

MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Quarterly Newsletter

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Editor,
Jarrelyn Lang

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Founding Editor,
Dianne Middlebrooks

What to expect inside –

2. President's Message

5. Ancestry of Families in the UK in 1901, Part II

10. *The Old Farmer's Almanac*

13. Opportunities

15. Jarrell Reunion & Ellis Island

16. Early Middlebrook Settlements

20. Martin Middlebrook

From the President:

**The Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting-Reunion**

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 30, 31, NOV 1, 2014

We would like to invite our Middlebrook/s cousins, including any other families connected to our kin, to join us for this year's reunion in Columbus, Georgia. If you are interested in family history and meeting and socializing with other relatives, you will have a great time.

The events and activities will focus on exploring ***"Isaac from Kent County, Maryland, to Harris County, Georgia."*** This is the first time for the MFA to feature this Middlebrooks line. Meet your extended family, learn more about our ancestors, share family histories, stories, and, of course, those old photographs and documents.

Columbus is affectionately known as "The biggest small town in Georgia," due to the Ft. Benning folks being part of our town. It is the largest infantry training center in the world now, with the Army's Artillery Center from Fort Knox added in. Columbus is the corporate headquarters of many of the United States' leading companies, such as Aflac Insurance, Carmike Cinemas, Char-Broil, TSYS, and Lance Snack Foods. Columbus is the County Seat of Muscogee County, and the Chattahoochee River separates Columbus and its neighbor, Phenix City, Alabama.

Join us for any one day or all three days. Some of the meeting highlights to expect:

Thursday, October 30th

- Columbus Public Library – MFA meeting, Research, and National Infantry Museum
- Updates on the Middlebrooks Family *Register*, Cemetery Project, & MFA website
- DNA project details and update **BOB Middlebrooks**
- Catered lunch at the library – sandwiches, salad, drinks, and dessert
- England – Leonard Middlebrooks or Neal Middlebrook
- Tour – Fort Benning Infantry Museum
- Walk the river bridge, talk Civil War/Creek Indian/Chattahoochee River Mills, and see the rapids.

- Group dinner, Country's Bus Station Restaurant
- **Friday, October 31st:**
 - **Lummas Chapel (9:00 a.m. – 12:00) and Linwood Cemetery**
 - **A visit to cousin Hiram Middlebrooks (1800 – 1888)**
 - Welcome from our hosts Charles & Jo Middlebrooks
 - Jane Brady, Historic Linwood Cemetery
 - Hiram's story – Leonard Middlebrooks
 - Jo Middlebrooks will read *Little Giffin* by Dr. Oray Tickner and Hiram Middlebrooks's obituary and comments in the *Enquirer Sun*. A visit to Hiram's gravesite.
 - SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE GHOST TOUR
- Dinner, Ezell's Catfish Cabin – Private Dining Room

Saturday, November 1st Pine Mountain and Isaac Family cemeteries

- Drive to Bethany Church near Pine Mountain;
- Isaacs and on to Harris County – Leonard Middlebrooks and Jean Shroyer
- Isaac of Harris County, Jo Brooks McGlamery, and Melinda Brooks
- Lunch: Catered in (picked up) from Moore's Whistlin' Pig
- An opportunity to share your own family history and stories. Group Pictures
- MFA meeting, officer elections, and voting on location for MFA 2016 meeting.
- Visit Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery, Nelson Cemetery, and Middlebrooks/Davis Cemetery
- Make drive home on HWY 27 – Stop at Pine Mountain Overlook and Callaway Country Store
- Family Social and Dinner – Henry's Taste of Louisiana

The hotel is **Fairfield Inn and Suites**, 4510 East Armour Road, Columbus, GA 31904. Name of Organization Group: **Middlebrooks Family Association**. Call 706-317-3600 for room reservations.

The room rates: 2 double beds, \$89.00; an Executive King room, \$99.00 per night. If you have questions about the meeting, feel free to e-mail Charles Middlebrooks:

cmiddleb@bellsouth.net, and please make your hotel reservations as early as possible.

Sincerely,

Joyce Arnold, President

Kathleen Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer

Leonard Middlebrooks, Vice President

Charles and Jo Middlebrooks, Hosts

NOTE: Each person is to pay for their own meals, whether catered in or ordered at a restaurant.

Check our websites: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~midregerrata/>
and <http://middlebrooksfamily.org/>

Be thinking of a location for the 2016 MFA meeting.

