents: Short intro from the website explaining what the MFA is all about, describe ancestor backgrounds (make it personal), include a modified profile (shorter), send out to any prospective member.

## ***England Research (Costs and Research Volunteers)***

1. Research: birthplace of Joseph Middlebrook b. 1610.
2. Other research strategies/options?
3. DNA proposal and cost strategies

### ***Discussion:***

1. Research confirming ancestor is more important than DNA.
2. Ian Middlebrook has DNA kit.
3. We need to work with Ian to focus his research proposal to find out what it would cost for him to do research in England.

## ***Ancestor Teams***

1. Assistant team leaders to help with new contributors.
2. Other topics?

### **Discussion:**

1. Team Leaders need assistants. For example, Joan Miller could serve as assistant to Thomas (b. 1763) team.

## ***DNA Project***

1. What are our goals for the project?
2. What should be our priorities for new participants?
3. When should the MFA agree to help with testing costs? (policy/ground rules)

### **Discussion:**

1. We need to review research information if MFA is going to pay for DNA tests. This will help make sure we have a direct male descendant of the line.
2. Dave still needs to find a Joseph volunteer for a DNA test. Leonard will work with Dave on research information validation.
3. We need to merge research information with DNA data and do a better job of explaining what it means, common ancestor, etc. Leonard will work with Henry.
4. Bob has done a great job with the DNA project. Bob will continue to be the Manager/coordinator, while Henry will function as the technical advisor.
5. Our first DNA priority is for the Robert line. J. A. will work with Henry on crafting an e-mail to use for proposing deep clay tests.
6. The decision was made to set aside \$500.00 for DNA testing. Only in situations when a participant cannot pay for the DNA test and the test is considered a high priority will costs be absorbed by the Association. Cost-sharing of DNA tests will also be encouraged.

## ***Family Register Update***

1. Logistics and timeline for getting information ready
2. Information format, sources, and other guidance

## ***Website Strategy***

1. What should be our strategy for improving the website use and marketing? Are we headed in the right direction?
2. Including gravestone photos in the cemetery index

**Discussion:**

1. We need to standardize a cemetery form/table to send out to prospective contributors. J.A. will develop a draft form and send to board and officers for comments.
2. After review of the cemetery form, along with instructions for photos, it will be sent out to all members and non-members requesting cemetery information/photos.
3. Posting of cemetery photos on MFA website. J. A. will work with Dave on finding out what needs to be done.
4. Sharing cemetery information and photos with other websites. J. A. will look into what we need to do. FindaGrave.com was suggested as a possible website to share information with.

***MFA Logo***

1. Ideas for design and getting it done.

**Discussion:**

1. Everyone thought it was a good idea to develop an MFA logo. Joyce agreed to take the lead on the design, etc.

***Annual Meetings***

1. Every other year?
2. Time of year, spring, summer or fall.

**Discussion:**

1. Agreed to continue having a meeting every year.
2. Move meetings to spring or fall. Fall: Sept. 15 - Oct. 1.

***Reports and Meeting Notes August 15, 2009***

**Treasurer's Report:** Prepared and read by Joyce Arnold. We have about \$3,000 in the MFA account. Report accepted as presented.

**Website Report:** Prepared by Dave Clark and read by Leonard Middlebrooks. Dave received the password from Jennifer Brasswell and has been doing an outstanding job in maintaining and adding information to the website. The number of hits on the website has increased 30-40% each year. We need help in answering the website requests. We may have to move the website if a password is needed. It will cost about \$150.00/year.

**DNA Project Report:** Prepared by Bob Middlebrooks, read by Leonard Middlebrooks. Since the project was started in 2007, we have 16-17 DNA tests completed. The first Middlebrooks in England is being tested. Henry Middlebrooks has agreed to be a technical advisor while Bob continues to coordinate the

project. Dave Clark has also been participating. As we have more participants, we need to better target participation so as not to waste money repeating similar DNA information. We also need to continue to look for new candidates for the project. Great job!

**Military Project:** Prepared by Kerry Middlebrooks, read by Leonard Middlebrooks. Kerry has done a wonderful job in compiling our Middlebrooks military service information. He is collecting information on all major wars. If you have not contributed, you need to send Kerry your military service information. Thanks to Kerry for all his hard work.

