

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## ***MFA Newsletter July 2026***

### **AI provides a new powerful Family History Tool**

When starting to use AI, you will soon realize that the more you know about the family or line you are investigating saves time and avoids using incorrect information. I discovered it makes a difference on how you ask or phrase a question in a query. You can receive different information with two or three queries requesting basically the same information. Also, the amount of detail used in a query will determine the scope and specificity of data you receive back. You can also challenge AI if the information provided you can prove is wrong. AI continually learns and improves its responses based on feedback from queries.

It is important to conduct several queries on the same topic to see if the information is consistent. The source of information is critical in evaluating the validity of the query. AI compiles information from a variety of sources. For example, information from family trees or histories versus actual records. It is essential to query records to evaluate to see if it is correct or logical based on your knowledge of the family.

Another thing I have noticed is the time it takes, often with multiple queries to discover sources for citation. AI combined with Full Text searches are a great way to help validate queries to avoid using incorrect information. It is essential to go to other sources to confirm if AI is providing factual and verifiable data. I primarily use tax, land and probate records.

AI is a great tool, but it is not intended to replace the family historian.

Neal Middlebrook

### ***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.*

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## **Seminar Roles and Responsibilities**

We are drafting a framework to ensure MFA seminars are structured to run smoothly and provide high quality family history information.

### **MFA Zoom Seminar Roles**

#### **Admin and Host will:**

- Recruit presenters and schedule seminars
- Configure Access and Pre-Registration.
- Advertise and conduct outreach.
- Host send out Zoom codes to registered attendees
- Conduct and manage seminars
- Restrict unwanted disruptions.

#### **Presenters:**

- Develop PP presentations, programs, including videos
- Provide Admin. and Host for review of the proposed presentation.
- Deliver presentation within agreed timeframe.
- Conduct and respond to Q&As

#### **Attendees:**

- Pre-register for seminar and receive Zoom codes.
- Introduce attendees at start of session
- Give a brief overview of todays seminar topic.
- Introduce todays speaker and background

#### **Post Seminar Evaluation**

- Request comments on the seminar.
- Was the presentation informative and did it meet your expectations?
- How could the Zoom format be improved?

**Events and News** – Next Zoom seminars and meetings and other information.

#### **Zoom Management**

- Ensure attendees have the correct ID and Pass Code prior to the meeting.
- Ask participants to mute their phone or the Zoom application.
- Turn on view-only audience Zoom mode.
- Ensure they are muted by default and can only interact through the chat, Q&A, or if specifically unmuted by the Host or Co-host.
- Turn on AI note taking and ask someone to monitor notes during the meeting.
- Ask someone to take meeting notes if AI is not functioning properly.
- Send out meeting notes to participants via e-mail or post on the MFA website.
- Copies of PP presentations will be at the discretion of the Speaker/Presenter.

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## **MFA Seminar Meeting Guidelines**

**Purpose and Goals of Seminars: To learn more about our Middlebrook/s family history.**

- Convey family history information about our Middlebrook/s ancestors and allied families
- Provide a seminar style forum to present information and discuss our Middlebrook/s family history.
- Encourage seminar participants to make presentations on their family ancestors.
- Provide assistance in researching the direct descendants of the Middlebrook(s) and associated families.

## **Presentation Guidelines**

Utilize Power Point (PP) or other similar software to help organize presentations. (Consult various sources on what a good PP presentation should include.)

Presentations need to be fit within the allowed time and have enough information to fill the agenda time slot, including time for Q&As.

Follow-up questions can also be submitted by e-mail if time does not permit them being addressed during the Q&As the session.

Ensure information is documented and sourced. Use standard genealogical methods for referencing source information and dates etc.

Family Tree —Use family trees to illustrate family lines and ancestor connections. No living people should be included in presentations without their consent.

Include narratives of family stories, oral histories and timelines.

Photos and Media — Include photos and other illustrations such as maps.

Discuss research methodologies used, best practices, examples of research notes, external links etc.

DNA and Connections — A summary of DNA findings and how they connect to your ancestors.

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

***We will schedule the next Zoom when we have a final draft of the Seminar guidelines.***

### ***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!

### **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!

### **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](mailto: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.

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

### ***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](mailto:ellen@familyhistoryhound.com) or **Bob Middlebrooks**, [mid293@earthlink.net](mailto:mid293@earthlink.net). MFA or **Neal Middlebrook** [nealmidbroo1@charter.net](mailto: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

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## ***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.

