

MFA Newsletter September 2024

Zoom Meetings

Our Zoom meetings, scheduled about every six weeks have really helped in keeping us connected. Dale Kidwell has done a great job setting up the meetings. *What do we discuss at these meetings?* Some of the past topics included: ways to increase membership, team leader roles and responsibilities, resuming annual meetings, MFA Facebook inquiries, website functions etc. Members can request a Zoom and suggest topics they would like to discuss. Let us know!

Next Zoom Meeting: September 19, 2024

Come join us at our next Zoom meeting, **Thursday, September 19, 6:30 PM, CST**. Click on the link below. You will need to download the free Zoom app. A tentative meeting agenda has been drafted. Let us know, if you would like a copy.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86983489038>
[pwd=IS0EqvgvLLwB2Km9e77WNp0fVFenKN.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86983489038?pwd=IS0EqvgvLLwB2Km9e77WNp0fVFenKN.1)

Meeting ID: 869 8348 9038 Passcode: 716134

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new MFA members: **Elizabeth Fuller** (Joseph 1610), **Diann Kittok**, (John 1754), **Greg Middlebrooks**, (John 1755), **Patricia L. Middlebrooks**, (unknown), and **Nancy Brock**, (Isaac 1753). Welcome letters were sent to each of the new members.

Time to Renew 2025 MFA Membership

We would like to thank past and current members for supporting the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA). Please consider renewing your membership for 2025. July 31 is the end of the fiscal year for the MFA. Dues are: \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family living at the same address.

The membership page on the MFA website describes the benefits of renewing your membership and how to pay online or by check. Click on the link below to renew your membership. <https://middlebrooksfamily.org/membership/>

Thanks, Neal Middlebrook, Acting President

New DNA Project Manager

I am happy to announce that Ellen Thompson has agreed to serve as our DNA Project Manager. Bob Middlebrooks is working with Ellen on transitioning into the new position. Thank you Ellen and Bob.

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New Team Leader

Sandy Ahmad has agreed to serve as our Nathaniel Middlebrooks (b. 1764) team leader. Sandy has done extensive research on Nathaniel's line. Check out her research reports on the MFA website. Thank you Sandy!

We Need Your Help!

Vice President Position. Let us know, if you would like more information about the position.

MFA Newsletter Editor: The newsletter is published four times a year.

Zoom Meeting Coordinator. We need someone to volunteer to set up Zoom meetings. We have been scheduling Zoom meetings, about every six weeks.

Robert 1766, Team Leader. If you are Robert descendant, contact us.

Middlebrooks Military Project. This project deals with all military conflicts.

MFA Annual Meeting 2025

At our May 30, Zoom meeting with the 2024 Planning Committee we discussed what we needed to do to plan for a successful 2025 meeting. We decided the planning process should start in January of 2025. ***Please let us know, if you would like to serve on the 2025 planning committee.***

Treasures Report 2024

Lanell Middlebrooks, our Sec./Treasure has completed the 2024 Fiscal Year financial report. Our Fiscal Year ends on July 31. She will discuss the 2024, treasures report at the Sept.19, Zoom meeting. Members can receive a copy of the report by e-mailing Lanell at lmdbks@gmail.com

Fake E-Mails

Some our Board members have received fake e-mails. The person sends the e-mail, posing as me (Neal), asking for donations or gift cards. Simply delete the e-mails and do not forward them. Let me know if you receive one of these fake e-mails. Thanks, Neal

Social Happenings/Announcements

This section of the newsletter will be devoted to news about our Middlebrooks families. Send us information or articles that you would like to share. This would include information about family reunions, passing of family members, family stories and traditions, your favorite recipes or hobbies etc.

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Farewell to Dale

Dale's last day will be September 19th. Her mother Kathleen passed away July 30, 2024. Both Dale and her mother Kathleen have been with the MFA, since the Danville, Virginia, meeting in 2007. We are very fortunate to have known Dale and Kathleen and for their time and effort in supporting the MFA, all these years. Dale served on the Board of Directors and was our VP for seven years, through some very difficult times, during the Covid pandemic. She was our newsletter editor and started using Zoom, to keep us going. Kathleen served on the Board of Directors and Sec./Treas. They both helped with planning our MFA annual meetings. I am sure many of you have either corresponded with or met Dale at one of the Zoom/annual meetings. I encourage you to reach out and wish her well in her new endeavors. They will be missed.

