

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We would like wish all our Middlebrook/s and allied families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support of the MFA in 2024. We look forward to another successful year in 2025. The holidays provide an excellent opportunity to share our rich Middlebrooks heritage with other family members and relatives. It is important to pass on and preserve our family legacy for the next generation.

One day, our children or grandchildren may ask, what do you know about grandma and grandpa? How will you answer the question?

*Who were there parents and grandparents?
Where did the live and go to school?
How long were they married and where?
What kinds of jobs or hobbies did they have?
What were their favorite memories and stories?*

New Years Resolution?

*Start writing a memoir or an autobiography about your
Life.*

Dust off, those old boxes of family photos. Including photos in your memoir or autobiography really enhances the narrative and provides a way to pass on your most cherished pictures. Make sure they are labeled and scan them to ensure they are preserved. Flash drives are a great way to share family photos.

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President

Newsletter

We need your help! Two ways you can help is to send articles or information to be included in the ***Social Happenings/Announcements or Ancestor Spotlight*** sections of the newsletter. These two sections are important in helping us stay informed and providing information about our ancestors. *Family stories, traditions, recipes and ancestor information.*

MFA Newsletter December 2024

Zoom Meetings

Our Zoom meetings, scheduled about every six weeks have really helped in keeping us connected. Brent Bragg has volunteered to take over as our Zoom Meeting coordinator. Thank you Brent! Members can request a Zoom and suggest topics they would like to discuss. Let us know!

Next Zoom Meeting: January 2025

We will be planning our next Zoom Meeting for January 2025. Once we have the date set we will let everyone know and send out the Meeting ID and Passcode. Zoom meetings will continue to be scheduled at **6:30 PM, CST**. Let us know, if you would like to attend the next meeting and have any items you would like to discuss.

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

We Need Your Help!

Presidents Position. if you would like more information about the position please contact Neal Middlebrook nealmidbroo1@charter.net

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

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

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

Micajah 1758 Team Leader. Contact us if you are Micajah descendant.

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

MFA Newsletter December 2024

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. 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

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/>

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.

MFA Presidents Position

We are currently looking to fill the position of the MFA President. This volunteer position entails management of the MFA and its operations. This is not a full time position, but does require periodic commitment to address management needs of the organization. The position requires someone with good organizational and communication skills. Visit the MFA website, <https://middlebrooksfamily.org/> to learn more about the purpose and goals of this non-profit organization.

Please contact Neal Middlebrook MFA, Acting President, nealmidbroo1@charter.net to learn more about the position.

MFA Newsletter December 2024

Calling all Middlebrook(s) of Connecticut Descendants

The MFA Y-DNA Project is looking for direct line male descendants of our Connecticut ancestors. We are trying to determine the genetic relationship between the northern and southern branches of the Middlebrook(s) family. In addition, how is Joseph Middlebrook (1613-1686) of Connecticut and his descendants related to our families and our England ancestors? If you are willing to participate or want to know more about the project, please contact Ellen Thompson, ellen@familyhistoryhound.com or Bob Middlebrooks, mid293@earthlink.net. MFA DNA project managers.

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.

New Nathaniel 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!

Mary Baker Steps Down

Mary requested she would like to be removed as Micahah b. 1758, Team Leader. Thank you Mary for all your help over the years. Leonard Middlebrooks will serve as interim team leader.

Champion Watermelons

Oscar Donald Middlebrooks, while living south of Hope on Route 1, grew champion watermelons for over a quarter century on his place called the Magic Half Acres. Hope was recognized as being the capital of large watermelons since 1920 and held its first watermelon festival August 12, 1926, attracting 15,000 visitors. The largest melon for 1926 was grown by Edgar Laseter weighing 143 1/3 pounds. Oscar grew his first champion watermelon bringing back the largest watermelon title to Hope on October 18, 1930, from Arkadelphia, Arkansas. It was a Jumbo Triumph variety that weighed 164 3/4 pounds. Hope again lost the largest watermelon title from 1933 to 1935 when a 183 pound Jumbo Triumph was grown at Atlanta, Texas, by E. O. Kennedy.

Then in 1935, Oscar and his sons Melvin and Arnold regained the world title for Hope with a 195 pound Jumbo Triumph. The world champion was on display for a couple of days in Hope and then shipped to actor Dick Powell as Arkansas' gift to Hollywood. According to relatives, Oscar never received a thank you from the Hollywood movie star. To prove it was no accident, in the same year he also produced a melon weighing 140 pounds, six weighing more than 130 pounds and 32 weighing over 100 pounds.

