

MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2013
Editor,
Jarrelyn Lang

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Founding Editor,
Dianne Middlebrooks

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MAZE by Team Leaders, published by Joyce Arnold

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DNA.....Bob Middlebrooks,

Dave Clark, and Henry Middlebrooks

MFA Website.....Dave Clark

and Leonard Middlebrooks

Family Repository...Michael Kerry Middlebrooks

Family *Register* Update.....Leonard Middlebrooks

Military *Register* Update...M. Kerry Middlebrooks

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

Middlebrooks Family Association (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: 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 Jarrellyn Lang, Editor, at MFAEditor@gmail.com.

MFA membership is \$20.00 per year, September 01 thru August 31.

If you would like to become a member, please make your check payable to MFA and mail to MFA, c/o Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 77584.

The date has been set for the Middlebrooks Family Association Inc., 2013 reunion/meeting:

October 10-12, 2013. It will be held in Dothan, Alabama, "Peanut Capital of the World."

Approximately half of the peanuts grown in the United States are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, Alabama. Dothan is a city located in the southeastern corner of the state of Alabama, situated approximately 20 miles west of the Georgia state line and 18 miles north of Florida.

At our 2012 MFA annual meeting in Mineral Wells/Jacksboro, Texas, we voted for the MFA 2013 meeting location to be held in Dothan. If you have ancestors from this area, please share your family history. Kerry is the MFA 2013 meeting coordinator. You can contact Kerry by email at mbrooks@gci.net. Please copy me, also: joycenjim@sbcglobal.net.

Presentations

Each year we invite anyone interested in presenting family history information at our meeting to let us know in advance. We include time on the agenda for more formal presentations and then informal sharing of information in group sessions. Please let us know in advance if you have family information you would like share with others. For the more formal presentations, we ask that you submit your presentation before the meeting so we can include it in the meeting notebooks.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The Middlebrooks Cemetery in Newton County, Georgia

This cemetery is west of Porderdale on Highway 81 and approximately one or two miles south of Livingston Elementary School. It is on the right side of the road and is surrounded by a rock wall.

Mr. Len Strozier of Omega Mapping Services performed the mapping of the Middlebrooks Cemetery, February 21, 2013, beginning around 10:00 a.m. and continuing until he was finished. Once completed, a detailed map showing all the graves, marked and unmarked, will be filed with Newton County.

There are approximately 170 graves. He identified another 20 or so that already had tombstones or some type of marker, and possibly up to at least 20 more spots that may be graves, but he didn't want to say for sure because these spots didn't register enough for him to say with 100% accuracy that they were graves. Every flag represents a found grave. He estimates the cemetery to date back to the 1840s and believes, based on the censuses and other documents, that many of the unmarked graves are those of slaves or sharecroppers or tenants of the Middlebrooks family.

The report has not been completed. After we receive the information, I will put the information together, with pictures, and post it on the Web site. I will also send it to anyone that is interested.



Thank you from J. H. Underwood: I want to thank all of you that have participated in the restoration of this historic cemetery and to the contributors that made this possible.

J. H. Underwood, Commander

Maj. General Joseph Wheeler Camp #863

Sons of Confederate Veterans

web site is www.campjoewheeler.org

Sites to check out in Caswell County, North Carolina:

Caswell County Historical Association

CCHA Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncccha>

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Connecticut Officers and Soldiers, 1700s-1800s Military Records

Military Records: Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865

Middlebrook, J. P. Location : Camp Chase, Ohio, Page # : 122

Middlebrooks, Jno. Location : Johnson's Island, Ohio, Page # : 492

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Information: Family Tree is Live on FamilySearch.org for All Users

March 5, 2013 by [Tara Bergeson](#)

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/family-tree-live-familysearchorg-users/>

Much has been written about Family Tree, the first of several site enhancements for FamilySearch.org, and the replacement for new.familysearch.org. We're happy to report that Family Tree is now live on FamilySearch.org and is available to all users. This opens up the contribution, collaboration, editing, and sourcing tools of Family Tree to researchers—including potential family members—around the world.

As you visit with people about Family Tree, please share with them the many exciting features of this new tool:

- Connect and collaborate with others on shared family lines
- Edit and delete incorrect data, including relationships
- Provide sources and links to online information that show where you found family information
- Preserve family tree information for future generations
- Use Family Tree on behalf of someone else (helper)

If you haven't had a chance to see it in action, simply go the [FamilySearch.org site](http://FamilySearch.org) and click on Family Tree at the top of the page. You can also take advantage of the [training website](http://FamilySearch.org) to view tutorials, access a user guide, and much more. Filed Under: [FamilySearch in the News](http://FamilySearch.org) Tagged With: [Family Tree](http://FamilySearch.org), [FamilySearch](http://FamilySearch.org)

Canadian Genealogy Index, 1600s-1900s

<http://www.ancestralfindings.com/cd118.htm>

This cd has some Middlebrooks

Trace Your Family Tree As Far Back As Possible!

<http://www.GenealogyLookups.com/free.htm>

Joyce Arnold, President

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DO YOU KNOW WHY:

Men's clothes have buttons on the right, while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left.. And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

X's and O's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

VA and Ancestry.com Partner to Index Historic Burial Records

Contributed by Bobbie Middlebrooke

The Department of Veterans Affairs has partnered with the internet-based genealogy research firm Ancestry.com to bring burial records from historic national cemetery ledgers into the digital age. The effort will make the collection – predominantly of Civil War interments – accessible to researchers and Ancestry.com subscribers undertaking historical and genealogical research.

"We are excited to be able to share this wealth of primary documentation," said VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Steve L. Muro. "With the help of Ancestry.com, we have opened the doors to thousands of service members' histories through the information contained in these burial ledgers."