**Cemetery Project:** Prepared and read by J. A. Middlebrooks. Not much activity this year. We need to prepare a cemetery form and send to members and non-members to increase activity for this project. J.A. would like you to send your information so we can continue to post the information on the MFA website and eventually add gravestone photos.

**Newsletter:** Jarrelyn Lang as editor of our newsletter continues to do a great job. But she is in need of more articles and an assistant editor. Your family stories or other news items do not need to be perfect, because she will help in the editing. If you would like to help Jarrelyn as the assistant editor, please contact her.

### MFA 2010 Meeting Location

The discussion centered on going back to Georgia for our meeting. It was felt we should select a county with plenty of Middlebrooks ancestry. The genealogy library in Macon was also suggested as a place to do research in conjunction with the meeting. It was decided we would meet in Georgia and the Board would select the meeting location. We will need volunteers to work on next year's meeting committee.

## Middlebrooks Family Association Inc.

### Officers and Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

<b>Two-Year Terms</b>
PRESIDENT – Neal Middlebrooks 2010-2011
VICE PRESIDENT – Tom Middlebrooks 2010-2011
SECRETARY/TREASURER – Joyce Arnold 2010-2011

<b><u>Board of Directors: Two-Year Terms</u></b>
Joyce Arnold, 2010-2011
<a href="mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net">joycenjim@sbcglobal.net</a>
Henry Middlebrooks, 2009-2010
<a href="mailto:henrym@bga.com">henrym@bga.com</a>
Kathleen Hunter, 2010-2011
<a href="mailto:kathleen@bscn.com">kathleen@bscn.com</a>
J.A. Middlebrooks, 2009-10
<a href="mailto:middle3jam2002@yahoo.com">middle3jam2002@yahoo.com</a>
Tom Middlebrooks, 2010-2011
<a href="mailto:tomdean4@embarqmail.com">tomdean4@embarqmail.com</a>
Neal Middlebrook, 2010-2011
<a href="mailto:susan.middlebrook1@verizon.net">susan.middlebrook1@verizon.net</a>
Charles Middlebrooks, 2010-2011
<a href="mailto:chasmid@att.net">chasmid@att.net</a>
Jean Shroyer, 2009-10
<a href="mailto:TXJean@aol.com">TXJean@aol.com</a>





## **MFA 2009 Group Picture, Hope, Arkansas**

### **August 13-15, Bancorp Farmhouse**

**Left to right, according to appearance:** Henry Middlebrook; Bonnie McIntire; Kathleen Hunter; Susan Middlebrook (wife of Neal); Betty Holland; Sandra Tucker Fears; Myrtle Middlebrooks; Leonard Tucker; Jacinta P. Tucker; David Fears; Betty Jean Vaughn; Lavern Porterfield; Joyce Arnold; Thomas L. Middlebrook; Jim Arnold; Charles “Dale” Middlebrook; Ruby Middlebrook; Deanne Middlebrook (wife of Thomas L.); Phyllis Coleman (daughter of Dale & Ruby); Lanell Middlebrooks; J.A. Middlebrooks; Beautye Middlebrooks Tyus; Charles Middlebrooks; Mary Middlebrooks; Joel Jones; Larry Tyus (husband of Beautye); Lucy Meise; Leonard Middlebrooks.

**Not pictured:** Toni Middlebrooks (photographer, wife of Leonard); Willie & Linda Middlebrooks; Marshall Wayne Middlebrooks; Joe & Darlene Middlebrooks.

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**The website for the International Classification of Diseases** (submitted by Neal Middlebrook) **can be very helpful** in trying to figure out the cause of death on death certificates and other documents: <http://www.wolfbane.com/icd/index.html>

## HOW MANY CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks

You may remember many old phrases used by your mother and grandmother, passed down from the generations who came before them. With the passing of time, many old phrases become obsolete or even disappear. This is unfortunate because some of them are very appropriate and humorous and we don't hear them much anymore. How many of these have you heard before?

**A lick and a promise** – as in “I'll just give this a lick and a promise,” my mother said as she quickly mopped up the spill without moving any of the furniture. Perhaps you envision someone licking the floor with his or her tongue. Instead, it means that someone who is in a hurry or busy at some other task will give the floor a “lick” with a mop and a “promise” to do the job right later.

A person who has **a bone to pick** wants to discuss a disagreement.

Having **an axe to grind** refers to someone who has a dispute with someone or perhaps a hidden agenda. This phrase is said to have originated from Benjamin Franklin, who told a story about a man who asked a blacksmith how a grinding wheel worked because he wanted his axe sharpened especially well. The man ended up having to turn the grinding wheel himself.

