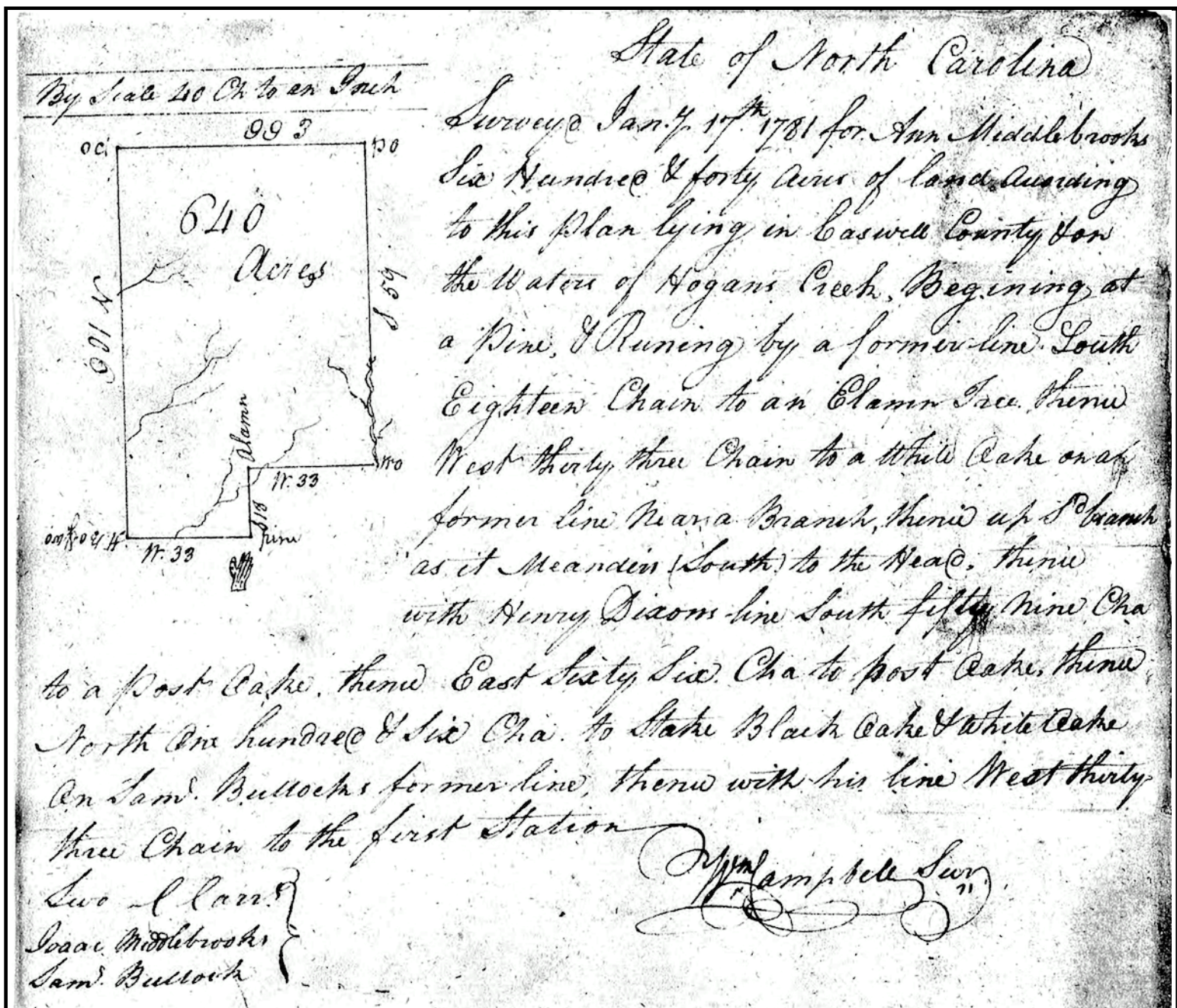


The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina



Survey of Anne Middlebrooks 640 acres, 7 January 1781,
on the waters of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina

By Neal R. Middlebrook

Edited by Toni Middlebrooks

Final Draft and edit in October 2005.

Updated June 2019

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Introduction

The initial purpose of the report in 2005 was to review the records of our Middlebrooks ancestors in Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina. The 2005 report was entitled “*Review of Middlebrooks Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina Records*,” October 2005. The report was posted on the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA) website in three parts and appeared in the MFA Newsletter. This updated June 2019 report includes new information, maps and illustrations not in the earlier report. Also Included in the appendix are copies of original documents.

Many questions still remain when comparing the information in the Register of the Middlebrooks Family, published by Louis Middlebrook in 1909, to existing records in Orange and Caswell County. As discussed in the report we have been able to document five of the nine sons of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks as reported in the Register in county records. (See page 5)

One theory is that information on Middlebrooks from two families was combined in the Register. DNA evidence supports this conclusion for sons, Micajah, Robert and Joseph, who may have a different father. If this was the case, then who were the parents of the other Middlebrooks family? Did they move with Isaac and Anne from Virginia to North Carolina before 1760? Were they orphaned and adopted by Isaac and Anne? Why have we not found any records in Virginia or North Carolina for this other Middlebrooks family? Could one of the parents be John (b.1726) recorded in the Register and discussed below.

Another lingering question that remains is *who was the father* of the sons mentioned in the Register and county records. Was it Isaac (b. 1727/28) as documented in the county records or John (b. 1726) recorded in the Register. We have documented an Isaac, who died before 1771 in Orange County, North Carolina, who we believe was the husband of Anne Sims. However, this mysterious John has not been found in county records. The Register states John (b. 1726) died in 1817. Did John follow his sons who had moved to Georgia before 1800? So far, we have not documented this John in Georgia or other states. Moreover, Anne Middlebrooks was thought to have married Richard Boggas, a family friend and neighbor ca. 1795 in Caswell County. We believe Anne may have died in Caswell County ca. 1800/05.

Some have suggested that John and Isaac were the same person. If we accept they were the same person, then who was the father? David born 1704 as stated in the Register from Connecticut or Thomas, with the birth of a son named Isaac born 1727/28, recorded in New Kent County, Virginia. Two possibilities are as follows. According to the Register, David born 1704, left Fairfield, Connecticut and moved to Orange/Caswell County border area 1723/24. A review of Middlebrooks Connecticut records, outlined in the Register, documents that David (son of Joseph 3rd) died young at Fairfield. The review conducted by Dr. Ruth Craig also looked at other Middlebrooks families before and after David’s generation as reported in the Register. She could not find any other Connecticut Middlebrooks that may provide the connection to our southern ancestors. Therefore, are we connected to ancestors from Connecticut, or some other line of Middlebrooks.

The maiden name of the wife of John Middlebrooks (b. 1726), according to the Register (Pg. 49) is (p.) Sims. The suspected wife of Isaac Middlebrooks (b. 1727/28) is Anne Middlebrooks as documented in numerous Caswell County records. Isaac died before 1771 and Anne was listed as a widow and head of household on tax and census lists for Caswell County. Although we have not been able to prove that Anne was Isaac’s wife or her maiden name was Sims, some researchers feel, based on surviving records, this is the most logical conclusion. Moreover, one of the sons of Anne was named Sims, born 1762 in Orange County.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

According to DNA results, Sims is thought to be one of the four brothers with an exact match of markers, meaning they all have a common ancestor.

A number of Sims families were in Orange County, Virginia, starting in 1738. Deeds for Thomas Sims (1738, 1744), Richard Sims (1747) and William Sims (1753) were recorded. A William Sims was recorded in a Orange County Court Order and Minute records in 1751 and 1753. Anne perhaps was the daughter of either William, Thomas or Richard Sims of Orange or Louisa County, Virginia. We suspect Anne married Isaac *circa* 1750 in Orange County, Virginia. According to court records, Isaac, age 44, died before 1771, Orange County, North Carolina. Additional research is necessary to establish the parents of Anne Sims.

The current thinking is that the Isaac Middlebrooks, born in New Kent County, Virginia 1727/28, is the Isaac who appeared in Orange County, North Carolina records. Thomas was listed as Issac's father in the St. Peters Parish Register, New Kent County. Thomas was first reported in Hanover and Louisa Counties of Virginia. Thomas and his family later moved west to the border area of Louisa and Orange County, Virginia before 1759. Thomas died before 1764 in Orange County, Virginia. In Thomas' estate settlement (1764-1766) Thomas' wife was named as Rachael. For this reason we believe that Isaac Middlebrooks and Anne Sims were most likely married ca. 1750-53 in Louisa/Orange County and moved before 1760 to Orange County, North Carolina.

The DNA test results from Family Tree DNA has helped sort out some of the family relationships, mentioned above. Based on results of these tests, the suspected sons of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks are Isaac, John, Sims and Thomas, who are very closely related and possibly brothers, based on DNA. All have an exact match of markers, thus a genetic distance of "0". This information indicates that within eight generations they share a common ancestor at the 97.28% confidence level. Nathaniel born 1764, we believe in Orange County, Virginia, also shares this same close genetic relationship, however he was not listed in the Register of the Middlebrooks Family or in Orange/Caswell County records in North Carolina.

On the other hand, Micajah has only 11 matches with the four brothers, yet he was listed in a Caswell County 1790 tax record, with John Middlebrooks paying his taxes. It appears that Micajah, Robert and Joseph have been taken in by the Middlebrooks family and may have a different father. In summary, the presumed sons of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks, based on DNA analysis, are Isaac, John, Sims and Thomas.

Many challenges remain in discovering the connection between our Southern and Northern Middlebrooks ancestors. The necessary records to prove this connection may have not survived or the events recorded. So we may have to rely more on DNA results to help fill in missing family relationships. However, still more records remain to be searched in Virginia, Maryland and New England. Let our Middlebrooks Family Association know, if you would like to join us on this journey to discover more about the Middlebrooks ancestors

Please let me know, if you have any questions, comments or would like to share additional information.

Neal R. Middlebrook June 2019.

Register of the Middlebrook Family (Pg. 46)

John Middlebrooks of Caswell County, North Carolina, b. 1726, m. (p.) Sims and died 1817.

Children:

79 John, born Sept. 20, 1755 d. Dec. 30, 1830.

80 David, born 1757, d. 1829

81 Micajah, born 1758, d.

82 James, born 1759, d. young.

83 Sims, born 1762, d. 1839.

84 Thomas, born 1763, d. May 13, 1825.

85 Robert, born 1766, d. circa 1841.

86 Joseph, born 1770, d.

87 Garland, born 1774.

Middlebrooks Records Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina.

Isaac Middlebrooks of St. Peters Parish, New Kent County, Virginia, born 1727/28, m. Anne Sims *circa* 1750-53, Louisa-Orange County, Virginia, d. before 1771, Orange County, North Carolina.

