*Quarterly Newsletter*
*of the*

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.
*Founded 2001*

What awaits inside . . . . .

## MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!

# President's Message December 2009 Newsletter

On behalf of the MFA officers, board members, and project leaders, we would like to wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. As we come together this season, we cannot help thinking about our rich family heritage. This time of year gives us the opportunity to reflect on our many blessings and learn more about our family history and about those family members that have gone before us. I have often thought of what a thrill it would be to be able to listen to family stories and traditions of the bygone holiday gatherings of our ancestors.

So as you gather with family and friends this holiday season, take a few minutes to share your family stories and history with others, especially your children, grand- or great-grandchildren. Sharing old family photos and asking questions is a great way to get the conversation started. I think you will be surprised at what the younger generations will retain to pass on to their children. You never know, you may plant a seed in a younger family relation to pass on our rich family heritage to future generations.

The 2010 meeting planning committee, composed of Joyce Arnold, Kathleen Hunter, Beautye Middlebrooks, and Charles David Middlebrooks, are still working on the meeting location. It was decided to select a location just outside of Macon, Georgia, because of its close proximity to the Washington Library and the Jarrell Plantation. Many of our Middlebrooks ancestors settled in counties near Macon in Central Georgia after leaving Caswell County, North Carolina, in the late 1700s. The Washington Library in Macon contains excellent genealogical collections for this area. The Jarrell Plantation, a part of our Middlebrooks family history, will be one of our field trip stops. The Jarrell Plantation is a Georgia State Historical Site.

If you have any suggestions on topics, agenda items, or the field trip for the MFA 2010 meeting, please contact Joyce Arnold, joycenjim@sbcglobal.net, or one of the committee members. We need your ideas! Also, if you would like to submit a family article for the MAZE or Newsletter, please contact Jarrelyn Lang, our editor, at thelangs@hotmail.com. She will be glad to help you get your article ready for the MAZE or the Quarterly Newsletter.

Would you like to give a gift that will keep giving for many generations to come? Then contact our DNA project leader, Bob Middlebrooks, at mid293@earthlink.net, to learn more. By participating in the MFA DNA project, you will be able to learn how your Middlebrook/s family line ties into the older generations back to North Carolina and earlier. This is also another way to get around the frustration of finding out that the early county records you need have been destroyed. We are looking for specific Middlebrook/s lines for DNA testing. We also set some money aside in this year's budget to help defer the DNA testing costs in certain situations.

We would like to thank Henry Middlebrooks for donating to MFA the costs he incurred for his part of the Hope meeting. He requested the money go towards supporting the research in England. We are still looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the England research. Ian Middlebrook is our contact in England and has been doing the majority of the research. We desperately need someone to work and coordinate with Ian. Please contact me, nealmidbroo1@verizon.net, or Leonard Middlebrooks, gambol@juno.com, if you would like to coordinate or help with the England project.

We have been in contact with the Trumbull Historical Society, located in Fairfield County, Connecticut. The Society received a grant this year to conduct an architectural and historical survey of homes in the town and surrounding area to identify which properties may be candidates for national or state listings on the historical register. The Society has asked for suggestions on properties they might consider for the survey.

Karen French (a Middlebrooks relation) has agreed to be our contact with the Society. She lives just outside of the Trumbull town limits. As many of you may know, Fairfield County, Connecticut, is rich in our Middlebrooks family history, and many of the homes and farms in the area were at one time occupied by our ancestors, as early as 1642. We will keep you posted on what is happening. Jarrelyn is in the process of putting an article together for the newsletter on this project.

Seasons Greetings,
Neal Middlebrook
President

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# THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

By Neal Middlebrook

*Neal Middlebrook started his pursuit of family history in 1989 while working for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Washington, D.C. He moved with his family to the Coos Bay, Oregon, area in 1992 and worked for the local BLM Coos Bay Office and the Oregon/Washington State Office. He retired in March of 2004. Neal is presently serving as President of the Middlebrooks Family Association, which is based in Georgia. His ancestors have led him to focus his research in Virginia, North Carolina, Connecticut, Georgia, and Arkansas, and more recently in Ohio, New Mexico, California, Scotland, Ireland, England, and Germany. He became a volunteer librarian in 2005. The following is a presentation Neal delivered at the 2009 Family History seminar in Coos Bay.*

*Synopsis*: The following questions will be addressed: What is a family history? What does a quality family history contain? How do I define the scope of my project? What options do I have for organizing ancestors and descendants? What should I write about? Do I need an outline for my book? When do I have enough information to start writing? Do I need to document my sources? Should I include maps, illustrations, and photos? What other factors should I consider in the design and layout of my book?

*Introduction*: Somewhere along your family history journey, you start to think about how to pass a family heritage on to your children, other relatives, and descendants. You may ask questions such as – Does anyone care? Is it worth the effort? Consideration should be given to the time involved in collecting information, as well as organizing and writing this information. Although research is enjoyable and at times very rewarding, many historians fall short of the last very important step, which is to make your information accessible to your family and others. Once your leave this earth, if all your research remains in various notebooks or files, will it be passed on to future generations? Not likely, unless you have budding genealogists in your family. Therefore, I want to strongly encourage you to take the final step and publish your family history. I will address some key topics and questions which I wrestled with during my own process.

***What is a Family History?*** A family history may include a single surname of an ancestor and all the allied families in the pedigree. Two types of publications include either the *descendants of a particular ancestor* or *all your ancestors*. Traditional family histories often document an ancestor from the time he immigrated to this country and his many descendants, and it usually ends with the relative writing the history. While the single-line descent is the most common type of family history written, you may also include several family surnames in the same book or break them out into separate, smaller books. More recently, however, family histories are being written that include information from many sources, e.g. traditions, stories, and photographs, to make the lives of our ancestors interesting, in contrast to the older style of merely charting a register of genealogical history. Remember: **People lived as families, not as surnames.**

***What does a quality family history contain?***
- Information about the life and times of families
- Thoroughly researched family records
- New information from a variety of sources
- Well-organized and understandable information
- Documentation of every fact and relationship
- Accurate portrayals and discussions of information
- Maps, photos, and illustrations
- An attractive presentation (appearance)
- A thorough and complete index
- A recognized genealogical numbering system

***How do I define the scope of my project?*** First decide how many surnames, generations, or families you want to include. You can consider focusing on direct paternal and maternal lines or including lateral family lines as well. Chronologically speaking, you can start from when your ancestors immigrated to this country and end with yourself, or you may target a specific time period or a geographic area. Factors to consider when you are defining the scope of your family history should include the following:
- Who will your audience be, and what will they want to read?
- What part of your ancestry are you most interested in?
- What time frame and geographic areas will it cover?
- How many generations and surnames would you like to include?
- Which families do you have sufficient research information for?
- Are other family members interested in helping?
- How much time and how many resources do you have?
- Will it be a formal genealogy or a family history?
- What would you like to include besides vital record information?

