

***The Ancestors and Descendants of
James L. and Francis “Fannie” D.
(Hinton) Middlebrooks of
Hempstead County, Arkansas***



Jim & Fannie Middlebrooks circa 1885

***By Neal Ray Middlebrook
2008***

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Picture on front cover provided by Mina Marie Mosier

***Dedicated to the Memory of
Grandma Julia Evelyn (Kent)
Middlebrooks***



***Born Sardis, Arkansas September 24, 1898
Died July 17, 1988 Los Angeles, California***

Photo: June 15, 1937, Los Angeles

Acknowledgements

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Table of Contents (iii-vi)

<i>Dedication</i>	i
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ii
<i>Preface</i>	xv-xvi
<i>Chapter I: Early Communities, Migration and Ancestors</i>	1
Early Hempstead County and Migration	2
Our Ancestors from Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi to Arkansas	3
Early Communities, Rural Neighborhoods, Roads, After the Civil War and City of Hope	5
Spring Hill and Bodaw (Bodcau) Townships	8
The Middlebrooks of Patmos	9
New Hope Community	11
Thomas Anderson Middlebrooks, Lucy A. Middlebrooks Pilkington	14
Farming: A Struggle to Survive	16
The Cotton Buyers	17
<i>Chapter II: The Journey to Hempstead County, Arkansas</i>	22
Jones County, Georgia	23
Civil War Service of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks	26
Battle of Morris Island South Carolina	26
Civil War Reconstruction and Jones County Georgia	28
Leaving Jones County, Georgia	30
Bosque County, Texas	30
Hempstead County, Arkansas	32
Saint Landry Parish, Louisiana	33
Death of Hattie Middlebrooks	35
Bayou Boeuf Home and Church	35
Samuel's Third Wife Mary Ann (McDaniel) Savant	36
Leaving Saint Landry Parish, Louisiana	37
<i>Chapter III: Jim & Fannie & the Old Hinton Home Place</i>	42
Jim L. and Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks	43
Lovett Tyler and Theodocia "Docia" Ann (Giles) Hinton	44
Singleton and Amanda (Milton) Giles	45
Civil War Service of Lovett Tyler Hinton	48
Engagements of the 11 th & 17 th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry	49
Settling the Estate of Lovett Tyler Hinton	50
The Old Hinton Home Place	53
Giles Cemetery Homestead	57
Jim and Fannie's Homestead	59
Farming: a hard way to make a living	61
Singleton Giles Will	61
James William Ward Fannie's 2 nd Husband	63
Preacher Jim Ward	64
Theodocia's 2nd Husband	66

Mental Illness of Theodocia Ann (Giles) Boyett	67
Chapter IV: Charles V. Middlebrooks vs. Fannie D. Ward Et AL. Court Case and Center Point Elementary School	77
Charles V. Middlebrooks vs. Fannie D. Ward Et AL. Case # 2725	78
Deciding the Plaintiffs and Defendants Undivided Interests	82
Sale of the 109 Acres	84
Property Mortgages and Releases	84
Property appraisal 1956	85
Jimmie and Ruby (Hubbard) Griffin buy one acre	86
Disposition of Property 1983	87
Center Point Elementary School	88
Rural Public Schools	88
The first School Board of District 15	89
One Room School House	91
Center Point School closes 1930	92
Students of Center Point	93
Chapters V - XI: The Descendants of Jim L. and Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks, Title Page	98
Chapter V: Oscar Donald and Nora Bell (Porterfield) Middlebrooks	99
Family Descendant Trees	100
Oscar Donald and Nora Bell (Porterfield) Middlebrooks	101
William N. and Frances (Todd) Porterfield	102
John A. and Elizabeth (Fuller) Todd	102
Patmos Road Homestead	103
Old Evening Shade	104
Champion Watermelons	105
Those Watermelon Holes?	106
Arnold Jackson Middlebrooks	108
Obituary of Arnold Jackson Middlebrooks	109
Melvin Todd (M. T.) Middlebrooks	110
Life History of M. T. Middlebrooks	110
Life History of Dorothy Dee (Baxter) Middlebrooks	113
Chapter VI: John Christopher and Fair Hope (Middlebrooks) Porterfield	118
Family Descendant Chart	119
John C. and "Bud" and Fair H. (Middlebrooks) Porterfield	120
Christopher and Elizabeth (Trapp) Porterfield	121
John T. and Orpha M. (Mills) Hatch	121

James W. and S. C. (Davis) Porterfield	123
John and Fair living on Patmos Road	123
Moving to Hope	124
Cotton and Hides Business and the Liquor Store	124
Porterfield Homestead	125
Will of J. W. Porterfield	125
Will of J. W. Porterfield contested	125
Keeping the Homestead in the Family	126
James Harold "Pod" Porterfield and Family	128
Obituary of James Harold "Pod" Porterfield, 1973	129
Roy Porterfield	131
Auda Porterfield	131
Children of James O. and Auda Kincannon	136
<i>Chapter VII: Lovette Middlebrooks</i>	140
<i>Chapter VIII: Charles Verdo and Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks</i>	141
Family Descendant Chart	142
Charles Verdo and Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks	143
John Henry and Dovie Christian (Staggs) Kent	144
Old Hinton Home Place	146
Recollections of Ray W. Middlebrook	146
The Nut and the Thunder Storm	146
Hunting, Fishing, Music and the Dreaded Persimmon switch	147
New Bethel Baptist Church	148
Center Point School	148
Grandpa Preacher Ward and Grandma Fannie	149
The Farm House	149
Verdo's First Car	151
Butchering and Smoking Hogs	151
Chickens and the Chicken Hawk	151
The Barn and the Fire of 1923	152
The Never Ending Farm Choirs	152
Picking Cotton	153
The Tunstall Cotton Gin	153
Sorghum Cane and Cooking	154
Cutting Firewood and the Broken Saw Tooth	155
Fishing and Swimming with Moccasins	155
Leaving Farm Life Behind	155
Children of Verdo and Evelyn Middlebrooks	156
<i>Chapter IX: Marion Thomas and Amanda Virginia (Middlebrooks) Hubbard</i>	160
Family Descendant Charts	161-163
Marion T. and Amie V. (Middlebrooks) Hubbard	164

Lee Joshua and Sarah Jane (Martin) Hubbard	165
Isaac Pinckney and Mary (Green) Hubbard	167
John and Nancy (Lucy) Hubbard	168
Nathaniel “Mack” McDaniel and Mary Elizabeth (Massey) Martin	168
Early Hubbard Homesteads	168
Moving to the old Hinton home place	170
James Thomas and Ruby Clovis (Hubbard) Griffin	173
Tom Harvey and Ruby Ellen (Williamson) Hubbard	175
Milton “Scrub” and Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier	176
<i>Chapter X: James Bryan and Callie Lucretia (Cunningham)</i>	
<i>Middlebrooks</i>	183
Family Descendent Charts	184-185
James Bryan and Callie Lucretia (Cunningham) Middlebrooks	186
Albert L. and Lillie A. (Shumake) Cunningham	187
James A. and Mary L. Cunningham	187
William Jackson and Nancy Harriet (McElmore) Shumake	187
World War I	188
Pine Bluff, Arkansas	188
Deputy Sheriff Middlebrooks	189
Officer Middlebrooks Found Dead May 14, 1935	189
Unanswered Questions	190
Cause of Death of Officer Middlebrooks?	191
Eulogy	191
Hickory Grove Cemetery	191
Callie’s Marriage to Albert Craig	191
Children of J. B. and Callie Middlebrooks	192
<i>Chapter XI: Thomas and Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks</i>	197
Family Descendant Charts	198-199
Thomas “Tom” and Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks	200
Michael A. and Anna E. “Amanda” Thomas	201
William W. and Leanea “Lena” (Phillips) Thomas	201
George Washington and Mary E. (Jones) White	202
James R. and Mollie (White) Thomas	202
Bright Star and Sardis Homesteads	205
Little Man with Big Melons	205
World War I	206
Tom and Zora on the Move	208
Obituary of Tom Middlebrooks May 31, 1978	210
Children of Tom and Zora Middlebrooks	210
Children of Franklin Ford and Sammie Ann (Hayes) Middlebrooks	210
<i>A Challenge</i>	215
<i>Index</i>	217-232

Appendix A-F

A.	Abstract of Title Old Hinton Home Place	233-261
B.	C. V. Middlebrooks vs. Fannie Ward et al. Chancery Court Proceedings	263-293
C.	Testimony of Amanda (Hinton) Earhart May 18, 1934	295-308
D.	Summary of L. T. Hinton deeds	309-311
E.	Summary of Chain of Title, J. C. Porterfield homestead	313-318
F.	Unidentified Photographs of People	319-324

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos (viii-xiv)

Chapter I

-Map Hempstead County, Arkansas State Highway 1930	1
-Map of Railroad and Wagon Trails Hempstead County 1854	2
-Map of Wagon Roads South after 1815	3
-Cotton Gin Crossroads, Arkansas, August 2006	5
-Tributary Little Bodaw Creek, August 2006	6
-Restored Hope Train Depot. August 2006	7
-Map of Hempstead County Arkansas State Highway 1930	8
-West end of Patmos, Highway 355, August 2006	9
-Town of Patmos, Highway 355, circa 1950	9
-Hollis Goat Roper Restaurant Patmos, August 2006	10
-Hinton United Methodist Church, August 2006	11
-New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, August 2006	12
-Patmos Road looking north, August 2006	12
-Lewis Lee Lane Gravestone	13
-Evening Shade Baptist Church, December 1950	14
-Macedonia Cemetery, August 2006	14
-Thomas & Luellen Middlebrooks Gravestone, August 2006	15
-George Dalton Middlebrooks Gravestone, August 2006	15
-Mary (Tyson) Middlebrooks Gravestone, August 2006	15
-Pasture Old Hinton Home Place, August 2006	17
-Illus. J. C. Porterfield & Son Letterhead	17
-Bud C. Porterfield Liquor Store, <i>circa</i> 1930	18

Chapter II

-Map of Jones County, Georgia 1883	23
-Sign of the Town of Clinton, Georgia	23
-Map of Jones County, Georgia 1994	24
-Hog Creek where it crosses North Cross Road	24
-Descendant chart Isaac Roscoe Middlebrooks family	25
-Map Charleston Harbor and Morris Island South Carolina	27
-Map Fort Wagner, Morris Island South Carolina	27
-Descendant chart Samuel C. Middlebrooks family	29
-Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks <i>circa</i> 1880	30
-Map Bosque County, Texas	31
-Map Bosque County, Texas, Samuel C. Middlebrooks land	31
-Map Spring Hill Township Lewis L. Lane land	32
-Map Saint Landry Parish, Louisiana	33
-Sims Middlebrooks family <i>circa</i> 1903	34
-Map of Samuel C. Middlebrooks rented land Saint Landry Parish	35
-Map of Acadia Parish, Louisiana	37
-10 pound Parrot Rifle	37
-Grave of Samuel C. Middlebrook, Macedonia Cemetery	38

Chapter III

-Francis "Fannie" and Amanda Hinton	42
-Fannie and Jim Middlebrooks <i>circa</i> 1884	43
-Photo Jim Middlebrooks gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	44

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos

-Fannie Middlebrooks gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	44
-Theodocia “Docia” Ann Giles Hinton tin plate <i>circa</i> 1865	45
-Theodocia “Docia” Ann Giles Hinton <i>circa</i> 1885	45
-Theodocia “Docia” Ann Giles Hinton Boyett <i>circa</i> 1900	45
-Theodocia and Lovett T. Hinton tin plate <i>circa</i> 1866	45
-Docia (Giles) Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	46
-Lovett T. Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	46
-Amanda M. Giles gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	46
-Amanda M. Giles gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	46
-Singleton Giles gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	46
-Christmas Burr Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	47
-John Bradford Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	47
-Robert Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	47
-Rosa Lee Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	47
-Lovett Singleton Hinton gravestone Macedonia Cemetery	47
- Drawing Camp Douglas Confederate Prison	48
-Confederate Prisoners at Camp Douglas	48
-Drawing Point Lookout Maryland Confederate Prison	49
-Map Civil War Engagements	50
-Administration Bond Thomas Boyett Sr.	51
-Map of partitioned properties of Lovett T. Hinton Estate	53
-Map of Old Hinton home place today	55
-Front yard of Old Hinton home place, 1921	56
-Barn 1955, Old Hinton Home Place	56
-Mule barn 1955, Old Hinton Home Place	56
-Location of Old Hinton Home Place	57
-Map Bradford Hinton Homestead	58
-Map Lovett Hinton and Singleton Giles homesteads	58
-Giles Cemetery Patmos Road	59
-Map Jim and Fannie Middlebrooks property Patmos Rd.	60
-Jim and Fannie Middlebrooks property County Rd. 56	60
-Jim and Fannie Middlebrooks property County Rd. 132	60
-Executors Bond Singleton Giles Estate	62
-James William Ward gravestone Huckabee Cemetery	63
-Ida and Jim Ward Brown gravestone Huckabee Cemetery	63
-Church letter of transfer Jim Ward	64
-Church letter of transfer Fannie Middlebrooks Ward	64
-Fannie Ward home Patmos Road 1935	65
-James Ward and son 1920	65
-Providence Missionary Baptist Church Hwy. 29	65
-Old Evening Shade Church Hwy. 29 1950	65
-Fair Boyett	66
-Marie Boyett	66
-Mary (Johnson) Boyett gravestone Rose Hill Cemetery	67
-Thomas J. Boyett gravestone Rose Hill Cemetery	67

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos

-Petition for Appointment of Guardian Theodocia A. Boyett	68
-Guardians Bond granted to Theodocia A. Boyett	69
-Amanda (Hinton), Harold and Pete Earhart	70
-Harold and Amanda (Hinton) Earhart	70
-Harold, Anna Bell and Amanda (Hinton) Earhart	70
-Amanda Hinton	70
-John Bradford and Bertie (Davis) Hinton	71
-Bertie (Davis) Hinton 1959	71
-Thomas Jr., Isabella and Mildred Hinton	71
-Thomas J. Mina and Mildred Hinton	72
-Thomas J. and Mina Hinton	72
-Bob (William Robert) Hinton 1910	72
-Marie and Fair Boyett	73
-Harold Boyett WWII	73
-Fair and Marie Boyett	73
-Marion Hubbard Fair and Harold Boyett	73
<i>Chapter IV</i>	
-Photo Fannie's house built about 1920	77
-Map 109 acres old Hinton home place being auctioned	78
-Looking south along Patmos Road	78
-Drawing buildings of old Hinton home place 1900-1955	79
-Drawing old Hinton home place 1900-1929	79
-Drawing floor plan of old Hinton home place	80
-Marion Hubbard at old barn	80
-Northwest side of Fannie's house	80
-New Bethel Baptist Church	81
-Author fishing at the farm pond in 1953	81
-New Bethel Church Plaque	81
-East farm pond today	81
-Old barn and wagon shed 2006	81
-Fannie Middlebrooks Ward's house 1955	82
-Looking north where Tunstall's cotton gin once stood	82
-Memorandum stating property interest of parties	83
-West pasture looking southeast	83
-Concrete foundation of cotton gins boiler	83
-Certificate of Purchase 109 acres, April 10, 1934	84
-Marion, Amie and Fannie about 1938	84
-Mortgage release from R. H. Tunstall 1937	85
-1956 property appraisal drawing	85
-Jim and Ruby Griffins house built 1956/57	86
-Judy's barn and pasture	86
-Map Location of Center Point Elementary School	88
-John Kent Family Band Center Point	89
-Approximate location of Center Point	90
-Open area Center Point	90
-Looking west to Center Point from Giles Cemetery	90

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos

-Diagram Center Point School grounds	91
-Center Point Report Cards	92
-1906 Center Point Class Picture	93
-1929/30 Center Point Class Picture	94
-Center Point Class Picture	95
Chapter V	
-Tom Middlebrooks, Amanda Hubbard and Oscar Middlebrooks	99
-Oscar Middlebrooks 1910	101
-Oscar Middlebrooks 1902	101
-Oscar Middlebrooks gravestone	101
-Nora B. Middlebrooks gravestone	101
-William N. Porterfield gravestone	102
-Faney E. (Todd) Porterfield	102
-Oscar's house Patmos Road, 1950	103
-Present day house on old homestead	103
-Looking south from Macedonia Cemetery	103
-Map O. D. Middlebrooks homestead Patmos Road	104
-Map O. D. Middlebrooks country store Hwy. 29	104
-O. D. Middlebrooks watermelon field Hwy. 29	104
-O. D. Middlebrooks country store Hwy. 29	104
-O. D. Middlebrooks world record watermelon 1930	105
-Oscar, Melvin and Arnold Middlebrooks 195 pound watermelon	106
-Arnold and Melvin Middlebrooks 1929	107
-Arnold Middlebrooks and daughter Frances Kay 1950	108
-Melvin Middlebrooks and Marie Boyette	111
-Melvin and Ray Middlebrooks 1989	112
Chapter VI	
-John C. Porterfield 1935	118
Auda and Fair Porterfield, <i>circa</i> 1926	120
-Marriage license and certificate of John and Fair, 1905	120
-John C. Porterfield	120
-Elizabeth Porterfield gravestone	121
-Orpha Mahulda Hatch gravestone	121
-Lee C. Hatch gravestone	122
-Rutha A. Mills gravestone	122
-Alford Hatch gravestone	122
-Dovie Lee Hatch gravestone	122
-Old Sardis Cemetery	122
-J. W. Porterfield gravestones	123
-Map John C. Porterfield farm	123
-Bud and Fair Porterfield's home, Hope	124
-Business agreement between Bud and Pod Porterfield	125
-Map Location of land deeded to Bud Porterfield from his father	125
-Bud Porterfield 1930	126

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos

-Lula Porterfield and Gus Cash	126
-Photo Fair Porterfield gravestone	127
-J. C. (Bud) Porterfield gravestone	127
-James H., Lena B. and James H. Jr. Porterfield 1944	128
-Harold "Pod" Porterfield 1918	129
-Harold "Pod" Porterfield	129
-Harold "Pod" Porterfield and friend	129
-Award presented to James H. "Pod" Porterfield	130
-Roy Porterfield gravestone	131
-Auda Porterfield, 1938	132
-Jim O. and Auda Kincannon 1940	132
-Chaplain James O Kincannon WWII	133
-Kay, Jim and Vicky Kincannon, 1950	134
-Mina M. Mosier, Auda Tyron and Zora Middlebrooks	135
Chapter VII	
-Lovette Middlebrooks gravestone	140
Chapter VIII	
-Verdo and Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks 1933	141
-Marriage certificate and license Verdo and Evelyn	143
-Lynn Bayless, Evelyn Middlebrooks 1928	143
-Bruce Evelyn, Lynn and Verdo Middlebrooks 1928	143
-Julia Evelyn Middlebrooks gravestone	144
-Verdo Middlebrooks gravestone	144
-John H. Kent gravestone	144
-Dovie Christian (Staggs) Kent gravestone	145
-John Henry Kent 1926	145
-Dovie Christian (Staggs) Kent 1898	145
-Paul Thomas and Dovie Staggs, Jewell Kent, Annie Staggs	145
-Annie E. Staggs gravestone	145
-Charles Elmore gravestone	146
-Location where Old Hinton Home Place once stood	146
-Location of original well Old Hinton Home Place	147
-Ray Wilton Middlebrooks 1917	147
-John Kent and Verdo Middlebrooks hunting trip Nevada	148
-Bruce and Ray Middlebrooks	149
-Gram's Recipes	150
-Middlebrooks family picture 1929	152
-Ray Wilton Middlebrooks 1918	154
-Location where R. H. Tustall's cotton Gin once stood	154
-Ray and Seth Middlebrook (grandson) 1989	155
-Farm pond built by Verdo 1925	155
-Bruce E. Middlebrooks gravestone	156
-Evelyn and Verdo Middlebrooks 1929	156
-Bruce, Evelyn and Ray Middlebrooks Los Angeles 1950	156

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos

-Mary Louise (Keppeler) Middlebrook gravestone	156
-Wedding pictures: Ray and Mary Lou, Bruce and Lil and Cassie and Ray	157
Chapter IX	
-Marion and Amie (Middlebrooks) Hubbard	160
-Marion Hubbard Delayed Birth Certificate 1956	164
-Marion and Amie Hubbard 1940 Fannie's house	164
-Amie V. Middlebrooks Delayed Birth Certificate 1956	165
-Marion and Amie Hubbard marriage Lic. And Cert. 1913	165
-Marion Hubbard's WWII Registration Certificate 1942	165
-Lee Joshua and Sarah Jane Hubbard	166
-Lee Joshua and Sarah Jane Hubbard gravestones	166
-Elmer Hubbard Gravestone	166
-I. P. Hubbard gravestone	167
-Mary Hubbard gravestone	167
-Map Lee J. Hubbard property locations	169
-Map Lee J. Hubbard property locations	169
-Marion and Amie Hubbard's house 3003 Patmos Rd.	170
-Marion, Amie and Tom Hubbard	171
-Marion and Amie Hubbard Patmos Road	171
-Milton and Mina Marie Mosier home Hope	171
-Marion and Amie Hubbard 1970	172
-Marion and Amie Hubbard gravestone	172
-Mina Marie, Tom, Ruby and Marion 1958	173
-Amie, Mina Marie, Ruby, Tom and Marion 1958	173
-Ruby and Jimmie Griffin gravestone	174
-Tom and Ruby Hubbard 1971	175
-Ruby and Tom Hubbard gravestone	176
-James E. and Nora N. Mosier gravestone	176
-Mina Marie Mosier standing by her husbands grave	177
-Officers Scrub Mosier and Pod Porterfield	178
-Tommy Wayne Mosier gravestone	178
-Ruby, Tom, Mina Marie, Milton, Marion, Amie, Jim & Ruby	179
Chapter X	
-James B. Middlebrooks on motorcycle	183
-James Bryan Middlebrooks 1920	186
-Callie, Sybil and Buddy Middlebrooks 1927	186
-Officer James B. Middlebrooks 1925	188
-Callie, Lillie Mae, and Mildred Middlebrooks	189
-Buddy, Lillie Mae, Sybil, J. B. and Mildred Middlebrooks	190
-Families, Holloway's, Middlebrooks, Lawson's & Chastain's	193
-Alton "Buddy" Middlebrooks Jr. 1929	193
-Buddy and Sybil Middlebrooks 1923	193
-Mildred Middlebrooks 1934	194
-Irma Lee Holloway	194
-Pine Bluff Police Department 1925	194

List of Illustrations, Maps and Photos

-J. B. Middlebrooks 1939-40	194
-Lillie Mae Middlebrooks 1936	194
Chapter XI	
-Tom and Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks, Eureka, California	197
-Tom Middlebrooks	200
-Tom and Zora Middlebrooks 1956	200
-Tom and Zora Middlebrooks	200
-Tom and Franklin Middlebrooks gravestone	200
-James R. Thomas 1925	203
-Cora, Arthur, and Mollie Thomas	203
-James R. Thomas gravestone	203
-Mollie Thomas gravestone	203
-Vera Jane Thomas gravestone	204
-Roger D. Thomas gravestone	204
-Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks Bright Star Cemetery 2006	204
-Map James R. Thomas Bright Star Homestead	205
-Map James R. Thomas Sardis Homestead	205
-Little Man with Big Melons Hope Star Newspaper	206
-Tom Middlebrooks WWI Army Barracks	207
-Tom Middlebrooks WWI Army Barracks	207
-Tom Middlebrooks WWI Army Barracks 1917	207
-Tom Middlebrooks WWI gravestone	207
-Corporal Tom Middlebrooks St. Louis	207
-Letter from Tom to his mother Mrs. J. W. Ward	208
-Zora, Neal and Mary Louise Middlebrooks 1951	209
-Verdo and Tom Middlebrooks and Amie Hubbard 1953	209
-Zora, Myrtle, Arthur, and Lola Thomas 1987	209
-Tom, Bruce, Franklin, Zora, and Ray Middlebrooks 1933	209
-Franklin Ford Middlebrooks 1945	210
-Franklin Ford Middlebrooks San Diego	210
-Marianne Middlebrooks 1952	210
-Marie and Walter Thomas, Lola Anderson, Charles Thomas and Zora Middlebrooks Little Rock	211

Preface

As a child raised in Los Angeles, California, I can remember the stories my Grandmother, Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks, would tell us about growing up on a farm south of Hope, Arkansas. I often tried to picture what it would be like to be raised on a farm. Who were our relatives that moved to Arkansas (1850-1880), what did it look like and where did they live? One thing that she always emphasized was all the hard work it took to run a farm.

As kids, my sister, cousins and I would listen to “Gram”, as we liked to call her, play songs on the piano in her front room. Listening to the words of these songs would help you imagine what it may have been like to live on a farm and what they Experienced. Gram and her husband, Verdo, along with sons, Ray and Bruce, left farm life behind in August of 1929 and moved to Los Angeles, California. One of my biggest regrets was not asking Gram more about her life in Arkansas.

In the summer of 1989, I visited Hope, Arkansas, for the first time since childhood visits, and my interest in our family history began. My mom, Mary Louise (Keppeler) Middlebrook, had died earlier that year in January. Not too long after her death, my dad, Ray W. Middlebrook, decided to take a trip back to Hope to visit relatives, and he asked my son, Seth, and I to join him. At that time I was living just outside Washington, D. C. in Herndon, Virginia, with my wife, Susan, Lisa and Seth. My dad was living at his home in Montebello, California.

While in Hope, we spent the week visiting relatives, taking drives out in the country and listening to dad reminisce about his childhood experiences growing up on a cotton farm on Patmos Road. One evening, we were eating dinner at Aunt Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks’ house and I cannot remember if either Zora or dad handed me “*Meet Some Middlebrooks*”, published by H. R. and A. J. Middlebrooks, 1963. That was all it took. By the time we returned home to Virginia, I was hooked on learning more about our Arkansas family history.

I am continually amazed by what my dad remembers about his childhood, other families and the history of the area. Without the distractions of today, I think kids on a farm in my dad’s era would listen to their parents talk about family stories and traditions, especially around the dinner table and sitting by the fireplace in the evenings. This was one of the ways families passed on their history to future generations and maintained a sense of being connected. Unfortunately, with the mobility of today’s families and their structure, it has become more difficult for our family heritage to be passed on from one generation to the next.

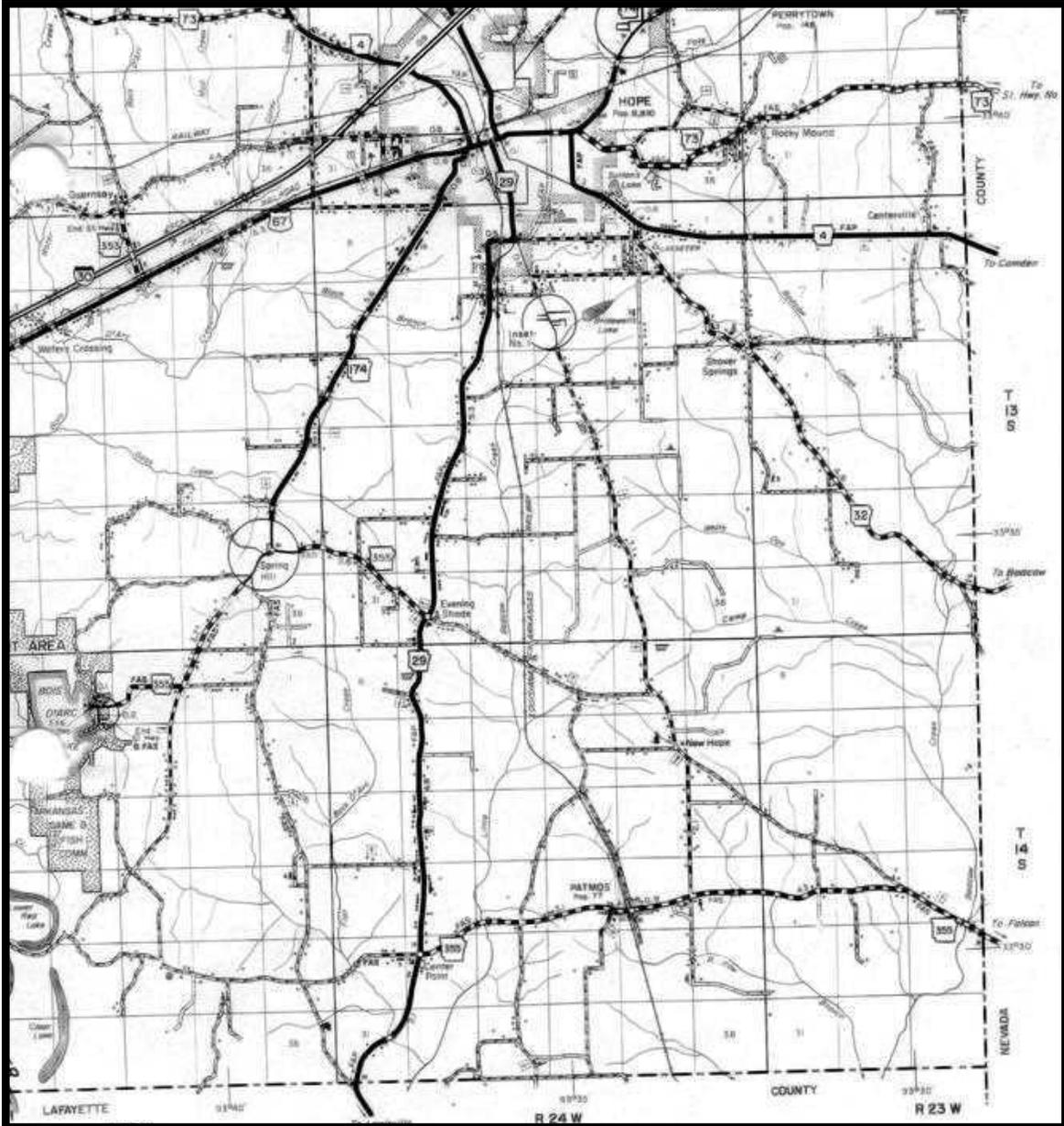
One of the main reasons for writing this family history, other than my own interest, was to be able to document our ancestor's history and to pass it on to our children and future generations. ***Specifically, who were our ancestors that migrated to Spring Hill and Bodcaw Townships, where did they live and what do we know about their lives?*** To have a sense of place, it is very important to know where your ancestors lived. Hempstead County land deeds provided the sense of place. The probate and chancery courts, along with other records, helped paint a more detailed picture of their lives as did the interviews and other information received from relatives and friends.

Please Let Me Know

As with any publication, there is bound to be errors in content and citations as well as information which may have been overlooked. Please let me know of any errors that need to be corrected and any other information you feel should have been included. Moreover, I am always interested in old family photographs or documents that people are willing to share. Appendix F includes photographs of unidentified people. Please contact me if you can identify individuals in these photos and also if we have miss-identified a person.

I have used the words and phrases ***suspected, may, believed, thought, more than likely***, etc. to describe events or situations where the existing information would lead you to draw that conclusion. In most of these cases, I have tried to discuss the reasoning in the text or in the endnote. Please be aware that as other information becomes available, a conclusion may be modified or possibly changed completely. Based on the information presented, if you have reason to draw a different conclusion, please let me know.

**Chapter I:
Early Hempstead Communities,
Migration and Ancestors**



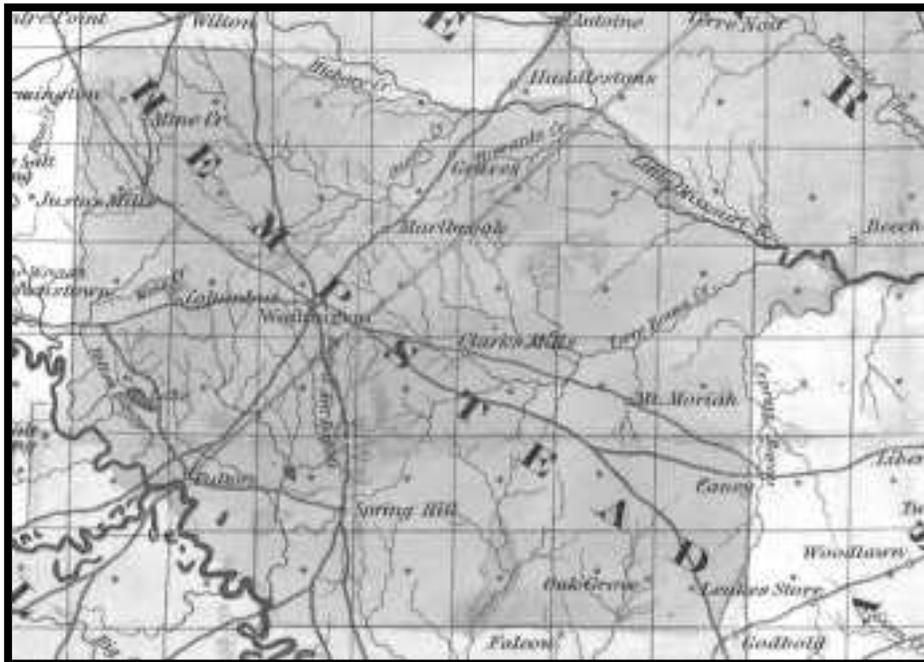
Arkansas State Highway map of Spring Hill and Bodcau Townships, Hempstead County 1930

Introduction

Early Hempstead County and Migration

By the time our ancestors and related families arrived in Hempstead County from the 1850s to the 1880s, the county had already been established for many years. The Territory of Arkansas was created from the southern half of the Missouri Territory on March 2, 1819. On April 8 of that same year, the southwest portion of the Territory of Arkansas was organized and named Hempstead County. It was named after Edward Hempstead, the first delegate to Congress from the Missouri Territory. The town of Washington, founded in 1824, became the county seat of Hempstead County.¹ Hempstead County would change its boundaries three times over the next 52 years, losing land area each time.

Many of the early Hempstead County settlers came from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Carolinas. The early settlers would travel up the Red River on keel or flat boats and land at Fulton. Travel by wagon road became prevalent as major routes were cut through the county. The Military Road in 1832 was constructed and ran through Washington in a southwesterly direction. Another military road from Fort Jessup in Louisiana ran through Washington eventually connecting with the 1832 Military Road from Little Rock and Fort Towson.¹ A good day's travel by wagon would average 10 to 20 miles. The miles traveled per day, of course, depended on the time of year, the number of creek and river crossings and the overall condition of the roads.



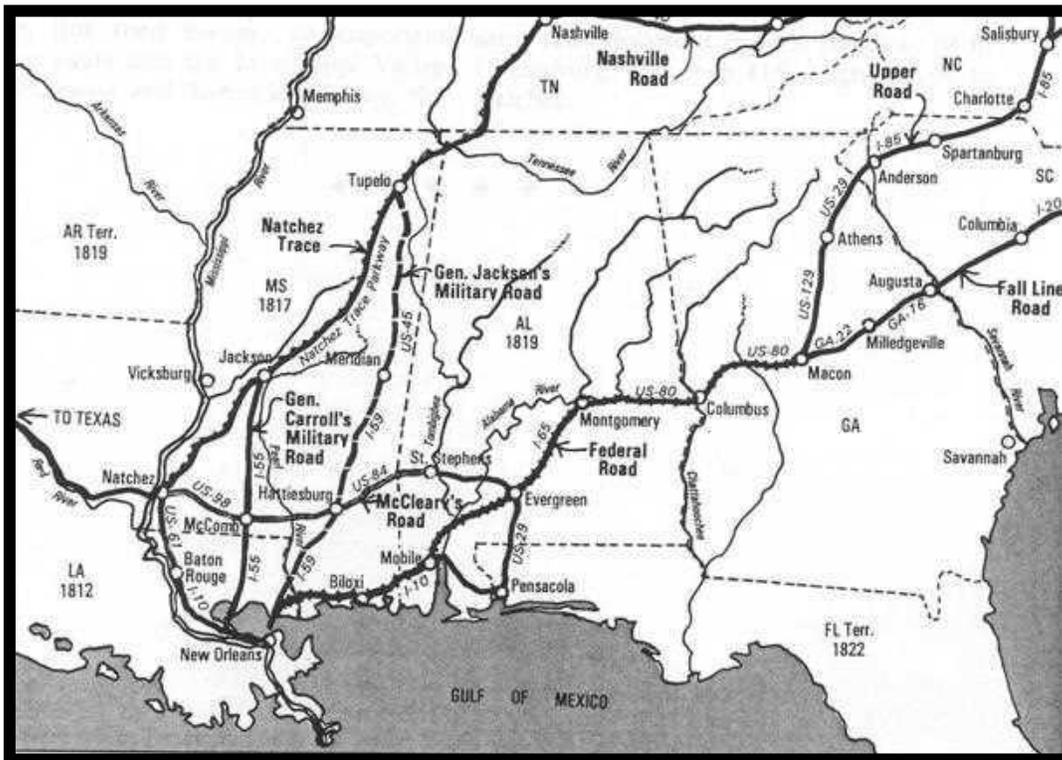
Railroad and Wagon Trails Hempstead County 1854.

Source: 19th Century North American Railroad Maps 1828-1900, 2005, Vintagechannel.com

Our Ancestors from Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama to Arkansas

Our ancestors most likely used the three following roads to arrive at Natchez, the major crossing point on the Mississippi River: the Federal Road, completed during the War of 1812, the Natchez Trace, and the McCleary's Road.² Not too long after these main roads were constructed many side roads and trails were also being established to provide shorter routes to specific areas and towns. After 1850, additional river crossings were also being established and railroad and steam ship travel was starting to become more prevalent.

The ***Giles, Hinton, Middlebrooks and Porterfield*** families probably followed the Federal Road from central Georgia and then followed McCleary's Road on into Natchez. The ***Hubbard, Thomas and Kent*** families left from northern Alabama and more than likely followed the Natchez Trace on to Vicksburg or Natchez. After crossing the Mississippi River on flat boats, they followed the trail along the Red River to Fulton, Arkansas, and then swung north to Spring Hill, Washington or Hope. However, by 1854, after crossing the Mississippi River two other wagon roads were also available for travel, one running through Lewisville, Arkansas, and the other through Camden and Magnolia, Arkansas. Both of these wagon roads provided access to Hempstead County from the south and southeast.



Wagon Roads South after 1815. Source: Map Guide to American Migration Routes 1735-1815, by William Dollarhide, 1997.

Our ancestors migrated from the counties listed below to Hempstead and Jefferson Counties, Arkansas. This section shows the relationship of earlier generations of family members to the descendants of Jim and Fannie (Hinton) Middlebrooks. The earliest generation is listed first under each county.

Campbell County, Georgia

Bradford Hinton < Lovett T. Hinton < Frances “Fannie” (Hinton) Middlebrooks

Lovett Tyler Hinton and his parents, Bradford and Patience Hinton, make the trek from Campbell County, Georgia, circa 1855 and reside in Spring Hill Township south of Hope.³

Carole County, Georgia

Andrew Giles < Singleton Giles < Theodocia “Docia” A. (Giles) Hinton Boyett < Frances “Fannie” (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward

Singleton Giles and his wife, Amanda (Milton), leave Carole County Georgia after 1856 and reside in the Spring Hill Township. By 1860, James R. Giles is living next door to his brother Singleton.⁴

Paulding County, Georgia

Christopher Porterfield < James W. Porterfield < John C. “Bud” Porterfield < Fair H. (Middlebrooks) Porterfield

Christopher Porterfield < William N. Porterfield < Nora B. (Porterfield) Middlebrooks < Oscar D. Middlebrooks

Christopher Porterfield, wife Elizabeth (Trapp) and sons James William and William N. leave Paulding County Georgia and arrive in Hempstead County 1856-1859.⁵

Jones County, Georgia

Sims Middlebrooks < Isaac R. Middlebrooks < Samuel C. Middlebrooks < James L. Middlebrooks < Frances “Fannie” (Hinton) Middlebrooks

Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks, wife Hattie and son Jim arrive in Spring Hill Township in 1884 from Bosque County, Texas. They originally left for Texas from Jones County, Georgia, circa 1878.⁶

Butler County, Alabama

James A. Cunningham < Albert Cunningham < Callie L. (Cunningham) Middlebrooks < James B. Middlebrooks

James A. Cunningham migrates first from Chickasaw, Mississippi to Drew County Arkansas and then to Lincoln County, Arkansas around 1872. It is believed James is born in Butler County, Alabama. Albert Cunningham and his wife Lillie (Shumake) and Callie L. their daughter are born in Lincoln County.⁷

Morgan County, Alabama

John Hubbard < Isaac Pinckney Hubbard < Lee J. Hubbard < Marion T. Hubbard < Amanda “Amie” V. (Middlebrooks) Hubbard

Isaac Pinckney Hubbard, wife Mary (Green) and son Lee Joshua arrive in Spring Hill Township from Morgan County, Alabama, circa 1880.⁸

Franklin County, Alabama

John Kent < William S. Kent < John H. Kent < Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks

John Kent and his wife, Judith (Skinner), move from Franklin County, Alabama, around 1848-49 and homesteaded just west of the town of Falcon, Hempstead County.⁹

Coosa County Alabama

William W. Thomas < Michael A. Thomas < James R. Thomas < Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks < Tom Middlebrooks.

Michael A. Thomas and his parents, William W. and Leanea (Philips) Thomas, leave Coosa County, Alabama, and move to Leake County, Mississippi, around 1849. Michael and wife Amanda leave Neshoba, Mississippi, *circa* 1872 for Columbia County, Arkansas. James R. Thomas is born in Columbia County to Michael and Amanda. Michael and Amanda then move to the Bright Star Community of Ozan Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, before 1890. James R. Thomas marries Mollie White *circa* 1895 in Mount Pleasant, Titus County, Texas, and returns to Bright Star *circa* 1901. (See Chapter XI for citations.)

Early Hempstead Communities

Settlers were encouraged to move to Hempstead County because public lands could be purchased from the Federal Government and farmers could make money raising cotton. Immigration really started to increase after the Civil War. Land was cheap and often used to trade for items in high demand. Mound Prairie, Columbus, Fulton, Washington and areas along Ozan and Bois d' Arc Creeks were the early settlements in Hempstead County. Other settlements founded later include: Falcon, Guernsey, Spring Hill, Barker, Bingen, Fay (Dooley's Ferry), De Ann, Ozan, Patmos, Shover Springs, Sardis, Wallaceburg and Hope.¹⁰



Old Abandoned Cotton Gin Crossroads, Hempstead County, Arkansas (Highways 73 W and 195 S). August 2006

Rural Neighborhoods

Rural neighborhoods were established in various parts of the county according to where families had migrated from. The Georgia and Alabama neighborhoods were established. These isolated rural neighborhoods came into existence in part due to poor roads and transportation, especially during periods of bad weather.¹¹ It forced everyone to get to know their neighbors and to depend on each other. Some of these neighborhoods also functioned as small communities. Many residents would get together and petition the county to establish schools and set up local school boards. Rural churches were also established to meet the spiritual needs of these small community neighborhoods.

Roads and Maintenance

To deal with the transportation and maintenance of roads, the county established road districts, supervised by road overseers. Road hands assigned to each road district provided the labor to construct and maintain roads. The creation of road districts proved to be an important role for the county. Roads were maintained, enabling citizens to haul goods by wagon to market and return with needed supplies. More than likely many of our ancestors were called on to be either road overseers or road hands. For example, Bradford Hinton and John Kent, Sr. were assigned to Road District #4 as road hands in 1863.¹² John J. Pelt was the road overseer assigned by the court for Road District #4.

After the Civil War

Civil War Reconstruction changed the whole economy of Hempstead as it did in many other southern counties. Most of the soldiers returning from the war were small land owners with no slaves. Post war plantation owners had to learn to farm without slaves. Many of the veterans ended up losing their farms after the war and had to turn to sharecropping to survive. Sharecropping was ushered in as a way for plantations to attract laborers to harvest crops. Before the war, the 1850-1860 slave schedules for Spring Hill Township listed 21 owners and 160 slaves, and the Bodcaw Township listed 15 owners and 105 slaves. The 1860 slave schedule lists only one ancestor, Bradford Hinton, father of Lovett Tyler and William Jacob Hinton, as owning three slaves.¹³



Tributary of Little Bodcaw Creek. Little Bodcaw Creek divides Bodcaw and Spring Hill Townships.
August 2006

Hope first settled in 1873, and incorporated as a city in March 26, 1875.¹⁴

Our ancestors living in Spring Hill and Badcaw Townships depended on Hope as the main source of supplies. During certain periods of the year it was not unusual to travel to Hope almost once a week, especially in the summer to buy ice. At first trips to Hope were by wagon over dusty and rough dirt roads. Automobiles were used later except during the winter when the creeks rose and the roads became to muddy.

In 1884, the “Big Fire” almost destroyed Hope's fledgling business district which at that time consisted mostly of wood buildings. In the early days, Hope had wooden sidewalks and during the summer months the middle of the street was a bed of powdery dust. Little incandescent lights would start to glow at twilight from goose-neck holders on poles every four or five blocks.

Hopes first water supply was Davis Spring, about two miles east of town. The spring water was brought to town in barrels and pedaled for five cents a bucket. All homes had cisterns to catch water from the roof for general household and stock use. In 1883, the Hope Immigration Association published a 32-page prospectus on the resources and advantages of Hope to attract new residents and businesses.

In 1888, the population of Hope was 1,500. By 1890, the first cotton compress was constructed, the city water and light plant began operation and the Hope Lumber Company was established. The Arkansas Louisiana Railroad began service to Washington and Nashville. Also, by 1900 the Frisco, Louisiana and Arkansas Railroads reached Hope, and the Hope Brick Works and the Ivory Handle Company began operation.

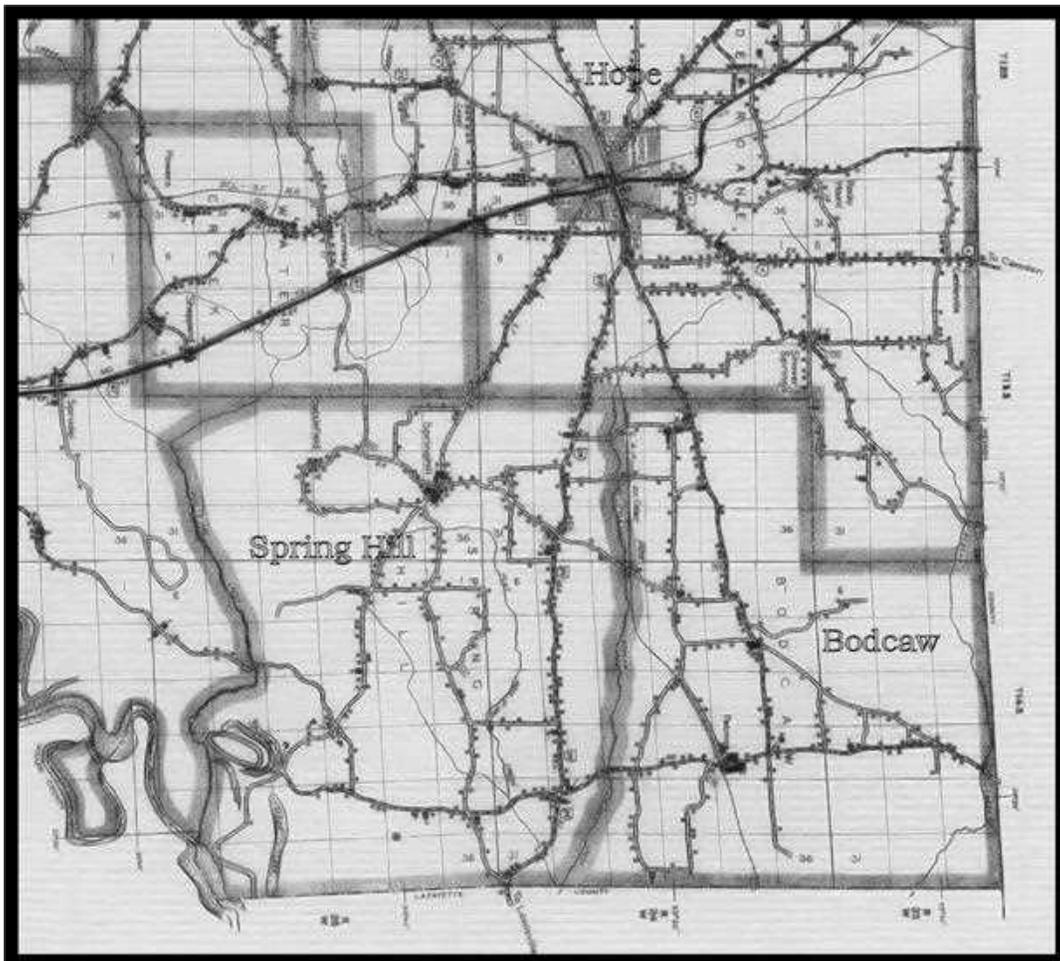
By 1890, Hempstead County had grown to an estimated population of 23,000 and the continued rapid growth of Hope was due to the central location and the three railroads running through town. Hope contained: 2 banks, 9 general and grocery stores, 4 drug stores, 3 jewelry shops, 2 harness shops, 2 furniture and 3 confectionary shops, 3 saloons, 2 ice houses, 2 meat markets, 3 printing presses, a tailor shop, a photo shop, 2 millinery shops, 2 hotels, 3 restaurants, 2 livery stables, 2 hardware stores, a brick yard, lumber and planning mill, schools, churches, lodges, water works and electric light plant. Hope did not replace Washington as the county seat until April 25, 1936.



Restored Hope Train Depot.
August 2006

Spring Hill and Bodcaw (Bodcau) Townships

The Spring Hill and Bodcaw Townships located in the southeast corner of Hempstead County are where many of our ancestors settled and raised their families. The Spring Hill Township created in 1836 included parts of what would become Nevada County in 1871 and Bodcaw Township, established in 1882. Spring Hill and Bodcaw Townships are separated by Little Bodcaw Creek. Spring Hill's eastern boarder is Bodcaw Township, the southern boundary is Lafayette County, the western boundary is Bois De Arc Creek, and it northern boarder is Water Creek and De Roane Townships. Bodcaw's eastern border is Nevada County, the southern boundary is Lafayette County, west is Spring Hill Township, and its northern boundary is De Roane Township.



Spring Hill and Bodcaw Townships, Arkansas State Highway Map 1930

The town of Spring Hill, located twelve miles east of the Red River and seven miles southwest of Hope, was named for the large water spring located there. In the early days Spring Hill, settled by plantation owners became the center of economic and social activity. Its location close to the Red River made convenient travel between the two locations possible. The community carried the same name as the township, Spring Hill.

Patmos, located in the southern part of the Bodcaw Township became the major source of supplies for local families. In 1903, the Louisiana & Arkansas Railway started running through Patmos. Once freight was being delivered, the town started to grow. At one time in the early 1900's a total of ten stores were selling goods to residents.¹⁵



West end of Patmos Population 61, Highway 355. Bodcaw Creek in foreground crossing under Highway. August 2006.



Town of Patmos Highway 355, *circa* 1950

The Middlebrooks of Patmos

While this family history focuses on the ancestors and descendants of James L. and Fannie (Hinton) Middlebrooks, it is important to also recognize the other family members of James L. who settled in or near Patmos. Louis (Lewis) Lane, Charles Deems and Samuel Isaac Middlebrooks are the younger brothers of James L. Their parents are Samuel Cannon and Harriet “Hattie Ardecy (Lane) Middlebrooks.¹⁶



Hollis Goat Roper Restaurant Patmos. East end of town at junction of Highway 355 and Patmos Road. August 2006

Louis Middlebrooks settled just southwest of Patmos and participated in its growth and development.¹⁷ Louis is listed on a court petition to secure land for a Patmos railway depot on March 2, 1906.¹⁸ He was also one of the early Patmos rural letter carriers.¹⁹ Louis and his wife Bertie (Davis) were members of the Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, in 1910, located south of Patmos.²⁰ Louis was a church deacon. Next, Louis is listed as one of the charter members and later as one of the early pastors of the Patmos Baptist Church organized May 2, 1915.²¹

Charles Middlebrooks and his wife, Lottie (Black), settled northeast of Patmos School near his brother Samuel and Samuel's wife.²² Charles was the owner of a cotton gin and sawmill near Patmos.²³ Charles, serving as a deacon, and Lottie were members of the Patmos Church of Christ, organized August 28, 1904. The Hinton Schoolhouse (District # 60 & Special 8) east of Patmos was established circa 1886 from land donated by the Hinton family. In 1924, Charles served as a board member for the school district.²⁴ We believe the Hinton Schoolhouse was located on the south side of the road across from the present day Hinton Chapel on Highway 355. The land was possibly donated by William Jacob Hinton, the brother of Lovett Tyler Hinton.²⁵

Samuel Isaac Middlebrooks and his wife, Sally (Huckaby), lived just east of Patmos School along present day Highway 355.²⁶ Samuel I. Middlebrooks, 21, of Springhill marries Sally Huckaby, 16, of Springhill on October 4, 1894, by R. H. Betts Justice of the Peace, Hempstead County.²⁷ Sally is listed as a member of the Bethany Baptist Church after 1894 located two miles south of Spring Hill, organized in the 1850s.²⁸



Hinton United Methodist Church, Established 1913. The Hinton Schoolhouse was located on the south side of Highway 355 across from the church. August 2006

New Hope Community

The New Hope Community as it was called was located at the junction of Patmos Road (County Road #3) and County Road # 137. At one time, New Hope was considered part of the town of Sardis, located just north of the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church. According to relatives this was a favorite spot to have what was called “***dinner on the grounds***”.

This was usually the noon meal at a revival meeting where everyone brought food from home and shared with other families. An all-day auction, usually sponsored by ladies’ charitable groups, prepared and sold food.²⁹

Many of the community activities were in connection with the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church which was established in 1872. The cemetery located behind the church was in use by 1871.³⁰ It is reported that Baptist Association meetings were held in the 1920’s. Visitors would stay with families in the neighborhood.



New Hope Primitive Baptist Church Established 1872. August 2006



Patmos Road looking north from New Hope Primitive Baptist Church. The Town of Sardis was just up Patmos Road. August 2006

An 1880's New Hope Primitive Baptist Church membership list is interesting in that some of our ancestors are recorded. Lovett Tyler Hinton's father, Bradford, and his brother, Frances Irvin Hinton, and Frances's wife, Essie Mariah (Rutledge), are listed as church members. Lewis Lee Lane, the father of Harriet "Hattie" Ardecy (Lane), is also listed as a member in 1880 and is buried in the New Hope Cemetery.²³ Hattie is the mother of Louis Lane Middlebrooks of Patmos.



Lewis Lee Lane, born February 11, 1810, died June 4, 1893, New Hope Cemetery.
Courtesy of Charles Middlebrooks

Thomas Anderson Middlebrooks

A Louisa Middlebrooks (Louellen Warmack), also listed as a member in 1880 of New Hope Primitive Baptist Church may have been the wife of Thomas Anderson Middlebrooks. Thomas served as pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church from 1894 -1897. The Macedonia Baptist Church was located at the south end of present day Macedonia Cemetery³¹ and is thought to have been moved to Evening Shade.³² Thomas Anderson is the son of Thomas Jefferson Middlebrooks and Mary Glaze of Loachapoka, Alabama.³³ Thomas Anderson's brother, George Dalton Middlebrooks,³⁴ moved to Hempstead County ca. 1900 – 1904. They are descendants of Thomas Middlebrooks (b.1763) in Orange County, North Carolina. Sims Middlebrooks (b.1762) is the brother of Thomas Middlebrooks (b.1763). Both Sims and Thomas were born near Hogan's Creek, Orange County, North Carolina.³⁵

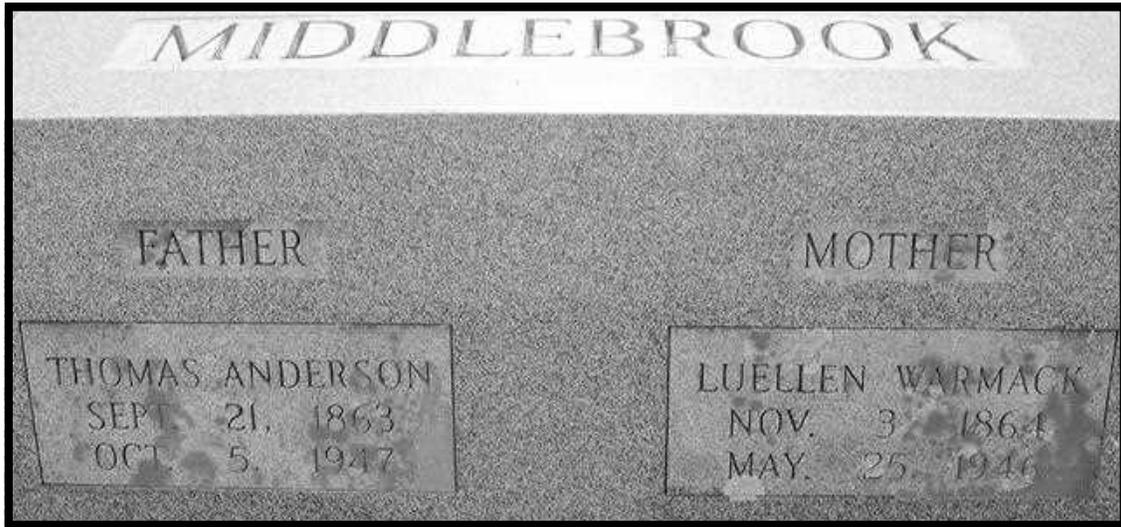


Evening Shade Baptist Church. This is the church that may have once been the Macedonia Baptist Church and was moved to its present location on Highway 29 from Macedonia Cemetery. December 1955



Macedonia Cemetery, established in 1882 (5.8 acres) located on Patmos Road is where many of our relatives are buried. The Macedonia Baptist Church was located at the south end of the Cemetery. August 2006

Thomas Anderson, Luellen (Warmack) Middlebrooks, George Dalton and his wife, Mary (Tyson), are buried at the Rose Hills Cemetery in Hope. Mary (Glaze) Middlebrooks, mother of Thomas and George, is also buried at Rose Hills Cemetery.³⁶



Thomas Anderson & Luellen (Warmack) Middlebrook Rose Hills Cemetery
Hope, Arkansas. August 2006



George Dalton Middlebrooks Born
March 3, 1862, Died, April 1, 1928,
Rose Hills Cemetery
August 2006



Mary (Tyson) Middlebrooks,
born, December 2, 1864, Died,
December 8, 1945, Rose Hills
Cemetery.
August 2006

Lucy Ann (Middlebrooks) Pilkington

Lucy Ann Middlebrooks is born in Georgia, July 7, 1851.³⁷ She moves to Hempstead County circa 1872 and marries John W. Pilkington on December 25, 1873.³⁸ John is born July 20, 1849 in Tennessee. John dies August 17, 1904 and Lucy dies April 11, 1937. They are both buried at the Water Creek Cemetery.³⁶ At present we do not know which of the Middlebrooks lines Lucy is related to. However, as far as we know Lucy is the first Middlebrooks to arrive in Hempstead County.

Farming: A Struggle to Survive

Farming was the livelihood of many of the families moving to Hempstead County including our ancestors. Crops included cotton, corn, wheat, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, peas, sorghum cane, tobacco and grasses. It is hard to imagine today what it was like to make a living as a farmer and be able support your family. To our ancestors, the work on a farm must have seemed to be never ending. In many cases, the first step was to clear the land of forest and brush just to get ready for planting. It was a constant battle to keep the fields and fence rows clear of brush. Enough land had to be cleared to allow for crops to be rotated maintaining soil fertility.

Some of the constant chores included:

- ◆ Plowing, planting, weeding and harvesting crops
- ◆ Applying manure to the fields
- ◆ Picking and hauling cotton to the gin
- ◆ Hauling water if the well dried up
- ◆ Putting up winter stores in the root cellar
- ◆ Slaughtering hogs and smoking the meat.
- ◆ Tending bee hives
- ◆ Planting a garden
- ◆ Putting up pasture hay for the horse and mules
- ◆ Building and maintaining fences
- ◆ Building and maintaining out-buildings and houses
- ◆ Cutting and hauling firewood
- ◆ Feeding and milking cows and feeding hogs and chickens
- ◆ Helping neighbors build and maintain roads and creek crossings

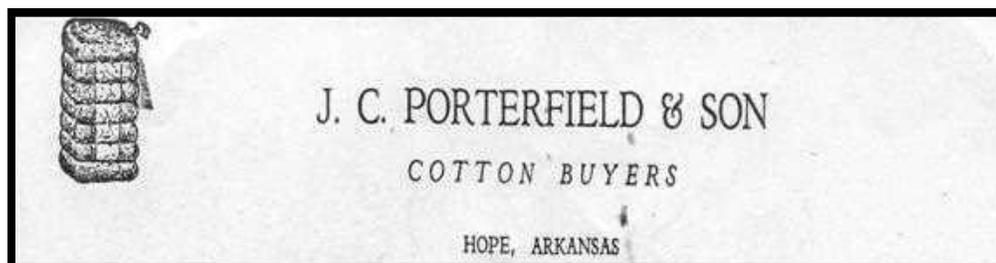
The majority of farm work during the period when our ancestors were tilling the soil was done by hand or with mules as in the case of plowing. With dry land farming you were at the mercy of the weather to provide needed moisture. Cotton was king in Hempstead County for many years and it was the main crop planted by our ancestors. Cotton was hard on the soil thus requiring more land to be cleared and cultivated. After the cotton was picked and ginned, it was off to the Hope's Cotton Row on 2nd and Walnut Streets to try to get a fair price for your cotton.



Pasture Old Hinton Home Place looking southwest. 100 years ago our ancestors would have planted this field to cotton. August 2006

Cotton Buyers

The cotton buyers drove a tough bargain which was mostly determined by the grade of cotton, the price of cotton on the Stock Exchange and how good they were at negotiating price with farmers. One of our relatives, J. C. “Bud” Porterfield, was one of the cotton buyers that operated his hides and cotton buying business out of his liquor store on 2nd street close to the old Citizens National Bank Building. As my grandfather, Verdo Middlebrooks passed on to my dad that it was hard to get a good price for your cotton from Bud. Bud stuttered since birth and was able to use this distinctive feature very effectively in buying cotton and hides from the local farmers. Bud and his son, Pod, ran a successful hides and cotton business for many years. Bud married Fair Hope Middlebrooks, Verdo’s sister.



J. C. Porterfield & Son Letterhead. Copy provided by Lavern Porterfield.



Bud C. Porterfield Liquor Store, Cotton and Hides businesses, Second Street Hope. L-R Harold "Pod" Porterfield , Bud Porterfield and unknown person, *circa* 1930. Courtesy of Vicki (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten



Chapter I Endnotes

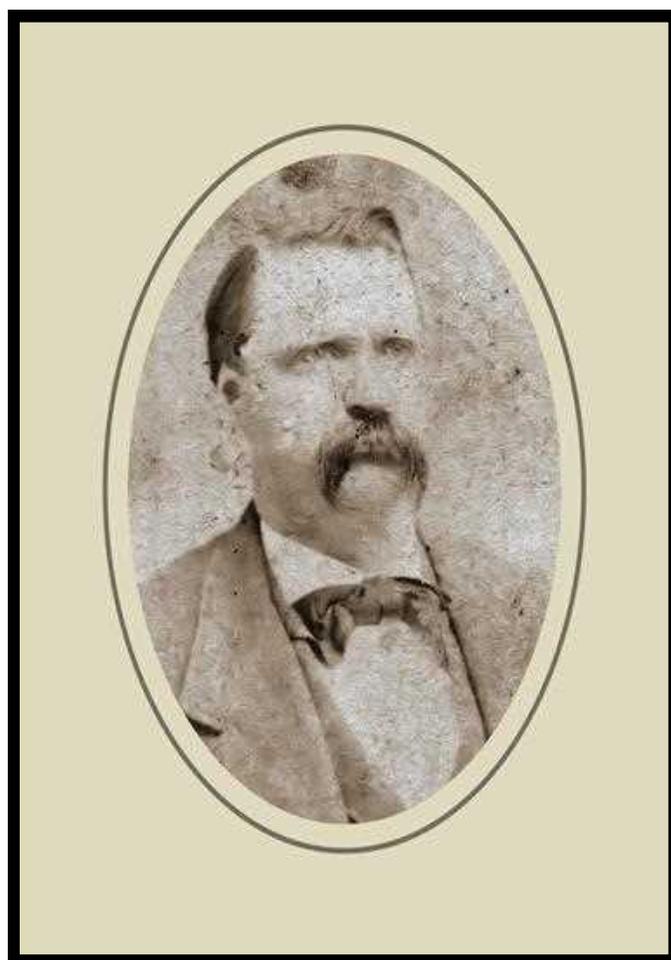
- ¹ The Goodspeed *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, (Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890), 378, 379.
- ² William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815*, (Bountiful, Utah: Heritage Quest Inc, 1997) 36
- ³ Doyle R. Hinton, *Our Hinton Ancestors in America*, (Pasadena, Texas: Privately Published, 1993), 129
- ⁴ Singleton Giles household, 1860 U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Spring Hill Township, Spring Hill Post Office, image 5, Pg. 795, dwelling 726, accessed 28 February 2006.
- ⁵ Christopher Porterfield household, 1860, U. S. census, Population Schedule, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Carouse Township, Albany Post Office, dwelling & family 932, page 138, <http://www.ancestry.com/>. Christopher and his wife leave Georgia some time between 1856 & 1859 based on where their last two children are born. Eliza is born 1859 in Arkansas and William is born 1856 in Georgia.
- ⁶ Hempstead County, Marriage Book G, Pg. 457, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁷ James Cunningham, household, 1880 U. S. Census, Owen Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas, pop. sch, Ed. 178, pg. 12, dwelling 81, family 85. Jim 59, Mary, 42, Joe 18, Oren 18, Emma L. 8, Hana 6, Margaret 4, Albert 2. Jim and Mary are born in Alabama and all the children are born in Arkansas.. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 16 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.
- ⁸ Isaac P. Hubbard, household, 1880, U. S. census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Spring Hill, Township, enumeration dist. 105, page 10. dwelling 98, family 99, <http://www.ancestry.com/>.
- ⁹ John Kent household, 1850 U. S. census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Population Schedule, Badcau Township, image 2, dwelling & family 10, <http://www.ancestry.com/> John, b. Virginia, age 39, Judy wife b. Kentucky, age 34, Jackson, age 15, William, age 14, John , age 12, Sarah Tague, age 10. The children are listed as all born in Arkansas, except Sarah who is listed as born in Tennessee. This is not correct. The children were either born in Lawrence or Franklin County, Alabama.
- ¹⁰ The Goodspeed *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, (Goodspeed Publishing Co. 1890), 384, 385.
- ¹¹ Old days in Spring Hill recalled by Yocom, Yerger and Atkinson, *Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society*, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 13, 1994, 27.
- ¹² Loose County Court Records, Hempstead County, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas.
- ¹³ Mary Nell Turner, "Life in Spring Hill Township from 1850-1870", *Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society*, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 13, 1994, 23, 24.
- ¹⁴ Hope Centennial Committee, *A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, 1875-1975*, (Etter Printing Co., Hope Arkansas, 1974), 7-10, 15, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 32.
- ¹⁵ No author, *With the Arrival of the L&A Railroad the Town of Patmos Grows*, *Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society*, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 53.
- ¹⁶ Dianne Middlebrooks, *Sims Middlebrooks*, (Monticello, Georgia: Privately Published 2002), 24

- ¹⁷ Hempstead County Deed Book 57, Pg. 319, 432, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas (SW/SW, Sec. 23, 14S, 24W)
- ¹⁸ Miscellaneous Book A, Pages 77-79, July 2, 1906, Hempstead County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope Arkansas.
- ¹⁹ No author, *With the Arrival of the L&A Railroad the Town of Patmos Grows*, Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 54.
- ²⁰ Bobbie R. Powell, Editor, *Mt. Nebo Baptist Church 1866-2001, A History of the Church, Pastors and Members*, Published by the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Patmos, Arkansas, 2001), 55, 56.
- ²¹ Patmos Baptist Church, Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 66.
- ²² Hempstead County Deed Book 42, Pg. 142, Deed Book 49, Pg. 80, Deed Book Xa, Pg. 385 County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas (W, SW, Sec. 17, 14S, 24W, N, SE, Sec. 18 & Pt. of SE/SE, Sec. 18, 14S, 24W, 85 acres, NW/NE, E, & SW/NE, Sec. 24, SW/SE, Sec. 13, 14S, 24W 100 acres.)
- ²³ Patmos Church of Christ, Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 72.
- ²⁴ Hinton School House, No. 60 and Special No. 8, Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 127.
- ²⁵ Hempstead County Deed Book 36, Pg. 610, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas (NE/SW, Sec. 19, 14S, 24W)
- ²⁶ Hempstead County Deed Book 34, Pg. 329, 432, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas (SE/NE & NE/SE & NE/NE, Sec. 24, 14S, 24W 120 acres)
- ²⁷ Hempstead County, Marriage Book L, Pg. 89, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²⁸ Bethany Baptist Church Minutes, Book 1, 1894, Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 59.
- ²⁹ Barbara J. Evans, *A To ZAX, A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians*, (Alexandria, VA: Hearthsides Press, 1995) 92
- ³⁰ New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, , Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 67.
- ³¹ Macedonia Baptist Church, , Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 66.
- ³² Hempstead County, Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 7.
- ³³ Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), 100.
- ³⁴ Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), 165.
- ³⁵ Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), 46.
- ³⁶ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 89, 122. Thomas Anderson Middlebrooks, b., September 21, 1863, d., October 5, 1947, Louellen (Warmack) Middlebrooks b., November 3, 1863, d., May 25, 1946. Mary (Glaze) Middlebrooks b., October 12, 1826, d., March 23, 1902. George Dalton Middlebrooks, b., March 3, 1862, d., April 1, 1928. Mary (Tyson) Middlebrooks b., December 2, 1864, d., December 8, 1945.

³⁷ Hempstead County, Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2000), 178.

³⁸Hempstead County, Marriage Book C1, Pg. 90, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

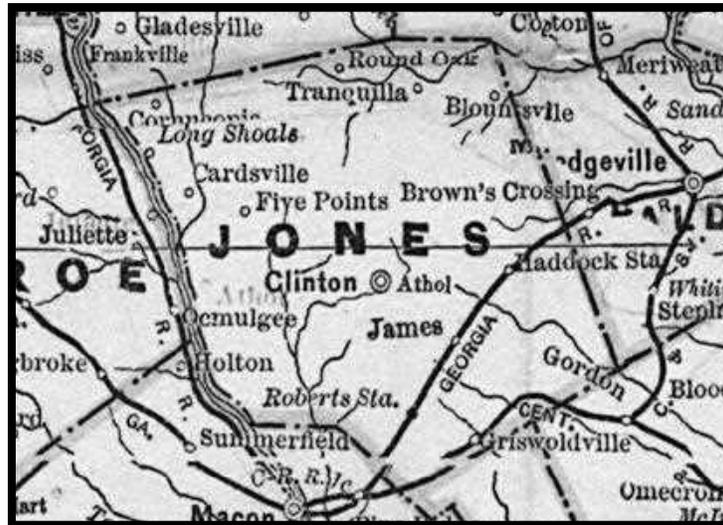
***Chapter II:
The Journey to Hempstead County,
Arkansas***



***Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks
circa 1880***

Jones County, Georgia

James L. Middlebrooks is born October 5, 1864 in the vicinity of Hog Creek, Jones County, Georgia.² Hog Creek is located about seven miles northeast of the town of Clinton. Jim, as he liked to be called, was the eldest son of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks and Harriet Ardecy Lane.³ We believe Jim's middle name is Lewis or Lane, after his mother's father, Lewis Lee Lane.

