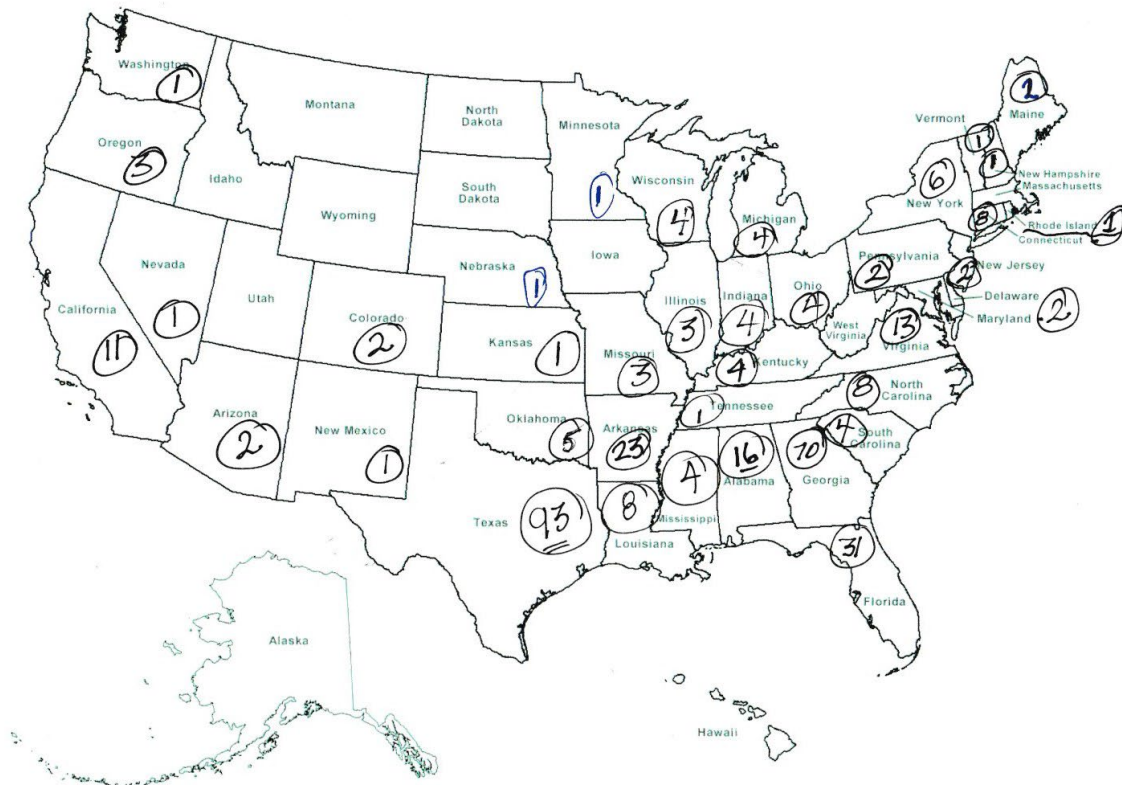


February 2023 Newsletter
The Middlebrooks Family Association
274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day. It has been a while since we've been face-to-face and it seems it may be just a bit longer. Although we have tried many avenues for a 2023 MFA meeting, things haven't gone quite as we had hoped. However, I did get to spend some quality time communicating with Leonard Middlebrooks. Our MFA family stays active and open to communication. This means if you have questions, refer to the back page with all those emails. Your questions and/or concerns may not be answered immediately, but they will be addressed. If you shoot an email out and get no reply, please send me a little note and I will do my best to find a route for you. dalekidwell07@gmail.com

We have approximately 350 MFA subscribers. The number within (or beside) the state indicates how many folks live in a particular state. Only nine states without a Middlebrook connected to MFA in some way



MFA February 2023 President's Message

Bob Middlebrooks

This being our first newsletter of 2023, it is an opportunity to renew the spirit of the Middlebrooks Family Association. These past couple of years have brought challenges primarily related to the pandemic which have precluded the scheduling our annual MFA meetings. The severity of the Covid impact has lessened and it is good to think of gathering with friends.

Our MFA members deserve to know why as the President of the MFA, I am not leading the charge to organize and host an annual meeting this year.

This past 2022 has brought unexpected changes in my life. My wife Ruth broke an ankle at the beginning of 2022 that required extensive trauma-based surgery. After spending time in six hospitals and four skilled nursing facilities she is finally at our home in North Carolina and is progressing to using a walker again. She has daily nursing care and I have the role of being her caregiver. After sixty-four years of marriage, we are aging together, and I will take care of her along the way. Trips from our home are restricted to medical appointments for her condition.

I will continue to contribute to the MFA as best I can, but since I find myself in a limited role, I would like to thank Dale Kidwell our vice president for continuing to produce the MFA newsletter and serving as a wonderful source of continuity for the organization.

As I mentioned in the lead to this article, there is an opportunity to renew the spirit of the Middlebrooks Family Association and I would ask that our members contribute their suggestions to Dale. It is my sincere hope that the MFA remains the go to place to research our ancestry and serve as a vehicle to foster friendship. In this light thanks to Dave Clark, for his work in keeping the MFA website a valuable source of information.

