

# THE MAZE

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

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## MAZE 2011 February/March Edition

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### DNA through the study of halotype

Submitted by Bob Middlebrooks, with information also provided by Neal and Henry Middlebrook

The Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA) 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. In this light, we are involved in a Y-DNA project which complements this effort. Y chromosomes are transmitted from fathers to sons only, which works nicely with the tracing of surnames throughout a family's history.

DNA research provides another important advantage through the study of haplotypes. Our DNA is subject to errors as they are passed down from generation to generation. These errors are called mutations. While some mutation may cause disease, most are harmless. As DNA is copied and passed down through generations, it gradually accumulates more mutations. People who are more closely related have few differences in their DNA. People who are more distantly related have more differences. These mutations are the source of differences among all the peoples of the world. Since 99% of the human genome is exactly the same across the whole human race, looking at the one one-thousandth that tends to differ between individuals gives the most information. Regions of a DNA are surveyed by looking at representative sections, called markers, distributed across a large region of a chromosome. Each marker has specific variations called alleles. Since DNA tends to be inherited in large chunks, looking at allele values for several markers across a stretch of DNA can be very informative. The set of values across a stretch of DNA is called a halotype. People with similar halotypes for a certain stretch of DNA are usually more closely related than those with different halotypes. People whose halotypes have all or most of the same markers in common belong to the same halotype which can be traced back to specific regions around the world. This provides clues as to the migration of ancestors from one geographical area to another.

Each haplogroup is labeled with letters and numbers to note relationships. Each branch of a haplogroup is thousands of years old, and since members of the branch tend to be found in the same regions of the world, the haplogroup assignments identify deep ancestral origins. The participants in our association Y-DNA project are considered as belonging to the general haplogroup R1b. Haplogroup R1b is the most frequently occurring Y-chromosome haplogroup in Western Europe. While also found in other world locations, this serves as an important starting point for our family search. It really gets interesting when we look at the related mapping which indicates our traceable Middlebrook(s) family origin, not just in England but also likely from the Netherlands area in northern Europe. It is difficult to be too definitive in tracing migration since all people do not relocate at the same time and some stay and some move again, but this does confirm information we have uncovered about our family.

The Middlebrook(s) name is believed to have originated in the northern area of the Netherlands known as Holland. Around the 6th century, our Dutch ancestors apparently migrated to northern England and settled in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire Counties. In this area the name is considered pure Dutch until the late 1300s.

The Dutch meaning of Middlebrook is "marsh" and the English meaning is "dweller at the middle stream." Spelling variations, from both Holland and England, have changed over the centuries and include Middle-

burgh, Midlebrugh, Myddelbroughe, Mydelbrough, Midlebrough, Mydelbrok, Mydelbrocke, Middlebrock, Middlebrough, Mistlebrooke, Middlebroke, Middlebrooke, and Middleborrow. The more recent English variations are Mittlebrook, Middlebrock, Meddowbrook, and Middlebrook.

Today, the United States has the largest number of Middlebrook(s) families, followed by Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. In the United States, Georgia, Texas, Florida, California, New York, Tennessee, Michigan, and Ohio have the highest number of Middlebrook(s) households. This is one of our country's oldest and greatest families, with members supporting our heritage from the early days of the Fairfield militia, through both world wars, to modern times.

As an aside, we are starting to pursue connections in the United Kingdom to further expand our knowledge of ancestral connections through DNA testing. For those of you who are not members of our MFA, we invite you to join us in order to stay abreast of the latest findings in our quest. There is a huge amount of information about DNA testing and related haplogroups on the internet. Being a member of an organization like the MFA is a great way to gain information about your ancestors without trying to go it alone. We have some very knowledgeable folks in our group who assist in this research.

### **MFA 2011 Meeting/Reunion, Ashland, VA August 18-20, 2011**

Affectionately known as the “**The Center of the Universe**” by residents for its central location within the state, Ashland is located in the heart of Hanover County.

#### **Thursday: Aug. 18th**

Morning: registration, welcoming and review of agenda etc.

Lunch: Ashland or Richmond?

Afternoon: Research trip to Library of Virginia

Evening: Social & group dinner, Ashland, MFA business meeting after dinner.

#### **Friday: Aug. 19th**

All day: Field trip, brown bag lunch.