**The Middlebrooks Family Reunion listed below is not affiliated with the Middlebrooks Family Association.**

**The Middlebrooks Family Reunion is July 31 – August 2, 2026 in High Point, NC! All reunion details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/MiddlebrooksHPNC> –**

**Registration deadline July 1. Extended family is welcomed**

**Thank you for your interest in attending the Middlebrooks Family Reunion!**

**Last day to register is July 1, 2026**

**Please review the details below to complete your registration.**

**Reunion Dates: July 31 – August 2, 2026**

**Location: High Point, North Carolina**

**Main Reunion Day: Saturday, August 1**

**Reunion Shirt Color: Green**

### **Cost:**

- **Adults 18+: \$100**
- **Youth 6–17: \$60**
- **Family Bundle (4 People): \$300**
- **Children 0–5: Free (*shirt NOT included*)**
- ***Registration includes shirts except for children 0-5***
- ***Payment Options (Klarna) are available***

### **Stay Connected**

- **Official Reunion Website**
- **Read Reunion FAQ's**
- **Join Family Group Chat (GroupMe)**
- **For questions, email: [MiddlebrooksFamilyHPNC](mailto:MiddlebrooksFamilyHPNC)**

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## **The 7 Volumes Every Family Library Should Have**

In the blog post by **Mark Hancock of Family Heritage Publishers**, he lists 7 volumes you could use to draft your family history. You could use the outline below to compile family information as individual books or chapters in one family book.

Included below are two examples of the 7 volumes, you could use to get started

### **Volume 1: Childhood and Growing Up**

This is where your story begins.

Future generations are fascinated by childhood because it reveals where the family came from and how values were formed.

Include stories about:

- Your parents and grandparents
- The home where you grew up
- School experiences
- Neighborhood adventures
- Childhood friends
- Family traditions
- Important lessons learned

These stories help descendants understand not only what happened, but who shaped you.

### **Volume 2: Love, Marriage, and Family**

Every family wants to know how the family began.

Tell the stories of:

- How you met your spouse
- Dating and courtship
- Wedding memories
- Early years of marriage
- Raising children
- Family vacations
- Family traditions

These stories become treasured heirlooms because they explain how generations became connected.

### **Volume 3: Work, Service, and Purpose**

### **Volume 4: Faith and Values**

### **Volume 5: Adventures and Experiences**

### **Volume 6: People Who Matter**

### **Volume 7: Wisdom for Future Generations**

For the complete article contact Mark Hancock at Family Heritage Publishers.

<https://www.familyheritagepublishers.com>

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## ***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.

## **The Middlebrooks of the Georgia Land Lotteries Introduction**

The Georgia Land Lotteries (LL) provides an early perspective on the movement within Georgia of our Middlebrook's ancestors after leaving Caswell County, North Carolina in the late 1700s. The LL can be used as a census substitute for the heads of families, determine martial status and movement of families to new counties.

When land lottery information is used in conjunction with census, tax records and conveyance documents, the residence and movement of our ancestors can be more precisely documented from 1805-1832. By plotting land lots on conventional maps, in many cases you can approximate the location of your ancestor's homestead. The 1805. Georgia LL is the only one of the six lotteries that also lists the unfortunate drawers.

The Georgia Land Lottery Maps are accessible online through the Georgia State Archives ( <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/dmf>) The example of the land lottery map on the following page shows the utility of using these maps/plats to locate your ancestors property. We were able to locate John and son Zere Middlebrooks land in Putnam County, formed from Baldwin County in 1832.

Once you know the District and land lot you can use USGS Historical Topographic maps to more accurately determine the location. (<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/40.01/-100.06>)

For more detailed information on ***“The Middlebrooks of the Georgia Land Lottery”*** go to the MFA website library. (<chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://middlebrooksfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Georgia-Land-Lottery.pdf>)

## **Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter**



**Location of John Middlebrooks (b. 1755), land lot 288 and son Zere Middlebrooks, land lot 298, in the second district, Putnam County. The farms were on the waters of Rooty Creek and near the Dennis Mill. 1869 Putnam County land lot map,**

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

### **Isaac Middlebrooks, b. 1753, Caswell County, North Carolina**

Isaac, although not successful in the 1805 LL was living in Clarke County. He was afforded two draws indicating he was married or had at least one child. In the 1821 LL Isaac was a fortunate drawer while residing in Morgan County, Georgia. His draw was for 202 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres in Houston County, land lot 66, district nine.

According to LL information, Isaac moved from Clarke County to Morgan County during the period between 1805 and 1821. Prior to 1805 Isaac was living in Jackson County, based on the 1798-1799 county tax records. The 1810 tax records indicate Isaac was still in Clarke County; but by 1820, the U. S. Census places him in Morgan County. Consequently, sometime between 1810 and 1820, Isaac moved to Morgan County. Isaac died in 1823 in Morgan County.

### **John Middlebrooks, b. 1755' Caswell County, North Carolina**

John although not successful in the 1805 LL. He was living in Hancock County, Georgia. John was allowed two draws in the 1805 LL. John's two sons, Zere, b. 1782 and Anderson Crawford, b. 1784, were allowed one draw each for 1805 LL, indicating they were possibly single at the time.

John, residing in Hancock County had drawn twice as part of the 1807 LL. For Baldwin (now Jones Co.) he was granted 202 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres in I 179, District 2. In Wilkinson County, John was granted an additional 202 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres for LL 99, District 9.

The 1827 LL lists John as a successful drawer residing in Newton County, Georgia. He acquired 202 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres in Muscogee County, Georgia, LL 2, District 16. In the 1832 LL, Milly (Sutton) Middlebrooks, (John's 2nd wife) was listed as a widow of a Revolutionary War soldier residing in Monroe County. Milly was successful in three draws that granted 160 acres in Murray County, 160 and 40 acres in Cass County.

