

MFA FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

The Middlebrooks Family Association

274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029

Hello Middlebrook(s) Family. I sincerely hope this February 2019 MFA Newsletter finds you healthy and happy. This MFA Newsletter contains another Middlebrook Last Will and Testament from the early 1800s. While preparing the Will of Isaac Middlebrooks for publication, I became aware that parcels of land were being transferred; however, there were no descriptions per the Public Land Survey System currently used in the United States. This land identification system was originally proposed by Thomas Jefferson who wanted not only to reward the Revolutionary War Soldiers for their services by giving them parcels of land but also to generate revenue for the nation by selling parcels of land. The system involves a Section (a square tract of land one mile by one mile containing 640 acres) within a Township (36 sections) within a Range (assigned by measuring east or west of a Principal Meridian) affording a land description such as NE ¼ of Section 2, Township 4N, Range 8W. Obviously, Jefferson felt the need for a consistent manner of labeling land. However, first the land had to be surveyed, a process that continues to this day in parts of Alaska.

Meanwhile, many of our Middlebrook ancestors were on the move across America. Beginning in 1783, a man living in Georgia could be granted 200 acres of land on his own “head-right” and fifty more acres for each additional family member – up to 1000 acres. However, the land descriptions were often vague and based on landmarks and other residents. An example might be 50 acres beginning at the north cemetery, continuing past the Smith property up to the north bank of the river marked by a big rock. Our PLSS (Public Land Survey System) was far from perfect.

Here’s my point: Land case entry files afford genealogists a wealth of information. Being aware of different “styles” of land descriptions and the geographical history of our family may be beneficial in our research. After all, Judy Martz (former governor of Montana) said, “Everything has to do with geography.” Most of all, I continue to marvel at the tenacity of our ancestors who struck out across our nation to forge new farms, homes, and places to call their own, meandering from one Section/Township/Range to another and ultimately bringing each of us to our geographical location today.

WE MEET AGAIN

The Middlebrook Family Association will hold our 2019 meeting in Orange, VA starting on September 24th and ending on September 26th. This is a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A little different from previous meeting days of the week.

Our hotel is the beautiful Round Hill Inn located in Orange, Virginia. The address is: Round Hill Inn 750 Round Hill Dr. Orange, VA 22960

Reservations may be made by calling 540-672-6691 and mention the Middlebrooks Family Association to receive the discounted rate of \$79 plus tax for each room.

A complimentary full hot/cold breakfast will be provided each morning 6am-10am and each room has a microwave and small refrigerator. Coffee and water provided in the conference room and the MFA can bring food into the conference room.

Amenities include a spacious outdoor pool, relax on their veranda and take some time to work out in the fitness area. Stay connected with friends, family and work with free high-speed internet and their 24-hr. business center.

The hotel really is located on the top of a round hill with several acres with beautiful endless views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With views exceeding 45 miles of rolling hillside and working farms. It is a very serene location right at the edge of the Town of Orange.

Round Hill Inn is located within minutes of Historical attractions such as Montpelier, Monticello, Wilderness and Chancellorsville battlefields. There are also 20 plus vineyards located just minutes from the hotel.

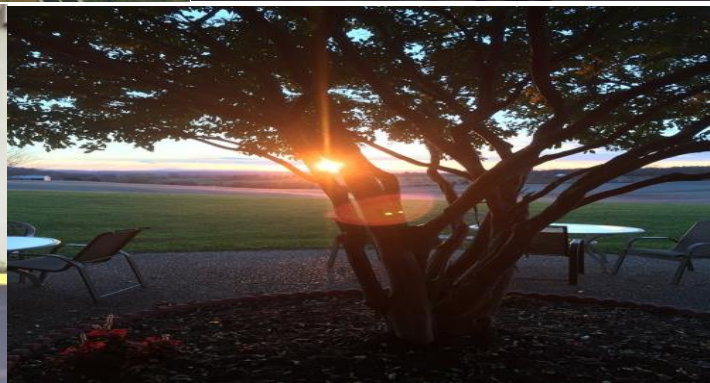
The Historic District contains the oldest public, religious and commercial structures in the Town of Orange. There is the unforgettable James Madison Museum, the ever-changing eclectic Art Center in Orange, Taylor Memorial Park, the historic Train Station, and see some of the most unique architecture concentrated in a true old-fashioned town with new-fashioned places to go. Walking Tour brochures are available at the Visitors Center located in the Train Station.