From the 1860s until the mid-20th century, U.S. Army personnel tracked national cemetery burials in hand-written burial ledgers or "registers." Due to concern for the fragile documents and a desire to expand public access for the ledger contents, VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) duplicated about 60 handwritten ledgers, representing 36 cemeteries, using a high-resolution scanning process. The effort resulted in high quality digital files that reproduced approximately 9,344 pages and 113,097 individual records. NCA then transferred the original ledgers to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), where they will be preserved. In addition to the NCA's ledgers, NARA was already the steward of at least 156 military cemetery ledgers transferred from the Army years ago.

In 2011, NCA initiated a partnership with Ancestry.com to index its cemetery ledgers, allowing the data to be searched or browsed in a variety of ways. Ancestry.com spent more than 600 hours indexing NCA's records at no charge to the government.

Ancestry.com has assembled the digitized and indexed NCA burial ledgers with those at NARA into a new collection, "U.S. Burial Registers, Military Posts, and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960." The burial records contain information such as name, rank, company/regiment, date of death, age at death, date of burial, and grave number. A large number of Civil War soldiers were buried where they fell in battle or in temporary cemeteries, and sometimes that information, along with religious affiliation, can be found in the ledgers.

The collection was posted on the Ancestry.com website on Veterans Day 2012. The information can be accessed free of charge by VA personnel as well as by employees of the other federal agencies that maintain national cemeteries, the Departments of the Interior and Defense. Ledger data will also be available for free at all NARA facilities and at public libraries that subscribe to Ancestry.com. NCA cemetery staff will use the database to answer requests from the public. The general public will have access to the database on their personal devices through Ancestry.com's regular subscription service.

This partnership between Ancestry.com and NCA supports NCA's ongoing Civil War 150th anniversary commemoration (2011-2015). For more information on this project, contact Sara Amy Leach (sara.leach@va.gov), NCA senior historian.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. Seventy-two of VA's national cemeteries date from the Civil War. More than 3.7 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict – from the Revolutionary War to the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan – are buried in VA's national cemeteries, on approximately 20,000 acres of land.

WEBSITES TO EXPLORE

Genealogy Quest – www.genealogyquest.com: Census Records, Immigration Records, Land Records, Military Records, Pension Records, Naturalization Records, Genealogy Glossaries, Ancestors of Note, (Society for the) Propagation of the Bible in New England, 1661-1662, Royal African Company, Oaths of Allegiance – and the list goes on and on.

Godfrey Memorial Library – <http://www.godfrey.org/> Contains U.S. and international resources, the Genealogical Biographical Index (AGBI) containing statistics, sources for research, local histories, church and vital records, military lists, etc. Extensive collection of city and business directories, vital records, state, county, and local histories, as well as numerous family histories, funeral sermons, family Bible records, and service and pension records. Provides access to the 19th century U.S. news, accessible archives to 19th century newspapers, African American newspapers, and the London *Times* digital archives newspaper databases, biography databases, and various church and cemetery records. (To see a list of available databases: After following the "portal" link, simply hover over the **Log-in** tab, and then select **FHC Log-in** from the drop-down menu. It will take a moment to read your certificate before it takes you to the list of databases.

Historic Map Works Library Edition – <http://proquest.historicmapworks.com/> - Historic Map Works™ Library Edition is one of the most extensive digital map collections available, with over 470,000 high-resolution, full-color historic and antique maps. The core of the collection consists of cadastral maps (property and land ownership) illustrating the geographic and development history of the United States and also includes illustrations, city directories, and more! This unique content allows genealogists, historians, and academic researchers to track the "residential genealogy" of families and locations.

Paper Trail of Pioneer Wagon Train Diaries – <https://www.paper-trail.org/about.asp>
19th Century westward American migration documents. Includes Oregon National Historic Trail, Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, California Historic Trail, and Pony Express Historic Trail

World Vital Records – <https://www.worldvitalrecords.com/> - Access to birth, marriage, and death records, Social Security Death Index, family trees, census records, immigration records; court, land, and probate records, military records' directory lists, newspapers, family histories, reference materials, biographies, wills, gravestone photos, ship manifests, map collections, and yearbook collections. Proper login through the "portal" is confirmed by a "Welcome Family History Center Patron!" banner on the web page. Also see KD [111572](#) for explanation of why some data may not be available.

Easter – the "Movable Feast"?

By Jarrelyn Lang

Ever wonder why Easter occurs on different dates, while Christmas remains the same? "Because the [Catholic] church said so," according to Daniel Engber, who is known as the online *Explainer* ("Why Some Feasts Are Movable," posted February 9, 2005).

He goes on to explain that the date of Christmas is fixed according to the solar calendar, but Easter's date is determined by the lunar calendar. There were very few who celebrated Christmas before the year 325, when the First Council of Nicaea was held. The council decreed December 25 as the Feast of the Nativity. "Because Christmas was not directly related to a lunar holiday, and because it had never been celebrated before, and questions about [the date of Christ's birth] had been settled by a proclamation from the pope just five years earlier – the council was able to establish an unambiguous date for the celebration," Mr. Engber states.

On the other hand, Easter had often been celebrated. Some Christians did so on Passover (a lunar holiday), and others celebrated the following Sunday. The Council of Nicaea formalized the date, so that everyone would celebrate on the same day. They determined that the Easter holiday would fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after March 21, the first day of spring.

There were still problems, however. The Julian calendar, which relied on the leap year (every year that was evenly divisible by 4) to keep the seasons straight, was in use at the time. It did not work very well, and by the 16th century, the vernal equinox was occurring more than a week *before* March 21.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued his own calendar (the one still in use today) and solved the problem. First, he made October ten days shorter that year. October 4, 1582, was followed by October 15, 1582. The Gregorian calendar also eliminated leap years for those years that are evenly divided by 100, except those that are evenly divisible by 400. (The year 2000 had an extra day, but 1900 didn't.)

