

# THE MAZE

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

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## MAZE AUGUST 2011 Edition

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By: J. A. Middlebrooks

### Acton Elijah Middlebrooks Information - **The Rest of the Story.**

In the *MFA Quarterly Newsletter* dated July-September 2008, I mentioned talking to our pastor, Tom Ward. On the floor of his office was a box of books. He asked me if I would like to have any of them, because he was wanting to get rid of the books. I glanced at the stack and reached down to pick up a rather small old red book. I looked at the title then opened the front cover. On the inside of the cover, to my amazement was a signature – AE Middlebrooks. I instantly realized who had signed that book and asked Tom about it. He told me he had been given the book by one of his church members while preaching at Mentone, Alabama.

After graduating from college, I accepted a job as a school psychologist in Enterprise, Alabama. During the year I worked there, I visited the town library and saw a book - *160 years of Methodism in South Alabama and Northwest Florida - 1808 - 1968 - Alabama - West Florida Conference the United Methodist Church.*

There were two Middlebrooks listed in the book - William E. and Acton Elijah Middlebrooks. William did not have much listed, but Acton's description was quite long. First a few comments about Acton Elijah Middlebrooks. I have seen his name listed as Alton in a couple of places, but his name is really Acton. Birth 1 August 1893, Barbour County, AL - Death June 1987, Montgomery, AL. (1)Wife - Vera Mae Baldwin married 30 June 1926 - D:6 August 1934. (2) Wife - Wilma Adrienne Clark married 24 January 1935, Dothan, AL. Children by Vera Mae are Christine, Kathryn, Carolyn, and William Clark Middlebrooks.

Following is the listing for Acton from the book *160...*: 1916 Slocomb High School; 1922 A. B. Birmingham Southern; 1926 B. D. Garrett; 1927 M.A. and 1933 Ph.D. Northwestern; 1923 Deacon; 1928 Elder; 1917 River Falls, AL; 1918 Wilton, N. AL; 1919 Lipscomb, Hale Springs; 1920 Mt. Carmel, AL; 1922 Prof. Marvin College, St. Louis; 1924 Epworth, Ottawa, IL; 1926 Malden, IL; 1927 Associate United Congregational Church, Bridgeport, CT; 1928 D.R.E. Centenary, Chattanooga; 1929 Prof. Kentucky Wesleyan, Winchester, KY; 1932 Jasper, TN; 1933 Gate City, VA; 1934 Greenwood - Sneads, FL; 1934 Clanton, AL; 1936 Union Springs, AL; 1937 Secretary Board of Education; 1940 Demopolis, AL; 1941 Editor *Alabama Christian Advocate*, 1948 Troy, AL; 1950 Wetumpka, AL; 1951 Marianna District, FL; 1957 Prof. Athens College; 1959 Retired. His address was listed as 3423 Cloverdale Road, Montgomery, AL 36111.

I should give you the actual title of the small old red book, as I normally keep it on top of one of my great grandfather's old Bibles residing on my computer desk, but I showed it to a friend awhile back, and for some reason did not return the book to its normal place. It seems to be positioned in that "safe place" where you normally put things and then forget where that safe place is located.

I do not know if there is any connection, but as you are traveling on I-20 through Birmingham, at Exit 17 you will see that the overpass is named Acton Road.

Another interesting note is that about a week ago, I contacted a friend from college who hung out at the Wesley Foundation (Methodist Student Union) at Mississippi State University. She dated another friend for a couple of years, and I really expected them to get married. While looking through the 2011 Alumni Directory I just received, I noted 5 Middlebrookses. Her name was the first one listed. I did not know she had married a Middlebrooks, so I made contact with her. One of her emails indicated that her husband's family included a couple of pastors and also included the name Hawkins. William and Acton's mother was Ella Villula Hawkins. (I have seen Ella's middle name spelled another way also.)

From the Athens State University Scholarship internet site is the Acton E. Middlebrooks Memorial Scholarship. Criteria to receive this award (1) Must be a religion or philosophy major (2) Good academic standing.

### **ARE YOU MISSING?**

A couple of years ago I googled my name and discovered I was missing. It was in an article from the state of Alabama, searching for Registered Psychologists, who had not been located for several years. I only worked in Enterprise, AL, for one year before moving back to Mississippi, where I worked at Mississippi State Hospital for over 30 years. I recently googled my name again and did not find the same article. About that same period, while googling "Middlebrooks," I found another member of our family who was missing. I emailed her and told her of the site listing her name. She reconnected with the group since the notice was placed on the internet.

### **MFA 2011 Meeting**

We had an extremely good meeting with several new members attending. The Friday Field Trip was quite long and has proved to be more interesting after the recent earthquake in Mineral, Virginia. We drove through Mineral on the way to Louisa, where Thomas Middlebrooks lived. Mineral is only 5 miles east of Louisa. The Ruther Glen, Virginia, area has a large number of family either living or buried nearby. Reports from a couple of family members living or visiting in the area suggest they are okay. One had a few items knocked off walls, etc., but no major damage reported, and other family did not realize there was a problem at that time. The 2011 meeting was held in Ashland, located about 20 miles south of Ruther Glen. Additional information will be published in the MFA Quarterly Newsletter, coming in September.

### **Genealogy Information Problems**

Deciding which information to list on individual records can be quite a problem. Census, birth, marriage, death, obituary, tombstone, and other dates from various data may vary quite often. So, which date do you use??? If you have any idea regarding who submitted the information, then you probably should use that information. Or if several have similar information, those dates are probably correct.

## **FindAGrave**

We have discussed placing information and tombstone photos on findagrave.com. There are quite a number of Middlebrooks/es previously appearing on the FAG site. Our original idea was to simply send out CDs to members who submitted photos. At that time FAG was not as well known as it is currently. This idea should save MFA some money, plus aid getting information about our family out to the public. As head of the Cemetery Project for MFA, I am seeking others who would like to assist with this project. I have never submitted information to FAG, but I do know of at least one member who has submitted information, plus my best friend has added several members of his family to the FAG site. He has agreed to teach me the proper procedure to follow - resizing photos, linking family members, etc.

**New officers for MFA** 2011-2012 has been elected; a new list will be posted to MFA web site, soon. **MFA Web Site:** <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~midregerrata>