

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

*Quarterly Newsletter*

March 2011  
Editor,  
Jarrelyn Lang

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Founding Editor,  
Dianne Middlebrooks

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Here's what you'll find inside . . . . .

- 2. President's Message; Neal Middlebrook
- 4. MFA 2011 Meeting/Reunion Information; Joyce Arnold
- 5. Hempstead County Poor Farm; Peggy Lloyd
- 7. Buffalo Soldiers; Jarrelyn Lang
- 12. Importance of Birth Order; Dianne Middlebrooks
- 14. McGuffey's Readers; Jarrelyn Lang
- 16. Guarding the Unknowns; Jarrelyn Lang
- 18. Online Resource Available; Elaine Collier Neal
- 18. This-and-That
- 19. Ray W. Middlebrook Memoriam; Neal Middlebrook
- 23. In Memoriam

**HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY!!**

## **President's Message March 2011 Newsletter**

With the help of Joyce Luck and Lana Shelton of Caroline County, Virginia, we are continuing to move forward with the local planning of the MFA 2011 meeting. Our meeting this year will be in Ashland, Virginia, August 18-20. You will need to make your reservation at the Holiday Inn Express in Ashland before July 26, 2011, to receive the group rate on your room. Ashland is only 15 miles north of Richmond. Please contact Joyce Arnold, [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net), for more information on the 2011 meeting. We are planning an exciting meeting and field trip that will feature our Virginia Middlebrooks ancestors, including the John Middlebrooks (b. 1754) line. John is related to our Caswell County, North Carolina, Middlebrooks brothers.

### **Presentations**

Each year we invite anyone interested in presenting family history information at our meeting to let us know in advance. We include time on the agenda for more formal presentations and then informal sharing of information in group sessions. Please let us know in advance if you have family information you would like to share with others. For the more formal presentations, we ask you to submit a copy of your presentation before the meeting so we can include it in the meeting notebooks.

### **Cemetery Conservation**

We have made significant progress in preparation for placing a grave marker for John Middlebrooks (b. 1754). Joyce Wilson, land owner of the Middlebrooks Cemetery in Caroline County, has granted permission for DAR and the MFA to place a grave marker for John. Joyce Luck has been working closely with Joyce Wilson, who has also agreed to let us clean and fence the Middlebrooks Cemetery. Esther Day, Regent of the Scotchtown Chapter of DAR, has been a big help in getting approval from DAR to install the grave marker and planning for the ceremony cleanup. So if you are able to attend this year's meeting, we will be visiting the Middlebrooks Cemetery on our Friday field trip. As far as we know, this is the earliest Middlebrooks grave discovered, except possibly for some of our New England ancestors.

### **England Research**

In regards to our ongoing England research, Ian Middlebrook was funded by the MFA to continue his research. Ian, living in England, is researching parish registers and other records for our ancestor Joseph Middlebrook (b. 1610). We hope to discover where Joseph was born and possibly who his parents were. So far, this remains a mystery. If anyone would like to help with this project, please let us know. The last Quarterly newsletter contained an excellent article by Ian, updating us on the England Middlebrook research project. The funding for this project was made possible by Henry Middlebrook.

### **Jones County, Georgia, Research**

Another project was launched this year. We discovered at last year's Macon, Georgia, meeting that some of the early Jones County court records ended up in the Telamon-Cuyler Collection, archived at the University of Georgia in Athens. We contacted Linda Aaron and Elaine Neal, who agreed to do the research for the MFA. They went through 11 boxes of the collection dealing with Jones County. The results of their research will be sent to Jarrelyn Lang, our

Quarterly newsletter editor. She will decide the best way to disseminate the information to our members. Some of the information may be included in the Quarterly newsletter, posted on the MFA web site, or sent to team leaders. Let us know if you have any questions about the project.

### **Family History Center Websites (Familysearch Portal)**

If you have not recently visited a local Family History Center (FHC), you are missing out on some free subscription websites. The following family search portals can be accessed for free at any local FHC:

- **Ancestry.com** - World Edition
- **19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive**
- **Family History Link** - this is a social family history network website
- **Find My Past** - British Isles research, family trees, births, marriages, and deaths, census, migration, military, and other information
- **Footnote** - NARA military records and many other resources.
- **The Genealogist** - British Isles research, very similar to Find My Past, includes vital records and census.
- **Genline.com** - Swedish research resources.
- **Godfrey Memorial Library** - U. S. county records, newspapers, and many other records.
- **Heritage Quest** - Census, books, Periodical Source Index, Revolutionary War, Freedman's Bank records, and The United States Congress Serial Set.
- **World Vital Records** - Vital records, newspapers, books, and many other resources.
- **Alexander Street Press** - American Civil War soldier resources, letters and diaries, and images.
- **Historic Map Works** - Library Edition

Be sure to check the times your local FHC is open. Librarians are available to help you get started on researching the above websites and to answer other family history questions.

Neal Middlebrook

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## MFA 2011 Meeting/Reunion, Ashland, VA August 18-20, 2011

Affectionately known as the “**The Center of the Universe**” by residents for its central location within the state, Ashland is located in the heart of Hanover County.

### Thursday: Aug. 18th

Morning: registration, welcoming, and review of agenda, etc.

Lunch: Ashland or Richmond?

Afternoon: Research trip to Library of Virginia

Evening: Social & group dinner, Ashland, MFA business meeting after dinner

### Friday: Aug. 19th

All day: Field trip, brown bag lunch

Caroline County, Virginia, with the focus on John Middlebrooks (b. 1754)

Evening: Social & group dinner (Tavern on the Rail), speaker

### Saturday: Aug. 20th

Morning: MFA business (officer and project reports, elections) and two speakers

Lunch: at hotel conference room, sandwiches, etc.

Afternoon: sharing family histories and discussions, etc.; close-out

Evening: Social and group dinner, Ashland or someplace close by

Start getting the word out to your relatives and contacts so we can start compiling a mailing list.

Please send Joyce Arnold the addresses of people you think may be interested in attending so we can generate a master contact list for outreach. [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net) or 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 7784

### Holiday Inn Express, RICHMOND NORTH ASHLAND

107 SOUTH CARTER ROAD, ASHLAND, VIRGINIA 23005

Hotel Front Desk: 1-804-752-7889

Hotel Fax: 1-804-752-7180

Check in: 3:00 PM    Check out: 11:00 AM

next to Cracker Barrel and Applebee's

Please forward the following link and information to the guests for the reservation. They need to **make reservations before July 26, 2011**, otherwise the rooms will be released at the market price.

### MFA 2011 Meeting/Reunion, Ashland, VA, August 18-20, 2011

Guest to reserve the room: go to [www.hiexpress.com/ashlandva](http://www.hiexpress.com/ashlandva)

Enter the Arrival date:

Enter the block code: MID

Or

For the reservation, call the Hotel @ 804-752-7889

Name of the Block: Middlebrooks (group name); block code: MID

All rooms will be the King Suite price as: King Suite: \$84.00 – sleeps 2 people  
Free hot and cold breakfast every morning      Coffee and water available during the day

Neal Middlebrook, MFA President

Joyce Arnold, MFA Secretary/Treasurer

# The Hempstead County Poor Farm

By Peggy Lloyd

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, managing the Poor Farm was an obligation of the county. The Poor Farm housed and fed widows and orphans with no means of livelihood, the old and ill who had no means of support or relatives to care for them, and the insane or incompetent who could not care for themselves. The county employed an overseer, usually a man with a family whose wife could serve as cook, to run the daily activities of the farm, and a doctor to inspect the premises and care for the medical needs of the inmates. If the inmates were capable of working on the farm, they did. Hempstead County, Arkansas, had such a farm, and the records are at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington. The Poor Farm was located near Crossroads, a community at the junction of Highway 195 South and Highway 73 West. Here is a sampling from the records in 1868, just a few years after the close of the Civil War.