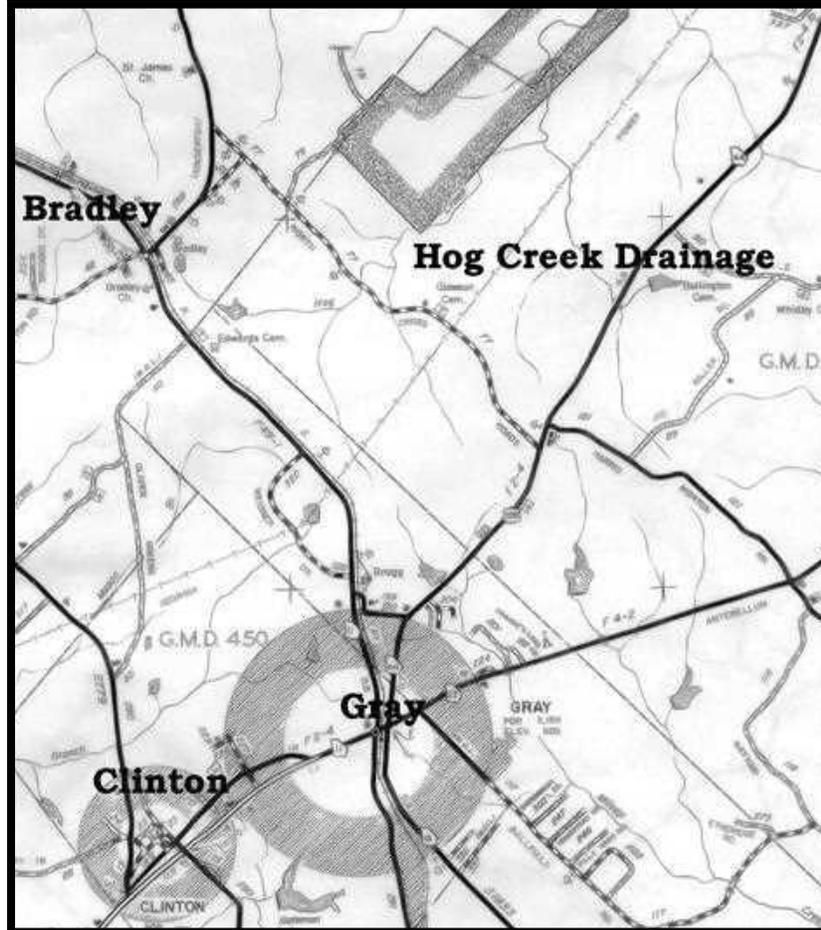


Jones County, Georgia, 1883. Clinton is about 16 miles NW of Macon Source: 19th Century North American Railroad Maps, vintagechannel.com



Clinton established in 1808 was the county seat and the major source of supplies for our ancestors. One third of the town was burned in Sherman's "March to the Sea". The county seat was moved to Gray in 1905. August 2004

Jim's father, Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks, was born March 24, 1838⁴, Jones County, Georgia, also near Hog Creek. Samuel's first marriage was to Emma F. Brinkly, November 19, 1857, performed by Leroy Singleton, Justice of the Inferior Court, Jones County.⁵ It is speculated that Emma may have died as a result of child birth. Three years later Samuel marries Harriet "Hattie" Ardecy Lane on October 18, 1860, in Jones County by Thomas T. Christian, Minister of the Gospel.⁶ Hattie was born *circa* 1846 in Jasper County, Georgia.⁷



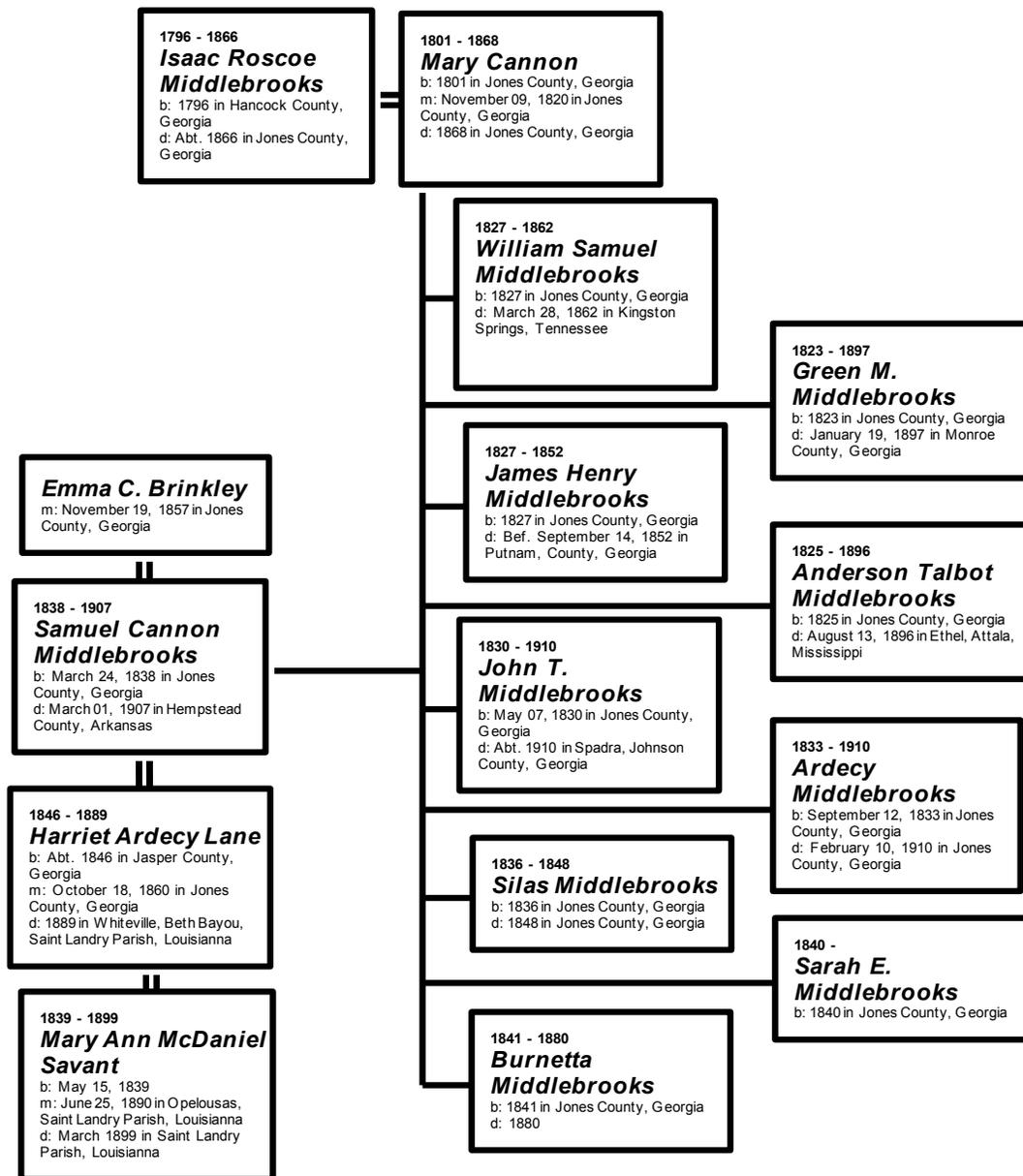
Jim and his father Samuel are raised near the **Bradley Community** in the area of North Cross and Hungerford Roads. General Highway Map, 1994



Hog Creek where it crosses North Cross Road August 2004

Isaac Roscoe Middlebrooks and Mary Cannon are Samuel's father and mother.⁸ Isaac was born 1798, Hancock County, Georgia, and Mary was born circa 1801, Jones County, Georgia.⁹ Isaac and Mary are married November 9, 1820, Jones County, Georgia by John R. Moore, Justice of the Inferior Court.¹⁰

Descendants of Isaac Roscoe Middlebrooks



Sources: Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909) and Dianne Middlebrooks, *Sims Middlebrooks*, (Monticello, Georgia, Privately Published 2002).

Civil War Service of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks

Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks was enlisted on May 5, 1862, at Battery Harrison by Captain Holland in the 57th Regiment, which was part of Harrison's Georgia Infantry.¹⁰ He enlisted for a period of two years and six months, and his enlistment is thought to have ended in November of 1864. However, he was not officially paroled (discharged) until May 5, 1865, at Chester, South Carolina.¹¹ During this period of service (1862-1865), it is suspected that Samuel returned home periodically to see Hattie and recover from his wounds. Samuel's enlistment period ended just a month after the birth of James, his first child.

As a private he was re-assigned to Company A of the 32nd Georgia Infantry. Samuel is listed as killed, wounded or missing at Cummings Point, Morris Island, South Carolina from August 20 to the evacuation September 6, 1863. On October 4, 1863, Samuel is listed as wounded and is subsequently transferred to Company E, Captain Stiles, 2nd Regiment Engineers Troops, as a 2nd Corporal (Special order # 180/12) on August 1, 1864.¹²

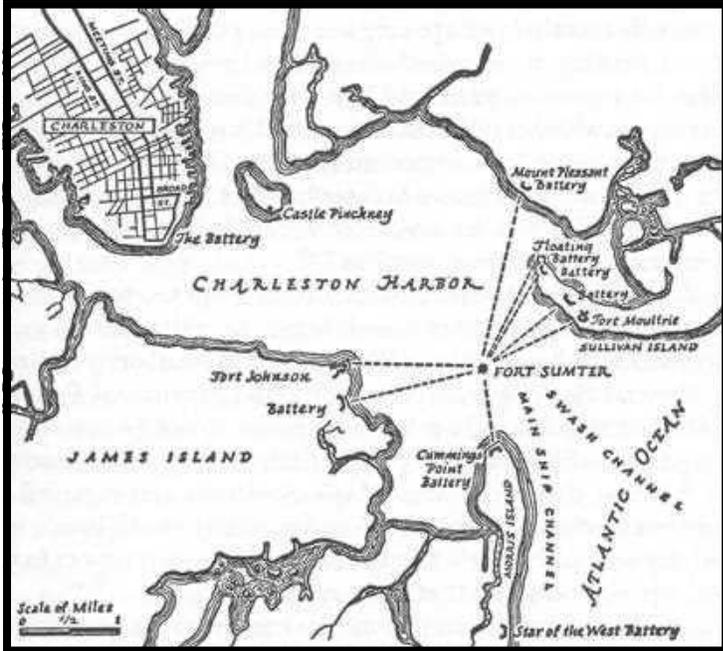
On September 18, 1904, Samuel applies for a Civil War pension while living in Acadia Parish, Louisiana. He lists three witnesses who will attest to his Civil War Service: J. M. Lane Social Circle, Georgia, J.B. Lane and Jack Tynar (Turner?) of Cornucopia or Monticello, Georgia. Also, a Nathan C. Fish (officer) of Jasper County, Georgia, signs an affidavit that he served with S.C. Middlebrooks while in Company A of the 32nd Georgia Infantry under Colonel Harrison's Regiment and under the command of General Beauregard on the coast. Nathan goes on to confirm that Samuel was wounded in September of 1863 and then transferred in the spring of 1864 to the 2nd Regiment of the Engineers Corps. He described Samuel's service as "***faithful, bold and courageous***".¹²

The Battle of Morris Island South Carolina¹³

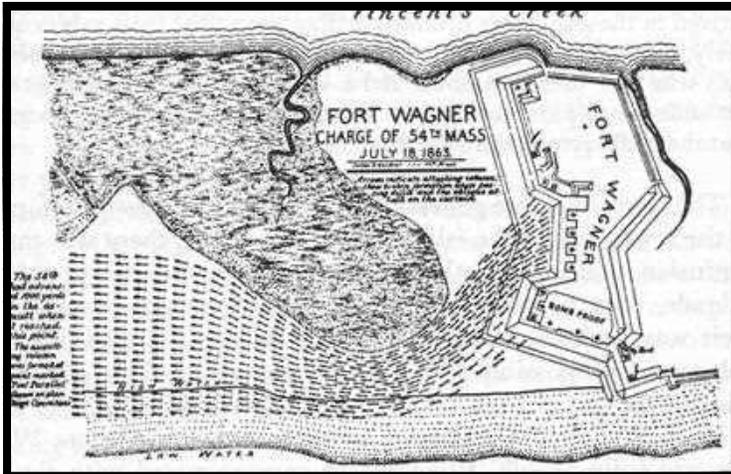
Samuel C. Middlebrooks was wounded at the Battle of Morris Island, Cummings Point, when a seven pound parrot shell explodes 10-12 feet above his head. It is amazing he was able to survive this engagement. He lived to be 69 years old.

Morris Island is a small, low island on the south side of the Charleston Harbor. It is approximately 6,500 yards long with the upper end almost treeless. The upper end was used as a quarantine station and burial ground. Battery Wagner, constructed by confederate forces, was located on the north end of Morris Island. Although the defense of Battery Wagner by Confederate forces was not identified as one of the Civil War's major battles, it is among the fiercest of fighting and displays of heroism.

General Buearegard, Confederate officer, speculated that the build up of Federal forces under the command of General Pemberton was needed to take Morris Island in order to re-capture Fort Sumter. Battery Wagner was assaulted three times by Union forces with repeated heavy artillery shelling from ground batteries and the ironsides occupying Charleston Harbor and surrounding areas. Shelling at times was so heavy that Confederate troops would leave Wagner and hide in foxholes dug into sand until the bombardment would cease.



Charleston Harbor and Morris Island. Cummings Point is where Fort Wagner is located on Morris Island.. (The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865, by E. Milby Burton)



Fort Wagner, Morris Island. Fort Wagner is where Samuel was wounded. Source: The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865, by E. Milby Burton.

The first attack on Wagner was ordered for July 11, 1863, led by the Seventh Connecticut and supported by the 76th Pennsylvania and the Ninth Maine. During this time, Confederate troops were arriving from Georgia by railroad to reinforce Wagner. Union forces were soundly defeated on this first attack and sustained heavy casualties.

On July 18, the second assault of Battery Wagner was led by the 54th Massachusetts under the command of Colonel Shaw, an all black unit with white officers (as depicted in the movie Glory). The Union forces were joined by the Sixth Connecticut and 48th New York and were able to enter the battery from the ocean side. Because of the lack of additional Union reinforcements, the 32nd Georgia Infantry (with Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks) under the command of Brigadier General Johnson Hagood arrived and aided considerably in removing Union troops from Wagner.

It took three hours for Confederate forces to dislodge Union soldiers in the battery, and of the 200 Union troops who had gained entry to the fort, only 140 remained alive. With daybreak, the scene at Wagner revealed hundreds of corpses mixed with the severely wounded, piled up three deep in some places. Overall losses for the confederate troops during the 2nd engagement were 188 killed or wounded, and Union losses reported at 1500, including 111 officers.

The final siege on Wagner continued day and night through heavy shelling by the Union artillery. Union troops under the command of General Gillmore started to dig trenches moving towards the battery while under fire from Confederate sharpshooters armed with Whitworth rifles. The conditions under which Union troops were digging were intolerable because of the stench from dead bodies and amputated limbs.

Five hundred Confederate troops remained inside Wagner while another 500 took cover in the sand hills during the continuous shelling by Union guns.

The continuous bombardment was inflicting heavy casualties on the confederate troops in Wagner. Some of the Georgia troops that had seen action in the big battles in Virginia said reported that nothing they ever experienced could approximate the conditions at Wagner. After 100 more casualties and only 400 battle-worthy Confederate troops remaining, General Bueareguard gave the order on September 7, 1863, to evacuate Battery Wagner. All but 46 men were evacuated before Union troops arrived.

After 58 days and nights under incredible conditions, subjected to some of the heaviest artillery fire on both land and water ever experienced in such a small area, the garrison at Wagner still stood. A small force of 1,000 Confederate soldiers held off a force of 11,000 well-equipped Union forces and inflicted heavy casualties. One union soldier said it was the “**most fatal and fruitless campaign of the war**”. One of the last soldiers to evacuate Wagner from Georgia said that “**he wasn't a feared of hell no more, it can't touch Wagner**”.

Civil War and Reconstruction Jones County, Georgia

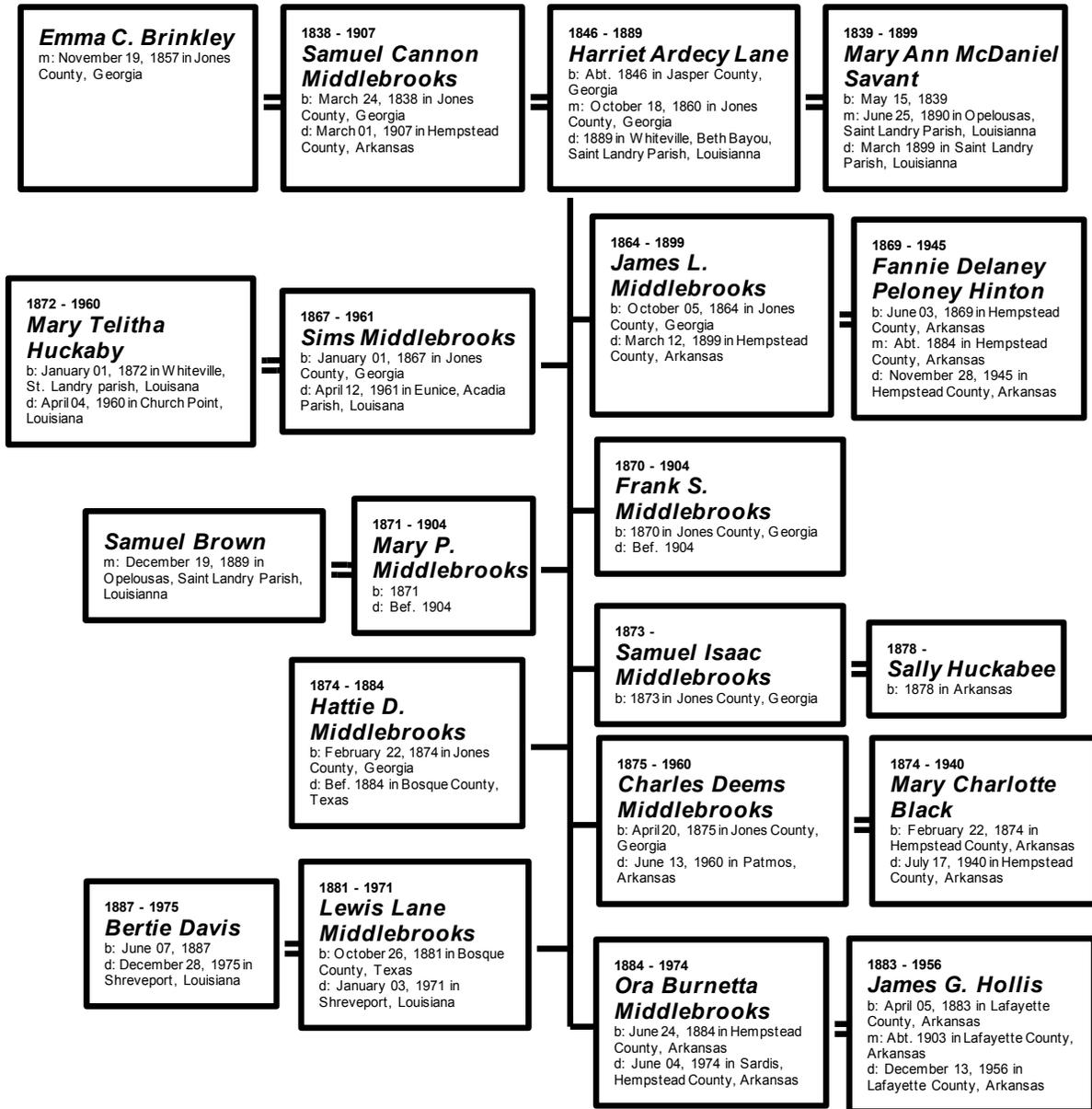
James (Jim) lived through the terrible years of Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1875). He was raised in rural Georgia during this period of social and economic hardships. At the time of Jim's birth, the Battle of Griswold was under way in the southwest corner of Jones County. When Sherman's Right Wing (“March to the Sea”) moved through the area of Griswold, it was attacked by a much inferior Georgia Militia, resulting in unnecessary slaughter at Griswold.

Sherman's men destroyed buildings in the town of Clinton and outlying farms and crops as they swept through Jones County in November of 1864.¹⁴ It is hard to imagine what loses the family and other relatives may have suffered to property and crops in 1864 and what Jim's father Samuel faced when he returned to Jones County in May of 1865. Immediately after the war, many families had to leave the county or starve. It took many years for the families of Jones County to recover from the destruction of their farms, schools and churches.¹⁵

Samuel and Hattie stayed in Jones County throughout the war and during reconstruction. It can be concluded from court records that Jim's father Samuel continued to struggle financially after his father Isaac dies in November 1866. Many soldiers when they returned from the war had to start over as very little was left either due to neglect or destruction by the Yankees.

Samuel was named executor of his father's sizeable estate and continued to live on his father's homestead and pay rent. Samuel tried to buy his fathers homestead and other lands. He ended up defaulting on his mortgage loans and his fathers homestead was sold on the Jones County Courthouse steps June 1, 1875.¹⁶ Just three years after loosing his father's farm he decides to move the family west.

Descendants of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks



Sources: Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), Dianne Middlebrooks, *Sims Middlebrooks*, (Monticello, Georgia, Privately Published 2002), Personal research of Charles Middlebrooks and the Author.

Leaving Jones County, Georgia

As a teenager, Jim along with his other brothers and sisters helped his father with farming, the livelihood of the family. Samuel is said to be close to six foot seven inches tall.¹⁷ After the birth of Hattie D., Jim's youngest sister in 1878, Samuel and wife Hattie leave Jones County, Georgia, for Bosque County, Texas.¹⁸ Jim is age 15 when they start the journey west.

It is believed the journey to Texas took the family through Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, where Lewis Lee Lane and Elizabeth Comfort Toland, Hattie's father and step-mother, had moved the year before in 1877 from Jasper County, Georgia.¹⁹ Hattie's father may have encouraged Samuel to leave Jones County. This is Jim's first time to see Arkansas little knowing that he would return some five years later.

Samuel must have found the Spring Hill Township to his liking because he filed for a Ministerial License with Hempstead County September 19, 1880.²⁷ According to Bosque County tax records, Samuel and his family are living in Texas at the time he filed for his Ministerial License.²⁰ This is the first record we have of Jim's father professing to be a man of God. The trip from Jones County to Hempstead County is approximately 730 miles. Figuring an average of 15-20 miles per day over dirt roads by wagon it would have taken between 40-50 days to reach Arkansas.



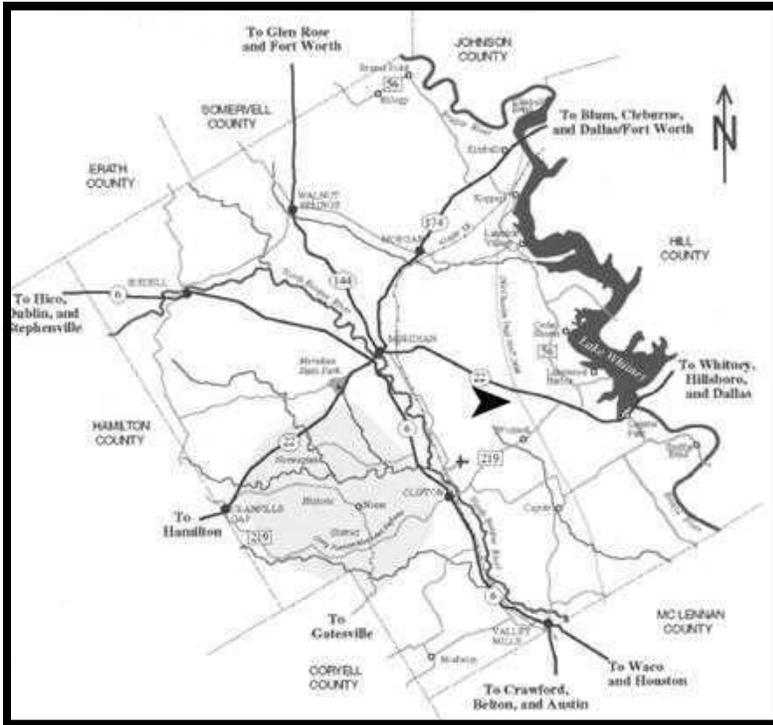
Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks
circa 1880. Photo courtesy of
Charles Middlebrooks

Bosque County, Texas

After spending a relatively short time in Hempstead County, the family continues on to Bosque County, Texas. The trip from Hempstead to Bosque would take about 25-30 days traveling a distance of approximately 310 miles. Bosque County was still considered a lawless frontier region during this period with stock stealing and sporadic Indian raids. The family must have been apprehensive when first arriving in Bosque County remembering the peaceful conditions on their farm near Hog Creek in Georgia.

After arriving in Bosque County in 1879, it is believed they settled just east of Meridian where they eventually bought land.²⁰ Five years later, August 18, 1883, Samuel acquires 160 acres for \$1000 from William Foster. This parcel is located on the waters of Childers Creek, six miles east of Meridian, south of Highway 22 and west of the Old Chisholm Trail.²¹ The property is the south half of 320 acres originally granted to Samuel Pangburn. Then one and a half months later, Samuel sells the 160-acre parcel to R. S. Porter and Son on October 1, 1883, for the same amount.²²

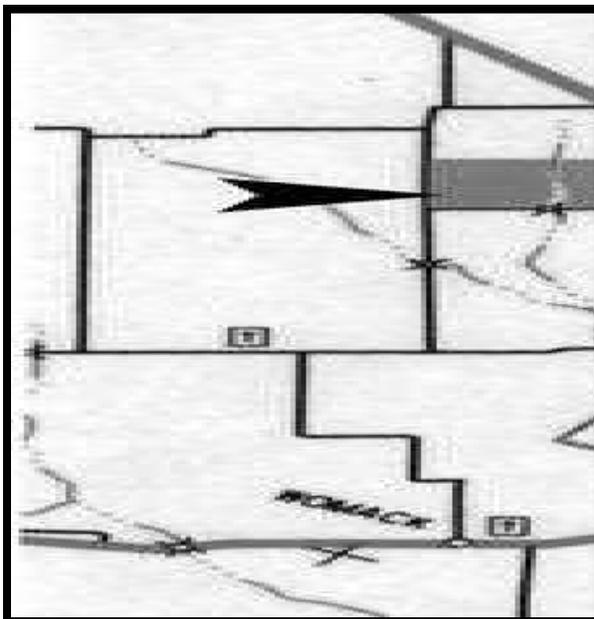
The Ancestors and Descendents of James and Francis Middlebrooks



For 1883²⁴ Samuel was assessed for the following real and personal property:

- ◆ 160 acres, \$1,500
- ◆ 1 wagon, \$40.00
- ◆ 5 horses or mules, \$250.00
- ◆ 10 cattle, \$120.00,
- ◆ 9 hogs, \$18.00
- ◆ Misc. property, \$120.00
- ◆ Total value \$2,048.00
- ◆ Total County and State taxes, \$13.01

(Arrow) **Bosque County, Texas** , approximate location of Samuel’s property. Map courtesy of Bruce Wiland

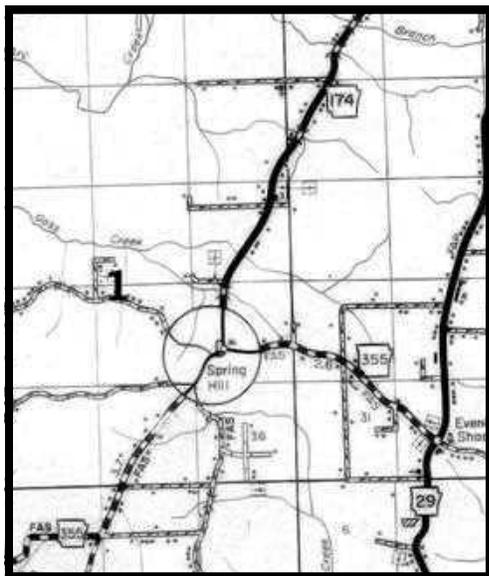


Location of Samuels 160 acre parcel in the Childers Creek drainage. Map courtesy of Bruce Wiland.

Something tragic must have happened to make the family sell the land after only one and half months. It is speculated that Jim’s sister, Hattie D. Middlebrooks may have died or been killed. Samuel did eventually pass the message on to relatives that Bosque County was too rough a place to raise a family.²³ After living in Bosque County for five years (1879-1883) the family returns to Hempstead County, Arkansas.²⁴

Hempstead County, Arkansas

Samuel and Hattie, Jim and his brothers and sisters, are one of the first Middlebrooks to settle in Hempstead County. Shortly after arriving in Hempstead County, Hattie gives birth to Ora Burnette Middlebrooks on June 24, 1884.²⁵ At this time they are probably living with Hattie's father, Lewis Lee Lane, just one and half miles northwest of the town of Spring Hill, Arkansas. Lewis acquired 80 acres very soon after arriving in Arkansas.²⁶



Location of Lewis L. Lane property (1) . NW/NW & NW/SW, Sec. 26, T 13S, R 25W (80 acres). Spring Hill Township

As previously mentioned, Samuel filed for a ministerial license in Hempstead County on September 19, 1880. Even though the date of the minister's license is after the family has moved to Bosque County in 1879, it was not recorded until Samuel returned to Hempstead County on December 20, 1886.²⁷

The first record we have of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks serving as a Minister of the Gospel or Elder is when he is listed as performing the five following marriages; 1884 (1), 1886 (2) and 1887 (2):²⁸

- ◆ Augustus F. Lane²⁹, age 24, to Florence Montgomery, age 16, on January 20, 1884, by Elder S. C. Middlebrook. This license is granted on written consent of parents.³⁰
- ◆ Thomas G. Martin, 22, to Bettie Barker, 18, December 23, 1886, by Elder S. C. Middlebrook. Mail to Hope.³¹
- ◆ L. C. Yocom, 27, to Winnie Byron, 17, on May 23, 1886, by S. C. Middlebrook Minister of the Gospel. The license is issued upon written consent of girl's father.³²
- ◆ David C. Nichols, 22, of Nevada Co. to Parlee Huckabee,³³ 16, on November 17, 1887, by Elder S. C. Middlebrook. This license is issued by written consent Lee Huckabee and wife, the girl's mail to Falcon , Nevada Co.³⁵
- ◆ Robert W. Dudley, 26, to Jennie G. Roundtree, 16, on November 23, 1887, by Elder S. C. Middlebrook. "I, J. H. Dudley, do solemnly swear that I have seen Dr. Roundtree, father of Jennie G. Roundtree, and know that he is willing to the marriage of Robert W. Dudley to his daughter." Mail to Hope.³⁶

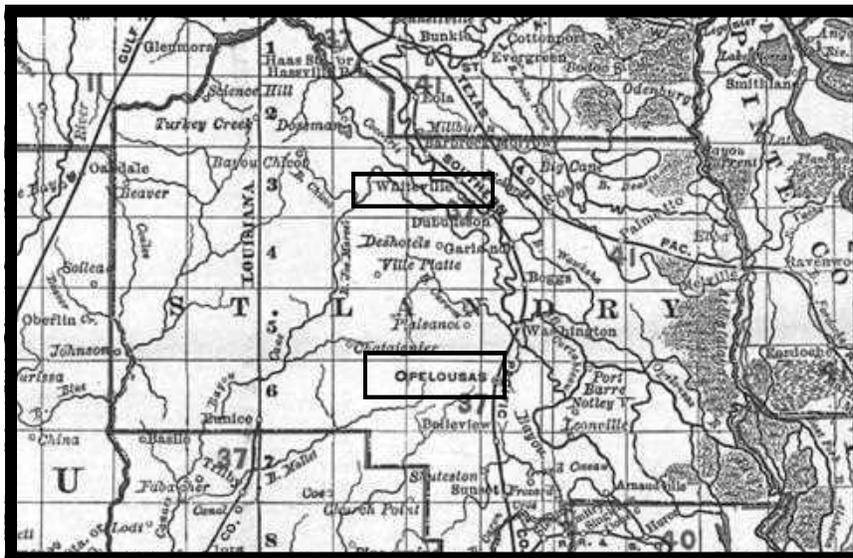
After the family's first year in Hempstead County Samuel is assessed for the following 1885 personal property taxes,³⁶ living in School District 15:

- ◆ 2 horses, \$80,
- ◆ 3 mules, \$150,
- ◆ 2 hogs, \$3,
- ◆ 3 carriages \$75,
- ◆ other assets \$50,
- ◆ Total valuation \$385.

In 1886, Samuel is listed for school tax district 50 and is assessed with a total valuation of \$462.³⁷ Samuel is not listed for tax year 1887. For tax year 1888 Samuel is assessed one poll for School District 50, total valuation \$340 and delinquent taxes \$4.25.³⁸ On March 6, 1885, Samuel secured a mortgage from Hanigan and Co. for fifty-four dollars. The collateral was: **one six-year-old dark brown horse called Mont, a ten-year-old black horse/mule named Bobi, and one brown mare mule named Kate.** This was the second mortgage on the stock and was the first and only mortgage on crops, 30 acres of cotton and 35 acres of corn for the year of 1886.³⁹ Samuel must have rented land while in Hempstead County as no conveyance documents have been found.

Saint Landry Parish, Louisiana

Samuel and Hattie leave Hempstead County in 1889 and move to Bayou Boeuf about two miles north of Whiteville, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. On October 24, 1889, Samuel as a Minister of the Gospel performs the marriage of his son Sims Middlebrooks to Mary T. Huckaby. Witnesses include: W. H. Huckaby, Martha Huckaby and Alfred Povy, Clerk. A marriage bond was posted two days prior for \$300 in Opelousas, Louisiana, by Sims Middlebrooks and T. M. Wroten.⁴⁰



St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, circa 1896. Opelousas is the county seat. Samuel lived two miles above Whiteville (19th Century North American Railroad Maps, vintagechannel.com)

Chapter II: The Journey to Hempstead County, Arkansas

Later that same year on December 19, Elder S. C. Middlebrooks performs the marriage of his daughter Mary P. Middlebrooks to Samuel Brown. The marriage is witnessed by Martha Huckaby and James Reeves. A bond for \$300.00 was secured by Samuel Brown and Thos. Wroten on December 10, 1889, in Opelousas, Louisiana.⁴¹

It appears that most of Samuel's and Hattie's family moved to Bayou Boeuf, Louisiana, except his sons Jim and possibly Samuel Isaac Middlebrooks. Samuel I. Middlebrooks, 21, of Springhill, Arkansas, marries Sally Huckaby, 16, of Springhill on October 4, 1894, by R. H. Betts, Justice of the Peace, Hempstead County.⁴² Daughters, Mary P. and Ora Burnetta and sons Sims, Lewis Lane and Charles Deems have moved with the family in 1889 to Louisiana.

Charles Deems Middlebrooks returns to Hempstead County ca. 1896 when he marries Mary Charlotte Black July 12, 1896. They are married by T. A. Middlebrooks, Minister of the Gospel.⁴³ Lewis Lee Middlebrooks is living in Hempstead County in 1906 when he marries Bertie Amelia Davis on April 15, 1906.⁴⁴ Ora Burnetta Middlebrooks marries James G. Hollis October 9, 1902, Lafayette County, Arkansas.



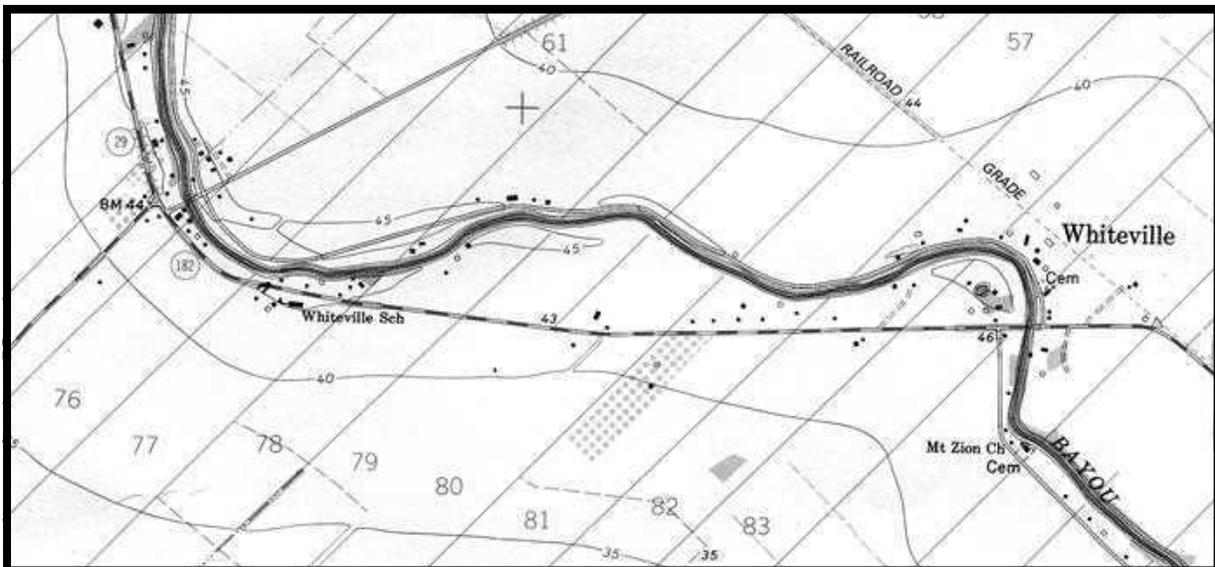
L-R Sims, Sam (on his knee), Ida, Mary Elizabeth (on knee), Mary Telitha (Huckaby) Dove, David, Samuel Cannon Middlebrook, ? Circa 1900-1903
Courtesy of Percy Amy and Charles Middlebrooks

Death of Hattie Middlebrooks circa. 1889-90

It is believed Harriet "Hattie" Ardecy (Lane) Middlebrooks dies 1889-90 on the land Samuel is farming located on Bayou Boeuf. The exact date of her death is not known. She is also not listed as a witness to either of the marriages of her son Sims or daughter Mary P. in October or December of 1889. Hattie may have been at home on the farm taking care of their daughter Ora who was five years old at the time, or she may have died. However, on June 24, 1890, Samuel secures a bond at Opelousas, Louisiana, to marry Mary Ann (McDaniel) Savant.⁴⁹ Sometime during this period Hattie dies and, according to relatives, she is buried out behind the small church Samuel built on land owned by his future wife Mary Ann Savant. Hattie's grave has long since been farmed over.⁴⁵

Bayou Boeuf Home and Church

Shortly after arriving, Samuel and family reside on land between Bayou Boeuf and Bayou Cocodrie located in the northern part of Saint Landry Parish about two miles above the Town of Whiteville, Louisiana. Samuel ends up renting land on the Plantation of Mary Ann Savant, widow of Adolph Savant, where she is living. Samuel is farming cotton and corn to pay rent and to provide for his family. Comprising 200 arpents (170 acres) the property in 1899 is described as follows: **bonded on the west by Bayou Cocodrie, on the south by W. B. Lewis, the north by Swill Harris and on the east by Bayou Boeuf.** About 77 acres is open land with 93 acres in woodland.⁴⁶ As best we can tell the 170 acres is located just northwest of the Whiteville School and close to the intersection of Highways 29 and 182 in parcels 76, 77 or 78.



Suspected location of **Samuel's rented property** (parcels 76, 77 or 78), two miles above Whiteville and between Bayou Boeuf and Bayou Cocodrie. Samuel built his church we feel near the Whiteville School.
(USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle, Whiteville)

According to relatives, very soon after arriving Samuel builds a small church on the property he is farming, also owned by Mary Ann Savant.⁴⁵ The church, presumably of the Baptist denomination would have served residents of the nearby farms and the local small communities. The Church would have been constructed circa 1889 and in operation for about 11 years until around 1900. It is not known if any other local residents were buried behind the church, when the graves were farmed over, or when the church was torn down after Samuel left, *circa* 1900.

Samuel's Third Wife, Mary Ann (McDaniel) Savant

Mary Ann McDaniel was born May 15, 1839, Washington, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.⁴⁶ Her parents are Daniel McDaniel and Mary Ann M. Guillory married February 13, 1838, also in Saint Landry Parish.⁴⁷ Mary Ann McDaniel's first marriage was to Adolph Savant November 11, 1852, St. Landry Parish.⁴⁸ She married once more to a Conrad Martin sometime after the death of Adolph Savant, February 22, 1885, in Whiteville, Louisiana, and before her marriage to S. C. Middlebrooks.⁴⁶

Adolph Stagg, Minister of the Gospel, marries Samuel C. Middlebrooks and Mary Ann (Mc Daniel) Savant, June 25, 1890. A bond is secured at Opelousas, June 24, 1890, by S. C. Middlebrook and L. R. Hauks for \$300.00. Witnesses include Wm. Bradley and J. Savant.⁴⁹ It is reported by relatives that some of the Hattie's children did not think favorably of the marriage so soon after the death of their mother.

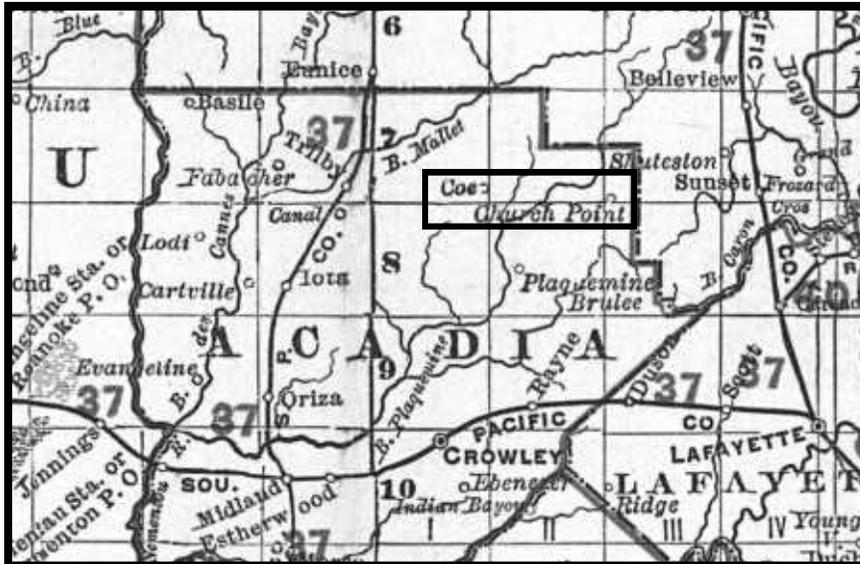
Death of Mary Ann (McDaniel) Middlebrooks and Settling the Estate

Samuel and Mary Ann were married for nine years. Mary Ann Middlebrooks died January of 1899 at her home on Bayou Boeuf. Her Estate Settlement was filed January 10, 1899, in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, with her son John P. Savant named executor. On March 28, 1899, the 170 acres were auctioned, including buildings and improvements along with three mules, two yearling calves, 12 head of hogs, one wagon, one plow and gears, many other farming implements, and about 200 bushels of corn. Nathaniel J. Savant, the son of Mary Ann Middlebrooks, was the high bidder at \$1600.00.⁵⁰

The deed was filed March 30, 1899, in Opelousas and witnessed by John P. Savant, Cleophas Tate and Onez Savant. Both the estate settlement and deed allowed S. C. Middlebrooks to retain possession of the place (where he is now living) for a year, to continue cultivating crops of cotton and corn. It was stipulated that rent was to be paid to the purchaser (Nathaniel J. Savant) with one-third of the cotton crop, and that two-thirds (of the leased land) be planted in cotton and one-third in corn. This stipulation was to cover all land Samuel contracts.⁵¹ It sounds like Samuel was treated as a share-cropper before his marriage to Mary Ann and after her death by her relatives.

Leaving St. Landry Parish

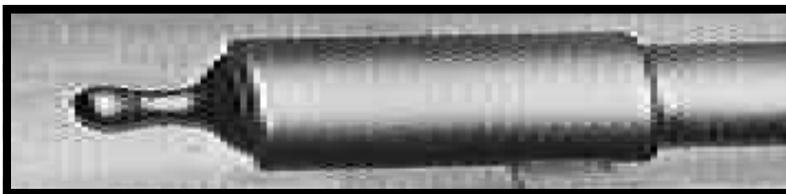
By June of 1900, the census shows Lewis, age 18, and Ora, age 15, living with Samuel, age 62 in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.⁵² According to the deed mentioned above, by the end of March 1900, Samuel would have had to move his family from Mary Ann's estate sold to Nathaniel J. Savant. It is very possible he was allowed to stay until the crops were harvested in August. Samuel lived on Bayou Boeuf in St. Landry Parish for a total of 12 years (1889-1901). Samuel, Lewis and Ora moved in with Sims Middlebrooks (Samuel's son) and family, near the town of Coe, west of Church Point, Acadia Parish for four years (1902-1905).²³



Acadia Parish, Louisiana, circa 1895, Samuel after leaving St. Landry Parish moves near Coe.

Samuel C. Middlebrooks Files for a Civil War Pension

During this period of his life Samuel was most likely suffering from the long-term effects of the wounds he received during the Civil War on Cummings Point, Morris Island, South Carolina. In his file for a Civil War Pension on September 18, 1904, in Acadia Parish (filed on March 20, 1905 in Washington D.C.) he describes that a **7-pound parrot shell exploded 10-12 feet over his head causing head wounds and a concussion.** Samuel stated that he could not earn a living because of paralysis, especially in the lower part of his body, legs, feet and arms.¹² It sounds like he may have started to have a series of small strokes.



10 Pound Parrot Rifle
M1861. Shoots a 10 pound ball 2000 yards, weighs 890 pounds, 78 inches long, 29 inch circumference. Source:

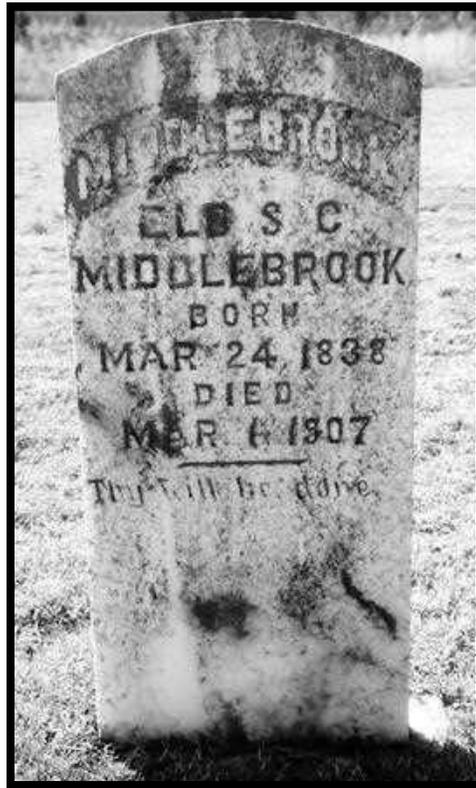
The Civil War Artillery Page: The Weapons. <http://www.cwartillery.org/aguns.html>

Samuel states that he broke up house keeping in 1900 and has spent all his money. Samuel goes on to report in the pension application that he had a total of five children living (four males and one female) and eight dead.¹² This information reveals that between his two wives, Emma Brinkley and Hattie Lane, he had a total of 13 children.

The five living children were (males) Samuel Isaac, Charles Deems, Sims, Lewis Lane, and one female, Ora Burnette. This record shows that James L., Mary P., Frank and Hattie D. have all died before 1904, leaving four more children who must have died at birth or very young.

Returning to Hempstead County

Around 1905, Samuel moves back to Patmos, Hempstead County, Arkansas, to live with his son Charles Deems Middlebrooks and family.²³ It does not appear that Samuel ever received a pension for his Civil War service before his death. Elder S. C. Middlebrook died at the age of 69 on March 6, 1907, and is buried in the Macedonia Cemetery south of Hope on Patmos Road.



Elder S. C. Middlebrook,
Macedonia Cemetery



Chapter II: Endnotes

¹ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 14. Jim Middlebrooks is buried at the Macedonia Cemetery, just south of Hope on Patmos Road.

² Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks, household, 1860 U. S. Census, Jones County, Georgia, Popes District, pg. 8, dwelling 56, enumerated June 18, 1860.

³ Samuel Middlebrooks, household, 1870 U. S. Census, Jones County, Spartinburg, Georgia; Roll: M593-160; Page: 250; Image: 505. James L. is listed as five years old and the Post office is listed as Clinton.

⁴ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 15. Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks is buried at the Macedonia Cemetery, just south of Hope on Patmos Road.

⁵ Jones, Georgia Marriages, Book B, Pg. 267, County Clerks Office, Gray, Georgia.

⁶ Jones County, Georgia Marriages, Book A, Pg. 255, County Clerks Office, Gray, Georgia.

⁷ Lewis L. Lane, household, 1850 U. S. Census, Jasper County, Georgia, District Number 46, pg. 18, dwelling 130, enumerated October 5, 1850.

⁸ Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), 97.

⁹ Dianne Middlebrooks, *Sims Middlebrooks*, (Monticello, Georgia, Privately Published 2002),

¹⁰ Jones County, Georgia Marriages, Book A, Pg.122, County Clerks Office, Gray, Georgia.

¹¹ Samuel C. Middlebrooks, *Compiled Military Service Record*, file 256/98, (Atlanta, Georgia State Archives and History), file requested December 5, 1989. A Confederate Pension was not issued to Samuel or his widow. The State of Georgia did not issue land grants for service in the Civil War. A copy of Special Order 180/12 is available at the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.

¹² Louisiana Secretary of State Confederate Pension Applications Index Database (<http://www.sos.louisiana.gov>.) Reel CP1.97, Microdex 2, seq. 16, 8 pages) Confederate Pension Record for S. C. Middlebrooks, filed Acadia, LA September 18, 1904. Samuel states that he has 13 children, five living and eight dead. All but four of the children can be documented through census and other records.

¹³ E. Milby Burton, *The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865*, (Columbia, SA, University of South Carolina Press, 1970), 151-183, A summary of Chapter 4, Morris Island, SC.

¹⁴ Carolyn W. Williams, *History of Jones County, Georgia For 100 Years Specifically 1807-1907*, (Fernandia Beach, FL: Wolfe Publishing, 2003) , 119, 158.

¹⁵ Carolyn W. Williams, *History of Jones County, Georgia For 100 Years Specifically 1807-1907*, (Fernandia Beach, FL: Wolfe Publishing, 2003) , 166-70.

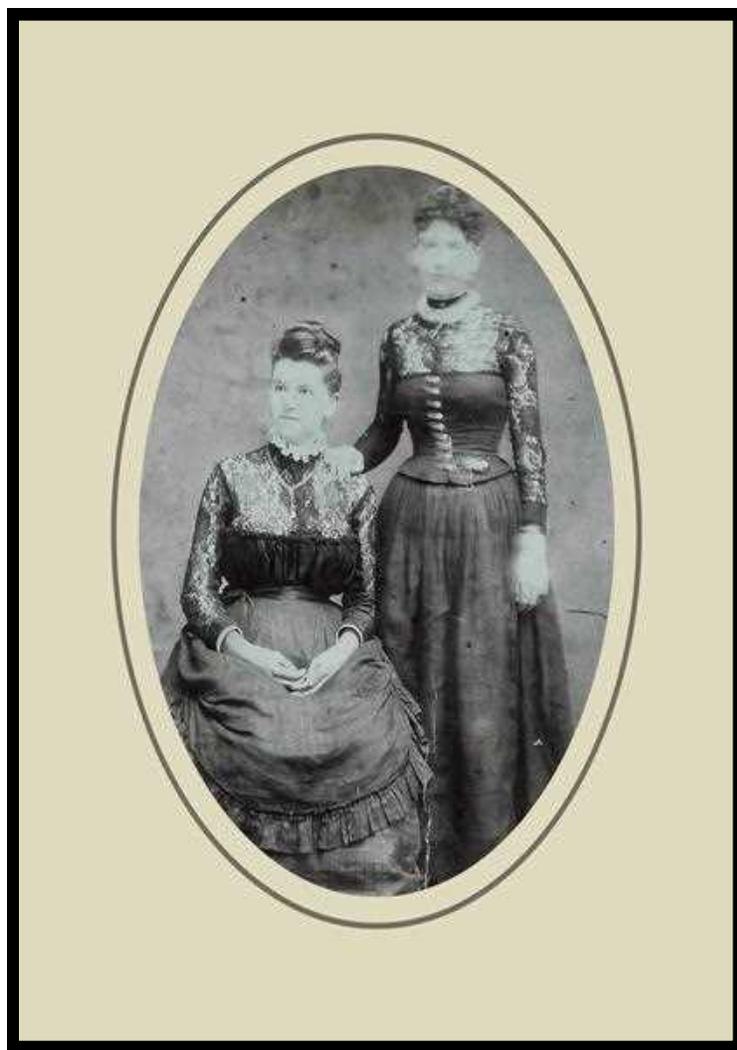
¹⁶ Jones County Deed Book T, Pg. 389, County Circuit Clerks Office, Gray, Georgia.

¹⁷ Letter from Percy R. Amy, 327 Wynell Terrace, Houston Texas 77022 to Neal R. Middlebrook 12508 Thomas Young Ct., Herndon, Virginia, December 12, 1989. Enclosed in the letter was a Xerox copy of a picture of Sims M. Middlebrooks and family with Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks. Percy stated: Samuel is six foot seven inches in height.

- ¹⁸ Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks, household, 1880 U. S. Census, Bosque County, Texas, 13th enumeration district, pg. 29, dwelling 245, enumerated June 4, 1880.
- ¹⁹ Lewis Lee Lane entry, Tax Year 1877, real and personal property Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007497. Total valuation personal property listed \$270.00. Real property location: NW/NW & NW/SW, Sec. 26, T. 13 S., R. 25W, 80 acres.
- ²⁰ Samuel C. Middlebrooks entry, Tax Years 1879-1883, real and personal property Bosque County, Texas
- ²¹ Bosque County, Deed Book X, Pg. 627, County Clerks Office, Meridian, Texas. Property Description: Beginning at the said SW corner of the said Pangburn survey Running thence N 60°, E 950 Varas, to the SE corner of this, thence N 30°, W 950 Varas, for the NE corner of this, thence S 60°, W 950 Varas, for the NW corner, thence S 30°, 950 Varas, to the beginning. 1chain = 66 feet = 23.79 varas.
- ²² Bosque County, Deed Book Z, Pg. 45, County Clerks Office, Meridian, Texas.
- ²³ Charles Middlebrooks, Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks family group sheet, November 23, 2001. Charles states: ***“My Aunt Mary said they left Texas because Samuel said it was to rough a place to try to raise a family”***.
- ²⁴ Bosque County, Texas Tax Rolls 1855-1885, microfilm # 101801, available through ILL at <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/local/bosque.html> Samuel Middlebrooks was listed for tax years 1879-1883.
- ²⁵ Ora B. Hollis, no. 449-88-0182, Social Security Death Index, Family Search, (Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 2001) SSDI is drawn from the Social Security Death Benefits Index of the U. S. Social Security Administration. Ora is born June 24, 1884 and dies June of 1974, Stamps, Lafayette, Arkansas.
- ²⁶ Lewis Lee Lane entry, Tax Year 1877, real and personal property Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007497. Real property location: NW/NW & NW/SW, Sec. 26, T. 13 S., R. 25W, 80 acres
- ²⁷ Hempstead County Deed Book Q, Pg. 57, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. A copy of the ministerial license has not been located according to how it is noted on the deed index.
- ²⁸ *Marriages Hempstead County, Arkansas 1875-1900*, (Hope, AR: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, no date), 225.
- ²⁹ Augustus F. Lane is Harriet “Hattie” A. Lane’s brother by her father’s 2nd marriage to Elizabeth Toland Comfort. Descendants of Benjamin Lane, un-published, 2.
- ³⁰ Hempstead County, Marriage Book G, Pg. 457, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Augustus F. Lane is Hattie A. Lane’s half brother.
- ³¹ Hempstead County, Marriage Book I, Pg. 78, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³² Hempstead County, Marriage Book H, Pg. 418, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³³ Paralee is the daughter of Leroy and Nancy C. (Dudley) Huckabee and sister of Sallie. Sallie Huckabee married S. I. Middlebrooks in 1894, son of Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks.
- ³⁴ Hempstead County, Marriage Book I, Pg. 252, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³⁵ Hempstead County, Marriage Book I, Pg. 257, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

- ³⁶ Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1885, school and personal property taxes assessed, District 15, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm #1007499
- ³⁷ Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1886, school and personal property taxes assessed, District 50, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007499. Assessment include the following: 1 horse, \$75, 5 cattle, \$35, 2 mules, \$100, 18 hogs, \$36, 2 carriages \$30, 1 gold/silver watch, \$10, other assets \$140, total valuation \$426.
- ³⁸ Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1888, Delinquent Personal Property Taxes 1872-1900, District 50, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007496. Samuel was not listed on the 1889 tax list.
- ³⁹ Hempstead County Deed Book S, Pg. 475, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁴⁰ St. Landry Parish Marriage Record # 20084, Package GG-1889.
- ⁴¹ St. Landry Parish Marriage Record # 21083-1889
- ⁴² Hempstead County, Marriage Book L, Pg. 89, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁴³ Hempstead County, Marriage Book L, Pg. 470, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Thomas Anderson is the son of Thomas Jefferson Middlebrooks and Mary Glaze of Loachapoka, AL. T. A. moves to Hempstead ca. 1894 and his brother George Dalton Middlebrooks arrives 1900 – 1904. They are descendants of Thomas Middlebrooks b. 1763, Orange County, NC. See Louis F. Middlebrooks, *Register of the Middlebrook Family Descendants of Joseph Middlebrook of Fairfield Connecticut*, (Hartford, Conn.: C., L. & B Co., 1909), 101, 165.
- ⁴⁴ Arkansas Marriages 1851-1900, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2 August 2001) Marriage Book J, Pg. 584.
- ⁴⁵ Letter from Ray Middlebrooks, 1517 Captain Shreve Dr., Shreveport, LA. 71105, January 24, 1990. ***"Hattie A., my grandfather's wife was buried on the site that Samuel built a church, no longer in existence, which was located across from as you described which was across Bayou Boeuf from where she lived and died."*** Ray Middlebrooks father and mother is Lewis Lane and Bertie (Davis) Middlebrooks.
- ⁴⁶ St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Estate of Adolph Savant (deceased) Probate Court case # 4609, filed December 15, 1889, 13th District Court,
- ⁴⁷ Louisiana Marriages 1718-1925, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.
- ⁴⁸ Louisiana Marriages 1718-1925, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.
- ⁴⁹ St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Record # 23-147-1889.
- ⁵⁰ St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Estate of Mary Ann Mc Daniel (deceased) Probate Court case # 5555, filed January 10, 1899, 11th Judicial District Court. Need to locate a marriage record for Conrad Martin and Mary Ann (McDaniel) Savant.
- ⁵¹ St. Landry Parish, Deed book Q-3, Pg. 561-562, County Clerks Office, Opelousas, LA.
- ⁵² Samuel C. Middlebrooks, household, 1900 U. S. census, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Police Jury Ward 5, part of 12th Justice of Peace, Washington Town. Dwelling & family #13, Samuel head, age 62, b. March, 1838, Georgia, occupation is listed as farmer. Louis, age 18, b. October 1881, Texas. Ora, age 15, b., June, 1884, Arkansas.

***Chapter III:
Jim and Fannie and the Old Hinton
Home Place***



***Frances "Fannie" and Amanda
Hinton (L-R), Circa 1883***

Jim and Frances “Fannie” (Hinton) Middlebrooks

As stated in Chapter 1, James L. Middlebrooks (Jim) was born in the vicinity of Hog Creek, Jones County Georgia, to the parents of Samuel Cannon and Harriet Ardecy (Lane) Middlebrooks. Jim married Frances “Fannie” Deloney Peloney Hinton, born June 3, 1869, in Hempstead County.¹ Fannie’s parents are Lovett Tyler Hinton and Theodocia “Docia” Ann Giles.² Jim and Fannie must have first met in 1884 and possibly married in 1885. A record of their marriage has not been located for Hempstead or the surrounding counties. Oscar Donald, their first child, was born on November 19, 1885, near Hope, Arkansas.³

Jim died from pneumonia March 12, 1899, while living in Hope. He contracted pneumonia/measles and was hospitalized, but according to relatives, was released too early and died shortly thereafter. At the time of his death, he was working for the telephone company. The family was renting a house in Hope.⁴ Fannie Deloney (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward died November 28, 1945, at the Old Hinton Home Place on Patmos Road.⁵

Mrs. Fannie M. Ward, 76, died Wednesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Marion Hubbard, of Hope Route One, after a long illness. She is survived by one daughter; three sons, Verdo of Los Angeles, Oscar of Patmos and Tom of Hope; three brothers, Virgil Hinton of Houston, George Hinton of Phoenix, and Tom Hinton of Texarkana and one half-brother, Fair Boyette of Oklahoma City. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 Sunday afternoon at the Herndon-Cornelius Funeral Home, with burial in Macedonia Cemetery, Patmos road. Pallbearers: Walter Abbott, Homer Reaves, Harrell Hamiter, Bryan Camp, Autrey Wilson and Earl Dudley.



**Francis “Fannie” & Jim
Middlebrooks circa 1884**



Jim Middlebrooks, Macedonia Cemetery.
Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March 2002



Fannie Middlebrooks Ward, Macedonia Cemetery.
Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March 2002

Lovett Tyler and Theodocia “Docia” Ann (Giles) Hinton

Fannie’s parents, Lovett Tyler Hinton and Theodocia “Docia” Ann Giles, were married February 22, 1866, in Hempstead County by J. T. Downs, Minister of the Gospel.⁶ Lovett Tyler Hinton, born on September 6, 1842 in Campbell County Georgia, was the 10th child of Bradford and Patience Lucre Hinton. The family left Georgia about 1854, stopping for a short period in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, before arriving in Hempstead County.⁷ The children of Lovett Tyler Hinton and Theodocia “Docia” Ann (Giles) Hinton include the following:

- ◆ **George Washington**, born November 17, 1866 married D. L. Bowden, December 24, 1885⁷
- ◆ **Fannie Peloney Deloney**, born June 3, 1869⁷, married James Middlebrooks *circa* 1884, and James William Ward December 30, 1914⁴⁵
- ◆ **Amanda Melviny**, born January 29, 1871⁷, married Alexander B. Watson November 4, 1888⁸ and Peter Earhart
- ◆ **Thomas Jonathan**, born November 10, 1872⁷
- ◆ **Virgil Franklin**, born February 27, 1874⁷
- ◆ **Lovett Singleton**, born January 4, 1876 and died August 13, 1883⁹
- ◆ **William Robert**, born February 2, 1878⁷ and died 1903⁹
- ◆ **Christmas Burr**, born December 25, 1879 and died July 12, 1886⁹
- ◆ **Rose Lee**, born March 12, 1888 and died *circa* August 12, 1888⁹
- ◆ **John Bradford**, born April 22, 1883⁹, married Birdie (Bertie) Davis August 3, 1902,¹⁰ died December 16, 1925⁹



Theodocia "Docia" Giles *circa* 1865 tin plate. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Theodocia "Docia" (Giles) Hinton Boyette *circa* 1885 Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Theodocia "Docia" (Giles) Hinton Boyette *circa* 1900. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Theodocia "Docia" (Giles) and Lovett Tyler Hinton *circa* 1866 tin plate. No other picture of Lovett has been found. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier

Singleton and Amanda (Milton) Giles

Singleton and Amanda (Milton) Giles are the parents of Docia Ann Giles (Fannie's mother). Singleton was born November 25, 1825, in Georgia, and Amanda was born April 7, 1826, also in Georgia.¹³ Singleton and Amanda were married May 18, 1847, Walton County, Georgia.¹¹ It is believed Docia was born *circa* 1848, in Carroll County, Georgia.¹²

During the period of 1850 to 1860, Singleton and Amanda moved to Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas.¹³ Amanda dies January 8, 1890, and Singleton dies August 3, 1905. Both are buried in the Macedonia Cemetery.¹⁴



Docia (Giles) Hinton Boyett
Macedonia Cemetery August 2006



Lovett Tyler Hinton
Macedonia Cemetery
August 2006



Amanda M. (Milton) Giles Macedo-
nia Cemetery August 2006



Amanda M. (Milton) Giles Macedo-
nia Cemetery August 2006



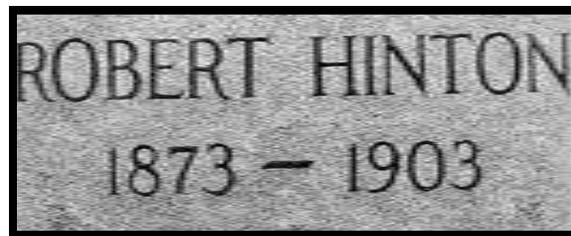
Singleton Giles Macedonia
Cemetery August 2006



Christmas Burr Hinton born, December 25, 1879 and died, July 12, 1886. Macedonia Cemetery August 2006



John Bradford Hinton, born, April 22, 1883 and died, December 16, 1925. Macedonia Cemetery August 2006



William Robert Hinton, born, February 2, 1878 and died 1903. Macedonia Cemetery August 2006



Rosa Lee Hinton, born, March, 12, 1888 & died, August 12, 1888. Macedonia Cemetery August 2006

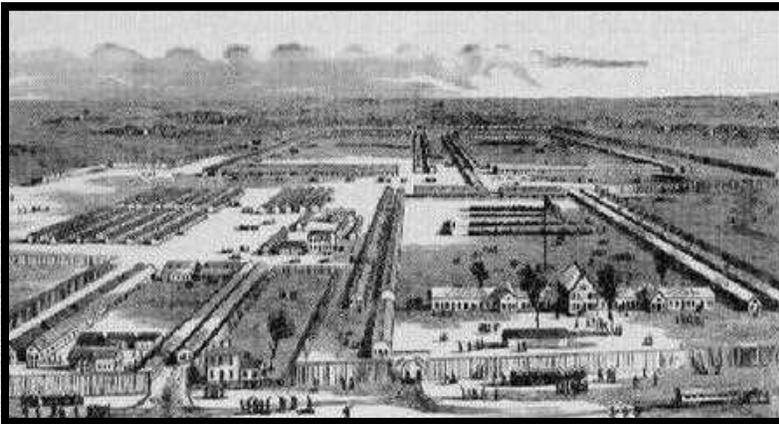


Lovett Singleton Hinton, born, January 4, 1876 & died August 13, 1883. Macedonia Cemetery August 2006

Civil War Service of Lovett Tyler Hinton

Lovett Tyler Hinton (Fannie's father) was enlisted by G. M. Holt on July 18, 1861, Benton, Arkansas Company "Falcon Guards" 11th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry. This company subsequently became Company E, the 11th Regiment Arkansas Infantry organized during July 1861, Saline County, Arkansas. On a Company muster roll at Benton County in January of 1862, Lovett is listed as sick in the barracks.¹⁵

Lovett T. Hinton is listed among the Confederate soldiers who surrendered on Island No. 10, April 8, 1862. He was sent along with other soldiers of the 11th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry, to Camp Douglas Prison, located on the south side of Chicago. They had been shipped by steam boats up the Mississippi to Cairo, Illinois. They spent eight days on the lower decks of the boats before arriving in Cairo and were then loaded into cattle railroad cars for the 12-hour journey to Chicago.¹⁶



Camp Douglas, Confederate Prisoner of War Camp, Chicago, Illinois. (<http://www.answers.com/topic/camp-douglas>)

The 60-acre prison, at its peak in December of 1864, held 30, 000 prisoners. The conditions were terrible and thousands died. During the period when Camp Douglas Prison was operated, over 4, 450 men died and most are buried at the Confederate Mount in Oakwood Cemetery, Chicago.¹⁶ Lovett was sent along with other Confederate soldiers to Vicksburg, Tennessee, for exchange on September 4, 1862.¹⁵



Confederate Prisoners at Camp Douglas.

(<http://.geocities.com/heartand/meadows/1314/confederatepows.html>)

On April 30, 1864, Lovett is listed on a hospital muster roll at Lee Hospital, Lauderdale, Mississippi. He was a patient at the hospital for March and April of 1864. Then on October 8, 1864, he is captured at Saline County, Arkansas, and confined at the Military Prison, Little Rock, Arkansas, until November 17, 1864, when he is transferred to the Military Prison, Alton, Illinois. Lovett is next transferred to Point Lookout Military Prison in Maryland on February 17, 1865, and is part of the exchange of Confederate and Union soldiers.¹⁵

At this point it is only a little over two months before the South surrenders on May 5, 1865. More than likely, Lovett returned home to Hempstead County, Arkansas, and tried to put this awful experience of the war behind him. As far as we know, Lovett spent at least 10 months in three Union military prisons and two months in the hospital for wounds or some type of illness.



Point Lookout Military Prison, Maryland. (<http://www.historicmapsrestored.com/civilwar/lookoutpoint.html>)

Engagements of the 11th & 17th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry¹⁷

The 11th Regiment Arkansas Infantry was captured on April 8, 1862, at New Madrid, Island No. 10. After prisoners were exchanged, the regiment was reorganized as a mounted infantry and was later moved to the lower Mississippi. In April 1864, the 11th was combined with the 17th Consolidated Arkansas Infantry (Rector's & Griffith's). Skirmishes were fought in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the unit was included in the surrender, May 4, 1865.

In order to stop Union troops from advancing down and eventually controlling the Mississippi River, Confederate General Beauregard decided to take a stand at New Madrid, Island No. 10, about 60 miles below Columbus, Kentucky. After two days of heavy bombardment and skirmishes by both sides, Confederate officers decided that Island 10 could not be defended. On April 4th, Confederate forces on Island 10 surrendered. The Mississippi River was now open to advancing Union forces down to Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

The 11th and 17th Regiment Arkansas Infantry were one of the Confederate units to attack the Union-held garrison at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864. The Garrison overlooked the Mississippi River and was located 40 miles above Memphis. Estimated casualties on both sides totaled 654. The Confederates were victorious in driving the Union troops from the Garrison. Next, on August 21, 1864, the 11th and 17th were

victorious in driving the Union troops from the Garrison. Next, on August 21, 1864, the 11th and 17th were involved in a daring raid on the Union-held City of Memphis.



The objectives of these raids were to capture Union generals residing there, free the southern prisoners being held at Irving Block Prison, and make the Union recall forces from Northern Mississippi. Under the command of Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Confederates were successful in releasing 500 prisoners and taking large quantities of supplies and horses. Approximately 69 casualties occurred.

