

# MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC. Quarterly Newsletter

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Editor,  
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Founding Editor,  
Dianne Middlebrooks

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## **From the President –**

The Middlebrooks Family Association 2014 Annual Meeting was held recently in Columbus and Pine Mountain, GA, It featured \*ISAAC IN HARRIS COUNTY.”

One session was devoted to Isaac 1753's family migration from North Carolina to South Carolina and into the current Oconee County of Georgia. His death was in Morgan County and his son, Isaac 1787, removed to Harris County around 1830. A second session was devoted to the Harris County Middlebrooks.

The first two days were spent at the Columbus Public Library, Fort Benning Infantry Museum, Chattahoochee River Bridge – talked Civil War Creek Indian/Chattahoochee River Mills and saw the rapids and Springer Opera House. At the Lummus Chapel in Linwood Cemetery, people learned of Hiram Middlebrook, a Connecticut Yankee, the only Middlebrooks buried in this cemetery.

The last day was at historic Bethany Baptist Church of Pine Mountain which was established in 1828 and is still a vibrant force in the area. The present structure, with its memorial windows honoring 10 Middlebrooks descendants, was built in 1847 on land donated by Joel Culpepper.

The Isaacs on to Harris County, was presented by Leonard Middlebrooks and Jean Shroyer

Jo Brooks McGlamery of Chipley, Florida, and Malinda Brooks of Pine Mountain, descendants of the pioneer Middlebrooks family of Harris, presented a dramatic version of "Isaac Middlebrooks in Harris from 1830-1864."

Big thanks to Charles and Jo Middlebrooks, of Columbus, who did a wonderful job of hosting the MFA meeting. There were about 40 people that attended from 8 states.

The next MFA meeting will be the first weekend in October 1-2-3 2015. We will meet in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and the meeting will center on Middlebrooks in our military history and a John 1755 North Carolina descendant who was captured near Vicksburg in the War Between the States. If anyone can offer advice as to where to eat and any Middlebrooks family information in the Vicksburg, Mississippi, area, please contact Leonard Middlebrooks or me.

## Walter Blair Roddenberry, III

A 6<sup>th</sup> Generation Descendant of  
Thomas Middlebrooks, born 1763  
Contributed by Leonard Middlebrooks

While I was reviewing a few old emails, it was apparent that the death notice for Walter Blair had not been added to the MFA master database. In fact, nothing was in the database, and Walter and his family instantly turned into a research challenge.

### **Obituary: Walter B. Roddenberry III.**

Graveside services for Walter B. Roddenberry III, 70, are at 3 p.m. Thursday Nov. 15, 2007, at Cairo Cemetery in Cairo. The Rev. Dr. Joe Allen will officiate. Mr. Roddenberry died Tuesday, Nov. 13, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Born Oct. 3, 1937, in Cairo, he was a son of the late Walter B. Roddenberry Jr. and Virginia [Anne] Middlebrooks Roddenberry. He was a graduate of Cairo High School, graduate of Georgia Tech with degrees in physics and math and a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Cairo. Survivors include brothers Paul Roddenberry and Seaborn Roddenberry, both of Cairo, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Brandon Roddenberry -- *Thomasville Times-Enterprise*, Wednesday, November 14, 2007 [Roddenberry is the correct spelling of the family name.]

Walter's obituary provided the vital statistics, some personal background, and his mother's maiden Middlebrooks name. I followed the obit's lead to Georgia's Thomas County Cairo Cemetery Find-a-Grave site, where Virginia's parents are mentioned in a gravesite note. The unverified parents are listed as Nelle Brandon and A.M. Middlebrooks; additionally, Virginia's middle name is mentioned as Anne. The father would have been old enough to be included in the 1909 *Register*, but the only AM's, an Alice Maize, pg. 234, and an Anna May, pg. 205, 235, and pg. 276, were a momentary dead end.

Some internet sleuthing revealed a marriage in Leon County, Florida, of a Walter Blair and Virginia Anne in 1936. Tracking this couple to the 1940 census reveals two children, Walter Blair and Brandon Roddenberry. This is the family, and since

Walter was the third, his father would have been Walter Jr., and the Cairo Cemetery records yield the tombstone, birth, and death dates.

