

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

*Quarterly Newsletter*

December 2011  
Editor,  
Jarrelyn Lang

Volume 11, Number 1  
Founding Editor,  
Dianne Middlebrooks

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DNA.....Bob Middlebrooks,  
Dave Clark, and Henry Middlebrooks

MFA Website.....Dave Clark  
and Leonard Middlebrooks

Family Repository.....Michael Kerry Middlebrooks

Family Register Update.....Leonard Middlebrooks

Military Register Update.....M. Kerry Middlebrooks

MAZE by Team Leaders, published by Joyce Arnold

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

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. (MFA) was founded in 2001 for the purpose of assembling and preserving genealogical and historical material for future generations. MFA has two publications, as below.

THE MAZE, issued each February, May, August, and November, is sent to everyone on the MFA mailing list. It is free to both paid and non-paid members. If you want to be removed from this list, please contact Joyce Arnold at [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net).

MFA Quarterly Newsletter is published in December, March, June, and September by the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 274 Wilder Drive, Forsythe, GA 31029. Subscription to the Quarterly is included in membership dues. Articles for inclusion in the Quarterly, or suggestions for topics, may be sent to Jarrellyn Lang, Editor at [MFAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:MFAeditor@gmail.com) All submissions are subject to editing.

MFA membership is \$20.00 per year, September 01 thru August 31. If you would like to become a member, please make your check payable to MFA and mail it to: Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Drive, Pearland, Texas 77854.

From The President. . .

The Middlebrooks Family Association was founded in 2001 to bring together family members interested in preserving their family history for future generations. The Association projects include: updating the family *Register*; documenting cemetery and military information; preserving stories, old photos, and newspaper articles; participating in and helping others with research; and the DNA Middlebrooks program. I would like to encourage you to share your families' stories. As we research, compile, and dig into their past, we come across many notable stories. We have Team Leaders for groups of the Middlebrooks family. (See the officers list on the next page.) There are brick walls in each group; we need your help in finding the family history. You are encouraged to send special problems you are having or ask a question or send updated family information to your Team Leader. You may send your problems, questions, etc., to me and I will be glad to forward them to a Team Leader. Send them to: [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net)

Maybe you have an interesting family story you would like to share in the Quarterly. If so, send it to Jarrelyn: [MFAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:MFAeditor@gmail.com). Our ancestors had failures and successes, they lived their beliefs, they loved and married, most reared families, and almost all of them bought and sold property. They left a track record of more than what is on a granite stone.

Do you have documentation that you would like to see preserved and made available for all Middlebrook/s researchers? MFA has initiated a photo/document repository project, which Kerry Middlebrooks volunteered to coordinate. Kerry is of the Robert 1766 line and also is the Military Project Leader. We wish to create a repository of family information to preserve our heritage for future generations. This is a good way for you to have a stored copy of your pictures, Bible records, or any type of documents. Please send to Kerry, [mbrooks@gci.net](mailto:mbrooks@gci.net).

### **Next Year's Meeting**

The Association invites all those interested in Middlebrooks history to join and participate in our annual meeting/reunion. Each year we meet in a different state to provide an opportunity for local family members to attend.

At our meeting in Ashland, Virginia, it was decided that we would return to Texas, the location being in the Jack County area. Our last meeting in Texas was in 2008. We plan on having the meeting a little later in the year, September or October 2012.

This time of year gives us the opportunity to reflect on our many blessings and learn more about our family history and about those family members that have gone before us.

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, the MFA Officers, Board Members, Project and Team Leaders would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Above all, we hope it will be a safe and enjoyable time for each of you and your families.

Joyce Frie Arnold  
MFA President

## Texas, a Whole Other Country

By Jarrelyn Lang (first printed in the March 2008 MFA Quarterly)

The MFA meeting in 2012 is in Texas. Here's a short timeline to help you know more about how our great state came to be. (sources: lsjunction.com and texasbob.com)

**Before 1500** – Several tribes of Native Americans occupied the region between the Rio Grande to the south and the Red River to the north.

**In mid-1519** – A Spanish adventurer, Alonso Alvarez de Pineda, sailing from a base in Jamaica, became the first known European to explore and map the Texas coastline.

**May 23, 1541** – Coronado gave thanks for having found friendly Indians in the Palo Duro Canyon of the Texas Panhandle; this observation of Thanksgiving was 79 years before the Pilgrims' feast.

**1716-1789** – Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Spain established Catholic missions in Texas, and along with the missions, the towns of San Antonio, Goliad, and Nacogdoches. The Alamo (Mission San Antonio de Valero) was founded May 1, 1718.

**1716-1820** – Jean Lafitte occupied Galveston Island, using it as a base for his smuggling and privateering operations.

**January 3, 1823** – Stephen F. Austin received a grant from the Mexican government to begin colonization in the region of the Brazos River.

**March 2, 1836** – The Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico was signed at Washington-on-the-Brazos by members of the Convention of 1836. An *ad interim* government was formed for the newly created Republic of Texas.

**March 6, 1836** – Texans under Col. William Barrett Travis were overwhelmed by the Mexican army, after a two-week siege, at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio.

**April 2, 1836** – Texans under Sam Houston routed the Mexican forces of Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. Texans won their independence in one of the most decisive battles in history.

**November 1839** – The Texas Congress, modeled after the U.S. Congress, first met in Austin, the frontier site selected for the capital of the Republic.

**December 29, 1845** – U.S. President James Polk followed through on a campaign promise to annex Texas, signing legislation making Texas the 28<sup>th</sup> state of the United States.

**February 19, 1846** – The Republic of Texas was officially declared at an end.

**April 29, 1846** – The Mexican-American War ignited over disputes as to Texas boundaries. The outcome of the war fixed Texas's southern boundary at the Rio Grande.

**February 1, 1861** – Texas seceded from the Union following the 171 to 6 vote by the Secession Convention. Governor Sam Houston was one of a small minority opposed to secession.

**May 13, 1865** – More than a month after Lee's surrender, the last land engagement of the Civil War was fought at the Battle of Palmito Ranch, east of Brownsville in far south Texas. The battle was won under the leadership of Confederate Major John "Rip" Ford.

