

MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Quarterly Newsletter

March / April 2014
Editor,
Jarrelyn Lang

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Founding Editor,
Dianne Middlebrooks

What to see inside –

- 2. From the President / Editor
- 3. Kudos to Bob Middlebrooks
- 3. Middlebrooks in New Zealand
- 4. Middlebrook One-Name Study
- 7. Middlebrooks Cemetery
- 10. Important Innovations
- 11. Genealogy Rules
- 13. Genealogy Tips
- 16. Heroines

From the Editor, trying to fill in for the President, but not doing it very well—

David Arnold, (Thomas 1763), son of Jim and Joyce Arnold, has a rare type of brain cancer, affecting his nervous system. He has been on steroid treatments to help shrink the mass. He started out-patient treatments in early April. He was to be dismissed from the hospital on Saturday, April 12, but he started running a fever Friday about midnight. They gave him 2 antibiotics. He had to be off the antibiotics for 24 hours before they could release him from the hospital. Then Friday, the 18th, he was to have an injection of Rituximab, which can be given as an out-patient. The injection began on Saturday, April 19, around 3:45 p.m. and finished about 8:30 p.m. It took him about two hours to do paperwork, but I got him home. He was glad to be home.

If you would like to send an e-mail to Joyce and Jim: joycenjim@sbcglobal.net.

If you would prefer to send a card:

Joyce & Jim Arnold
2904 Trinity Drive
Pearland, Texas 77584

Other prayer requests include:

Larry and Beautye Tyus (Robert 1766)

Larry has gone through radiation treatments at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston. They were in Houston about 48 days, returning home in February 2014.

Kathleen Hunter, (VA Middlebrooks) had cataract surgery on her right eye March 18, and the same surgery on the left one the following day. She is doing OK, but the light hurts her eyes.

As you may have guessed. Joyce has asked me to do a Thoughts-and-Prayers Request List in the MFA Quarterly Newsletter. There will be a Happy / Blessing List also. If you have a request for either of these, send Joyce and/or me the details:

Joyce – joycenjim@sbcglobal.net

Jarrelyn – thelangs@hotmail.com

Don't Miss This:

Ancestors Magazine has published a short article by none other than our own Bob Middlebrooks, Chairman of our DNA Project. Look for "DNA Studies in Progress" in their Winter 2014 publication, volume 15, No. 1, page 62, in the family focus section.

Bob contributed this information:

The MFA DNA Project, begun in 2007, includes participants from New Zealand and England. The MFA posts results to the World Family Net website. Contact Robert Middlebrooks:

mid293@earthlink.net. **Way to go, Bob!**

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MIDDLEBROOKS IN NEW ZEALAND

sent from laurenbaven@gmail.com

Hello

I just thought I would send a greeting from the New Zealand Middlebrooks. We are holding a family reunion of Middlebrooks in January 2015 and thought we should pass on any info we had pertaining to the family, as there may well be relatives in the USA.

The family who emigrated to New Zealand were John and Ellen (nee Farrer) Middlebrooks from Milbridge Morley, Yorkshire. They arrived in 1862 aboard the *Shalimar* with their 7 children. Six children survived, and we have contact now with descendants of six of those 6, and info and photographs of six of the original 7. (The youngest, Henry Cockroft, died as a teenager.)

John Middlebrook was the son of Samuel Middlebrook of Morley (1784-1846), publican of the Black Bull Inn, who was the son of Thomas Middlebrook – Butcher (1745-1810)

We welcome input from anyone related to the Middlebrook or Farrer families. We have a blog based on our reunion:

<http://middlebrooksreunion.blogspot.com>

and a regular newsletter that can be signed up on the blog.

Middlebrook One-Name Study

By Ian Middlebrook

Topics

[About the Middlebrook One-Name Study](#)

[Variants](#)

[Origin of the surname](#)

[Historical occurrences](#)

[Frequency of the name](#)

[Distribution of the name](#)

[Data](#)

[DNA project](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact details](#)

[About the Middlebrook One-Name Study](#)

I began studying the family history in 1995, inspired by some detailed notes and family trees that my grandfather had produced, and started gathering a fair amount of data when trying to overcome brick-walls.

My interest really started to expand beyond my immediate family when I developed links with the US-based Middlebrook(s) Family Association. After helping to trace one of their early migrant ancestors back to West Yorkshire (1613), I took a DNA test and discovered that we must have a common Middlebrook ancestor.