One thing to remember in defining your scope is to be realistic. If you take on too big a project, you will either sacrifice quality or risk not finishing. Be conservative, especially if this is your first family history. You can always include other information in another book or add information once you see what the workload encompasses.

***What options do I have for organizing ancestors and descendants?*** Most family histories organize ancestors and descendants chronologically. So we start with the past and end with the present, the opposite direction of our research. Usually each generation is presented as a chapter. Normally, you start with the oldest ancestor. This format can vary, however, depending on the extent in which you cover each family.

You can use the *single line descent* in which each chapter discusses only the direct line. The outline and structure for each chapter would be the same. Another method used is called *up and down descendant.* This method follows a line down until there are no more descendants and then back-tracks. This can be confusing and cumbersome to understand.

All my ancestors' family histories follow either a *pedigree* numbering system or the *expanded descendant's presentation*. The *pedigree* format outlines the order and gives a number to each individual. The *expanded* presentation provides for several surnames to be included in one book. The order of families must be presented in a way that is easiest for the reader to understand. Writing a series of *Ancestry of _____* books involves preparing separate family histories on each of your eight great-grandparents. This type of organization gives you bite-sized pieces but can take you longer to finish the entire project.

The basic chapter organization I used is the following:
> Chapter title page
> Ancestor/descendant charts
> Introduction of Target Family (You can include a local history as part of the introduction.)
>> Discuss vitals: birth, marriage, death, etc.
>> Introduce father and mother on both sides (paternal and maternal).
> Ancestors (Go back as far as you can.)
>> Discuss vitals: birth, marriage, death, etc.
>> Give migration patterns and residences.
> Supply other information, such as military records, homesteads, occupations, schools, churches, etc.
> Detailed discussion of Target Family
>> Local history
>> Land/property ownership and locations
>> Military service
>> Family stories
>> Occupations
>> Schools and Churches
> Detailed discussion of Children (Target Family)
>> Same type of information as listed above
> Endnotes

***What should I write about?*** Have you ever read a family history that simply regurgitates a person's research without discussing the family's life or culture? There is nothing wrong with just presenting your research, but it makes a book much more readable and interesting if you write about people. To provide context for your ancestors, you will need to include information about where they lived and how they made their living. In addition, include family stories, traditions, food, clothing, schools, churches, etc.

Some ideas to add context to your writing include the following: location of homestead or property, type of topography; wildlife and tree species; occupations; money; food; utensils; cooking; clothing; farm tools; crops; animals and chores; houses; barns; root/storm cellars; outhouses; wells; springs, creeks, and farm ponds; heating in winter, cooling in summer; roads and transportation; neighbors; education, schools, and teachers; churches and religion; vacations; hobbies; hunting and fishing; weather, fires, and storms; militia or military service; campaigns and pensions; hired hands or slaves; and cemeteries..

If you can find good quality county or local history publications for where your ancestors lived, with the knowledge of their occupations you can start to build family context. For example, were they farmers, were they merchants, how much land did they own? You can picture in your mind what life may have been like during this time period and combine context and research information while you are writing. I cannot emphasize enough about thoroughly understanding the history and culture of the place you are writing about.

***Do I need to do an outline for my book?*** It is a good idea to do a preliminary outline of what you want your book to contain. Realize, of course, that your outline will undoubtedly change during the process. An outline can help in two ways: first, it will give you an idea of whether you feel comfortable with your book's scope; and second, it will start to give you an indication of where you may need to do more research. The main text section is the most important part of your outline.

Basic Book Outline
> **Front Matter:** title page, copyright page, dedication page, acknowledgment page, table of contents, list of photos and illustrations, preface/foreword
> **Main Text:** introduction, chapters of ancestors and descendants (may either be grouped or stand alone) See the above discussion on organizing your family history.
> **Back Matter:** appendixes, notes, bibliography, and index

***When do I have enough information to start writing?*** Once you have considered the scope of your book, decided on how you will organize the ancestors and descendants, and completed an outline, you should know if you have sufficient information to begin writing. There is nothing wrong with researching as you write. However, the more delays you have in writing, the more you risk what we call "mid-book slump." One way to help you decide if you are ready to write is to do a timeline or a narrative for each family in the book. You do this chronologically by listing major life events (birth, marriage, death, etc.), the sources, and a comments section.  In the comments section, you can discuss any additional research needed and potential brick walls and how you might overcome them. A timeline or a narrative will also force you to make sure all your sources are properly documented and are of good quality. The more information you have, the more you have to write about.

As a minimum, I try to have the following records on families:
> Vitals: birth, marriage, death, and cemeteries
> Probate records (testate and intestate)
> Land and tax records
> Local histories

***Do I need to document my sources?*** Yes, yes, and yes! I think when we all start out in genealogy, we have trouble properly documenting our sources. If you have ever reviewed a family history with poor or no documentation of sources, you immediately start to suspect the reliability of the information. Therefore, you need to go back over your research information to make sure your sources are documented appropriately. Also, evaluate each source to determine if it is reliable and of good quality. A timeline or family narrative will help you evaluate your sources. It is better to evaluate your sources, then go back and correct your documentation *before* you start writing.

Documentation means that every statement, fact, date, place, name, and relationship, etc., can be tied to a source, cited properly. A citation ties the exact source to each specific piece of information. I recommend that you purchase a copy of Elizabeth Shown Mills' *Evidence: Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*. It will show you how to cite your sources correctly. Analysis of our research as we write, in order to arrive at sound conclusions, is the mark of a good genealogist or family historian.

As part of the writing process, analyze each source as to its reasonableness and for the conclusions you are drawing. Why do you believe it is correct? If something does not seem right or possible, it may require further research. Using words like *probably, possibly, likely,* or *maybe* are acceptable, but you must discuss your reasons for making such a determination in the text or the foot/end notes. Do your conclusions appear to be valid based on the evidence and your reasoning?

***Should I include maps, illustrations, charts, and photos?*** When you use graphics (maps, illustrations, charts, and photos), your information is more easily understood. Graphics used effectively with text can shorten your explanations and thus reduce the number of words. They also serve to break up the text and provide what publishers call "white space," places on a page with no printing. A good balance of text, graphics, and white space enhances the appearance and understanding of your book. As you start writing, note where you want to place graphics and leave sufficient space to help you visualize the layout of each page.

**Photographs:** The old saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words" rings very true in your family history as well. Finding relatives with old photos can be one of your biggest challenges, unless you are fortunate enough to have most of the pictures you need already. An even bigger challenge is getting relatives to send you copies. Picture hunting can be frustrating; therefore, you will need to give yourself plenty of time and start making contacts even before the writing process begins.

