

Nathaniel Middlebrook vs. Garland Middlebrook

Question: Could Nathaniel Middlebrook of Orange County, Virginia be Garland Middlebrook of Culpepper County, Virginia as listed in The Register?

The Register of the Middlebrook Family, 1909, by Louis Frank Middlebrook, lists on 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
- **Archibald**

I would like to pose the possibility that Garland is actually our ancestor, Nathaniel of Orange County, Virginia and that sons mentioned in Nathaniel's will, Anderson and Garland, are (205) William (Anderson), d. 1845 and (206) John Garland, d. 1866. We already know from Nathaniel's will that they have a brother, Archibald, for whom the *Register* had no information.

Spotsylvania County, created in 1721, encompassed all land west to the Blue Ridge Mountains and was eventually divided into what is now called Orange, Culpeper, Madison and Rappahannock Counties. The area that is now Culpepper became part of Orange County when it formed in 1734. Culpeper was formed from Orange County in 1749. All records we have found, thus far, regarding Nathaniel are from Orange County. Nathaniel's will mentions sons Garland, Anderson and Archibald. I would like compare Nathaniel's sons to those listed in *The Register* for Garland.

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(205) William Middlebrook of Fountain County, Indiana, son of Garland Middlebrook of Virginia, m. Cynthia Gray. William d. 1845

Children:

John Wesley Middlebrook b. 1835

Sarah b. 1838 Anna b. 1840

Our research shows that Anderson (son of Nathaniel) sold his shares of his father's estate in January 1833. We also show Anderson is listed as being of the County of Lawrence in Ohio at that time.

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Per Lawrence County, Ohio Marriage Book, Cynthia Gray and William Middlebrook are married on October 23, 1833. The Register states that William died in 1845. The 1850 U.S. Census in Van Buren, Fountain, Indiana shows three Middlebrook children living with different families.

John Middlebrook, age 17, born 1833 in Ohio, is living with the Davis Patton family and working as a gardener. He is attending school. Sarah J. Middlebrook, age 15 born in Ohio is living with the Jacob Strayer family, and Mary A. Middlebrook age 12 born in Indiana about 1838, is living with Sarah Rush and family. All of these families are very early settlers of the area.

William likely moved from Ohio to Indiana (Fountain County, Indiana agrees with the *Register*) between 1835 and 1838 per birthdates and birth places of his daughters. William died in 1845, per the *Register*, and his wife, Cynthia, must have died sometime before 1850. The children were apparently taken in by Fountain neighbors. Jacob Strayer was one of the first settlers of Fountain coming from Virginia in November 1824 per History of Fountain County, Indiana by H.W. Beck with Pub. H.H. Hilland N. Iddings, Chicago 1881.

Next, in *The Register* is **John Garland Middlebrook**.

(206) John Garland Middlebrook of Lawrence County, Ohio. b. Culpeper County, VA. son of **Garland Middlebrook**, m. **Frances Higgins**. John Garland d. 1866

Child:

427 **John Wesley Middlebrook**, b.1819, d.1845

Our records show that Garland sold his shares in Nathaniel's estate to James Terrill on July 25, 1831. The 1830 census lists a John Middlebrook in Hopkinsville, Ohio. He seems to be alone but the census entry is difficult to decipher (Heritage Quest couldn't do it either). In 1850 there is a John Middlebrook, born about 1795 in Virginia, living in Green, Scioto, Ohio with his wife Mary, who was born about 1790 in Virginia. There is no one else in their house hold. John is listed as a laborer.

In the 1860 census John and Mary are listed in the same area and there is a **John W. Middlebrook**, age 15, born 1845 in Ohio, living with them. John Garland's son, John Wesley, died in 1845, *so this could be John Garland's grandson, also named John Wesley Middlebrook.*

The Ironton Register reports the death of John Middlebrook on September 29, 1864 at the residence of R.D. Brainard of Hanging Rock, Lawrence County, Ohio. John was listed as age 64.

