

# The Maze

The Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

## *August 2017 Edition*

We have asked that articles and/or information regarding our Middlebrook/s Family be submitted for publication in *The MAZE*. Please continue to keep this in mind. Send any articles or information to [dalekidwell07@gmail.com](mailto:dalekidwell07@gmail.com) with MFA in the subject line, just in case the email lands in my spam folder. This month we are pleased to present an article by Leslie Middlebrook Shealy.

### **The Untold Story of My Middlebrook Family**

I was born in Union, SC on April 15, 1969. Growing up I was surrounded by a large, loud and loving family...on my mother's side. Now don't get me wrong, my father's family is very large, loud and loving too! We just weren't around them as much. Even after we moved to Columbia in 1971 for Daddy to finish college, we still went to Union more than we went to Rock Hill. We had family gatherings several times a year with extended family and still have a family reunion each October. Daddy was content with this. I think because he grew up the same way, surrounded by his mother's large, loud and mostly loving family.lol He never talked about his father's family, because he didn't know very much about them. He knew my grandfather had been married before and had other children, but that is all he knew. Boy were we surprised by what we found, in part from our association with the Middlebrooks Family Association. (MFA) This is our story.

John David Middlebrook was born in Rock Hill, SC on July 26, 1945 to Rufus Anderson Middlebrook(s) and Beulah Jackson Middlebrook. He was supposed to be named Michael Wayne, but at the last minute his father changed it to John David, without telling Grandma. This is remarkable to me since my grandfather could not read or write. (That's why we are just Middlebrook and not Middlebrooks.lol) All his life, Daddy has wondered where "John David" came from and why it was changed by his father. I'll tell you how I think it came about later. Daddy is the youngest boy and next to youngest child of my grandparents. He grew up with 3 half-sisters (my grandmother's girls) and an older sister, Shirley, older brother, Norris and younger sister, Vickie. Like I said, they were extremely close to Grandma's family, living

within walking distance of many of her siblings. I didn't know my Granddaddy as he passed away November 9, 1967. He was a night watchman at the mill, so they lived across the street from it. He would sleep during the day and work at night. He was 52 when Daddy was born, not a young man. Daddy has said many times that he doesn't remember ever having a conversation with his father, about anything. One story Daddy has shared with me is once when he and Uncle Norris were little boys, they were walking down the sidewalk and passed Granddaddy. No one spoke, but a little ways after they passed each other Granddaddy turned around and looked at them like he was thinking, "I know those kids." In other words, he was not all cuddly and warm with them. Maybe that's why Daddy has always been more loving and affectionate with me and my brother.

Fast forward to 2011, my cousin Ken called and asked Daddy if he would submit a DNA sample to the MFA Y-DNA project. Finally, we might learn something about Granddaddy and his family. He heard back and discovered we are descended from a group of brothers from Caswell, NC and our direct ancestor is John Middlebrooks born 1755. Remember the name, "John David"? Now we started getting clues as to where it came from and why Granddaddy changed it. John had a son, David who had a son James Wiley, who had a son named John. This John was my great-grandfather, Granddaddy's father. We have learned that John essentially was raised by his grandmother, Mary Polly and she lived with he and his wife as late as 1880. Now the name makes sense, John is after Granddaddy's father and David is after his great-grandfather, someone apparently very close to his father John's heart. Cool huh?!

Well that is not all we learned! Since we now had names, a monster was created!!! Daddy started looking at census records and any other documents he could find for his lost family. We found out Granddaddy had not 1, but 2 other families. He was first married to Dora Callaham in November 1912. They had 2 sons, Johnnie (b. 1914) and Julius (b. 1915). Granddaddy served in the Army during WWI, serving in France. We also discovered he was a POW during this time. He never spoke of this part of his life. Apparently, something happened with Dora as by the 1920 census Granddaddy is back living with his mother and brother. Dora and the boys are listed separately in the same residence of the 1910 census. (He and Dora never divorced.)

By 1921, Granddaddy is with a Susie Ellis and they have their first child, Ruth. They “married” on January 16, 1922 and went on to have 3 other children, Henry (b. 1929), Hugh (b. 1932, died a few days later) and Rubin (b. 1933). Granddaddy now has 5 living children. By 1937, Susie became ill and died leaving Ruth (16), Henry (8) and Rubin (4). We don’t know why, but Granddaddy left Georgia, and his children, and moved to Charlotte, NC, near one of his brothers.

By 1939, he is now “married” to Grandma and they have just had their 1<sup>st</sup> daughter, Shirley (b. 1939). They would then go on to have Norris (b. 1942), Daddy (John, b. 1945) and Vickie (b. 1947) while living in Rock Hill, SC. Granddaddy now has 9 living children and 1 deceased son. He NEVER spoke of these other children nor their mothers.

