

**MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY
ASSOCIATION, INC.**
Quarterly Newsletter

June 2010
Editor,
Jarrelyn Lang

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Founding Editor,
Dianne Middlebrooks

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President's Message June 2010

We are just three months away from our annual meeting in Macon, Georgia, September 9-11, at the Wingate By Wyndham Hotel. Please be sure to make your reservations before August 8 to receive the \$84.00 (plus tax) rate. You can make your reservations by calling 478-476-8100 or by going on the web:

[http://www.travelpost.com/hotels/Wingate by Wyndham - Macon/hid39531/p1](http://www.travelpost.com/hotels/Wingate%20by%20Wyndham%20-%20Macon/hid39531/p1).

So far, we have planned a visit to the Washington Memorial Library, Genealogical and Historical Room <http://www.co.bibb.ga.us/library/GH.htm>, and a tour of the historic Jarrell Plantation <http://www.gastateparks.org/jarrell>. As mentioned previously, the Washington Memorial Library in Macon has excellent family history resources, and the history of Jarrell Plantation is part of our Middlebrooks legacy in Jones County.

We are still looking for suggestions on other possible Middlebrooks family history field trip stops near Macon. So please let us know if you have any ideas. Old Middlebrooks homesteads, houses, cemeteries, etc. We would also like to invite anyone willing to make a presentation on your family history to let us know. Please contact Joyce Arnold joycenjim@sbcglobal.net if you have any suggestions for the field trip, would like to make a presentation, or just have questions about the meeting.

In order to make the best use of your time in central Georgia, you should start by reviewing what you know about your ancestors and then what you would like to discover. The Washington Memorial Library and the local county courthouses provide a great opportunity to learn more about our family heritage. The National Archives at Atlanta and the Georgia State Archives, located close to each other, provide additional family history research opportunities.

Where did your ancestors live?

I like to know where my early Georgia ancestors lived. It is very rewarding for me to walk the land my ancestors once settled. This involves working with and understanding land records. Prior to 1803, Georgia lands were distributed through a much-abused headright system. The headright system was replaced by the Georgia Land Lotteries of 1805-1832. This is one of the first places to search for your early ancestors' land. Many of our ancestors were successful in acquiring land through the Land Lotteries. The location of each parcel was denoted by a district and land lot number. Some of the Georgia Land Lotteries are available on-line or through libraries. All land lotteries have been published.

Once you have the county, district, and land lot number for your ancestor, the next step is to send for a tax plat for the district by contacting the county where the

land was awarded. For example, the tax plat map for Jones County shows the districts and land lot numbers. The next step is to transfer the tax plat information to a USGS 7.5 minute topographical map for the area marking the land lot boundaries. Most land lots are 202.5 acres, but they can range from 40 to 490 acres.

One word of caution about land lots awarded through lottery system is that they could be sold to other parties instead of actually being settled by our ancestors. It is fairly easy to determine if your ancestor actually settled on the land by consulting deed indexes, deeds, and tax records. For example, if this was the only successful land lottery draw for your ancestor and the deed index indicates he did not sell the land and is taxed accordingly, then there is a good possibility this was the family's home place.

Deed indexes, deed and tax records, are mostly available through county courthouses, libraries, county or state archives, and genealogical or historical societies. You can also rent microfilmed records at your local Family History Center/Library affiliated with the LDS Church. Not very many county deed indexes or tax records are on-line, but it does not hurt to search for them. You may get lucky! If you have any questions, please let me know.

Neal

COLONIAL MEANINGS OF CERTAIN TERMS

Submitted by Dianne Middlebrooks
Originally published in the May 2003 MIDDLEBROOKS MAZE

BROTHER: One's own brother, but also often used to designate one's brother-in-law, stepbrother, husband of a sister-in-law, or "brother of the church"; sometimes even used for no apparent reason at all, except possibly to indicate good fellowship or friendship.

COUSIN: Most often used to mean nephew or niece, but also could mean cousin in the modern sense of the word or used to denote any family in our relationship (usually by blood, sometimes other as well) with the exceptions of mother, father, son, daughter, brother, and sister.

FREEMAN*: Literally a "free man," *i.e.* one who held full rights of a citizen; a freeman could vote and enter into business agreements; an indentured servant could not.

GENTLEMAN*: A man of "gentle birth" (descendancy from an aristocratic family) whose income was obtained by the rental of his land; thus, a gentleman was a member of the landed gentry. If the son of an aristocratic family left home and took up a trade, he lost the title of "gentleman." If he left home but continued to live from rental or took up a respected profession such as law or ministry, he retained the title.

GOODMAN*: A respected and substantial member of the community who ranked below a gentleman but above a freeman on the social scale.

GOODWIFE*: The spouse of a Goodman; the title was often shortened to "Goody," and you will see references to women like "Goody Smith" or "Goody Jones." (Remember that this is not a name but the shortened version of a title.)

INDENTURED SERVANT*: A person who had voluntarily or involuntarily, as in the case of transportees, bound himself to work for someone for a fixed number of years, typically from four to seven, in exchange for passage to the New World; at the bottom of the social scale, the indentured servant had few rights, but many, many people chose this way of life in order to emigrate. For anyone who lacked the fare or a skill to support himself once he got here, it was the only way open.