Engber goes on to say, "In theory, Easter falls on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. In practice, the church's methods are a bit imprecise, in part because the vernal equinox doesn't always fall on March 21, and in part because the church uses traditional tables (rather than modern astronomy) to determine the dates of full moons.

An interesting side note – the Eastern Orthodox churches never adopted the Gregorian calendar, so their Easter remains on the Julian calendar and may be celebrated as late as May.

The Depression of 1893

and Coxey's Army

By Jarrelyn Lang

In its impact on industry and employment, the depression of the 1890s was on a par with the Great Depression of the 1930s. In some places, it began before 1890, in a deep agricultural crisis that hit Southern cotton-growing regions and the Great Plains in the late 1880s. The shock hit Wall Street and urban areas in 1893, as part of a massive worldwide economic crisis. A quarter of the nation's railroads went bankrupt; in some cities, unemployment among industrial workers exceeded 20 or even 21 percent.

Americans of different incomes experienced the depression in markedly different ways. In the bitter winter months, some poor families starved and others became wanderers. Unemployed "tramps" crisscrossed the countryside, walking or hiding on freight trains. Many appeared at the back doors of middle-class houses, pleading for work or food.

Despite the obvious structural crisis, many Americans blamed those who could not find work, accusing them of laziness or begging. Some among the unemployed blamed themselves, and stories of despair and suicide ran almost daily in many newspapers.

Many in the comfortable classes feared violence and anarchy. A series of bitter labor conflicts – such as the Homestead strike at the Carnegie Steel Works and the Pullman strike in Chicago – captured the nation's attention before and during the depression itself. In such situations, many respectable Americans blamed violence on the strikers, though others sympathized with the plight of the underpaid and unemployed,

In 1894, Ohio businessman Jacob Coxey organized an "Industrial Army" to protest the federal government's inaction in the face of economic crisis. Coxey proposed many programs that would later win acceptance during the New Deal, but which were considered extremely radical in the 1890s. Most notably, he advocated the creation of government jobs, through which unemployed men could improve the nation's roads and build public works, while also supporting their families. This project, he argued, could be financed through the issue of government bonds.

Coxey's Army picked up many allies and sympathizers on its march in Washington, but it also stirred panic among those who feared an insurrection of the unemployed. When the members of the Army reached Washington, they were driven from the Capitol steps. Coxey, who tried to read a prepared statement on the Capitol steps, was jailed for trespassing, though allies later read his speech into the Congressional Record. Coxey, who founded the newspaper *Sound Money*, went on to run for U.S. Representative from Ohio in 1894, (He lost to a Republican.) and to serve as a delegate in the 1896 Populist convention. Because of his high profile in the party, many commentators associated Populism with "Coxeyism."

The depression remained severe in 1896, making economic conditions a crucial issue of the campaign. The sitting Democratic president, Grover Cleveland, was wildly unpopular because of the depression – a fact that helped foster a deep rift in the Democratic party, and also made Bryan's campaign an uphill battle from the start. During the first two years of McKinley's presidency, the nation returned to prosperity, bringing new issues to the fore in 1898 and beyond.

Coxey's Army:

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey, an owner of a sand quarry in Massillon, Ohio, faced difficult financial times as the Panic of 1893 gripped the United States. In protest of the federal government's failure to assist the American populace during this economic downturn, Coxey formed a protest march that became known as "Coxey's Army." The group, numbering one hundred men, left Massillon on Easter Sunday, with the intention of marching to Washington, D.C., to demand that the United States government assist the American worker. As the group marched to Washington, hundreds more workers joined it along the route. Coxey claimed that his army would eventually number more than 100,000 men. By the time that the army reached Washington, it numbered only 500 men.

Upon arriving in Washington, Coxey and his supporters demanded that the federal government immediately assist workers by hiring them to work on public projects such as roads and government buildings. The United States Congress and President Grover Cleveland refused. Law enforcement officials arrested Coxey for trespassing on public property. Coxey's Army quickly dispersed upon its leader's arrest.

"Coxey's Army" illustrates the harsh financial situation gripping the United States during the Panic of 1893. It also shows a growing desire among Americans for their government to play a more active role in solving the people's problems.

Jacob Coxey's Address on Behalf of the Industrial Army, which was read into the Congressional Record, 53rd Congress, 2nd Session (9 May 1894), p. 4512:

The Constitution of the United States guarantees to all citizens the right to peaceably associate and petition for redress of grievance, and furthermore declares that the right of free speech shall not be abridged.

We stand here today to test these guaranties of our Constitution. We choose this place of assemblage because it is the property of the people. Here, rather than at any other spot upon the continent, it is fitting that we should come to mourn over our dead liberties and by our protest arouse the imperiled nation to such action as shall rescue the Constitution and resurrect our liberties.

Upon these steps where we stand has been spread a carpet for the royal feet of a foreign princess, the cost of whose lavish entertainment was taken from the public Treasury without the consent or approval of the people. Up these steps the lobbyists of trusts and corporations have passed unchallenged on their way to committee rooms, access to which we, the representatives of the toiling wealth-producers, have been denied. We stand here today in behalf of millions of toilers whose petitions have been buried in committee rooms, whose prayers have been un-responded to, and whose opportunities for honest, remunerative, productive labor have been taken from them by unjust legislation, which protects idlers, speculators, and gamblers. We come to remind the Congress here assembled of a declaration of a United States Senator that "for a quarter of a century the rich have been growing richer, the poor poorer, and that, by the close of the present century, the middle class will have disappeared as the struggle for existence becomes fierce and relentless."

Article printed in the *Denver News* on 20 September, 1896:

There are millions of heads of families partially or wholly out of employment, and many of those must live in some degree on the earnings of their friends. In the agricultural districts, wages have fallen one-half. In manufacturing and other lines, where labor is organized, and the unions will not permit reductions, wages remain more nearly at the old figures, but as there is nothing to prevent employers from reducing the number of their employees, this has been done to such an extent that the aggregate of all wages paid is at the starvation point.