John Westmoreland, who lived near Crossroads and was then in his early forties, put in a bid for the job of overseer on February 22, 1868. The commissioners of the Poor House were A. B. Williams, a prominent Washington lawyer; W. W. Andrews, a wealthy Washington merchant, landowner, and real estate dealer; and R. A. Carrigan, also a Washington attorney and member of the prominent Carrigan family. Westmoreland gave the commissioners his terms:

“Gentlemen: I propose to become overseer of the Poor House of Hempstead County for the remainder of the present year, and to comply with all the conditions required for the sum of ten dollars per capita [*per inmate*] per month.”

James O. Reeves and George W. Reeves served as securities for Westmoreland. They were his in-laws. Westmoreland had married Predonia Reeves in 1851 and in 1860 was still living in the household of her father, James Reeves, a blacksmith and an early settler in Hempstead County.

The commissioners, however, were men of business and sought the best price. On April 8, 1868, they finally reached an agreement and agreed to pay Westmoreland “nine dollars (\$9.00) per capita for each month.” In their written agreement, they gave a brief history of the Poor Farm: “...what is known as the Poor House property of said county which said property was lately purchased from William A. Carrigan and lies immediately on the Washington and Fulton Road five miles from Washington.” The Poor Farm would remain in that vicinity for many years.

The commissioners also outlined their expectations of Westmoreland: “...that he [Westmoreland] will reside in the Poor House and exercise proper control and management of those entrusted to his keeping, will furnish food, clothing, beds, bedding, and quarters and will treat humanely all inmates of said Poor House and further agrees to give proper attention to the sick and call to their relief the Physician employed by the County Court for that purpose, and in case of the death of any inmate to bury him or her decently.”

Dr. W. P. Hart of Washington served as Poor House inspector and submitted quarterly reports. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1868, Dr. Hart reported there were only two inmates: Jesse Grounds and Thirza Sevedge. Both were deemed mentally ill. Grounds was 43 years old and completely insane. He had to be confined

because he was destructive and tried to tear his own clothes off at times. Mrs. Sevedge was fifty and deemed partially deranged. Dr. Hart noted: "She is troubled with a vicious and morbid appetite, especially for fruit, an undue quantity of which brings on fits, which has made it necessary to keep her confined during the greater part of the fruit season." She also tended to rove about and had to be restrained. He noted that she had good periods: "When properly at herself, she is industriously inclined and can do quite good work with the cards [supplies for weaving] and spinning wheel." Dr. Hart reported that their condition was good, and Westmoreland was giving the care and attention that he should.

On October 21, Dr. Hart made another visit to the Poor House to see a new inmate. He reported: "Visited Poor House professionally and for inspection. Professionally to see Sally Nash, F, W, C [Free Woman of Color?], who was admitted to the Poor House on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 o'clock A.M. and died at 7 o'clock P.M. of the same day. She died of dropsy. She was the mother of two small children. James Simpson and Ann Battle, colored persons, asked permission to take the children, and take care of them, which I permitted them to do." What Dr. Hart called "dropsy" may have been congestive heart failure marked by the retention of fluid.

On December 8, Dr. Hart was again at the Poor House. He noted: "Mrs. Sevedge's health is quite feeble, and she is evidently going into a dropsical state. A few days since, when the weather was very cold and disagreeable, she concluded she would sweep the yard, and was outdoors all day regardless of the remonstrances employed to prevent her from exposing herself so much. This day's exposure aggravated this already existing dropsical condition, and she rapidly grew worse, and died on the 17<sup>th</sup>." Was she a victim of untreated diabetes as well as mental illness? Exposure may have led to pneumonia which finally killed her.

These experiences put Dr. Hart in a thoughtful mood as he wrote his final report on Dec. 28, 1868. Grounds and Sevedge should not have been in the Poor House. "In fact neither of them should ever have been an inmate of a Poor House had there been a Lunatic Asylum in the state, they both being fit subject for such an asylum, but not for a Poor House." Dr. Hart hoped for better care of the premises and felt that would benefit the county. He hoped for a Poor House that would actually serve the poor and for more appropriate facilities for the mentally ill, though he did admit that the Poor Farm saved the county money.

Those who died in the Poor House were buried nearby in the Westmoreland Cemetery. In 1912 Hempstead County sold 7.25 acres from the Poor Farm to the Trustees of the Westmoreland Cemetery. The county records stated that this ground had been used as a cemetery for the past sixty years, even at that date, and that it contained the graves of many old citizens. Today the Westmoreland Cemetery is still an active cemetery for the Cross Roads Community.

Poor Houses or Poor Farms continued to exist in Arkansas counties until the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most are now largely forgotten. In these difficult economic times, we often hear "We're going to the Poor House." Now it's just an expression, and one usually used in jest. But the Poor Houses of the past were real institutions, as the county government tried to address the needs of those in their communities that were in distress and without family. They were repositories, as Dr. Hart noted, for all kinds of problems that the society and medicine of the day could not solve.

## Buffalo Soldiers: African-Americans Serving Proudly

By Jarrelyn Lang

"The military history of African Americans began with the arrival of the first black slaves during the colonial era of the United States and continues to the present. There has been no war fought by or within the United States in which African Americans did not participate, including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the more current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as other minor conflicts." – Wikipedia

In the summer of 1866, the United States found itself in need of the largest peacetime army in its history, to accomplish several tasks: occupying the South; patrolling the Mexican border; protecting construction of transcontinental railroads; and guarding wagon routes to the Colorado and Montana gold fields. Since several hundred thousand African-Americans had proven their worth in the Civil War, they were readily welcomed into the Army.

The Army Reorganization Act of 1866 provided for thirty new regiments, including two cavalry and four infantry regiments "composed of colored men." Thus were formed the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry units, along with the 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, and 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry units. Three years later, a reorganization brought about the consolidation of the original four infantry units into the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiments.

Many African Americans, most of them ex-slaves, joined the U.S. Army, seeing it as a means to advancement, adventure, and economic or social betterment. Others, displaced by the War, were simply seeking a means of survival: food, shelter, clothing, and medical benefits. For some, the promise of an education was also a motivation.

Before the Civil War, state laws in the South had forbidden the education of slaves, so the majority of the black population was illiterate. Recruiters found it difficult to find men that had enough education to become clerks and noncommissioned officers who could deal with daily reports, bi-monthly muster rolls, requisitions for supplies, and other documents involved in routine Army paperwork. In addition, trained artisans such as blacksmiths, farriers, and saddlers were needed.

For the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry units and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiments made up about nine percent of the men who wore Army uniforms. During this period, they usually were on duty on frontiers far away from centers of white population, supposedly due to political pressures to keep blacks from being stationed in northern states.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry was posted to Texas, considered by some to be a "soldier's paradise." The land sported beautiful rivers and grassy plains filled with game. Other black infantry units served in Arizona, Colorado, the Dakotas, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, and Utah.

