

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Quarterly Newsletter

June 2011  
Editor,  
Jarrelyn Lang

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Founding Editor,  
Dianne Middlebrooks

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DNA Project – BOB MIDDLEBROOKS and  
HENRY MIDDLEBROOKS  
Family Repository – JEAN SHROYER  
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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 December) by the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 274 Wilder Road, Forsyth, GA 31029.

Subscription to the Quarterly is included in membership dues. Articles for 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.

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**MFA Website:** <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~midregerrata>

## President's Message June 2011

Our 2011 MFA annual meeting in Ashland, Virginia, (August 18-20) is starting to take shape. We have been working on the field trip and other meeting logistics with Joyce Luck, Lana Shelton, and Stephanie Harris. Joyce Arnold is coordinating with the Holiday Inn Express in Ashland and working on the food arrangements. If you need more information on the meeting, be sure to e-mail Joyce Arnold

[joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net) or visit our MFA website:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~midregerrata/> ***Also, please***

***let us know if anyone has access to a computer projector we can use at our meeting for the presentations.***

One of our members, Sam Middlebrooks, will be making presentation titled *A Layman's Approach to Family History Research: Pursuing the Middlebrooks Family Heritage*. Sam will cover a number of basic skills and strategies you will need to research your family history. Bob Middlebrooks, our MFA DNA project coordinator, will also be giving us an update on the DNA project and what it all means. Pattie Cooke, a local historian, will talk about the history of Louisa County, Virginia, and the Fredricksville Parish. This is where Thomas Middlebrook (b. 1700) died in 1764. I am also planning to provide an overview of our Virginia Middlebrooks before the field trip.

Some of the field trip highlights include a tour of historic Hanover: courthouse, tavern, and St. Paul's Church. Our Middlebrook ancestors settled near this area. A number of our ancestors also attended Carmel Church, located in Caroline County, and are buried in the cemeteries there. We will hear about the history of Carmel Church and take pictures of gravestones in the cemeteries.

We will also visit the Middlebrooks home-place and cemetery where John Middlebrooks (b. 1754) is buried. Joyce Luck, with the help of friends and relatives, cleaned up the cemetery and are planning to construct a fence in preparation for the installation of a marker. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) granted permission May 16, 2011, to install a marker for Revolutionary War soldier John Middlebrook. A big thanks to Joyce and Lana for making this happen. DAR is planning a marker dedication. As part of the field trip, we will visit the home-places of James K. P. , William Lewis, and Sicilian Middlebrook, all descendants of John Middlebrooks (b. 1754). As mentioned above, we will visit Louisa to hear about the role this area played in our ancestors' lives from Patti Cooke.

On another topic, Elaine Neal has finished her research of Jones County, Georgia, court records (Telamon-Cuyler Collection), archived at the University of Georgia in Athens. Jarrelyn has transcribed the records and will be including them in future newsletters. So stay tuned.

Lastly, I would like to encourage those attending this year's meeting to start reviewing your Virginia family history. We will be in the heart of our Middlebrooks family heritage: New Kent, Hanover, Caroline, Louisa, and Orange Counties. This will provide a real opportunity for you to visit county courthouses, historical societies, and of course the Library of Virginia, in Richmond. As a first step, consolidate what you know about your ancestors and what key pieces of information are still missing. Developing a timeline can help you focus on the missing information or questions. Next, I draft a research plan detailing specific questions I am trying to answer. A research plan will help you focus your search and make the best use of your time. Just a reminder, not all records or information can be found on the internet. If you cannot find your ancestor information on the internet, you will need to look for records in courthouses, libraries, historical societies, and regional or state archives. Let us know if you have any questions about organizing your family history information.

Neal Middlebrook

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**Who Do You Think You Are?  
Middlebrook/s Family Reunion/Meeting**

The Middlebrook/s Family Association (MFA) will be returning to their Virginia family roots. *The 2011 Reunion/Meeting will be August 18-20 at the Holiday Inn Express, 107 Carter Road, Ashland, Virginia (1-804-752-7889).* We would like to invite our Middlebrook/s cousins, including any other families connected to our kin, to join us. If you are interested in family history and in meeting and socializing with other relatives, you will have a great time. On August 19, we are planning a field trip to visit our ancestors' homesteads, towns, churches, cemeteries, and other points of historic interest. For more information, please contact Joyce

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**Updates from Ian Middlebrook** (See "Search for Joseph Middlebrook," MFA Quarterly Newsletter, December 2010, pp. 10-19)

**The Middlebrook Family of Dewsbury, Yorkshire  
Summary**

The parish registers of Dewsbury survive from as far back as 1538, when they were first required to be kept by the church. The Middlebrook/Middlebrough surname does not appear in these parish registers until the 1590s, when a man called Edward Middlebrough began to father a large family there.

By reconstructing his family (as best as possible) from the register entries, we can see that Edward was married three times and had 14 children. Of these 14 children, 6 were buried before they reached adulthood – meaning that Edward was survived by 8 children when he died in 1627. This fact is essentially confirmed by Edward's (spoken) will, which names 7 of the surviving children. The exception was Edward's eldest son, William, who was nevertheless party to the execution of the will and, as a young adult, may have already been provided for.

The 8 surviving children included 4 daughters – all of whom married within the parish between 1626 and 1635. There were also 4 sons, but it seems that only the eldest of these – William – remained in the parish, as did his descendants, for at least 2 more generations. One of the other sons – John – may have remained in the nearby area, being the father of two children baptized in 1657 and 1660, but there is no record of his marriage or burial in Dewsbury.

This leaves 2 other sons – Edward and Joseph – who cannot be accounted for in the registers of Dewsbury after the death of their father.