Daddy and everyone else learned about Dora basically by accident. Granddaddy was trying to get either disability or social security and discovered he had never been divorced from Dora. Funny as this sounds, Grandma was in the same boat! lol In 1965, Uncle Norris had to take both of them to Griffin, Ga. and Aiken, SC respectively so they could divorce their previous spouses. Grandma and Granddaddy then legally married in late 1965. Boy did we find out some truly interesting things about Granddaddy.

It doesn’t stop there! In 2015, after we had been to our first MFA meeting/reunion, cousin Ken e-mailed again. He had spoken with a guy who lived near Atlanta and discovered we all share the same grandfather. His father Rubin, was the son of Granddaddy and Susie Ellis. To put it mildly, Daddy was FLOORED! He was thrilled to learn he has 4 “new” nephews and a niece all living in or near Georgia. We met “new cousins” Robert and Ron in September 2015 at the Quick/Turner reunion. It was truly amazing!!! Robert and Ken look almost identical and Ron looks a lot like Daddy. I felt like they were family immediately! They had similar feelings to what I felt when I realized my grandfather left 2 families with small children, how could he do that?! I don’t know what happened with Dora. He went to war, experiencing POW conditions and maybe felt like he couldn’t be a good father to Johnnie and Julius. To realize he did it a 2<sup>nd</sup> time after Susie died is extremely sad to me. I like to think he knew he could not raise 3 children alone, especially as young as Henry and Rubin were. He left them with his stepson Robert Lewis who happened to be married to his cousin Eunice Quick. I think he felt that leaving them with Robert and Eunice would give them a chance to have a mother and father figure in their

lives. Daddy has since met his niece Vickie and another nephew Henry. He hasn't met nephew Randy, but he is looking forward to doing so soon. I can't wait to meet them all either! We learned so much more than this, but that is for another time.

So, now you know The Untold Story! To me the moral is, don't let your family history die with your older relatives, share what you know or think you know. You never know who or what you will discover!

## Our Sincere Sympathy

### *Doyle Clinton Middlebrooks*

April 3, 1921 - July 6, 2017

Lilburn, GA- Rev. Middlebrooks, most recently of Lilburn, Georgia, aged 96, passed into the presence of his Savior July 6, 2017. Rev. Middlebrooks was born in Jack County, Texas, April 3, 1921, the first son of late Columbus and Leona Middlebrooks of Jacksboro, Texas. Rev. Middlebrooks is survived by three children and their spouses: Janice and Mike Rogers, Waxhaw, North Carolina; Larry and Susie Middlebrooks, Lilburn, Georgia; Charles and Mary Ann Middlebrooks, Waco, Texas; grandchildren and their spouses: in Georgia: Scott and Kerry, and Kevin and Andrea Middlebrooks and in Texas: Joe and Starla, Phillip and Maggie Middlebrooks, and David Middlebrooks; and three great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons in Texas. Rev. Middlebrooks is preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Stella Lou, and by a grandson and spouse, Brian and Debbie Rogers.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/macon/obituary.aspx?pid=186024717>

*Thomas Lawrence "Tommy" Middlebrook, Jr.*, of Groesbeck, Texas, passed away Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at Providence Hospital in Waco, at age 75

Tommy was born January 24, 1942 to Thomas L. Middlebrook, Sr. and Evelyn Frances (Allen) Middlebrook in Whitney. Tommy was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Sharron Booth; grandparents, George Milton and Verbia Allen, and William Talbot and Agnes Middlebrook (all of whom had lived in Whitney.)

He is survived by his wife of fifty-four years, Deanne Middlebrook; son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Vicki Middlebrook of Rowlett; daughter and son-in-law, Lea and Brent Rutherford of Arlington; son and daughter-in-law, David and Melissa Middlebrook of Temple; and son Don Middlebrook of Chicago, IL. His eight grandchildren are: Ethan Rutherford of Bellingham, WA, Shane Rutherford of Arlington, Ryan Rutherford

of Arlington, Jenna Middlebrook of Rowlett, John Middlebrook of Rowlett, Jared Middlebrook of Temple, Jordan Middlebrook of Temple, and Joshua Middlebrook of Temple. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Keith and Karen Middlebrook of Whitney and Gary and Lorraine Middlebrook of Cedaredge, CO; brother-in-law, Ronnie Booth of Whitney; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Don and DeLou Corbitt of Mexia; and many cousins, nieces and nephews, other extended family, friends, and colleagues.  
<https://www.groesbeckjournal.com/obituaries/thomas-lawrence-middlebrook-jr-january-24-1942-june-6-2017>

