

MFA NEWSLETTER

The Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

November 2017 Edition

Happy November, Middlebrooks! As you may have already noted, we've changed from the MAZE to the MFA Newsletter. This change was made to give us a little more latitude with the publication's length and availability. As always, I sincerely appeal to you for information, articles, research, stories – anything we might include in this publication to ensure that we are communicating, and that this newsletter be not only informative but also effective in keeping our family united. Former editors (God bless them!) have produced quite lengthy newsletters; however, as a former school-teacher, I know attention spans can be short. For that reason, I will be hitting highlights and giving information in an abbreviated form. Still, I want you to feel free to contact me for any additional information pertaining to any topic that might interest you. I spent 36 years as a Special Education teacher. We do not know everything about anything but a little bit about everything, but more important, we know to whom to route any questions and concerns.

The 2017 meeting in Macon, Georgia was a SUCCESS! Thirty-five were present with almost half of those being brand new attendees. Descendants of Isaac 1753, John 1755, Nathaniel 1764, and Robert 1766 represented the states of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Rhode Island.

President Bob Middlebrooks and Secretary/Treasurer Kathleen Hunter both gave reports indicating that The Middlebrooks Family Association is alive and well, continuing to pursue MFA's founding goals and objectives – and ready to embrace new avenues of research, diversity, and unity. J.A. Middlebrooks gave his “cemetery” report. Personally, I found the vast amount of information J.A. manages to be amazing not to mention what he alone contributes to this particular project.

Our “field trip” to the Jarrell Plantation was very informational. We were lucky to have a young lady be our guide who was very knowledgeable about many facets of the area and of the era depicted by the plantation. She interacted well with everyone, especially the children present. Even those of us who had toured the plantation in the past certainly learned a new thing or two.

We had four informative presentations. Our first one, **DNA and the Middlebrooks Profile**, was presented by Bob Middlebrooks. Along with some very technical talk of DNA, Bob provided a time-line developed by Ian Middlebrook that spans from the 1300s in Europe to Joseph Middlebrook emigrating to America in 1600 to the 1900s including numerous Middlebrook descendants in the United States. Noted as well was the close DNA matches with (t) variations of the Middlebrook name, such as Middelburgh and/or Myddelburghe. Bob encouraged anyone to investigate the ancestry.com autosomal DNA testing.

Bob did double duty as he presented information supplied by Lauren Bavin of New Zealand. Bavin organized a Middlebrook Reunion in Auckland, New Zealand in 2015 with 120 folks in attendance, most of whom were descendants of John Middlebrook of Millbridge Yorkshire. We do have two members of our MFA Y-DNA project who connect with New Zealand and Australian residents. These connections are descendants of Michael Middlebrook (1594-1670). John Farrer Middlebrook and John N. Middlebrook are members of one Y-DNA project. Lauren hopes to repeat such a reunion in 2020.

Alan Marsh, National Park Historian, described the first humans known to inhabit the area around Macon, Georgia. He provided artifacts the early inhabitants used to survive. He then transitioned to early Indian tribes in the area. Alan also addressed how the Indians interfaced with the European immigrants. His blow-gun illustration proved that MFA members are capable of hitting the target.

Nyah Edwards presented “Bridging the Middlebrooks Family.” On a personal note, I discovered this past year, that she and I share great-great-great grandfather Archibald Middlebrook (son of Nathaniel 1674). Nyah gave a lively presentation on the diversity within our family and our need to “renew our oneness as we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors.... leaving a positive legacy for upcoming generations.”

Power-points and/or notes are available for all four of the above presentations. Feel free to get in touch with Bob or with me, and we will gladly share the information.

Of course, we ate well: Cheddars, Jeaneane’s, Outback Steak House, and the Whistle Stop Café. I extend a special thanks to Jo and Charles Middlebrooks for bringing in lunch on Saturday.

Our by-laws have been amended and will soon appear on the MFA website. Our “amending” committee did a great job. Thanks to Joyce Arnold for getting the ball rolling. I must give a big “yee-haw” to Ella Tripp for her coordinating skills.

Again, I must say that this year’s meeting was great. I witnessed quite a bit of collaboration with big notebooks out, computers churning, and flash drives going from portal to portal. During breaks or free time, I would find folks huddled together exchanging information and research. One of our new members discovered her ties to the Middlebrooks when she began investigating her biological parents. Kathleen Hunter and I even “face-timed” with Jacinta Tucker! Jacinta’s daughter, Angelina, joined us this year. Miss Ruth even got carded in a restaurant.

We Arkansas Girls (Kathleen Hunter, Lucy Meise, Dale Kidwell, and Ella Tripp) are taking the big plunge and sticking our necks out to be your 2018 MFA Meeting hostesses in Jackson, Tennessee on September 27, 28, and 29. I have suspected all along that hosting one of our meetings is an awesome task; therefore, we beseech anyone with ideas and/or contacts (in the Jackson area) to share!

Please refer to the last page (very important information) for your current officers and board members. NEVER hesitate to call or email me with information, stories, or to point out some mistake I’ve made. My sincere apologies to Joyce Arnold for having her email wrong on the three of the last four MAZE articles.