Caroline County, Virginia, with the focus on John Middlebrooks (b. 1754

Evening: Social & group dinner, (Tavern on the Rail), speaker

#### **Saturday: Aug. 20th**

Morning: MFA business (officer, project reports, elections) and two speakers.

Lunch: at hotel conference room, sandwich's etc.

Afternoon: sharing family histories and discussions etc. close-out.

Evening: Social and group dinner, Ashland or someplace close by.

Our hostesses will be Lana Shelton, Joyce Luck and Stephanie Harris and the meeting will focus on John Middlebrooks (b. 1754) of Caroline County, Virginia. This is the first time for the MFA to feature this Middlebrooks line. Based on DNA results we know John and his descendants are connected to the Caswell County, North Carolina brothers.

One of the appealing things about this area is the proximity to New Kent, Hanover, Louisa, and Orange Counties where our Isaac Middlebrooks (b. 1727) and Thomas Middlebrooks (b. 1700) ancestors lived.

Start getting the word out to your relatives and contacts so we can start compiling a mailing list.

Please send Joyce Arnold the addresses of people you think may be interested in attending so we can generate a master contact list for outreach. [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net)

#### **RICHMOND NORTH ASHLAND**



107 SOUTH CARTER ROAD

ASHLAND, VIRGINIA 23005 UNITED STATES

Hotel Front Desk: 1-804-752-7889

Hotel Fax: 1-804-752-7180

Check in 3:00 PM

Check out: 11:00 AM

next to Cracker Barrel and Applebee's.

Please forward the following link and information to the guest for the reservation, they need to **make reservation before July 26, 2011** otherwise room will be released to the market price.

### **MFA 2011 Meeting/Reunion, Ashland, VA August 18-20, 2011**

Guest to reserve the room: go to [www.hiexpress.com/ashlandva](http://www.hiexpress.com/ashlandva)

Enter the Arrival date:

Enter the block code: MID

Or

For the reservation call the Hotel @ 804-752-7889

Name of the Block: Middlebrooks (group name), block code: MID

All rooms will be the King Suite price as: King Suite: \$ 84.00 – sleeps 2 people

Free hot and cold breakfast every morning

Coffee and water available during the day

(Any trouble when making your Middlebrooks group reservation, please contact Joyce Arnold, 281-485-8044 or by email)

### **VIRGINIA, Where Love Lives**

Ashland is located in Hanover County in the Central Virginia region of Virginia. This turn-of-the-century railroad town is located 15 miles north of Richmond and approximately 90 minutes away from Washington D.C. and Williamsburg. Fascinated by the stars? Add a little sparkle to your night by visiting **The Keeble Observatory**, which offers public stargazing. The observatory is a teaching laboratory of Randolph Macon College but is also open to the public during the academic year.

Virginia's past is the beginning of the nation's history and heritage. From the first permanent English settlement of Jamestown in 1607 through the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, Virginia was where the nation originated, where it prospered and where many of our nation's conflicts were resolved. More Civil War battles were fought in Virginia than in any other state. The history of the nation during those tumultuous years is reenacted at battlefields, plantations and museums.

### **Some places to see in CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA** (about 70 miles from Richmond, VA.)

#### **Ash Lawn-Highland, Home of President James Monroe**

1000 James Monroe Parkway [Charlottesville](http://www.al-h.us), VA 22902 Website: [www.al-h.us](http://www.al-h.us)

In 1799, James Monroe and his family moved into their Albemarle "cabin castle," adjacent to Jefferson's Monticello. Jefferson had previously urged Monroe to move to the area to create a "society to our taste".

#### **Monticello, Home of Thomas Jefferson**

931 Thomas Jefferson Parkway [Charlottesville](http://www.monticello.org), VA 22902 Website: [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

No other home in the United States more accurately reflects the personality of its owner than Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's architectural masterpiece and beloved mountaintop home. Guided tours of the house are offered daily throughout the year; outdoor gardens and plantation tours are offered daily April-October.

#### **Jefferson Vineyards**

1353 Thomas Jefferson Parkway [Charlottesville](http://www.jeffersonvineyards.com), VA 22902 Website: [www.jeffersonvineyards.com](http://www.jeffersonvineyards.com)

Jefferson Vineyards is located on Thomas Jefferson's original 1774 vineyard sites. Since 1981, from those same vineyard sites, we have produced Virginia's finest wines, enjoying what Wine Spectator calls "...the region's most consistent track record." Currently available award-winning wines include 2007 Viognier, winner of two Double Gold and three Gold medals in international competitions.