**A bad apple spoils the whole barrel.** One corrupt person can cause all the others to go bad if the bad one is not removed.

Someone who is **at sea** does not understand something.

A **bad egg** is someone who is/was not a good person.

**Barking at a knot** means that your efforts are as useless as a dog barking at a knot in a tree.

Having a **bee in your bonnet** means you have an idea that you can't turn loose of.

If you've **been through the mill**, you've had a rough time of it, a series of difficulties.

To be **between hay and grass** is to be between childhood and adulthood.

**Blinky** describes milk that is between being sweet and sour, usually unfit to drink.

**Calaboose** is an old-fashioned term for a jail.

**Cattywampus** is a word used when something is sitting crooked, such as a chair sitting at an angle.

To **dicker** means to barter or trade.

Having **a feather in your cap** means you have accomplished a goal. This phrase came from times past. In wartime, when a warrior might receive a feather for defeating an enemy, he would put it in his cap.

**Hold your horses** – be patient.

**I reckon** – is the same as I suppose.

**Jawing** – means talking or arguing.

**Kit and caboodle** – refers to the whole of something.

To be **madder than an old wet hen** means that you are really angry. Chickens that find themselves in water and have to fly or swim out cannot do so easily. Frightened, they will squawk loudly, therefore sounding mad or angry.

Someone who **needs to be taken down a notch** (like notches in a belt) is usually a young person who thinks too highly of himself and needs to be taught a lesson.

If you are **no spring chicken**, then you are no longer young.

A **persnickety** person is overly particular or snobby.

**Pert- near** is short for “pretty near,” which means *almost*.

The phrase **pretty is as pretty does** means that your actions are more important than your looks.

A **scalawag** is a rascal or an unprincipled person.

If something is as **scarce as hens’ teeth**, it is difficult to obtain. Most chickens do not have teeth. The only breed of chicken with teeth, recently discovered by scientists, is called the Talpid.

If someone tells you to **skedaddle**, then you’d better leave quickly.

An old fashioned term for “courting” (dating) is **sparking**.

Something that comes **straight from the horse’s mouth** is privileged information from the one who learned it from the source of that information.

Someone who is **stringing around, gallivanting around, or piddling** is not doing anything of value.

Your **Sunday-go-to-meetin’** dress/suit is the best clothing you own, your church clothes.

Someone who **washes up real fine** or **cleans up real good** is dressed for a formal occasion.

To **tie the knot** means to get married.

If you have **too many irons in the fire**, you are involved with too many projects at the same time.

To be **tuckered out** is to be very tired.

If you are **under the weather**, you are not feeling well. This was originally a seagoing term. If you felt seasick, especially in a storm, you would go below decks; thus you go below (out of) the weather.

When you are **wearing your best bib and tucker**, you are wearing the best clothes you own. Bibs and tuckers were items of women’s clothing from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Bibs were somewhat the same as they are now, but not specifically used to protect from food spillage. A tucker was a lace piece fitted over the bodice for modesty.

Being told that **you ain’t the only duck in the pond** may bruise your ego. Today, the expression would be **it’s not all about you**.

(America Online, April 6, 2006)

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**CORN/PEA SALAD** – This salad was served during the Saturday noon luncheon at the MFA Meeting/Reunion in Hope, Arkansas, and there have been many requests for the recipe. Lavern Porterfield, wife of Sims 1762 descendant Jim Porterfield, has graciously given permission for us to publish her recipe.

Combine 1 cup sugar, ½ cup apple cider vinegar, ¼ cup oil, 1 tsp. salt, and 1 tsp. black pepper in small saucepan. Bring to a boil; set aside to cool.

Combine: 1 16-oz. can English peas (very young, small), drained; 1 16-oz. can Shoe peg white corn, drained; 1 small jar pimento, chopped; 1 cup chopped celery; 1 green bell pepper (1 cup), chopped; and 1 bunch (1 cup) green onions.

Pour liquid over above ingredients and marinate in the refrigerator overnight. Enjoy!

## **BOB MIDDLEBROOKS RETIRES FROM HOSPITAL'S BOARD**

Bob Middlebrooks, MFA Board member, DNA Project head, and Team Leader for the John 1755 group, recently retired from The Outer Banks (North Carolina) Hospital Board of Directors.