**March 30, 1870** – The U.S. Congress re-admitted Texas into the Union.

**February 15, 1876** – The Texas Constitution was adopted.

FTDNA Discounts 11-15-11 From Bob Middlebrooks:

Family Tree DNA is offering holiday discounts for new participants and upgrades for existing members. It is an excellent time to take advantage of both. Details below. Effective immediately this promotion will end on December 31, 2011. I can be contacted at [mid293@earthlink.net](mailto:mid293@earthlink.net) to assist in orders.

| <u>New Kits</u>                 | Current Group Price | SALE PRICE |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Y-DNA 37                        | \$149               | \$119      |
| Y-DNA 67                        | \$239               | \$199      |
| mtFullSequence                  | \$299               | \$239      |
| SuperDNA (Y-DNA67 and FMS)      | \$518               | \$438      |
| Family Finder                   | \$289               | \$199      |
| Family Finder + mtPlus          | \$438               | \$318      |
| Family Finder + FMS             | \$559               | \$439      |
| Family Finder+ Y-DNA37          | \$438               | \$318      |
| Comprehensive (FF + FMS + Y-67) | \$797               | \$627      |

Upgrades

|               |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| 12-25 Marker  | \$49  | \$35  |
| 12-37 Marker  | \$99  | \$69  |
| 12-67 Marker  | \$189 | \$148 |
| 25-37 Marker  | \$49  | \$35  |
| 25-67 Marker  | \$148 | \$114 |
| 37-67 Marker  | \$99  | \$79  |
| Family Finder | \$289 | \$199 |
| mtHVR1toMega  | \$269 | \$229 |
| mtHVR2toMega  | \$239 | \$209 |

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AND PAID FOR BY **MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2011** TO RECEIVE THE SALE PRICES. THIS PROMOTION IS NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONS OR COUPONS. AT THIS TIME, WE WILL NOT BE OFFERING DISCOUNTS FOR THE **-DNA111, NEW KITS, OR UPGRADES**. THOSE MAY BE OFFERED AT A LATER TIME, PENDING THE LAB VOLUMES WITH THE TESTS UNDER PROMOTION.

**MFA Policy for funding DNA tests:** Each person or family is to pay for his, or their, own. If the participant cannot afford to pay for the DNA test, then the family and the Ancestor Team would make donations to cover the test. If no donations are made or are not 100% covered, then MFA would pay if the test would be critical to the DNA Project. (adopted at the MFA meeting in Hillsboro, TX, in 2008)

# **DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR JOHN MIDDLEBROOK'S GRAVE MARKER**

By Jarrelyn Lang

Information contributed by:

Esther Day, Regent Scotchtown Chapter, DAR

Neal Middlebrook, MFA Past President

During the July 2005 meeting of the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA) in Danville, Virginia, members approved the Middlebrooks Virginia Research Project, thus voting to take an active part in placing a marker at the grave of John Middlebrook, a Revolutionary War soldier and ancestor of MFA member Lana Shelton. Beginning in 2006, Lana and MFA member Neal Middlebrook began research to locate the Middlebrook homestead and cemetery. In addition, they conducted research on family members who had been living in the counties surrounding the site of the Middlebrook property.

In 2010, Lana, a member of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) since 2008, contacted the National Society DAR Historian General's office to request approval for a marker on John's grave. John was born in Hanover County, Virginia, and died in Caroline County, Virginia, on May 9, 1815. Neal and Lana became involved with DAR and the grave-marking assistance early in 2011, as plans were being made for the MFA meeting in Ashland, Virginia, in August.

On August 19, 2011, Joyce Luck, also an MFA member, organized and led a field trip to the gravesite as part of the meeting.

Esther Day, Regent of the Scotchtown Chapter of DAR, and Joyce worked together to provide the name of the property owner, Joyce Pitts Wilson. In order for the process of approving the DAR plaque to begin, a letter of consent from the current property owner had to be signed and sent to the Historian General's office. Every word contained in the text of the plaque had to be verified and approved by DAR, and this process takes a long time.

A letter of approval, containing the text to be used, was sent to the applicant. This letter had to accompany the order for the plaque. Neal worked with the DAR-approved list of vendors and had the plaque shipped to Lana's home. She had the plaque mounted in concrete so it could be put in the family cemetery to mark a spot for John's grave. Esther gave many hours to the project to see that the DAR plaque was approved.

Joyce, her brother, and some friends worked to clean up the undergrowth in the cemetery and put a fence in place. Joyce had a temporary stand built to put the plaque on during the dedication ceremony and placed it at the gravesite a day or two before the ceremony, so that the marker would not be lying flat on the ground but propped up for easier viewing.

On Saturday afternoon October 22, 2011, a program, planned and carried out by Esther, was held in The Carmel School at Ruther Glen, Virginia, to honor the memory of John Middlebrook and to dedicate the DAR marker for his grave. Several members of the Middlebrook family enjoyed sharing pictures and stories about their own ancestors, who were descendants of John and Lucy (Turner) Middlebrook.

Members of the Scotchtown Chapter DAR were also joined by honored guests: Virginia DAR's State Historian Judy Surber; another member of the Albemarle Chapter, Brent Morgan,

who is the Registrar for the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution and Registrar for the Richmond Chapter of SAR; and Rose LaVoie of The William Byrd Society, Children of the American Revolution (CAR) past State Senior President. Even Mr. Roles, the American History teacher, and about twelve of his students from The Carmel School were there to get a "real live" history lesson as the program unfolded and Esther talked about John Middlebrook's life, his service to our country, and his being a Prisoner of War. These students were given extra credit for attending this event at their school.

Following the program, the group traveled to the property on CCC Road, the site of the old Middlebrook homeplace. The old family cemetery is near the site where the house used to be. Four-wheel-drive vehicles were used to get everyone from the road, through the old cornfield, and into the edge of the woods to the cemetery for the unveiling of the marker and the dedication ceremony. Prior to this there were two marked graves in this cemetery; now there are three. (See below for a picture of the marker.)