Dale Kidwell -- 870-731-4226 dalekidwell07@gmail.com

Kerry Middlebrooks

On October 20th, we were informed that Kerry had a stroke on October 9th. According to his family, doctors believe Kerry had a mini stroke sometime before that. His mother suffers from Alzheimer’s is doing as well as can be expected. I understand Kerry may have been her primary care-giver. Kerry’s family is trying to work out their mother’s care as well as Kerry’s. At the time of our communication, Kerry was unable to speak and was paralyzed on one side. At that time, the family was unsure of his recovery. Please keep Kerry and his family in your prayers and positive thoughts. Cards are welcome: Kerry Middlebrooks, 2260 South Park Avenue, Dothan, Alabama 36301.

Photos

I'm going to include some pictures that many of you many have already seen on the MFA Facebook page; however, I've learned that some do not partake in Facebook (gasp!). We have three group photos so that all were included. The last picture is Angelia Ganz, one of our new MFA members, "hitting the target" during Alan Marsh's presentation.



Middlebrook(s) Family Association Inc.

Preserving Our Family Heritage for Future Generations

The Association was founded in 2001 to bring together family members interested in preserving our family history for future generations. Our main purpose is to locate, preserve and share the history of our ancestors. Our website, constantly under development, will provide information for you to:

- learn more about the general history of our family
- learn more about the Middlebrook Family Register
- make corrections to your Middlebrooks Family Register
- participate in a family register update
- locate other family meetings and reunions
- ensure your family history is preserved through our repository project
- participate in the Association's annual meeting

Our Goals & Purposes

The Middlebrook(s) Family Association strives to:

1. Promote the collection and communication of family history information about the Middlebrook(s) descendants and associated families using programs, activities, workshops, meetings and publications of genealogical and historical nature.
2. Provide assistance in researching the direct descendants of the Middlebrook(s) and associated families.
3. Share family news, events and family history information, including the publication of a newsletter for the benefit of Association members and others.
4. Identify, restore, and preserve manuscripts, artifacts or real property of historical interest related to the Association families as well as provide an electronic repository for safeguarding members' data.
5. Bring people together who are interested in genealogy and family history by promoting and organizing annual meetings, reunions and other activities to increase our knowledge about our ancestors.

*** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ***

Thanks to you who attended our Macon meeting and a special thanks to all of you who helped make it a wonderful meeting through planning and support. The turn out was great, the good was great, and the participation was great. What more could we ask for than to have an even better meeting next year.

Bob Middlebrooks



The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.
George Bernard Shaw

Let's keep in touch throughout the year. Your officers, board members, and team leaders WANT to hear from you!

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

2017-2018 Officers

Bob Middlebrooks, President

Dale Kidwell, Vice President

Kathleen Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2016-2018

Dale Kidwell, Vice President 2017-2019

Kathleen Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer 2017-2019

Neal Middlebrook 2016-2018

Charles Middlebrooks 2017-2019

J.A. Middlebrooks 2017-2019

Leonard Middlebrooks 2016-2018

Leslie Shealy 2016-2017

Ella Tripp 2016-2018

Ancestor Team Leaders

Isaac born 1753: Leonard Middlebrooks and Jean Shroyer

John b. 1754: Neal Middlebrook

John b. 1755: John David Middlebrooks and Leslie Shealy

Joseph b. 1610: Leonard Middlebrooks

Joseph b. 1773: Dave Clark

Micajah b. 1758: Mary Baker

Nathaniel b. 1764: Ella Tripp

Robert b. 1766: J.A. Middlebrooks

Sims b. 1762: Neal Middlebrooks

Thomas b. 1763: Joyce Arnold

England Middlebrooks: Ian Middlebrook and Neal Middlebrook

Unknown Ancestors: Leonard Middlebrooks and J. A. Middlebrooks

On-Going Projects

Cemetery: J.A. Middlebrooks and William Sterling

DAR-UDC: Jean Shroyer

DNA: Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark

Family Register Update and Repository: Leonard Middlebrooks

MFA Newsletter: Dale Kidwell

MFA Website: Dave Clark and Leonard Middlebrooks

Military Register Update: Kerry Middlebrooks

Email Directory

Joyce Arnold

-- joycenjim@sbcglobal.net

Mary Baker

-- mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Dave Clark

-- cdave1000@gmail.com

Kathleen Hunter

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Dale Kidwell

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Ian Middlebrook

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John David Middlebrooks

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Leonard Middlebrooks

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Jean Shroyer

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William Sterling

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Ella Tripp

-- ellatripp@cox.net

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. (MFA) was founded in 2001 for the purpose of assembling and preserving genealogical and historical material for our future Middlebrook/e/s generations.

MFA Web Site: <http://middlebrooksfamily.org/>

The *MFA Newsletter* (currently MFA's only publication) is published and sent to all present and former members and is available to the public each February, May, August, and November. You may request to be removed from this list by contacting Dale Kidwell at dalekidwell07@gmail.com