Once I have a good idea of the picture needs, I begin contacting relatives and others to find out what pictures they have. It usually takes a phone call with a follow-up letter or e-mail, and sometimes continued pestering. I initially ask them to scan pictures in a "Tagged Information File Format (Tiff)" at 300 DPI and send a CD. In a lot of cases, the only pictures you may receive are copies from Wal-Mart or Staples. These photos are useable if they are good quality copies. I try to avoid having pictures e-mailed as Jpegs. The small file sizes of Jpegs, unless they are decent quality pictures initially, do not have enough information to do a good job with photo editing programs. However, if this is all you can get, take advantage of it. Another option is to request that your family member(s) send you originals, promptly and in good faith scan the photos (Tiff at 300 DPT), save them in a file on your computer, and then return the originals. As a courtesy, you might consider copying the photos onto a CD and send it to your family member(s) when returning photos.

**Maps:** Maps are an essential part of conveying a sense of location or place to your readers. Reading family histories without maps makes it very difficult to figure out where they lived within a state or county, unless you are familiar with the area. If you are going to present land and deed information, maps are a critical element.

To help orient readers, a general map of the area where your ancestors lived is a good idea for each chapter. You can also include maps of old trails when discussing family migrations. I use 7.5 USGS (U.S Geological Survey) topographic maps when displaying locations of homesteads as described in deeds or other records. County highway maps may also be used if they have a sufficient scale and level of detail. You can use various photo editing programs, such as Adobe or Corel, to highlight property boundaries and to add other symbols or features on the maps. If you cut-and-paste or download maps off the internet, you will need to source the information and watch out for copyright issues. I use a scanner to copy paper maps and then move the file into a photo editing program. Most of the federal government, state, and county maps are public domain.

**Genealogical Charts:** I prefer using descendant charts to display family relationships over other types (pedigree or drop-line). In my opinion, descendant charts are easier to understand. It is a good idea to use descendant charts at the start of the family chapter or section. The reader will be able to figure out family relationships more easily as they are discussed later in the text. Try to avoid charts with too much information and try to keep them vertical (portrait) instead of horizontal (landscape).

In summary, strategically-placed illustrations can improve the appearance and understanding of the information you are presenting, much the same as photographs. A variety of illustrations can be used from drawings, sketches, land plats, old letterheads, land patents and deeds, wills and other probate documents, birth, baptism, marriage, and death certificates, military documents, naturalization and citizenship papers, etc. Illustrations should reinforce what you are writing and help the reader to better understand. If the illustration is a rare family document or artifact, such as a hand-written letter that you want to share with others, make sure the treasured value is discussed in the text.

***What other factors should I consider in the design and layout of my book?*** A good resource is the internet, with sites such as Amazon, Genealogical Publishing Company, Clearfield Publishers, etc., as well as other family websites, book stores, and libraries.

**You must do it the same.** Whatever style and layout you decide to use, make sure it remains the same throughout the book. For example, once you decide how to display captions for pictures or illustrations, stay with the same format all the way to the end. Consistency is important.

**Book size:** From my perspective, an 8½ x 11 page size is the easiest to work with. You can have wide margins and use a variety of bindings. If this is your first attempt, make it easy and stay with a standard page layout, not double columns.

**Pagination:**
- The left hand page is always an even number.
- The right hand page is always an odd number.
- If you end a chapter on an odd-numbered page, the next page is always blank. However, every blank page is still counted in the numbering of pages, to maintain consistent pagination.
- Make sure your title page falls on an odd-numbered page (on the right hand side) and the copyright page falls on an even-numbered page (on the left hand side).

**Endnotes vs. footnotes:** I prefer endnotes be placed at the end of each chapter, because the readers will mostly be relatives and other family historians. I also feel endnotes are less distracting to readers, since footnotes can take up a lot of space at the bottom of a page. Therefore, consider your audience when selecting the type of notes and readability.

**Captions:** All graphics need to have captions, usually below them, either centered or left-justified. Captions should explain who, what, when. Most graphics should also be documented.

**Borders and frames:** I like to use borders and frames because they square off edges and give your graphic a good appearance. They can do a lot to dress up your book. Use at least ¼ inch of white space around graphics to help frame them.

**Index:** How many times have you been disappointed upon discovering that a family history did not contain an index? In these cases, you are forced to go page-by-page looking for your ancestor. An index is a must for your family history book. The index should be developed in a way that provides the reader with the easiest access to the contents of your book. Poor or inadequate indexes can also frustrate your readers and make them overlook key facts in your book.

**Do not start constructing your index until you have a print-ready, edited, final draft.** Good indexes include:

- Every name and place
- Maiden and married names of women
- The word "Unknown" for given or surnames not known
- Slaves
- Historical events
- Items of interest
- Family stories
- Churches, schools, and cemeteries
- Rivers, waterways, creeks, and lakes
- Roads, towns, counties, states, and countries

**Editing:** Do not do your own final draft editing. You can edit your drafts, but your final draft should be edited by someone else, preferably not another family historian or genealogist. If your audience will mostly be relatives or the general public, then select someone with the kind of editing skills that will match your audience. You may choose someone with a limited knowledge of genealogy. Thus, you will write a book that your audience will be able to understand and enjoy. If you have the luxury, it is best to have sections edited as each one is completed. Allow at least two or three weeks at the end of your writing for editing. Use your computer's spell and language check throughout the editing process. (Be aware that these checking programs are not foolproof.)

**Color vs. grayscale:** Color reproduction can be very costly if you have many graphics or photographs in your book. As an option, you can use color for the cover. I use grayscale almost exclusively for photographs. Grayscale is a color scheme that relies on shades of gray from white to black. One nice thing about grayscale is that the file size is reduced, compared to color and sepia, yet the quality is maintained.

**Software needs:** I use Microsoft Word 2003-2007 for the text. When you start, it is best to place chapters in separate files. It is also easier to edit your text while you are using Word, before you move graphics into your document. Once the document has been edited, I move the text into Microsoft Publisher. Then the graphics can be integrated with the text. Publisher, with the use of text boxes, locks the graphics and texts in place, unlike Word.

Most online publishers will accept your book as a PDF. I converted Publisher files to PDF before I submitted them. A number of software programs will convert various file formats to PDF. I used Microsoft Publisher (2007) to convert files to PDF then up-loaded the PDF to the web address www.lulu.com.

You also need a good photo editing program. I use Corel Paint Shop Pro, Version 11. Adobe Photo Shop Elements is another popular editing program. An important investment is a scanner, preferably a portable one that can be taken on the road with a laptop. I scan all graphics in a Tagged Information File Format (TIFF) at 300 Dots Per Inch (DPI). Although TIFF produces larger files by capturing more information from the scanned image, it allows you much more flexibility in editing images.

