

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

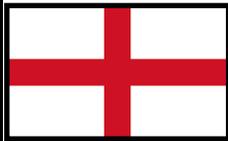
## ***MFA Newsletter March 2026***

### ***Overview of Middlebrook/s Migration in Europe and America***

The Middlebrook family's origins trace to northern Europe, with major migration paths established during the 17th and 18th centuries into the American colonies.



**Netherlands**: The name likely originated in the **Netherlands**, specifically the northern area known as Holland. It is believed to be derived from **Middelburg**, possibly brought to England by Dutch merchants in the 14th century.



**England**: Following a migration in the 6th century, the family settled in northern England, primarily in **Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire**. Early records from 1334 list a Thomas of Middlebroke in Kent and Edward Middlebrough in Yorkshire.

### **North American Migration Patterns**

Research identifies two distinct primary branches—the "Northern" and "Southern"—with significantly different migration paths:

#### **1. The Northern Branch (Connecticut Line)**

- **Immigration (1635)**: Joseph Middlebrook (b. 1610-13) arrived in the **Massachusetts Bay Colony** from England in October 1635.
- **Settlement**: He was an original planter of the Concord Plantation before moving in 1644 to **Fairfield, Connecticut**, seeking better land and lower taxes.
- **Expansion**: By the late 1700s, this branch moved west into New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and later into the Midwest (Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin) and the Pacific Northwest.

#### **2. The Southern Branch (Virginia/North Carolina Line)**

- **Early Records (1733)**: Theophilus Middlebrook arrived in **Maryland** in 1733, and an Isaac Middlebrook is recorded in the Kent County Militia in the 1770s.
- **Virginia Origins**: Ancestors of this branch settled in **New Kent, Hanover, Louisa, and Orange Counties, Virginia**, in the early-to-mid 1700s.

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- **Southward Migration:** In the late 18th century, these families moved into **Orange/Caswell County, North Carolina**.
- **Georgia and Beyond:** From North Carolina, many migrated to **Georgia** (specifically Hancock, Putnam, Jones, and Newton Counties) in the early 1800s. This branch later expanded further west into Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and **Texas**.

## **Name Variations**

As the family migrated, the spelling often shifted. Those in the **Northern branch** typically retained the spelling "**Middlebrook**," while those in the **Southern branch** frequently added an "s," becoming "**Middlebrooks**".

Source: AI and MFA information.

## **Notes: MFA Zoom Meeting January 15, 2026**

### **Genealogy Projects and Seminar Planning**

We reviewed plans for upcoming Zoom seminars on genealogy topics. Brent suggesting that each seminar should focus on a single topic and be kept to a manageable length. We discussed further fleshing out the seminar topics, presentations, scheduling, and advertise the meeting dates/times. Additionally, Neal shared some new information about Thomas and Rachel Middlebrook of Virginia, which he plans to have added to the website once it is finished.

### **Virtual Meeting Planning and Membership**

We discussed organizing a meeting, agreeing to hold it on a **Saturday afternoon for an hour**. This would give us an idea of interest and if we should plan other seminars. We decided to promote it through Facebook and the newsletter, noting it would be more cost-effective than in-person meetings.

### **Honorary Membership and Dues Process**

**The board approved the new Honorary membership class/category and amendment of the MFA 2017 By-Laws, next time they are revised.** Dave will change the membership list on the website, specifically to change annual memberships to honorary status, based on the list below. **Other Names recommended as Honorary members should be submitted to Lanell Middlebrooks.**

The discussion revealed a discrepancy between the bylaws, which state that the fiscal year should align with the calendar year (December), and the current practice of collecting dues in July, which has been the standard since 2018.

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## **Dues Schedule**

The board decided to **maintain the current dues collection** schedule, keeping it as is rather than changing it to December.

## **Meeting Planning and DNA Proposed Project**

The next Zoom Meeting is scheduled for **March 19th**, which Brent agreed to set up.

The proposed DNA expansion project is on hold due to lack of interest in John 1754 participant. We will continue to evaluate the situation to determine if there is another way we can move forward with the project.

## **Honorary Membership Criteria**

- Sustained membership over a number of years.
- Actively served as an officer, board, ancestor team lead, project mgr. position for a number of years.
- Participated in the founding of the MFA.
- Significant contribution to our understanding of Middlebrook/s family history.