Working with the Find a Grave note and a global search with Ancestry.com, information turned up numerous records, one of which was a 1940 census record for an Alex M. Middlebrooks and wife Nelle B. They were living in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, with a 16-year-old son, Harry; each was born in Georgia as well as Alex and Nelle's parents.

The 1930 census records show an Alie M. Middlebrooks and a wife Nelle B. , also living in Tallahassee, Leon Co., Florida. With them is a Virginia and Harry; the calculated birth year for the parents and Harry agree with the 1940 census. At this point, Ancestry's possible relevant records kicks in and there are numerous records for an Alie May M. Middlebrooks and two mentioning an Alie Mays Middlebrooks. The latter two records are a World War I Draft Registration for Alia Mays and an application from Harry Mays Middlebrooks to the Sons of the American Revolution.

In this application, Harry spells out his father's name as Alia Mays Middlebrooks of The Rock, Upson Co., Georgia, and his mother as Nelle Brandon in the same community. The application follows Harry's mother's line, but pinning down the father's exact name and birth place was a leap forward. Having a better spelling of the Christian name leads to where he is buried in the Tallahassee, Leon Co., Florida, Roselawn Cemetery. The tombstone gives the name, birth, and death date, and surprisingly gives Alie Mays' parents as "Elizabeth Mays and William Erastus Middlebrooks of The Rock, Upson County, GA." With this unexpected information, it is downhill to connect the ancestors of Walter Blair's wife, Virginia Middlebrooks.

Her grandfather, William Erastus, is found in the 1909 *Register* as register number 643. He is the son of Levi Newton Middlebrooks and Frances Maria Stephens, both of whom are buried in The Rock's Stephens family cemetery. The *Register* also lists William's family, but the child, Alice Maize, is in reality, Alie Mays, the father of Virginia Middlebrooks.

Note that Alie's middle name is his mother's maiden name. What happened to the custom of passing the mother's last name to her children; another tradition lost?

Moving up the ancestral line from William Erastus, his son, Levi Newton, is the third child of James Madison Middlebrooks and Malinda Stroud. The James Madison family Bible lists his children, including Levi Newton, and states that James's father is Thomas Middlebrooks, and his mother is Ann Selmon. Thomas dies in Jones County, Georgia, in 1825 and is buried most likely on their property, now located in the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge in Jones County. Anne and her son, James Madison, move to the new Upson where Anne dies in 1859, living 81 years, and in the 34 years in Upson County helps James and Malinda rear their eleven children. James stated in his later years that his father was an orphan at the time of the second war with the British, thus leading to the conclusion that the *Register's* listing of Thomas's father was incorrect.

Flushing out the data for Walter's three siblings turned into an ongoing challenge. His closest brother was relatively simple. He was mentioned in the obit, census, and death records, and with no indication of marriage.

The last two brothers, Paul B. and Charles Seaborn, are possibly still living. Beyond their names from the obituary, nothing concrete has been found. A general internet search on Charles Seaborn did turn up a few interesting notes. One is the derivation of the name Seaborn; it is derived from the Old English pre-7<sup>th</sup> century name of "Saebeorn." The name is Anglo-Saxon in origin and is a combination of *sea* and *warrior*, or *sea warrior*.

The second is that Seaborn is a Roddenberry family name. There was a Seaborn Anderson Roddenberry living in the same Thomasville, Georgia, one generation prior to Walter Blair Roddenberry. This Seaborn was a state senator and one-time mayor of Thomasville. A third is that Charles Seaborn is found as principal in a land corporation in Cairo, Georgia.

Little has been found on the brother Paul B. Though at an impasse on this Middlebrooks descendant, a great deal of information has been added to the MFA master database.