IN-LAW: In addition to its modern meaning, colonists also used the term to indicate any familial relationship. Thus, a man's mother-in-law might either be his wife's mother or his own stepmother. His daughter-in-law might either be his son's wife or his own stepdaughter.

JUNIOR, SENIOR: Terms which do not necessarily mean a father-son relationship; they were used solely to differentiate between contemporaries with the same name to avoid confusion; for example, you might have a cousin and a nephew with the same name. The family would refer to the older of the two as Sr. and the younger as Jr.

MISTER: A prefix which could only be attached to the name of "gentlemen," members of the clergy, or the name of someone who held high civic office.

MRS.: The feminine equivalent of "Mister," it was used in exactly the same way – to denote social position. It was not an indication of marital, but of social, status for married and unmarried women alike.

NOW WIFE: A term found exclusively in wills. It does not imply that there had been a previous wife. It was merely a safeguard that, in the event a man's wife died and he took another wife, the second wife would not be able to claim more than he intended.

*Terms of social status: The actual ranks in the Colonial social scale, in order, were Gentleman, Goodman and Goodwife, Freeman, and Indentured Servant.

A LETTER WRITTEN BY PAMELIA BROOKS TO HER SISTER, EMILY BROOKS

Contributed by Karen French

Pamelia Brooks's granddaughter, Eliza Nichols Merrill, was the wife of Dr. Elijah Middlebrook of Fairfield, Connecticut. Dr. Middlebrook published "Middlebrook's New England Almanac" for many years. Pamelia (1828-1857) was also Karen French's great-great grandmother. Pamelia wrote this letter from South Berwick, Maine, to her sister, Emily Brooks (1829-1900), on June 20, 1847. Pamelia was about nineteen years old at the time.

Your letter, Emily, found me well,
Making money in the mill.
The first two weeks, my average pay
Was one shilling sixpence every day.
Since then I've wove with greater speed
By which more wages I have made.
Besides my board for 3 weeks since
I've made three dollars thirty five cents.

By this, you see, I do as well
As you can do in the Cotton mill.
My health is good, my spirits light,
My heart's at ease, my prospects bright.
The news from Jay (Maine) you wished me to tell
Is, Mother writes that they are well.
Our Grand parents are failing, they say.
Aunt Hannah the same as when we came away.

Father thinks we had better go home
Ere Grand father and mother are laid in the tomb.
For they wish to see us ere they go
The way of all that dwell below.
In your next letter please to say
When you think of going to Jay.
And if you think of going next fall
Please on me in South Berwick to call.

Mrs. Gordon and I have new dresses bought
Gingham muslin, Checked and wrought.
A black lace veil and flowers by the way
To make my market while I stay.
And now I should like to know
If you in Lowell (Maine) have found a Beau.

And if you have, O may you live
To enjoy the blessings God will give,
To those that love and serve his will
And strive in all things to do well.
That cough which is so loud and rough
Is in itself I'm sure enough
To make you leave the Cotton mill
And in some other place to dwell –
For other places I'm sure there are
And not from Lowell very far
Where you can breathe the pure fresh air
And of that blessing have your share.

Now my advice to you I give
For you to go where you can live
And not in Lowell work and stay
Till life and health have passed away.
And now, Dear sister, fare thee well
Tis from my heart I wish you well
My love to all, with this I close.

May God preserve you from all woes.
And when you die
Oh may you dwell with him on high
forevermore.

It rains to day
So I say
this is from your sister
Pamelia.

May you bloom like the rose
Have plenty of beaus
And walk in the way
That is Heavenly.
P.A.B.

If you have a chance please send my purselette
And your favor I will never forget.

MOTHERS – THROUGH SECOND GRADERS' EYES

Contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke

Answers given by grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did Mom need to know about Dad before she married him?

1. His last name
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because Dad's such a goof.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad.

Search this site is a great search tool. Enter a word or phrase, then click search to find pages on TNA that mention that word or phrase. It often returns a long list of pages, but recommends one that it feels most likely to be the one you want.

Are you new to this site? takes you to TNA's answers to an extensive list of FAQs.

About us: This menu choice is broken into sub-choices, including contact information. The most useful is *Who we are*, *What we do*, and *How we operate*. This will give you a basic understanding of TNA and the influence of its governmental mandates.

Visit us: The sub-choices available under this pull-down menu include a brief statement on *Why visit us?*, as well as excellent advice on preparing to visit TNA. It explains about ordering documents in advance, opening hours, and other issues essential to be fully prepared for an in-person visit to TNA.

Research, Education, and Online Exhibits: This menu choice is an extensive section of the TNA website. The first level choices are: Starting your Research; Research Guides; Paying for Research; Exhibitions & Treasures; and Teachers, Parents, & Children.