I am now interested in pulling together information from Middlebrook families across the UK and the rest of the world, in hope of establishing how many of us are linked to a single original ancestor. I began to formalize this research by registering my One-Name Study in 2014.

Variants

The main variants in the UK are MIDDLEBROUGH and MIDDLEBROOKE, whilst MIDDLEBOROUGH is just hanging on. MIDDLEBROOKS has become abundant as a variant in the USA.

Origin of the surname

The Middlebrook surname is assumed to be locative. It could be derived from one or more places in England – yet to be identified. It is also possible that the name is derived from Middelburg in the Netherlands, after merchants from that city settled at York in the late 14th century.

Historical occurrences

The most noted Middlebrook was **Sir William Middlebrook, Baronet**, who served as a Member of Parliament for south Leeds from 1908 to 1922. (Editor's note: see pp. 11 & 12 in the December 2013 issue of the MFA Quarterly Newsletter for more information on Sir William.)

On the literary side, we have military historian **Martin Middlebrook** and American biographer Diane Middlebrook.

There has been success on the sporting field, where cricketer **James Middlebrook** has represented the MCC, and **William Scott Middlebrooks** plays Major League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

In England and Wales, based on data from 2002, there were 826 individuals (720 Middlebrook, 70 Middlebrough & 26 Middlebrooke). This is only about 1 in every 66,000 people.

The name is more frequent in the USA, where, based on census data from 2000, there were 6,888 individuals (4,257 Middlebrooks and 2,631 Middlebrook). This is about 1 in every 39,000 people.

Distribution of the name

The historic centres for this name in 16th century England were in West Yorkshire (esp. Craven district), South Yorkshire (esp. Thorne), and south Lincolnshire (esp. Harmston). Subsequent expansion has mainly been towards the industrial areas of Lancashire and the Wet Midlands.

In the USA, the name is mostly concentrated around the south-eastern states – particularly Georgia, Texas, & Alabama. The Middlebrooks variant is especially strong in Georgia, where over 50% of individuals from the 1940 census were found.

DNA project

A DNA project is being managed by the US based Middlebrook(s) Family Association. See the information on their website:

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

Most of the participants have been from the USA, but they are looking to expand the scope of the project worldwide.

Links

- Middlebrooks Family Association – a USA based society
- Middlebrook Surname Project UK – a collection of UK data
- Middlebrook Genealogy – some useful information and documents from a family that emigrated to Canada from Gildersome, Yorkshire

Contact details

For further information, contact:

Mr. Ian Middlebrook
25 Mandeville Close,
Weymouth. Dorset,
DT4 9HP
UNITED KINGDOM

E-mail: Middlebrook@one-name.org

The Middlebrooks Cemetery: “A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

(This article was first published in the September 2010 issue.)

My name is Deborah (Debbie) Autry. I am the daughter of Peggy Middlebrooks Autry.

My mother was born in Newton County and grew up in Macon, Ga. She spent her childhood summers, holidays, and every chance she could with her Grannie and Grandpa Middlebrooks. (Katie Thomas Middlebrooks and James Albert Middlebrooks).

I remember as a young child visiting Grannie and Grandpa, playing in their barn, taking a bath in a wash tub in the kitchen, pumping water from a pump on the back porch and going potty in the outhouse!

I knew from stories that my Middlebrooks ancestors used to have a lot of land. I learned in my research that they also owned slaves at one time. Once my great grandfather showed my Daddy the old family cemetery. It was about 1 mile west of their farmhouse and all grown over. The first time I saw the cemetery, I was a teenager. It was so grown up you could hardly make out the tombstones. It troubled me that my ancestors' remains were covered by so many weeds and neglected. I decided that someday I would do something about the condition of the cemetery.

My dad is a member of the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I knew from his experience that some SCV groups clean off cemeteries, so I contacted Joseph Wheeler Camp located in Conyers. I wrote them a letter asking if they would be interested in clearing off my ancestors' cemetery and perhaps having a memorial service for the Confederate veterans buried there. (Zere P. Middlebrooks and James Christian). I had no idea what would be involved and how enthusiastic these SCV guys would take to the task!

