

John Thomas Middlebrook, Jr. [1902-1981]

A Thomas 1763 descendant

Submitted by Leonard Middlebrooks and Keith Smith

A student, Keith Smith, from Foley, Alabama's Foley High School contacted MFA seeking information on a John Thomas Middlebrook. Keith was compiling background for a book about Foley football coaches and asked if the MFA knew what happened to Coach Middlebrook after he left Foley High School in 1942. Keith's initial research and our scant family records sufficed to determine John Thomas' ancestors, his marriage, death and burial location, but nothing between 1942 and his death. Hopefully a member can provide the background information for the missing 39 years.

John Thomas Middlebrook, Jr. is a descendant of Thomas Middlebrooks, born 1763, Orange, now Caswell Co, North Carolina. His parents were Isaac Middlebrooks, born 1727, New Kent Co, Virginia and Ann Sims, born possibly in Virginia.

Thomas married an Ann Selman, born 1778, possibly in North Carolina. This couple had eleven children, the eighth of whom was James Madison, born in 1809 and the great-grandfather of Coach John Thomas Middlebrook.

The Middlebrook surname has changed over time. Some family members added the ending "s," and then later deleted the "s." Others continued with the "s" ending and, of course, there are those who never added the "s."

Coach Middlebrook's grandparents were Thomas Jefferson Middlebrooks and Cynthia Persons. Thomas Jefferson was born 17 Apr 1837 in Upson Co, Georgia and his wife was born about 1844 in the same state. Thomas died in 1920 and Cynthia in 1888; both are buried in Upson County's Middlebrooks Cemetery. They married in 1859 and reared eight children, of which John Thomas Senior was the fourth child.

Highlights of Coach Middlebrook's life in date sequence:

1902 LA, 14 Nov: Born in Tensas Parish, Louisiana; parents were John Thomas Senior and [Mary nee Rhodes] "Mamie" Middlebrook. John was born in 1866, Upson Co, Georgia, He died in 1927 in the Rolling Fork area of Sharkey Co, Mississippi. Mamie, was born in 1869 in West Virginia and died in 1944 in Sharkey Co, Mississippi.

1910 LA, Tensas Parish: Junior is living with his mother and six siblings.

1920 MS, Sharkey Co, Rolling Fork: Junior was the second of seven children and is living with his parents and siblings Ethel 19, Ed 13, Myrtle 12, Herbert 10, Lawrence 9 and Gladys 6. [John Thomas had at least 10 siblings, three of whom were born in Upson Co, Georgia.

The three Georgia-born siblings were Clifford Rhodes, Mary Maude and Carol Person Middlebrook. Coach MKs' parents are buried in the Mound Cemetery in the Rolling Fork area. With John senior and his wife, Mamie Rhodes, are three siblings, Myrtle Lillian and Ethel May Middlebrook and a married sibling, Gladys MK Oxner. There is possibly one additional MK stone with no Christian name. This implies there was an unnamed infant death at some time; this could be a memorial for Cynthia I. MK who died at six months and is buried in Upson Co, Georgia. Only a physical inspection of the Mound Cemetery will confirm this additional grave.]

1929 MS, Lafayette Co, Oxford: Coach Middlebrook was graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor Degree in Liberal Arts. He was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He also ran track and was a letter-man in the M-Club. At a meet in 1926, "Ole Miss went down in defeat after a brilliant battle, but Johnny Middlebrook lightened the sting a bit when he romped away with the Bulldogs' stellar event, the 440-yard dash, and was incidentally the only University Warrior to win a first place."

1930 MS, Forest Co, Hattiesburg: John Thomas is single and lived in a boarding house.

1935 MS, Forest Co: John Thomas and his wife, Opal S. LNU, lived in Forest, Mississippi.

1937 [AL, Baldwin Co, Foley:] The Foley Lions get off to a tough start under new coach John Thomas Middlebrook, Jr.

1940 [AL, Baldwin Co, Foley:] Coach Middlebrook's yearly income was \$1,260 while Opal earned \$900 as an English teacher. Avil York, class of 1941, remembers "Mr. Middlebrook taught the 10th grade Biology class that I was in. One of my classmates remembers that his socks did not match."

1941-42 AL, Baldwin Co, Foley: Coach MKs acted as interim principal upon the death of Principal W. R. Bennett on 22 Jan 1941. Coach MKs did not get the permanent position and returned to Mississippi after the end of the 1942 school year. During this period he did not coach.

1942-1981: The missing 39 years.

1981 MS, Forest Co, Maxie area: Coach Mks dies 24 Jul 1981. Interment is next to his wife Opal S. in the Maxie Methodist Church Cemetery, Maxie, Forest Co, MS.

2002 MS Forrest Co: Opal dies at age 93 and is buried as Opal S Middlebrook. Opal was born 10 Jul 1909 in Mississippi.

If you have information on Coach John and his wife during the 39 missing years, please contact Leonard Middlebrooks at gambol@juno.

The Middlebrooks Family Association Inc.
Annual Meeting-Reunion - OCTOBER 30, 31st, NOV 1, 2014
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Dear Middlebrook and Middlebrooks cousins,

Please join us for this year's reunion in Columbus, Georgia. The events and activities will focus on exploring *"Isaac from Maryland to Georgia."* Meet your extended family; learn more about our ancestors, share family histories, stories and, of course, those old photographs and documents.