## **Recommended Honorary Members**

Dianne Middlebrooks  
Lana Shelton  
Charles H. Middlebrooks  
Jean Shroyer  
Dave Clark  
Leonard Middlebrooks  
Sandy Ahmad  
Ian Middlebrook  
Evelyn Bugg  
Kathleen Hunter  
Dale Kidwell  
J.A. and Lanell Middlebrooks  
Bob Middlebrooks  
Joyce Arnold  
Joan Miller  
Neal Middlebrook

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## ***Middlebrooks History Seminar Planning***

Plans for a potential Zoom seminar in the new year, focusing on topics related to the Middlebrooks and Caswell County history. Neal agreed to draft an outline for the seminar, which would cover John 1754, Nathaniel, and Caswell County content, and send it out to board members and others for feedback. They decided to aim for a mid-January Zoom meeting to review the outline and potentially proceed with scheduling, with plans to promote the event through mass mailings, the website, and Facebook. It was suggested that tying the seminar to could enhance MFA membership recruitment of new members.

## **Recommendations**

Seminar should focus on a single topic.

Hold seminars on **Saturday afternoon for an hour.**

## **Possible Seminar Topics**

**Starting your Family History Journey**

**The 1909 Register of the Middlebrook Family.**

**Family crest or coat of arms and Middlebrough/Middlebrooks England Ancestors.**

**Our Immigrant Ancestor?**

**Migration of our Southern Middlebrook/s Ancestors.**

**The Middlebrooks of Virginia: John b. 1754 and Nathaniel b. 1764**

**Thomas and Racheal Middlebrook of Virginia**

(Our oldest known colonial southern ancestor.)

**Isaac Middlebrooks and Ann Sims of Orange and Caswell, Co. NC.**

**The Caswell County brothers: Isaac b. 1753; John b. 1755, Sims b. 1762,**

**Thomas b. 1763.** (Could be an overview or discussed separately.)

**What does DNA tell us about our ancestor connections?**

**What's in the Middlebrook/s name.**

**Publishing your Family History.**

**Our family in the Colonial Wars.**

**Benefits of joining the Middlebrooks Family Association.**

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## **MFA March 19, 2026 Zoom Meeting Agenda & Notes** **Zoom Topic: Middlebrook Family Association Seminars**

### **Zoom Seminar Agenda**

Seminar Planning: We agreed at our last Zoom to do a trial run on a Saturday afternoon for one hour (including time for questions) and to focus on early ancestors for broad interest across ancestor lines.

Selecting a date. Internal date to put together information , once we are organized them

Which seminar topic or ancestor should we present? Volunteers?

Logistics of Zoom seminar. Dry run then open up. To public.

Outreach: Facebook, Newsletter, member mailing list etc.

FYI: The MFA website has been successfully migrated to our new host. It is up and running, thanks to Dave and his son.

### **Notes: MFA Zoom Meeting March 19, 2026**

**Attendees:** Brent Bragg, Ken Pearman and Neal Middlebrook

Neal and Brent discuss plans for the Middlebrook Family Association's upcoming seminar series, agreeing to start with a broad overview of the Caswell County Brothers to attract wider interest before focusing on specific ancestor lines.

They decided to set an internal date first to organize content and test logistics, particularly for PowerPoint presentations via Zoom, before announcing a public seminar date and conducting outreach through Facebook, newsletters, and member mailings.

Ken joins and shares his genealogical research challenges tracing his line back beyond 1850, prompting discussion of additional seminar topics including using FamilySearch's full-text search tool, AI for genealogy research, breaking through brick walls, and data backup strategies.

The group also proposes creating a bulletin board section on the MFA website for members to share research information, with Brent agreeing to draft an agenda for the internal planning meeting and Neal planning to contact Dave about website modifications.

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## **Next Steps**

- Brent:- Will draft an agenda and plan for the internal meeting logistics including Zoom setup and pull together an outline of the presentation for consideration by the board. He will send the internal meeting agenda to Neal by the second half of April.
- Neal- Will start drafting a power point on the Caswell County Brothers as the first seminar presentation.
- Neal: Once the seminar date is set will post seminar information on MFA Facebook multiple times.
- Neal:- Will Include a seminar announcement in the March newsletter.
- Neal:- Will ask Dave send seminar announcement through member mailing list.
- Neal:- Talk to Dave about adding a bulletin board section on the website for sharing information
- Neal:- Email Ken information on AI search techniques and how to verify accuracy.
- Brent - agreed to do a John Middlebrook b. 1754 PP seminar presentation.
- Leonard Middlebrooks- has also agreed to do PP at a later date.

## **Seminar Topics added**

Best practices for storing data and back-up.

Determine how to share information among association members.  
A type of bulletin board on the MFA website might be helpful.

How to use Full Text search and AI as a resource tool.

How to break brick walls when the paper trail dries up. What are some tools and techniques that can be used.

How to back up and safely store digital family research information, records and photos.

Scanning and restoring family photos.