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The above mentioned R.D. Brainard was married to **Elizabeth Jane Middlebrook**, born May 25, 1828, in Virginia. Elizabeth and Reuben David Brainard of Hanging Rock, Ohio, married on September 9, 1846 in Lawrence, Ohio per Family Search, Ohio Marriages 1800-1958 FHL microfilm 0317716 V. 1-5.

The above mentioned R.D. Brainard was married to **Elizabeth Jane Middlebrook**, born May 25, 1828, in Virginia. Elizabeth and Reuben David Brainard of Hanging Rock, Ohio, married on September 9, 1846 in Lawrence, Ohio per Family Search, Ohio Marriages 1800-1958 FHL microfilm 0317716 V. 1-5. The 1850 census shows the Brainards living in Green, Scioto, Ohio in dwelling #308, with John and Mary Middlebrook living next door in dwelling #309. Rueben Brainard is listed as a labourer, age 28, born in Ohio. Elizabeth J. is 22 born in Virginia; also listed are: John, age 6, born in Ohio (note he was born before this marriage); William, age 2 and Harry, age 1, both also born in Ohio. They are all listed with the surname Brainard.

In the 1860 census, the R.D. Brainard Family has relocated to Hamilton, Lawrence, Ohio and Reuben is an engineer. Listed with Reuben and Elizabeth are children; William 12, Henry (Harry) 11, Anna 7, Orlando 5 and Frank 1. John (listed as 6 years old in 1850 and presumably a son) who would have been about 16 years of age, is not listed with them. Remaining in Scioto, Green, Ohio, is John Middlebrook 60, Farmer, born in Virginia; Mary Middlebrook 74, born in Virginia and John W. Middlebrook 15, Farm Laborer, born in Ohio. It occurs that John from the 1850 Brainard home is of similar age as the John in the home of John and Mary, in 1860. Hmmmm. He was listed as John Brainard in 1850 and John W. Middlebrook in 1860. Of course, they could be two different people.

As mentioned above, John Middlebrook of Virginia died in 1864. The 1870 Census has an M. Middlebrook, female, 82 years old (about 1788) and born in Virginia, living with the Brainards, who have moved to Ashland, Kentucky. Reuben is a Railroad carpenter. By 1880, Elizabeth is head of house. Reuben Brainard and Mary Middlebrook presumably have died. In 1900, at age 72, Elizabeth is head of house with children Anna and Frank living with her and by 1910, she had died. It is apparent that John (Garland?) Middlebrook and Mary Middlebrook of Virginia, have a relationship with Elizabeth Jane Middlebrook Brainard. She could be a daughter or daughter-in-law.....to be discovered!

The Register mentions **Frances Higgins** as the wife of **John Garland Middlebrook**. I have found a **Sarah Frances Middlebrook** who was born about 1822 in Virginia and married Charles W. Higgins, born about 1811 in Virginia. They were married in Lawrence County Ohio, October 17, 1839 per Ohio Marriages 1800-1958, Family Search FHL microfilm 0317716.

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In the 1850 census Charles and Frances had several children and were living and farming in Elizabeth, Lawrence County, Ohio. By 1860, they have moved to Scioto, Portsmouth, Ohio and Charles is listed as a tavern keeper. They have multiple boarders and the facility is called "Plymouth House". Charles must have died before 1870. I couldn't find him or Sarah Frances in the 1870 census.

However, Sarah Frances married a second time on September 10, 1866, in Portsmouth, to 1st Lieutenant Martin Jones Hawkins. Hawkins was a Medal of Honor recipient for heroism in April, 1862, during the Great Locomotive Chase, at Big Shanty Georgia while serving as a Corporal with Company A, 33rd Ohio Infantry.