Starting your Research is subdivided into types of research you might want to do – academic, family history, house history, local history, military history, or security history. Each has a list of resources with links. Here, you can see major resources available for family history. The family history sub-page also has a link to a tutorial on how to interpret old handwriting (the study of paleography), such things as a guide to death duty registers, and a list of online exhibits (including such gems as an in-depth guide to family history, focus on Domesday, living at the time of the 1901 census, and many more). It also links to information from the popular TV series "Who Do You Think You Are?" produced by Ancestry.com and NBC.

Research Guides is broken into two sub-sections, record research guides and in-depth learning guides. There are nearly two hundred record guides, which describe specific records, telling what they contain, how to access them, and how to understand the information given in them. Record guides are listed alphabetically, ranging from Admiralty records research to Zimmerman telegraph research. The in-depth guides are intended to be detailed explanations to guide research activities. The family history guide explains concepts and links to the record research guides in context rather than repeat the information given in those guides.

Search the Archives: Hovering over this menu will bring up a list of nine databases and a link to more. Selecting more or clicking on Search the Archives will take you to a list of five featured databases and thirteen additional databases. Unfortunately, this is not a complete list of the databases available on TNA. Some additional databases are found by following the links under Search the Archives, by checking the website, or by hearing about it from others. For example:

1. Someone tells you the index to Royal Navy (RN) Seamen 1873-1923 is online, but to find it you have to go to Documents Online, of which the RN database is a part.
2. Someone tells you the index to Army personnel discharged to pension 1790-1872 is online, but to find it you have to do a search of the Catalogue, of which the Army database is a part.

A new National Archives Global Search searches across most of the TNA databases. Read about this search at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/about.asp#search, or try it out at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search/quick_search.aspx. The major databases are:

Documents Online – includes:

- All Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, indexed by testator and digitized copy of every will (viewed for a fee).
- Many WWI and WWII databases, including Womens Army Corps, Medal rolls, Victoria Cross registers, and WWI diaries.
- Death Duty registers, 1796-1811.

The Catalogue (formerly PROCAT) contains bundle-by-bundle listing of the records at the National Archives. While making their catalog fully electronic, the PRO also computerized various indexes and finding aids. Thus, PROCAT contains an index to Chancery court cases, Army *soldiers' documents* (WO97), soldiers' discharge papers, Navy Board of Admiralty correspondence, and many other records. For a list of SOME record indexes in PROCAT, see **major cataloguing projects completed** at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/operate/meetings/catboard/catprog.htm. If you have a PRO document reference (*e.g.* WO 121/34/122), type the document reference into the type-reference-here box and press search to find out what it is. If you type in a record class (*e.g.* BY 26), you will get a summary description of the class.

A2A (Access to Archives) contains descriptions of records at 403 record offices in the United Kingdom. ARCHON is a directory of archives in the United Kingdom, with information on location, e-mail, web page (if any), opening hours, and more. It is the place to go to check on archives, how to contact them, and to learn what they have accessible on the internet.

Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is a catalog of documents that survive from England's 65,000+ manors, including those still held in private hands. Manor records are some of the earliest records that contain names and family relationships for the English people other than nobility.

National Register of Archives (NRA) is an attempt to have a single catalog for all British historical records. The NRA contains information about the location and nature of historical records that have been created by some 46,000 individuals, 9,000 families, 29,000 businesses, and 75,000 organizations.

Other collections include **E17, Equity Pleadings, Electronic Records Online (EROL), MacMillan Online, Hospital Records, Trafalgar Ancestors, Reference Library Catalog, and Accessions to Repositories.**

In addition, there are TNA cooperative data hosted at **Ancestry UK, Moving Here, Family Records Center**, and the 1901 Census at **Genes Reunited**.

TNA is also working with FindMyPast (formerly 1837online) to digitize the departing passenger records from British ports (1890-1960). This is called AncestorsOnBoard, with 1890-1899 completed so far. Check it out at www.ancestorsonboard.com.

Service for Professionals: This menu choice isn't what most of us expect because we forget that TNA services more than just genealogists and family historians. This section is intended to provide direction and assistance to archivists. The part in the section that's potentially useful to genealogists is the Archives Portal. This is a gateway to archival resources and projects for the United Kingdom. The database for the Clergy of the Church of England can be found on this page.

The **News** menu choice is the forum for making announcements about changes in the TNA website, plans for the future, and newly added databases. The sub-choices here are news, new

document releases, contact the press office, and free e-mail updates. Choosing free e-mail updates will cause the news announcements to be delivered to you by e-mail, thus avoiding the need to check back periodically (assuming you read your e-mail!).

Shop Online is the final menu choice. This allows you to subscribe to Ancestors magazine, purchase guide books published by the TNA or affiliated publishers, or order copies of documents for a fee.

Source: "Getting the Most from England's TNA (The National Archives)," by Alan E. Mann, A.G., alanmann.com, February 2007.

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Follow-up: "Ranch Land that Build a Capitol," March 2010 MFA Quarterly Newsletter

By Jarrelyn Lang

After having read my article on the XIT Ranch in the March issue, Tom Morris wrote the following:

"I really enjoyed the XIT story. Having been born and lived in Dalhart most of my younger years and having one great uncle who punched cows on the ranch, I didn't know much of what you wrote. Nice piece of work. Thank you."