Several years ago, while living at nearby Southern Shores, Bob realized the need for a hospital in the area, due to the fact that the nearest hospital facility was sixty miles away. He quickly aligned with the partnership of University Health Systems and Chesapeake General Hospital and joined as a major lobbyist for a Certificate of Need from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, to build a hospital on The Outer Banks.

When the hospital filed its articles of incorporation, Bob was among the first to be appointed to the newly-formed Board of Directors. At the time, there was still no land, no approved plan, and not even a place for the Board to meet.

Over time, what began as an idea evolved into a 21-bed critical access hospital that now treats more than 41,000 patients each year. Fully accredited by The Joint Commission, a private sector non-profit organization that oversees the safety and quality of healthcare, the hospital has been recognized nationally for its outstanding patient care.

"This hospital has provided our families with efficient, safe and compassionate care since opening," said Bob. He asserts that "the hospital has instilled confidence in our tourism industry," due to its "advanced technology and cutting-edge medicine" that offers quality care to vacationers.

Bob served as chairman five of his nine years on the hospital's Board of Directors. "Volunteering on this board has given me more personal satisfaction than any other board or commission I have served on," he said.

Bob spent 23 years in the Navy as a cryptologist, being awarded the honors of The Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Service Award, Navy Unit Citation, and the National Defense Service Award with a Bronze Star. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Management from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. He and his wife, Ruth, have been married for 50 years and have three children and six grandchildren. They have lived in Southern Shores for 21 years.

Van Smith, President of The Outer Banks Hospital, had this to say about Bob: "Bob's leadership of the hospital board has been exemplary. He has kept the board focused during a time of remarkable growth, when members could have easily become lost in the minutiae. He has led us through difficult discussions, building consensus by making sure that all sides of an issue were explored before bringing motions to a vote. We will miss him."

And MFA is glad to have him aboard! Kudos, Bob!

**(Information from a press release from the hospital that appeared in the media)**

## **EDITH SPURLOCK SAMPSON: A CAREER OF FIRSTS**

By Jarrelyn Lang

Edith Spurlock was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 13, but the exact year is unknown. It was probably before 1901; her younger brother was born in 1900. Edith was one of eight children born to Louis Spurlock and Elizabeth McGruder Spurlock. Her father was a shipping clerk in a cleaning and dyeing business. Her mother worked at home, making hat frames from a stiff cotton fabric known as buckram and fashioning switches of false hair, forerunners of today's hair extensions. The family worked hard, owned their home, attended church, and obeyed the law. In an interview later in life, Sampson said, "I suppose we were poor, but we never knew it. We wore hand-me-down clothes, and we all worked. We ate regularly, slept in clean beds, [and] went to church."

At age 14, Sampson left school and got her first full-time job, cleaning and de-boning fish in a fish market. She eventually resumed her education, earned good grades, and graduated from Pittsburgh's Peabody High School.

After her graduation, Sampson went to work for Associated Charities in Buffalo, New York, and studied at the New York School of Social Work there. She excelled in a criminology class taught by George Kirchwey of Columbia University School of Law, who encouraged her to become an attorney. Instead, however, she completed her social work degree.

Following her graduation from the New York School of Social Work, she married Rufus Sampson, a field agent for the Tuskegee Institute, and the newlyweds moved to Chicago. In Chicago, Edith Sampson worked for the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Through those entities, Sampson placed neglected and abused children in foster and adoptive homes.

Kirchwey, Sampson's former professor, passed through Chicago to deliver a speech, and he once again encouraged her to pursue a career in law. Keeping her day job, she began taking night courses at Chicago's John Marshall Law School in 1922, where she excelled.

Eventually her marriage to Rufus Sampson ended in divorce, but she kept his name throughout the rest of her life. She never had children of her own, but she raised her sister's two children after her sister's death.

Sampson received her bachelor of law degree in 1925 but failed her bar exam. She attributed her failure to overconfidence and later said that it was the best thing that happened to her because it gave her the motivation to work harder. She enrolled in Chicago's Loyola University and became the **first** woman ever to receive a master of law degree from that university, in 1927. She passed her bar exam that same year and was admitted to the Illinois bar.

While in Loyola's graduate school, Sampson worked as a probation officer. After passing her bar exam, she opened her own practice on the south side of Chicago, serving the local African American community while also working for the Juvenile Court of Cook County, which she said helped her to learn the practical side of the law. Her private practice specialized in criminal law and domestic relations, offering legal advice to many poor African American people who could not otherwise afford it.