There is one son listed in 1880 census, Dug Hawkins, age 19, born in 1861 in Ohio. That census also states that S.F. Hawkins is Dug's mother, I assume Dug (Doug) was a Higgins and took the name of Hawkins. Also living in the house is J.S. Elder, age 31 stepdaughter; S.F. Hawkins is listed as her mother and Lotte Elder, age 13, a granddaughter born in Ohio. They are living in Topeka, Shawnee, Kansas. Martin is a railroad engineer. He died February 7, 1886 and is buried at Woodland Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois. Sarah Francis died November 20, 1899 per a family website.

Sarah Frances Middlebrook Higgins seems to have married at age 17 (in 1839) so it is unlikely that she is a Middlebrook widow, but not impossible. We hope to find her birth information in Virginia and therefore her Middlebrook parents. There could be another Frances Higgins who married John Garland or this could be an error in *The Register*. Sarah Frances, being born in 1822, seems to be too young to be the Frances Higgins in question. As well as, John's wife in the previous census data is "Mary". Could Mary be a second wife? Could it be mistakes all around or the proof that I am on the wrong track!

Of interest, Charles W. Higgins' mother, Susanna Burns Higgins, was the first cousin of Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796) per Higgins Family researchers. Charles W. Higgins grandfather, William Higgins, was born November 11, 1745 in England and died February 11, 1842 in Ohio. He served in the Revolutionary War as a Private from Virginia. He did apply for a pension and it is available on the internet. I have seen him listed in the DAR Patriot Index Vol. II, G-O, page, 1297.

John Westley Middlebrook

John Wesley Middlebrook born about 1832 in Ohio, the son of William and Cynthia Middlebrook, was located in 1850 living in Van Buren, Fountain, Indiana in the home of Davis Patton. As we mentioned previously, it seems William and Cynthia have died by 1850 and John W. and his sisters were orphaned out to families in the community.

In 1860, John age 28, is living in Wabash, Parke, Indiana. He is married to Frances A. Middlebrook age 34, born about 1826 in Indiana. There is also in the home, Martha E. Craft age 14 and Allen Craft age 12, both were born in Indiana. John is working as a wool carder (this is how I deciphered the handwriting on the census). In 1870, this family is living in Hett, Vermillion, Indiana. John W. Middlebrook is 36 years old and

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working as a coal miner. Francis A. is listed as age 44 and Allen Craft is 21. The 1880 census finds him still in Hett, Vermillion. John, age 49, is working as a fire brick maker. The census states the birthplace of John's father as Virginia and his mother as Ohio. Frances' parents were both born in Kentucky. Six year old, Julia Middlebrook, a cousin, is also living with them.

Another **John W. Middlebrook**, is also in Hett, Vermillion, Indiana in 1880. He would be the son of John Wesley Middlebrook who died in 1845, and the *grandson of John Garland(?) of Virginia*. John W. is 34 years old and born in Ohio. His father was born in Ohio and his mother in Virginia. (Some researchers believe his mother to be Mary Creighton 1821-1887, but I have not seen verification of this.) John is a coal miner. His spouse is Martha E. Middlebrook age 34. She was born in Indiana, her father born in Virginia and her mother in Indiana. They have four children, Frances E. 7, Annish 4, George 2 and Margaret E. 9 months. John W. was also found in 1860 in Green, Scioto, Ohio, in the home of John Middlebrook, possibly his grandfather. I think, but have no verification, that there is a possibility that Martha E. is stepdaughter of the other John Wesley Middlebrook (1832).

If we recall, **Nathaniel's Will** admonished **Anderson and Garland**, if they should marry "they shall not move their families (to) live in the house with my wife Mary." The 1830 census in Orange County, Virginia, the year after Nathaniel died, shows Mary is the head of a household with one male age 10 to 14 (born between 1816-1820) and two males age 15-19 (born between 1811-1815). And one female age 60-69, which would be Mary. There is also one female servant (also a request in Nathaniel's will to care for an aging Mary). It looks as if there may be three grandchildren already in the house!