Words to the Wise:

If it is not seemly, do it not; if it is not true, speak it not. – Marcus Aurelius,
Roman Emperor

To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone. – Reba McIntire

Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart. –
Winnie-the-Pooh

Ancestry of Middlebrook Families in the UK in 1901,

Part II

By Ian Middlebrook

6. Thorne parish, South Yorkshire

There has been a Middlebrook family at Thorne since the earliest parish registers in the 1560s. The will of John MIDDLEBROKE of Thorne was proved in 1599, and a family persisted in the parish well into the 19th century. A family also appeared in the neighbouring parish of Whitgift at the end of the 17th century, and I have assumed this to be an offshoot of the family at Thorne. Two of the families I've attributed to Whitgift were actually born elsewhere but then moved to the Whitgift parish. I have assumed that they were returning to the area due to family connections rather than it being a coincidence.

6.A Richard MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1741 at Thorne, son of Thomas.

Richard's father was described as a 'gentleman' when his will was proved in 1780. He, in turn, was the son of William Senr., whose will was proved in 1726.

6.A.i William MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1795 at Thorne, son of Richard.

William was a grandson of Richard 1741, via Richard (1769, Thorne). His numerous descendants were living at **Sheffield** and **Brightside Bierlow** in 1901.

6.B. John MIDLBROOK, baptised 1703 at Whitgift, son of Samuel.

6.B.i James MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1805 at Whitgift, son of James.

James was a great-grandson of John 1703 via Richard (1734, Whitgift) and James (1767, Whitgift). This line may have died out. Only his 56-year-old son John James remained in 1901.

6.B.ii Richard MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1801, son of John.

I believe that Richard was a great-grandson of John 1703 via Richard (1734, Whitgift) and John (1770, Whitgift). Richard 'returned' to have a family at Swinefleet in Whitgift parish. His descendants were living at **Hull**, **Goole**, and **Swinefleet** in 1901.

6.B.iii James MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1804 at Rothwell, son of John.

James was the older brother of Richard (above) and therefore, I believe, a great-grandson of John 1703. He farmed at Brighton, and his descendants were spread around in 1901, living at **East Stamford Bridge**, **Riley**, **North Cave**, and **Ryther**.

6.C Richard MIDDLEBROKE, baptised 1804 at Whitgift, son of Samuel.

Richard was brother of John 1703 (see 6.B above).

6.C.i James MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1820 at Bermondsey (London), son of George.

I believe that James could have been a 2x-great-grandson of Richard 1707 via Samuel (1732, Whitgift), George (1758, Whitgift), and George (1791, Whitgift.) Although he was born in London, he farmed at Reedness in Whitgift parish. His descendants were living at **Reedness** and **Sculcoates** in 1901.

6.C.ii Frederick Purvis MIDDLEBROOK, born 1857 at Reedness, son of Catherine.

As far as I can tell, Frederick was from the family of James (above), in as far as his mother Catherine was James's widow. However, since I believe that James died in 1852, then he could not have been the father. He was living with his family in **Battersea** (London) in 1901.

7. Great Hale parish, Lincolnshire

The Middlebrook name has a long history in the south of Lincolnshire, particularly the area between Grantham and Lincoln. Middlebrook families are found in many of the earliest parish registers here, going back to the mid 1500s, with Harmston standing out as the village where they were most abundant. The earliest Lincolnshire will dates back to John MIDDLEBROKE of Harmeston in 1545. Despite this long history, I believe that all of the MIDDLEBROKE families remaining in this area can probably be traced back to just one man. However, his descendants dispersed very widely.

7.A. William MIDDLEBROOK, married 1762 at Great Hale.

I've not yet established which part of Lincolnshire William originated from. He was probably the same man who had three earlier children in the same parish. Two of his sons went on to have 24 grandchildren between them.

7.A.i Thomas Wright MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1790 at Great Hale, son of Thomas.

Thomas was a grandson of William (marr. 1762) via his son Thomas (1766, Great Hale). By 1901 his descendants had moved to various parishes around Lincolnshire – **Fishtoft**, **Glanford Brigg**, **Haxey**, and **Stenigot** – as well as **Guisborough** in Yorkshire.

7.A.ii John MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1795 at Heckington, son of Thomas.

John was brother of Thomas Wright (above). His descendants were living at **New Sleaford**, **Swinehead**, and **West Fen** in 1901.

7.A.iii Charles MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1789 at Heckington, son of Thomas.

Charles was a brother John and Thomas (above). His descendants were living at **Holbeach**, **Spalding**, and **Sutton St. Edmunds** in 1901.

7.A.iv William MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1801 at Heckington, son of Thomas.

William was yet another brother of the men above. He had the largest family which also dispersed widely around the East Midlands. In 1901, his descendants were living at **Carolton** (Notts), **Chesterfield** and **Whittington** (Derbys), **Coalville** and **Cotes** (Leics), **Heckington**, **Swineshead**, and **Wigtoft** (Lincs) and **Lewisham** in London.

7.A.v. Henry MIDDLEBROOK, baptised in 1803 at Grate Hale, son of Charles.