You can use Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG), but remember that these files are already compressed in size. There is also a certain amount of image deterioration when JPEGs are opened and closed. For my camera, I shoot at least 3-megabyte JPEG pictures and then save them as TIFF images when using a photo-editing program. If you are scanning old photographs, be sure to use TIFF or some other large file format.

**Sources:**

1. Patricia L. Hatcher, *Producing a Quality Family History*, Ancestry Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah, 1996, 178 pages.
2. Rhonda R. McClure, *Digitizing Your Family History*, Family Tree Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2004, 188 pages.
3. Neal R. Middlebrook, *The Ancestors and Descendants of James L. and Francis D. Middlebrooks Hempstead County, Arkansas*, LuLu on-line publishing company, www.lulu.com, 2008, 321 pages.
4. Elizabeth S. Mills, *Evidence Explained! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1997, 124 pages.
5. Elizabeth S. Mills, *Evidence Explained! Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 2007.
6. Kirk Polking, *Writing Family Histories and Memoirs*, Betterway Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1995, 250 pages.
7. Katherine S. Sturdevant, *Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History*, Betterway Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2000, 242 pages.

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Santa's helpers are subordinate Clauses. (Submitted by Dianne Middlebrooks)

**The total number of gifts** in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" is **364; 184 of them are birds.** (funtrivia.com/Question71691)

# GENEALOGICAL FITNESS

Contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks
Information from "12 Steps to Genealogical Fitness" by Lisa A. Alzo, published in the *Ancestry Daily News*, February 2, 2006, on Ancestry.com

Another new year is fast approaching, and our minds are mulling over what kinds of resolutions to make – again. Near the top of the list each year is a resolve to improve physical fitness. Maybe you can also determine to improve your genealogical "fitness" in 2010.

There are many similarities in the two goals. Physical fitness is accomplished by exercising your body; success as a genealogist requires exercising your mind. Preparation for each activity requires warming up, stretching, feeling the exhilaration of the activity, then cooling down.

As with any promise you make to yourself, you start off with the best of intentions and can't wait to get started. Before long, you begin to see positive results. Regular physical workouts help you to lose a few pounds and your clothes fit better. With genealogy, you discover a new detail about an ancestor, and you feel great.

Then comes the inevitable brick wall. Your weight loss hits a plateau. No matter how much you search, you cannot find that one record you need. The courthouse did not have the record on file; the church your ancestor attended burned down and all records were lost, etc. Discouraged, you wonder if exercising, or genealogy, is worth the effort. Then the excuses surface: "I don't have time"; "it's too difficult," etc.

Ms. Alzo lists 12 steps that will help you stay on track and work around the obstacles that are bound to present themselves:

**1) Set realistic goals.** Develop a workable timetable. You wouldn't expect to run ten miles the very first day or lose fifty pounds right away. You wouldn't be likely to research multiple family lines all at the same time or write your family's entire history after researching for only a month. Instead, set smaller, more attainable goals: Begin by losing one or two pounds a week, or exercise at least twenty minutes per day. Attempt to trace one ancestor back as far as you can before moving on to another one, or thoroughly search one online database or microfilm, etc., per week.

**2) Devise a schedule and stick to it.** Whether it's exercising or doing genealogy research, make a schedule and discipline yourself to follow through with it. Pick a time that is best for you and put it into your daily planner or calendar. Scheduling a specific time is the best way to ensure that you will actually do the exercise or genealogy research. If your daily obligations already stretch your time to the limit, set aside time on weekends. In other words, devise a schedule that suits you, and make a genuine effort to keep your commitment.

**3) Make time for a check-up.** Just as it is important to schedule an annual appointment with your doctor to evaluate your physical health, it is also a good idea to make an appointment with yourself to take a "research inventory." Set aside a day or two to peruse the findings you've accumulated. Then make a list of missing information and devise a strategy or research plan.

**4) Trim the fat and toss out the junk.** When you begin a weight-loss program, you may be told to clean out your pantry, tossing out junk food and replacing it with healthier food choices. Apply this approach to genealogy, also. Do you have multiple copies of records when you only need one? What about those endless pieces of paper you've scribbled notes on? Go through your family history files and get rid of what you don't need. Filing may not be interesting, but it is essential to storing family history. Use binders to store printed information. File miscellaneous items that you can't part with because they may be useful later on. Label everything. Organize

your work space so that you can maximize your time researching instead of rummaging through papers or moving them from one place to another.

**5) Diversify your tasks.** Doing the same exercise routine every single day can lead to boredom and frustration. In the same way, genealogical tasks can seem tedious and even exasperating at times. Strive to make your search fun and challenging throughout the year. One way to do this is to use your calendar as a research guide. Schedule tasks around major holidays; for example, work on military records research near Veteran's Day or Memorial Day, research marriage records on Valentine's Day, do research for relatives and ancestors on their birthdays, etc.

**6) Count your steps.** Fitness experts sometimes suggest using a pedometer to measure the number of steps you take, the distance/time of a workout, or the number of calories you consume. Measure your progress with family history research, also. Try using free, downloadable genealogical forms and documents available at Ancestry.com to help organize your correspondence and research data. Enter your family information into a computerized genealogy software program such as Family Tree Maker.

If possible, try to do one small task toward your research every day, even if you can only spare fifteen minutes. In that fifteen minutes, you can do a quick search using an online database, draft a quick letter to a relative, scan an old photograph, etc. Breaking the process into more manageable pieces keeps the task from being so overwhelming. For more ideas, check out these articles by Juliana Smith on Ancestry.com:

"In Fifteen Minutes or Less,"
www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article9599 and

"More Projects in Fifteen Minutes or Less,"
www.ancestry.com/larn/library/article.aspx?article10073.

**7) Pick up the pace.** Sometimes you can become stagnant in both your exercise routine and your genealogical research, and even a slight increase in activity can help yield more results. Maybe you have put off writing that letter to an overseas archive, or you keep hesitating to contact the minister of the church your ancestors attended. Stop procrastinating; do it! Sometimes, in order to get the results you want, you have to work harder.

**8) Vary your location.** When you exercise, instead of walking on your treadmill, take a walk around your neighborhood. If you always do your research at your computer or desk, find a change of scenery. Go to the library or park, and take your laptop with you. If possible, plan a research trip to your ancestor's town and include a visit to a cemetery. Travel to Ellis Island, one of the National Archives facilities, or the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

**9) Find a buddy.** Working out and dieting with a partner provides encouragement, inspiration, and support, especially during those times you want to quit. When researching your roots, try to find a family member to share the research tasks. If you don't have a family member who shares your passion for genealogy, find an online buddy. Post to a genealogy-specific message board at Ancestry.com/RootsWeb.com or Genealogy.com. Join a local genealogical or historical society or ethnic-based research group, and network with other researchers at genealogy conferences and seminars.

