

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

September 2010  
Editor,  
Jarrelyn Lang

Volume Nine, Number Four  
Founding Editor,  
Dianne Middlebrooks

---

Look for these inside . . . . .

2. President's Message, Neal Middlebrook
3. Jarrell Family Reunion, Philip Jarrell Haynes
4. Middlebrooks Cemetery Cleanup, Debbie Autry
5. Granddaddy of Reality Showmen, Jarrelyn Lang
10. 1940 Census, Neal Middlebrook
13. Heroic Celebrities, Jarrelyn Lang
17. Real Brownie Points, Jarrelyn Lang
18. Extreme Weather Conditions, Jarrelyn Lang
20. In Memoriam; Breast Cancer Awareness



## **President's Message, Newsletter September, 2010**

We had a great time at the MFA's ninth annual meeting. Does it seem we have been around for nine years and still kicking? Anyway, this year's meeting featured Jones County, Georgia, and focused on ancestors Sims (b. 1762), Thomas (b. 1763), and Robert (b. 1766). All three Caswell County, North Carolina, brothers bought land in Jones County by 1811/12.

### **Thursday**

We also found out from one of our speakers, Aubrey Newby, that some of the very early Jones County records are archived at the University of Georgia Library. These records may provide new information about our ancestors. On Thursday, while other members visited the Washington Memorial Library in Macon Joan and Bill Miller were researching early church records at Mercer University, also in Macon, for Robert (b. 1766) and his descendants. Joan has promised to do an article for the newsletter about her research.

### **Friday, Field Trip Highlights**

The first stop on the field trip was a tour of Jarrell Plantation, established in 1847, and the Jarrell House, built in 1920. John Fitz Jarrell married Elizabeth Middlebrooks, a Thomas descendant, in 1832. It was a very special treat to have Doyle Middlebrooks and Philip Haynes kick off our tour by talking about how the Plantation became a Georgia State Historic Site. Both Doyle and Phillip are the two real forces behind the nomination of Jarrell Plantation as a Georgia State Historic Site, officially named as such by then-Governor Jimmy Carter in 1974. The Georgia State Parks have done a great job in maintaining and restoring Jarrell Plantation. It is a must-see for any middle-Georgia trip.

Philip and his wife Amelia gave us a special tour of the 5,000 sq. foot 1920 Jarrell House, now operated as a Bed & Breakfast. The historical integrity of the house has been beautifully maintained. The tour was very much appreciated.

The next stop was in Juliette, for lunch at the Whistle Stop Café, which was featured in the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*. We then travelled to the Middlebrooks Cemetery in Monroe County, to the grave of Alfred Middlebrooks (1809-1887), the fifth child of Robert. Our third stop was the homestead of Thomas and his son William Sims on the Juliette-Round Oak Road. Could Thomas's grave be here? We continued through Round Oak, a community once inhabited by Thomas descendants, on our way to Bradley Baptist Church and Cemetery to visit the graves of Thomas Green and Tempe (Glover) Middlebrooks, also a Thomas descendant.

A short distance from our last stop is the homestead of Isaac R. Middlebrooks, the eldest son of Sims. Also located on the property are the Stewart and Glawson/Roberts Cemeteries. We believe that Sims and his son Isaac may be buried in the Stewart Cemetery or someplace close by. Beside the cemeteries is an old wagon road called the Colonial Road. We finished the tour with a visit to the Fortville Cemetery to visit the graves of Sims and Thomas descendants. As we found out, this cemetery is overgrown and needs some TLC. We had dinner in Haddock at Trish Ann's Antiques Gifts and Tearoom, also a community in which our Middlebrooks

ancestors lived. It was felt by most that this was the best meal of the meeting. Bill Bragg was our guest speaker, and he talked about the famous Jones County, Jesse Bunkley Trial of 1835.

### **Saturday**

On Saturday we had three speakers: Aubrey Newby, local historian and President of the Jones County History and Heritage Society; Kerry Middlebrooks, our Military Project Leader; and J. A. Middlebrooks, our Cemetery Project Leader. Aubrey spoke on the history of Middle Georgia, Kerry discussed our Revolutionary War ancestors, and J. A. discussed the Robert (b. 1766) line. Our afternoon session included ancestor sharing, group pictures, and MFA business and close-out/critique of the meeting. To give those who were not able to attend this year's meeting a better idea of what goes on at our annual meeting, we will be posting the entire meeting notebook on our MFA website.

We would like to welcome the following new MFA members attending the Macon meeting:

John & Susan Sloan

Tina Richards

Angela Hillock

Daniel & Lisa Ann Ericson

Frances Welsh; husband Darden, also a new member, did not attend the meeting.

Justin V. Middlebrooks

MFA elections were held on Saturday, and we are happy to report that we have three new members on the Board of Directors: Charles Middlebrooks, Kerry Middlebrooks, and Sam Middlebrooks. We would also like to thank our outgoing Board members Jean Shroyer, Henry Middlebrooks, and J. A. Middlebrooks for serving on the Board for the past two years.

In closing I would like to thank Joyce Arnold for all her work in making this year's meeting a success. I also want to thank all the other members who helped with copying notebook contents at Kinkos, putting the notebooks together, setting up the room, working the registration table, organizing the field trips, preparing presentations, and rounding up food and meeting supplies. In the next President's Message, I will include some of the exciting projects we plan to tackle this year and decisions made at the Macon meeting.

Neal Middlebrook

+++++ ++++++++ +++++

**2010 Jarrell Family Reunion to be Sunday, October 17**, at the home of Philip and Amelia Haynes, next to Jarrell Plantation site in Jones County, Georgia. A meal will be served at 1:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., we will meet at the nearby Jarrell Plantation visitors' center for a program: "Dick Jarrell's boys: Richard, Willie, Milton, Hiram, Charlie, plus Ed and Randy." We'll also hear from the Plantation staff about what's happened in 2010 and plans for 2011.

Please reserve your meal (\$10/plate) by Tuesday, October 12, with Amelia Haynes, 715 Jarrell Plantation Rd., Juliette, GA 31046. Contact Amelia at 478-986-3972 or at [Amelia@haynesmarketing.com](mailto:Amelia@haynesmarketing.com). Please give the name of each person for whom you are making a reservation. The person contacting Amelia is responsible for the meal cost of each person for whom he/she makes a reservation. Hope to see you all! – contributed by Philip Jarrell Haynes

## MIDDLEBROOKS CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. J. H. Underwood

Submitted by Debbie Autry

(Editor's note: This article is from the April 2010 *Gen. Joe's Dispatch*, a newsletter distributed by The Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Sons of Confederate Veterans, located in Conyers, Georgia.)