Children:

Isaac, b. 1753, VA, d. 1823, Morgan Co., GA

John, b. 1755, VA, d. 30 Dec. 1830 Clark Co. GA

Micajah, b. 1758, Virginia, d. ca. 1840 Hancock Co, GA

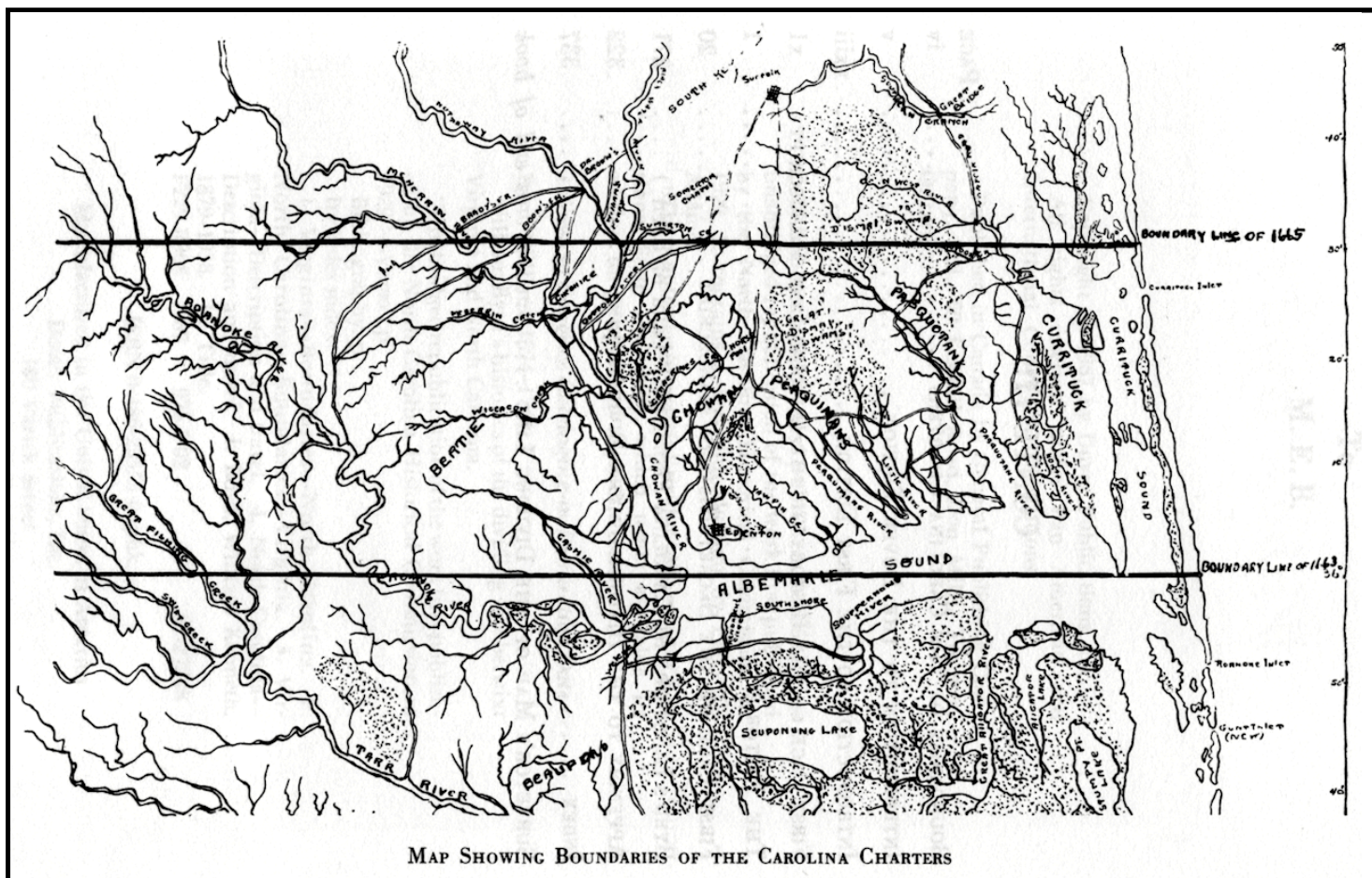
Sims b. 1762 Orange Co. NC, d. 1839 Jones Co. GA

Thomas b. 1763 Orange Co., NC, d. 13 May, 1825, Jones Co. GA

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

Background

In 1728, William Byrd and his survey party were among the first white men to enter what would later become Orange County and eventually Caswell County. They were commissioned by Governor Gooch of Virginia to survey the boundary line between the two colonies of Virginia and North Carolina. The map below shows the discrepancies between the boundary locations. Even though earlier pioneers and traders had passed through this Piedmont area (the plateau between the coastal plain and the mountains) of North Carolina, William Byrd and his commissioners found the land deserted. They did not mention crossing any roads, trails or paths. He and others have described the land as a “*veritable thicket of trees, shrubs and vines. Because of the under-woods and saplings we had difficulty in advancing the line four miles and twenty poles.*”¹



Boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina in 1663 and 1665.²

By 1740, only a few white families were scattered along the Hico (Hyco), the Eno and the Haw Rivers. Eight years later, not more than twenty taxable residents were in the region; however, by 1751, the “*Great Migration*” of settlers from Pennsylvania and other states was underway to the North Carolina Piedmont region. By the years 1752 and 1753, the population had expanded to about 4,000 settlers based on Orange County’s recorded 1,113 tithables for the period.³

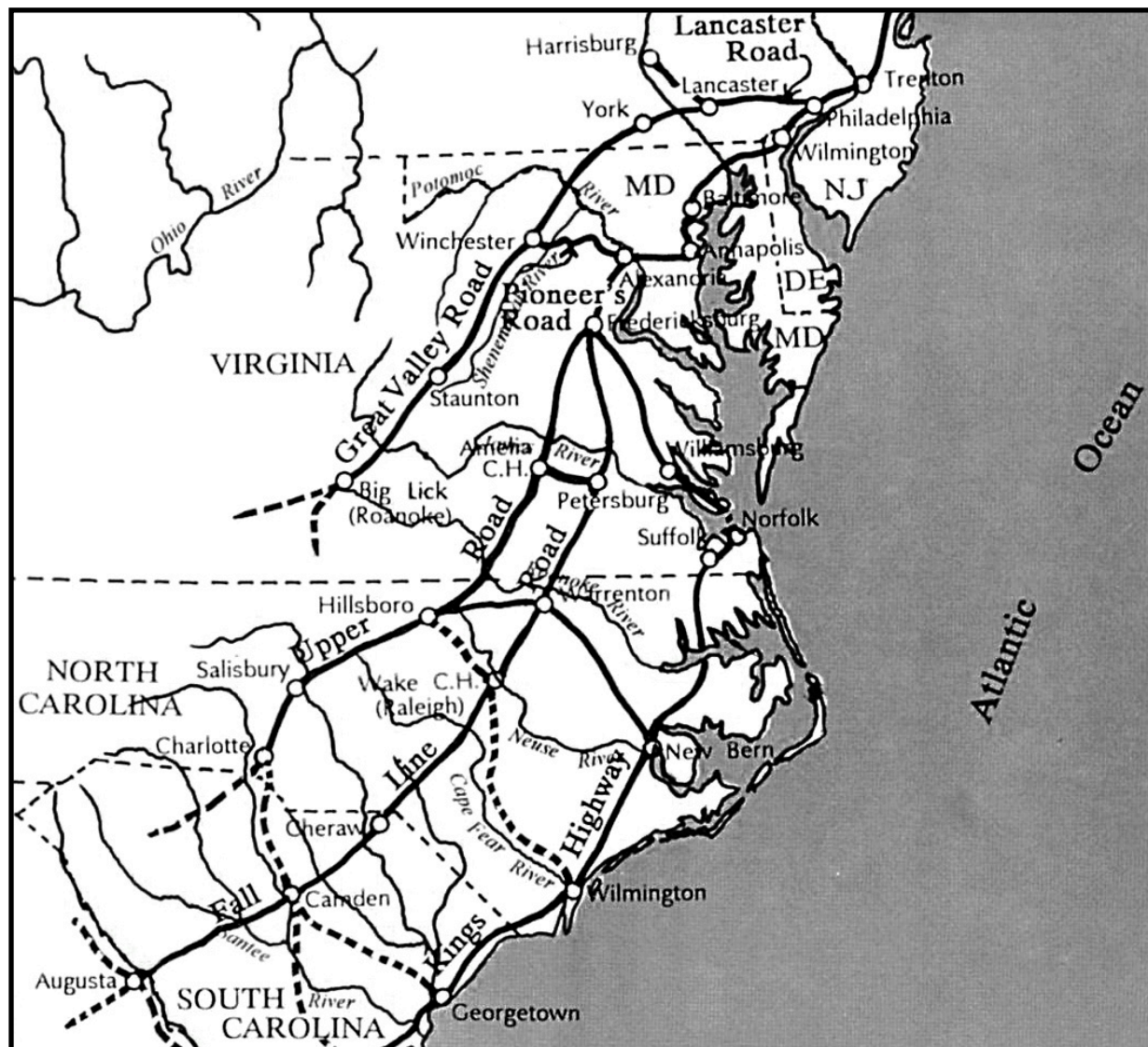
¹ William S. Powell, *When the Past Refused to Die, A history of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977* (Yanceyville, NC: Rose Printing Company Inc. Tallahassee, FL, 1982), 16.

² William Byrd’s *Histories of the Dividing Line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina*, Dover Publications, 1967, IV

³ Hugh Lefeler and Paul Wager, editors, *Orange County 1752-1952* (Chapel Hill, NC: The Orange Printshop, 1953), 14.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

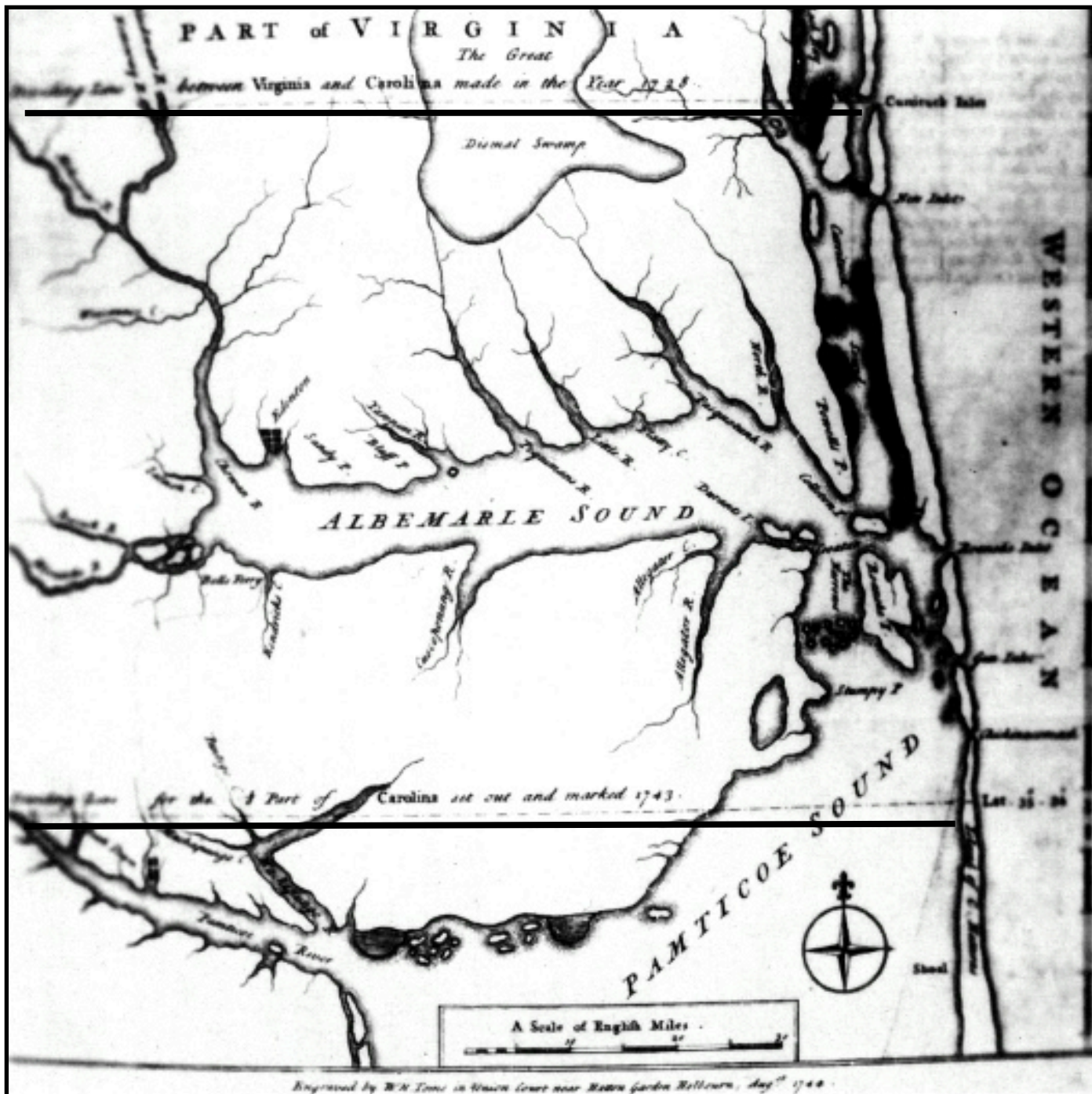
Many families followed the “Great Wagon Road” through the Shenandoah Valley or the Upper Road in their journey southward to Orange County. The major incentive behind the “Great Migration” was the chance to buy land at a reasonable price. From 1745 to 1760, land was granted along many creeks and rivers in every part of Orange County. By 1748, land grants were being issued in northern Orange County along the Hico River; and, in 1751, along the Dan River, Hogan and Country Line Creeks. There were distinct settlements in Orange County. The Scotch-Irish settled north of Hillsborough, east of the Haw River, in eastern Orange County and located in the Little River and New Hope Creek sections. The Germans settled on lands west of the Haw River, and the English emigrants from Virginia settled in northern Orange along the Hico River and Country Line Creek.⁴



This map shows the three major branches of the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road as follows: The Great Valley Road, The Upper Road and The Fall Line Road. Source: Southwest Virginia Campbells <http://philnorf.tripod.com/mapofthe.htm>

⁴ Lefeler and Wager, *Orange County 1752-1952*, 14, 15.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina



The indenture of 17 September, 1744, by which King George II granted Carteret (Lord Granville) his one-eighth of Carolina as a separate territory. The map showing the southern boundary surveyed in 1743.⁵

During the early years of this expansion period, for services rendered in bringing Charles II to the throne of England, the British Crown issued Deeds of Grants to Charles's eight major supporters. One of these was Lord Granville and in 1744 his Deed of Grant was issued, recognizing his ownership, or private proprietary, of the northern part of North Carolina. This land parcel stretched from the Virginia-North Carolina line south for sixty miles and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. It is in this "Granville District" that Orange County was formed in 1752.