Henry was a grandson of William (marr. 1762) via his son Charles (1774, Great Hale.) I do not believe Henry had any Middlebrook descendants left in England in 1901, but he had emigrated to **New York**, and his son Henry (1841, Heckington) had a family there.

7.A.vi. John MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1819 at Great Hale, son of Charles.

Henry was a grandson of William (marr.1762) via his son Charles (1774, Great Hale). His descendants were living at **Hutton Henry** (co. Durham) and **Mansfield** (Knotts) in 1901.

8. Walsall parish, West Midlands

The Middlebrook name first appears in Staffordshire at Hanbury parish, where Michael MIDDLEBROOKE had a son William in 1641. I'm not sure where Michael came from, but his will was proved at Lichfield in 1674, so hopefully this might provide some clues. Michael's son William had a family, and I believe it was his son Thomas (baptised 1687 at Hanbury) who first settled at Walsall. He began a large family who have persisted in the West Midlands region to this day.

8.A. Thomas MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1712 at Walsall, son of Thomas.

8.A.i. John MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1808 at Walsall, son of Thomas

John was a great-grandson of Thomas 1712 via James (1753, Walsall) and Thomas (1776, Walsall). He had a large family who were all still living in the area of **Rushall, Walsall, and Wednesbury** in 1901.

8.A.ii. John MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1817 at Walsall, son of James.

John was a great-grandson of Thomas 1712 via James (1753, Walsall). His descendants were living at **Smethwick** and **Walsall** in 1901.

8.A.iii. Samuel MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1825 at Walsall, son of James.

Samuel was a great-grandson of Thomas 1712 via James (1753, Walsall) and James (1779, Walsall). He was succeeded by his son Alfred, who was still living in **Walsall** 1901.

8.A.iv. James MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1810 at Bilston, son of Hannah.

I'm not entirely sure where Hannah fits into this family. There is no obvious christening, but she could be a widow, and I'm certain she will be connected to the Walsall branch in some way. James' grandson William had a large family who were living at **Wednesbury** in 1901.

9. Lymm parish, Cheshire

There is not a long history of Middlebrook families in Cheshire, and only a few early occurrences in the neighboring areas of south Lancashire. This family group here began when John MIDDLEBROOKE married at Lymm in 1784. As yet, I have no idea from which direction he arrived or which other families he might be connected to.

9.A. John MIDDLEBROOKE, married 1784 at Lymm, a book keeper.

9.A.i. John MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1786 at Lymm, son of John.

John was the eldest son. He had a small family at Leek but died fairly young, and it appears that his widow went on to have further children after his death. His legitimate son John went on to have family, but I believe this line may have died out. The only male survivor in the 20th century was a patient at an institute for the 'feeble-minded' in 1911.

9.A.ii. William MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1793 at Lymm, son of John.

William was the second son. He had a large family and his descendants were living at **Fulham** , **Hazel Grove**, **Marchfield**, and **Warboys** in 1901.

10. London area

This group is something of a 'catch-all' for those families that were based around the London area in the 19th century. Unlike the other groups, these families may not be closely linked to each other, and I do not believe there would have been a separate origin for the surname in London despite several early examples of the name there. Rather, I think these families may have all gravitated towards the capital at different times and from different parts of England.

10.A. William MIDDLEBROOK, married 1792 at St. Marylebone.

I include this man in the London group, though his family were born outside London in Hertfordshire. Nevertheless, he married in London and his descendants settle there. I am not sure where he came from, but I wonder if he is connected to a family at Woburn (Bedfordshire). A William was baptised there in 1760, and a man of the same was buried at Finchley (North London) in 1824.

10.A.i. John MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1796 at Berkhamstead, son of William.

John was a gardener and had a family at Kentish Town. His descendants, via his son John Nelson (1835, St. Pancras) were living at **Hornsey** and **Wood Green** in 1901.

10.A.ii. James MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1799 at Berkhamstead, son of William.

James had a son James William (1828, St. Pancras). His descendants were living at **Lambeth** and **St. George Hanover Square** in 1901.

10.B. Jacob MIDDLEBROOK, married 1825 at Finsbury St. Luke.

Jacob was described as a widower at his marriage, so it's difficult to guess his age. A 66-year-old Jacob was buried at Spitalfields in 1841. This may or not be the same man.. There are previous Jacob Middlebrooks in London through the 18th century, so there is a good chance that he comes from that line.

10.B.i. Thomas George MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1827 at Bethnal Green, son of Jacob.

Jacob's eldest son. His son and grandson, both called Thomas George, were living at **St. Pancras** in 1901.

10.B.ii. Jacob MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1829 at Bethnal Green, son of Jacob.

Jacob's second son. His descendants were still living at **Bethnal Green** and **Mile End Old Town** in 1901.

