

MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2012
Editor,
Jarrelyn Lang

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Dianne Middlebrooks, 1943-2012

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MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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MAZE by Team Leaders, published by Joyce Arnold

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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

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

Middlebrooks Family Association (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: joycenjim@sbcglobal.net.

MFA Quarterly Newsletter is published four times a year (December, March, June, and September) by the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, 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 Jarrelyn Lang, Editor, at MFAEditor@gmail.com.

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 to MFA, c/o Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 77584.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our 2012 MFA annual meeting in Mineral Wells/Jacksboro, Texas, October 4-6, 2012 was well planned by Sam Middlebrooks. Sam planned the tours and found the people to do the presentations for the Jack County area and the great places for meals. He did a great job planning our activities. THANK YOU, SAM.

Thursday, October 4 – The meeting opened with MFA reports. There was a presentation by local historian Mr. Ed Bonner of the Jacksboro Museum Society and also a presentation about John Floyd and Mary Jane Jarrell Middlebrooks by Sam Middlebrooks. We had lunch catered by Hayes Station Bistro in Mineral Wells. After lunch we toured Fort Richardson, guided by Texas State Parks & Wildlife Rangers, then we were shown through the Jack County Museum in Jacksboro. After the tours, some chose to visit the genealogical archives at the Gladys Johnson Ritchie Library, and others went through the archives in the Jack County Courthouse.

Friday, October 5 -- There was a field trip to cemeteries and home sites in and around Jacksboro.

Saturday, October 6 – Local historian and author Ms. Lois Paschal presented a talk on early Jack County and Jacksboro frontier history, then Leonard Middlebrooks gave a presentation about Thomas Middlebrooks b. 1763 – CT.

Next Year's Meeting, 2013: We voted for our next meeting/reunion to be in or close to Dothan, Alabama. Kerry Middlebrooks will be working on any Middlebrooks family that lived or traveled through the area. We are hoping our Florida Middlebrooks will attend this meeting/reunion. If you have any family information regarding Middlebrooks in Alabama, please contact Kerry at mbrooks@gci.net

MFA meeting/reunion for 2014: We voted for the 2014 meeting/reunion to be in the Columbus, Georgia, area, which will cover some of the Harris County Middlebrooks and others. The exact location has not been set. If you have any family information regarding Middlebrooks in Alabama, for now, please contact Joyce Arnold at joycenjim@sbcglobal.net. To ensure that we have a successful meeting, we need volunteers to serve on the planning committee. You do not need to live in Alabama or Georgia to help with either meeting. Please contact us if you would like to be on the 2013 or 2014 planning committee.

At the 2013 meeting we will vote for the 2015 location. If you would like to suggest a meeting location for the Board to consider, please contact President Joyce Arnold or Vice President Sam Middlebrooks.

This time of year gives us the opportunity to reflect on our many blessings, learn more about our family history, and recall those family members that have gone before us. Above all, I hope it will be a safe and enjoyable time for each of you and your families.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Joyce Arnold, President

MFA On-Going Projects:

Our Military Project: If you are a veteran, or if someone in your family is a veteran, contact Kerry Middlebrooks for inclusion in this family list. If you have information or questions related to this area, please contact Kerry – mbrooks@gci.net

Cemetery Project: J.A. Middlebrooks is continuing his efforts with the Cemetery Project. If you have photos of any gravesites of our Middlebrook/e/s descendants, please send them to J.A. These can be either digital or prints. You can contact J.A. at middle3jam2012@gmail.com or William Sterling at wgs10@embarqmail.com

MFA DNA Project: Would you like to give a gift that will keep giving for many generations to come? Then contact Bob Middlebrooks, our DNA Project Leader, at mid293@earthlink.net to learn more.

Family 1909 Register Updates: If you have not sent in your update information, please send it to Leonard. The publication will be electronic, and any of the recipients may print a hard copy from the electronic version. The first effort was to have a 2009 register update, but due to the fact there is good data on certain parts of the family and other areas are lacking, that did not come about. Contact Leonard Middlebrooks at gambol@juno.com to update your family.

Repository Project: This is a way to preserve documents, photos, and 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 Middlebrooks, mbrooks@gci.net

“NEW” – **DAR, UDC, SCV & SAR project:** Are you interested in becoming a member of DAR - Daughter of the American Revolution; UDC - Daughter of the Confederacy; SCV - Sons of Confederate Veterans; or SAR - Sons of the American Revolution. Please contact Chairperson Jean Shroyer at TXJean@aol.com or Joan Miller at jmill1912@hotmail.com

Tracing our English Heritage: Neal is coordinating the England research with Ian Middlebrooks. Please contact Neal Middlebrook at nealmidbrook1@frontier.com if you have any family records from England.



And



From The MFA Officers, Board Members, Project and Team Leaders

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

1852 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS SOLVE GENEALOGICAL MYSTERIES

Submitted by Evelyn Bugg

It is New Year's Eve 1852, and Henry HYDENWELL sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions.

No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.

I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.

My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.

I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church – either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.

I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every ten years – just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.

I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.

I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record-keeping or in participating in military service.

When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.

I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.

I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

Of course, birth and death dates in genealogy are important to have. While backtracking one family group, I came upon a death date entry indicating only that the man's demise was "None too soon."

