

**Nathaniel Middlebrook
(1764-1829)
Orange County, Virginia**



Nathaniel Middlebrook, 74 ³/₄ acres, 22 November 1800, on the waters of Riga Run, Orange County, Virginia.

Library of Congress, Preliminary map of Orange County, Virginia

Hotchkiss, Jedediah, 1828-1899.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3883o.cwh00302>

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Nathaniel Middlebrook, 74 ³/₄ acres, 22 November 1800, on the waters of Riga Run, Orange County, Virginia. On some maps, Riga Run was also named Ridge Run, a branch of Terry Run that flowed into the North Anna River.

Library of Congress, Chief Engineer's Office D.N.V., Maj. Gen. J.F. Gilmer, chief engineer 1818-1883, 1826-1899, Confederate States of America. Army. Department of Northern Virginia, Virginia Historical Society.<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3883o.la001321>

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Nathaniel Middlebrook

According to family belief, Nathaniel Middlebrook was born circa 1764. Thus far, all records regarding Nathaniel have been found in Orange County, Virginia. The ultimate guide to Middlebrook family history, *The Register of the Middlebrook Family, 1909*, by Louis Frank Middlebrook, does not list a Nathaniel Middlebrook in Virginia. However it does list Garland Middlebrook of Culpepper County, Virginia.

From the Register, page 66; "(87) Garland Middlebrook of Culpepper County, VA., son of John Middlebrook of Caswell County, NC, B. 1774, d. in Virginia: Children: (205) William, d. 1845, (206) John Garland, d. 1866 and (no info) Archibald."

A Comparison of Nathaniel Records and Garland Register Entry

Garland is listed with three sons, one of whom is Archibald. Nathaniel had three sons, per his will, one named Archibald. The Register has no information on Archibald, so that lead is impossible to follow. Per the Library of Virginia (lva.gov), Culpeper County was formed from Orange County in 1749. I have seen no mention in any records of a Garland Middlebrook, other than Nathaniel's son. We have found no proof that Garland and Nathaniel are the same person, or that they are not. The Register states that Garland is the son of John Middlebrook of Caswell County, North Carolina. We have seen no proof that Nathaniel (or Garland) is a son of John of Caswell County. Nathaniel's parentage is still uncertain and a great mystery for many of us.¹

Nathaniel in Orange County, Virginia

We begin with Nathaniel Middlebrook's purchase the property where he lived, worked and raised his family until his death. On November 22, 1800, Nathaniel bought seventy four and three quarters acres from Benjamin and Dorothy Waller Stephens for a price of seventy four pounds, sixteen shillings and eight pence "current Virginia money". Below is an excerpt from the Orange County Deed Book, 1798- 1803:

*"(On Margin: **Stephens and wife to Middlebrook, Deed. Delivered to Benjamin Stephens 8th October 1801 per direction of Middlebrook**) This indenture made the **twenty second of November eighteen hundred**, between Benjamin Stephens and Dorothy his wife of the county of Orange of one part and Nathaniel Middlebrook of said county of the other part; Witnesseth that Benjamin Stephens and Dorothy his wife in consideration of sum of **seventy four pounds, sixteen shillings** and eight pence current money of Virginia to Benjamin Stephens and Dorothy his wife in hand paid by Nathaniel Middlebrook, the receipt whereof they doth hereby acknowledge, unto Nathaniel Middlebrook one certain tract of land lying in Orange County containing **seventy four and three quarters** more or less and bounded by; Beginning at several marked bushes substitutes doe two white oaks and a pine now down, corner of **Edmund Stephens and William Smith**, north eighty three degrees west forty seven poles to two white oak bushes and two red oak saplings on a hill side in Edmund Stephens line, North twenty degrees east eighty poles to a white oak, Spanish Oak and red oak saplings standing in Benjamin Stephens line, South fifty and a half degrees east two hundred seven poles to three white oaks on south **east side of Jack O Lantern branch**, thence down the branch about seventy poles to three white oaks a gum and ash in Smith's line to the beginning; To have and to hold the seventy four and three quarters acres of land hereby conveyed with the appurtenances to Nathaniel Middlebrook his heirs and Benjamin Stephens and Dorothy his wife for themselves and their heirs the land and premises unto Nathaniel Middlebrook his heirs will warrant and forever defend by these presence; in witness whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written. Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Richard Stephens, James Atkins, James (his mark) Adams, Benjamin Stephens, Dorothy Stephens. At a court held for Orange County at the Courthouse on Monday the **27th day of April 1800**. This indenture was acknowledged by Benjamin Stephens, a*