Sources:

"Coxey's Army" and the article in the *Denver News* are from the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio History Central: an Online Encyclopedia of Ohio History, 2005.

"The Depression of 1893," <http://projects.vassar.edu/1896/depression.html>.

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THE ULTIMATE APRIL FOOLS' PRANK?

By Jarrelyn Lang

On April 1, 1957, the BBC (British Broadcasting Company) aired a segment of their "Panorama" news program that featured a family who were carrying out their annual spaghetti harvest in Ticino, a republic in southern Switzerland. The television program, narrated by broadcaster Richard Dimbleby in his best newsman's manner, showed women carefully gathering strands of spaghetti from a tree and laying them in the sun to dry.

Some viewers failed to see the humor of the broadcast and criticized the BBC for airing such a segment on what was supposed to be a serious, factual, program. Others, however, were so intrigued they wanted to find out where they could purchase a spaghetti bush of their own. Spaghetti is not widely eaten in the UK and is considered by many as an exotic delicacy.

Mr. Dimbleby explained how the end of March each year is a very anxious time for spaghetti harvesters all over Europe, because a severe spring frost can impair the flavor of the spaghetti. He also explained that each strand of spaghetti always grows to the same length, thanks to years of hard work by generations of growers. Dimbleby went on to announce that the ravenous spaghetti weevil, which had wreaked havoc with crops in years past, had been eradicated.

More than 250 callers lighted up the BBC switchboard following the program, many wanting to know where they could go to watch the harvesting process. Michael Pearce, producer of "Panorama," offered callers a very tongue-in-cheek "helpful hint": "Many British enthusiasts have had admirable results from planting a small tin of spaghetti in tomato sauce," he told them.

The origins of April Fools' Day are not clear, but the tradition of practical jokes and mischief-making dates back to ancient Rome. Romans and ancient Celts celebrated a festival of practical joking around the time of the Vernal (spring) Equinox. The French also mark April 1, which they call *Poisson d'Avril* (April Fish) instead of April Fools' Day.

Sources: bbc.co.uk/onthisday; "April Fools' Day Pranks," snopes.com.

Colonial Roads, 1750-1775

By Jarrelyn Lang, from *American Migration Routes, 1735-1815*, by William Dollarhide:
#2 in a series

The Ohio Trading Company was established by a group of Virginia investors in 1746. The group included Virginia's governor, Robert Dinwiddie, and George Washington's half-brother, Lawrence Washington. Other men of prominence also joined. The company was the driving force behind a series of events that led to a war between Britain and France and developed wagon roads into wilderness areas that had previously been inaccessible.

The Ohio Company was mainly interested in fur trade with the Indians of western Virginia, including lands claimed by the British but never controlled by them. The Company's map of Virginia was based on Virginia's Royal Charter of 1609, which led Sir Walter Raleigh to claim land from the Chesapeake Bay to Alaska – even though Royal Charters for Massachusetts and Connecticut led them to believe that they, too, were claimants to that region. However, the area west of the Appalachians had been under the control of France for at least 150 years, and it was referred to as "New France." The French held a network of trading forts that lay in an area from Montreal to New Orleans.

With the blessing of the government of Virginia, the Ohio Company financed numerous teams of traders, who traveled overland from Alexandria, Virginia, to the forks of the Ohio River (now Pittsburgh), then into the Ohio country, where they had great success in trading goods to the Indians in exchange for furs.

The various "roads," which were actually waterways, consisted of the rivers and streams in the Mississippi Valley. Many trading posts could be reached only by lightweight birch-bark canoes. Some trappers covered as many as 100 miles per day. The only actual land roads constructed by the French were no longer than 13 miles and used mainly as portage between rivers.

The Ohio Company paid better for the furs than did the French, who had a monopoly in trade with the Indians up until 1752. Indian tribes that had been friendly with the French joined the British instead and began raiding French trading posts. Not to be outdone, the French began a series of skirmishes in retaliation, causing great loss to the Ohio Company.

In 1753, the Ohio Company learned that the Marquis Duquesne, the governor of New France, was using Indian labor to build a series of forts reaching from Presque Isle on Lake Erie, and including a new Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio River. Virginia investors decided it was time for the British to assert authority in the area because their interests, as well as those of the Ohio Company, were being seriously threatened.

The influence of the Ohio Company and the Virginia colonial government led to official British support of war with France, which led to the French-Indian War of 1754-1763. The road map of the American Colonies, particularly the roads on which our ancestors traveled west, was forever changed by this war.

Governor Dinwiddie and the Ohio Company investors were quite concerned about losing their rich trading area to the French. The Ohio Company hoped to encourage western

expansion into these areas, thereby creating their own trading forts with the Indians. The British trading forts, already in place on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, were having no difficulty with the French, but they felt threatened by the new Fort Duquesne, located at the most critical and strategic crossroad for either French or British control of the territory north and west of the Ohio River. What it amounted to was that whoever controlled the forks of the Ohio would dominate the northwest.

Braddock's Road

In October 1753, George Washington, just 21 years old at the time, traveled on the King's Highway from Williamsburg to Alexandria, Virginia. He was under Governor Dinwiddie's orders to lead a small group of woodsmen to find the best overland route to Fort Duquesne. Upon their arrival there, Washington was to deliver a message to the French commander to "Get out of Virginia!" (or, as Dollarhide puts it, "it was actually Pennsylvania – not Virginia – but geography was then a new science.")

Leaving Alexandria, Washington traveled along the Potomac River to Fort Cumberland, a new fort still under construction. From Fort Cumberland, he and his men followed a pack team route known as the "Venango Trail," which the Ohio Company traders had used for many years. During this trip, Washington explored and recorded in his journal better ways to get to their destination, always keeping in mind the possibility of a suitable route for a wagon road.