In 1934, Sampson was one of the **first** African American women to be admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. In 1938, she and attorney Georgia Jones Ellis became the **first** African Americans to join the Chicago chapter of the National Association of Women Lawyers. Other professional and civic memberships include the League of Woman Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National

Council of Negro Women. Sampson was appointed Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County, Illinois, in 1934.

She married fellow attorney Joseph Clayton in 1934. The two were law partners until his death in 1957.

As chairwoman of the executive committee of the National Council of Negro Women, in 1949 Sampson was chosen to be part of a 72-day Round-the-World Town Meeting, a program that sent twenty-six prominent Americans on a world tour, meeting leaders of foreign countries and participating in public political debates and radio broadcasts, called "America's Town Meeting of the Air." The purpose of the tour was to promote American democracy, countering Soviet Cold War propaganda.

Sampson overcame stage fright to speak eloquently about democracy during the tour. She was often confronted with difficult questions concerning American civil rights. She countered many misconceptions about America's African Americans, especially in the Soviet Union, where racial discrimination was being used as a tool against the United States. She pointed out the progress African Americans had made since emancipation and emphasized the fact that she was a powerful example of a successful, educated African American.

She acknowledged that there were problems but defended democracy for what it offered African Americans. The *New York Times* reported that on one occasion she countered a heckler with "You ask, do we get fair treatment? My answer is no. Just the same, I'd rather be a Negro in America than a citizen of any other country. In the past century, we have made more progress than dark-skinned people anywhere else in the world."

When the tour ended in 1950, the World Town Hall Seminar became a permanent organization to promote democracy around the world, and Sampson was named its president. The trip had changed her life. Although she still practiced law, it was no longer the sole focus of her career, and she devoted herself to promoting peace and world unity.

Sampson's work with the World Town Hall Seminar caught the attention of President Harry Truman, who appointed her to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations as an alternate delegate. She was the **first** African American woman to be named an official American representative to the U.N. She served on the U.N.'s Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, working for land reform, repatriation of prisoners, repatriation of Greek children, and efforts to stop governments from jamming radio broadcasts.

Sampson was re-appointed alternate delegate in 1952 and later named member-at-large of the United States Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) during President Dwight Eisenhower's administration.

She served as a spokeswoman for the State Department throughout the 1950s, traveling to Europe, the Middle East, and South Africa to address the status of African Americans. *Ebony* magazine called her "one of the country's most potent weapons against Communist distortion of the Negro's status in the U.S." Sampson is quoted as telling Soviet U.N. delegate Andrei Vyshinsky, "We Negroes aren't interested in communism. We were slaves too long for that."

Although she acknowledged racial discrimination in her speeches, Sampson chose to emphasize the positive aspects of democracy for African American people.

In 1961 and 1962, Sampson was appointed to serve on the United States Citizens Commission of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). She was a member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Private Enterprise in Foreign Aid in 1964 and 1965. She became the **first** African

American female judge when she was elected associate to the Municipal Court of Chicago in 1962, handling divorce, custody, and other domestic disputes.

In 1966 Sampson was elected to a seat on the Circuit Court of Cook County, hearing landlord-tenant disputes, the **first** African American woman to hold this position. Striving to clear up a huge backlog on the court docket, she heard an unprecedented 10,000 cases in one year.

Some civil rights leaders criticized Sampson, accusing her of downplaying the barriers African Americans faced and not supporting the country's civil rights movement sufficiently. Her response, published in the *Reader's Digest* was, "We are beginning to move. We haven't reached cruising speed yet, but we are moving toward a better America at an ever-increasing pace."

Judge Sampson retired from the bench in 1978, just a year before her death. She had long been a sought-after speaker to bar associations and youth groups, and she received several honorary degrees, including a doctor of law degree from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She died on October 8, 1979, at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Two of Edith Sampson's nephews, Charles T. Spurlock of Boston and Oliver Spurlock of Chicago, also became judges. Her niece, Jeanne Spurlock, became the **first** African American woman to be dean of an American medical school, the Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. A grand-niece, Lynne Moody, became an actress and appeared in the television miniseries *Roots*.

Samson's life reflected her motto: "Equal rights mean equal responsibility."