In my reply, I asked for more information about Tom's uncle. He sent this: "The great uncle who worked on the XIT was my Grand Dad's (Daniel Atkinson) brother. No relation to the Middlebrook clan." (I assured Tom that this would be interesting to MFA members because it was someone related to him.)

Tom shared more information: "My great uncle was one of 10 boys and 8 girls. The last time I talked with him, I was about 9 years old and I can't remember what his name was. I do remember some of the stories he told me as a kid.

"He said, first thing in the morning, the pasture foreman's wife would throw yesterday's coffee out the back door, add the appropriate amount of coffee to the pot, add some egg shell, a pinch of salt, and a half-plug of tobacco. Then she would fill it with water and place the pot on the wood stove in the kitchen. The rest of the day the pot would be drunk from and have added ingredients as needed but not emptied until the next morning.

"One of the things the cowboys would do for sport is rope deer from their cow ponies. You can bet that they were a wild bunch. My great uncle worked on a section of the ranch west and north of Amarillo as best as I can remember.

"All of my great grandfather's children grew up on ranches near Jacksboro, and all of the boys punched cows. I am currently doing genealogical research on that part of the family. Maybe I'll come across something that will refresh my mind as to which of the brothers this great uncle was."

**Clovis Road, the Dr. Roy Hunt Murder, Littlefield, Texas 1942-1943, written by
Dana Middlebrooks Samuelson and Robert Samuelson, M.D.**

Dana is the daughter of the late Allen Dale Middlebrooks and granddaughter of Jim Lee Middlebrooks and Myrtie Lee Reeves. Dana married Robert Samuelson in 1989. On November 10, 1996, Dana was mentioned in the *Dallas Morning News* for "Best Concepts" in a writing contest for a new television series to replace "Dallas." She has had a lifelong interest in medicine, true crime, and psychology. She and her husband published Common Ground – the Wheat and the Chaff in 2005, a genealogy collection of stories from several allied families.

Dana's mother, Sue Middlebrooks, told Dana and her husband about a Littlefield doctor and his wife who were killed in their home in the 1940s while their two young daughters were in the house. Dr. Roy Hunt started practice in Littlefield in 1937, which was the year Waylon Jennings was born in the same town. Hunt bought a home, built a hospital along with his partners, and survived an attempted murder in 1942 by a medical school classmate. He was ultimately killed, along with his wife, in the middle of a night "hit" in their home on East 7th Street in Littlefield in 1943. This is a true Texas crime story.

The Roy Hunt murders of Littlefield, Texas, were among the top news stories in Texas during World War II, and made the front pages in Texas for several years. Clovis Road is the first publication that tells the whole story of the crimes that ended the young doctor's life and the life of his wife.

The book discusses the court trials, the motives, and the eventual outcomes of the characters involved in a medical training love triangle that so affected the grandson of a founder of Lubbock, Texas, and the son of a prominent physician and state senator. It discusses nurses' education, medical practice, and small town politics. The heroes of the story are a Texas Ranger, a District Court Attorney, and the physician brother of the victim.

Plainview, Texas, attorney Bill LaFont grew up hearing about the trial that riveted citizens across Texas. His father, Judge Harold LaFont, was District Attorney during the murder trial, as well as the previous trial when Dr. Billy Newton shot Dr. Hunt on Clovis Road, outside of Littlefield. LaFont recalls, "Dad tried to get in position to write a book but never took the time to sit down and do it."

The Samuelsons traveled throughout Texas for a year to get the material to write the book. They interviewed people who were in Littlefield that day in 1943, searched many trial court and probate records, and visited museums and newspaper files to be able to tell the story. Bill LaFont allowed them to research his father's records and transcripts of the trials that he had donated to the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The first-edition hardback is 184 pages, 93,000 words, and has about fifty illustrations. It tells the background of the families involved and carries the story to the conclusion of the dramatic epic story.

Dana's father, Allen Dale Middlebrooks, ran a service station in Littlefield and in Bula, Texas, for many years and passed away in September 2006. A Littlefield service station figures prominently in the Dr. Hunt murder story. Dale had one brother, Cleo Middlebrooks, and two sisters, Mardell and Robbie Lee. Dale Middlebrooks also worked at Pantex Munitions Plant in Amarillo during World War II, at the same time that a significant character in Clovis Road worked at that plant. Many coincidences like that were discovered while Dana and her husband were writing the book.

Clovis Road has been available at Amazon.com since January 2010

FORT RICHARDSON'S ROLE IN WINNING THE WEST

By Jarrelyn Lang

During the time that John Floyd Middlebrooks (<Anderson Joseph Middlebrooks <William Sims Middlebrooks <Thomas Middlebrooks 1763) was driving a stage carrying mail, passengers, and freight between Weatherford, Texas, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, one of his stops was Fort Richardson, located near Jacksborough (as it was spelled then), county seat of Jack County, Texas.

