

Review of Middlebrooks Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina, Records

Part III of III:

Estates of Henry Dixon Jr. and Charles Dixon; Middlebrooks Land in Caswell Co., NC; Anne Middlebrooks's land conveyances; Isaac Middlebrooks's land conveyances; John Middlebrooks's land conveyances; Anne Middlebrooks and Richard Boggess; Leaving Caswell Co., NC

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The Estate of Henry Dixon Jr., in account with the Estate of Charles Dixon

As mentioned earlier, both Henry and Charles Dixon are close friends and neighbors of the Middlebrooks in the Hogan's Creek area. The will of Henry Dixon, Jr. was recorded August 4, 1795, and Charles Dixon's will was recorded November 24, 1805, both in Caswell County.⁵⁶ The estate papers for Henry Dixon Jr. list the following entries on an account ledger for Middlebrooks:

"Sept, 1784, To pd. Anne Middlebrooks for Boarding Bob Dixon to go to School £5."

"Sept 1, 1786, To Pd. Middlebrooks for Coopers work, £2, 4 schillings."

"Nov 10, 1784, To cash Pd. John Middlebrooks for Wheel 8 schillings."⁵⁷

Another item found in these estate papers is a letter dated August 13, 1783, and witnessed by John Middlebrooks and Ruth Bogess. Tillman Dixon wrote the letter to the Sheriff of Caswell County demanding payment of 36 pounds, 10 schillings to the estate of his father, Henry Dixon Jr. Decd. from Samuel Jones.

Other friends and neighbors mentioned in the estate papers include: James Boggis; John Bullock; Charles Burton; Franky, Susan, Martha (wife of Henry Dixon Jr. Decd.), Roger, Elizabeth, Henry, Robert, and Wynn Dixon; Joel McDaniel; James Miller; Pleasant and Col. Peter Perkins; and James and John Somers.

Middlebrooks Land in Caswell County, North Carolina

The first occurrence found of Middlebrooks land ownership begins with a warrant dated November 6, 1778, which would have been issued after Anne Middlebrooks made the initial entry for her property. The property consisted of 640 acres joining the line of Samuel Bullock on the waters of Hogan's Creek, and two including improvements bought from James Miller. What the improvements are is not known.

The final state patent for this land was not issued until the following year, on August 18, 1787.⁵⁸ The town of Providence, established some years later, is believed to be located near, or actually on, part of this parcel of land. Anne paid a total of 320 schillings for these 640 acres.

It is quite likely that many of the settlers were living on their land at the time they made their land entries. The complete land entry process would have consisted of a written land description in the county entry book, a payment of the required fees, and then a wait through the three-month protest period before a warrant was issued to survey the land.

On October 1, 1781, John Middlebrooks began the same land entry process as his mother to purchase thirty acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek. The State patent was issued the same day as his mother's, on August 18, 1787.⁵⁹ Likewise, on December 21, 1785, Isaac Middlebrooks started the land entry process for twenty and one-half acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek, with the State patent also being issued August 18, 1787.⁶⁰

Anne Middlebrooks's land conveyances

August 31, 1782. Anne Middlebrooks, for the love of her son, Isaac, conveys to him 195 acres along the south side of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Henry Dixon, part of a larger tract. Witnesses: Presly Lutteral, Robert Lyon, and Abram Perkins.⁶¹

March 17, 1788. Anne Middlebrooks of Caswell County confirms the sale of 100 acres lying in

Caswell County to Joel Cannon, adjoining Henry Dixon, being land Joel Cannon bought of Isaac Middlebrooks. Witnesses: John Middlebrooks, William Carmon, and James Perkins.⁶²

February 4, 1790. Anne Middlebrooks conveys 100 acres of the waters of Hogan's Creek to Captain John Sommers, adjoining Ware, Bullock, and John Middlebrooks. Witnesses: James Grant Jr. and John Middlebrooks.⁶³

October 16, 1795. Anne Middlebrooks conveys 109 acres on the waters of Hogan's Creek to James Grant Jr., adjoining Joel Kennon and John Sommers. Witnesses: William Norton, William Dixon, and Peter Smith.⁶⁴

December 30, 1795. Anne Middlebrooks conveys 237 acres lying in Caswell County to Wynn Dixon, adjoining Joel Kennon and Charles Dixon. Witnesses: Robert Dixon, Moley (Molly) Middlebrooks, Arter (Arthur) Toney.⁶⁵

December 12, 1801. Adjacent to Middlebrooks, the sale of 278.75 acres from Richard Boggess to Joel McDaniel, on the waters of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, where Boggess now lives, part of grant from State 1787. Witnesses: Robert Mitchell and Silva Stokes.⁶⁶

By December 30, 1795, Anne Middlebrooks has disposed of all her 640 acres of land in Caswell County. Her land sales listed above total 740 acres instead of 640 acres. The North Carolina State Grant entry was made on November 15, 1778, and the patent issued August 18, 1787, was for 640 acres. The 100-acre difference, land sold to Joel Cannon on March 17, 1788, is thought to be from a previous land grant issued to Isaac Middlebrooks (born 1727). Some researchers contend this was a 100-acre Granville District grant (or part of a larger grant) that was not issued before the office closed in 1763, which was later (in 1788) recognized by the State of North Carolina.