**Sources:** "Edith Sampson: First Black Woman Municipal Judge," This Week in History, online; "Edith Simpson: Biography from Answers.com," online; "African American Registry – Your Source for African American History," online; "Edith S. Sampson," Wikipedia, online; "Edith Sampson: A Cold War Warrior," *Chicken Bones: A Journal*, nathanielturner.com; all quotes from Answers.com.

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**LEE ROY YOUNG** became the first African American Texas Ranger on September 6, 1988. The history of the Rangers began in 1820 when the Mexican Government gave permission for 300 families to enter the territory of Texas. On August 10, 1823, permission was granted to employ ten men from a group of volunteers to protect the new Texas frontier. It was not until November 24, 1835, however, that the group was officially named Texas Rangers through an act of the state legislature. Each man had to supply his own mounts, equipment, arms, and rations.

The Rangers defended settlers from marauding Indians and patrolled the Texas/Mexico border. They fought as a unit in the Texas war for independence from Mexico and served individually with local Confederate companies during the Civil War. Over time, they have developed into the elite of Texas law enforcement, with intensive training and more sophisticated equipment. There is never a shortage of applicants. (*African American Registry*, online; *Handbook of Texas Online*)



## FAMILYSEARCH INDEXING UPDATE

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

FamilySearch.org has 42 international indexing projects currently underway. New projects – for Italy, New Zealand, Peru, and the United States – have been added.

There is a growing need for more volunteers who can help with the increasing number of foreign language projects. Please encourage and recruit friends, family, colleagues, and society or special interest group members to help with any projects of interest. Signing up is easy at FamilySearch Indexing.

The average assignment only takes about thirty minutes to complete. Many volunteers make quick work, which equates to quicker access to the completed indexes.

Current FamilySearch Indexing Projects, Record Language, and Percent Completion:

Argentina, Buenos Aires – 1855 Censo (Census); Spanish, 63%  
Argentina, Jujuy, Salta, Tucuman – 1869 Censo; Spanish, 81%  
Argentina, Santiago, Santa Fe – 1869 Censo; Spanish, 22%  
Australia, NSW – Bounty Immigrants (a type of indentured servitude), 1828-1842; English, 57%  
Australia, Sydney – Cemetery Inscriptions, 1800-1960; English, 20%  
Belgium, Antwerp – Foreigners Index, 1840-1930; Dutch, Flemish, 47%  
Canada, British Columbia – Marriages, 1859-1932; English, 19%  
Canada, Quebec – Trois-Rivières – Registres Paroissiaux (parish registers), 1800-1900; French, 65%  
Deutschland (Germany), Baden – Kirchenbücher (church books), 1810-1869; German, 16%  
Deutschland, Brandenburg – Kirchenbücher, 1789-1875; German, 68%  
Deutschland, Mecklenburg – Volkszählung (Census), 1890 Div 24-38; German, 55%  
España (Spain), Moraleja de Matagorda – Registros Parroquiales (parish church registries), 1540-1904; Spanish, 60%  
España, Lugo – Registros Parroquiales, 1530-1930 (Part 1); Spanish, 20%  
France, Cherbourg – Registres Paroissiaux (parish registers), 1802-1907; French, 1%  
France, Coutances – Registres Paroissiaux, 1802-1907; French, 1%  
France, Coutances – Paroisses de la Manche (parish records of the la Manche region), 1792-1906; French, 90%  
France, Paris – Registres Protestants (Protestant records), 1612-1906 (Part 2); French, 14%  
France, Saint Lo – Registres Paroissiaux, 1802-1907; French, 2%  
Italy, Trento – Baptisms, 1784-1924 (Part 1); Italian, 93%  
Italy, Trento – Baptisms, 1784-1924 (Part 2); Italian, 2%  
Jamaica, Trelawny – Births, 1878-1930; English, 38%  
Mexico, DF (Federal District of Mexico City) – Registros Parroquiales (parish church registries), 1886-1933 (Part 1); Spanish, 74%  
Mexico, Mexico City – 1930 Federal Censo (Census); Spanish, 30%  
Mexico, Yucatan – 1930 Federal Censo; Spanish, 59%  
New Zealand – Passenger Lists, 1871-1915; English (New)



Nicaragua, Managua - Registros Civiles (Census), 1879-Present; Spanish, 77%

Österreich (Austria), Wiener – Meldezettel (legal registrations for each place of residence), 1890-1925; German, 1%