The younger Edward Middlebrough was left an acre of copyhold land by his father. Copyhold land was owned by the manor and Ossett belonged to the manor of Wakefield. Any transfer of such land should be recorded in the court rolls of the manor, and those for Wakefield survive in an almost unbroken run from 1274 to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that these rolls may tell us more about what happened to this family, although they are not easy documents to read/interpret.

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society has a program of transcribing and indexing these Court rolls, although only one year at a time. From those that have currently been transcribed, we can find evidence of 3 of the sons (William, John, and Edward) still in the area in 1639/40, but no sign of Joseph.

So we have a Joseph Middlebrough, born around the right time (1613), who definitely survived infancy (still alive in 1627) and almost certainly left his parish of birth where the majority of his siblings remained. Could this be the man who migrated to America?

## The Family of Edward MIDDLEBROUGHE of Ossett, Deswsbury, Yorkshire

Edward Middlebrooghe of Ossett married firstly Alice (nee?) in or before 1592, and they had 6 children:

1. John Middlebroughe, baptized on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1592 at Dewsbury, but buried there on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1617.
2. William Middlebroughe, baptized on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1593/4 at Dewsbury, but buried there on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1602.
3. Agnes Middlebroughe, baptized on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1596/7 at Dewsbury, but buried there on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1598.
4. Jonye Middlebroughe, baptized on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1601 at Dewsbury. She married Nicholas Hargrayve in January 1626 at Dewsbury.
5. William Middlebroughe, baptized on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1603 at Dewsbury. He married Sara (Rawsom or Ransom) in February 1629, and they had at least 4 children:
  - i. An unbaptized child was buried on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1630 at Dewsbury.
  - ii. William Middlebroughe, baptized on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1631 at Dewsbury.
  - iii. An unbaptized child was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1633 at Dewsbury.
  - iv. Joshua Middlebroughe, baptized on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1634/5 at Dewsbury. He married Mary Harrison of West Ardsley on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1657 at Dewsbury, and they had 6 children:
    - i. Joshua Middlebrook, baptized on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1661 at Dewsbury, but buried there on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1665.
    - ii. Ann Middlebrook, baptized on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1663 at Dewsbury.
    - iii. William Middlebrook, baptized on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1665 at Dewsbury, but buried there on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1666.
    - iv. William Middlebrook, baptized on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1667 at Dewsbury. He married and had 3 children at Dewsbury: Sarah (ch. 1699), Ann & William (ch. 1708). William was probably buried at Dewsbury in 1713.
    - v. Sarah Middlebrook, baptized on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1769 at Dewsbury. She married Timothy Megson on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1690.
    - vi. Joshua Middlebrooke, baptized on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1672, but buried there in November 1672.

Joshua Middlebroughe was then buried in November 1672 at Dewsbury, and Administration was granted to his widow, Mary, in 1673.

William Middlebroughe was buried on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1644 at Dewsbury, and his widow, Sara, then married William Beatson on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1645/6 at Dewsbury.

6. Alice Middlebroughe, baptized on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1606 at Dewsbury. She married John Garnall on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1630.

Alice, the wife of Edward, was buried on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1606 at Dewsbury. Edward Middlebroughe then married, secondly, Alice Brouke on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1608 at Dewsbury and had a further 6 children:

7. Elizabeth Middlebroughe, baptized on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1609 at Dewsbury. She married William Milner on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1632 at Dewsbury.

8. Edward Middlebroughe, baptized on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1611 at Dewsbury.
9. Joseph Middlebroughe, baptized on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1613 at Dewsbury.
10. Dorothe Midlebrouke, baptized on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1615 at Dewsbury. She married Matthew Speight of Gawthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1635 at Dewsbury.
11. Sara Middlebroughe, baptized on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1617 at Dewsbury, but buried there on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1617.
12. John Middlebrouke, baptized on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1619 at Dewsbury.

Alice, the second wife of Edward, was buried on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1621 at Dewsbury. Edward Middlebrouke then married, thirdly, Margaret Medlay on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1624 at Dewsbury and had a further 2 children:

13. Andrew Middlebrouke, baptized on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1625 at Dewsbury, and his widow Margaret then married John Mitchell on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1628.
14. An unbaptized daughter was buried on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1627 at Dewsbury.

Edward Middlebrouke was buried on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1627 at Dewsbury, and his widow Margaret then married John Mitchell on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1628.

Edward left a (spoken) will, which was proved at York on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1628:

**Edward Midlebrough of Ossit did make his will nuncupative in manner as followeth First he die comitt his soule to God and his body to be buried in the church yard of Dewsbury then he gave unto Edward Midlebrough his sonne and to his heires and assigns forever one acre of copihould land in the new close Item he surrendered unto Thomas Naytler his heires and assignes forever one close called *one and nether dickon ... be to the* and he should sell it to the full worth and the money therefore received to be equally divided amongst his youngest children that is to say to Joseph John Joney Alice Elizabeth and Dorothe Midlebrough It he willed if his wife was with child that that child should have forty shillings of the ... of his goods he gave to be divided amongst his children witness hereof Thomas Nayler Thomas Spence ...**

The list of children mentioned in Edward's will matches precisely with the children thought to be alive at that time, based on my interpretation of the parish registers, with the exception of his son William. Given that William was his eldest son, and he was an adult by the time of Edward's death, the implication must be that William had already been set up with his own establishment prior to the writing (speaking) of the will.

Thankfully, William [*Willime Midleb rough de Ossitt ...*] is mentioned in the probate for Edward – albeit amongst some legal Latin at the end of the document that I am unable to interpret due to the quality of the photocopy. I think it is reasonable to assume that probate was granted to William as, by that time, Edward's widow had already re-married.