There are at least two accounts of how the name "Buffalo Soldiers" came about. There are those who believe the term was given out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Another source states that the name was given because of the men's dark curly hair, which resembled a buffalo's coat. Others believe it to be a combination of the two. According to the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the name "Buffalo Soldiers" originated with the Cheyenne warriors in the winter of 1867. The actual Cheyenne translation was "Wild Buffalo." Colonel Benjamin Grierson of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry attributed the origin to the Comanche, and that version was circulated by newspaper writer Walter Hill.

In 1877, Henry Flipper (March 21, 1856 – May 3, 1940) became the first African-American cadet to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Born into slavery, Flipper attended Atlanta University during Reconstruction and was appointed as a freshman to West Point by Representative James C. Freeman. Four other black cadets were at the Academy, also. Flipper, the first to graduate, became a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Cavalry and was assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at Fort Sill in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). He was the first black officer to command regular troops in the U.S. Army. Previously, even all-black regiments were led by white officers. Unfortunately, during his entire military career, Flipper battled racism. Fortunately, he had the support of some officers and many of the white civilians he encountered.

From 1866 to the early 1890s, black regiments served in the Apache Wars and the Great Plains regions. Thirteen of these men won the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars.

Buffalo Soldiers occupied and maintained outposts that often were isolated and lonely. The men drilled often and sometimes engaged in physical fitness exercises. They stood inspection, did their turn at guard mount and other duties, and paraded. They also practiced at the target range.

The soldiers were assigned various tasks, which they called "fatigues." These included cutting ice (where possible), securing wood for lumber and fuel, working as teamsters or day laborers for the quartermaster, doing janitorial duties in the post exchange, and picking wild berries. Sometimes they had to chase after military prisoners, mostly deserters from white regiments, but also some of their black comrades as well. In addition, field maneuvers and war games were a part of their routine.

The men's duties included building roads and escorting the U.S. mail. When needed, black infantrymen also took care of disturbances that sometimes flared up in the final days of problems between the American Indians and the settlers who were increasingly taking over their land. The Indian term for infantrymen, black and white alike, was "walk-a-heaps" because the soldiers had to travel on foot rather than on horseback like the cavalry.

In addition to forays against native peoples, African-American foot soldiers were sometimes dispatched to put down strikes, such as those that broke out in the mines of Idaho in 1892. They were sent to Washington, D.C., to protect railway property and maintain peace between the railway and Jacob Coxey's army of jobless anti-railroad men in 1894.

A more unusual duty was performed by the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry when they took part in an 1896-97 bicycle trek, an early experiment to mechanize the American military. A group of adventurous volunteers in Montana peddled their way from Fort Missoula to Fort Harrison, north of Helena, then cycled on to Fort Yellowstone and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Traveling across the Park's rugged terrain tested both their equipment and their stamina. The round-trip journey covered 800 miles. The following year, they rode from Fort Missoula to St. Louis, Missouri, averaging 52 miles a day throughout the 1,900-mile journey.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry participated in the 1892 Johnson County War, a land war in Johnson County, Wyoming, between small farmers and wealthy ranchers. It involved a lengthy shootout between local farmers, a band of hired killers, and a sheriff's posse. President Benjamin Harrison had first ordered the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry to quell the violence and capture the band of hired killers. Soon afterward, however the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was ordered to replace the 6<sup>th</sup>, which could not deal with local political and social pressures and was unable to keep the peace in the tense environment.

The Buffalo Soldiers arrived from Nebraska within two weeks of receiving their orders. The men were moved to the railroad town of Suggs, Wyoming, where they created "Camp Bettens." They found the locals to be racist and hostile toward them. One soldier was killed and two were wounded in gun battles with locals. Nevertheless, the 9<sup>th</sup> remained on duty in Wyoming for nearly a year.

Most black infantrymen did their best to do their duties well. Professionalism was very much a part of the story of black infantrymen as well as their comrades in the cavalry, although their diligence and dedication to duty were seldom rewarded. They did receive some recognition for their higher re-enlistment rates and fewer incidents of alcoholism. Although desertion was the worst personnel problem for the Army, it was rare in the black regiments. The 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry's desertion rate was the lowest in the entire Army from 1880 to 1886, and it shared this honor with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1888. Secretary of War William Endicott paid tribute to the black troops: "There are two regiments of infantry and two of cavalry of colored men, and their record for good service is excellent. They are neat, orderly, and obedient, are seldom brought before court martial, and rarely desert." - historynet.com

Black regiments participated in the 1898 Spanish-American War, including the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba, where five more Medals of Honor were earned. Buffalo Soldiers also took part in the Philippine-American War from 1899 to 1903 and the 1916 Mexican Expedition.

In August 1918, the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry fought at the Battle of Ambros Nogales in Nogales, Arizona, where they assisted the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in a border skirmish with German military advisors who were fighting alongside Mexican soldiers. The Mexican and German forces were forced to surrender. This was the only battle during World War I where Germans engaged, and died, in combat against United States soldiers in North America.

Buffalo Soldiers did not participate *per se* with the American Expeditionary Force during World War I, but experienced con-commissioned officers were provided to some units for combat duty, such as the 317<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. Soldiers of the 92<sup>nd</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Divisions were the first African Americans to fight in France. The four regiments of the 93<sup>rd</sup> fought under French command for the duration of the war.

A little-known contribution of the Buffalo Soldiers involved eight troops of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment and one company of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment who served in California's Sierra Nevada as the first national park rangers, protecting the parks from illegal grazing, poaching, timber thieves, and forest fires. The men endured long days in the saddle, slim rations, racism, and separation from family and friends. In 1899, soldiers from Company H, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry, served briefly in Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, and General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Park. These men served before the National Park Service was created and before the term "park ranger" came into existence.

Captain Charles Young, who served with Troop "I," 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment in Sequoia National Park during the summer of 1903, stands out in history. Young was the third African American to graduate from the United States Military Academy. At the time of his death in 1922, he was the highest ranking African American in the U.S. Military. He made history in Sequoia National Park by becoming Acting Military Superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks in 1903. Young was also the first African American superintendent of a national park. During his tenure in the park, Young named a Giant Sequoia for Booker T. Washington. Recently, another Sequoia in Giant Forest was named in Captain Young's honor. Some of his descendants were present at the ceremony.

A lasting legacy of the soldiers as park rangers is the Ranger Hat, known as the Smokey Bear hat. Buffalo Soldiers serving in the Spanish-American War began to re-crease their Stetson hats with what they called a Montana "pinch" so their hats would shed water better. This involved pinching the rounded tops of their hats symmetrically at the four corners. When they returned to the States, many of them kept that distinctive pinch in their hats. The hat is still used by Park Rangers as well as some U.S. State Highway Patrol services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Boy Scouts of America – and Smokey the Bear.

On March 23, 1907, the United States Military Academy Detachment of Cavalry was changed to a "colored" unit. A hundred-man detachment from the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry taught riding instruction, mounted drill, and tactics to future officers at West Point until 1947.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment saw combat during the Korean War and was the last segregated regiment to engage in combat. The 24<sup>th</sup> was de-activated in 1951, and its soldiers were integrated into other units in Korea. On December 12, 1951, the last Buffalo Soldier units, the 27<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and the 28<sup>th</sup> (Horse) Cavalry, were disbanded. The 28<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was inactivated at Assi-Okba, Algeria, in April 1944 in North Africa, which marked the end of that regiment.