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Nathaniel worked and raised his family on this land until his death in 1829. *He is probably buried there.* He also leased **100 acres** of land from **James Terrill**, “lying on the east side of the **Rocky Run**,” presumably additional farm land. In January, 1832 (the day was not written in), Nathaniel’s widow and children Archibald, Martha and their spouses return the land to James Terrill for one dollar. The transaction was recorded on August 7, 1832 at the Orange County Courthouse.^{III}

Nathaniel Middlebrook mentioned in his Will that “*I wish all my debts and funeral expenses to be paid out of my crops and perishable estate,*” which leads us to believe *he* was a small farmer.^{IV} We do not know what crops Nathaniel may have grown. By 1800, tobacco was still grown in Virginia but was decreasing in amount. Wheat was an important crop and was being shipped to Britain, the Spanish Peninsula and the West Indies.^V In the 1810 Census of Virginia, Nathaniel Middlebrook is listed with one white tithable, no slaves over 12, and one horse.^{VI}

In Search of Nathaniel’s Property

In trying to locate Nathaniel’s home place, the following entries are helpful. Nathaniel is mentioned in another transaction by the Stephens regarding sale of more land. “Indenture 29th October, 1804, Benjamin and Dorothy Stephens sold to Reuben Lindsey....136 acres....In Orange County **adjoining Nathaniel Middlebrook** on Robert Terrill’s line, Boutwell’s (Boswell) line...**east of Riga Run**...witnesseth by John Moore, William Lindsey, Ptolemy Powell, Recorded Orange County 25th February, 1805.”^{VII}

Nathaniel is also mentioned in two Orange County Road Orders as follows: “*On a piece of paper in the Orange County Records. A list of hands on the roads: William C. Webb, Jr., Order of Court. On the reverse side: William Candler’s Hands. 1814, May 16th. The list of hands that work on the road from **Morton’s Mill** to the **tombstone**: Frederick Harmon 3 (number of hands), John Paine Quarter 4, William Lee, Adam Lindsey 4, Reuben Lindsey 1, James Terrell, **Nathaniel Middlebrook** (no number), Jackson Mills (marked out), John Sail 3, Washington Runnold 3, William C. Webb 4, William Chandler 4, John Campbell (no number) and William Lindsey 4.*”