### **Middlebrooks in the Wakefield Court Rolls**

Vol. 3	1331-33	None
Vol. 2	1348-50	None
Vol. 6	1350-52	None
Vol. 9	1537-40	None

Vol. 4 1583-85	None
Vol. 11 1608-09	None
Vol. 1 1639-40	Edward Midlebrooke (Ossett) William Midlebroughe (Ossett) William Miuddlebrooke (lord's tenant) John Middlebrough (Midgley)
Vol. 8. 1651-52	William Middlebrooke (Northowrome)
Vol. 5 1664-65	William Middlebrooke (lord's tenant)
Vol. 13 1687-88	William Middlebrooke (Wakefield, Northgate)
Vol. 10 1790-92	None
Details: 1639-1640	
Page 3, Sowerby:	Michael Foxcroft is elected grave [for Luddingdeneane Roid] – being sworn, he appoints James Foxcroft, his son, who being received and sworn appoints <b>William Miuddlebrooke</b> , who is received and sworn.
Page 17, Ossett:	William Rodes and Elizabeth his wife, surrendered ... and a rood on Le Furshutt called Overmoorcrofte in the graveship of Ossett ... which latter 3 parcels pay a lord's rent of 2d and a certain fine made by <b>Edward Midlebrooke</b> .
Page 23, Horbury:	James Speight of Le Street in the township of Soothill by <b>William Midlebrough</b> , lord's tenant and sworn, surrendered a close called Longland in Ossett ...
Page 33, Ossett:	William Awdisley of Ossett by <b>William Midlebrooke</b> , lord's tenant and sworn, surrendered a cottage and gardenstead adjoining in the graveship of Ossett ...
Page 53, Horbury:	Testimony on the oath of <b>William Midlebrooke</b> , lord's tenant, that Francis Gill of Ossett and Anne his wife ... surrendered that close of meadow and pasture in the graveship of HORbury ...
Page 82, Ossett:	Item we lay in payne that <b>William Midlebroughe</b> William Hall Thomas Wilbe or William Milner Christopher Broke Edward Langfield and William Beatson do scoure their ditches in Back Lane and brynge yt under the Brigstone before William Beasons done betwixt this and allsaints day next in paine of every one of then offending 2s.
Page 142, Midgley:	John Hellewell, constable, William Deane, John Shawe, Francis Midgley and <b>John Midlebrough</b> , sworn.
Page 149, Midgley: 1651-1652, Northowrome:	(similar list of men as above, signing an endorsement) we lay in payne Abraham Hoult, <b>William Midlebrooke</b> to mend the way up to their house against their land betwixt this and midsomer next, in payne either of them 10s.
1664-1665, Alverthorpe: Alverthorpe:	<b>William Midlebrooke</b> , lord's tenant, testified that Richard Swallow – unto John Scott of Alverthorpe, clothier. <b>William Midlebrooke</b> , lord's tenant, testified that John Scott senior of Alverthorpe, clothier ... surrendered into the lord's hand ...
1687-1688 Wakefield:	Warrant of Francis Whyte esq. High steward to the grave of Wakefield and his deputy to seize into the lord's hands the messuages with appurtenances in Northgate in Wakefield ... This house ... was seized ... by us ... Daniel Mawde, <b>William Midlebrooke</b> , William Horne, Thomas Harrison, John Haighe, grave

## **Robert & Nancy Talbot Middlebrooks:**

Their Church Affiliations and History of Two Baptist Churches in Monroe Co.,  
Georgia

**By Joan Sims Miller (Jo Ed Sims, Mozelle Middlebrooks Sims, Dr. Francis Marion Middlebrooks, Talbot S. Middlebrooks, Robert Middlebrooks)**

While doing research at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, I discovered several church records from two Baptist associations with information on two churches located in Monroe County, Georgia, with links to my ancestors, Robert and Nancy Talbot Middlebrooks.

Robert and Nancy Talbot Middlebrooks lived in what is now Jones County, Georgia, in the Hog Creek drainage area, for a time after 1805, when Robert was successful in the land lottery of that year, winning land in Baldwin County, present-day Jones County. After 1820, they bought land in Monroe County. According to *Monroe County, Georgia, A History*, Robert Middlebrooks and wife were charter members of Holly Grove Baptist Church which was established in 1823, in the home (a log cabin) of Edward Callaway. After a brief time, a small structure was built on land given by Deacon Callaway. This church was located approximately nine miles east of Forsyth, on the Dames Ferry Road. The permanent location was where the Holly Grove Cemetery remains today. The first pastor was John Hambrick, who officiated at the marriage of Talbot Middlebrooks (son of Robert & Nancy) and Mahala Champion on 7 April, 1824.

I was able to find minutes of the Flint River Association (a group of at least twenty Baptist Churches in central Georgia) at Mercer University in the Jack Tarver Library in Macon, GA. In the minutes of the 1824 meeting, Holly Grove Baptist Church is shown as a member of this Association. The following year, Robert Middlebrooks is listed as a delegate from Holly Grove Baptist Church.

I have copied the letter below from the 1825 minutes:

The Flint River Baptist Association convened at Mount Pisgah, in Monroe County, GA; to her sister Associations, with whom she corresponds, send Christian salutation—

Beloved Brethren,

With the permission of Almighty God, we have met our first annual appointment since the Constitution of this Association; and after reading the various letters from the Churches composing this body, we have reason, abundant reason, to be thankful to the Dispenser of all good, for the out-pourings of his Holy Spirit; by which means, many, we humbly hope, have been brought to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and many more enquiring the way to Zion, in this wilderness, where, not long since, it was inhabited by wild beasts and savages, which evidently is the fulfilling of the prophecy of Isaiah, xxxv and 1st: “The wilderness and solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.”