Isaac Middlebrooks's land conveyances

August 31, 1782. Anne Middlebrooks, for her love to son, Isaac Middlebrooks, gave him 195 acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Henry Dixon, part of a larger tract. Witnesses: Presly Luttrell, Robert Lyon, and Abram Perkins.⁶⁷

October 8, 1786. Isaac Middlebrooks of Jackson County, Georgia, sold 382 acres along Moon's Creek to Abram Perkins of Fluvanna County, Virginia, adjoining James Miller, Bullock's claim, Anne Middlebrooks, and John Perkins. Witnesses: Charles and Henry Dixon, Jessie (Jesse) Perkins.⁶⁸

October 8, 1796. Isaac Middlebrooks of Jackson County, Georgia, conveys 20½ acres of land adjacent to Dixe's Road, Anne Middlebrooks on Hogan's Creek, to Charles Dixon of Caswell County, North Carolina. Witnesses: Jesse Perkins, Robert Boman, and Peter Smith.⁶⁹

November 27, 1792. Sheriff's sale of 137 acres on Hogan's Creek belonging to John Bullock sold to Jessie Carter to satisfy debt, adjoining Isaac Middlebrooks, widow Grayham, said land granted to Bullock, by State.⁷⁰

July 26, 1803. Isaac Middlebrooks is an adjacent landowner to the sale of 137 acres from Jessie (Jesse) Carter of Caswell County, North Carolina, to James Burton of same, on Hogan's Creek, adjoining Widow Grayham and Miller. Witnesses: Griffin Gunn and John Payne.⁷¹

The deed for 187 acres of land acquired by Isaac has not been discovered. He sold 382 acres to his father-in-law, Abram Perkins, in 1786, when only a total of 215½ acres are reported in existing deeds. It is also interesting to note in the deed records that Isaac is referred to as an adjacent landowner as late as July 26, 1803.

John Middlebrooks's land conveyances

September 17, 1788. Richard Boggass of Caswell County sells 202 acres to John Middlebrooks, of same, on Hogan's Creek, adjoining Boggass, tract granted him by State, and Charles Burton. Witnesses: James Grant Jr. and Sims Middlebrooks.⁷²

November 10, 1795. John Middlebrooks of Caswell County sold 202 acres to Jesse Carter and James Burton, of same, on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Boggass (tract granted by State) and Charles Burton. Witnesses: Jesse Perkins and W. Dixon.⁷³

December 1, 1801. John Middlebrooks is an adjacent landowner to the sale of 100 acres from John Summers to James Burton on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Ware and Bullock. Witnesses: Joel McDaniel and Marady Price.⁷⁴

It appears that John acquired the 202 acres from Richard Boggess as early as 1784. He was assessed for 232 acres (202 acres + 30 acres = 232 acres) on the 1784 tax list; the recording of the deed must have been delayed until 1788. The reference to John as an adjacent landowner, on December of 1801, could be for his thirty-acre tract not yet sold. No deed of sale has been found for his thirty acres.

Anne Middlebrooks and Richard Boggess

Some researchers believe that Anne Middlebrooks married Richard Boggess ca. 1795, in Caswell County.⁷⁵ Richard Boggess was a neighbor on Hogan's Creek and a friend of the Middlebrooks; however, no marriage bond has been discovered. Indirect evidence to support this claim is the signature of *Ann Boggess* on a deed record when 278.75 acres was sold by Richard Boggess to Joel McDaniel on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, on December 12, 1801, adjacent to the Middlebrooks.⁷⁶

The first record of Richard Boggess in Orange County was when he was a witness to the will of Stephen Norton, in July 1773. Then on July 31, 1775, he was a witness to the will of James Terry (Will Book A, Pg. 71).⁷⁷ Next, Richard Boggess was issued a patent of 445 acres on Hogan's Creek, on August 18, 1787, by the State of North Carolina.⁷⁸ The initial entry for this Hogan's Creek land was probably much earlier, ca. 1778. A Richard Boges was also listed on the 1777 tax list for 215 acres in the Caswell District.⁷⁹ Moreover, the 1784 tax list reported Richard Boggess as being assessed for 232 acres.⁸⁰ Then on September 17, 1788, Richard Boggess sold 202 acres on Hogan's Creek to John