From *RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Weekly E-zine*, February 14, 2007, Vol. 10, No. 7 (author's name not given)

TEXAS HISTORY THROUGH THE LIFE OF ANNE MIDDLEBROOKS ASHTON

Stan Herrin

October 2012

I am one of the 1500 descendants of **Joseph MIDDLEBROOKS** (1773 - 1853) who is disappointed that Joseph's DNA does not match the rest of the Middlebrooks DNA. I have enjoyed tracing the Middlebrooks family back to the **Joseph MIDDLEBROOKS** (1610 - 1685) who was in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. My wife's family (**SMALL**) was also in the Massachusetts Bay Colony at the same time. However, they moved north to Maine, while the Middlebrooks moved south to Connecticut.

Sometime around 2004, Geneva Garrett used my information to identify **Anne MIDDLEBROOKS** as one of the children of **Ibzan and Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS**. When I combined Geneva's information on **Jane CRAWFORD** and my mother's information on **Anne MIDDLEBROOKS ASHTON**, an interesting account of early Texas history emerged.



INTRODUCTION TO THE INDIVIDUALS

Joseph MIDDLEBROOKS (1) was born 18 April 1773 in Caswell County, North Carolina, and died 18 September 1853 in Chickasaw County, Mississippi. He married **Rachel BAXTER** about 1798 in Greene County, Alabama. No additional information is known.

Ibzan (or Ibsant) MIDDLEBROOKS (2), was born about 1802 / 1805 in Greene County, Alabama, and died about 1846 / 1849 in Nacogdoches County, Texas. He married **Jane C. CRAWFORD** about 1820, possibly in Greene County, Alabama. Ibzan was the oldest son of **Joseph MIDDLEBROOKS** (1).

Jane C. CRAWFORD (3) was born 8 May 1807, possibly in Franklin County, Georgia, and died before 1876 in Texas. She first married **Ibzan MIDDLEBROOKS** about 1820; he died in 1846/1849. She then married **George C. GALLOWAY** in 1854. Jane was the second child and oldest daughter of **Jesse** (4) and **Hannah CRAWFORD**. She is referred to as **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** in this document.

Anne and Andrew Jackson Ashton

Jesse H. CRAWFORD (4) was born 27 April 1784 in North Carolina and died 12 August 1863 in Nacogdoches County, Texas, and is buried in Old North Church Cemetery, Nacogdoches County, Texas (no stone). He married **Hannah WARREN** 24 April 1806 in Franklin, Georgia.

Anderson Crawford “Ance” MIDDLEBROOKS (5) was born about 1824 in Greene County, Alabama, and died before 1867 in Karnes County, Texas. He married 1) **Serena I. Welch**, on 19 October 1848 in Navarro County, Texas. He married 2) **Louisiana Vernabelle GALLOWAY** about 1850 in Karnes County, Texas. He is the second child and oldest male of **Ibzan MIDDLEBROOKS (2)** and **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3)**.

James Bird MIDDLEBROOKS (Bird) (6) was born 11 February 1831 in Greene County, Alabama, and died 20 February 1910 in Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas. He married **Nancy L. CONWAY** on 3 December 1866 in Williamson County, Texas. He is the fourth child and second male of **Ibzan MIDDLEBROOKS (2)** and **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3)**.

Anne MIDDLEBROOKS ASHTON (7) was born 4 July 1835, possibly Mississippi, and died 25 November 1898 in Lexington, Oklahoma. She married **Andrew Jackson ASHTON (8)** in 1848 in Texas. She is the sixth child and fourth female of **Ibzan MIDDLEBROOKS (2)** and **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3)**. Anne has a twin sister, **Zenobia Shirley MIDDLEBROOKS**.

Andrew Jackson ASHTON (AJ) (8) was born 6 March 1822 in Franklin County, Georgia, and died 7 January 1904 in Lexington, Oklahoma. He married **Anne MIDDLEBROOKS (7)**.

MIGRATING TO TEXAS (PRIOR TO 1839)

Anne MIDDLEBROOKS's maternal grandparents, **Jesse (4)** and **Hannah CRAWFORD** lived in Green County, Alabama from 1806 - 1832, as evident by the birth location of their 13 children. *(During this time period, Jesse CRAWFORD (4) owned land in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas).*

Anne MIDDLEBROOKS's paternal grandparents, **Joseph (1)** and **Rachel MIDDLEBROOKS** lived in Georgia and Alabama from 1800 - 1814 as evident by the birth location of their six children.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, TEXAS (1839 - 1848)

In 1839, **Jesse CRAWFORD (4)** applied for a land grant from the Republic of Texas for 640 acres of land. In the 1840 Poll Tax Roll for Nacogdoches County, Texas, **Ambrose CRAIN** is the agent for **Jesse CRAWFORD**. **Jesse (4)** moved his family to Nacogdoches County, Texas, in 1841. In the early 1860's, **Jesse (4)** and **Hannah CRAWFORD** decided to get a divorce. They filed all the papers and then decided not to divorce but to divide their estate up and go their separate ways. **Hannah CRAWFORD** received half a league of land in Gonzales County, Texas. She gave half of this one-half league (1,107.1 Acres) to her daughter **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3)**.