10.C. Robert MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1794 at Finsbury St. Luke, son of Robert.

Robert lived at Tabernacle Walk. His father was buried in 1815, aged 40, and his mother's will was proved the following year. He may have come from a long line of Roberts in London.

10.C.i. Robert James MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1820 at Finsbury St. Luke, son of Robert.

This line may have died out in England, as only his 48-year-old son George John remained at **Newington** in 1901.

10.D. Samuel MIDDLEBROOK, born c1814 at Spitalfields, son of Thomas.

I've not found out a great deal about Samuel. His father was named as Thomas at Samuel's marriage in 1842, and his mother may have been the Sarah who he was living with in 1841. Samuel had several children and his descendants were living at **Edmonton** and **Hackney**

Checklist of the main family groups, showing the approximate number of male descendants that were still living in England in 1901.

1.A	Thomas MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1717 at Long Preston	40
1.B.	Christopher MIDDLEBROUGH, baptised 1725 at Long Preston	16
2.A.	William MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1717 at Malham	39
2.B.	James MILBROUGH, baptised 1717 at Kettlewell	17
3.A.	Thomas MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1712 at Bingley	10
3.B.	John MIDDLEBROAK, baptised 1717 at Haworth	11
4.A.	George MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1720 at Batley	31
4.B.	Thomas MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1724 at Batley	44
5.A.	John MIDDLEBROUGH, baptised 1784 at Aberford	23
5.B.	John MIDDLEBROUGH, born (c1776-1781), farmer of South Milford	5
6.A.	Richard MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1741 at Thorne	13
6.B.	John MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1703 at Whitgift	14
7.A.	Richard MIDLBROKE, baptised 1707 at Whitgift	5
7.B.	William MIDDLEBROOK, married 1762 at Great Hale	47
8.A.	Thomas MIDDLEBROOKE, baptised 1712 at Walsall	29
8.B.	John MIDDLEBROOKE, married 1784 at Lyman	17
9.A.	William MIDDLEBROOK, 1792 at Marylebone	8
9.B.	Jacob MIDDLEBROOK, married 1825 at Finsbury St. Luke	22
10.A.	Robert MIDDLEBROOK, baptised 1794 at Finsbury St. Luke	1
10.B.	Samuel MIDDLEBROOK, born c1814 at Spitalfields6 Total - 398

History of The Old Farmer's Almanac

The Old Farmer's Almanac is North America's most popular reference guide and oldest continuously published periodical, having been printed for 222 consecutive years. Its history is as rich and diverse as the Almanac itself.

Under the guiding hand of its first editor, Robert B. Thomas, the premiere issue of *The Old Farmer's Almanac* was published in 1792, during George Washington's first term as president. Although many other almanacs were being published at that time, Thomas's upstart almanac became an immediate success. In fact, by the second year, circulation had tripled from 3,000 to 9,000. Back then, the Almanac cost only six pence (about nine cents).

An almanac, by definition, records and predicts astronomical events (the rising and setting of the sun, for instance), tides, weather, and other phenomena with respect to time. So what made *The Old Farmer's Almanac* different from the others? Since his format wasn't novel, we can only surmise that Thomas's astronomical and weather predictions were more accurate, the advice more useful, and the features more entertaining.

Based on his observations, Thomas used a complex series of natural cycles to devise a secret weather forecasting formula, which brought uncannily accurate results, traditionally said to be 80 percent accurate. (Even today, his formula is kept safely tucked away in a black tin box at the Almanac offices in Dublin, New Hampshire.)

When Robert B. Thomas launched the agricultural handbook in 1792 in Boston, Massachusetts, George Washington was serving as the nation's first president. While Thomas's almanac wasn't unique – several others existed at the time – it thrived because of practical information and fanciful wit.

Today, 3 million copies of *The Old Farmer's Almanac* are distributed annually in the United States and Canada, and though the periodical has evolved over the years, much of its content remains the same as it was more than two centuries ago. Plus, its editors continue to be guided by Thomas's aim to be "useful, with a pleasant degree of humor."

Since its founding, the almanac has provided horticultural advice and celestial data such as times of sunrise and sunset, phases of the moon, solstice and equinox dates, news of eclipses, comets, and meteor showers, and other matters of a heavenly nature. Even the four seasons drawing on the cover has remained the same since 1851 and bears the same elements as during Thomas's 50-plus years as editor.

Its long-range weather forecasts, tailored for 23 climatic regions in North America, have a reputation for reliability. “Our claim is a traditional accuracy of 80 percent,” says Janice Stillman, the almanac’s 13th editor.

“Modern meteorological data now is used to formulate the almanac’s weather prognostications,” Stillman adds, but forecasters will apply “Thomas’s secret formula,” which is kept in a secure black tin box at the almanac’s offices in Dublin, N.H., where the almanac shares space with Yankee Publishing, its parent company since 1939.