The Joseph Wheeler SCV Camp have adopted my ancestors as if they were their own. (As a matter of fact, one of the members did find a connection to my Revolutionary ancestor, John Middlebrooks!) They have gone above and beyond anything which I envisioned when I first contacted them. After clearing off the cemetery, clearing brush, cutting down trees, etc., they realized there were many more graves in the cemetery than first thought. So they decided to hire Omega Mapping to map out the cemetery and locate graves. What they found was amazing. Over 100 graves, most marked only with river rock and stones. During the mapping process, an elderly black man stopped to see what was going on. He said his grandparents were buried in my family cemetery. His name was Mr. Black and his grandparents had been born into slavery and spent their lives living and working on the Middlebrooks farm. So now we know the names of two unknowns!

Recently, the SCV guys made markers for the unknown graves. In the process of placing the markers, they discovered even more graves!

I continue to be amazed and speechless every time I drive to Newton County to visit the ancestors! I feel a presence when I am walking around in the cemetery. I don't know any of them personally. The last known burial was my great grandfather, Penn Middlebrooks, in 1936. Even though some of these departed souls are just images in old tin-type photos and some are unknown, whenever I am in the cemetery, I feel as if I am surrounded by my "great cloud of witnesses." As one of my cousins said last summer upon seeing the cemetery for the first time, "I feel as if I have come home."

If you are ever in Georgia, let me know. I will be happy to introduce you to my "great cloud of witnesses."

Debbie Autry debannautry@yahoo.com.

Calhoun, Georgia

Here is the website for the SCV camp with information on their devotion to cemetery restoration.

<http://campjoewheeler.org.Graves.html>

This is more detailed information about the cemetery from the SCV website, including lots of pictures.

<http://campjoewheeler.org/Graves/MiddlebrooksCemetery.html>

MIDDLEBROOKS CEMETERY CLEANUP

By 2nd Lt. Cmdr. J.H. Underwood & Submitted by Debbie Autry

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

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, seven members of this camp began cleaning up Middlebrooks Cemetery, clearing away briars, vines, and debris. By the end of the

day, about three-fourths of the cemetery had been cleared. This was only a start. The remaining fourth of the cemetery has yet to be cleared, and there are many stones that have been broken or turned over.

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

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

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

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

To the best of our knowledge, Sergeant Zere Pendergrass Middlebrooks was the first Middlebrooks to be buried in the Middlebrooks Cemetery. His father, Zere Middlebrooks Sr., is also buried in this cemetery. Zere Sr. was born on July 4, 1782, just six years to the day after the signing of Declaration of Independence, and died on April 14, 1869, outliving his son by seven years. The 1860 census of

Newton County, Georgia, shows Zere at age 77 as a farmer living in the Oak Hill district, having real estate valued at \$7,100, and his personal property valued at \$31,000, making him a very prominent citizen of Newton County.

Another Confederate soldier that is buried in the Middlebrooks Cemetery is James E. Christian, member of Company G, 2nd Georgia State Troops, C.S.A., who was the brother-in-law of Zere Middlebrooks, having married Zere's older sister, Mary Ann, on November 26, 1846. James did not survive the war, but no details of his death have been found. Marie then married Milton Waldrop on February 25, 1869. She is buried in the Middlebrooks Cemetery with her second husband.

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

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ELEVEN INNOVATIONS THAT CHANGED HISTORY

From history.com:

- The Printing Press
- The Compass
- Paper Currency
- Steel
- Electric Lights
- Domestication of the Horse
- Transistors
- Magnifying Lenses
- The Telegraph
- Antibiotics
- The Steam Engine

Genealogy Rules

By William Dollarhide, founder of “Genealogy Bulletin” & author of *American Migration Routes*

1. Death certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died.
2. When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no makeup, and look like you have but a week to live – the funeral director will give you anything you ask for if he thinks you may be a customer soon.
3. The cemetery where your ancestor was buried does not have perpetual care, has no office, is accessible only by a muddy road and has snakes, tall grass, and lots of bugs . . . and many of the old gravestones are in broken pieces, stacked in a corner under a pile of dirt.
4. A Social Security form SS-5 is better than a birth certificate because few people had anything to do with the information on their own birth certificates.
5. Leave no stone unturned – tombstone, that is.
6. The application for a death certificate you want insists that you provide the maiden name of the deceased’s mother – which is exactly what you don’t know and is the reason you are trying to get the death certificate in the first place.
7. If you will call Social Security and ask where to write for a birth certificate, tell them it is for yourself – they won’t help you if you say you want one for your great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather who died in 1642.
8. When you contact the state vital statistics office in your home state and ask if they are “on-line,” and they respond “on-what?” you may have a problem.
9. A census record showing all twelve children in a family proves only that your ancestors didn’t believe in birth control.
10. Work from the known to the unknown. In other words, just because your name is Washington doesn’t mean you are related to George.
11. With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write and may have left something written about themselves.
12. It ain’t history until it’s written down.
13. A genealogist needs to be a detective. *Just gimme da facts, Ma’am.*
14. Always interview brothers together in the same room since they can’t agree on anything about the family tree. It makes for great fun to see who throws the first punch.
15. The genealogy book you just found went out of print last week.