After marriage, **Ibzan (2)** and **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3)** lived in Greene County, Alabama, leaving about 1838, as documented by a church record dismissing **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3)** and her father-in-law **Joseph MIDDLEBROOKS**. They moved to Chickasaw County, Mississippi, where they stayed until about 1844 or 1845, when they moved to Nacogdoches

County, Texas, where Jane's parents, **Jesse** (4) and **Hannah CRAWFORD** were living. The 1845 Poll Tax Roll for Nacogdoches, County, Texas, includes **Ibzan MIDDLEBROOKS** (2). **Ibzan** died about 1846; and **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) remained in Nacogdoches where she was listed in a ledger in Nacogdoches in 1847.

Nacogdoches was the Texas entry point for many people. Nacogdoches was located on the old Spanish Trail, el Camino, which ran from northern Louisiana to San Antonio. The el Camino Trail avoided the pines in Southeastern Texas and the swamps and bayous of the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The first Homestead Law, enacted in Texas on January 22, 1839, was to encourage home ownership. This act may have inspired **Jesse CRAWFORD** (4) to migrate to Texas.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS AND THE MEXICAN WAR

1836 March 2	The Republic of Texas formed
1845 December 29	Texas was annexed to the United States
1846 February 16	Texas became the 28 th state of the United States of America, and the Republic of Texas is dissolved.
1846 May 3	Fighting begins in Matamoros
1846 May 8	Battle of Palo Alto, near Brownsville, Texas
1846 May 13	Congress declares war on Mexico
1847 August	USA captures Mexico City
1848 February	Treaty with Mexico signed - Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

ANDREW ASHTON'S (8) MEXICAN WAR SERVICE

During the Mexican War, **Andrew Jackson ASHTON** (8) was a Private in Capt. H. E. McCulloch's Texas Mounted Volunteers. He enlisted October 25, 1847, and was discharged at McCulloch's Station on October 24, 1848. Henry E. McCulloch and his brother Benjamin McCulloch were two very colorful Texas

surveyors, Rangers, Indian fighters, politicians and Civil War Generals. In 1849, McCulloch's Station became Fort Croghan. The site of the Fort is three miles south of Burnet, Texas¹.

Andrew ASHTON's military record is documented by his pension application in the US Archives. He is also listed in C. S. Spurlin's book *Texas Volunteers in the Mexican War*².

At the First Confederate Reunion of the Chickasaw Nation³, held July 30, 1899 in Ardmore, Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, **Andrew JACKSON** (7) is listed as having served in '**Tom SMITH's** battalion' during the Mexican War.

From the *Handbook of Texas History*⁴:

*On August 2, 1846, with the outbreak of the Mexican War, **Thomas Smith** raised a company of volunteers. In April 1847 he defeated **Henry E. McCulloch** in the election for command of the battalion and the rank of major. Smith's Battalion, Texas Mounted Volunteers, spent the war defending the western frontier against Indian raids. The battalion mustered out of federal service on August 17, 1847.*

Tomas Ingles SMITH immigrated to Texas in 1836 and was a Texas Ranger and Indian Agent. He was wounded at the Battle of Salado Creek and participated in the Archives War under orders of President Houston⁵.

(In 1842 President Houston tried to move the State Capital from Austin back to Houston. As Smith and others tried to load and move the State Archives in the middle of the night, Mrs. Eberly fired a cannon at them.)

In 1845, the Mercer Colony⁶, composed of 25 families, settled around Spring Hill, Dresden, Pisgah Ridge, and Bazette in today's Navarro County. Legal work for these settlements was conducted in Franklin, Robertson County. Due to delays in recording legal documents, a new county, Navarro, was organized in 1846. **Thomas I SMITH** was one of three early land granters who donated 100 acres of land for the new

¹ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qbf13>

² Spurlin, Charles D. *Texas Volunteers in the Mexican War* Eakin Press, Austin, Tx 1998.

³ <http://boards.ancestry.com/topics.news.us.ok/83/mb.ashx?pnt=1>

⁴ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsm43>

⁵ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mqa02>

⁶ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/uem02>

town of Corsicana⁷. A Texas Historic Monument stands on the north lawn of the Navarro County Court House, commemorating Thomas Ingles SMITH⁸.

Anderson MIDDLEBROOKS (5) is listed as having arrived in Navarro County in 1848⁹. He married in Navarro County in October, 1848.

Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3) is in the 1849 Navarro County Tax Records.

(The parents of John Wesley Harding, the notorious Texan gunman, married in Navarro County in 1847¹⁰. His mother was from the Pishag Ridge Region. John Wesley Hardin was born in Fannin County)

LIMESTONE COUNTY, TEXAS (1848 - 1853)

Limestone County, the county south of Navarro County, was formed from Robertson County in 1846.

Andrew Jackson ASHTON (8) stated in his Mexican War pension application that he married **Anne MIDDLEBROOKS** (7) in Limestone County on December 7, 1847. *(My Grandfather's notes say the marriage was September 8, 1848 in Williamson County, TX. Williamson County is obviously wrong, but the difference in date is disturbing.)*

Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3) is in the 1847 Limestone County Tax Records and in the 1849 Navarro County Tax Records.

On December 25, 1849 **A. J. ASHTON** signed a petition from the citizens of Limestone County to Governor Peter H. Bell, asking for the removal of Caddo, Ioni, Anadarko, and Delaware Indian tribes from Limestone County¹¹.