**An Abridged Interview with Brittany Middlebrook,**  
**Miss Illinois United States**  
*From Tiara Magazine*

**1. Please tell me a little about your title and what your pageant represents.**

I am currently the reigning Miss Illinois United States, which is a state title for the Miss United States Organization. The Organization is recently recognized as the fastest-growing pageant in the nation, providing an avenue of achievement for women and girls ages 8-40. Recently, our national director, Chris Wilmer, accepted the invitation for Miss United States to be the representative on behalf of the United States in the international Miss World Pageant! The MUSO is all about finding the "People's Queen." That means that they look for young ladies who are relatable, philanthropic, and community-oriented.

**2. How long have you been competing in pageants, and how did you get started with pageantry?**

I was not a toddler in a tiara, and I didn't enter my first pageant until I was 19 years old and a freshman at my alma mater, DePaul University. Growing up, I was always fascinated by pageantry, and I watched the USA pageant and the Miss America pageant religiously. I was in awe of the young women on that stage representing their states with pride, and I always thought that I could one day be me. However, I never knew that I would actually do it! Meeting Miss Illinois United States 2011, Angela Sparrow, gave me the push that I needed to compete in my first pageant. Angela was very sweet, personable, and had had nothing but positive things to share with me about the world of pageantry. With her insight and well-wishes, I couldn't see a better time to start competing!

**3. Why did you choose to compete in this pageant?**

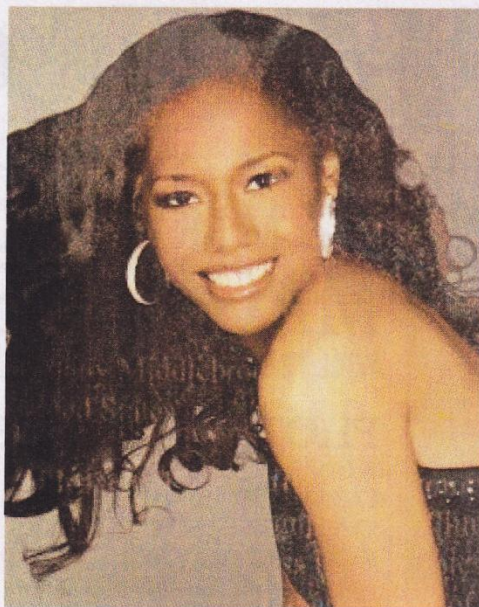
I selected the Miss United States Organization Pageant because it is unique in that it cared about the glamour of the delegates, just as much as their community service work. It was my goal to hold a title with a greater purpose, and I believe that the Miss United States Organization has enabled me to have this opportunity. Upon being crowned Miss Illinois United States, I became a national partner with Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. The MUSO encourages all of its delegates to be active leaders in their communities.

**4. What is your platform, and why did you choose it?**

I was blessed to be born healthy. Unfortunately, this isn't the case for many children. One of my platforms involves donating my time and efforts to bringing fun and leisure to children who are not able to live at home because of an illness. The Ronald McDonald House Charities is my charity of choice to work with throughout my reign as Miss Illinois United States. I had the honor and pleasure of coordinating a pageant night for the children and families at the RMHC located near Lurie Children's Hospital. Utilizing my experience in public relations and & advertisement, I was able to effectively communicate my goal to Sprinkles Cupcakes, and they generously donated cupcakes in 5 different flavors! RMHC does not turn away any child based

on a lack of finances or insurance. This organization genuinely cares for all of the families they house, and it is such an honor to be working with them.

Additionally, I am blessed to have the opportunity to speak out on a platform that I hold dear to my heart, which is mental health awareness and preventive methods. In October 2013, my late grandfather passed away from Alzheimer's disease. Prior to having the disease affect my family, I only knew what Hollywood reflected to the public. I believed that Alzheimer's simply just caused individuals to begin wandering away from their houses, in addition to forgetting names, meanings, and faces of loved ones. Although these are some of the various characteristics associated with this disease, I did not know that the disease eventually told the body to forget how to function, thus severely affecting the patient's quality of life. I look forward to approaching the Alzheimer's Associate with the ways in which I believe I can assist in communicating their organization's message.