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, seven members of this camp began cleaning up Middlebrooks Cemetery, clearing away briars, vines, and debris. By the end of the day, about three-fourths of the cemetery had been cleared. This was only a start. The remaining fourth of the cemetery has yet to be cleared, and there are many stones that have been broken or turned over.

As the men were working, one of the overturned stones was turned up and leaned against its base. It was the stone of Zere Pendergrass Middlebrooks, who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant of Company E, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, C.S.A., Newton County, Georgia, Harper Guards. With the help of Camp historian Dan Bass, here is a little of the history of Sergeant Middlebrooks's Company.

Company E, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Newton County Harper Guards was mustered into service on March 4, 1862. Its officers were: Captain Thomas J. Mercer; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Joseph Heard; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant James D. Walker; and Jr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Lazarus Osborne. Its non-commissioned officers were: 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant William H. Nolen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant Zere Pendergrass Middlebrooks; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant James P. Cowan; 4<sup>th</sup> Sergeant John W. Ivey; and 5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Drewry Jefferson Brewer. There were four Corporals: Thomas A. Boyd, James M. Mercer, Seth K. Huff, and James J. Elliott. One hundred and seventeen privates joined the Company on March 4. Sergeant Middlebrooks unfortunately took ill with the measles and died in Loudon, Tennessee, on July 3, 1862.

His outfit went on to Vicksburg, Mississippi. They left Vicksburg on May 1, 1863, and marched to Warrenton, Mississippi. They left there May 2 and marched two miles below Big Black River, toward Port Gibson, Mississippi, and then to Baker's Creek, Mississippi, where they engaged the enemy. On May 16, 1863, they retreated and covered the retreat of the entire army all the way to Big Black River. They marched back to Vicksburg on May 17, 1863, and went into "Rifle Pits" that same night, remaining there until their surrender on July 4, 1863.

The company left Vicksburg on July 12, 1863, and marched to Enterprise, Alabama, by the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, a distance of one hundred and sixty-five miles, with four days' rations. They left Enterprise on July 22 and marched to Mobile, where they were furloughed for thirty days, then exchanged and reorganized at Decatur, Georgia. They drew arms on October 1, 1863, then took the field again in East Tennessee.

To the best of our knowledge, Sergeant Zere P. Middlebrooks was the first Middlebrooks to be buried in the Middlebrooks Cemetery. His father, Zere Middlebrooks Sr., is also buried in this cemetery. Zere Sr. was born on July 4, 1782, just six years to the day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and died on April 14, 1869, outliving his son by seven years. The 1860 census of Newton County, Georgia, shows Zere at age 77 as a farmer living in the Oak Hill district, having real estate valued at \$7,100 and his personal property valued at \$31,000, making him a very prominent citizen of Newton County.

Another Confederate soldier that is buried in the Middlebrooks Cemetery is James E. Christian, member of Company G, 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia State Troops, C.S.A., who was the brother-in-

law of Zere Middlebrooks, having married Zere's older sister, Marie Ann, on November 26, 1846. James did not survive the war, but no details of his death have been found. Marie then married Milton Waldrop on February 25, 1869. She is buried in the Middlebrooks Cemetery with her second husband.

(In a footnote to his article, Lt. Cmdr. Underwood stated that, as he and others were clearing the cemetery, "a nice lady from the neighborhood stopped to thank us for our efforts. She was Sue Fanning, aunt of actress Dakota Fanning, and about a half hour later she returned with her nephew Peyton Fanning and her niece Nikki Loggins, all armed with tools." They helped Underwood and his crew for several hours. He also stated that three of the crew returned to the cemetery on March 27 to do more clean-up. Lt. Cmdr. Underwood added, "For those who are interested, I do have a list of the names of the 117 privates, and the history of what happened to most of them, including the officers." If you want to know more, he can most likely be reached at The Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Conyers, Georgia.)

+++++ ++++++++ +++++

## THE GRANDDADDY OF REALITY SHOWMEN

By Jarrelyn Lang

It seems that more and more of what the media calls reality shows are showing up on our television listings. We have had "Survival," "The Bachelor," "Dancing With the Stars," "Top Chef," "America's Next Top Model," "American Idol," "Biggest Loser," "Amazing Race," "The Apprentice," "Big Brother," – the list goes on and on and on. But the ancestor of all these shows would have to be Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, the dream child of Buffalo Bill Cody.

William Frederick Cody was born February 26, 1846, near Le Claire, Scott County, Iowa Territory. His life – part legend, part fabrication, part truth – came to embody for millions the true spirit of the West.

When Cody's father died in 1857, his mother moved her family to Kansas. There, the eleven-year-old Cody worked as an ox-team driver for fifty cents a day. In 1858, he hired on with a freight-wagon company as a mounted messenger, wrangler, and assistant wagon master. The next year, after attending school for nearly a month, Cody struck out on his own and tried his luck prospecting for gold at Pikes Peak, Colorado. Finding no fortune there, he joined the Pony Express the next year. They were looking for "skinny, expert riders willing to risk death daily." Fourteen-year-old Cody was just right for the job.

When the Civil War broke out, Cody first served as a Union scout against the Kiowa and Comanche. Then in 1863 he enlisted with the Seventh Kansas Cavalry and saw action in Missouri and Tennessee. After the war, he married Louisa Frederici in St. Louis and continued to work for the Army as a scout and dispatch carrier, operating out of Fort Ellsworth, Kansas. On December 16, 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Cody welcomed their first child, daughter Arta.

Cody took up the trade that gave him his nickname in 1867: hunting buffalo to feed the construction workers for the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He is reputed to have killed 4,280 head of buffalo in either seventeen months, eighteen months, or eight months, depending on the source.

The account of how Buffalo Bill received his nickname can be found in *Last of the Great Scouts (Buffalo Bill)*, by Bill's sister, Helen Cody Wetmore, in collaboration with noted author Zane Grey. It seems that Will Cody made an impression on a group of military men he came

upon, who were preparing for a buffalo hunt in the Kansas territory and invited Will to join them. A Captain Graham, one of the party, was so impressed with Cody's skills that he gave Will the name of "Buffalo Bill."

As luck would have it, another man already claimed that title. Billy "Buffalo Bill" Comstock, chief scout at Fort Wallace whose friends avowed was a better buffalo hunter than Cody, filed a protest. So a buffalo-hunting match was arranged to determine which man would get permanent custody of that moniker.

On the arranged day and place – a hunting ground near Sheridan, Kansas – a great crowd of spectators was present. Curious officers, soldiers, plainsmen, and railroad men took the day off to observe the spectacle. There was even a party of ladies and gentlemen, including Cody's wife, Louisa, who came all the way from St. Louis.