Map of the locations of Civil War Engagements in which Lovett T. Hinton fought in; Madrid Island 10 and Fort Pillow. (<http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc/ftpillow4a.html>)

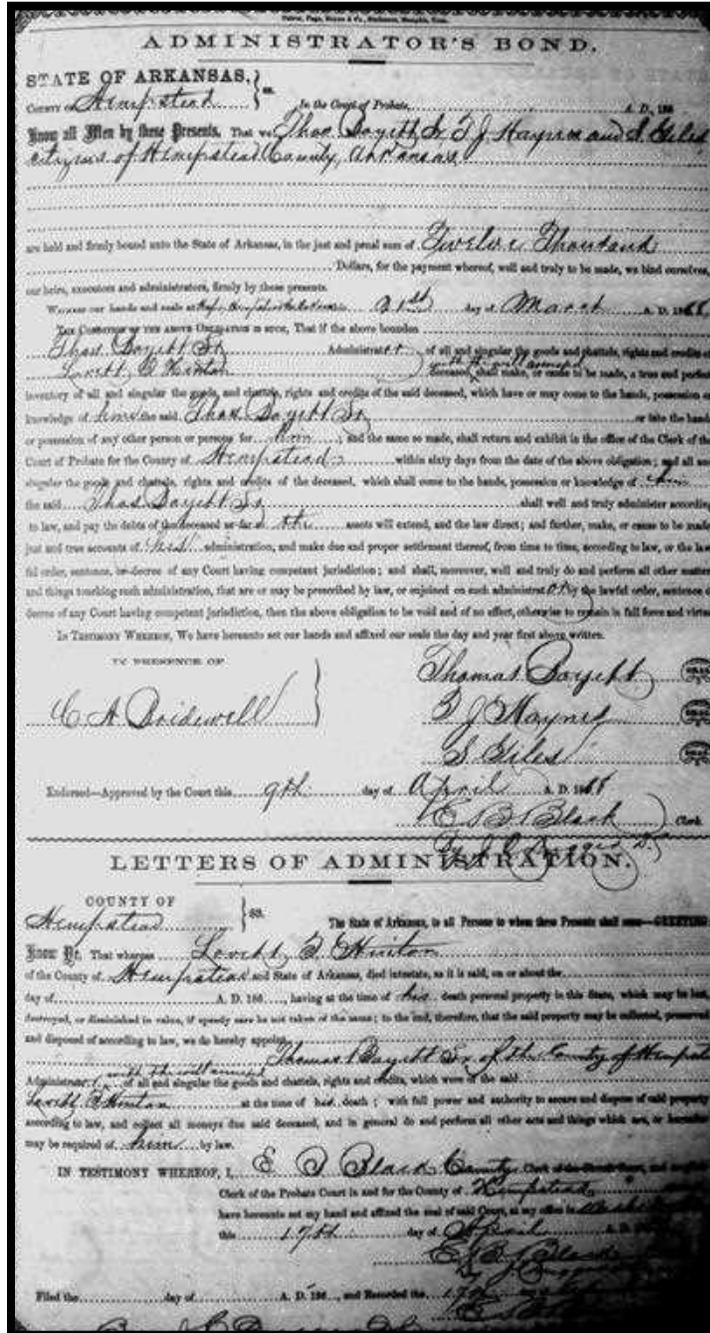
Settling the Estate of Lovett Tyler Hinton

At the time of his death, April 2, 1884, Lovett had acquired a sizeable estate encompassing 840 acres. In his will, filed and probated May 5, 1884, in Hempstead County, he states, "1st, I give and bequeath to my wife Theodocia A. Hinton all my personal property and real estate during her natural life or widowhood, or until the youngest child is of age and have received an education, after which I want an equal division of my property with all heirs. I appoint my wife, Theodocia A. Hinton, sole executrix of this my last will and testament, March 28, 1884."¹⁸ An Executor's Bond of \$12,000 is posted by T. A. Boyett as executrix on May 24, 1884. Witnesses included: S. Giles, T. H. Hinton, E. G. Porterfield and T. J. Haynes.¹⁹

Theodocia Ann (Giles) Hinton, 40, marries Thomas James Boyette, Sr., 56, on November 6, 1887, by J. J. Haynes, Minister of the Gospel, Hempstead County.²⁰ As was custom, Thomas is subsequently appointed guardian of Theodocia's children Amanda M., Thomas J., Virgil F., William R. and John B. Hinton on November 29, 1887.²¹ A second Executor's Bond was posted on March 21, 1888, for \$12,000 by Thomas Boyett Sr., T. J. Haynes and S. Giles. Thomas Boyette, Sr. is appointed by the probate Court on April 9, 1888, as administrator (with the will annexed) of the estate of Lovett T. Hinton (deceased).²² The Letters of Administration are filed and recorded April 17, 1888.

The Partition Decree was issued by the court on April 4, 1889. The plaintiffs are listed as Thomas Boyett, Sr. as guardian of Amanda M., Thomas J., Virgil F., William R. and John B. Hinton and as Administrator (with the will annexed) of Lovett T. Hinton (deceased) and Theodocia A. Boyette with the defendants listed as George W. Hinton and Fannie D. Middlebrook.²³

This same day, the court appointed Commissioners Thomas J. Haynes, John A. Todd and Alex Sinyard to partition the estate of Lovett T. Hinton (deceased) into eight equal shares. The Commissioners Report was presented to the court on April 10, 1889. The lands were partitioned into eight equal shares with a value of \$500.00 each.²³ Two of Lovett's children Rosa Lee and Christmas Burr Hinton died young before the partition.⁹



Administrator's Bond and Letters are posted March 21, 1888 to Thomas Boyett, Sr. for the administration of Lovett T. Hinton estate.

**Commissioner's Report for Partition of the Lovett T. Hinton
Lands (840 acres), April 4, 1889,
Hempstead County, Arkansas²³**

Share # 1: Amanda W. (Hinton) Watson Earhart

Described as follows: The West $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, in Township 13 South, South, of Range 23 West and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22, in Township 13 South, of Range 24 West, containing in all 160 acres and lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas and valued at the sum of \$500.00.

Share # 2: Thomas J. Hinton

Described as follows: The South part of the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (containing 20 acres), the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, the South $\frac{1}{2}$, of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26 and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22, all in Township 13 South, of Range 24 West and containing in all 200 acres and lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00.

Share # 3: Theodocia A. (Giles) Hinton Boyett.

Described as follows: The NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and all of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, except 10 acres off the eastside thereof in section 22, of Township 13 South, Range 24 West, and containing the aggregate of 70 acres, and lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00.

Share # 4: George W. Hinton

Described as follows: The East $\frac{1}{2}$, of the East $\frac{1}{2}$, of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 22, and the West $\frac{1}{2}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 23, all in Township 13 South, Range 24 West, containing in all 30 acres, with the dwelling house and out houses thereon, and lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00.

Share # 5: John B. Hinton

Described as follows: The South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, in Township 13 South, of Range 24 West, containing 80 acres, and lying all in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00.

Share # 6: Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward

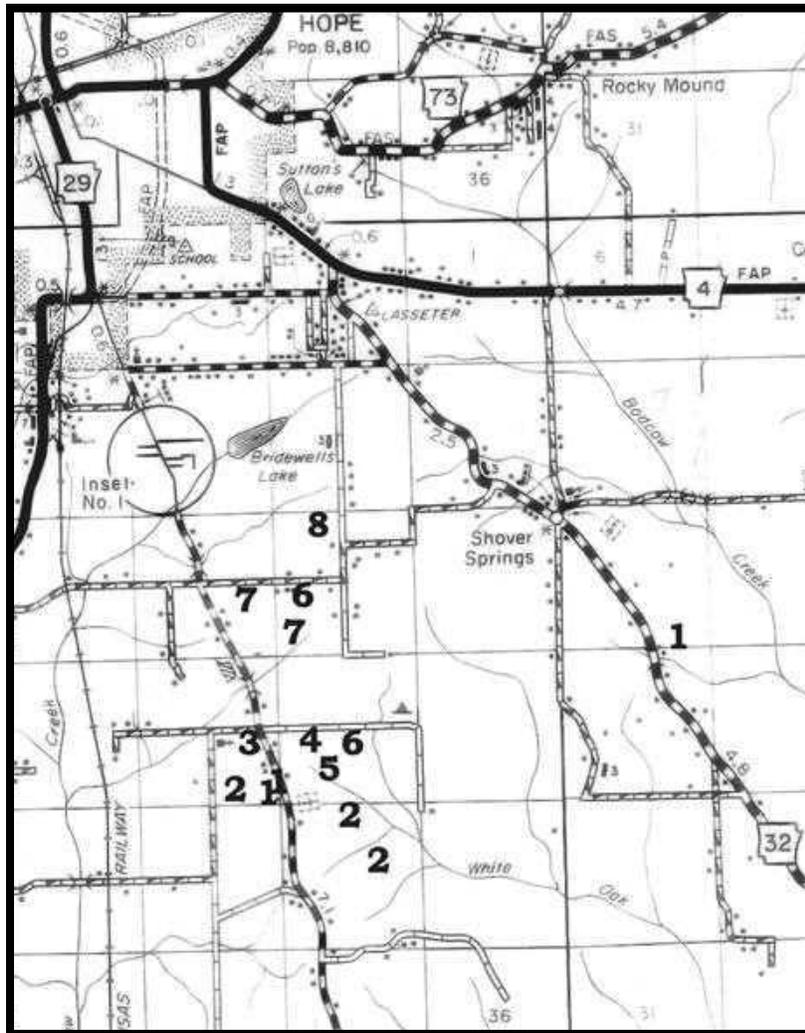
Described as follows: The East $\frac{1}{2}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 23, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 14, all in Township 13 South and Range 24 West, containing in all 100 acres, and lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00

Share # 7: William R. Hinton

Described as follows: The NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 15, and the West $\frac{1}{2}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 14, all in Township 13 South and Range 24 West, containing in all 60 acres, known as the Curry Place with the houses and out houses thereon, lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00.

Share # 8: Virgil F. Hinton

Described as follows: The North $\frac{1}{2}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the East $\frac{1}{2}$, of the S $\frac{1}{4}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 14 all in Township 13 south and Range 24 West, containing in all 140 acres, lying in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and valued at the sum of \$500.00



Approximate location of the Hinton estate properties partitioned. Share#(1-8) correspond to Hinton children listed on previous page. Arkansas General Highway Map, 1944 Hempstead County.

The Old Hinton Home Place

Lovett T. Hinton had acquired 160 acres just north of Giles Cemetery along Patmos Road from Thomas C. Smith, Jr. on February 2, 1874 for \$800.00.²⁴ The land is located two miles north of the Macedonia Cemetery and six miles south of Hope. It is believed that the 109 acres (part of the 160-acre tract) lying west of the Hope-Falcon Public Road (Patmos Rd.) is the Old Hinton Home Place where Lovett and Theodocia raised their family. In the court case of Charles Verdo Middlebrooks vs. Miss Fannie Ward, et al, the testimony of Amanda M. (Hinton) Watson Earhart on May 18, 1934, substantiates the location of the homestead of Lovett T. Hinton.²⁵ Amanda M. Earhart is the sister of Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward.

The following is the testimony of May 18, 1934, Charles Verdo Middlebrooks vs. Miss Fannie Ward Et AL., case no. 2725.

Testimony of Amanda (Hinton) Watson Earhart

Question: You are familiar with the 69 acre tract in controversy, are you not, the Old Hinton Home Place and also the 40 acres adjoining it?

Answer: Yes, sir

Question: You were raised there were you not?

Answer: Oh, yes, I was raised there.

Question: That was your mother's home, was it not?

Answer: Yes sir.

Question: How was that home established there, by her first husband?

Answer: Yes, sir.

Question: Was the old dwelling house on that 69 acres?

Answer: Not the old house. There was one house built there on mother's place; That was when my sister moved out their 35 years ago I suppose.

Question: Was your mother living there then?

Answer: No she was living in Hope.

Question: That was still the old Hinton home place as I understand it?

Answer: Yes, sir.

Question: Were there any other houses ever built on that place by you children?

Answer: Yes, sir.

Question: When was that?

Answer: I suppose about 15 or 16 years ago.

Question: What were the circumstances under which that house was built?

Answer: It was built for my sister to live in. She left there and I came down on a visit and I asked the boys if they build a house there for there mother to live in if I furnish the money.

Question: What boys are you speaking of?

Answer: My sister's boys, her boys.

Question: Now, one of them was C. V. Middlebrooks, is he not?

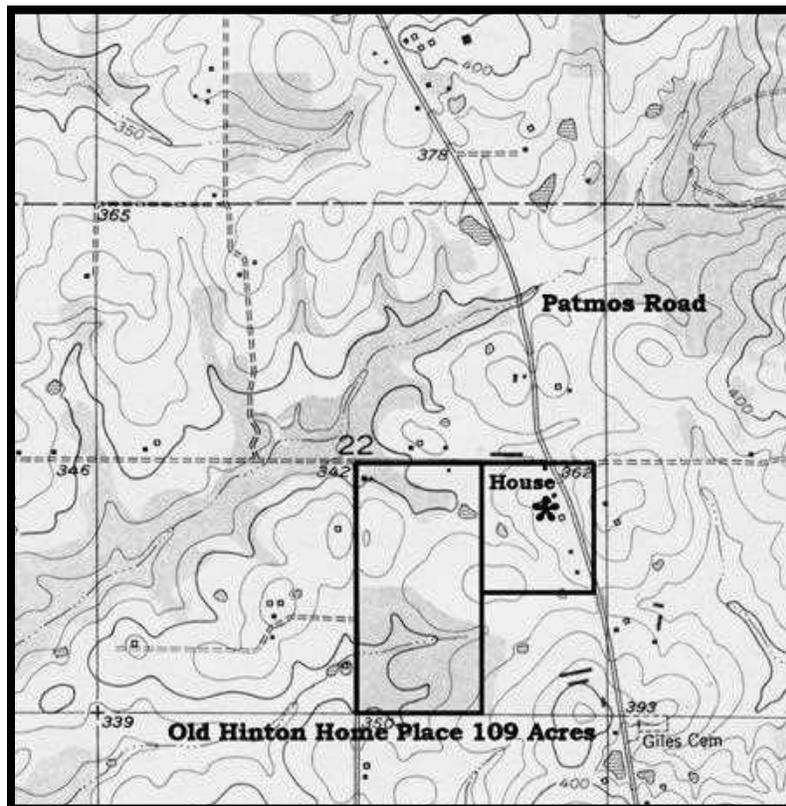
Answer: Yes, sir.

Question: And Oscar Middlebrooks?

Answer: Yes, sir.

From the testimony of Amada Earhart it appears that Lovett and Theodocia built a house on what was called the Old Hinton Home Place (on the 69 acres close to Patmos Rd.) presumably after the property was acquired in 1874.²⁴ After the death of Lovett, Theodocia A. Middlebrooks marries Thomas Boyett in 1887 and she moves to Hope.³⁶ Then about 1900, Amanda says another house (not the old house) was built on the property where her sister, Fannie moved.

According to relatives, this is the newer home where Fannie raised her family after her husband Jim died in 1899.³⁶ I suspect the Old Hinton Home Place and where Fannie raised her family, may have been re-built. Furthermore, according to relatives, the front part of the house was very old. Verdo Middlebrooks and his family were living in what was believed to be the Old Hinton Home Place until they moved to Los Angeles, California, in 1929.²⁶ The Old Hinton Home Place was torn down after Marion and Amie Hubbard moved out to live with Fannie in 1929.²⁶



Old Hinton Home Place as it exists today. The 109 acres does not include the land on the east side of Patmos Road. USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle 1951, revised 1978.



Front yard of Old Hinton Home Place. L-R: Lynn Bayless, Bruce Middlebrooks, Gordon Bayless and Ray Middlebrooks. 1921 No pictures of the actual house have been located.



Old barn on Hinton Home Place. L-R: Bruce Middlebrooks, Marion Hubbard, and Tom Middlebrooks, December 1955



Old Mule barn on Hinton Home Place, December 1955.

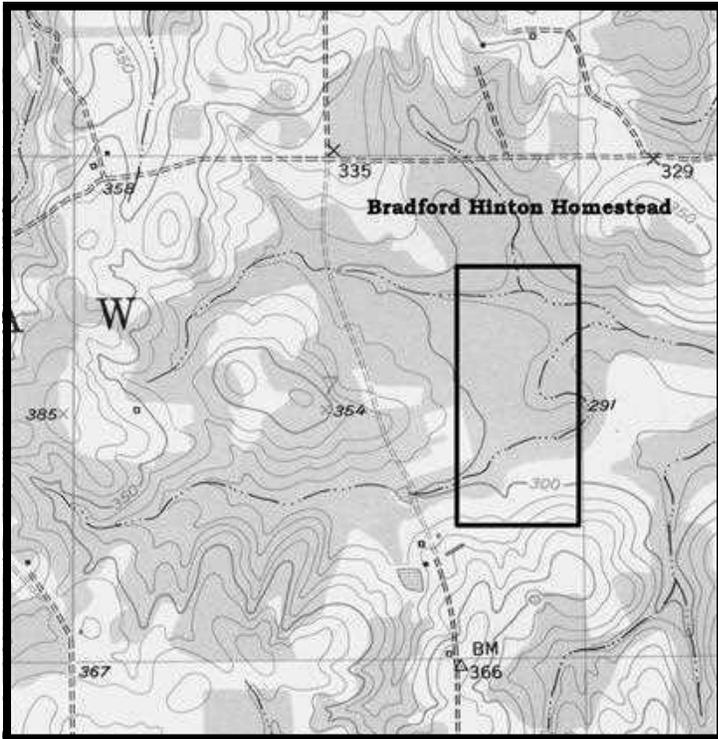


The location of the old Hinton house was near this stump. The house was torn down not long after Verdo Middlebrooks and family left for Los Angeles in August of 1929. The house in the background was originally built by Oscar and Verdo Middlebrooks for their mother Fannie (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward, *circa* 1920. Oscar Phillip Kent is standing next to the stump. August 2006.

Giles Cemetery Homestead

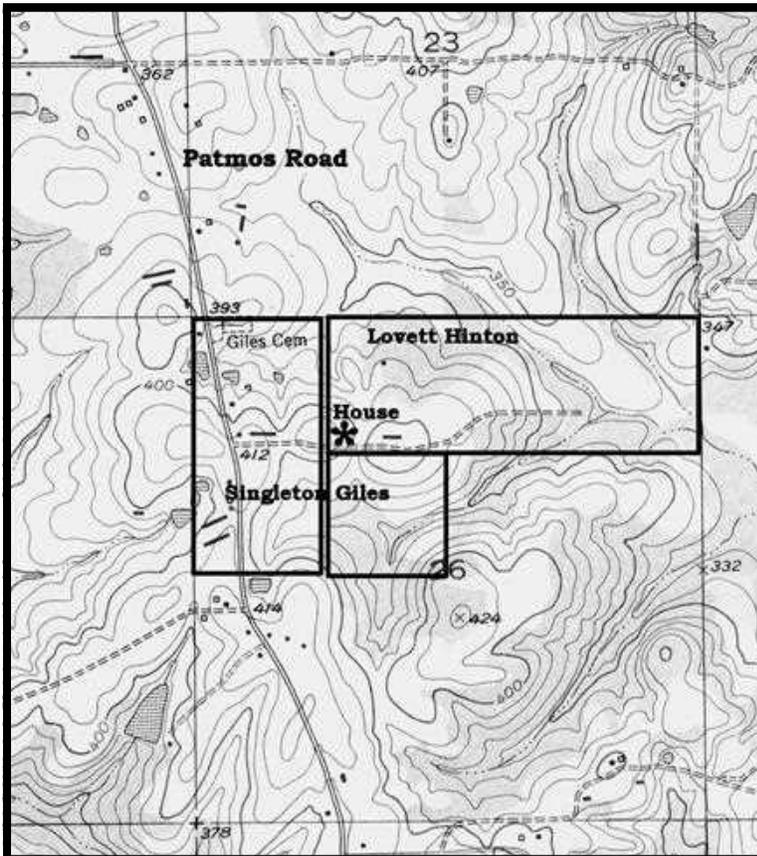
Prior to moving to the old Hinton Home Place Lovett may have been living with his father, Bradford Hinton, about 1-1/2 miles east of New Hope Primitive Baptist Church after returning from the War in May of 1865.²⁷ Possibly after he married Docia in 1866, they lived with her parents, Singleton and Amada (Milton) Giles, near the Giles Cemetery.²⁸ Lovett and Docia's first child, George Washington Hinton, may have been born in either one of these two homesteads.

Less than a year after they were married, Lovett bought 100 acres from James R. Giles on January 8, 1867.²⁹ The land is located just east of Giles Cemetery. The actual homestead was probably located on the 40-acre parcel directly east of the Giles Cemetery, based on real estate tax records. James, Singleton's brother, is living next door to Singleton and Amanda. It is likely that Fannie D. (born June 3, 1869), Amada M. (born January 29, 1871) and Thomas J. Hinton (born November 10, 1872)⁷ are actually born on the 100 acres before moving to the Old Hinton Home Place on Patmos Road in 1874. Lovett sold the 100-acre parcel to J.F. Hamiter on May, 8, 1878.³⁰



Location of Bradford Hinton, homestead, father of Lovett.

The location is about 1-1/2 miles east of New Hope Primitive Baptist Church. Bradford was a member in 1880. (SE/NE & NE/SE, Sec. 7, T. 14S, R. 23W, 58 acres.) USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle 1951, revised 1978.



Lovett Hinton property

(1867-1874) : (N ½, NE ¼, & NE ¼, NW ¼, except 20 acres on the south side Sec. 26, 13S, 24W 100 acres).

Singleton Giles property,

(W ½, NW ¼, & SE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 120 acres).

USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle 1951, revised 1978.



Giles or New Bethel Cemetery (1.80 acres) looking east from Patmos Road. The cemetery was established on land originally owned by Singleton Giles. The New Bethel Church is thought to have been located on the cemetery property. Local residents at one time also called this cemetery Nigger Hill, because of the number of black families buried there. Lovett Hinton homestead (1867-1864) was 1/4 mile to the east of this location.

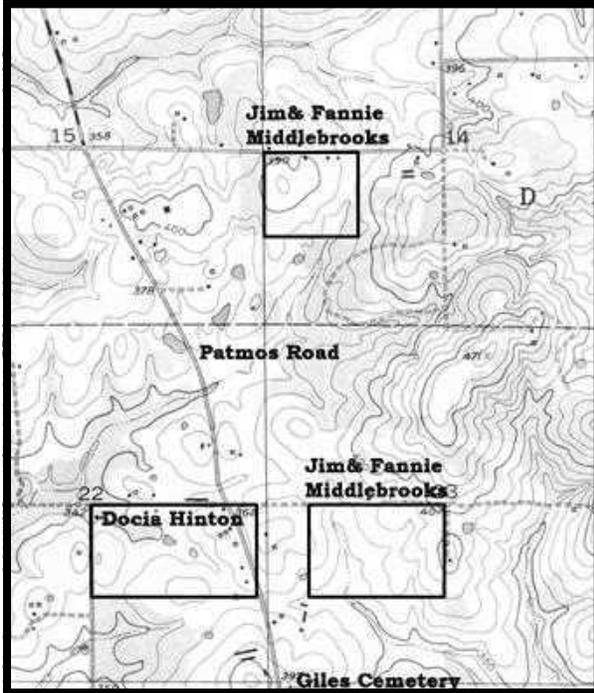
Jim and Fannie's Homestead

After marrying (*circa* 1884/85), it is suspected Jim and Fannie lived on one of the two properties she eventually inherited from her father in 1889 or possibly on the Old Hinton Home Place.³⁶ As previously noted, Fannie's mother, Docia, moved from the Old Hinton Home Place to Hope after marrying Thomas Boyett, in November of 1887.

The two inherited properties referred to above, were a 40- and 60-acre parcel. The 40-acre parcel was located one-half mile east of Patmos Road on County Road 56. The 60-acre parcel was also east of Patmos Road about one-third mile on County Road 132. Both of these properties are very close to the Old Hinton Home Place. The most likely place where Jim and Fannie raised their children was the 40-acre parcel on County Road 56, because Fannie Middlebrooks paid taxes on the 40 acres from 1891 to 1895.³⁷ The other 60-acre parcel was sold to S. H. Briant on December 20, 1892.³⁸

On the 1895 real property tax list, Fannie is listed as paying taxes on the 40 acres, but a line is drawn through her name and the name of J. H. Dudley is listed.³⁹ Although, a deed of sale has not been located for the 40-acre parcel, a note in the 1898 delinquent personal property tax records states "***deed of property disposed of***" next to Jim's name.⁴² Therefore, it is likely the 40 acres was sold to J. H. Dudley in 1895. J. H. Dudley eventually bought all 160 acres of the SW ¼ of Sec14, T 13S, R 24W., which included the 40 acres.⁴⁰ On the 1897 tax list, J.H. Dudley is assessed for 240 acres for this area with his name marked out and W. A. Dudley written in.⁴¹

From the foregoing, it is thought that Jim and Fannie's home until 1894/95 was located on the 40 acres she inherited from her father in 1889. They may have rented land for a short period of time before moving to Hope *circa* 1895/96. At the time of Jim's death (1899), according to relatives⁴ they had rented a house and were living in Hope. Also, according to the testimony of Fannie's sister, Amanda, Fannie did not move back to the Old Hinton Home place until around 1900.



Jim & Fannie Middlebrooks property
(Top) NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec.14, 13 South, 24 West, 40 acres, (Bottom) East $\frac{1}{2}$, of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec. 23, 13 South, 24 West, 60 acres. **Docia Hinton Boyett**
NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and all of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, except 10 acres off the eastside in Sec. 22, 13 South, 24 West, 70 acres.

USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle
1951, revised 1978.

Jim & Fannies property in Section 14.
The 40 acre parcel located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Patmos Rd. on County Rd. 56.
August 2006



Jim & Fannies property in Section 23.
The 60 acre parcel east of Patmos Rd. about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile on County Rd. 132.
August 2006



Relatives also confirm that Fannie as a widow with six children moved back to the Old Hinton Home Place from Hope after the death of her husband Jim in 1899.³⁶ Tom Hinton, Fannie's brother, was living in Texarkana, Miller County, Arkansas, at the time of Jim's death and made arrangements for Fannie to move to the Old Hinton Home Place to raise her family.⁴ By this time all of Fannie's children would have been born except possibly Tom Middlebrooks.

Farming: A Hard Way to Make a Living

Jim followed in his father's footsteps and became a farmer. Farming is a tough life and James' total valuation of personal property is listed for the 1885 tax year, as \$115.00 and delinquent taxes of \$2.50.³¹ Jim was listed for School Taxing District 20, thought to encompass the area along Patmos Road. The next tax year (1886) Jim has the following personal property assessed:

- ◆ **one horse \$40,**
- ◆ **two cattle \$10,**
- ◆ **nine hogs \$10,**
- ◆ **other assets \$140,**
- ◆ **total valuation \$268.**³²

Jim is listed for tax years 1887 and 1888 with a total valuation of \$144 and \$108 respectively.³³ James is not listed for tax year 1889. On October 1, 1893, like his father, Jim secured a mortgage from Thomas Boyett, Docia (Giles) Hinton's second husband to pay for supplies to plant crops from 1893 to 1895. As collateral, he used ***one bay horse about eight years old named Jim and one iron gray mule (mare) four years old named Jinnie.***³⁴ Jim satisfied the mortgage January 10, 1896. Jim is listed in tax School District 15 for 1894 to 1895 (personal property) and as a delinquent tax payer in 1898.³⁵

In summary, Jim is not listed for tax years 1891 to 1893 (personal property), or for tax years 1895 to 1901 (real property). However, Fannie paid taxes on land in 1891 to 1895.³⁷ By 1895, Jim and Fannie have sold both parcels of land (100 acres) she had inherited from her father. According to relatives,⁴ at the time of his death in 1899, Jim is working for the telephone company and the family was living in Hope. From the foregoing it appears that Jim and Fannie decided to move the family to Hope around 1896/97. Based on tax and land records, it looks like Jim was struggling to make ends meet and decided to quit farming.

Singleton Giles' Will

Fannie Middlebrooks, granddaughter of Singleton Giles, is among the heirs listed in Singleton's will recorded by H. A. Reece on July 27, 1905, and filed August 7, 1905. He appointed his grandson Singleton Maulding (Mauldin) as executor. In the will, he bequeathed \$5.00 each to daughters Doshie (Docia) Boyett and Malissi Porterfield, and son John Giles. The remainder of his estate was divided into four parts, going to daughter, Nancy Maulding (Mauldin), grand-daughter Fannie Middlebrooks, Grandson, Rufus A. Haynes and grandson, Singleton Maulding (Mauldin).⁴³

An Executor's Bond was posted for \$3,000.00 by J. W. Porterfield, K. G. McRae and L. S. Mauldin in the October term of the Probate Court, 1905.

Witnesses include J. C. Porterfield, Gus Rowland and the bondsman listed above.⁴⁴ Fannie, at this time in her life having a large family to support, would have been grateful for any inheritance from her grandfather.

Executor's Oath.

STATE OF ARKANSAS, }
COUNTY OF Sevier }
In the Court of Probate, August 7th 1905

I, Singleton Maudslon, being duly sworn, depose and say that he will make a true and perfect inventory of the Estate, and faithfully execute the last Will and Testament of the testator, Singleton Maudslon, deceased, pay the debts and legacies, as far as the assets will extend and the law direct, render just accounts of his executorship, and faithfully perform all things required by law touching such executorship.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the 7th day of August 1905

Edgar B. Rowland
Clerk of the Court of Probate

Executor's Bond.

STATE OF ARKANSAS, }
COUNTY OF Sevier }
Know All Men by these Presents, That we, J. W. Porterfield, G. M. Rowland, and L. A. Maudslon are held and firmly bound unto the State of Arkansas in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars, for the payment whereof well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly by these presents.

Witness our hands and seals at Sevier this 10th day of August 1905

The Condition of the above obligation is such, That if the above bounden Singleton Maudslon executor of the last Will and Testament of Singleton Maudslon deceased, shall make or cause to be made, a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of the said deceased, which have or may come to the hands, possession or knowledge of him, the said Singleton Maudslon or into the hands or possession of any other person for him, and the same or made shall return and exhibit in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Probate, for the County of Sevier within sixty days from the date of the above obligation, and further make or cause to be made, just and true accounts of his executorship, and make due and proper settlements thereof from time to time, according to law or the lawful order, process or decree of any Court having competent jurisdiction, and well and truly fulfill the duties enjoined upon him, in and by said Will, and shall recover pay and deliver to the persons entitled thereto, all the legacies and bequests contained in said Will, so far as the estate of said testator will therein extend, according to the value thereof, and as the law shall charge him; and shall in general do all other acts which may from time to time be required of him by law, then this obligation to be void and of no effect, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year first above written.

IN PRESENCE OF

J. C. Porterfield
G. M. Rowland

J. W. Porterfield
G. M. Rowland
L. A. Maudslon

Letters Testamentary.

COUNTY OF Sevier }
The State of Arkansas to all Persons to whom these Presents shall come Greeting:

Know Ye, That the last Will and Testament of Singleton Maudslon deceased, hath, in due form of law, been exhibited, proved and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Probate, for Sevier County, a copy of which is herewith annexed, and inasmuch as it appears that Singleton Maudslon has been appointed executor in and by the said last Will and Testament, to execute the same, and to the end that the property of the testator may be preserved for those who shall appear to have a legal right or interest therein, and that the said Will may be executed according to the request of the testator, we do hereby authorize him the said Singleton Maudslon as such executor to collect and secure all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of the said Singleton Maudslon at the time of his death, in whatsoever hands or possession the same may be found, and to perform and fulfill all such duties as may be enjoined upon him by said Will, or for as there shall be property, and the law charge him; and in general to do and perform all other acts which now are, or hereafter may be required of him by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I Edgar B. Rowland Clerk of the Court, and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Court of Probate, in and for the said County of Sevier have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at my office, in Waverly this 10th day of August 1905

Edgar B. Rowland Clerk

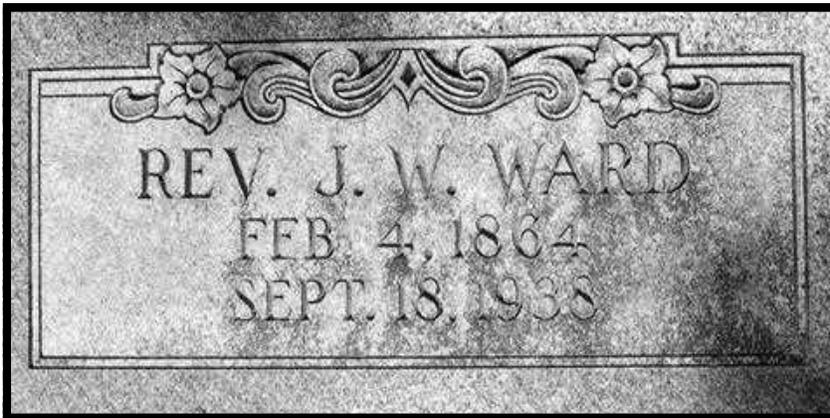
Executor's Bond filed for administration of the Singleton Giles Estate, October 1905.

James William Ward Fannie's 2nd Husband

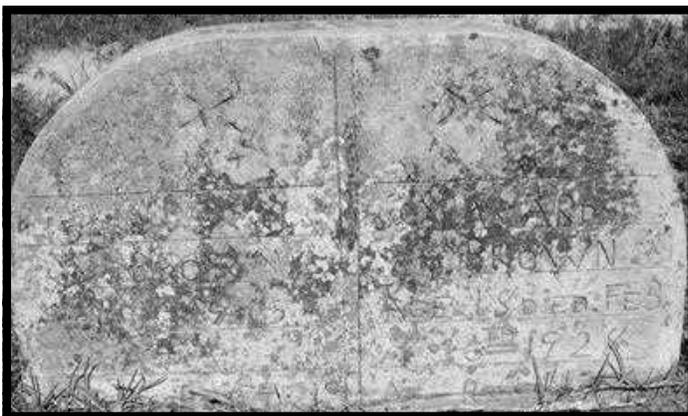
James William (J. W.) Ward and Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks were issued a marriage license in Lafayette County, Arkansas, on December 30, 1914, and were married in Hempstead County by A. J. Lafferty, Justice of the Peace, on December 31, 1914. J. W. Ward, age 50, listed his residence as Patmos, Arkansas, and Fannie, age 46, listed hers as Hope.⁴⁵ This marriage was 15 years after the death of Fannie's first husband Jim Middlebrooks.

J. W. Ward was born February 4, 1864, and died September 18, 1938, in Hempstead County. J. W. is buried at the Huckabee Cemetery, next to his daughter Ida Brown (died 1915) and grandson Jim Ward Brown died February 16, 1928, age 18.⁴⁶ His death was thought to be the result of the constant irritation on his neck from the celluloid preacher's collar which eventually caused cancer. Relatives say James had gone to live with his sister in Pennsylvania before his death, and Fannie was not happy about this situation.³⁶

James' first wife was Julia Etta (Ettie) Quillin, born 1870 in Hempstead County, to the parents of Jessie Holman Quillin and Mary Curtis. James, age 22, and Ettie, age 16, were married on November 14, 1886, by J. W. Moses, Justice of the Peace. The license was issued on written consent of Martha Lafferty, the guardian of Ettie Quillen. Ettie's mother (Mary Curtis) and father (James H. Quillen) Had already died.⁴⁷ Ettie, is buried with her parents in the Old Anderson/Quillin Graveyard on County Road Five in Spring Hill Township.⁴⁸



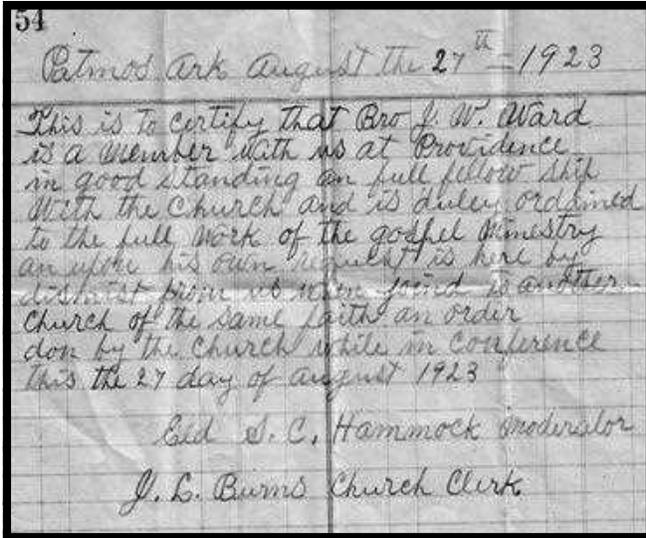
Reverend James William Ward, Huckabee Cemetery. Born February 4, 1864, died September 18, 1938. August 2006



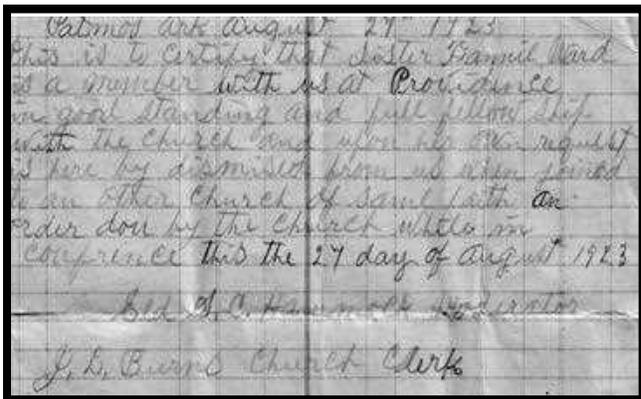
Ida Brown & Jim Ward Brown, Huckabee Cemetery. Ida, daughter of J. W. and Etta (Quillin) Ward, died 1915. Jim, grandson of J. W. Ward, died February 16, 1928. August 2006

Preacher Jim Ward

In Union Baptist Association Minutes of 1896 and 1897, Brother Ward's name is on the list of licensed ministers. He was also listed as an alternate delegate to the Union Associational meeting in 1897, representing the Providence Missionary Baptist Church. Jim later was ordained by the Providence Missionary Baptist Church in 1898 and served as the church's pastor in 1900 and 1914. In 1900, he was listed as messenger, and on September 4, 1910, pastor of Providence No.1. When Providence organized its first Sunday School in 1914, Brother Ward was pastor. However, circa 1910, the Evening Shade Baptist Church named Brother J.W. Ward as their pastor.⁴⁹



Letter of transfer of James William Ward of Providence Baptist Church to another church August 27, 1923. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Letter of transfer of Fannie Ward of Providence Baptist Church to another church August 27, 1923. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.

The Bethany Baptist Church, organized in 1850,⁴⁹ and the Bluff Springs Church⁵⁰ were also reported to have been pastored by Jim. In September of 1921, the Battlefield/Gethsemane Baptist Church nominated J.W. Ward as their pastor, but he declined.⁴⁹

The Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Patmos, Arkansas, organized September 22, 1866, extended the call to Preacher J. W. Ward at four different periods from October 1913 to October of 1918. The last time Jim would be called to pastor Mt. Nebo was in October 1927. This final period was recorded in the church minutes of March 1928.⁵⁰

When asked about Brother Ward, Nola Burns Archer (a church member) said, **"We called him Uncle Jim Ward. He preached here a long time. I liked to see his wife. She always had a fan with a handle, and I wanted one like that."**⁵⁰ This would have been Jim's second wife Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward.

Ray Middlebrooks also, remembered that Preacher Ward would give two-hour Sunday sermons during the summer at the Center Point Elementary School located on Patmos Road across from the Giles Cemetery. We did not have a pump-organ, but we had hymn books. He was a great speaker. His hell-fire and brimstone

sermons were especially remembered by the children who attended these services. He also was a visiting preacher and traveled into Oklahoma and Texas every summer to spread the gospel. He would be gone from two to six months at a time, and was often paid with food for preaching. Family members remember that he would show up at home with a ham as his payment and sometimes he would have items shipped home.²⁶ Throughout his career Preacher Jim Ward performed many Hempstead County marriages.



Fannie (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward. At her home on Patmos Road, *circa* 1935.



L-R James William Ward and son, *circa* 1920. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Providence Missionary Baptist Church. Located on Highway 29. August 2006



Old Evening Shade Church *circa* 1950 located at the corner of Highways 29 & 355. One of the many churches pastored by Jim Ward. Jim is buried across the road from the church at the Huckabee Cemetery.

Theodocia's 2nd Husband

Four years after the death of Theodocia's first husband, Lovett T. Hinton, she marries Thomas James Boyett Sr., on November 6, 1887 in Hope.²⁰ Theodocia is Thomas's second wife. They had one child, Fair Boyett, a son, born in Hope on October 10, 1888.⁷

Thomas served as Justice of the Peace for a number of terms and was then elected Mayor of Hope. He was the Mayor of Hope at the time of his death, August 17, 1894, at the age of 64. Thomas was born April 1, 1830, in Alabama. He left Alabama in 1883, locating in Hope where he started a successful mercantile business called the Furniture House of Boyett and McFadden. Boyett and Son were listed in the 1883 Hope Business Directory as having a brick warehouse and storage on the east corner of Front and Walnut Streets.⁵¹

Thomas and Mary Johnson (first wife) were married in Alabama. At the time of his death, he was survived by the following seven children of his first marriage: sons, Thomas J. Boyett and Ruffin Abraham Boyett; daughters, Mrs. T. W. (Martha Louraney) Pollard and Mrs. J. C. (Frances E.) Routon, both of Alabama, Mrs. James T. (Sarah Olive) Hicks, Mrs. Sid (Mary Calladonia) Reed of Hope and Mrs. Edward Grayson (Arcola Colleen) Williams of Georgia.⁵¹



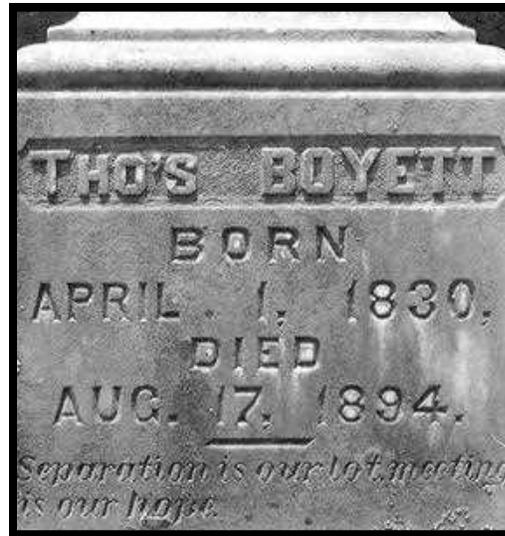
Fair Boyett. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Marie Boyett, Fair's wife.
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Mary (Johnson) Boyett.
Rose Hill Cemetery, Hope.
August 2006



Thomas James Boyett Sr. Rose Hill Cemetery, Hope. August 2006

Theodocia Ann (Giles) Hinton Boyett's Mental Illness

As previously mentioned, Thomas Boyett was appointed guardian of Theodocia's (Docia) children Amanda M., Thomas J., Virgil F., William R. and John B. Hinton on November 29, 1887.²¹ After the death of Thomas in 1894, Theodocia files a petition for appointment of guardian with the Probate Court of Hempstead County on July 7, 1896, for her children, John B. Hinton, 13 years, and Fair B. Boyett, seven years. The Guardian's Bond and the Letter of Guardianship was issued by the Court to Theodocia A. Boyett on July 13, 1896.⁵²

According to relatives, around 1900 Theodocia was admitted to the State Hospital in Little Rock for a mental disorder.³⁶ The exact nature of her mental disorder is not known. Docia may have been admitted by a local doctor as no probate court admission records have been found. On March 23, 1907, her son, Thomas (Tom) J. Hinton of Texarkana, Miller County, Arkansas, requests the Probate Court for a Letter of Guardianship for the person and estate of Mrs. T. A. Boyett.⁵⁴ He states that:

"he is the son of Mrs. T. A. Boyett and is now of unsound mind and confined to State Mental Hospital. She has property located in Hempstead County - going to rack and badly in need of repairs and if someone is not appointed to look after it will become worthless"⁵⁴

Tom Hinton was appointed guardian by the court of his mother's estate on April 28, 1907.⁵⁵ A \$250.00 bond was posted by James T. Hicks as security. Tom Hinton next filed a petition with the court to sell his mother's land on October 27, 1908.⁵⁶

"Tom Hinton of City of Texarkana, Miller County, guardian of Mrs. Thomas Boyett (Insane) confined to State Hospital for Nervous Disease, Little Rock. Said ward has no property except the following described real estate, located in Hope, Hempstead County. Lot one, two, five and six in Block 23, valued at \$200.00. Proceeds of sale needed for immediate care, support and maintenance of said ward."⁵⁶

The sale was approved by the court, the land was advertised and then sold at public outcry to James T. Hicks for \$200.00.⁵⁷ The Guardian's Deed to J. T. Hicks was filed November 17, 1908, and recorded September 16, 1908.⁵⁸ Tom Hinton states "that he did not directly or indirectly become the purchaser and it is not purchased for his benefit."⁵⁷

Theodocia Ann (Giles) Hinton Boyett dies while in the State Hospital at Little Rock, Pulaski County on April 22, 1933. As far as we know, Docia was never released from the State Hospital, a period covering 30 to 35 years. She is buried at the Macedonia Cemetery as Docia (Giles) Hinton next to her first husband Lovett Tyler Hinton.⁵⁹

Form No. 43. Printed and for sale by WOODRUFF PRINTING COMPANY, Little Rock.

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN.

STATE OF ARKANSAS, }
COUNTY OF Hempstead } ss.

To the Probate Court of said County:

Mrs Theodocia A. Boyett, petitioning for letters of guardianship for
John B. Hinton, age 13 yrs and Fair B. Boyett, age 7 yrs.

minor 5 of said County represents that the said minors have property to the amount of
Eight Hundred Dollars coming to them

that unless a guardian be appointed there is great danger of the same being lost or destroyed.

And the said petitioner furthermore states that she will make a perfect inventory of, and faithfully discharge all the duties incumbent upon her as such guardian, according to law; that she will use her utmost endeavors to collect all dues and pay all debts that may be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, against her said wards, and when her said guardianship shall cease, will pay over to the one duly authorized to receive the same, all moneys, credits and effects that are in her possession, belonging to her said wards,

G. A. Boyett

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of July 18 96

P. Q. Kompas J. O. Clerk

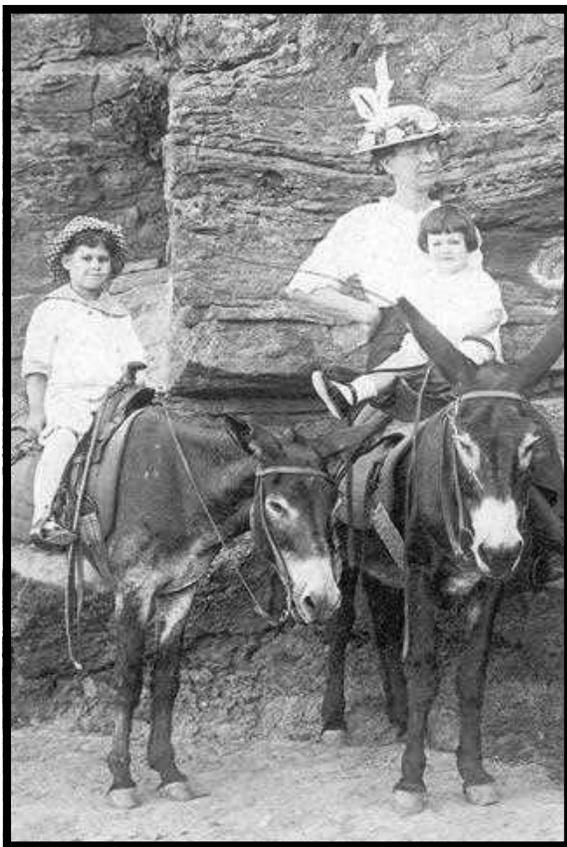
Petition by Theodocia A. Boyett for Appointment of Guardian to John B. Hinton and Fair Boyett, July 7, 1896.



L-R Amanda (Hinton), Harold and Pete Earhart.
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



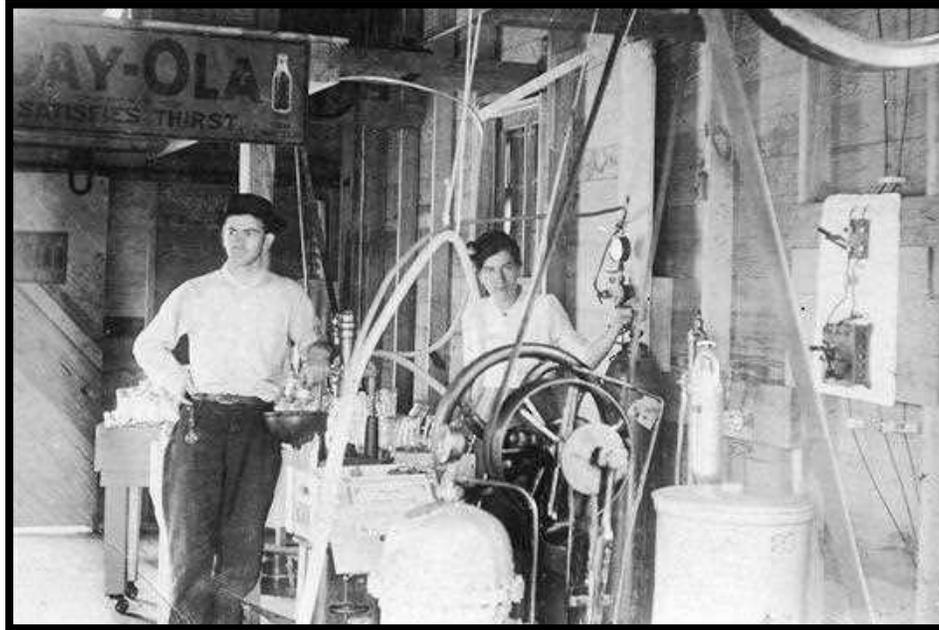
L-R Harold and Amanda (Hinton) Earhart. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



L-R Harold and Amanda (Hinton) Earhart . Anna Bell is sitting on Amanda's lap. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Amanda M. Hinton
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



John Bradford and wife, Bertie (Davis) Hinton. Bottling company (GAY-OLA, Satisfies Thirst), Texarkana, Arkansas. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Bertie (Davis) Hinton 1959. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Thomas Jr., Isabella and Mildred Hinton. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Thomas J., Mina & Mildred Hinton.
Courtesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Mosier.



Thomas J., & Mina Hinton.
Courtesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Mosier.



Bob (William Robert) Hinton, circa
1910 Courtesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Mosier.



L-R Marie and Fair Boyett.
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Harold Boyett, son of Fair and Marie Boyett. WWII. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Fair and Marie Boyett. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



L-R Marion Hubbard, Fair and Harry (Harold) Boyett.
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Chapter III Endnotes

- ¹ Fannie M. Ward, death certificate no. 45-532, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock. Fannie's second husband was James William Ward.
- ² Fannie M. Ward, death certificate no. 45-532, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock. Parents listed on certificate are Lovett Hinton and Docia A. Giles.
- ³ Oscar Donald Middlebrooks, death certificate no. 62-002023, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock.
- ⁴ Personal communication from Zora Middlebrook, 1920 S. Main St., Hope, Arkansas to Neal Middlebrook February 28, 2006.
- ⁵ Fannie M. Ward Obituary (Hope Star Newspaper) Hope, Arkansas November 30, 1945, page 3.
- ⁶ Hempstead County, Marriage Book B, Pg. 101, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁷ Doyle R. Hinton, *Our Hinton Ancestors in America*, (Pasadena, Texas: Privately Published, 1993), 129
- ⁸ Hempstead County, Marriage Book H, Pg. 318, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁹ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 13
- ¹⁰ Hempstead County, Marriage Book Q, Pg. 127, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ¹¹ Georgia Marriages to 1850, Ancestry.Com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2 February 2006, for marriage of Singleton Giles and Amanda M. Milton.
- ¹² 1850 U. S. Census, Carroll County, Georgia, Division 11, image 128, dwelling 891, for Singleton Giles, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006. It is suspected Docia is born in Carroll County, Georgia, although Singleton was married in Walton County in May of 1847. A review of tax or land records is necessary to confirm county of birth. Docia is listed as two years of age meaning her birth year is 1848. This is the same birth age as listed for the 1860 and 1870 census, although her gravestone lists 1846. Singleton and Amanda are living next door to Andrew and Jane (Burns) Giles, believed to be Singleton's parents married 10 December 1824, Morgan County, Georgia.
- ¹³ 1860 U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Spring Hill Township, Spring Hill Post Office, image 5, Pg. 795, dwelling 726, accessed 28 February 2006, Singleton Giles household. Docia's birth year is listed as 1848.
- ¹⁴ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 13. The Macedonia Cemetery is just south of Hope on Patmos Road.
- ¹⁵ Lovett T. Hinton, Arkansas Confederate Service Record, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR, 15 pages. Requested by Neal Middlebrook, August 2006.
- ¹⁶ Hempstead County Men in the War 1861-1865, Journal, Hempstead County Historical Society, Vol. 16, Fall 2001, (Published by: Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope AR.), 109,110.
- ¹⁷ Lovett T. Hinton, Confederate, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.cfm>, National Park Service. Accessed August 13, 2006.
- ¹⁸ Hempstead County Will Book C, Pg. 342, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ¹⁹ Hempstead County, Probate Court, Executors Record Book M, Pg.55, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Administrators Bond and Letter was also located for L. T. Hinton in Book M, Pg. 355.
- ²⁰ Hempstead County, Marriage Book I, Pg. 248, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Francis Middlebrooks

- ²¹ Hempstead County, Probate Court ,Book L, Pg. 244, County Circuit Clerks Office, County, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²² Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Book G, Pg. 246, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²³ Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Book G, Pg. 246-248, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²⁴ Hempstead County Deed Book 8 Pg. 40, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. The legal description is: SE ¼, Sec. 22, T. 13S, R. 24 W, 160 acres.
- ²⁵ Hempstead County Chancery Court Book T, Pg. 482-86, case number 2725, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. The testimony of Amanda Earhart was given May 18, 1934, 12 pages.
- ²⁶ Personal communication Ray Middlebrook 8529Beverly Road, Pico Rivera California, 90660 to Neal Middlebrook 2001-2004.
- ²⁷ Bradford Hinton, entry Tax Year, 1859-60, 1865 Real Property Tax Books, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas. The legal description is: SE/NE & NE/SE, Sec. 7, T. 14S, R. 23W, 58 acres. A deed was not located for this property.
- ²⁸ Singleton Giles, entry Tax Year, 1866 , Real Property Taxes, Hempstead county, Arkansas, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1006752. The legal description is: W ½, NW ¼, & SE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 120 acres.
- ²⁹ Hempstead County Deed Book W, Pg. 587, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. The legal description is: N ½, NE ¼, & NE ¼, NW ¼, (except 20 acres on the south side) Sec. 26, 13S, 24W 100 acres.
- ³⁰ Hempstead County Deed Book 16, Pg. 82, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. The legal description is: N ½, NE ¼, & NE ¼, NW ¼, (except 20 acres on the south side) Sec. 26, 13S, 24W 100 acres.
- ³¹ James Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1885, Delinquent Personal Property Taxes 1872-1900, School District 20, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007496
- ³² James L. Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1886, Personal Property Taxes, District 15, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007499.
- ³³ James L. Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1887-88, Personal Property Taxes, District 15, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007499 & 1007559. 1887: 2 cattle, \$15, 5 hogs, \$5, other cash \$124, 1888: 1 horse, \$40, 5 cattle, \$30, 3 hogs, \$8, other cash, \$30.
- ³⁴ Hempstead County Deed Book DA, Pg. 363, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³⁵ James L. Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1894, 1895 & 1898, Personal Property Taxes, District 15, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007561 (1894), #1007562, (1895), #1007496 (1898)
- ³⁶ Personal communication Mina Marie Mosier, 1009 W. 14th, Hope, Arkansas 71801 to Neal Middlebrook, and Letters Dated: 22 November 1989, 17 January, 1990, 3 August 2001, 8 August 2001, 7 November 2001, 8 December 2001, 3 August 2003, 21 August 2003. Tax records (1887-1895) support the fact that T. A. Boyett is living in Hope, after she marries Thomas Boyett Sr..
- ³⁷ Hempstead County Real Estate Assessment Books 1890-1895, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas. Original county Real Estate Assessment Books are included in their collections.
- ³⁸ Hempstead County Deed Book 28 Pg. 201, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. The legal description is: E ½, NW ¼, SW ¼, Sec. 23, T. 13S, R. 24W, 60 acres.
- ³⁹ Hempstead County Real Estate Assessment Book 1895, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas. Original county Real Estate Assessment Books are included in their collections.
- ⁴⁰ J. H. Dudley, land entries, Index 1895-1908, (SW ¼ , Sec. 14, 13S, 24W), Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1006754.
- ⁴¹ J. H. Dudley and W. A. Dudley land entry, Tax Year 1897, Real Property, (SW ¼ , Sec. 14, 13S, 24W) Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Gail Martin, Archivist, 17 June 2004.

Chapter III: Jim and Fannie and the Old Hinton Home Place

⁴² James Middlebrooks entry, Tax Year 1898, Delinquent Personal Property Taxes 1872-1900, District 15, Hempstead County, AR, SLC, FHL microfilm # 1007496.

⁴³ Hempstead County, Probate Court Will Book D, Pg. 193-95, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁴⁴ Hempstead County, Probate Court, Executors Record Book M, Pg.90, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁴⁵ Lafayette County, Marriage Book ?, Pg.?, County Circuit Clerks Office, Lafayette, Arkansas

⁴⁶ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 164.

⁴⁷ Hempstead County, Marriage Book I, Pg. 39, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁴⁸ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2000), 136

⁴⁹ Mary Nell Turner, editor, *Journal of the Hempstead County, Arkansas, Historical Society 1995-1996-1997: Spring Hill from 1870, Part 3*, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by Hempstead County Historical Society, 1997), 61, 63, 64, 68, 70.

⁵⁰ Bobbie Ray Powell, Editor, *Mt. Nebo Baptist Church 1866-2001, A History of the Church, Pastors and Memembers*, (Privately Published: Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Patmos, Arkansas, 2001), 58, 59, 62.

⁵¹ Thomas James Boyett, obituary, Hope Arkansas Gazette, August 17, 1894, page 1.

⁵² Hempstead County, Probate Court, Record Book M, Pg. 299, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁵³ Theodocia A. Boyett medical records have not survived. The State Hospital in Little Rock or the Arkansas History Commission and Archives do not have her medical records. They have been expunged.

⁵⁴ Hempstead County, Probate Court, Record Book N, Pg. 213, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁵⁵ Hempstead County, Probate Court, Record Book N, Pg. 223, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁵⁶ Hempstead County, Probate Court, Record Book N, Pg. 363, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁵⁷ Hempstead County, Probate Court, Record Book N, Pg. 367, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁵⁸ Hempstead County Deed Book 46 Pg. 578 (598?), County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁵⁹ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 13.

**Chapter IV:
Charles V. Middlebrooks vs. Fannie D.
Middlebrooks Ward Et AL. Court Case
and
Center Point Elementary School**



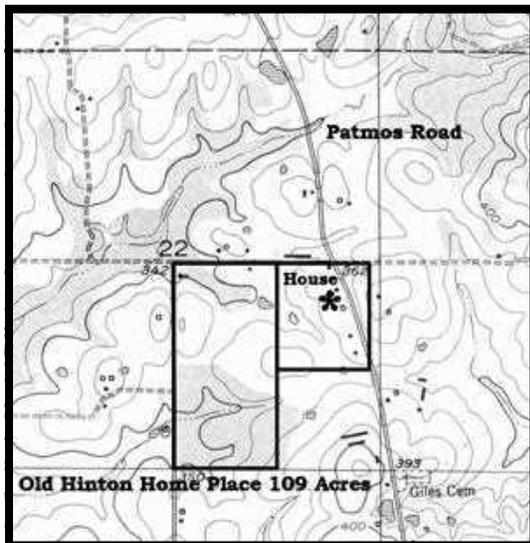
Fannie's house built circa 1920 by Oscar and Verdo Middlebrooks. L-R Marion Hubbard, Bruce and Tom Middlebrooks. December 1955.

Charles V. Middlebrooks vs. Fannie D. Ward Et AL. Case # 2725

Charles Verdo Middlebrooks (Plaintiff) files the complaint through his attorney, Graves & Graves of Hope, on October 2, 1933. Although, the complaint has not been located, it appears Charles, who goes by Verdo is trying to sell his interest in the 109 acres. Verdo and family were living and farming the land up to the time the family moved to Los Angeles, California, in August of 1929. The defendants in the case are the following: Mrs. Fannie D. Ward; Mrs. Amanada Earhart; Thomas J. Hinton and wife; George W. Hinton and wife, Lou Hinton; Mrs. Nella Frost; Mrs. Inez White; Johnnie Mae Hinton; Ieilen Hinton; Mrs. _____ Rainey, formerly Mrs. John Hinton; Fair Boyett and wife, Mrs. Marie Boyett.¹

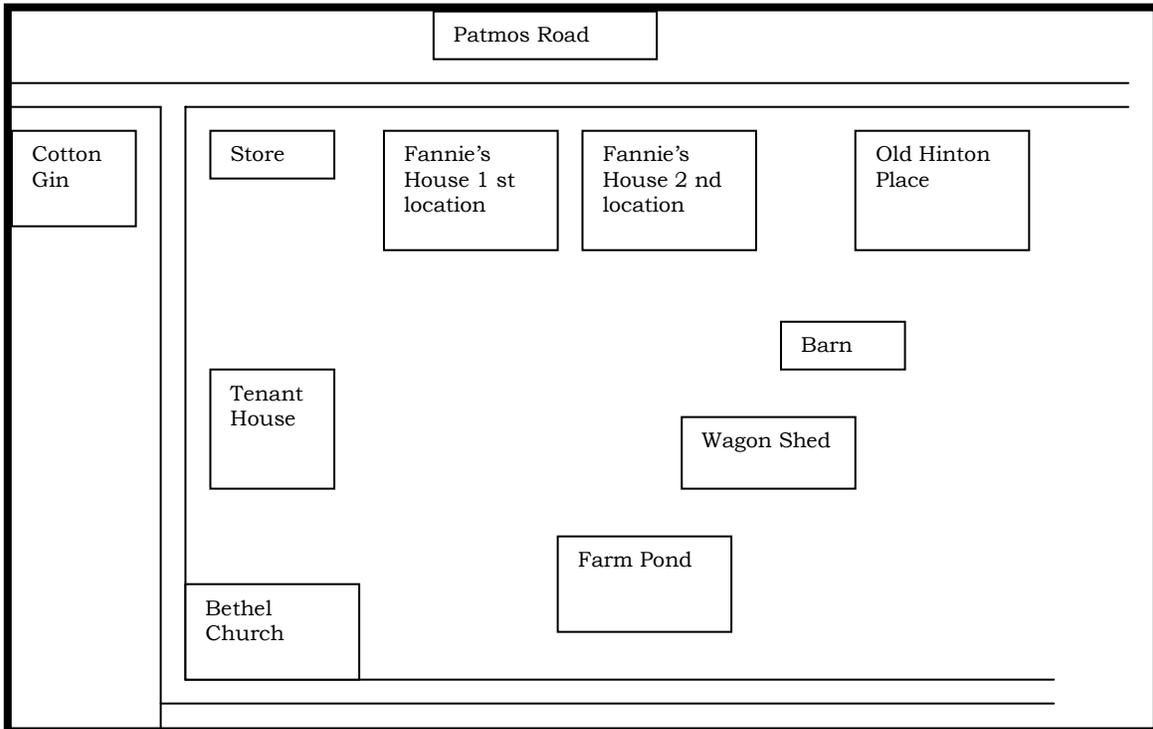
Partitioning the L. T. Hinton Estate

The lands described above (109 acres more or less) constituted the homestead of Lovett T. Hinton at the time of his death (1884).² The 109 acres is described as follows: **W ½ SE ¼ and all that part of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope-Falcon Public Road, all in section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W.** After the death of Lovett, the lands were partitioned and T. A. Boyett was allotted the **NW ¼ SE ¼ and all of the NE ¼ SE ¼, except 10 acres off the eastside thereof in section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W** containing 70 acres. The **SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 22** containing 40 acres was allotted to the above defendant, Thomas J. Hinton, who was a minor. The 40 acres parcel was sold to provide money for Thomas's education. T.A. Boyett, Thomas's mother, bought the 40 acres and was the owner at the time of her death on April 27, 1933.

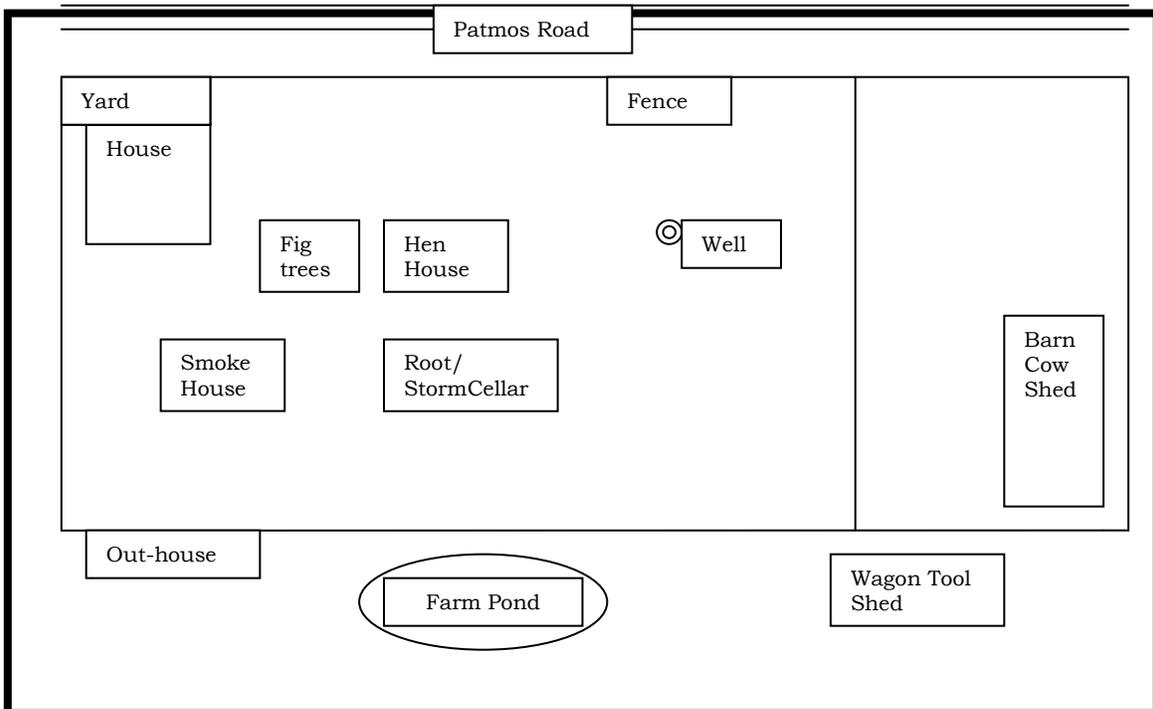


Looking south along Patmos Road. North-east corner of 109 acres. August 2006.

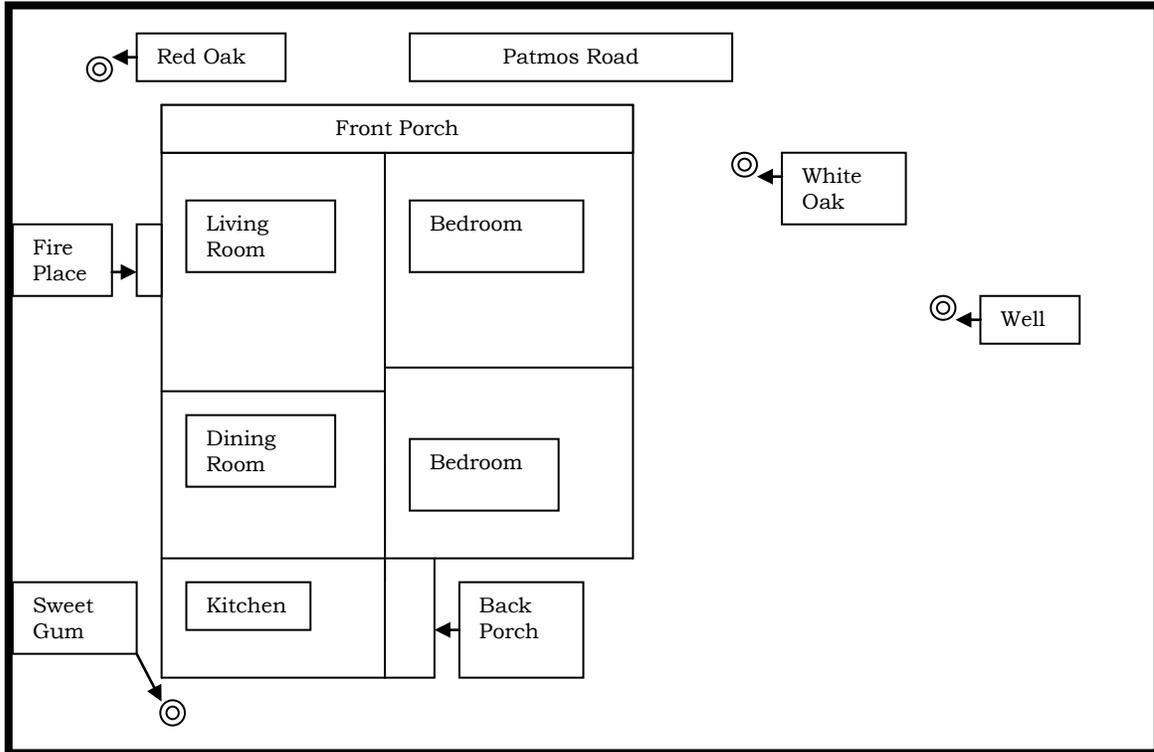
Location of the 109 acres being auctioned. The land on the east side of Patmos Road is not included within the 109 acres. USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle 1951, revised 1978.



Location of buildings on Old Hinton Home Place (69) acres 1900-1955.
 The first location of Fannie's house was where the store was later built in 1938.



The immediate area around Old Hinton Home Place as it looked circa 1900-1929.



Floor plan of Old Hinton Home Place as it looked 1920-1929. The front part of the house was very old. The foundation rested on boulders. Verdo added a bedroom to the back of the house.



Marion Hubbard feeding chickens in front of what is believed to be the old barn and cow shed diagrammed above.



Northwest side of Fannie's house. The original location of the old well is on the right side of photo. Note the fences in back of house. August 2006



New Bethel Baptist Church is located on the Northwest corner of the 109 acres. Lovett Hinton sells 1 acre to Louis Murph representing the African Church known as Bethel for \$3.00, May 25, 1878. August 2006.



The author at the farm pond trying his luck fishing with a willow cane pole in 1953. Verdo Middlebrooks helped build the pond.



New Bethel Baptist Church plaque.
August 2006



East farm pond. Two farm ponds exist today divided by a pasture fence. August 2006.