The Orange County Historical Society offers an index of documents located in the Court House and the staff provides outstanding help to interested visitors. The Historical Society is a research, archival, and educational organization dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Orange County, Virginia, of its people, and the surrounding area. The Society's reference library contains over 2,000 volumes, and there are over 1,300 files with information on families, historic buildings, events and sites, plus a map and photograph collection.

Here are a couple of recent reviews from guests who stayed at Round Hill Inn.

The Best! This is far and away the best place we have stayed in a long, long time! The pride in this facility showed in the immaculate lobby, breakfast area, and rooms. The staff was friendly and helpful. I can't recommend this facility too highly!"

Stay Here! We stayed so we could visit Montpelier. The setting and views are beautiful! The room was large and comfortable. The staff was friendly and helpful. Breakfast was excellent. This is a great hotel and —a very good value!"



President's Message by Bob Middlebrooks

You can make reservations with the Round Hill INN for our September meeting now. Our discounted rate is \$79 plus tax. You may ask for a King or two Queen beds. Ruth and I will be your hosts and may call on some of you for help. A Registration Form for the meeting and a preview of the meeting may be found on the website.

It is not too early to be thinking of our 2020 meeting location. We can revisit locations or find new ones. But it is up to you to help us continue our unbroken record. 2020 will be our 19th in a row. We can't have a 20th anniversary celebration unless we have a 19th meeting!

Some of us are continuing to mature so keep on rolling and roll with us to the Round Hill Inn in 2019.

Middlebrook Family -- Jean Shroyer (a.k.a Texas Jean) rocks once again with her contribution of another Middlebrook Last Will and Testament. Thank you, Texas Jean!

WILL OF ISAAC MIDDLEBROOKS MORGAN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Dated 10 July 1819
Morgan County
State of Georgia

To Wit: In the name of God, Amen. I, Isaac Middlebrook, being in perfect mind and memory this 10th day of July in the year of our Lord Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nineteen do make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following:

1st, I will my soul to Almighty God and my body to the ground.

2nd, I will that my just debts be paid and fully satisfied within convenient time after my decease.

3rd, I lend to my dear wife all my land and my four negroes, namely Cholly, Sarah, Jesse, and Jim, and my three horses remain with all the plantations utensils and so much of my present crop as will be sufficient to serve her and family together with the rest. I lend her two beds and furniture and all my cattle and hogs which I am in possession of to enjoy the land during her natural life or widowhood, but she is not to waste or willfully destroy or embezzle any part thereof, but she is not to be interrupted from enjoying the land. But

if my wife should marry in that case, I lend her only a child's part and at her death for the said part to return to my estate to be divided as is hereinafter mentioned.

4th, I give and bequeath to my son, Isaac Middlebrook, Junior, the sum of five dollars to him his heirs and assigns forever.

5th, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Jinny Hayes, Deceased, her husband and assigns forever, the sum of twenty-five dollars.

6th, I Will and Desire that my three daughters, Fanny Thompson, Thaney Wade, Polly Middlebrooks should have the following sum to make their parts equal to the rest of my children, that is to say, to Fanny, twenty dollars, to Thaney, fifteen dollars, and Polly, twenty dollars which sums are to be paid as soon as my Executors can accumulate money for this purpose after paying my just debts. All the balance of my property which is not herein mentioned I wish my Executors to sell as soon as they think proper and distribute to the use herein mentioned and after the death of my wife or if she should marry, then the property which I have lent her I wish my five children to all have an equal part, that is to say, Leah Chany, Elizabeth Chany, Fanny Thompson, Thany Wade, and Polly Middlebrooks, respectively. All my goods and chattels above mentioned and any case I Will they should be distributed so as to make my five children all equal shares, them and their heirs, excepting Fanny Thompson, I give and bequeath her part to her assigns, the heirs of her body forever.