16. A good genealogical event is learning that your parents were really married.
17. Finding the place a person lived may lead to finding that person's arrest record.
18. It's really quite simple. First, you start with yourself, then your parents, then your grandparents . . . then you QUIT . . . and start teaching courses in genealogy.
19. If it's not written down, it ain't history yet.
20. In spite of MTV, computer games, or skateboards, there is always a chance your grandchildren will learn how to read some day.
21. "To understand the living, you have to commune with the dead . . . but don't commune with the dead so long that you forget you are living!" (from *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, by John Berendt)
22. It is a known fact that St. Peter checks all your family group sheets for accuracy before you are allowed to enter the Pearly Gates.
23. Locating the county where your ancestor lived is the first step in finding records about the time he was hauled into court for shooting his neighbor's dog, threatening the census-taker with a shotgun, or making illegal corn whiskey behind the barn.
24. When leaving town for genealogical research, you will always find information on the ancestor for whom you brought no notes.
25. When in a courthouse miles from home, you will always find the breakthrough court record at 4:55 p.m. on Friday afternoon.
26. Genealogy is the examination of the maximum amount of data in the maximum amount of time for a minimum result.
27. If you can remember your ancestor's marriage date, but not your own, you are probably an addicted genealogist.
28. Genealogy is an addiction with no cure and for which no 12-step program is available.
29. I'm crazy about genealogy, but not necessarily yours.

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The family tree is worth bragging about if it has
consistently produced good timber, and not just nuts.

Anonymous

A Collection of Free Genealogy Tips of the Day -

Contributed by Jarrelyn Lang

I'm not sure how long these have been appearing in my e-mail, but most of them have one of those "Why didn't I think of that?" ideas.

These are sent from michael.john.neill@gmail.com. You will be offered to become a member, with a fee, but that is up to you.

No Dead Grass Involved in a Grass Widow

A reference to a woman as a "grass widow" has nothing to do with grass, and, actually, usually nothing to do with being a widow, either. While the definition can vary regionally, a grass widow can be a woman whose husband is absent for long periods of time, a woman who is completely separated from her husband, or a woman who was never married to a now-absent boyfriend or father of her child. It does not mean that her husband is dead, and it does not mean that she was married to a now-deceased man whose last name was Grass.

Ads as a Memory-Jogger

One way to get that relative thinking about old times is to get a local newspaper, yearbook, or other item from his or her childhood, young adulthood, etc., and ask about advertisers and merchants you see listed. It can be a better way to trigger a different set of memories than with typical questions. Sometimes all it takes is a specific name to trigger a bunch of memories.

Estates of those Uncles and Aunts who left no Descendants

If you have an aunt or uncle who left no descendants but had an estate that required probate, the record of how that estate was settled may provide names of extended family, including residences. It may contain the clues you need to find those missing family members who somehow appear when money is involved.

Penciling It In?: When you're having serious difficulty analyzing a document or a record, print out a spare copy and mark it up in pencil – things that you don't understand, terms you might be misinterpreting, phrases that suggest additional records, etc.

Search for the Commanding Officer: If you are searching for newspapers to learn more about your ancestor's military unit, try searching for the name of his commanding officer. There may be references to the unit under the officer's name. If your ancestor was a private, they generally don't merit mention, and searching based on unit numbers and letters can be problematic.

Documenting Those With No Descendants: In your efforts to document your ancestors as best you can, have you made an effort to learn as much as possible

about your ancestors' siblings? Because they left no descendants, sometimes childless children of our ancestors get neglected. Don't make that mistake. Ignoring them means you lose potential clues on all your relatives and documenting these individuals helps to ensure that they are not forgotten.

