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## MAZE 2013 November Edition

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Submitted by *Neal Middlebrook*

### ***Was Isaac Middlebrooks born 1753 in Virginia or born 1755 in Maryland?***

***By Neal Middlebrook and Russell McKinley Johnson, Jr. (1923-2012)***

Periodically, the letter from Edward C. Wade, to his niece Mrs. B. C. Blackwell in 1908, surfaces and starts a discussion about the birth place and the military service of Isaac Middlebrook b. 1753, in Virginia. The letter below states that Isaac b. 1755, was born in Maryland. It goes on to say, that Colonel Isaac Middlebrooks was in a battle in South Carolina and Savannah.

#### ***Isaac of Virginia and North Carolina***

Bethenia Middlebrooks (1798-1872 ) was the daughter of Isaac Middlebrooks (1753-1823) and Elizabeth Perkins (1756-1840). Jesse Wade (1794-1879) was the husband of Bethenia. Numerous land records document Isaac Middlebrooks b. 1753 in Caswell County, North Carolina, after the Revolutionary War. For example, on October 8, 1786, Isaac "*of Jackson Co, GA sold 382 acres of land along Moon's Creek to Abram Perkins of Fluvanna Co, VA.*" This land was probably sold to Abram, Jr. Abram, Sr. was already living in Caswell County by 31 Aug. 1782, when Abram, Sr. sold 250 acres of Caswell Co. land to Robert Lyon. Moreover, in the *Memoirs of Georgia, Vol. I*, it states "*Lucy Middlebrooks is a daughter of Isaac Middlebrooks (b. 1753), a native of Virginia, and a settler in Georgia, 1800.*"

#### ***Isaac of Maryland***

However, adding to the confusion of Isaac Middlebrooks birth place is a record of an Isaac Middlebrook b. *circa* 1755 in Kent County, Maryland. This Isaac also served in the Revolutionary War as part of the Kent County, Maryland militia. Very little else is known about Isaac, other than he is listed on the 1783 Kent County tax records and died before 1790, while living in Kent County. Therefore, this Maryland Isaac, although possibly related to our Virginia Isaac could not have been the one mentioned in the Edward Wade letter. Some family trees, based on this letter and DAR records , still mistakenly list the birth place of Isaac Middlebrook b. 1753, as Maryland.

#### ***Isaac's Revolutionary War Service***

Another issue raised by this letter is the Revolutionary War service of our Isaac Middlebrooks b. 1753. Some researchers suggest that Isaac's mother Ann (Sims) Middlebrooks was awarded a 640 acre parcel by the State of North Carolina, (1787), in Caswell County for her son Isaac's Rev. War service. John Middlebrooks b. 1755, another son, of Ann, also served in the Rev. War as a soldier in the North Carolina Continental Line. Surviving land records do not indicate that the 640 acre parcel was a result of Isaac or John's military service. This does seem like a logical conclusion, based on the service of both Isaac and John.

Patricia Yates, in the *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina, 1985*, speculates since Isaac was a neighbor of Rev. War hero Lt. Col. Henry Dixon that he perhaps recruited Isaac and followed him to the deep south. DAR records have Isaac at the Battle of Savannah in December of 1778, where he assisted in carrying the body of Count Casimir Pulaski from the field after he was killed by the British. According to the Edward C. Wade letter, Isaac was taken prisoner in a battle in South Carolina, escaped by swimming across the Savannah River at Puryburg and joined the army of Georgia commanded by Jasper and Newton.

In the *Descendants of Nicolas Perkins of Virginia* by William K. Hall, 1958 ,it says Isaac Middlebrooks and Elizabeth Perkins were married *circa* 1780, in Caswell County, NC. And it repeats the information on Isaac's role in removing Count Casimir Pulaski body from the field. This information is again abstracted from DAR records or the Edward C. Wade letter.

Thirty-five years after the Revolutionary War, Georgia's third land lottery (LL) of 1820 finally recognized a veterans service in the land lottery draw process. However, it was not until the 1827 land lottery that the invalid indigent (1820 LL) or death of a widow or soldier (1821) requirement was removed for additional draws. Isaac Middlebrooks was a successful in the 1805, 1820 and 1821 land lotteries. Since the actual number of draws for each participant did not survive except for the 1805 LL it is difficult to determine if Isaac was given extra draws as a Rev. War veteran in the 1820 and 1821 LL. By the time the results of the 1821LL were announced later the same year, Isaac had died. He was the winner of 202 ½ acres of land in Houston Co, GA, If Elizabeth, as widow of a deceased Rev War veteran, paid \$18.00, the 202 ½ acres in Houston Co, GA was hers, to do with as she pleased. Some suggest, that because Elizabeth was awarded the land after her husbands death this strengthens the notion Isaac applied for the LL as a Rev War veteran. Veterans were awarded extra draws which increased their chances of being successful.