While much of the early almanac’s advice was for farmers, its focus gradually has shifted toward gardening. – 58 percent of its readers live on an acre or less – but it also offers wit and wisdom on subjects such as pets, food, and folklore.

The 2014 edition, for instance, contains a feature by contributing editor Tim Clark, titled “Putting the World Right with Old-Fashioned Ways.” Among its lore: “Plant corn after the first woodpecker appears,” and “To make a scarecrow more effective, make its arms from hickory wood.”

Clark, 63, acknowledges a measure of eccentricity in the almanac’s content, “a little out on a limb, surprising, arcane.”

Thomas’s last edition in 1846 was not much different from his first, over 50 years earlier. However, in that time he established *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* as America’s leading periodical by outselling and outlasting the competition. He died in 1846 at the age of 80, supposedly reading page proofs for the 1847 edition.

The new editor, John H. Jenks, was helped by the fact that Thomas had already calculated the astronomical material for several future editions. In 1848, Jenks permanently and officially added the *Old* to the title of the almanac. It had been previously known as *The Farmer’s Almanac*, except in 1832, when Thomas had inserted the word *Old* (but he inexplicably dropped it from the title three years later).

Jenks’s next change came in 1851, when he featured a four seasons drawing on the cover by artist Henry Nichols. This drawing has been on the cover of every edition of *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* ever since.

In 1861, Charles L. Flint became editor and provided his readers with a heavy emphasis on farming. The next two editors, John Boies Tileston, and Loomis Joseph Campbell, served short terms and did little more than keep the Almanac going in the traditional format.

Robert Ware took over as sixth editor in 1877, but his main interest was the publishing business, and he probably delegated many of the editorial tasks. Ware’s brother, Horace, took the reins in 1900. During his 19 years as editor, he began to orient the book toward a more general audience by replacing the scientific agriculture articles with general features on nature and modern life.

The eighth and ninth editors, Frank Newton and Carroll Swan, kept the Almanac tradition alive even during times of war and the Depression. (Even to this date, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* has never missed a single year of publication.)

Roger Scaife was appointed editor in 1936. His term coincided with the only time in the history of the Almanac that it declined precipitously in circulation and financial stability. (The 1938 edition had a circulation of only 88,000, compared with 225,000 in 1863!) Scaife also committed the greatest of Almanac blunders: he dropped the weather forecasts! In their place, he substituted temperature and precipitation averages. The public outcry was so great that he reinstated the forecasts in the next year's edition, but it was too late to save his reputation.

Robb Sagendorph knew a good deal when he saw one, and in 1939, he bought *The Old farmer's Almanac* and became the editor. Sagendorph, who had moved his family to tiny Dublin, New Hampshire, four years earlier to start *Yankee Magazine*, now held the future of the Almanac in his hands. Luckily, he had a strong grip, a keen sense of the publishing business, and a nurturing heart devoted to tradition.

Sagendorph, feeling that tradition was the Almanac's strongest suit, immediately reestablished its format and editorial style to be more as it was under Robert B. Thomas. As a result, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* became witty, wise, and more entertaining, as it had been a hundred years earlier.

In 1942, a German spy was apprehended by the FBI after being landed on Long Island, New York, by a U-Boat the night before. The impact of this event was felt all the way to Dublin, New Hampshire, because *The Old Farmer's Almanac* was found in his coat pocket. The U.S. government speculated that the Germans were using the Almanac for weather forecasts, which meant that the book was indirectly supplying information to the enemy.

Fortunately, Sagendorph managed to get the government to agree that there would be no violation of the "Code of Wartime Practices for the American Press" if the Almanac featured weather indications rather than forecasts. It was a close call that almost ruined the Almanac's perfect record of continuous publication. Consequently, the story since World War II has been one of growth and expanded range. The Almanac passed the four million circulation mark in the early 1900s. Robb Sagendorph died in 1970, after 30 years as editor, and his nephew, Judson Hale, took over.

In 2000, Janice Stillman became the 13th (and first female) editor of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. She maintains the style established by her predecessors, the editorial direction taken by Hale, and a true dedication to hundreds of years of tradition while striving always to appear brand-spanking-new.

Good Samaritan Opportunities

The holiday season is just around the corner, and it's time to start thinking about being part of the 2014 American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes. The American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes are partnering to ensure all Americans have an opportunity to send a touch of home this holiday season to members of our U.S. military, veterans, and their families, many of whom will be far away from home this holiday season.

Starting this fall and throughout the holiday season, the Red Cross is working with Pitney Bowes, a mail stream technology company, to collect and distribute holiday cards to American service members, veterans, and their families in the United States and around the world.