Memorial wreaths were placed by the Scotchtown Chapter DAR, the SAR, and the CAR. Esther writes, "They (the wreaths) were lovely, and many enjoyed taking pictures of this historic event. Family members have worked hard to clear the area and put a fence around the cemetery to define it. Plans are ongoing to try to locate other graves in this cemetery and get them marked also." Following the ceremony at the cemetery, the group returned to The Carmel School for a time of food and fellowship.

In conclusion, Esther says, "The ceremony was very meaningful. It was perfect weather on 'Make a Difference Day' and I think this did make a difference for family members, to have their ancestor's grave finally marked after all these years. We inspired the present by remembering the life and service to our country given by John Middlebrook in the Revolutionary War."



## IN MEMORIAM

**Ernestine, "Ernie" Middlebrooks Farrow**, a longtime resident of Birmingham, Alabama, died September 22, 2011 at the age of 84. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Roy Lamar Farrow; a daughter, Stephanie Farrow Majors; two sisters, Jimmie L. Ritchie and S. Ann McCulley; a sister-in-law and a brother-in-law; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Preceding Ernie in death were her mother, Lucille (Fitts) Middlebrooks; her father, Henry Hobson Middlebrooks; stepmother Allie Smith Middlebrooks; two sisters, Wanna Mae Lemoine and Minnie Frances Worrell; four brothers, Sammy Middlebrooks, George Ronald, Millard Hobson, and Joe Morgan Middlebrooks.

A graveside service was held at Port Hudson National Cemetery on September 26, 2011. The cemetery is located in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

Middlebrooks Family Association sends out our sympathy to all of Ernie's family.

**Stella Lou (Phillips) Middlebrooks**, most recently of Macon, Georgia, passed quietly into the presence of her Savior on December 8, 2011.

Stella was born in Jacksboro, Texas, on August 24, 1923. She graduated from Jacksboro High School in 1940 and Georgia State College, Milledgeville, Georgia, in 1961. She taught school in Baldwin County, Georgia, for 19 years.

Stella is survived by her husband of 70 years, Thomas (1763) descendant Doyle Clinton Middlebrooks; three children and their spouses: Janice and Mike Rogers, Waxhaw, North Carolina; Larry and Susie Middlebrooks, Lilburn, Georgia; Charles and Mary Ann Middlebrooks, Waco, Texas; seven grandchildren in Georgia: Scott, Kerry, and Kevin Middlebrooks; and in Texas: Joe, Starla, Phillip, and David Middlebrooks; and one great-granddaughter, Memory Middlebrooks.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one grandson, Brian Rogers.

A memorial service will be held in the Cupola Chapel of Hart's Mortuary in Macon on December 30, 2011, at 2:00 P.M. Upon Doyle's death, both he and Stella will be interred in Jacksboro, Jack County, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorial donations be made to the Baptist Village Retirement Communities, in care of Donna Hancock, 6000 Plantation Way, Macon, Georgia 31210.

Stella was a beautiful lady and will be missed by all who knew her. Middlebrooks Family Association extends our heartfelt sympathies to Doyle, Jan, Larry, Charles, and all of Stella's family.

# History of Christmas in America

By Jarrelyn Lang

Christmas wasn't always celebrated the way it is today. After the English Civil War, and following the execution of King Charles I, Oliver Cromwell set himself up as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, serving from 1653 until his death in 1658. A self-proclaimed Independent Puritan, Cromwell and his forces vowed to "rid England of decadence." Part of this effort was to cancel Christmas. When Charles II was restored to the throne of England May 29, 1660, the popular holiday returned.

The Pilgrims, English separatists who arrived in America in December 1620, were more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell; thus they did not celebrate Christmas. From 1659 to 1681, the city of Boston, Massachusetts, outlawed all Christmas celebrations and made it illegal even to mention Santa's name. No one was allowed to exchange gifts, light candles, or sing Christmas carols. Anyone caught showing Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. The Puritans were not alone in shunning the celebration of Christmas; Quakers, Presbyterians, and Baptists also avoided the holiday. Some of these bans on Christmas continued well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

After the American Revolution, English customs lost their popularity, including Christmas celebrations. In fact, Congress was in session on December 25, 1789, the first year under America's new Constitution. It wasn't until the 1820s and 1830s that Americans began to embrace Christmas and make it into a family-centered day of peaceful celebration.

However, New England Colonies with Anglicans and immigrants from other parts of Europe, such as the Dutch and Germans, did have happy celebrations with a combination of religious services, social festivities, and sumptuous banquets. Some of today's Christmas traditions derived from Colonial celebrations. Anglican songs for the Christmas season included "Joy to the World," "The First Noel," and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," which we still sing today. Many homes and churches would have been decorated with evergreen boughs, berries, or mistletoe. Times of socializing during the holiday season were festivities for adults only, no children allowed.

Throughout the history of Christmas, beginning in Colonial America, food has always been a central part of the celebration. Colonial Christmas banquets included a wide array of delicacies and special foods, such as fish, oysters, beef, goose, ham, mincemeat pies (actually made with meat), brandied peaches, wassail, and eggnog. George Washington's recipe for eggnog would knock you over: one quart of cream, one quart of milk, a dozen eggs, one pint of brandy, a half pint of rye, a quarter pint of rum, and a quarter pint of sherry.

Gifts were not usually exchanged within a family, but gifts would often be given from master to servant, from mentor to apprentice, or from shop owners to employees. These gifts, usually small amounts of cash, were always given from the superior person to those of lesser status and were not expected to be reciprocated.

17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch immigrants introduced the legend of Sinter Klaas to Americans. The first mention of Santa's name in American media came in 1773; he was called St. A. Claus. When the New York Historical Society was founded in 1804, members named St. Nicholas as their patron saint. The Society's members, many of whom were of Dutch descent, exchanged gifts at Christmas.

In 1809, Washington Irving mentioned a Saint Nicolas in his book *A History of New York*, describing him as "riding into town on a horse." In 1812, Irving revised his book, saying that Nicolas rode over the trees in a wagon.