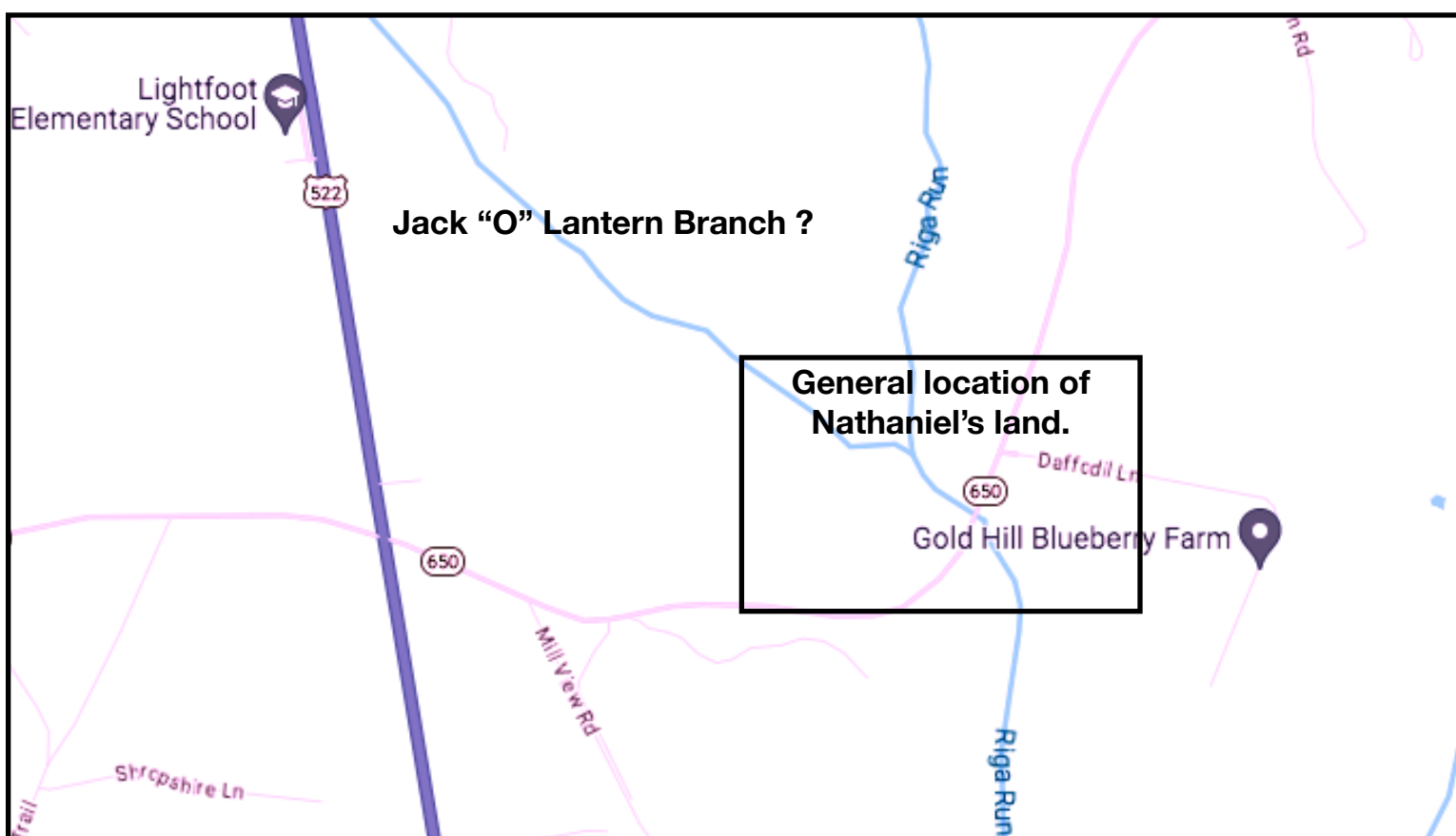
As shown by the next entries also from Orange County records, the same road which **Nathaniel** worked on in 1814 and ran through his property, was split into two sections by 1820. “Ordered that John W. Sale be appointed overseer of the road from **Morton’s Mill to Lindsey’s Mill Run** and that the hands of William Wilshire, John Payne (at his quarter), Adam Lindsey, Reuben Lindsey, Walker Vass, William Lee, the said Sale, William and Edward Cosby, Nancy Lindsey and Benjamin Massey do work on the said road.” The next road order runs to the **Tombstone**. “*Ordered that **Nathaniel Middlebrook** be appointed overseer of the road from **Lindsey’s Mill Run to the Tombstone** and the hands of Adam Lindsey, William C. Webb, **James Terrill, Nathaniel Middlebrook and son, William Wigglesworth**, Reuben Herndon, Larkin Herndon, Field Herndon and Alexander Wright do work on the same. Orange County Order Book, 31st August, 1820*.”^{VIII}