Fort Richardson was named for U.S. Army Major General Israel Bush "Fighting Dick" Richardson, who fought in both the Mexican-American War and the Civil War. Wounded at the Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862, Richardson died from his wounds two months later. From the time the fort was established in 1868 until it was abandoned as a government outpost in the late 1870s, Fort Richardson was the center of much activity, both from a military and from a civilian point of view.

Fort Richardson served as a station of protection and offensive against the Comanche and Kiowa, as did all other Texas forts. In addition, the men stationed there were charged with keeping public peace after the Civil War and during Reconstruction. They had to maintain public order and also a degree of safety for the settlers against the Indians, even after the state was re-admitted to the Union.

The unstockaded fort encompassed 300 acres and had 55 buildings, most made of native limestone or cottonwood lumber. It was by far the largest military installment in Texas. The most northerly in the line of Federal forts established in Texas, Fort Richardson was the only one close to Indian Territory (Oklahoma), only 70 miles away. For a brief period from 1868 to 1873, it was strategically the most important post in the state of Texas, and in 1872 it had the largest garrison among military installations in the United States, with 666 officers and men.

The frontier situation was critical. Increasing raids by the Comanche, Kiowa, and Kiowa-Apache had all but wiped out the population of the northwestern Texas frontier and was a serious threat to the entire westward movement.

Troops of the Sixth U.S. Cavalry, under command of Colonel S.H. Starr, first set up quarters near Jacksborough in 1866, their purpose being to scout for marauding Indians. No fort was built at that time. In April 1867, the troops were moved to Fort Belknap and to Buffalo Springs, both located in Clay County, about twenty miles northeast of Jacksboro. These locations were chosen because of their ready supply of water.

When the water supply at Buffalo Springs failed in November 1867, the troops were returned to Jacksborough, and the construction of Fort Richardson began. The building process was to take many months, and, according to accounts written by Assistant Surgeon J.H. Patzki in 1871, the fort was never completed to government plans.

The difficulty encountered in building the fort was in large part due to the fact that lumber had to be hauled from a government sawmill located on Big Sandy Creek, five miles east and eight miles north of the town of Bridgeport in Wise County. That meant that the ox wagons or ox teams had to move their heavy loads over thirty-eight miles of Indian-infested country.

Besides the cottonwood lumber, natural limestone was also used in many of the buildings. Limestone formations were located nearby and easily accessible.

The post was built along the banks of Los (no *t*) Creek, a small tributary of the West Fort of the Trinity River. Los Creek also served as the principal water supply. Drinking water came from several springs near the creek. The post's water wagon, with a tank capacity of about 500 gallons,

supplied water to officers and troops, as well as to the hospital, bakery, offices, and laundry. Bathing and other necessities were done in the creek also, farther downstream. Each company had its own water cart to procure more water if needed.

The boom in Jacksboro which followed the establishment of the fort brought gamblers, some 27 saloons, and camp followers. A number of frame shanties, which included most of the saloons, occupied the bank of Los Creek opposite the fort. One structure was used as a jail. Its 4' x 8' cells housed soldiers and citizens who were confined for drunkenness, fighting, and other offenses.

During its history, Fort Richardson served as the regimental headquarters for the Sixth United States Cavalry (1868-71), the Fourth United States Cavalry (1871-73), and the Eleventh Infantry (1873-76), as well as various elements of the Tenth United States Cavalry and Twenty-Fourth United States Infantry. Soldiers at the fort maintained the post, helped local law officers keep the peace, pursued criminals and deserters, escorted wagon trains, oversaw elections, protected cattle herds, and, most importantly, patrolled for Indians.

The Sixth Cavalry recruits were not prepared for frontier conditions or the guerilla-type warfare used by the Plains Indians, according to Gay Schlittler Storms in her column "North Texas Tales," published in the *Jacksboro Gazette* April 20, 2004. She goes on to say that most of the men were unskilled recruits and burned-out Civil War veterans, many of whom had returned to the Army after being unable to adjust to civilian life. About half the enlisted men were foreign-born, the majority Irish and the rest French, British, Scandinavian, and Russian.

These soldiers had to learn how to endure long hours in the saddle in stifling heat and freezing cold, in addition to the hard labor, boredom, poor food, bad living conditions, harsh discipline, disease, disability, and sometimes death that was a part of fort life.

When the soldiers' uniforms became more irritating than comfortable – hot in summer, cold in winter, made of cheap material that wore out quickly – they ignored regulations and instead opted for practicality and comfort. Their wartime Kepi caps, with their flat circular tops and narrow visors, were replaced with straw hats and sombreros that provided more protection from the elements. Instead of blue flannel shirts, they chose instead to wear Confederate gray and buckskin, with buffalo robes replacing their wool jackets in the winter.

During the prime raiding months of April through September, scouting parties from Fort Richardson were constantly in the field. Although most of these forays resulted in no Indian sightings, there were occasional bloody encounters with bands of hostiles. In July 1870, fifty-six officers and men of the Sixth Cavalry, under the leadership of Captain Curwen B. McClellan, were ambushed near the Little Wichita River, northwest of Jacksborough in Archer County, just south of the present-day site of Lake Kickapoo.