The Thoreau family of Concord, Massachusetts, practiced "a joyful celebration of Christmas" as a yearly tradition. Future poet Henry David Thoreau and his siblings hung their stockings at the fireplace, expecting Santa Claus to arrive by the chimney and leave them fruits and sweets. Henry's older brother, John, imagined Santa to be "a very good sort of sprite, who rode about in the air upon a broomstick."

In 1833, dentist Clement Clarke Moore wrote the now-familiar poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," describing Santa's sleigh and reindeer, for his children to enjoy. Many now know the poem as "The Night

Before Christmas." In Moore's poem, Santa is portrayed as an elf driving a miniature sleigh pulled by eight reindeer, which are named in the poem as Blitzem, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, and Vixen. (Two have since been re-named – Blitzen and Donner.)

In 1833, Cartoonist Thomas Nast created images of Santa for the Christmas editions of *Harper's Weekly*, helping to "standardize" Santa's persona by describing him as having a rather large stomach. These drawings continued through the 1890s. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln asked Nast to create a drawing of Santa with some Union soldiers. This image of Santa supporting the enemy had a demoralizing influence on the Confederate army – an early example of psychological warfare.

Before the Civil War, the North and South were divided over the issue of Christmas as well as the question of slavery. Many Northerners thought it a sin to celebrate Christmas; they believed that celebrating Thanksgiving was more appropriate. In the South, however, Christmas was an important part of the social season. In fact, the first three states to make Christmas a legal holiday were southern states: Alabama in 1836, Louisiana and Arkansas in 1838.

After the Civil War, Christmas traditions spread nationwide. Children's books told of celebrating Christmas, especially the traditions of trimming trees and of Santa Claus delivering gifts. Sunday School classes encouraged the celebration of Christmas. Women's magazines suggested ways to decorate for the holidays and included instructions for making the decorations.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Americans eagerly decorated trees, caroled, baked, and shopped for the Christmas season. In 1897, Francis P. Church, Editor of the *New York Sun*, wrote an editorial in response to a letter from an eight-year-old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon. She had written to the paper asking whether there really was a Santa Claus. It has become known as the "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" editorial.

Haddon Sundbloom, illustrator for The Coca-Cola™ Company, began in 1931 to draw a series of Santa images for their Christmas advertisements, an annual ad campaign that continued until 1964. The company still holds the trademark for the Coca-Cola Santa design.

Copyrighted Robert L. May in 1939 created a poem for the Montgomery Ward Company about a reindeer named Rudolph. Drawing on his experiences as a child when he had been "often taunted for being shy, small, and slight," he gave Rudolph a shiny red nose that the other reindeer made fun of. When one Christmas Eve Santa had difficulty finding his way through a thick fog, he put Rudolph in front of the other reindeer to light the way, thus making him a hero. Montgomery Ward customers were given a copy of May's poem.

The song about "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was written by Johnny Marks in 1949. Gene Autry recorded the song, and it became his all-time best-seller. Next to "White Christmas," it is the most popular song of all time.

No matter what your Christmas traditions are, may you have a beautiful holiday!

**Sources:** "Christmas in Colonial America," [premiumchristmastree.com](http://premiumchristmastree.com); "Christmas History in America," [thehistoryofchristmas.com](http://thehistoryofchristmas.com); "First Christmas Tree," [calliope.org](http://calliope.org);

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The **mistle thrush** is so-named because mistletoe berries are a staple of its diet and because the bird aids in the berries' pollination. About ten inches long, medium brown, with a brown-speckled breast, the mistle thrush can be found in Britain all year long. In winter, this bird will defend a berry-bearing tree against other thrushes.    *–British Heritage, November 2010*

## **JACK COUNTY, TEXAS: "MOTHER COUNTY OF THE WEST"**

By Jarrelyn Lang

According to *The Handbook of Texas Online*, Jacksboro, county seat of Jack County, "is a prosperous agribusiness center." Jacksboro is located about seventy miles northwest of Fort Worth and approximately sixty miles southeast of Wichita Falls. Its population in 2010 was 4,486.

Before the county was settled by Europeans, Caddo Indians claimed the area east of the county, and the Comanches lived to the west. The first Europeans to visit the area, in the 16th century, were probably Spaniards under the leadership of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, but they made no permanent settlements.

The first known settlers in the area that was to become Jack County were part of the Peters Colony, formally known as the Texan Emigration and Land Company. Twenty American and English investors, led by Englishman William S. Peters, received a North American empresario grant from the Republic of Texas in 1841. Peters viewed the colony primarily as a business venture. Half of the investors lived in England, and the other half in the United States. Headquarters for the Peters Colony were in Louisville, Kentucky.

According to their contract, empresarios had to recruit 200 families from outside the Republic of Texas within three years. Each colonist was granted 320 acres per single man and a maximum of 640 acres per family. Powder, shot, and seed were provided by the empresarios, who also built some of the settlers' cabins. For their part, the empresarios were allowed to retain up to one-half of a colonist's grant as payment for services rendered, which included land surveys and title applications. Empresarios also received ten sections of premium land from the Republic for each 100 families recruited. The first group of immigrants arrived in the area by December 1841.

The Peters Colony grant included the whole or parts of 26 counties: Grayson, Collins, Dallas, Ellis, Johnson, Tarrant, Denton, Cooke, Montague, Wise, Parker, Hood, Erath, Palo Pinto, Jack, Clay, Wichita, Archer, Young, Stephens, Eastland, Callahan, Shakelford, Throckmorton, Baylor, and Wilbarger. At that time, what was to become Jack County was a part of Cooke County, according to Ida Lasater Huckabay's *Ninety-Four Years in Jack County*.

Difficulties in attracting and keeping people in the colony led to requests for extensions of time and boundary lines. In October 1842, English investors began transferring their interests elsewhere. An influx of squatters complicated the company's administration of the colony. With the expiration of the contract on July 1, 1848, land within the colony was legally open for new settlers to obtain grants from the state. Most of the land titles were now suspect. At least ten legislative enactments, over nearly twenty years, finally effected a settlement of land titles, and the Peters Colony was no more.