A referee was appointed to follow each man and keep a tally of buffaloes killed. At day's end, the score was Cody 69, Comstock 48. Cody was endowed with the name of "Buffalo Bill" and thereafter referred to as "Champion Buffalo Hunter of the Plains." Comstock was killed by a Cheyenne party a few months later, while serving under General Philip Sheridan.

In 1868, Cody returned to work for the Army as chief scout for the Fifth Cavalry and took part in various battles, including the Cheyenne defeat at Summit Springs, Colorado, in 1869. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for "gallantry in action" while serving as a civilian scout for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment in 1872, but it was revoked in 1917, twenty-four days after his death, because Cody was not a regular member of the armed forces at the time. The award was restored posthumously in 1989.

Bill and Louisa's second child, son Kit Carson Cody, was born in 1870 but died of scarlet fever in 1876. Their second daughter, Orra, was born in 1872; she died in 1880.

Buffalo Bill was becoming famous in the east, thanks to the dime novels of Edward Zane Carroll Judson, better known as Ned Buntline. Buntline (1821-1886) had hoped to write about Wild Bill Hickok; however, when Buntline confronted Hickok with the proposition, Hickok threatened him at gunpoint and ordered him out of town. Undaunted, Buntline began seeking out Hickok's friends, hoping to print their stories about Wild Bill. It was during this process that Buntline and Cody met, and Buntline decided to write about Cody instead. The Buffalo Bill that Buntline created comes off as a composite of Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, and Kit Carson, a mixture of fact and romantic fiction.

Buntline named his series *Buffalo Bill Cody – King of the Border Men*. When these books became a success, he began encouraging Cody to come east and act in his stage play, *The Scouts of the Prairie*, based on the stories. Reluctantly, Cody decided to make the trip and appeared as the star of the show, which opened in Chicago in December 1872. Also featured in the performance was John Baker "Texas Jack" Omohundro (1846-1880), fellow scout, cowboy, and actor. Cody's performance showed his natural showmanship, and he continued his stage career for eleven seasons, long after he and Buntline parted ways due to business matters. In the 1873-74 season, Cody and Omohundro invited their friend James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok to join them onstage in their new play, *The Scouts of the Plains*.

During the summers between theater seasons, Cody would return to the West, where he escorted Easterners and European nobility on hunting expeditions, among them the Russian Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich. He also continued to aid the Army as a scout.

In 1882, the town of North Platte persuaded Cody to organize a celebration for the Fourth of July. The result was the Old Glory Blowout, a predecessor to the modern rodeo. The Cody

family welcomed their fourth child, daughter Irma, on February 9, 1883.

Later that same year, Cody's Wild West show was introduced in Omaha, Nebraska. He toured the United States annually with the show from 1883 to 1886. (The word "show" was never part of the title, thus it has no capital letter.) Cody and his entire show traveled to London for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887. He took along 100 Anglo cowboys, 97 American Indians, 180 horses, 18 buffalo, 10 elk, 5 Texas Longhorn steers, 4 donkeys, and 2 deer. As part of the command performance for the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the kings of Belgium, Greece, Saxony, and Denmark rode around the arena in a stagecoach, while driver Buffalo Bill fought off "attacking" Indians.

One of the Indians involved with the show, Black Elk, a Lakota Sioux, later wrote that, following the command performance, Queen Victoria purportedly said to him, "All over the world I have seen all kinds of people; but today I have seen the best-looking people I know." Audiences numbering as high as 30,000 attended the twice-daily performances during the five months that the show remained in London.

Also in 1887, Cody was appointed aide-de-camp, with the rank of Colonel, to serve the Nebraska National Guard.

In 1889, the show toured other European locales, including the Vatican.

Cody set up his show near the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, much to the chagrin of the Fair's promoters. He had requested to be a part of the exhibition but was turned down, so he set up his own show not far from the fairgrounds. An estimated three million people attended his performances there.

Cody wanted his show to be authentic, so he chose real-life cowboys and Indians as performers. Probably the most famous member of the group was the Lakota Sioux Chief Tatanka Yotanka, better known as Sitting Bull (1831-1890), who had played an important role in defeating General George Armstrong Custer's 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Sitting Bull joined the company in June 1885 and traveled with the show for the next four months. He was paid a signing bonus of \$125 plus \$50 a week, earning twenty times more than Indians who served as policemen on the reservations. He also charged for his autograph and pictures but often gave the money away to those who were less fortunate than he. All Sitting Bull was required to do in the show was to ride his horse around the arena dressed in full war costume, oftentimes being met with jeering and hissing from the crowd. It was said that the chief called out curses on the crowd in his native language, but that was never proven to be true.

From his scouting days, Cody had a deep respect for Native Americans and their rights, calling them "the former foe, present friend, the American." He stated, "Every Indian outbreak I have ever known has resulted from broken promises and broken treaties by the government."

The Indians performed in his shows by "attacking" stagecoaches and wagon trains so the "heroes," the cowboys and soldiers, could save the day. Meanwhile, outside the arena, Indian wives and children set up camp just as they would have in their homelands. Cody encouraged this so that paying patrons could see that even these "fierce warriors" were human, and their culture included families just like everyone else's.

Iron Tail, another of the chiefs who traveled with Cody's show, was supposedly the model for the Indian Head nickel, which depicts the likeness of an Indian in full war bonnet on one side and a buffalo on the other.

Probably the most famous star of the Wild West show was Annie Oakley (1860-1926), easily the first female superstar. Born Phoebe Ann Mosey (which she later changed to Mozee because

she preferred that spelling), she reportedly took the name of Oakley from a community by that name near Cincinnati, Ohio, when she became a performer. In Cincinnati, Francis "Frank" Butler, who would become Annie's husband, put up a \$100 wager that he could beat any local shooter. At the time, Butler, an accomplished marksman, was well-known on the vaudeville circuit. A Cincinnati hotel owner set up a match between Butler and Annie, which took place in a small town near Greenville, Ohio. Annie won the match, 25 to 24. Impressed, Butler began his courtship, and the two were married June 20, 1882.

The Butlers joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in 1885. Admiring the five-foot-tall Annie's expertise, Chief Sitting Bull gave her the name "Watanya Cicilla," which was translated by the media as "Little Sure Shot." Butler, bowing to the superiority of his wife's skills, became her manager. They were with the show in London and performed before Queen Victoria. Others in the audience there were Prime Minister William Gladstone and the prominent Churchill family, including twelve-year-old Winston.

One of the acts the Butlers performed involved Annie shooting the ash off a cigarette held in her husband's mouth. While they were traveling with the show in Germany, the Prince of Prussia, the future Kaiser Wilhelm II, requested that he be the one holding the cigarette in his mouth. Playing it safe, Annie had him hold the cigarette in his hand instead, and all went well. It was surmised in later years that, if Annie had missed the cigarette, she might have prevented World War I.