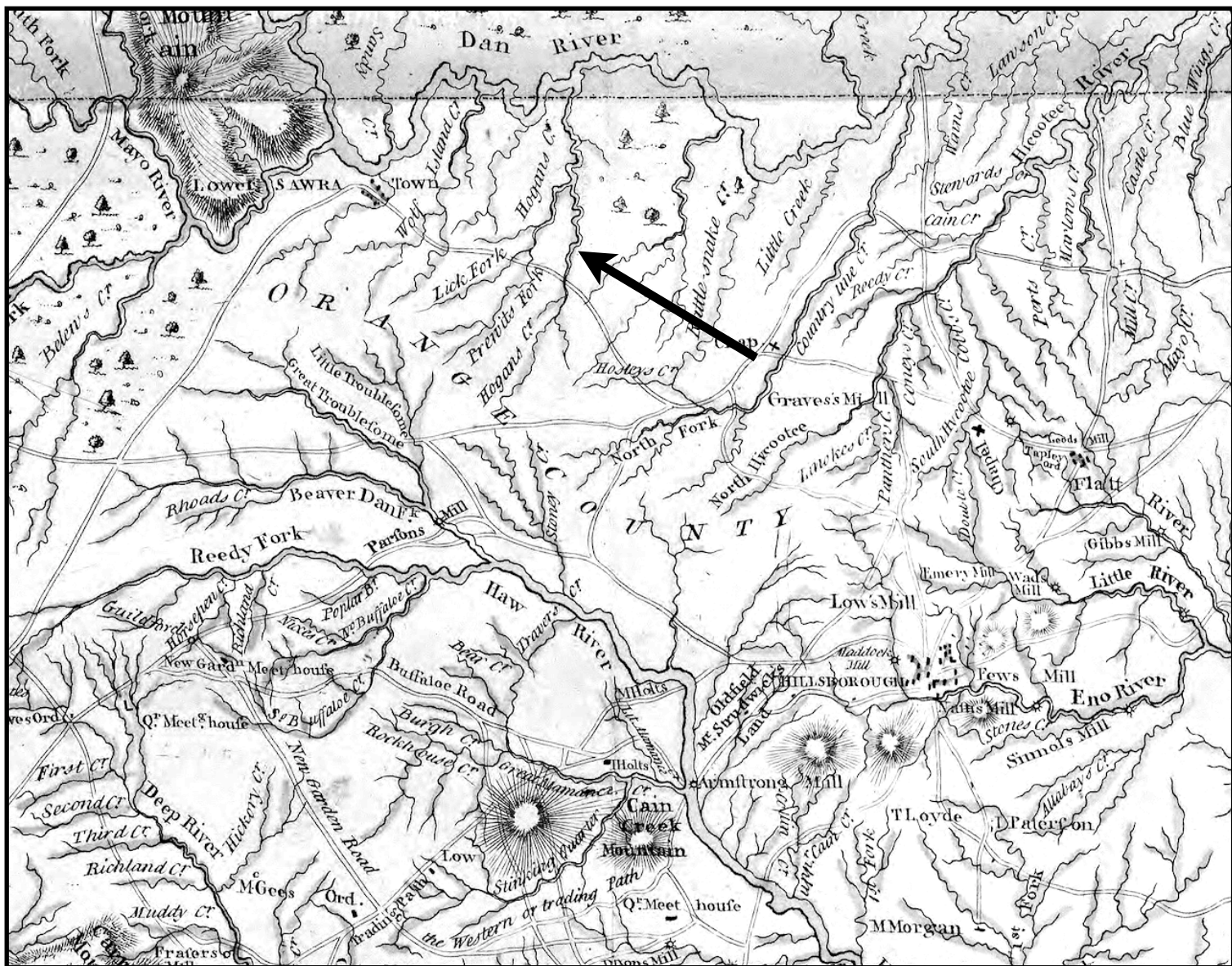
⁵ Thornton W. Mitchell The Granville District and its Land Records, North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. 70, No. 2 (April 1993), Pg. 109. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23521394?read-now=1&seq=1#>

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

Lord Granville opened the “Granville District” land office at Edenton, North Carolina in 1748. The office administered the land grant process of allowing settlers to own land for five schillings for each fifty acres applied for, and collecting an annual quit rent. Additional fees, such as surveyor and plat drawing fees, were assessed throughout the land grant process.

The “Granville District” land office was poorly run and mismanaged by his appointed agents and was closed at the time of his death on 2 January 1763, and never re-opened. In spite of the fact that many of the records were lost or destroyed, 4, 979 deeds were issued during the period the office was open.⁶

With the rapid growth in the population of the region from 1740 to 1752, it made the organization of a new county a necessity. A new county would shorten the distance of travel over poor roads and make it easier for residents to reach the county seat in Hillsborough. Orange County, within the Parish of Saint Mathew, was formed in 1752 from the western portions of Granville, Johnston and Bladen counties. All of which lay within the boundaries of the “Granville District”.



1770 Map of Orange County Est. 1752 and surrounding area. Arrow denotes Hogans Creek location of Middlebrooks lands. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3900.ar150000/>

⁶ Margaret M. Hofmann, *The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volumes 1-5*, (Weldon, NC: Roanoke News Co. Printers-Publishers, 1987), introduction to series I-IX.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

On June 1, 1777, Caswell County was created from the northern half of Orange County. This was the first county created by the first state legislature of the new State of North Carolina. Residents of northern part of Orange County had started the process of forming this new county by partitioning Governor Tyron in 1771. The final partitioning rhetoric in 1776 cited the same reasons as the 1771 document: *"The large extent of the county...Renders the Attendance of the inhabitants of the northern part to do public duties extremely difficult and expensive."*⁷

With the coming of Independence, the State of North Carolina passed a provision to open land offices in November of 1777. Citizens would be allowed to claim land in any county that had not been granted by the British Crown or by any Proprietor's (Lord Granville) before 4 July 1776. Under the same provision by the General Assembly, persons who were enemies of the United States, or were out of the United States at the beginning of Revolution, but had not returned, and taken the oath of loyalty to the United States would also have their lands confiscated. In 1778, the General Assembly passed a provision allowing for the sale or other disposition of confiscated properties.⁸

Orange County, Virginia to Orange County, North Carolina

We believe Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks left Orange County, Virginia, and arrived in Orange County, North Carolina, sometime between 1750-1760. The exact date is not known. Isaac Middlebrooks and his wife, Ann Sims, are believed to have married about 1750-53 in Louisa or Orange County, Virginia⁹; however, no records for Isaac or Ann have been discovered in either county. The parents of Isaac are believed to be Thomas and Rachael (Simmons/Simmonds) Middlebrooks. They're were recorded as living near the border of Louisa and Orange County, Virginia from 1756-1766.¹⁰

Often families traveled in groups for protection and to share food and supplies. The journey from Orange County, Virginia to Orange County, North Carolina is about 200 miles. More than likely Isaac and Ann traveled the Upper Road to Orange County, North Carolina. The Upper Road started in Fredericksburg, Virginia and parallels present day U. S. Highway One, passing through Spotsylvania, Louisa, Goochland, Powhatan, and Amelia County, Virginia. After reaching Amelia County Courthouse, the Upper Road followed present day U. S. Highway 360 to Orange County, North Carolina.

A group of eight to ten families from Orange County and Culpepper, Virginia, are reported to have located in northern Orange County, North Carolina, from 1750 to 1755. This migration of families was later to become known as Caswell County's first settlement¹¹; however, the first record of our Isaac Middlebrooks does not appear in Orange County, North Carolina, court records until May of 1760 when he buys personal property at an estate sale.¹²

⁷ Powell, When the Past Refused to Die, A history of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977, 58.

⁸ Margaret M. Hofmann, North Carolina Abstracts of State Grants, Volume 1, (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Print Tech Inc., 1998), Forward I-IV.

⁹ Margaret Goodrum, The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks, (Warrenton, VA: Privately Published, 2002), 7.

¹⁰ Rosalie E. Davis, Louisa County, Virginia, 1743-1814: Where Have All The Children Gone? (Manchester Missouri, Privately Published, 1980), 20, 23, 98.

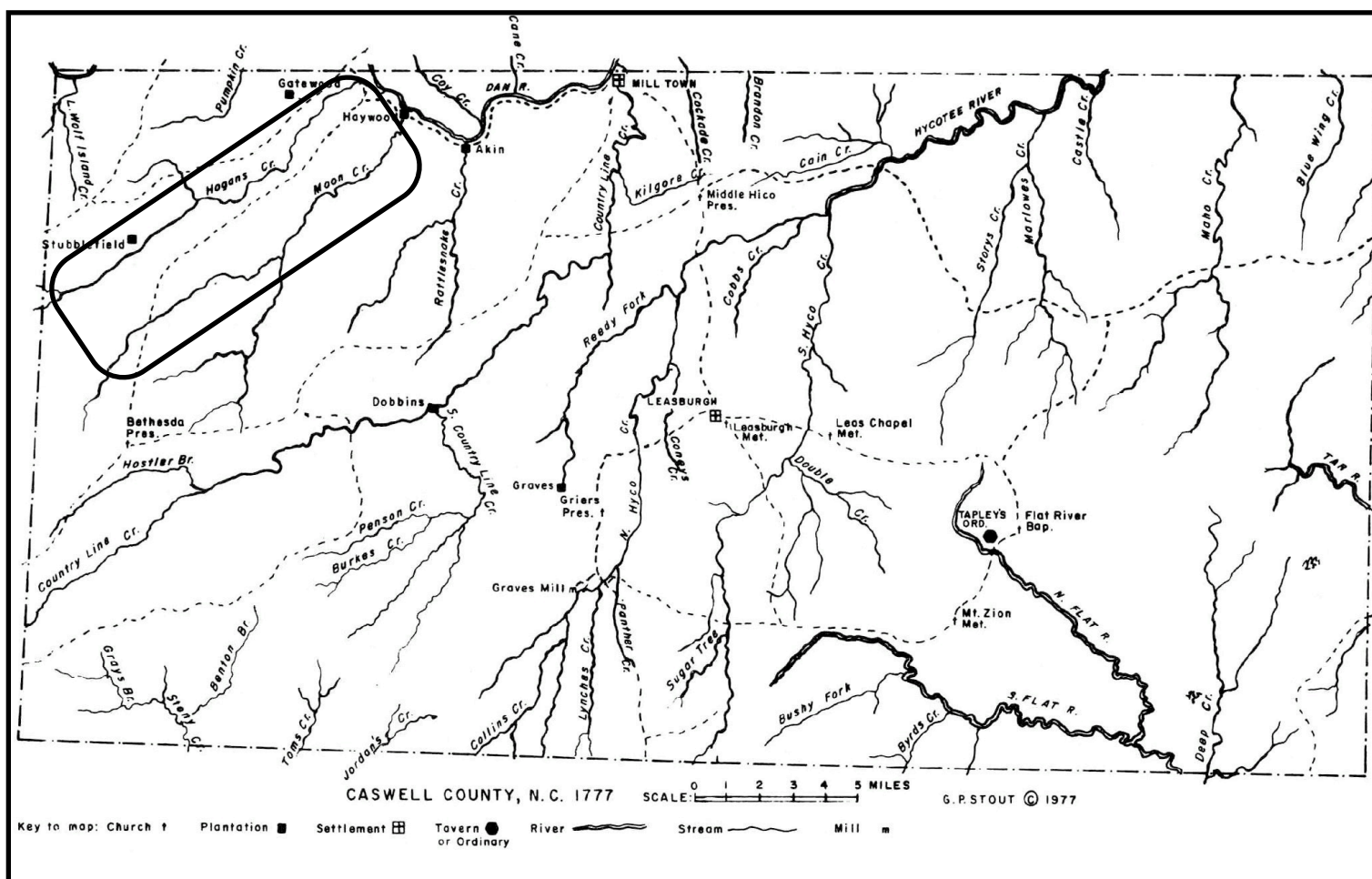
¹¹ Ruby P. Sartin, Caswell County: The First Century 1777-1877, (Greensboro, NC: Masters Thesis University of North Carolina, 1972), 9.