More Than Pensions for War of 1812 and Revolutionary War Vets: If your Revolutionary War or War of 1812 ancestor received a pension, there is still may be a separate application for bounty land based upon his service. That separate application may contain details not in his pension application. There may be even more details if his widow applied for the bounty land, particularly marriage information.

Waiting for the Snow to Melt?: Some genealogical discoveries aren't being made because something is in the way. Sometimes it is an assumption it is an assumption that is incorrect and you've not even realized it. Sometimes it may be that where you are seeing one person, there are actually two. Sometimes it is because you're looking at too much information and need to pare it down.

How Many Children and Grandchildren?: Do you know how many grandchildren and great-grandchildren your great-grandparents have? Do you know what happened to each one or them? Is there any chance that they have information or materials that could help you with your family history search."

Ignoring Those Other Names? Research in the U.S. before 1850 presents special challenges – particularly in those areas that were a part of the frontier. If your "brick wall" ancestor appears on a list of early settlers, consider searching for the origins of his early neighbors. It may be that they were neighbors. It may be that they were neighbors before they settled in that new area as well.

Nicknames and Diminutives: It may be a technicality, but diminutives are usually names for a person based on his or her real name – Mike, Mick, etc., for Michael – Beth, Liz, or Betts etc., for Elizabeth. Nicknames usually aren't based upon the person's actual name and may be based on a physical characteristic, an embarrassing event, or something totally random, *i.e.* Red, Bud, Half-Pint, etc.

Don't Wait – You May Lose It: Computers crash, Search Windows get closed, accidents happen. The moment you find something, particularly in an online search, save it, print it, or otherwise preserve it. You may not find it again with lots of looking.

Do You Know Your Local Librarian?: Do you know who the Reference Librarian is at your local library? He/she may be able to assist you in finding out-of-print books, periodicals, etc., and other materials. He/she may also be able to tell you if there are genealogical, historical, or academic items that are a part of their

subscription database. Reference Librarians at some are able to chat online and answer reference questions as well. It may be worth a shot in trying to find that out-of-print item.

Estates of Those Uncles and Aunts With no Descendants?: If you have an aunt or uncle who left no descendants but had an estate that required probate, the records of how that estate was settled may provide names of extended family, including residences. It may contain the clues you need to find those missing family members who somehow appear when money is involved.

Are You Using a Transcription?: If you are using a transcribed copy of a document, it is possible that the transcription contains errors and omissions. All it takes is one little thing “off” to indicate a “brick wall.”

Where Did Grandma Get Her Information?: Grandma “knew” where and when she was born because she was told by someone, not because she remembered. That’s something you should remember every time you see a place of birth for someone that was provided by someone who was not there at the birth. It could even be worse if the person providing the information on Grandma’s place of birth wasn’t even born until Grandma was near middle-age.

Estate Inventories as Clues: Inventories of your ancestor’s estate can not only give you an idea of his or her worth at the time of death, but they can (among other things) tell you who his or her associates were (look at who owed your ancestor money or to whom that ancestor owed money) and what his probable occupation was.

Were Those Adopted Children Related?: Don’t always assume that “adopted” were unrelated to the family. There could have been some relationship between the adopted child and the parents. The child could have been the grandchild of the couple or a child of a sibling or other family member. There is also nothing saying that the adopted child was related, either. It’s just something to think about.

Guardian for Child Does Not Mean Parents Are Dead: Your relative leaves his grandchildren \$200 each in his 1824 will, naming an apparent neighbor as their guardian, pending approval of the court. You cannot assume that the parents of the grandchildren are deceased. It could very well be that the grandfather did not trust the father of the children to “do right” in regard to the children’s inheritance, and naming the guardian served as an “end run” around the son-in-law.

Heroines of World War II: The Unsung Female Heroes That Helped Defeat the Nazis By Ronald Russell (Contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke)

These are just a sampling of so many women and their part in the Second World War:

Irena Sendler; social worker, helped save 2,500 Jewish children and 500 adults from Nazi death camps.

After the German invasion of Poland in 1939 that started World War II, Jews were herded into a ghetto with a wall built around it. Disease ran rampant. Irena Sendler falsified documents in order to pose as a nurse so she could get into the ghetto to bring food and supplies. In 1942, she joined a Polish underground organization, and eventually recruited 25 members to help her rescue Jewish children.