Old barn and wagon shed.
August 2006

Deciding the Plaintiffs and Defendants Undivided Interests

Theodocia Ann Hinton, Boyett died April 27, 1933, Pulaski County, Arkansas, intestate (no will) leaving as her heirs the previously named defendants. Verdo Middlebrooks purchased all the interest of Virgil F. Hinton in the 109 acres described previously for \$545.00 on December 14, 1919.³ On July 9, 1928, Verdo acquired all the interest of George W. Hinton, Sr. through a Sheriff's sale for \$230.00.⁴ The Sheriff's Deed was filed by Dorsey McRae, Sheriff of Hempstead County, on April 8, 1930.⁵ Verdo Middlebrooks became the owner of an undivided 2/7 interest in the SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 22 containing 40 acres and also the owner of a undivided 1/3 interest of the remaining 70 acres (NW ¼ SE ¼ and all of the NE ¼ SE ¼, except 10 acres off the eastside thereof in section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W). The 40 acre and 70 acre parcels were part of the original 109 acres.



L-R Marion Hubbard, Bruce and Tom Middlebrooks. Fannie's house originally built by her sons Verdo and Oscar. December 1955.



Looking north towards the site where Tunstall's cotton gin once stood from Marion and Amie Hubbard's front porch. December 1955.

From among the defendants, the court ruled that John Hinton died prior to the death of his mother, T. A. Boyett, and was not entitled to any interest in the lands and therefore his former wife, Mrs. _____ Rainey, was also not entitled. The court ruled the other defendants had the following undivided interests:

SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W, 40 acres -

Undivided 1/7 interest to Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, Thomas J. Hinton and Fair Boyett.

Undivided 1/28 interest to Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, Ieilen Hinton.

NW ¼ SE ¼ and NE ¼ SE ¼, Section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W, 69/70 acres -

Undivided 1/6 interest to Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, and Thomas J. Hinton

Undivided 1/24 interest to Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, Ieilen Hinton.⁶

D. J.-2-

After deducting these amounts from the sale of the forty acres, you will have left \$109.34. Two-sevenths of this amount goes to the plaintiff, one-sevenths each to Mrs. Harbart, Thomas J. Hinton, Mrs. Fannie Ward, and Fair Boyett, and the other one-sevenths goes to the heirs of John Hinton, deceased.

The net proceeds of the sixty-nine acre tract, after deducting the amounts above mentioned, amounts to \$1350.99; and two-sixths of this goes to the plaintiff, one-sixth each to Mrs. Harbart, Thomas J. Hinton and Mrs. Fannie Ward, and the other one-sixth goes to the heirs of John Hinton, deceased.

We enclose herewith the receipts of Mrs. Ward and Mr. Hinton for their part of the net proceeds of the land, together with Mr. Tunstall's check for \$1483.88, being the entire proceeds of the sale, with interest thereon at the rate of 10% per annum from April 10th to July 6th, less the amounts going to Mrs. Ward and Mr. Hinton for which receipts are enclosed.

Check for the amounts due Mr. Thomas J. Hinton for the expenditures above mentioned, amounting to \$190.17, should be mailed to him at Toxarkana.

Check for the entire amount due Mrs. Harbart, amounting to \$385.94, should be made payable to R. M. Barney, Attorney, and mailed to him at Toxarkana.

Check for the amount due the adult heirs of John Hinton, deceased, being \$120.39, and also check for \$5.00 fee as attorney ad litem, should be mailed to F. T. Staggs, Attorney.

Check for \$15.62 should be mailed to Mr. Fair Boyett, 431 Northwest 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his interest in the forty acres.

Mr. G. P. Casey should get a check for \$0.00 for his fee as guardian ad litem.

You may send us check for \$538.87, being out fee and the total amount due the plaintiff, and also \$2.00 sheriff's fee paid R. W. Turquett, sheriff of Miller County, for service of summons on Thomas J. Hinton and wife.

Please hold the \$120.39 going to the minor heirs of John Hinton, deceased, until you hear from us again. We shall probably have to have a guardian appointed before this can be paid.

Yours truly,
GRAVES & GRAVES

ccg/mm
enc.

Recapitulation

Bid on forty acres	\$200.00
Interest, 2 months, 26 days, @ 10% per annum,	7.17
Total	\$207.17
To be charged against 40 acres:	
One-sixth court costs, including attorney's fee \$ 23.58	197.83
Due T.J.Hinton for funeral expenses, etc.,	174.25
	<u>7 / 109.34</u>
Divided as follows:	
Mrs. Harbart, one-seventh	\$ 15.62
John Hinton heirs " "	15.62
Fair Boyett " "	15.62
Thomas J. Hinton " "	15.62
Mrs. Fannie Ward " "	15.62
C. V. Middlebrooks, two-sevenths	31.24
	<u>\$109.34</u>
Bid on 69 acres,	\$1590.00
Interest, 2 months, 26 days, @ 10% per annum,	37.28
Total	\$1627.28
To be charged against 69 acres:	
Five-sixths court costs, including attorney's fee \$117.92	143.15
Due Mrs. Harbart on house	18.92
Due T.J.Hinton for insurance premium	276.99
	<u>\$71350.99</u>
Divided as follows:	
Mrs. Harbart, one-sixth	225.17
John Hinton heirs " "	225.17
Thomas J. Hinton " "	225.15
Mrs. Fannie Ward " "	225.17
C. V. Middlebrooks, two-sixths	450.23
	<u>\$1350.99</u>
<u>Division</u>	
T. J. Hinton	\$ 190.17
Fair Boyett	15.62
H.M.Barney (for Mrs. Harbart)	385.94
F.T.Staggs (for Adult John Hinton heirs)	120.39
F.T.Staggs (fee as attorney ad litem)	5.00
Graves & Graves (for C.V.Middlebrooks, fee, and \$2.00 for court costs paid)	538.87
G.P.Casey (fee as guardian ad litem)	0.00
Dale Jones (to hold for minor John Hinton heirs)	120.39
Dale Jones (court costs)	54.50
Total Tunstall check	\$ 1483.88
Amounts due T.J.Hinton and Mrs. Ward, for which receipts were given	491.87
Total bids and interest	\$ 1938.15

Memorandum (Recapitulation) from Graves and Graves the attorney for the plaintiff stipulating the interest of each party and the amount due based on the sale of the 40 and 69 acre parcels. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



West pasture looking southeast from Bethel Church. The trees in the background are the 35 acres of Pine woods. August 2006.



The concrete foundation in the foreground is thought to be the base for the Tunstall's cotton gin boiler. Looking north along Patmos Road. August 2006.

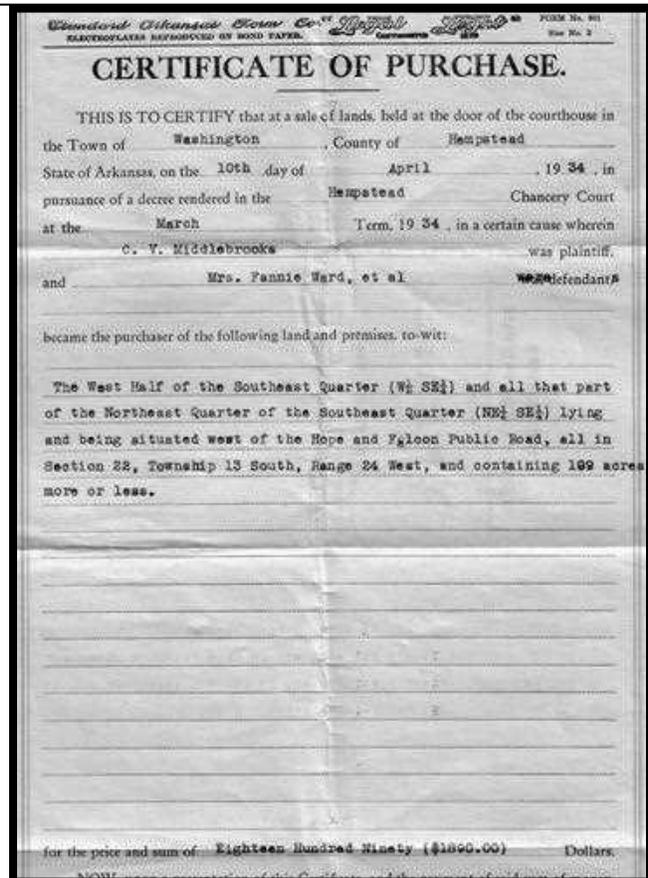
Sale of the 109 acres

The court found that the 109 acres could not be equitably divided and should be sold for the purposes of partition. The court appointed Dale Jones as Special Commissioner to process the sale. The court further ordered the property be sold as two separate parcels (40 & 69 acres) at the front door of the Courthouse in Washington, Arkansas, to the highest bidder on April 10, 1934.⁷

Mrs. Fannie Ward was the highest bidder on both properties, bidding \$300.00 for 40 Acres (SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W) and \$1590.00 for 69 acres (NW ¼ SE ¼ and NE ¼ SE ¼, Section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W). The sale was reported and approved by the court July 6, 1934.⁸ A Commissioner's deed was issued to Mrs. Fannie Ward July 18, 1934.⁹

Property Mortgages and Releases

A Mortgage was filed on July 17, 1934, from Mrs. Fannie Ward to R. H. Tunstall on the 109 acres to secure the payment of five notes for \$290.71 at 10% annum interest, due on November 1, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939.¹⁰ On September 11, 1934, Mrs Fannie Ward deeds the 109 acres to her daughter, Amie V. (Middlebrooks) and husband, Marion T. Hubbard, in exchange for them making the mortgage payments to R. H. Tunstall. The grantees further agree to ***“comfortably support and maintain me in a home on the lands hereinafter described for the remainder of my life, and hereby reserving to myself the use and possession of a house to be occupied as my home on said lands so long as I live”***¹¹



Certificate of Purchase was issued to Fannie Ward April 10, 1934. Courtesy of Scott Monk



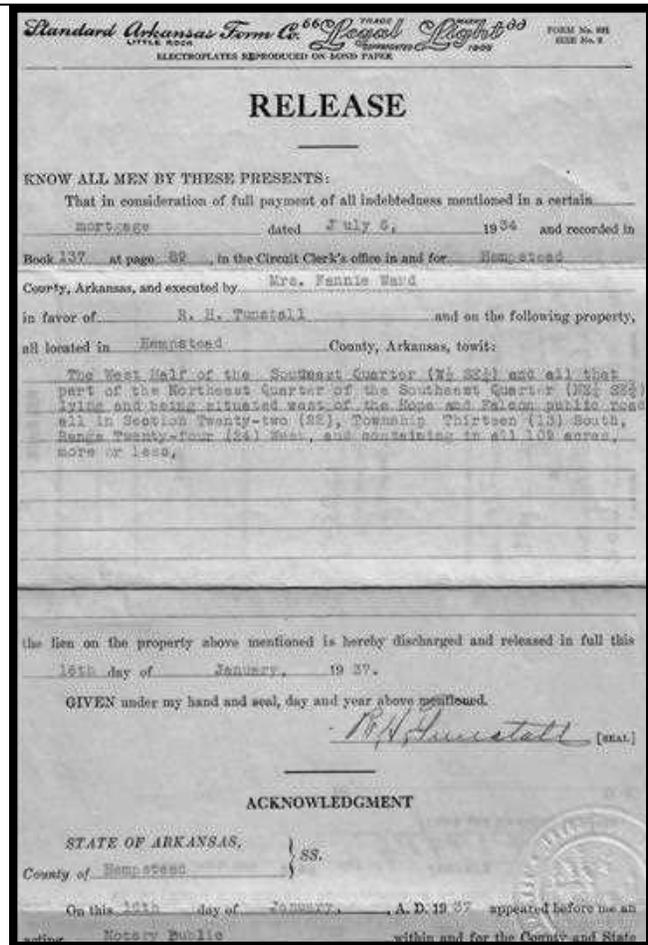
Marion and Amie Hubbard and Fannie (Hinton) Middlebrooks Ward, circa 1938. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser

Marion and his wife Amie made four payments (totaling \$1162.84) on July 6, 1934, and a fifth payment presumably on or before November 1, 1936, because the mortgage is released from R. H. Tunstall to Mrs. Fannie Ward on January 16, and filed on January 21, 1937.¹² However, the property was mortgaged again by M. T. Hubbard, Amie Hubbard and Fannie Ward to R. H. Tunstall (\$1340.00) on December 17, 1937, and was satisfied on June 25, 1941.¹³

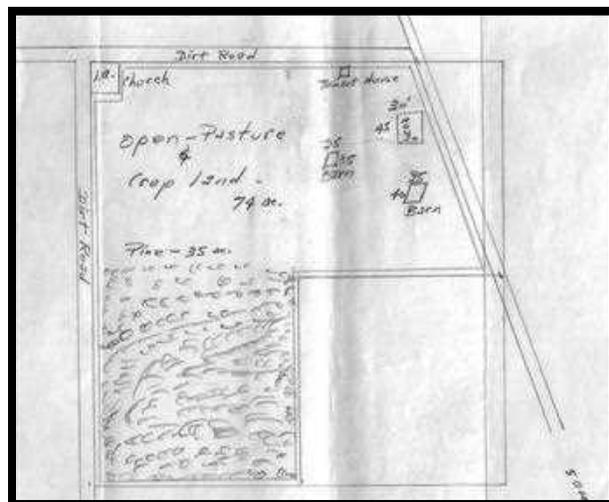
Then on April 14, 1941, the property was mortgaged to F. W. Dyke as Trustee for the Guardian Company from M. T. Hubbard, Amie Hubbard and Fannie Ward for \$2100.00.¹⁴ The Guardian Company assigned the mortgage to RFC Mortgage Company on June 13, 1941, and then the RFC Mortgage Company assigned the mortgage back to the Guardian Company July 15, 1941.¹⁵ The release of the Mortgage was issued July 28, 1941, from the Guardian Company to M. T. Hubbard et al. for the purpose of releasing the lien of the deed of trust.¹⁶

Property Appraisal 1956

M. T. and Amie Hubbard had the property appraised by The Foster Realty Company of Hope in November-December of 1956.¹⁷ The appraisal is sent to the First National Bank of Hope on December 5, 1956. Then on December 27, 1956, Marion and Amie signed a mortgage for \$4,500.00 with the First National Bank of Hope. It is suspected that the property (109 acres) appraised for \$4,500.00. Money from the mortgage was used by Marion to help Jimmie and Ruby (Hubbard) Griffin build a house where the country store once stood.¹⁸



Mortgage Release from R. H. Tunstall January 16, 1937. Courtesy of Scott Monk



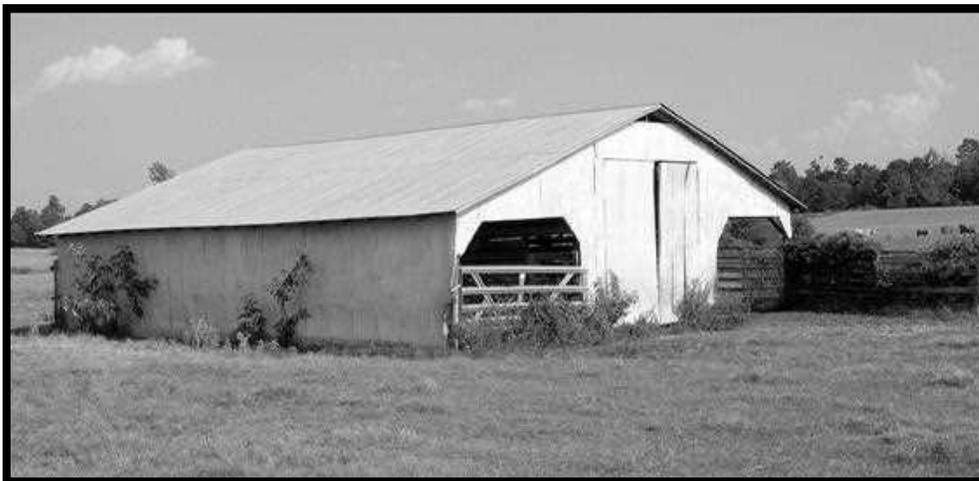
1956 drawing of farm property by Foster Realty Company. Top of map is north. Courtesy of Scott Monk

Jimmie and Ruby C. (Hubbard) Griffin Buy One Acre

A Contract for Warranty Deed is drawn up on January 7, 1960, between Marion T. and Amie V. Hubbard and Jimmie Griffin and wife, Ruby C. (Hubbard) Griffin. Ruby is the daughter of Marion and Amie. The conditions for the sale of one acre (where the house now stands) to Jimmie and Ruby Griffin is that they pay the balance of the mortgage to the First National Bank of Hope amounting to \$2,828.47 (as of January 7, 1960). The warranty deed included one acre of land and the house Jimmie and Ruby built in 1956/57 with a loan from Marion and was issued to Jimmie and Ruby Griffin October 27, 1964.¹⁹



Jimmy and Ruby Griffin's house built in 1957. The country store also once stood on this location. Judy Griffin is living in the house. August 2006



Judy's barn and pasture looking southeast towards Patmos Road. August 2006

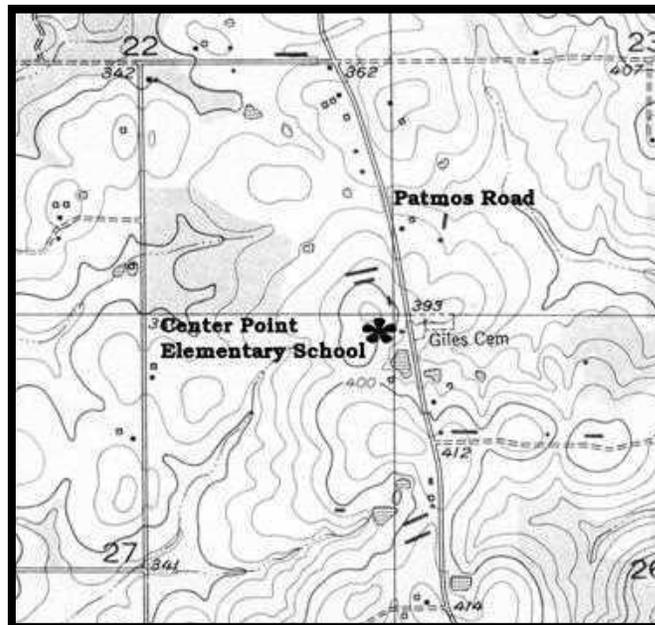
Disposition of 109 acres as of September 13, 1983²⁰

Date Signed/ Recorded	Grantor/Grantee	Location
July 29, 1966 July 30, 1966	Marion & Amie Hubbard Jimmie & Ruby Griffin	NW ¼ SE ¼, (39 acres) & Part of NE ¼ SE ¼ (2.41 acres) all in sec. 22, T. 13S, R. 24W. (41.41) acres. \$6000.00
September 29, 1967	Marion & Amie Hubbard Lillie O. Gibson	SE corner of that part of NE ¼ SE ¼ sec. 22, T. 13S, R. 24W. (1 acre)
September 25, 1968	Marion & Amie Hubbard Oren A. & Jessie L. Woodward, his wife.	Lying immediately north of Lillie O. Gibson property (1 acre)
March 17, 1969	Marion & Amie Hubbard Tom and Zora R. Middlebrooks, his wife.	Lying immediately north of the Anderson property. (1acre)
June 2, 1975	Marion & Amie Hubbard Seth & Lola Anderson	Lying immediately north of the Woodward property (1.36 acres)
Deed Book 464/225	Marion & Amie Hubbard Jimmie & Ruby Griffin	SW ¼, SE ¼ & the South 22.23 acres of the NE ¼, SE ¼ lying S & W of the Hope Patmos Rd. All in Sec. 22, T. 13S, R. 24W.
September 7, 1983 September 13, 1983	Jimmie & Ruby Griffin, Milton & Mina Mosier, Tom & Ruby Hubbard (Grantors) Jimmie & Ruby Griffin (Grantees)	SW ¼ SE ¼, and all that part of NE ¼ SE ¼, Sec. 22, T. 13S, R. 24W. (65.64 acres) Grants all lands except for the four par- cels on Hope-Patmos Rd.

In conclusion, the deed of July 29, 1966, granted 41.41 acres from M. T. and Amie Hubbard to Jimmie and Ruby (Hubbard) Griffin. Then the deed of September 7, 1983 granted all lands approximately 65.64 acres (excluding the four one acre parcels) to Jimmie and Ruby and relinquished all rights to the property from Milton Mosier and Mina Marie Hubbard Mosier, husband and wife, and Tom H. Hubbard and Ruby Ellen Hubbard, husband and wife, as heirs of M. T. and Amie Hubbard. The two above deeds total 107.05 acres. Judy Griffin, Jimmie and Ruby's daughter, inherited the property and is currently living in Jimmie and Ruby's house built in 1956/57.

Center Point Elementary School

Center Point Elementary School was located about a mile south of the Old Hinton Home Place on the west side of Patmos Road (NW ¼ NW ¼, Sec. 26, & NE ¼ NE ¼ of Sec. 27, T. 13S, R. 24W), containing one acre . It is suspected the school house was built *circa* 1895, the year after the land was donated by Singleton Giles on May 18, 1894.²¹ Singleton Giles is the father of Theodocia A. Giles, Fannie Middlebrooks' mother. Singleton also owned the land where the Giles/New Bethel Cemetery is located on the east side of Patmos Road directly across from Center Point. It is thought the New Bethel Church was also located on the cemetery land.



Location of Center Point Elementary School, also nicknamed Nigger Hill School.

Rural Public Schools

Rural public schools were usually established by local school districts. School district boundaries were based on a number of factors including the density of the population in the area, the distances to walk, or of some families' preferences. Some districts were entirely within one township and others spilled over into two or more townships. In those days people lived quite distant from each other, but families were large, so there was usually a large school enrollment. It was not uncommon to have four or five members of a family in the same school.²² Once the boundaries were set they stayed the same. For example, Hempstead County's taxing and school districts were one in the same and could number over 70 at times.

The three person Board governed the district and usually consisted of a Director, a Moderator and a Treasurer. The only qualifications were to be a man and to be respected by your neighbors in the district.²²

Many of the rural school board member did not have an eighth grade education, yet the whole business of running the school was in the hands of this Board and the teachers were directly responsible to these men. The school board did the hiring and firing of teachers.²²

The schools in each district were supported by state and local funds. A state poll tax was assessed each male county resident 21 years an older. These funds were distributed based on the number of pupils in each district. County taxes were also assessed through local school/taxing districts to help supplement state funds.²³

The First School Board of District 15

The area where Center Point School and Giles Cemetery were located was nicknamed (inappropriately) Nigger Hill, because of the large number of Black families buried in the cemetery. The land for the school was deeded to the School Directors of School District 15. Jim Middlebrooks along with Tucker and A. H. Tunstall are listed as School Directors of School District 15. The deed stipulates the land is for a school and for White people only.²¹

According to relatives, Jim Middlebrooks assisted in building the school house.²⁴ The total school enrollment was usually around 30 children with five to six students in each graduating class. Grades taught included first through eighth. Some of the older kids were taken out of school by their parents each spring to work on the farm. It sometimes took them three years to get to the next grade.



John H. Kent Family Band Center Point Elementary School.

L-R: Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks, Septimus Elmore Kent, John Henry Kent, Jewell (Kent) Bayless Barr, *circa* 1908. The school was often used for social events and as a church.



Likely location of where Center Point once stood. This is an open area just west of Patmos Road on the rise. This big old pine tree may have been used for first base, per Ray Middlebrook. August 2006



Open area just west of Patmos Road and east of where the above photo was taken. Notice the old building in the background. This was the only structure found on the site. August 2006.

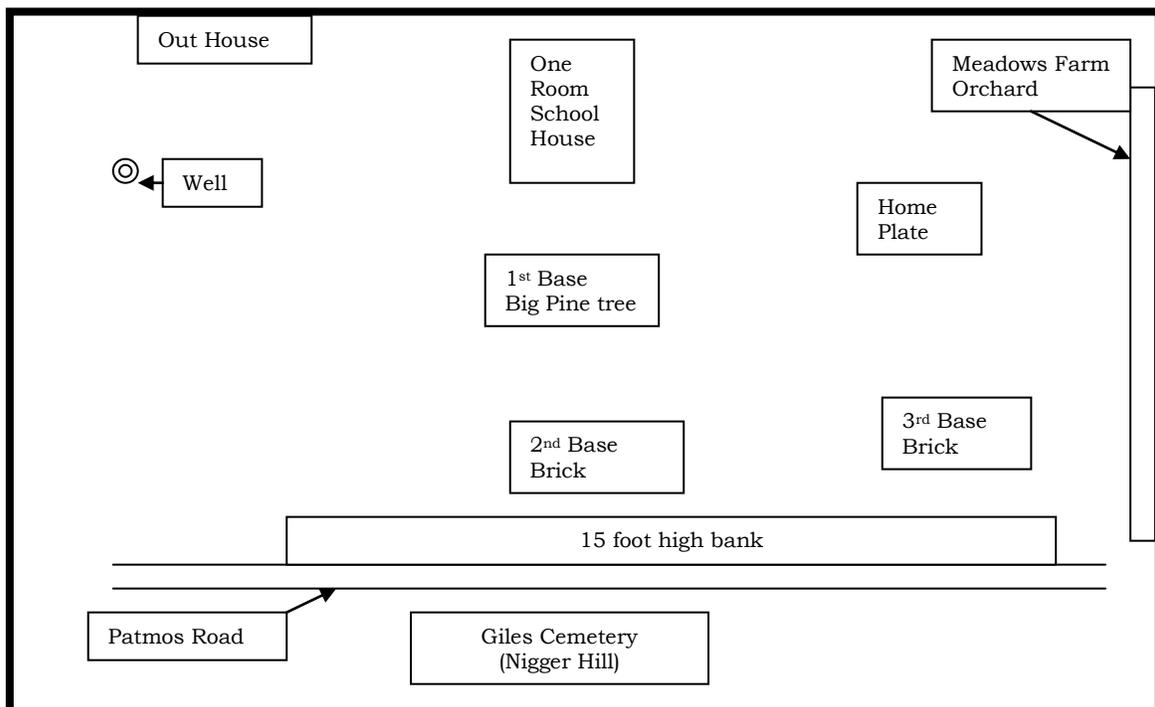


Looking west from Patmos Road. Up on this rise is where Center Point was most likely located. This picture was taken from Giles Cemetery looking directly west. August 2006

One Room School House ²⁴

As described by Ray W. Middlebrook, who attended Center Point, the one-room school house had a bell on the roof and a big pot bellied stove in the back of the room and a cast iron stove in the front part provided heat during the winter. It was the job of the students to keep the wood box filled everyday. A student was also elected by the teacher each week to ring the bell at recess and lunch. Each desk had an ink well in the top and a shelf for books. A couple of long benches were in the front close to the blackboards for students to copy down the almost daily homework assignments. Detention was spending time in the corner, after a few swats with the hickory switch, for laughing out loud at a few of the class comics. Outside, the covered well provided good water, and the girls and boys had separate outhouses behind the school.

According to Ray, during recess, the children played basketball and baseball. “We made our own baseball with a hard rubber core, wrapped in wool yarn and with a leather cover sewn on. One of the bigger kids, Milton Crews would make a bat out of dry hickory. The baseball diamond was located between the school house and Patmos Road. First base was a large pine tree, second and third bases a brick, and home plate was a board. Much of the outfield was across Patmos Road in the Giles Cemetery. There also was a basketball court. We played with three or four girls on each team, because we did not have enough big kids. Mr. Meadows had a farm just north of the school and every fall we would pick some of his apples to eat. He would yell at us, but he knew kids.”²⁴



Center Point Elementary School grounds circa 1925 as remembered by Ray W. Middlebrook.

Center Point
Second Grade.

SCHOOLS

MONTHLY TERM AND ANNUAL REPORT

of *Wilton Middlebrooks*

for school year *1922-23.*

Attendance ... Department...	First Term					Second Term			
	1	2	3	4	5 ex.	6	7	8	9 ex.
Days Taught	20	20	15	20	20	20			
Days Present	18	20	15	19	17	14			
Days Absent	2	0	0	1	3	6			
Times Tardy	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Department	97	97	96	97	96	97			
Arith.	85	86	95	97	97	98			
Reading	90	90	96	97	97	98			
Spelling	90	90	96	97	96	97			
Pennmanship	88	88	90	91	92	94			
Language	85	85	95	90	90	92			

Edna Brooks Teacher

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS, PLEASE READ

On or before the first Wednesday of each month this report will be filled out by the teacher and sent to you for inspection. If this report is not presented at the proper time kindly notify the teacher.

If a pupil receives below 75 on any subject, it should be a matter of immediate inquiry. Possibly it is to be attributed to lack of study, to too many outside engagements, to irregularity in attendance or to some cause which may be removed.

If the parents could show their interest in the child and show by occasional visits to the school, it would prove a great source of inspiration and help.

Your hearty co-operation is solicited in the endeavor to secure the best development of your child.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

1 *Verdo Middlebrooks*

2 *Verdo Middlebrooks*

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Center Point Report Card 1922/23 for Ray W. Middlebrooks (also called Wilton Middlebrooks). Signed by his father, Verdo Middlebrooks. The teacher is Edna Brooks. Unlike today, a report card was sent home by the first Wednesday of every month for the parent’s signature. If a pupil was below 75% in any subject, it should be a matter of immediate inquiry.

Center Point School Closes 1930

Many children from the surrounding farms along Patmos Road attended Center Point from 1895 until it closed in 1930. Center Point was also used for square dances, Sunday church services and other community functions.²⁴

After 1930, the children attended the Grange Hall as a school three to four miles south on Patmos Road. By 1933, a new school was built near Patmos, Arkansas, and included grades first through twelve. Around 1928-30, a room had been built onto the back of the big school room and after the school closed in 1930, the front room was torn down and the back room was used as a Community Center. Sometime later, it was turned into a canning kitchen with a hired overseer, O.B. Hodnett. People would bring their produce there to be canned. It is believed the rest of Center Point was torn down in the late 1930’s.²⁵

Students of Center Point School

The Center Point school records could not be located and may not have survived. After checking with the Hempstead County Genealogical Society and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, it appears the school records are lost or have been destroyed.

Some of the teachers included: Mrs. Vera (Derryberry) Reeves, Mrs. Owen Atkins, Mrs. Edna Brooks, Mr. O.B. Hodnett. Relatives known to attend Center Point, but not in pictures:

Middlebrooks: Oscar D., Charles V., Fair H., Lovett, Melvin, Arnold, Ray W., Bruce E.

Children of John C. and Fair (Middlebrooks) Porterfield: James H., Roy and Auda
Thomas: Vera, Mary, George, Myrtle, and Zora.



Center Point Elementary School class picture circa 1906. L-R: Back row: Leslie Hickman, Walter Ratcliff, Brice Thomas, Paul Dodson, Bryan Middlebrooks, Tom Middlebrooks, Norton. Fifth row: Berry Porterfield, Lee Armstrong, Emma Abbott, Evelyn Kent, Lola Hickman, Elmore Kent. Fourth row: Bernard Laue (teacher), Eunice Urrey, Hazel Cooper, Jewel Kent, Amie Middlebrooks, Leslie Hickman,?. Third row: Grey Dodson, Archie Barr, Oberia Dodson, Ocie Ratcliff, ?, Armstrong, Effie Hickman. Second row: Walter Abbott, ?, Thomas, Ara Cooper, Ora Dodson, Ira Barr, ?. Front row: ?, Aneta Urrey, ?, ?. Identification by Jewel (Kent) Bayless, Barr at 94 years old.



Center Point Elementary School 1929/30. Last graduating class before the school was closed. L-R: Front row seated: Charles Thomas, Olan Reeves, Floride Putnam, Mina Marie Hubbard, Margaret Alton, Kathleen Reeves, Dorothy Kennedy, Nellie Alton, Marie Crews, G. B. Tillman, George Lynn Sullivan. Row 2: Gerlene Urrey (Taylor), Buddy Hugh Garrett, J. M. Sullivan, Milton Alton, Tom Hubbard, Cora Thomas, Arthur Thomas. Row 3: Jesse Crews, William Alton, Aretta Garrett, Lena Crews, Herman Putnam, Mrs. Vera Reeves. Row 4: Mrs. Owen Atkins (teacher), Lola Thomas, Joyce Garrett, Ruby Hubbard, Arlene Garrett, Lennie Bell Sullivan. Row 5: Elvin Crews, Milton Crews, Fred Garrett, Cannon Aslin, Iver Ward. Picture and identifications provided by Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Center Point Elementary School. Unidentified students. Do you know any of these students or the class year?



Chapter IV

Endnotes

¹Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Record Book T, Pg. 482-#1,2 County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Proceedings of March 5. 1934. C. V. Middlebrooks vs. Mrs. Fannie Ward ET AL.

²Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Record Book T, Pg. 482-#3 County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas

³Hempstead County Deed Book 75 Pg. 541, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁴Hempstead County Circuit Court case # 903 Record Book 75, Pg. 541, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. George W. Hinton Sr. had to sell his interest in the land because of a debt owed E. C. Brown for \$2307.86.

⁵Hempstead County Circuit Court Record Book 129 Pg. 95, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁶Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Record Book T, Pg. 482-#4 County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas

⁷Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Record Book T, Pg. 482-#5 County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas

⁸Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Record Book T, Pg. 511-#1,2 and Record Book U, Pg. 65, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Order approving sale (April 16, 1934) and Order for approving deed (July 6, 1934).

⁹Hempstead County Deed Book 135, Pg. 140, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹⁰Hempstead County Deed Book 137, Pg. 89, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹¹Hempstead County Deed Book 139, Pg. 466, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹²Hempstead County Deed Book 151, Pg. 254, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹³Hempstead County Deed Book 137, Pg. 275, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹⁴Hempstead County Deed Book 163, Pg. 318 and Deed Book 169, Pg. 189, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. DB 169 Mtg. was dated and filed April 14, 1941. DB 169 Mtg. dated April 14, 1969 and filed July 28, 1941

¹⁵Hempstead County Deed Book 168, Pg. 215, 351, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹⁶Hempstead County Deed Book 168, Pg.350, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas

¹⁷Appraisal letter and plat of M. T. & Amie Hubbard property, from Foster Reality Company, Hope AR to the First National Bank of Hope AR, December 5, 1956. Inventory of property.

¹⁸Personal communication Mina Marie Mosier, 1009 W. 14th, Hope, Arkansas 71801 to Neal Middlebrook, and Letters Dated: 22 November 1989, 17 January, 1990, 3 August 2001, 8 August 2001, 7 November 2001, 8 December 2001, 3 August 2003, 21 August 2003, 12 February 2006.

¹⁹ Hempstead County Deed Book 295, Pg. 527, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

²⁰ Hempstead County Deed Book 502, Pg. 163, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

²¹ Hempstead County Deed Book 42, Pg. 557, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

²² Velma F. Matson, *The Old Rural School As I Remember It*, http://ncha.ncats.net/data/Old_Rural_School/, accessed by Neal Middlebrook, October 12, 2006.

²³ Larry W. Pearce, *The American Missionary Association and the Freedman's Bureau in Arkansas, 1868-1878*, (Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Little Rock, Summer 1971), 246-47

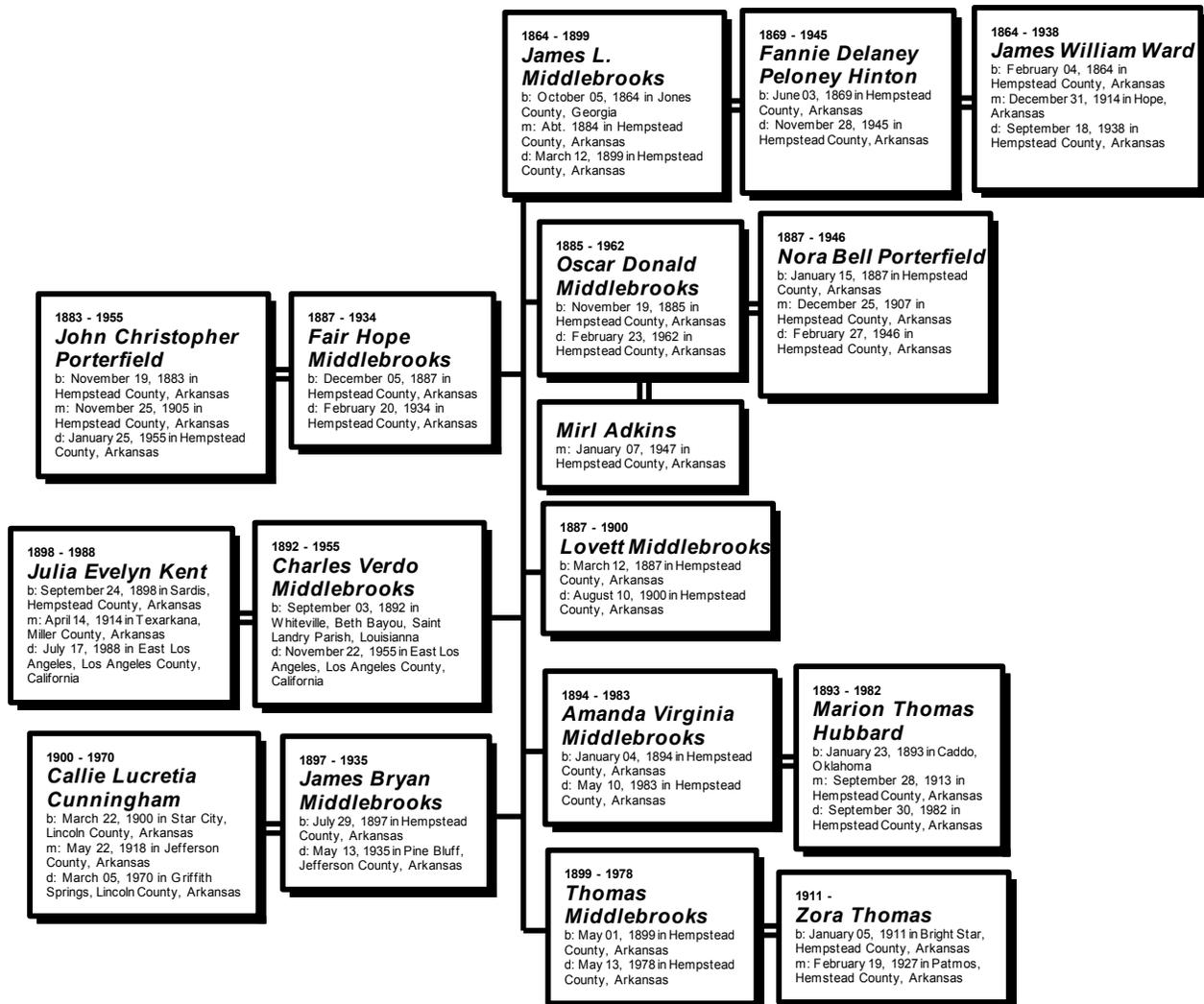
²⁴ Personal communication Ray Middlebrook 8529 Beverly Road, Pico Rivera California, 90660 to Neal Middlebrook 2001-2005.

²⁵ Personal communication, Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier 1009 West 14th, Hope, AR 71801 to Neal Middlebrook , January 2004.

Chapters V - XI: Descendents of James and Fannie (Hinton) Middlebrooks

**Oscar Donald, Fair Hope, Lovett,
Charles Verdo, Amanda Virginia,
James Bryan and Thomas Middlebrooks**

Descendants of James L. Middlebrooks

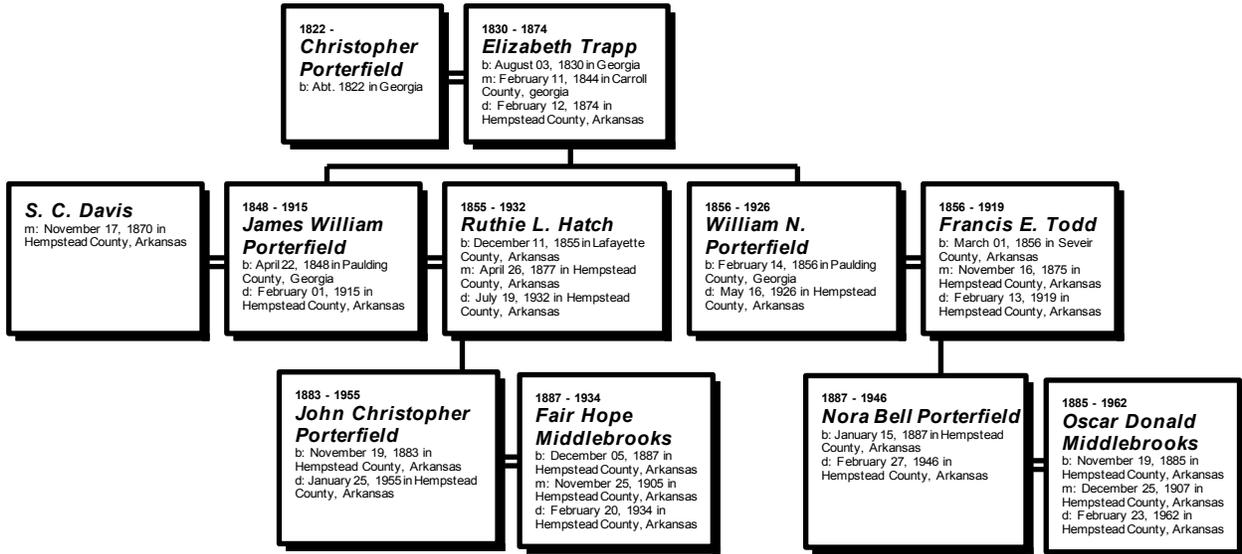


***Chapter V:
Oscar Donald and
Nora Bell (Porterfield)
Middlebrooks***

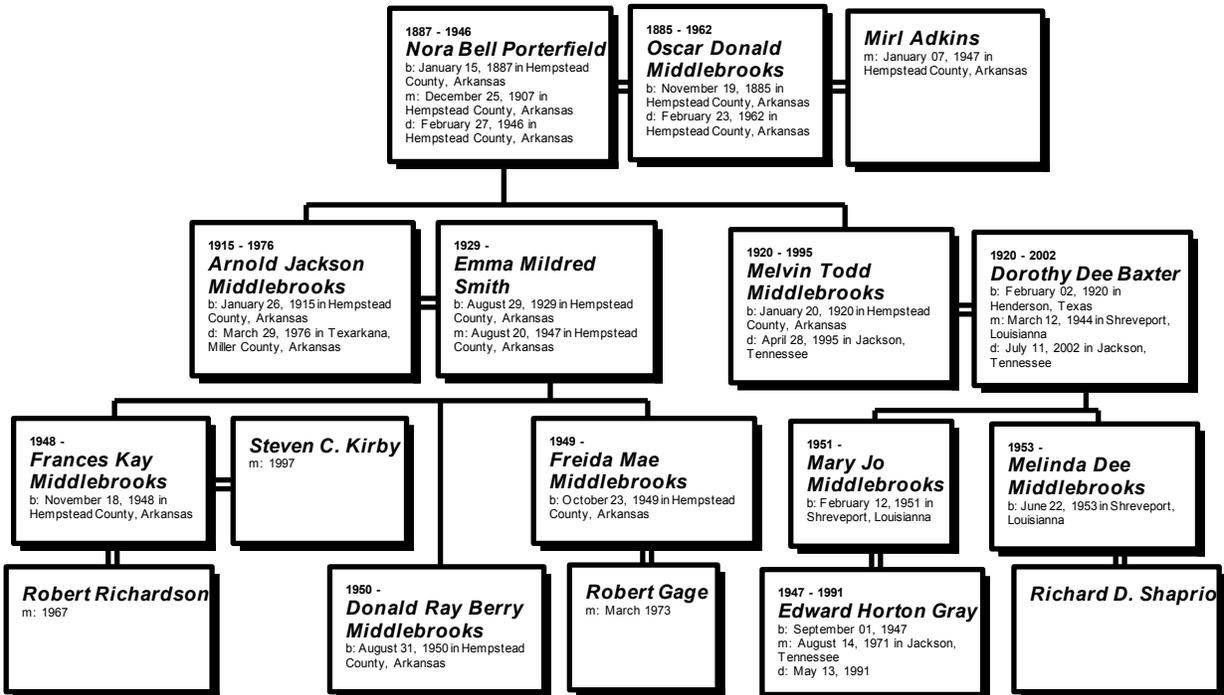


***L-R: Tom Middlebrooks, Amie V.
(Middlebrooks) Hubbard and
Oscar D. Middlebrooks.
Macedonia Cemetery circa 1950.***

Descendants of Christopher Porterfield



Descendants of Oscar Donald Middlebrooks



Oscar Donald and Nora Bell (Porterfield) Middlebrooks

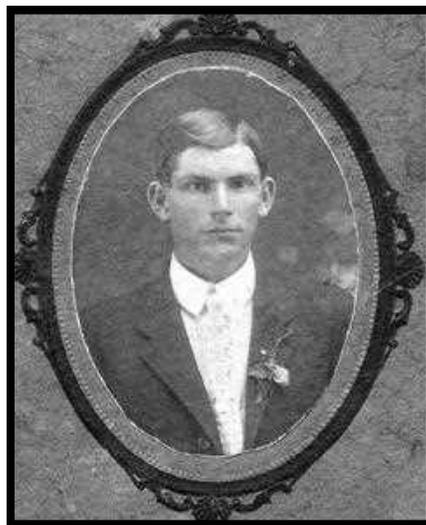
Oscar Donald Middlebrooks was born November 19, 1885, Hempstead County, Arkansas.¹ Oscar is the eldest son of James L. and Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks. It is believed he was born on the land Fannie inherited from her father Lovett T. Hinton.² Just one year after the death of his father Jim (1899), Oscar at age 15, moves from Hope with his mother Fannie and the rest of his brothers and sisters to the Old Hinton Home Place on Patmos Rd.³

Seven years later Oscar Middlebrooks marries Nora Bell Porterfield of Hope on December 25, 1907, Hempstead County.⁴ William and Frances “Fannie” (Todd) Porterfield are Nora’s parents. Oscar registered for WWI at the age of 32 on September 12, 1918. His occupation was listed as a farmer, self employed and his address was Route 2, Patmos, Arkansas.⁵ As far as we know Oscar was never called into active duty.

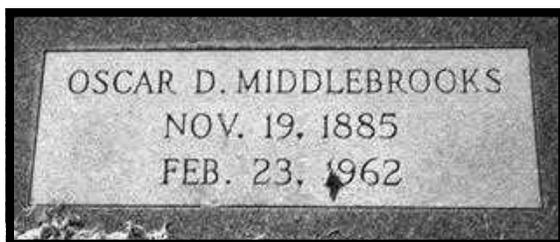
Nora died February 27, 1946, in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and is buried in Macedonia Cemetery.⁶ Not long after the death of Nora, Oscar marries Mirl Adkins on January 7, 1947. Oscar of Patmos is 58 and Mirl of Hope is 43. The marriage is preformed by Otis L. Rowe.⁷ Oscar died while living at his country store in Evening Shade, February 23, 1962, and is also buried in Macedonia Cemetery, about seven miles south of Hope.⁶



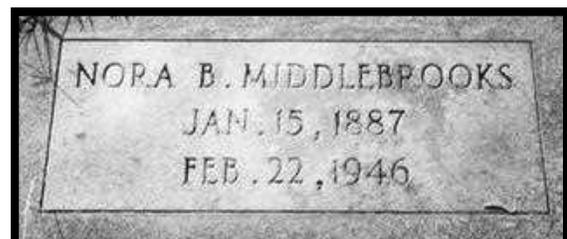
Oscar Middlebrooks, *circa* 1910, Hope, Arkansas



Oscar Middlebrooks, *circa* 1902, Hope, Arkansas Courtesy of Vicki (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten



Oscar Donald Middlebrooks
Macedonia Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield



Nora Bell (Porterfield) Middlebrooks, Macedonia Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield

William N. and Francis “Fannie” E. (Todd) Porterfield

William N. Porterfield was born February 14, 1856,⁸ we believe in Paulding County, Georgia, to the parents of Christopher and Elizabeth (Trapp) Porterfield.⁹ Christopher (*circa* 1822) and Elizabeth (August 3, 1830) are born in Georgia.⁹ Elizabeth Porterfield died February 12, 1874. She is buried in the Macedonia Cemetery south of Hope.¹⁰ By 1859, Christopher and Elizabeth Porterfield have moved the family from Paulding County Georgia to Carouse Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas,¹² and before 1880 they are residing in Spring Hill Township.¹³

William N. Porterfield, age 20, and Frances “Fannie” (Todd), age 19, both of Spring Hill are married on November 16, 1875.¹¹ William N. dies May 16, 1926, and Faney Porterfield dies February 13, 1919, Hempstead County. They are both buried in Macedonia Cemetery.⁸ William is the brother of James W. Porterfield. James’ son, John C. Porterfield married, Fair H. Middlebrooks.



William N. Porterfield, Macedonia Cemetery
August 2006

Gone but not forgotten



Faney E. (Todd) Porterfield, Macedonia Cemetery.
August 2006

John A. and Elizabeth L. (Fuller) Todd

John A. and Elizabeth L. Todd are the parents of Francis “Faney” E. Todd. Francis was born March 1, 1856,⁸ we believe in Sevier County, Arkansas.¹⁴ John was born *circa* 1831 in South Carolina and Elizabeth was born in Georgia *circa* 1838.¹⁵ John marries Elizabeth, September 13, 1852, in Meriwether County, Georgia.¹⁶ Their marriage notice appears in the Southern Christian Advocate Newspaper in South Carolina 17 days (September 30, 1852) after they are married in Georgia.¹⁷ Around 1855, they move near Norwoodville, Bear Creek Township, Sevier County, Arkansas.¹⁵ Then John and Elizabeth move to Spring Hill Township from Sevier County, before 1868.¹⁸ They are living next door to Francis and William Porterfield, their daughter and son-in-law, before 1880. Harmon Fuller, a brother-in-law, is living with John and Elizabeth.¹⁹

It is suspected that both John and Elizabeth Todd are buried at Macedonia Cemetery, however their graves have not been located. According to land records, in 1882 John A. and Elizabeth L. Todd donate two acres of land to Macedonia Cemetery:¹⁰

“for and in consideration of the natural love and affection we have for members of our family who lie buried on the land ... and the revered memory in which we hold them as well as numerous friends and neighbors buried at the same place and for the convenience and benefit of the general public in the neighborhood Give the land to be used as a public graveyard or burying ground.”¹⁰

James and W. S. Todd, thought to be the sons of John and Elizabeth are buried at Macedonia Cemetery.¹⁰

Patmos Road Homestead

On January 6, 1910, Oscar and Nora purchased 76 acres of land adjacent to the south side Macedonia Cemetery mostly on the west side of Patmos Road. The land was bought from William N. Porterfield, Nora’s father,²⁰ and is about two ½ miles south of the property owned by Oscar’s mother. According to relatives, Oscar later donated a few acres to permit the expansion of Macedonia Cemetery. The Macedonia Baptist Church organized *circa* 1870 was also located near the south end of Macedonia Cemetery.²¹

Oscar’s house sat back off of Patmos Road with a long driveway. Oscar and his younger brother, Verdo, were very good friends. Oscar, Nora, Verdo and Evelyn Middlebrooks would have Sunday dinners at each other’s home. Evelyn would bring her guitar and they would sing songs while, their children Ray and Bruce, would play with Melvin and Arnold. Ray thought it was a real treat to have Nora make one of her famous custard pies.²²



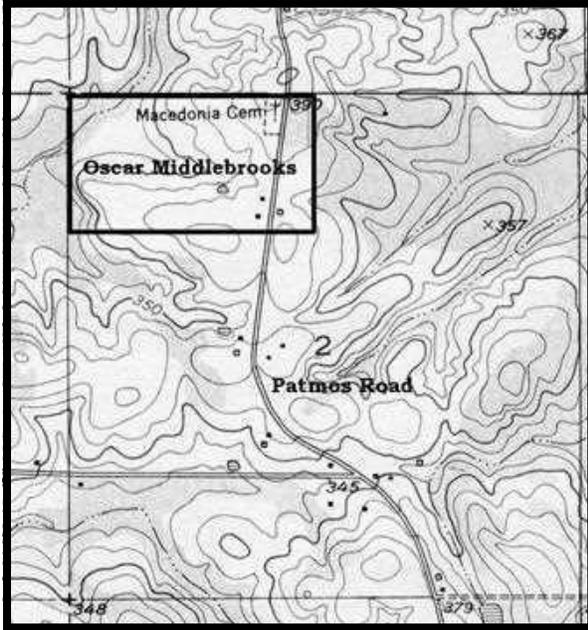
Oscar Middlebrooks’ house on Patmos Road, about 1950. Just south of Macedonia Cemetery. (N ½, NW ¼, Sec. 2, T. 14S, R. 24W, 76 acres).



House on the property today. O. D. Middlebrooks old homestead. August 2006.

Looking south from Macedonia Cemetery today. O. D. Middlebrooks old homestead. August 2006.





Location of Oscar Middlebrooks Patmos Road homestead. (N ½, NW ¼, Sec. 2, T. 14S, R. 24W, 76 acres)

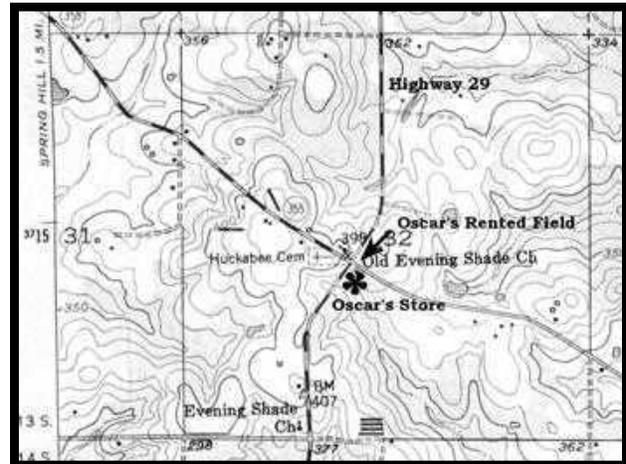


Oscar Middlebrooks' watermelon field, directly north of the store at the corner of Highways 355 and 29. August 2006

Old Evening Shade

After the death of his wife Nora Bell in February of 1946, Oscar sold his place on Route 1 Patmos Road to Ed Smith, Emma's great uncle. Emma is the wife of Arnold, Oscar's son. Oscar purchased a smaller place (1/2 acre) six miles south of Hope on Highway 29 in Evening Shade.

In 1955, he bought a small country grocery store at this same location, and planted melons both behind the store²³ and on a small parcel of land he rented across the road from the store. He claimed to have made more money off the store than he did the farm on Patmos Road.²²



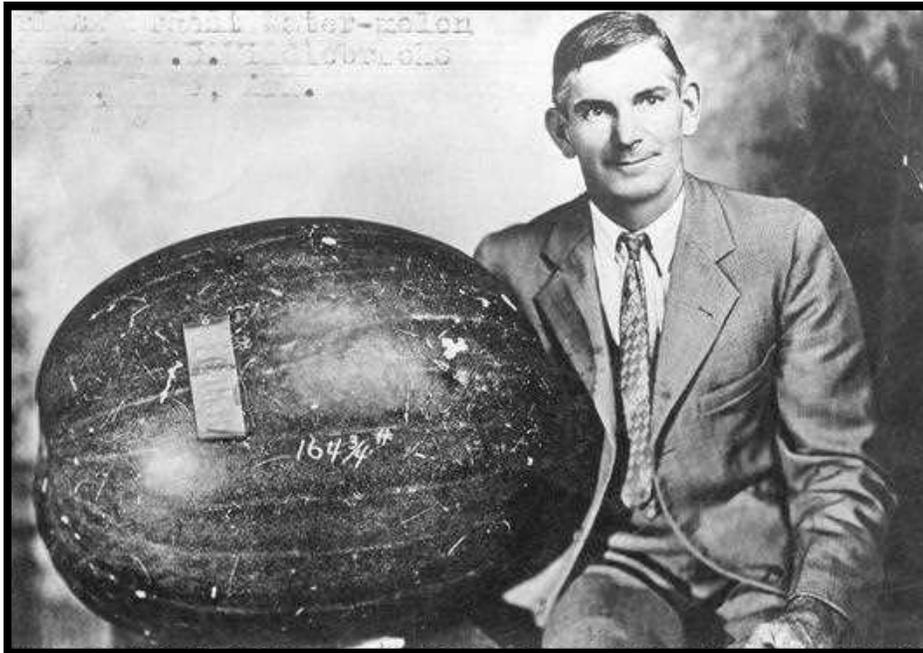
Location of Oscar's Country Store and the rented field where he grew those big watermelons.

Oscar's Country Store. L-R Oscar Phillip Kent and A. Z. Turner current owner of the store. A. Z. no longer ran the store, since his wife died in 2002. August 2006



Champion Watermelons

Oscar 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.²⁵ 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.²⁶ 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.²⁷ 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.



Oscar D. Middlebrooks with world record melon at 164 3/4 pounds, October 18, 1930.

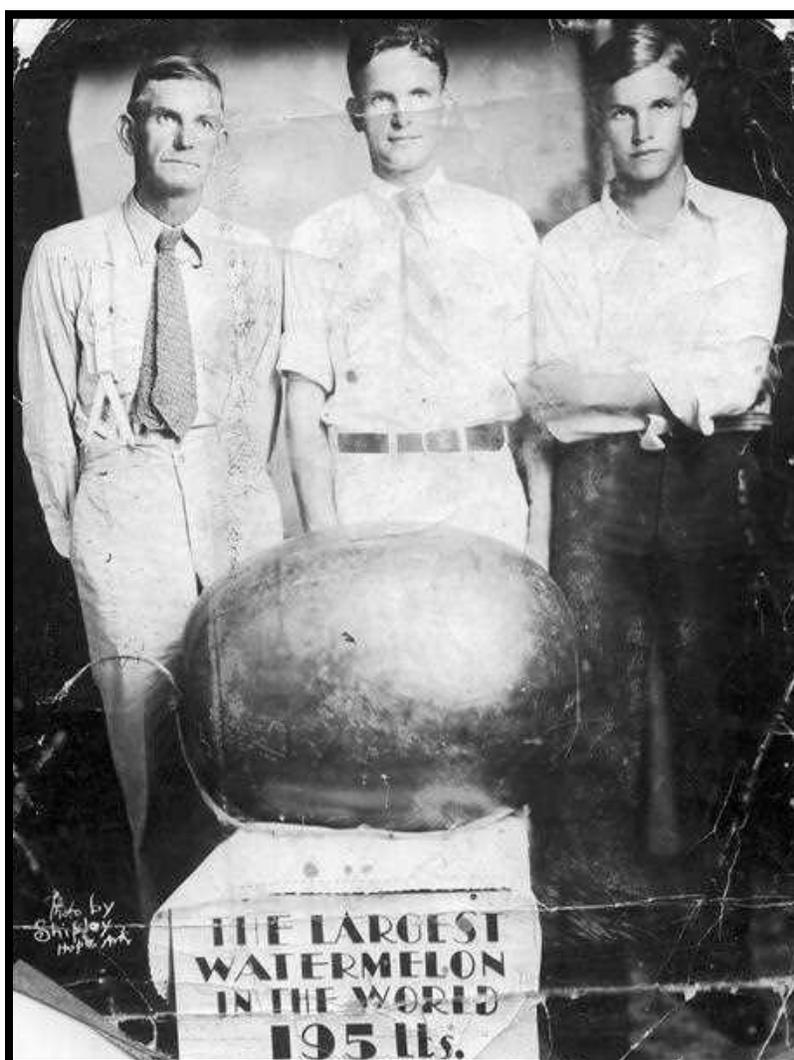
Then in 1935, Oscar and his sons Melvin and Arnold regained the world title for Hope with a 195 pound Jumbo Triumph. The world champion was on display for a couple of days in Hope and then shipped to actor Dick Powell as Arkansas' gift to Hollywood.²⁷ According to relatives, Oscar never received a thank you from the Hollywood movie star.²³ 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.²⁵ ***This world record watermelon of 195 pounds stood for more than 40 years and was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.***²⁷

It was not until 1975 that this record was beaten with a melon weighing two more pounds, by Ed Weeks of Tarboro, North Carolina.²⁷ 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.²⁴

Those Watermelon holes?

One year at Evening Shade, Oscar noticed that someone was boring holes in the bottom of his big watermelons. He would periodically turn the melons to keep them round. Oscar felt people were trying to damage his melons in order to prevent him from winning the \$1,000.00 prize being offered at the Hope Watermelon Festival.

Many of the large melons were lost due to these holes. One particularly large melon, behind the store had to be guarded day and night to prevent its demise. One evening Oscar was standing in the watermelon patch next to this champion melon when somebody driving by on the road shot at the melon. He finally harvested the melon weighing 161 pounds (Cobb Gem variety) and won first place.²³ Oscar was awarded \$1,000.00 for having the largest melon at the 1956 Hope Watermelon Festival.²⁴



L-R Oscar, Melvin and Arnold Middlebrooks, Hope, Arkansas, 1935. Courtesy of Mildred (Middlebrooks) Chastain.



**L-R Arnold and Melvin Middlebrooks
at home on Patmos Road, 1929.**

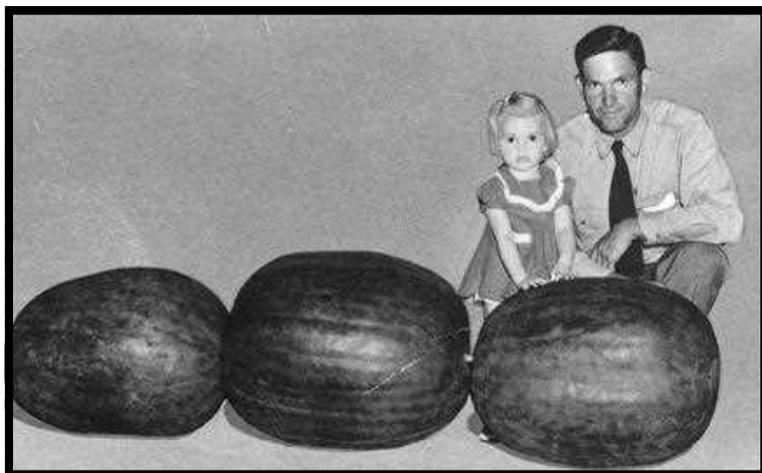
Courtesy of Vicki (Kincannon
Wilkerson) Hooten

The Children of Oscar Donald and Nora Bell (Porterfield) Middlebrooks:

Arnold Jackson Middlebrooks was born January 26, 1915,²⁸ on the farm his father had purchased in 1910, just south of Macedonia Cemetery on Patmos Road. Arnold married Emma Mildred Smith, August 20, 1947, Hempstead County, Arkansas.²³ Arnold attended Center Point Elementary School and then graduated from high school down by Patmos, Arkansas.²² He was one of the first graduating classes in the new Patmos School built *circa* 1930. She attended the same school as Arnold and graduated in 1947 along with thirteen other graduates. Arnold did not serve in the armed forces.

Emma was born August 29, 1929, to the parents of Albert and Cora Smith of Hempstead County.²³ Albert Almer Smith was born February 9, 1904, and Cora England was born January 14, 1911, both in Hempstead County, near Hope. Albert and Cora are married July 24, 1927, Hempstead County. Albert died February 23, 1977 and Cora at the age of 93 died in February of 2004. They are both buried in the Shover Springs Cemetery, Hempstead County.^{28, 29} Emma was the second of 12 children. The family lived on Shover Springs Road, De Roane Township, Hempstead County. The house is still standing and Emma's cousin is living in the house.^{23, 28}

In correspondence from Emma in 2005 she recounts the following. After she married Arnold, they bought the 50 acre farm about five miles south of Hope on Patmos Road that was once owned by Arnold's grandfathers (Hinton's and Porterfield's). This location is where Arnold carried on the large watermelon growing legacy of his father. He shipped large watermelons all over the United States and one was even sent out of the country. Arnold served for four years as the Hempstead County Clerk in the 1950's. His next job was down at the Red River U. S. Army Depot where he worked in supply and Emma worked as a mechanic for 20 years.²³



Arnold Middlebrooks with daughter Frances Kay, about 1950, Hope Arkansas

In 1971 the family moved to Texarkana, Texas. Arnold was diagnosed with kidney failure *circa* 1975. He was on dialysis for about a year when he had a stroke and died March 29, 1976.

Obituary of Arnold Jackson Middlebrooks³⁰

Former resident succumbs

Arnold Jackson Middlebrooks, a former Hope resident, died Monday in a Texarkana hospital. He was 61. He was born in Hempstead County January 26, 1915, the son of the late O.D. and Nora Belle Porterfield Middlebrooks.

He was one of the early leaders in growing the famous Hope watermelon. He was a former county clerk, and deputy sheriff of Hempstead County, a member of the Unity Baptist Church of Hope. For the past 10 years, he had worked for the Red River Depot and had made his home in Texarkana.

Survivors include his wife, (Emma) Mildred Smith Middlebrooks of Texarkana; one son, Donald Middlebrooks at the Navy Base in San Diego, Calif.; two daughters, Frances Richardson of Magnolia, Freida Gage of Texarkana; one grandson, Eric Richardson of Magnolia; one brother, Melvin Middlebrooks of Jackson, Tenn.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Unity Baptist Church with the Rev. Gordon Renshaw and the Rev. Ralph Cottrell officiating. Burial will be in Macedonia Cemetery under the direction of Herndon Funeral Home. The family requests that memorials be made to the kidney unit at Wadley Hospital in Texarkana. The family will be at the home of Mrs. Ada May White, 209 S. Pine St., Hope.

The Children of Arnold J. and Emma M. (Smith) Middlebrooks:

Frances Kay (Middlebrooks) Richardson, born, November 18, 1948, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Frances married Robert Richardson 1967 and Steven C. Kirby 1997

Frieda Mae (Middlebrooks) Gage, born, October 23, 1949, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Frieda married Robert Gage, March 1973.

Donald Ray Berry Middlebrooks, born, August 31, 1950, Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Melvin Todd (M. T.) Middlebrooks is the second son of Oscar and Nora , born January 20, 1920,³¹ on the farm his father named Magic Half Acres on Patmos Road.²⁰ Lt. M. T. Middlebrooks, age 24, married Dorothy Dee (Baxter) Clay, age 24, on March 12, 1944, in Shreveport Louisiana. They were married by Dana Dawson District Court Clerk of Caddo Parish. Witnesses are Mrs. C. R. Gank, Joseph M. Coyle and Marilee Reames. At the time of their marriage M. T. is in the U. S. Army and Dorothy is working at a Shreveport automobile agency (Roundtree Oldsmobile-Cadillac).³²

Dorothy was born February 2, 1920, in Henderson, Texas. Her parents are Mary Louise Rankine and William B. Baxter of Henderson, Texas.³³ Melvin died April 28, 1995, and Dorothy died July 11, 2002, Jackson, Tennessee. They are both buried in the Ridgecrest Cemetery, Jackson Tennessee.^{31, 33}

Dorothy Baxter's First marriage to Hoyt Harper Clay

Dorothy was previously married to Hoyt Harper Clay. Dorothy, age 21, and Hoyt, age 21, are first married on April 17, 1937, by the Reverend A. M. Serex, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Witnesses included: Glenn Preston Baxter, Mrs. A. E. Sullivan and Mrs. A. M. Serex.³⁴ Georgia Ann Clay Middlebrooks was born December 8, 1937 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

During the period 1937-1946 it appears that Dorothy and Hoyt divorce and are remarried on March 6, 1943 by Grace S. Thomas, District Court Clerk for Caddo Parish at Bossier City, Louisiana. Witnesses include: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Givens, and Myrtle Rankine.³⁴ Eleven months later Dorothy marries Lt. M. T. Middlebrooks, after divorcing Hoyt Clay again. Hoyt was born in Henderson, Texas and listed as an oil field worker when they are married in 1937. His parents are A. B. and Janice Clay living in Carlisle and later Flory, Texas. Janice is listed as deceased.³⁴

Life History of M. T. Middlebrooks³¹

Watermelons

When he was fifteen, his family grew the "World's Largest Watermelon" recorded at 195 pounds in Hope, Arkansas. The watermelon was purchased by the Hope Chamber of Commerce and shipped to Dick Powell for a watermelon fest in Hollywood. Because of this accomplishment, Hope, Arkansas is known as the Watermelon Capital of the World. This record for the world's largest watermelon was held by the Middlebrooks family until it was relinquished to another Hope, Arkansas farmer in 1979.

Education & Basketball

Melvin like his brother Arnold attended Center Point Elementary School for a short time before it closed *circa* 1930. They were transferred to a new school (grades 1-12) down by Patmos Arkansas.²² In high school, Melvin excelled both academically and athletically. In his senior year, he was selected for Arkansas All-State Basketball and was Class Valedictorian. He attended Magnolia A&M where he received a degree in Mathematics and Education, while lettering in basketball.

After World War II, he returned to college at Centenary, College in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he received an additional degree in accounting in 1941. At Centenary, he played varsity basketball.

World War II

In April, 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp as an aviation cadet. He served as an instructor pilot in the 4th Bombardment Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, Louisiana. In January, 1944, he and his crew shipped out to the European Theater of Operations. He qualified to fly PT22, BT13, A-17, B-26, A-26 and A-20 aircraft.

He was decorated three times with the Army Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters. "In recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights", in 1947, he received the Victory Medal. During thirteen months of combat, he flew a total of forty seven missions into Northern France, Ardennes and Germany as pilot and flight leader. On two returns from bombing missions, he successfully landed his plane with the wheels damaged by anti-aircraft guns.

While overseas he checked out combat pilots on A-26 aircraft and flew twin engine type aircraft on initial combat flight for battle testing purposes. He pioneered the Shoran Radar training and demonstrated the use of Shoran bombing to flying personnel attached to the combat group. On his return from the European Theater of Operations, he flew his airplane in a solo flight to France to Africa, to Brazil, then to the United States landing in Savannah, Georgia. In 1946, he was honorably discharged, having attained the rank of Captain.

Middlebrooks Motors Jackson, Tennessee

In 1964, the Melvin and Dorothy (Dee) moved to Jackson to purchase and operate the Pontiac dealership, Kittle Pontiac and changed the name to Middlebrooks Motors. The new dealership sold Pontiac and American Motors vehicles until 1984 when the dealership was sold. During the twenty years of operation as a new car dealer, Mr. Middlebrooks was known affectionately as "Chief" to his employees. M. T. is a consistent winner of the Pontiac Delran Award of Excellence and a consistent winner of the general Motors Sales Awards.



Melvin Middlebrooks and Marie Boyett, circa 1943.

Courtesy Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.

He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as a member of the Chamber's Ambassadors (Red Coats). He was a campaign worker for the American Heart Association and was a lifetime member of First Baptist Church. He was also a member of the American Legion and National Cost Accountants Association. During this time, the family raised and showed Toy Manchester Terriers and Miniature Pinschers. Their kennel was "GA's Hideaway Kennel". The kennel had many champions with thirteen champions at one time.