Obituary of Kathleen Middlebrook Hunter

Kathleen Middlebrook Hunter, 95, of Tupelo, Arkansas passed from this life on July 30, 2024. She was born October 27, 1928 in Tupelo, Arkansas to Samuel Arthur and Flossie (Coleman) Middlebrook.

Kathleen was a dedicated member of the Sandhill Church of Christ. She volunteered as a Pink Lady at Unity Health, Outreach Prison Ministry, Jackson County Clean-up, three mission trips to Guyana. She also served as Mayor of Tupelo for two terms.

Kathleen was a member of the Middlebrook Family Association since 2007. She served on the MFA Board of Directors and was their Secretary-Treasurer for several years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 42 years, Dorr Hunter; her son, Doyle Hunter; her brother, Sammy Middlebrook; and two grandchildren, Lauri Lody and Kim Hunter.

She is survived by her daughter, Dale Kidwell; her brother Douglas Middlebrook; her sisters, Betty Moody, Lucy Meise, and Linnie Pelkey; five grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren.

Passing of Lucy Meise

The obituary for Lucy Faye Middlebrook Meise was submitted by Dale Kidwell. Lucy was Dale's Aunt. Lucy was member of the MFA for many years and since 2007, has attended the annual meetings with Dale and Kathleen.

Obituary of Lucy (Middlebrook) Meise

Mrs. Lucy (Middlebrook) Meise of Jonesboro, Arkansas, departed this life on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at the age of 92. She was born September 18, 1931 in Tupelo, the daughter of Samuel Auther and Flossie (Coleman) Middlebrook. Mrs. Meise was a Newport High School graduate.

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She was employed by Dr. David Lipshitz and Dr. Francis Wilson as a nanny. Her hobbies included crocheting, quilting, and embroidery. She enjoyed working in her flower beds and watching game shows. Mrs. Meise had been a very active member of the Central Church of Christ in Little Rock. Her greatest joy came from spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband of fifty years, Gayle Meise; one brother, Sammy Middlebrook; one sister, Kathleen Hunter; one great grandson, Keegan Neldon; and her parents.

Mrs. Meise is survived by two sons, Don Neldon and wife, Mirinda, of Jonesboro, Samuel Martin Neldon and wife, Sandy, of the Air Base; one brother, Douglas Middlebrook and wife, Brenda, of Union City, Tennessee; two sisters, Linnie Pelkey of Searcy and Betty Moody of Mountain View; eight grandchildren; thirty great grandchildren; three great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and a lifetime of friends.

Memorial services will be held at 4:00 p.m. Monday, September 16th at Jackson's Funeral Home. Visitation will follow the service.

Ella Tripp Steps Down

Due to health reasons, Ella has decided to step down from her MFA positions. Over the past several years, Ella has served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Team Leader for Nathaniel Middlebrooks (b. 1764). We wish Ella and her husband all the best and for being part of our Middlebrooks family. Thank you Ella!

Barbara Camp Steps Down

Barbara has decided to step down from her position as a member of the Board of Directors. We would like to thank her for serving as a member of the 2024 annual meeting planning committee. We wish her well and for her past support of the MFA. Thank you, Barbara!

Sorghum, Sweet Milk, Arkansas Sliders and Coffee

My Dad, Ray Middlebrook, grew up on a cotton farm south of Hope, Arkansas. Grandmother, Evelyn Middlebrooks, told us kids that "*farming was a hard way to make a living.*" When the family moved to Los Angeles in 1929, many of the Arkansas, family traditions persisted.