Frank and Annie left Buffalo Bill's show in 1901, but Annie continued to set shooting records into her 60s. Both she and her husband died in 1926.

In later years, Buffalo Bill added a "Congress of Rough Riders of the World" to his Wild West presentations. Included now were Cossacks, lancers, and other Old World cavalymen, as well as vaqueros, cowboys, and Indians of the American West. When the Spanish-American War began, Theodore Roosevelt gave his cavalry the name "Rough Riders," after Buffalo Bill's show.

In 1896, Buffalo Bill founded the town of Cody, in northwestern Wyoming. The town, incorporated in 1901, became the county seat of Park County. Cody opened the Irma Hotel there, named for his daughter, in 1902. His vision was that the town would become a stop for travelers on their way to Yellowstone Park. That vision has been manifested; the city's website claims that Cody is the "Preferred Gateway to Yellowstone Park," and the 2000 census shows its population to be 8,835.

Buffalo Bill also built a new ranch, the TE, along the nearby Shoshone River. He shipped his livestock from South Dakota and Nebraska to the TE. The 1890s were fairly prosperous years for Buffalo Bill's show, and he used some of his profits to add to his land holdings at the TE, eventually amassing nearly 8,000 acres, on which he grazed a thousand head of cattle. Cody operated the TE as a dude ranch and also led pack-horse camping trips and big-game hunts. Notables from Europe and across America were often guests at his spacious ranch house.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Cody made some financial miscalculations which left him in dire straits. He went into partnership with James A. Bailey (of Barnum and Bailey), invested in a variety of projects from irrigation systems to mines, and loaned money to friends and relatives.

In 1908, Buffalo Bill joined his show with that of Gordon William "Pawnee Bill" Lillie (1860-1942), creating Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Far East Show, but that venture failed. Cody sold Scout's Rest Ranch and 3,000 acres of land to Pawnee Bill for

\$100,000. Buffalo Bill and his family stayed on the ranch until April 1913, when they moved into Cody.

In 1913, after accruing massive debts, Cody was forced to sell his Wild West show at an auction in Denver, Colorado. Part of the agreement was that he would travel with the owners' Sells-Floto Circus, comprised of various sideshow acts, for their 1914 and 1915 seasons. After that, he retired from show business. Contrary to popular belief, Cody was not destitute at the time of his death, but his fortune, once great, had dwindled quite a bit.

At some point in 1913, Buffalo Bill applied for a patent for a decorative horse bit modeled after a revolver. Patent number D49949, granted to Cody in 1916, was discovered in 2004 by Dawn Rohan, Librarian for the Wyoming State Library of Patents and Trademarks. Judi Winchester, who is with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, stated that, after Buffalo Bill lost most of his fortune, he "did all kinds of things," which included making movies and obtaining the patent. The bits were made by the North & Judd Manufacturing Company in New Britain, Connecticut. The Buffalo Bill Historical Center has two of the bits in their collection.

William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody died January 10, 1917, of kidney failure. Surrounded by family at the Denver, Colorado, home of his sister, Mary Cody Decker, Cody was baptized into the Catholic church the day before he died. When news of his death spread, tributes came to the family from King George V of England, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, and President Woodrow Wilson. His funeral was held in the Denver Elks Lodge Hall. John B. Kendrick, governor of Wyoming, a friend of Cody's, led the funeral procession to the Hall.

Cody had requested in his will that he be buried in Cody, Wyoming, but he was buried in Colorado instead. According to writer Larry McMurtry (*Lonesome Dove; The Last Picture Show*), the owners of the Sells-Floto Circus either "bullied or bamboozled the grieving Louisa" into burying her husband in Colorado. The tomb, blasted out of solid rock, is located at the top of Lookout Mountain near Golden, Colorado, west of Denver, on the edge of the Rocky Mountains and overlooking the Great Plains.

As mentioned earlier, Buffalo Bill appeared in several movies in his later years. He was featured in Thomas Edison's films *Seven Acts from the Wild West Show* (1894), *Buffalo Bill and Escort* (1897), and *Parade of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show* (1898). Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill, collaborated in two films in 1910, one based on their joint show and one titled *The Life of Buffalo Bill*. In all, Cody played himself in ten movies.

At least forty-six other actors have assumed the character of Buffalo Bill in movies and on television. Some of the more recognized names include William Fairbanks, George Reeves, Roy Rogers, Joel McCrea, Clayton Moore, Charlton Heston, Paul Newman, Brian Keith, Dennis Weaver, and Keith Carradine.

While doing research, I encountered several blogs devoted to Wild Bill. His legacy, it seems, lives on.

**Sources:**

"How William Frederick Cody Earned the Moniker 'Wild Bill'," [www.artsales.com/ARTistory](http://www.artsales.com/ARTistory); "Buffalo Bill Cody, William F. History," [codywyoming.com](http://codywyoming.com); *New Perspectives on the West*, "PBS – THE WEST – William F. Cody," [pbs.org](http://pbs.org); "How the West Was Spun – Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show," [historynet.com](http://historynet.com); "Buffalo Bill," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "Ned Buntline," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "Annie Oakley," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "Buffalo Bill Invention Found," [casperstartribune.net](http://casperstartribune.net); "Wyoming Inventors Database," <http://cowgirl.wy.us/inventors>; "Who Was Buffalo Bill?" [richgros.net](http://richgros.net); "Texas Jack Omohundro," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "Black Elk," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "Biography of Sharpshooter Annie Oakley," [Trivia-Library.com](http://Trivia-Library.com); "Sitting Bull," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).

## THE 1940 CENSUS

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

On April 2, 2012, the detailed data available from the United States Census of 1940 enumeration sheets will be released to the public by the National Archives and Records Administration. The following questions were included on the Population Schedule for the 1940 Census:

1. LOCATION: Street, avenue, road, etc.
2. LOCATION: House number (in cities and towns)
3. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Number of household in order of visitation
4. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Home owned (O) or rented (R)
5. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented
6. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No)
7. NAME: Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household
8. RELATION: Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grandson, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, hired hand, etc.
9. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Sex — Male (M), Female (F)
10. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Color or race
11. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Age at last birthday
12. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Marital status — Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D)
13. EDUCATION: Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940 (Yes or No)
14. EDUCATION: Highest grade of school completed
15. PLACE OF BIRTH: If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from Northern Ireland.
16. CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship of the foreign born
17. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places
18. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: County
19. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: State (or Territory or foreign country)
20. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: On a farm? (Yes or No)
21. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Govt. work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)
22. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: If not, was he at work on, or assigned to, public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)
23. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No)

24. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No)
25. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H) in school (S), unable to work (U), or other (O)
26. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940
27. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Duration of unemployment up to March 30, 1940 – in weeks
28. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Occupation: Trade, profession, or particular kind of work
29. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Industry: Industry or business
30. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Class of worker
31. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Number of weeks worked in 1939 (Equivalent full-time weeks)
32. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: INCOME IN 1939: Amount of money wages or salary received (including commissions)
33. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: INCOME IN 1939: Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No)
34. Number of Farm Schedule

There also was a list of **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**, which would be asked of those individuals recorded, usually on Lines 14 and 29 (although other lines were also designated for such use and was presumably to ensure a random sampling).