After semi-retirement in 1984, he and Dee continued to operate Hertz Car Rental at McKellar-Sipes Airport until 1992. He was a great enthusiast of basketball, particularly Razorback basketball. He was a dedicated family man, who was gentle and generous. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, loved gardening and was an excellent cook.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Baxter (Dee) Middlebrooks; daughter, Georgia Roth and her husband, Charles Roth and their children, Dr. Todd Roth and wife Lisa Dye Roth, Doug Roth and wife; Michelle Wylie Roth and Rankine Roth; daughter, Mary Jo Middlebrooks, and daughter Melinda Middlebrooks and her, husband, Richard Shapiro and their children, Joseph, Jason and Jessica.



Melvin and Ray Middlebrooks, back yard of home in Jackson, Tennessee. Summer 1989.

Services for Mr. M. T. Middlebrooks will be held at 11:00 Monday from the First United Methodist Church with Dr. H. Garrison Coltharp and Dr. Paul Clayton officiating. Burial will follow in Ridgecrest Cemetery. George A. Smith and Sons Main Street Chapel are in charge of arrangements. Mr. Middlebrooks died Friday at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Melvin Todd (M. T.) Middlebrooks was born to the late Oscar D. and Nora Porterfield Middlebrooks on January 20, 1920 in Patmos, Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his brother, Arnold Middlebrooks and son-in-law, Ernie H. Gray. Pallbearers to serve will be, Dr. Charles Cox, Leigh Grinalds, Jerry Holt, Roger Huneycutt, James S. Matthews III, Danny Priddy, Lynn Williams and Tom Woods.

Life History of Dorothy (Baxter) Clay Middlebrooks³³

Education

Dorothy received her B.S. degree in Business and Education, summa cum laude, from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. While attending Centenary, she was President of Alpha Chi, Vice-President of Student NEA, Vice-President of Delta Tau Omicron, Vice-President of the Student Louisiana Teachers Association, and named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She was initiated into Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. In 1962, Dee joined the faculty of Fairpark High School, teaching Business-related subjects. This opportunity gave her more time with her children and enabled her to pursue her goal of helping to educate future members of the business community.

Shreveport, Louisiana

While a resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, she worked as an accountant for Roundtree Oldsmobile-Cadillac and then for Holmes Pontiac Company, where she was also Secretary- Treasurer of the corporation, and comptroller of Holmes Investment Company. During this time, she served as a national business consultant to Reynolds & Reynolds Company, and was instrumental in designing the new business forms for the bookkeeping machines then being introduced into the workplace. She worked as internal auditor for Barrow, Leary & Company, an investment banking firm.

Dee was an active member of Soroptimist International, and served as secretary and treasurer of that organization. She was a member of the National Cost Accountants Association. The family's Church was First Baptist Church in Shreveport. Dee was active in community service, as well. She was a long-time member of Youth Town Auxiliary and the Jackson Symphony League, having served both organizations as President. During Jackson's Sesquicentennial Celebration, she served as a division chairperson.

Joining Forces at Middlebrooks Motors

In 1964, the family moved to Jackson, Tennessee, to purchase and operate the Pontiac Dealership. Dee Middlebrooks was among the first women in the United States to become a General Motors Dealer. It was also the first time that Dee and her husband, had the opportunity to combine their business talents. She was a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association, and served on a National Committee for Women Dealers. The new car dealership sold Pontiac and American Motors vehicles until 1984 when the dealership was sold.

She is survived by daughters, Georgia Roth and her husband Charles Roth; Mary Jo Middlebrooks and Melinda Dee Middlebrooks. She leaves six bright, talented grandchildren, Todd, Doug and Rankine Roth, Joseph, Jason and Jessica Middlebrooks Shapiro and two young great grand-children Hunter and Houston Roth.

Services for Dorothy Baxter ("Dee") Middlebrooks, who died peacefully at her home on July 11, 2002, will be held at George A. Smith and Sons, North Chapel; on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Ridgecrest Cemetery .Rev. Dan Bruce will officiate. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Dee Middlebrooks was born to the late Mary Louise Rankine and William Baxter on February 2, 1920, in Henderson, Texas. She was married to the late M. T. Middlebrooks.

Pallbearers to serve will be Jackie Utley, Lynn Williams, Debra Owen, Mark Owen, Jerry Holt, Herby Martin and grandsons, Joseph Middlebrooks Shapiro and Jason Middlebrooks Shapiro.

The Children of Melvin T. and Dorothy "Dee" (Baxter) Middlebrooks:

Georgia Ann (Clay, Middlebrooks) Roth, born, December 8, 1937, Shreveport, Louisiana. Georgia married Charles Nelson Roth on August 16, 1958, in Shreveport.³⁵

Mary Joe Middlebrooks, born, February 12, 1951, Shreveport, Louisiana. Married Edward Horton Gray August 14, 1971, Jack son, Tennessee.³⁶

Melinda Dee (Middlebrooks) Shaprio, born, June 22, 1953, Shreveport, Louisiana. Melinda married Richard D. Shaprio.³¹



Chapter V

Endnotes

¹ Oscar Donald Middlebrooks, death certificate no. 62-002023, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock.

² Hempstead County Real Estate Assessment Books 1890-1895, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas. Original county Real Estate Assessment Books are included in their collections. (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22, T. 13S, R. 24W).

³ Personal communication from Zora Middlebrook, 1920 S. Main St., Hope, Arkansas to Neal Middlebrook February 28, 2006.

⁴ Marriages Hempstead County, Arkansas, January 1, 1900 through December 31, 1912, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1995), 107. Marriage Book R, Pg. 272. marriage preformed by Z. R. Mayton, Justice of the Peace, security bond, S. O. Phillips.

⁵ WWI Draft Registration Cards, entry for Oscar D. Middlebrooks, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 22 November, 2005.

⁶ Hempstead County, Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 15.

⁷ Hempstead County Marriage Book W, page 372, Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁸ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 11

⁹ 1850 U. S. Census, Paulding County, Georgia, pop. schd., Militia District 951, Paulding, Georgia, Ed, Pg. 702, dwelling & family 791, entry for Christopher (28) and Elizabeth (20) Porterfield and Susanna E. (5), Berry J. (4), James W. (2), & Elijah C. (6months). All adults & children born in Georgia.

¹⁰ Hempstead County, Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 7, 9, 12. The two acres: (NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 2, 14S, 24W, recorded September 9, 1882, Deed Book 14, Pg. 245-247).

¹¹ Marriages Hempstead County, Arkansas, 1875-1900, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, no date), 149. Marriage Book D, Pg. 225. Marriage performed by Cyrus P. Swinney, Minister of the Gospel.

¹² 1860 U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop. schd., Carouse Township, Pg. 825, dwelling & family 932, entry for Christopher (40) and Elizabeth (31) Porterfield and Susanna E. (15), Mary (13), James W. (13), Elizabeth (11), Rebecca (6), William (4) & Eliza (1). All are born in Georgia except Eliza who is born in Arkansas. www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 22 November, 2005.

¹³ Hempstead County, Arkansas, United States Census of 1880, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1994), 20, pop. schd., Spring Hill Township, entry for Christopher and Elizabeth Porterfield, Pg. 337.

¹⁴ Hempstead County, Arkansas, United States Census of 1900, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1998), 5, pop. schd., Bodcaw Township, entry for Wm. and Fanny Porterfield, married 23 yrs., 9 children born with 6 living. Fanny is listed as born in Arkansas. 1880 U. S. Census also lists Fanny's birth place as Arkansas.

¹⁵ 1860 U. S. Census, Bear Creek Township, Sevier County, Arkansas, dwelling 964 & family 935, P.O. is Norwoodville. John 29, Elizabeth 22, Martha E. 5, & Francis 2. John is born in South Carolina and Elizabeth is born in Georgia, Martha and Francis are born in Arkansas. www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 22 November, 2005.

¹⁶ Georgia Marriages 1851-1900, John Todd marries Elizabeth Fuller 13 September, 1852. www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 3 November, 2006.

¹⁷ Marriage and Death Notices, Southern Christian Advocate, (in the database of South Carolina Marriages 1641-1965), John Todd marries Elizabeth Fuller 30 September, 1852. www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 3 November, 2006.

¹⁸ Register of Legal Voters, Hempstead County, State of Arkansas, 1868, Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 13, 1994, 71. Entry for Jhon A. Todd, age 38, farmer.

¹⁹ Hempstead County, Arkansas, United States Census of 1880, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1994), 20, pop. schd., Spring Hill Township, entry for John A. 49 & Elizabeth Todd 43, Harmon Fuller 22 and (next household) William N. 22 and Faney 22 Porterfield, Pg. 15, 16 and Pg. 334 of 1880 census. John A. is born in South Carolina and Elizabeth and Harmon are born in Georgia. William is born in GA and Faney is born in Arkansas.

²⁰ Hempstead County, Deed Book 61, Pg. 24, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. (N ½, NW ¼, Sec. 2, T. 14S, R. 24W)

²¹ Macedonia Baptist Church, , Journal of Hempstead County Historical Society, Hope, Arkansas, Volume 14, 1997, 66.

²² Personal communication Ray Middlebrook 8529 Beverly Road, Pico Rivera California, 90660 to Neal Middlebrook 2001-2004.

²³ Personal communication Emma Mildred (Smith) Middlebrooks E-mail messages November 28, 2005, January 18, 19, 2006, emmamiddlebrooks@aol.com. Emma Middlebrooks is Arnold Middlebrooks wife.

²⁴ O. D. Middlebrooks Receives \$1,000 for 1956 Melon, (Hope Star), Hope, Arkansas, September 27, 1956.

²⁵ O. D. Middlebrooks, "Grandad of All Watermelons Grown by Arkansas Member", (St. Louis Farm Credit Administration Record , January-February 1936), 3

²⁶ Anonymous, Seeds McMelon, Watermelon Festival August 18-21, 1988, Hope Arkansas, Article page 57 "Story of the Big Watermelon from Hope, Hempstead County, Arkansas", as it appeared in the 1930 Hope Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

²⁷ Lloyd Bright, World Record Giant Watermelons 1917-1987, (Hope, Arkansas: Etter Printing Co., 1988), 11, 17, 19, Sources cited from "Grower and Melon Which Returned Title to Hope," Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, AR, October 19, 1930, Pg. 2, and "Three Aces – and a Triumph," Hope Star, AR, September 25, 1935, Pg. 1.

²⁸ Hempstead County, Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 10.

²⁹ Hempstead County, Arkansas Cemeteries Book 2, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1991), 30.

³⁰ Obituary of Arnold Jackson Middlebrooks, Hope Star Newspaper, Hope, Arkansas, clipping with no date, suspected date March 30/31, 1976.

³¹ M. T. Middlebrooks, obituary, Jackson Sun, Jackson, Tennessee, 1 May 1995, Author: Mary Jo Middlebrooks.

³² Marriage record, Caddo Parrish Clerk of Court, Shreveport, Louisiana, Book 0109, Pg. 0191. <http://www.caddoclerk.com/marriage.htm> Accessed by Neal Middlebrook 8 November 2006.

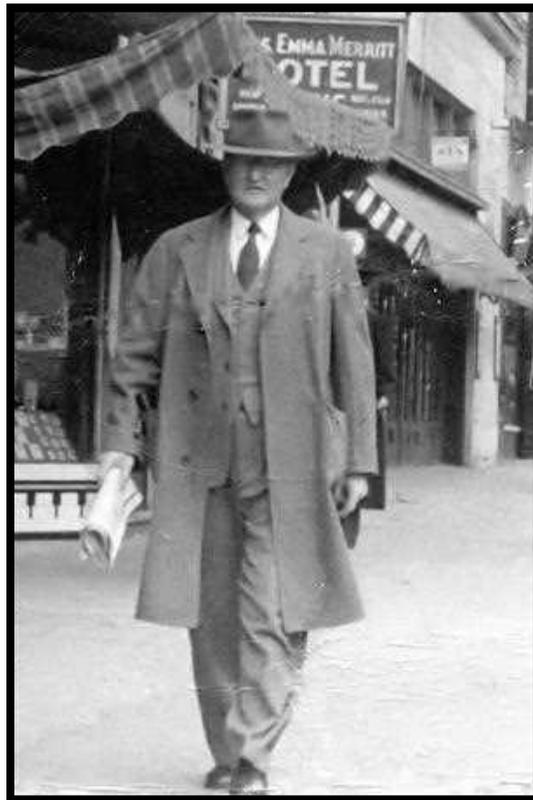
³³ Dorothy Baxter Middlebrooks, obituary, Jackson Sun, Jackson, Tennessee, 12 July 2002, Author: Mary Jo Middlebrooks.

³⁴ Marriage records, Caddo Parrish Clerk of Court, Shreveport, Louisiana, Book 0091, Pg. 0778 & Book 0106, Pg. 0056. <http://www.caddoclerk.com/marriage.htm> Accessed by Neal Middlebrook 8 November 2006.

³⁵ Marriage record, Caddo Parrish Clerk of Court, Shreveport, Louisiana, Book 0148, Pg. 0422. <http://www.caddoclerk.com/marriage.htm> Accessed by Neal Middlebrook 8 November 2006.

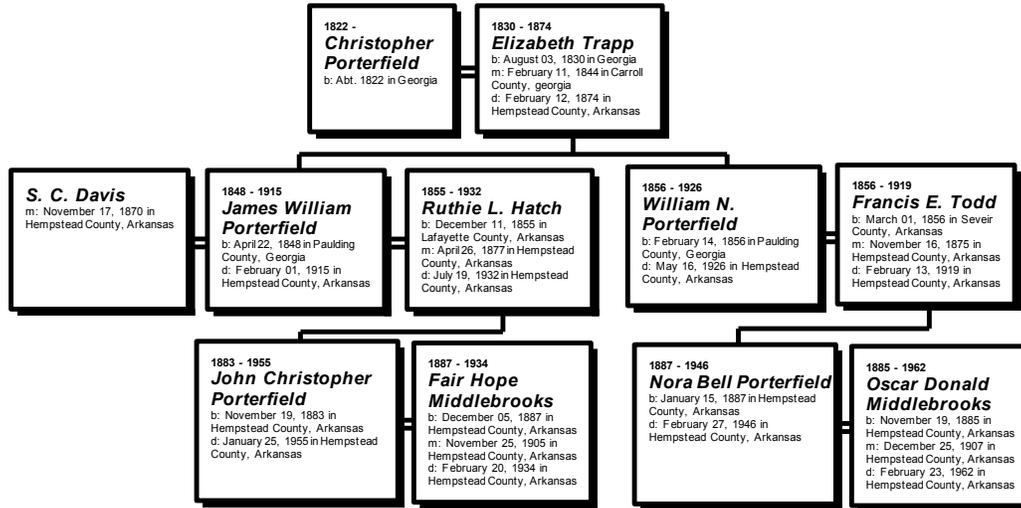
³⁶ Mary Jo Middlebrooks e-mail MMiddl9469@aol.com, February 19, 2007 to Neal Middlebrook susan.middlebrook1@verizon.net.

***Chapter VI: John Christopher “Bud”
and Fair Hope (Middlebrooks)
Porterfield***

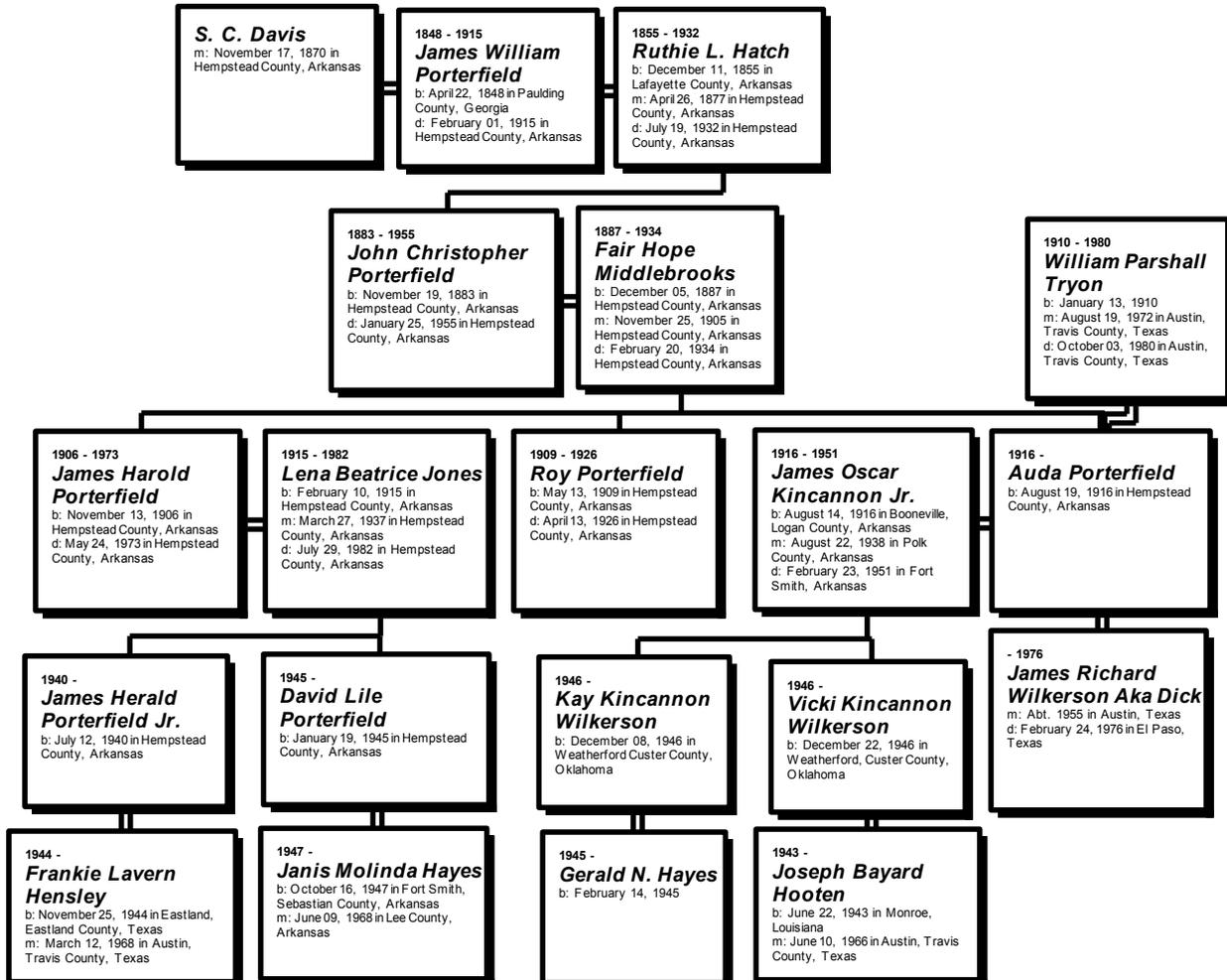


***John C. Porterfield, circa
1935***

Descendants of Christopher Porterfield



Descendants of James William Porterfield



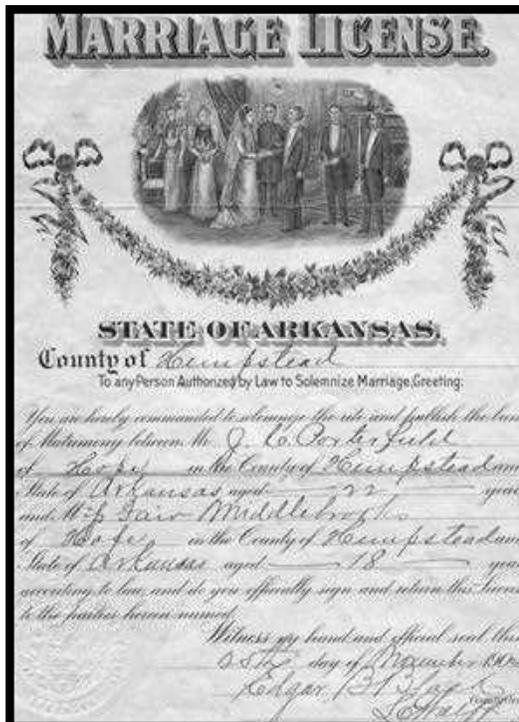
John Christopher “Bud” and Fair Hope (Middlebrooks) Porterfield

John Christopher “Bud” Porterfield was born November 19, 1883, Hempstead County, Arkansas.¹ His parents of James William and Ruthie L (Hatch) Porterfield.² James was born April 22, 1848,³ in Paulding County, Georgia.⁴ Ruthie L. was born December 11, 1855, in Lafayette County, Arkansas.⁵

Fair Hope Middlebrooks was born December 5, 1887, to parents James L. and Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks.⁶ It is thought Fair was born on the land that Fannie would eventually inherit from her father Lovett in 1889.⁷ John C. Porterfield, age 21, Fair H. Middlebrooks, age 18, marry on November 25, 1905. M. G. Ridgsdill, Justice of the Peace, Hempstead County, Arkansas performed the marriage and C. A. Ridgill posted the bond.⁸



L-R Daughter Auda and Fair (Middlebrooks) Porterfield, circa 1926. Courtesy of Mina M. (Hubbard) Mosier



Marriage License and Certificate for John C. Porterfield and Fair Middlebrooks, November 25, 1905. Courtesy of Vickie Kincannon Wilkerson Hooten.



John C. “Bud” Porterfield, Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon) Wilkerson Hooten

Christopher and Elizabeth (Trapp) Porterfield

James William’s parents are Christopher and Elizabeth (Trapp) Porterfield. Christopher Porterfield married Elizabeth Trapp February 11, 1844, in Carroll County, Georgia.⁹ They lived in, 951st District, Paulding County, Georgia after 1850. It is believed Christopher was born about 1822, and Elizabeth was born August 3, 1830, and both were born in Georgia.

They start their journey from Georgia to Arkansas when James William is about eight years old. They arrive in Carouse Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas *circa* 1856-1859, living near Albany.¹⁰ and died February 12, 1874, and she is buried at the Macedonia Cemetery south of Hope.³ It is not known where Christopher Porterfield is buried.

John T. and Orpha Mahulda (Mills) Hatch

The parents of Ruthie (Bud’s mother) were John T. and Orpha M. Hatch and are living near Lewisville, Lafayette County, Arkansas in 1860.¹¹ Cass County, Georgia is believed to be the birth place of both John and Orpha. John was born *circa* 1836 and Orpha Mills was born October 25, 1834.¹² John and Orpha marry on December 17, 1854, in Bartow County, Georgia. John and the family move to the Spring Hill Township before 1880.¹³

John’s father’ also named John, and his mother Jane, are living in Cass County, Georgia, before 1840.¹⁴ Both John, born *circa* 1803, and Jane, born *circa* 1817 are suspected to be from Hyde County, North Carolina.¹⁵ William E. and Ruth Mills are the parents of Orpha also, living in Cass County, Georgia, before 1840.¹⁶ Orhpha Mahulda Hatch died February 20, 1906, and is buried along side her mother Rutha A. Mills, born February 9, 1813, and died June 7, 1893. Both Orpha and Rutha are buried in the Old Sardis Cemetery south of Hope.¹⁷

Orpha Mahulda (Mills) Hatch. *“A loved one from us has gone. ... one we love is stilled. A place is vacant in our home.”* Old Sardis Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, January, 2007.



Elizabeth wife of C. Porterfield, Macedonia Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield March, 2002





Lee C. Hatch, son of John and Orpha Hatch. *“Dearest loved one we have laid thee in the peaceful graves embrace, but thy memory shall be cherished till we see thy heavenly face.”* Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, January, 2007. Old Sardis Cemetery



Rutha A. Mills mother of Orpha M. Hatch. *“I am going home to stay Oh meet me there.”* Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, January, 2007. Old Sardis Cemetery



Alford son of R. M. and L. C. Hatch, Age 9 Yrs., August 25, 1891. *“Gone but not Forgotten.”* Old Sardis Cemetery Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, January, 2007.



Dovie is thought to be the daughter of Lee C. Hatch. Jesse Kennedy married Dovie November 25, 1906. (Book P, Pg. 618). Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, January, 2007.

Old Sardis Cemetery. The metal plate or stone adjacent to Orpha’s grave (tall gravestone on the right) may be where her husband John is buried. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, January, 2007.



James William and S. C. (Davis) Porterfield

James, 22, and S. C. Davis, 20, were married on November 16, 1870, Hempstead County, by J. T. Downs.¹⁸ Their first daughter Mollie E. was born *circa* 1872, Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County.¹⁹ Mollie E. Porterfield, 17 marries H. A. Rogers, 24, on October 31, 1888, Hempstead County.²⁰

James William and Ruthie L. (Hatch) Porterfield

James at age 28, married his second wife Rutha L. Hatch, 21, on April 26, 1877 and are living in the Springhill Township. The marriage was performed by Cyrus P. Swinney, Minister of the Gospel, Hempstead County.²¹ Cyrus P. Swinney, also, married William N. Porterfield, age 20, (James brother) and Frances “Fannie” Todd, age 19, on November 16, 1875, in Springhill Township.²² James died February 1, 1915 and was buried in Macedonia Cemetery.²³ Ruth died July 19, 1932, in Hempstead County and is believed to have been buried in Macedonia Cemetery.^{24,5}



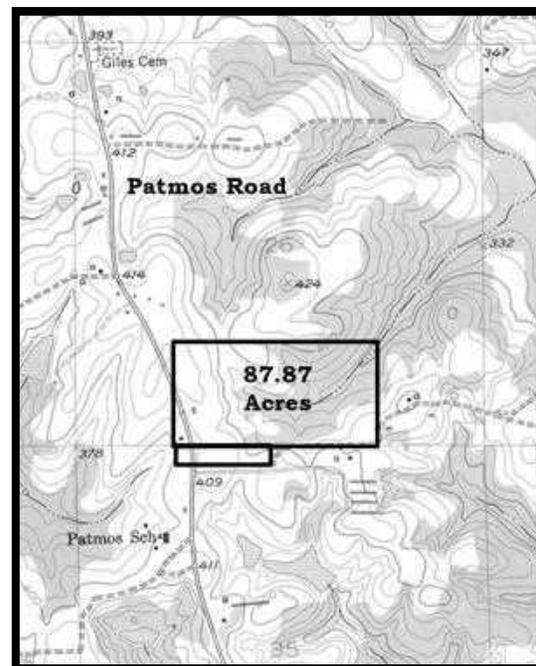
J. W. Porterfield,
Macedonia
Cemetery.
Courtesy of Lavern
Porterfield, March,
2002.

John and Fair Living on Patmos Road

Both Fair and Bud attended Center Point Elementary School (grades 1-8), across from the Giles Cemetery on Patmos Road. Two of their children, James and Roy, may have attended Center Point until they moved ½ mile south of Hope *circa* 1915.²⁶ John Christopher Porterfield registered for World War I on September 12, 1918, at age 34, while living on Route 2. The registration records confirm his birth dated as November 19, 1883. He is listed as a farmer, self employed, and his wife, Fair, is listed as nearest relative. He is described as tall, stout, with blue eyes, brown hair and no disabilities.²⁵

Bud was raised on his father’s farm (87.78 acres) and after marrying Fair continued to live on the family farm. Sometime around 1910-15 they moved north, about 1/2 mile south Hope on (3108) Patmos Road.²⁶ At this location, Bud and Fair was living across from Marion and Amie (Middlebrooks) Hubbard (3003) on Patmos Road. It is believed that Bud quit farming and started a cotton and hides business, while living on Patmos Road.²⁶

John C. Porterfield farm. (SE/SW & SW/SE of sec. 26, 80 acres, and part of the NE/NW of sec. 35, 7.87 acres, all in 13S., 24W). USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle, 1951, revised 1978.



Moving to Hope

Bud and Fair later moved to 517 West 5th Street in Hope when their daughter Auda was growing up. Bud acquired two lots (Lot 8, N1/2, Lot 7, Blk. A, Carriagan Add.) in Hope on December 25, 1916, from S. W. Houston and U. A. Gentry.²⁷ On October 16, 1924, he bought the E ½ of lot 2, Block 15 in the College addition to the City of Hope.²⁸



Bud and Fair Porterfield's home 517 West, 5th Street, Hope Arkansas. They moved to Hope when Auda was 5 in 1921. Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten

The Cotton and Hides Business and the Liquor Store

Hope Cotton Compress was started in 1911 where the City Hall is now located and was the first cotton compress in Hope. Bud was a cotton and hides broker. After deciding on the class of cotton, Bud would buy cotton from the farmers and resell it to the cotton gin or mills. He bought hides from the trappers and hunters and would resell to hide dealers. Bud made some very good money until the Depression hit in 1929.²⁶

After Fair died, Bud bought a liquor store in Hope on East 2nd Street. The cotton and hides business was run at the back of the liquor store. Bud hired Zora Middlebrooks (Tom Middlebrooks' wife) to help with the cotton and hides business.²⁹ Bud sold his liquor store and liquor license when Hempstead County was voted dry in 1945.

Bud's son, James H. Porterfield was in business with his father until May 6, 1939, when the partnership was dissolved. They did however continue a partnership (50:50) in the oil royalties at Buckner, Arkansas, acknowledged on the same date.³⁰ During retirement Bud spent a lot of time fishing. His children inherited the house on 5th Street, it was torn down and a duplex was built next to Unity Church and used as a rental.²⁶

The Porterfield Homestead

On November 2, 1889, Bud's father, James W. Porterfield bought 83 acres from H. B. and Laura Davis.³¹ The land was located just south of the Giles Cemetery mostly on the east side of the Hope-Falcon Road (Patmos Road). Lovett Tyler Hinton, Fair's grandfather, at one time was the owner of the 83 acres (listed above) when he acquired the land from William N. and Francis Porterfield, December 12, 1881.³² William N. Porterfield, James brother, owned the land less than a year before selling it to Fair's grandfather.

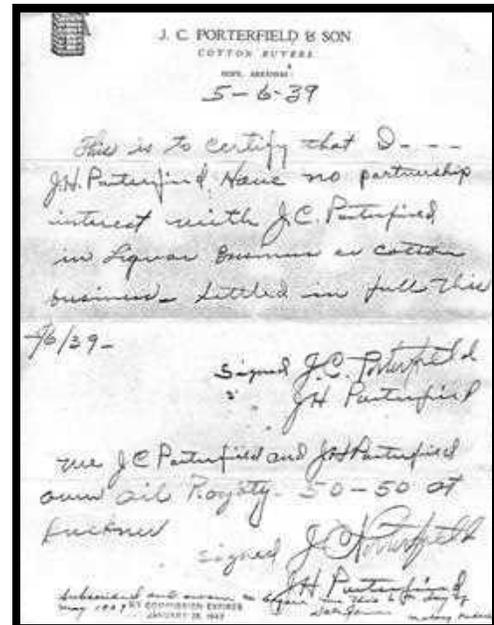
It is believed Lovett Hinton sold this same parcel (83 acres) to J. H. or H.B. Davis circa 1883, although the deeds have not been located.³³ J. W. Porterfield went on to acquire an additional 100 acres, November 12, 1903, from J. C. and Dora Dodson.³⁴ The land in Section 35 was located just south, adjacent to the original homestead purchased in 1889. Then on March 30, 1911, J. W. deeds 60 acres to his son Bud all in Section 26, This 60 acre s was not part of the homstead.³⁵

Will of James W. Porterfield

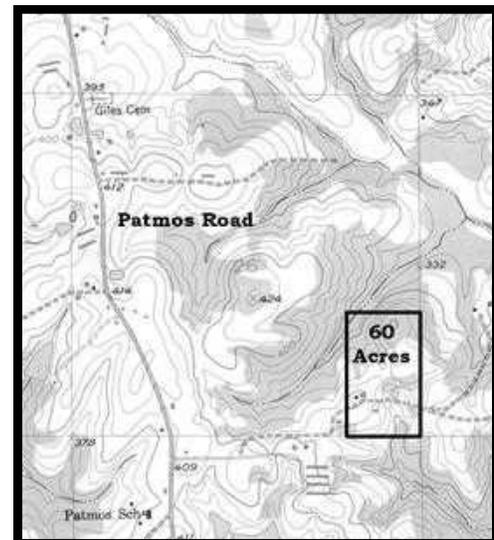
The will of James W. Porterfield was filed March 7, 1915, and recorded April 22, 1915, Hempstead County. Ruthie L. Porterfield was appointed executrix and the will was witnessed by T. M. Hamiter and G. C. Mayton. Two of Bud's sisters Lula Cash and Effie Mitchell received part of their father's land totaling 100 acres.³⁴ Mollie E. Rogers, Bud's oldest sister, and her heirs each receive five dollars as does Bud and Garder Maulden. The residue (the part of an estate that remains after all debts and bequests etc. have been paid) of his estate was bequeathed to his wife as long as she remained unmarried and his widow.³⁶ The Executors Bond was issued to R. L. and J. C. Porterfield for \$1,000.00 on March 1, 1915, and witnessed by the above and O. J. Mitchell. The Letters of Testamentary were issued by the court to R. L. Porterfield on April 12, 1915.³⁷

Will of J. W. Porterfield Contested

The will of J. W. Porterfield was contested before the Hempstead County Probate Court on February 8, 1916 by the following heirs at law:



Business agreement between J. C. and son J. H. Porterfield, May 6, 1939. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, 2006.



J. W. Porterfield land deeded to his son John C. "Bud", March 30 1911. (S ½ ,NE/SE & SE/SE, sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 60 acres). USGS Patmos 7.5 minute quadrangle, 1951, revised 1978.

Gorda Maudlin, (a minor, by her father and next friend L. S. Mauldin), and come Altha Rogers, Arline Rogers and Hampton Rogers, (minors, by their uncle and next friend, L. S. Mauldin), Harris Rogers, Rosett Foster, Tom Rogers, Hansel Rogers and Katie Goings (Plaintiffs) vs. J. C. Porterfield, Effie Mitchell, Lula Cash and R. L. Porterfield (Defendants).

An appeal was granted to the Plaintiffs by the Probate Court to be heard by the Circuit Court during the court's April Term, 1916.³⁸ In the case of Gorda Maudlin et al. vs. J. C. Porterfield et al. in the Hempstead County Circuit Court, the jury ruled in favor of the defendants confirming that the will of J. W. Porterfield was properly administered within the terms of the will by the Probate Court.³⁹

Keeping the Homestead in the Family

The estate of James W. Porterfield, including the original homestead was almost foreclosed on by the State of Arkansas, June 13, 1932, due to non-payment of 1931 property taxes.⁴⁰ By December 30, 1933, back taxes were paid by the estate of James W. Porterfield and the family retained ownership of the homestead. By November 3, 1950, Bud finally was able to acquire all interest in the 87.78 acre homestead from the heirs. It appears an adjacent 4.78 acres was added in section 35 to the original 83 acre homestead.

After Bud's death in 1955, the homestead (87.78 acres) could not be equitably divided among heirs and had to be sold for the purpose of partition. At the courthouse door, February 2, 1957, the homestead was bought by J. H. Porterfield and Auda (Porterfield) Wilkerson (Bud's son and daughter) for the sum of \$5000.00.⁴¹ Auda Wilkerson subsequently conveyed her interest to her brother James H. Porterfield.⁴² Shortly after the death of James Harold Porterfield on May 24, 1973, Lenna, the widow of J. H. Porterfield, son David L. and his wife Janis Porterfield convey their ½ undivided interests to son James H. Porterfield Jr., on October 25, 1973.⁴³ The homestead of J. W. Porterfield remains in the family to date.



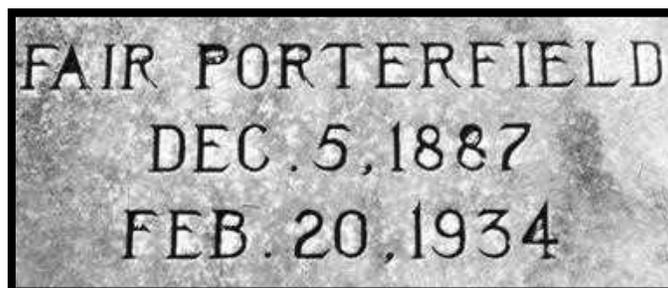
John Christopher "Bud" Porterfield, businessman, circa 1930. Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten



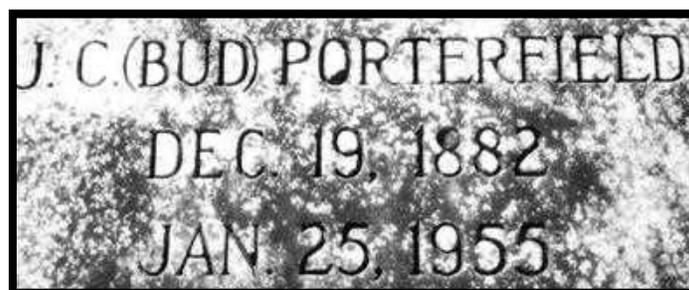
Lula (Porterfield) and Gus Cash, Bud's sister. Courtesy of Kay (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hayes

I have climbed a lot of hills in my life but I am not going to make this one.

Fair Hope (Middlebrooks) Porterfield died February 20, 1934, at the age 47.³ Relatives describe Fair as a frail person that was not very healthy especially during her later years. She had miscarriages as a young mother and Bud cared for her through-out her life.²⁶ The night before Fair died she told relatives that ***“I have climbed a lot of hills in my life but I am not going to make this one”***. John Christopher Porterfield died January 25, 1955.³ At the time of their deaths Fair and Bud were living at 517 West 5th Street in Hope.²⁶ Both John and Fair are buried in the Macedonia Cemetery, south of Hope.³



Fair (Middlebrooks) Porterfield,
Macedonia Cemetery.
Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March,
2002.



J. C. (Bud) Porterfield, Macedonia Cemetery.
Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March, 2002.

**Children of John Christopher “Bud” and Fair Hope
(Middlebrooks) Porterfield:**

James Harold “Pod” Porterfield (1906-1973)

Roy Porterfield (1909-1926)

Auday Porterfield (1916-2008)

James Harold “Pod” Porterfield, was born November 13, 1906, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁴⁵ James married Lena Beatrice Jones, born February 10, 1915, on March 27, 1937, Hempstead County.²⁶ James, died May 24, 1973, and Lena, died July 29, 1982.⁴⁵ Both James and Lena died while living on the family farm on Patmos Road. They are buried at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Hope.

It is suspected that James attended Center Point Elementary School a short distance from the farm on Patmos Road. To shorten the name Porterfield it is thought the nickname ,“Pod”, was used by friends and relatives, however he was also called Harold, his middle name Pod played high school football for several years and may have continued to play football even after high school, because he is in team pictures for the 1926 and 1927 season. He would have been 20 and 21 years old at that time, but back then they could play even after high school. Pod was named honorable mention All State in 1927.²⁶



L-R: James H., Lena B. (Jones) and James H. Jr. Porterfield, circa 1944. Courtesy of Kay (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hayes



Harold Porterfield
circa 1918. Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten



Harold “Pod” Porterfield in car with friends. Courtesy of Kay (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hayes



L-R Harold “Pod” Porterfield and friend. Courtesy of Kay (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hayes

Pod worked with his dad in the liquor store and the cotton and hides business on East 2nd Street in Hope. He eventually became a partner. Pod was also involved in other business ventures as well before joining the Arkansas State Police in 1939.

Arkansas State Police

Pod was a 30 year veteran of the Arkansas State Police, retiring February 1, 1969. Lieutenant Porterfield was assigned most of the 30 years in Southwest Arkansas, except for a brief period of time in the early forties when he served in Eastern Arkansas. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1945 and lieutenant in 1955. He served in the Highway Patrol Division and in 1964, was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Arkansas State Police.²⁶

Moon shiners

Pod’s son James H. Jr. recalls that Pod would borrow his 48 Ford to go undercover when chasing the moon shiners. Pod did not want to arrest the local whiskey makers that were often friends or neighbors, but did not have a choice since the Federal law enforcement officials would apply pressure to local law enforcement. To go undercover, they would dress like locals with straw hats and display fishing poles hanging out of the car window.⁴⁴

Obituary of James Harold “Pod” Porterfield, May 24, 1973⁴⁶

Death takes James H. Porterfield

James Herald (Pod) Porterfield, died early Thursday in a local hospital after a lengthy illness. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and a retired lieutenant of the State Police Department. He retired in 1969 after 30 years service with the State Police.

He is survived by his wife, Lena (Jones) Porterfield of Hope; two sons, James H. Porterfield Jr. of Hope and David L. Porterfield of Nashville; and one sister, Mrs. Auda Tryon of Austin, Texas.

Porterfield enlisted with the State Police in 1939, and had been assigned to Southwest Arkansas for 30 years except for a brief period of time in the early 1940s when he was stationed in Eastern Arkansas. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1945 and to the rank of lieutenant in 1955. Since 1964, he had been assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Arkansas State Police.

Funeral services were held in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Gerald Trussell officiating. He was buried in Memory Gardens under the direction of Herndon Funeral Home.



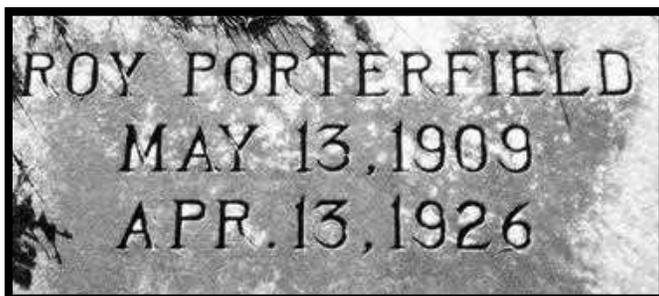
Award presented to Harold “Pod” Porterfield by Colonel Scott of the Arkansas Department of State Police. Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten

Children of James Harold "Pod" and Lena Beatrice (Jones) Porterfield:

James Harold Porterfield Jr., born July 4, 1940, Hempstead County, Arkansas.²⁶

David Lile Porterfield, born January 19, 1945, Hempstead County, Arkansas.²⁶

Roy Porterfield, the brother of Pod, was born May 13, 1909, and died April 13, 1926. He was buried in Macedonia Cemetery, south of Hope.³ It is believed that Roy, age 17, died as a result of injuries sustained after being run over by a wagon. Family members indicate that Roy and his brother, Pod, were wrestling over the reins of the wagon when Roy most likely fell under the wagon.⁴⁷ This incident must have been a family tragedy and one that Pod would remember the rest of his life.



Roy Porterfield, Macedonia Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March, 2002.

Auda Porterfield, sister of Pod, was born August 19, 1916, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁴⁷ Auda move to Hope *circa* 1915 with her parents and attended both elementary and high school. Auda died in Kentucky, April 13, 2008.⁵³ According to relatives, her ashes will be spread in Macedonia, Cemetery, July 2008.⁵⁴

College and Jim Kincannon Jr.

After high school, Auda enrolled in Henderson State Teacher's College in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where she met her first husband James Oscar Kincannon Jr. Jim and Auda were married on August 22, 1938, Polk County, Arkansas.⁵⁰ Jim later graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, also located in Arkadelphia.⁴⁷ James was born Aug. 14, 1916, in Booneville, Logan County, Arkansas. His parents are Judge James Oscar Sr. and Clem Beatrice (Pettus) Kincannon. Jim's father was a lawyer and then a District Judge.^{47, 48} James Oscar Kincannon Sr. married Clem Beatrice Pettus October 27, 1903, Sebastian County, Arkansas.



Auda Porterfield, circa 1938.
Courtesy of Vicky
(Kincannon Wilkerson)
Hooten



**Jim O. and Auda
(Porterfield) Kincannon**,
circa 1940. Courtesy of
Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson)
Hooten

Their First Thanksgiving

Jim and Auda's first Thanksgiving as husband and wife, while living in Arkadelphia, was a very memorable one. Auda, many years later told her daughters that she was excited about celebrating their first Thanksgiving together. It all started when Auda was notified by the Post Office that they were holding a package from her father, Bud, and she needed to pick it up because it was not deliverable.

When she arrived at the post office, much to her surprise, her father's thanksgiving package was tied to the post outside, a big Tom turkey! Next, she had to figure out how to get it back to the apartment and then find a way to kill and prepare it for Thanksgiving. Auda served the turkey to Jim and some of his football playing friends. They all enjoyed the meal and lots of laughter over the "package" and the ordeal of preparing the turkey.⁴⁷

Seminary and WWII

Jim, next attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he received a Bachelors of Divinity in May of 1942. Not long after graduating from seminary Jim and Auda moved to Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas where he served as pastor until called into military service. He enlisted and served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II.

The Army sent Jim to Harvard College in 1943, to receive training as a Chaplain. Jim was then assigned as a Captain to the 550th Bomber Squadron, 385th Bomber Group, Eighth U. S. Army Air Force. His unit was stationed in southern England during the war. While Jim was in England, Auda taught secretarial typing and shorthand classes and also served as a court recorder.⁴⁷



***Young Americans
Who Blast
The Nazis'
Fortress Europe
From the Air***

Chaplin James O. Kincannon of Van Buren, Arkansas (right-side of picture) talking to members of a Fortress crew shortly before their departure on a mission.

Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten

Answering the call and Tragedy

After the war, Jim was called to serve at a church in Poteau, Le Flore County, Oklahoma. While living in Poteau, Jim and Auda adopted their daughters, Vicki and Kay. Jim served as pastor for three years and in March of 1949 the family moved to Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas. Jim accepted a position as Pastor of the Edinburg First Baptist Church.

While severing as Pastor in Edinburg, Jim was diagnosed with cancer in 1950. During Jim’s illness Auda rented a house and hired a housekeeper who also served as a caregiver. She then began work in a law office to make ends meet. Shortly before Jim died, Auda was living with Jim’s family near Fort Smith, Arkansas. Jim fought the disease for almost two years and then died on February 23, 1952, in Fort Smith, Arkansas.⁴⁷



L-R Kay, Jim and Vicky Kincannon, circa 1950.
Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten

Moving to Austin, Texas, Dick Wilkerson and Bill Tryon

After Jim's passing, Auda decided to move to Austin, Texas. Auda was employed by the University of Texas, typing reports and case files for the Mental Health Department and later for the German Department. There she met James Richard "Dick" Wilkerson and they were married in Austin, Texas. Dick was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and his father was a gardener for Mr. Proctor of the Proctor and Gamble Company, where the family lived on the Proctor Estate.

Auda, used the phrase "**Which was Chaotic**" to describe her marriage to Dick Wilkerson. While married to Dick they moved from Austin, Texas, to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for two or three years. Next, they moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, and then back to Austin. While in Austin, she divorced Dick about 1964/65.⁴⁷ Dick Wilkerson died February 24, 1976, in El Paso, Texas.

Not to long after returning to Austin, Auda started to work for the Texas Society of Architects and worked for them for a number of years. She next entered the world of politics when she was hired to work for a Texas Republican State Representative as a secretary at the State Capitol. She was promoted to an administrative assistant and held the job until she retired.

While living in Austin, on her 59th birthday Auda married her third husband William Parshall Tryon, August 19, 1972.⁴⁷ William was born, January 13, 1910.⁵² Just three years later she divorced Bill on September 31, 1975, also in Austin, Texas.⁴⁷ William Parshall Tryon died on October 3, 1980, in Austin.⁵²

Retirement

Upon retirement, Auda stayed active with friends from work and church. She traveled to Spain, Great Britain, and to other countries in Europe. She loved to attend the Austin Symphony and when visiting her daughter, Kay, they would make it a point to go to the Santa Fe Opera. Auda, lived in a retirement community called “The Island”, just outside of Austin. When she could no longer drive, she moved to Albuquerque to be close to Kay. Then due to her loss of memory and other related safety issues, the family decided it would be better to move Auda to a nursing home close to her daughter, Vicki, in Swansea, Illinois.⁴⁷

Children of James Oscar Jr. and Auda (Porterfield) Kincannon:

Kay (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hayes, born December 8, 1946, Weatherford, Custer County, Oklahoma. Kay and Gerald N. Hayes were married February 14, 1967.⁴⁷

Vicky Fair (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten, born December 22, 1946, Weatherford, Custer County, Oklahoma. Vicki married Joseph Bayard Hooten, born June 22, 1943, Monroe, Louisiana, on June 10, 1966, Austin, Texas.⁴⁷



L-R: Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier, Auda (Porterfield) Tyron and Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks. Courtesy of Vicky (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten



Chapter VI

Endnotes

¹ John Christopher Porterfield, delayed birth certificate, no. 05161, filed, 15 September, 1953, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock.

² James William Porterfield, household, 1900 U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, population schedule Badcaw Township, Sardis Village Ed. 40, sheet 1, dwelling 16, family 16,.

³ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 9. The Macedonia Cemetery is just south of Hope on Patmos Road.

⁴ Christopher Porterfield household, 1850, U. S. census, Population Schedule, Militia District 951, Paulding County, Georgia, dwelling & family 791, page 202, <http://content.ancestry.com/> Christopher 28, Elizabeth 20, Susanna E. 5, Berry J. 4, James W. 2, and Elijah 4 months are all born in Georgia. It is more than likely that James W. is born in this same location.

⁵ Mrs. Ruth Porterfield, Death Certificate, no.378, birth December 11, 1855, Arkansas, death July 19, 1932, Bodcaw Township, Hempstead County, burial July 20, 1932, informant B. W. Burns of Patmos, undertaker R. V. Herndon, parents John and Matilda Hatch, born in Georgia, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock.

⁶ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 9. Fair is buried next to her husband John C. Porterfield.

⁷ Hempstead County Real Estate Assessment Books 1890-1895, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas. Original county Real Estate Assessment Books are included in their collections. (NW ¼ SW ¼, Sec. 14, T. 13S, R. 24W).

⁸ Hempstead County, Marriage Book P, Pg. 383, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁹ Georgia Marriage 1699-1944, <http://content.ancestry.com/>, accessed 28 February 2006 by Neal Middlebrook. Original marriage information is from county records.

¹⁰ Christopher Porterfield household, 1860, U. S. census, Population Schedule, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Carouse Township, Albany Post Office, dwelling & family 932, page 138, <http://content.ancestry.com/>. Christopher and his wife leave Georgia some time between 1856 & 1859 based on where their last two children are born. Eliza is born 1859 in Arkansas and William is born 1856 in Georgia.

¹¹John T. Hatch household, 1860, U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Lafayette County, Arkansas, La Grange Township, Lewisville Post Office, dwelling & family 59, page 9, <http://content.ancestry.com/>. John T. 24, Orpha M. 25, Ruthie 4, John W. 3, & Chas. D. 1. The parents are born in Georgia and all the children are listed as born in Arkansas. It is suspected that Ruthie L. Hatch is born circa 1856 near Lewisville, Arkansas.

¹² John Hatch household, 1850, U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Cass County, Georgia, Division 12, dwelling 508, family 509, page 68, <http://www.ancestry.com/>. John 47, Jane, 33, John H. 16, Sophrena C. 5, Charles F. 1. Both John and Jane are listed as being born in North Carolina while all the children are born in Georgia. It is suspected that John H or W. is the father of Ruthie Hatch. Since the family is listed in the 1840 census as residing in Cass County it is suspected that John H. is

born in Cass County, Georgia, Division 12. d on the age of John H. the family may have moved to Georgia as early as 1834

¹³ John D. Hatch household, 1880, U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Spring Hill Township, dwelling 370, family 377, page 42, <http://www.ancestry.com/>. John D. 43, Orpha M. 45, Chas. D. 21, Robt. M., 19, Annie H. 12, Mary C. 10, Ida B. 6, & Lee C. 5. Georgia, District 822, <http://www.ancestry.com/>. The parents are born in Georgia and all the children are listed as born in Arkansas. 1860 Census lists John's middle name as T.

¹⁴ John Hatch household, 1840, U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Cass County, Georgia, District 822, <http://www.ancestry.com/>

¹⁵ John Hatch household, 1830, U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Hyde County, North Carolina, page 255, <http://www.ancestry.com/> the age of John H. the family may have moved to Georgia as early as 1834.

¹⁶ William E. Mills, household, 1850, U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Cass County, Georgia, Division, 12, dwelling 536, family 537, page 274 , <http://www.ancestry.com/> William E. 45, Ruth 38, Julia 18, Orpha 16, Thomas R. 15, Wesley 12, Coleman 7, William H. 4, & Margaret 1. William E. is born in South Carolina, Ruth is born in North Carolina and all the children are born in Georgia. Based on the age of Julia it may indicate that they came to Georgia as early as 1832. William's occupation is listed as a carpenter.

¹⁷ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 45. The Old Sardis Cemetery is located on Alton Road (CR 8), NE ¼, SW ¼, Sec. 3, T14S, R24W, 3 acres.

¹⁸ Hempstead County, Marriage Book M, Pg. 208, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Recorded 30 November 1870, John Booker, Clerk and G. J? Martin, J. P.

¹⁹ James William Porterfield., household, 1880 U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, population schedule Spring Hill Township, Ed. 165, Pg. 37, dwelling 325, family 332, by Neal Middlebrook, 23 June, 2006.

²⁰ Hempstead County, Marriage Book J, Pg. 9, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Marriage preformed by O. C. Kidd Minister of the Gospel. "This license is issued to parties in the sworn statement of B. J. Davis, an uncle of the girl, that the same is satisfactory to the father."

²¹ Hempstead County, Marriage Book D, Pg. 30, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

²² Hempstead County, Marriage Book D, Pg. 225, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas

²³ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 9. The Macedonia Cemetery is just south of Hope on Patmos Road.

²⁴ Ruth Porterfield, Arkansas Death Record Index, page 4689, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook 23 June, 2006.

²⁵ WWI Draft Registration Cards, entry for John C. Porterfield, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 22 November, 2005.

²⁶ James H. & Lavern Porterfield, family history information, deeds, court records, vital records etc., mailed information from 491 County Rd. 3, Hope, Arkansas 71801 and e-mail messages porterfield@arkansas.net to Neal Middlebrook, 2004-2006.

²⁷ Hempstead County, Deed Book A-3, Pg.301, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

- ²⁸ Hempstead County, Deed Book 104, Pg.571, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. T. B. & Ida Bowden for \$2,250.00 sell the E ½, of lot two, Block 15 in the College Addition of Hope to J. C. Porterfield. Date of instrument is October 16, 1924, recorded 12 November 1924.
- ²⁹ Personal communication from Zora Middlebrook, 1920 S. Main St., Hope, Arkansas to Neal Middlebrook , February 28, 2006.
- ³⁰ J. C. Porterfield and J. H. Porterfield notarized letter dissolving partnership in liquor and cotton business on May 6, 1939. Oil royalties at Buckner, AR would continue to be split 50:50. Notarized by Dale Jones May 6, 1939.
- ³¹ Hempstead County, Deed Book 63, Pg. 134, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. (SE/SW & SW/SE of sec. 26, 80 acres, and part of the NE/NW of sec. 35, 3 acres, all in 13S., 24W)
- ³² Hempstead County, Deed Book 13, Pg. 599, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³³ Hempstead County, Deed Book 53, Pg. 184, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas
- ³⁴ Hempstead County, Deed Book 63, Pg. 135, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. The location is the (W ½, NW ¼, Sec. 35, 80 acres & E ½, MW ¼, 20 acres (lying west of Hope-Falcon Rd.) all in 13S, 24W).
- ³⁵ Hempstead County, Deed Book 63, Pg. 213, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. (S ½ ,NE/SE & SE/SE, sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 60 acres).
- ³⁶ Hempstead County, Arkansas *Abstract of Wills, Intestate, and other Probate Records 1822-1917* (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2001), 98.
- ³⁷ Hempstead County, Arkansas Probate Court, Executors Record Book M, Pg. 124, SLC, FHL film # 1006745.
- ³⁸ Hempstead County, Arkansas Probate Court, Order, Probate Record Book P, Pg. 37, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³⁹ Hempstead County, Arkansas Circuit Court Judgment, Book V, Pg. 336, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁴⁰ Hempstead County, Deed Book G, Pg. 149-50, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁴¹ Hempstead County, Deed Book 161, Pg. 145, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Commissioners deed executed by L. C. Byers for the Chancery Court. See Hempstead County Chancery Court: J. H. Porterfield et al., vs. Hampton Rogers et al., 6 September 1956.
- ⁴² Hempstead County, Deed Book 280, Pg. 401, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Interest and title was also conveyed for the E ½, lot 2, Block 15, College Addition in Hope.
- ⁴³ Hempstead County, Deed Book 386, Pg. 197, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ⁴⁴ Personnel Communication, James H. Porterfield Jr. said a first cousin had visited Fair the night before she died. The cousin said Fair uttered this statement. Passed on to Neal Middlebrook August 3, 2006 at the home of James H. and Laverne Porterfield, Hope, AR
- ⁴⁵ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 2, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1991), 116.

⁴⁶ Obituary of James H. Porterfield, Hope Star Newspaper, Hope, Arkansas, clipping with no date, suspected date, May 25/26, 1973.

⁴⁷ Personnel Communication with Vicki (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hooten, Swansea, Illinois and Kay (Kincannon Wilkerson) Hayes Albuquerque, New Mexico, e-mail, phone calls and letter (March 22, 2006), Jan. – March 2006. Vicki and Kay are Auda’s daughters.

⁴⁸ 1920 U. S. Census, Logan County, Arkansas, pop. schd., Boone Township, Ed. 45, Pg. 13, dwelling 275, family 289, James Oscar & Clem Beatrice Kincannon household. Pettus son (11), James O. Jr. (3). Fathers occupation is listed a lawyer. Living on 113, B (R?)ennito Ave Booneville, AR

⁴⁹ Arkansas Marriage Index 1779-1992 Record, entry for marriage of J. O. Kincannon Sr. and Clem B. Pettus, Sebastian County, AR., www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 29 March 2006.

⁵⁰ Arkansas Marriage Index 1933-1939 Record, entry for marriage of J. O. Kincannon and Auda Porterfield, Polk County, Cert. 21726, Vol. 0001, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 29 March 2006.

⁵¹ Texas Deaths, 1964-1998 Record, entry for Dick Wilkerson, El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 29 March 2006.

⁵² “Social Security Death Index,” for William Tryon, no. 279-26-3202, Death residence Austin, Travis County, Texas.

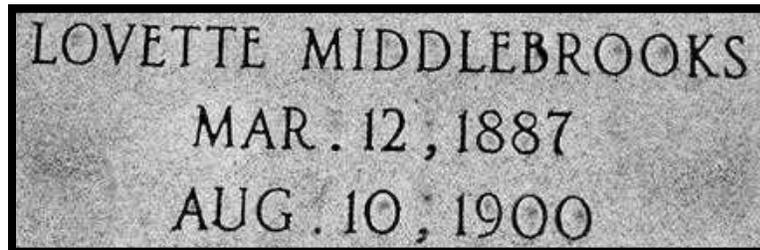
⁵³ “Social Security Death Index”, for Auda K. Porterfield, 406-18-1122, Issued Kentucky, April 13, 2008, last residence listed as Albuquerque, New Mexico. Vicky Hooten, Auda’s daughter must have moved from Swansea, Illinois to Kentucky before her death.

⁵⁴ Personnel Communication with Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier of Hope, Arkansas, May, 2008.

Chapter VII: Lovette Middlebrooks

Lovette Middlebrooks, son of Jim and Fannie, was named after Fannie's father and born March 12, 1887. He attended Center Point Elementary School like the rest of his brothers and sisters. Tragically, Lovett died August 10, 1900, at the age of 13, about 18 months after his fathers' death. Lovett is buried in the Macedonia Cemetery next to his father, mother and brother, Charles Verdo.

According to family relatives, Lovette died as the result of a hunting accident when a branch hit the trigger of his gun and he was mortally wounded. This incident was very tragic for Fannie and the rest of the family. As a result of this hunting accident, Verdo was very cautious about the use of guns by his sons, Ray and Bruce.

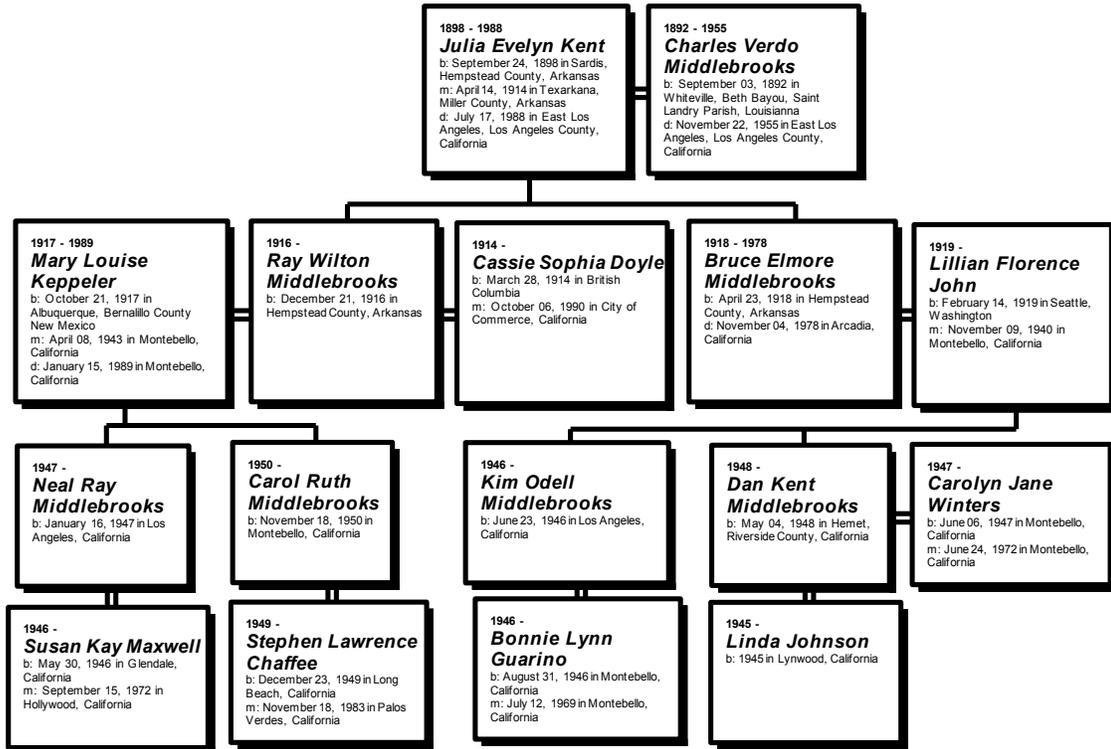


***Chapter VIII:
Charles Verdo and
Julia Evelyn (Kent)
Middlebrooks***

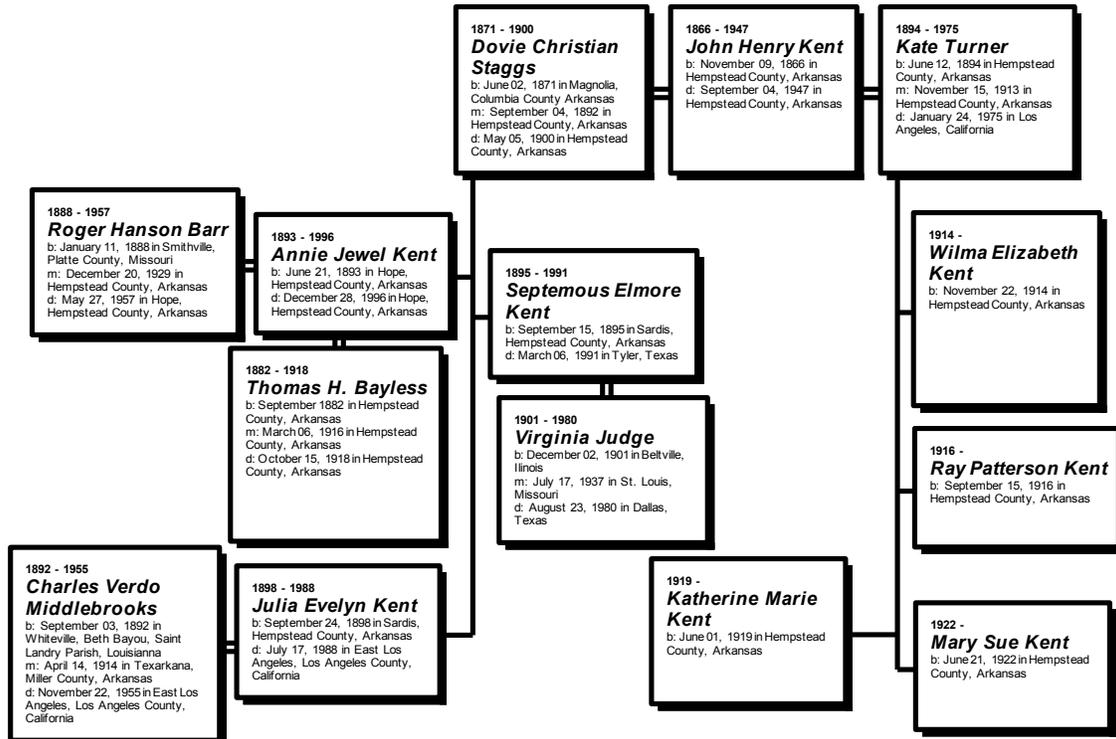


***Verdo and Evelyn (Kent)
Middlebrooks,
Los Angeles, California
1933***

Descendants of Charles Verdo Middlebrooks



Descendants of John Henry Kent



Charles Verdo and Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks

Charles Verdo Middlebrooks was born September 3, 1892,¹ two miles north of Whiteville, Louisiana, near Bayou Boeuf.² Jim and Fannie Middlebrooks, Verdo's parents, were either visiting or living with Jim's father Samuel Cannon Middlebrooks for a short period of time when Verdo was born. Verdo is the only one of Jim and Fannie's children not born in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

A bond for a marriage license was applied for in Miller County, Arkansas, on April 14, 1914. Verdo, is listed as, age 22, and Julia Evelyn Kent, age 16. They were married on the same day in Miller County by H. P. Hardgins, Justice of the Peace. The clerk, A. S. Little, noted that the consent for Julia was given over the phone by her parents John Henry and Kate (Turner) Kent, living near Sardis, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Both Julia and Verdo list Hope, Hempstead County, as their place of residence. T. F. Meadows was listed as a witness and with Verdo as posting the marriage bond.³

Verdo registered for WWI at the age of 25 on June 5, 1917. The registration card states he was born near Opelousas, Louisiana, on September 3, 1892. He was living on Route 2, five miles south of Hope and his occupation was a farmer. He was supporting a wife and child. This child was their first born son, Ray. The registration precinct was Sardis No. 9.⁴



Marriage certificate and license Verdo and Evelyn 1914.



L-R: Lynn Bayless, Evelyn Middlebrooks, circa 1928. Courtesy of Don and Ann Spiller



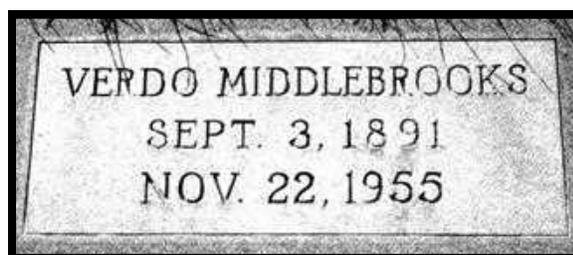
L-R: Bruce, Evelyn, Lynn Bayless and Verdo Middlebrooks, circa 1928. Courtesy of Don and Ann Spiller.

At the age of 63, November 22, 1955, Charles Verdo Middlebrooks died at his home, 570 S. Hoefner, East Los Angeles, California. He was buried next to his father and mother in Macedonia Cemetery.¹ Verdo and Evelyn separated *circa* 1938.¹⁴ At the time of his death, Verdo was planning to retire in the next couple of years from Sears Roebuck and Company. He was planning to move back to the Old Hinton Home Place and buy an acre of land from Marion and Amie Hubbard. Verdo also told Tom and Zora Middlebrooks to save an apartment for him when he moved back to Hope.

Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrooks died July 17, 1988, Los Angeles, California, age 89. At the time of her death, she was living at 6061 Fairfield Avenue, Los Angeles, California. Evelyn was buried in the Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California,⁵ close to her son Bruce Elmore Middlebrooks, who died on November 4, 1978.¹⁸ It is interesting to note that Bruce's middle name is Evelyn's grandmother's maiden name, Elmore.



Julia Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrook, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, California.



Verdo Middlebrooks, Macedonia Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March 2002.

John Henry and Dovie Christian (Staggs) Kent

Evelyn's parents are John H. Kent and Dovie C. Staggs. They were married on September 14, 1892, by W. T. Sullivan, Minister of the Gospel, Hempstead County.⁶ Evelyn was born, September 24, 1898, on her fathers' farm just north of Sardis.⁷ Dovie, J. H. Kent's first wife, was born June 2, 1871, Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas.⁸ Dovie's parents are Benjamin Franklin and Annie Elizabeth (Elmore) Staggs of Magnolia, Arkansas. Benjamin and Annie were married April 11, 1867,⁹ Columbia County, Arkansas. Evelyn was two years old when her mother, age 29, died on May 5, 1900, near Sardis due to complications resulting from an unwanted pregnancy. Dovie was buried next to her mother, Annie, and her father, Charles, in the Macedonia Cemetery south of Hope.⁸



John H. Kent, Macedonia Cemetery. Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield, March 2007

Dovie, wife of J. H. Kent, Macedonia Cemetery. *"Our darling one hath gone before. To greet us on the blissful shore"*. August 2006





John Henry Kent,
circa 1926



**Dovie Christian (Staggs)
Kent,** *circa 1898.*



**L-R: Paul Thomas and Dovie
C. Staggs (brother and
sister), Jewell Kent (Dovie's
daughter) and Annie E.
Staggs (Dovie and Paul's
mother)** *circa 1896.*

*Courtesy of Don and Ann
Spiller*



Annie E. Staggs,
Macedonia Cemetery.
August 2006.



**Charles
Elmore,**
Macedonia
Cemetery "*Dead
but not
forgotten*".
August 2006

The Old Hinton Home Place

Verdo and Evelyn, after they were married, were living with Fannie, Verdo's mother, for a short period of time. Fannie married Preacher Jim Ward about seven months after Verdo and Evelyn were married. Fannie then moved with Jim about four miles away and rented property, thought to be near the town of Spring Hill.

According to the testimony of Amada (Hinton) Earhart, Fannie's sister, the home where Fannie lived with Verdo and Evelyn, is where Verdo and his brothers and sisters were raised.¹⁰ It is suspected this house was the Old Hinton Home Place, which may have been re-built and added on to. As previously mentioned, Verdo Middlebrooks purchased all of Virgil F. Hinton's interest in the 109 acre homestead for \$545.00, on December 14, 1919.¹¹ On July 9, 1928, Verdo then acquired George W. Hinton Sr.'s interest in the 109 acres through a Sheriff's sale for \$230.00.¹²

Oscar and Verdo Middlebrooks built a house for Fannie and Preacher Ward *circa* 1920, for around \$500.00. It was located down the hill (north) from where the Old Hinton Home Place stood. The house was later moved up the hill next to the Old Hinton Home Place where Verdo and Evelyn lived.¹⁰



The area behind the stump is where the **Old Hinton Home Place** once stood. This stump may have been one of the large red or white oak trees in front of the house. Looking west from Patmos Road. August 2006



Original well location for the Old Hinton Home Place. Tom and Zora Middlebrooks house built in 1967 on one acre they purchased from Marion and Amie Hubbard. August 2006

Recollections of Ray Wilton Middlebrooks¹³

The Nut and the Thunder Storm

The only thing I remember about my early childhood was when I swallowed a ¼ inch nut. I was about three years old. I was in the living room, sitting in the high chair, and was playing with a nut which I put in my mouth. I started to cry and a neighbor there in the room saw I was in trouble and grabbed me by the feet and started to beat me on my back until the nut popped out. Evelyn (Mom) said I was turning blue when I got rid of the nut.