The 1850 census for Limestone County, Texas, finds **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3), along with her son **J.B MIDDLEBROOKS** (6) and **Anderson MIDDLEBROOKS** (5), head of households in Precinct 4

⁷ Application for Historic Marker, Researched by Wyvonne Putman, obtained from Texas Historical Commission

⁸ <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/shell-county.htm>

⁹ http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txnavarr/county_history/arrival_of_early_pioneers_in_navarro_county.htm

¹⁰ Metz, Leon "John Wesley Hardin Dark Angel of Texas" Mangan Books, El Paso TX, 1996

¹¹ <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/exhibits/indian/statehood/limestone-1849-2.html>

and **A. J. ASTON** (8), head of household, in Precinct 1. Based on A. J.'s neighbors' homes and burial locations, **A. J.** (8) appears to have been living near present-day Thornton, Texas.

The original Limestone County Courthouse burned in 1873, with the loss of all records. Possibly among them were early records of the MIDDLEBROOKS and ASHTON families.

Regarding the marriage of **A. J. ASHTON** (8) and **Anne MIDDLEBROOKS** (7): I find it incomprehensible that a 26-year-old male (**A. J. ASHTON**) can court a 12/13-year-old girl (**Anne MIDDLEBROOKS**) while he is serving in the military at McCulloch's Station, located 100 miles west of Limestone County. **A. J. ASHTON** enlisted October 25, 1847, and was discharged October 24, 1848. He married either December 1847 (pension application) or September 1848 (Grandfather's records). I can only conclude that **Andrew ASHTON** knew **Annie MIDDLEBROOKS** prior to enlisting in the military. Between 1846 and 1848, Anne's mother, **Jane C. CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) was in the Texas counties of Nacogdoches, Navarro, and Limestone.

*(**Andrew Jackson ASHTON** (8) was born in Franklin County, Georgia, in 1822. **Jesse CRAWFORD** (4) married in Franklin County, Georgia, in 1806. When Jesse migrated to Nacogdoches, Texas, A.J. was 17 years old. A. J. may have migrated to Texas with Jesse.)*

*(One possible connection between **A. J. ASHTON** (8) and **Jesse CRAWFORD** (4) is through Jesse's brother **Vineyard CRAWFORD**¹². A. J.'s father, **Nathaniel ASHTON**, appears in the St. Clair County, Alabama, in the 1840 census. **A. J.** appears as an appropriate age group mark following his father's name. **Vineyard CRAWFORD** also appeared in the 1840 St. Clair County, Alabama, census. **Vineyard** came through Franklin County, Georgia, on his way to St. Clair County, Alabama. **Jesse CRAWFORD** (3) was the first tax collector of St. Clair County, Alabama¹³.)*

KARNES COUNTY, TEXAS, (1854 - 1862)

On 12 February 1854, **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) married **George R. GALLOWAY** in Bexar County, Texas. They may have been living in Karnes County at the time of the marriage, but the marriage was filed in the neighboring Bexar County since Karnes County had just been formed from Bexar County on February 4, 1854. They bought land and paid taxes in Karnes County until the 1860's.

Prior to her marriage in 1854, **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) bought land from Enoch Jones on Cebola Creek in Karnes County.

¹² <http://taraguthrie.com/jc.html>

¹³ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=cclawson&id=I20966>

A. J. ASHTON (8) first appeared in the Karnes County Tax Records in 1854.

In the 1850's the mainstay of the Karnes County economy was livestock ranching¹⁴. In the 1860 census, the occupation of **A.J. ASHTON** (8) was listed as "Stock Raiser." Therefore, it is very likely **A.J ASHTON** (8) moved to Karnes County to raise cattle. The occupations of **A. MIDDLEBROOKS** (5) and **J. B. MIDDLEBROOKS** (6) are listed as farmers.

The 1860 census for Karnes County, Texas, includes **A.J. ASHTON** (8), **A. MIDDLEBROOKS** (5) and **J. B. MIDDLEBROOKS** (6). Their Post Office is listed as Panna Maria, the oldest permanent Polish Settlement in the United States¹⁵.

In 2006, the author visited the Panna Maria Visitor Center and was told that a non-Polish family with a Panna Maria mailing address probably 'lived across the river'. An 1856 Platt Map of Karnes County, Texas, does not identify land owned by either ASHTON or MIDDLEBROOKS¹⁶. However, the map does identify land as belonging to E. Jones, located along a creek, but in Bexar County. I do not believe this is the land purchased by **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3).

Cibola Creek, where **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS's** (3) land was located, is approximately one mile north of Panna Maria. The San Antonio River is located approximately one mile south of Panna Maria.

The Ox-Cart Trail, also called the La Bahia Road or the Chihuahua Road, typically followed the San Antonio River. However, the portion of the Trail near Panna Maria is on the north side of Cibola Creek¹⁷. The road from San Antonio to the Texas coast port of Indianola went through La Bahía (now Goliad). In 1857, violence between Mexicans and Anglos led to The Cart Wars¹⁸. Six miles east of Panna Maria is the infamous Helena, Texas¹⁹, on the Ox-Cart Road. The city has been described by one person as "the toughest town on earth"²⁰.

