

MFA August 2021 Newsletter
The Middlebrooks Family Association
274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029

******President's Message******

Bob Middlebrooks

September 2021 becomes May 2022.

The Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus has surged beyond expectations resulting in new guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control recommending masking by vaccinated as well as unvaccinated individuals when indoors. Unfortunately, this changes our 2021 meeting plans.

Some of our members who made verbal commitments to attend the September 2021 MFA meeting in Covington have now said they will not be able to attend based on their doctor's advice. It is therefore regrettable but prudent to reschedule our annual meeting. Health care resources are advising that holding the scheduled September meeting is unwise and can subject attendees to experience health issues.

We Cannot Direct the Wind, But We Can Adjust the Sails.

The reality of life is that things change. Rather than complain about the virus surge, we can accept it and change our meeting schedule. Recognizing that the end of September is the peak of hurricane season, rescheduling to May can be a positive move. May instead of September for our meetings has been suggested before but we never adopted it.

We are proposing that our 2022 meeting be held in Covington, Georgia during the first week of May. Changing to this period of the year to avoid hurricane season has been suggested before by our members but we have never followed it up. This seems the right time to do it. We are looking at May 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2022 at the Hampton Inn in Covington, Georgia.

I wish to thank our Covington host team for all their hard work in planning for September 2021 and ask that they make May 2022 a successful event worth waiting for. The presentations and excursions that have been planned will roll over to 2022. Officers and team leaders are asked to remain in place until the May 2022 meeting.

Registration fees already paid can be rolled over to the 2022 meeting without any further action. Reservations for the 2021 meeting already made with the Hampton Inn may be cancelled by calling 678-212-2500.

Thanks to Dale for scheduling a zoom meeting to help keep us glued together as we anticipate 2022. Finally, some within the MFA have lost family members to the Covid-19 virus. We extend our deepest sympathy.

Empathy.

Stop what you're doing.
Take a step back, and try to imagine walking in someone else's shoes; someone who has suffered a loss or a tragedy. Inhale deeply, absorb some sunshine, and remember there are many others who would be incredibly thankful to be where you are today. You are blessed. Let us all find perspective when facing struggles that are minuscule in the grand scheme of things, and recognize the gifts we've been given. Let's not ever take this beautiful life for granted.

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ZOOMING AGAIN

Although a ZOOM Meeting could never replace, or even come close to our Annual MFA Meeting; we surely need to stay in touch, and a ZOOM meeting is one way we can do just that. We will have a Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 23 at 6:45 p.m. and another at a later date. We need to address the future of MFA regarding membership, communication, and your wants/needs as a member. We will visit virtually; however, we will have a short agenda for the meetings.

Topic: MFA Zoom Meeting Time: Sep 23, 2021, 06:45 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77479596430?pwd=ZjBqVndoOTg0VzdISk1valVkr2N6dz09>

Meeting ID: 774 7959 6430 Passcode: JJNQy4Dale Kidwell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

WANDERLUST JAKE MIDDLEBROOK CATTLE DRIVE OF 1874

Since I binge-watched Yellowstone last week, this article appealed to me. I hope it will to you as well. The article was written by Dianne Middlebrooks and Sharron Middlebrook Currie and was originally printed in the April 2003 MFA Newsletter. The original article is much more detailed and provides more information. I have edited the article considerably. The complete article can be found on the MFA website, which is most certainly a wealth of history, research, and remarkable stories.

After the Civil War, times were hard in Texas. Farming was not successful for many reasons. However, states North and West of Texas needed beef; and, Texas had thousands of unbranded longhorn cattle roaming the countryside. Jake Middlebrook, age 22, of Sweet Home (Lavaca County), Texas, experienced wanderlust and was always looking for work away from home. Jake left his pregnant wife, Ellen, to work as a cattle drover moving cattle from Sweet Home to Ellsworth, Kansas, a distance of 800 miles. A typical herd was between 8,000 and 10,000 head of cattle.

They left for Ellsworth on February 27, 1874. Weather cooperated until early April, when the cattle drive was within sight of the camp on Hell Roaring Creek in Oklahoma. A blizzard ensued, and within a day's time, 18 inches of snow fell as well as ice and sleet. The cattle turned their backsides to the wind and begin drifting with it. The hardy longhorn cattle survived the freezing weather, but all 75 horses froze and died. The trail boss traded some cattle to the Indians for horses.

The drovers and herd reached Ellsworth, Kansas on May 20, 1874. They began to set the stage for the upcoming cattle sale which was finalized on December 1, 1874. This adventure cured Jake of his wanderlust. He missed his wife Ellen and yearned to see his first child.

Jake and Ellen had four more children and settled in Foard County, Texas where Jake served as a Constable for 15 years. He also established a produce business. Jake died at the age of 84, two years before Ellen's death.

The moral of the story: when things get tough, turn your back to adversity and go with the flow!!!

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Bob Middlebrooks, President
Ella Tripp, Vice President
Dale Kidwell, 2nd Vice President
Lanelle Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2018-2020
Ella Tripp, Vice President 2019-2021
Dale Kidwell, 2nd Vice President 2019-2021
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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: Brent Bragg and 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: Position to be filled
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

Email Directory

Joyce Arnold
-- joycenjim@sbcglobal.net
Mary Baker
-- mmbaker65@hotmail.com
Brent Bragg
-- bbragg6920@aol.com
Dave Clark
-- cdave1000@gmail.com
Angelia Middlebrook Gantz
-- angeliagantz@yahoo.com
Dale Kidwell
-- dalekidwell07@gmail.com
Ri McGlamery
-- riegamery@gmail.com
Ian Middlebrook
-- ian@middlebrook.org.uk
Neal Middlebrook
-- nealmidbroo1@charter.net
Bob Middlebrooks
-- mid293@earthlink.net
J.A. Middlebrooks
-- jambks@yahoo.com
John David Middlebrooks
-- Jmiddlebrook001@yahool.com
Leonard Middlebrooks
-- gambol@juno.com
Leslie Shealy
-- dixiegirl30@hotmail.com
Jean Shroyer
-- TXJean@aol.com
William Sterling
-- wgs10@embarqmail.com
Ella Tripp
-- ellatripp@cox.net

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. (MFA) was founded 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