Family Surprises
By J. A. Middlebrooks
From July 2008 MFA Newsletter

A surprise meeting occurred several years ago when I was seated at the microfilm machine in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The fellow seated next to me asked who I was researching, and I said, "Middlebrooks." The lady on the other side of the fellow then exclaimed, "You're kidding!" She was a descendant of Joseph (1770/73). A couple of years later, while looking at Middlebrookses on the internet, I found a young lady who graduated from a high school in Mississippi and was also connected with this same Joseph line. Perhaps my most unusual finding occurred while searching one of my mother's lines. I had a name and, although I had information on one fellow, for some reason I was uneasy with the previous data. To validate my information, I was at the Eudora Welty Library in Jackson, Mississippi; and I saw some old high school yearbooks. I selected one at random and pulled it from the stack. I opened the annual, and much to my surprise, the first page stated that that year's annual was dedicated to the fellow for whom I had been looking. That year (1917), he taught Latin and was head football coach. He became Principal of Central High School in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1922 and remained in that position until 1942.

You never know who you will find while seeking that pot of gold. Another surprise occurred several years ago while I was in our pastor's office. He had a box of books that he was discarding. He asked if I wanted to take a look and I randomly picked up a small red book, opened the front cover, and found the name A.E. Middlebrooks (Rev. Acton Elijah Middlebrooks). Several years earlier, I had found a good bit of information about Rev. Acton, a descendant of John 1755.

MFA Spotlight.....J.A. Middlebrooks

As long as I have been attending MFA meetings there has been a "Find a Grave" report by J. A. Middlebrooks! According to J.A.'s personal assistant, driver, and wife – our own Secretary/Treasurer Lanell Middlebrooks, J.A. began his genealogy journey about 1960. While searching around the great state of Georgia, he met Leonard Middlebrook. J.A. spent his career as an Associate Psychologist for the State Hospital of Mississippi.

Not only did J. A. love to travel, he has "been everywhere!" While on the homefront, J.A. enjoyed some facets of yard work such as picking up limbs.

Over the years, he has located and documented at least 450 graves. Thank you, J. A., for all your time, effort, and work you have contributed to the Middlebrook Family Association.

WHY OUR RELATIVES DRIVE US NUTS

By Jarrelyn Lang

From June 2009 MFA Newsletter

When you visit – or even just look at photos of – friends and family members, brain activity shows how you feel about them, and even yourself, according to a recent study. The study compared brain activity associated with seeing relatives to brain activity associated with seeing friends and strangers. Findings suggest that "feelings. . . about biological relatives are at least somewhat primal."

Co-authors of the study were Steven Platek, lecturer at the University of Liverpool in England, and Shelly Kemp, who was honored by the International Society for Human Ethnology for her part in the study. They hope to be able to explain "why our family can get on our nerves [and] why people who look like us can spark immediate feelings of trust," according to Platek.

For the study, researchers performed MRI brain scans on test subjects as they looked at pictures of biological relatives, friends, strangers, themselves, and several morphed images. Scientists determined that relatives and self-lookalikes are processed through a self-referential part of the brain. Friends and strangers who looked nothing like the viewer, however, lit up entirely different areas of the brain, those linked with making important decisions with respect to self. Platek and Kemp also learned that the brain ranks everyone socially, with relatives at the head of the line. "I think facial resemblance is ranked right up there in importance with attractiveness," Platek said.

Since relatives are processed through areas of the brain linked to self-reference, the study might also help to explain why relatives cause us to take things personally. Even though we may tolerate a friend's bad behavior – loud laughter, snoring, etc. – we may not tolerate our relatives because we judge them similarly to the way we judge ourselves.

"This research is a wonderful example of the fruitfulness of conducting cognitive neuroscience," stated Todd Shackelford, professor of psychology at Florida Atlantic University. He went on to say, "I am hopeful that other researchers in the cognitive neurosciences will follow Dr. Platek's lead and take full advantage of the predictive power of the design structure of the mind." He also commented that it is likely a face we perceive as "friendly" is one that looks more like us, but the way we later feel about that same person could be tied to how we feel about ourselves, possibly explaining the prevalence of arguments during family reunions. Not that we Middlebrooks would ever argue BUT this article just might explain a few things!!!

Both articles are revised from past MFA Newsletters and/or Mazes. I would surely welcome some new articles and/or stories. Just send them to me please...dalekidwell07@gmail.com

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Bob Middlebrooks, President
Ella Trip, Vice President
Dale Kidwell, 2nd Vice President
Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2018-2023
Ella Trip, Vice President 2019-2023
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Angelia Middlebrooks Gantz 2018-2023
Leonard Middlebrooks 2019-2023
Neal Middlebrook 2018-2023
J.A. Middlebrooks 2019-2023
Leslie Shealy 2018-2023
Ri McGlamery 2019-2023

Ancestor Team Leaders

Isaac born 1753: Leonard Middlebrooks
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: Joan Miller
DNA: Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark
Family Register Update and Repository: Leonard Middlebrooks
MFA Newsletter:
MFA Website: Dave Clark and Leonard Middlebrooks
Military Register Update: Open

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.

MFA Email Directory

Joyce Arnold

--- joycearnold93@gmail.com

Mary Baker

-- mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Brent Bragg

-- bbragg6920@aol.com

Dave Clark

-- cdave1000@gmail.com

Angelia Middlebrook Gantz

-- angeliagantz@yahoo.com

Ian Middlebrook

-- ian@middlebrook.org.uk

Dale Kidwell

-- dalekidwell07@gmail.com

Neal Middlebrook

-- nealmidbroo1@charter.net

Bob Middlebrooks

-- mid293@earthlink.net

J.A. Middlebrooks

-- jambks@yahoo.com

John David Middlebrooks

-- Jmiddlebrook001@yahoo.com

Leonard Middlebrooks

-- gambol@juno.com

Joan Miller

-- jmil1912@hotmail.com

Leslie Shealy

-- dixiegirl30@hotmail.com

William Sterling

-- wgs10@embarqmail.com

Ella Tripp

-- ellatripp@cox.net