¹² Ruth Herndon Shields, Abstracts of Minutes of Court and Please Quarter Session of Orange Co., NC Sept. 1752-1766, (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1991), 139, May 1760 Inferior Court.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

Were Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks among these first eight to ten families to leave Orange County, Virginia, between 1750 and 1755? Or were they part of a later migration during this period after hearing favorable reports from other friends and neighbors about Orange County, North Carolina? If Isaac and Ann did leave Orange County, Virginia, shortly after being married, it would help explain their absence in Virginia records for this time period (1750-1766). We know the Granville District started to process land entries along Hogan's Creek by 1751.

Not knowing the date of arrival of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks in Orange County, North Carolina brings into question the birthplace of their first five sons: Isaac (born 1753), John (born 1755), David (born 1757), Micajah (born 1758), and James (born 1759). Were these sons born in Virginia or North Carolina? There is an error in the *Register of the Middlebrooks Family* published in 1909¹³, which indicates the birth of all of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks' children as Caswell County, North Carolina. We are not positive where the children are born; however, if they were all born in North Carolina, it would have been Orange County, because Caswell County was not created until 1777.



1777 Map of Caswell County, North Carolina, by G. P. Stout 1977
Rectangle includes Hogans and Moons Creek drainages, where the Middlebrooks lands were located

¹³ Joseph Middlebrook, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), 46.

Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks Baptized

An Isaac Middlebrook was born in St. Peters Parish, New Kent County, Virginia 1727/28. His father was listed as Thomas Middlebrook.¹⁴ The next recorded event of our Middlebrooks ancestors is when Isaac Middlebrooks and his wife are baptized on 4 August 1760 at a Separate Baptist meetinghouse near Hogan's Creek, Orange County, North Carolina. His wife was not named in the baptism record.¹⁵ The Separate Baptist movement from North Carolina, in 1758, started to form churches along the Dan River. The Dan River Churches consisted of five branches, with one of the branches established we believe near Hogan's Creek. We suspect it was Ann Sims that was baptized with Isaac, based on the Register of the Middlebrooks Family and other Orange/Caswell County, North Carolina records. As mentioned earlier, Isaac and Ann were thought to have married about 1750-53 in Louisa or Orange County, Virginia, where their parents Thomas and Racheal Middlebrook were reported 1756, 1766, on the Louisa/Orange County, Virginia border. (See footnote 14)



Providence Baptist Church Baptismal Service Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina 1927. In 1760, our ancestors Isaac and Ann Middlebrooks were baptized at a Baptist meeting house, near Hogan's Creek, Orange County, North Carolina. It may have in some ways resembled this 1927 baptismal service.

¹⁴ Ancestry.com. New Kent County, Virginia St. Peter's Parish Vestry Book and Register, 1684-1786, page 481. "Isaac y son of Thomas Middlebrook born Jan 12 1727/8. We believe the parents of Isaac were Thomas and Racheal Middlebrook, however this relationship has not been proven. The support for this conclusion is the name of Isaac's father in the St. Peters Parish record above as Thomas, and the following records in which Thomas and Rachael are recorded: Store of Thomas Partridge and Company, Hanover County, Virginia 1734-1756, the Fredricksville Parish Louisa County, Virginia 1757-1761 and the Thomas Middlebrooks Estate Settlement Orange/Louisa County, Virginia, 1759-1766. See *The Middlebrooks Virginia Research Update Middlebrooks Family Association Meeting, Hillsboro, Texas July 18, 2008* .

¹⁵ Morgan Edwards, *Materials towards a History of the Baptists Vol. 2*, (Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1984), 44.

Early Orange County, North Carolina Records

Three years later, in August and November of 1763, Isaac (born 1727) Middlebrooks is ordered by the court along with others to participate in laying open a road from Hogan's Creek to Round Hill to Williams Water and down to the Roan Oak. The same court appointed William Ware as the Road Overseer.¹⁶ It was customary that the responsibility of laying open and maintaining roads was usually assigned to landowners living along or near the road. This provides yet another indication that Isaac and Anne are living on or near Hogan's Creek as early as 1760/63 and may have actually owned property in this area. Moreover, on 12 June 1777 Isaac's son, John (born 1755), is recorded in the Caswell County court records as a road helper.¹⁷ Was John's land also located near the road?

August Term 1763: Ordered that the following persons to wit: William Smith, John McMillion, Will Weart, David Hicks, **Isaac Middlebrooks**, James Tensely, Charles Crawford, John Roberts, David Roper, Samuel Paul, Alexander Montgomery, and Patrick Porter, after qualifying Agreeable to Law, lay open a Road the best and most convenient way (sic) between Round Hill and William Water's thence down Roan Oak (sic) near Alexander Montgomery's Senr under the direction of William Ware Overseer of said Road. (Footnote 16)

November Term 1763: Ordered that persons under William Wares Jurisdiction work on the road whereof he is overseer Vizt: David?, H?ier, William H?ier, **Isaac Middlebrook**, Evans Hatterly, George Hatterly, Samuel Hatterly, Nathaniel Russell, John Thomas, Gray Bynum, Andrew McMillion, John McMillion, Samuel Paul, John Wood, John Gown, David Roper, Alexander Montgomery, John Roberts, Charles Crawford and James Tinsley. (Footnote 16)

Isaac Middlebrooks is involved in two other matters recorded by the Orange County court, in November of 1763 and May of 1765. In the November 1763 Term of the Court, the court case "McCawl Lytle & Com. agt. Isaac Middlebrook: Debt." It appears Isaac (the defendant) owes money to the plaintiff named above. The court orders Isaac to pay his debt to "McCawl Lytle and Com." In the case of the May Term of the Court, in 1765, "Isaac Middlebrook agt. Michael Boyle & et al: Petition" This case involves what appears to also be a dispute over money ("force and injury") between Isaac (plaintiff) and Michael Boyle and et al. (Defendant). Michael Boyle claims to the court that the (manner and form) did not occur the way Isaac Middlebrooks declares.

November Term 1763: McCawl Lytle & Com. agt. **Isaac Middlebrooks:** Debt. This day came the plaintiff by his Attorney and the defendant failing to appear altho duly called the defendant (sic) having proved his demand to be just and true, Therefore tis the opinion of the Court that the plaintiff have judgement against the defendant for his debt mentioned in the said bond and his cost by him in that behalf be extended . Judgement (blank), Clerk 1:18:2. (Footnote 16)

May Term 1765: **Isaac Middlebrooks** agt. Michael Boyle & al: Petition. And defendant by his Attorney comes and defends the force and injury when and where & c saith that he did not assume in manner and form as the Plaintiff against him hath declared. (Footnote 16)

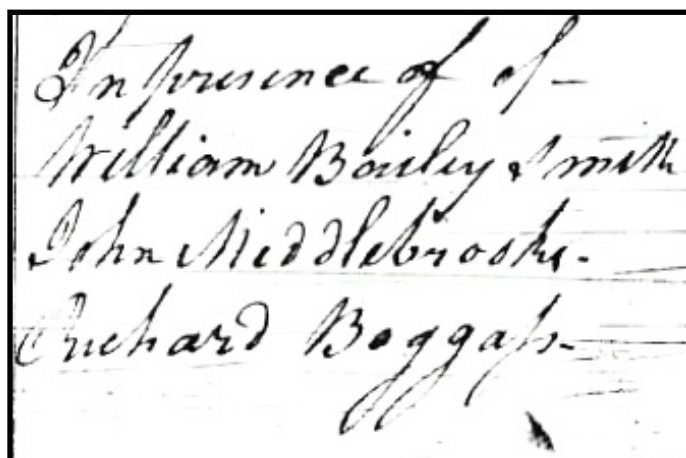
¹⁶ Weynette P. Haun, Orange Co., North Carolina Court Minutes 1726-1766, Book II, (Durham , NC: Privately Published, 1992), 22, 35, 38, 110.

¹⁷ Katharine K. Kendall, Caswell County North Carolina Mixed Records, Census, Tax, Land Grants and Court Minutes, (Raleigh, NC: Privately Published).

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

John, Middlebrooks, eighteen years of age, is a witness to the will of Stephen Norton, dated 3 July of 1773, and proved in August of 1774, Orange County, North Carolina. Witnesses are Richard Boggass and William Bailey Smith.¹⁸

Because of John's age (18), some researchers contend this may be proof of an older John Middlebrooks (born 1726) as reported in the Register of the Middlebrooks Family. To date, no other records have been found that would indicate John Middlebrooks (born 1726) resided in Orange or Caswell County, North Carolina. It is assumed that age of 21 was the universal age of civic activities. This is simply not true, because a male at 16 could be taxed and mustered into the militia at 16. Under English Common Law the age of 14 was accepted as the age of discretion. Moreover, at age of 14 a male could marry, sign contracts, choose his guardian, bequeath personal property, apprentice himself and even sell land.

A rectangular box containing three lines of handwritten cursive text. The first line reads "In presence of", the second line reads "William Bailey Smith", and the third line reads "John Middlebrooks". Below these, there is a signature that appears to be "Richard Boggass".

Witnesses to the will of Stephen Norton, 3 July 1773, Orange County. (Will Book A-B, 1752-1795., pg. 179-180. ancestry.com)

Death of Isaac Middlebrooks 1727-1771

Anna [sic] Middlebrooks purchases three hoes, one plow and coulter for "1.05.9" and one iron box and heaters for "0.03.0" at the estate sale of Captain Robert Burton on 20 December 1776, in Orange County.¹⁹ The purchase of these implements indicates Ann and her sons are continuing to farm five years after the death of her husband Isaac. Isaac Middlebrooks died between 1765 (May Term of Court) and 1771, the date of the Letters of Administration, in Orange County, North Carolina,²⁰ presumably near Hogan's Creek.

From ca. 1750/53, the suspected marriage of Isaac and Ann, until his death, they had nine sons, as stated in the Register of the Middlebrook Family. The first two sons Isaac (b. 1753) and John (b. 1755) were thought to have been born in Orange County, Virginia. Isaac born in 1753 was not listed in the Register. The the rest of the family were; David (1757-1829), James (b. 1759), Micajah (b. 1758), Sims (b. 1762), Thomas (b. 1763), Robert (b. 1766), and Joseph (b. 1770), all born in Orange County, North Carolina. Each birth occurs before the death of their father, however the Register documents the birth of Garland (b. 1774), after the death of his father. Moreover, the gravestone of Joseph Middlebrook was found to indicate his birth occurred in 1773 not 1770.²¹

It should be noted that only five of the nine sons (Isaac, John, Micajah, Sims and Thomas) listed in the Register were documented in Orange/Caswell County records. Some speculate that two Middlebrooks families may have been combined in the Register.