¹⁴ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hck01>

¹⁵ <http://www.pannamariatexas.com/>

¹⁶ http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/GLO/browse/?fq=str_location_county%3AKarnes+County%2C+TX

¹⁷ <http://arms2armor.com/store/product388.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jcc01>

¹⁹ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hnh18>

²⁰ Harrin, Barry "*Helena Texas the Toughest Town on Earth*" Comanche Press, 2010

During the Civil War, when many of the men were in the Army, Karnes County was easy prey to bandits and deserters until the citizens petitioned the governor for protection in 1863²¹.

A. J. ASHTON (8) and **Anderson MIDDLEBROOK** (5) served in the Civil War (Civil War records do not end the name with an 's'). They first joined the Panna Maria Grays and then became privates in Company C, 31st Texas Cavalry (Hawpe's regiment, Capt. John H. Duncan's Company) in 1862. The 31st participated in battles in Southwest Missouri and Arkansas. The unit was transferred to Polignac's Brigade where they participated in the Red River Campaign.

In August 1861, **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) sold her land in Karnes County to her son, **J. B. MIDDLEBROOKS** (6).

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS (1863 - 1889)

The MIDDLEBROOKSES and ASTHONS may have left Karnes County during the Civil War due to the unbearable violence in the county. Without the protection of their husbands, **A. J. ASHTON** (8) and **Anderson MIDDLEBROOKS** (5), who were serving in the Civil War, the wives may have decided to leave Karnes County.

In 1863 **A. J. ASHTON's** (8) family was listed in the Tax Records for Williamson County, TX.

In 1861, **G. R. Galloway**, husband of **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3), was listed in the Hays County Tax Records.

In 1864, **Hannah CRAWFORD**, wife of **Jesse CRAWFORD** (4) sold 1,107 acres of land in Gonzales County, Texas, which is located north of Karnes County, Texas. In this transaction, **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) was listed as living in Williamson County, Texas.

Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3), wife of **George GALLOWAY**, lived in the southwestern part of Williamson County, Texas.

²¹ <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hck01>

*Land Grant: **G. R. Galloway** is selling to **John Tub**, in the county of Williamson a, tract of land that is part of the S. J. Dover League, being 43 acres of land, but he reserves one acre of land for the use of the New Hope Baptist Church of Jesus Christ for a burying ground for the sum of \$210.*

An 1863 Williamson County Land Platt²² locates S. J. Dover's land as approximately 12 miles west-southwest of Georgetown, Texas, between Brushy Creek and South Fork Creek. The New Hope Baptist Church and Cemetery still exist and are located in Cedar Park Texas²³ (30 31' 56.31" N 97 50' 7.4" W), approximately 12 miles southwest of Georgetown, Texas. In front of the New Hope Baptist Church stands a historical marker stating that the church was chartered in 1868²⁴. The burial ground, donated by **G. R. GALLOWAY**, husband of **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOK** (3), still exists²⁵.

*(Researcher JoRetta Lewis believes **Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS** (3) and her husband **G. R. GALLOWAY** were living in Williamson County in May of 1864 when Jane's granddaughter, **Sarah Jane WELSCH**, married **Thomas Jefferson CAVENDER** on May 14, 1864. The original marriage certificate states the wedding was attended by **Jane GALLOWAY** and friends. The marriage may have taken place in the home of the Galloways,, Welches, or Cavenders.)*

Jane CRAWFORD MIDDLEBROOKS (3) received the land from her mother and in 1868 moved to Hays County, Texas. About 1875 she moved to Atascosa County, Texas, where her daughter was living. Jane dies by 1880 because her estate is being processed in Gonzales County, Texas.

A. J. (8) and **Annie** (7) **ASHTON** lived in northern Williamson County, near Florence, about 12 miles north-northwest of Georgetown, Texas (30 46' 19.41" N 97 47' 25.74 W). They lived across the road from Matsler Cemetery²⁶. The graves in Matsler Cemetery list names familiar to **A.J. ASHTON** (8) family researchers, including **ASHTON**, **TUCKER**, and **FOREHANDS** (two **FOREHANDS** married **AJ** and **Anne's** daughters).

On a visit to the cemetery, **Mr. LOVE**²⁷ told the author "*the **MIDDLEBROOKSES** came after the Ashtons and then moved to San Angelo. Although they did not live near the Matsler area, the **MIDDLEBROOKSES** did help start South West Texas University in Georgetown.*" I have not been able to verify this statement. (My notes are not clear. I have written below a notation about **MIDDLEBROOKS** "LaGrange, Fayette County, Near Monument State Park, during time" but not sure what this means.)

²² <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph89071/>

²³ http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/CEDAR_PARK/Cedar_Park_texas.html

²⁴ http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/CEDAR_PARK/Cedar_Park_texas.html

²⁵ <http://three-legged-willie.org/cemetery/nh4.htm>

²⁶ Private conversation with Ralph Dickinson Love, Matsler Cemetery, December 26, 2006.

²⁷ Private conversation with Ralph Dickinson Love, Matsler Cemetery, December 26, 2006.

A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON's 9th child, Byrd ASHTON married **Ida B. STANLEY** on December 20 1888. She died in childbirth in 1890. Her father, Williamson County deputy sheriff **William STANLEY**, was murdered by cattle thieves operating in the area.^{28,29}

During this time period, **A.J. ASHTON'S** brother, **Samuel ASHTON**, joined **AJ (8) and Annie (7)** in the Williamson County, Texas. Migration from southern states to Texas was a common occurrence after the Civil War.