Join us for any one day or all three days. Some of the meeting highlights to expect:

Thursday October 30th

- ◆ Columbus Public Library – MFA meeting, Research and National Infantry Museum.
- ◆ Updates on the Middlebrooks Family Register, Cemetery Project, & MFA website
- ◆ DNA project details and update ...BOB Middlebrooks
- ◆ Cater lunch at the library, trays of sandwiches, chips, Fruit, tea/coffee and dessert
- ◆ England - Leonard Middlebrooks or Neal Middlebrook
- ◆ Group dinner at a local restaurant

Friday October 31st:

Lummas Chapel (9:00 a.m. – 12:00) and Linwood Cemetery

A visit to cousin Hiram Middlebrooks (1800-1888)

- ◆ Welcome from our Host Charles & Jo Middlebrooks
- ◆ Jane Brady, Historic Linwood Cemetery
- ◆ Hiram's story - Leonard Middlebrooks
- ◆ Jo Middlebrooks will read Little Giffin by Dr. Oray Tichnor and Hiram Middlebrooks obituary and comments in the Enquirer Sun. A visit to Hiram's grave site.
- ◆ Lunch: **Minnie's Uptown (Classic Country Cooking)**
- ◆ SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE GHOST TOUR
- ◆ Dinner: Ezell's Catfish Cabin – Private Dining Room,

Saturday November 31st

Pine Mountain and Isaac Family cemeteries

- ◆ Drive to Bethany Church near Pine Mountain;
- ◆ Isaac of Harris County, Jo Brooks McGlamery and Melinda Brooks
- ◆ Lunch: Catered in (picked up) from Moore's Whistlin' Pig
- ◆ An opportunity to share your own family history and stories. Group Pictures
- ◆ Visit Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery, Nelson Cemetery and Middlebrooks/Davis Cemetery.
- ◆ Make drive home on HWY 27 – Stop at Pine Mountain Overlook/Country Store
- ◆ Family Social and Dinner - TBA

The hotel is **Fairfield Inn and Suites**, 4510 East Armour Road, **Columbus, GA 31904**. Name of Organization Group: Middlebrooks Family Association, **call 706-317-3600 for hotel reservations**. The room rates - with 2 double is \$89.00, an Executive King room is \$99.00 per night.

If you have questions about the meeting, feel free to e-mail Charles Middlebrooks cmiddleb@bellsouth.net, and please make your hotel reservations as early as possible.

MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

2013-2014 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Joyce Arnold

VICE PRESIDENT – Leonard Middlebrooks

ANCESTOR TEAM LEADERS

Isaac b. 1753 –

Leonard Middlebrooks gambol@juno.com
and Jean Shroyer TXJean@aol.com

John b. 1755 –

Bob Middlebrooks mid293@earthlink.net

Micajah b. 1758 –

Sharon Bartlett sharonbartlett@att.net
and Mary Baker mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Sims b. 1762 –

Neal Middlebrook nealmidbroo1@frontier.com

Thomas b. 1763 –

Jarrelyn Lang thelangs@hotmail.com

Robert b. 1766 –

J.A. Middlebrooks middle3jam2012@gmail.com

Joseph b. 1610 –

Leonard Middlebrooks gambol@juno.com

Joseph b. 1770 –

Dave Clark cdave1000@gmail.com

Virginia Middlebrooks –

Neal Middlebrook nealmidbroo1@frontier.com
Sandy Ahmad sandybbrwc@aol.com

Unknown Ancestor –

Leonard Middlebrooks gambol@juno.com

England Research – Ian Middlebrook and

Neal Middlebrook

MFA Quarterly Newsletter Editor –

Jarrelyn Lang MFAeditor@gmail.com

MAZE by Team Leaders and published by Joyce Arnold

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ----- Joyce Arnold, 2011-2014
joycenjim@sbcglobal.net

Vice President ---- Leonard Middlebrooks, 2013-2015
gambol@juno.com

Secretary/Treasurer --- Kathleen Hunter, 2013-2015
Kathleenhunter001@gmail.com

Charles Swayne Middlebrooks Sr., 2013 -2015
cmiddleb@bellsouth.net

Kerry Middlebrooks, 2013 - 2015
mbrooks@gci.net

Joan Miller, 2013 -2015
jmill1912@hotmail.com

Bob Middlebrooks, 2011 – 2014
mid293@earthlink.net

Joyce Luck, 2011 – 2014
jm.luck50@yahoo.com

Dale Kidwell, 2013 – 2016
Dalekidwell07@gmail.com

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Cemetery..... J. A. Middlebrooks
and William Sterling wgs10@embarqmail.com

DNA..... Bob Middlebrooks, Dave Clark
and Henry Middlebrook, henrym@hmmtx.com

MFA Website..... Dave Clark
and Leonard Middlebrooks

Family Repository..... Michael Kerry Middlebrooks

Family Register Update..... Leonard Middlebrooks

Military Register Update M. Kerry Middlebrooks

DAR-UDC Project Jean Shroyer

MFA Web Site: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~midregerrata>

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.

All submissions are subject to editing.

MFA Membership is \$20.00 per year, September 01 thru August 31. If you would like to become a member, please make check payable to MFA and mail to: MFA, % Kathleen Hunter, P.O. Box 125, Tupelo, AR 72169