Leading about 100 Kiowa Indians was Chief Kicking Bird. Kicking Bird, who was considered a coward by his own people for trying to establish closer relations with the whites, found that his influence was slipping away, so he formed a war party and sought a way to restore his lost prestige by doing battle with white soldiers. He led his followers across the Red River into Wichita County and on into Archer and Young counties. A group of young warriors, unhappy because they had not been able to find any contact with civilians, broke away from the main group and, disregarding Kicking Bird's orders not to make hostile contact, attacked and robbed a mail stage at Rock Station, near the site of present-day Jermyn in Jack County.

When word of the attack reached Fort Richardson, Captain McClellan and his men hurried to Rock Station and found the stage upturned. Part of the mailbag and one package, addressed to the quartermaster at Fort Richardson, were recovered along with other scattered pieces of mail.

The cavalry resumed its search for Kicking Bird, moving northwest. The search was abandoned when, after five days and about fifty miles, they failed to find the Kiowas. In his report, McClellan reported that Kicking Bird was difficult to track because he divided his party and skillfully covered his trail.

McClellan and his men finally managed to catch up with the Kiowas on the evening of July 11, 1879, and attacked their camp the following morning. Shortly after the attack began, however, McClellan discovered that his men were outnumbered two to one and the Indians' Spencer rifles were far superior to their own weapons. Taking advantage of the situation, Kicking Bird led a charge on the disorganized cavalymen. For the remainder of the afternoon, McClellan's men were attacked from all sides as they tried desperately to retreat. The fighting was so fierce that the army was forced to abandon the bodies of the three soldiers who died in battle as they made their escape across the West Fork of the Trinity River.

The exhausted men, eleven of them wounded, made camp near the small town of Jean in Young County. Twenty cavalymen stationed in Jean and a group of cowboys from a nearby ranch joined the men there as reinforcements. The next morning McClellan dispatched couriers to Fort Richardson for ambulances. Fearing another attack, he ordered all baggage burned and moved his men to a more secure location. The ambulances arrived that afternoon, and the Sixth Cavalry returned to Fort Richardson on July 14.

McClellan's report praised Kicking Bird's superior generalship and called for larger forces to protect the frontier. He stated that the Kiowas had suffered casualties of fifteen killed and an undetermined number wounded. This was the last time Kicking Bird was involved in hostilities of any kind. After breaking off the attack and returning home with his prestige restored, he dedicated the remainder of his life to establishing peaceful relations between the Kiowas and the whites.

In May 1871, General William Tecumseh Sherman visited Fort Richardson as part of a fact-finding tour of the Texas frontier. While there, he received word that a freight-hauling wagon train had been attacked by a large party of Indians on the Salt Creek Prairie twenty miles from the fort. He also learned that the same group of Indians, wanting easier prey than a military entourage, had hidden themselves and allowed Sherman's party to pass unmolested the day before. General Sherman personally arrested the ringleaders at Fort Sill, across the Red River in Indian Territory, and ordered them to be taken to Jacksborough to stand trial. The Kiowa chiefs Satanta and Big Tree were held in custody at Fort Richardson and became the first Native Americans to be tried in a Texas civil court. A third chief, Satank, escaped during the transport from Fort Sill to Fort Richardson.

Because of this and other events, General Sherman authorized Fort Richardson's commanding officer of the Fourth Cavalry, Colonel Ranald Mackenzie (leader of the famous Mackenzie's Raiders), to begin offensive operations against any Indians not on the reservation. Over a fifteen-month period, Mackenzie led his Raiders on four major expeditions from Fort Richardson into the Texas Panhandle. In late 1871 he fought a running battle with the Quahadi Comanches, led by their chief, Quanah Parker.

In the summer of 1872, Mackenzie and his men explored the unmapped Llano Estacado, a region covering parts of eastern New Mexico and Northwest Texas which includes the South

Plains and parts of the Texas Panhandle. Later that same year, he located and attacked the encampment of the Comanche chief Mow-way on the North Fork of the Red River, killing fifty warriors and capturing 130 women and children.

Fort Richardson served as a major staging base during what was known as the Red River Wars, 1871-75, which began with Mackenzie's running battle with Chief Quanah Parker. Bands led by chiefs of the Comanche, Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kiowa came together to ward off the white man.

Westward expansion continued to encroach upon the Plains Indians' lands. Promises made by the U.S. government to Indians who had moved onto the reservations proved largely empty. Food was inadequate and of poor quality. Restrictions on personal movement, trade, and worship were all but impossible for the Indians to tolerate; they were accustomed to roaming over the plains at will. The tribes saw it as their duty to fight.

The beginning of the end of the Red River Wars was, once again, a battle against Chief Quanah Parker. The final, decisive battle took place at Adobe Walls in Palo Duro Canyon, located in Hutchinson County in the Texas Panhandle. The settlement's name derives from the fact that all the buildings had sod walls. On June 27, 1874, some 300 Indians, led by Comanche chiefs Isa-tai and Quanah Parker, attacked Adobe Walls. The small settlement was defended by 28 buffalo hunters and various skimmers, bartenders, cooks, blacksmiths, clerks, and wagon drivers. At least one woman lived there, also, a Mrs. Olds, who owned a restaurant. Armed with Sharps rifles, the buffalo hunters managed to stave off their attackers. An estimated two dozen Indians were killed, but only three defenders.