¹⁸ Ruth Herndon Shields, *Abstracts of Wills Recorded 1752 through 1800 in Orange County, North Carolina*, Vol. 1, (Reprinted Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1972), 31.

¹⁹ Shields, *Abstracts of Minutes of Court and Please Quarter Session of Orange Co., NC Sept. 1752-1766*, 139.

²⁰ Weynette Parks Haun, compiler, *Hillsborough District, North Carolina Superior Court Minutes, 1768-1791, Book I* (Durham: privately published, 1993), 14, 32-33, and 35-36, abstracts of granting of letters of administration for the property of Isaac Middlebrook(s) to Robert Few and Robert Thorn, September 1771, and of report of inventory and sales, March 1772.

²¹ Ancestry.com, *Gravestone of Joseph Middlebrooks 1773-1853, Thornton Cemetery Chickasaw County, Mississippi*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30891368>

Estate Settlement of Isaac Middlebrooks 1727-1771

The September 1771 Superior Court of Orange County ordered that Letters of Administration be granted "Robert Few...all and singular the goods and chattels...of Isaac Middlebrooks of Orange Co., NC deceased." Under a separate court order in the same month, the court ordered that Letters of Administration be granted to "Robert Thorn of all singular goods and chattels...of Isaac Middlebrooks of Orange Co., NC deceased." During the March 1772 Term of the Superior, "Robert Thorn, Administrator of all and singular goods and chattels...of Isaac Middlebrooks of Orange Co., NC, deceased," came to court and made oath to inventory and account of sales.²⁰

Note: No will for Isaac Middlebrooks has been discovered.

Land Grant Process

The land grant process was initiated when an entry was made in Lord Granville's Office by a formal written application describing the property. The grant applicant had to date and sign the application. The principal agent in charge of granting out the land then issued a warrant repeating the entry property description under the seal of the land office. The warrant was issued to the surveyor, who was directed to survey the land within six months and draw up three copies of the plat. When the agent received the plat of survey, he had six months to draw up three copies of the grant of deed. The deed was then set aside until all three copies could be signed and witnessed.²²

The processing of Granville District Grants could involve a wait of typically three to seven years, and sometimes even longer, between the initial entry and the final Grant issuance to the landowner. It is likely that once the initial entry was made, required fees paid and no property description challenges, the prospective landowners settled on the property. Some may have actually homesteaded vacant land before deciding to initiate the land grant process. During the interim period, settlers may have had to pay quit rents or other fees to live on the land while the land grant was being processed.

Of the surviving Granville District Land Grants, twenty-five were issued for Hogan's Creek and fifteen for Moon's Creek. As mentioned earlier, many of the Granville District land records have not survived. On Hogan's Creek, the earliest date entered for a grant was by Joseph Gould, 31 May 1751, followed by the warrant being issued on 20 March 1753 and the grant issued to the landowner on 2 August 1760. The earliest land grant issued on Moon's Creek, was to Nathaniel Runnels, 13 May 1757. Almost all the grants issued on Hogan's and Moon's Creeks were after 1759-60.²³

²² Hofmann, *The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volumes 1-5, introduction to series, I-IX.*

²³ Hofmann, *The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volumes 2 & 5, Volume 2, Patent Book 12: 80, 81, 86, 90, 92, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, Patent Book 14: 241, 242, 257, 258, 260, 265, 268, 269, 270, 273, 278, 279, 289, 291, 293, Volume 5, 164, 174, 178, 207, 244.*

Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks and the Granville Grants?

William Ware, a friend and neighbor of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks on Hogan's Creek, was issued patent to a Granville District land grant on 9 January 1761 (Patent Book 12, entry 2255, Pg. 54).²⁴ The grant was for 640 acres on both sides of Hogan's Creek. It is also interesting to note the land was surveyed on 14 February 1757. Isaac Middlebrooks (born 1753) is listed as a bondsman (witness) to the marriage of William Ware and Francis [sic] Perkins on October 2, 1781.²⁵

If Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks arrived in Orange County, North Carolina, within a span of ten years (1750-1760), where did they live? We know settlers along the Dan River and Hogan's Creek areas were starting the land entry process as early as 1751. We also know that Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks are documented as being in the Hogan's Creek area as early as 1760 when they are baptized at a Separate Baptist meeting house, thought to be near Hogan's Creek.

Some researchers believe that Isaac and Anne may have started the land entry process (ca. 1753-57) and the patent was not issued before the Granville District Office closed in 1763. As with many settlers, they would have been living on the land once the entry was made and required fees paid. Two records support the notion that Middlebrooks owned property in Orange County. The earliest record reveals that Anne Middlebrooks is assessed for 161 pounds on the 1777 Caswell District tax list. The amount of taxable property included: lands, lots, houses, slaves and stock etc. The State levy was ½ penny for each and the County levy was 1 schilling per hundred pounds of taxable property.²⁶ The other record confirms the sale, March 17, 1788, of 100 acres from Anne Middlebrooks to Joel Cannon that describes the sale as "*Adjacent to Dixon being land Joel Cannon bought of Isaac Middlebrooks.*"²⁷ For this later record, it appears Isaac sold the 100 acres before he died in 1771. This evidence supports the contention that Isaac may have been issued a Granville Grant of at least 100 acres plus the number of acres assessed as part of taxes levied in 1777. The Granville District office had been closed since 1763 thus the transaction between Isaac and Joel Cannon could have not been recorded until after Independence in 1778. It was not unusual for deeds to be recorded a number of years after the actual sale took place.

The 1784 tax record does show that Anne Middlebrooks was not assessed for the 100 acres Isaac sold to Joel Cannon.²⁸ This fact also supports the belief that the sale had taken place before Isaac died in 1771. This record could not have been Isaac Middlebrooks, born in 1753, because he is assessed in the 1784 tax list for 195 acres, the land given to Isaac by his mother, 31 August 1782, as described in the deed.²⁹

In summary: Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks arrived in Orange County ca. 1755; Isaac sells 100 acres before he dies in 1771; Anne is assessed for an undisclosed number of acres (valued at 161 pounds) in 1777; and/or Isaac and family were living on the 100 acres sold to Joel Cannon or on another adjacent parcel that was part of a larger Granville Grant. A period of twenty-three years

²⁴ Hofmann, *The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volumes 2*, 100.

²⁵ Katherine K. Kendall, *North Carolina Marriage Bonds 1778-1888*, (Raleigh, NC: Privately Published, 1981), 162.

²⁶ Clarence E. Ratcliff, *North Carolina Tax payers 1701-1786*, (Baltimore MD, Genealogical Pub. Co. Inc., 1989), 183.

²⁷ Katherine K. Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, (Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1989), 103.

²⁸ Katherine K. Kendall, *Caswell County North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, (Raleigh, NC: Privately Published, 1979), 137.

²⁹ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, (Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1989), 32.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

has elapsed from 1755 to 1778 when it is recorded that Anne applied for a 640 acre State grant (see later section). Because many of the early Orange County records, including the Granville District land grants, and sale deeds have not survived, we may never know the exact location of our ancestors' lands before Independence.

Tax Lists and Census for Caswell County 1777-1805

The 1777 Tax list records Anne Middlebrooks and her son, John, as taxpayers of Caswell County. Anne is assessed 161 (Pounds)-13 (Shillings)-8 (Pence) and John has no tax valuation listed.³⁰ Anne, Isaac and John Middlebrooks are listed on the 1784 tax list for the Caswell District. Anne was assessed for 445 acres, Isaac for 195 acres and John for 232 acres, all of which was located on [the waters of] Hogan's Creek.³¹

Ten years after the 1777 formation of Caswell County, the county has its first census. The total number of inhabitants enumerated for the county was 9, 839 and in the Caswell County census district are listed Anne Middlebrooks and sons, Isaac, John and Thomas.³² According to the census, it is likely that Anne is still a widow; she is listed as the "head of the household". No white males 21 - 60 are recorded in the household; however, four white males under the age of 21- 60 are enumerated. This could possibly be Anne's sons, Sims, Robert, Joseph and Garland or a possible border if not Garland. Two white females are also listed, one would be Anne and the other a visitor or border. Additional 1787 census information records Isaac Middlebrooks' household with one white male between the ages of 21- 60 (Isaac b. 1753);³² one male under 21 & over 60 (Isaac's son, Isaac b. 1785 and four white females Elizabeth Perkins born 1756, Virginia born 1785, Lucy born 1786/87 and Frances born 1787/88).

The same 1787 county census records John Middlebrooks' household with the following: one white male between the ages of 21- 60³² (John); two white males under the age of 21 and over the age of 60 (Zere and Anderson); and one white female, possibly Mary Lyon. John was listed as living next door to his mother.

Finally the 1787 census list the third brother, Thomas Middlebrooks. The census records show Thomas Middlebrooks' household with one white male between the ages of 21-60.³²

The order in which the households were visited gives an indication of adjacent neighbors and property locations. Anne Middlebrooks and her son, John, are living next door to each other, south of Hogan's Creek, and possibly near present day Providence. Henry Dixon, Richard Boggess, and William Ware are friends and neighbors of the Middlebrooks also living south of Hogan's Creek. Other neighbors include John Perkins, Joel and William Cannon and John Sommers.

Isaac Middlebrooks is living on Moon's Creek, next door to his father-in-law, Abram Perkins. Other friends and neighbors of the Middlebrooks on Moon's Creek are Robert Lyon, Samuel Bullock, James Miller, James and Jesse Perkins. Thomas Middlebrooks is living a number of households removed from where his mother, Anne, is living. Neighbors include James Boggess, Thomas Ware, Wynne Tilmon (Tillman), Charles Dixon, and James Burton.

³⁰ Katherine K. Kendall, *Caswell County North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, (Raleigh, NC: Privately Published, 1977), 31.

³¹ Kendall, *Caswell County North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 137.

³² Kendall, *Caswell County North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, 39.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

The 1803 list of taxables for Caswell County does not include any of our Middlebrook ancestors. Other familiar families include: Richard Boggers (Boggess?), James Burton, Henry and Charles Dixon, Robert, Alexander, William Lyon, and Abraham, Richard, John, Henry, James, Jesse and Martin Perkins.³³

John Middlebrooks is listed in the 1790 U. S. Census for the Hillsborough District, Caswell County, North Carolina. The census was re-constructed by using tax lists. No other information is available from the census.³⁴



Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina

³³ Kendall, Caswell County North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records, 41, 42, 44, 45.

³⁴ John Middlebrooks household, 1790 U. S. census, Caswell County, NC. National Archives micro-publication, Role M637, no pg.

Middlebrooks Caswell County Tax Lists 1777-1806

Year	Anne	John	Isaac	Thomas	Micajah	Sims	Leny
1777	161 lbs.	0					
1780		1,132					
1781	1135	1,835	1135				
1782	640	240	392				
1783	440	240	587				
1784	445	232	195				
1785	514	230	0				
1786	460	230	22				
1787		341		156	209		
1788		363		156	200		
1789		363		156	200	0	
1790		360			108		
1791		363					
1792		366					
1793	264	340					
1794	264	340					
1795		340					
1805							0

Notes:

1. Tax years 1777-1806 are not continuous. No Middlebrooks listed for tax years 1796, 1806.
2. 1777 tax list has very few names. However, Anne and John were listed. (See footnote 30.)
3. All Middlebrooks are listed for the Caswell Tax District.
4. Acre figures for tax years 1780-1781 are not the actual acres owned. Maybe, 135, 132, 135, 835 acres, or assessed values. No description provided. All other acreage figures listed by year are actual acres of land owned.
5. This is the first reference for Micajah and the second for Sims in Caswell County records.
6. For the 1790 tax year John (b. 1755) is listing land for Micajah (b. 1757) and probably paying this year's taxes. Some have used this reference as proof that a second John (b.1726) was in Caswell County. This John is related to Micajah. Isaac (b.1727/28) is the father of John. Micajah may be from a different Middlebrooks family.