This world record watermelon of 195 pounds stood for more than 40 years and was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

MFA Newsletter December 2024

It was not until 1975 that this record was beaten with a melon weighing two more pounds, by Ed Weeks of Tarboro, North Carolina. On September 27, 1956 Oscar was again growing champion watermelons when he was presented \$1,000.00 award for his 161 pound watermelon, the largest for this year's annual Watermelon Festival. The award was presented by the Hope Chamber of Commerce.

By Neal Middlebrook (My grandfather, Verdo Middlebrooks was Oscar's brother.)

Ancestor Spotlight

Each newsletter will feature one of our Middlebrook/s ancestors. It can be about any ancestor in your Middlebrooks line. Please submit family history articles you would like to share about your ancestors.

John Middlebrook b. 1754 of Hanover and Caroline County, Va

John Middlebrooks was born about 1754, in Hanover County, Virginia. He moved to Caroline County, Virginia, before 1792, after he returned from service in the Revolutionary War. John and Lucy Turner were married 9 June 1785, in Caroline County, by Reverend John Waller, Minister of the Gospel. Much of what we know about John and Lucy was from his Revolutionary War Pension file. John died 9 May 1815, at his home place in Caroline County. Lucy died, 31 December 1857, in Caroline County. They had six children.

John served for seven years (1777-1783) in the Continental Army, including his time as a British, prisoner of war (POW). It is amazing he was able to survive the horrible conditions onboard the British prison ships. He was then transported to Augusta, Jamaica, in 1783. John returned home to Hanover County, from the West Indies, in late summer or early fall of 1783.

The Middlebrook family of Caroline County were what some would call "*poor dirt farmers.*" The overseer of the poor was ordered by the court in 1801, to bind out John Middlebrook, son of Polley Middlebrook. This means that John could not provide for his family and needed assistance. An overseer of the poor was an official who administered poor relief such as money, food, and clothing. Moreover, Daniel Coleman, in 1810, stated that John's family "*is in needy circumstances, has a wife and seven children, most of them small.*"

Just after moving to Caroline County, about 1792, from Hanover County, John Middlebrook purchased 72 acres from James Dickinson. John proceeded to sell off parcels of the original 72 acres to William Gatewood, until the last parcel of 12-3/4 acres was sold in 1846, 31 years after Lucy's husband, John had died in 1815. The parcels were most likely sold to help support the family. John Middlebrook, died on the

MFA Newsletter December 2024

12-3/4 acre parcel. Lucy, and son, Thomas Middlebrook, and his family and possibly other family members resided there in 1846, when the property was sold.

Y-DNA Testing

Recent Y-DNA information collected by the Middlebrooks Family Association, suggests that the fathers of John Middlebrook (b. 1754) of Caroline County and Nathaniel Middlebrook (b. 1764) of Orange County, Virginia were related. to the fathers of the Caswell County, North Carolina brothers, Isaac (b 1753), John (b. 1755), Sims (b, 1762) and Thomas (b. 1763). John (b. 1754) and Nathaniel (b. 1764) had only a 2 marker difference out of 67 markers with the four Caswell County, brothers.

By Neal Middlebrook 2024

MFA Newsletter December 2024

MFA Table of Organization November 2024

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: Vacant

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

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

MFA Newsletter December 2024

Military Register Update: Vacant

MFA Facebook: Joyce Arnold and Neal Middlebrook

MFA Email Directory

Sandy Ahmad

- sandylahmad@gmail.com

Joyce Arnold

- joycearnold93@gmail.com

Mary Baker

- mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Brent Bragg

- bbragg6920@aol.com

Sally Berlocher

- sberlocher@gmail.com

Dave Clark

- cdave1000@gmail.com

Angelia Middlebrook Gantz

- angeliagantz@yahoo.com

Ian Middlebrook

- ian@middlebrook.org.uk

Neal Middlebrook

- nealmidbroo1@charter.net

Bob Middlebrooks

- mid293@earthlink.net

Lanell Middlebrooks

- lmdbks@gmail.com

John David Middlebrooks

- Jmiddlebrook001@yahoo.com

Leonard Middlebrooks

- gambol@bellsouth.net

Joan Miller

- jmil1912@hotmail.com

Ken Pearman

- ken.pearman@hotmail.com

Leslie Shealy

- dixiegirl30@hotmail.com

William Sterling

- wgs10@embarqmail.com

Ellen Thompson

- ellen@familyhistoryhound.com

MFA Newsletter December 2024

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