In her book, *The Colonial Churches of St. Thomas’ Parish, Orange County, Virginia*, Lizabeth Ward Papageorgiou writes, “*The Tombstone, or Crawford’s Tombstone, as having been below the (South-west) Mountain Road and today’s Rhoadesville, near the junction of Route 20 and 650.*”^{IX} In further search of the location of Nathaniel’s property, we have the description of the home of Benjamin and Dorothy Stephens per a Stephens’ family researcher. “*Benjamin married Dorothy Jemima Waller in 1775. They lived on a hilltop near the home of Stephen and Blessing (Stephens) Smith, (Benjamin’s mother), near **Riga Run**, about one mile north of Orange Springs in Orange Co., Virginia.*”^X

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Nathaniel's original land purchase document from 1800, mentions Jack O Lantern branch as a feature on his land. This branch is not to be found on any map today. Riga Run was not mentioned in his original document, however when Archibald and Patsy (Martha) sold their inherited land to James Terrill it was "*on the branches of Riga Run.*"^{xi} Riga Run flows through the fields and land east of today's U.S. Highway 522, between Virginia Routes 629 and 20 (Constitution Hwy.)

An exact location of Nathaniel Middlebrook's land has not been found in a document, yet, from this information we can make some assumptions. Both road orders mention the "*Tombstone*" and a *mill*. If Ms. Papageorgiou's location of the tombstone is correct, a portion of Nathaniel's property crossed the current Independence Road (650) with the Tombstone at the northernmost end of the road and a Mill View Road off the more southern part of 650, just off Rte. 522. Per a Virginia map, Independence Road is only 4.09 miles long and Riga Run does cross it between **Mill View Road and Daffodil Lane**. This is my best guess with the information provided.



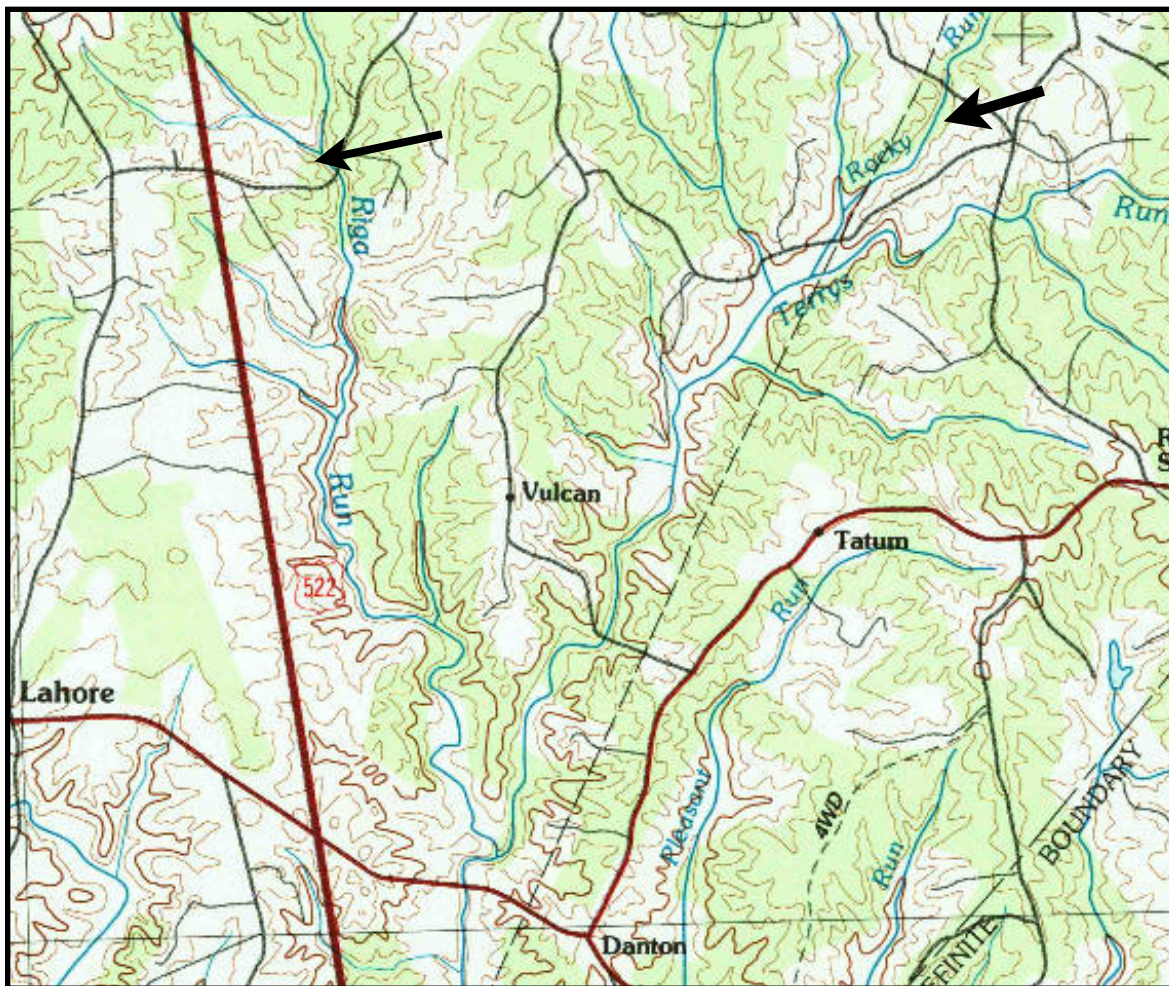
General location of Nathaniel Middlebrooks land on Riga Run. On some maps it was also listed as Ridge Run. Jack 'O' Lantern Branch is also mentioned in land records. We believe it may be a branch of Riga Run. Google Highway Maps