**10) Take a break.** Just as it is recommended that you rest your body in order to repair your muscles, you may also need to recharge your batteries when it comes to genealogy. Your brain can go into overdrive processing all of that family history information. Put aside the family line you have been researching and do something completely unrelated. Schedule a vacation, watch a movie, read a novel. You will have a new perspective when you return to your research, and

perhaps you will see a new lead or direction to help you break that brick wall or find that elusive ancestor.

**11) Add a new twist to your routine.** You can vary your physical workout by swimming instead of jogging, or by signing up for a step aerobics class. With genealogy, try subscribing to or using a new database at Ancestry.com. If you live near a community college or library, sign up for a course there, or look for a course online.

**12) Persist over the plateau.** Inevitably with your fitness program and also your family research, you will hit a plateau. If you find yourself there, don't give up. Ask yourself whether you have really given your all, then push yourself a little harder. Spend an extra fifteen minutes perusing that microfilm baptismal certificate. Experiment with alternate spellings or use search tools such as ethnicity or year when searching online databases. Find new and creative ways to obtain information, such as contacting libraries or historical societies, or posting queries to an online forum or print publication. Thinking "outside the box" can sometimes lead you to information on your ancestor that you never even knew existed.

**Remember** to evaluate your progress on a regular basis. With fitness, you look at how many pounds you've lost and assess what it will take to reach your target weight. Similarly, with genealogy, you should keep a checklist of what research tasks have been completed and what is still unknown. This system of checks and balances gives you a perspective on how many more pounds you still have to lose or how many more ancestors you still need to find. Most importantly, it gives you a chance to look back and take pride in all you've accomplished.

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# MIDDLEBROOKSES IN SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

By Jarrelyn Lang

James L. Middlebrooks was born in Hog Creek, Jones County, Georgia, in October 1864. His father, Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks, served in the Civil War and saw heavy fighting at the Battle of Morris Island, near Charleston, South Carolina. Samuel Cannon survived the War even though he suffered multiple wounds.

After the War, Samuel Cannon and his family left Georgia and headed to Texas. Along the way, the family stayed for a while with Lewis Lee Lane, Samuel's father-in-law, who lived in the Spring Hill Township of Hempstead County, Arkansas. In 1879 the family arrived in Bosque (pronounced BŎS kee – we Texans talk funny) County, Texas, southwest of Fort Worth. Finding Texas not to their liking, they returned to Arkansas four years later, in 1883.

A licensed minister, Samuel earned money by performing weddings in the Spring Hill area of Hempstead County. He also did some farming.

In 1899, Samuel and most of his family moved to Louisiana. They lived for twelve years in Bayou Boeuf, located near Whiteville, then four years in Acadia Parish. With age and failing health catching up with him, in 1905 Samuel returned with his family to Hempstead County, Arkansas, where he remained until his death on March 6, 1907, at age 69. He is buried in the Macedonia Cemetery, located on Patmos Road, south of Hope.

Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks had three wives, all of whom he outlived. He had thirteen children by his first two wives, eight of whom preceded him in death. Four sons and one daughter were still living at the time of their father's death.

Samuel's son James L. "Jim" Middlebrooks remained in Arkansas when his father moved to Louisiana in 1889. He and Francis "Fannie" Hinton married around 1885. Jim worked for the telephone company until he fell ill with pneumonia and died on March 12, 1898, at the age of 34. Fannie lived for another 46 years, during which time she remarried. She died near Patmos, at the home her parents had established, in 1945.

Jim and Fannie's oldest son, Oscar D. Middlebrooks, earned awards by growing fruits and vegetables of record-breaking size.

Mary Nell Turner, in her article "Hope Watermelon Festival," posted online in *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, tells how the yearly festival began in 1916. Large crowds (30,000 in 1928 alone) found their way to the celebration, which included a parade, the coronation of a queen, speeches by a visiting dignitary, and dancing. The festival was halted in 1930, however, in large part because of the depression. "However, Oscar D. Middlebrooks briefly revived watermelon fever in Hope in September 1935, when the city learned of a giant melon in his field near Patmos (Hempstead County). His 195-pound watermelon was weighed on certified scales and photographed for the record. It was then shipped to movie star Dick Powell, an Arkansas native," writes Ms. Turner. President Coolidge, among others, also received one of Hempstead County's giant watermelons. Oscar's son, Arnold Middlebrooks, carried on the tradition of raising oversized melons. Arnold became Hempstead County Clerk in the 1950s. The Hope Watermelon Festival was revived in 1977 and has continued, in a less flamboyant manner, to the present time.

Peggy Lloyd, in her article "Middlebrooks family's rich history in SW Arkansas," published in the *Hope Star* on August 14, 2009, states, "The Middlebrooks family has put down deep roots in Hempstead County and is part of its fabric, especially in the Patmos area south of Hope. They married into the Huckaby or Huckabee, Kent, Hinton, Porterfield, Kincannon, Hubbard, Cunningham, and Thomas families over the years to form a web of family connections in the area.

MFA President Neal Middlebrook has written *The Ancestors and Descendants of James L. and Francis D Middlebrooks*, a history of the Middlebrookses in the Hempstead area of Arkansas.

**Sources:** Lloyd, Peggy S., "Middlebrooks family's rich history in SW Arkansas," *Hope* (Arkansas) *Star*, August 13, 2009; by permission from Peggy Lloyd and the *Hope Star*; Turner, Mary Nell, "Hope Watermelon Festival," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

<center>********** ***** **********</center>

**PEZ™** candy wasn't always so fruity. It was developed as a peppermint candy more than 70 years ago in Vienna, Austria, and marketed as a cigarette substitute. The name was derived from the German word for peppermint: **P**feff**E**rmin**Z**. Although PEZ™ has come a long way from its anti-cancer origins, it's still a popular treat. More than 3 billion PEZ™ candies are consumed annually in the U.S. Both kids and adults collect the novel dispensers. (www.delish.com)

# THE "HISTORY" OF SANTA CLAUS

By Jarrelyn Lang

The persona of Santa Claus is thought to have begun with Saint Nicholas, one of the most popular saints in the Greek and Latin churches, but there is not much evidence to support that theory. According to "The Real Saint Nicholas" by Ted Olsen (christianitytoday.com), Nicholas may have been the bishop of Myra, near modern Finike, Turkey, in the 300s.

Supposedly, Nicholas was born to a wealthy family in Patara, Lycia. When his parents died, he inherited a considerable amount of money, but he didn't keep any of it. The story most often told is that Nicholas threw bags of gold through the windows of three girls about to be sold into prostitution because their parents were extremely poor. Another version of this story is that he "gave joy to poor children by throwing gifts through their windows" ("History of Santa Claus," the-north-pole.com).

