

MFA February 2022 Newsletter
The Middlebrooks Family Association
274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029

President's Message from Dr. Bob Middlebrooks

Kenny Rogers said "you got to know when to hold them and know when to fold them." It has become evident that we cannot bring a sufficient number of members together this May to hold a meeting, so we are folding it – canceling it – and not rescheduling a meeting until we know that the situation is much safer. There is just too much remaining unknown about the virus. Some medical experts are predicting another variant to emerge. And in any event, although most of us have had two shots and a booster, we can still get a breakthrough case. The MFA cannot accept the danger of being the source of our members getting sick and we already know many of our members who normally attend the meeting would not attend one this May.

These past couple of years have been a challenge for all of us. We try to look out for the health of ourselves and our relatives based on all the information we gather. We have made decisions about our annual meeting using the best advice we could find. We will continue to do that, and we will let you know what is happening as we figure it out

Today I am promoting PPP. That is People – Places – and Personal.

People. I am suggesting that we use the present time to add to our knowledge of our ancestors. After all, we are a genealogy association. Many of you have researched your family heritage as far back as you think you can go. Others of you may still be in the process. We have members of the MFA who are great genealogists and can give you further guidance if you want it. Send an email to Dale if you want to contact a particular person who might help you fill in the gaps in your path and she will help you make that contact. There is a lot of information available on our website so explore there.

Now for another thought. **Places.** Your parents and their parents and their parents lived somewhere. Often the moves reflected different cities and even different states. I have pursued this for myself and found very interesting information about where my ancestors lived and spent time molding the family we now know. You can find books and maps and documents available for most places now. Wouldn't it be nice to pass this information on to your children or other living relatives?

Personal is the final of these three P subjects. Do you remember your childhood and growing up and things you did along the way? Wouldn't it be nice to pass this information along too? I took this on as a project and wrote my autobiography some time ago. It is now outdated a since I have not added anything about these past few years. I wrote about what I know from my early childhood and up to when I retired from the navy and started teaching. My goal is to go back and bring it up to date.

With Sincere Sympathy:

Sammy Lee Middlebrook, 72, of Polk City, Florida passed away January 5, 2022, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on May 27, 1949, in Tampa, Florida to Louise and Jeanette (Allen) Middlebrook.

He was a former Direct of Meat and Seafood division for Publix Super Markets where he retired after 47 years of service. Sam proudly served his country as a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Sam loved raising his cattle, riding his tractors, traveling in his RV, boating, and spending time with his family, whom he loved very much. He was a faithful member of the Green Pond Baptist Church of Polk City, Florida.

Sam is survived by his loving wife of 17 years, Wanda; three sons, Jason Middlebrook, Jon Middlebrook, both of Winter Haven, Florida and Jeff Middlebrook of Lowell, Indiana. He also leaves to cherish his memory, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents.

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**WOODMEN
OF THE
WORLD**



Have you ever wondered about those Woodmen of the World tombstones? We have several at White Lake Cemetery near Augusta, Arkansas as well as others in the MANY cemetery tours conducted by The Middlebrook Family Association.

Joseph Cullen Root originally founded the first group, Modern Woodmen of America (MWA), in order to create a fraternal benefit society that would “bind in one association the

Jew, and the Gentile, the Catholic and the Protestant, the agnostic and the atheist.” While he succeeded with WMA being that type of organization, heated arguments resulted in Root and another man being evicted from the society.

Root kept the name “woodmen” because he was inspired by a sermon that talked about “woodmen clearing the forest to provide for their families.” Root saw Woodmen of the World as an organization that would “clear away problems of financial security for its members.”

A women’s auxiliary for WOW was known as the Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle – founded in 1892. In 1895, Root and F.A. Falkenburg took control of the Circle and reformed it into the Woodmen Circle. In 1965, Woodmen of the World acquired and began to control the organization. Other women’s organizations were Women of Woodcraft and Neighbor of Woodcraft.

Woodmen of the World became involved in the community by holding dinners, dances, and society events. The organization is known as a not-for-profit life insurance company putting money back into the community by way of scholarships and summer camps for local youth.

In 1922, WOW began its own radio station, WOAW, as a way to reach out to thousands of people at one time. By 1935 WOW was granted the right to operate at 5000 watts, making it one of the most powerful stations in the country.

Then in 1949, the broadcasting company decided to launch WOW-TV. One of the first performers was Johnny Carson, who had a daily show called “The Squirrel’s Nest.”

For your research: free online library of cemetery records

<http://www.interment.net>WOW> <https://www.findagrave.com>virtual-cemetery>

FYIDoctors recommend taking a holiday weekend to ask about family health...genes we carry may tell healthcare providers a lot about past, present and future.

..... “Back Up Your Data Now or Cry”

.....Check out our Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA) Facebook page for the latest news!!

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Bob Middlebrooks, President

Ella Trip, Vice President

Dale Kidwell, 2nd Vice President

Lanelle Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2018-2022

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Leonard Middlebrooks 2019-2022

Neal Middlebrook 2018-2022

J.A. Middlebrooks 2019-2022

Leslie Shealy 2018-2022

Ri McGlamery 2019-2022

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 Project

Cemetery: J.A. Middlebrooks and William Sterling

DAR-UDC: Joan Miller

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 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

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