A small community of farmers settled along the banks of Los Creek, a small tributary of the West Fork of the Trinity River, and gave that name to their settlement. When a church and schoolhouse became part of the growing community, the settlers in 1856 began referring to their village as Mesquiteville because of the number of mesquite trees in the region. In 1859, the Butterfield Overland Mail service brought mail to the area, but the line ceased operation in 1861 because of the War Between the States.

Approval for creating Jack County from Cooke County was granted by the Texas Legislature August 27, 1856, and the county was organized July 1, 1857. In the county's first election, held July 4, 1857, Robert Carson was named Chief Justice, B.F. Speer was elected Sheriff, T. Jeff

Reagan became County Clerk, and J.A. Hall was made District Clerk. C. McQuerry was elected Tax Assessor-Collector, and J.W. Donathan was given the office of County Treasurer. Four County Commissioners were also named. Mesquiteville was chosen by the Commissioners' Court to be the County Seat. Because the county had been named for the Jack Brothers, the populus decided that Jacksborough would be a more appropriate name than Mesquiteville for their County Seat. A bill to that effect was introduced in the Texas Legislature and passed without opposition in November 1857. The name became official in 1858.

Jack County was named for William Houston Jack and his brother, Patrick Churchill Jack, native Georgians who were patriots of the Texas Revolution. William Jack (1806-1844), attorney and member of the Alabama legislature, emigrated to San Felipe de Austin, Texas, with his wife, infant daughter, and two younger brothers in 1830. In 1832, his brother Patrick was one of a group of men arrested by Mexican authorities. After Patrick's release, both brothers became leaders of the resistance. Stephen F. Austin appointed William as Brigade Inspector of the Texas army. After the war, William served on The State of the Republic Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

Patrick Churchill Jack (1808-1844), also an Alabama attorney, moved to Texas with his brother William in 1830. He was a delegate to the first Constitutional Consultation and Convention in 1832 and the Second Constitutional Consultation and Convention in 1833, both of which were held in San Felipe de Austin. He organized his own company when war broke out and fought alongside his brother William at San Jacinto, where a decisive victory ensured Texas's independence from Mexico. Patrick served in the Second Congress of the Republic and later was appointed District Judge of the Sixth District in Houston. The two brothers died of yellow fever sixteen days apart, Patrick on August 4, 1844, and his brother William on August 20, 1844. Both men are interred in Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston, Texas.

A post office in Jacksborough was listed by the Post Office Department on June 30, 1858, the first in the county. Postage cost ten cents per half-ounce, and delivery was made twice a week, depending on the Indians and the weather. Due to the War Between the States, Jacksborough's mail delivery came to a halt until 1866. Instead, Jack County mail was delivered to Birdville, in Tarrant County, or Weatherford, in Parker County. Any Jacksborough resident who happened to be in either location was responsible for picking up and delivering all mail for Jacksborough citizens.

The Civil War proved to be a complicated time for Jack County, as it did for every area involved in that conflict. Contrary to popular assumptions, not all Texas men automatically signed on with the Confederacy. While neighboring Young County voted for secession, Jack County did not. On February 23, 1861, the poll of votes showed 76 against secession, 14 in favor. One voter who sided with the majority added "For the Union forever" (Horton, 30). Even so, many Jack County men marched off to fight for the Confederacy.

Indian tribes, mostly Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache, took advantage of the fact that able-bodied men were serving in the war, and thus away from the area. Atrocities recorded in Thomas Horton's *History of Jack County* and Ida Huckabay's *Ninety-Four Years in Jack County* include families being murdered, mutilated, and left to die. Children and livestock were stolen, and farm homes and buildings were burned or otherwise destroyed. By war's end, fewer than a dozen ramshackle buildings remained, most of them in ruins.

Jacksborough was the most western settlement still standing in Texas after the Civil War, according to *The Handbook of Texas Online*. In 1870 the completion of Fort Richardson, just

south of Jacksborough, made the area safe for settlers once more. The town's population grew by several hundred, and it became established as the trading center for the county. (See the article on Fort Richardson in the June 2010 MFA Quarterly Newsletter, p. 13.)

Following Lincoln's assassination, Southern states were treated as conquered territory, subject to military rule and divided into five military districts, each under the administration of an army general whose duty was to execute the work of reconstruction. No one who had in any way aided the Southern Confederacy was allowed to vote, which in effect disqualified many Jack County citizens.

There were twenty-seven saloons in operation in Jacksborough during this time, "with all the attendant immorality conceivable," according to Judge Horton. One saloon is reported to have taken in \$1,000 in twenty-four hours. Horton goes on to say that, when the soldiers at Fort Richardson received their bi-monthly pay, it was possible to "walk on soldiers lying drunk along the road from the south side of the Square to the creek and not touch the ground." (Jack County is now a dry county and has been for as far back as I can recall. JL)

In 1871, Jacksborough received national publicity when two Kiowa chiefs were tried for murder in the district courthouse there, the first Native Americans to be tried in an American civil court. During the course of the trial, the chiefs were held in custody at Fort Richardson.

With the North Texas frontier finally secure, there was no longer any need for a military presence in Jack County. Orders to abandon Fort Richardson were issued March 29, 1878, and the last of the troops left on May 23 of that year.

Even before the war, around 1850, the cattle industry was an important source of income to Jack County ranchers and farmers. Oliver Loving Sr. was the first Jack County cattleman to drive a herd north from Texas, in 1858, to Quincy, Illinois, where he sold his herd to farmers there. Later, around 1866, Loving joined forces with Colonel Charles Goodnight to drive cattle to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. On this drive, the two men took along the first chuck wagon ever used, fashioned by Goodnight from an army surplus Studebaker wagon. Made of heavy bois d'arc wood with steel axles, the wagon could withstand trail drives lasting up to five months. Goodnight added a chuck box and boot at the rear of his wagon to hold cooking vessels and utensils. The wagon was also equipped with a barrel to hold the water supply, and a canvas was fashioned beneath to hold the dried cow and buffalo chips and/or wood used for fuel. Cowboys stowed their gear aboard, also. The entire contraption had to be pulled by ten yoke of oxen.