Archibald lives in another household and all of his children seem to be accounted for within his census information. **Susannah Middlebrook** married **James A. Terrill** on October 12, 1812, so she is a possible mother to the teens; **Martha (Patsy) Middlebrook** married **Samuel Boswell** on April 25, 1821 at about age 23 if we have her birth date correct, so we can probably rule her out. Anderson was born in 1790 and Garland 1786, if our information is correct, so either one of them could have a first family which stayed in Virginia for a while, when they were seeking a new home in Ohio. This could also be a reason for Nathaniel's unusual request.

By 1840, Mary no longer has a separate household and appears to be living with Archibald still in Orange County, Virginia. There are a total of 16 persons in Archibald's household. Including, two females ages 70-79. Assuming that one is Mary, who would be about 77, I had speculated that the other could be Lucy Boswell Middlebrook's mother, whose husband, Charles Boswell died in 1830. However, Lucy Boswell has a separate household in Orange County in 1840. Yet another mystery! Archibald also has two slaves per census; one female, between the ages of 10-23 (1817-1830) and one male under 10 (1820-1830). The three teens from Mary's household in 1830 are not represented in Archibald's household in 1840.

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Conclusion

To sum up, I have never found Nathaniel referred to as Garland in any documents and the birthdates of William, John Garland and their children, differ from *The Register* by a few years here and there. I have learned from Archibald that different ages show up in the U.S. Census. In 1860, Archibald was listed as 60 years old, when he was actually born 4 years earlier per earlier records. Maybe he was trying to trick his much younger second wife! Garland and Anderson do not show up in any records or U.S. Census in Virginia after the death of their father, Nathaniel in 1829, with the exception of the selling of their property inheritance. Garland sold his part on July 25, 1831 to James Terrill and Anderson, the record states he is of Lawrence County, Ohio, sold his portion to James Terrill on January 10, 1833. John (Garland) and William (Anderson) were both born in Virginia per U.S. Census records. More information is needed to prove this theory.

Archibald Middlebrook

The third son listed in the Register for Garland Middlebrook, is Archibald. The Register had no information on him. Archibald is my ancestor. Many researchers have accumulated information on Archibald and his descendants, as he had a very large family.

Archibald Middlebrook was born about 1796, in Virginia. He married Lucy Boswell on November 27, 1820 in Orange County, Virginia. In the 1830 census, Archibald is listed with one male under age 5, two females under age 5, three females between ages 5-9, one male between ages 30-39 and one female between ages 20-29. There are no slaves. Still in Orange County, Virginia, in the 1840 census, Archibald and Lucy have a full house. A total of 16 persons including two females between ages 70-79, one of whom is probably Archibald's mother, Mary, and two slaves, a female between ages 10-23 and one male under 10.

In 1850, still in Orange County, Virginia, Archibald and Lucy have seven children at home. Mary is not listed in his household, however, and I did not find her in 1850 census. In the 1850 slave schedule, 23rd day of August, Orange County, Virginia, Archibald is listed as owner of one female age 25, three males, ages 10, 9, and 4 months and two females ages 6 and 4. He is listed as a farmer with \$600 in real estate.

By 1860, Archibald has transplanted to Haywood County, Tennessee, District 3, Wesley Post Office, Lucy Boswell Middlebrook has died and Archibald has remarried a young widow, **Malissa (Webb) Shaw Middlebrook**, who was born about 1822. She had two daughters, Elizabeth J. Shaw age 10 and Mary Shaw age 8. Also listed in the household is John Middlebrook 18 born in Virginia, William J. Marks 14 born in Virginia, and Mary Middlebrook age 97 born in Virginia. Archibald and Malissa had three children over the next three years.