When I was around four or five, a big thunder storm came through one afternoon. I was looking out the living room window, when a big bolt of lightening hit our white oak tree out by the road in the front yard. It knocked me down, and I started yelling. After it quit raining, Verdo (Pop) went out and looked at the damage. A big side of the tree, about one foot wide was blown off. Pop topped the tree and it put out leaves the next spring. It was still growing when we moved to California in 1929.

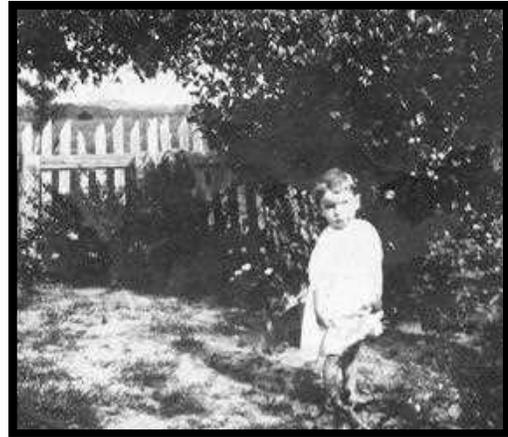
***Hunting, Fishing, Playing Music
and the Dreaded Persimmon Switch***

Pop loved to hunt and fish as a boy growing up on the farm and as an adult. He always managed to find time for hunting and fishing trips every year with relatives and friends in spite of all the chores we had to do on the farm. It was a real treat as a young boy to go along with Pop on these trips. It was often said Verdo could catch fish when nobody else could. Verdo's father-in-law, John H. Kent, and his Uncle, Luther Cabell Kent, enjoyed hunting ducks and quail together. For a few years they sent quail to the markets in St. Louis.

I remember one year while playing baseball at Center Point, I got to first base. The next guy hit one over in Nigger Hill Cemetery, across the road. I started for home plate and, rounding third, I kicked 3rd base (a brick) with my big toe. It swelled up real big and it hurt just to touch it. Mom bandaged it up and put a rubber thumb stall over it. That weekend we were going on a trip to the Little River, about 50 miles from home. While on the river, Pop and a friend who brought a shot gun along, shot some squirrels for supper. This was the first time I had eaten one. Not bad if you shoot young ones and fry them like chicken.

Mom was gifted musically and learned to play the guitar, mandolin, banjo and piano from her father, J.H. Kent, at an early age. She played entirely by ear. I remember her playing the piano we had in the front room in our home on Patmos Road. When we went visiting, mom would often take her guitar along. The J. H. Kent family band was comprised of Elmore, Jewell and Evelyn. They played at various community events throughout the county, including barn dances and at Center Point School. Mom also enjoyed calling square dances.¹⁴

Mom was also the disciplinarian when it came to Bruce and I behaving. The dreaded persimmon switch was used often. For example, one time we were attending a funeral at Macedonia Cemetery



Ray Middlebrooks, 18 months old (1917) in the neighbor Meadows front yard.



L-R: John H. Kent and Verdo Middlebrooks. Nevada hunting trip.

and Bruce fell into the empty grave. Mom was so mad at us that when we got home we both felt the persimmon switch. I think because her father was also very strict, mom had plenty experience in ensuring us kids behaved.

New Bethel Baptist Church

New Bethel Baptist Church was founded in 1853 (Pastor J. J. Jenkins) and rebuilt in 1955 (Pastor Miles Wilson).¹⁵ The Church is located in the northwest corner of the 109 acres of the original Hinton homestead at the junction of CR 133 and CR 132. On May 25, 1878, L. T. and T. A. Hinton conveyed to Louis Murph, as trustee of the African Church known as "Bethel", one square acre. Three dollars were paid for the land and it was recorded November 8, 1881.¹⁶

We used to go down to the Negro church called New Bethel and watch the services. They let us sit in the back. It was a site to watch the whole congregation clap hands and the person in the amen corner would stand next to the preacher and shout amen to everything the preacher said. They could really sing spirituals beautifully.

Center Point School

My father and mother attended Center Point Elementary School, a one-room school house like the rest of their brothers and sisters. They only attended school through the third or fourth grade. I started Center Point School around 1921. We had several teachers, but Mrs. Derryberry was the best for my first four years in school. She came out to see Bruce and I when we were in California around 1935. She was retired then and was a very nice person. During fourth through eighth grade, I had three different teachers. Mrs. Atkins was the best of the lot. One teacher had to teach four different grades. I really buckled down under Mrs. Atkins and got decent grades.

Mrs. Atkins brought books from the library in Hope out to Center Point. These were the only books I ever read until we moved to Los Angeles. She also prepared the best class spellers to compete in a spelling bee with other local schools. We had to practice spelling new words out of our spelling book everyday. I got pretty good and we had a spelling bee at several of the local schools. We would meet around 1:00 on Friday afternoons. She would take the five best spellers in her car to these other schools. I hate to brag, but Center Point kids won most of the spelling bees.

A kid named Carmon Aslyn was in my class and later went on to Hope High School. According to Gordon Bayless, he rode his mule 10 miles each way to Center Point. He tied the mule to a tree while he was in class. Every Christmas we went down in the woods to cut a holly tree. Mom would help us decorate the tree with popcorn and colorful wool balls. I remember one year I was in a Christmas play at Center Point. I only had two or three lines to say. The teacher kept telling me to slow down when saying my lines, but I was so afraid I wouldn't remember them. The Center Point School house also served as our church on Sundays.



L-R: Bruce and Ray Middlebrooks, circa 1922. Taken at Shipley Studio, Hope, Arkansas

Grandpa Preacher Ward and Grandma Fannie

Grandpa, Preacher Ward, gave us a two-hour sermon almost every Sunday at Center Point, except when he was traveling to speak at other churches during the summer. He traveled as far as Texas and Oklahoma. I remember singing songs like Amazing Grace, Abide with Me and Precious Memories from our hymn books.

Preacher Ward had a gray horse that pulled his buggy. He would park the buggy in the small shed next to the corn crib. Fannie also raised chickens that roosted in the oak tree behind the house. For helping Fannie with her fire wood and running Errands, she would reward Bruce and I with poor man's pudding. It was like a pound cake with lemon sauce poured over it.

Our neighbors had a nice clean pond that Grandma Fannie would take Bruce and I to for fishing for brim. One day we caught four or five nice fish and put them on a willow stringer and stuck the end in the bank. When we looked back at the fish a water moccasin had grabbed the fish on the stringer and took off. We beat the water like crazy, but the moccasin would not drop the fish. We had moccasins in our pond as well.

The Farm House

The farm house had five rooms - living and dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms. A brick fireplace was in the living room and a covered porch ran across the front of the house, with a smaller covered back porch off of the kitchen. The front part of the house was much older than the rest of the house. Verdo later added a bedroom. The foundation of the house was supported by large boulders.



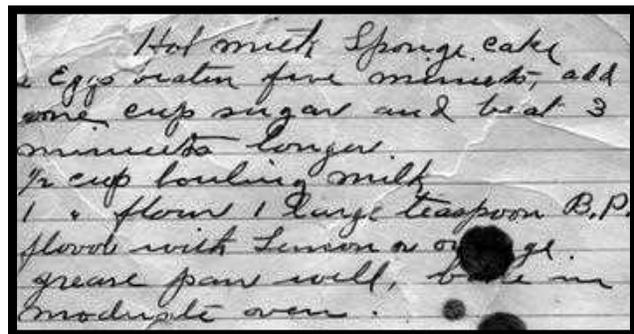
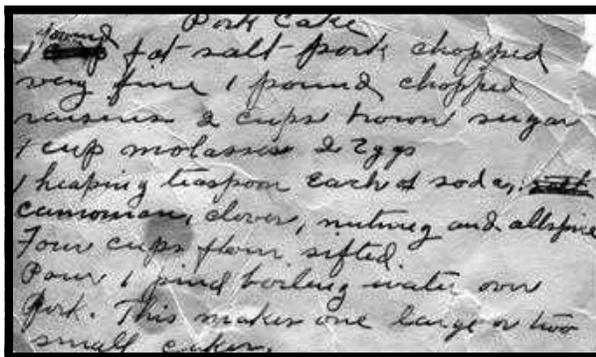
L-R: First row ?, Marie Kent, Bruce Middlebrooks, Ray Kent, Gordon Bayless, Lynn Bayless. 2nd row: Ray Middlebrooks, Virginia Kent, Jewell (Kent) Bayless, Elmore Kent, Verdo Middlebrooks and ?. Picture taken in the Middlebrooks pasture 1929.

The living room furniture consisted of hard-backed chairs and a card table. The dining room had a plank table and chairs. In the kitchen a Buck wood stove really did a good job of cooking, but you had to watch everything you cooked or baked to keep it from burning. Flour in tin canisters was used to make biscuits and cornbread, almost a daily mainstay. The cook stove was started every morning with coal oil from a gallon can with a potato stuck in the spout. Coffee was ground with a hand cranked mill mounted on the wall. The first ice box was bought about 1925. We had to make a trip to Hope once a week to buy 100 pounds of ice. On the back porch we had two buckets, a wash basin and a gourd dipper. One of our chores was to keep the buckets full of water.

The living room had an old fashioned telephone with two carbon zinc batteries. The party line included eight other families and the ring for the Middlebrooks was two long and two short. Every time the phone would ring you would have other parties listening in, making good gossip for later. The families had to maintain the phone lines. Mr. Hodnett, a neighbor, was one of the few people in the county in 1925, to buy a radio. The radio had huge telephone batteries as its power source. Reception during the day was not very good, but at night you could hear Dallas, St. Louis and other large cities.

We had a hand dug well in the front yard about 20 feet deep with a small hand pump that needed to be primed every time you drew water. One summer the well went dry and we had to haul water from a neighbor's well. Every day during the summer we had to fill the troughs for all the animals, mules, horses and pigs. The well water was really good tasting and people would stop by on their way to Hope or Patmos.

About a dozen fig trees were planted along side of the house about 1920. The soil was fertilized with manure once a year and the fig trees grew to about 15-20 feet high. The fig trees produced very tasty brown figs from which fig jam was made. Birds were a real problem when the figs were ripe so Verdo had to use his Browning automatic shotgun about once a week to thin them out.



Two of Gram's recipes, Pork Cake and Hot Milk Sponge Cake. Can you imagine cooking this on a wood stove! You needed to be creative with using pork especially if you were butchering 4-6 hogs per year. Courtesy of Carol R. (Middlebrook) Chaffee, my sister.

The storm cellar (8x10 feet) was mostly used to store sweet potatoes and potatoes over the winter. Most years we planted one acre of each and stored them in the cellar. The cellar was also used during bad storms. The cellar was covered on the top and sides with a foot of dirt or more. It had a wood door, a dirt floor and four beds.

Verdo's First Car

It wasn't until 1925 that Verdo bought his first car, a Model-T Ford Touring car with four doors. You could fold the top down in the summer, but the curtains didn't do much to keep the rain out. You had to crank it fast to get it started and let go quickly or risk breaking your hand. If it was too muddy to use the car, especially in the winter, you had to use the wagon to get to town. The Model-T would get stuck in the red clay mud when you tried to cross the three creeks on the way to Hope.

Butchering Hogs and Smoking

We had a smoke house where we used hickory to smoke our meat. We butchered four hogs about every six months. After you killed the hog, you had to clean him and scrape the hide. You could get the hide to loosen by dipping it in a barrel of hot lye water before starting to scrape. We had a black girl help cook the lard we cut off in a three-legged wash pot. She wanted all the chit-lens for her effort. Next, you cut up the meat and put it in salt for two weeks. Before you cut it up, you had to grind the sausage, save the liver, head and feet. After you got most of the moisture out of the meat you cleaned the salt off and prepared the meat for smoking. Verdo brushed a curing liquid on the ham and bacon he bought from Hormel. The meat was then hung over a smoking hickory fire in a # 3 wash tube for a week or more.

One year, one of the four piglets only gained 50 pounds so we talked pop into keeping him another year. This pig became our pet. Then the second year when killing time came around he had ballooned to 400 pounds. Ordinarily we raised hogs the first year to about 250 pounds to get leaner meat. Bruce and I went down to Fannie's when pop killed our pet pig cause we couldn't stand to see him killed. We had to make a special A-frame to hang him up to clean him. Hog butchering was a real chore like most everything on the farm.

Chickens and the Chicken Hawk

We usually raised between 100-200 chickens at a time. The chicken house had two-inch peeled pine poles for the chickens to sleep on. Every night about sundown, they headed for the roosting poles. Mom raised chickens that she sold to the Barlow Hotel located at 102 South Elm Street in Hope. We locked them up at night to keep out any animals. The hen house was on the back part of the chicken house. The laying hens had pine straw nests. We made the rounds every morning to pick up freshly laid eggs. One year we had an eclipse of the sun about 1:00 P. M. and the chickens went back to the chicken house. I guess they thought it was time to go to bed. Before we put up the Martin bird house we had chicken hawks grabbing the baby chicks every year. After a bunch of Martins moved into the bird house we did not have anymore trouble with chicken hawks. One pair of Martins arrived every year around March 1st, stayed a few days and went south. They came back with the exact number of birds to fill each of the nests. I often wondered how they told the rest of the gang eight nests (two to a nest) and no more.

The Barn

In the barn we stored pasture hay every year and corn in the corn crib. Once a year, we would buy bran feed for the cows and chickens to store in the barn. One day, Bruce and I decided to slide down the tin roof on the barn. We grabbed on to the eave and made it to the top of the barn. We then both let go and slid down to the edge of the cow shed roof real fast. Our neighbor to the east, Holifield called mom on the phone. We never did that again. As I remember, we had to grab our ankles to get ready for the persimmon switch.

The car and wagon shed was about 20 x 20 feet. It was jammed full of farming implements such as plows, planters, etc. in addition to the car and wagon. It had a corrugated tin roof that Bruce and I laid peaches and apples on every year to dry. This was not a good job on a hot summer day.

The Barn Fire of 1923

On a Saturday in 1923 the barn caught fire and burned down. Pop, Ray and Bruce, at the time, had taken the wagon into town for supplies. Mom ran outside to get the horse and two mules, Tom and Mary, out of the barn, but she was not able to put out the fire which had started in the corn crib. Pop suspected the fire had been set by people who did not like him. The following year a portable sawmill was set up by old man Garret to cut lumber for a new barn. The lumber was cut from a 40-acre parcel of virgin timber (part of 109 acres). Some of the southern white pine harvested ran from 32 to 36 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH).

The Never Ending Farm Chores

Mom would wake us up every morning at 5:00 A. M. during the summer to feed the animals while she fixed breakfast. After eating, we headed for the fields. In the spring, at 10 years old I was working a flat-breaking plow looking at the south end of mules all day. We could plow about 2 ½ acres a day. Before planting, we had to dig out persimmon and sassafras sprouts. It took quite a while to get a field ready to plant and it was hard work

Bailing hay was a tough job with an old fashioned 1920's bailer, pulled by a mule. After the cut hay had time to dry in the field, we started to bail it. We used a long rake to bring the hay to the bailer and one person would use a pitch fork to feed the bailer while two others would tie off the hay bails and pull them out of the bailer. We adjusted the bailer to make 90-pound bails. Breathing hay dust all day long made a hard job worse.

We gave corn and hay to the mules when we worked them. Pigs were fed corn, leftovers, and sour milk; and the chickens were fed ground corn, bran and milk. Laying hens were given laying mash that we bought. The cows grazed in pasture most of the time and were occasionally fed corn and hay, mostly in the winter.



Ray Wilton Middlebrooks
two years old, December
1918.

After all the cotton was ginned, we had to start harvesting corn and sweet potatoes. We had Bruce drive the wagon down the row and Pop, Mom and I would break the ears from the cornstalk and throw them into the wagon. You did not want to miss any of the ears because 50 % of the corn was used to feed the animals. With sweet potatoes you had to cut vines off and with a middle sod buster plow, you could bring them on top of the ground. We next took them to the storm cellar for winter eating. We did potatoes the same way, but no vines.

The best part about finishing your chores, especially on the weekends, is that Pop would let us go to town. He gave us 15 cents to see a cowboy movie. When the Barnum Bailey and Ringling Brothers Circus came to town, it was a once-a-year treat to see the wild animals and shows. We never went to a zoo until moving to Los Angeles.

Picking Cotton

We had to let some of the fields lay out a couple years so the soil would support a cotton crop. Lousy soil was where you grew bumble bee cotton, less than a foot high. Our land on average took four acres to make a 500-pound bail of cotton out of 1500 pounds of seed cotton. We tried to get black families to help with picking. Sixty cents per 100 pounds was the going rate for picking cotton.

Mom made the four cotton sacks out of good denim. Mine was six feet long by three feet wide with a padded shoulder strap. My best picking day was 150 pounds of cotton picked. We started picking in the middle of August for the first harvest. The next picking was two or three weeks later after the rest of the cotton boles opened. When all the boles were open, we called it scraping the cotton and it was used to make mattresses and pillows. My memories of picking cotton included sweating like crazy in 110 degree heat at 80-90% humidity. You had to just keep picking to get the cotton harvested before a rain came along and ruined the price for clean cotton.

The Tunstall Cotton Gin

Verdo worked for R. H. "Buss" Tunstall who had built a cotton gin about a quarter mile north of the house on the west side of Patmos Road. The gin was located at the junction of Patmos Road and CR 132 on the north side of CR 132. This steam-powered cotton gin was in full operation when the cotton harvest started in the middle of August. During the two or three months of operation the boiler ate up plenty of pine logs. A farmer would pull his wagon up to the scale and Verdo weighed it full and then empty. The farmer was charged so much a pound to have the cotton ginned and bailed.

The ginning process removed the seed from the cotton. The seeds were blown into the seed house. When the cotton was finished, while still in the hydraulic press, you placed four one-inch metal bands over a jute cover and tightened them down around the bail. Next a tag with the farmer's name on it was placed on the bail, and the bale was kicked out onto the platform. The farmer would next haul the cotton to Hope to be sold to one of the many cotton brokers. The longer the cotton fiber the more money per pound, around \$50.00/bail. We used to take a gallon jug of peanuts to the gin to get the boiler tender to roast our peanuts. It only took a few minutes in the hot fire.

We also liked to play on the stacked cotton bails next to the gin and in Fannie's yard. I usually would take Pop his lunch to watch all the machinery work. It was real interesting for a young kid. Marion Hubbard (Amie Middlebrooks husband) also worked for Buss at the cotton gin.

Mysteriously, one night the cotton gin caught fire and burned to the ground. It was suspected that Buss set the gin on fire to collect the insurance money. According to Pop, it was defiantly arson. They had an electric gin in Hope that eventually replaced most of the small country gins. After the gin burned down, Wayne built chicken houses on the site.



R. H. Tunstall's cotton gin was located on the corner across the road, at the intersection of Patmos Road and CR 132. August 2006.

Sorghum Cane and Cooking

Verdo planted about 1-½ acres of sorghum cane one year. Sorghum was used as a substitute for sugar. When the cane was ready to harvest, we had to strip the leaves, chop it down and top the stalk. After the cane was harvested and ready for processing, a local farmer was contacted for processing equipment. The cane was fed into a mule-powered juicer with two cog gears churning against each other. I drove the mule around and around and someone else would feed the cane into the juicer.

The cooking pan to reduce the juice to syrup was made of copper and was about ten feet long, five feet wide and six inches high. The pan had three sections and was placed on bricks with a slow burning fire underneath. The kids had to make sure plenty of wood was on hand to keep the fire going. At one end, you poured in the juice. At the other end, you poured the syrup into clean gallon cans. It took all day to process the cane from juice to syrup. The guy we had contacted to make sorghum syrup received half of the syrup as his payment. I do not think we had to buy any syrup for a couple of years.

Cutting Firewood and the Broken Saw Tooth

Along in the fall, you had to get enough wood up to the house to last most of the year. Sawing those big pines with a six-foot crosscut saw was very hard work and a real pain in the butt. Pop would pick out the way he wanted the tree to fall and you would make your cut on that side of the tree. We used a double-bit axe to fall the tree. I remember Bruce and I had to block the pine trees after they were down. We used coal oil on the blade from a Nehi soda bottle and used a pine tip as a brush.

We got the saw stuck in a tree one day and I chopped on both sides to loosen the saw. I got a little careless and bent a tooth on the saw. I tried to straighten it and the tooth broke off. Pop lost his cool when we showed him the saw. We never heard the end of it. It was a clean-out tooth, so it really didn't hurt the cutting power of the saw. We hauled all the blocks of wood to the house, let them dry out, and then chopped them up for stove wood. We also used oak and hickory for the fireplace. Pop would also have us help Grandma Fannie with her wood supply.

Fishing and Swimming with Moccasins

We finally got Pop to put up a spring board down at our pond. We usually just jumped in feet first, but one day I tried it head first and got my head and shoulders stuck in the mud bottom. I really had to struggle to get out of that clay. I never tried that again. I forgot to mention that before we would go swimming, we would beat the water with cane poles to drive the snakes (cottonmouths) to the end of the pond.



Ray and Seth Middlebrook
(grandson) walking towards farm pond. May 1989



Ray and Bruce's private swimming hole.
Pond was built by Verdo around 1925.
May 1989

We liked to go fishing with our crawdad pole. It was a short pole with line with a piece of pork tied on the end. We would put our line out for 10 minutes or so and lift it up slow and easy. Most of the time we would find a crawdad hanging on to the pork. We would catch a gallon jug full, play with them and then dump them back in the pond. Pop killed a moccasin in our pond with his shot gun. It was about 3-½ feet long and four inches in diameter. It was amazing that none of our family was ever bitten by a snake.

Leaving Farm Life Behind

Cotton was the main cash crop of many southern counties. With the start of the Great Depression the price of cotton started to fall in 1929. The drop in price,

coupled with the drought that same year, convinced Pop and Mom it was time to quit farming and move. On August 12, 1929, the family left their farm on Patmos Road in a Model-A Ford and headed for Los Angeles, California. Before leaving they stopped to say good-bye to mom's father, J. H. and her step-mom Kate (Turner) Kent at his farm down by Sardis. The journey to Los Angeles took four to five days.

Children of Charles V. and Julia E. (Kent) Middlebrooks:

Ray Wilton Middlebrooks, b. December 21, 1916, Hempstead County, Arkansas.² Ray married Mary Louise Keppeler, April 8, 1943, Montebello, California. Mary Lou, died January 15, 1989, Montebello, California. Ray and Cassie Sophia Doyle were married October 6, 1990, City of Commerce, California.

Bruce Elmore Middlebrooks, b. April 23, 1918, Hempstead County, Arkansas.¹⁷ Lillian Florence John and Bruce were married, November 9, 1940, Montebello, California. Bruce died November 4, 1978, Arcadia, California.¹⁸



Evelyn and Verdo Middlebrooks
California Desert 1929



L-R: Bruce, Evelyn and Ray Middlebrooks.
Evelyn's 52 birthday, 1950, 6061 Fairfield Street, Los Angeles, California



Mary Louise (Keppeler) Middlebrook, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, California.



Bruce E. Middlebrooks, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, California



Ray Wilton and Mary Louise (Keppeler) Middlebrook wedding picture, April 8, 1943, Montebello, California



Bruce Elmore and Lillian Florence (John) Middlebrooks, November 9, 1940, Montebello, California. Lillian F. Middlebrooks Ackerman died March 11, 2008, Costa Mesa, Orange County, California



Ray Wilton and Cassie Sophia (Doyle) Middlebrooks, married October 6, 1990, City of Commerce, California



Chapter VIII

Endnotes

¹ Charles Verdo Middlebrooks, Certificate of Death, #16234, County of Los Angeles, Registrar-Recorder, filed January 10, 1956. His birth place is listed as Louisiana and the informant is his son Bruce Middlebrooks. The mother's name is listed as Fannie Boyette. It should be Fannie Middlebrooks Ward.

² Ray Wilton Middlebrooks, Delayed Certificate of Birth, #3529, filed, November 13, 1940, State of Arkansas, State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock. Verdo Middlebrooks is listed as the father and his birth place is listed as Opelousas, Louisiana. The family was living in Los Angeles (3606, East, 6th St., LA, CA) at the time the delayed birth certificate was applied for on October 28, 1940.

³ Miller County, Arkansas, Marriage Book ?, pg 177, Marriage of Charles Verdo Middlebrooks and Julia Evelyn Kent, April 14, 1914.

⁴ WWI Draft Registration Cards, entry for Charles Verdo Middlebrooks, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook 22 November, 2005.

⁵ Julia Middlebrooks, Certificate of Death, filed July 20, 1988, State of California, County of Los Angeles, Department of Health Services. No certificate number listed. Informant Ray W. Middlebrook, her son.

⁶ Hempstead County Marriage Book K Pg. 353, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

⁷ Julia Evelyn Kent Delayed Certificate of Birth, #4362, filed, January 8, 1942, State of Arkansas, State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. John Henry Kent, age 31, born in Hempstead County, Arkansas and Dovie Christian Staggs, age 27 born in Magnolia Arkansas are listed as Julia's parents. Both list their residence as Sardis, Arkansas.

⁸ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 14

⁹ Betty Jane (Staggs) Foster, from the Family Bible Record of Annie Elizabeth Elmore Staggs. Betty Jane Foster is the daughter of Paul Thomas Staggs. Betty Jane Foster, 205 Highway 355 West, Hope, AR, 71801

¹⁰ Hempstead County, Chancery Court, Record Book T, Pg. 482-#1,2 County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. Proceedings of March 5, 1934. C. V. Middlebrooks vs.

¹¹ Mrs. Fannie Ward ET AL.

Hempstead County Deed Book 75 Pg. 541, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.

¹² Hempstead County Circuit Court case # 903 Record Book 75, Pg. 541, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. George W. Hinton Sr. had to sell his interest in the land because of a debt owed E. C. Brown for \$2307.86.

¹³ Ray Wilton Middlebrooks, Family History narrative, 4, October 2001, completed at the request of Neal Middlebrook. In the possession of Neal Middlebrook.

¹⁴ Personal communication Ray W. Middlebrook 8529 Beverly Road, Pico Rivera, California, 90660 to Neal Middlebrook 2001-2004.

¹⁵ New Bethel Baptist Church plaque information on the front of the church. Photograph taken by Neal Middlebrook August 2006.

¹⁶ Hempstead County Deed Book 13, Pg. 151, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. One square acre in the NW ¼, of the NW ¼, SE ¼, Section 22, Township 13S, Range 24 West. Warranty Deed, acknowledged by B. P. Haynes J. P.

¹⁷ Bruce Elmore Middlebrooks, Certificate of Birth, #480, filed April 13, 1918, State of Arkansas, State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Little Rock.

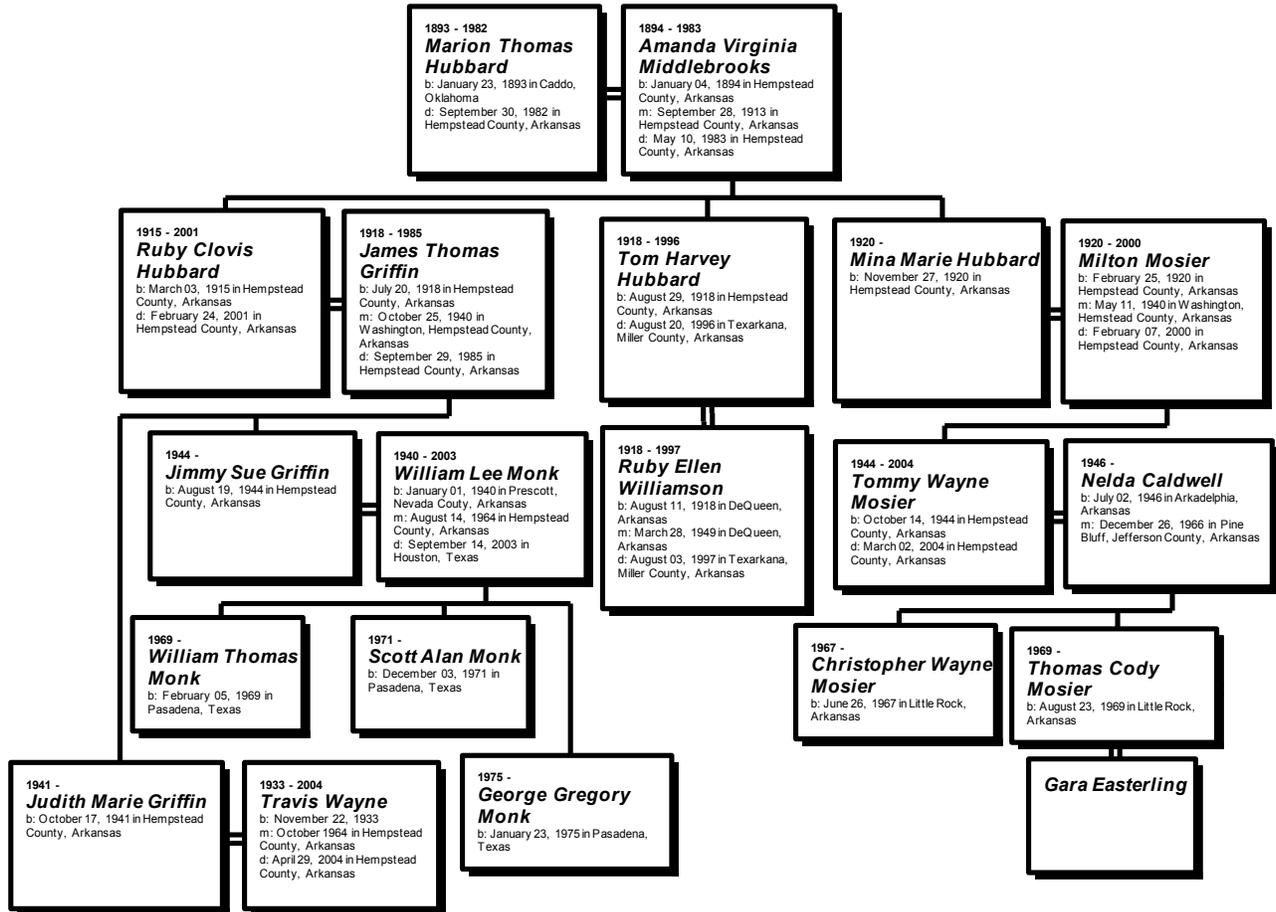
¹⁸ "Social Security Death Index," Bruce Middlebrooks, 435-14-8277, www.familysearch.org Accessed by Neal Middlebrook, 8, June 2006

***Chapter IX:
Marion Thomas and Amanda
“Amie” Virginia (Middlebrooks)
Hubbard***

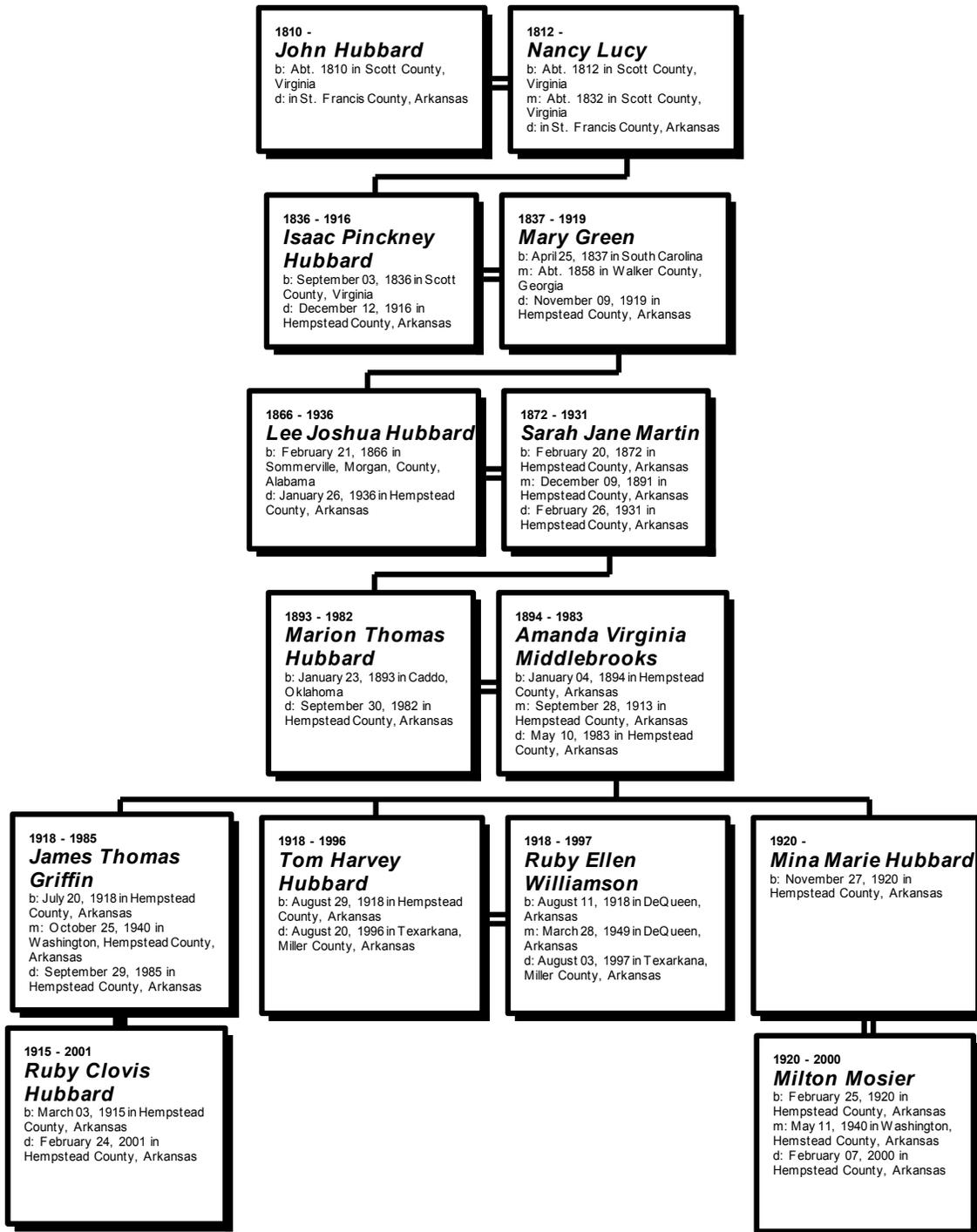


***Marion T. and Amie V. (Middlebrooks)
Hubbard, golden wedding anniversary.
1963***

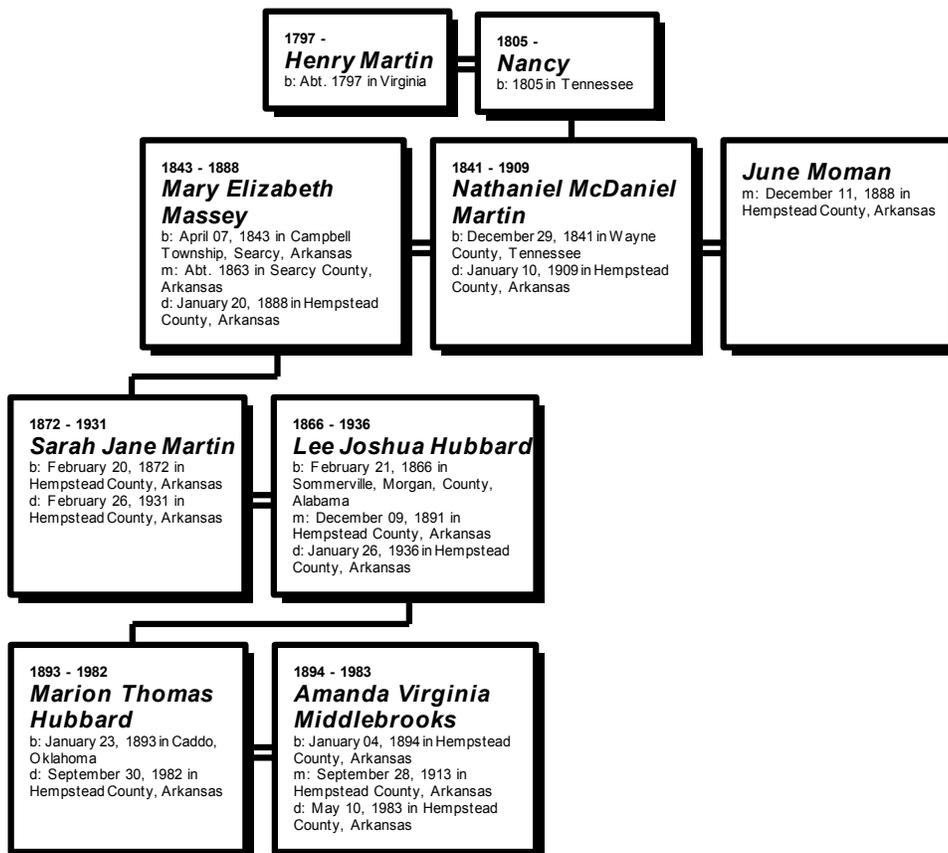
Descendants of Marion Thomas Hubbard



Descendants of John Hubbard



Descendants of Henry Martin



Marion T. and Amie V. (Middlebrooks) Hubbard

Marion Thomas Hubbard was born January 23, 1893, in Caddo, Bryan County, Oklahoma. Marion’s parents are Lee Joshua and Sarah Jane (Martin) Hubbard. Marion’s delayed birth certificate, filed with the State of Arkansas, Hempstead County, August 18, 1913, incorrectly indicates his place of birth as Durant, Bryan County, Oklahoma.¹ The informant is Marion’s uncle J. G. Martin. Caddo is about 10 miles northeast of Durant.

Amanda “Amie” Virginia Middlebrooks was born January 4, 1894, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Amie’s parents are James L. and Fannie Deloney (Hinton) Middlebrooks.² It is suspected that Amie was born on the 40-acre parcel of land her mother inherited from her father about a mile north of the Old Hinton Home Place, on the east side of Patmos Road.³ She later moves to the Old Hinton Home Place after the death of her father in 1899.

State of Oklahoma—Department of Health
DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
 STATE FILE NO. D 1398-183

1. NAME AT BIRTH: Marion Thomas Hubbard
 2. DATE OF BIRTH: January 23 1893
 3. PLACE OF BIRTH: Bryan Caddo OKLAHOMA
 4. COLOR OF HAIR: White
 5. SEX: Male
 6. FULL NAME OF FATHER: Lee Joshua Hubbard
 7. FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE: Georgia
 8. MOTHER'S NAME OF MOTHER: Sarah Jane Martin
 9. MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE: Arkansas

10. AFFIDAVIT OF REGISTRANT: I solemnly declare upon oath that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 SIGNATURE: Marion Thomas Hubbard
 PRESENT ADDRESS: Hope, Ark., Arkansas
 Date: 3-21-56
 COUNTY CLERK: Cornelia J. Middlebrooks

DO NOT WRITE BELOW - TO BE COMPLETED IN DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

TYPE OF RECORD	BY WHOM ISSUED	DATE ISSUED	DATE ORIGINAL RECORD MADE
1. Affidavit of personal knowledge	J. E. Buchanan	4-6-56	3-21-56
2. Record of Hayden-Cornelius Burial Ass'n.	F. S. Cornelius	10-28-55	
3. Cert. copy of Ark. birth cert. of child	F. S. Ross	11-2-54	3-2-15

BIRTHDATE OR AGE	BIRTHPLACE	NAME OF FATHER	NAME OF MOTHER
1. Jan. 23, 1893	Caddo, Oklahoma	Lee Joshua Hubbard	Sarah Jane Martin
2. Jan. 23, 1893	Oklahoma		
3.			
4.			

DATE FILED: 8-10-56
 EVIDENCE REVIEWED BY: P. Dinteman
 STATE REGISTRAR: M. S. Huchinsford



Marion and Amie Hubbard, circa 1940, Fannie’s house

Marion Thomas Hubbard delayed birth certificate, filed April 10, 1956, with the State of Oklahoma.

Marion Thomas Hubbard and Amanda Virginia Middlebrooks are issued a marriage license on September 25, 1913, Hempstead County, Arkansas. On September 28, 1913, they are married by James William Ward, Minister of the Gospel. The marriage was recorded by W. P. Agee, County Clerk.⁴ Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks married Preacher J. W. Ward 13 months later.⁵

On June 5, 1917, Marion registers for World War I in Patmos, Precinct #8. His date of birth is listed as January 23, 1893, Caddo, Oklahoma. He is listed as a self-employed farmer with a wife and one child. He is of medium height and build with brown eyes and black hair and is not disabled.⁶ Marion was not called into active duty.³¹

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH—BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
DELAYED BIRTH CERTIFICATE FORM 10-11-1938-2-25-1956-C-20-1

Full Name **Amie Virginia Middlebrooks** Date of Birth **January 4, 1894**
as birth Month Day Year

Color or Race **White** Sex **Female** Birthplace **Hope, Hempstead Arkansas**
(City or Town) (State or County)

Full Name of Father **Jim Middlebrooks** Birthplace **Georgia**
(State or County)

Full Maiden Name of Mother **Fannie Hinton** Birthplace **Arkansas**
(State or County)

ABSTRACT: I hereby declare on oath that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. (To be signed by registrant, or applicant.)
 Signature **Mrs. M. J. Hubbard** Address **Hope, St. 4, Arkansas**

Subscribed and sworn to before me on **September 10, 1956**

My commission expires _____
 Approve—do not write below this line
Arnold J. Middlebrooks
 County Clerk

ABSTRACT OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Name and kind of document (including to whom issued and date of issue) Date original document was filed

1. Family Bible Record, Made by Fannie Middlebrooks 1-25-1894

2. Marriage License, Signed: W. P. Agee, Hempstead Clerk Sept. 25, 1913

INFORMATION CONCERNING REGISTRANT AS STATED IN DOCUMENT

Birthdate or Age	Birthplace	Name of Father	Full Name of Mother
Family Bible Record Shows Amie Virginia Middlebrooks' birth date to be January 4, 1894. Her birth to be in Arkansas			
Marriage License shows her age to be 19 Years at time of issue			

I hereby certify that the above evidence was presented to the County Court and after examining same the Court issued an order declaring it authentic evidence regarding facts of birth of above registrant and has authorized the Bureau of Vital Statistics to accept same as a record. Done this **10th day of September, 1956**

(Seal of) **Arnold J. Middlebrooks**
 County Clerk

I certify that no prior certificate has been found in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics for this registrant and that documentary evidence has been accepted by the County Court as above indicated substantiating the facts set forth in this certificate.
 Signature **J. S. Herron M.D.** Date filed **September 26, 1956**

Delayed Birth Certificate for Amie Virginia Middlebrooks filed September 26, 1956. The Family Bible of Fannie Middlebrooks has not been located. Courtesy of Scott Monk.

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that in accordance with the Selective Service Proclamation of the President of the United States

Marion Thomas Hubbard
(Middle name) (Last name)

Route 1 Hope Hempstead, Arkansas
(Place of Residence)

(This will be identified with the 2nd of the Registration Card)

has been duly registered this **27** day of **APRIL, 1942**

Mrs. Theo. Witt
(Signature of Registrar)

Registrar for Local Board **Hope, Hempstead, Ark.**
(Name) (City or County) (State)

THE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE THIS CARD IN YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES

D. S. S. Form 2 (Revised 6/30/41) 15-57811

Marion Hubbard's WWII Registration Certificate, April 27, 1942. Courtesy of Scott Monk.

Lee Joshua and Sarah Jane (Martin) Hubbard

Lee and Sarah are the parents of Marion. Lee was thought to be born near Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama, February 21, 1866, just after the Civil War ended. Sarah Jane was born February 20, 1872,⁷ and her parents are Nathaniel McDaniel and Mary Elizabeth (Massey) Martin of the Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County.⁸

Lee and Sarah were married December 9, 1891, Hempstead County, by R. H. Betts, Justice of the Peace. Lee was 26 and Sarah was 19 when they were married, living in Lively, Hempstead County.⁹ Sometime after they were married in 1891, Lee and Sarah move from Lively to Bryan County, Oklahoma, where Marion was born in 1893¹ and Edgar was born in June 1894/95. On November 12, 1898, Elmer S. was born in Springhill Township, Hempstead County.¹⁰

Marriage License
 STATE OF ARKANSAS
 COUNTY OF **Hempstead**

TO ANY PERSON AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE, GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to exchange the vows and publish the terms of matrimony between the **Miss Amie Virginia Middlebrooks** *of Hope R# 1, in the County of Hempstead and State of Arkansas, aged* **20** *years and* **Miss Marion Thomas Hubbard** *of Hope R# 2, in the County of Hempstead and State of Arkansas, aged* **19** *years, according to law, and do you efficiently sign and return this license to the parties herein named.*

Witness my hand and official seal this **25th day of Sept 1913.**
W. P. Agee
(Signature)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

Made at Arkansas
 County of **Hempstead** **J. W. Ward**
do hereby certify that on the **28th day of Sept 1913**
that duly and according to law as commanded in the foregoing having exchanged the vows and published the terms of matrimony between the parties therein named
Witness my hand this **28th day of Sept 1913**
that said license recorded in Hempstead Office
J. W. Ward
(Signature)

Marion and Amie Hubbard married on September 28, 1913, by Preacher J. W. Ward. Courtesy of Scott Monk.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

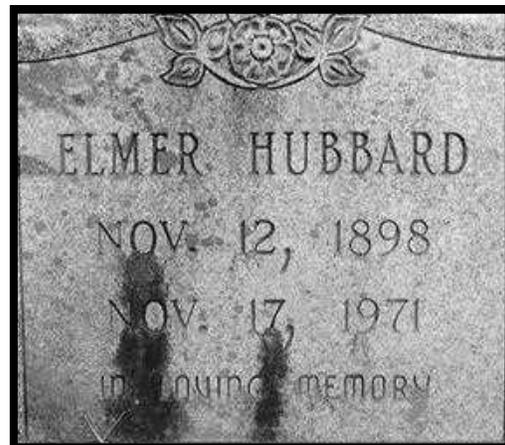
Lee died on January 28, 1936, and his wife Sarah died February 26, 1931, in Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁷ They were buried in the Huckabee Cemetery, located just south of where the Old Evening Shade Church once stood, off of Highway 29.⁷ Lee's son, Elmer, is also buried in the Huckabee Cemetery (November 12, 1898 – November 17, 1971).



Lee Joshua and Sarah Jane (Martin) Hubbard. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Lee J. and Sarah J. Hubbard,
Huckabee Cemetery. August 2006



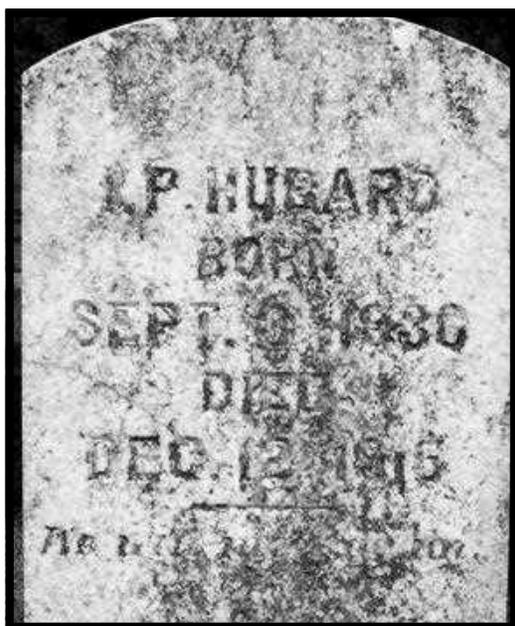
Elmer Hubbard, son of Lee J.
and Sarah J. Hubbard,
Huckabee Cemetery.
August 2006

Isaac Pinckney and Mary (Green) Hubbard

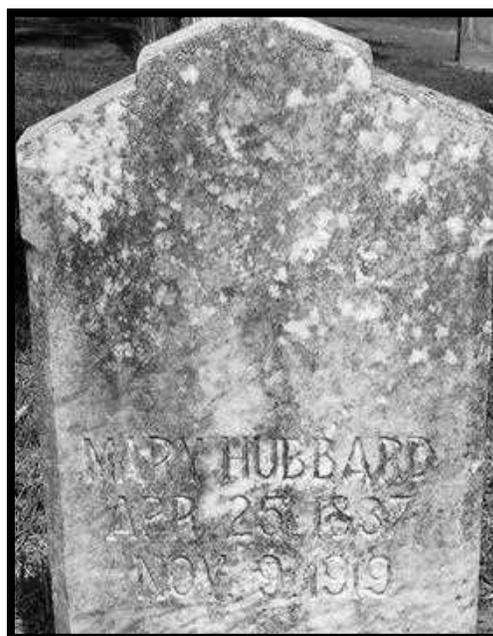
Lee's father, Isaac Pinckney Hubbard was born September 3, 1836, in Scott County, Virginia.¹¹ Pinckney's father John Hubbard moved the family *circa* 1840, to Lafayette, Walker County, Georgia, from Virginia¹² where Isaac was educated.¹¹ Isaac married Mary Green of Walker County, Georgia, *circa* 1858.^{11, 13} Mary was born April 25, 1837,¹⁴ in South Carolina. Her parents, George Washington and Lucinda Green resided in Villanow, Walker County, Georgia.¹⁵

After 1856, Isaac Pinckney and Mary (Green) move their family to Morgan County, Alabama, close to the town of Somerville. Isaac's father, John Hubbard, is a neighbor and both families presumably moved from Georgia together.¹³ Isaac enlists in the 5th Alabama Calvary and serves for three years. He attained the rank of Orderly Sergeant before being separated from military service.¹¹

By 1880, Isaac and Mary are living in the Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas.¹⁶ Isaac and Mary become members of the Bethany Baptist Church located two miles south of Spring Hill in 1894.¹⁷ Isaac Pinckney Hubbard died Dec 12, 1916, and his wife Mary died Nov 9, 1919, in Hempstead County, Arkansas. They are buried in the Huckabee Cemetery.¹⁸



Isaac Pinckney Hubbard,
Huckabee Cemetery.
August 2006.



Mary (Green) Hubbard,
Huckabee Cemetery.
August 2006.

John and Nancy (Lucy) Hubbard

As mentioned earlier, John and Nancy (Lucy) Hubbard are the parents of Isaac Pinckney Hubbard. It is suspected that both John and Nancy were born and married in or near Scott County, Virginia, where Isaac was born.¹¹ John was born *circa* 1810 and Nancy was born *circa* 1812 in Virginia. It appears they moved from Virginia to West Armuchee, Walker County, Georgia, *circa* 1840. Isaac P. would have been about 4-5 years old when they moved to Georgia.¹⁵ Later, after moving to Morgan County, Alabama, *circa* 1856, John and Nancy moved near Taylor's Creek, Tellico Township, St. Francis County, Arkansas, before 1870.

Nathaniel "Mack" McDaniel and Mary Elizabeth (Massey) Martin

As previously mentioned, Nathaniel McDaniel and Mary Elizabeth (Massey) Martin are the parents of Sarah Jane Martin.¹⁶ Nathaniel was born December 29, 1841,⁷ in Wayne County, Tennessee²² His parents are Henry and Nancy Martin.¹⁹ Henry was born in Virginia *circa* 1797 and Nancy was born in Tennessee, *circa* 1805. In 1850, they are living in Union Township, Green County, Arkansas. All their children are listed as being born in Tennessee, meaning they left around 1845-1849 for Green County, Arkansas.¹⁹

Before 1860, Henry, James, McDaniel and Sarah moved near the town of Providence, Campbell Township, Searcy County, Arkansas. It appears Nancy Martin either died or did not move with the family in 1860.²⁰ Before 1880, Nathaniel McDaniel and Mary Elizabeth move to Spring Hill Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁸ It is suspected that they may have moved as early as 1866, just after the Civil War from Searcy County, Arkansas. It is believed that Nathaniel M. Martin married Mary E. Massey *circa* 1863 in Searcy County, Arkansas.²²

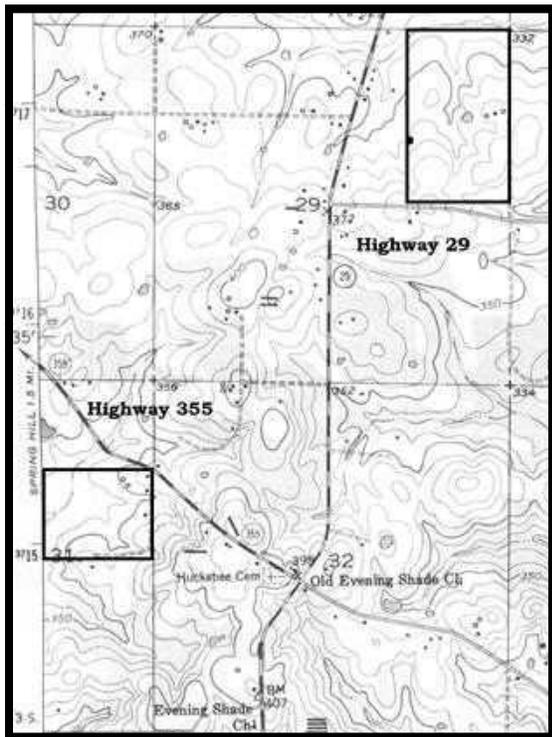
Mary Elizabeth Massey was born April 7, 1843,⁷ in Campbell Township, Searcy County, Arkansas. Her parents are Thomas G. and Martha Ann (Bratton) Massey.²¹ Thomas was born *circa* 1814 and Martha Ann was born *circa* 1825,²¹ both in Hardin County, Tennessee.²²

Mary Elizabeth (Massey) Martin died January 20, 1888, in Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁷ Nathaniel McDaniel Martin, 48, married June Moman, 35, on December 11, 1888. The marriage was performed by S. M. Barker, Justice of the Peace.²³ Nathaniel died January 10, 1909, and was buried next to his first wife Mary. Both are buried in the Huckabee Cemetery, Spring Hill Township.⁷

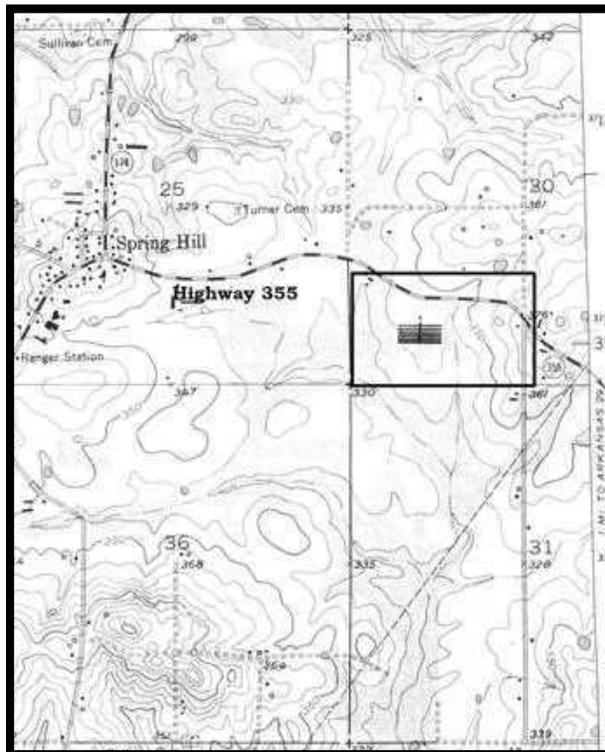
Early Hubbard Homesteads

On December 10, 1901, Lee J. Hubbard and wife acquire 80 acres from Lee De Vaughn, one and half miles north of the Old Evening Shade Church, on the eastside of the present day Highway 29 (E ½, NE ¼, Sec. 29, Township 13 South, Range 24 West).²⁴ Then less than a year later, Lee sells the 80 acres above to E. L. Brightwell on November 2, 1902.²⁵ Lee next acquires 40 acres from J. B. Huckabee on November 4, 1903, (SE ¼, NE ¼, Sec. 31, Township 13S, 24 W)²⁶ and 80 acres from L. E. Huckabee on January 4, 1908 (S ½, SW ¼, Sec. 30, Township 13 S, 24 W).²⁷ Both of these properties are west of the Old Evening Shade Church.

By 1910, Lee and Sarah are reported as living on the Springhill and Sardis Road²⁸ which means they are living on one of the above properties previously owned by the Huckabees, totaling 120 acres. Lee and Sarah next sell the 40-acre parcel in Section 31 to M. H. Graves on February 1, 1911.²⁹ The homestead in Section 30 is located about one mile east of the town of Spring Hill and one mile west of Highway 29 on the south-side of the Spring Hill-Sardis Road.



Lee J. Hubbard property locations. Top: (E ½ , NE ¼ , Sec. 29, Township 13 S, 24 West, 80 acres). Bottom: (SE ¼, NE ¼, Sec. 31, Township 13S, 24 W, 40 acres).



Lee J. Hubbard property location. (S ½, SW ¼, Sec. 30, Township 13 S, 24 W, 80 acres). Homestead

After Marion and Amie are married in 1913 and until 1929, they lived along the Hope – Falcon Road (Patmos Road), about ½ mile south of Hope. Amie’s sister, Fair H. (Middlebrooks) Porterfield, is a neighbor, living across Patmos Road .³⁰ Marion and Amie were renting the house at 3003 Patmos Road and it is believed that all of Marion and Amie’s children were born at this location.³¹



Marion and Amie’s house 3003 Patmos Road about 1/2 mile south of Hope. August 2006

Moving to the Old Hinton Home Place

In 1929, Marion, Amie and family move to Fannie’s house also located on Patmos Road. As previously mentioned, Fannie deeds the 109 acres in 1934 to her daughter, Amie V. (Middlebrooks), and Amie’s husband, Marion T. Hubbard, in exchange for them making the mortgage payments to R. H. “Buss” Tunstall. As part of agreement stipulated in the deed, Marion and Amie agree to ***“comfortably support and maintain me in a home on the lands hereinafter described for the remainder of my life, and herby reserving to myself the use and possession of a house to be occupied as my home on said lands so long as I live”***.³²

By 1937, Fannie’s house, built by her sons Verdo and Oscar *circa* 1920, was moved south and located next to the house Verdo and family occupied until 1929. The first location of Fannie’s house was where the country store is later built in 1938 by Harrel and Thelma Hamiter. The store was sold to Marion in 1940.³¹

Shortly after Fannie’s house was moved, the Old Hinton Home Place house was torn down. Jimmie and Ruby (Hubbard) Griffin moved back to Hope from Mt. Ida, Arkansas, and lived in the back of the store, 1941-1945. Jimmie and Ruby then moved to a house on the hill across Patmos Road (eastside). Milton Mosier and his wife, Mina Marie, bought the store in 1954 and had it moved to 705 S. Fulton Street in Hope. Once the house was moved, it was renovated and made their residence.³¹



Marion, Amie and Tom Hubbard standing on north side of their home (Fannie's old house) on Patmos Road. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Marion and Amie Hubbard standing in front of their home (Fannie's old house) on Patmos Road. December 1955.



Milton & Mina Marie Mosier home, 705 South Fulton Street, Hope. At one time, before renovation this was the country store built in 1938 by Harrel and Thelma Hamiter and moved to its present location in 1954. August 2006

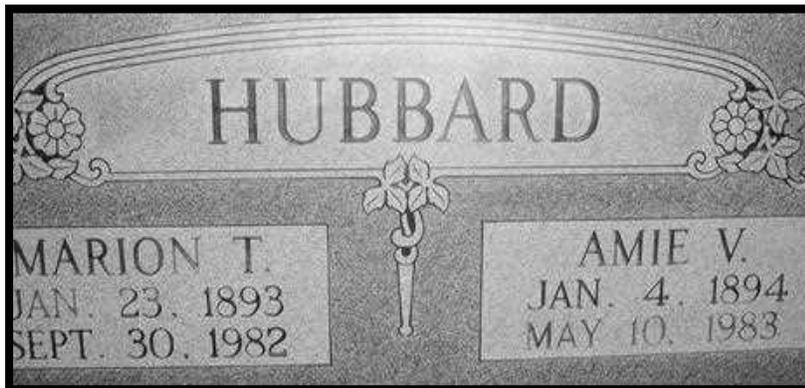
The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

At the age of 89, Marion died on September 30, 1982, and Amada Virginia (Middlebrooks) Hubbard, also at the age of 89, died, May 10, 1983, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Both are buried in Macedonia Cemetery, Hempstead County.³³



Marion and Amie (Middlebrooks) Hubbard 1970.

Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Marion Thomas and Amie Virginia (Middlebrooks) Hubbard, Macedonia Cemetery.

August 2006

***Children of Marion Thomas and Amanda Virginia
(Middlebrooks) Hubbard:***

Ruby Clovis Hubbard, born, March 3, 1915, Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Tom Harvey Hubbard, born, August 29, 1918, Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Mina Marie Hubbard, born, November 27, 1920, Hempstead County, Arkansas.



L-R Mina Marie, Tom, Ruby, Amie and Marion Hubbard.

December 1958. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



L-R Amie, Mina Marie, Ruby, Tom and Marion Hubbard.

Christmas 1968. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.

James Thomas and Ruby Clovis (Hubbard) Griffin

James Thomas Griffin was born on July 20, 1918,¹ Hempstead County. His parents are John (born *circa* 1886) and Florence (born *circa* 1884) Griffin of Ozan Township. Both John and Florence Griffin were born in North Carolina.³⁴ Marion and Amie Hubbard are the parents of Ruby Clovis Hubbard, born March 3, 1915, Hempstead County.³¹ Jimmie T. Griffin and Ruby C. Hubbard were married in Washington, Arkansas, on October 25, 1940.³⁵ Jimmie T. Griffin died on September 29, 1985, and Ruby C. (Hubbard) Griffin died, February 24, 2001. Both Jimmie and Ruby are buried in the Macedonia Cemetery, south of Hope.

Ruby was born on land Marion and Amie were renting along the Hope – Falcon Road (Patmos Road) about ½ mile south of Hope. Ruby attended Center Point Elementary School grades 1-8 and graduated from Patmos High School.³¹ Jimmie and Ruby lived in the house they built in 1956/57, where the country store was previously located, until he was elected County Sheriff in 1958. They then moved to the County Jail and rented their home on Patmos Road until 1970 when they moved back..³¹

As previously noted on July 29, 1966, Jimmie and Ruby acquired 41.41 acres of the Old Hinton Home Place from M. T. and Amie Hubbard. Later, an additional 65.45 acres were granted to Jimmie and Ruby on September 7, 1983, (excluding the four one-acre parcels) by the remaining heirs (Milton Mosier and Mina Marie Hubbard Mosier, husband and wife; and Tom H. Hubbard and Ruby Ellen Hubbard, husband and wife) of Marion and Amie Hubbard.³⁶ The two land conveyances listed above total 107.05 acres. Judy Griffin, Jimmie and Ruby's daughter, inherited the property and is currently living in the house Jimmie and Ruby built, where the country store was once located.

Jimmie Griffin Hempstead County Sheriff

Jimmie was elected and served as County Sheriff for 12 years (1958-1970) when he was defeated.



Ruby Clovis (Hubbard) and Jimmie Thomas Griffin, Macedonia Cemetery. August 2006

Children of James Thomas and Ruby Clovis (Hubbard) Griffin

Judith Marie Griffin, born, October 7, 1941, Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Jimmie Sue Griffin, born, August 19, 1944, Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Tom Harvey and Ruby Ellen (Williamson) Hubbard

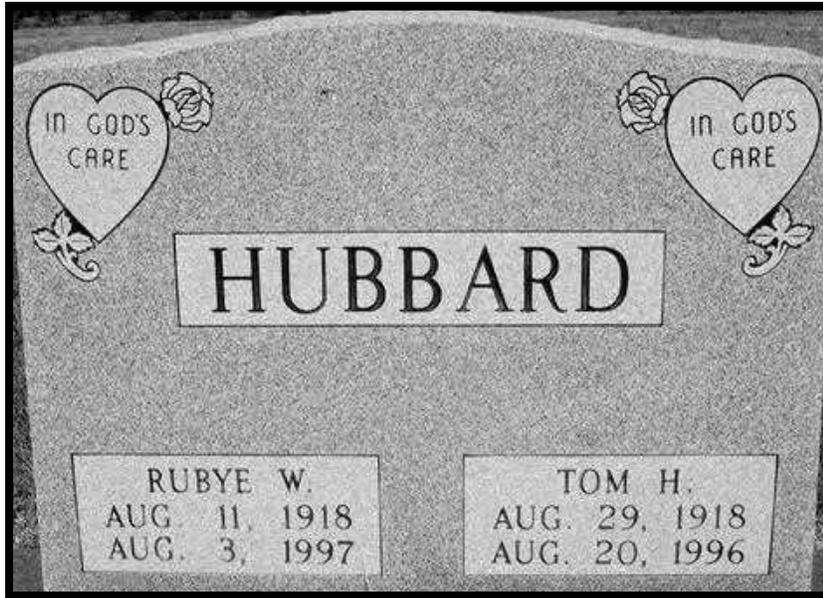
Tom Harvey Hubbard was born August 29, 1918,³³ Hempstead County, Arkansas. Tom married Ruby Ellen Williamson on March 28, 1948, De Queen, Sevier County, Arkansas.³¹ Ruby Ellen was born August 11, 1918,³³ De Queen, Arkansas. Ruby's parents are James R. (born *circa* 1888) and Eunice (born *circa* 1898) Williamson. James and Eunice were born in Texas.³⁷ Tom died August 20, 1996, and Ruby Ellen (Williamson) Hubbard died about a year later, August 3, 1997, in Texarkana, Miller County, Arkansas. Both Tom and Ruby are buried in Macedonia Cemetery.³³

Tom attended Center Point Elementary School along with his two sisters Ruby and Mina Marie. He graduated from Patmos High School. Tom later attended the University of Arkansas and graduated to later become a teacher. When he retired from teaching, he worked for the Highway Department and the Red River Arsenal. After Tom married Ruby in 1949, they lived in De Queen, Arkansas, for awhile and later moved to Texarkana. Tom never returned to Hope to live after he married Ruby.³¹

Tom and Ruby did not have any children.



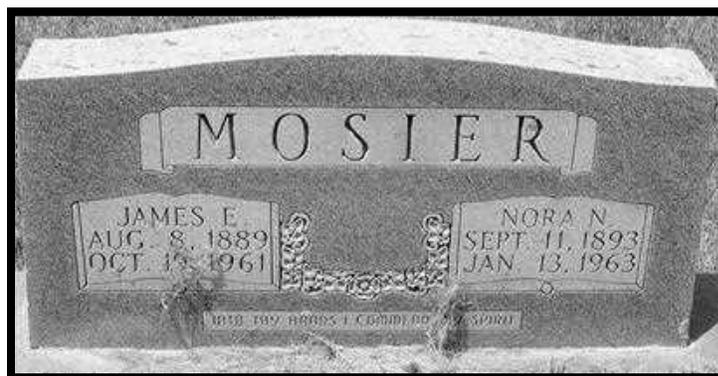
Tom Harvey and Ruby Ellen (Williamson) Hubbard, 1971.
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



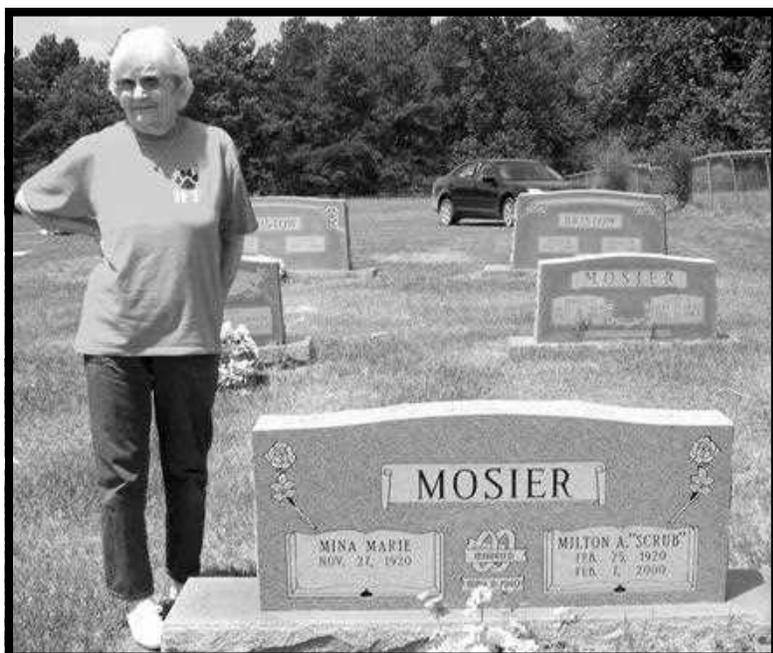
Ruby (Williamson) and Tom Harvey Hubbard,
Macedonia Cemetery. August 2006

Milton "Scrub" A. and Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.

Milton A. Mosier was born February 25, 1920. His parents are James Ellet and Nora N. (Jones) Mosier of Ozan Township, Hempstead County.³¹ James, also called Alex or Alexander Mosier, was born August 8, 1889, and Nora was born September 11, 1893, in Arkansas.³⁹ Mina Marie Mosier was born November 27, 1920. Mina's parents are Marion and Amanda "Amie" Virginia (Middlebrooks) Hubbard. Milton A. Mosier and Mina Marie Hubbard were married May 11, 1940, in Washington, Arkansas. Milton passed away February 7, 2000, and is buried in the Westmoreland Cemetery, near Hope.³¹



James Ellet and Nora N (Jones) Mosier,
Westmoreland Cemetery. August 2006



Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier standing next to her Husband's grave at Westmoreland Cemetery. August 2006

Mina Marie attended Center Point Elementary until 1930 when the school was closed. For two years she went to school in the Grange Hall south towards Patmos, Arkansas. In 1933, she attended the newly completed Patmos High School and later graduated. Milton attended school at Guernsey, located on old Highway 67, between Hope and Fulton, Arkansas. He only needed one-half credit more to complete the requirements for graduation.³¹

Milton and Mina Marie lived in Hope after they married in 1940. They next moved to Nashville, Arkansas, when Milton joined the State Police, and he was later transferred back to Hope. In 1954, Milton and Mina Marie were living at 705 S. Fulton Street, in Hope. The house was originally the country store located on the Old Hinton Home Place. They moved to their current address in Hope, 1009 West 14th, in 1980. The Mosiers also ran a farm north of Hope on Highway 195, between Washington and Fulton, Arkansas. They raised cows and Mina Marie had a big garden. It was Mina's responsibility to run the farm when Milton was working for the state police.³¹

Arkansas State Police Patrol

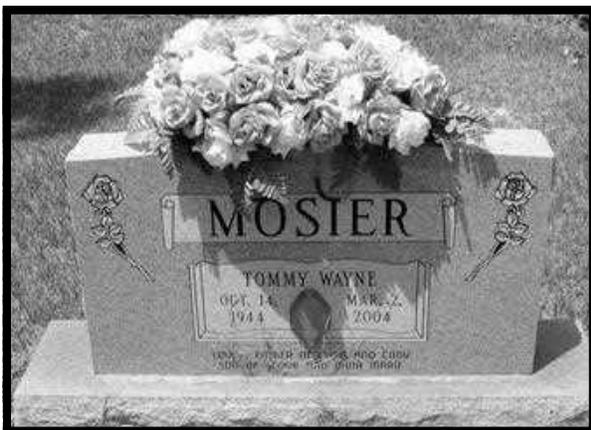
Milton "Scrub" Mosier's law enforcement career spanned 43 years. He first started his career with the Hope Police Department in 1940. Then five years later, he was hired by the Arkansas State Police Patrol.³¹ The Hope District of the Arkansas State Police was based in Little Rock until 1941 when it was re-located to Highway 67 East. Scrub made the rank of Captain in 1965. He saw many changes occur over these years including the construction of a new headquarters in 1976 and the expansion of the force to 36 officers responsible for covering a nine-county area. Milton retired in 1983 after having a long and distinguished career with the Arkansas State Police Patrol.³¹



Two of law enforcements finest: L-R Milton “Scrub” Mosier and Harold “Pod” Porterfield. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.