Brittany Middlebrook, Miss Illinois  
United States

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**History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.**

**Cicero – Roman Orator**

# **10 Thoughts to Help You During (Next) Christmas**

By Jeremy McMorris, published December 12,  
2014, in the *Dalhart Texan*

- 1. Remember, it's all about Christ and His good news . . . really.**
- 2. Don't compare your life, circumstances, or gifts with others.**
- 3. Think before you ask, "What did you get for Christmas?"**
- 4. Fight covetousness.**
- 5. Remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.**
- 6. Serve others.**
- 7. Remember that the mall is not heaven.**
- 8. Remember you truly don't deserve anything that you get.**
- 9. Remember that a gift is primarily an expression of love, not primarily an item meant to make you happy.**
- 10. Say "Thank you."**

Ephesians 5:20 reminds us to "give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, with these thoughts in mind – Love, laugh, party, eat, celebrate, worship, and be merry to the glory of God!

(Editor's note: I know this Quarterly is late. There have been many delays, but I hope to do better with the next issue. – Jarrelyn)



## THIS and THAT

**From Leonard Middlebrooks:** a fun and helpful genealogy site – “Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches Genealogy” A quick search will get you there.

**Five Golden Rules of Genealogy** - near the “Twisted Twigs” site:

1. Leave no stone unturned, unless it is a headstone.
2. Handwriting legibility is inversely proportional to a document's importance.
3. The farther away a cemetery or library is, the more awkward the opening hours will be.
4. The relative you most need to talk with is the one whose funeral you are currently attending.
5. Wherever you find two or more siblings, there also will you find two or more surname spellings.

**Also:** Look for *Genealogy Roadshow* on PBS. It is aired on Tuesday nights here in the Texas Panhandle, but may be shown at other times in other localities.

**From MSN.Com:**

**The Most Dangerous States (according to violent crime statistics):**

5. Louisiana
4. Tennessee
3. Nevada
2. New Mexico
1. Alaska

**The Safest States:**

5. Kentucky
4. Wyoming
3. Virginia
2. Maine
1. Vermont

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**Genealogy Tip:** If a document refers to two men as brothers, is it possible that they are not full brothers? Could they be: half-brothers? Step brothers? Brothers-in-law? Sometimes things might not mean exactly what we think they mean.

## The Middlebrook Homestead.

A letter written by Zelma Thayer, daughter of Marvin W.(468) and Sarah(469) Middlebrook, and 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of Bill Sterling  
[Editor's Note: When Bill sent the letter, he told me that it appears zelma was rambling in the letter, jumping from one thought to another - probably wanted to get her thoughts down in writing before she forgot something.]

When the house was torn down in 1864, under the attic floor a roll of silk and twelve papers of English round headed pins were found, It is not known if they were put there during the Rev war or some one took them from the Middlebrook store and never got them. James Monroe Middlebrook, knowing he had T.B. was to leave his wife and two children Before she was 30 years of age Sarah 9 1/2 and James 1 1/2 years of age. he built a new house 1864. He passed on June 20<sup>th</sup> 1866. They lost a little girl between Sarah and James. He said he felt more at ease about the one in Joes Hill Cemetery than in the two others.

One day when his wife was away some one entered the house and took most of the pins About the year 1896. Sarah drew a picture of the old House as she remembered it, she showed it to Louise Lyon's Father Charles, she asked him if he remembered it. He said yes But you don't, when he saw it he said Oh yes you do. H.G Thompson also knew it and made a water color for Sarah's cousin Mrs Margaret Sexton Riggs of Palmyra N.Y.

When the British burned Danbury and had a battle at Ridgefield as they passed through wilton They shot into the old house it went into a beam over the Dutch door. Eather James or his brother Charles cut the beam and the Bulit in three pieces. Charles was a 49er the gold cry, California. James went to see him in 1852 Mrs Zelma Thayer Gilrack of Louis St. Budgefield 5Gnn. have letters to James (her grandfather) from his brother Charles, one went around the horn So America. It cost Grandfather 80.T at wilton P.O. to get it.

The Middlebrooks knew that the British were to pass through wilton so They set the table then went into the woods They ate and then broak some dishes and lit some liquor out in the cellar. The Middlebrooks were wise their Home was not burned.