Much peace, harmony, and brotherly love has abounded through-out this session: O! That these may continue to abound more and more to the exclusion of all schisms and divisions which too often appear amongst brethren. And now, dear brethren, praying the best of blessings upon you, we subscribe ourselves yours in Gospel bonds.

Robert McGinty, Moderator

Robert Kelton, Clerk

The peace and harmony lasted for twelve years, but then, in 1837, according to a book of church histories also found in the Tarver Library, during a meeting of the Flint River Association taking place at Holly Grove, “the subject of missions was under review, when a considerable number of Holly Grove members withdrew from the church.” These members held to more conservative beliefs and did not

want to send their church funds to a missionary cause. They were called Primitive Baptists and had a custom of foot washing – as we read in the Bible, Jesus performed this ritual to teach a lesson of humility. This segment of the membership held a meeting, which led to their leaving Holly Grove Baptist Church and to the formation of “Towaliga Primitive Association.” In 1846 there were twenty-eight churches that belonged to this Association, and among them was Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church. Ephesus is close enough to Holly Grove that it is probable that some of these former members joined the Ephesus church. It is approximately six miles north/north-east from the location of Holly Grove Baptist Church at that time.

From *Monroe County, Georgia, A History*, the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church is outlined. It was established in November, 1829, with thirteen members. The church is located on Juliette Road, nine miles northeast of Forsyth, GA. Family names of charter members were Middlebrooks and Speir. Clerks are listed as Allison Speir, 1829, and Alfred Middlebrooks, 1845. Allison Speir was a son-in-law of Robert & Nancy Middlebrooks, and Alfred was a son of Robert & Nancy.

Looking at minutes from the Towaliga Primitive Baptist Association, they reveal that Ephesus Church was a member, and A. Middlebrooks was a “messenger” from Ephesus to the convention in 1846, 1850, 1851, and 1853— in 1851, he is listed as Alfred Middlebrooks. Alfred is buried along with members of his family and several other families on private land located at 3934 Juliette Rd., Forsyth, GA. owned by Walter W. Jackson, Jr. at this time (2011). This burial place is near Ephesus Church. It is thought that his parents, Robert and Nancy Talbot Middlebrooks, are also buried in this cemetery, but no burial stones for them have been found.

It is good to know that even though these ancestors were striving mightily to carve out farm land from the frontier, they recognized the importance of building churches and worshipping God.

**NOTE:** The following article was first printed in the May 14, 1940, edition of *The Monroe Advertiser*. I (Joan) think the title is a misnomer in that the Holly Grove church was not a Primitive Baptist church.

## HOLLY GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

(File submitted by Jane Newton, *The Monroe Advertiser*, May 14, 1940)

By Eugene Anderson

You'd have to be looking for it, to discover where Holly Grove church is, that century old, historic building wherein was one of Georgia's first bitter fights over religion, and where a few faithful souls stood by it through the trials and tribulations of pioneers. Today it is flat on the ground, and the white shafts in the surrounding grave yard seem deserted. Only one member, Mrs. Lon Taylor, formerly Miss Frances Colbert, remains active in the membership. "The church with only one member" is the way Holly Grove is referred to now; but that member is a granddaughter of the little lady who rode her small gray pony and prayed and worshiped on the steps when the building was closed against all members during the fight about missions and foot washing. She prayed the organization should not destroy itself. The lone member now worships elsewhere, but she says she wants to be buried beside her relatives in Holly Grove. Now 76, she looks much younger.

The storms destroyed the roof of the old church, and it was rotting and falling down. The pews and furniture had been loaned to the new little church at Dames Ferry. "What a shame to let that building and that organization be lost," exclaim some who know about it. But it is not to be destroyed. When Dud McCord sought to buy the salvage from Mrs. Taylor, she didn't feel she had any right to sell it, even if she had been for years carrying the weight and had spent money to keep the church. She wanted it perpetuated in some form. Mr. McCord agreed to build her just such a pavilion as she wanted for funerals, or for other gatherings there, a little building twenty-five or thirty feet wide, is her idea. "It shall be just as you want it," says Mr. McCord, and he was told he could take the remaining lumber and timbers and carry them to his place nearby. So that seems to please the friends of the dead in the sacred grounds.

A well-kept dirt road fourteen miles long connects Forsyth and Dames Ferry passing Holly Grove, and every foot of it could reveal important history if it had a voice. Wreck and ruin are hinted by the lone chimneys where residences once stood, some of them fine, others not so elegant. About half-way is the church, where you are told the first Georgia row occurred between Missionary and foot-washing Primitive Baptists. The missionary crowd was termed the minority, and being locked out of the building they held a meeting under one of the magnificent oaks in the grove. There deciding to go to law. This was during a session of the Flint River Association, as guests of the Holly Grove church. The Towaliga Association was formed after the 1837 fight.

In the suit<sup>1</sup> for the Holly Grove building, Judge Start of the Flint River circuit ordered equal privileges for each side. They called themselves the minority and majority, and after two years of discord they made a give-or take-proposition – one side to pay all expenses of the fight and take full control of the house. It has since been a missionary Baptist church, and the official record says the bitterness and confusion of the period should be covered over with "the mantle of oblivion." The "majority" moved away to a schoolhouse, but later became absorbed by other churches, more sympathetic. Some great stories grow

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<sup>1</sup> This suit was begun in 1853, according to a history of Holly Grove Baptist Church found in the Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University.

out of the tradition, and written history takes note. The minority is recorded as Edward Callaway and wife, Jonathan Collins and wife, Frances Colbert, A.D. Steele, W. M. Clark, J. W, J. Taylor, Gilbert Clark, Mary E. Clark and Harriet Harmon. These called in brethren and sisters from Mt. Zion, Forsyth, and other churches, trying to find a way to restore harmony, but the schism here was permanent and was to be repeated in nearly every other Primitive Baptist church in the state. The records are full of them. The foot washing Primitives feel that they have received sanction from as far back as Jesus' visit to earth, and they cannot see eye to eye with the Missionary Baptist nor have they been able to dwell in the same house in peace, though aside from the religious differences, they associate on the best of terms as neighbors and friends.