He realized that a wagon road could be a way of maintaining and supplying a British outpost and to support their interest in the Ohio River forks. The governor of Virginia had persuaded the British army to take possession of the area and to finance the mustering of troops and road construction. Given a commission as Lieutenant Colonel, Washington began recruiting colonials as soldiers to bolster the British forces against the French.

In early 1755, the British General, Edward Braddock, began supervising the construction of a wagon road through the wilderness areas of Maryland and Pennsylvania, following routes laid out by Colonel Washington. There were about 3,000 men taking part in the construction.

Braddock's Road was the first road to cross overland through the entire Appalachian Mountain range. For the first time, it was possible for horse-drawn wagons to travel the great distance to the west. Braddock insisted that the road be twelve feet wide. A monumental task, the road was successfully completed. Due to some poor military tactics, however, Braddock failed in his military mission. His troops were completely surprised and overrun by the Indians, supported by the French, thus dispersing his troops. General Braddock was mortally wounded in the battle and was buried along his road at Fort Necessity, near the present town of Farmington, Pennsylvania.

Forbes' Road

After Braddock's failure, there were several successful battles with the French for control of the Great Lakes area. However, it was still necessary to advance on Fort Duquesne. In 1758, British forces were commanded by General John Forbes, who ignored the plans of Colonel Washington to use Braddock's Road again, due to the fact that the road was heavily defended by the Indian forces of the French. Instead, Forbes planned to send Colonel Washington with a

smaller force up Braddock's Road to keep the French occupied, enabling Forbes to build a new road farther north, thereby enabling him to take the French by surprise.

Using up to 4,000 troops to build the road, at Laurel Hill, Forbes finally arrived at Fort Duquesne, only to find that the French had deserted the fort. "The all-important forks of the Ohio has remained in British-American control ever since," writes Dollarhide.

George Washington served with both Braddock and Forbes during the construction of these roads, seeing first-hand how the Indians cleverly avoided direct confrontation with Braddock's soldiers. He was later to use those same tactics against the British with great success. Another participant of wilderness road-building on both Forbes's and Braddock's roads was a young man from Pennsylvania named Daniel Boone, who was about the same age as Washington.

By 1763, after the British were successful in removing the French, the only North American lands owned by the French were New Orleans and a couple of forts on the St. Lawrence River – until some forty years later, when Napoleon "stole" Louisiana from Spain. The western boundary of the thirteen British colonies in 1763 was the same as agreed upon at the Treaty of Paris twenty years later, which settled the boundary between the United States and Spanish Louisiana as the Mississippi River.

Water transportation down the Ohio and Mississippi was linked by the two new roads from the King's Highway to the forks of the Ohio River. These roads were to lead the way to a 100-year land boom – but all was not smooth sailing.

An unexpected development came out of the French-Indian War. In order to reward the Indians for their help in fighting the French, the British Proclamation Line of 1763 was established at the Appalachian Mountains, by law prohibiting any British colonial from settling west of that line. The vast western region was dubbed "Indian Hunting Grounds."

Colonial Americans, particularly politicians and investors of the Ohio Company, were not happy with this decision, feeling as if the King had betrayed them. Men of Virginia and the other colonies began to think about independence from Britain. The idea that the King would ban westward migration by the colonists became one of many complaints "against tyranny" that would lead to revolution.

The Wilderness Road

In 1774, the Transylvania Company and Daniel Boone, along with 30 armed woodsmen, marked out a road through Virginia's Cumberland Gap and into Fincastle County (now Kentucky). Through much hardship and skirmishes with Indians, Boone and his men blazed the first trail through the Cumberland Mountains and into the valleys of Kentucky by 1775. Kentucky's rich, plentiful topsoil created a farmer's paradise.

When word about that rich soil got out, there soon occurred a migration onslaught into this new territory. The Wilderness Road provided the means for the first settlements at Boonesborough, Harrodsburg, and many other sites to follow, mainly on or near the Kentucky River.

Despite Indian raids on those early settlers, there was no lack of families caught by the lure of Kentucky. The Wilderness Road became an extension of the Great Valley Road.

Although the Wilderness Road was not really a road, just a crude trail, it didn't matter. Until 1796, only pack teams could cross the mountains. In that year, the trail was widened enough to

allow enough room for a Conestoga wagon to pass. Many travelers before 1796 learned this fact after going through the length of the Great Valley Road, only to be forced to abandon their Conestoga wagons at Sapling Grove and pack their belongings on horses for the remainder of their journey into Kentucky.

Daniel Boone's contributions to American history were significant. At the time of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, Britain ceded to the United States the vast area from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River, mainly due to the fact that the U.S. had thousands of settlers living in Kentucky by then. When Kentucky became a state in 1792, over sixty thousand people had traveled the Wilderness Road into Kentucky, a journey that took great courage.

Because of the Wilderness Road, immigrants from Scotland and Ireland, and others who sailed from England and landed in Alexandria, Virginia, could begin their journey into their new homeland by using just one wagon all the way to the middle of Kentucky. Their sturdy Conestoga wagons were made of oak, with eight-inch-wide wheels, five feet high, and pulled by six draft horses.

New York Migration

Early settlements in New York were built following the route of the Hudson River north and northwest of New York City. Early travelers into the western or northern regions of New York usually began their journey in Albany. The primary route west followed the Mohawk River Valley. The route was first used as a route for wagons to be able to reach Lake Ontario, where wagons and families could be ferried to other Lake Ontario ports, including Upper Canada (Ontario). This was the route taken by many Loyalists who left the United States for British protection during and after the Revolutionary War.

What We Can Learn From the Easter Bunny

Contributed by a Friend

1. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
2. Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
3. All work and no play can make you a basket case.
4. Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
5. Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
6. Keep your paws off other people's jelly beans.
7. Good things come in small, sugar-coated packages.
8. The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.
9. The best things in life are still sweet and gooey.