Following the attack on Adobe Walls, the U.S. Army began to formulate plans to subdue the Southern Plains tribes permanently. They called for enrollment and protection of innocent and friendly Indians at their reservations and pursuit and destruction of hostiles, without regard for reservation or departmental boundaries.

The offensive utilized five columns converging on the general area of the Texas Panhandle, specifically the upper tributaries of the Red River, where the Indians were believed to be. The strategy aimed at full encirclement of the region, thereby eliminating virtually all gaps through which the Indians might escape. Five different commanders of various forts, including Colonel Ranald Mackenzie, who now commanded Fort Concho in Tom Green County, Texas, marched their armies to the Panhandle. The plan called for converging columns to maintain a continuous offensive until a decisive defeat had been inflicted on the Indians.

During the remainder of 1874, an estimated twenty engagements between the U.S. Army and the Southern Plains Indians took place across the Texas Panhandle region. The well-equipped Army kept the Indians on the run until eventually they could not run or fight any longer, and they met their defeat at Palo Duro Canyon. The Red River Wars officially ended in June 1875 when Quanah Parker and his band of Quahadi Comanche, the last free band of Southwestern Indians, entered Fort Sill and surrendered. The Comanche and Kiowa were granted reservation land in southwestern Indian Territory.

With the North Texas frontier secure, there was no longer any need for a military presence in Jack County. Orders to abandon Fort Richardson were issued March 29, 1878, and on May 23 the last troops marched to their new station at Fort Griffin, southwest of Jacksborough in Shackelford County, Texas. In 1883, the bodies buried in the post cemetery were moved to the National Cemetery at San Antonio, and military occupation was ended forever on that part of the Texas frontier.

Most of the buildings quickly fell into ruins, but the city of Jacksborough continued to maintain those that remained, including officers' quarters. For many years, John Floyd Middlebrooks's granddaughter, Jenny Izora Middlebrooks Tate, and her husband, Henry Tate, occupied the Commanding Officer's home. Many Jack County and Panola County cousins and their families enjoyed reunions there. Other buildings remaining included the fort's hospital, commissary, bakery (in which an estimated 600 loaves of bread were baked daily), arsenal, and guardhouse, all made of native limestone. The parade ground was kept in good shape, also.

The land on which the fort stood had been leased from a Mr. Foscue, with the understanding that it would revert back to him when the post was evacuated. The land was later leased to the U.S. Government to be used by the Texas National Guard for training purposes.

In 1963 Fort Richardson was declared a national historic landmark, and in 1968 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department assumed control of the grounds and began extensive renovations. Fort Richardson State Historic Park opened in 1973.

The buildings mentioned above were restored. In addition, replicas of officers' and enlisted men's barracks have been built. The officers' barracks houses the Interpretive Center. The fort's website describes various activities held there, including historical study, picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, biking, a day-use equestrian trail, nature study, and wading in Los Creek (seasonal). Guided tours are held daily at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., for a fee. Special events held throughout the year include Military Reenactments, a barbeque cook-off, a trout fishing tournament, and Living History presentations.

Apparently the old fort has its share of ghosts. Southwest Ghost Hunters Association members Cody Polston and Jessica Irwin spent time there after learning these reports of various phenomena:

While preparing for an event one spring, a female staff member working near the hospital reported that she heard the unmistakable sound of footsteps walking around on that building's front porch. The footsteps seemed to follow her movements, always behind her, stopping when she did. As the woman turned around to resume her walk, she was knocked up against the wall by an invisible blast of cold air. The woman also noticed that the "unique sound of knuckles cracking" seemed to accompany the strange manifestation.

Objects are often moved and relocated in the old hospital. Figures have also been seen in its windows at night. Visitors and staff alike have reported seeing a shadowy figure in a blue soldier's uniform around the morgue, guardhouse, and magazine areas.

The two ghost hunters arrived at the fort just before dusk on August 5, 2001. After talking with some of the staff, they ran electro-magnetic (EM) sweeps, mostly around the hospital, where the majority of unusual activity had been reported. They reported hearing several sounds – including footsteps – and movement of objects inside the hospital. Their EM fields for these events registered at 8 milligauss with a frequency of 30HZ (hertz). Another EM field, near the guardhouse, registered around 37HZ.

Their initial conclusions: "As with many outdoor locations, dust and airborne particles are a major problem with photography. However, the unusual EM fields found near and around the hospital make this site interesting." (<http://www.sgha.net/tx/jacksboro/ft.html>)

Perhaps when you visit Fort Richardson, you may be able to learn its history firsthand from some of its original inhabitants!

(See sources on next page.)