It was in 1823, one month to the day following Christmas, that Elders Frederick Crowder, James Brooks, John Hambrick and Joshua Callaway organized the following membership into a church in a cabin on the farm home of Edward Callaway, and Sister Callaway named it Holly Grove, because of the long rows of holly on each side of the nearby branch, about two miles from the present site. Richard Fletcher and his wife, Edward Callaway and wife, Obediah Satterwhite and wife, Jeremiah Dunn and wife, Silas Monk and wife, Robert Middlebrooks and wife, James Monroe and Moses Dumas. Elder John Hambrick was chosen pastor, after a day of fasting and prayer to avoid a mistake in selecting. Two years later a new site was selected near Rum Creek, on the land of Deacon Callaway. But in a little while the permanent site was chosen. In 1825 Elder John Blackstone was called. Elder A. L. Moncrief was also pastor at a later time. Job Taylor and Eden Taylor appear often in the records, and J. E. Taylor, L. B. Thigpen and T. J. Collier served on important committees.

"Practically every family in Monroe County is interested in those graves in Holly Grove Cemetery," says Mrs. Fannie Colbert Taylor," and I want to be buried there with my son H. L. Taylor and my husband F. L. Taylor and my other relatives. I worship at Dames Ferry and am delighted with our minister and congregation there, but Holly Grove is home." On the tombstones are these names: Thomas J. Pritchett, Co. D 45th Ga. Inf.; 1. L. Allen, 1818-1902; Lizzie Mae, wife of R. F. Wardell; Tate Roquemore, Co. D., 8th Ga. Inf.; three other Roquemores are in the enclosure, including Betty, 1854-1854; W. F. Roquemore, 1854-1930; Lucy A. Roquemore, 1831- 1913; Dollie Mae Poole, died in 1899 at 6 yrs; Edward D., son of B., F. and M. F. Taylor, 1871-1905; Sara J. Johnson, wife of Marcus; Simmons, 1857-1883; Marcus Simmons, Co. D, 45th Ga. Inf.; 1834-1881; William Clark, 1817-1878; Gilbert M. L. Clark, Co. D, 45th Ga. Inf.; Ida A. McCord, 1875-1920; Sara B., wife of J. W. J. Taylor, and daughter of William Be. George of Jones County, 1879-55 years old; Susie L., wife of J. A. Jackson, 1889-1908; H. L. Taylor 1905-1920; R. F. Taylor, 1867-1922; Adiel Colbert, 1881-1918; L. F. Thigpen, 1837-1908; Ida Mae, Wife of W. T. Wright, 1897,20 years. Another, W. T. Wright inscription, is illegible. Many graves are unmarked.

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A **jiffy** is ten milliseconds, equivalent to the time it takes for light to travel one centimeter (1/1000 of a second), the time by which Michael Phelps won the 100-meter butterfly event in the 2008 summer Olympics. Keep this in mind the next time you promise to finish something "in a jiffy." --from Southwest Airlines *Spirit* magazine, June 2010

# **MIDDLEBROOKS EXCERPTS FROM *HISTORY OF JONES COUNTY 1807-1907***

**by Carolyn White Williams, 1957**

(does not include Middlebrooks information from the Appendix)

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook

Page 93: William Middlebrooks was subpoenaed as a witness in the Bunkley Trial, March 21, 1837.

Page 97: Sims Middlebrooks was subpoenaed as a witness in the Bunkley Trial, September 8, 1837.

Page 122: Dave Middlebrooks, Co. B., 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regiment noted for his courage in the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864, under Lee's Command.

Page 177: In a Masonic ceremony, Miss Margaret Finney (Mrs. Joseph Middlebrook later) from Haddock gave several solos and then directed the choir in patriotic songs.

Page 188: C.W. Middlebrooks was appointed to the Board of Directors for the First Bank in Jones County (1907).

Page 257: Miss Mattie Middlebrooks was one of the early teachers at the Bradley School.

Page 269: C.W. Middlebrooks is a trustee when land is donated for a new school in Haddock (1908).

Page 270: Middlebrooks are listed as some of the early settlers of Haddock. J.A. Middlebrooks in 1913 was on the building committee for the Haddock Methodist Church. (see pg. 325)

Page 271: C.W. Middlebrooks buys part of the Christianna Haddock Anchors estate in 1912. The rest of the land was divided into lots and sold at public auction. C.W. Middlebrooks in 1905 was a Haddock alderman. Today (1957) three general merchandise stores in Haddock are owned and operated by J.A. and J.D. Middlebrooks.

Page 293: William S. Middlebrooks was appointed by the legislature as a trustee of the Poor School Fund. The fund was in operation 1827-1861.

Page 308: J. Middlebrooks was an associational messenger 1842-1854 of the Elam Baptist Church.

Page 336: H.C. Middlebrooks is listed as a charter member of the Sunshine Church II, Round Oak.

Page 364: Middlebrooks buried at the Fortville Cemetery. (See cemetery book or website.)

Page 397: The son of Nathaniel Glover, Jack married the daughter of Mr. Williamson Middlebrooks, Mittie. Jack drowned in the Ocmulgee near Juliette when a young man.