See Zelma's picture on the following page.





LEWIS, 11 MAIN ST., NORWALK, CONN.



## A FASCINATING JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

By Bob Middlebrooks

On a beautiful day. I sat in a Bethany Baptist Church pew near Pine Mountain, Georgia, and experienced a fascinating journey into the past. It was in this very church that my father was ordained as a minister in 1923. In 1924 he became the pastor of this church and preached once a month, with an annual salary of \$250.00.

It was during our Columbus, Georgia, Middlebrooks Family Association meeting that we visited Bethany Baptist Church in Harris County on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The day started with a great power point presentation by Leonard Middlebrooks, with an assist from Jean Shroyer, that demystified the perplexing ancestry mystery of the four Isaac names that come up when researching our ancestors. Appropriately titled *Isaac, Isaac, Isaac, and Isaac*, it was a reminder that just because we read it, it is not necessarily true. The *Register of the Middlebrook Family*, written by Louis Middlebrook in 1909, contained some mistakes that have been discovered and noted. Leonard separated fact from fiction and reviewed the lineage of the Isaacs, including my ancestor Isaac Middlebrook, born 1727. He had a son named Isaac Middlebrooks, Jr., born 1753 in North Carolina. This Isaac traveled to South Carolina, where Isaac III was born in 1785. The family migrated farther south to Harris County, Georgia, where my next ancestor, Edward Middlebrooks, was born in 1813. Edward was my great grandfather. My grandfather, Andrew Jackson Middlebrooks, was born in Harris County in 1859, and my father, Byrd Middlebrooks, was born there in 1898.

While not trying to remotely cover all of Leonard's outstanding presentation, here are just a few tidbits that I found very interesting about my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, Isaac Middlebrooks III:

Isaac 1753 was in the Revolutionary War as a private in the Georgia troops (probably not true, but some say a colonel, interesting dichotomy).

He was at the Battle of Savannah, Georgia, and assisted in carrying the body of Count Casimir Pulaski from the field where he was killed, at the Siege of Savannah. There are some different versions of Count Pulaski's death. See the information below:

In 1790, they are in the Abbeville area of South Carolina.

By 1795, the family has settled in Franklin County, Georgia.

In 1797, Isaac was on the first Jackson County, Georgia, jury.

In 1809, Isaac was a constable in Clarke County, formerly Jackson County, Georgia.

The presentation by Leonard was followed by a delightful and well-planned presentation by Jo Brooks McGlamery and Melinda Brooks, who picked up the Middlebrooks family here in this area of Pine Mountain, Georgia. Melinda walked us through the progression of how they settled in, bought and sold land, and passed their estates along to their descendants. Jo joined in at just the right times with history that complemented Melinda's presentation and brought out humor and interesting details. A table display with pictures of Isaac's Pine Mountain descendants was at the front of the church and enhanced their presentation.

At the conclusion of their talk, Melinda asked that I come forward to receive a surprise. And it was a surprise that was most appreciated. Weeks earlier, I was asked to send some pictures for the display. I was also asked to provide the marriage date of my father and mother. I checked my family tree database and was shocked to discover that I did not have this date entered. I checked all my files, I emailed nieces on

both sides of my family, I searched the internet ancestry sites and county record sites, and I was astounded to learn that I did not have that date, and no record of a marriage certificate could be found.

Melinda presented me with a notarized copy of that elusive marriage certificate. In preparation for her presentation, she searched nearby Troup County records, found it, and made a personal trip to obtain it. I was not only surprised, but touched that she went to that trouble. No, I did not cry. Yes, I did get emotional. It served as a reminder to me that the internet does not replace personal onsite visits to research sources.

While I have recounted some parts that related to my own lineage, other Isaac descendants similarly trace theirs. Perhaps you can see how excited I was to view Leonard's presentation, followed by that of Jo and Melinda's. This Columbus meeting hosted by Jo and Charles Middlebrooks was just fantastic. They did a really great job. Anyone attending this meeting will be hooked on attending future annual MFA meetings. My personal thanks to Joyce, our president, and all those who made this meeting so wonderful.