From these two Ashton families came many of the Ashtons found throughout the Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona). Andrew had 6 sons and Samuel had 4.

In 1866, **Byrd MIDDLEBROOKS (6)** bought land in Williamson County. This land, in the Delaney headright land grant league, is on Berry Creek. The 1863 Williamson County Land Platt³⁰ shows land owned by **Charles H. DELANEY** located south of the section of land that contains Matsler Cemetery.

OKLAHOMA, After 1889

In 1887, when **A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON's** children were in their late teens and twenties, the families of **A.J. ASHTON (8)** and his brother **Samuel ASHTON** left Williamson County. Some went to central Texas. Others, including **A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON**, headed north into Oklahoma. **A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON** lived out their lives with their oldest daughter, **Nancy M. ASHTON FOREHAND** in Lexington, OK.

In 1937, a son of **A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON, Byrd ASHTON** (born 1866) in a verbal interview³¹ tells of the trip from Texas to Oklahoma and early life in Oklahoma.

*(Interesting to note in this verbal interview are the name of Byrd's parents: **Andrew ASHTON** and **Anne MEADOWBROOK_ ASHTON**. After discovering **Ibzan MIDDLEBROOKS'** DNA does not match the rest of the **MIDDLEBROOKS**, I have to ask, 1) was the transcriber confused by Bird's Texas/Oklahoma accent or 2) was the family name **MEADOWBROOK** and has been mispronounced? I believe the transcriber was confused since my mother in the 1930's learned the family name was Middlebrook. Also, note the name **MEADOWBROOK** does not have an 's' on the end.)*

²⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=32410575>

²⁹ Private conversation with Ralph Dickinson Love, Matsler Cemetery, December 26, 2006.

³⁰ <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth89071/>

³¹ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~okmurray/ipp/ashtonbird.htm>

A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON are buried in the Lexington, OK cemetery east of Lexington, OK^{32,33}.

EPILOGUE

A.J. (8) and Annie MIDDLEBROOKS (7) ASHTON is one branch of my family I have enjoyed researching, in part because:

1. I have found more personal information and learned more history in researching **A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON** than any other branch of my family.
2. My mother and sister are named after **Nancy ASHTON FOREHAND, A.J. (8) and Annie (7) ASHTON's** oldest daughter. During my grandfather's formative years, he lived with his Aunt **Nancy FOREHAND** while his parents homesteaded in the Texas panhandle. For his appreciation of the education he received while living with Aunt Nancy, he named his daughter Nancy.
3. I have a wardrobe, located in my bedroom that originally belonged to **Nancy ASHTON FOREHAND**. This and other pieces of furniture have been passed down through my grandfather and mother to me. Written on the wardrobe in two places is: "C.A.D.C. Georgetown Tex". Almost every day I touch a direct connection to **A.J. (8) and Annie MIDDLEBROOKS (7) ASHTON**.



³² <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=ashton&GSiman=1&GScid=98816&GRid=13970194&>

³³ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi?page=gr&GRid=13970196>

IN MEMORIAM

Glenn Irwin Middlebrooke, 92, of Houston, died Saturday, September 2, 2012, in a Houston hospital. He was born June 5, 1920, in Los Angeles, California.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Audrey J. of Houston; two sons, David S. Middlebrooke and I.J. Middlebrooke; three daughters, Patricia J. Compton, Kathy M. Milner, and Karen M. Brooks; 16 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Glenn graduated from South Gate High School in South Gate, California, in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946 as a navigation instructor. He married Audrey J. Fluegel in June 1946.

Glenn was employed by Baker Oil Tools (now Baker Hughes) from 1946 to 1986. He started as an engineering department clerk in Los Angeles, California. He moved his family to Houston in 1965 and worked in international marketing, capping his long career with Baker as a plan developer and manager of tool manufacturing in Maracaibo, Venezuela, from 1983 to 1986.

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

Funeral services for **Jack Reed Middlebrooks**, 84, of Henderson, Texas, were held October 1, 2012, in the chapel of Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home. Interment followed in Strong Cemetery, Henderson, Rusk County, Texas.

Jack passed away September 27, 2012, in Henderson. He was born July 29, 1928, in Clayton, Texas, to the late Joe Jarrell and Cosette Reed Middlebrooks. He served his country during the Korean Conflict in the United States Army and later worked as a plumber. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Walter A. Middlebrooks. Survivors include his wife, Jimmie Ruth Sanders Middlebrooks; sons Jim Middlebrooks and Johnny Middlebrooks; sister, MFA member Nelwyn Barefield; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

MFA extends greatest sympathy to Nelwyn and all of Jack's family.

Russell McKinley Johnson, Jr., age 89, of Dublin Georgia, passed away November 27, 2012. Services were held at Poplar Springs North Baptist Church on December 1, 2012, with burial in Northview Cemetery, Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia.

An Isaac 1753 descendant and native of Brooks County, Georgia, Russell was the son of Russell M. and August Luvenia Hopper Johnson, He was preceded in death by his wife, Eddie Lee Perry Johnson, and sisters Edna Maxine Touchton and Helen Monteen Rhodes. Survivors include his daughter, MFA member Evelyn Johnson Bugg, two granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter.