The process is very simple and takes no time at all. All you need is a pen and piece of paper to share your appreciation for the sacrifices members of the U.S. Armed Forces make to protect our freedom. The Holiday Mail for Heroes mail box is open and ready to receive your cards. Please send all mail to:

Holiday Mail for Heroes

P.O. Box 5456

Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

To see guidelines for sending the cards, go to redcross.org/support/get-involved/holiday-mail-for-heroes and scroll down to **card guidelines**. Sending a "touch of home" to American men and women who serve our country is the perfect way to express your appreciation and support during the holiday season. The deadline for mailing cards is December 9, 2014

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OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH. You can make an easy, free contribution that will help fund mammograms for women who can't afford them by going to

thebreastcancersite.com and clicking on the pink rectangle. The site accepts only one click per computer per day, so if you have access to more than one computer, either at home or at work, click daily on each one. Please continue to click, even after October is past. This is a way to help scores of women, and it costs you absolutely nothing except a few seconds of your time.

IN MEMORIAM

(Editor's note: Ordinarily, I print smaller commemorations of the deceased, but this man deserves every bit of this one – and the newspaper article was even longer!)

Funeral services celebrating the life of Major Ben F. Whitehead (USAF Ret.), 91, of Bonham, Texas, were held at Boyd Baptist Church under the direction of Wise Funeral Home. Burial with military honors was at Little Jordan Cemetery. Ben passed away June 27, 2014, at Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center Nursing Home in Bonham, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Benjamin Franklin Whitehead, Jr. was born March 14, 1923 in Farmington, Georgia, the son of Benjamin Franklin Whitehead, Sr. and Mattie Bell **Middlebrooks** Whitehead. He graduated from Watkinsville, Georgia, High School and attended Georgia Tech University, Auburn University, and Duquesne University, and graduated from the Cadets.

Ben faithfully served his country for 22 years as a pilot in WWII, the Korean War, the Cold War (with the Strategic Air Command), the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War. When he retired in 1965, he was serving with the Hurricane Hunters at Hunter AFB, Savannah, Georgia.

He married Shirley Ann Smith on October 22, 1990, in Garland, Texas. The couple lived in Marietta, Georgia, for 13 years, prior to moving to Bonham in 2004. He was a member of the Marietta Masonic Lodge and Shriners . Ben was recognized by the United Daughters of the Confederacy with a military service award. He was awarded a Medal of Commendation for his service during the Korean War. Ben was a member of Boyd (Texas) Baptist Church, a lifetime member of the VFW and DAV, and a member of the Retired Officers Association. He was a senior quality engineer at E-Systems in Greenville, Texas, for a number of years, retiring in 1991.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Whitehead, son Kenneth Drake, daughters Deborah Ann Gleaves, Lisa Lankford, Lari McGrew, Lana Foster, and Linda Nelson; brother Bobby Whitehead; sister Elsie Smith; 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

First Look: Re-launched Ellis Island Immigration Passenger Search Website:

The free Ellis Island passenger search website has undergone a dramatic makeover. The old, early 2000s site has been replaced by a modern, slick-looking site with lots of graphics and photos.

EllisIsland.org now redirects to www.libertyellisfoundation.org, which combines the contents of the former Ellis Island, Stature of Liberty, Wall of Honor, and Flag of Faces websites.

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Jarrell Family Reunion to be Sunday, October 26

at the home of Philip and Amelia Haynes, next to Jarrell Plantation State Historic Site, in Jones County, Georgia. A meal will be served at 1:00 P.M. At 2:P.M., we will be treated to a tour of the Jarrell Plantation 1920 House by Phil Haynes. That same afternoon, Juliette's **Fried Green Tomatoes Festival** will be going on, so you might want to take that in later. Prior our meal, we'll hear from the Plantation about what happened in 2014 and plans for 2015.

Please reserve your meal (\$10.00 per plate) by Wednesday, October 22, 2014, with Amelia Haynes, 715 Jarrell Plantation Road, Juliette, Georgia, 31046. Contact her at 478-986-3972 – or amelia@haynesmarketing.com. Please give the name of each person for whom you are making a reservation. The person contacting Amelia is responsible for the meal cost of each person for whom he/she makes a reservation. Hope to see you all!

We need your email address if you wish to receive future invitations. If you do not have your own email address, you may give us a relative's or friend's through which we can reach you. *Please send us that address too*, and adjust your spam blocker to accept email from phil@haynesmarketing.com. **Thanks!**

EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF THE MIDDLEBROOK FAMILY

(Information from **1:** *The History of Fairfield, Fairfield, Connecticut, From the Settlement of the Town in 1639 to 1818*, by Elizabeth Hubbell Schenck, published by the author, New York, 1889. **2:** *Register of the Middlebrook Family*, descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield, Conn., by Louis F. Middlebrook, Member Connecticut Historical Society, published on demand by University Microfilms, University Microfilms Limited, High Wycomb, England, A Xerox Company, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A., and Hartford, Conn., 1909.