Sendler posed as a sewer/plumbing specialist for the Ghetto. Using her truck and tool bags, she smuggled children out of the Ghetto in boxes, suitcases, sacks, and even coffins. She always brought her dog on the truck as she had trained him to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the Ghetto so they wouldn't search her truck.

She and her helpers created over 3,000 false documents to help them escape. Co-conspirators on the outside placed the children into safe houses, Catholic convents, orphanages, etc., then gave them non-Jewish names.

Sendler wrote down all the names of the children and hid them in a jar buried in a garden, in hopes of reuniting the children with their parents at the end of the war. Sadly, most of the parents had been killed in the holocaust.

Eventually, Sendler was captured and tortured by the Nazis. Her feet and legs were broken, but she would not reveal her co-conspirators or hand over the names of the children. A guard finally accepted a bribe to sneak her out of the prison.

Sendler successfully smuggled out 2,500 Jewish children and 500 adults during the war.

"Every child saved with my help is the justification of my existence on this Earth, and not a title to glory," she said.

After the war and the Soviet takeover of Poland, Irena Sendler was persecuted by the communist Polish state authorities for her relations with the Polish government in exile and with the Home Army.

Virginia Roush; helped downed Allied pilots escape from France.

When the Nazi blitzkrieg rolled through France in 1940, no doubt authorities were worried about an American-born housewife living in Paris. While on holiday in 1937, St. Petersburg, Florida-born Virginia Roush met and eventually married a Frenchman, Philippe d'Albert Lake. It was a joyous marriage until the Germans ruined their idyllic life.

Then, in 1943, the local baker revealed two downed American pilots in his shop to them. The baker was trying to arrange for their escape out of France to Spain, then back to England. He asked Philippe and Virginia to help.

Philippe had urged Virginia many times to return to the safety of her family in America, but she always refused.

Meeting the young pilots, however, involvement in the war and all its dangers was staring them in the face. They knew they needed to help, in spite of the risks. They joined the Comet Line, a section of the French resistance that smuggled pilots out of France.

The Comet line was on the Nazi radar and men caught helping pilots were shot on the spot, and women were sent to concentration camps in Germany. Virginia was assigned a very important job, interviewing new pilots. The Nazis sent German soldiers that had gone to school in the United States, Canada, or Britain to pose as Allied pilots. It was up to Virginia, as an American, to quiz every pilot that was brought in, to determine whether any of them was a German spy. When a spy was uncovered, she returned him over to other Resistance fighters for execution; so she had to be accurate and ruthless.

In June of 1944, just before D-Day, orders arrived that every Allied pilot in Paris should immediately be evacuated to the halfway camp in the south of France.

Virginia and Philippe began their journey with a group of airmen on a train, but the tracks had been bombed out. They traveled on foot and then oxcart. Virginia rode ahead on a bicycle to scout for Germans. A Gestapo car managed to stop Virginia and found her list of friendly Resistance fighters along the route. Virginia had broken a cardinal rule: to memorize the list and destroy it. Miraculously, the driver of the German police car handed the list back to her. Virginia had swallowed the list by the time she arrived at German headquarters for questioning.

Her interrogator assured her that she would be shot the next morning. Meanwhile, back on the road, Philippe and the airmen, who had seen the car stop Virginia's bicycle, decided to flee on foot. Not long afterward, they arrived at the halfway camp, but there was no word about Virginia. They knew that if she had given away the secrets of the Comet line, they would all be captured or killed.

The Germans never arrived. The Gestapo sent Virginia to a series of concentration camps, including the infamous Ravensbrück. When the camp was liberated in May 1945, Virginia weighed only 76 pounds.

After the war, over the years, many of the airmen Virginia had rescued came to visit. Virginia died in 1997, and Philippe three years later.

In her autobiography, *Diary and Memoir of Virginia d'Albert-Lake*, when her editor asked, "How did you survive in the concentration camps?" she told her it was a matter of will. "You could never give in. The women who died at night were usually dead in the morning." Virginia was awarded France's highest honor, the Légion d'Honneur, also the Croix de Guerre and the Maltese Cross.

Eileen Nearne: parachuted into France and worked as a radio operator and courier. Eileen was parachuted into France in 1944, just days before her 23rd birthday. She worked undercover for the Special Operations Executive (OE) operator and courier in Paris.