Nicholas was chosen to be the bishop of Myra, an ancient town in Turkey, because of supposed miracles that he had performed as a child. Soon after he became bishop, however, Diocletian, emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, and Maximian, emperor of the Western Empire, began their persecutions of Christians. Bishop Nicholas was put into prison.

After Constantine I became emperor, he issued the Edict of Milan, which overturned Diocletian's policies and proclaimed religious toleration throughout the Eastern Roman Empire. The edict removed penalties for professing Christianity and returned properties that had been confiscated from churches. Nicholas and countless numbers of other Christians were released from their imprisonment, and Constantine himself became a devout Christian.

By the time of Justinian's reign (518-565), Nicholas was famous. Nearly 400 churches were dedicated in his honor in England alone during the late Middle Ages.

The American version of Santa Claus gets its origins in the Dutch legend of Sinter Klaas, brought here by Dutch settlers in New York (originally New Amsterdam) in the 17th century. Author Washington Irving, most remembered for "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle," described Sinter Klaas in his 19th century satire *The History of New York* as arriving on horseback each December 5, the Eve of Saint Nicholas. (December 6 is still celebrated in many European countries as Saint Nicholas Day.)

The Pennsylvania Dutch also brought their German version of Santa to the United States. They called him Kris Kringle or "Chriskind," meaning "Christ Child." The Dutch and German versions blended and achieved Americanization in the 1823 poem "A Visit From Saint Nicholas," a.k.a. "The Night Before Christmas," by Clement Clarke Moore. In the poem, Moore used his poetic license to invent the now-familiar means of powering Santa's sleigh with reindeer, even going so far as to give names to the reindeer. Moore also described the method by which he imagined Santa exited through the chimney, by "[laying] his finger aside of his nose," a phrase that Washington Irving had originated in his 1809 work.

Rudolph made his appearance in the Santa family in the 1940s. Robert May, advertising writer for the Montgomery Ward Company in Chicago, created the tale of the red-nosed reindeer that lighted the way through the fog and helped Santa deliver his toys. May and artist Denver Gillen created an illustrated booklet that was handed out to parents who did their Christmas shopping at Montgomery Ward; millions of copies were distributed over the years. Rudolph became the most famous of Santa's chargers. His story was set to music in 1947 by Johnny

Marks and recorded by Gene Autry; millions of copies of the song were sold. Rudolph has even had his own television shows and movies.

Thomas Nast, famous for his illustrations for the magazine *Harper's Weekly*, "invented" the image of Santa Claus. His first drawings of Santa appeared on the cover and centerfold of the magazine's 1862 Christmas edition. Nast wanted to memorialize the family sacrifices of the Union during the early and, for the North, darkest days of the Civil War. He strongly believed in the Union's cause and felt sadness for their faltering war effort and for the separation of soldiers from their families.

At the time of the Civil War, Christmas was a traditional festival celebration in the United States, but it was not yet a holiday, and offices and factories remained open. Within Nast's lifetime, however, the symbol of Santa Claus was separated from its Christian beginnings and became instead a secular symbol of gift-giving. The modern commercialization of gift-giving developed around 1880 in the eastern cities of the United States, led by New York.

The best word to describe the modern image of Santa Claus is "hybrid." His character as gift-giver was originated in Turkey. His physical appearance was created and shaped by different artists over the course of time. The persona we are most familiar with is the one created in the 1930s by artist Haddon Sundblom for the Coca Cola™ Company – larger-than-life, dressed in red and white, wide black belt, a long white beard and bushy eyebrows, ruddy cheeks and nose, jolly and fat, carrying a bag filled with toys.

However, that description was not invented by or for the Coca Cola™ Company. Prior to Sundblom's depiction, illustrations of lavishly bearded Santas, showing figures dressed in red suits and hats with white fur trim, held together with broad black belts, appeared on the cover of a 1906 short book titled "Nicholas, a Fairy Tale for Children," in a picture drawn by J.C. Leyendecker for the December 26, 1925, cover of *The Saturday Evening Post*, and in several early advertisements.

Santa Claus is known by many names. Russians call him *Grandfather Frost*. In Haiti he is known as *Papa Noel*. Italians know him as *Befana*. Chinese children look forward to seeing *Dun Che Lao Ren* (the Christmas Old Man). Good boys and girls in France are given gifts by *Pere Noel*, but naughty French children receive switches from *Pere Fouchette*. Our friends in England receive their gifts from *Father Christmas*.

No matter where you live or which "Santa" brings you gifts, may you have a joyous Christmas this year!

**Sources:** "The Claus That Refreshes," Snopes.com; "The Red Nose Reindeer," merry-christmas.com; "History of Santa Claus," the-north-pole.com; "Santa Claus," wikipedia.org; "Thomas Nast Portfolio," cartoons.osu.edu/nast; "Constantine I and Christianity," wikipedia.org; "The Real Saint Nicholas," christianitytoday.com.

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**Claus**–trophobia: The fear of Santa (dezert-rose.com/humor/christmas)

# CENSUS INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

United States population census records contain a wealth of information about people that is useful in learning about our families and about the local social and economic conditions at various times in history.

Individual records from the federal population census are confidential for 72 years, by law (Title 44, U.S. Code). 1790-1930 censuses are now available for public study, and the 1940 censuses will be made available in April 2012.

Microfilm copies of most of the original population schedules from 1790-1930 are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and its thirteen regional archives. However, virtually all of the 1890 records were destroyed in 1921 as the result of a fire.

To access information housed in any of the National Archives, go to www.archives.gov and click on the Locations/Visit Us link. This will bring up a clickable listing of all archive facilities. The records are organized geographically.

The Census Bureau's files cannot be used to locate missing persons, obtain addresses (prohibited by law), or even discover how many people have the same surname. The Census Bureau's publication, *Age Search Information* (Washington, DC, 2000), has details about this service and also discusses other possible sources of data about individuals. You can download this publication at www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/gen-ref.html.

Below is a per-year account of the kind of information you will be able to find on a census for a given year.