After the war, a good beef was worth ten times as much in Illinois or Ohio as its worth in Texas, so Texas and Southwestern stockmen took advantage of that market. Herds of cattle, many unbranded, roamed the prairies. Beginning in 1866, these cattle, most of them wild, tough Longhorns brought into Texas by the Spanish via Mexico, were rounded up and herded north. Ida Huckabay writes, "[Longhorns] are the longest, leanest, meanest, wildest cattle that ever left the ranges of the Lone Star State. They could stand more grief, use less food and water, and bear more calves each spring than any cattle that ever wore a brand" (120). Her father, Aaron Lasater, joined Loving, Goodnight, and other Jack County men in driving these cattle north. Mrs. Huckabay states that the yearly average head count between 1865 and 1880 was 282,000.

Adding to market demand, fenced-in land and plowed ground also served to dwindle the number of Longhorns, almost to extinction. In 1936, Fort Worth businessman Sid Richardson, fearing that the Longhorn would indeed become extinct, enlisted the aid of rancher and writer J. Frank Dobie (*Coronado's Children*, *The Longhorns*, etc.) and Dobie's friend Graves Peeler, a rancher and Longhorn-raiser. The two men selected various purebred Longhorns to become a

Texas state herd and placed them in Lake Corpus Christi State Park. That park no longer maintains a longhorn herd, but five other state parks do. Two other sites, Big Bend Ranch State Park and Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site, also maintain Longhorn herds, but they are not a part of the official Texas herd.

The first newspaper published in Jack County was known as *The Whiteman*, published by Jack County resident H.A. Hamner and General John Robert Baylor (nephew of Robert E.B. Baylor, for whom Baylor University was named), who had originated its circulation in the East. Not surprisingly, the name of the paper and the venting of the editors' feelings through its pages brought about a feud between Anglo settlers and the Comanche Reservation Indians in Young County, resulting in the hanging of Mr. Hamner. Gen. Baylor then sold *The Whiteman* to three other men, who continued its publication until December 1861, when, according to Mrs. Huckabay, "the office and all its contents were destroyed" (294). For what cause or by what means is not stated. Mrs. Huckabay gave as her source for this information *History of Parker County, Texas*, published by a Mr. Smith.

Next came *The Flea*, published semi-monthly by H.H. McConnell, Editor and Proprietor, circa 1869. *The Frontier Echo*, owned by George W. Robson, began its circulation June 30, 1875, published by R. Chandler. On June 4, 1880, presses began to roll for the *Rural Citizen*, at first outside the city of Jacksborough. Its founder, J.N. Rogers, moved into an office on the southeast corner of the square in early December 1880. Mr. Rogers later re-named his paper the *Jacksboro Gazette*, which is still in publication today.

*The Jacksboro News* came on the scene for a short while. In one of its issues, the editor mentions that "The new stage line just established between Jacksboro and Weatherford (Texas) is moving off in high style" (Huckabay, 299). This is the same stage line that employed John Floyd Middlebrooks, my great grandfather, for several years.

With Fort Richardson abandoned, a group of Texas Rangers was sent to keep the peace in Jacksborough, but according to Mrs. Huckabay, the men spent more time taking advantage of the services offered by the saloons than in protecting the townspeople. Judge Horton recollected that "These Rangers, when not on duty scouting or fighting Indians, put in considerable of their time, together with some few reckless cowboys, terrorizing the citizens and shooting up the town. Shooting scrapes and rows between citizens, soldiers, and Rangers in the year 1874 were so frequent that the long-suffering citizens by their votes incorporated the town" (124). The city was incorporated January 9, 1875, changing its name to *Jacksboro*. L.P. Adamson was elected as Jacksboro's first mayor. He appointed Bill Gilson as marshal, and things began to quiet down.

One of the first items of business for the newly incorporated town was to petition the state for permission to raise funds to erect a new jail; the former jail had been burned down by prisoners. The new facility was finished August 3, 1877.

The beginning of the Cattle Raisers Association is accredited to a conversation that took place among Col. C.L. Carter, J.C. Loving, and C.C. Slaughter sometime before 1870, at the Slaughter Ranch in Dillingham Prairie, south of Jacksboro. That conversation was prompted by the increasing demands of the northern markets for Texas cattle. These three men discussed this and other problems confronting the men of their class and profession.

In January 1877, invitations were sent out for cattlemen to gather in the Young County Courthouse in Graham on February 15<sup>th</sup> to determine the feasibility of organizing a Cattle Association. An estimated 400 men attended. An organizational meeting for the Cattle Raisers Association was held, also in Graham, on February 15, 1877.

C.L. Parker of Palo Pinto County was elected first president and served until 1888. J.C. Loving was elected secretary and held that office until his death in 1902. Mr. Loving's home at the Loving Ranch in Jack County became the home of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association for ten years. All of the correspondence for the organization, as well as the records, were taken care of in that home until the office was moved to the District Clerk's office in Jacksboro about the middle of the 1880's.

All was not wild in Jacksboro. Most of its citizens led quiet, God-fearing lives and established various churches for worship services. Judge Horton put it this way: "[A] moral, religious and decent condition prevailed during this period among our pure people, wholly disconnected and away from the reckless and indecent element. . . . When my father (Henderson Horton) came to Jacksboro in 1868, there was a strong Methodist Church composed of old-time citizens, staunch and devout" (122). The First Baptist church was built sometime after the Civil War, with only five members, three of whom were Horton family members: Henderson Horton, his wife Arminda Jane Mitchell Horton, and their daughter Elizabeth. In 1875, a Church of Christ began its ministry in Jacksboro. The Presbyterian Church opened its doors in 1876, and a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) began services in Jacksboro in 1883. An Assembly of God church was built in 1910, and a Catholic church in 1911.

A two-story picket building (a frame shanty), built about two blocks southwest of the courthouse square, provided for meetings of the Masonic Lodge on its upper floor. The lower room was used for the community Sunday School on Sundays and for school, district court, and dances during the week.

The Chicago and Rock Island Railroad arrived in Jacksboro in 1898, followed by the Gulf, Texas, and Western in 1910, providing a shipping point for Jack County farmers and ranchers. U.S. highways 281 and 380, along with a series of rural roads, enhanced Jacksboro's commercial position. (No railroad service remains in Jack County.)