Child of Milton A. and Mina Marie Mosier:

Tommy Wayne Mosier was born October 14, 1944, Hempstead County, Arkansas. On December 26, 1966, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, he married Nelda Caldwell, born July 2, 1946, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Tommy graduated from Hope High School and attended Henderson State University and the University of Central Arkansas where he graduated. He taught school for 29 years and was assistant principal the last 10 years at Mena, Arkansas. Tommy and Nelda divorced in 1980, and he moved back to Hope in 2001. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Hope and a member of Century Bible Class. He also was a member of Theta Zi Fraternity and an avid outdoorsman. At age 59, Tommy died, March 2, 2004, in Texarkana Hospital of congestive heart failure. He is buried in Westmoreland Cemetery near Hope.^{31, 41}



Tommy Wayne Mosier, Westmoreland Cemetery. August 2006

Children of Tommy Wayne and Nelda (Caldwell) Mosier:

Christopher Wayne Mosier, born June 26, 1967, Little Rock.

Thomas Cody Mosier, born August 23, 1969, Little Rock.



L-R: Ruby Ellen and Tom, Hubbard, Mina Marie and Milton “Scrub” Mosier, Marion and Amie, Hubbard, Jimmie and Ruby Clovis Griffin, September 17, 1972, Spring Lake Park, Texarkana. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier.



Chapter IX

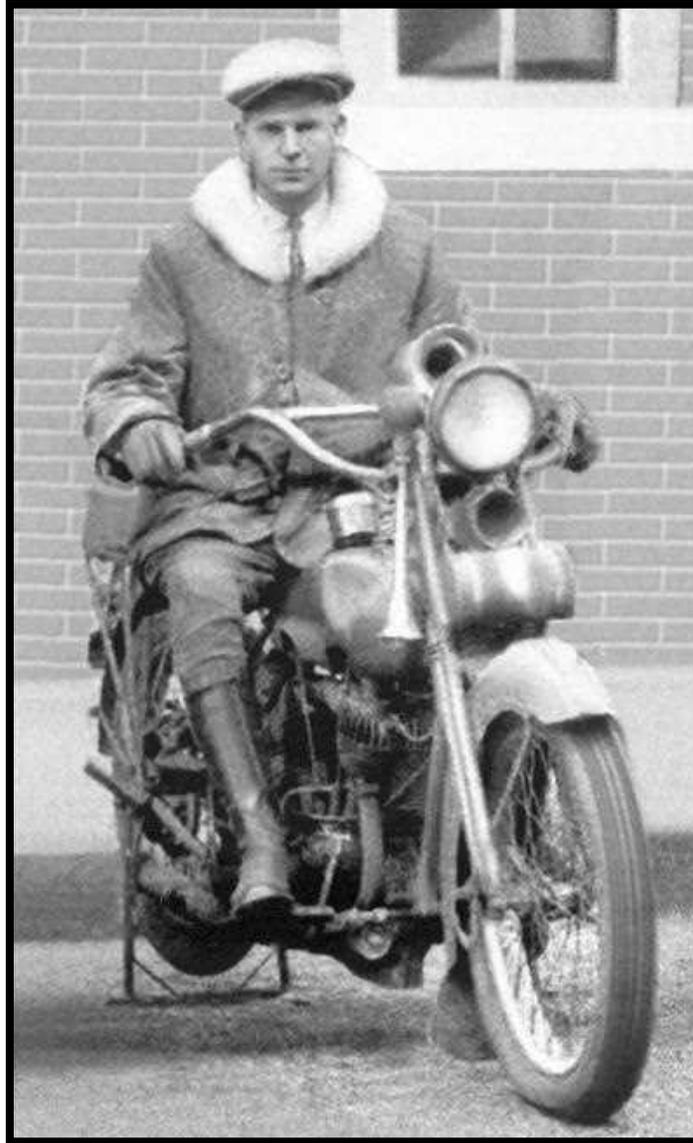
Endnotes

- ¹ Marion Thomas Hubbard, delayed birth certificate, no number, filed 18 August 1913, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock.
- ² Amada Virginia Middlebrooks, Delayed Birth Certificate #32475, Arkansas State Board of Health, filed Hempstead County, September 26, 1956, by Arnold J. Middlebrooks, County Clerk. Supporting evidence included: Family Bible Record, by Fannie Middlebrooks, January 25, 1894 and the marriage license of Marion Thomas Hubbard and Amanda Virginia Middlebrooks, September 28, 1913.
- ³ Hempstead County Real Estate Assessment Books 1890-1895, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas. Original county Real Estate Assessment Books are included in their collections. The location of Fannie's 40 acre parcel is (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 14, T. 13S, R. 24W).
- ⁴ Marriages Hempstead County Arkansas 1913-1924, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1997), 70. Marriage Book S, Pg. 248.
- ⁵ Lafayette County, Marriage Book ?, Pg.?, County Circuit Clerks Office, Lafayette, Arkansas.
- ⁶ WWI Draft Registration Cards, entry for Marion T. Hubbard, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook 22 November, 2005.
- ⁷ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 162-63.
- ⁸ Hempstead County Arkansas, U. S. Census of 1880, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1994), 9. N. M. & Elizabeth Martin are residing in the Springhill Township.
- ⁹ Marriages Hempstead County Arkansas 1875-1900, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, no date), 92. Marriage Book K, Pg. 207.
- ¹⁰ 1900, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Spring Hill, Enumeration District: 53; Page: 1, Dwelling & Visitation 4, Lee J. and Sarah J. Hubbard. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006). Edgar is listed as being born in "Indian Territory" and Elmer is listed for Arkansas.
- ¹¹ Bobbie J. McLane and Capitola Glazer, editors, *Arkansas 1911 Census of Confederate Veterans, Civil War* Vol. 2, surnames E-Mc, 1980, pg. 97. Isaac Pinckney entry certified by T. A. Turner, Assessor of Hempstead Co., Ark. June 4, 1912.
- ¹² 1840 U. S. Census, Walker County, Georgia., pop. sch., District 956, # 871, Pg. 2, John Hubbard: lists 3 males and 4 females. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 March 2006)
- ¹³ 1860 U. S. Census, Morgan County, Alabama, pop. sch., Southwest Division, Post Office Somerville, Dwelling #37, Visitation #37, Pg. 6, Pinckney Hubbard, 24: lists Wife Mary, 23 & daughter Mary, 1. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006). Although a marriage record has not been located for Isaac Pinckney Hubbard and Mary Green it is suspected they are married ca. 1858 in Walker County, Georgia.

- ¹⁴ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 162.
- ¹⁵ 1850 U. S. Census, Walker County, Georgia, Population Schedule, West Ar-muchee, Dwelling & Visitation #329, Pg. 50, George W. & Lucinda Green, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006). Based on the 1850 &
- ¹⁶ 1860 U. S. Census it appears all of the children except Malinda are born in South Carolina, therefore indicating the family moved to Walker County, Georgia, ca. 1849.1880, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Spring Hill Township, Enumeration District: 105; Page: 324, Dwelling 98, Visitation 99, Isaac P. and Mary Hubbard. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ¹⁷ Bethany Baptist Church Minutes, Book 1, 1894.
- ¹⁸ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), Pg. ?.
- ¹⁹ 1850 U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Union Township, Green County, Arkansas, Dwelling 18 Visitation #20, Pg. 176. Henry 53, Nancy 45, Elizabeth 19, Melinda 15, William 13, Nathaniel 11, James 8, Sarah 5. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ²⁰ 1850 U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Providence, Campbell Township, Searcy County, Arkansas, Dwelling 226 ,Visitation #219, Pg. 37. Henry 63, McDaniel 18, James 16, Sarah 13. Nancy Martin was not enumerated. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ²¹ 1850 U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Campbell Township, Searcy County, Arkansas, Dwelling 220 ,Visitation #227, Pg. 37. Thomas G. 36, Martha 25, Caroline 9, Mary E. 7, Sarah J. 5. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ²² Louise Brint Jones, Family History of our Brattons, Masseys and Martins, (Privately Published: no date, 351 pages), 117, 268.
- ²³ Marriages Hempstead County, Arkansas 1875-1900, (Hope, Arkansas: The Hempstead County Genealogical Society, no date), 117.
- ²⁴ Hempstead County Deed Book 38 Pg. 610, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²⁵ Hempstead County Deed Book 38 Pg. 611, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²⁶ Hempstead County Deed Book 39 Pg. 595, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²⁷ Hempstead County Deed Book 47 Pg. 284, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ²⁸ 1910, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Spring Hill Township, Enumeration District:86; Page:319, Dwelling 328 &Visitation 329, Lee J. and Sarah J. Hubbard. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ²⁹ Hempstead County Deed Book 49 Pg. 531, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. V. Hubbard. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).

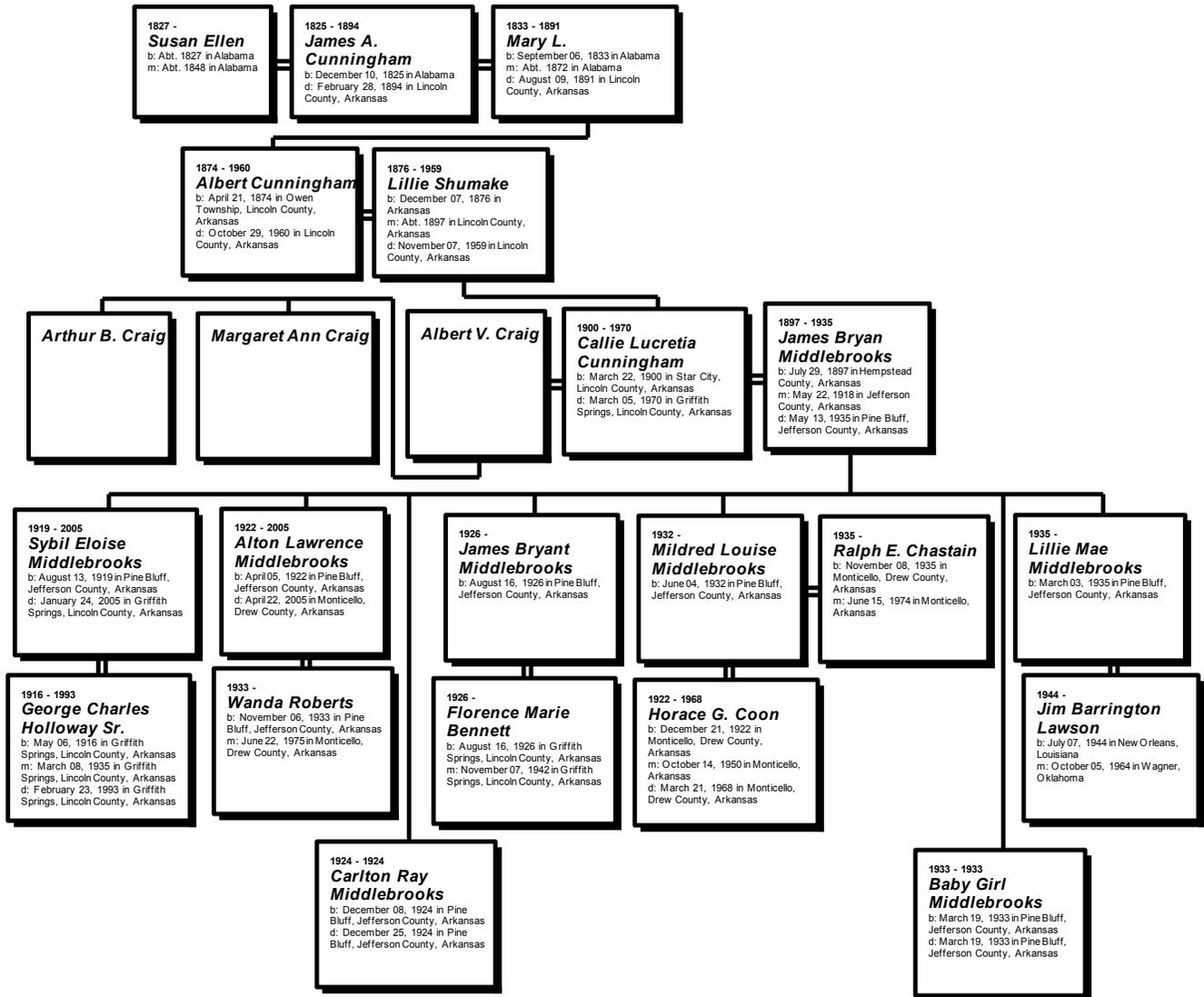
- ³⁰ 1920, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., DeRoan Township, Enumeration District:94; Page:6, Dwelling 110 &Visitation 110, Marion T. and Amie
- ³¹ Personal communication Mina Marie Mosier, 1009 W. 14th, Hope, Arkansas 71801 to Neal Middlebrook, and Letters Dated: 22 November 1989, 17 January, 1990, 3 August 2001, 8 August 2001, 7 November 2001, 8 December 2001, 3 August 2003, 21 August 2003., 22 September 2004, 12 December 2006.
- ³² Hempstead County Deed Book 139, Pg. 466, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³³ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 16
- ³⁴ 1920, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Ozan Township, Enumeration District:103; Page:19, Dwelling 41 &Visitation 34, John & Florence Griffin. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ³⁵ Personal Communication with Scott Monk, e-mail message to Neal Middlebrook 16 May 2004.
- ³⁶ Hempstead County Deed Book 502 Pg. 163, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas.
- ³⁷ 1920, U. S. Census, Sevier County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Bear Creek Township, Enumeration District:168; Page:11, Dwelling 230 &Visitation 244, James R. & Eunice Williamson Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ³⁸ 1920, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Ozan Township, Enumeration District:103; Page:26, Dwelling 454 &Visitation 458, Alex & Nora Mosier. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 8 March 2006).
- ³⁹ 1930, U. S. Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas, pop., sch., Ozan Township, Enumeration District: 8; Page:10, Dwelling 208 &Visitation 221, J. E. and Nora Mosier. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 10 March 2006).
- ⁴⁰ Harry W. Shiver, editor, *Hope's First Century, A Commemorative History of Hope Arkansas 1875-1975* (Hope Arkansas: Etter Printing Company, Nov. 1974), 95.
- ⁴¹ Tommy Mosier, obituary, (Hope Star), Hope Arkansas, 4 March 2004. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed, 24 March 2006).

**Chapter X:
James Bryan
and Callie Lucretia
(Cunningham) Middlebrooks**



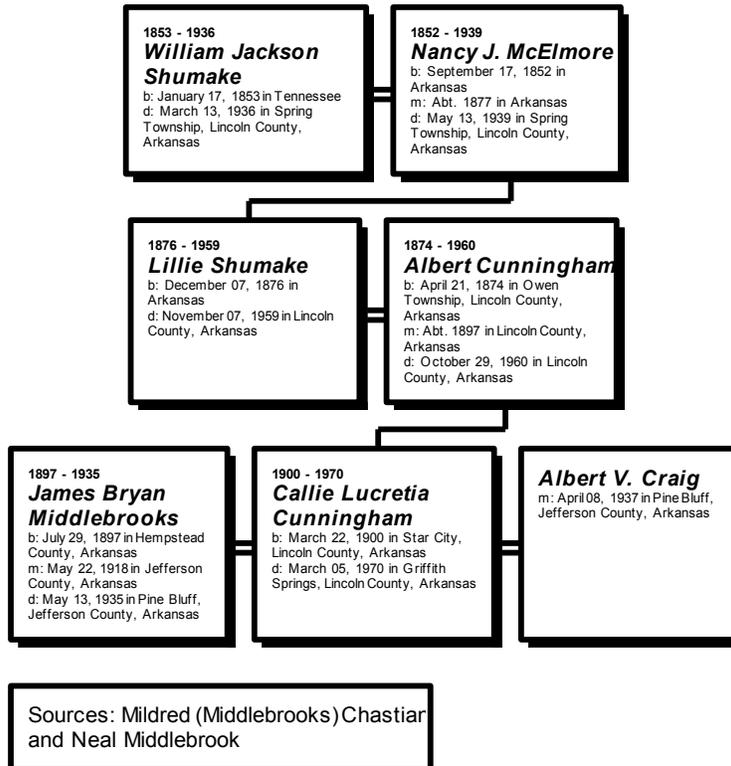
**Officer James Bryan
Middlebrooks, Pine Bluff Police
Department, Pine Bluff, Arkansas,
circa 1925.**

Descendants of James A. Cunningham



Sources: Mildred (Middlebrooks) Chastain and Neal Middlebrook

Descendants of William Jackson Shumake



James Bryan and Callie Lucretia (Cunningham) Middlebrooks

James Bryan Middlebrooks was born July 29, 1897,¹ Hempstead County, Arkansas. Jim's parents are James L. and Fannie D. (Hinton) Middlebrooks. Jim liked to be called J. B. Named after his father, Jim was born just two years before his father's death in 1899. It is believed that the family, at the time of James' birth, was either living on rented property south of Hope in the Bodcaw Township, or had actually moved to Hope. Jim, like the rest of his brothers and sisters, attended Center Point Elementary School (grades 1-8).

Callie Lucretia Cunningham was born March 22, 1900,² Star City, Owen Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas. Callie's parents are Albert and Lillie (Shumake) Cunningham. J. B. Middlebrooks, age 21, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Callie Cunningham, age 18, of Star City, Lincoln County, Arkansas, were married May 15, 1918, by H. G. Hanna, Justice of the Peace. The record was filed May 22, 1918, and recorded June 13, 1918, by County Clerk C.M. Nichol and District Clerk L.T. Sallee.³



James Bryan Middlebrooks *circa* 1920. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Callie, Sybil and Buddy Middlebrooks. *circa* 1927
Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Mosier

Albert L. and Lillie A. (Shumake) Cunningham

Callie's parents are Albert and Lillie Cunningham. Albert was born April, 21, 1874, Owen Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas, and Lillie Shumake was born December 7, 1876, Arkansas.⁹ Albert and Lillie were married around 1897, presumably in Lincoln County. By 1900, they report two children born with one living, a daughter Caroline born March 1899.⁴ Albert was listed in the Census as a farmer planting cotton and corn. Albert's parents are Jim A. and Mary L. Cunningham.⁵ Albert died, October 28, 1960, and Lillie died, November 7, 1959. They are both buried in the Hickory Grove Cemetery, Lincoln County, Arkansas.⁹

James A. and Mary L. Cunningham

Albert's parents are James and Mary Cunningham. James was born, December 10, 1825, and Mary was born, September 6, 1833.⁹ Both were born in Alabama.⁵ By 1880, they were living in Owen Township, Lincoln County Arkansas. Albert is two years of age.⁵ It is suspected that Jim and Mary were married around 1872. James died, February 28, 1894, and Mary died, August 9, 1891.⁹ James and Mary are buried in the Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Before moving to Lincoln County, Arkansas, James is living near Branch Mill, Mill Creek Township, Drew County, Arkansas, *circa* 1870. James is not listed in the Census with a wife. His daughters, Jane, Lidda and Lucinda, and son, Joel, are listed in the household. The daughters are reported as born in Mississippi while Joel is born in Arkansas.⁶ By 1860, James is still living in Drew County, but has moved to Marion Township. Susan is listed as his wife, born in Alabama.⁷ In 1850, James A. and Ellen Cunningham are living in Chickasaw County, Mississippi. They have a daughter Eliza J., one year old born in Mississippi.⁸

Susan and Ellen Cunningham are believed to be the same person in the 1850 and 1860 Census, because they are both born in Alabama *circa* 1827. Mary L. is thought to be James' 2nd wife even though she is also born in Alabama, but not until 1833. Neither Susan or Ellen are listed in the 1870 census for Drew County, Arkansas. Based on the age of the children, it is suspected that Susan/Ellen and James were married *circa* 1848 in Mississippi or Alabama. James A. and Mary L. Cunningham are thought to have been married when James moves from Drew County to Lincoln County, Arkansas, around 1872. James and Mary's children are believed to be Emma L., Hana, Margaret and Albert all born in Lincoln County, based on the 1880 census. There is a James A. Cunningham listed in the 1840 census as residing in Butler County, Alabama. It is suspected this person may be the father of James.

William Jackson and Nancy "Harriet" J. (McElmore) Shumake

William and Nancy are the parents of Lillie Shumake. William was born January 17, 1853, and Nancy was born September 17, 1852.⁹ William was born in Tennessee and Nancy was born in Arkansas. They are married *circa* 1877. In 1900, they are living in the Spring Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas.¹⁰ By 1930, William and Nancy are living next door to Albert and Lillie in the Spring Township.¹¹ William J., died, March 13, 1936, and Nancy J. died, May 13, 1939. They are both buried in the Hickory Grove Cemetery, Lincoln County, Arkansas.⁹

World War I

Less than a month after being married, James Bryan Middlebrooks, living at 511 Oak Street, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas, registers for World War I on June 5, 1918. His birth date, however, is listed as July 29, 1896, instead of 1897, age 21, and he lists Hope, Arkansas, as his birth place. His mother Fannie Ward, of Patmos, Arkansas, is shown to be the nearest relative. He is employed by the City of Pine Bluff and lists his home address above as place of employment. He is listed as tall, medium build, gray eyes, light colored hair and is not disabled.¹² On August 25, 1918, J. B. Middlebrooks (Serial # 3814746) is enlisted at Pine Bluff as a private with Company C, Development Battalion #3, 162 Depot Brigade for a period of emergency. His unit was demobilized at Camp Pike, Arkansas, and James Bryan Middlebrooks was honorably discharged December 18, 1918, from the U. S. Army.¹³

Pine Bluff Arkansas

J. B. left his home, the Old Hinton Home Place on Patmos Road about 1915, at the age of 18 and went to work for the Pine Bluff Fire Department in 1916. Two years later he joined the Pine Bluff Police Department and served as a motorcycle officer.¹⁴ It was remembered that after J. B. started to work for the Pine Bluff Police Department, he would ride his motorcycle home on weekends to visit his mother Fannie. While visiting, he would give the neighborhood kids rides on the back of his motorcycle over the rough and dusty dirt roads. It was funny to see a motorcycle coming down Patmos Road since most of the farm kids had seen very few.¹⁵



J. B. loved to hunt and fish as a boy growing up on a farm and later in life. J. B. and his brother, Verdo, were always looking for opportunities to get together and go hunting or fishing. On one such trip, J. B. invited Verdo to come down to Pine Bluff and go frog gigging. Verdo left the farm on Patmos Road early one morning with his son, Ray, in their Model T Ford. They met J. B. and R. H. "Buss" Tunstall and a relative of Buss, Tunce Walton, who was attending the school for the blind in Pine Bluff. Verdo said he would drive and they ended up at an oxbow lake across the Arkansas River.

It was remembered that on the way down, Tunce started drinking moonshine. It was not long after they arrived that he crawled under the car and went to sleep. After it was dark, they pushed off from shore in the boat and

Officer James B. Middlebrooks, Pine Bluff Police Department *circa* 1925. Courtesy of Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Coon Chastain.

followed the shoreline by using a spotlight hooked up to the car battery to spot the large bullfrogs. The trip was a real success with three dozen large bullfrogs for dinner. This is the first time Ray had tasted frog legs.¹⁵

Deputy Sheriff Middlebrooks

In 1926, J. B. Middlebrooks was appointed Deputy Sheriff by Sheriff Garland Brewster.¹⁴ About a year later, Tom Middlebrooks, J B's younger brother, married Zora Thomas in 1927 and they moved to Pine Bluff. J. B. helped Tom get a job with the Pine Bluff Police Department.¹⁶ Tom started out as a motorcycle officer and then was promoted to a special agent in 1930. Tom, Zora and son, Franklin, lived on West Third Avenue, Third Ward, Pine Bluff. Tom and Zora moved back to Hope *circa* 1934.¹⁶ In 1930, J. B. and Callie were living at 2902 Poplar, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.¹⁸ By 1935, J. B. and family had moved to 110 Willow Street, Pine Bluff.¹⁴

Officer Middlebrooks Found Dead, May 14, 1935

James Bryan Middlebrooks was found dead on May 14, 1935, four miles south of Pine Bluff near the Ohio Street pike. He succumbed to a wound in his chest, from his own 38 caliber Smith and Wesson service revolver. J. B. was found the next morning near his parked car by Deputies, Robert Loving and Wes Baldwin. The area was one of his favorite quail hunting spots. According to the Sheriff's Department personnel, J. B. had been in ill health for a number of months and his condition had grown worse since an automobile accident several months prior. Sheriff Brewster stated that besides his poor physical health, his eyesight had also started to fail him and he was very despondent. J. B. was scheduled to enter the Veterans Hospital in Little Rock. Sheriff Brewster was going to meet J.B. at 8:00 AM.¹⁴

When J. B. failed to come home the previous night, Callie called Sheriff Brewster about 7:30 in the morning. She said J. B. arrived home late the day before and cancelled an appointment with Deputy Wes Baldwin because he said he was not felling well.¹⁴ Per the account of his daughter, Sybil, that evening: ***After the evening meal J. B. had gone into the living room and removed his shirt. He was sitting around with some of us including mama. The phone rang in the hall and mama answered the phone and told daddy it was for him. He went into the hall, talked a minute then came back and started to put his shirt back on. He told mama he had to "go down to the Pike" and see a couple of men. He left the house about 8:15 at night and did not return the next morning.***¹⁹

Callie, Lillie Mae and Mildred Middlebrooks.

Picture taken not long after JB's death *circa* 1936. Courtesy of Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Coon Chastain.



Two witnesses, H. S. Curbow and J. P. Wright, who lived near the Ohio Street Pike said J. B. had stopped to ask them directions to the cattle gap in the old Taylor field at about 9:00 PM. They pointed him in the right direction and heard his car drive over the cattle gap. About 15 minutes later, they heard a gun shot. They did not investigate that night, but waited until the next morning. They walked to the field and saw the top of the car in the woods. They then immediately went to town to report to the sheriff's office the car in the woods.¹⁴

Unanswered Questions:

- Who were the men J. B. received the phone call from around 8:15 the night before (May 13) requesting to meet at the Ohio Street Pike?
- If J. B. was not feeling well (he had already cancelled the appointment with Wes Baldwin), why would he agree to meet two men at the Ohio Street Pike at around 9:00 P. M.? Moreover, he had to meet Sheriff Brewster at 8:00 A. M. the next morning to go to Little Rock.
- What was the purpose of the appointment with Wes Baldwin?
- Why would J. B. have to ask the two men where the cattle gap was located in the old Taylor field, if this was one of his favorite quail hunting spots?
- Why would R. F. Robinson, Justice of the Peace, order the body removed from the scene and have it sent directly to the mortuary? Why was the coroner, D. C. Root, not summoned to the scene to take charge of the body? Was an autopsy performed?
- Why was the funeral service scheduled the very next day (May 15, 1935)? This date would not allow adequate time for relatives living out of the area to attend the funeral or time for the coroner to inspect the body.
- Were ballistics tests performed to make sure it was J. B's revolver that actually inflicted the fatal wound to his chest?
- Why would J. B. remove his jacket and shirt before taking his life?



L-R: Buddy, Lillie Mae (baby), Sybil, J. B. and Mildred Middlebrooks. Taken shortly after their father's death at their grandparent's house (Cunningham). Courtesy of Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Coon Chastain.

- Would it take more than 15 minutes, as reported by the witnesses, to drive over the cattle gap, park the car, walk to an elevated spot, take off your jacket and shirt, lie down and mortally wound yourself?
- Why were several shells in the magazine ejected from the rifle lying in the back seat on the car's floor board?
- Why were family members not more aware of the serious nature of J. B's health?

Cause of Death of Officer Middlebrooks

We may never know if James Bryan Middlebrooks committed suicide based on the accounts in the newspaper. His death certificate indicated the cause of death was a gun shot wound, self-inflicted with his service revolver. However, the account of events the evening before his death as described by his daughter, Sybil (age 16), when J. B. left the house, brings into question whether others were involved in his death. It is not known if an official investigation into his death was ever conducted. Other theories include a jealous girl friend, based on an earring found by the car. Others feel J. B. may have been trying to deal with other health problems and took his own life.

Eulogy

J. B. served as a Deputy Sheriff for nine years at Pine Bluff (1926-1935). As reported in the newspaper by his fellow officer's, "***officer Middlebrooks had an enviable record as a courageous, clean and efficient peace officer and was widely known throughout Arkansas as one of the finest***". He was also a member of the American Legion and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. The funeral service was held at the Ralph Robinson and Son Mortuary Chapel by the Rev. Fred G. Roebuck of the Lakeside Methodist Church. Pall bearers were J. W. Baldwin, Garland Brewster, Robert Loving, Homer Smith, Robert Henslee, Lee Henslee, Preston Bayless, L. T. Sallee, Henry Williams, and C. M. Nichols.¹⁴

Hickory Grove Cemetery

James Bryan Middlebrooks was buried May 15, 1935 in the family plot in the Hickory Grove Cemetery, Star City, Lincoln County, Arkansas. Callie L. (Cunningham) Middlebrooks, Craig died, June 5, 1970, at a hospital in Pine Bluff. At the time of her death, she was living in Griffith Springs near Star City, Lincoln County. She is also buried in the Hickory Grove Cemetery, Star City, Lincoln County, Arkansas.²

Callie's Marriage to Albert Craig

Callie L. (Cunningham) Middlebrooks married Albert B. Craig April 8, 1937, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.²⁰ They have two children: Margaret Ann, born October 9, 1938, and Arthur B., born April 17, 1944, in Pine Bluff. Arthur B., died January 7, 1952, in Pine Bluff.²

***Children of James Bryan “J. B.” and Callie Lucretia
(Cunningham) Middlebrooks:²***

Sybil Eloise Middlebrooks, born August 13, 1919, and died January 24, 2005, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Sybil is buried in the Drake Cemetery, Griffith Springs, Arkansas. Sybil married George Charles “Gedy” Holloway Sr., March 7, 1936, Griffith Springs, Lincoln County, Arkansas.²¹ Gedy was born May 6, 1916, and died February 23, 1993, in Griffith Springs. He is also buried at Drake Cemetery.

Alton “Buddy” Lawrence Middlebrooks, born April 5, 1922, Pine Bluff, Arkansas and died April 22, 2005, Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas. Buddy is buried in the Oakland Cemetery, Monticello, Arkansas. Buddy married Wanda Roberts, born November 6, 1933, Pine Bluff, on June 22, 1975, Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas.

Carlton Ray Middlebrooks, born December 8, 1924 and died December 25, 1924, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Carlton is buried at Hickory Grove Cemetery, Star City, Lincoln County, Arkansas.

James Bryant “J. B.” Middlebrooks, born August 16, 1926, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. J. B. married Florence Marie Bennett November 7, 1942, Griffith Springs, Arkansas. Florence M. Bennett was born March 19, 1924, Griffith Springs, Arkansas to the parents of Thomas Hardy Bennett and Ida Bell Wingard of Mississippi.

Mildred Louise Middlebrooks, born June 4, 1932, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Mildred married Horace G. Coon October 14, 1950, Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas. Horace was born December 31, 1922, Brookhaven, Mississippi and died March 21, 1968, Monticello, Arkansas. He is buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Monticello. Mildred’s second husband is Ralph E. Chastain, born November 8, 1935, Rossville, Georgia. They were married June 15, 1974, Monticello, Arkansas.

Baby Girl Middlebrooks, born March 19, 1933, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She died at birth.

Lillie Mae Middlebrooks, born March 3, 1935, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Lillie married James “Jim” Barrington Lawson October 5, 1964 in Wagner, Oklahoma. Jim was born July 7, 1944, in New Orleans, Louisiana.



L-R: George Charles and Sybil Holloway, J. B. and Florence Middlebrooks, Jim and Lillie Mae Lawson, Mildred and Ralph Chastain, Margaret and Buddy and Wanda Middlebrooks, 1977. Courtesy of Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Coon Chastain.



Alton "Buddy" Middlebrooks Jr., circa 1929 Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



L-R: Alton "Buddy" and Sybil Middlebrooks, circa 1923. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



Mildred Middlebrooks,
circa 1934. Courtesy of
Mina Marie (Hubbard)
Moiser



Irma Lee Halloway.
Courtesy of Mina
Marie (Hubbard)
Moiser



J. B. Middlebrooks.
Courtesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Moiser



Lillie Mae Middlebrooks,
circa 1936. Courtesy of
Mina Marie (Hubbard)
Moiser



Pine Bluff Police Department *circa 1925.* James Bryan Middlebrooks is sitting on the motorcycle to the right. Courtesy of Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Coon, Chastain.



Chapter X

Endnotes

¹ James B. Middlebrooks, certificate of death no. 2182, Arkansas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Little Rock.

² Personal communication, letter dated 11 November 2005 from Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Chastain, 1358 Highway 83 South Monticello, AR 71665 to Neal Middlebrook. Mildred is the daughter of J. B. and Callie (Cunningham) Middlebrooks. The primary source of information on the children of J. B. & Callie Middlebrooks and their spouses is from Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Chastain.

³ Jefferson County Marriage Book Y, Pg. 516, County Clerks Office, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

⁴ Albert Cunningham, household, 1900 U. S. Census, Owen Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas, pop. sch, Ed. 119, sheet 6B, dwelling 112, family 118. Albert 22, Lillie, 18, Caroline 1. Jim, Mary & Caroline are born in Arkansas. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 16 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook

⁵ James Cunningham, household, 1880 U. S. Census, Owen Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas, pop. sch, Ed. 178, pg. 12, dwelling 81, family 85. Jim 59, Mary, 42, Joe 18, Oren 18, Emma L. 8, Hana 6, Margaret 4, Albert 2. Jim and Mary are born in Alabama and all the children are born in Arkansas.. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 16 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

⁶ James Cunningham, household, 1870 U. S. Census, Branch Mill, Mill Creek Township, Drew County, Arkansas, pop. sch, pg. 11, dwelling 87, family 95. Jim 46, Jane 23, Lidda 21, Lucinda 14, Joe 8. Jim is born in Alabama and Jane and Lidda and Lucinda are born in Mississippi and Joel is born in Arkansas. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 16 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

⁷ James Cunningham, household, 1860 U. S. Census, Marion Township, Drew County, Arkansas, pop. sch, pg. 35, dwelling 208, family 208. James 34, Susan 33, Lidda 9, Lucinda 6, James 1. James and Susan are born in Alabama, Lidda and Lucinda is born in Mississippi and James is born in Arkansas. Susan must be Jim's first wife because she is born in 1827 in Alabama while Mary L. is born in 1833. Based on the age of the children it is suspected that Susan and James are married circa 1848 in Mississippi or Alabama.

⁸ James A. Cunningham, household, 1850 U. S. Census, Chickasaw County, Mississippi, pop. sch, pg. 638, dwelling 302, family 302. James 28, Ellen 23, Eliza J. 1, James Jack 20. James and Susan are born in Alabama and Eliza J. is born in Mississippi. Susan and Ellen are believed to be the same person in the 1850 and 1860 census because they are both born in Alabama circa 1827. Susan or Ellen is not listed in the 1870 census. It is suspected that Susan/Ellen is James first wife because she is born in 1827 in Alabama while Mary L. is born in 1833. Based on the age of the children it is suspected that Susan/Ellen and James are married circa 1848 in Mississippi or Alabama.

⁹ Cemetery Surname Index for Lincoln County, Arkansas, Listing for William J. and Nancy J. Shumake, Albert and Lillie Cunningham and James and Mary Cunningham, Hickory Grove Cemetery. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlincol/cemress.html> accessed 13 November 2006, by Neal Middlebrook.

¹⁰ William Shumake, household, 1900 U. S. Census, Spring Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas, pop. sch, Ed. 116, sheet 18B, dwelling 382, family 390. William 48, Nancy 48, William 16, Bulah 15, Lonnie 12, Henry 8, Mattie 6. William is born in Tennessee and Nancy and all the kids are born in Arkansas. William and Nancy are married for 23 years and report as having 7 children with 5 still living. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 16 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook

¹¹ William Shumake, household, 1930 U. S. Census, Spring Township, Lincoln County, Arkansas, pop. sch., Ed. 40-81, sheet 1B, dwelling 16, family 15. William 78, Nancy 79. William is born in Tennessee and Nancy is born in Arkansas. Age at first marriage is 23 for William and 20 for Nancy. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 3 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

¹² WWI Draft Registration Cards, entry for James Bryan Middlebrooks, Local Board for Division No.1, Jefferson County, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, B3-I-26, registration # 66, www.ancestry.com accessed by Neal Middlebrook 22 November, 2005.

¹³ Discharge Certificate, United States Army, War Department, Washington, D. C., # 3814746, issued to James B. Middlebrooks, April 3, 1925.

¹⁴ James B. Middlebrooks, "Officer Middlebrooks Found Dead", (Pine Bluff Commercial Newspaper), Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 14 May 1935, pages 1 & 2.

¹⁵ Personal communication Ray Middlebrook 8529 Beverly Road, Pico Rivera California, 90660 to Neal Middlebrook 2001-2004.

¹⁶ Personal communication from Zora Middlebrook, 1920 S. Main St., Hope, Arkansas to Neal Middlebrook, 28 February 2006.

¹⁷ 1930 U. S. Census, Jefferson County, Arkansas, Pine Bluff City, Third Ward, pop. sch., Ed. 35-41, sheet 10 B, dwelling 204, family 203. Tom (30) & Zora (18) Middlebrooks & son Franklin (2 ½) are renting at 702 west Third Avenue, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 3 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

¹⁸ 1930 U. S. Census, Jefferson County, Arkansas, Pine Bluff City, (proposed for annexation), pop. sch., Ed. 35-50, sheet 4 B, dwelling 82, family 84. James (32) & Callie (30) Middlebrooks own their home at 2902 Popular, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Children: Sybil (10), Alton (7) & J. B. Jr. (4). Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 3 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

¹⁹ Account of Sybil E. (Middlebrooks) Holloway the night her father died May 15, 1935. Recorded by her sister Mildred L. (Middlebrooks) Chastain the week before Sybil died January 24, 2005. Sybil was 16 years old at the time of her father's death.

²⁰ Arkansas Marriages 1933-1939, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 3 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

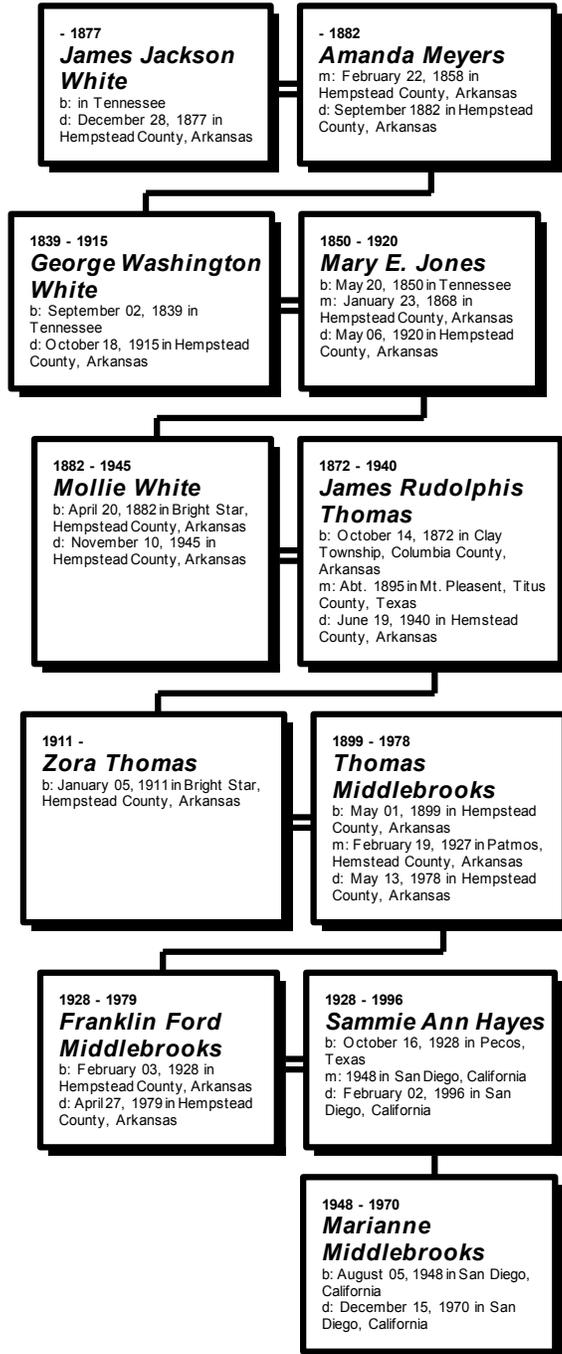
²¹ Arkansas Marriages 1933-1939, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 3 March 2006) accessed by Neal Middlebrook.

**Chapter XI:
Tom and Zora (Thomas)
Middlebrooks**



***Tom and Zora Middlebrooks,
August 11, 1956,
Eureka, California.***

Descendants of James Jackson White



Thomas “Tom” and Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks

Tom, as he liked to be called, was born May 1, 1899,¹ two months after the death of his father, Jim Middlebrooks, who died on March 12, 1899.² Relatives believe that Tom was born at the Old Hinton Home Place where Fannie was raised, or they may have still been living in Hope where Jim died.³ Tom, unlike the rest of his brothers and sisters, never knew his father. He and Zora Thomas were married on February 19, 1927, in Patmos, Arkansas.³ Tom died May 31, 1978, at his home on Patmos Road and was buried in the Macedonia Cemetery.¹

Zora was born June 5, 1911, near Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Bright Star is located northwest of Hope on Highway 73. Zora’s parents are James Rudolphis and Mollie (White) Thomas. James was born October 4, 1872,⁴ in Clay Township, Columbia County, Arkansas.⁵ Mollie was born April 20, 1882,⁴ near Bright Star, Arkansas, and was adopted by George Washington and Mary E. White.³ James was working for Mollie’s father when they first met.³



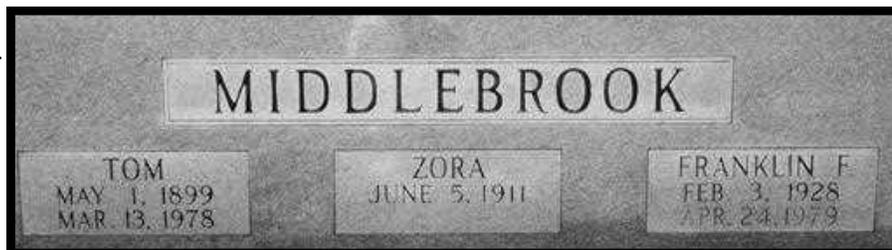
Tom Middlebrooks,
circa 1930, Courtesy of
Vicki Wilkerson
Hooten



Tom and Zora Middlebrooks,
August 11, 1956, Eureka,
California. Courtesy of Lola
(Thomas) Anderson.



**Tom and Zora
Middlebrooks.**
Courtesy of Lola
(Thomas) Anderson.



Tom and Franklin Ford Middlebrooks, Macedonia
Cemetery, March 2002, Courtesy of Lavern Porterfield.

Michael A. and Anna E. “Amanda” Thomas

James’ father and mother, Michael and Anna “Amanda” Thomas, are believed to have been married in Neshoba County, Mississippi *circa* 1868, near the town of Philadelphia.⁶ Michael was born *circa* 1847 in Coosa County, Alabama, near the town of Kimbrel, and Amanda was born *circa* 1854 in Georgia.¹⁶ Not to long after they were married, they moved to Clay Township, Columbia County, Arkansas, around 1872. Then before 1890, Michael and Anna moved to the Bright Star Community, Ozan Township, Hempstead, County, Arkansas.⁷

Children of Michael Albert and Amanda E. Thomas:^{5, 16}

- William W. born September 1870, Philadelphia, Neshoba County, Mississippi, died young.
- John R. born *circa* 1871, Clay Township, Columbia County, Arkansas
- James Rudolphis born October 4, 1872⁴, Clay Township, Columbia, Arkansas
- Lutisha “Tisha” born *circa* 1874, Clay Township, Columbia, Arkansas
- Larrah J. (Laura) born *circa* 1876, Clay Township, Columbia, Arkansas
- Jessee R. born *circa* 1878, Clay Township, Columbia, Arkansas
- Jacob W. “Jake” born July 2, 1888, Clay Township or Bright Star? Died December 2, 1962, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁸
- William E. “Bill” born 1892, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Died 1953 Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁹
- Silas M. born *circa* March 1890, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Bertha L. born *circa* October 1898, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas.

It is thought Michael died possibly from a liver disorder while living at Bright Star, around 1902, because Anna, his wife, marries Isaac N. Evans, August 23, 1903. Both Isaac and Anna list their residence as Washington, Arkansas.¹⁰ By 1910, they are living along Fulton Road, near Bright Star. Anna’s daughters, Tisha (Lutisha) and Bertha, are listed in the same household. Isaac and Anna are living one household away from Mollie (White) Thomas’s parents, George W. and Mary E. White.¹¹

Relatives recount that Isaac was very mean to Anna and the children. One evening, Anna and the kids went over to James and Mollie’s house down by Sardis for protection from Isaac. James took them into Hope with the surrey down on the buggy so Isaac would not see Anna and the kids. Isaac ended up hanging himself in jail.²⁴

William W. and Leanea, “Lena” (Philips) Thomas

William W. and Leanea “Lena” or “Leny” (Philips) Thomas are Michael’s father and mother. William was born in South Carolina *circa* 1817, and Lena was born in Georgia *circa* 1822.¹⁴ William and Lena were married in Coosa County, Alabama. November 19, 1840, by Benjamin Foscue, Minister of the Gospel.¹²

It is believed Michael was born (*circa* 1847) near Kimbrel, Coosa County, Alabama.¹³ It appears that William and Lena leave Alabama around 1849 and move to Leake County, Mississippi. They settle near Carthage, Mississippi, and raise their family. Michael was about three years old when they moved to Mississippi.¹⁴ It is thought that William and Lena remained in Leake County the rest of their lives.

George Washington and Mary E. "Mollie" (Jones) White

The adopted parents of Mollie are George Washington and Mary E. (Jones) White. When Michael and Anna Thomas arrive in Bright Star, before 1890, they live next door to George and Mary White.

George Washington White was born September 2, 1839,⁹ in Tennessee.¹⁷ George's father is James Jackson and his step-mother is Amanda E. (Meyers) White. James Jackson White, age 43, married Amanda Meyers, age 32, February 22, 1858, Hempstead County by Alexander Avery, Minister of the Gospel.¹⁸

James J. White Sr. died December 28, 1877, Hempstead County. According to his will, he leaves all his real and personal property to his wife Amandy for her natural life and for educating their two youngest children, July Ann and Powel White. Sons, George W. White and James J. White Jr. along with other relatives receive \$4.00 each.¹⁹

George W. White, age 27, and Mary E. Jones, age 17, were married January 23, 1868, by Giles L. McKnight, Justice of the Peace, Hempstead County.²⁰ Mary "Mollie" E. Jones was born May 20, 1850, in Tennessee.⁹ Her parents, Samuel C. and Sarah Jones, were living in Ozan Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, before 1860.²¹ George's brother, James J. White Jr., age 21, marries Francis Louiza Brooks, age 18, June 17, 1860, Hempstead County, by William P. Edwards, Justice of the Peace.²⁰ The 1870 Census shows the occupations of George and James as shoe makers.²²

Mollie (White) Thomas's mother died at child birth. According to relatives, Mollie's mother was a niece of George White, thought to be living in Columbia County, Arkansas.²⁴ George W. and Mary E. White adopt Mollie *circa* 1882. A record of adoption or guardianship has not been discovered for Mollie (White) Thomas in Hempstead County. George W. White was later appointed executor of his step-mother's (Amanda E. White) estate when he posts an Administrators Bond on September 11, 1882, and later for guardian of Powel C. White his step-brother.²³

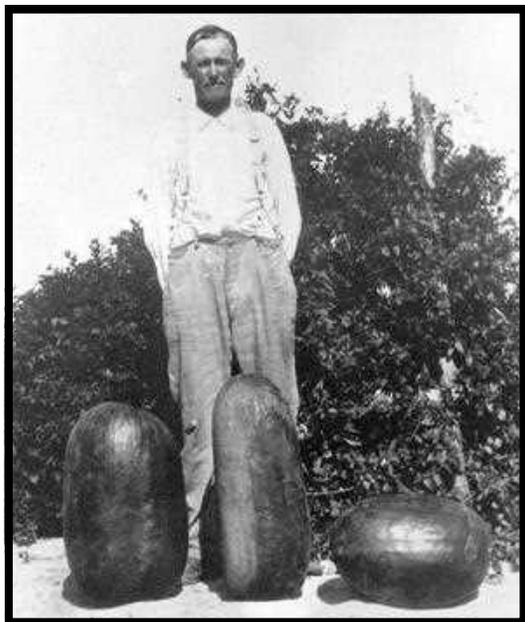
George and Mary also ran what was called a boarding house for the poor on the north side of County Road (CR) 309, just about .2 of a mile from the junction of CR 309 and Hwy 195. A poor house was like an orphanage set up to take care of people who could not take care of themselves.³ George is believed to have died from face cancer²⁴ on October 18, 1915. Mollie E. White died May 6, 1920. They are buried in the Westmoreland Cemetery, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁹

James R. and Mollie (White) Thomas

James R. Thomas, age 23 and Mollie White, age 13 are married *circa* 1895 in Mount Pleasant, Titus County, Texas.²⁴ They took the train from Hope to Mt. Pleasant where they are married soon after arriving. While in Texas, they had a daughter, Ora Belle, who lived six months, and a son, Walter, born *circa* 1901. By 1903²⁵ they are back living in the Bright Star neighborhood. James and Mollie's family eventually included 12 children.

Children of James Rudolphis and Mollie (White) Thomas:³

- Ora Belle born *circa* 1896, Mt Pleasant, Titus County, Texas (lived 6 months).
- Walter born *circa* 1901 near Mt Pleasant, Titus County, Texas.
- Roger D. born April 21, 1903, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas, died October 25, 1944, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁴
- Vera Jane born August 22, 1904, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas, died May 10, 1920, Hempstead County, Arkansas.⁴
- Mary born *circa* 1906, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- George born *circa* 1909, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Myrtle born November 4, 1910, Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Zora born June 5, 1911,³ Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Lola born April 22, 1914,²⁴ Bright Star, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Arthur born July 16, 1917, Bodcaw Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Cora born April 7, 1919, Bodcaw Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas
- Charles born February 13, 1922, Bodcaw Township, Hempstead Cty, Arkansas.



James R. Thomas, *Circa* 1925,
Courtesy of Zora (Thomas)
Middlebrooks



James R. Thomas, Bright
Star Cemetery, August 2006



**L-R: Cora, Arthur and Mollie
Thomas.** Courtesy of Zora
(Thomas) Middlebrooks



Mollie Thomas, Bright Star
Cemetery, August 2006



Vera Jane Thomas Bright Star Cemetery, August 2006



Roger D. Thomas, Bright Star Cemetery, August 2006

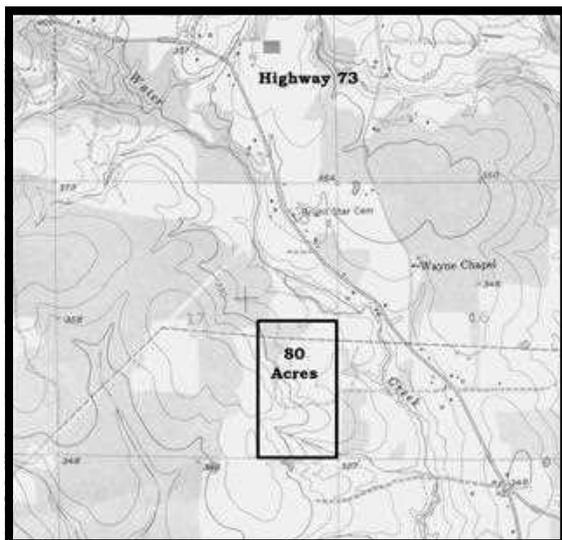


Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks in front of her parent's graves, Bright Star Cemetery, August 2006

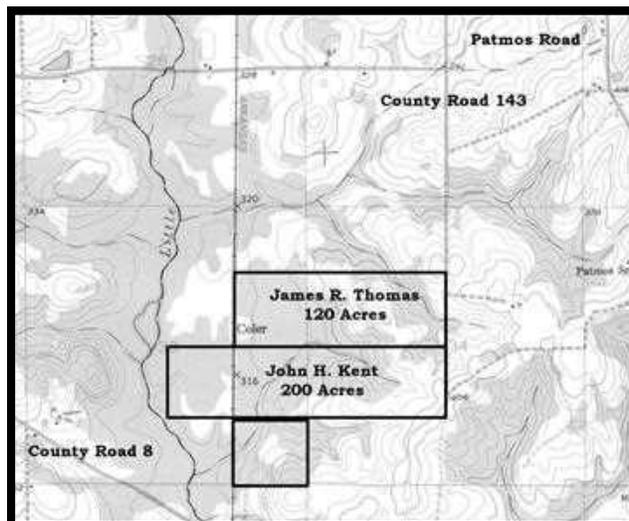
Bright Star and Sardis Homesteads

Not to long after moving back to Hempstead County around 1903, James and his family were living south of Bright Star Cemetery, just off the present day Highway 73. The land is located on the south side of the highway and contained 80 acres. The land was mortgaged to Boyett Routon and Company, December 22, 1915.²⁶

Around 1917 when Zora was six or seven years old, the family moved from Bright Star, located in Ozan Township, to the Bodcaw Township just north of the town of Sardis, adjacent to J. H. Kent’s homestead.³ On December 13, 1917, J. R. Thomas purchased 120 acres from A. H. Andres. The 120 acre parcel was located just east of Little Bodcaw Creek and the Louisiana and Arkansas railroad line.²⁷ James and Mollie lived there until around 1928. Sometime later the house burned down.²⁴



James R. Thomas property near Bright Star. (E 1/2, SE 1/4, Sec. 17, 12S, 25W, 80 acres) USGS Sheppard, Arkansas 7.5 minute quadrangle, 1951, revised 1978.



James R. Thomas and John H. Kent properties near Sardis. Thomas: (S1/2, NW 1/4, Sec. 34 & SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 33, 13S, 24W, 120 acres). Kent: N 1/2, SW 1/4, Sec. 34 & N 1/2 SE 1/4 & SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 33, 13S, 24W, 200 acres). USGS Patmos, Arkansas 7.5 minute quadrangle, 1951, revised 1978.

Little Man with Big Melons

James R. Thomas also had the knack for growing those big Arkansas watermelons. It is believed he started to develop this skill when they were living at Bright Star and continued when they moved near Sardis. The following article appeared in the Hope Star Newspaper:

J. R. Thomas of Hope was here Friday with a truck load of the big watermelons he raises. The biggest he has grown weighed 195 pounds. A whole vine is needed for one melon. He sells the melons to hotels and cafes. They retail for as high as \$7.50 each. Staff Photo by Peters²⁸



James R. Thomas “Little Man With Big Melons”
Hope Star Newspaper. Date unknown. Courtesy
of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks

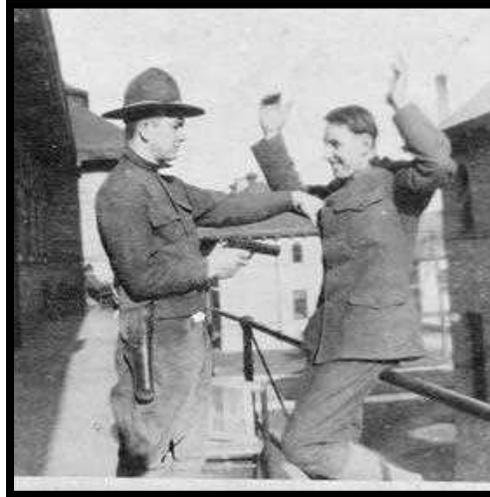
Zora remembers there was a store and grist mill at Alton (near Sardis homestead) where her father, James, would take grain to have it ground.³ Zora and her sisters and brothers attended Center Point Elementary and went on to Patmos School to finish their education. James sold the land near Sardis after Tom and Zora left Hope for the first time in 1928.³ James and Mollie then moved near Highway 67 north of Hope. After James died, June 19, 1940, Mollie moved to Little Rock. It is believed, James died of kidney failure. Mollie died November 10, 1945, in Hempstead County. They are buried in Bright Star Cemetery, northwest of Hope.⁴

World War I

Tom was inducted into the U. S. Army during World War I *circa* 1918. Tom was stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, Company H, 40th Infantry.²⁹ His rank was a private, serial number 946232. Prior to January 8, 1920, at the age of 20, Tom was transferred with Company H, 40th Infantry to Camp Sherman, Scioto Township, Ross County, Ohio.³⁰



Tom Middlebrooks
Army barracks WWI.
Courtesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Mosier



Tom Middlebrooks Army
barracks WWI. Courtesy of Mina
Marie (Hubbard) Mosier



Tom Middlebrooks “On
Guard” December
15, 1917, Army
barracks WWI
Courtesy of Mina
Marie (Hubbard)
Mosier



Corporal Tom Middlebrooks
in St. Louis. Courtesy of
Mina Marie (Hubbard)
Mosier



**Thomas Middlebrook U. S. Army World War I
commemoration grave stone**, Macedonia
Cemetery. August 2006

Ft Sheridan Ill
May 24 - 1918
Dear mother. will write
you another letter today
we are requested to write
~~our name and number~~
and every thing in
case of accident many
thing like that
would be a good idea
for you to keep this or
write it on something
else when you want
lose it.
we are having inspection

today and go on guard
at 11 o'clock.
I will close
Private Tom Middlebrook
No 946232
Cottmouth Infantry
U.S Army
Ft Sheridan
Illinois



Letter from Tom Middlebrooks to his mother J. W. Ward, May 24, 1918, Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. Courtesy of Scott Monk.

Tom and Zora Middlebrooks on the move

After being discharged from the U. S. Army around 1921, Tom moved to Detroit and worked as a house painter and then for the Ford Motor Company until 1927 when he returned to Hempstead County. Not to long after his return Tom Middlebrooks and Zora Thomas were married.³

In 1928, Tom and Zora moved to Little Rock and then in 1929 to Pine Bluff, Arkansas.³ Tom, Zora and Franklin lived on 702 West Third Avenue, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.³¹ Tom was hired by the Pine Bluff Sheriffs Department as a motorcycle officer and in 1930 he became a special agent. It is believed that Tom's brother James Bryan Middlebrooks, also living in Pine Bluff at the time, helped him get a job with the Sheriffs Department.³

In 1934, Tom and Zora pulled up roots once more and moved back to Hope when their son Franklin was seven years old. They lived with Tom's mother, Fannie Middlebrooks, and step-father, James W. Ward, on Patmos Road. Tom worked as a security guard for the Louisiana and Arkansas Railroad.³

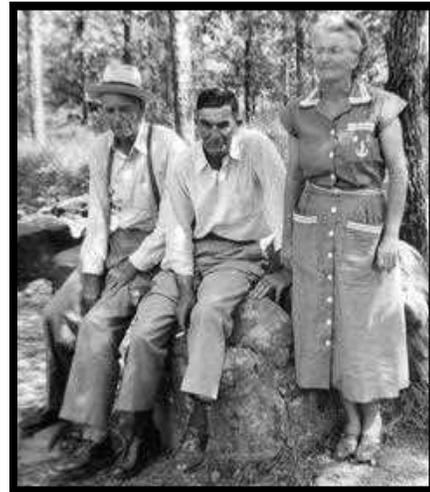
Tom and Zora next moved to Phoenix where he painted houses for George W. Hinton Jr. George's father, George W. Hinton Sr., is Fannie's brother. George, had recently started a business building houses. He also owned a 15-acre grapefruit orchard and a bar in Phoenix. Zora recalls going to George's bar, called the Pink Pony, with her sister, Lola.²⁴

Tom and Zora lived with his mother, Fannie, before she died in 1945 and then they moved to Hope in the late 1950's or early 1960's. They spent six months in Eureka,

California, living with Seth and Lola (Thomas) Anderson. Next, Tom and Zora purchased one acre of the Old Hinton Home Place from Marion and Amie Hubbard on March 17, 1969. They built a house in 1971 on their land just south of where Verdo and Evelyn’s house once stood. After Tom died in 1978, Zora lived in the Patmos Road house until 1989. She then moved to Hope and purchased a condominium.³



L-R Zora, Neal and Mary Louise Middlebrook/s, 1951 at Evelyn (Kent) Middlebrook’s house , Los Angeles. Another successful Lake Henshaw fishing trip.



L-R: Verdo and Tom Middlebrooks and Amie Hubbard, 1953/54, picnic Hope, Arkansas



L-R: Tom, Bruce, Franklin, Zora and Ray Middlebrooks, Los Angeles, 1933. Courtesy of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks



L-R Zora, Myrtle, Arthur and Lola Thomas, 1987. Zora’s house Hope, Arkansas. Courtesy of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks

Obituary of Tom Middlebrooks May 31, 1978 (Hope Star)³

Tom Middlebrooks, age 78, of Route 5, Hope, died early Monday in a local hospital following a lengthy illness. He was a lifelong resident of Hope and Hempstead County, a member of the First United Methodist Church, a veteran of World War I, a member of the American Legion, and a member of Whitfield Masonic Lodge 239.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Zora Thomas Middlebrooks; one son, Franklin F. Middlebrooks of Hope; one sister, Mrs. Marion T. Hubbard of Hope. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Herndon Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Relp Hale officiating. Burial will be in Macedonia Cemetery with Masonic services at the graveside.

Child of Thomas and Zora D. (Thomas) Middlebrooks:

Franklin Ford Middlebrooks was born February 3, 1928¹, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Franklin enlisted in the U. S. Navy and was stationed in San Diego, California, when he met Sammie Ann Hayes.³ Franklin married Sammie around 1948 in San Diego.³ Sammie was born October 28, 1928, in Pecos, Texas, and died February 2, 1996, in San Diego. Her mother's maiden name is Avary.³² Franklin died April 27, 1979, in Hempstead County and is buried next to his father in Macedonia Cemetery.¹

Child of Franklin Ford and Sammie Ann (Hayes) Middlebrooks:

Marianne Middlebrooks was born August 5, 1948, in San Diego, California, and died December 15, 1970, in San Diego.³³



Franklin Ford Middlebrooks, High School Graduation, circa 1945. Courtesy of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks



Franklin Ford Middlebrooks, circa 1950 Navy, San Diego. Courtesy of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks



Marianne Middlebrooks, circa 1952, San Diego. Courtesy of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks



L-R: Marie and Walter Thomas, Lola (Thomas) Anderson, Charles Thomas and Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks, Little Rock.

Courtesy of Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks



Chapter XI

Endnotes

¹ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 15.

² Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 1, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1990), 9.

³ Personal communication from Zora Middlebrook, 1920 S. Main St., Hope, Arkansas to Neal Middlebrook, February 28, 2006.

⁴ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2000), 8. The Bright Star Cemetery is located northwest of Hope on Highway 73.

⁵ Michael A. Thomas, household, 1880 U. S. Population Census, Clay Township, Columbia County, Arkansas, family 53, page 5. Michael A. 34, Anna, 25, John R. 9, James R. 8, Lutisha 6, Larrah J. 4, Jesse R. 4. Michael's occupation is a farmer. He is listed as having a liver disorder. Michael is born in Alabama, Anna is born in Georgia and all the children are listed as being born in Arkansas. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006

⁶ Albert M. Thomas, household, 1870 U. S. Population Census, P. O. Box Philadelphia, Neshoba County, Mississippi, dwelling & family 9, page 40. Albert M. 22, Amanda E. 22, William M. 8 months, born in September of 1870. Albert's occupation is a farmer. Albert is born in Alabama, Amanda is born in Alabama and William is born in Mississippi. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006.

⁷ M. A. Thomas, entry, Index to the 1890 Tax Receipts Record Book, (Hope, Arkansas: The Hempstead County, Genealogical Society, no date), 37

⁸ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 2, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1991), 80. Jake is buried at Memory Gardens Cemetery southwest of Hope.

⁹ Hempstead County Arkansas Cemeteries Book 5, (Hope, Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2000), 48, 182. Mary E. (Jones) White was also called Mollie and Mary Jane. W. E. Bill Thomas (1892-1853) and his wife Irma (Hopson) Thomas (1903-1977) are buried at the Water Creek Cemetery - Water Creek Township.

¹⁰ Marriages Hempstead County, Arkansas January 1, 1900 through December 31, 1912, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 1995), 49.

¹¹ Isaac Evans, household, 1910 U. S. Population Census, Ozan Township Hempstead County, Arkansas, dwelling 87 & family 90, page 8 a. Isaac 57, Anna, 56, George 24, step daughters: Tisha 35, Bertha 12. Isaac is born in Tennessee and Anna is born in Georgia, all the other members are born in Arkansas. William is born in Mississippi. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006.

¹² Dodd, Jordan R., et. al. Early American Marriages: Alabama to 1825, (Bountiful, Utah: Precision Indexing Publishers, 19xx) Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28, October 2006.

¹³ Wm. Thomas, household, 1840 U. S. Population Census, Kimbrel, Coosa County, Alabama. The only William Thomas in Coosa County, AL is living near Kimbrel (now in Jefferson County). Further research is needed to confirm where the children are born in Coosa County.

¹⁴ William W. Thomas, household, 1850 U. S. Population Census, Beat No. 5, Leake County, Mississippi, dwelling 468 & family 524, page 36. W. W. 33, Leny 28, George W. 9, James A. 8. William M. 4, Albert M. 3, Frances J. 2. W. W. is born in South Carolina & Leny is born in Georgia. All the children are born in Alabama. Frances J. was born in Alabama in 1848 so the family must have moved to Leake County, MS by 1849/50. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006.

¹⁵ William W. Thomas, household, 1880 U. S. Population Census, Beat No. 5, Leake County, Mississippi, dwelling 364 & family 418, page 45. W. W. 62, Lena 58. William and Lena have been living in Leake County for over 30 years. A number of other relatives are still living in Leake County in 1880. It is believed that they died in Leake County. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006. Further research is required.

¹⁶ Michael A. Thomas, household, 1900 U. S. Population Census, Ozan Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, dwelling 304 family 305, page 32A. Michael A. b. August 1845, 55, Anna E. b. August 1854, 46, Jacob W. b. July 1887 12, William E. July 1891, 9, Silas M. March 1890, 10, Birtha L. b. October 1898, 1, Jesse R. b. January 1879, 21. Michael's occupation is a farmer. Michael and Anna have been married for 30 years and have had 9 children 8 still living. Michael is born in Alabama, Anna is born in Georgia and all the children are listed as being born in Arkansas. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006

¹⁷ George White household, 1880 U. S. Population Census, Boisd' Arc Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, dwelling 46, family 47, page 5. George 40, Mary 29. Both are born in Tennessee. The 1870 and the 1900 also list their birth state as Tennessee. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 20 October 2006, by Neal Middlebrook

¹⁸ Hempstead County, Arkansas Early Marriages, Prior to 1875, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2004), 116.

¹⁹ Hempstead County, Arkansas Abstract of Wills, Intestate, and Other Probate Records 1822-1917, (Hope Arkansas, Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2001), 51. Abstract of will of James J. White Sr., December 24, 1877, Will Book C, pages 307-308.

²⁰ Hempstead County, Arkansas Early Marriages Prior to 1875, (Hope, Arkansas: Published by the Hempstead County Genealogical Society, 2004), 115,116. Marriage Book B, Pg. 155.

²¹ Samul C. Jones, household, 1860, U. S. Population Census, Ozan Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, P. O. Box Washington, dwelling 269 & family 209, page 32. Samul C. 45, Sarah 40, William 18, James 16, A. B. 13, Mary 10, John 6. The entire family is born in Tennessee. This means that they would not have arrived in Arkansas until after 1854. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006.

²² George White, household, 1870 U. S. Population Census, Ozan Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, P. O. Washington, dwelling & family 700, page 97. George 31, M. E. 19, Joseph 15 (female). George and M. E. are born in Tennessee and Joseph is born in Arkansas. His occupation is a shoe maker. James 31, George's brother and his wife Elizabeth 29, White are living next door. James occupation is

is also a shoemaker.

²³ Hempstead County, Arkansas Probate Records 1883-1893, microfilm # 1006736 & 1006745, LDS Family History Center, SLC, Utah.

²⁴ Personal communication from Lola (Thomas) Anderson, 3312, Trinity Street, Eureka< California 95501 to Neal Middlebrook, August 28, 2005.

²⁵ Juin (James) Thomas, household, 1910, U. S. Population Census, Bright Star Neighborhood, Ozan Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, dwelling 76 & family number 79, sheet 21A. James 37, Molly 29, Walter 9, Roger 7, Vera 5, Mary 4, George 2, Myrtle 5 months. All children are born in Arkansas except Walter who is born in Texas. James and Molly are born in Arkansas, married for 15 years. Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>), accessed 28 February 2006.

²⁶ Hempstead County Deed Book A-1, Pg. 119, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. This is a mortgage issued to J. R. Thomas from Boyette Routon & Co. (E ½, SE ¼, Sec.17, 12S, 25W). A visit to this location of the homestead was confirmed by Zora (Thomas) Middlebrooks August 2006. The property sits back off of the highway. It was all overgrown with brush and trees. The original conveyance to J. R. Thomas has not been located.

²⁷ Hempstead County Deed Book 68, Pg. 351, County Circuit Clerks Office, Hope, Arkansas. (Pt. NW, Sec. 34, SE ¼, NE ¼, Sec. 33, 13S, 24W) 120 acres.

²⁸ Little Man with Big Melons, Hope Star Newspaper article, circa 1920s. A copy of the article was given to Neal Middlebrook by Zora Middlebrooks, August 2006. It is believed the article was written when James R. Thomas was living down by Sardis in the 1920s. No date available.

²⁹ Letter Private Tom Middlebrook, dated May 24, 1918, to his mother Mrs. J. W. Ward, Patmos, Arkansas. Tom lists his unit as Company H, 40th Infantry, U. S. Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

³⁰ Tom Middlebrooks, 1920 U. S. Population Census, Camp Sherman, Scioto Township, Ross County, Ohio, dwelling A-34 family 20, individual 343, page sheet 4B.

³¹ Tom Middlebrooks, household, 1930, U. S. Population Census, part of Third Ward, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas, house number 702, dwelling 204, & family number 245, sheet 10B. Tom 30, Zora, 18, Franklin is 2. Tom's occupation is a special agent and steam locomotives are listed as industry. Tom was 25 and Zora was 15 when they were married.