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## ***Zoom Meetings***

Our Zoom meetings, scheduled about every six weeks have really helped in keeping us connected. Brent Bragg has volunteered to take over as our Zoom Meeting coordinator. Members can request a Zoom and suggest topics they would like to discuss. Let us know!

## ***Newsletter***

**We need your help!** Three ways you can help is to send articles or information to be included in the ***Social Happenings/Announcements, Ancestor Spotlight and Unknown Connections*** of the newsletter. These sections are important in helping us stay informed and providing information about our ancestors. *Help us solve the mystery of these unknown family connections, by contacting Leonard Middlebrooks.*

## ***Time to Renew or Join as a 2026 MFA Member***

We would like to thank past and current members for supporting the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA). Please consider renewing or joining as a new member for 2026. ***July 31, is the end of the fiscal year for the MFA.*** Dues are: \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family living at the same address.

The membership page on the MFA website describes the benefits of renewing your membership and how to pay online or by check. Click on the link below to renew your membership. <https://middlebrooksfamily.org/membership/>

## ***Change in MFA Website Hosts***

Based on recommendations from Dave Clark, our web master, to reduce website costs we are changing website hosts from Host Gator to Go-Daddy.

Current website costs: \$421.72 (3 years) and the domain name is about \$60 (3 years). Cost with the new host: \$72 (3 years) and domain name \$36 (3 years). There is a one time transfer fee of \$22.99 and to move the website to the new host will be about \$200-350. This will save us money in the longterm. Thanks Dave!

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### ***Vacant Positions: Come join the MFA Team!***

**Presidents Position.** if you would like more information about the position please contact Neal Middlebrook nealmidbroo1@charter.net

**Vice President Position.** Let us know, if you would like more information about the position.

**MFA Newsletter Editor.** The newsletter is published four times a year.

**Robert 1766, Team Leader.** If you are Robert descendant, contact us.

**Micajah 1758 Team Leader.** Contact us if you are Micajah descendant.

**Middlebrooks Military Project.** This project deals with all military conflicts.

### ***What do Ancestor Team Leaders do anyway?***

Do you need help researching a Middlebrooks or allied family ancestors? Well, team leaders were created to assist you in this endeavor. Even if you do not know who your ancestor was they may be able to help. Give it a try, and e-mail one of the team leads listed at the end of the newsletter. Moreover, ancestor information is also available on the MFA web site, under research and projects at <https://middlebrooksfamily.org/>

### ***The DNA Connections Between the Northern and Southern Branches of our Middlebrook/s Ancestors?***

One of the challenges we face is trying to find DNA participants to document our ancestral connections between our northern and southern branches of the family. Our efforts to find genealogical records have not been successful.

We are looking for **direct line male descendants of our Connecticut Middlebrooks ancestors.** Please contact **Ellen Thompson Jennings**, ellen@familyhistoryhound.com or **Bob Middlebrooks**, mid293@earthlink.net. MFA or Neal Middlebrook nealmidbroo1@charter.net DNA project managers.

### ***Fake E-Mails***

Some our members have received fake e-mails. The person sends the e-mail, posing as me (Neal), asking for money using Paypal or gift cards. Simply delete the e-mails and do not forward them. Let me know if you receive one of these fake e-mails. Thanks, Neal

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## ***Social Happenings/Announcements***

This section of the newsletter will be devoted to news about our Middlebrooks families. Send us information or articles that you would like to share. This would include information about, family reunions, passing of family members, family stories and traditions, your favorite recipes or hobbies etc.

**Our condolences to Ella and the family. Ella Tripp, Micheal's wife was a member of the MFA.**

## **Michael W. Tripp Obituary**

Michael Windsor Tripp, a proud and highly decorated veteran of the United States Marine Corps, passed away on December 19, 2025 (12 am) at the age of 78.

Born on March 25, 1947 in Fall River, Massachusetts, Michael was the son of the late Frederick Tripp and Elizabeth Azevedo Tripp.

He grew up in East Providence, Rhode Island and attended LaSalle Academy where he was an undefeated high school wrestling champion. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, reporting to boot camp at Parris Island. Michael became a highly decorated and well-publicized veteran of the Vietnam War, completing 2 tours of duty. He was a crew chief with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 363, his helicopter, Yankee Zulu-77 was shot down about 500 meters from what became famously known as Peace Church in the midst of a raging battle, digging in with the grunts of Delta Company 1/9. His bravery in combat was recognized with numerous commendations and decorations, which he always accepted with humility, including the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Air Medal 19th award.