**Population Census Items 1790-2000** (includes only those supplemental schedules still in existence; excludes questions asked on a sample basis only – the long-form questionnaire)

**1790** – Name of family head; free white males of 16 years and up; free white males under 16; free white females; slaves; other free persons

**1800** – Name of family head; if white, age and sex; race; slaves

**1810** – Name of family head; if white, age and sex; race; slaves

**1820** – Name of family head; age; sex; race; foreigners not naturalized; slaves; industry (agriculture, commerce, and manufactures)

**1830** – Name of family head; age; sex; race; foreigners not naturalized; slaves; industry

**1840** – Name of family head; age; sex; race; slaves; number of deaf and dumb; number of blind; number of insane and idiotic and whether in public or private charge; number of persons in each family employed in each of six classes of industry and one of occupation; literacy; pensioners for Revolutionary or military service

**1850** – Name; age; sex; race; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; value of real estate; occupation; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether a pauper or convict

     Supplemental schedules for slaves and persons who died during the year

**1860** – Name; age; sex; race; value of real estate; value of personal estate; occupation; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb; blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict

     Supplemental schedules for slaves and persons who died during the year

**1870** –Name; age; race; occupation; value of real estate; value of personal estate; birthplace; whether parents were foreign born; month of birth if born within the year; month of marriage if

married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; male citizens 21 and over; and number of such persons denied the right to vote for other than rebellion

       Supplemental schedule for persons who died during the year

**1880** – Address; name, relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; month of birth if born within the census year; occupation; months unemployed during the year; sickness or temporary disability; whether blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled; school attendance;  literacy; birthplace of person and parents

       Supplemental schedule for persons who died during the year

**1890** – General schedules – destroyed

       Supplemental schedules for Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows

**1900** – Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; number of years married; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration and whether naturalized; occupation; months not employed; school attendance; literacy; ability to speak English; whether on a farm; home owned or rented and if owned, whether mortgaged

**1910** – Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; number of years of present marriage for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace and mother tongue of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration, whether naturalized, and whether able to speak English, or if not, language spoken; occupation, industry, and class of worker; if an employee, whether out of work during year; literacy; school attendance; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged; whether farm or house; whether a survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy; whether blind or deaf and dumb

**1920** – Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age, marital status; if foreign born, year of immigration to the U.S.; whether naturalized, and year of naturalization; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; mother tongue if foreign born; ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; home owned or rented; if owned, whether free or mortgaged

**1930** – Address; name; relationship to family head; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; radio set; whether on a farm; sex; race, age, marital status; age at first marriage; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born, language spoken in home before coming to U.S., year of immigration, whether naturalized, and ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; whether at work previous day (or last regular working day); veteran status; for Indians, whether of full or mixed blood, and tribal affiliation

**1940** – Address; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; whether on a farm; name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age; marital status; school attendance; educational attainment; birthplace; citizenship if foreign born; location of residence 5 years ago and whether on a farm; employment status; if at work, whether in private or nonemergency government work, or in public emergency work (WPA, CCC, NYA, etc.); if in private work, hours worked in week; if seeking work or on public emergency work, duration of unemployment; occupation, industry, and class of worker; weeks worked last year; income last year

**1950** – Address; whether house is on farm; name; relationship to household head; race; sex; age; marital status; birthplace if foreign born, whether naturalized; employment status; hours worked in week; occupation, industry, and class of worker

**1960-1970** – Address; name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age; marital status

**1980-1990** – Address; name; household relationship; sex; race; age; marital status; Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent

**2000** – Address; home owned or rented; name; household relationship; sex; birth date; race; Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin or descent

**All information from "**Factfinder for the Nation," U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics, and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, June 2008.

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# SPECIAL NOTICE FOR DNA TESTING PRICING

By Bob Middlebrooks, MFA Y-DNA Project Manager

FamilyTreeDNA is offering discounted Y-DNA specials through December 31, 2009.

Y-DNA37 – promotional price $119 (regular price $149)

Y-DNA67 – promotional price $209 (regular price $239)

We continue to recommend that participants order tests with at least 37 markers. The 67-marker test provides even more opportunity for comparisions with other participants. As always, I will be glad to order the test kit for anyone that would like that assistance. Kits can be ordered and then the fee can be sent in when the kit is returned to the laboratory.

While mtDNA is not a part of our Y-DNA project, there are special discounts for this product if anyone has an interest. Both men and women may take these tests. They trace the direct maternal line. Further information about these specific tests can be found at the website of FamilyTreeDNA.

mtDNAPlus – promotional price $119 (regular price $149)

SuperDNA – promotional price $488 (regular price $665)

Also they are announcing new permanent prices for the following mtDNA products:

New kit (mtDNA Full Sequence) $279

Upgrade from HVR1 $229

Upgrade from HVR2 $209

mtDNA Full Sequence after testing Y-DNA $249

For more information: mid293@earthlink.net

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How much do **reindeer** cost?
Nothing – they're on the house!
(Anonymous)

# NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Submitted by Dianne Middlebrooks, from *The Montecello* (Georgia) *News*, December 29, 2005

For the Europeans who first settled in America, New Year's Eve was a religious celebration. Some denominations held evening worship services and rang their church bells at midnight.

During the following centuries, various immigrants brought their New Year traditions to their new homeland, also. Most of these traditions, however, had nothing to do with organized religion. Today, the celebration involves both the sacred and the secular. Many celebrants dress up in their finest, and, amidst glitz and glamour, welcome the new year in with a bit of bubbly in fluted glasses.

Technology has made it possible for all of us to celebrate together. We can see the famous ball drop at New York's Times Square or share a countdown via cell phone with friends and family in other time zones.

One thing that hasn't changed with the times is that we all share the hope for better things to come during the new year, and we make resolutions to help us be healthier, happier, and better people.

A few great moments in New Year's history:

- 2000 B.C. – Babylonians take up the practice of making New Year's resolutions. The two most popular were to pay off debts and return borrowed tools.
- 1773 – Festivities in New York City become so out of hand that laws are passed banning firecrackers, bombs, and the random firing of shotguns.
- 1879 – Perhaps anticipating the bright future of New Year's Eve, Thomas Edison gives his first public demonstration of incandescent lighting in Menlo Park, New Jersey.
- 1899 – Having witnessed "indiscriminate public kissing" the year before, San Francisco's chief of police posts extra cops on the streets to discourage necking among "persons who have not been properly presented to each other."
- 1929 – Guy Lombardo and his band, the Royal Canadians, perform "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight in a live radio broadcast from Times Square. This tradition continued until Lombardo's death in 1977.

Those of us who live in the south feast on black-eyed peas and pork, often accompanied by cornbread, to ensure good fortune during the coming year. Here are some ways our friends around the world celebrate:

- Brazilians, dressed in white clothing, go to the beaches and throw flowers into the water.
- Germans make sure to eat all their leftovers on New Year's Eve. This tradition claims to prevent hunger in the upcoming year.
- Pomegranates are smashed on doorways across Greece, to ensure prosperity.
- In Italy, residents throw any useless possession acquired during the previous year out the window at the stroke of midnight on December 31.
- Koreans make sure to have a bowl of Dduk gook soup, made with noodles, rice cakes, eggs, and green onions. Not doing so would assure that they won't live to see the next year.
- The Japanese don't cook for the first three days of the new year. Instead, they eat traditional luck-bearing foods they have prepared in advance.

However you celebrate, **MFA wishes each of you a very Happy 2010!!**

# THIS-AND-THAT

(Editor's note: This section is a place for your input. If you have a favorite genealogy-related website, book, location, insight, etc., send it to me at thelangs@hotmail.com for inclusion in a future quarterly.)

