

**MFA May 2023 Newsletter**  
**The Middlebrooks Family Association**  
**274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029**

*President's Message*

*Dr. Bob Middlebrooks*

Some time ago a good friend of mine who was a newspaper editor shared some thoughts with me while we are attending the Man Will Never Fly dinner event on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This is a fun filled dinner preceding the annual celebration of the Wright Brothers first flight in now what is Kill Devil Hills. He called it the Song of a Sailor and it is worth repeating now.

While he used Christmas as the focus, we can think of upcoming Memorial Day as our focus with the same message. The joy of sailing lies in the passage, not the finish. The going provides the satisfaction, not the getting there. Every sunrise, every sunset, every day, every night is special on a sailor's voyage, not just the landfall. Like the engineer who offered a ride to a traveler in the African desert and said, "Hop in and you will be there quickly." The pilgrim said, "I don't want to BE there; I want to GO there."

My friend said we get so obsessed with wanting Christmas day to come that we tend to forget to live each day to its fullest and enjoy getting there. The same for Memorial Day. This is a day when we quote meaningful sayings about honoring the fallen heroes who gave us the freedom we enjoy. And it is surely appropriate to give thanks on that day for the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

But it is also a reminder to feel that gratitude throughout the year as that day approaches and to show it.

**All MFA memberships start August 1 and end on July 31.**

**\$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family (living in the same residence)**

**Checks should be mailed to MFA Treasurer, Lanell Middlebrooks**

**104 Birchwood Circle, Cabot, Arkansas 72023**

**Other options for payment are discussed on the MFA website:**

**[Middlebrooksfamily.org/membership/](http://Middlebrooksfamily.org/membership/)**

## ***MFA Member May Spotlight.....***

*Kathleen Middlebrooks Hunter, descendant of Nathaniel (born 1764), joined MFA in 2005 in Danville, Virginia. The MFA meeting was a leg of a road trip to see her baby brother, Doug Middlebrooks, in Conover, North Carolina. She embraced MFA and continues to be an active member. Kathleen has not only served on the MFA board but also held the office of secretary/treasurer for several years.*

*Kathleen worked in business management: from managing a cotton sack on the Jackson County Sam Middlebrook Farm to managing different departments at Victor Metal and Arkansas Steel in Newport, Arkansas. She made at least three mission trips to Guyana and served as the Mayor of Tupelo, Arkansas for several terms.*

*At the wise age of 94, Kathleen is an active member of the Sandhill Church of Christ, an "advisor" to the current mayor regarding all things Tupelo, and caretaker of an array of day lilies.*

*Thank you, Kathleen, for your contributions to the MFA.*

*\*\*If you would like to honor someone in the MFA Member Spotlight, please send information about your nominee to [dalekidwello7@gmail.com](mailto:dalekidwello7@gmail.com).*

### **Researchers Beware: The Potential Perils of Online Genealogy**

is one of the many articles found, ironically, on the internet listing the dangers of using such resources exclusively to research your family history.

*Stolen intellectual property* is cited as a problem as companies such as ancestry.com links to findagrave.com due to one company buying another. ALL the information contributed by folks' shared blogs and calendar posts can now be used by ancestry.com as they wish.

*Credit thieves* often take other people's hard-earned research and claim it as their own. This group might seek you out and offer to share their information (some for a price) then give back what you found in the first place!

*Historical Viruses* raise their heads by way of a veritable forest of inaccurate and/or unverified genealogical trees.

These potential perils can be avoided by posting images that you personally own citing your ownership, carefully managing the privacy settings on your subscription sites, and – most importantly in my opinion – belonging to the Middlebrooks Family Association. Not only will a researcher have access to a wealth of information but also will have a network of people with whom to share ideas and ask questions. Real People!!

The following is just a sampling of what is actually available at middlebrooksfamily.org:

\*\*Under “Your Middlebrooks Ancestry Information” I can find Detailed Info (persons born before 1881), Outline Descendant Report (persons born 1920 or earlier) and my favorite, Person Index (list of all people by name).

\*\*This type of information on Joseph (b. 1610 in England) is NEW!

\*\*Publications from 2005 are available as well as Articles of Interest. There is a Document Library!

Back to the REAL PEOPLE reference .... On the Contact Us page, you will find names of officers, board members, ancestor team leaders, and coordinators of on-going projects. Just click on the name and there’s an email for your convenience. Now, because we don’t always get what we want immediately, should the person you email not respond within a reasonable amount of time, just shoot me an email and I’ll do my best to re-direct you in a timely fashion. [Dalekidwell07@gmail.com](mailto:Dalekidwell07@gmail.com)

## Happy Mother's Day Month

During the mid-1800s, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “I have thought a sufficient measure of civilization is the influence of good women.” Considering the character and strength of our MFA female members, I would say he was on the mark! From Mary Middlebrook Reyner who sailed across the Atlantic in 1638 (THREE MONTHS AT SEA) to all the mothers who kept their families going through the Covid pandemic to those mothers today who continue to provide safe havens and hope. Thank you all.

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## **Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.**

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

### **Board of Directors**

Bob Middlebrooks, President 2018-2023  
Ella Trip, Vice President 2019-2023  
Dale Kidwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2023  
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:* 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 general public each February, May, August, and November. You may request to be removed from this list

## **MFA Email Directory**

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