Perú, Lima – Registros Civiles, 1910-1930 (Parte 1); Spanish, 74%

Perú, Lima – Registros Civiles, 1010-1930 (Parte 2); Spanish (New)

Russland (Russia), Sankt Peterburg (St. Petersburg) – Kirchenbuchduplikat (church records, for Germans who settled in the Volga Valley of Russia), 1833-1885; German, 1%

South Africa, Cape Province – Church Records, 1660-1970; English, 2%

Tschechien (Czech Republic), Litomerice – Kirchenbücher (church records), 1552-1905 (Teil [Part] 1); German, 1%

U.K. (United Kingdom), Cheshire – Parish Records, 1538-1850 (Part 2); English [from Old English], 25 %

U.K., Warwickshire – Parish Registers, 1538-Present; English [from Old English], 3%

U.S. – Freedmen Marriages, 1861-1869; English (New)

U.S., Arkansas – County Marriages, 1837-1957 (VI); English 83%

U.S., Delaware – Birth Records, 1861-1922; English (New)

U.S., Georgia – Deaths 1930; English (New)

U.S., Illinois, Cook County – Birth Certificates, 1916-1922 (Part 2); English 18%

U.S., Indiana, Adams County – Marriages, 1811-1959; English, 87%

U.S., Indiana, Allen County – Marriages, 1811-1959; English, 22%

U.S., Indiana, Carroll County – Marriages, 1811-1959; English (New)

U.S., Minnesota – 1885 State Census; English, 61%

U.S., New York – 1905 State Census; English, 65%

U.S., Oklahoma – 1920 U.S. Federal Census; English (New)

U.S., Pennsylvania – 1920 U.S. Federal Census; English, 83%

U.S., Tennessee – 1920 Federal Census; English (New)

U.S., Virginia – 1920 Federal Census; English (New)

U.S., Washington – County Marriages, 1858-1950; English 74%

Venezuela, Mérida – Registros Parroquiales (parish records), 1544-1992 (Parte 1); Spanish, 34%

#### Current FamilySearch Partner Projects, Record Language, and Percent Completion:

Australia, Victoria – Probate Records, 1853-1989; English, 69%

België (Dutch, Belgium), Mechelen – Overlijdens Registers (possibly death records), 1851-1900; Dutch, Flemish, 16%

Belgique (French, Belgium) – Registres Des Décès, En Français (death records in French), 1796-1910; French, 31%

Belgique, Charleroi – Registres Des Décès, 1851-1900; French, 56%

Belgium, Flanders – Deaths, 1796-1900; French, Dutch, Flemish, 81%

Deutschland (Germany), Bremen – Schifflisten (list of ships), 1904-1914; German, 63%

Norway – 1875 Census (Part 1); Norwegian, 48%

U.S., Arkansas – County Marriages, 1837-1957 (IV); English, 72%

U.S., Ohio – Tax Records, Post-1825 (Part 2); English, 80%  
U.S., Ohio – Tax Records, Post-1825 (Part 3); English, 1%  
U.S., Utah, Salt Lake County – Death Certificates, 1940; English (New)  
U.S., Utah, Salt Lake County – Death Registers, 1848-1940; English (New)  
U.S., Vermont – Militia Records, 1861-1867; English, 49%

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**MIDDLEBROOK, GREATER MANCHESTER**, is the name given to a locality on the boundary between Horwich and Lostock, in the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton, Greater Manchester, England.

Historically part of Lancashire, the name Middlebrook originally comes from the watercourse which starts at Red Moss, the one-time marshland south of Horwich. Further downstream, the Middlebrook joins with other tributaries and becomes the River Croal, which runs through Bolton and eventually joins the River Irwell at Kearsley.

However, today the term Middlebrook is associated with a modern, out-of-town complex which, among other things, is home to Reebok Stadium.

Before the present Middlebrook site was built, it was once farmland for Sefton Fold Farm, Horwich. The original 1666 timber-framed farmhouse was rebuilt in 1811. Before the buildings were demolished in 1996, a team from the University of Manchester's Archaeological Unit was given three weeks to complete their studies on the Sefton Fold Farm site. Through their excavations, they found a moated site of late Medieval origins. Within the farmhouse itself, the team discovered an internal wall which looked as if it was once an external wall. Some pottery found outside is believed to date back to the late 1500s or early 1600s.