Russell was a veteran, enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He served for four years and continued in the Reserves until 1956. He was a life-long member of the American Legion Posts 222 and 17, first in Thomasville, Georgia, and then in Dublin, Georgia. He retired as Director from the V.A. Domicilliary in Dublin and was the oldest member and Historian of North Poplar Springs Baptist Church at his death. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and several genealogical societies.

MFA extends our prayers and sympathies to Evelyn and all of Russell's family.

Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas an official holiday (1836).
Oklahoma was the last to do so (1890).

RED CLAY & BED BUGS

Cemetery Research

(Several years ago, Dianne sent me several articles she hadn't used. This is one of them. JL)

Why Save Old Cemeteries

- They are part of our heritage, and to neglect them guarantees their disappearance and the loss of the information on the markers.
- To record and preserve important information about our ancestors and local history for future generations.
- To restore and protect the disappearing art form of cemetery sculpture and art.
- In a civilized society, we have a sacred responsibility to respect and preserve cemeteries.
- In a period of rapidly changing land use, we must act now to preserve and protect burial sites from careless (worse) non-caring developers or owners.
- It heightens community self-esteem to know of and be proud of its own history and preserve it for future generations.
- Community beautification is a worthy goal which fosters cooperation between community organizations.

Laws protect Cemeteries

In Georgia, no one can legally prevent access to a cemetery. For additional information about the laws of Georgia, see The Cemetery Book. For other states, contact your Secretary of State Office.

Importance of Recording and Publishing Cemeteries

- Copies of a county-wide cemetery survey can be given to the County Zoning/Planning office so they will have easy access to the locations of the cemeteries and can help protect the sites.
- Cemeteries and their locations will be documented for future generations, which will help prevent destruction. This raises public awareness.
- Specific dates and other information gained from the markers will allow researchers to secure obituaries, military records, and so forth.

Naming a Cemetery Is Important for Future Reference

- "Unidentified" cemeteries can be distinguished by labeling them as "Unidentified #1," or if there is at least one surname, use that name.

- Family cemeteries with the same name can be distinguished by giving the cemetery a name such as "Middlebrooks Family" or precisely identify the patriarch in each, such as "Zere Middlebrooks Cemetery," along with the county and street names.
- Church cemeteries with identical names can be distinguished by giving the name of the church, such as "First Baptist Church of Locust Grove," located the county and street name.

Suggestions for Getting Volunteers

- Community Service workers from the local courts.
- Civic groups such as Girl and Boy Scouts, Historical Societies, and so forth.
- Church volunteers

Using Maps to Locate Cemeteries

- Most State Departments of Transportation (DOT) have county maps that may show cemeteries.
- Early county maps may show cemeteries. See holdings of your Surveyor General's Office for these at the State Archives.
- U.S. Geologic Surveys Topographic maps may show cemeteries. A State guide to maps, titled "7.5 minute Quadrangle Names" is available from the Department of the Interior – USGS, Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, DFC Bld. 810, Denver, CO 80225.
- Soil Survey maps may be available from your County Soil Conservation agent.

Cemetery Surveys Already in Print

- Check with the local libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies, and courthouses.
- Look on the internet for a county and state website.
- Ask relatives and friends.

Make a Form for Vital Information and any Inscriptions

- Include the Name of the Cemetery; Name of Deceased; Date of Death; Inscription/s.
- Note whether there is a picture.

Colonial Roads to 1750

By Jarrelyn Lang, from *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1818*, by William Dollarhide

The First American Highway

Beginning with the first settlements of the early seventeenth century, all American colonies were limited to the Atlantic seacoast region, with water travel available within short distances up a few navigable rivers. For over 100 years, few excursions beyond the safety of eastern harbors were attempted. With the threat of hostile Indians, impassable mountains, and little need for more living space, few colonists were willing to migrate westward.

The roads over which a wagon could travel were limited to the coastal regions or up a few river valleys, such as the Connecticut, Hudson, or James River valleys. The possibility of traveling into the wilderness except on foot or horseback was not desirable or advisable, particularly by Puritan churchmen who equated the dark forests with the darkness of evil. Therefore, the first American highway was a coastal route that connected the original colonies north and south and never strayed far away from sight of the Atlantic Ocean.

By 1664, King Charles II sent word to his governors in New York and New England that there ought to be better communication between his colonies. Subsequently, a riding trail, which came to be known as the Boston Post Road, was created for mail service between Boston and New York. Later, another post road connected Boston to Providence, Rhode Island, then on to the coast of Connecticut. However, it wasn't until much later that the roads were fit for wagon and stagecoach traffic.

Sailing between colonies was used as the main mode of transportation well into the 18th century. The major seaport cities were Boston, Philadelphia, and Charleston. By 1750, there was a road that was worthy of stagecoach and wagon travel from Boston to Charleston – but only if the weather permitted.

The King's Highway

By the time of the Revolutionary War, the King's Highway was a road from Maine to Georgia, providing a means of commerce between the colonies and thus linking them together and better able to coordinate their war strategies against the British. Dollarhide writes, "The King's Highway . . . became the mustering point for several battles of the Revolutionary War, including the final battle at Yorktown" (p.2). After the Revolutionary War, there were few references to the King's Highway; colonists once more reverted to calling it the Boston Post Road, a name by which it is still referred to today in parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

The route for the King's Highway took travelers from Boston to New York City; from New York to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; from Philadelphia to Alexandria, Virginia; from Alexandria to Norfolk, Virginia; then from Norfolk to Charleston, South Carolina.