#### **Michie Tavern**

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway [Charlottesville](http://www.michietavern.com), VA 22902 Website: [www.michietavern.com](http://www.michietavern.com)

Warm inviting smells of southern fried chicken, lively music & laughter often greets visitors shortly before they are formally welcomed to Michie Tavern. Guests are ushered into 18th century tavern life through a sensory experience where taste, touch, sight, smell, & sound recreate the past. Whether one dines on bountiful southern fare, engages in living history or visits 3 unique shops -- the Michie Tavern experience renders a remarkable & memorable journey .

HEARTY MIDDAY FARE IN RUSTIC TAVERN SETTING: Colonial fried chicken, hickory smoked pork barbecue, black-eyed peas, cornbread & other southern staples offer mouth-watering authenticity. Virginia wines & pub ales. Unforgettable meal for families to enjoy, great food. Open: 9 AM closes: 5:00 PM

# MIDDLEBROOK/S FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## 2010-2011 OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** – Neal Middlebrook  
**VICE PRESIDENT** – Tom Middlebrooks  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER** – Joyce Arnold

### ANCESTOR TEAM LEADERS

**Isaac b. 1753** – Leonard Middlebrooks  
[gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)  
and Jean Shroyer  
[TXJean@aol.com](mailto:TXJean@aol.com)

**John b. 1755** – Bob Middlebrooks  
[mid293@earthlink.net](mailto:mid293@earthlink.net)

**Micajah b. 1758** – Sharon Bartlett  
[sharonbartlett@att.net](mailto:sharonbartlett@att.net)  
and Mary Baker  
[mmbaker65@hotmail.com](mailto:mmbaker65@hotmail.com)

**Sims b. 1762** – Neal Middlebrook  
[nealmidbroo1@verizon.net](mailto:nealmidbroo1@verizon.net)

**Thomas b. 1763** – Jarrelyn Lang  
[thelangs@hotmail.com](mailto:thelangs@hotmail.com)

**Robert b. 1766** – J.A. Middlebrooks  
[middle3jam2002@yahoo.com](mailto:middle3jam2002@yahoo.com)

**Joseph b. 1610** - Leonard Middlebrooks  
[gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)

**Joseph b. 1770** - Dave Clark  
[cdave@austin.rr.com](mailto:cdave@austin.rr.com)

**Virginia Middlebrooks** –  
Neal Middlebrook  
[nealmidbroo1@verizon.net](mailto:nealmidbroo1@verizon.net)

**Unknown Ancestor** - Leonard Middlebrooks  
[gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neal Middlebrook, 2009-2011  
[nealmidbroo1@verizon.net](mailto:nealmidbroo1@verizon.net)

Tom Middlebrooks 2009-2011  
[Tomdean4@embarqmail.com](mailto:Tomdean4@embarqmail.com)

Joyce Arnold, 2009-2011  
[joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net)

Charles Middlebrooks, 2009-2011  
[chasmid@att.net](mailto:chasmid@att.net)

Kathleen Hunter, 2009-2011  
[Kathleen@bscn.com](mailto:Kathleen@bscn.com)

Charles Swayne Middlebrooks Sr., 2010-2013  
[cmiddleb@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmiddleb@bellsouth.net)

Kerry Middlebrooks, 2010-2013  
[mbrooks@gci.net](mailto:mbrooks@gci.net)

Sam Middlebrooks, 2010-2013  
[semiddlebrooks@gmail.com](mailto:semiddlebrooks@gmail.com)

### ON-GOING PROJECTS

Cemetery..... J. A. Middlebrooks  
DNA.....Bob Middlebrooks,  
Dave Clark and Henry Middlebrooks  
MFA Website.....Dave Clark  
and Leonard Middlebrooks  
Family Repository.....Jean Shroyer  
Family *Register* Update.....Leonard Middlebrooks  
Military *Register* Update .....  
Michael Kerry Middlebrooks

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

**Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. 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 the Secretary at [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 is free to paid members of MFA only. Articles for inclusion in the Quarterly, or suggestions for topics, may be sent to Jarrelyn Lang, Editor, at [thelangs@hotmail.com](mailto:thelangs@hotmail.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 Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 77584