One of Nathaniel Glover's daughters, Miss Temperance Glover married Tom Middlebrooks. Dr. W.P. Glover, another of Nathaniel's sons, married Leila Middlebrooks. Mittie was Leila's sister.

Page 450: Jim Middlebrooks owned the Old Lowe Place before Joshua Godard lived on it. Charles Middlebrooks married one of William Chambers's daughters.

Dauphin Pitts was the mother of Mrs. Jim Middlebrooks.

Anderson Middlebrooks of Graball, upper Jones County, was also a Judge, a good one. A son of Tom Middlebrooks also lives in that section. A daughter of Tom Middlebrooks married Bill Patterson, a son of Judge Patterson. Cornucopia was previously named Gra-ball and Krakow located on Falling Creek near the Jones & Jasper county lines. Cornucopia – Northwest corner of Jones County. Grocery store and billiard saloon were here in 1860. Post office here in 1863. Called Grab All in 1863 map. (on Sugar Hill Road) Some Families: Anderson, Butler, Clark, Holland, McClendon, Middlebrooks, Ridley, Tyner. 1899 map. Early towns mentioned in old records were: Blountsville, Fortville, Grab-all, Griswoldville, Ethridge, Larksville, Transquilla, and Clinton.

Source: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gajones/towns.html>

Page 472-473: "Sam Middlebrooks bought the Dr. Bowen Plantation from Dr. Jim Bowen who moved near Prattville, Alabama. Rad Turner got this because Middlebrooks defaulted on his note. The lands proved to be very valuable in later years. There were three brothers, Silas, John, and Isaac Middlebrooks, who owned lands on Hog Creek. They were good citizens and well-to-do men. Silas left Mrs. Bill Nevins.

Mrs. Mercer (married John Bradley), Bert, Dave, and Silas, all of whom were known to many Jones County people. Dave, Bert, and Mrs. Nevins moved to Ocilla. Mrs. Bradley and Silas died. Mrs. Nathan Morris and Mrs. John Thompson were children of

Isaac. Sam died in Louisiana (a preacher). Mrs. Morris is dead. John Middlebrooks had no children. He gave his property to his wife and at her death it went to nephews Dave Middlebrooks and Major Jim Jones, both wounded and disabled during

the Civil War where both had made a record as gallant soldiers. Rad Turner and his three wives are buried at Gray in the old Patterson burial ground.

Page 489: Warren Lowe lived near the Walnut Level Plantation and sold his land to Jim Middlebrooks.

Page 490: John Middlebrooks and his brother lived on Hog Creek and were fine citizens. Captain Seabrook lived where Clark Middlebrooks now lives. Seabrook Cemetery is located on Nathan Roberts Rd. southeast of Gray. Clark Middlebrooks (1889-1961) lived on land near the cemetery and is buried in Highview Cemetery.

Page 570: Mrs. Mary Lawrence Middlebrooks is a member of the Oliver Morton Chapter of DAR.

Page 572: Mrs. Willis P. Middlebrooks secretary and charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, November 18, 1835.

Page 576: James D. Middlebrooks was a charter member of Kiwanis Club of Jones County.

Page 584: Daughter Cora A. (Anderson) Middlebrooks, children: Ruby M. Nelson, Jewel Alexander, Pearl M. King, and Roy P.

Page 600: William Childs came from North Carolina, b. June 23, 1814, d. August 12, 1890. He married Amanda Middlebrooks, b. June 12, 1818, d. November 16, 1875, children are listed.

Page 610-611: "Maggie Coleman Finney, b. August 3, 1894, married Joseph A. Middlebrooks. Ermine Ethel Glawson, b. September 10, 1917, married Carlos Middlebrooks, April 26, 1936 – two daughters, Lois and Merry"

Page 612: Joseph Edgar Glawson, b. November 20, 1870, married Elizabeth Dee Middlebrooks, November 16, 1897, daughter of James Madison and Dauphin (Pitts) Middlebrooks of Jones County. Elizabeth, d. July 13, 1930, buried family cemetery

Page 615: Judge James Godard lived about a mile from Gray near Pine Ridge. His son Joshua Godard lived at the Old Lowe place where Jim Middlebrooks later lived. Reference also made to Mrs. Jim Middlebrooks

Page 625: The daughter of Dr. Benjamin I.O. Kelley and Lilly Moreland, Sarah Louise, married Willis P. Middlebrooks. They had two daughters, Lillian and Sallie.

Page 640: "Mary Jane Jarrell, daughter of John and Elizabeth M(iddlebrooks) Jarrell married John Floyd Middlebrooks in Jones County, GA, November 18, 1865, and moved to Texas. Settled in Jack County. Their Children were: Joseph A(nderson), John Randolph, Emily Elizabeth, Thomas Lee, Mary Jane, Atticus Floyd, Charles Eugene, and Georgia."

Page 659: Thomas A. Middlebrooks married Elender Miller 1824.

Page 663: Florence, the daughter of Melvin H. Morton and Susan Godard, married Charles W. Middlebrooks.

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### **Vietnam Reference Material**

Contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke

This is probably one of the best search lists compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers:

<http://www.static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsh/Vietnam.htm>

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

**Marie Akers Middlebrooks**, 71, of Valley Grande, Alabama, passed away April 25, 2011. Marie was a 1961 graduate of Mississippi State College for Women and had just attended a Homecoming as a member of the "Golden Girl" class.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Reed and Oniece E. Akers. Surviving are her husband, Sims 1762 descendant and MFA member Eugene Middlebrooks; children Michelle Middlebrooks Barnett, Claire Middlebrooks Roberts, and Elizabeth Somes; brother Kenneth Akers; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 28, 2011, at First Baptist Church in Valley Grande. Interment was in Pineview Memory Gardens, located in Valley Grande, Dallas County, Alabama.