Folks traveling between New York City and Philadelphia in 1750 had the choice of using ferries for water crossings – the Hudson River from Manhattan to Staten Island, then across the island to take advantage of the ferry from Elizabeth, New Jersey, around Staten Island, to Perth

Amboy, New Jersey. From Newark, New Jersey, a ferry carried traffic across the Delaware River, then boats would continue along the west side of the Delaware to reach Philadelphia. The King's Highway was a portage between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay. By 1745, the road was in good enough condition that it supported stagecoach traffic, also.

The distance from Boston to Charleston was about 1,300 miles. The King's Highway supported stage and wagon traffic, which gave the advantage of covering from 20 to 25 miles per day, covering the entire distance in about two months.

The Lancaster Road

Travelers who wanted to join the Western migration from Philadelphia, which began around 1725, began their journey at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in Maryland, then followed the river, allowing them access to the Conestoga River Valley.

The Fall Line Road

The "fall line," according to Dollarhide, "is a geographic feature which acts as a separation between the river tidelands and inland elevations on the Atlantic coast. Caused by erosion, it defines an east and west division between 'upper' and 'lower' elevations stretching from Maryland to Georgia."

Pioneers traveling from Pennsylvania or Maryland to the Carolinas before 1750 most likely traveled the King's Highway and the Fall Line Road.

The Great Valley Road

An Indian trading path from New York to the Carolinas was known as the "Great Warrior Path" before 1744. Marking the western frontier of the colonies, no white man dared to cross the line for fear of Indian attacks. In 1744, a treaty signed by the Indians gave white men total control east of the Great Warrior Path in Virginia, thus allowing the path to become the most heavily traveled road in colonial America.

Thousands of immigrants traveled this road between 1745 and 1775, many of them Scotch-Irish families. In the 1740s, a connecting road from Pennsylvania gave greater access to the Great Valley Road. By 1760, another link gave northern access to the road.

Many settlements in the West were the result of travels on the Great Valley Road. One of those settlements was Charleston, West Virginia. Another was Roanoke, Virginia, (originally known as Big Lick).

Travelers on this road could go south into North Carolina or southwest into eastern Tennessee. Many early settlements in Tennessee were accessed by way of the Great Valley Road.

The Pioneer's Road

Before 1746, wagon trains from the Chesapeake area heading to central Virginia first had to go to Philadelphia, probably by boat, due to the difficulty of crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains. The first direct route overland through the mountains went from Alexandria to Winchester in western Virginia.

The Pioneer's Road, completed in 1746 and going around the foothills and through the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, became a northern access point of the Great Valley Road at the Shenandoah Valley. Because this westerly route was more direct, Alexandria, Virginia, replaced Philadelphia as the most popular port, especially for the many Scots-Irish immigrants who found their way to the area from 1746 up to the Revolutionary War.

The Upper Road

In the 1740s, it was no longer easy to gain access to adequate farming areas by traveling through water routes. It became necessary to upgrade all roads so they could handle wagon train traffic. Another route was needed to gain access to farm lands in Virginia and other areas farther south, thus the Upper Road, which began at Fredericksburg on the King's Highway, then continued across Virginia to North Carolina.

The proprietary governor of what was called the Granville District (approximately the northern third of North Carolina today), began offering land grants to Quakers, Scots-Irish and others, who arrived in great numbers. The Upper Road began as a trail and gradually improved to allow better access to lands in the area. During the Revolutionary War, the Upper Road was critical in the movement of troops in the south, particularly during the battles of Guilford Courthouse, King's Mountain, and Cowpens.

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MIDDLE BROOK MILLS AND ESTATE FOR SALE

Contributed by Neal Middlebrook (printed in the January 11, 1815, issue of the *Daily National Intelligencer*)

I will dispose of at private sale, that valuable estate called and known by the name of Middlebrook situated on either side of Big Seneca Creek, in Montgomery county, state of Maryland, and nearly equally distant between Fredricktown and Georgetown, being about 21 miles from each, the main road between those places passing through the land. It contains about 580 acres, of which a considerable portion is valuable meadowland, and the residue well to clover and plister (a kind of huckleberry –JL). Upon it a valuable merchant mill and saw mill, a stone house, tavern, millers house, and a substantial large and well-built two story brick dwelling house, in good repair, a farm house, and all convenient and requisite out buildings, with a large orchard of choice fruit. This property will bear dividing into two farms, each of which have excellent springs attached to them. There is a large and handsome garden, containing about three acres, attached to the brick building, full of choice fruit, vegetables of every kind, and a handsome collection of shrubbery, with a good spring, which will answer for a good dairy. If not sold by the 17th day of October next, it will be offered on that day at 11 o'clock, if fair (if not, the next fair day) at public sale. For terms of sale, apply to the subscriber, on the premises. Possession may be had in three weeks from the time of sale. *(signed) HIEL PLCK – (as best as I could figure it out – JL)

*This is possibly either a German or Scottish name, as both were early settlers of the area. Neal contacted Pat Andersen, Librarian for Montgomery County Historical Society of Maryland, for information as to whether the land had been owned by someone named Middlebrook/s. She said that the property is named due to its location around *middle* Seneca. It's still an interesting piece of history.