During World War II, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry units were disbanded, and the soldiers were moved into service-oriented regiments, along with the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division. The 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment served in combat in the Pacific theater. The 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, a.k.a. the "Buffalo Division," served in combat during the Italian Campaign in the Mediterranean theater. The 93<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, which included the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry, served in the Pacific theater.

In spite of official resistance and administrative barriers, black airmen were trained and played a significant role in the air war in Europe in World War II. Trained at Tuskegee Army Air Base in Alabama, and known as Tuskegee Airmen, these men were the first African American military aviators in the United States armed forces.

Although they were subjected to racial discrimination, both within and outside the army, they trained and flew with distinction. The 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, the only operational unit to see combat, was first sent to invade French North Africa as part of Operation Torch, a joint British-American campaign, in November 1942. They then saw action in Sicily and Italy before being deployed as bomber escorts in Europe, where they were quite successful in their missions. In all, 994 pilots were trained in Tuskegee from 1941 to 1946. Approximately 445 were deployed overseas, and 150 airmen lost their lives either in accidents or combat, including 66 pilots killed in action or accidents and 32 fallen into captivity as prisoners of war.

Tuskegee airmen were credited with the following accomplishments: 15,553 combat sorties; 112 German aircraft destroyed in the air, 150 on the ground; 950 rail cars, trucks, and other major motor vehicles destroyed; one destroyer sunk by P-57 machine-gun fire; and a nearly perfect record of not losing U.S. bombers.

Awards and decorations for valor and performance by the Tuskegee airmen included: Three Distinguished Unit Citations – 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, 30 May to 11 June 1943, for the capture of Pantelleria, Italy; 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 12-14 May 1944, for successful air strikes against Monte Cassino, Italy; and 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, 24 March 1945, for the longest bomber escort mission of World War II

At least one Silver Star

An estimated 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses

14 Bronze Stars

744 Air Medals

There is a Buffalo Soldier monument at F.E. Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne, Wyoming. Monuments to the Buffalo Soldiers can also be seen in Fort Leavenworth and Junction City, Kansas. In July 1992, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell was guest speaker for the unveiling of the Fort Leavenworth monument. Powell had initiated the project to erect a statue in honor of the Buffalo Soldiers when he was posted as a brigadier general at Fort Leavenworth.

The Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration presented by the United States government to a member of the armed forces, was created during the Civil War. Recipients must have distinguished themselves at the risk of their own lives above and beyond the call of duty in action against an enemy of the United States. Many have been awarded posthumously. Of the 3,464 Medals of Honor awarded as of June 2009, 88 were awarded to 87 different African American recipients. Robert Augustus Sweeney is the only African American to have been awarded two Medals of Honor.

In 1993, the Army commissioned a study to investigate racial discrimination in awarding medals. At the time, no Medals of Honor had been awarded to black soldiers who served in World War II. After an extensive review, the study recommended that several black soldiers who had received the Distinguished Service Cross should have been given the Medal of Honor instead. On January 13, 1997, President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal to seven African American World War II veterans, one being presented posthumously.

In February each year, a Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day is held at Fort Concho, near San Angelo, Texas. Living history demonstrations tell the stories of African American soldiers who patrolled the frontier. For more information, go to [fortconcho.com](http://fortconcho.com).

On September 6, 2005, Mark Matthews, who was then the oldest living Buffalo Soldier, died at the age of 111 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. What a legacy these men left behind!

**Sources:** "Buffalo Soldier," Wikipedia; "African American Infantrymen in America's West," posted by HistoryNet Staff June 12, 2006; "Tuskegee Airmen," Wikipedia; List of African-American Medal of Honor Recipients, Wikipedia; "Buffalo Soldiers: Sorting Fact from Fiction," [historynet.com](http://historynet.com); "Henry Ossian Flipper," Wikipedia.

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**Civil War Trivia**, from [bitsofblueandgray.com](http://bitsofblueandgray.com)

Alfred Thomas Archimedes Torbert held commissions in both the USA (brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant) and CSA (1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant) armies simultaneously.

The first person to direct artillery fire for an army via aerial reconnaissance was balloonist Thaddeus Lowe, USA, on September 24, 1861.

The melody of the popular Civil War ballad "Aura Lee" by George R. Poulton and W.W. Fosdick was used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century for Elvis Presley's hit "Love Me Tender."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BIRTH ORDER

Contributed by Dianne Middlebrooks

The study of family history invariably takes us into the details of family units. While a pedigree chart reflects the line of ascent or descent in the family hierarchy, a family group sheet presents a picture of the structure of a family unit and gives details about the family members. It is important to examine that structure carefully because the birth order of the children can be very revealing.

A child's place in the family hierarchy is important for a variety of reasons, not the least of which are the records left behind to assist your research. Some researchers concentrate their investigative efforts on nailing down vital dates for only direct ancestors. But ignoring your ancestors' brothers and sisters can be a costly omission. Birth order is important.

Family structures have changed over the centuries. Couples typically produced more children in earlier times than they do today. Above and beyond the joys of a large family, there were practical matters to consider. The offspring of families with farms or small businesses became members of the family workforce – cheap labor contributing to the family's economic success and security. They also married, producing alliances with other families and perhaps bringing additional resources into the family. And of course, they produced additional families of their own.

As you compile family records, you should focus your attention on the details of all members of the family group. Here are a few reasons why birth order can be important to your research:

**Sons:** The first-born son often grew up with the expectation that he would work with his father and share the responsibility of providing for the family, and he was often designated as the person who would inherit the farm or business. In most cases, he was groomed to assume this role and given heavy responsibilities to help manage the family affairs. Depending on his age at the time of his father's death, he was usually the person who took over, settled the estate, cared for his mother and other siblings, and performed other functions. The law of the land may also have dictated that he inherit everything; the Latin term *primogeniture* refers to the hereditary right of a first-born son to inherit, especially under the laws of some areas and in some historical periods.

Widows were often considered incapable of providing for their children, and the custody of the children was often awarded to guardians – including older male siblings. An eldest son may have been named guardian or trustee of one or more of his younger siblings. Consider the age of the oldest son at the time of a parent's death against the ages of the other children. Look for probate records related to the parent, including probate court minutes in the absence of a will or probate packet. Examine land and property records for evidence of the transfer of land to the eldest son. Also, look for guardianship records for any and/or all of the minor children.

While many fathers provided for their sons, we also have to face the reality that most of our ancestors were of modest means. The second- and third-born sons often lived in the shadow of one or more older brothers. Unless the father was a man of some means, the younger sons' right of inheritance was usually diminished either by the family or by the law. If a younger son inherited at all, it was usually a bequest of lesser value or of inferior quality than that of his older brother. Also, his prospects of making a living in the area where he grew up may have been lessened if he inherited little or no land.

You may find that younger sons left the area where they were born and raised, to find other opportunities. Without the security of land or the prospect of "guaranteed employment," they may have migrated elsewhere. Also, a younger son may have become an apprentice to a tradesman – either indentured by his father or as a means of bettering his prospects. In this case, court records may include evidence of these legal contracts and agreements.

**Daughters:** The older female children were often enlisted to share the household duties. These certainly included caring for younger siblings, sewing, cooking, and performing many essential tasks. However, eldest daughters also tended to receive gifts or an inheritance from their parents. A father might bestow a dower gift of land at her marriage, and the wills of both the father and the mother often reflect

bequests. Sometimes a parent's will specifically names a daughter and/or the daughter's husband as an heir, and the will may even designate that a daughter provide a home for, and care for, younger siblings.