Growing up, I remember spreading sorghum on biscuits, cornbread or toast. The only way to eat biscuits is with sorghum. We drank buttermilk, instead of what Dad called "*sweet milk,*" (regular milk). Today, I still like buttermilk. We cooked eggs in bacon or sausage grease with a little flour in the pan to keep them from sticking. We called the eggs "*Arkansas sliders.*" Gram, boiled coffee grounds in a sauce pan, she called "*river coffee.*" Most of the time, the coffee was so strong, it was like drinking rocket fuel.

By Neal Middlebrook ***Tell us about your family.***

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What do Ancestor Team Leaders do anyway?

Do you need help researching a Middlebrooks or allied family ancestors? Well, team leaders were created to assist you in this endeavor. Even if you do not know who your ancestor was they may be able to help. Give it a try, and e-mail one of the team leads listed at the end of the newsletter. Moreover, ancestor information is also available on the MFA web site, under research and projects at <https://middlebrooksfamily.org/>

Ancestor Spotlight

Each newsletter will feature one of our Middlebrooks ancestors. It can be about any ancestors in your Middlebrooks line. Please submit family history articles about your ancestors to be included in the newsletter.

Micajah Middlebrooks (1758-1840)

The following is a summary of records for Micajah Middlebrooks and his family.

Also, consult: *The Middlebrooks Ancestry of William Sims Middlebrooks*, by Margaret Goodrum, Privately Published, 2002, 42-45. and *Micajah Middlebrooks...the Mysterious Micajah* by Jean Shroyer and Leonard Middlebrooks 1-6, (on the MFA website).

Mary Baker, is the team leader for Micajah Middlebrook lineage. You can contact Mary at: mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Micajah Middlebrooks was born 1758-60, in Orange County, North Carolina, that later became Caswell County, in 1776. We suspect Micajah lived in the Hogan's or Moon Creek areas of Caswell County with the rest of the Middlebrooks families. Micajah was listed on the Caswell County tax lists in, 1787 208 acres, 1788 200 acres, 1789 200 acres and 1790 108, acres. John Middlebrooks (b. 1755) paid Micaiah's taxes in 1790. We could not locate any other records in Caswell County for Micajah.

The Register of the Middlebrook Family, published in 1909, suggests Micajah's parents were John Middlebrook (b. 1726) and Ann Sims. We believe that Isaac Middlebrooks (b. 1727), New Kent County, Virginia, was the husband of Ann Sims, not John (b. 1726), the son of David Middlebrook (b. 1704), in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Based on results of DNA tests, the sons of Isaac and Anne Middlebrooks were Isaac (b. 1753), John (b. 1755) Sims (b. 1762) and Thomas (b. 1763), who were very closely related and possibly brothers. DNA results suggest that Micajah has been taken in by the Middlebrooks family and may have had a different father.

Micajah, after leaving Caswell County, is recorded in Greene County, Georgia, in 1793, where he married Ann Alford, about 1792, the daughter of William and Martha Alford. They had two children Ann (b. 1793) and Alford (b. 1795). Ann Middlebrooks died about 1800. In William Alford's will, 31 July 1822, Micajah Middlebrooks receives \$2.00. Ann Middlebrooks was not mentioned in her father's will, having died *circa* 1800. Hancock County, was formed from Greene and Washington Counties in 1793.

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Micajah's second marriage was to Rachael Ellis, 1801-02, in Hancock County. Rachael was the daughter of Levin and Isabella Ellis. They had the following children: James Hawley (b. 1805), Nancy (b. 1807), Mary E. (b. 1809-10) and Martha (b. 1812-15). Levin Ellis, the father of Racheal Middlebrooks, was identified in her father's will of 19 February 1831, to inherit one-seventh of his estate.

It is important to mention, that Micajah most likely moved to Greene and Hancock Counties with other family members. Micajah was listed on Hancock County tax digests/lists with John, Thomas, Robert, Joseph and Sims, in 1794, 1796 and 1804. On the 1804 tax digest Micajah Middlebrooks was listed with 31-1/2 acres on Beaverdam Creek, Hancock County. Micajah Middlebrook on the 1804 tax list paid taxes on 317 acres, Beaverdam Creek. The 31-1/2 acres was from the estate of Joshua Ellis to Micajah. This parcel was transferred by Micajah to Joshua Grace, the daughter of William Alford. The parents of Joshua Ellis were Francis and Amey Ellis. In Hancock County, Beaverdam Creek flows into Shoulderbone Creek, a tributary of the Oconee River. Beaverdam Creek is north of Sparta, Georgia.