The Supplementary Questions were as follows:

35. NAME
36. PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER: FATHER
37. PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER: MOTHER
38. MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE): Language spoken in home in earliest childhood
39. VETERANS: Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-18-year-old child of a veteran? If so, enter "Yes"
40. VETERANS: If child, is veteran-father dead (Yes or No)
41. VETERANS: War or military service
42. SOCIAL SECURITY: Does this person have a Federal Social Security Number? (Yes or No)
43. SOCIAL SECURITY: Were deductions for Federal Old-Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made from this person's wages or salary in 1939? (Yes or No)
44. SOCIAL SECURITY: If so, were deductions made from (1) all, (2) one-half or more, (3)

part, but less than half, of wages or salary?

45. USUAL OCCUPATION

46. USUAL INDUSTRY

47. Usual class of worker

48. FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: Has this woman been married more than once? (Yes or No)

49. FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: Age at first marriage?

50. FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: Number of children ever born (Do not include stillbirths.)

Another item will be of interest to anyone born on or after April 1, 1930, but before April 1, 1940. For the first time, those people will be able to view their own records in the census enumeration of 1940!

+++++ ++++++++ +++++

### For Men Only:

According to a January 15, 2009, posting on MSNBC.com, if a man's ring finger is longer than his index finger, he will be more successful financially as well as in competitive sports. If the ratio is reversed, he will excel in the fields of math, science, and engineering.

From msn.com's "25 Fascinating Love Facts" comes the good news that men who kiss their wives in the morning live five years longer than those who don't. –posted May 2, 2008



## Tiny Towns

According to the 2000 census, the borough of S.N.P.J., Pennsylvania, has a population of 0. The town's 14 residents say they weren't around when the census taker came. The full name of the town is *Slovenska Narodna Podpoma Jednota* (the Slovenian National Benefit Society).

Elsie Eiler is the sole resident of Monowi, Nebraska. She is also the mayor, bartender, and librarian. Elsie collects taxes from herself and applies for state road funds every year to keep the town's streetlights burning. Other towns with only a single inhabitant are Hibberts Gore, Maine; Erving's Location, New Hampshire; and Lost Springs, Wyoming.

New Amsterdam, Indiana, was also listed as having only one resident in 2000, but a visitor there spotted at least nine people – a real population explosion!

----from "Pass It Along," July 2010, Jim Krauss, publisher

## HEROIC CELEBRITIES

By Jarrelyn Lang,

Many of us may be unaware that a number of our celebrities were honest-to-goodness heroes.

**Elvis Presley** served in the United States Army from 1958-1960. Even though he had already starred in four movies, including *Love Me Tender*, he was inducted into the Army as a Private on March 24, 1958, at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. He wanted to be a "regular soldier," saying that "the Army can do anything it wants with me." Presley was next stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, then sent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division in Friedberg, Germany. He was honorably discharged in the States on March 5, 1960.

**Gene Roddenberry**, better known as the "father of *Star Trek*," flew B-57 bombers in the 394<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing of the Thirteenth Air Force, during World War II. During his time of service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. After the war, he was a pilot for Pan-American Airways. In June 1947, he received the Civil Aeronautics commendation for rescue efforts following a June 1947 crash in the Syrian desert. Later, he moved his family to Los Angeles and worked for eight years as a policeman there, following in his father's footsteps. He became a Police Officer III in 1951 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1953. Roddenberry left the police department in 1956 to pursue his writing career.

**Clark Gable**, the "King of Hollywood," is best known for playing Rhett Butler in the movie *Gone With the Wind*. He was a good friend of Hattie McDaniel, who was the first African American actress to win an Academy Award for her portrayal of Mammy in the movie. Gable wanted to boycott the premier of *GWTW* in Atlanta, Georgia, because McDaniel was not permitted to attend, but she persuaded him to go.

After his beloved wife Carole Lombard died in a plane crash in 1942, Gable enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Commanding General of the Army Air Forces Henry H. Arnold offered Gable a special assignment in aerial gunnery. MGM Studios arranged for cinematographer Andrew McIntyre to enlist, also, and accompany Gable through training. Both men were trained at the USAAF OCS Class 42-E in Miami Beach, Florida. After their training, they were commissioned as second lieutenants.

The "special assignment" for which Gable had been recruited was to make a film in combat with the Eighth Air Force, for the purpose of recruiting gunners. Following more training in the state of Washington, the men, now first lieutenants, reported to Biggs Army Base to train with, and accompany, the 351<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group to England. Because he was to head the motion-picture operation, Gable was promoted to Captain, so as to out-rank McIntyre.

Gable spent most of the war in the United Kingdom at RAF Polebrook with the 351<sup>st</sup>. He flew five missions, including one to Germany, as an observer-gunner in B-17 Flying Fortresses between May 4 and September 23, 1943, earning the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. During one of his missions, his aircraft was damaged by flak and attacked by fighters, which knocked out one of the engines and shot up the stabilizer. In the raid on Germany, one crewman was killed and two others were wounded. Flak went through Gable's boot and narrowly missed his head.

When MGM heard of this incident, studio executives requested that Gable be re-assigned to non-combat duty. He returned to the States in November 1943 to edit the film. In May 1944, he was promoted to Major. He hoped for another assignment, but no further orders were issued. In

June 1944, he requested, and was granted, a discharge. The Captain who signed the discharge papers was future President Ronald Reagan.

Gable edited the film, titled *Combat in America*, in September 1944. He provided the narration himself and made use of numerous interviews with enlisted gunners as the focus of the film. Adolf Hitler was an admirer of Gable. During World War II, he offered a sizable reward to anyone who could capture and bring Gable to him unharmed.

**Julia Child**, née Julia Carolyn McWilliams, was a virtual icon of the culinary world. She was also six feet, two inches tall and had a unique "gargling marbles" voice, as described in the Encarta article. She is best remembered for her cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, which introduced French cuisine to the American public, and for her television show, "The French Chef."