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### IN MEMORIAM

Zona Mae Middlebrooks, 75, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away on November 30, 2014. She was born on May 27, 1939, in Fort Worth, Texas. Zona is survived by her daughter, Betty Slinger, and sons Jim and Bobby. She is also survived by six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A memorial was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at Newcomer Funeral Home.

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### GENEALOGY Dos and Don'ts

- 1) **Do** contact all your family members and ask them for information regarding the family history. **Don't** delay until they are gone!
- 2) **Do** write everything down as it is told to you, always being sure dates and places are included, as well as the name of your source and the date of the interview. **Don't** trust your memory, and don't use scraps of paper. Keep a notebook for this purpose.
- 3) **Do** keep a record of family traditions, legends, etc. **Don't** believe these stories and legends to be absolutely factual until you prove them to be true. Write them down when you have a flashback and keep them in an organized folder.

-- from the November 2003 Middlebrooks Family Association Newsletter  
By Dianne Middlebrooks

## **Baseball in the Old West**

By HistoryNet Staff

The game known as baseball definitely developed in the eastern United States, but it spread westward across the Mississippi River far sooner than most people think. Exact dates when baseball “nines” first appeared out West are sketchy, but then the very origins of the game on the Eastern seaboard have long been debated.

One thing is clear: Future Civil War General Abner Doubleday did not “invent” baseball in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1839 - a myth that was not only accepted but also promoted by Major League Baseball for many years. Truth is, nobody actually invented baseball. Stick-and-ball games were played in Europe centuries before there was a United States, and those games were carried across the Atlantic. In the 1820s and 1830s, various variations of baseball were being played in Philadelphia, New York, and New England. In 1845, Alexander Joy Cartwright organized the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, which first played games in Manhattan and then across the Hudson River in the Elysian Fields, outside Hoboken, N. J. Cartwright and his friends published a set of rules that became the foundation of modern baseball.

Cartwright, who had been a shipping clerk in New York City, joined the California Gold Rush in 1849. While traveling to the Far Coast, he is said to have taught the Knickerbocker (or New York) brand of baseball to a variety of people – including fellow 49ers, soldiers, saloon keepers, and even a few Indians. In San Francisco, he promptly organized a baseball club. Later in life, Cartwright would seek new adventure in Hawaii, and of course he spread the word about baseball to the islands as well.

In the 1850s, baseball was still mostly a pastime enjoyed in the East, although by the end of the decade, it was said to be the most popular team sport in New Orleans. Texas has long been viewed as a hot bed for football, but baseball was played in Galveston and other Lone Star locations prior to the Civil War. In 1861, sports enthusiasts formed the Houston Base Ball Club and began promoting the game locally, much as Cartwright had done back in New York. During the Civil War, baseball was played by soldiers, mostly by Yankees, but sometimes by Confederates. George A. Putnam, a Texas-based Union soldier, recalled that once during a baseball game in Alexandria, Texas, the Confederates attacked, and the three outfielders were in mortal danger. The left fielder and right fielder managed to get back to friendly lines, but the center fielder was struck by a bullet and captured before the attack was repelled. After the war, soldiers and others in Texas

continued to play ball, while many soldiers from the East brought their love for the game to the Western frontier.

In May 1866, the first known baseball team in the Northwest formed in Oregon – the Pioneer Baseball Club of East Portland. The Portland squad soon recorded a 77-46 victory over the Clackamas Club. Several years after the Civil War, a baseball game was played at the San Jacinto battle grounds, near Houston, on April 21 – the anniversary of Sam Houston’s 1836 victory over Antonio Lopez de Santa’s Anna that gave Texas its independence from Mexico. The baseball teams involved were obviously more influenced by the recent American Civil War than by the Texas Revolution. In a lopsided contest (as was the Battle of San Jacinto itself), the Houston Stonewalls blasted the Galveston Robert E. Lees 35-2. Up in Kansas, the Frontier Baseball Club formed in Leavenworth early in 1867, and the game quickly spread to places like Lawrence and Topeka. On May 17, 1868, Captain Albert Barnitz wrote his wife from Fort Hays in western Kansas: “Have not been to church, because there was none to attend – but in lieu of this, all the officers, including half a dozen from Fort Dodge, who are here on a visit, participated in a social game of base ball.” That July, Barnitz was at Camp Gibbs, where officers celebrated the Fourth of July by playing baseball.

