

**MFA MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER**  
**The Middlebrooks Family Association**  
**274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029**

Hello Middlebrooks! Hope you are all safe, well, and have yet to experience any real episodes of cabin fever. Consider that now is a great time (while either state mandated or self-imposed quarantine) to do some genealogy research. At the very least, get those MFA meeting folders out and sort all that terrific information gathered at our meetings, through our website, and by just general emailing/networking/Facebooking within our family.

Kathleen Hunter (Nathaniel Line and my Mom) told me that her father, Sam Middlebrook, remembered the Spanish Flu of 1918. He told her that the countryside had a considerable population (houses every twenty to forty acres). When someone in a home died, neighbors would go over, remove the mattress where the deceased had lain, and burn the mattress. Then the neighbors would move on to the next house in need. According to Google, the Spanish Flu swept through Arkansas and killed nearly 7,000 people over the course of four months. My grandfather Sam lost his father (Robert L.), his older brother (Will), and his sister-in-law (Jessie).

During our current health situation, I have had a FaceTime appointment with one of our nurse practitioners. Mom had a “telehealth” visit via a video app on my phone with his ortho doctor on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month. House calls, if you will.

Around 1940, my Aunt Betty Jean Moody was jumping on the bed. She fell and broke her collarbone. The local doctor’s son was the mail carrier; therefore, Grandmother Flossie decided to flag down the mail carrier and send a message home to his father, the doctor, to come out to the Middlebrook Farm. Guess what??? The doctor was subbing as mail carrier for his son that day. Immediate house call! My point: doctor house calls.... then and now! Can’t reinvent the wheel, right?

# **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It is with an abundance of caution and consideration concerning the COVID-19 virus that we find it prudent to cancel our 2020 annual meeting and reschedule it in 2021 at the same place and at the same approximate time. The rescheduled dates for 2021 are September 23,24, and 25 at the Hampton Inn in Covington, Georgia.

The unpredictability surrounding the future spread of the coronavirus including a potential second wave this summer and fall makes planning particularly difficult. Based on the latest available information and projections provided by respected epidemiologist it appears that the months of September and October of 2020 will not be virus free. By making this decision now we can all have an opportunity to make our individual plans accordingly over these coming months. Officers, board members, and project chairs are asked to retain their positions during this time. And our meeting planning committee is asked to adjust to this change. This would have been our 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual meeting and while it is sad to break that chain, the safety of our membership is paramount and the economic impact for that time remains unknown.

We wish to extend our thanks to the front line of health care professionals that continue to work tirelessly to protect us. We add our thanks to the multitude of those across the wide spectrum of individuals that include first responders, truck drivers, grocery workers, and countless others who are helping us through this time which is truly a crisis. The number of illnesses and deaths due to COVID-19 continue to mount and these add to the list of challenges that people already face. We offer our condolences and sympathy to all those affected.

Please follow the medical guidelines and Stay Safe.

Thanks for your understanding and support.

Bob Middlebrooks, President MFA

## *With Sincere Sympathy...*

Lana Reams Shelton, born March 14, 1945, passed away on March 21, 2020 in Sandston, Virginia. Lana was the daughter of Melton and Ellen Middlebrooks Reams. She was married to Russell Shelton for 40 years. She is survived by her children Clint Claypool and Penny Claypool, 5 grandsons, 6 great grandchildren (with one on the way).

Lana was an avid genealogist for our Middlebrook family. Her name appears on many research articles in the archives of the Middlebrook Family Association. She attended the 2019 MFA annual meeting in Virginia. She will be deeply missed by many.

## **Census... Use it... Do it!**

Census records can provide the building blocks of your research. The first Federal Population Census was taken in 1790 and has been taken every ten years since. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the Census, the most recent year available is 1940. The 1950 Census will be released in 2022.

The National Archives has the census schedules on microfilm available from 1790 to 1940, and most have now been digitized by our digitization partners. Family researchers generally find it most helpful to begin with the most current census and work backwards as a strategy for locating people in earlier generations.

The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade. Not to mention the information for future genealogist!

**Historic Rural Churches**  
**Fellowship Progressive Primitive Baptist**  
**By**  
**Clayton H. Ramsey**

Nostalgia's ache quivers in the space between Now and the unrecoverable Then. The rediscovery of an old love song, a yellowed photograph, a handwritten letter, and the years melt away and we are once again with people and in places long since gone.