Following his military service, Michael continued his education while working full time and raising a young family, graduating magna cum laude from Bryant College and ultimately opened his own firm, Michael W. Tripp, Certified Public Accountant. Dedicated to the service of others, Michael enriched his community in a variety of ways including leadership positions with the Board of Regents of La Salle Academy, Barrington PTA & School Committee, Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse as well as participating in many youth support programs including Big Brothers and the YMCA-Guides with his daughters. Michael was also an active participant in numerous veterans organizations including the American Legion and the organization of USMC HMM-363 Vietnam Helicopter Squadron reunions. Michael's youth was one of legend, an early latch key kid - he found companionship in the summer at Payne's Dock on Block Island. Returning as a sail boat racer and cruiser in his later years, he often could be found greeting the early risers on the very same docks with coffee and a smile.

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Michael will be remembered for his great sense of humor, competitive spirit, his often colorful language and his great love of Irish folk music. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend who left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Ella; his children, Sandra and Wendy; his grandchildren, Tripper, Lyla, Thalia, and Theo; and many cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Frederick and Elizabeth and son in law Nicholas Tsilibes.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, December 27, 2025 at 11am in Our Lady of Loreto Church, 346 Waterman Avenue, East Providence. Internment with full military honors is planned for a future date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Michael's name to La Salle Academy. <http://www.lasalle-academy.org/give-now>

### ***Tribute to Dale Hunter Lane Kidwell***

On behalf of the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA) I would like to express our sincere condolences to Dale's family and friends. Dale and her mother Kathleen were officers of the MFA.

Their support was vital in keeping the MFA afloat, especially during and after the Covid pandemic. Dale was our newsletter editor, VP, and always ready to help others. She instituted Zoom meetings to help keep us stay connected. She had an interest in family history and was always willing to help others find their roots.

On a personal level, Dale helped me with transitioning into the presidents position, offering advice and ways to move the MFA forward.

She will be missed!

Neal Middlebrook, MFA President

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### **Obituary for Dale Hunter Lane Kidwell**

Dale Hunter Lane Kidwell, 73, of McCrory, Arkansas departed this life on Monday, December 29, 2025 in Searcy, Arkansas.

She was born May 3, 1952 in Newport, Arkansas to the late Dorr and Kathleen Hunter. Dale married the love of her life, Rodney Kidwell, on February 25, and they shared 25 wonderful years together.

Dale graduated from Newport High School in 1970. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from Harding University, followed by a Master of Science degree in Special Education. Dale dedicated 36 years to teaching special education in the McCrory School District, where she made a lasting impact on countless students and families.

Dale was kindhearted and accepting of everyone, regardless of background. She was deeply caring and expressed her love in thoughtful ways, such as handwriting notes and mailing them the old fashioned way. Just another way she succeeded in making people feel truly special. Dale lived life on her own terms not always worrying about what the world thought. She loved in a way that cannot be taught. She was the light in every room, bringing joy and warmth to all those around her. Above all, Dale was blessed beyond measure with a wonderful family and dear friends.

Dale wanted everyone to feel welcomed, seen, and loved. She delighted in good music, good food, and good company, and she especially cherished outside gatherings where she could spend time face to face. A well-known and respected member of her community, Dale quietly helped many people in need without ever seeking recognition. She was a generous supporter of many charities and felt called in her and felt called in her heart to give back. Above all, Dale was blessed beyond measure with a wonderful family and dear friends.

Dale was an avid traveler who visited every U.S. state except Hawaii and the New England states. She had a strong love for exploring new places and experiencing new adventures alongside her husband, Rodney. Together, they zip-lined through Horseshoe Canyon in Newton County and kayaked the Cumberland River near Nashville. Dale especially cherished the trips she took with her mom, Kathleen, and her fun loving aunts. They enjoyed destinations such as Alaska, Niagara Falls, and Washington, D.C. In 2021, Dale and Rodney traveled to the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula, where they fished and snorkeled in the Sea of Cortez—described by Jacques Cousteau as “the aquarium of the world.”

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Dale had an appreciation for family history and genealogical research, finding great joy in tracing her family's roots. She and her mother were active members of the Middlebrook Family Association, where they worked diligently to uncover and document the extensive ancestry of the Middlebrook family.

Dale was deeply loved by so many, and her absence leaves an ache in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her. She will be profoundly missed and lovingly remembered.

Left to cherish her memory is her beloved husband, Rodney Kidwell, her children, Hunter Lane (Christy), Hannah Garner, Savannah Smith (Seneca), and Patrick Kidwell, her grandchildren, Gabbie, Ryan, Landon, Alanna, Jordyn, Christian, Jack, Lily, Joanie, Brittney, Hallie, and Joseph, her great grandchildren, Geovanni, Celeste, Layton, Lynnen, and Laura-Leigh, her nieces, Lisa and Kasey. She is also survived by a host of extended family members and countless friends. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Doyle Hunter.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Doyle Hunter. Memorial services will be conducted on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at McCrory United Methodist Church. A reception will be held after services at the McCrory Civic Center from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. A gathering fit for Mother Dale with snacks and socializing.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to honor Dale's memory with a donation to a charity close to your heart. Among her favorites were Heifer International and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as well as many local programs such as Angel Tree and Backpack programs.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Woodruff County.