Look for deeds registered in daughters' married names or the names of their husbands. Sometimes, on reading the will, you will find that acreage has been granted by a parent as a gift or as a dowry. Also, look in parents' wills or probate court minutes for evidence of the order of birth for daughters. Don't overlook guardianship records in the name of the daughter's husband.

**Naming Patterns and Names Recycled:** On the topic of naming patterns among our ancestors, suffice it to say that studying names of siblings can be helpful in determining birth order. Eldest sons tended to be named after their fathers, or after grandfathers and other family members. Daughters were sometimes named after their mothers, or an eldest daughter may have been given one of her mother's names. (These naming-pattern tendencies are often relative to culture. Scandinavians, for instance, traditionally named the first son after the paternal grandfather and the first daughter after the maternal grandmother, with subsequent naming patterns for the second daughter and son.) There is some validity in studying naming patterns, but don't place too much emphasis on it. There are too many exceptions, one being the recycling of names.

Tragically, the mortality rate among our ancestors' children was high due to disease and accidents. The death of a first son who was named after his father was certainly devastating, but the desire to leave a namesake could also be high. Researchers have run across numerous instances of the re-use of a given name. Therefore, when visiting cemeteries, you may be confounded by vast differences in tombstone dates and the vital dates you had verified with other sources. In some instances, there may have been TWO children with the same name. Sometimes a family gave the name of a child who died young to the next boy/girl to be born, so that the name was preserved. Be careful to look for this possibility when you encounter such discrepancies.

**Puzzling Out Birth Order:** One of the biggest challenges arises when a male ancestor is married multiple times and fathers children by each wife. In those cases, establishing birth order can be extremely important. You want to make sure you match the children with the right mother.

Sometimes you may be unable to locate evidence of birth dates, but clues derived from studying patterns that point to birth order – such as which son inherited the land and which daughter inherited her mother's bed or silver spoons – may provide the pointers you need to focus research on specific records.

Do your best to try to determine the birth order for each child in the family. Knowing where your ancestor fell in the hierarchy may help you understand more about him or her. Perhaps your great-grandparents had ten children, and your grandmother was the oldest child. If your great-grandmother died when she was fourteen, there's a good chance that your grandmother became "mother" to the other children. That might explain a lot about your grandmother's household management skills and her take-charge abilities within your own family.

Spend some time puzzling out the birth order of the children in each family group, and you may learn more about your ancestors and find pointers to other records at the same time.



**If you want someone to do you a favor**, telling the person into his/her right ear, not the left, will more likely elicit a "yes" response. In an Italian study, 39% were more apt to consent if asked on the right side, as opposed to only 19% on the left. Researchers say it could have something to do with the asymmetrical way the brain processes emotions. The left hemisphere of the brain (which receives stronger input from the right ear) is specialized for positive feelings and approach behavior. The right hemisphere (more left-ear linked) tends to be focused on negative feelings and avoidance.

From *Good Housekeeping* magazine, November 2009

## Mr. McGuffey and His Readers

By Jarrelyn Lang

McGuffey Readers were a series of primers widely used as textbooks in America from the mid-1800s until the mid-1900s. Today they are being used in private schools and in homeschooling.

William Holmes McGuffey was born September 23, 1800, near Claysville in Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Alexander and Anna (Holmes) McGuffey. The family moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in 1802. The McGuffeys, native to Scotland, came to America in 1774, bringing their strong opinions on religion and education with them. William shared the family's passion for educating young minds and preaching the Gospel.

William learned to read and write from his mother and studied Latin from a clergyman in nearby Youngstown, Ohio. He also learned Hebrew and Greek. Blessed with a remarkable memory, William was able to memorize entire books of the Bible. He became an itinerant teacher when he was fourteen years old, beginning with 48 students in a one-room school in Calcutta, Ohio, and later at a seminary in the town of Poland, Ohio.

One room, one teacher schoolhouses presented challenges unknown in most modern schools. Students usually ranged in age from six to twenty-one. McGuffey often worked eleven hours a day, six days a week, in a number of frontier schools, most of which were in the state of Kentucky. Students brought their own books, usually the Bible, since very few textbooks existed.

Between teaching jobs, McGuffey managed to receive a classical education. He went to the Old Stone Academy in Darlington, Pennsylvania, during the year 1818. He then studied at Washington College (now Washington & Jefferson College), in Washington, Pennsylvania, where he graduated with honors in 1826. In that same year, he was appointed Professor of Languages at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

William married Harriet Spinning in 1827, a union that produced five children. Very little is known about the early lives of these children, although one daughter's diary noted that perfect obedience and submission were expected. Believing that religion and education were interrelated and essential to a healthy society, McGuffey was ordained in 1829 as a minister in the Presbyterian Church at Bethel Chapel in Hamilton County, Ohio. In 1984, a historical marker was erected on the site of the church, which no longer exists.

While teaching at Miami, McGuffey gained a reputation as a lecturer on moral and biblical subjects. In 1835, the Cincinnati publishing firm of Truman and Smith asked him to create a series of four graded readers for primary-level students. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and a longtime friend, had recommended William for the job.

McGuffey received \$1,000 upon completing the first two readers. He then compiled the other two. The books consisted of stories, poems, essays, and speeches.

Although William McGuffey wrote four *Readers*, only the first two were used by most schools in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first *Reader* taught reading by using the phonics method, the identification of letters and their arrangement into words. The second *Reader* was used once the student learned how to read. This book helped students to understand the meaning of sentences, used within stories that children could remember.

The third *Reader* taught the definitions of words and was written at what would be the modern fifth or sixth grade level. The fourth *Reader* was used at the highest levels of grammar-school ability.

Sometime later, William's brother Alexander wrote the fifth and sixth *Readers*, published in 1944 and 1957 respectively. These were more advanced, using material from well-known British and American writers such as John Milton, Lord Byron, and Daniel Webster.

Pioneer families did not have many books and readily took to the *Readers*. McGuffey's books eventually became the standard textbooks in 37 states and helped influence the literary tastes of 19<sup>th</sup> century America. Practically every American who attended public schools during the second half of that century learned moral and ethical lessons from *McGuffey's Reader*.

By 1832, William had become chair of the Department of Mental Philosophy and Philology at Miami. He resigned this position in 1836 to become president of Ohio University, remaining there until 1843. He returned to Cincinnati as a professor at Woodward College, then in 1845 he accepted the position of chair of the Department of Moral Philosophy at the University of Virginia.

McGuffey was known as a theological and conservative teacher. He understood the goals of public schooling in terms of moral and spiritual education, and he attempted to give schools a curriculum that would instill those virtues in their students.

Through the hard times of the Civil War and Reconstruction, McGuffey was known for his philanthropy and generosity among the poor and newly-emancipated African American slaves.

A year after his first wife died, in 1850, McGuffey married Laura Howard, daughter of Dean Howard of the University of Virginia. McGuffey died May 4, 1873, and is buried in the university's burial ground in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The goals William strived so hard to instill did not fit into the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century classrooms. The content of the *Readers* changed drastically from the earliest editions to the 1879 edition. The revised textbooks aimed to meet the needs of national unity and the dream of an American melting-pot for the world's oppressed. The themes of righteousness and piety, prominently displayed in earlier versions, were excluded. The books' content was secularized and replaced by middle-class civil religion, morality, and values. McGuffey's name appeared on these revised versions, but he neither contributed to nor approved of their content.

