

# **MFA May 2019 Newsletter**

**The Middlebrooks Family Association**

**274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029**

During the mid-1800s, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I have thought a sufficient measure of civilization is the influence of good women." Considering the character and strength of our MFA female members, I would say he was on the mark! Considering May affords us the celebration of Mother's Day, let us consider our Middlebrook Mothers, their strength and contributions. My husband, Rodney, says, "You Middlebrooks women are implacable ---fearless--- and certainly unstoppable."

Let's think about Mary Middlebrook Reyner's sailing across the Atlantic in 1638 (approximately three months of sailing) to join her sister, Ester Middlebrook Wigglesworth, who had already settled in New England. Mary's voyage held a 50% survival rate. Ester was already experiencing isolation and disease, at the very least, in her new home.

Early female historians, offering a more humanistic report than men, most likely included Ann Sims, Rachel, Lucy, and Sally Middlebrooks. These women were related to John and Thomas. "News Wives" were known for their letters to other family members containing not only details of their lives but also the politics of that time. I suspect both Susannah Middlebrook (daughter of Nathaniel) and Catherine Middlebrook (daughter of William Lewis) were among those "News Wives."

During the Civil War, Delitha Stanton Middlebrooks (wife of John) exercised the good sense to use a "sign of distress" known by Masonic Brothers. Her quick-thinking lead Yankee soldiers to guard her home rather than conduct the customary raid.

Around 1848, Jane Crawford Middlebrook (wife of Ibsan) was listed as the sole caretaker of NINE children. She managed 400 acres of land. Mary Jane Jarrell Middlebrooks rode side-saddle each day to teach school while still tending to her home and six children after moving to Texas in 1895. Eva Atma Mae Jerigan Middlebrooks did not let being born in a ditch outside Bangs, Texas keep

her from caring for her dying mother at the tender age of 13. By the way, Eva is the grandmother of our Jean Middlebrook Shroyer.

During World War II, Ethel Middlebrooks (Bob's Mom) repaired carburetors for B-25 bombers at Robbins Field. Flossie Middlebrooks (my grandmother) was a part of "WWII Operation Chaff." Linnie Middlebrooks Pelkey (my aunt) worked as a typist in the Pentagon. She had the dubious task of typing letters to the families of fallen soldiers.

Eula Alma Middlebrooks (grandmother of Charles Middlebrooks) was ingenuous enough to scare the woo-ha out of the kids with her stories of "Squeenzin' Mollies." Eula's tactic for child management is documented in *Legends, Lore, and True Tales of the Chattahoochee* written by Mechelle Smith.

Someone once said, "Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother." For all the Mothers out there – especially our Middlebrook Family Association Mothers – I want to extend a sincere "Happy Mother's Day."

*Our sincere sympathy.....*

### **Josephine Brooks McGlamery**

We lost a wonderful member of the MFA on March 1, 2019 when Jo McGlamery died in Chipley, Florida, at the age of 94. We could count on Jo being at our annual meetings and she contributed to the MFA in many ways. Her great grandfather was John Averetta Middlebrooks and a decedent of Isaac (1753) Middlebrooks. Jo wrote a two-volume book about the Middlebrooks family history in Harris County, Virginia published in 2018. Jo was with us at our Jackson, TN meeting in September 2019 when her daughter Ri made a presentation about the book. Jo was the author of numerous other books.

Josephine grew up near Chipley, Ga. (Pine Mountain). Her thirst for knowledge included obtaining a Master of Science in home economics from the University of Georgia. By the end of her life, Jo had visited over 40 countries on six continents and 49 out of 50 states.

Survivors include her four girls, Maria and Camille McGlamery of Chipley, Brooke Grimes and husband, Danny, of Panama City, and Trista McGlamery of Atlanta, Ga.; siblings, Edward and Malinda Brooks of LaGrange, Ga. and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, William F. McGlamery, Jr., and her siblings, Pat Brooks of LaGrange, Ga. and Ann Angley of Elgin, Okla.

### **Sylvia B. Middlebrook**

Sylvia B. Middlebrook, passed away on April 2, 2019, at the age of 82 in Baton Rouge, LA. She is survived by her daughters, Patricia M. LeBlanc and husband Lance, and Judy M. Jones and husband Doug; her son, Bryan Leon Middlebrook and wife Pam; and her grandsons, Matthew, Derek, Christian, and Jacob. She was also loved by Kristi and Brayden. Sylvia is preceded in death by her husband, Leon Z. Middlebrook; her five brothers, Doyle, Jesse, Hershel, Harold, and Jerry; and her sister-in-law, Louise.