Sources: "Fort Richardson State Park Historic Site & Los Creek Reservoir State Trailway," www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/parks/fort_richardson/; "Old Fort Richardson Helped in Winning the West," www.rootsweb.ancestry.com; "Red River Historian: History of Where the South Meets the West," redriverhistorian.com; "Ghost Hunt of Fort Richardson, Texas," www.sgha.net/TXjacksboro/fr.html; "Red River War," Wikipedia.com; "Battle of the Little Wichita River," *Handbook of Texas Online*; "Fort Richardson," *Handbook of Texas Online*; "North Texas Tales," Gay Schlittler Storms, *Jacksboro Gazette*, Apr. 20, 2004.

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IN MEMORIAM

Martha Lilyan Middlebrooks Hanberry died May 4, 2010. Lilyan was born November 9, 1923, in Haddock, Georgia, to Willis and Sara (O'Kelly) Middlebrooks.

She graduated *cum laude* from Peabody High School and the Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia. After college, she worked at Davison's, an antiques and furnishings store in Atlanta.

Lilyan married Richard Lawrence Hanberry, Jr. on December 30, 1949. She worked with the Girl Scouts in New Orleans while Richard was in medical residency there.

Lilyan was very active in her children's activities, including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. All three of her sons became Eagle Scouts, and all of her children were honor graduates of Stratford Academy.

As a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lilyan served on the Flower Guild and was President of the Episcopal Church Women. She served in many capacities in the Hillandale Garden Club during her fifty years of membership. In addition, she served as President and in other offices of the Bibb County Medical Auxiliary.

Lilyan had a passionate interest in genealogy and published several volumes of family history. As a member of the DAR, she served as chapter President and in other offices. She had traced ten or more lines of the family's background and was awarded pins accordingly by the DAR. She was also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Lilyan was preceded in death by her husband, son Willis Middlebrooks Hanberry, and sister Sallie (Middlebrooks) Vetter. Survivors include sons Richard Lawrence Hanberry III and John Cline Hanberry; daughter Lilyan (Hanberry) West; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services for this Thomas 1763 descendant were held May 8, 2010, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.

Middlebrooks Family Association extends our sincerest sympathies to Lilyan's family.

Paul Edwin Middlebrooks, Jr., 83, passed away May 7, 2010. Born May 14, 1926, in Macon, Georgia, Paul was the son of the late Paul Edwin Sr. and Lillie Mae (Adams) Middlebrooks. He was also predeceased by his wife, Elinor (Watson) Middlebrooks, and four sisters.

Paul was a member of the Ingleside Methodist Church of Macon. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, and he was awarded a Purple Heart.

Surviving are children David Middlebrooks and Julie (Middlebrooks) Sutton; one sister, Mable (Middlebrooks) Greene; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 10, 2010, in the Ingleside United Methodist Church, followed by burial in Macon Memorial Park Cemetery, Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.

All of us at Middlebrooks Family Association send our sympathies to the family of this Robert 1766 descendant.

The following was contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke. Although Mrs. Murphy had no connection to the Middlebrook/s family, Bobbie and I thought it would be fitting to share this information with MFA members. (JL)

Pamela Murphy, widow of World War II hero and actor Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8, 2010, at the age of 90. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Murphy became a patient liaison at the VA hospital in Sepulveda, California, a career that would last more than thirty-five years.

All the patients there became "her boys" and were treated to her VIP treatment. Veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for the thousands of veterans she had treated and befriended over the years, said, "Nobody could cut through VA red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy. Many times I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting more than an hour right into the doctor's office. She was even reprimanded a few times, but it didn't matter to Mrs. Murphy. Only her boys mattered. She was our angel."

Audie Murphy died broke in a plane crash in 1971, having squandered millions of dollars on gambling, bad investments, and other women.

Pam said, "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero." She lost her ranch-style Van Nuys home and moved her two sons, Terry and James, into a small apartment, supporting all of them with her job at the VA hospital. She even managed to pay off all of her husband's debts.

Pam hated the spotlight. Asked by a reporter if she would consent to be the focus of a Veteran's Day column, she refused. "Honor them, not me," she said. "They're the ones who deserve it."

In 2002, Pam's job was going to be eliminated due to budget cuts. She was considered "excess staff." Coming to her aid, the veterans held a rally for her outside the hospital's gates. It wasn't long until word came down that Pam Murphy's job was no longer considered "excess staff." She remained working at the Sepulveda VA Hospital full time until her retirement at the age of 87 in 2007.

Funeral services were held April 9, 2010, in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, California.

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DNA SUMMER SPECIALS, from Bob Middlebrooks

Details:

Y-DNA37 for \$119 (Regular price would be \$149)

Y-DNA67 for \$199 (Regular price would be \$239)

Y-DNA37+mtDNA for \$159 (Combined test would cost \$238)

Bypass the Y-DNA12 and Y-DNA25, and get the best Genealogy tests on the market!

The promotion started June 5 and will end June 25. Kits need to be paid for by June 30, 2010. I will be glad to order a test for anyone who is interested and arrange for the invoice to be sent along with the test kit. To contact me: mid293@earthlink.net.

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ON-GOING PROJECTS

Cemetery Project – J.A. MIDDLEBROOKS
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LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS
DNA Project – BOB MIDDLEBROOKS
and HENRY MIDDLEBROOKS
Family Repository – JEAN SHROYER
Family *Register* Update - LEONARD
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