Other types of textbooks gradually replaced McGuffey's. Materials made for distinct class levels, less religious content, and the profitability of consumable (throwaway) workbooks helped to bring about their decline. However, *McGuffey's Readers* never entirely disappeared. Reprinted versions of his *Readers* are still in print and may be purchased in bookstores across the country.

The School of Education at Miami University is housed in McGuffey Hall, in honor of William's tenure there. The McGuffey School District in Washington County, Pennsylvania, is named for William Holmes McGuffey.

Industrialist Henry Ford cited *McGuffey Readers* as one of his most important childhood influences. He republished all six *Readers* and distributed complete sets of them, at his own expense, to schools across the nation. In 1934, Ford had the log cabin where McGuffey was born moved to Greenfield Village, Ford's museum of Americana at Dearborn, Michigan.

An estimated 120 million copies of McGuffey's *Readers* were sold between 1836 and 1960. They have continued to sell since 1961 at an estimated rate of 30,000 a year. No other textbook that bears a single person's name has come even close to that mark.

**Sources:** "William Holmes McGuffey," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "McGuffey Readers," [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); "McGuffey, William Holmes," [newworldencyclopedia.org](http://newworldencyclopedia.org); "William H. McGuffey," [ohiohistorycentral.org](http://ohiohistorycentral.org).



## GUARDING THE UNKNOWNNS

By Jarrelyn Lang

A while back, I received an e-mail outlining the qualifications and other details pertinent to the soldiers who guard the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. As with most of these kinds of e-mails, it was a blend of fact and fiction. Because it piqued my interest, I decided to do some research and fill in the blank

"Here Rests In Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But To God." Thus reads the inscription on the white granite tomb that marks the resting place of America's official unknown soldiers. The Tomb of the Unknowns remains one of the most revered sites, a permanent reminder of the country's commitment to honor those who died fighting for its freedom.

The Tomb contains the remains of unknown American soldiers from World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict. Beginning in 1984, the Tomb also held the remains of a serviceman killed in the Vietnam War, but after DNA testing in 1998 confirmed his identity, his remains were disinterred and returned to his family. The crypt of the Vietnam Unknown has remained empty ever since.

Each of the unknowns was presented with the Medal of Honor at the time of interment. The medals, as well as the flags which covered their caskets, are on display inside the Memorial Amphitheater, located directly behind the Tomb.

From 1926 through 1937, the Tomb was guarded during daylight hours only. Since 1937, the Tomb has been continuously guarded, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Tomb guards are changed every thirty minutes between 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. from April 1 through September 30, and every hour between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. the rest of the year. At all other times, such as when the cemetery is closed, the guard is changed every two hours.

Sentries guarding the Tomb remained at their post during Hurricane Isabel in 2003, even though they were given permission not to do so.

Each soldier who applies for guard duty at the Tomb must be in superb physical condition, possess an unblemished military record, and be between 5 feet, 10 inches and 6 feet, 4 inches tall, with a proportionate weight and build. Those accepted become members of the Third United States Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Old Guard." Sentinels must be exemplary in discipline, dress, and bearing. They must also be thoroughly knowledgeable in the history of their unit, the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, those interred there, and the U.S. Army. They must also be able to execute a variety of ceremonial rites flawlessly and with precision. Although most of the sentinels have been male, three women have also served as guards.

Sentinels at the Tomb do not have to commit to serving there for any fixed period of time, and the average tour of duty is about one year. Like most servicemen, Tomb guards may choose to live on base at nearby Fort Myer or in off-base housing of their own choosing.

Soles on shoes made for the sentinels are built up so the sole and heel are equal in height, and to keep the heat and cold from their feet. This also allows the Sentinel to stand so that his back is straight and perpendicular to the ground, giving a more formal and smooth look to his walk. A side effect of this is that the sentinel can "roll" on the outside of the build-up as he walks down the mat. This allows him to move in a fluid fashion. If he does this correctly, his hat and bayonet will appear not to bob up and down with each step. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make a loud click as the guard comes to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds, or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The guard's gloves are moistened, to prevent him from losing his grip on his rifle, which he carries on the shoulder away from the Tomb. On a black mat made for this purpose, the guard walks 21 steps past the Tomb of the Unknowns; then, with a crisp turn, he turns 90 degrees to face east for 21 seconds. He next makes a sharp 90-degree turn to face north for 21 seconds. A crisp "shoulder-arms" movement places the rifle on the shoulder nearest the visitors, to signify that the sentinel stands between the tomb and any threat. After one moment, he paces 21 steps north, turns, and repeats the process. (The e-mail I received said that the guard made an about-face turn at the end of each of his marches, but that is not the case.)

The Tomb Guard Identification Badge, first awarded in 1957, is an honor for which a guard qualifies by "flawlessly performing his duty for several months" and passing a test, not simply handed out to everyone who serves for a given period of time. Once the sentinel has completed his or her training, he or she is examined formally for proficiency in performing a guard's duties and in knowledge of Arlington National Cemetery. He or she must first pass a written examination of 100 questions about Arlington National Cemetery and then be evaluated on proficiency in keeping watch at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Upon successful completion of the test, the soldier is awarded a temporary Tomb Guard's Badge at a ceremony presided over by the company commander. The Badge is one of the Army's higher honors and can be taken away from the soldier if he or she does not continue to maintain the highest military standards.

The 500<sup>th</sup> Tomb Guard Identification Badge was awarded in 2002, and the number of recipients is now about 525. As its name implies, the award is a badge worn on the pocket of a guard's uniform jacket.

The Tomb Guard Identification Badge is one of the least-awarded badges in the Army, second only to the Astronaut Badge. Since the sentinels are held to such a high standard, if they ever do anything that is deemed unbecoming a Tomb Guard or brings dishonor upon the Tomb, their badges may be revoked, even after the sentinels have left active-duty military service. As of 2002, there have been only nine revocations of the badge.

The Sentinel's Creed:

My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted.

In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter.

And with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection.

Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements,

I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability.

It is he who commands the respect I protect,

His bravery that made us so proud.

Surrounded by well-meaning crowds by day, alone in the thoughtful peace of night,

This soldier will in honored glory rest under my eternal vigilance.

**Sources:** "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Honor Guard," [snopes.com](http://snopes.com); "Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery," [arlingtoncemetery.net](http://arlingtoncemetery.net); "The Unknown Soldiers," [snopes.com](http://snopes.com); "FAQ," Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknowns, [tombguard.org](http://tombguard.org).

## Online Resource Available for You to Use at Home

– from Elaine Collier Neal

On the online Digital Library of Georgia, you can search for Middlebrooks in historic Georgia newspapers, especially Athens, Macon, Milledgeville, Columbus, and Atlanta. An example Elaine found in the Macon, Georgia, *Telegraph* from September 16, 1851: "All persons are hereby notified and forewarned not to trade with or credit my wife Martha Ann Middlebrooks on my account as I am determined not to pay any of her contracts." (signed Wm. S. Middlebrooks, Sept. 16)

To access the site: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html>? Welcome. (Editor's note: I had more success just typing in [dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html](http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html).-JL) This will get you to the Welcome page, where you can do a search by city – Milledgeville, Athens, Macon, Columbus, or Atlanta – for the newspaper you want.