Source: Caswell County, Taxable's, List of 1777, 1780, 1784, Microfilm C.020.70001. Caswell County Taxable's, List of 1780-1806, Microfilm C.020.70002. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

The Estate of Henry Dixon Jr., in account with the Estate of Charles Dixon.

As mentioned earlier both Henry and Charles Dixon are close friends and neighbors of the Middlebrooks in the Hogan's Creek area. The will of Henry Dixon, Jr. was recorded 4 August 1795 and Charles Dixon's will was recorded 24 November 1805, both in Caswell County.³⁵ The estate papers for Henry Dixon Jr. list the following entries on an account ledger for Middlebrooks:

Sept, 1784, To pd. Anne Middlebrooks for Boarding Bob Dixon to go to School 5£.

Sept 1, 1786, To Pd. Middlebrooks for Coopers work 2£, 4 schillings.

Nov 10, 1784, To cash Pd. John Middlebrooks for Wheel 8 schillings.

Another item found in these estate papers is a letter dated 13 August 1783 and witnessed by John Middlebrooks and Ruth Bogess. Tillman Dixon wrote the letter to the Sheriff of Caswell County demanding payment of 36 pounds 10 schillings to the estate of his father, Henry Dixon, Jr. Decd. from Samuel Jones.

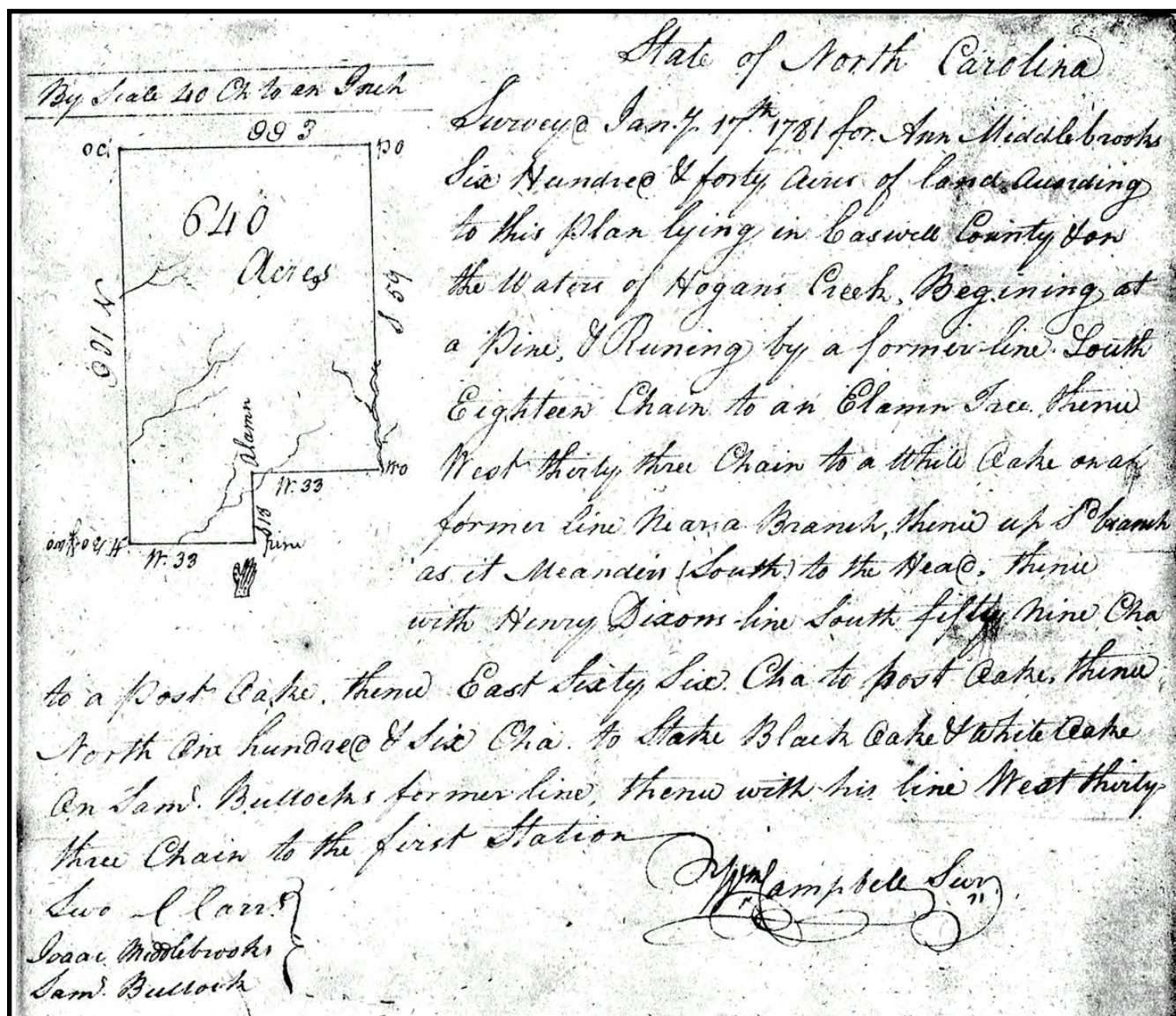
Other friends and neighbors mentioned in the estate papers include: James Boggis, John Bullock, Charles Burton, Franky, Susan, Martha (wife of Henry Dixon Jr. Decd.), Roger, Elizabeth, Henry, Robert and Wynn Dixon, Joel McDaniel, James Miller, Pleasant and Col. Peter Perkins, James and John Somers.

³⁵ Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 49, 100.

Anne Middlebrooks Lands after Independence in Caswell County

The first record occurrence of Middlebrooks land ownership begins with a survey warrant dated 10 November 1778, which would have been issued after Anne Middlebrooks made the initial entry for her property. The property consisted of 640 acres joining the line of Samuel Bullock on the waters of Hogan's Creek, and including two improvements bought of James Miller. What the improvements are is not known.

The final state patent for this land was not issued until the following year on 18 August 1787.³⁶ The town of Providence, established some years later, is believed to be located near, or actually on part of this parcel of land. Anne paid a total of 320 schillings for these 640 acres.



Survey of Anne Middlebrooks 640 acres on Hogans Creek.³⁷

³⁶ Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 362-3, #899, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

³⁷ Ancestry.com (<https://ancestry.com>: accessed 30 October 2018) > North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1950 > Caswell > 671-978 > Images 1058-1063, entry 491 (Certificate 902) for Ann Middlebrook, 10 November 1778. Isaac Middlebrook was a witness to the survey, carried out 7 January 1781.

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

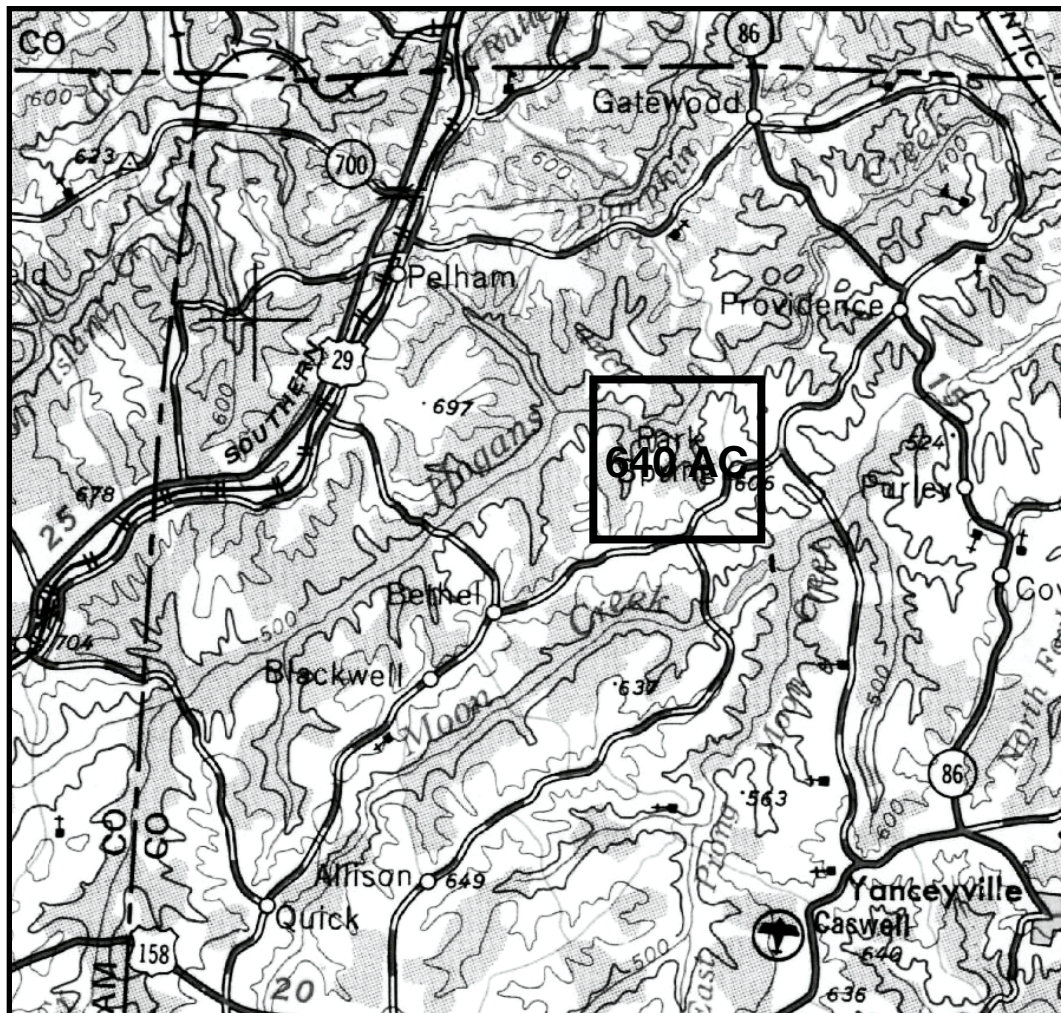
It is quite likely that many of the settlers were living on their land at the time they made their land entry. The complete land entry process would have consisted of a written land description in the county entry book, a payment of the required fees and then a wait through the three-month protest period before a warrant was issued to survey the land. After the survey a patent would be issued.

Ann Middlebrooks deed 640 acres from the
State of North Carolina 18 August 1787

2362
State of North Carolina - N^o 899
to All to whom these presents shall come Greatly
knowye that we for & in consideration of the sum
of fifty Shillings for every Hundred acres of
Land hereby granted paid into our Treasury
by Ann Middlebrook have given & gra-
nted & by these presents do give & grant
unto the said Ann Middlebrook a tract of
Land containing six Hundred & forty
acres lying & being in our County of Caswell
on the waters of Hogens Creek beginning at a
pine of Yuning by a former line south 18 the
to an Elm tree then west thirty Chain to a
white Oak on a former line near a branch
then up said branch east as it Meanders sou-
th to the head then with Henry Dixons
line south fifty nine Chain to a post oak
then East & West six Chain to a post oak then
North one Hundred & six Chain to a white
Black Oak of white Oak on Samuel Bulls
former line then with his line west thirty
three Chain to the first station
At by the flat hexunto an road at the upper
together with all woods waters Mines Minerals
als of appurtenances to the said Land belonging
or appertaining to hold the said Ann Midd-
lebrook her Heirs & Assignes forever yielding
& paying to us such sum of money yearly or
other wise as our General Assembly from time
to time may direct provided always that

363
the Do Ann Ann Middlebrook Male
Cause this grant to be Registered in the Reg-
-strars Office of our S County of Caswell with-
-in 12 months from the date hereof otherwise
the same shall be void of all force & effect
In Testimony whereof we have caused this
our letters to be made Patent of our great
Seal to be hereunto affixed Witness Rich-
-ard Caswell Esq: our governor Captain
-General & Commander in Chief at
-Wilmington the 18 day of Aug: in the 12 year of
our independence & in the year of our Lord 1799
By his Excellency Com^d
J Glasgow Secretary R Caswell