All religions have an element of nostalgia to them, and that nostalgia is particularly strong when religious communities disband, leaving vacant pulpits and empty pews. Kelly Moran invited me to join him in a historical journey of the Fellowship Progressive Primitive Baptist Church in Shiloh, Georgia, a little thumbprint of a town in Harris County, in west-central Georgia. [*Approximately an hour southeast of MFA 2021 meeting in Covington, Georgia.*] From Atlanta, one will pass through Lewis Grizzard's Moreland, the little towns of Lutherville and Greenville, and Warm Springs, the retreat and spa for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Regarding the land on which the church was built: A man named Jesse Fallin, born on Christmas Day, 1806, in Lunenburg, Virginia, won 202 ½ acres in Muscogee County (Section 2, 22nd District, Lot #258) in the 1827 Georgia Land Lottery for the entry cost of \$18. Part of the 22nd District was split to become Harris County and the other Talbot, and Jesse's land fell on the line of division. He and his wife, Nancy Middlebrooks, worked a farm and raised children on Dotson's District of Valley Plains. On July 25, 1836, Jesse sold to his wife's brother, Thomas A. Middlebrooks, all but two acres of Lot #258 for \$1,020. Presumably, the remaining two acres were set aside for the building of a church.

Elder E.B. Seckinger wrote a brief history of the Fellowship Church. There were minutes of every meeting of the congregation from November 14, 1839 to August 23, 1981. In response to some brethren and sisters, interest developed to build a church on the Middlebrooks's property Lot #248. Creed Caldwell, minister at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Yatesville, was persuaded to aid in the constitution of Fellowship. The congregation grew and its membership was composed of the absolute best people of the county.

Generations of Kelly Moran's family have lived, worshiped, served, and died within the embrace of the Fellowship Progressive Primitive Baptist Church at Shiloh. Kelly is committed to telling the story of the church and her faithful. The fate of the records and the church building is uncertain. They might be passed to the Progressive Primitive Baptist Church Library and Archives in Statesboro.

*\*\*Thanks to Debbie Autry for contributing this article for the MFA Newsletter. The article appeared in GEORGIA BACKROADS/SPRING 2020. I took the liberty of shortening the article considerably. There is a great deal of information included about the history of many different branches of the Baptist Church and the reasons for congregations separating into different branches. I have the article saved and will be glad to email it to you in its entirety. As always, just let me know: [dalekidwell07@gmail.com](mailto:dalekidwell07@gmail.com)*

**Lawrence Dillard said, "The best part about Genealogy is searching for ancestors and finding friends." Keep in touch! Email, call, access our MFA Facebook! Check in with your team leaders. As always, send articles for the newsletter!**

## Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Bob Middlebrooks, President  
Ella Trip, Vice President  
Dale Kidwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Lanelle Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2018-2020  
Ella Trip, Vice President 2019-2021  
Dale Kidwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President 2019-2021  
Lanelle Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2020  
Angelia Middlebrooks Gantz 2018-2020  
Leonard Middlebrooks 2019-2021  
Neal Middlebrook 2018-2020  
J.A. Middlebrooks 2019-2021  
Leslie Shealy 2018-2020  
Ri McGlamery 2019-2021

### 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/Ri McGlamery

**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 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

Joyce Arnold  
-- [joycenjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycenjim@sbcglobal.net)  
Mary Baker  
-- [mmbaker65@hotmail.com](mailto:mmbaker65@hotmail.com)  
Dave Clark  
-- [cdave1000@gmail.com](mailto:cdave1000@gmail.com)  
Angelia Middlebrook Gantz  
-- [angeliagantz@yahoo.com](mailto:angeliagantz@yahoo.com)  
Dale Kidwell  
-- [dalekidwell07@gmail.com](mailto:dalekidwell07@gmail.com)  
**Ri McGlamery**  
-- [rimegamery@gmail.com](mailto:rimegamery@gmail.com)  
Ian Middlebrook  
-- [ian@middlebrook.org.uk](mailto:ian@middlebrook.org.uk)  
Neal Middlebrook  
-- [nealmidbroo1@frontier.com](mailto:nealmidbroo1@frontier.com)  
Bob Middlebrooks  
-- [mid293@earthlink.net](mailto:mid293@earthlink.net)  
J.A. Middlebrooks  
-- [jambks@yahoo.com](mailto:jambks@yahoo.com)  
John David Middlebrooks  
-- [Jmiddlebrook001@yahoo.com](mailto:Jmiddlebrook001@yahoo.com)  
Leonard Middlebrooks  
-- [gambol@juno.com](mailto:gambol@juno.com)  
Leslie Shealy  
-- [dixiegirl30@hotmail.com](mailto:dixiegirl30@hotmail.com)  
Jean Shroyer  
-- [TXJean@aol.com](mailto:TXJean@aol.com)  
William Sterling  
-- [wgs10@embarqmail.com](mailto:wgs10@embarqmail.com)  
Ella Tripp  
-- [ellatripp@cox.net](mailto:ellatripp@cox.net)