When the developers moved onto the land, the historic site was partly covered by a roundabout, a circular road built to give access to the Middlebrook area. The farmhouse's 1666/1811 date stone, the kitchen's 1860s cooking range, and other items were saved and can be seen at Horwich's Heritage House.

The work to build the Middlebrook retail and leisure complex was begun in 1996, and the site was up and running by the end of the next year. Middlebrook contains various retail shops and stores, a twelve-screen cinema, a bowling alley, various cafés and restaurants, two hotels, and the Bolton Arena Sports & Leisure Complex.

At the center of the site is the impressive Reebok Stadium, home of the Bolton Wanderers Football (soccer) Club. The stadium was inaugurated September 1, 1997, with the first game played between the Bolton Warriors and the Everton Giants. The game ended in a tie, 0-0.

(Source: "Middlebrook, Greater Manchester," Wikipedia)

## OBITUARIES

**Ralph W. Middlebrooks**, World War II veteran, one of the few remaining survivors of the American defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, died July 6, 2007. He was 84 years old. A recipient of the Bronze Star for his defense of the Philippine Islands, he was a warrior throughout his lifetime in the truest sense of the word. He was one of the thousands taken prisoner of war when Corregidor was surrendered to the Japanese on May 6, 1942. As a POW for three and a half years, he survived transport to Manila on the Big Ships, where men were dumped two miles from shore and “if you couldn’t swim, you drowned,” transport by train to Cabanatuan in “very hot weather, no food or water, a lot of men lost, smothered to death,” then aboard the Hell Ships to the work camps in Mukden, Manchuria, where “the dead were taken out of the hole of the ship every two or three days and dumped overboard.” Two-thirds of the men captured didn’t make it. He weighed 92 pounds after being liberated in 1945 and returning to his home town in Tupelo, Arkansas.

After marrying and moving to San Diego in 1951, Ralph worked for the County of San Diego for over twenty years. He was featured in the book *Corregidor: Saga of a Fortress*.

Preceded in death by a daughter, LuAnne, Ralph is survived by his son Larry Middlebrooks, daughter Denise Middlebrooks, and brother Jack Middlebrooks. A Virginia Middlebrooks descendant, Ralph is also survived by a cousin, MFA member Kathleen Hunter.

Funeral services, with full military honors, were held July 23, 2007, at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, San Diego County, California.

Although this information is belated, it gives us a picture of what Ralph endured, and we can be proud that a real World War II hero was one of us.

**Mary Lois “Quittie” Middlebrooks Casteel**, a Sims 1762 descendant, passed away July 28, 2009, in Social Circle, Georgia. Quittie was born April 11, 1921, in Walton County, Georgia, to Robert Engersol Middlebrooks and Mary Pearl Ellis Middlebrooks. She was a homemaker who loved gardening, canning, sewing, and quilting. A seamstress for over thirty years, Quittie will be missed by all who knew her.

Quittie was preceded in death by her husband, Barney R. Casteel, son Roy Franklin Casteel, and daughter Bonnie Ann Walker. Survivors include sons George Edward Hewitt Jr., Barney O. Casteel, Wayne Casteel, and Thomas Casteel; daughters Mary Frances White, Patsy Rainwater, and Myrtle Meyer; brothers Bill Middlebrooks and Lamar Middlebrooks; thirteen grandchildren; and nineteen great-grandchildren.

Services were held August 1, 2009, at the Chapel of Eternal Hills Funeral Home, with burial in Eternal Hills Memory Garden in Snellville, Gwinnett County, Georgia.

MFA sends deepest sympathy to all of Quittie’s family and especially to Quittie’s nephew, Billie Middlebrooks and his wife Dianne, both of whom are charter members of MFA.

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**OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.** You can make an easy, free contribution that will help fund mammograms for women who can’t afford them by going to **[thebreastcancersite.com](http://thebreastcancersite.com)** and clicking on the pink rectangle. The site accepts only one click per computer per day, so if you have access to more than one computer, either at home or at work, click daily on each one. Please continue to click daily, even after October is past. (Don’t wait until October – start today!) This is a way to help scores of women, and it costs you absolutely nothing except a few seconds of your time.

## MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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VICE PRESIDENT – TOM MIDDLEBROOKS

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and LEONARD 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 HENRY MIDDLEBROOKS

Family Repository – JEAN SHROYER

Family *Register* Update - LEONARD

MIDDLEBROOKS

Military *Register* Update - KERRY

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