In 1869, the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first truly professional baseball team. Only one team member actually came from Cincinnati, and all the players were paid salaries (the high being \$1,400 a season to George Wright, the brother of the player-manager Henry Wright). That first season, the Red Stockings posted a 56-0 record against generally overmatched amateur teams. Late that summer, the Red Stockings traveled to California, part of the way by steamboat and part of the way on the first transcontinental railroad, recently completed by the Union Pacific and Central Pacific. The Wright brothers and their colleagues continued their winning ways there, and the *San Francisco Chronicle* praised the Red Stockings’ athletic ability as well as their “large and well turned” legs.

In 1870 the Harvard baseball team traveled by railroad as far west as St. Louis to play ball against other college teams and local clubs. In 1872, a baseball squad from New Orleans went on a Texas road trip – traveling by stagecoach to play teams in Austin, Dallas, and Waco. During Lt. Colonel Custer’s expedition to the Black Hills of Dakota Territory in 1874, members of his 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry organized several games of baseball. In 1875, the Mississippi River town of Keokuk, Iowa, had a team in the National Association of Professional Baseball Players. The national Association became the National League the next year, but the Keokuk players did not become a part of it. In 1876 (the same year Custer met his match at

the Little Bighorn in Montana Territory), one of the original eight National League teams was from St. Louis (along with teams from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, Hartford, and Louisville.).

Most of the baseball played in the West, however, continued to be amateur or semi-professional. Many towns and forts, such as Fort Union in New Mexico Territory and Fort Missoula in Montana Territory, proudly formed teams of their own in the 1870s and 1880s. Baseball was also played at Fort Sill in Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) in the 1870s, and the games sometimes involved Indians as well as soldiers. In 1884, the University of Texas was already playing rival Texas A&M University in baseball, a decade before the two schools had their first football clash. Minnesota actually had a major league team in 1884 when St. Paul played nine games in the Union Association (designated a major league at the time), but none of them were home games. Minnesota didn't get a major league team until 1961 when the Washington Senators moved to Minneapolis and became the Minnesota Twins. In Missouri, the Kansas City Cowboys were one of the original American minor league teams in 1902. The major league Philadelphia (American League) Kansas Athletics existed from 1955 to 1967 (in between homes in Philadelphia and then Oakland). The expansion Kansas City Royals were born in 1969. The land rush that led to the formation of Oklahoma Territory in 1890 brought baseball to Oklahoma City, which got its first professional team in 1902.

In the Far West, where baseball had arrived in 1849, the original Pacific Coast League started in 1879. It had its ups and downs, including some failings and restarts. A new Pacific Coast League, consisting of teams in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, Portland, and Seattle, began play in 1903 and was recognized as an official professional league the next year. The Pacific Coast League still exists. It wasn't until 1958 that the first major league baseball teams of the 20<sup>th</sup> century operated west of St. Louis – after the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles and the New York Giants moved to San Francisco. Major League Baseball now has another team in Los Angeles (technically Anaheim), the Angels as well as the Oakland Athletics, San Diego, San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners.

Professional minor league baseball came to the Lone Star State in 1888, when the Texas League was formed (it's still going). Major League Baseball became part of the Texas landscape in 1962 in the form of the expansion Houston Colt .45s (later the Astros). In 1972, the Washington Senators moved to Arlington and became the Texas Rangers. Over in New Mexico Territory, the first known semi-professional team in Albuquerque began to play in 1880 in the fairgrounds. The organizer, W.T.



McCreight, had once played for the major-league St. Louis Browns, so he chose to call his new team the Albuquerque Browns. No major league team has ever been based in New Mexico, but the Albuquerque Dukes operated in the Pacific Coast League for years, and now the Albuquerque Isotopes are the top farm team of the Florida Marlins.