In summary, it appears John moved from Hancock County before 1827 to Newton County, Georgia. However, the 1820 U. S. Census places John and his family in Putnam County. Putnam County is located on the Northwest boundary of Hancock County. Therefore, John moved from Hancock County sometime between 1807 and 1820, to Putnam County before finally residing in Newton County. It is thought John moved to Newton County around 1825.

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

### **Micajah b. 1760 Caswell County, North Carolina**

While living in Hancock County, Georgia, Micajah participated in two draws unsuccessfully in the 1805 LL. However, in the in the 1820 LL, he acquired between 250 and 490 acres depending which district he drew. His parcel was located in LL 45, Section 4. Once again, Micajah of Hancock County, was successful in the 1832 LL, acquiring 160 acres of land in Paulding, County, LL 409, District 20, Section 3.

Based on LL records Micajah was living in Hancock County from 1805 to 1832. He is thought to have arrived in Greene County, Georgia as early as 1792 when he married Ann Alford. In 1793, Hancock County was created from Greene and Washington Counties. Micajah is first reported as living in Hancock County in 1796 based on tax records for that county. Micajah died in Hancock County between 1832 and 1840.

### **Sims Middlebrooks b. 1762 Caswell County, North Carolina**

Sims was a fortunate drawer in the 1805 LL, living in Hancock County, Georgia. He acquired 202 ½ acres in Baldwin County (now Jones County), Land Lot 65, District 10. He was also successful in the 1832 LL, acquiring 40 acres in Cobb County. In 1832 Sims was residing in Jones County.

Land Lottery records established Sims living in Hancock County in 1805 and moved to Jones County prior to the 1832 LL. Sims was listed on the Wilkes and Hancock County tax roles n 1794. In 1793, this part of Wilkes County became Hancock County. Tax records confirm Sims remained in Hancock County until 1811 when he then moved to Jones County. Sims died in Jones County in 1839.

### **Thomas Middlebrooks b. 1763 Caswell County, North Carolina**

Thomas, living in Hancock County, had two blank draws in the 1805 LL. However, Thomas was successful in the 1821 LL acquiring 202 ½ acres in Houston County, Land Lot 18, District 11. In 1821, Thomas was living in Jones County.

Land Lottery records indicate that Thomas was living in Hancock County in 1805 and by 1821 he had moved to Jones County. It is believed Thomas was residing in Hancock County as early as 1792-1793. Although, tax records indicate Thomas was residing in Jones County by 1811, he may have actually moved as early as 1809.

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

### **Robert Middlebrooks b. 1766 Caswell County, North Carolina**

Robert and his brother Sims were the only successful Middlebrooks drawers in the 1805LL. Robert, residing in Hancock, acquired 202<sup>1/2</sup> acres in Baldwin County (now Jones County). His Land Lot was 66, District 10, located within the Hog Creek drainage. Robert was again successful in the 1832LL drawing land in Cherokee County totaling 40 acres, Land Lot 0708, District 3, Section 2. By 1832, Robert was living in Monroe County.

LL records establish that Robert moved to Monroe County from Hancock County sometime during the period of 1805 to 1832. It is suspected that Robert was residing in Hancock County as early as 1797, the same year he married Nancy Talbot of said County. According to tax records, Robert had moved to Jones County by 1811 and lived there until 1822 after acquiring land in Monroe County, Georgia. Robert died 1837 in Monroe County.

### **Joseph Middlebrooks, b. 1770 Caswell County, North Carolina.**

Joseph of Greene County participated in the 1805 LL and was not successful. He was afforded two draws. As far as we know, Joseph was not successful in any of the five remaining LL or did not participate.

Joseph was listed in tax records for Hancock County for 1794 and 1796. By 1805, he moved to Greene County. Joseph next moved along with his brothers to Jones County, in 1811, and remained there until 1814. It is suspected he moved from Jones County to Greene County, Alabama in 1814. Joseph died in Chickasaw County, Mississippi in 1853.

# ***Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter***

## **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) and we will post in an MFA Newsletter.

# ***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

- joycearnold93@gmail.com

Mary Baker

- mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Brent Bragg

- bbragg6920@aol.com

Sally Berlocher

- sberlocher@gmail.com

Dave Clark

- cdave1000@gmail.com

Angelia Middlebrook Gantz

- angeliagantz@yahoo.com

Ian Middlebrook

- ian@middlebrook.org.uk

Neal Middlebrook

- nealmidbroo1@charter.net

Bob Middlebrooks

- mid293@earthlink.net

Lanell Middlebrooks

- lmbks@gmail.com

John David Middlebrooks

- Jmiddlebrook001@yahoo.com

Leonard Middlebrooks

- gambol@bellsouth.net

Joan Miller

- jmil1912@hotmail.com

Ken Pearman

- ken.pearman@hotmail.com

Leslie Shealy

- dixiegirl30@hotmail.com

William Sterling

- wgs10@embarqmail.com

**Ellen Thompson Jennings**

- ellen@familyhistoryhound.com

**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