Marie was a retired teacher who taught in the Selma Public Schools. She loved living in Valley Grande and served as a councilwoman for the Town of Valley Grande. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School and worked with the Women on Missions. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society, Book Study Club, and Joy Group.

Middlebrooks Family Association extends our sympathies to Gene and all of Marie's family.

## Francis Marion Middlebrooks

Prepared by Joan Sims Miller (Great Granddaughter)

May 2008

Francis Marion Middlebrooks was born April 7, 1828, near Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia, to parents Talbot S.<sup>i</sup> and Mahala Champion Middlebrooks,<sup>ii</sup> which makes him the grandson of Robert and Nancy Talbot Middlebrooks. He lived in Monroe County until after his father's death in 1840.<sup>iii</sup> His mother moved the family to LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia after 1843.<sup>iv</sup> I find him on the 1850 census of Troup County, his age stated as 21, with his mother Mahala, head of household, and siblings William, 19, Wiley, 15, and Jane, 12.<sup>v</sup> He also had an older sister, Nancy Ann.<sup>iii</sup> A few years later, he was engaged in a retail business, F. M. Middlebrooks & Co. with partner David Higgenbotham in LaGrange.<sup>vi</sup> By 1860, our subject was living in Talladega County, Alabama.<sup>vii</sup> In that year, he married Mrs. Ellen E. Hopkins.<sup>viii</sup> In the Troup County, Georgia, deed records dated March, 1861, Mahala Middlebrooks conveyed a slave to her daughter-in-law, Edney E. Middlebrooks, wife of Francis M. Middlebrook, residents of Talladega County, Alabama.<sup>ix</sup>

Francis M. graduated from Grafenberg Medical Institute in March, 1862.<sup>x</sup> This school was located in Dadeville, Tallapoosa County, Alabama. On March 15, 1863, at China Grove, Alabama, he entered into a contract with the army of the Confederate States to serve as a medical officer in Co. C, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Alabama Cavalry. This contract was signed by Col. C. H. Colvin.<sup>xi</sup> In 1899, Dr. F. M. Middlebrooks states that he served four years with the Confederate

States army, that he came to Texas in 1868, and that he came to Hill County, Texas, in 1872.<sup>xii</sup>

Soon after arriving in Texas, Ellen E. Middlebrooks died in Port Sullivan, Milam County.<sup>xiii</sup> Port Sullivan was located on the Brazos River, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the river was navigable from its mouth on the Texas coast to a point above this village. I surmise Francis M. may have come to Texas by ship from Alabama and then traveled up the Brazos on one of the boats taking settlers and supplies up the river to the interior of the state. However, I have no information Francis M. arrived in Texas by this method. He may have traveled by land along one of the roads used by so many people who left the south after the War Between the States.

On December 9, 1869, Francis M. married Sarah Ann Duncan in Port Sullivan.<sup>xiii</sup> In 1870, they moved to Kosse in Limestone County; from there they moved to McLennan County; in 1875, they moved to Towash, in Hill County; in 1883, they moved to Hico in Hamilton County; and in 1884 they moved to Whitney in Hill County. There they purchased lots and built a home.<sup>xiv</sup> Dr. Middlebrooks was one of four physicians in Whitney at that time. He and his family were members of the Baptist Church, and he was a Mason.

The Middlebrooks were the parents of seven children: Estelle b. 1871, Frank R. b. 1872, Edwin Lawrence b. 1874, Mozelle (grandmother of author) b. 1876, Gertrude b. 1879<sup>xv</sup>, Mae b. 1882 and William Talbot b. 1885. Four of these children, Edwin, Mozelle, Mae and Talbot spent all their lives in Whitney engaged in different business pursuits. Edwin and Talbot were in grocery and general merchandise, Mozelle and her

husband, Joseph C. Sims, were in grocery and produce, and Mae and her husband, A. M. Hampton, were in general merchandise and ready-to-wear. This led to a heady mix of competition in this small town!

Dr. Middlebrooks continued to practice medicine until an old age. On his application for a Confederate pension dated August, 1899, he states that he is still working when he can, but is suffering from deafness, pneumonia, La Grippe and kidney disease! Among other information, we learn that he owns a house and lot, one horse and two cows. His mother-in-law, Dora Duncan, and her two unmarried daughters, Dora Alice and Margaret F, had moved to Whitney at some point, and probably added to the necessity of gaining the pension.

I believe that Dr. Middlebrooks always used the “s” on his surname, but his tombstone (which was added years after his death) in Bethlehem Cemetery, Whitney, TX, the name is “Middlebrook”. I was told by a cousin that his children did not use the “s”. The date of his death was March, 1903; none of his siblings survived him, and his daughter, Estelle, was deceased.<sup>xiii</sup>

Although I don't have much personal knowledge of my great grandfather, it is interesting to trace his path across time and place from his birth in central Georgia at a time of new beginnings, not long after land was opened for settlement; to his young adult years starting a mercantile business; then moving to Alabama and being a part of that great agony, the Civil War; to his journey to Texas for a new start in life along with thousands of others leaving the impoverished South; through his migration to Hill County in central Texas; to the struggle of raising a family in the troubled times of Reconstruction and the years

following. It is with respect that I have learned more about Francis M. Middlebrooks and his strong companion, his wife, Sarah Ann Duncan Middlebrooks.<sup>xvi</sup>