Baseball was also played in Arizona's territorial days. In fact, back in 1909, the Phelps Dodge mining company built a ballpark in Bisbee for the enjoyment of its employees, and it is still being used today. On June 27 of that year, a semi-pro Bisbee team turned back visitors from El Paso 8-3 at Warren Ballpark. After World War II, Arizona (which became a state in 1912), joined Florida as a site for spring training exhibition games for major league clubs. The so-called Cactus League continues to operate, but since 1998, a major league team, the Arizona Diamondbacks, has played all its regular-season home games in Phoenix. Up in Colorado, Denver got its first minor league (Western League) team, the Mountain Lions, in 1886, and the Mile High City finally landed a major league team, the Rockies, in 1993. Jet transportation (commercial or charter) has made travel relatively easy for major league teams today, but Eastern teams still often complain of tough Western road trips and their fans complain when the box scores from West Coast teams don't show up in the next day's home-town newspapers.

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## A Well-Seasoned Mind

NEW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHOWS THESE FIVE SPICES ARE GOOD FOR THE BRAIN

By Daniel G.Amen, M.D.

**Turmeric** – In India, where people eat curry almost every day, the Alzheimer's disease rate is one-fourth the U.S. rate. Now researchers think they may know why. A University of California, Los Angeles study in mice showed that curcumin – The active ingredient in turmeric, which gives curry that distinctive yellow color – broke up brain plaques of amyloid beta, the abnormal protein buildup that is a hallmark of Alzheimer's.

**Healthy way to dish it up:** For a brain-boosting chicken salad, toss two teaspoons curry powder with 2 cups cubed chicken. Sauté in olive oil until cooked, then cool. Add raisins, diced apples, chopped almonds, chopped celery, and low-fat yogurt to taste.

**Saffron** – Got a case of the blues? Before popping an anti-depressant, try eating more of this pungent herb. A 2007 University Tehran study discovered that a twice-daily dose of saffron works as well as Prozac in treating mild to moderate depression.

**Healthy way to dish it up:** Add ½ teaspoon saffron to the water while cooking 2 cups of rice.

**Ginger** – A recent study found that more than 80 percent of migraine-prone patients with mild headaches were treated with a combo of ginger and the herb feverfew staved off migraines. After two hours, 48 percent were pain-free; for another 34 percent, the pain stayed mild. “If a headache doesn’t go to full-grown migraine, that’s success,” says Roger Cady, M.D. study author and director of the Headache Care Center in Springfield, Missouri.

**Healthy way to dish it up:** Stir 3 teaspoons of grated ginger into one cup boiling water; steep for 10 minutes, strain, and drink.

**Garlic** – Long touted for its heart-healthy benefits, garlic may also fight brain cancer. A 2007 study in the journal *Cancer* noted that garlic compounds eliminated brain-cancer cells, leading some experts to predict that garlic-based treatments for brain cancer aren’t far behind.

**Healthy way to dish it up:** Mix ½ teaspoon garlic powder or 1 to 2 cloves of fresh garlic with tomatoes and basil for a cancer-fighting marinara.

**Cinnamon** – If you want to react faster during your next tennis game, chew cinnamon gum. Doing so, a recent study found, speeds the rate at which your brain processes visual cues. One reason the gum may help: cinnamon regulates blood-sugar levels, and this helps you stay focused.

**Healthy way to dish it up:** Sprinkle one teaspoon cinnamon on oatmeal for a brain-healthy breakfast.

**Spice Advice:** Most spices will last 6 to 12 months – if they’re stored properly. The longer they sit in the cupboard, the more likely they will lose their health benefits. So **always store spices in glass jars**, says Phil Lempert (aka the Supermarket Guru) – and transfer those that come in plastic to glass.

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*A Wish for the World*

*A place where Christ  
Can find a home,  
Hearts that love each other,  
Lives embraced by heaven's joy,  
Helping one another.  
An end to terror, war, and want,  
Forgiveness of the past,  
Children safe from every harm...  
And peace on earth at last!  
-Rebecca Barlow Jordan*