When the United States entered World War II, Child wanted to enlist in the Women's Army Corps (WACS) or the Navy's WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), but she was too tall. Instead, she joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

Child began her OSS career as a typist at its Washington headquarters but was soon given more responsibility as a top-secret researcher for General William J. Donovan, head of OSS. For a year, she worked at the OSS Emergency Rescue Equipment Section (ERES) in Washington, D.C., first as a file clerk and then as assistant to developers of a shark repellent, needed to ensure that sharks would not explode ordnance targeting German U-Boats. In 1944, she was posted to Kandy, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where she was responsible for "registering, cataloging and channeling a great volume of highly classified communications" for the OSS's clandestine stations in Asia. She later served in China, where she received the Emblem of Meritorious Civilian Service as head of the Registry of the OSS Secretariat. For her services, Child received an award that cited her many virtues, including her "drive and inherent cheerfulness."

While serving in Ceylon, she met Paul Cushing Child, also an OSS employee, and they were married in Pennsylvania in 1946. He joined the U. S. Foreign Service and was assigned to Paris as an exhibits officer with the United States Information Agency there. It was during their stay in Paris that Child was introduced to French cuisine. The rest is history.

**James Stewart**, who is seen each Christmas in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II as an officer and pilot. Actor Walther Matthau was a sergeant in the same unit.

Stewart's family had a history of military service. Both of his grandfathers served in the Civil War; his father served in the Spanish-American War and World War I. Although his predecessors had fought in the infantry, Stewart chose to fly instead.

Seeing the need for trained pilots, Stewart and other Hollywood celebrities invested in Thunderbird Field, a pilot training school in Glendale, Arizona. The airfield became part of the United States Army Air Force training establishment, where more than 10,000 pilots were trained during World War II. The field is now the home of Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Stewart was drafted in 1940 but was rejected because he was five pounds below the standard weight. With the aid of MGM Studio's muscle man, Don Loomis, Stewart was able to gain weight but was still below the weight requirement. He persuaded the Air Corps to run new tests, and he was finally pronounced acceptable. Stewart enlisted in the Army in March 1941, the first major American movie star to begin serving in the military in World War II.

Stewart was in pilot training at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He received a commission as second lieutenant in January 1942 and was sent to Moffett Field in California as an instructor pilot in single- and twin-engine aircraft. He also made public appearances on radio for the Army Air Corps, and in 1942 appeared in a propaganda film to recruit the 100,000 airmen the USAAF would need for winning the war.

When he was sent to Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to train bombardiers, Stewart was concerned that his entire enlistment would be served behind the lines. It seemed that he was right. He continued his training assignments in Hobbs, New Mexico, and Gowen Air Field in Boise, Idaho.

Hearing a rumor that he was about to be taken off flying status, Stewart appealed to his commander, who reassigned him to a unit going overseas. He was attached to the 445<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, first as Operations Officer of the 703<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, then as its commander, with the rank of Captain.

Stationed in RAF Tibenham, Norfolk, England, the group flew missions over Germany. During that time, Stewart was promoted to Major. In March 1944 he was transferred to the 453<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group, a new B-24 unit, as group operations officer. He flew as command pilot in the lead B-24 on numerous missions deep into Nazi-occupied Europe.

In 1944, Stewart twice was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for actions in combat. He also received the Croix de Guerre, a medal awarded by France and Belgium, and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

In July 1944, having flown twenty combat missions, Stewart was made Chief of Staff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Bombardment Wing of the Eighth Air Force. Before the war ended, he was promoted to colonel, one of very few Americans to rise from private to colonel in four years.

Even after the war, Stewart continued to be active in the United States Air Force Reserve, serving as Air Force Reserve commander of Dobbins Air Force Base in Georgia. He attained the rank of Brigadier General on July 23, 1959. He flew as a non-duty observer in a B-52 bombing mission during the Vietnam War. After serving for 27 years, Stewart retired from the Air Force May 31, 1968, and was promoted to Major General by President Ronald Reagan.

**Henry Fonda**, star of *The Grapes of Wrath*, volunteered for military service during World War II, saying "I don't want to be in a fake war in a studio." He had previously helped James Stewart raise funds for the defense of Britain. Fonda served for three years, first as Quartermaster 3<sup>rd</sup> Class on the destroyer *USS Saterlee*. He was later commissioned as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, in Air Combat Intelligence in the Central Pacific and was awarded a Presidential Citation and the Bronze Star.

**Sir Alec Guinness**, most known for his portrayal of Obi-Wan-Kenobi in *Star Wars*, served in the English Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in World War II, first as a seaman in 1941, then being commissioned the following year. He commanded a landing craft that took part in the invasion of Sicily and Elba and later ferried supplies to Yugoslav partisans.

The *New York Times* reported a comic landing he made during the invasion of Sicily. Apparently, his orders contained an error that led him to be the first person who stormed the beach, well in front of the admiral in charge. Guinness supposedly told his commander that late entrances were a real no-no in the theater.

**Paul Newman**, recipient of countless awards for acting and various other endeavors, served in the United States Navy in World War II, in the Pacific theater. While attending Ohio University, he enrolled in their Navy V-12 program, hoping to be accepted for pilot training.

When it was discovered that Newman was color-blind, he was dropped from the program. Instead, he was sent to boot camp to receive training as a radioman and gunner, qualifying as a rear-seat radioman and gunner in torpedo bombers. Promoted to Aviation Radioman Third Class in 1944, he was sent to Barber's Point, Hawaii, and subsequently assigned to Pacific-based replacement torpedo squadrons VT-98, VT-99, and VT-100. These squadrons were responsible primarily for training replacement pilots and combat air crewmen, with particular importance on carrier landings.

Later, Newman flew from aircraft carriers as a turret gunner in an Avenger torpedo bomber. He served aboard the *USS Bunker Hill* as a radioman-gunner during the Battle of Okinawa in the spring of 1945.

Richard Nixon put Newman on his Enemies List because of his support for Eugene McCarthy in the 1968 Presidential election. He said it was "the highest honor I've ever received."

**Charlton Heston**, probably most remembered for playing Moses in *The Ten Commandments* movie, served in the Air Force from 1944 to 1947. He served for two years as a radio operator and aerial gunner, stationed in the Alaskan Aleutian Islands, as a radio operator and aerial gunner aboard a B-25 Mitchell. He reached the rank of Staff Sergeant.

**Marlene Dietrich**, born in Germany, came to the United States in the early 1930s, hoping to further a film career that had its start in her native country. When World War II broke out, she was approached by representatives of the Nazi Party to return to Germany but turned them down. A staunch anti-Nazi who despised anti-Semitism, Dietrich became an American citizen in 1939.

After the United States entered the war in 1941, Dietrich became one of the first celebrities to raise war bonds. She toured the country from January 1942 to September 1943, appearing before 250,000 troops on the Pacific Coast leg of her tour alone. It is said that she sold more war bonds than any other star.

She performed, often in cold and muddy conditions, for Allied troops on the front lines in Algeria, Italy, England, and France during tours for the USO in 1944 and 1945. She went into Germany with Generals James M. Gavin and George S. Patton. Asked why she had risked being so close to German lines, she replied, "aus Anstand" – "out of decency."