It was a lonely life, but she relished her role: "When I put my hand on the signal keys, there came a feeling of patriotism," she said. Describing how she lived undercover, she said, "I wasn't nervous. In my mind I was never going to be arrested. But of course I was careful. There were Gestapo in plain clothes everywhere. I always looked at my reflection in the shop windows to see if I was being followed."

On July 25, 1944, the Gestapo arrived at her hideout, just after she had transmitted a message, and arrested her. She was taken to the local Gestapo headquarters, where she told them she was a local Frenchwoman named Jacqueline Duterte. She told them she was working for a businessman and that she did not understand the messages she sent. Elaine's report reveals: "He said 'Liar, Spy' and hit me on the face. He said 'We have ways of making people who don't want to talk, talk. Come with us'."

Nancy Wake: organized French Resistance and planned sabotage operations against the Germans. In 1933, as a reporter for Hearst, Nancy Wake was on assignment in Vienna. She witnessed the early persecution of Jews and other minorities.

"The stormtroopers had tied the Jewish people to massive wheels," Wake later recounted. "The were rolling the wheels along, and the stormtroopers were whipping the Jews. I stood there and thought 'I don't know what I'll do about it, but if I can do anything one day, I'll do it.', and I always had that picture in my mind, all through the war."

In 1939, Nancy married a handsome wealthy French industrialist, Henri Fiocca, in Marseilles. Six months later, Germany invaded France. In 1940, she joined the French Resistance movement as a courier, smuggling messages and food to underground groups in southern France. She bought an ambulance and used it to help refugees fleeing the German advance. Being the beautiful wife of a wealthy businessman, she had an ability to travel that few others could. She obtained false papers that allowed her to stay and work in the Vichy zone in occupied France and became deeply involved in helping a thousand or more escaped prisoners of war and downed Allied soldiers out of France and through to Spain.

Early on, the Gestapo suspected her and began tapping her phone and opening her mail. She took many identities to evade them. By 1943, she was #1 on the Gestapo wanted list, with a five-million-franc price on her head.

Her husband told her she had to leave. She told reporters later that she remembered going out the door saying she would do some shopping and be back soon, but she never saw him again.

Nancy made six attempts to get out of France by crossing the Pyrenees into Spain. The French Milice (Vichy militia) captured her in one attempt and interrogated her for four days. She held out, refusing to give them any information. With the help of the legendary “Scarlet Pimpernel of World War II,” Patrick O’Leary, she was able to trick her captors into releasing her.

She finally made her way out of France and entered Britain. At a British Ministry of Defence camp, she received training in survival skills, silent killing, codes and radio operation, night parachuting, plastic explosives, Sten guns, rifles, pistols, and grenades.

In late April 1944, Wake and another SOE (Special Operations Executive), Major John Farmer, were parachuted into central France with orders to locate and organize the bands of Maquis (guerrillas of the French Resistance), establish ammunition and arms caches from the nightly parachute drops, and arrange wireless communication with England. Their mission was to organize and train the Resistance in preparation for the D-Day invasion, but the French guerrilla fighters wanted nothing to do with a “weak” woman. Wake quickly earned their respect by showing them that she could drink any one of them under the table and was superior to any man in battle.

There were 22,000 German troops in the area and initially three or four thousand Maquis.

Wake’s most heroic mission involved cycling 500 kilometers through German checkpoints to replace her wireless radio and code book that her operator had

been forced to destroy in a German raid, shortly before D-Day. Without the codes, they could not receive orders for the Allied invasion nor receive British airdrops of weapons and supplies. She covered the distance in 71 hours, cycling through countryside and mountains almost nonstop.

With Wake's resistance group, no sector gave the Germans more misery. The SS laid out a plan to obliterate the group. Heavily armed German troops were assembled near the Resistance's mountain stronghold. In June 1944, 22,000 seasoned SS troops attacked 7,000 Maquis. 1,400 German troops were killed, and only 100 of Wake's men were lost.

Later, she personally led a raid on Gestapo headquarters in Montucon and killed a sentry with her bare hands during a raid on a German gun factory.

After D-Day, Allied troops began to force the German army out of France, and on August 25, 1944, Paris was liberated. Wake led her troops into Vichy to celebrate; however, there she learned that her beloved husband, Henri, was dead. A year after she had left France, the Germans had captured him, tortured him, and executed him, because he refused to give them any information about the whereabouts of his wife.