THE WARREN WAGON TRAIN MASSACRE

And the first trial of Indians in an American Civil Court

By Jarrelyn Lang

After the defeat of the Confederacy, Federal troops slowly began to reconstruct their old forts on the Texas frontier. The Army also established three new forts: Richardson (Jack County); Concho, (Tom Green County); and Griffin (Shackelford County). However, there was still no fort on the Red River, leaving the frontier vulnerable to attacks from Indians across the border at Fort Sill in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

After the War, Federal officials resumed negotiations with the Southern Plains tribes. In October 1867, a summit held with Kiowa and Comanche tribes in Barber County, Kansas, resulted in the Medicine Lodge Treaty, which was actually the name for three treaties between the United States government and southern Plains Indian tribes. However, the treaty was a failure.

Many Indian bands did not recognize the treaty as valid. The tribes were assigned to reservations that were smaller than the territories defined in an 1865 treaty with the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Comanche, Apache, and Kiowa tribes. The Medicine Lodge Treaty was never ratified by vote of adult males, as required. By changing the allotment policy, Congress further reduced the tribes' reservation territory. Kiowa chief Lone Wolf filed a suit against the government for fraud in behalf of the tribes.

Having determined that Congress had "plenary power" – "the separate identification, definition, and complete vesting of a power or powers of authority in a governing body or individual, and the right to make such decisions, to choose to act, or not act, on a particular subject matter or area" (Wikipedia), the Supreme Court finally handed down a ruling *against* the tribes in 1903.

For both whites and Indians, the late 1860s was a time of frustration and hopelessness and unpredictability. Federal garrisons, expected to protect white settlers, were undermanned. Texas wanted to provide their Rangers to supplement frontier defense, but finances were sparse following the War Between the States.

No matter how things appeared, times were changing, and the end for Indians was near. Civil War veterans William T. Sherman, commander of the U.S. Army, and Philip Sheridan, commander of U.S. troops in Texas, having learned how to break the enemy's will to resist, began a policy of encouraging the slaughter of buffalos in the South.

In May 1871, a party of more than a hundred Kiowa, Comanche, and others left Fort Sill in Oklahoma and crossed into Texas. Their leaders, Satank, Satanta, and Big Tree, took up positions on the Salt Creek Prairie in Young County, between Forts Richardson and Belknap.

One day while encamped there, the Indians allowed a group of heavily-armed white soldiers to pass unmolested. Unknown to the Indians, this was General Sherman and his military escort. Sherman was on an inspection tour of Texas forts.

The next group of whites to pass by was a wagon train, consisting of ten covered wagons, a wagon master, ten teamsters, and a night watchman. The train was transporting sacks of corn and other supplies for the army, from the railhead at Weatherford, Texas, to Fort Griffin. The train belonged to a freighting company owned by Captain Henry Warren and his partner, a Mr. Duposes.

The Indians swept down upon the wagons and attacked. They killed the wagon master, Nathan S. Long, and seven teamsters, then drove off the mules.

One of the teamsters, Samuel Elliott, was burned to death. The Indians chained him to a wagon wheel so he could not move then built a fire around his feet. Other atrocities were carried out, also. After looting the wagons, the Indians returned to the reservation.

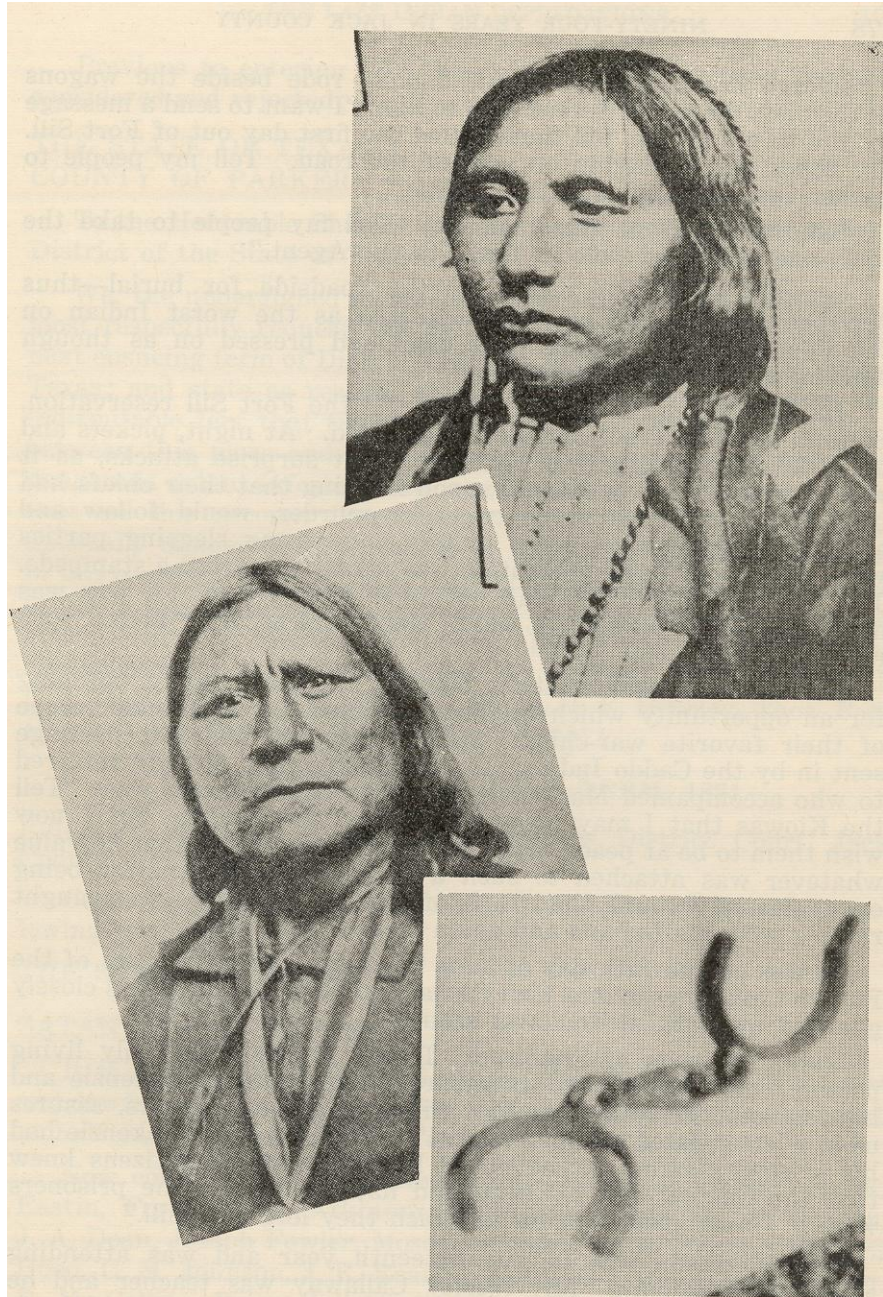
When General Sherman heard the news from a teamster who had escaped, he ordered ruthless measures, beginning by reversing an earlier order that prohibited soldiers from pursuing Indians onto the reservations. Immediately traveling to Fort Sill, Sherman personally arrested Satank, Satanta, and Big Tree, then ordered them to be transported back to Texas to stand trial for murder.