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Notice the location of M. Wigglesworths land adjacent to Terry Run.

**Library of Congress,
Chief Engineer's Office D.N.V., Maj. Gen.
J.F. Gilmer, chief engineer
1818-1883,**



**Nathaniel Middlebrook, 74 ³/₄ acres, 22 November 1800, on the waters of Riga Run, Orange County, Virginia. Arrow points to approximate location of Nathaniel's land. Nathaniel also leased 100 acres on the East side of Rocky Run, from James Terrell.
USGS, VA_Fredericksburg_188785_1983_100000.**

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Nathaniel's Relationships

Though not documented, it is believed that Nathaniel married Mary Hutcherson in about 1782. More information on Mary is in an accompanying report.

To help discover Nathaniel Middlebrook's relationships in Orange County, we find the following information in some Orange County marriage bonds:

Zachariah Murphy and Lucy Atkins were married on March 23, 1801. Witnesses were **William Webb** and **Nathaniel Middlebrook**. The bond was posted by Nathaniel Middlebrook. Lucy is the daughter of **James Atkins, Jr.**^{XII}

Susanna Murphy and Thomas True were married on April 6, 1802 with bond posted by **Nathaniel Middlebrook.**^{XIII}

Zachariah and Susanna Murphy were the orphaned children of John Murphy. "On January 3, 1792 Edward Herndon, Lewis Holladay and William Bronaugh, overseers of the poor in District No.2 in Spotsylvania County, do bind Zachariah Murphy, aged 16 years October 9 last, and Susanna Murphy, aged 14 years June 7 last, orphans of John Murphy, decd. to Stephen Smith Rice of Orange County, Farmer and Planter, etc. witnesses, Stockley Townes, John Herndon January 3, 1792." There were three other siblings also bound out to two different families. David and Harris Murphy bound to Frances Coleman, house carpenter and joiner of Spotsylvania County and Mary Murphy to Edward Coleman, as housekeeper of the same county.^{XIV} We don't know if Nathaniel or possibly his wife, Mary, had a familial or friendly relationship to the Murphy family or to Stephen Smith Rice but I like the thought of him supporting these orphans.