In 1944, the Morale Operations Branch of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) initiated the Musac project, whereby musical propaganda broadcasts designed to demoralize enemy soldiers were beamed from London to Germany. Dietrich was the only performer who was aware that her recordings were used by the OSS. She recorded a number of songs in German and also recorded anti-Nazi messages in her mother tongue for the project. The head of the OSS, William Joseph Donovan, wrote to Dietrich, "I am personally deeply grateful for your generosity in making these recordings for us."

Dietrich was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor by the US in 1945. She said that this was her proudest accomplishment. She was also awarded the Légion d'honneur by the French government as recognition for her wartime work.

From "Celebrity War Heroes and Spies" by Martha Brockenbrough, MSN Encarta, May 25, 2009; Additional information for each individual from Wikipedia.

## REAL BROWNIE POINTS?

By Jarrelyn Lang

When the expression "brownie point" comes up, we usually think of nonexistent credit awarded by either doing good deeds or earning someone's favor, often a superior in the workplace, through a suggestion or an effort.

Charlotte Schilling, however, writes of a different kind of brownie points in her article "'Brownie Points' Once Bought Real Prizes," printed in the 1995 Collectors Edition of *Reminisce* magazine.

Mrs. Schilling tells how her husband, Bob, earned brownie points during the Depression, when every penny of a paycheck had to be strictly accounted for and very few families could afford allowances for their children. One afternoon, Bob accidentally batted a ball into the windshield of a neighbor's car. It took him months to pay off the bill of \$6.50.

In another boys-will-be-boys situation, Bob, while practicing hatchet-throwing at the woodpile in the family basement, punctured a brand-new copper clothes boiler.

Bob didn't just play hard; he also worked hard. He delivered the *Grit*, a family-oriented magazine, forerunner of the gossip papers sold at most grocery checkout counters today. Its target area was mainly small towns, and it was also sold door-to-door to rural families. For each copy Bob delivered, he received 2½ ¢.

In addition to delivering the *Grit*, Bob sold magazine subscriptions to his neighbors. Among the most popular were *Collier's*, *Woman's Home Companion*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. There were no newsstands in Bob's hometown where single issues could be bought, and paying for a year's subscription all at once was too expensive for most people. Instead, they paid Bob for their subscriptions one issue at a time. That assured long-term work for Bob.

Most of the time, Bob, and some friends he had recruited, would pick up the money for a particular issue at the time of delivery, then they would take the money to the dealer, who in turn paid all of his delivery boys.

The dealer awarded Bob and his friends points for new subscriptions sold and for each additional issue purchased by subscribers. Lower-priced issues earned the boys "greenie points"; better, more expensive magazines, earned them "brownie points," which were more valuable.

The dealer kept track of the points earned. When added together, the points qualified a boy to choose prizes from a book. Bob's pride and joy was a pair of fur mittens he chose for his brownie points. The palms were leather, the backs were made with long fur – and, according to Mrs. Schilling, they never wore out!

To this day, brownie points are considered as something earned in hopes they can be converted to something good in the future. Unfortunately, however, brownie points will not get you a pair of fur mittens!

# EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT CHANGED OUR ANCESTORS' LIVES

By Jarrelyn Lang

Weather plays a very important part in our lives. We all want to know what it will be like tomorrow, or a week from now, or during a vacation. The subject of weather has filled many an awkward silence at parties and in elevators.

Ancient seafarers, farmers, and laborers lived (and sometimes died) by temperature and climate conditions. A little rain can be a nuisance, but extreme weather conditions can be disastrous – and even change the course of history.

A windy squall blew the *Mayflower* off course, sending its passengers to the New England coast instead of Virginia, their intended destination. Unprepared for the harsher conditions, half the passengers did not survive their first winter.

Due to weather events, our ancestors may have experienced property loss, migration, occupational change, illness, or the death of a loved one. Some of these disasters are even affecting us today because they caused genealogical records to be lost.

In "The Weather Report," printed online at [familytreemagazine.com](http://familytreemagazine.com) on December 9, 2009, author Maureen A. Taylor writes of some extreme weather events that changed our ancestors' lives.

**The Great September Gale of 1815:** Lacking modern forecasting methods and warning systems, residents of Saybrook, Connecticut, experienced the first hurricane to strike the New England shores in 180 years. It was described in newspapers as "a violent storm that toppled church steeples and ripped up fruit trees as far as 85 miles inland." All along the coast from Long Island to New England, wooden shipping warehouses and vessels were flattened or swept out to sea.

In Providence, Rhode Island, an eleven-foot storm surge combined with the incoming tide to destroy 500 houses and 35 ships, damaging at least a quarter of taxable property in the town. A plaque on the town's Market House points out the high-water mark. One Rhode Island merchant, Moses Brown, claimed a million dollars in losses.

Fortunately, the loss of life was minor for most towns. Lost ships were listed in the newspapers, but few names of people injured or killed. John Russell Bartlett, a Rhode Island artist, portrayed the storm's fury in his painting *The Great September Gale of 1815*. Because of this hurricane, Providence and other waterfront towns now proudly boast charming, sturdy stone buildings.

**Locust Plagues of 1873-1877:** The timing of the migration of Easterners into the Great Plains coincided with devastating swarms of locusts. A species of grasshopper in the swarming phase, these locusts mainly stayed in the Rocky Mountains – until a jet stream carried them to the Plains, where heat helped them to breed.

The voracious scavengers devoured all crops in their path – and sometimes fences, blankets, and wool. When their food was gone in one location, the swarms moved on in a flying cloud to another. These insects caused an estimated \$200 million in crop damage throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and elsewhere.

In her book *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, set in Wyoming, author Laura Ingalls Wilder described the locust plague, which she witnessed firsthand. Locusts there destroyed more than 13

million bushels of wheat and 7 million bushels of oats. Wilder wrote, "The rasping whirring of their wings filled the whole air, and they hit the ground and the house with the noise of a hailstorm."

The largest swarm, recorded in 1874, covered 198,000 square miles. A report that year showed that only one family in ten had enough food to last the winter. The U.S. government relaxed their Homestead Act residency rules so settlers could seek temporary work elsewhere. In 1875, the Federal government spent \$30,000 to furnish seeds to farmers.

Less than thirty years later, the locusts died out. According to Delbert Trew's article "Locusts Plague Settlers," online at TexasEscapes.com, as farmers tilled the soil, they disturbed the locusts' nesting areas. Farmers also began to plant alfalfa, which for some reason did not agree with the locusts' digestive system, thus sealing their doom.