### *Leonard Earl Tucker*

Leonard passed away on June 1st, 2017 at home following a brief decline in health. Leonard was born March 31, 1950 in Dennison, Ohio. Leonard was the son of the late Henry L Tucker Sr. and Beatrice (Tucker) Mells. Leonard leaves behind his wife of 47 years, Jacinta; daughters, Letitia (Kory) Russell Denver, Colo.; Angelia (Stanley Sampson) Tucker, Macon, Ga.; Victoria Holmes Uhrichville, Ohio; Lavisia Cuadrado, Cleveland, Ohio; Lois Shiltz, Elyria, Ohio; Theresa Morton, Macon, Ga.; sons, John Tucker, Dover, Ohio; Deandre (Tiffany) Mells, New Philadelphia, Ohio; Esteban Carter, Columbus Ohio; Glehn Carter Jr., Columbus, Ohio; Isiah Carter, Ill.; Daniel Holmes, Fla.; Chris (Shelia) Martin, Charlotte, N.C.; Eddie (Margaret) Hewitt, Medina, Ohio. 28 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Also leaving behind brothers, Henry (Annie) Tucker, Jr., Akron, Ohio; James (Kathy) Tucker, Nashville, Tenn.; Frank Mells, Charleston, W.Va.; Vincent (Salema) Mells, Hickory, N.C.; Myron Mells, Coshocton, Ohio; sisters, Marguerite (Dan) Cooper, Ft. Worth, Texas; Marlene Mells-Tucker, Charleston, W.Va.; Sandra (David) Fears, Cleveland, Ohio; and Hattie Mells, Cleveland, Ohio. And special friend Cliff Clay, Cleveland Ohio; and a host of nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents and grandparents, Maggie and Leonard Hudson, and Aunt Myrtle Middlebrooks; Leonard was preceded in death by his son, Thomas (Crystal St Aulburn) Tucker; sisters, Lillian Reed, Stephanie Lumpkin, Magdalene Mells; brother, Earl Waymon Mells-Tucker and brother, Glehn (Paula) Carter Sr.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/leonard-tucker-obituary?pid=1000000185717521&view=guestbook>

A message from Bob Middlebrooks President of the MFA.

**Annual Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. Meeting  
October 12-14, Macon, Georgia**

Hotel: Wingate at Wyndham  
100 N. Crest Blvd., Macon, Georgia 03121  
844-415-8006

**Make room reservations by 11 Sep 2017 and state that you are with the Middlebrooks Group (MFA) to obtain discounted rates. Programs include:**

DNA and the Middlebrooks Profile. Our New Zealand Middlebrooks Friends, Jones County Field Trip, Jarrell Plantation Guided Tour, Indians Preceded our Middlebrooks Ancestors, the Black Middlebrook Lineage. And meals: Dining at Longhorn Steakhouse, Texas Roadhouse, lunch at the Whistle Stop Café where the movie Fried Green Tomatoes as made, and Cheddars Restaurant, and Jeaneane's at Pinebrook.

You can go to our website at: <http://middlebrooksfamily.org> to register for the meeting.

**Consider this genealogy researchers: Censuses were taken every ten years. Those intervening years leave lots of time for events that are important to research. However, land records have the potential to fill in gaps during those years. Recently I visited the Woodruff County Courthouse. Although the books can be heavy....and I did have to climb a ladder....my visit was fruitful!**

## MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

*2016-2017 Officers*

President – Bob Middlebrooks

Vice President – Kerry Middlebrooks

Secretary/Treasurer – Kathleen Hunter

### **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 Middlebrook

*Thomas* b. 1763: Joyce Arnold

*England Middlebrooks*: Ian Middlebrook and Neal Middlebrook

*Unknown Ancestors*: Leonard Middlebrooks and J. A. Middlebrooks

### **Board of Directors**

Bob Middlebrooks, President

Kerry Middlebrooks, Vice President

Kathleen Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer

Dale Kidwell 2015-2017

Charles S. Middlebrooks, Sr. 2015-2017

Leonard Middlebrooks 2016-2018

Neal Middlebrooks 2016-2018

Leslie Shealy 2016-2018

Ella Tripp 2015-2017

### **On-Going Projects**

*Cemetery*: J.A. Middlebrooks and William Sterling

*DAR-UDC*: Jean Shroyer

*DNA*: Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark

*Family Register Update*: Leonard Middlebrooks

*Family Repository*: Kerry Middlebrooks

*MAZE*: Dale Kidwell

*MFA Website*: Dave Clark and Leonard Middlebrooks

*Military Register Update*: Kerry Middlebrooks

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*Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. (MFA)* was found 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 ***MAZE*** (currently MFA's only publication) is published and sent to all members (both paid and non-paid) quarterly each February, May, August, and November. You may request to be removed from this list by contacting Dale Kidwell at [dalekidwell07@gmail.com](mailto:dalekidwell07@gmail.com)