In 1801 Micajah was witness to the purchase of two negroes by his father-in-law, Levin Ellis. Micajah purchased personal property from the estates of Isaac Ellis (1810), William Chandler (1813) Jonathan Davis (1819) Alford Long (1827) and Levin Ellis (1833). In 1825, Micajah was named as one of the appraisers of the Elizabeth Driskill estate. Isaac and Levin Ellis were brothers. From these estate sales, Micajah bought livestock, farming implements, crops and other household goods.

On 4 August 1807, Sheriff of Hancock County, sells the land at public auction of Micajah Middlebrooks to James Waller for \$168, two hundred acres, on Buck Creek, where Middlebrook now lives. The sale was advertised for 30 days in the Town of Sparta. It appears Micajah lost his land for not paying back taxes. Buck Creek is just east of Milledgeville, Georgia.

Micajah registered in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, while living in Hancock County. He was not a drawn to receive land. In the 1827 Georgia Land Lottery, Micajah was a successful drawer of land in Rabun County, Georgia. In that same year (1827), Micajah Middlebrook of Hancock County sold William Clark, of the Pendleton District of South Carolina, for \$75, 490 acres, in Rabun County, Georgia.

Micajah spent his entire life in Hancock County. He was listed on the 1820 and 1830 U.S. Census. Micajah was not enumerated on the 1840 U.S. Census, possibly meaning he died before 1840. As stated above, Micajah purchased items from the estate of his father-in-law, Levin Ellis, in 1833. It appears that Micah died between 1833-1840. His wife, Racheal was recorded on the 1840 and 1850 U.S. Census, living in Troup County, Georgia. On the 1850 census, Racheal (60) and daughter Martha D. (38) were living in the same household. Racheal was born in Virginia about 1780 and Martha was born in Georgia about 1812. Racheal's actual age was about 70.

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The 1860 U.S. Census had Racheal (84) and Martha (45) back in Hancock County. The Post Office was listed as Mayfield. Racheal was living next door to her son James Middlebrooks and his wife Cassandra W. Howell. They were married 6 February 1833, Hancock County. Find a Grave listed Racheal's birth year as 1763. If this is correct, she would have been close to 50 when she had daughter Martha. We suspect Racheal died before 1870. She was buried in the Coleman-Middlebrooks Cemetery, Sparta, Georgia.

By Neal Middlebrook 2024

MFA Table of Organization

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Executive Committee/Officers

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President

Vice President, Vacant

Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President, 2024-2025

Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer, 2024-2025

Leonard Middlebrooks, 2024-2025

Sally Berlocher, 2024-2025

Ken Pearman, 2024-2025

Brent Bragg, 2024-2025

Ancestor Team Leaders

Isaac born 1753: Leonard Middlebrooks

John b. 1754: Brent Bragg

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: Sandy Ahmad

Robert b. 1766: Vacant

Sims b. 1762: Neal Middlebrook

Thomas b. 1763: Joyce Arnold

England Middlebrooks: Ian Middlebrook and Neal Middlebrook

Unknown Ancestors: Leonard Middlebrooks

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On-Going Projects

Cemetery: William Sterling

DAR-SAR-UDC: Joan Miller

DNA: Ellen Thompson, Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark

Family Register Update and Repository: Leonard Middlebrooks

Middlebrook Family Trees Dave Clark

MFA Website: Dave Clark

MFA Newsletter Editor: Vacant

Military Register Update: Vacant

MFA Facebook: Joyce Arnold and Neal Middlebrook

MFA Email Directory

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By-Laws were Amended by the Board of Directors on October 13, 2017

<http://middlebrooksfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04>

MFA_Bylaws_2017_11_13.pdf