On May 27, several Kiowa chiefs, including Satanta, went to the Indian agent, Lawrie Tatum, a Quaker, to draw their rations. While there, Satanta told the agent that he and a hundred warriors had made an attack on a wagon train between Fort Richardson and Fort Belknap. He told of killing seven teamsters and driving off forty-one mules. Satanta, as commander of the affair, said his aim was to teach young warriors how to fight. He revealed that Satank, Big Tree, and two other chiefs, Eagle Heart and Big Bow, had taken part, also. The agent immediately informed Sherman of what Satanta had revealed to him.

Satanta, Satank, and Big Tree were placed in heavy iron handcuffs and, under heavy guard, began their journey to Texas. As they left Fort Sill, a Caddo Indian named George Washington rode beside the wagons. Satank asked George to give a message to his family: "I want to send a message by you to my people. Tell them I died the first day out of Fort Sill. My bones will be laying on side of the road. Tell my people to gather them up and take them home." Satanta also sent a message: "Tell my people to take the forty-one mules we stole in Texas to the Agent." (These quotes are from *94 Years in Jack County*, by Ida Lasater Huckabay.)

On their way to Texas, and very near where the wagon train had been attacked, Satank "loosed his heavy handcuffs by gnawing and stripping the flesh from the bone. He immediately . . . seized a Spencer carbine and attempted the life of a soldier, in the presence of the guard and his fellow prisoners. He was a large, powerful, muscular man, and thus exhibited his extraordinary will power and preference for death, rather than take the chance of receiving justice in a Texas court. As quick as he was observed, a file of soldiers instantly poured a volley into the desperado and he fell lifeless at their feet. This sudden and unexpected termination of Satank's existence created the greatest consternation and alarm in Satanta and Big Tree. For the balance of the trip, even though the two were perfectly docile, they were placed under the closest surveillance until lodged in, and chained to, the floor of their prison cells." (from *Indian Depredations in Texas* by J.W. Wilbarger)

The arrest of Satanta and Big Tree brought rejoicing throughout northwest Texas, considering the number of atrocities wreaked by the tribes. As soon as the prisoners were taken to Jacksborough (now known as *Jacksboro*), and Judge Seward, of the thirteenth Judicial district at Weatherford, was made aware of the imprisonment, a trial date of July 5, 1871, was fixed. Meanwhile, the two chiefs were held in the stockade at Fort Richardson, under the watchful eye of Colonel Ranald McKenzie, commander of the fort.



Top – Chief Big Tree, age 19

Center – Chief Satanta

Bottom – Satanta's handcuffs, which had to be cut off his hands by the blacksmith at Fort Richardson

Stephen W. Eastin, brother-in-law of Thomas Horton, was Foreman of the Grand Jury. An indictment of murder in the first degree was handed down for both of the defendants. (Thomas Horton, my great grandfather, wrote *History of Jack County*.)

Mrs. Huckabay writes: "On July 5, 1871, the day of the trial, the prisoners were brought over from the guardhouse in a large government wagon – there was no wagon sheet on the wagon. Satanta and Big Tree were seated in the middle of the wagon, three guards were in the back of the wagon and three in the front, six guards rode on either side of the wagon and four guards rode in front and four guards rode behind the wagon. This was done to prevent anyone shooting the Indians. The wagon was driven in front of the courthouse and prisoners conveyed inside. There was no disturbance or demonstration on the part of the spectators." Big Tree's trial was first.

Judge Charles Soward presided. District Attorney S.W.T. Lanham, who would go on to be governor of Texas from 1803-1907, conducted the prosecution. His opening speech: "Satanta, the veteran consul chief of the Kiowas – the orator, diplomat, the counselor of his tribe – the pulse of his race – Big Tree, the young war chief, who leads in the thickest of the fight and follows no one in the chase, the mighty warrior athlete, with the speed of the deer and the eye of the eagle, are before this bar, in the charge of law! So they would be described by Indian admirers, who live in more secure and favored lands, remote from the frontier – where distance lends enchantment to the imagination – where the story of Pocahontas and the speech of Logan, the Mingo, are read, and the dread sound of the war whoop is not heard. We who see them today, disrobed of all their fancied graces, exposed in the light of reality, behold them through far different lenses! We recognize in Satanta the arch fiend of treachery and blood – the promoter of strife, the breaker of treaties signed by his own hands – the inciter of his fellows to pillage and murder – the artful dealer in bravado while in the pow-wow, and the most abject coward in the field, as well as the most canting and double-tongued hypocrite when detected and overcome! In Big Tree we perceive the tiger-demon, who has tasted blood and loves it as his food – who stops at no crime, how black so ever – who is swift at every species of ferocity, and pities not at any sight of agony or death – he can scalp, burn, torture, mangle, and deface his victims with all the superlatives of cruelty and have no feeling of sympathy or remorse. They are both hideous and loathsome in appearance, and we look in vain to see in them anything to be admired, or even endure." (Lanham's speeches are from "Chronicles of Oklahoma," <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/Chronicles/v017/v017p364.html>.)