The strongest supporting evidence of Isaac's military service is in *The Georgia Revolutionary Soldiers, Sailors and Patriots*, Vol. 1, by Mary Carter, "Isaac (b. 1753) served as a Private in GA Troops, Continental Regiment" and the *Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in Georgia*. Vol. I. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004, by Miss McCall, displayed below.

ISAAC MIDDLEBROOKS, b. Md., 1753; d. Morgan Co., Ga., 1823. Served as private, Ga Troops. Mar. 1780, Elisabeth Perkins (dau of ARCHIBALD PERKINS, h. N. C, 1746; d. Greene Co., Ga., 1840. Private, N. C. and Va. Troops, and his wife, Elizabeth Gibbs).

Children:

Isaac, Jr., mar. Elizabeth Thompson.

James, mar. Miss Hays.

Bethenia, mar. Jesse Wade (son of PEYTON WADE, Rev. Sol).

Fannie, mar. — Thompson.

Elizabeth, mar. — Chaney,

Lea, mar.—Chaney.

Polly, mar. Jeremiah Boggess.

ISAAC MIDDLEBROOKS was at the Battle of Savannah, Ga., and assisted in carrying the body of Count Casimir Pulaski from the field where he was killed, at the Siege of Savannah.

JOHN MIDDLEBROOKS, b. Caswell Co., N. C, 1755; d. Newton Co., Ga., 1830. Private, Capt. Root's Co., Col. Lytle's Caswell Co, N. C. Troops. Mar. (1) MARY WARE; (2) MILLY SUTTON. One child by (2) wife: (Perhaps others).

If you notice above Isaac's birth place was still listed as Maryland, b. 1753, and serving in Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, presumably as a private. The Edward Wade letter states Isaac was the rank of Colonel while the DAR record says he was a private. Unfortunately, neither of the above publications cite specific sources of information for the above soldiers. John Middlebrook b. 1755, however was listed on a pay voucher for the NC Continental line.

### **Letter by Edward Clemens Wade, 1908**

Edward C. Wade (1855-1927), the author of the letter was the son of Jesse and Bethenia Wade. Bethenia Middlebrook as reported in the letter was the daughter of Col. Isaac Middlebrooks b.1755, in Maryland.

Letter by Edward Clemens Wade

Shelley Miller originally submitted this to *Rebels and Yankees* on 3 Apr 2011

I have a copy of a letter written by Edward Clemens Wade, son of Jesse Perkins Wade and Bethenia Middlebrooks. It was written in 1908 to his niece, Mrs. B.C. Blackwell of Quitman, GA. Edward was a brother to my GGG-GF, Isaac Middlebrooks Wade.

*My Dear Niece,*

*My mother's father was Colonel Isaac Middlebrooks, born in Maryland 1755. He was a Revolutionary Soldier from first to last, was taken prisoner in a battle in South Carolina, escaped and swam across Savannah River at Puryburg 25 miles above Savannah, and joined the Army of GA commanded by Jasper and Newton, and was with them when they rescued the American prisoners at a spring 2 miles out of Savannah known for 100 years as Jasper Spring.*

*I was born in Newton County, GA named for the other illustrious officer. Grandfather Middlebrooks was in the Battle of Savannah and assisted in carrying Count Pulaski from the field when shot dead from his horse. He was six months a prisoner in Charleston, SC and was starved and eaten by vermin nearly to death before he escaped. Oh, how I love and cherish my Grandfathers memory. I got all of this from my mother Bethenia Middlebrooks Wade, (Mrs. Jesse Wade.)*

*Affectionately,*

*Edward C. Wade*

In conclusion, it appears that Isaac b. 1753 Rev. War service is primarily from DAR records and the Edward C. Wade letter, 1908. Circumstantial evidence does support Isaac's military service. Additional research is needed to more fully document Isaac's Rev. War service and his presence at the battles in South Carolina and Savannah. If we have not included other pertinent sources of information or if you draw a different conclusion from the information presented above, please let us know.

We would like acknowledge the contribution of information by Russell McKinley Johnson, Jr. (1923-2012) for this article. Russell's daughter is Evelyn Bugg, a long standing member of the MFA and descendant of Isaac Middlebrooks b. 1753. Russell was an excellent genealogist and family historian. I thoroughly enjoyed corresponding with Russell over the years.



**The Magic of Christmas never ends  
and its greatest of gifts  
are family and friends.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

From The Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

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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](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net).

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