Approximate location of Anne Middlebrooks 640 acre parcel on the ridge between Hogan's and Moon Creeks

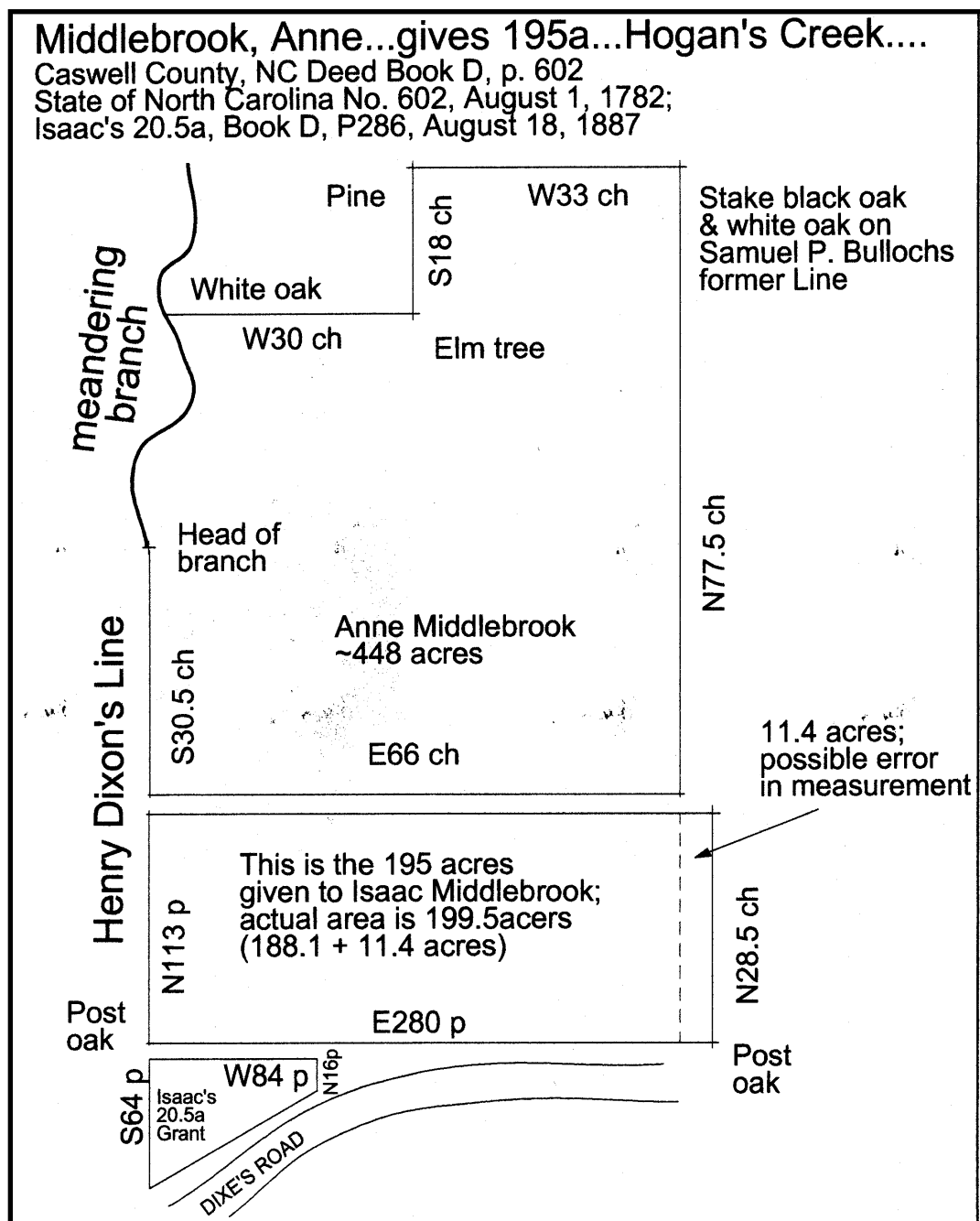


Surveyor Request for Isaac Middlebrooks 1785

To the surveyor of said county greeting. you are hereby required as soon as maybe to layoff and survey for Isaac Middlebrooks a tract or parcel of land containing 150 acres, lying in the county aforesaid joining Joel Perkins and **Henry Dixon Sr. and Henry Jr. and widow, Middlebrooks** and widow Graham, on the **ridge between Hogan's and Moon Creeks wood land.**21 December 1785.³⁸

State of North Carolina N^o 1246
Loyal Lankford Entry Officer of Claims for Lands in the
County of Caswell.
To the Surveyor of the said County greeting
You are hereby required as soon as maybe to layoff and
survey for Isaac Middlebrooks
a Tract or Parcel of Land containing one hundred and
fifty Acres lying in the County aforesaid joining ^{Joel Perkins} Henry
Dixon Sr. and Henry Jr. and Widow Middlebrooks and Widow
Graham on the Ridge between Hogan's and Moon Creeks
wood Land.
Observing the Directions of the Act of Assembly in such
Case made and provided for surveying out Lands True just
and fair Plans of such Survey with a proper Certificate
attached to each You are to transmit with this
Warrant to the Secretary's Office without Delay.
Given under my Hand at Office the 21st Day of
December Anno Domini 1785 Loyal Lankford

³⁸ North Carolina Land Grant Files Caswell County, 671-978, Isaac Middlebrooks 21 December 1785, Grant No. 1246, ancestry.com. This survey request for Isaac is very important, because it gives us an approximate location of widow Anne Middlebrooks land on the ridge between Hogan's and Moon Creeks.



**Plot of Ann and son Isaac Middlebrooks lands
 between Hogans and Moons Creeks.
 Courtesy of Leonard Middlebrooks.**

Anne Middlebrooks' Land Records

31 August 31 1782.
 Anne Middlebrooks, for the love of her son, Isaac, conveys to him 195 acres along the south side of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina adjoining Henry Dixon, part of a larger tract. Witnesses: Presly Lutteral, Robert Lyon and Abram Perkins. (Caswell County, Deed Book A, Pg. 602, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

17 March 17 1788.
 Anne Middlebrooks of Caswell County confirms the sale of 100 acres lying in Caswell County to Joel Cannon, adjoining Henry Dixon, being land Joel Cannon, bought of Isaac Middlebrooks, Witnesses: John Middlebrooks, William Carmon and James Perkins. (Caswell County, Deed Book E, Pg. 286, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

4 February 1790.

Ann Middlebrooks conveys 100 acres on the waters of Hogan's Creek to Captain John Sommers, adjoining Ware, Bullock, Sr., John Middlebrooks. Witnesses: James Grant Jr., and John Middlebrooks. (Caswell County, Deed Book H, Pg. 118-119, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

16 October 1795.

Ann Middlebrooks conveys 109 acres on the waters of Hogan's Creek to James Grant Jr., adjoining Joel Kennon, and John Sommers, Witnesses: William Norton, William Dixson, and Peter Smith. (Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg.152-53, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

30 December 1795.

Ann Middlebrooks conveys 237 acres lying in Caswell County to Wynn Dixon, adjoining Joel Kennon, and Charles Dixon. Witnesses: Robert Dixon, Moley (Molly) Middlebrooks, Arter Toney. (Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 182-183, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

12 December 1801.

Adjacent to Middlebrooks, the sale of 278.75 acres from Richard Boggess to Joel McDaniel, on the waters of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, where Boggess now lives, part of grant from State 1787. Witnesses: Robert Mitchell, and Silva Stokes (Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg., 164-65, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

By 30 December 1795, Anne Middlebrooks has disposed of all her 640 acres of land in Caswell County. Her land sales listed above total 740 acres instead of 640 acres. The North Carolina State Grant entry was made on 15 November 1778 and the patent issued 18 August 1787, was for the 640 acres. The 100 acre difference, was land sold to Joel Cannon, on 17 March 1788. It is thought to be from a previous land grant issued to Isaac Middlebrooks (born 1727). Some researchers contend this was a 100 acre (or part of a larger grant) Granville District grant that was not issued before the Granville Office closed in 1763, which was later recognized by the State of North Carolina in 1788.

Isaac Middlebrooks (born ca. 1753) and Elizabeth Perkins

Anne's oldest son, Isaac Middlebrooks (born 1753), married Elizabeth Perkins (born 1756) ca. 1780 presumably in Caswell County. No marriage record has been located. Elizabeth is the daughter of Abram Perkins (born 1720) and Cecily Turpine (Turpin) of Goochland County, Virginia.³⁹ According to deed records, Abram Perkins is in Caswell County by 31 August 1782, when he sells 250 acres on the south-side of Moon's Creek to Robert Lyon Sr. Isaac Middlebrooks is listed as one of the witnesses to the deed.⁴⁰ The Middlebrooks are now relatives and neighbors of the Perkins.

Elizabeth (Perkins) Middlebrooks' father, Abram died in October of 1793, Caswell County and names her in his will as one of his five children. The will was drafted 14 June 1793, and proved October of 1793.⁴¹ Isaac Middlebrooks is listed as one of the buyers in the estate sale of Abram Perkins, October 7, 1796.⁴²

The Estate Papers of Abram Perkins has the following entry:

*Recd. October 12th 1796 of Jessie Perkins Extr. of Abram Perkins Decd. Seventy five pounds and fourteen schillings in full of my part of the estate of the Sd. Decd. And I do hereby promise If any debts should come against the Said Estate to pay my proportion of them, (signed) Isaac Middlebrook, Teste C. Dixon.*⁴³

William Ware and Mary Perkins, wife of Philemon Perkins also, received 75 £. each.

Isaac then spends part of his inheritance when he buys one bay mare for 21 £ and a bed for 7 £ and 5 schillings and to parcel of father 2 £ and 1 schilling on October 7, 1795.⁴⁴ Jesse, Abraham, Henry, James and John Perkins, William Burton, John Bullock, Robert and Wynn Dixon and William Ware also buy personal property on the same date as listed above. The Settlement of the Estate of Abram Perkins concluded when cash (75£ & 14 schillings) was paid to Isaac Middlebrooks in 1805. By this time, Isaac and Elizabeth Middlebrooks are living in Clark (Clarke) County, Georgia, having moved from Jackson County, Georgia, ca. 1799-1804. Sometime between 1787/88, Isaac and Elizabeth Middlebrooks had left Caswell County, North Carolina, and moved to Abbeville, South Carolina.⁴⁵

³⁹ William K. Hall, *Descendants of Nicholas Perkins of Virginia*, (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edward Brothers Inc., 1957), 33,34.

⁴⁰ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, (Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1989), 32.

⁴¹ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 43.

⁴² Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 52.

⁴³ Estate Records of Caswell County, North Carolina, C. R. 020.508 box 69, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

⁴⁴ Estate Records of Caswell County, North Carolina, C. R. 020.508 box 69, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

⁴⁵ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 96.

Isaac Middlebrooks' Land Records

August 31, 1782.

Anne Middlebrooks, for her love to son, Isaac, Middlebrooks gave him 195 acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Henry Dixon, part of a larger tract Witnesses: Presly Luttrell, Robert Lyon and Abram Perkins. (Caswell County, Deed Book A, Pg., 602, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

21 December 1785.

Isaac Middlebrooks starts the land entry process for twenty and one-half acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek, with the State patent also being issued 18 August 1787. (Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 286, # 872, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

October 8, 1786.

Isaac Middlebrooks of Jackson County, Georgia, sold 382 acres along Moon's Creek to Abram Perkins of Fluvanna County, Virginia, adjoining: James Miller, Bullock's claim, Ann Middlebrooks, and John Perkins. Witnesses: Charles and Henry Dixon, Jessie (Jesse) Perkins. (Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg., 349-50, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

October 8, 1796.