### **Mark Middlebrook died Sunday, March 1. He was 74.**

Our condolences to Mark's family and friends on behalf of the MFA. Mark shared our interest in Middlebrooks family history. I enjoyed discussing family history with Mark and his ideas on updating the Middlebrooks Family Register. He will be missed!

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## ***How to Choose the Right Resolution for Scanning and Printing***

When you scan old photos or documents, you want to capture as much detail as possible without creating huge files that are hard to manage. Here's what I recommend:

- **Scan at 300 PPI for everyday prints.** This is enough for most family photo albums and keeps file sizes manageable.
- **Scan at 600 PPI or higher for very small or detailed photos.** This is great if you want to enlarge the photo later or preserve fine details.
- **Save your scans in a lossless format like TIFF or PNG.** JPEGs compress images and can lose quality over time.

If your scanned image is 300 PPI, it means there are 300 pixels in every inch of the image. If your printer prints at 600 DPI, it means it can place 600 dots of ink in every inch of paper.

When printing, check your printer's DPI settings. Most home printers print at 300 to 600 DPI. Professional printers can go even higher. Match your image's PPI to the printer's DPI for the best results.

### ***Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them***

I've made some mistakes along the way, and I want to save you the trouble. Here are some pitfalls to watch out for:

- **Using low PPI images for printing.** A 72 PPI image looks fine on screen but will print blurry.
- **Confusing DPI and PPI.** Remember, PPI is for digital images, DPI is for printing.
- **Not checking printer settings.** Sometimes printers default to lower DPI to save ink.

**Over-scanning unnecessarily.** Scanning at 1200 PPI might sound great, but it creates huge files and can slow you down.

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## ***Tips for Preserving Your Family History with Quality Images***

Preserving your family's stories means preserving the images that tell those stories. Here are some tips to keep your photos looking their best:

- **Always scan originals, not copies.** Originals have the best detail.
- **Use a good quality scanner.** Flatbed scanners are great for photos.
- **Keep your digital files organized.** Use clear folder names and back up your files.
- **Consider professional help for very old or damaged photos.** Restoration experts can work wonders.
- **Print on quality paper.** It makes a big difference in how your photos look and last.

Source: Digital Image Resolution Basics: DPI vs. PPI.  
<https://www.familyheritagepublishers.com/>

## ***Family Search Full Text Search***

FamilySearch has a **Full-Text Search** feature that allows you to search nearly 2 billion historical record images using AI-generated transcripts. This tool is valuable for finding details in records that haven't been manually indexed yet, such as land deeds, wills, and other documents. See December 2025 Newsletter for more information on full text search.

## ***Ancestry Full Text Search***

Ancestry is currently rolling out a Full Text Search feature on its platform. This new functionality uses AI-generated transcripts to allow users to search the entire text of digitized, unindexed records, including handwritten documents. The availability can depend on your subscription level and which part of the website you are using at the time. Currently, we are in the Beta testing phase. Full Text Search may not be immediately available to all users.

## ***Ancestor Spotlight***

Each newsletter will feature one of our Middlebrook/s ancestors. It can be about any ancestor in your Middlebrooks line. Please submit family history articles you would like to share about your ancestors.

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## **MIDDLEBROOKs - Unknown Connections**

by Leonard Middlebrooks [T63]

This is the beginning a new MFA Newsletter column. The **Unknown Connections** are Middlebrooks (MKs) whom MFA has not connected to any of our known ancestor groups. JA and I are the co-team leaders for this Middlebrooks group and we would like to enlist the help of the 350+ MFA participants to see if any one might help in identifying which ancestral group they might belong.

Over the years JA an I have accumulated numerous Unknowns; some of these we determined their connections and added these to the master family database, others remain a mystery. We have brick-walled in our personal lineage research and have found that attempting to unravel these mystery Middlebrookes keeps us active in MFA's 1909 Middlebrooks Register update.

If you need a copy of Louis F. Middlebrook's 1909 Register to help with your record keeping, one is available at this link: <https://archive.org/details/RegisterOfTheMiddlebrookFamilyDescendantsOfJosephMiddlebrook> Scroll down the screen right hand side for the download options; select the PDF option. Most PDF readers have a search option [control f] to quickly find a name. The Register is in the public domain, so feel free to downed load.

We will start this Unknown Middlebrooks column with two toughies and hopefully four not so tough.