Lanham went on to direct the jury that "The jurisdiction of the Court is complete and the State expects from you a verdict and judgment in accordance with the law and judgments." He went on to say, "This is a novel and important trial and has no precedent in the history of American jurisprudence."

Satanta, the "Orator of the Plains," was given an opportunity to speak and defend himself: Speaking in the Comanche tongue, Satanta addressed those gathered at the courthouse as a Mr. Jones interpreted: "I cannot speak with these

things on my wrists (indicating his handcuffs). "I am a squaw. Has anything been heard from the Great Father (President Ulysses S. Grant)? I have always been a friend of the white man, ever since I was so high (indicating by sign the height of a small boy). My tribe has taunted me and called me a squaw because I have been the friend of the Tehanas (Texans). I am suffering now for the crimes of bad Indians, of Satank, Lone Wolf, and Kicking Bird, and Fast Bear and Eagle Heart, and if you will let me go I will kill them with my own hands. I did not kill the Tehanas. I came down the Pease River as a big medicine man to doctor the wounds of the braves I am a big chief among my people and have great influence among the warriors of my tribe. They know my voice and will hear my word. If you will let me go back to my people I will withdraw my warriors from Tehana (Texas), I will take them all across the Red River and that shall be the line between us – across the Red River and the pale faces. I will wash out the spots of blood and make it a white land and there shall be peace and the Tehanas may plow and drive their oxen to the banks of the Red River. If you kill me it will be like a spark in the prairie – make big fire, burn heap." (This quote is also from Thomas Horton's book. Horton, the father-in-law of Charley Middlebrooks, was among those present at the trial. At that time, he was a young man of 14.)

Weatherford, Texas, attorneys Thomas Ball and Joe Wolffork represented the defendants; no other information is known about them.

The main witnesses were Colonel Ranald McKenzie, Lawrie Tatum, and Thomas Brazeal, one of the teamsters who escaped the massacre.

According to Thomas Horton, "The evidence was so direct that after a brief absence, the jury rendered a verdict of Murder in the First Degree." The prisoners were sentenced to be hanged on September 1, 1871. Thus ended the trial of the first Native American leaders to be tried by a civil court.

The sentence of hanging was later commuted, and the two chiefs were given life sentences in the state penitentiary. On August 9, 1873, they were set free by Texas Governor Edmund Davis on the recommendation of President Grant. Raiding along the border broke out at once, and on October 30, 1874. Lt. Gen. Sheridan directed that the two chiefs be arrested and returned to the Texas penitentiary. On November 8th of that year, Satanta was re-incarcerated. Big Tree was never recaptured. Satanta finally ended his life by throwing himself from the upper storey window of the prison on October 11, 1878. (Horton) Satanta's descendants believe he was pushed off the building, because suicide was not in his nature. Still, it would have been in character for Satanta, in his last act as a Kiowa warrior, to deprive the whites of victory by taking his own life. (historynet.com.)

Satanta's remains were buried in the prison cemetery until 1963, when his grandson, Kiowa artist James Auchiah, received permission to re-inter him next to Satank in the cemetery at Fort Sill. (*The Handbook of Texas Online*)

Satank's remains were buried, without ceremony, at Fort Sill. His only known survivor was a son, Frank Givins, known to be living in Carnegie, Oklahoma, in 1929. He is said to have been a medicine man.

Thomas Horton quotes an article from an Anadarko, Oklahoma, newspaper, concerning the death of Big Tree:

The death of Chief Big Tree November 13, 1929, marked the passing of the last of the old Indian warriors and recalls many of the most thrilling incidents in Indian history of western Oklahoma, having been made a war chief of the Kiowa tribe. While a young man, Big Tree participated in plundering expeditions and massacres before the warlike tribes of the Plains were finally suppressed and induced to live peaceably on reservations. Big Tree was only a young man when paroled from the Texas penitentiary in 1873. It was believed that he could be saved by keeping him busy in worthwhile duties. He was put in charge of the supply train from Wichita and other Kansas points to the Indian agency, which was located at Anadarko, and never broke his parole. Later he was a leader in asking for a missionary to his people and assisted in the establishment of the first mission, now (1897) known as Rainy Mountain Indian Mission. Big Tree became a member of the church in 1897, and the past thirty years has been a deacon. He remained an active and important leader in his tribe until a few years ago when age and ill health prevented active participation in tribal business. Big Tree was buried in the Rainy Mountain country near his home. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Alma Ashtote and Mrs. Marietta Hoag, who live near Anadarko. Unlike the older Indians, Big Tree was married only once. His wife died about ten years ago.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ellen Martin Middlebrooks, 90, of Meansville, Georgia, died December 12, 2012, at her home. Mrs. Middlebrooks was a native of Jenkinsburg, Georgia, and had lived in Pike County for 61 years. She was a graduate of Draughton's Business College. Mrs. Middlebrooks was formerly employed as a paraprofessional for the Pike County School System.

She was a member of the Fincher Methodist Church for 61 years and was also a member of the Fincher United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her daughter, MFA member Beauty Tyus; a son, Hal. R. Middlebrooks; three grandchildren; and one cousin.

Funeral services were held December 15, 2012, at Pasley Fletcher Funeral Home. Burial was held at the Fincher United Methodist Church Cemetery in Meansville, Butts County, Georgia.

We at MFA want to pass along our deepest sympathies to Beauty and to all of Mary Ellen's family.