Archibald died on January 10, 1867 in Fayette County, Tennessee. Malissa must have already died because Archibald's Will makes provision for his "three little children who

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are very young and must be raised and educated; to wit my little son **Robert W.** and my two little girls **Caledonia and Ella Frances**". He bequeathed his property to use to benefit the children to his two sons-in-law, **Joseph Marks and Jonas P. Huffman.** In the 1880 census R. Middlebrook is living in the home of Jonas Huffman in Haywood, Tennessee, District 3. Robert is 21 years old and a laborer. A close by neighbor, W.L. Brown, has a lovely daughter named Mary S., 18 years old, who will become the wife of Robert in about three years. They are my great grandparents. J.B. Marks in Fayette, Tennessee in 1880, is raising C. Middlebrook age 19, and L.F. Middlebrook age 17. They are listed as sisters-in-law so therefore must be Archibald's daughters.

Archibald also had a family with Liza, a slave. Liza was born about 1802 in Virginia, per our cousin Nyah Edwards. Nyah's list of the children from this relationship is as follows:

Wesley born about 1835; Sandy (or Sam) (1840-1929); Caroline (1847-1917) and Robert (1848- 1935). All were born in Virginia. Nyah is a descendant of Wesley.

The 1860 Slave Schedule shows A. Middlebrook in Haywood County, Tennessee, District 3 with the following: A female age 48 (born about 1812); two males ages 18 and 17 (born about 1842 and 1843) and three females ages 13 (1847), 12 (1848) and 8 (1852). There is also another male child age 10 (1850). All were born in Virginia.

The 1870 census Haywood, Tennessee, District 3 shows that **Sam (Sandy) Middlebrook** 30, mulatto, born in Virginia is head of a household and works as a farm hand. He is married to Ellen, 35, mulatto born in Tennessee. Children listed are John 12, Carie 6, Ann 5, Robert 4 and Rose 1. Also in the household is **Caroline Middlebrook**, 25, born in Virginia and listed as a farm hand.

In the 1880 census Fayette County, District 4 we find **Wes Middlebrook**, mulatto, born in Virginia and both of his parents were born in Virginia. He is a farmer and married to Easter, age 38 born in Tennessee. Both of her parents were born in Virginia. They have nine children: Bettie 16, Roberto 15, John 12, Robert 7, Johnson 5, Becca 4, Easter 3, Lilla 2 and Ann 1.

In the 1900 Census District 5, Fayette County, Tennessee we find **Bob Middlebrook**, age 53, born in Virginia in May 1847. Both parents were born in Virginia. He is a farmer and married to Isidora age 60. Also in the household is Jake Pruett, black male, listed as a partner to Bob. Also Jimmie Pruett age 2, Henry Pruett age 3 months and Lettie Broadnax age 16, listed as a niece of Bob.

I am sure these families can be traced further by the U.S. Census, but this is all I have done at this time.

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Various Middlebrooks in Virginia not traced as far as I know:

At this time, the next entry is the only Middlebrook I have seen in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Amelia Middlebrook

In 1850, Amelia Middlebrook, age 34, born about 1816 in Virginia, was living in Culpeper, Virginia, in the home of Henry Shackelford, a Lawyer. In the home are Henry's wife, Elizabeth E. and four daughters ages 18 to 10 , two male laborers and another female, Sarah A. Wall, age 35. Amelia and Sarah's occupations were not given. Amelia could read and write. The Shackelford's lived in dwelling #952 and in dwelling # 950 lived George and Jane Ficklin. Along with their five children, the Ficklin's housed four boarders at the time of the census.

By 1860, George Ficklin had died and Jane Ficklin and Amelia Middlebrook have moved to Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Co. Virginia, to live and operate a boarding house. The U.S. Census of 1870 and 1880 finds them in the same place. Amelia's parents were both born in Virginia. The following information can be found on findagrave.com. " Miss Amelia Middlebrook b. unk d. unk Frederickburg Cemetery. note: buried north of Mrs. Ficklin, Date of Death unknown, added to cemetery records prior to 1940- plot: section 10, lot 118, unmarked "

The Shackelford family has an interesting story. Amelia Middlebrook had left their home by the time of the Civil War but because of her earlier connection I will share this story. Bessie Shackelford, one of the younger daughters of Henry now a judge, became a famous woman during the civil war.