SCHENCK:

In the spring of 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts commissioned Roger Ludlow and seven other gentlemen to govern the colony of Connecticut “for the space of one year.” At the expiration of the year, Roger Ludlow, who had acted as governor of the colony, summoned his constituents to attend a general Court at Hartford, to consider the necessary steps to be taken for the protection of the infant settlements on the Connecticut River. After deliberating upon the barbarities of their chief enemy the Pequots, one of the most powerful Indian tribes in New England, and the dangers thickening around them, a proclamation of war was issued in the following words:

“It is ordered that there shall be an offensive war against the Pequots, & that there shall be 90 men levied out of the three Plantations Hartford, Weatherfield, and Windsor (viz) out of Hartford 42, Windsor 30, Weatherfield 13, under the command of Capt. John Mason, & in case of death or sickness, under the command of Robt Seely Leist: and the eldest s’geant or military officer surviving, if both miscarry.”

After marching about twenty-five miles near the coast, through Cup-head, Pequonnock, and Uncoway, they came upon the swamp at Sasqua (now called Southport) in which the Pequots were secreted. The swamp was almost impossible for a stranger to enter it without sinking above the knees in mire. The English troops, drawn up in the regular order of their companies, made an attack. The Indians, in the meantime, skulked up and down, shooting their arrows from behind the trees and then dropped flat in the water to defend themselves from the retaliation of the soldiers’ muskets. Lieutenant Davenport encouraged his men to follow him into the swamp, where he was severely wounded. Both he and his men sank so deep into the mire that, except for the assistance of their friends, they would all have been killed.

Seeing that they could not capture the enemy there, the English decided to surround the swamp. After some skirmishing, the native Indians desired a parley, which was granted by the English. At the first approach of the English, the Indians fled into the swamp.

The officers were anxious to save the old men, women, and children. Thomas Stanton, a man familiar with the Indian language, was sent in to meet with them. He was instructed to offer life and protection to all Indians who had not shed English blood. The native Sachems, followed by their warriors, aged men, women, and children, came out in numbers of about two hundred.”

Chief Sachem declared that neither he nor his people had done any harm and expressed a desire to make peace with them. The haughty Pequots, however, disdained all overtures of peace, exclaiming: “We will fight it out to the last!” Stanton barely escaped with his life in leaving the swamp, and the soldiers were obliged to rush to his rescue.

As night approached, sentinels were stationed twelve feet apart around the swamp and watched the enemy through the night. During the night, the Pequots shot their arrows at the guards, but not one was slain. From the dead bodies they found the next morning, it was shown that the English musketry had made severe havoc among the enemy.”

Captain Mason was made Major-General of the Militia of Connecticut, with a stipend of forty pounds per annum, to “train the men in each plantation ten days in every year, soe it be not in June or July.” Every male from the age of sixteen was ordered to bear arms, and in case anyone failed to be present at the public trainings, he was to pay a fine of 3 schillings.

Each plantation was required to be supplied with a magazine of powder and shot and every military man to have in his house “half a pound of powder, two pounds of bullets suitable to his piece & one pound of match, if his piece be a match-lock, under a penalty of five schillings.”

For the public service done by Thomas Stanton in behalf of the colony, he was awarded ten pounds. He was also appointed to attend all the Courts as interpreter between the English and the Indians, with a salary of ten pounds per annum.

MIDDLEBROOK: (spelling via Louis Middlebrook)

In October 1635, we find recorded the arrival of Joseph Middlebrook from England, at Concord, Massachusetts Bay Colony. Joseph Middlebrooke of Concord, Mass. appears as one of the petitioners to the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

There appears to have been some dissatisfaction among the settlers at Concord on account of the excessive taxes levied upon the inhabitants of the colony, particularly those at Concord. Many of them were not content, especially as the soil was marshy and difficult to profitably utilize.

In the summer of 1644, therefore, sixteen families, under the leadership of Rev. John Jones, comprising possibly one-eighth of the planters of Concord, removed to Fairfield in the Colony of Connecticut. Those who came were as follows:

Rev. John Jones	Joseph Middlebrook
Thomas Bulkley	John Tompkins
Daniel Bulkley	Ephraim Wheeler
Thomas Jones	Thomas Wheeler, Jr.
William Bateman	James Bennet
William Odell	Richard Lattin
John Evarts	Benjamin Turney
Peter Johnson	George Squire

Our ancestor, Joseph Middlebrook, settled with eight of the others in the Pequonnock district of Fairfield, where he was granted (Jan. 8, 1649) by the town of Fairfield one home lot, consisting of two and one-half acres, bounded northwest by John Evarts, northeast by Benjamin Turney and George Starkey, southeast by Peter Johnson, and southwest by the highway. Other grants were made by the Town of Fairfield to Joseph Middlebrook, Senior, including 14 acres of pasture land; long lots and a meadow, consisting of 27 acres; Rocky Neck and Sasqua Field, 30 acres; Old Indian Field and Compo, 13 acres; Land in the Commons, 757 acres, accruing 858 acres.