Elaine Collier Neal is a descendant of John 1755 and a DAR member through that line. She goes on to give her lineage: Sims Middlebrooks married Elizabeth Talbot 1794/95, NC; Silas T. Middlebrooks married Bethania F. Dillard 1825, Jones Co., GA; Sophronia Elizaabeth Middlebrooks married Joshua Jones Flournoy Lewis 1851, Jones Co., GA; Thomas Jefferson Lewis married Nancy Elizabeth Davis 1902, AL; Lorena Lewis married Joseph Taylor Collier 1923, Macon Co., GA; Joseph Lewis Collier married Grace Hardigree 1943, Clarke Co., GA; Elaine Collier married Richard Gladstone Neal Jr. 1968, Clarke Co., GA.

Elaine is a part of the Georgia Historic Newspaper Search. Look for more from her soon.

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## THIS-AND-THAT

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

**Ancestralbooks.com** – from Jean Shroyer

Reprints of over 20,000 out-of-print genealogy books are available for sale, including Louis Middlebrooks's *Register*, which is priced at \$41.16.

**GenealogyBuff.com** – from Karen Peterson

This is a free site for locating ancestors, free obituary searches, free obituary archives, a large genealogy library, and missing people.

**LDS, Ancestry.com** – from Neal Middlebrook

LDS, Mormon Church has settled their differences with Ancestry.com. World Edition is free again to use at any local LDS Family History Library.

***In Memoriam***  
***Ray W. Middlebrook (1916-2011)***  
***By Neal Middlebrook***  
***February 15, 2011***

Ray, my father, was born December 21, 1916, on a cotton farm seven miles south of Hope, Arkansas, on Patmos Road. Dad's parents are Charles Verdo Middlebrooks, born September 3, 1892, and Julia Evelyn Kent, born September 24, 1898. Verdo was born near Washington, Louisiana, and Evelyn was born south of Hope, near Sardis. Bruce Elmore Middlebrooks is dad's brother, born April 23, 1918.

***Life on the Farm***

Even though Dad was only 13 when they left farm life behind in August of 1929 and moved to Los Angeles, he would continue throughout his life to share this experience with anyone willing to listen. He would always start out by describing what hard work it was to run a family farm. I can also remember my grandmother (Evelyn) talking about the long hours and how hard it was to make ends meet.

Some of Dad's experiences include the long days of harvesting cotton in August, with 100-degree heat, while pulling a denim cotton sack up and down the rows. Dad recalled, "I started with a sod buster plow when I was 11, looking at the rear end of a mule, hour after hour, getting the ground ready for planting." Cutting firewood for cooking and heating was another never-ending chore. First, he would use a cross-cut saw, and then a double-bit axe. The 106-acre farm had about 50 acres of timber. Clearing the land in preparation for planting crops was backbreaking work. Tree stumps were removed by the local powder monkey (explosives expert), and the kids would end up with the job of grubbing out the roots of shrubs.

Dad's family used a horse for the buggy and two mules for plowing. The farm animals were chickens, cows, and hogs. They butchered and smoked about six hogs per year. Their crops included cotton, corn, potatoes (sweet and regular), watermelons, sorghum cane, and other fruits and vegetables. Sorghum and honey were substituted for sugar. For fun, their swimming hole was the farm pond built by Verdo. It even included a diving board. Dad used to mention that, before he could go swimming, he had to beat the surface of the water with cane poles to drive the water moccasins to one end.

The family farm, as stated above, was located on Patmos Road. This location is only about one mile north of the Macedonia Cemetery, which was on our MFA tour in 2009. Many Middlebrooks, including Verdo and his father, James, as well as Kents, are buried there. One story dad liked to re-tell was when he and his brother, Bruce, were attending a funeral service at Macedonia. Gram, the disciplinarian of the family, took notice that Ray and Bruce started pushing each other during the service, and when Bruce fell into the open grave, the preacher stopped the service. Gram took both sons by the ears and led them away. Dad commented that this occasion was the most upset he had ever seen his mother. Another story included the drying of fruit on the roof of the barn, which was connected to the mule shed. Every summer Dad and his brother would have the chore of drying fruit on the corrugated metal roof of the barn. Laying the fruit on the roof was a very hot job, and Gram would warn them in advance, "Do not let me catch you sliding down the roof." They were to use the ladder instead. Dad said the drop from the barn to the ground was pretty far, and they usually would rip their pants on

one of the roof nails. Well, they were having a gay old time sliding off the roof until their neighbor, Meadows, phoned Gram and told her. That was the last time Bruce and Ray slid off the barn roof.

### **The Move to Los Angeles**

Because of back-to-back drought years and the falling price of cotton, the family moved to Los Angeles in 1929. The Great Depression was just starting. After arriving in Los Angeles, they lived on 6th Street and later moved to Fairfield Street in East Los Angeles, about 1940. Dad attended Robert Louis Stevenson Junior High School and Roosevelt High School. About 1938, he graduated from Los Angeles City College with an Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked for Coca Cola Bottling Company and Knudsen Creamery Company before enlisting in the U. S. Army on October 7, 1942.

### **WWII**

Ray was assigned to the 334th and later the 337th Military Police Battalion in Roswell, New Mexico. The 337th was responsible for running Prisoner of War (POW) camps in Roswell and later in Albuquerque. Dad recalled that the POW camps were mostly occupied by German soldiers. Fewer numbers of Italian soldiers were also housed in the POW camps. POW's were taken out almost every day to work on local farms, picking cotton, vegetables, or fruit. In the off season, other agricultural projects were scheduled. Dad said the German prisoners were good workers. Very few POW's tried to escape. Most were caught within 2-3 days and returned to the camp. The POW's were fed very well and were given a small salary to purchase cigarettes and other items from the Post Exchange store.

In 1943, Ray and the rest of the 337th left New York Harbor in a 100-ship convoy for Ouahran, Algeria, to pick up POW's captured from General Rommel's Panzer Divisions in North Africa. The ships travelled in a zigzag pattern to avoid the German U-boats. The trip took 14 days, and Dad stayed sea-sick the whole time. His comment was, "I fed the fish for 14 days." After landing in Ouahran, his unit was sent to Casablanca, Morocco, by train to pick up the POW's. The return trip was only 10 days across the Atlantic, but Dad said he was sea-sick most of the way back as well.

### ***Marriage to Mary Louise Keppeler and Work***

On April 9, 1943, while Dad was on leave, he married my mother, Mary Louise Keppeler, whom he had been dating for 2-3 years. They were married in Montebello, California. To avoid the three-day waiting period before getting married, they had to get a judge in Downtown Los Angeles to sign a waiver. W. C. Fields was being arraigned at the same time, and Dad indicated that W.C. was real red-faced. Mom stayed with Dad in Roswell, New Mexico, most of the time until he was discharged at the Camp Fannin Separation Center in Tyler, Texas, on January 27, 1946.

After WWII, Dad started working for Samuel Goldwyn Studios in Burbank, first as a security guard then working on the sound stage as a grip. He saw many actors such as Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, Marlon Brando, June Allyson, Dorothy Malone, Gregory Peck, Annie Oakley, Lana Turner, Clark Gable, Jack Lemmon, Bob Hope, Rock Hudson, and others. Howard Hughes, along with his two bodyguards, would come to the studio late at night to watch movies before they were released. In 1974, a fire burned a major part of Samuel Goldwyn Studios, and Dad went to work for Walt Disney Studios, also located in Burbank. He worked for Disney

Productions until he retired on December 31, 1981. Mom died eight years later, January 15, 1989, at Montebello, California.