Middlebrooks.⁸¹ He next was recorded on a list of State Fines returned in 1790-91 (Will Book B, Pg. 379).⁸² In 1801 and 1802, he was enumerated on a list of insolvents for Caswell (Will Book E, Pg. 23, 38).⁸³ This means, even after selling his property, he did not have enough money to pay his taxes for those two years. On the 1803 tax list, a Richard Boggess is listed with no land.⁸⁴

Leaving Caswell County, North Carolina

We believe that Isaac (born 1727) died in 1771 and is buried near Hogan's Creek. If we accept the notion that Anne Middlebrooks married Richard Boggess (Boges, Boggus, Boggas, Boggers) ca. 1795, based on her co-signing a deed of her husband on December 1, 1801, then Anne could have been residing in Caswell County in 1801. A Richard Boggess was also reported in the 1803 List of Taxables for Caswell County, with no land. It is not known if Anne died in Caswell County or left sometime after 1803. No record of Anne Middlebrooks or Richard Boggess has been found in Caswell after 1803. If one speculates that Anne was born about 1726, by 1800 she would have been in her seventies.

Isaac (born 1753) and Elizabeth (Perkins) Middlebrooks are reported to have left Caswell County around 1787-88 and moved to Abbeville, South Carolina.⁸⁵ Having moved to Jackson County, Georgia, Isaac sells the remainder of his land, 382 and 20½ acres, on October 8, 1796, to Abram Perkins Jr. and Charles Dixon, respectively.

John (born 1755) and Millie (Sutton) Middlebrooks have moved to Hancock County, Georgia, by 1794.⁸⁶ It appears that John still owned land in Caswell County as late as December 1801, when he is mentioned as an adjacent landowner. This must be his State grant of thirty acres originally adjacent to his mother's 640-acre tract.

Micajah Middlebrooks (born 1760) is believed to have left Caswell County before 1793, when he is reported on the Muster Roll of Riflemen for Green County, Georgia, in 1793.⁸⁷ No Caswell County court, land, tax, or census records have been discovered for Micajah.

Sims Middlebrooks (born 1762/64) has moved to Wilkes County, Georgia, by 1794.⁸⁸ The only record for Sims in Caswell County is when he is reported as a witness to a deed between Richard Boggas and John Middlebrooks, his brother, on September 17, 1788.

Thomas Middlebrooks (born 1763) arrives in Hancock County, Georgia, ca. 1792/93, with the rest of his brothers – John, Sims, Joseph, Micajah, and Robert.⁸⁹ The only record for Thomas in Caswell County records is when he is listed in the 1786 census with his mother, Anne, and brothers Isaac and John.

Robert Middlebrooks (born 1766) is thought to have moved from Caswell County to Hancock County, Georgia, as early as 1797.⁹⁰ The first record of Robert in Hancock County was in 1801. No record of Robert has been found in Orange or Caswell County. He is listed in the *Register* as a son of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks.

Joseph Middlebrooks (born 1770) leaves Caswell County ca. 1794 and moves to Hancock County, Georgia.⁹¹ This is the last son born to Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks, before his father's death in 1771, and he is listed in the *Register* as their son.

The *Register* lists three more sons: David (born 1759 – died 1829); James (born ca. 1759 – died young); and Garland (born ca. 1774).⁹² The date given for Garland's birth was after the death of his father; Isaac died in 1771. No North Carolina records have been found for these three sons of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks.

56 Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina, Will Books 1777-1814. Raleigh, NC: Privately published, 1979. 49,100.

57 Estate Records of Caswell County, North Carolina, C.R. 020.508 box 20, NC State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

58 Caswell County, Deed Book D. Pg. 362-3, #899, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

59 Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 334, #864.

60 Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 286, #872.

61 Caswell County, Deed Book A, Pg. 602, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

62 Caswell County, Deed Book E, Pg. 186, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

63 Caswell County, Deed Book H, Pg. 118-19, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

64 Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 152-53, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

65 Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 182-83.

66 Caswell County, Deed Book M. Pg. 164-65, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

67 Caswell County, Deed Book A. Pg. 602.

68 Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg 349-50.

69 Caswell County, Deed Book H, Pg. 349-50.

70 Caswell County, Deed Book N, Pg. 54-5, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

71 Caswell County, Deed Book N, PG. 58-9.

72 Caswell County, Deed Book F, Pg. 117-18, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

73 Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 156-57.

74 Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg. 170.

75 Goodrum, *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, 10.

76 Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg. 164-65.

77 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-181*. 3,4.

78 Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 270, #896.

79 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, 26.

80 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, 136.

81 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, 108.

82 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 33.

83 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 89.

84 Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, 41.

85 Goodrum, 13.

86 Goodrum, 30.

87 Goodrum, 42.

88 Goodrum, 54.

89 Goodrum, 86.

90 Goodrum, 65.

91 Goodrum, 85.

92 Middlebrook, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield, Connecticut*, 46