**1] Isaac Middlebrook:** 1800 HARRISON COUNTY, (WEST) VIRGINIA, LAND TAX

Originally compiled by the WPA from the land tax books in the county courthouse in Clarksburg. Provided for digitizing by the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Digitized by Charlotte Fleming on behalf of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, 2000.

**2] John Middlebrook:** Originally compiled by the WPA from the land tax books in the Clarksburg county courthouse. Provided for digitizing by the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Digitized by Charlotte Fleming on behalf of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, 2000. A List of Land Tax within the District of Benjamin Bartlette and Joseph Davisson Commr, in the County of Harrison for the Year 1799.

**3 - 6]** From the Index of Louisiana Civil War Soldiers (Name, Unit, Company)  
**Middlebrooks-James-M.**- G. Co. 15th La. Inf. **Middlebrooks- N.M.**- C Co. Capt. 3rd La. Inf. **Middlebrooks W. S.**- F Co. 27th La. Inf. **Middlebrooks William** -C Co. 3rd Lt. La. Inf.

Email your thoughts and results to Leonard Middlebrooks, [gambol@bellsouth.net](mailto:gambol@bellsouth.net)

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## Thomas Middlebrook of Charles City County Virginia



*New Kent and Charles City County, Virginia  
Map Drawn by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson in 1775, published in  
1776.*

*David Rumsey Historical Map Collection*

*By Neal Middlebrook*

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### ***Who was Thomas and John Middlebrook of Charles City County, Virginia?***

In Colonial Virginia the Middlebrook surname is not found in very many records. Anytime we discover the surname it is very difficult to make a connection to other Middlebrook family lines. The records for Thomas and a John Middlebrook are documented in Charles City County 1741-1745.

Charles City County, an Original Shire, created in 1619, borders New Kent County, formed in 1634. St. Peter's Parish records in New Kent County (which was adjacent to and shared many families with Charles City County) list a Thomas Middlebrook as the father of Isaac Middlebrook, who was born on January 12, 1727/8. *Could the Thomas Middlebrook of New Kent County (1727) be the same person who appears in the records of Charles City County in 1741?*

#### **Virginia**

##### **Charles City County Court May 1741**

**Thomas Middlebrook** makes oath he attended this court four days as evidence for Richard Gumbo, against Benjamin Evans, ordered that Gumbo pay for his attendance. (Order Book, 1737-1751, Charles City County, Virginia, Pg. 158)

##### **Charles City County Court September 1741**

Orders **Thomas Middlebrook** to be bound to Phillip Thomas by church wardens to teach him a trade. (Order Book, 1737-1751, Charles City County, Virginia: Charles City County. Court, Pg. 176)

##### **September Court 1741**

On the motion of **Thomas Middlebrook**, Phillip Thomas is bound to him by church Wardens. Charles City County, Virginia records, 1737-1774 : with several 17th century fragments, Weisiger, Benjamin B. (Benjamin Boisseau), III, 1924- Pg. 87

##### **Charles City County Court June 1742**

Upon the petition of Thomas Wendy. against **Thomas Middlebrook** for forty schillings. Court orders amount to be collected. (Order Book, 1737-1751, Charles City County, Virginia: Charles City County. Court, Pg. 216)

**Thomas Middlebrook** makes oath he attended this court four days as evidence for Richard Gumbo, against Benjamin Evans, ordered that Gumbo pay for his attendance. (Order Book, 1737-1751, Charles City County, Virginia: Charles City County. Court, Pg. 58)

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## **January Court 1745**

Pg. 327. Will of William Parrish, decd. Presented by Mary Parriash, the Executrix, and proved by James Cooper, **John Middlebrook** and Mary Rickman. Charles City County, Virginia records, 1737-1774 : with several 17th century fragments, Weisiger, Benjamin B. (Benjamin Boisseau), III, 1924-Pg. 99

## **Charles City County, VA: Surname Lists**

[https://genealogyresources.org/Charles\\_City\\_surnames.html](https://genealogyresources.org/Charles_City_surnames.html)

Surnames from Charles City Co. Records, 1737-1774

Middlebrook

Surnames from Burned County Data, 1809-1848

Middlebrook

Hanover County (Was not listed on tax list after 1803)

**John Middlebrook** 1 pole Personal Property Tax Lists, June 19, July 31, 1792-1803. [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) (This was most likely John 1754)

## **Discussion**

### **Thomas Middlebrook 1741 of Charles City County, Virginia**

It is suspected, that the **Thomas Middlebrook (1741)** was the same person recorded in St. Peter's Parish as the father of Isaac born 1727, New Kent County. We cannot prove this connection, however it does seem probable, because of close location of the two counties (New Kent and Charles City County), very similar family circumstances and the scarcity of Middlebrook records in early colonial Virginia.