Susannah Middlebrook and James Terrill were married on October 1, 1812. **Edmund Terrill** and **Archibald Middlebrook** were witnesses. Archibald is only 16 years old. **Nathaniel Middlebrook** is listed as her father. Archibald also witnessed a marriage on the next day, October 2, 1812. Ann Ford married John B. Hawkins in Saint Thomas Parish, Orange County, by Minister Jeremiah Chandler.^{XV}

Martha Middlebrook and Samuel T. Boswell were married on April 22, 1822. Martha is listed as the daughter of **Nathaniel** and he posted bond.^{XVI}

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The next mention, thus far, for Nathaniel Middlebrook is his will. He died sometime between November 3, 1829, when he signed his will and December 28, 1829 when it was recorded.

Will of Nathaniel Middlebrook

I Nathaniel Middlebrook of the County of Orange being weak and low, but of sound and perfect mind and memory do constitute this my last will and testament, revoking all others heretofore made by me in the following manner;

Item 1st I wish all my debts and funeral expenses to be paid out of my crops and perishable estate.

Item 2nd I lend to my beloved wife Mary Middlebrook the whole of my property of every description with personal, perishable (?) during her natural life, which said property shall at the discretion of my wife be under the direction and management of my sons Garland and Anderson Middlebrook who are not to waste or destroy any part of the property heretofore loaned to my said wife and it is also my wish that should either of my sons Garland and Anderson marry that they shall not move their or either families to live in the house with my wife Mary Middlebrook who they shall use the property at their discretion.

Item 3rd I give unto my sons Garland and Anderson Middlebrook one featherbed, one counterpane, one sheet and half a dozen earthen plates.

Item 4th I wish all the property heretofore loaned to my wife to be at her death equally divided between Susan Terrl, Archibald Middlebrook, Garland Middlebrook, Patsey Bosel and Anderson Middlebrook or their legal representatives.

Item 5th I wish my executors hereafter named to hire an old negro woman to assist my wife during her life which said here shall be paid out of the proceeds of my estate and,

*Lastly, I appoint **Garland Middlebrook** and **Anderson Middlebrook** my executors to this my last will and testament. As witness my hand and seal this 3rd day of November, 1829.*

Nathaniel Middlebrook (his mark)

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of: H. Fackler, Richard Faulconer and Walter Gambrel.

Will made 3 November, 1829; rec 28 Dec., 1829. Executors; sons **Garland and Anderson**. Witnesses: H. Fackler, Richard Faulconer, Walter Gambrel. **Wife Mary**, Children **Garland, Anderson, Susan (Terrill), Archibald, Patsy (Bosel)**. **BN. James Terrill**.

An inventory and appraisement of the estate of Nathaniel Middlebrook, dec'd taken this 5th day of January 1830, value totaled \$411.26.....appraisers **William I. Wigglesworth**, William C. Webb, Alexander Wright,.certified by executors, **Garland and Anderson Middlebrook** 22 Feb 1830." ^{XVII}

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Nathaniel's Children

Nathaniel's children, verified by mention in his will, are **Garland Middlebrook**, born about 1786, **Anderson Middlebrook**, born about 1790, **Susannah (Susan) Terrill**, born about 1795, **Archibald Middlebrook** born about 1796 and **Martha (Patsy) Boswell**, born about 1798. Nathaniel's seventy four and three quarters acres were divided among these heirs and eventually all purchased by **James A. Terrill** and **Susan Middlebrook Terrill**.

Anderson and Garland

Anderson sold his shares in January, 1833. He was "living in the County of Lawrence, Ohio" at that time per the sale document.^{xiii} Garland sold his shares to James Terrill on July 25, 1831.

Garland's transaction in Orange County was witnessed by Archibald Middlebrook and Samuel Boswell, as well as, Nelson C. Tyler "not of the commonwealth".^{xix} In 1830, there is a Nelson C. Tyler living in Bedford, Virginia and in 1840 he is living in Highland County, Ohio.^{xx} . It is my theory that these brothers, Garland and Anderson, are William and John Garland listed in the Register as the sons of Garland Middlebrook of Culpeper County, but much more documentation or information is needed.