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Orange is a very strong and energetic color which is often described as bright, happy, and uplifting. For us in the MFA, it is the site of our 2019 annual meeting. Orange, Virginia is promising to be all the above-mentioned adjectives. Our agenda is still in the preparation stage and will be placed on the MFA website as soon as a draft is formulated.

We can say that the following topics are to be addressed:

- \* A report on our New England research project;
- \* A session on practical internet use
- \* Nathaniel Middlebrooks as a Resident of Orange
- \* DNA Everything You Didn't Know You Wanted to Know
- \* How I Found Myself in MFA
- \* Out of Meeting Time
- \* MFA General Meeting and Election
- \* Social Feeding Time

The MFA website has information about the meeting and how to register.

NOW.... for an important announcement from Bob:

Folks, we do not have a location nor hosts set for our 2020 annual meeting. Ideally, we need ideas (preferably a commitment) by the end of August so that we can announce our 2020 Annual MFA Meeting at our 2019 meeting in Orange, Virginia. We look for a location that relates to some facet of Middlebrooks' history. Locations can be a repeat of a previous location and hosts. The bottom line is unless there is a volunteer submission, we will revert to a shell of an organization.

Concurrently we need a new President for 2020. Folks, I cannot continue as President past the 2020 date. I hate to admit it but everyday you get older -- I do too. We need some fresh leadership with new ideas and a rejuvenating spirit.

The office of Vice President will be open in 2019 as well as three board member positions.



In order to spark our interest in the area surrounding Orange, Virginia, following is an account of two Civil War battles fought within an hour or two from where we will be staying for our 2019 Middlebrooks Family Association Meeting. These accounts are taken from the book *Diary of John Wesley Middlebrook* by Ron Middlebrook. This book is available for purchase through Centerbrook Publishing. Per copywrite notation, permission has been granted to reproduce these two Civil War Battle Summaries.

#### **BATTLE SUMMARY – PIEDMONT**

Location: Shenandoah County, Virginia

Campaign: Lynchburg Campaign (May-June 1864)

Dates: May 15, 1864

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel (US); Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge (CS)

Forces Engaged: 10,365 total (US 6,275; CS 4,090)

Estimated Casualties: 1380 total (US 840; CS 540)

Description: In conjunction with his Spring office, Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant ordered Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel to move up the Shenandoah Valley along the Valley Pick with

10,000 men to destroy the railroad and canal complex at Lynchburg. At New Market on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a makeshift Confederate army of about 4,090 men commanded by Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge attacked Sigel. At a crucial point, a key union battery was withdrawn from the line to replenish its ammunition, leaving a weakness that Breckinridge was quick to exploit. He ordered his entire force forward and Sigel's stubborn defense collapsed. Threatened by the Confederate cavalry on his left flank and rear, Sigel ordered a general withdrawal, burning the North Fork Bridge behind him. Sigel retreated down the Valley to Strasburg and was soon replaced by Maj. Gen. David Hunter.

Results: Confederate Victory

### **BATTLE SUMMARY – PIEDMONT**

Other Names: Piedmont

Location: Augusta County

Campaign: Lynchburg Campaign (May-June 1864)

Dates: June 5-6, 1864

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. David Hunter (US); Brig. Gen. William B. Jones (CS)

Forces Engaged: 14,000 total (US 8500; CS 5,500)

Estimated Casualties: 2,375 total (US 875, CS 1500)

Description: After replacing Sigel in command of Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley, Maj. Gen. David "BlackDave" Hunter renewed the Union offensive. On June 5, Hunter engaged the Confederate army under "Grumble" Jones north of Piedmont. After severe fighting, a flanking movement made by Thorburn's brigade turned Jones's right flank. While trying to stem the retreat of his soldiers, Jones was killed. The retreat became a rout. More than 1,000 Confederates, including 60 officers were captured. Jones lost three guns. Hunter occupied Staunton on June 6 and after a pause to await the arrival of Brig. Gen George Crook's column, began to advance on Lynchburg, destroying military stores and public property in his wake.

Results: Union Victory



It will be very beneficial to our 2019 MFA Meeting host to have an approximate count of those planning to attend the meeting in Orange, Virginia. If you do plan to attend, please send a brief email or some sort of "shout-out" to President Bob Middlebrooks or to Dale Kidwell. Both emails are available on the final page.

At the risk of being redundant, it must be said that communication is critical to any organization. Effective communication builds strong relationships and can help an organization in many ways. In fact, communication plays a role of not only the development of but also the longevity of an organization. When we communicate within MFA, our members also serve as a conduit to other audiences.

With that in mind, remember that there is available a collection of names, emails, and some addresses sorted according to our founding fathers along with the England Middlebrooks, and unknown ancestors. Contact Dale Kidwell if you are interested in obtaining any of these lists.

## 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

*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](mailto:dalekidwell07@gmail.com)

### Email Directory

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