Isaac Middlebrooks of Jackson County, Georgia, conveys 20½ acres of land adjacent to Dixe's Road, Anne Middlebrooks on Hogan's Creek to Charles Dixon of Caswell County, North Carolina. Witnesses: Jesse Perkins, Robert Boman, and Peter Smith. (Caswell County, Deed Book H, Pg., 349-50, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

November 27, 1792 Sheriff's sale of 137 acres on Hogan's Creek belonging to John Bullock sold to Jessie Carter to satisfy debt, adjoining Isaac Middlebrooks, widow Grayham, said land granted to Bullock, by State. (Caswell County, Deed Book N, Pg., 54-5, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

July 26, 1803 Isaac Middlebrook is an adjacent landowner to the sale of 137 acres from Jessie (Jesse) Carter of Caswell County, North Carolina to James Burton of same, on Hogan's Creek, adjoining Widow Grayham, and Miller. Witnesses: Griffin Gunn, and John Payne. (Caswell County, Deed Book N, Pg., 58-9, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

John Middlebrooks (born ca. 1755) and Mary Lyon

On 18 January 1781, John Middlebrooks married Nancy Humphries in Caswell County. Richard Boggess and William Campbell are listed as bondsman. Six months later, John Middlebrooks married Mary Lyon, the daughter of Robert and Rebecca Lyon.⁴⁶ It is believed John's first wife, Nancy, may have died in childbirth or from some other illness. As mentioned above, Robert Lyon purchased 250 acres on south side of Moon's Creek from Abram Perkins on 31 August 1782. Robert was already living on the property at the time of purchase, according to deed records. The Middlebrooks and Lyons are now related and are neighbors.

Robert Lyon died in 1804, leaving his estate to his wife, Rebecca, his six children and two grandchildren. His will is dated 23 October 1804. The executors are James Burton and Henry Howard.⁴⁷ The two grandchildren, Zere (born 1782) and Anderson (born 1784) are sons of John and Mary Lyon Middlebrooks. As grandsons of Robert Lyon, they demand their legacy from his estate.⁴⁸

Apparently, Zere Middlebrooks was not able to collect his legacy from the estate until the death of his stepmother, Rebecca Lyon, on 12 August 1817.⁴⁹ Mary Lyon Middlebrooks is believed to have died ca. 1793 in Caswell County. John Middlebrooks married Millie Sutton ca. 1794 in Caswell County, North Carolina, or Hancock County, Georgia.⁴⁹ By 1804, John and Millie Sutton Middlebrooks, Anderson and Zere are living in Hancock County, Georgia.

***Moon Creek, Caswell
County, North Carolina***



⁴⁶ Katherine K. Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds 1778-1888*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1981), 99

⁴⁷ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 95.

⁴⁸ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 96.

⁴⁹ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1814-1843*, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1983), 30.

John Middlebrooks Land Records

1 October 1781,

John Middlebrooks began the same land entry process as his mother to purchase thirty acres on the south side of Hogan's Creek. The State patent was issued the same day as his mother's on 18 August 1787. (Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 334, # 864, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

17 September 1788. Richard Boggas of Caswell County sells 202 acres to John Middlebrooks, of same, on Hogan's Creek, adjoining Boggass tract granted him by State, and Charles Burton. Witnesses: James Grant Jr., and Sims Middlebrooks. (Caswell County, Deed Book F, Pg., 117-8, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

10 November 1795.

John Middlebrooks of Caswell County sold 202 acres to Jesse Carter and James Burton, of same, on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Boggass (tract granted by state) and Charles Burton. Witnesses: Jesse Perkins, W. Dixon. (Caswell County, Deed Book J, Pg. 156-7, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

1 December 1801

John Middlebrooks is an adjacent landowner to the sale of 100 acres from John Summers to James Burton on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina, adjoining Ware and Bullock. Witnesses: Joel McDaniel, and Marady Price. (Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg., 170, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

Settlement of Robert Lyon's Estate

The following Caswell County court records paved the path to the settlement of the estate:

14 December 1804.

Zere Middlebrooks granted Power of Attorney from his father John and his brother, Anderson, to collect legacy of his grandfather, Robert Lyon. (Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 96.)

30 July 1806.

John Lyon, the son of Robert Lyon, deceased, also gave Power of Attorney to Zere, his friend, to receive from the executors of his father's estate, which is in the hands of his stepmother, Rebecca Lyon. (Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814, (Privately Published, Raleigh, NC 1979), 96.)

2 December 1816. Power of Attorney granted to Zere Middlebrooks of South Carolina, from Robert Lyon (Jr.) of Jasper County, Georgia, to collect from the estate of Robert Lyon of Caswell County, North Carolina. (Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814, 103.)

2 January 1817.

Power of Attorney conveyed to Zere Middlebrooks of Newberry District, South Carolina from his brother, Anderson Middlebrooks of Morgan County, Georgia to collect legacy left by Grandfather Robert Lyon of Caswell County, North Carolina. (Katherine K. Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1814-1843, 29).

2 February 1817,

Anderson Middlebrooks of Morgan County, Georgia, to brother Zere Middlebrooks of Newberry District of South Carolina, to receive balance of legacy left by grandfather Robert Lyon, Caswell County, North Carolina. (Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1814-1843, 29.)

12 August 1818.

Receipt of Zeri (Zere) Middlebrooks for legacy left John Lyon, deceased November 20, 1809; and after the death of Rebecca Lyon on August 12, 1817. (Kendall, Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1814-1843, 30)

Anne Middlebrooks and Richard Boggess

Some researchers believe that Anne Middlebrooks married Richard Boggess, ca. 1795, in Caswell County.⁵⁰ Richard Boggess is a neighbor and friend of the Middlebrooks, for a number of years, on Hogan's Creek; however, no marriage bond has been discovered. Indirect evidence to support this claim is the signature of Ann Boggess on a deed record when 278.75 acres is sold by Richard Boggess to Joel McDaniel on Hogan's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina on 12 December 1801, adjacent to Middlebrooks.⁵¹

The first record of Richard Boggess in Orange County is when he is a witness to the will of Stephen Norton, in July 1773, along with Sims Middlebrooks. Then on 31 July 1775, he is witness to the will of James Terry (Will Book A, Pg. 71).⁵² Next Richard Boggess is issued a patent of 445 acres on Hogan's Creek, on 18 August 1787 by the State of North Carolina.⁵³ The initial entry for this Hogan's Creek land was probably much earlier, ca. 1778. A Richard Boges is also listed on the 1777 tax list for 215 acres in the Caswell District.⁵⁴ Moreover, the 1784 tax list reports Richard Boggess being assessed for 232 acres.⁵⁵ Then on 17 September 1788, Richard Boggess sold 202 acres on Hogan's Creek to John Middlebrooks.⁵⁶ He is next recorded on a list of State Fines returned in 1790-91 (Will Book B, Pg. 379).⁵⁷ Then in 1801 and 1802, he is listed on a list of insolvents for Caswell (Will Book E, Pg. 23, 38).⁵⁸ This means even after selling his property he did not have enough money to pay his taxes for these two years. On the 1803 tax list a Richard Boggess is listed with no land.⁵⁹

⁵⁰ Goodrum, *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, 10.

⁵¹ Caswell County, Deed Book M, Pg., 170, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁵² Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 3, 4.

⁵³ Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 270 # 896, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁵⁴ Caswell County, Deed Book D, Pg. 270 # 896, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.

⁵⁵ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, 136.

⁵⁶ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817*, 108.

⁵⁷ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 33.

⁵⁸ Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books 1777-1814*, 89.

⁵⁹ Kendall, *Caswell County North Carolina, Land Grants, Tax Lists, State Census, Apprentice Bonds, Estate Records*, 41.

Middlebrooks Leaving Caswell County, North Carolina

We believe Isaac Middlebrooks (born 1727) died before 1771 and is buried near Hogan's Creek. If we accept the notion that Anne Middlebrooks married Richard Boggess (Boges, Boggus, Boggas or Boggers?), ca. 1795, based on her co-signing a deed of her husband, on 1 December 1801, then Anne could have been residing in Caswell County in 1801. A Richard Boggers is also reported in the 1803 List of Taxables for Caswell County with no land. It is not known if Anne died in Caswell County or left sometime after 1803. No record of Anne Middlebrooks or Richard Boggess has been found in Caswell after 1803. If one speculates that Anne was born about 1726, by 1800 she would have been in her seventies.

By 1793/94 John, Sims, Thomas, Robert, Joseph and Micajah had moved to Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia.

Isaac (born ca. 1753)

Isaac and Elizabeth (Perkins) Middlebrooks are reported to have left Caswell County around 1787-88 and moved to Abbeville, South Carolina.⁶⁰ Later having moved to Jackson County, Georgia, Isaac sells the remainder of his land, 382 and 20 ½ acres on 8 October 1796, to Abram Perkins (Jr.) and Charles Dixon.

John (born ca. 1755)

John and Millie (Sutton) Middlebrooks had moved to Hancock County, Georgia by 1794.⁶¹ It appears John still owns land in Caswell County as late as December 1801, when he is mentioned as an adjacent landowner. This must be his State grant of thirty acres originally adjacent to his mother's 640 acre tract. John was taxed as a land owner 1780-1795. John and his family moved to Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia as early as 1793/94.⁶²

Micajah (born ca. 1760)

For the 1790 tax year John is listed as paying taxes for Micajah for 108 acres. (See tax table.) Micajah Middlebrooks is believed to have left Caswell County before 1793, when he is reported on the Muster Roll of Rifleman in 1793, for Green County, Georgia.⁶³ Micajah moved along with other family members to Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia by 1793/94.⁶² No Caswell County court, land, or census records have been discovered for Micajah, even though he was taxed for land 1787-90.

Sims (born ca. 1762/64)

Sims Middlebrooks has moved to Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia, by 1794.⁶² The last event recorded for Sims was when he witnessed a Caswell County deed between Richard Boggas and John Middlebrooks, his brother, in 17 September 1788. This was the last mention of Sims in Caswell County records.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ Goodrum, *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, 13.

⁶¹ Goodrum, *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, 30.

⁶² Tax Digest 1794, 1796, 1804, Wilkes County, Georgia, film 159194, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

⁶³ Goodrum, *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, 42.

⁶⁴ Caswell County, Deed Book F, Pg., 117-8, Registrar of Deeds Office, Yanceyville, NC.)

The Middlebrooks of Orange and Caswell County, North Carolina

Thomas (born ca. 1763)

Thomas Middlebrooks arrived in Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia, ca. 1792/93, with the rest of his brother's — John, Sims, Joseph, Micajah and Robert.⁶² A record for Thomas in Caswell County is when he is listed on the 1786 census with his mother, Anne and brothers, Isaac and John. Thomas was also taxed as a land owner 1787-89.

Robert (born ca. 1766)

Robert Middlebrooks is thought to have moved from Caswell County to Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia, as early as 1793/94.⁶² No record of Robert has been found in Orange or Caswell County. He is listed in the Register as a son of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks. (See DNA discussion in the Introduction)

Joseph (born ca. 1770/73)

Joseph Middlebrooks leaves Caswell County, ca. 1793/94, and moves to Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia.⁶² This may be the last son born to Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks, before his father's death in 1771. He is listed in the Register as a son of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks. (See DNA discussion in the Introduction)

The Register lists three more sons; David (born 1759 – died 1829), James (born ca. 1759 – died young) and Garland (born ca. 1774. This date was after their father died in 1771. No North Carolina records have been found for these three sons of Isaac (born 1727) and Anne Middlebrooks as listed in the Register.

Hancock-Wilkes County, Tax Lists

We know from Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia tax records that Thomas, John, Sims, Robert, Micajah and Joseph left Caswell County before 1792-94. They may have traveled to Georgia together with their families. The Caswell County tax lists give us an indication of when our ancestors were not assessed for property taxes. Although, some of the tax years are not complete it may reveal when they decided to move to Georgia. Of course, they could also sell land in North Carolina after they moved to Georgia.

Isaac is last reported as owning land in 1786. We know he was reported on the 1790 U.S. Census residing in Abbeyville, South Carolina.

John's last tax year was 1795, even though John is reported on the 1794 tax roles for Wilkes-Hancock County, Georgia.

Thomas's last tax year for Caswell County was 1789. As mentioned above Thomas was in Wilkes-Hancock County by 1793/94.

Micajah had his Caswell County taxes paid by his brother, John Middlebrooks in 1790 and was recorded in Wilkes-Hancock County 1793/94.

Sims taxes was listed as "0" in 1789, for Caswell County. He was in Wilkes-Hancock County by 1793/94.