The first oil well in Jack County was a surprise. A Mr. W.D. Winehouse, who lived about ten miles north of Jacksboro, was drilling for water but struck oil instead. In the spring of 1919, a Mr. J.S. Cosden and a Mr. W.H. Roeser came into Jack County from Tulsa, Oklahoma. They leased some 90,000 acres of land that ran from the Bryson area north and northeastward to the northeast corner of the county near Newport. Oil was discovered in the Jack County communities of Antelope and Bryson in the 1920's. For a time, Bryson was known as the Oil capitol of Jack County. The oil industry joined with agri-business to boost the county's economy considerably.

Jack County's first telegraph line came through Jacksboro in June 1883, and the first telephone connections were installed in August of that year.

Moving pictures found a permanent home in the Majestic Picture Show, which opened in 1908 or 1909. According to an article printed in the *Jacksboro Gazette* on June 25, 1908, Jacksboro had had many moving pictures shown by traveling companies, but now the movies had a permanent home. The writer, whose name is not mentioned, editorialized: "Moving pictures for some reason always have an attraction for people and this will be another feature of pleasure for people who visit Jacksboro."

Electricity was furnished to Jacksboro residents by Texas Power and Light Company (still in operation) in 1926. Those living outside of Jacksboro didn't receive that luxury until much later. In 1938, the Rural Electrification Authority was established and began constructing rural electric lines, first to various communities in the county, then to homes scattered throughout the county. I

can still remember when our home first burst into light with just the flip of a switch. My younger sister and I were helping our dad drive some cattle to a pasture near the house. When we rounded a corner, we saw the lights come on. Our older sister had been given the privilege of being the first to turn on the lights.

Tom M. Marks, one of the first County Agents for Jack County, tried to teach farmers how to improve their crops and lands, but to no avail. A friend remarked, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Marks replied, "Then I'll start with the pups" (the next generation). Marks organized the first Boys' Corn Club in Texas, in Jack County, on September 8, 1907, and this became the forerunner of Texas 4-H Clubs and all those throughout the rest of the country as well. The Marks family home, located at 213 Belknap Street in Jacksboro, is now the Jack County Museum.

The first automobile registered in the Jack County Clerk's office was a homemade car. Constructed from a single buggy and a two-cylinder engine, it was number one in the County Clerk's book. The second one registered was a new Reo bought by a man from Bryson, a small community in Jack County, west of Jacksboro. Although it was number two in the Clerk's register, the car itself was number one of new, manufactured, cars. Third on the list was the first manufactured car owned in the town of Jacksboro, a two-cylinder Buick touring vehicle, bought on March 9, 1909, by Hich Hensley and Lewis Johnson, partners in the Hensley Johnson Realty Company.

The last ox teams driven in Jack County were owned by W.R. Isbell, a freight hauler. His six teams were retired from service just in time for gasoline-powered trucks to come into use. Isbell was 70 years old when he made his last haul.

Cooper Community, where I grew up, begins about eight miles north of Jacksboro. It was established before 1880, when the name appeared in the Jack County Courthouse records as the Ira Cooper School Community, number twenty-two, according to a 1975 addendum to Judge Horton's book by his grandson Thomas Horton Middlebrooks, my dad's older brother and Kay Migura's father. My great-grandparents, John Floyd and Jenny (Jarrell) Middlebrooks, settled in Cooper Community sometime in 1886. They had traded "a wagon and a good team" for 160 acres there. Eventually, they owned 728 acres in Jack County.

The first school session, held in a one-room schoolhouse at Cooper Community School No 22 in 1881, lasted two months. In 1882, the school session lasted for four months and one week. Jenny Middlebrooks taught at the Cooper Community School in 1884 and 1885. Mary Horton Middlebrooks, my father's mother, also taught in that school. The Cooper school was later consolidated into the Jacksboro school system.

As mentioned earlier, Cooper Community begins about eight miles north of Jacksboro, on Texas Highway 148. In 1902, Sheriff J.M. Maddox received a message in Jacksboro from the sheriff at Fort Worth that some horses had been stolen, and he thought Jack County cowboys were responsible. Maddox had some ideas about who these men were and where they were located. He hastily organized a posse and headed north. The men tied their horses at the bottom of the hill, and as they began creeping up the hill, there was a rifle shot from the top. One of the deputies was killed instantly. They recovered the body and rode back to Jacksboro. The stolen horses were never found. To this day, that place has been called "Battle Hill" by those who live in Cooper Community.

The information in the paragraph above was added to Judge Horton's book by my uncle. My dad's version of the story was that the sheriff, acting alone (no posse), ducked under a wagon

when the shooting started and was killed. The known facts: horses were stolen, at least one shot was fired, and Sheriff Maddox died in 1902.

My parents, Atticus Jarrell Middlebrooks and Maggie Lee Harper, were married in the Cooper Community Schoolhouse on Sunday, March 22, 1936. Rev. A.R. Bilberry, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Jacksboro, came to the schoolhouse once a month to hold an afternoon church service there, and my parents were married following the service on that Sunday. The following August, the first reunion of the descendants of John Floyd and Jenny Middlebrooks took place in the City Park, located on the south side of Jacksboro. That annual gathering has continued; the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion was held in June 2011.

Notable natives of Jack County include brothers Don and Rik Massengale, former PGA golfers; Abe Martin, former Athletic Director and Head Coach for Texas Christian University; and Darrell Lester, former All-American football player for Texas Christian University (Wikipedia).

**The** best hamburgers in Jacksboro can be found at Herd's Hamburgers, currently located in a re-purposed house at 401 North Main Street. The current owner/manager is a fourth generation member of the original family, who first opened the business in 1916. (Don't take just my recommendation; Herd's Hamburgers was featured in the January/February 2007 issue of AAA's *Texas Journey*.) Herd's is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Prepare to wait in line for an extended time. Very little seating is available inside; there is a picnic table out front.