Lastly, I nominate and appoint my four trusty friends, Tapley Hamon, Elizabeth Middlebrook, Martin P. Spark, Geavy Harris, and Ambrose Petty to be the sole Executors and Executrix of this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all other Wills and publishing this to be my last.

Witness my hand and seal the day and date above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of John Daniele, Carter W. Sparks, and John Hardeman.

/s/ Isaac Middlebrook

No probable Date given on copy (Copy is poor)

Note: Isaac Middlebrook died in 1823 in Morgan Co., GA. Later after his death, his widow

Married Jeremiah Boggess.

Source: Morgan Co., GA Probate Records
Mrs. Jean Shroyer, Researcher
Middlebrooks family

****Dale's note:

I did retype this document Jean Shroyer sent to me in order to provide a better publication format. However, I did maintain original spellings and punctuation. Note that "Middlebrook" and "Middlebrooks" are used interchangeably in some places. Also, there is mention of the "plantation's" utensils and crop but no land description. I am assuming that "all of my land" (item 3) was the "plantation."

John Middlebrook's Will (published in the November 2018 MFA Newsletter) stated that certain "properties" be *given* to his wife upon his death and divided between his sons upon her death. Notice that Isaac's Will uses the word *lend* regarding what he intended for his wife to have and came with some additional directions. I thought that was interesting.

Again, I sincerely thank Jean Shroyer for continuing to contribute to our MFA Newsletter.

Team Leaders!!!!

I have a collection of names, emails, and addresses sorted according to our founding fathers Isaac, both Johns, both Josephs, Micajah, Nathaniel, Robert, Sims, Thomas, England Middlebrooks, and unknown ancestors. Just shoot me an email and I will be glad to send them to you. dalekidwell107@gmail.com

“ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN COMMUNICATION IS HEARING WHAT ISN'T SAID.” *Peter Drecker*

Are we NOT hearing you? Any of you? What do you need from the Middlebrook Family Association? Just ask! Emails are on the final page

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Bob Middlebrooks, President

Dale Kidwell, Vice President

Lanelle Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2018-2020

Dale Kidwell, Vice President 2017-2019

Lanelle Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2020

Angelia Middlebrooks Gantz 2018-2020

Neal Middlebrook 2018-2020

Charles Middlebrooks 2017-2019

J.A. Middlebrooks 2017-2019

Leslie Shealy 2018-2020

Ella Tripp 2017-2019

Ancestor Team Leaders

Isaac born 1753: Leonard Middlebrooks and Jean Shroyer

John b. 1754: Neal Middlebrook

John b. 1755: John David Middlebrooks and Leslie Shealy

Joseph b. 1610: Leonard Middlebrooks

Joseph b. 1773: Dave Clark

Micajah b. 1758: Mary Baker

Nathaniel b. 1764: Ella Tripp

Robert b. 1766: J.A. Middlebrooks

Sims b. 1762: Neal Middlebrooks

Thomas b. 1763: Joyce Arnold

England Middlebrooks: Ian Middlebrook and Neal Middlebrook

Unknown Ancestors: Leonard Middlebrooks and J. A. Middlebrooks

On-Going Projects

Cemetery: J.A. Middlebrooks and William Sterling

DAR-UDC: Jean Shroyer

DNA: Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark

Family Register Update and Repository: Leonard Middlebrooks

MFA Newsletter: Dale Kidwell

MFA Website: Dave Clark and Leonard Middlebrooks

Military Register Update: Kerry Middlebrooks

Email Directory

Joyce Arnold

-- joycenjim@sbcglobal.net

Mary Baker

-- mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Dave Clark

-- cdave1000@gmail.com

Kathleen Hunter

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Angelia Middlebrook Gantz

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Jean Shroyer

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William Sterling

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Ella Tripp

-- ellatripp@cox.net

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. (MFA) was found in 2001 for the purpose of assembling and preserving genealogical and historical material for our future Middlebrook/e/s generations.

MFA Web Site: <http://middlebrooksfamily.org/>

The *MFA Newsletter* (currently MFA's only publication) is published and sent to all present and former members and is available to the general public each February, May, August, and November. You may request to be removed from this list by contacting Dale Kidwell at dalekidwell07@gmail.com