Susannah Middlebrook Terrill

Susan (Susannah) and **James Terrill** left Virginia for Belleview, Washington County, Missouri, before 1840. James died before 1850 leaving Susan as the head of household in 1850. She died about 1870 in Missouri, Iron Township.

Martha Patsy Middlebrook Boswell

Martha (Patsy) Boswell remained in Orange County. In the 1830 Census she is listed with husband, **Samuel Boswell**, one son age 5-9 and one daughter under age 5. Samuel must have died before 1840, because in 1840, Martha Boswell is the head of the household with one son age 15-19.^{xxi} A thank you to Dr. Ruth Craig for discovering that Martha married a second time to **Alexander Swan, Jr.**, a miller from Madison County, Virginia. This can be found in the 1850 US Census, Madison, Virginia, roll M432_958; page 60A image 123. By 1880, Martha, age 76, was living in the home of her son, William A. Boswell, 57, in Richmond, Virginia. Their address was 2712 Broad Street in Richmond. **William A. Boswell** was also a miller. This information is found in the 1880 census; place; Richmond, Henrico, VA roll 1372, page 370D; enumeration dist. 092.

Archibald Middlebrook and Lucy Boswell Middlebrook, Liza Middlebrook and Malissa Webb Shaw Middlebrook

Archibald Middlebrook and Lucy Boswell married on November 27, 1820 in Orange County, Virginia. Lucy was born April 17, 1802 in Orange County. She died October 22, 1855 in Fayette County, Tennessee. Lucy's father, **Charles Boswell** came to Virginia from Charles County, Maryland. He was born after 1734 and died December 23, 1830 in Orange County, Virginia. His father was **John Boswell** born 1707 in Boswell's Desert, Charles County, Maryland. John Boswell married **Sarah Harris**, daughter of **John Harris** and unknown, about 1727 in Charles County. Sarah (Harris) Boswell was born about 1711 in Charles County and died June 26, 1792 in the same county. Sarah's grandparents were **Thomas Harris**, born 1654 in St. Mary's County, Maryland and died November 23, 1686 in Charles County, MD, and **Mary Pope**. Thomas's father was also named Thomas Harris. He came from England in 1650 and died March 28, 1654 in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Mary Pope was born 1661 in Charles County, Maryland and died in 1686 in the same county. Her father was **Francis Pope** born 1610 in England and her mother was **Margaret Porter** born 1636 in England.^{xxii}

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Lucy Boswell Middlebrook's mother was **Lucy Thompson**, born before 1779, possibly in Orange County, Virginia. Lucy Thompson's father was **Samuel Thompson, Sr.** who died in Orange County, VA in 1793 (22 July 1793) his son, Samuel, Jr. takes administration, giving bond. Estate settled 25 September 1797.) His wife is unknown.^{XXIII}

Lucy Thompson and Charles Boswell married in Orange County 31 March 1795, surety Henry Wood (OB) (CM).^{XXIV}

Archibald and Lucy Boswell Middlebrook married in Orange County in 1820 and raised their seven daughters and five sons there until after 1850, when they moved to Haywood County Tennessee.^{XXV}

Archibald also had a family with Liza, the family cook. Liza was born about 1802 in Virginia. She and their at least four children, also made the move to Tennessee.^{XXVI}

After Lucy Middlebrook died in 1855 in Fayette County, Tennessee, Archibald married a young widow, **Malissa Webb Shaw**. She was born about 1822 in Tennessee and married Mr. Shaw.^{XVII} They had two daughters, **Eliza J. Shaw** 10 and **Mary Shaw** 8 (as of 1860 census). Charles died between 1852 and 1860. Malissa and Archibald had three children, **Robert W. Middlebrook** born in 1860, **Caldonia B. Middlebrook** born about 1862 and **Ella Francis Middlebrook** born about 1863. Archibald was over sixty when these children were born. He died on January 10, 1867 in Fayette County, Tennessee. Malissa must have died prior to his death because he made provisions in his will for "my three little children who are very young and have to be raised and educated." Archibald left all of his money and property to sons-in-law, **Joseph R. Marks and Jonas P. Huffman** to be used to care for the children.^{XVIII}