The wife of Thomas was Racheal Middlebrook as recorded on 9 October 1764, when a bond of 500 pounds was posted for the settlement of the Thomas Middlebrook Estate of Louisa County. Racheal Middlebrook was appointed administrator of her husbands estate, at the time she was residing in Orange County, Virginia.

The family situations were very similar when Thomas was bound to Phillip Thomas by the church wardens and the two other court cases above indicate that Thomas was a poor Charles City County resident. Thomas was in the same family condition in the Fredericksville Parish (1758-1761) when once again, he had to be supported by church wardens. Thomas and Racheal next moved from Charles City County to Hanover-Louisa County border where they were recorded on the Thomas Partridge Store Ledger (1734-1756).

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### **Thomas Middlebrook of 1776 (AI Query)**

Was the Thomas Middlebrook recorded in 1776, related to Thomas and Racheal Middlebrook of 1741, residing in Charles City County? Speculating, if we agree with the fact that Rachel was the mother of Isaac b. 1727, when she was about 20 years old, could Thomas 1776 be one of their sons? If we assume Thomas 1776 was born ca. 1730-35, it is possible that Thomas and Racheal were the parents. However, it is difficult to answer this question, because we are not sure when Thomas and Racheal moved Charles City County from New Kent County or where or when Thomas (1776) was born.

### **Thomas Middlebrook 1776 Charles City County, Virginia**

According to AI records, Thomas Middlebrook was a member of the local Safety Committee and Virginia Conventions. Is the AI information correct? I noticed when asking AI questions you can often get a different answer, depending on the way you ask or phrase the question. For example, I received different answers in regards to Thomas being a representative to House of Burgesses convention from March 20–27, 1775. One query said yes and the other said no.

#### **Thomas Middlebrook Charles City County**

- Rev. War soldier
- Member of the Charles City County Committee of Safety, organized on December 17, 1774.
- Representative for the county at the House of Burgesses convention from March 20–27, 1775.
- County representative at the significant Virginia Convention in May 1776.

The AI information below needs further research to confirm that Thomas Middlebrooks of Charles City County participated in the Rev. War, Committee of Safety, representative for the county at the House of Burgesses convention from March 20–27, 1775 and County representative at the significant Virginia Convention in May 1776. Therefore, to prove Thomas Middlebrook's activities in the Virginia Conventions of 1775 and 1776, the official "**Proceedings**" or "**Journals**" of those **conventions**, will need to be searched.

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## **Thomas Middlebrook AI Query Information**

### **Revolutionary War Service**

In the case of Thomas Middlebrook, it was reported he served as a Rev. War soldier from Charles City County. However, we could not find records to support his service, although it is recognized that the Charles County Rev. War database does not include all records. He may have served as member of the county militia due to the fact he was a member of the Committee of Safety who assisted in organizing the county militia.

### **Committee of Safety**

According to the AI query, Thomas Middlebrook was a member of the Charles City County Committee of Safety, which was organized on December 17, 1774. The Charles City County Committee of Safety served as the local de facto government during the American Revolution, effectively replacing royal authority. Its duties were extensive, encompassing economic, political, military, and social regulation to advance the patriotic cause.

Members of the Committee of Safety were typically chosen through popular elections by eligible voters within their respective counties or towns. Thomas Middlebrook, having been a member of the House of Burgesses convention, was likely one of the established, politically experienced leading citizens of Charles City County who was popularly elected to the committee.

### **Virginia State Conventions May 1776 and House Burgesses March 1775 Convention**

Based on multiple AI queries it is not clear if Thomas Middlebrook was a Charles City County representative or a delegate to Virginia State Conventions (May 1776) or House of Burgess Convention (March 20-27, 1775). The terms were often used interchangeably.

The House of Burgesses was the official, legal, and long standing representative assembly of the Virginia colony under British rule and the Virginia Conventions were a series of extraconstitutional bodies that took over the governmental functions of the colony as royal authority collapsed.

### **Virginia Convention May 1776**

**Thomas Middlebrook** was a representative for Charles City County at the Virginia Convention held in May 1776. He served alongside William Acrill as a delegate for Charles City County at this significant convention. Another prominent figure from Charles City County, Benjamin Harrison, was also a delegate, with Samuel Harwood serving as an alternate for him.

The Fifth Virginia Convention, May 6, to July 5, 1776, at Williamsburg was a pivotal moment in American history, where delegates passed resolutions for independence and created Virginia's first state constitution and Declaration of Rights.