After the war, Wake continued to work for the SOE and retired in 1960. Her World War II comrade, Henri Tardivat, described his guerrilla chieftan as "The most feminine woman I know, until the fighting starts. Then she is like five men."

When asked about facing fear during the war, she replied, "Hah! I've never been scared in my life."

Virginia Hall, the most dangerous of all Allied spies, had a knack for picking up languages. She studied languages at Radcliffe and Barnard College, finishing her studies in Paris and Vienna.

She went to work as a clerk at the U.S. Embassy in Turkey, hoping to eventually become a diplomat. However, in 1933, she lost her foot in a hunting accident. Regulations dictated that as an amputee she could no longer work in her lifetime dream career of foreign service. Eventually, she ended up as an ambulance driver for the French Army in 1940, during the Nazi invasion. She managed to escape to England during the invasion.

With the newly-formed British OSE intelligence agency finding it difficult to recruit intelligence officers, Hall volunteered and became a spy. After she completed her training, she entered Vichy France as an American reporter.

For the next year, using various aliases, she worked to organize the French resistance, helped downed fliers to escape, carried out acts of sabotage and

guerilla warfare, provided courier service for other agents, and obtained supplies for the clandestine presses and the forgers – all while managing to write articles for the *New York Post* and avoid the Gestapo that had penetrated many of the resistance networks.

In 1942, the Gestapo circulated posters offering a reward for the capture of “the woman with a limp. She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies and we must find and destroy her.” In late 1942, she was forced to flee France when the Germans overtook Vichy France and the Gestapo nearly captured her. Her only escape, with her one leg and prosthesis, was to walk through the snow-covered Pyrenees Mountains to Spain.

The newly-formed American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) recruited Hall. According to legend, Hall parachuted back into France with her prosthesis in her knapsack.

In early 1944, she worked in disguise as an old woman farmhand. Her mission included training French Resistance battalions, organizing sabotage operations, supplying intelligence on the German Army, radio operator and courier, locating drop zones for the RAF, and eventually working with a Jedburgh team (named for a town in Scotland) to sabotage German military movements in coordination with the D-Day invasion. Again, Hall avoided capture, despite the German Gestapo naming her the most dangerous spy and hanging posters offering a reward for the “Limping Lady” dead or alive.

After the war, she transitioned from the OSS to the newly-created CIA and continued to serve in the “clandestine services” until mandatory retirement in 1966.

After the war, Hall’s achievements were to be publically recognized with the presentation of the Distinguished Cross by President Harry Truman. She declined the honor, however, preferring to receive the award without publicity, and thus preserve her cover for clandestine work in the postwar era.

Hall’s role in the intelligence community cannot be underestimated. She helped to build America’s modern intelligence network. Prior to her involvement, women were primarily delegated to secretarial duties.

Claire Phillips, a dancer and Manila dance club owner who got secrets out of her Japanese officer clients, revealed information on Japanese troops, and gave supplies to American prisoners. In 1941, Claire Phillips moved to Manila with her baby daughter, planning to join a song-and-dance revue. She fell in love and married a young American soldier, her second marriage.

Claire fled Manila when the Japanese attacked the Philippines, and she tried to stay near her husband's outfit. He was captured by the Japanese and later killed.

To evade the Japanese and avoid being sent to a prison camp, she assumed a new, Italian, identity – Dorothy Fuentes. "Dorothy" took a dancing job in a nightclub and planned to open her own club.

Her plan was to relax Japanese officers in Manila and manipulate them to reveal troop movements. Her Club Tsubaki became the hottest club in the Philippines. The sexy fan dances and glittery floor shows accomplished their purpose. Claire began supplying the local guerrilla units with intelligence reports and, eventually, the U.S. Navy also. She became known as "High Pockets," a reference to stashing money and valuables in her lingerie.

Using the considerable income from her club, she started secretly supplying necessities to the prisoners at Cabanatuan, including quinine, drugs, fruit, and even food and letters. Her efforts saved lives and raised spirits.

After 18 months of spying, she was arrested by the Japanese. Despite being tortured, Phillips refused to talk. She was held in solitary confinement for six months.

When American forces liberated the prison where she was held, Claire and her daughter returned home to Portland, Oregon, and she published *Manila Espionage*, a book about her experiences.

These amazing women risked their lives because they could not ignore their own humanity.