One of these young children, **Robert W. Middlebrook**, born July 18, 1860 was my great grandfather. He married **Mary S. Brown** (Mollie) born July 12, 1862 in Tipton County, Tennessee. They moved to Jackson County, Arkansas and raised a family. Robert died January 19, 1918 in Jackson County (during the flu epidemic, I've been told) and Mollie lived until January 29, 1943.

Most of my information came from books and compilations of records done by others and found in book form. I just recently discovered the use of Family Search records. Also, I relied on the U.S. Census records via Heritage Quest. Please let me know of any mistakes or discrepancies, I will be happy to discuss it.

Sandy Ahmad, Granddaughter of Ruth Middlebrook Nally sandylahmad@gmail.com

End Notes

- i The Register of the Middlebrook Family, 1909, by Louis Frank Middlebrook, page 66
- ii Orange County Deed Book, 1798-1803, pages 215-216
- iii Orange County Deed Book 33, pages 184-185
- iv Orange County, Virginia Will Book 7, pages 206-207
- v Agriculture in the Fredericksburg Area 1800-1840, By Harold Muddiman, Jr.:
scholarship.richmond.edu/cgi/viewcontent
- vi A Supplement to the 1810 Census of Virginia, Orange County, by Netti Scheiner-Yantis, 1971
- vii Pamunkey Neighbors of Orange County, Virginia, compiled by Ruth Trickery Sparacio and Sam Sparacio. (This is a book dealing with events and transactions regarding certain families in Orange County, Virginia.) Recorded in Orange County February 25, 1805.
- viii Pamunkey Neighbors of Orange County, VA compiled by Ruth and Sam Sparacio. This book cites Orange County Order Book 31, August, 1820.
- ix The Colonial Churches of St. Thomas Parish, Orange County, VA, by Lizabeth Ward Papageogio
- x Find a Grave Grave, by researchers Anna Jaech and Robert H.
- xi Orange Co. VA Deed Book 33, pages 330-331
- xii Orange C. VA , Marriages 1747-1850, page 89
- xiii Orange Co.VA, Marriages 1747-1850, page 123
- xiv Spotsylvania Co.VA Records Deed Book N 1791-1894, Page 448
- xv Orange Co. VA Marriages 1747-1850, page 205
- xvi Same page 205
- xvii Orange Co. Will Book 7, 206-207
- xviii Orange Co. Deed Book 34
- xix Orange Co. Deed Bok 33 pages 401-402
- xx The Register of the Middlebrook Family, 1909, by Louis Frank Middlebrook, page 66
- xxi US Census 1830 Orange Co VA; Roll 196, pg 297
- xxii 1658-1758 Charles Co Maryland Families "The First 100 Years" Wills, Court, Church, Land Inventories and Accounts
- xxiii A Supplement to Pamunkey Neighbors; The Thompson Family, by Ruth and Sam Sparacio, page 33
- xxiv Orange County, Virginia Marriages 1757-1880, page 21
- xxv US Census 1830 Orange Co VA Series M19, Roll 196, pg 317; US Census 1840 Orange VA roll 573, pg 15; US Census 1850 Orange VA Roll M432_967, pg 228B; Dist 3 Haywood, TN, Wesley PO, Roll M653_1254, pg 418
- xxvi Per cousin Nyah Edwards; 1850 Slave Schedule Orange County Virginia and 1860 Slave Schedule Tennessee
- xxvii US Census 1860 Dist. 3 Haywood Co. Tennessee, June 14, 1860 PO Wesley (Stanton Area)
- xxviii Will Book B Dec. 1854-Nov. 1905 pg. 221, Somerville (Fayette County) Tennessee