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As one of the representatives at the convention, his role involved participating in the general proceedings, which included:

- **Declaring independence** from Great Britain.
- **Adopting the Virginia Declaration of Rights.**
- **Creating Virginia's first state constitution.**

Middlebrook's primary contribution was as part of the collective body that made these pivotal decisions. His service was as a voting member of the assembly that essentially established Virginia as an independent commonwealth.

## **House Burgesses March 1775 Convention**

**Thomas Middlebrook** was a representative for Charles City County at the House of Burgesses convention held in Richmond from March 20–27, 1775. The other delegate representing Charles City County at this convention was Benjamin Harrison. The convention approved the proceedings of the First Continental Congress and elected delegates to the upcoming Second Continental Congress.

While records do not specify every individual vote, as delegates from Charles City County, both Middlebrook and Harrison were part of the body that collectively enacted these measures, including Harrison's specific role on the defense committee.

The **Second Virginia Convention** was a meeting of former members of the House of Burgesses and other delegates who had formed an alternative, revolutionary government after the royal governor dissolved the official assembly. The convention took place from March 20–27, 1775, at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia. Key outcomes: adoption of defense resolution, election of delegates and creation of a committee

## **Proving the AI Generated Information**

Thomas Middlebrook's activities in the Virginia Conventions of 1775 and 1776 are primarily documented in the official "**Proceedings**" or "**Journals**" of **those conventions**, which were published and archived as governmental records.

### **Official Records**

- "**The Proceedings of the Conventions of Delegates**": The formal minutes and resolutions passed during the conventions are the principal sources. These printed journals list the delegates present, motions made, and outcomes of votes.

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- **Library of Virginia Archives:** The original manuscript journal for the Fifth Virginia Revolutionary Convention (May-July 1776), where the decision for independence was made, is held in the archives of the [Library of Virginia](#). These records would contain details of attendance and potentially specific actions or committee assignments, though the journals mainly focus on official resolutions rather than individual delegate's speeches or specific activities beyond voting.

### **Key Mentions**

Information regarding his specific attendance is confirmed in historical summaries drawn from these primary sources:

- He is listed as a representative for Charles City County at the **House of Burgesses Convention held from March 20–27, 1775**.
- He is also recorded as the county representative at the pivotal **Virginia Convention in May 1776**, which ultimately declared Virginia's independence.

### **Accessing the Records**

To find specific entries for Thomas Middlebrook's participation, one would need to consult digitized or physical copies of these historical journals:

- **Digitized Archives:** Institutions like the Library of Virginia or university special collections (e.g., [University of Virginia Library](#)) often have guides to or digital versions of Revolutionary War-era collections and documents.
- **Genealogical Databases:** Organizations such as the [Daughters of the American Revolution](#) use these primary records to verify patriotic service, so their databases can confirm the specific conventions he attended.

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## ***MFA Table of Organization***

***November 2024***

### **Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.**

#### **Executive Committee/Officers**

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President

Vice President, Vacant

Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Board of Directors**

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President, 2024-2025

Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer, 2024-2025

Leonard Middlebrooks, 2024-2025

Sally Berlocher, 2024-2025

Ken Pearman, 2024-2025

Brent Bragg, 2024-2025

#### **Ancestor Team Leaders**

Isaac born 1753: Leonard Middlebrooks

John b. 1754: Brent Bragg

John b. 1755: John David Middlebrooks and Leslie Shealy

Joseph b. 1610: Leonard Middlebrooks

Joseph b. 1773: Dave Clark

Micajah b. 1758: Vacant

Nathaniel b. 1764: Sandy Ahmad

Robert b. 1766: Vacant

Sims b. 1762: Neal Middlebrook

Thomas b. 1763: Joyce Arnold

England Middlebrooks: Ian Middlebrook and Neal Middlebrook

Unknown Ancestors: Leonard Middlebrooks

#### **On-Going Projects**

Cemetery: William Sterling

DAR-SAR-UDC: Joan Miller

DNA: Ellen Thompson, Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark

Family Register Update and Repository: Leonard Middlebrooks

Middlebrook Family Trees: Dave Clark

MFA Website: Dave Clark

MFA Newsletter Editor: Vacant

Military Register Update: Vacant

MFA Facebook: Joyce Arnold, Ellen Thompson Jennings and Neal

Middlebrook

## ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

### **MFA Email Directory**

Sandy Ahmad

- sandylahmad@gmail.com

Joyce Arnold

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Mary Baker

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Sally Berlocher

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William Sterling

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Ellen Thompson Jennings

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Angelia Tucker

- angeliatucker30@gmail.com

## ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

By-Laws were Amended by the Board of Directors on October 13, 2017 and amended January 15, 2026.

<https://middlebrooksfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/>

MFA\_Bylaws\_2017\_11\_13.pdf MFA\_Bylaws\_2026\_01\_15.pdf