**World War II Records** – from Bobbie Middlebrooke
Footnote.com offers first-hand accounts of submarine missions and reports of missing air crews. Explore the *USS Arizona* Memorial or view over 80,000 photos from the US Army Air Force. Other records include Army and Navy JAG Case Files, Naval Press Clippings, Allied Military Conferences, and Holocaust Records. All these collections will be **open to the public during December**.

**New DAR Website** – from Neal Middlebrook
DAR announces the availability of their Genealogical Research System (GRS) on their public website: http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm. When you open the GRS, you'll find tabs for Ancestor, Descendants, GRC, and Resources. ANCESTOR is basic information about the Revolutionary War ancestor with listings of the applications submitted by the descendants who joined the DAR. DESCENDANTS is an index of generations between the DAR member and her Revolutionary War ancestor. GRC is an every-name index to 20,000 volumes of genealogical records (cemeteries, Bibles, etc.), and RESOURCES is a digitized index to the pension extract card index and analytical index cards.

**Civil War Photos** – from Charles H. Middlebrooks
Go to http://mikelynaugh.com/VirtualCivilWar/New/Originals2/index.html for some amazing Civil War era photos. The caption will pop up when you run the cursor over the photograph, and you can click on a photo to enlarge it. Hint: Use your Back arrow in the upper left of your screen to return to the main page; it works better than using the Back button at the bottom of the page.

**New Title from the North Carolina Office of Archives and History** – from Neal Middlebrook
The Historical Publications Section of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History has announced publication of *Guide to County Records in the North Carolina State Archives*. Last revised in 1997, this new edition contains an exhaustive list of all of the original and microfilmed county records that are housed in the State Archives as of March 1, 2009. It describes more than 13,000 bound volumes, 22,000 boxes of loose records, and 24,000 reels of microfilm. Included for the first time are the C.R.X. records – county records that came to the State Archives from a source other than an official county custodian. Also new to this edition are a detailed index and a 20-page glossary of record types and related terminology.
   Go to http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/3420.html to learn more about this important new book – and to order a copy. This is an essential resource if you are researching county records in North Carolina.

# OBITUARIES

**Rosemary L. Henson** passed away March 27, 2009, at her home in Ocala, Florida. Born in Decatur, Illinois, 84 years ago, she worked for Southern Illinois University Medical School in Springfield before moving to Ocala in 1989. She was a member of Ocala West United Methodist Church.

Rosemary is survived by her husband, MFA member Darrell C. Henson, a Robert 1766 descendant; sons Darrell C. Henson Jr. and Bruce Henson; daughter Beverly Raucci; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held April 3, 2009, at Ocala West United Methodist Church, followed by a committal service at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Sumter Co., Florida. MFA sends deepest sympathies to Darrell and all of Rosemary's family.

**Willie F. Bolden**, who descends from the Archibald Middlebrooks line of the Virginia Middlebrookses, passed away September 22, 2009, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was born October 27, 1922, in Weldon, Arkansas, to Newt and Betty Sue Middlebrooks Bolden.

On August 15, 1955, in South Bend, Indiana, Willie married Elizabeth G. Hughey; she preceded him in death July 13, 1999. He was a machinist for Keene Corporation, retiring in 1987.

In addition to his wife, Willie was also preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters. Survivors include daughters Betty Craig and Williene Bulahan and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral rites were held September 25, 2009, at Adams Funeral Home in Paw Paw, Michigan, followed by burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan.

MFA extends sympathy to Willie's family and to cousins Kathleen Hunter, Lucy Meise, and Betty Jean Vaughn, MFA members.

**Annette M. Howell**, a Thomas 1763 descendant, passed away October 25, 2009, in Macon, Georgia. Her parents were Henry Harris and Vera Atwood Middlebrooks.

Funeral services were held October 28, 2009, at Ingleside United Methodist Church in Macon, with burial in Macon Memorial Park Cemetery, Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.

We at MFA send our sympathies to all of Annette's family, which includes a cousin, MFA member Leonard Middlebrooks.

**Mary Middlebrooks Derrick**, descendant of Sims 1762, passed away November 22, 2009, in Columbia, South Carolina, Funeral services were held on November 24 at Belmont Baptist Church, with burial in Columbia's Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens, located in Richland County, South Carolina.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Mary was the daughter of Theodore N. and Florence Kilpatrick Middlebrooks Jr. She retired from South Carolina Electric and Gas after thirty-one years of service.

Mary was a long-time member of Belmont Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School, was a leader for the Girl Ambassadors group, and belonged to the Women's Missionary Union. She was also an avid sports enthusiast and enjoyed traveling.

Survivors include daughters Jean How, Jane Rish, and Mary Kay Shealy; a brother, Lawrence Esco Middlebrooks; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents,

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Ernest Dewey Derrick Jr., a brother, and a sister. Sympathies go out to all of Mary's family from all of us at MFA.

**David Lester Middlebrooks** passed away suddenly in Killeen, Texas, the morning of November 22, 2009. D.L., as he was known, was born in Sneads, Florida, on May 3, 1989. He was a 2007 graduate of Marianna (Florida) High School, where he served as captain of the football team. In July 2007 he joined the U.S. Army as an infantryman and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas. After serving a year in Iraq, D.L. returned to Fort Hood, where he remained until his untimely death, caused by a stab wound delivered by a fellow Fort Hood soldier.

While in the Army, D.L. received numerous decorations and awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

D.L. was preceded in death by his grandfather, David E. Stowers. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Lesa Middlebrooks; two sisters, Tuesdae and Mindy Middlebrooks; grandparents Hazel Stowers and Roy L. and Barbara McCollough; and many aunts, uncles, and friends.

Funeral services were held November 29, 2009, at Lewis Funeral Home in Milton, Florida. A private interment followed in Memory Park Cemetery in Milton, Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Middlebrooks Family Association extends deepest sympathies to D.L.'s family and friends. (Contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke)


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This is a Cemetery . . .

Lives are commemorated, deaths are recorded, families are reunited, memories are made tangible, and love is undisguised. Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information, and our heritage is thereby enriched. Testimonies of devotion, pride, and warmth are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life, not the deaty, of a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living. A cemetery is a history of a people, a perpetual record of yesterday, and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. **A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.**

(From the *Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery* brochure, Middle Village, New York, author unknown; contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks)

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2010-2011 OFFICERS
PRESIDENT – NEAL MIDDLEBROOK
VICE PRESIDENT – TOM MIDDLEBROOKS
SECRETARY/TREASURER – JOYCE ARNOLD


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MFA Website – DAVE CLARK and
LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS
DNA Project – BOB MIDDLEBROOKS
and HENRY MIDDLEBROOKS
Family Repository – JEAN SHROYER
Family *Register* Update - LEONARD
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