In February 1863, the celebrated Major John Pelham of Alabama known as the "Gallant Pelham", J.E.B. Stuart's young chief of artillery, was lodging for the winter at the Virginia Hotel on Main Street in Culpeper Courthouse. Across the street from the hotel was the home of Judge Shackelford. Pelham was charmed by 23 year old Bessie and built a plank walkway across the muddy street so he could call on her. The 24 year old Pelham spent time with Bessie and her unmarried sisters playing charades and singing around the piano. The evening before the Battle of Kelly's Ford, Bessie invited Pelham and J.E.B. Stuart to a social at her home. The following day, March 17, 1863, during the battle, Pelham was struck in the head by a piece of shrapnel. He was carried back to the Shackelford's house where he died. The story of Pelham and Bessie became a popular romantic tale of the period. This information is from a site compiled by John K. Brown, Jr. Prattville Ala. There is an historical marker where the house stood in Culpeper.

Sarah Middlebrook

Sarah (Sallie) Middlebrook was born in Virginia about 1833. In 1850 she was living in the household of Robert and Margaret Hart in the Eastern District of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Sarah is 17 years old and her occupation is not listed. In 1860, The

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Harts and Sarah are living in Berkeley, Spotsylvania County, Virginia. There are eight Hart children and a two year old Hugh Middlebrook.

In 1870, still in Berkeley, Sarah is living with the Hart family and is listed as 40 years old, which would make her born in 1830. Also listed is Jacob (Hugh?) Middlebrook listed as 12 years old. Still in Berkeley in 1880, Sarah is in the Robert Hart household. She is 51 years old and listed as a servant. Jacob Middlebrook is listed as a laborer and 26 years old. Adeline Middlebrook, a seven year old female, is listed as a daughter to Robert Hart.

There is no proof of a connection, but it is the same district in which the following occurred: 12/12/1786: Jos. Herndon, Benj. Waller and Jonathan Clark, overseers of the poor for Lower District in Berkeley Parish, Spotsylvania Co; bind Sarah (born about 1781) bastard girl of Ann Middlebrook, age 5 years to John Greenhorn of same parish and county etc. witness W. Clark, Edmond Rogers 7/3/1787.

Elizabeth Middlebrook and Lewis Carnal marry on December 23, 1806 by J. Goodloe in Caroline Co. VA marriage register.

Nancy Middlebrook and Bartlett Rupel marry on May 19, 1816 in Spotsylvania Co., Virginia.

Elizabeth Middlebrook marries Peter Thorp July 31, 1828

John Middlebrook (1781) and Lucinda Sims (1805) over 21, daughter of Garland Sims marry on Feb. 11, 1839 sur. Walter P. Cole. wit. William A. Sims; Marriages of Louisa Co. Va. 1815-1861 by Wm. A. Kiplinger

1840 census Louisa Co. VA: John Middlebrook, FWM under 5, 1; FWM 60-69; 1; FWF 20-29, 1. persons employed in agriculture 2

1850 census Louisa Co. VA: John Middlebrook 69 M, employed as a cooper; Lucinda 45F, Adriana 11M

Ann Elizabeth Middlebrook (over 21) and Simeon Melton (over 21) marry on Oct. 16, 1844. sur John B. Poindexter. Marriages of Louisa Co. VA 1815-1861 by Wm. A. Kiplinger 1989

Virginia Marriages 1785 to 1940 lists the marriage of **Thomas Willis**, born 1806, living in Hanover County, Virginia to **Sally Chancellor**, born 1822 and living in Henrico County on December 9, 1862. The groom's father is **John Willis** and his mother Sally_____ and the bride's father is John Middlebrook and her mother is Ellen_____. Both bride and groom are widowed. By 1870, **Sallie Willis** is living in Orange County, Madison, Virginia. She is the head of the household valued at \$55,000.

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In 1880, she is listed as a farmer. The census shows that she and her mother were born in Virginia, but her father, **John Middlebrook**, was born in Scotland.