#### End Notes: Francis Marion Middlebrook (Middlebrooks)

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<sup>i</sup> 1830 census, Monroe Co., GA., Talbot Middlebrooks was listed with male child of appropriate age. There has been dispute as to the spelling of “Talbot”. I present my case that the name is indeed “Talbot” and give several reasons herewith: there is a tendency among Southerners to put the “r” sound into this name, even though they are spelling the name “Talbot”; I have personally observed this several times including very recently in Whitney, TX. The wife of Robert Middlebrooks was Nancy Talbot as stated in the “Matthew (II) Talbot” family history written by Milton Talbot, Jr. and Ferris Womack, and that this Nancy was the child of Mathew Talbot III and wife, Lucy Bailey. (Robert & Nancy were parents of Talbot S. Middlebrooks). In Robert Middlebrooks’ Will dated March, 1837, found in “Abstracts of Georgia Wills” vol. 2, p. 140, Talbot S. Middlebrooks is one of the children of Robert. Finally, Talbot S. Middlebrooks’ grandson, William Talbot Middlebrook (son of Frances M. and Sarah Middlebrooks) lived and died in Hill County, TX, and is buried in Bethlehem Cemetery, Whitney, TX. [ See Attachment 1 to review Robert Middlebrooks’ Will]

<sup>ii</sup> Monroe Co., GA. Marriage Book A Apr, 1824, Talbart Middlebrook(s) & Mahala Champion; official is John Hamrick who was first pastor of Holly Springs Baptist Church , located nine mi. east of Forsyth, GA., where Robert Middlebrooks & wife were charter members according to “Monroe County, Georgia, History” published by Monroe County Historical Society, Inc., Forsyth, GA., 1979

<sup>iii</sup> Troup Co., GA, Superior Court May, 1851, (found in Troup Co. Historical Society Archives in LaGrange, GA). Wm. Richardson & his wife, Nancy Ann Richardson vs Mahala Middlebrooks, guardian. Bill for Discovery Amount and Settlement – this document states that Nancy Ann is the daughter of Mahala and Talbot Middlebrooks; that Talbot died in 1840 in Monroe Co., GA; that Alford Middlebrooks was appointed Administrator of Talbot’s estate; that Nancy Ann’s brothers are Francis, William and Wiley. The judge delayed action until the next term of the court.

<sup>iv</sup> Monroe Co., GA, Deed Book L, p. 458-459 (registered 26 Feb., 1845). 7 Feb., 1843, Alfred Middlebrooks, administrator of the estate of Talbert S. Middlebrooks, to Mahala Middlebrooks for \$121, all the lands belonging to the estate of Talbert S. Middlebrooks under the encumbrance of the widow’s dower, to wit, one half lot no. 47.....lying in the fifth district of the county of Monroe. . . . . Witnesses: W. Wynne, Enoch Hanson J.P. (Lucy Moye, Oct. 2002)

<sup>v</sup> 1850 census, LaGrange, Troup Co., GA

<sup>vi</sup> Records of Troup Co., GA., Superior Court, May 1854. Also Troup Co. GA., Deeds, Book L, pg 29 4 Nov 1852: Francis M. Middlebrooks and David B. Higgenbotham, merchants and co-partners trading under the name of F. M. Middlebrooks & Co. purchased for \$2645 the entire stock of merchandise of James T. Longins in the town of LaGrange. Wit: Lewin Cohen. Rec. 24 Mar 1852.

<sup>vii</sup> Talladega County, Alabama, Marriage Record B – 1856 – 1864

<sup>viii</sup> 1860 census, Talladega Co., AL

<sup>ix</sup> Troup Co., GA., Deed Book M. pg 332 2 Mar 1861 -- Mahala Middlebrooks to Edney E. Middlebrooks, wife of Francis M. Middlebrooks of Talladega Co., AL. ....conveyed to Edney.....one negro slave . . . . .

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<sup>x</sup> From personal knowledge of Thomas Middlebrook (son of W. Talbot Middlebrook) who was in possession of diploma granted to Francis M. Middlebrooks.

<sup>xi</sup> National Archives, Washington D.C.: Contract written between Dr. F. M. Middlebrooks and Col. C. H. Colvin of the Confederate States Army for said Middlebrooks to provide medical services; dated Mar 1863 at China Grove, AL.

<sup>xii</sup> Texas State Library Archives: Application for Confederate pension signed by F. M. Middlebrooks 27 July, 1899, and approved 3 Oct., 1899

<sup>xiii</sup> Obituary of Dr. F. M. Middlebrook (from the "Whitney Messenger" found in the Hillsboro, TX library) states death of first wife, Ellen E.; marriage to Sarah Duncan; no siblings survived him; he and Sarah were parents of seven children; lists six living children, of which Estelle was not mentioned

<sup>xiv</sup> Hill Co., TX, deed records: Land owned by Joseph Winter being lots 8, 9, 10 & half of lot 11 in block 2, the Addition of Wallace & Revier, Town of Whitney, Hill Co., TX conveyed to F. M. Middlebrook rec. Book 14, pg. 604 Hill Co. TX, dated 6 April 1886

<sup>xv</sup> 1880 census, Hill County, TX

<sup>xvi</sup> Obituary of Sarah Duncan Middlebrook (from the "Hillsboro Mirror", Hillsboro, TX library) states her death occurred on August 13, 1930, in Whitney. [See Attachment 2 for pictures of Francis & Sarah]

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**HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!**

Calling all Middlebrooks from New England area & beyond!  
We are holding a historical fact-finding family reunion in Trumbull, Connecticut,  
on July 22, 23, & 24, 2011.

Includes speakers, cemetery & historical society tours and a family picnic on  
Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Abraham Nichols Park on the Trumbull Historical Society  
grounds. If you plan on attending, please contact Karen French – 203-459-0415 or  
shutles1@aol.com, with Middlebrook in the subject field.

Also contact Bill Sterling – wgs10@embarqmail.com, or Neal Middlebrook –  
nealmidbroo1@frontier.com.

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