**Additional source:** "Postal Service Made its Debut in Jack County in 1858," rootsweb.ancestry.com.

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From **Past in Print**, *Jacksboro Gazette-News*, Jacksboro, Texas, April 1987, taken from the Thursday evening, April 28, 1887, issue of the *Jacksboro Gazette*: "The Innocent Gun and Pistol" – Courtesy of Sam Middlebrooks:

Last week near De Gress, a seven year old boy was carrying a shot gun into the house, and while doing so he concluded to point it at another boy who was in the yard, the gun snapped and the victim received a load of bird shot in his face and breast, twenty-six lodging in his face. One of the wounds was fatal.

On Monday, while Wm. Campbell and his wife were away from home, Bird, a small boy who lives with them, and a son of **J(ohn) F(loyd) Middlebrooks** concluded to examine a 45-caliber pistol that was on the mantle. Bird got up and got hold of it and Middlebrooks told him to snap it. He did so and sent a ball whizzing into the back of Middlebrooks's neck, which ranged downward into his shoulder.

It is a most excellent thing to let small boys have toy pistols so they can learn to shoot.

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"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope

"I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month."  
– Harlan Miller, online

## TEXAS WOMEN USE WHIPS, ROPES, GUNS

By Gay Schlittler Storms, originally printed in the October 4, 2011, edition of the *Jacksboro (Texas) Gazette-News*

A ranch woman used whips and ropes on cows and horses – she used guns on men.

Although 19<sup>th</sup> century society did not encourage women to defend themselves, ladies on the Texas frontier needed guns to protect themselves. A quick review of "Indian Depredations in Texas," which details all Indian attacks by counties, proves how essential guns were.

Indians approached ranches with killing or child abduction on their minds. Most of the time, Comanches caught a woman and her children outside washing, gardening, or walking to a neighbor's house. Often the mother failed to carry a gun with disastrous consequences. Women that resorted to running, hiding, bargaining, or begging were easy prey. The few women and children who escaped from Indians had rifles.

When dealing with the occasional white men who meant them harm, frontier women used a code of defense that sounds heartless. The main point of the code – even interpreted in a humorous light – is that it's better to be safe than sorry.

- Strange men will do to shoot.
- Shoot first, ask questions later.
- If you shoot a man in the back, he rarely returns fire.
- Scare a man to death even if you do not intend to kill him.
- If a man needs killing, do it.

Bob Crabb of the Panhandle remembers his mother's reaction to a steal-and-demand-reward scam. At first, the thieves demanded a \$35 reward for the return of stolen oxen but later agreed to \$5. His mother refused to pay them a cent, and they started to leave with her oxen. She reached for her .45 caliber gun and threatened to shoot the con men. One of the men tested her: "You would not kill a man would you?" She said she would as soon kill a snake. The men backed down from the bluff and left. Crabb said his mother could shoot a bird on the wing, so the rustlers made the right choice.

Cassie Redwine also lived in the Texas Panhandle and was a crack shot. She had an unforgiving attitude toward outlaws.

She and her cowboys tracked desperados who had terrorized the upper Red and Canadian river area and stolen 500 of her stock. Three days ride away, they discovered some of the outlaw gang at a secret hideout and traded clothes with the captured rustlers. When the rest of the outlaws returned to camp, they opened fire at close range and either hung or shot the remaining bunch. Such was frontier justice.

Funny stories about women and guns abound. One woman defied the sheriff, of all people, by hiding a second gun in the bodice of her blouse. A woman who stood up to Indians on a raid found that she was lucky she hadn't fired. She had loaded her trusty shotgun with both charges of buckshot in one barrel, put all the powder in the other barrel, and had only one cap which was in the barrel of buckshot.

Admittedly, there always were a few trigger-happy women who cast a shadow on the decent, gun-toting women.

The late Mody C. Boatright, a Texas folklorist, told a story about Mrs. Frank Adams, a Texas woman who rode, drank, and shot expertly. The Texas lady ran her own ranch and broke her own

horses. She shot a flirty cowboy in the head for pinching her on the ankle. She didn't go to jail, but her courting days came to a grinding halt.

Women who used guns recklessly were a minority. Most of these women never touched a gun in their homes back East or wherever they came from. But if lone women and their families wanted to survive, they needed the ability to use a firearm. Many women and children died on the Texas frontier because they had no defense or hesitated to use it.

Whatever their fates, the bravery of the women and their loyalty to their families cannot be underestimated. It was common for a mother to die trying to shield her children from harm – especially during an Indian attack.

Although the language was a little quaint, Mrs. M. Looscan made an important point in "The Women of Pioneer Days." She said that frontier women endured untold dangers for a hoped-for result:

"It requires far less strength of character to face visible danger than to dwell calmly where it is known to be near, but keeps partially veiled."

\*This article was suggested by Sam Middlebrooks for inclusion in the MFA Quarterly. "The Women of Pioneer Days" can be found online. It relates many ordeals faced by women of early Texas history.

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## THIS-AND-THAT

**Places to search on the web**, from Joyce Arnold

Repositories of Primary Sources: A listing of over 5,000 websites describing holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs, and other primary sources for the research scholar have been compiled by Terry Abraham. All links have been tested for correctness and appropriateness.

Search <http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>.

Digital Librarian maintained by Margaret Vail Anderson, a librarian in Cortland, New York:

<http://digital-librarian.com/genealogy.html>

**Sites recommended by Ancestors Anonymous**, from Neal Middlebrook

[billiongraves.com](http://billiongraves.com) – similar to findagrave.com

[linkpendium.com](http://linkpendium.com) – professes to have 9,948,990 genealogy links

[mocavo.com](http://mocavo.com) – search for a billion

**Using Archives: A Guide to Effective Research**, from Neal Middlebrook

Go to <http://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives> for a down-loadable version. Includes such topics as what archives are, finding and evaluating archives, and much more.

## **Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments**

Instead of making New Year's resolutions, let these life lessons by Kent M. Keith, written in 1968, guide you through 2012 and beyond –

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.  
Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish  
ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and  
true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.  
Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.  
Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas  
can be shot down by the smallest men and women  
with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.  
Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed  
overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you  
do help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and  
you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best  
you have anyway.

From the December 2011 issue of *Good Housekeeping*.

**May all of you have a blessed Christmas and a beautiful 2012!**