

THE MAZE

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

MAZE 2015 March - April - May Edition

Glovers, Middlebrooks and Williams

of Juliette, Monroe County, Georgia

By Dianne Middlebrooks (1943-2012)

While chasing family ghosts on the Internet, I came across this article written by our first vice-president of the MFA. Today Juliette is East and West Juliette, divided by the Ocmulgee River. The western, and larger, portion is in Monroe County, while the eastern part is in Jones County. These three families moved into these counties in the early 1800s as the state expanded westward. They lived, reared their families, married and died and were buried in this Piedmont area of Georgia. Robert 1766, Thomas 1763 and slightly further east Sims 1762, three North Carolina Middlebrooks brothers and their descendants, lived. Even today a few of their descendants can still be found in a part of Georgia known for its Whistle Stop Cafe... Leonard Middlebrooks

The sleepy town of Juliette, formally known as Brownsville and Iceburg, was created in 1882. The railroad, then East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia, is now Southern Railroad. Southern Railroad built the depot that handled a "large shipping business for many years with the Juliette Mill and the many cotton growers." Juliette was named for Juliette McCracken, supposedly a relative of the engineer who supervised the grading and laying of the railroad. The first post office was established at Iceburg in 1879 and was moved to Juliette in 1883. Southern Railroad built the depot that handled a "large shipping business for many years with the Juliette Mill and the many cotton growers."

The fire station in Juliette is in the Middlebrooks District, named for the Middlebrooks family "who were large landowners" in 1882. The cemetery is the only reminder of long ago.

The main industry in Juliette was the "great" grist mill. Joe Smith owned the mill and gave it to his sons. Dr. W.P. Glover was the next buyer, around 1890. (John Jackson), Jack's father, Nathaniel "Nat" Glover, recognized the value of the Ocmulgee River in Juliette, so he bought Smith's Mill for Jack to operate. This was a large two-story mill with machinery for grinding corn and wheat. One mill was on the Monroe County side of the river, and the other mill was on the Jones County side. Jack moved in before 1883 to take possession of the mills. He was working very hard one day when, by accident, he fell into the river and lost his life. Upon the death of Jack Glover, Dr. W.P. (Washington Pierce) Glover, brother of Jack, bought the Mill in 1890. The Mill became known as Juliette Milling & Glover Manufacturing Company until Dr. Glover sold his interest in the Mill. The new name was Juliette Milling Company. The old mill was torn down in 1904 and a new one was built.

The new mill burned down in 1926 and was rebuilt in 1927, with the present structure of concrete and steel. The mill started operation in March of 1927 and closed in 1957.

In 1907, the Juliette Milling & Glover Manufacturing Company built the Juliette Toll Bridge, replacing the Glover or Smith Ferry. This bridge was made free in 1942 and a newer bridge was built in 1971. All the bridges built were over the Ocmulgee River.

Other towns had ferries; Juliette had a bridge. It was wide enough only for one lane of traffic, and the fee was 5 cents for walking and 10 cents for a wagon or automobile. The old bridge was a toll bridge until 1942 and was replaced by the new bridge in the late sixties.

The gristmill leased its operation to Dixie Lily Milling Company and then to Martha White Mills, and ceased all operations in 1957.

One by one, the merchants closed their stores, and the only existing grocery store today is Marvin Bowdoin's store at the crossroads west of downtown Juliette on Highway 87. The building was built in 1927 by Edward L. Williams Sr. He ran a general merchandise store there for 45 years and finally closed the doors in 1972. The store sold groceries, staples, gasoline, cattle feed, medicines, clothing, and hardware.

The movie *Fried Green Tomatoes* was filmed in Juliette in 1991.

Sources: **Monroe County, Georgia, A History (1979)**. Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. Forsythe, Georgia and the **History of Jones Co., Ga.** by Carolyn White Williams

MFA's annual meeting Vicksburg, Mississippi, October 1, 2, 3.

The potpourri of topics will at least include:

- 1] Middlebrooks who preserved our freedom
- 2] A derivation of the Middlebrook/s name
- 3] Middlebrooks and Willis connection
- 4] Dr. John Middlebrooks and Johnson Island
- 5] Who Rufus D. Middlebrooks was
- 6] Family DNA Progress with a first-time Micajah tester
- 7] Micajah from North Carolina, Virginia or Maryland

There will be status updates on the current Middlebrook/s Family Register, Cemetery Project, Web site, and membership. Join your family for some good old family fun, information and dining.

Meeting registration and accommodation details for motel and RV facilities are found on the MFA Web site <http://middlebrooksfamily.org/> under the 'Events' tab.

If you have not gone through the Web site registration, please take time to do so. Once logged into the site, please review your membership information under 'Edit Account' for accuracy.

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

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 Jarrelyn Lang, Editor, at MFAeditor@gmail.com.