Joseph Middlebrook was listed as one of the Proprietors of Fairfield and was termed "yeoman" as was the custom with the landowners of the period. He was a member of the Town Militia, as many of the settlers were subject to the Indian depredations, so common for many years.

Joseph Middlebrook, Senior, along with his son Joseph Middlebrook, Junior, and his grandson Joseph Middlebrook 3rd, all of whom were members of the Town Militia of Fairfield, fought in the early Indian Wars.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH MIDDLEBROOK, SENIOR. (spelling via Louis Middlebrook)

At a spetiall Courte in Fairfield February 2, 1686, the Inventory of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield, lately deceased was exhibited to the Court, and ther being no written will appearing but a verball will to this Court, Court aproves both will and Inventory, and whereas we understand the deceased left 2 children one sonn Joseph middlebrooke and on daughter Phebe wilson this Court orders the distribution as followeth – The daughter Phebe shall have one-third part of The lands the sayd Joseph middlebrooke dyed possessed of and four pounds to be payed her by the Administrator hereafter mentioned, and son Joseph middlebrooke of the estate the rest or remaining part of land his father Joseph middlebrook dyed possessed of with all the houseing and all the movables that belonged to him at his deceas for the afor mentioned four pounds being paid to the daughter and all just debts the Court appoints Joseph middlebrooke to be administrator on the said Estate to pay all just debts due to or from said Estate. The court also apoints John Wheler and Ephraim Nichols to make division of the land of the deceased Joseph middlebrooke unto his children above mentioned and according to that rule ther mentioned with what equality you cann ye administrator is appointed to pay all just Debts and to guide and receive what is due to sayd Estate – ordered to be recorded.

NATHAN GOLD Asst.

An inventory of the Estate of Joseph Middlebrook sence deceased was taken on the 22nd day of Novembr 1686.

Joseph midelbrooke (Jr.) objects against these severall perticulers her after mentioned and sayth they doe not belong to his father midelbrooke's Estate and Samuel wilson presents them as his father midelbrooke's Estate and is as followes: porke in the barrell and all the Indian Corne all the summer graine also the tire belonging to the teame all the wheat soed on the ground also the 16 yds of ozenbriges and 3 yds of penestone one ax one cow also 2 axes and one hoe all the hay the mair and Coult –

Signed by us the 13th of Jan' 1686

ROBERT TURNEY
GEORG SQUIER
ELIPHELET HILL

Martin Middlebrook

From Wikipedia

Martin Middlebrook (born in Boston, Lincolnshire, 1932) is a British military historian of the Royal Historical Society. He was appointed as a Knight of the Order of the Belgian Cross in 2004.

Education and Military Service

Middlebrook was educated at various schools, including Ratcliffe College, Leicester. He entered National Service in 1950. He was commissioned in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC), and served as a Motor Transport Officer in the Suez Canal Zone and Aquaba, Jordan. Middlebrook subsequently spent three years in Territorial Army service.

Middlebrook wrote his first book, *The First Day on the Somme* (1971), following a visit to the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium in 1967. This is a detailed study of the single worst day for the British Army. Middlebrook gave the same single-day treatment to 21 March 1918, the opening of the German Spring Offensive, in *The Kaiser's Battle* (1978). Middlebrook's Second World War books concentrate on the air war. A number of them again deal with a single day of action (*The Nuremberg Raid* (1973), *The Schweinfurt-Regenesburg Mission* (1983), and *The Peenemünde Raid* (1982), while others cover longer air battles (*The Battle of Hamburg* (1980) and *The Berlin Raids* (1988). Middlebrook has also written two books on the Falklands War, one from the British and Falkland Islanders' perspective and one from the Argentinian perspective.

Other books not mentioned:

Convoy

Battleship

The Bomber Command War Diaries

Arnheim 1944

Your Country Needs You

The Fight for the Malvinas

The North Midlands Territorials Go to War/Captain Staniland's Journey

To see a letter from Middlebrook describing the writing of *The First Day on the Somme*, go to: <http://www.fylde.demon.co.uk/middlebrook2.htm>

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

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

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 Jarrellyn Lang, Editor, at MFAeditor@gmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

MFA Membership is \$20.00 per year, September 01 thru August 31. If you would like to become a member, please make check payable to MFA and mail to: MFA, % Kathleen Hunter, P.O. Box 125, Tupelo, AR 72169

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