### ***Hobbies***

Dad's favorite hobbies were fishing and amateur radio. His call sign was WA6RTA, "Whiskey Alfa Six Radio Tokyo America." I can remember the long hours of Dad calling hams in other states and countries. Dad was awarded the DXCC award by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for working over 300 countries. He also received the Worked All States (WAS) award from the ARRL. Growing up, most of my family vacations involved fishing. I can remember the early childhood trips to Lake Henshaw with Grandpa Verdo, Dad, Mom, and my sister, Carol. My cousins, Kim and Dan, and their mom, Lil (or Little Buddy as Gram called her), were frequently with us. Lake Henshaw is located near Mount Palomar Observatory, south of Los Angeles. Dad would always remark that Grandpa Verdo could catch fish when nobody else could. We would come back from Henshaw with stringers of large- and small-mouth bass, crappie, and bluegill. Whenever I moved to a different state as part of my government job, Dad would always find a way to figure out where the best fishing spots were or have me do it. I have many enjoyable memories of us fishing together.

### ***Family History***

Sometime after Mom passed away, Dad asked me to meet him in Hope, Arkansas. He was living in Montebello, California, and I was living in Herndon, Virginia, with my wife, Susan, and our son and daughter, Seth and Lisa. Seth and I met Dad in Hope and spent the week visiting relatives and driving around listening to his stories about growing up on a cotton farm. We visited old homesteads and cemeteries where our Middlebrook and Kent ancestors once lived and are now buried. This was my first real exposure to our Middlebrook family history. That was all it took, and I was hooked on finding out more about our family heritage. Fortunately, Dad was also interested. He wrote many pages reflecting upon the things he could remember about the past.

### ***Marriage to Cassie S. (Doyle) Felling***

Dad was lonely after Mom died. He and another radio amateur friend started going to the Pico Rivera Senior Center near his home in Montebello. He met Cassie S. (Doyle) Felling, and a short courtship led to their marriage on October 6, 1990, at St. Hillary's Catholic Church in Pico Rivera. They spent much of their time traveling and enjoyed 11 cruises, including the Panama Canal. They lived in Cassie's house in Pico Rivera and would come to visit us at least once a year in Coos Bay, Oregon. They had 20 wonderful years together.

Dad was in good health until he fell in August 2008 and hit his head. The fall caused a stroke. He recovered partially but continued to have more health issues over the next two years. At age 94, Dad passed away Sunday, January 23, 2011, in Whittier, California. Hospice had just released him, because they said he was doing too well to remain with the program. Just a week later, he had a heart attack and died several hours after arriving at the hospital. Cassie is doing as well as can be expected. The graveside service was held January 28 at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. At the funeral, I told everyone about Dad's life, from growing up on a cotton farm south of Hope to when the family moved to Los Angeles in 1929. I mentioned his military service and his life after WWII. After the service, friends came up to me and said they will always remember Dad frequently telling them about growing up on a farm near Hope, Arkansas.

## In Memoriam

**Carolyn Ophelia Middlebrook Lapeyrouse**, 76, passed away November 21, 2010, at her home in Texas City, Texas.

Carolyn was born January 13, 1934, in Galveston, Texas, to Herbert and Mamie Middlebrook. She was pre-deceased by her parents; her husband, Emile Lapeyrouse Sr.; brothers Euelle and Kenneth Middlebrook; and a sister, Shirley Middlebrook.

Survivors include sons Emile Jr. and Mark Lapeyrouse; daughters Karen Herbert (MFA member), Debbie Packard, and Sharon Zajack; eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A cousin, Nancy Zeller, also survives.

Funeral services were held November 24, 2010, at Malloy & Son Funeral Home, with Dr. Grayson Glass officiating. Burial was in Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Galveston, Galveston Co., Texas.

Middlebrooks Family Association extends our sympathies to the family of this Micajah 1758 descendant.

**Ellen Elizabeth Casteel Middlebrooks** of Eastman, Georgia, age 88, passed away December 18, 2010. Ellen was born in Newton County, Georgia, and moved to Stone Mountain, Georgia, in 1952, where she resided until moving to Eastman in 1988. A homemaker, she was of the Holiness faith.

Ellen's parents were Barney Osbourne Casteel and Fannie A. Stokes Casteel. In addition to her parents, her husband, Isaac Samuel Middlebrooks, a Sims 1762 descendant, also preceded her in death, as well as a son, David Odell Middlebrooks.

Survivors include three daughters, Nellie Jack Hart, Ellen Jane Wooley, and Susan Murrell; three sons, James Samuel Middlebrooks, Robert William Middlebrooks, and Dr. Monroe C. Middlebrooks; 19 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held December 20, 2010, in Southerland Funeral Chapel, near Eastman, with Rev. Dahl McDermitt Jr. officiating. Burial was in Melwood Cemetery, Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, Georgia.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Ellen's family.

**Charles Edward Middlebrooks**, 76, of Stockbridge, Georgia, died December 28, 2010. He was the son of the late Archie and Dolly Middlebrooks. Charles was also preceded in death by his brother, Oscar Middlebrooks, and a sister, Margaret Paden.

He was a barber at Charles Barber Shop in Atlanta and groundskeeper for Clayton State College in Morrow, Georgia.

Charles is survived by his wife of 34 years, Maria Middlebrooks; a son, Edward A. Middlebrooks; daughters Linda Middlebrooks, Sandra Humphries, Lee Wilson, and Nancy Edwards; a brother, Howell T. Middlebrooks; twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and MFA member Billie Middlebrooks, a cousin.

Charles and Maria attended Community Bible Church, and he liked fishing, NASCAR, and wrestling.

Arrangements were made by SouthCare Cremation Society and Memorial Centers in Stockbridge.

MFA extends sympathies to Billie and to all of the family of this Sims 1762 descendant.

**William (Bill) E. Middlebrooks**, 93, of Monticello, Georgia, and formerly of DeKalb County, Georgia, passed away January 5, 2011. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Alice Buna White Middlebrooks.

Bill is survived by three children, Billie Middlebrooks and his wife Dianne, Alfie Wise, and Faye Pittman; a brother, Lamar Middlebrooks; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Bill, a Sims 1762 descendant, was a member of the local 72 Plumbers & Pipefitters union for 58 years.

Funeral services were held January 8, 2011, in the Fairview Chapel of Horis A. Ward, with Alec Ward officiating. Interment was in Fairview Memorial Gardens, Stockbridge, Henry Co., Georgia.

Billie and Dianne are both charter members of MFA, and we send our condolences to them and to all of Bill's family.

**Geraldine Hoff Doyle**, better known as Rosie the Riveter, passed away December 26, 2010, at age 86.

She was a 17-year-old metal-stamping machine operator in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1942 when a United Press photographer snapped a picture of her face that became the inspiration for the "We Can Do It" posters commissioned by the U.S. War Production Coordinating Committee. The posters inspired many women to join the wartime work force. Ms. Doyle said that the flexed biceps pose was the artist's invention. In 1992, the U.S. Post Office issued a postage stamp based on the poster.

Ms. Doyle quit her stamping job after only a week and worked at another factory as a timekeeper. She later married dentist Leo Doyle, who died earlier in 2010, and they raised a family in Lansing, Michigan.

Geraldine Hoff Doyle is survived by five children, 18 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. (Information from Wikipedia)

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## MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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### **ON-GOING PROJECTS**

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

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