**Fierce Blizzards of 1888:** In mid-January, people living in the Plains states were working outdoors in shirt sleeves, and schoolchildren left their coats at home. Then on January 12 and 13, a surprise blizzard struck Montana, Dakota Territory, and Nebraska. The temperature plummeted to -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Known as the Children's Blizzard, the storm caught students in classrooms and farmers in fields. Hundreds lost their lives trying to get home, and thousands of cattle froze to death. If you had relatives in the area who died during this storm, you might see their names mentioned in David Laskin's *The Children's Blizzard*, published by Harper and Row.

An unusual cold snap in the Pacific Northwest and California preceded that blizzard. Later in the season, extreme weather also paralyzed the East Coast, where it had been a warm winter with below-normal precipitation. Then on March 12 and 13, the Great Blizzard dropped 40 to 50 inches of snow on New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. About 400 people died, railroads shut down, ships were grounded, and imports stopped. *Blizzard: The Great Storm of '88*, by Judd Caplovich (Vero Publishing), gives details of the storm and its aftermath.

**The Dust Bowl, 1933-1939:** As the Great Depression intensified, drought, combined with decades of over-farming, dried out the topsoil of the Southern Plains, and a series of storms from 1933 to 1939 blew it eastward. On May 11, 1934, in one of the worst events, dirt fell like snow on Chicago. On Black Sunday, April 14, 1935, twenty "Black Blizzards" darkened the skies.

According to *The Yearbook of Agriculture* for 1934, "Approximately 35 million acres of formerly cultivated land have essentially been destroyed for crop production, and 100 million acres now in crops are rapidly losing topsoil." By 1940, about 2.5 million "Okies" had left Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and other states. Many went to California and became itinerant farm workers, moving from farm to farm in an attempt to find work. In 1937, California made it illegal for indigent persons to enter the state.

John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath* captured the plight of the migrants. Nonfiction accounts and photos can be found in *Letters from the Dust Bowl* by Caroline Henderson (Red River Books).

These are only four of the extreme weather conditions mentioned by Taylor. She also included The Year Without a Summer, 1816; Great Lakes Storms, 1868-1869; Galveston Hurricane, 1900; Tri-State Tornado, 1925; Mississippi River Flood, 1927; and Ohio River Flood, 1937. The full article can be read at [www.familytreemagazine.com/article/the-weather-report](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/the-weather-report).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Eva Louise Middlebrooks Putman** left this world August 9, 2010, in Richardson, TX. Eva was born to Thomas and Marie (Tucker) Middlebrooks on April 2, 1953, in Jacksboro, TX. She was pre-deceased by her parents and a half-brother, John Burton.

Eva is survived by David Putman, her husband of 33 years; daughter Evan Putman; a brother, Jarrell Middlebrooks; sisters Katherine Migura and Daphne Hadley; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins, including MFA members Jarrelyn Lang, Alice Holland, and Barbara Gaston.

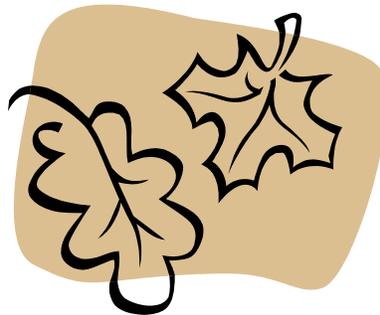
Memorial services were held August 14 at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church in Richardson.

Middlebrooks Family Association extends sincerest sympathy to all of Eva's family. A Thomas 1763 descendant, Eva was dearly loved and will be missed by all who knew her.



### **OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.**

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



## MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

### **2010-2011 OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT – NEAL MIDDLEBROOK  
VICE PRESIDENT – TOM MIDDLEBROOK  
SECRETARY/TREASURER – JOYCE ARNOLD

### **ANCESTOR TEAM LEADERS**

**Isaac b. 1753** – LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS  
[gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)  
and JEAN SHROYER  
[TXJean@aol.com](mailto:TXJean@aol.com)

**John b. 1755** – BOB MIDDLEBROOKS  
[mid293@earthlink.net](mailto:mid293@earthlink.net)

**Micajah b. 1758** – SHARON BARTLETT  
[sharonbartlett@att.net](mailto:sharonbartlett@att.net)  
and MARY BAKER  
[mmbaker65@hotmail.com](mailto:mmbaker65@hotmail.com)

**Sims b. 1762** – NEAL MIDDLEBROOK  
[nealmidbroo1@frontier.com](mailto:nealmidbroo1@frontier.com)

**Thomas b. 1763** – Jarrelyn Lang  
[thelangs@hotmail.com](mailto:thelangs@hotmail.com)

**Robert b. 1766** – J.A. MIDDLEBROOKS  
[middle3jam2002@yahoo.com](mailto:middle3jam2002@yahoo.com)

**Joseph b. 1610** – LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS  
[gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)

**Virginia Middlebrookses** – NEAL MIDDLEBROOK  
[nealmidbroo1@frontier.com](mailto:nealmidbroo1@frontier.com)

**Unknown Ancestor** – LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS  
[gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JOYCE ARNOLD, 2010-2011  
[joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net)

KATHLEEN HUNTER, 2010-2011  
[kathleen@jpa.net](mailto:kathleen@jpa.net)

TOM MIDDLEBROOK, 2010-2011  
[tomdean4@embarqmail.com](mailto:tomdean4@embarqmail.com)

NEAL MIDDLEBROOK, 2010-2011  
[nealmidbroo1@frontier.com](mailto:nealmidbroo1@frontier.com)

CHARLES H. MIDDLEBROOKS, 2010-1011  
[chasmid@att.net](mailto:chasmid@att.net)

CHARLES S. MIDDLEBROOKS, 2011-2012  
[cmiddleb@bellsouth.com](mailto:cmiddleb@bellsouth.com)

KERRY MIDDLEBROOKS, 2011-2012  
[mbrooks@gci.com](mailto:mbrooks@gci.com)

SAM MIDDLEBROOKS, 2011-2012  
[semiddlebrooks@gmail.com](mailto:semiddlebrooks@gmail.com)

### **ON-GOING PROJECTS**

Cemetery Project – J.A. MIDDLEBROOKS  
MFA Website – DAVE CLARK and  
LEONARD MIDDLEBROOKS  
DNA Project – BOB MIDDLEBROOKS and  
HENRY MIDDLEBROOKS  
Family Repository – JEAN SHROYER  
Family *Register* Update – LEONARD  
MIDDLEBROOKS  
Military *Register* Update – KERRY  
MIDDLEBROOKS

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

MFA Quarterly Newsletter is published four times a year (December, March, June, and September) by the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 274 Wilder Road, Forsyth, GA 31029.

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

**Privacy Notice:** If you prefer that your name be withheld, please notify [thelangs@hotmail.com](mailto:thelangs@hotmail.com).