³² Sammie Ann (Hayes) Middlebrooks, entry California Deaths 1940-1997, Family Tree Legends Records Collection (Online Database). Pearl Street Software, 2004-2005. www.familytreelegends.com/records/caldeaths

³³ Marianne Middlebrook, entry California Deaths 1940-1997, Family Tree Legends Records Collection (Online Database). Pearl Street Software, 2004-2005. www.familytreelegends.com/records/caldeaths

A Challenge

The inspiration for writing this book comes from my Grandmother Evelyn, better known as just “Gram”, and also my father, Ray Wilton Middlebrook. The countless hours of listening to their stories which tell about life on a cotton farm in Arkansas never seemed to lack interest. I am grateful to my dad because he remembered so much about his childhood and was willing to share it. I also remember the songs Gram sang to us in her front room.

Most of us can probably reflect on similar experiences with relatives discussing family history. Do you choose to pass on to your children and other relatives the memories and experiences of your life? In what manner will you preserve this information? It is much easier to document our heritage before relatives pass, and many of us still have this opportunity to ask parents and grandparents about their history. I challenge you— take the time to record your own family history, and while doing so, remember to place names on those old treasured photographs. Retrieving information and photographs from relatives takes perseverance and patience. Even though it may seem no one else is interested in pursuing this challenge, do not be discouraged.

In this book, I have only scratched the surface in documenting our relatives who migrated to Arkansas during the 1800s. This history provides a starting point to begin your own journey of discovering roots. I want to offer encouragement to pass on your heritage to future generations so they will have a sense of where their relatives came from and the trials faced. The record of our family legacy may ultimately depend on you.

Let the journey begin.

Neal Ray Middlebrook

Index

-A-	-A-
<p>Abbott, 93 Emma, 99 Walter, 43, 93 Ackerman Lillian F., 157 Adkins Mirl, 98, 100, 101, Agee W. P., 164 Alabama, 2, 3, 6, 66, 187 Butler County, 4, 187 Coosa County, 5, 201 Kimbrel, 201 Franklin County, 5 Loachapoka, 14 Morgan County, 4, 165, 167, 168 Somerville, 161, 163, 165 Alton Margaret, 94 Milton, 94 Nellie, 94 William, 94 Alton Store and Grist Mill, 206 Amy Percy, 34 Anderson Lola, 87, 203, 209, 211 Seth, 87, 209 Andres A. H., 205 Archer Nola Burns, 64 Arizona Phoenix, 43, 208 Scottsdale, 134 Arkansas, 2, 105, 172, 187 Territory, 2 Albany, 121 Arkadelphia, 102, 131, 132, 178 Barker, 5 Benton, 48 Benton County, 132 Bentonville, 132 Bingen, 5 Bois d' Arc Creek, 5, 8 Boonville, 131 Bright Star, 5, 131, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204 Buckner, 124 Camden, 3 Columbia County, 5, 144, 200, 201 Clay Township, 200, 201</p>	<p>Magnolia, 3, 109, 110, 144 Columbus, 5 Cross Roads, 5 Davis Spring, 7 De Ann, 5 Drew County, 4 Marion Township, 187 Mill Creek Township, 187 Branch Mill, 187 Monticello, 192 Falcon, 5 Fay (Dooley's Ferry), 5 Fort Smith, 133 Fort Towson, 2 Fulton, 2, 3, 5, 170, 171, 177 Green County Union Township, 168 Guernsey, 5, 173 Hempstead County, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 49, 52, 63, 67, 68, 85, 88, 98, 99, 105, 106, 117, 120, 121, 123, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 168, 169, 172, 197 198 Bodcaw Township, 6, 7, 8, 9, 186, 199, 201 203, 205 De Roane Township, 8, 108 Carouse Township, 102, 118, 121 Ozan Township, 5, 176, 201, 202, 205 Spring Hill Township, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 30, 45, 63, 99, 102, 105, 120, 121, 123, 161, 163, 164, 167, 168 Water Creek Township, 8 Highway 29, 162, 165 Highway 29 and 355, 10, 11, 104 Hope, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 32, 38, 43, 53, 60, 66, 75, 82, 102, 105, 106, 110, 124, 131, 140, 141, 144 145, 147, 148, 150, 166, 167 169, 172, 173, 174, 182, 184, 197, 202, 204, 205, 206, 208 Hope-Falcon Road, 75, 124, 170, 173 Hope Route 1, 102 Jefferson County, 4 Pine Bluff, 178, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 208 Ohio Street Pike, 189, 190</p>

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-A-	-A-
Lafayette County, 8, 34, 63, 117, 119, 121	Shover Springs, 5, 108
Lewisville, 3, 121	Spring Hill, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 34, 99, 165, 169
Lincoln County, 4, 186, 187, 188, 191	Van Buren, 133
Owen Township, 186, 187	Springhill-Sardis Road, 169
Star City, 182, 186, 191	Wallaceburg, 5
Griffith Springs, 191, 192	Walnut Street, 16, 66
Spring Township, 187	Washington, 2, 3, 5, 7, 84, 173, 201
Little Bodcaw Creek, 6, 7, 8, 9, 205	Water Creek, 8
Little River, 147	Arkansas Highway Dept., 174
Little Rock, 2, 48, 67, 68, 177, 179, 189, 190, 206, 208, 211	Arkansas-Louisiana Railroad, 7, 9
Lively, 165	Arkansas River, 188
Logan County, 131	Arkansas State Police, 129, 177
Magnolia, 3, 106, 141	Armstrong, 93
Mena, 178	Lee, 93
Military Road, 1	Aslin
Miller County, 143	Cannon, 94
Texarkana, 43, 61, 67, 68, 109, 175, 178, 179	Carmon, 148
Mound Prairie, 5	Atkins Owen Mrs., 93, 94, 148
Mt. Ida, 170	Avary, 209
Nashville, 177	Avery Alexander MOG, 202
Nevada County, 8	
New Hope, 11	-B-
Ozan, 5	
Ozan Creek, 5	Baldwin Wes Deputy, 189, 190, 191
Patmos, 5, 9, 10, 13, 38, 43, 63, 98, 108, 110, 150, 164, 177, 188, 200	Barker
Patmos Road, 11, 38, 43, 53, 59, 60, 61, 64, 65, 75, 76, 79, 80, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 98, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 120, 123, 122, 125, 143, 144, 150, 151, 153, 164, 171, 173, 188, 200, 208, 209	Betty, 32
Polk County, 131	S. M., 168
Pulaski County, 82	Barlow Hotel, 151
Red River, 1, 3, 9	Barnum Bailey & Ringling Bros., 153
Saline County, 48, 49	Barr
Saint Frances County, 168	Archie, 93
Tellico Township, 168	Ira, 93
Taylor's Creek, 168	Jewell, 89, 93, 142, 149
Sardis, 5, 11, 12, 142, 143, 144, 197, 205	Roger H., 142
Searcy County, 168	Bayless
Campbell Township, 168	Gordon, 56, 148, 149
Providence, 168	Jewell, 89, 93, 142, 149
Sebastian County, 131	Lynn, 56, 143, 149
Sevier County, 102	Preston, 191
Bear Creek Township, 102	Thomas H., 141
De Queen, 175	Baxter
Norwoodville, 102	Dorothy D., 100, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114
	Glenn Preston, 110
	Mary Louise, 110
	William B., 110, 114

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-B-	-C-
Bell Amanda M., 70 Anna, 70	Caldwell Nelda, 178
Bennett Florence M., 192, 193 Ida B., 192 Thomas Hardy, 192	California , 141, 147, 148 Arcadia, 156 Eureka, 197, 208 Los Angeles, 43, 55, 57, 141, 144, 156 East Los Angeles, 144 Hollywood, 105, 110 San Diego, 109, 210
Betts R. H., 10, 34, 165	Camp Bryan, 143
Black Lottie (Mary Charlotte), 10, 29, 34	Cannon Mary, 25
Bowden D. L., 44	Carolina's, 2
Boyette Routon & Co., 205	Cash Lulu, 125, 126 Gus, 126
Boyette , 205 Arcola Collen, 66 Fair, 43, 66, 67, 68, 73, 75, 78, 82 Frances E., 66, 67 Harold, 73 Marie, 66, 67, 73, 75, 78, 111 Martha Louraney, 66 Mary, 66 Mary Calladonia, 66 Sarah Oliver, 66 T. A., 4, 50, 61, 66, 67, 68, 69, 75, 78, 82, 85 Thomas James, 50, 51, 55, 59, 61, 66, 67 Thomas J. Jr., 66 Ruffin Abraham, 66	Cemeteries Bright Star Cemetery, 203, 204, 205, 206 Drake Cemetery, 192 Giles Cemetery, 53, 57, 59, 64, 88, 89, 90, 91, 120, 122, 125 Hickory Grove Cemetery, 187, 188, 191, 192 Huckabee Cemetery, 63, 65, 166, 167, 168 Macedonia Cemetery, 14, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 53, 68, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108, 109, 118, 120, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 130, 137, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 172, 173, 174, 175, 196, 200, 207, 210 Memory Gardens Cemetery, Hope, 128, 130 New Bethel Cemetery, 59, 64, 85 New Hope Cemetery, 13 Oakland Cemetery, 192 Old Anderson/Quillin Graveyard, 63 Old Sardis Cemetery, 121, 122 Ridge Crest Cemetery, 110, 112 Rose Hills Cemetery, Hope, 15, 67 Rose Hills Memorial Park, 144, 156 Shover Springs Cemetery, 108 Water Creek Cemetery, 16 Westmoreland Cemetery, 176, 178, 198, 202
Bradley William, 36	Centenary College, 110, 113
Bratton Martha A., 164	Center Point Elementary School, 64, 77, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 105, 108, 110, 120, 123, 128, 137, 140, 147, 148, 169, 171, 173, 175, 186, 202, 206
Brewster Garland Sheriff, 189, 190, 191	Chaffee Carol Ruth, 142, 150 Stephen Lawrence, 142
Briant S. H., 59	Chastain Mildred L., 184, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194 Ralph E., 192, 193
Brinkly Emma C., 23, 25, 29	Christian Thomas T., 23
Brightwell E. L., 168	Chisholm Trail, 30
Brooks Edna, 92 Francis L., 202	
Brown Ida, 63 Jim, 63 Mary P., 29, 33, 34 Samuel, 29, 34	
Bruce Dan Rev., 114	
Byron Winnie, 32	

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

C-	-C-
<p>Churches</p> <p>Baptist Association, 11 Battle Field/Gethsemane, 64 Bethany Baptist, 10, 64, 167 Bluff Springs, 64 Edinburg First Baptist, 132 Evening Shade Baptist, 14, 63, 64, 65, 166, 168 First Baptist, 111, 129 First United Methodist, 107, 174 Hinton United Methodist, 10, 11, 210 Lakeside Methodist, 191 Macedonia Baptist, 14, 100 Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist, 10, 64 New Bethel, 59, 81, 85, 143, 148 New Hope Primitive Baptist, 11, 12, 13, 14, 57, 58 Patmos Baptist, 10 Patmos Church of Christ, 10 Providence Missionary Baptist, 64, 65 Unity Baptist of Hope, 109, 124 Citizens National Bank, Hope, 17</p> <p>Civil War, 56, 167</p> <p>Alton Military Prison, 49 Battery Harrison, 26 Battery Wagner, 26, 27, 28 Battle of Griswold, 28 Beauregard General, 26, 28, 49 Camp Douglas Military Prison, 48 Cario, 48 Charleston Harbor, 26, 27 Chester, 26 Chicago, 48 Cummings Point, 26, 27, 37 Company A Georgia 32nd Infantry, 26, 27 Company E, 11th Regiment, 48 Connecticut 7th & 6th, 27 Falcon Guards 11th & 17th Regiment, 48, 49 (Rector's and Griffith's) Forrest, Nathan B. General, 50 Fort Pillow, 49, 50 Fort Wagner, 27, 28 Gillmore General, 27 Hagood Johnson General, 27 Harrison's Regiment 5th., 26 Harrison Colonel Regiment, 26 Holland Captain, 26 Holt G. M., 48 Irving Block Prison, 50 Maine 9th, 27 Massachusetts 54th, 27 Morris Island, 26, 27, 37</p>	<p>New Madrid Island, 49, 50 New York 48th., 27 Pennsylvania 76th, 27 Point Lookout Military Prison, 49 Shaw Colonel, 27 Sherman's March to the Sea, 28 Stiles Capt., 26</p> <p>Clay A. B., 110 Janice, 110 Dorothy D., 110, 114 Georgia Ann, 110, 114 Hoyt Harper, 110 Clayton Paul Dr., 112 Coltharp Garrison H. Dr., 112</p> <p>Coon Horace G., 192 Mildred L., 184, 188, 189, 190</p> <p>Cox Charles Dr., 112</p> <p>Cooper Ara, 93 Hazel, 93 Cottrell Ralph Rev., 109 Coyle Joseph M., 109</p> <p>Craig Albert V., 191 Arthur B., 191 Callie L., 191 Margaret A., 191</p> <p>Crews Elvin, 94 Jessie, 94 Lena, 94 Marie, 94 Milton, 94</p> <p>Cunningham, 4 Albert L., 4, 184, 186, 187 Callie L., 4, 95, 184, 185, 186, 187, 189, 190, 191 Caroline, 187 Emma L./Ellen 187 Hanna, 187 James A., 4, 187 James A., 187 Jane, 187 Joel, 187 Lidda, 187 Lillie, 4, 184, 185, 182, 186, 187 Lucinda, 187 Margaret, 187 Mary L., 187 Susan, 187</p>

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

Curbow H. S., 190 Curry Place, 52 Curtis Mary, 63	Ford Motor Company, 208 Foscue Benjamin, 201
-D-	-F-
Davis Bertie A., 10, 29, 34, 44, 71 H. B. & Laura, 125 J. H., 125 S. C., 97, 123 Dawson Dana, 110 Derryberry Vera, 89, 148 DeVaughan, Lee, 168 Dinner on the Grounds, 11 Dodson Grey, 93 J. C. & Dora, 125 Obera, 93 Ora, 93 Paul, 93 Doyle Cassie S., 141 Downs J. T. MOG, 44, 123 Dudley Earl, 43 J. H., 32, 59 Robert W., 32 W. A., 59 Dye Lisa, 112 Dyke F. W. , 85	Foster Reality Company, 85 Foster William, 30 Rosett, 126 Frisco, Louisiana and Arkansas Railroads, 7 Frost Nella, 78, 82 Fuller Elizabeth L., 102 Harmon, 102
-E-	-G-
Earhart Amanda M, 42, 53, 54, 70, 75, 78, 79, 82, 146 Harold, 70 Peter, 44, 70 Easterling Gara, 161 Edwards William P., 202 Ellen Susan, 184, 187 Elmore Annie E., 142, 144, 145 Charles, 142, 144, 145 England, 130 England Cora, 105 Evans Isaac, 201 Anna E., 201 Evening Shade, 101, 102, 104, 106, 168	Gage Freida Mae, 100, 109 Robert, 100, 109 Gank C. R., 110 Garret, 151 Aretta, 94 Arlene, 94 Buddy Hugh, 94 Fred, 94 Joyce, 94 Gentry U. A. 124 Georgia , 1, 2, 3, 6, 16, 66, 99, 102, 118, 121, 164, 201 Bartow County, 119 Campbell County, 4, 43, 147 Carole County, 4, 45, 121 Cass County, 121 Cornucopia, 26 Hancock County, 25 Jasper County, 23, 26, 30 Jones County, 4, 23, 28, 29, 43 Bradley Community, 24 Clinton, 23, 28 Gray, 23 Hog Creek, 23, 24, 30, 43 Hungerford Road, 24 North Cross Road, 24 Macon, 23 Meriwether County, 99 Monticello, 26, 29 Paulding County, 4, 99, 102, 118, 120, 121 Rossville, 192 Savannah, 111 Social Circle, 26 Walker County, 167 Armuchee, 168 Lafayette, 167 Villanow, 167 Walton County, 45
-F-	
Fannie's House, 78, 79, 80 Federal Road, 2, 3 First National Bank of Hope, 85, 86 Fish Nathan B., 26 Ford Model T., 151, 188	

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-G-	-H-
Gibson Lillie O., 87	Hatch
Giles , 3	Alford, 122
Amanda M., 4, 45, 46, 57	Dovie L., 122
Andrew, 4	Jane, 119, 121
James R., 4, 57	John, 119, 121
John, 61	John T., 121
Malissi, 61	Lee C., 119, 121
Nancy, 61	Orpha Mahulda, 119, 121
Singleton, 4, 45, 46, 50, 57, 58, 59, 61, 85	Rutha A., 11, 119, 122, 123
Theodocia Ann, 4, 43, 44, 45, 46, 57, 60, 61, 67, 68, 69, 75, 85, 88, 145	Ruthie L., 100, 120, 121
Givens W. J. Mr. & Mrs., 110	Hayes
Glaze Mary, 14	Gerald H., 119, 135
Goings Katie, 126	Kay, 119, 135
Grange Hall, 89	Sammie A., 210
Graves M. H., 169	Haynes
Graves and Graves, 75, 80, 83	T. J., 50, 51
Gray	Rufus, 61
Edward Horton, 100, 112, 114	Hempstead County Clerk, 108
Mary Jo, 100, 112, 114	Hempstead County Sheriff, 108, 171, 174
Great Depression, 155	Hempstead Edward, 2
Green Mary, 167	Herndon Funeral Home, 43, 109, 130, 210
Griffin	Henderson State Teachers College, 131, 178
Florence, 173	Henslee
Jimmie T., 85, 86, 87, 170, 173, 174, 179, 170, 175	Lee, 191
Jimmy S., 174	Robert, 191
John, 173	Hertz Rental Car, McKellar Sipes Airport, 111
Judy M, 86, 87, 157, 170, 174	Hickman
Ruby C., 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 170, 173, 174, 175, 179	Effie, 93
Grinalds Leigh, 112	Leslie, 93
Guardian Company, 85	Lola, 93
Guarino Bonnie L., 142	Hicks
Guillory Mary Ann M., 36	James T., 66, 68
Guinness Book of World Records, 105	Sarah Oliver, 66
-H-	Hinton Chapel, 10
Hale Relph, Rev., 210	Hinton Schoolhouse, 10, 11
Hamiter	Hinton Home Place, 17, 43, 53, 54, 55, 59, 60, 75, 76, 79, 80, 85, 88, 98, 101, 146, 160, 164, 166, 170, 173, 174, 184, 188, 205
Harrell, 43, 170, 171	
J. F., 57	
Thelma, 170, 171	
T. M., 125	
Hanigan & Co., 33	
Hanna H. G., 186	
Hardgins H. P., 143	
Harris Swill, 35	
Harvard College, 133	
Hauks L. R., 36	

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-H-	-H-
<p>Hinton, 3, 105 Amanda M., 42, 44, 50, 52, 53, 55, 57, 60, 67, 70, 75, 79, 146, Bertie, 44, 71, 75 Bradford, 4, 6, 13, 44, 57, 58 Christmas B., 44, 47, 51 D. L., 44 Essie M., 13 Frances - Fannie D., 4, 9, 42, 43, 44, 50, 52, 57, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 81, 82, 140, 149, 155, 163 Frances I., 13 George W., 43, 44, 50, 52, 57, 75, 82, 146, 208 George W. Jr., 208 Jeilen, 78, 82 Isabella, 71 John B., 44, 47, 50, 52, 67, 68, 71, 75, 78, 79 Johnnie Mae, 78, 82 Lou, 78 Lovett S., 44, 47 Lovett T., 4, 6, 10, 13, 43, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 66, 68, 75, 78, 97, 122, 145 Mildred, 71, 72 Mina, 72 Patience L., 4, 44 Rose L., 44, 47, 51 Theodocia Ann, 4, 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 52, 55, 60, 61, 66, 67, 68, 69, 72, 75, 85, 148 Thomas "Tom" J., 43, 44, 50, 52, 57, 61, 67, 68, 72, 78, 82 Mrs. Thomas J., 78 Thomas Jr., 71, 78 Virgil F. 43, 44, 50, 52, 67, 82, 146 William J., 6, 10 William "Robert" R., 44, 47, 50, 52, 72 Hodnett O. B., 92, 150 Holifield, 151 Hollis Goat Roper Restaurant, 10 Hollis James G., 29, 34 Burnetta Ora, 29, 34, 37 Halloway George C., 184, 192, 193 Irma Lee, 194 Sybil E., 184, 188, 192, 193 Holt Jerry, 112, 114</p>	<p>Hooten Joseph Bayard, 119, 135 Vicki F., 119, 135 Hope Brick Works, 7 Hope Chamber of Commerce, 103, 107 Hope City and Water, 7 Hope's Cotton Row, 16, 17 Hope Cotton Compress, 7, 121 Hope High School, 174 Hope Immigration Association, 7 Hope Ivory Handle Company, 7 Hope Lumber Company, 7 Hope Police Dept., 173 Hope Star Newspaper, 205, 206 Hope Train Depot, 7 Hope Watermelon Festival, 105, 106 House of Boyett and McFadden, 66 Houston S. W., 121 Hubbard, 3, 4 Amanda "Amie" V., 4, 43, 55, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 90, 95, 96, 120, 123, 143, 151, 160, 164, 165, 170, 171, 172, 175, 179, 209, 210 Edgar, 165 Elmer S., 165, 166 Isaac Pinckney, 4, 161, 162, 167 John, 4, 167, 168 Lee J., 4, 158, 159, 161, 162, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169 Marion T., 4, 43, 55, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 90, 95, 96, 120, 123, 143, 151, 160, 164, 165, 170, 171, 172, 175, 179, 209, 210 Mary, 4, 163, 167 Mina Marie, 84, 94, 135, 157, 158, 166, 169, 171, 173, 175, 176, 177, 179 Nancy, 168 Ruby C., 83, 91, 170, 171, 173, 174, 175 Ruby E., 84, 174, 175, 176, 179 Sarah J., 161, 162, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169 Tom H., 84, 87, 94, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 179 Huckabee, 170 J. B., 168 Lee (L. E.), 32, 168 Mary T., 29, 33 Martha, 33, 34 Sally, 10, 29, 34 Parlee, 32 W. H., 33 Huneycut, Roger, 112</p>

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

<p style="text-align: center;">-I-</p> <p>Illinois Fort Sheridan, 206, 208 Swansea, 132</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-J-</p> <p>Jackson Madison County General Hospital, 107 Jenkins J. J. Pastor, 148 John Lillian F., 141 Johnson Linda, 141 Mary, 66, 67 Jones Dale, 84 Lena Beatrice, 119, 128, 130 Mary E., 198, 202 Nora N., 176 Samuel C., 202 Sarah, 202 Judge V., 141 Jumbo Triumph, 105</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-K-</p> <p>Kennedy Dorothy, 94 E. O., 105 Kent Family Band, 86 Kent, 3 Annie Jewell, 89, 93, 142, 145, 147, 149 Dovie C., 142, 144, 145 John, 5, 6 John H., 5, 89, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 156, 205 Judith, 5 Julia Evelyn, 5, 89, 93, 95, 100, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148, 149, 150, 153, 205 Kate, 142, 143, 156 Katherine M., 141 Luther Cabell, 147 Marie, 149 Mary S., 141 Oscar Phillip, 57, 104 Ray P., 141, 149 Septimus Elmore, 89, 93, 141, 147, 149 Virginia, 141, 149 William S., 5 Wilma E., 141</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-K-</p> <p>Kentucky, 131 Columbus, 49 Louisville, 131 Keppeler Mary L., 141, 157, 209 Kincannon Auda, 119, 131, 132, 133, 134 Clem Beatrice, 131 James Oscar, 119, 131, 132, 133, 134 James Oscar Sr., 131 Kay, 133, 134 Vicki, F., 133, 134 Kirby Frances Kay, 100, 109 Steven C., 109</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-L-</p> <p>Lafferty A. J., 63 Martha, 63 Lane, 4 Augustus F., 32 Elizabeth C., 30 Hattie A., 4, 9, 13, 23, 26, 29, 43 J. B., 26 J. M., 26 Lewis L. 13, 23, 30, 32, 34 Laseter, Edgar, 105 Laue Bernard, 93 Lawson Jim B., 192, 193 Lillie M., 184, 188, 190, 192, 193 Lewis W. B., 35 Little A. S., 143 Louisiana, 2, 49 Fort Jessop, 2 Acadia Parish, 26 Church Point, 37 Coe, 37 Caddo Parish, 110 Bossier City, 110 Shreveport, 108, 110, 113, 114 Claiborne Parish, 44 Monroe, 135 New Orleans, 192</p>
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The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-L-	-M-
<p>Saint Landry Parish, 33, 36, 37 Bayou Boeuf, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 143 Bayou Cocodrie, 35 Opelousas, 33, 34, 35, 36, 143 Washington, 36 Whiteville, 33, 35, 143 Whiteville School, 35 Louisiana & Arkansas Railroad, 205, 209 Loving Robert Deputy, 189, 191 Lucy Nancy, 161, 167</p>	<p>McDaniel Daniel, 36 Mary Ann, 25, 29, 35, 36 Mary Ann M., 36 McElmore Nancy J., 185, 187 McKnight Giles L., 202 McRae Dorsey, 82 K. G., 61, 62 Meadows Mr., 91 Meadows, 147 Meadows T. F., 143 Meyers Amanda, 199, 202 Michigan Detroit, 208</p>
<p>-M-</p>	<p>Middlebrook/s, 3, 4, 150 Alton "Buddy" L., 184, 186, 189, 192, 193 Amanda "Amie" V., 4, 55, 79, 81, 82, 83 84, 93, 95, 96, 99, 123, 141, 151, 160, 164, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 172, 175, 209, 210 Anderson T., 25 Ardecy, 25 Arnold Jackson, 90, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112 Baby Girl, 192 Bertie A., 10, 29, 34 Bonnie Lynn, 142 Bruce E., 55, 56, 82, 90, 100, 103, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 209 Bryan, 93 Burnetta, 25 Burnetta O., 29, 32, 34, 37, 38 Callie L., 95, 184, 185, 186, 187, 189, 190, 191 Carlton R., 192 Carol Ruth, 150 Carolyn Jane, 142 Cassie Sophia, 142, 157 Charles, 13, 29, 34 Charles D., 9, 10, 29, 34, 38 Charles Verdo, 17, 43, 53, 54, 55, 57, 75, 77,78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 89, 90, 92, 95, 103, 140,141, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 156, 170, 183, 188, 209</p>
<p>Magic Half Acres, 105, 110 Magnolia A&M., 110 Martin Conrad, 36 Henry, 168 Herbie, 114 James, 168 J. G., 164 June, 168 Mary E. , 165, 168 Nancy, 168 Nathaniel M., 165, 168 Sarah J., 165, 168 Thomas G., 32 Maryland, 49 Massey Martha Ann, 165, 168 Mary E., 165, 168 Thomas G., 163, 168 Mathews James S. III, 112 Mauldin Garder, 126 Gorda, 126 L. S., 61, 62, 126 Nancy, 61 Singleton, 61 Mayton G. C., 125 Maxwell Susan K., 141 McCleary's Road, 3</p>	

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-M-	-M-
Dan Kent, 141	Lottie (Mary Charlotte), 10, 29, 34
David, 34	Louis F., 25, 29
Dianne, 25, 29	Louisa (Louellen), 14, 15
Donald Ray Berry, 100, 109	Lovett, 90, 95, 140
Dorothy D., 110, 111, 113, 114	Lucy A., 16
Dove, 34	Margaret, 193
Emma C., 23, 25, 29, 38	Marianne, 210
Emma Mildred, 101, 106, 108, 109	Mary Ann, 25, 29, 35, 36, 37
Fair H., 4, 17, 90, 95, 97, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 169, 172	Mary, 14
Florence M., 183, 191	Mary, 15
Frances - Fannie D., 4, 9, 23, 29, 42, 43, 44, 50, 53, 54, 57, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 75, 77, 78, 81, 82, 85, 89, 95, 98, 101, 118, 120, 140, 143, 146, 148, 150, 152, 161, 164, 165, 166, 170, 186, 196, 200	Mary, 25
Frances Kay, 100, 105, 108, 109	Mary D., 100
Frank S., 29, 38	Mary Elizabeth, 34
Franklin F., 189, 198, 199, 200, 208, 209, 210	Mary Jo, 100, 111, 113, 114
Freida Mae, 97, 109	Mary Louise, 141, 156, 157, 209
George D., 14	Mary P., 29, 33, 34, 35, 38
Georgia Ann, 110, 114	Mary T., 29, 34
Green M., 25	Melinda Dee, 100, 111, 113, 114
Hattie A., 4, 9, 13, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 34, 35, 38, 43	Melvin T., 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112
Hattie D., 29, 30, 31, 38	Mildred L., 184, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194
Ida, 34	Mirl, 98, 101
Isaac R., 4, 25, 28	Neal Ray, 78, 141, 209
James B., 4, , 93, 95, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194	Nora B., 4, 95, 100, 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 109, 172
James B. Jr., 190, 192, 193	Ora Burnette, 34, 37, 93
Jim - James L., 4, 9, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 38, 43, 44, 55, 59, 60, 61, 89, 95, 98, 101, 120, 137, 140, 164, 186, 196, 200,	Oscar D., 4, 43, 54, 57, 77, 79, 90, 95, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109, 112, 116, 146, 170
James H., 25	Ray Wilton, 56, 90, 91, 92, 103, 109, 140, 142, 143, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 188, 189, 209
John T., 25	Sally, 10, 29
Julia E., 5, 89, 95, 100, 103, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 156, 153, 208	Susan Kay, 141
Kim Odell, 141	Samuel C., 4, 9, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 142, 143
Lewis (Louis) L., 9, 10, 29, 34, 37, 38	Samuel I., 9, 10, 29, 34, 38
Lillie M., 184, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194	Sammie A., 198, 200, 210
Lillian Florence, 141, 157	Sarah E., 25
	Seth Andrew, 155
	Silas, 25
	Sims, 4, 14, 25, 29, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38
	Sims, 29
	Sybil E., 184, 185, 186, 189, 191, 192

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

<p style="text-align: center;">-M-</p> <p>Tom, 5, 43, 56, 61, 82, 84, 86, 90, 93, 95, 96, 99, 124, 144, 185, 189, 197, 200, 202, 203, 204, 208, 205, 206, 209, 210</p> <p>Thomas, 14</p> <p>Thomas A., 14, 15, 34</p> <p>Thomas J., 14</p> <p>Wanda, 192, 193</p> <p>William S., 25</p> <p>Zora, 5, 84, 86, 95, 121, 135, 144, 189, 197, 200, 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 211, 210</p> <p>Middlebrooks Motors, 111</p> <p>Military Road, 2</p> <p>Mills</p> <p>Orpha Mahulda, 119, 121, 122</p> <p>Ruth E., 119, 121</p> <p>William E., 119, 121</p> <p>Milton, Amanda, 4, 45, 57</p> <p>Mississippi, 2, 49, 187, 188, 192, 201</p> <p>Northern, 50</p> <p>Brookhaven, 192</p> <p>Chickasaw County, 4, 187</p> <p>Leake County, 5, 201</p> <p>Carthrage, 201</p> <p>Neshoba County, 5, 201</p> <p>Philadelphia, 196</p> <p>Lauderdale, 49</p> <p>Lee Hospital, 49</p> <p>Mississippi River, 2, 3, 48, 49</p> <p>Missouri</p> <p>St. Louis, 144, 147, 207</p> <p>Missouri Territory, 2</p> <p>Mitchell</p> <p>Effie, 125, 126</p> <p>O. J., 125</p> <p>Monk</p> <p>George G., 160</p> <p>Jimmy S., 160</p> <p>Scott A., 160</p> <p>William L., 160</p> <p>William T., 160</p> <p>Moman June, 163, 168</p> <p>Montgomery Florence, 32</p> <p>Moore John R., 25</p> <p>Moses J. W., 63</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-M-</p> <p>Mosier</p> <p>Christopher W., 179</p> <p>Gara, 157</p> <p>James E., 176</p> <p>Milton "Scrub", 84, 87, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178</p> <p>Mina Marie, 84, 87, 91, 135, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177</p> <p>Nora N., 176</p> <p>Nelda, 178</p> <p>Thomas C., 179</p> <p>Tommy W., 178</p> <p>Murph Louis, 81, 148</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-N-</p> <p>Natchez & Natchez Trace, 2, 3</p> <p>Nelson W. F. Inc., 103</p> <p>New Mexico</p> <p>Albuquerque, 134</p> <p>Santa Fe, 135</p> <p>Nichol C. M., 187, 186, 191</p> <p>Nichols David C., 32</p> <p>Nigger Hill Cemetery & School, 59, 88, 89, 91, 147</p> <p>North Carolina, 173</p> <p>Hyde County, 119, 121</p> <p>Orange County, 14</p> <p>Hogan's Creek, 14</p> <p>Tarboro, 105</p> <p>Norton, 93</p>
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The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

<p style="text-align: center;">-O-</p> <p>Ohio Ross County, 206 Scioto Township, 206 Camp Sherman, 206 Cincinnati, 135 Oklahoma, 65, 148, 164 Bryan County, 164, 165 Caddo, 164 Durant, 164 Custer County, 135 Weatherford, 135 Le Flore County, 133 Oklahoma City, 43 Poteau, 133 Wagner, 192 Ouachita Baptist University, 131 Owen Debra, 114 Mark, 114</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-P-</p> <p>Pangburn Samuel, 30 Parrot Rifle, 26, 37 Patmos School, 108, 172, 174, 177, 206 Pelt, John J., 6 Philips, Leanea, 5, 199, 201 Pilkington John A., 16 Lucy A., 16 Pennsylvania, 63 Pettus Clem B., 131 Pine Bluff Fire Dept., 188 Pine Bluff Police/Sheriff Dept., 188, 189, 194, 208 Pollard Martha Louraney, 66 T. W., 66 Porter R. S. & Son, 30 Porterfield, 3, 105 Auda, 119, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 135 Berry, 93 Christopher, 4, 97, 100, 102, 118, 121</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-P-</p> <p>David Lile, 126, 127, 131 Effie, 125 Elizabeth, 4, 97, 98, 102, 118, 121 E. G., 50, 69 Fair H., 4, 17, 95, 97, 99, 102, 118, 120, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 166, 169 Frances E., 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 116, 119, 123 Frankie L., 119 James Harold "Pod". 17, 18, 90, 116, 119, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 178 James H., Jr., 119, 128, 131 James W., 4, 61, 62, 97, 99, 102, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 126 Janis Molinda, 126 John "Bud" C., 4, 17, 18, 62, 95, 97, 99, 102, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128 Lena Beatrice, 128, 130, 131 Lulu, 125 Malissi, 61 Mollie E., 119, 123 Nora B., 4, 97, 100, 103, 105, 116 Ruthie L., 97, 120, 122, 123, 125, 126 Roy, 90, 119, 128, 131 S. C., 97, 116, 120, 123 William N., 4, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 119, 123, 125 Povy Alford, 33 Powell Dick, 105, 110 Priddy Danny, 112 Proctor & Gamble, 134 Putnam Floride, 94 Herman, 94</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Q-</p> <p>Quillin Jessie Hollman, 63 Julie Etta, 63 Mary, 63</p>
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The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-R-	-R-
Rainey Mrs., 78, 79	Rogers
Rankine	Arline, 126
Mary Louise, 110, 114	Hansel, 126
Myrtle, 110	Harris, 126
Ratcliff	H. A., 119, 123
Ocie, 93	Hampton, 123
Walter, 93	Mollie E., 119, 125
Red River, 2 , 3, 9	Tom, 123
Red River U. S. Army Depot, 108, 175	Root D. C., 190
Reece H. A., 61	Roth
Reed	Charles, 111, 113, 114
Mary Calladonia, 66	Doug, 111, 113
Sid, 66	Georgia, 111, 113, 114
Reames Marilee, 110	Houston, 111, 113
Reeves	Hunter, 111, 113
Homer "Pony", 43	Lisa, 111
James, 34	Michelle, 111
Kathleen, 94	Rankine, 111, 113
Olan, 94	Todd Dr., 111, 113
Vera, 94	Roundtree Oldsmobile-Cadillac, 110, 113
Renshaw Gordon Rev., 109	Rowe Otis L., 101
RFC Mortgage Co., 85	RFC Mortgage Company, 82
Richardson	Roundtree
Eric, 100, 109	Dr., 32
Frances Kay, 100, 109	Jennie G., 32
Robert, 100, 109	Routon
Ridgsdill	Boyett, 205
M. D., 120	Frances E., 66
C. A., 120	J. C., 66
Roberts Wanda, 192	Rowland Gus, 62
Robinson	Rutledge Essie M., 13
R. F., 190	
Ralph and Sons Mortuary Chapel, 191	
Roebuck Fred G. Rev., 191	-S-
	Sallee L. T., 186, 191
	Savant
	Adolph, 35, 36
	J., 36
	John P., 36
	Mary Ann, 25, 35, 36
	Nathaniel J., 36, 37
	Onez, 36
	Sears Roebuck & Co., 144
	Serex A. M. Rev., 110
	School District 15, 33
	School District 50, 33
	Scott Colonel, 130

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-S-	-T-
Shaprio	Tate Cleophus, 36
Jason, 111, 113	Tennessee , 2, 16, 168, 183, 198, 202
Jessica, 111, 113	Fort Pillow, 49, 50
Joseph, 111, 113	Hardin County, 168
Melinda Dee, 100, 111, 113	Jackson, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114
Richard D., 100, 111, 114	Ridge Crest Cemetery, 110, 113
Sherman's March to the Sea, 23, 28	Memphis, 49, 50
Shover Springs Road, 108	Nashville, 130
Shumake	Natchez & Trace, 3
Lillie, 4, 184, 185, 186, 187	New Madrid Island, 49, 50
Nancy J., 187	Wayne County, 168
William J., 187	Texas , 4, 65, 148, 175
Singleton Leroy, 23	Atlanta, 105
Sinyard Alex, 51	Austin, 134, 135
Skinner Judith, 5	Bosque County, 4, 30, 31
Smith	Childers Creek, 30, 31
Albert Almer, 108	Meridian, 30
Cora, 108	Dallas, 150
Ed, 104	Edinburg, 133
Emma Mildred, 100, 104, 108	El Paso, 134
George A. & Sons, 110, 112, 113, 114	Flory, 210
Homer, 191	Henderson, 110, 114
Thomas C., 53	Hidalgo County, 133
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 132	Houston, 43
Southern Christian Advocate Newspaper, 102	Pecos, 206
South Carolina , 192, 201	Titus County, 202
Charleston Harbor, 26, 27	Mt. Pleasant, 5, 202
Chester, 26	Texas State Representative, 134
Cummings Point, 26, 27, 37	Thomas , 3, 93
Morris Island, 26, 27, 37	Amanda E., 198, 201, 202
Singleton Leroy, 23	Arthur, 94, 203, 209
Stagg Adolph, 36	Bertha L., 201
Staggs	Bryce, 94
Annie Elizabeth, 142, 144, 145	Charles, 94, 203, 207,
Benjamin Franklin, 142, 144	Cora, 94
Dovie C. 142, 144, 145	George, 93, 203
Paul Thomas, 142, 145	Grace S., 110
State Mental Hospital, Little Rock, 67, 68	Jacob W., 201
Sullivan	James R., 5, 198, 199, 200, 201,
A. E. Mrs., 110	202, 203, 205, 206
George Lynn, 94	Jessee R., 201
J. M., 94	John R., 197
Lennie Bell, 94	Larrah "Laura" J., 201
W. T., 144	Leanea "Lena", 5, 201
Swinney Cyrus P., 123	Lola, 94, 203, 209, 210
	Lutisha "Tisha", 201
	Marie, 211
	Mary, 203

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

<p style="text-align: center;">-T-</p> <p>Michael A., 5, 201, 202 Mollie, 5, 198, 200, 201, 202, 206 Myrtle, 90, 209 Ora Belle, 202, 203 Rodger D., 203, 204 Silas M., 201 Vera Jane, 202, 203, 204 Walter, 198, 203, 211 William E., 201 William W., 5, 201 William W. Jr., 201 Zora, 5, 84, 90, 95, 124, 132, 143, 185, 193, 194, 198, 199, 200, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 Tillman G. B., 94 Todd John A., 51, 102, 103 Elizabeth L., 102, 103 Frances E., 100, 102, 119, 123 James S., 103 W. S., 100 Tolland Elizabeth Comfort, 30 Trapp, Elizabeth, 4, 95, 119, 120, 121 Trussell, Gerald, 130 Tunstall A. H., 89 R. H. "Buss", 82, 83, 84, 85, 153, 154, 166, 188 Tucker, 89 Turner A. Z., 104 Kate, 142, 156 Tyron Auda, 119, 131, 132, 134 William Parshall, 119, 134 Tyson Mary, 15,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-U-</p> <p>U. S. Army Air Force, 132, 133 U. S. Navy, 210 Union Baptist Association, 64 University of Arkansas, 175 University of Central Arkansas, 178 University of Texas, 134 Urrey Aneta, 93 Eunice, 93 Gerlene (Taylor) , 91 Utley Jackie, 114</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-V-</p> <p>Veterans Bureau Hospital, Little Rock, 189 Vicksburg, 3, 48 Virginia, 28, 168 Scott County, 167, 168</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-W-</p> <p>Wadley Hospital, Texarkana, 109 Walton Tunce, 188 Ward Frances-Fannie D., 4, 63, 64, 65, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 89, 95, 143, 146, 149, 152, 186, 187 Ida, 66 Iver, 94 James William, 63, 64, 65, 89, 149, 164, 165, 208 Jim, 63 Julia Etta, 63 Warmack, Louellen, 14, 15 Watermelon Cobb Gem variety, 105 Jumbo Triumph variety, 105, 106 Watson Alexander B., 44 Amanda M., 42, 52, 53 Wayne, 153 Judy M., 160 Travis, 160 Weeks Ed, 105 White Ada May, 109 Amanda E., 202 Dianne, 25 Francis L., 202 George Washington, 199, 200, 201, 202, Inez, 75, 82 James Jackson, 202 James Jackson Jr., 202 July Ann, 202 Mary E., 199, 200, 201, 202 Mollie, 5, 199, 200, 201, 202, Powell, 202</p>
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The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

-W-

Wiland Bruce, 31
Wilkerson
Auda, 119, 134
James Richard, "Dick", 119, 134
Kay, 133, 134
Vicki, 133, 134
Williams
Arcola Collen, 66
Edward Grayson, 66
Henry, 191
Lynn, 112, 114
Wingard Ida B., 192
Williamson
Eunice, 175
James R., 175
Ruby E., 174, 175, 179
Wilson
Autrey, 43
Miles Pastor, 145
Winters Carolyn J., 139
Woods Tom, 112
Woodward Oren A. & Jessie L., 87
World War I, 123, 143, 164, 188, 206, 219
World War II, 110, 120, 132, 130, 164
Wright J. P., 190
Wroten T. M., 33
Wylie Michelle, 112

-X-

-Y-

Yocum L. C., 32



Appendix A-F

A.	Abstract of Title Old Hinton Home Place	235-263
B.	C. V. Middlebrooks vs. Fannie Ward et al. Chancery Court Proceedings	265-295
C.	Testimony of Amada (Hinton) Earhart May 18, 1934	297-310
D.	Summary of Lovett T. Hinton Deeds	311-313
E.	Summary of Chain of Title, John C. Porterfield Homestead	315-320
F.	Un-identified Pictures	321-326

Appendix A

**Abstract of Title To:
Old Hinton Home Place
W $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and Pt. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
Section 22, Township 13
South Range 24 West.**

**Prepared by:
ELLA MONROE
REAL ESTATE AND
TITLE INVESTIGATORS
WASHINGTON, ARK.
May 23, 1933**

Abstract of Title

To

W ½, SE ¼, and Pt. NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 22

Township 13 South Range 24 West.

For

John Kent

**Complete Abstracts. Title to all lands and
Town Lots in This County.**

**COMPILED BY
ELLA MONROE
REAL ESTATE AND TITLE INVESTIGATORS
WASHINGTON, ARK.**

C A P T I O N

THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER AND ALL OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER LYING WEST OF THE HOPE AND FALCON PUBLIC ROAD, ALL IN SECTION TWENTY TWO (22) TOWNSHIP THIRTEEN (13) SOUTH RANGE TWENTY- FOUR (24) WEST, CONTAINING 109 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

IN HEMPSTEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted P. L. Entry Dated: June 23, 1836 Filed

United States of America Record Book OE Page 20 Sum \$600.00

To

Henry M. Robinson,
Joel J. Robinson, and
Thomas Franklin

Dower and homestead relinquished Ack'd. Before

In deed and acknowledgement

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Warranty Deed Dated: Sept. 5, 1836 Filed:
Jan. 27, 1837

Thos. Franklin Record Book C Page 259 Sum \$1000.00
To
Henry M. Robinson,
Joel J. Robinson, and

Dower and homestead relinquished Ack'd. Before:

Winslow Robinson, Clerk, Charlotte Co., VA

In deed and acknowledgement

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey: (Give)

His interest in and to the following lands:

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Warranty Deed Dated: Jan. 31, 1842
Filed: Feb.11, 1842

H. M. Robinson and wife, Record Book: E Page: 597 Sum \$4479.67
Lucy C. Robinson,
To
Elisha E. Hundley,
Winslow Robinson and
Thomas P. Richardson

Dower and homestead relinquished Ack'd. Before:

John W. Paup , J. P. Hempstead Co., AR.

In deed and acknowledgement

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell,

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

Deed Recites:

To have and to hold said lands forever free from the claims of the said Henry M. Robinson and Lucy C. Robinson, his wife, and their heirs and all other persons claiming by, through or under them or either of them, but not against the claim or claims of any other persons or persons whatever.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Tax Sale Dated: May 18, 1867 Filed:

Milton T. Holt, Sheriff &
Collector,
To
Edward W. Smith

Record Book: B Page: 532 Sum

Dower and homestead relinquished Ack'd. Before:

In deed and acknowledgement

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

Sold for taxes of 1866 in name of Hundley and Robinson.

The conveyance regular except as noted: Deed of Trust, Dated: May 12, 1868, Filed: May 13, 1868

Thomas C. Smith & wife, Record Book: T Page: 630 Sum: \$10.00
Emily C. Smith
To
W. H. Carruth, Trustee

Dower and homestead relinquished Ack'd. Before:

Westley V. King, J. P.
Hempstead Co., AR.

In deed and acknowledgement: Yes

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

The foregoing conveyance is subject to the limitations hereinafter expressed and upon the trusts hereinafter set forth and none other; Whereas Thos. C. Smith is justly indebted to the said Benjamin L. Brittin and Wm. W. Andrews in a large amount of money as will more fully appear by reference to four separate judgments now remaining of record in the Circuit Court of said Co. of Hempstead. And whereas the said Thos. C. Smith is honestly desirous of paying said debts, but is unable to do so without the grant of time to enable him by the sale of his lands to do so. And Whereas the said Benj. L. Brittin and Wm. W. Andrews have ny their joint deed in writing created the said W.R. Carruth their attorney in fact and trustee for their use and in their name to have the full am absolute control of said judgments and indebtedness of the said Thos. C. Sm1th to them and the same to settle, adjust and compromise as in his discretion shall seem best for their respective interest and W.R. Carruth by the authority there under granted has agreed to compromise said indebtedness and to accept the sum of \$25,000.00 in full payment and satisfaction thereof.

The second party is fully authorized and empowered under this deed to make sales of any and all the lands herein conveyed to him and to make titles thereto by the execution and acknowledgment of deeds with or without warranty as he may elect which shall have the force and effect to convey all the right and title of the said parties of the first part with this proviso however, he shall not be at liberty to sell the homestead lands constituting the plantation and adjacent tracts until after default in the payment of the last note falling due hereunder. That said party may make sales of said land at public or private sales and whenever in his judgment he is obtaining a fair valuation therefore.

The conveyance regular except as noted: Mortgage, Dated: Mar. 20, 1869, Filed: Mar.22, 1869

Thomas C. Smith & wife, Record Book: V Page: 68 Sum: \$3345.54
Emily C. Smith
To
Henry Holcomb, as
Guardian of the minor heirs
Lawson Stizes, deceased

Dower and homestead relinquished. Ack'd. Before:

Westley V. King, J. P.
Hempstead Co., AR.

In deed and acknowledgement: Yes

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

To secure notes of even date as follows: \$1115.18 due Jan. 1, 1870; \$1115.18 due Jan. 1, 1871 and \$1115.18 due Jan. 1.1872, all bearing 10% int.

ENDORSED: This mortgage is satisfied in full and the notes expressed therein given up to Thos. C. Smith, the maker of the same on June 19, 1873.

By Joshua M. and Lawson Sitzes, the children and heirs of Lawson W. Sitzes, dec'd., by Elijah Ferguson, their attorney. Elijah Ferguson, Attorney.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Tax Deed, Dated: Dec. 10, 1872, Filed: Dec. 12, 1872

John H. Ferguson, Co., Clerk Record Book: 2 Page: 466 Sum: \$3.80
To
W. H. Carruth, Trustee

Dower and homestead relinquished. Ack'd. Before:

J. Pittman, J. P.
Hempstead Co., AR.

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

Sold for taxes of 1866 May 13, 1867 in name of Hundley and Robinson to Edward W. Smith, who assigned his certificate of purchase to W. H. Carruth, Tr.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Mortgage, Dated: Feb. 20, 1874, Filed: Apr. 14, 1877

Thomas C. Smith Jr. Record Book: V Page: 68 Sum: \$800.00
To
Lovett T. Hinton

Dower and homestead relinquished Ack'd. Before:

W. H. McWhorter, J. P.
Hempstead Co., ARK.

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

For and in the consideration of the sum of \$800.00 to trustee in hand paid by Lovett T. Hinton do hereby grant bargain and sell unto Lovett T. Hinton the following described lands, to wit:

SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Quitclaim Deed, Dated: Feb. 20, 1874, Filed: Feb. 26, 1921

W. H. Carruth, in my
Capacity as Trustee for

Thomas C. Smith Jr. & wife

Record Book: 84 Page: 448 Sum: \$800.00

To

Lovett T. Hinton

Dower and homestead relinquished. Ack'd. Before:

W. H. McWhorter, J. P.

Hempstead Co., ARK.

I

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

**SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West
(and other lands)**

Meaning hereby to transfer all my right & title which I have and hold under a certain deed of trust made to me on the 12th day of May, 1868 by Thos. C. Smith, Sr. and Emily C. Smith, his wife, which trust deed is know on record in Hempstead Co., Ark.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Warranty Deed, Dated: May 25, 1878, Filed: Nov. 8, 1881

Lovett T. Hinton and wife,

T. A. Hinton

Record Book: 13 Page: 151 Sum: \$3.00

To

Louis Murph as Trustee

For the African Church

Known "Bethel"

Dower and homestead relinquished: Yes

Ack'd. Before:

B. P. Haynes, J. P.

Hempstead Co., ARK.

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

A certain tract of land bounded and described as follows, to wit:

**One square acre in the Northwest corner of the NW ¼, SE ¼,
Section 22 Township 13 S. R. 24 West.**

L. T. HINTON'S WILL

STATE OF ARKANSAS
COUNTY OF HEMPSTEAD

I, L. T. Hinton, being of sound mind and memory do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time heretofore made.

1st I give and bequeath to my wife, Theodocia A. Hinton all my personal property and real estate during her natural life or widowhood, or until the youngest child is of age and have received an education, after which I want an equal division made of my property with all the heirs.

I appoint my wife, Theodocia A. Hinton sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal and publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in presence of the witnesses below this the 28th day of March in the year 1884.

L. T. Hinton

Witnesses: H. C. Dickson,
F. J. Hinton.

Filed and probated May 5. 1884. (**See Will Book "C" page 342**)

Chancery Record G-246}

IN HEMSTEAD CHANCERY COURT
APRIL 3, 1889.

THOMAS BOYETT, SR. GUARDIAN OF
AMANDA M. ? THOMAS J., VIRGIL F., Wm. R.
AND JOHN D. HINTON AND AS ADMINISTRATOR WITH
THE WILL ANNEXED OF LOVETT T. HINTON DECEASED
AND THEODOCIA A. BOYETT _____ PLAINTIFFS
VS.
GEORGE W. HINTON AND FANNIE D. MIDDLEBROOKS, _____ DEFENDANTS

Now on this day come the parties hereto both plaintiffs and defendants their respective attorneys of record and by consent of all the parties and upon consideration of the complaint and answer herein the court finds and decrees as follows:

The court finds that all of the debts and claims against the estate of the said deceased have been paid in full and that the legatees under the will of said deceased are entitled to the full and that the legatees under the will of the said deceased are entitled to the partition of the lands of said deceased in the pleadings herein mentioned and described.

And the court further finds that the said deceased, Lovett T. Hinton, departed this life in the month of May. 1884 seized and possessed of said real estate in fee simple leaving him surviving his widow and relict the said Theodocia A. who has since intermarried with said Thomas Boyett and also his children and heirs and only heirs at law, the said plaintiffs, Amanda M., Thomas J., Virgil F., William R. and John D. Hinton. ho are minors suing herein by their regular guardian Thomas Boyett, duly appointed as such by, the Probate Court of Hempstead County, and the defendants, George W. Hinton and Fannie D. Middlebrooks, born Hinton.

And the court further finds that on the 9th day of April, 1888 the said Thos. Boyett was appointed administrator, with the will annexed of the estate of the said Lovett T. Hinton deceased; that said Lovett T. Hinton in his lifetime duly and in due form of law, executed his said last will and testament and the same has been properly admitted to record and that by said last will and testament his said, widow and relict, Theodocia A. and his said heirs at law the said Amanda M., Thomas J., Virgil F., William R., and John D. and George W. Hinton and Fannie D. Middlebrooks had devised to them and are entitled to, under said will, the lands in the pleadings herein mentioned share and share alike, in equal parts, and that partition of the same ought to be made between them according to said will.

It is therefore considered, ordered and adjudged and decreed by the court that Thomas J. Haynes, John A. Todd and Alex. Sinyard, residents of the County of Hempstead in which said lands lie be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to

make said partition in accordance .with the respective rights and interests of the said widow and heirs at law of said deceased as the same is herein ascertained and declared.

And said commissioners are hereby ordered and directed to proceed at once to make said partition dividing said lands to wit:

SE ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West (and other lands)

into eight shares of equal value allotting to said widow and each of said heirs at law, one share each, if the same can be done without great prejudice to the parties in interest and if it cannot, said commissioners will immediately report the same to the present term of this court together with the reasons why said partition cannot be made.

In the event said partition is made said commissioners are further ordered and directed to report immediately to the present term of this court a full and detailed account of their proceedings touching said partition, specifying the manner of executing the trust, describing by metes and bounds or according to the U. S. Surveys the share allotted to each party with the quantity, and value of each share, the boundaries, courses and distances, together with other facts, if any, necessary to make said partition intelligible. This report shall be in writing under oath and signed by said commissioners or a majority of them.

A copy of this decree shall be authority for said commissioners to act herein.

Chancery Rec. G-273 IN HEMPSTEAD CHANCERY COURT APRIL 10, 1889

THOMAS BOYTT AS GUARDIAN. ET AL, _____ PLAINTIFFS
VS
GEO. W. HINTON, ET AL, _____ DEFENDANTS

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The commissioners, Thomas J. Haynes, John A. Todd, and Alex. Sinyard, appointed at the present term of this court make partition of the lands of Lovett T. Hinton, deceased, among the legatees under his will who are his widow and heirs at law beg leave to report as follows:

That in accordance with the order upon them they proceeded to partition said lands into eight shares of equal value or \$500.00 each and numbered the same from one to eight and allotted the said shares among the said legatees as follows, to wit:

Share No. 1:-----

Share No.2: described as follows:
SW ¼, SE 1/4., Section 22, Township 13 S.R. 24 West (and other lends), containing in all 200 acres and lying in Hempstead Co. Ark. and valued by them at \$500.00 they allotted and set apart to THOMAS J. HINTON, one of the said legatees.

Share No.3, described as follows:
NW ¼, SE ¼, and all of the NE 1/4., SE ¼, except 10 acres off of the East side thereof, in Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West. and containing in the aggregate 70 acres and lying in Hempstead Co. Ark., and valued at \$500.00 they allotted and set apart to THEODOCIA A. BOYETT, widow and relict of said deceased and one of said legatees.

Share No. 4:-----
Share No. 5:-----
Share No. 6:-----
Share No. 7:-----
Share No. 8:-----

And the said Commissioners further report that they were engaged for two days in making said partition.

Thomas J. Haynes,
John A. Todd,
Alex. Sinyard.

Chancery Rec. G-273

And the court upon reading and consideration of said report, their being no objections or exception filed to the sale, finds said report in all things correct and that it ought to be confirmed.

It is therefore considered, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that said report be and the same is hereby in all things confirmed and that the partition therein set forth be and the same is hereby made firm and effectual forever and binding and conclusive on all the parties to the proceedings herein and their representatives and all other persons claiming under them by right derived after the commencement of this proceedings herein and that the Clerk of this court be and he is hereby ordered and directed to certify a copy of this order and Judgment, including said report, down to the Recorder of Hempstead Co., to the end that the same may be recorded in the record for deeds in his office.

And it is further ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that Thomas Boyett, as administrator of the estate of the said Lovett T. Hinton, deceased, be and he is hereby ordered and directed to pay the costs of this suit and proceedings therein out of any moneys or assets in he hands as such administrator and he is hereby authorized and directed to take credit for such payment or payments in his settlement as such administrator.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Decree, Dated: Apr. 29, 1889, Filed: May 14, 1889

Thos. J. Haynes,

John A. Todd

Alex Sinyard,

Commissioners

Record Book: 23

Page: 9 Sum: Partition

To

Heirs of Lovett T. Hinton

Dec'd

Dower and homestead relinquished: Ack'd. Before:
Thomas Boyett, J. P.

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

The Commissioners appointed at the present term of this court to make partition of the lands of Lovett T. Hinton, deceased, among the legatees under his will, who are his widow and heirs at law, beg leave to report as follows: That in accordance with the order and decree of said court they proceeded to partition said lands in eight shares of equal value of \$500.00 each and numbered the same from 1 to 8 and allotted the said shares among the said legatees as follows:

SHARE NO.2: SW ¼, SE 1/4., Section 22, Township 13 S.R. 24 West (and other lands)

containing in all 200 acres and lying in Hempstead Co. Ark. and valued by them at \$500.00 they allotted and set apart to THOMAS J. HINTON.

SHARE NO.3: NW ¼, SE ¼, and all of the NE 1/4., SE ¼, except 10 acres off of the East side thereof, in Section 22 Township 13 S.R. 24 West. and containing in the aggregate 70 acres and lying in Hempstead Co. Ark., and valued at \$500.00 they allotted and set apart to THEODOCIA A. BOYETT, widow and relict of said deceased and one of said legatees.

Probate Court L-244

IN HEMPSTEAD PROBATE COURT
NOVEMBER 29, 1887

ESTATE OF L. T. HINTON,
THOMAS BOYETT, EXPARTE.

The court this day examined the petition of Thomas Boyett filed herein requesting that he be appointed as Guardian of the minor heirs of L. T. Hinton deceased and also files his bond as such guardian.

And it appearing to the court that the said Thomas Boyett has intermarried with the widow of the said L. T. Hinton, deceased and mother of the minor children of said deceased and is a proper person to have the care and custody of the persons and estates of said minors. And it further appearing to the court that Theodocia A. the mother of said minors joins in the petition herein, also that Amanda M. Hinton and Thomas J. Hinton two of the minor heirs of said deceased who are over the age of 14 years request that the said Thomas Boyett be appointed as their guardian. It is therefore considered and ordered by the court that the said Thomas Boyett be appointed guardian of the persons of Amanda M. Thomas J., Virgil F., William R. and John B., children and heirs of L. T. Hinton, deceased.

Probate Rec. L-370

IN HEMPSTEAD PROBATE COURT
May 6, 1890.

Est. Thomas J. Hinton et al Minors
Thomas Boyett, Guardian

PETITION TO SELL LAND

Your petitioner, Thomas Boyett would respectfully show that he is the guardian of the minors Thomas J. Hinton et al, heirs of Lovett T. Hinton, deed., that at the earnest solicitation and request of said minor Thos. J. Hinton for in education, he has kept him in school since his appointment as guardian and for the past term or two said minor. Thos. J. Hinton has been attending the Ouachita College at Arkadelphia, Ark.; that the expenses of said minor for board, tuition, books, clothing & c has long since exceeded all the personal assets coming to said minor from the estate or his father to him and your petitioner is now paying said expenses out of other funds. Said minor Thos. J. Hinton received from his father's estate 200 acres of land of which 160 lies a body and 40 acres lie separate and apart from the other. In order to meet and pay for the education of said minor it will be necessary that a part of said land should. be sold and your petitioner would suggest the sale of the 40 acres which is disconnected from the rest of the land.

The said 40 acres is described as follows:

SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 22, Township 13 S. R. 24 West situated in Hempstead Co., Ark.

Wherefore the premises considered, your petitioner would respectfully pray from the court an order of sale of the above described land to pay off the expenses already incurred and yet to be incurred in the education of said minor; that the court direct that said land shall be sold at the front of the Mayor's Office in the Town of Hope, Ark. on the 14th day of June, 1890 on a credit or not exceeding 6 months and as in duty bound your petitioner would ever pray &c.

Thos. Boyett

And the court having carefully considered the foregoing petition and believing that the sale of the land described in the same is necessary for the support and education of said minor as well as to pay expenses which have already been incurred by said Guardian for said minor and being sufficiently advised in the premises doth grant the prayer thereof.

Wherefore it is considered, ordered and adjudged by the court that the said Thomas Boyett, Guardian as aforesaid of Thomas J. Hinton, expose for sale at public venue according to law at the front door or the Mayor's Office in the Town of Hope, Ark., on Saturday the 14th day of June, 1890 to the highest and best bidder on a credit of 6 months the **SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 22, Township 13 S.R. 24 West**, and that he take a note from the purchaser with approved personal security, reserving a lien on land for the purchase money. & c.

Probate Court L-385

IN HEMPSTEAD PROBATE COURT
July 15, 1890

Thomas Boyett, Guardian.
Thomas J. Hinton, minor, EX-parte
REPORT OF LAND SALE

By virtue of an order of the Probate Court made at the adjourned April term 1890, the undersigned, Thomas Boyett, guardian of Thomas J. Hinton, minor, duly advertised for sale the land hereinafter described, which sale was fixed to be made in front of the Mayor's Office in the Town of Hope, Hempstead Co. Ark. on Saturday June 14. 1890, between the hours for Judicial sales on a credit of six months as witnesseth the copy of said advertisement hereto attached and made a part of this report, said land had been previously appraised by commissioners appointed by the Circuit Court to make partition of said land among the heirs of L. T. Hinton, deceased, at 2.50 per acre. The land advertised for sale was as follows:

SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 22, Township 13 S. R. 24 West, containing 40 acres more or less situated in Hempstead Co., Ark.

at the time and place named in said advertisement the undersigned attended and offered said land for sale at public outcry and sold the same to Mrs. T. A. Boyett at and for the sum of \$4.00 per acre aggregating the sum of \$160.00. The said Mrs. T.A. Boyett is the mother of the said minor Thomas J. Hinton and bought in said land to prevent a sacrifice of the same and that her son might get as near the full value thereof as possible.

Said land was sold on a credit of 6 months and note with approved security taken for the purchase money and a lien reserved on the land. The undersigned has endeavored in every respect to comply with the law and as required by law. He respectfully submits this report and asks that the same maybe approved.

Thomas Boyett

Which report is by the court in all things approved and confirmed.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Guardian's Deed , Dated: Aug. 14, 1891,
Filed: Dec. 22, 1891

Thomas Boyett, Guardian
of Thomas J. Hinton

To

T. A. Boyett

Record Book: 27 Page: 255 Sum: \$160.00

Dower and homestead relinquished: Ack'd. Before:
J. D. Spargins, N. P.
Hempstead co., Ark.

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 22, Township 13 S. R. 24 West

Sold by order of Hempstead Co., Probate Court June 14,
1890.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Tax Sale, Dated: June 11, 1917, Filed:

R. L. keel, Sheriff &
Collector,
To
State of Arkansas

Record Book: E Page: 266 Sum:

Dower and homestead relinquished: Ack'd. Before:
J. D. Spargins, N. P.
Hempstead co., Ark.

In deed and acknowledgement:

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

**Pt. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22 Township 13 S. R. 24 West,
30 acres. W $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22, Township 12 S. R. 24
West, 80 acres.**

Sold for taxes of 1916 in name of T.A Boyett. Redeemed
by G. W. Hinton June 17, 1917.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

The conveyance regular except as noted: Tax Sale, Dated: Dec. 4, 1919, Filed: Dec. 22, 1919

V. F. Hinton and wife,
Vick Hinton,
To

C. V. Middlebrook

Record Book: 75 Page: 541 Sum: \$545.00

Dower and homestead relinquished: Ack'd. Before:
L. Austin Fontenot, N. P.
St. Landry Parish, La.

In deed and acknowledgement: yes

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

An undivided one sixth interest, being all of our interest in and to the: **SW ¼, Se ¼; NW ¼, SE ¼, and all of the NE ¼, SE ¼, lying West of the Hope Falcon road, all of said lands lying in Section 22 Township 13 S. R. 24 West and containing in the aggregate 109 acres, more or less.**

Civil Court Rec. Z-200

IN HEMPSTEAD CIRCUIT COURT
April 20. 1926

E. C. BROWN, PLAINTIFF
VS #903
G. W. HINTON, Sr. DEFENDANT

Come the parties hereto by their respective attorneys, and comes the Jury respited over from yesterday and the jurors herein, after hearing the instructions of the court and the argument of counsel, retired to consider their verdict, which they presently returned into open court as follows, to witt:

"We, the Jury, find for the plaintiff in the sum of \$2188.49."

DAN HARKNESS, Foreman

Therefore, it is considered, ordered and adjudged by the court that the plaintiff do have and recover of and from the defendant the aforesaid sum of \$2188.49 together with interest thereon from this date until paid at the rate of 10% annum and all costs in this cause expended. To which verdict and Judgment of the court the defendant at the time excepted. Motion for new trial overruled. Defendant granted an appeal to Supreme Court. Given 90 days to file his bill if exceptions.

The conveyance regular except as noted: Execution, Dated: May 15, 1928, Filed: July 14, 1919

E. C. Brown
Vs #903
G. W. Hinton

Record Book: E Page: 270 Sum:
Dower and homestead relinquished: Ack'd. Before:

In deed and acknowledgement: yes

Granting clause: Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey

Debt----- \$2307.68 & 10% int. from April 19, 1928
Cost----- \$81.75
Exe.----- \$1.90

SHERIFF'S RETURN

I hereby certify that the attached execution came to my hand on the 15th day of May, 1928 and that I found no goods and chattels upon which to levy and that I levied upon the following described real estate situated in Hempstead County, Arkansas, to wit:

W ½ SE ¼, and W ¾ NE ¼, Se ¼, Section 22 Township 13 S. R. 24 West (and other lands)

and after making said levy said land was advertised to be sold by me as Sheriff of Hempstead Co., Ark., on the 9th day of July, 1926 at the East entrance of the courthouse in the Town of Washington at public auction to the highest and best bidder on a credit of three months.

I further certify that on the 9th day of July, 1928 I did offer all the right title and interest of the said defendant, G.W. Hinton, Sr. in and to said land for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder upon a credit of 3 months and that his interest in the 120 acres of land above described was first offered for sale and C. V. Middlebrooks bid and offered the sum of \$230.00 for the same and this being the highest and best bid for said property the same was then and there publicly struck off and sold to him for said sum.
(and other lands to other parties)

I further certify that the said C .V Middlebrooks elected to pay cash for the land purchased by him and did pay cash for the same and I gave him a certificate of purchase therefore.

Witness my hand as such Sheriff on this 9th day of July, 1928.

Dorsey McRae, Sheriff of Hempstead Co., Ark.

TAXES

DESCRIPTION: W ½ SE¼ & Pt. NE ¼ SE ¼ (30 ac.) Section 22, Township, 13 S. R. 24 West.

YEAR	BY WHOM PAID	NO. RECEIPT
1920	Mrs. T. A. Boyett	5880
1921	G. W. Hinton	6571
1922	T. A. Boyett	5182
1923	T. A. Boyett	2995
1924	T. A. Boyett	3954
1925	Geo. W. Hlnton	3374
1926	Geo. W. Hlnton	4035
1927	T. A.Boyett	487
1928	T. A. Boyett	872
1929	Mrs. F. D. Ward	424
1930	Mrs. F. D. Ward	600
1931	Mrs. F. D. Ward	902
1932	Mrs. F. D. Ward	309
1933-1941	Mrs. F. D. Ward	

J U D G E M E N T S

Judgments checked against the following and none other:

T. A. Boyett Est. ----- None

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS
COUNTY OF HEMPSTEAD

I hereby certify that I have examined the records of Hempstead County, Arkansas for all instruments of record affecting the title to the lands described in the caption hereof and find only as shown herein.

There are no mechanic's lien, suits pending, tax sales or taxes due and unpaid except herein shown.

This abstract consists of 36 sheets numbered consecutively from 1 to 36, inclusive.

WITNESS my hand this 23rd day of May, 1933, at 4 o'clock P. M.

Signed: Ella Monroe
Abstractor



Appendix B

**CASE NO.2725
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

C. V. Middlebrooks vs. Mrs. Fannie Ward et al.

**CASE NO.2725
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

**C. V. Middlebrooks,
PLANTIFF**

vs.

**Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart,
Thomas J. Hinton and Mrs. Thomas J.
Hinton, his wife; George We Hinton and
Lou Hinton, his wife; Mrs. Nella Frost,
Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, Iei-
leen Hinton, Mrs. Rainey, formerly Mrs.
John Hinton, Fair Boyett and Mrs. Fair
Boyett, his wife.
DEFENDANTS**

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.
PROCEEDINGS OF 3, MAY 1934
DECREE. CASE NO.2725
RECORD BOOK T, PAGE 482**

C. V. Middlebrooks,

PLAINTIFF

vs.

Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, Thomas J. Hinton and Mrs. Thomas J. Hinton, his wife; George We Hinton and Lou Hinton, his wife; Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, Ieileen Hinton, Mrs. Rainey, formerly Mrs. John Hinton, Fair Boyett and Mrs. Fair Boyett, his wife.

DEFENDANTS

Now on this day, the same being the first day of the regular March, 1934, term of this court, the plaintiff appears by his attorneys, Graves & Graves, and the defendant, Mrs. Fannie Ward, appears in person, and the defendant, Thomas J. Hinton, appears in person and by his attorney, P. T. Staggs, and the defendants, Mrs. Nella Frost and Mrs. Inez White, appear by their attorney, P. T. Staggs, and the defendants, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton, minors, appear by their step-mother and next friend, Mrs. Bertie Davis, and also appear by their attorney, P. T. Staggs, and said minor defendants also appear by G. P. Casey, their guardian ad litem, and the other defendants come not, neither answer, plead nor demur, although duly and regularly summoned to appear herein for the time and in the manner required by law; and thereupon this cause comes on for hearing and the same is submitted to the court upon the original complaint and the amendment thereto, the original summonses herein with the sheriffs' returns thereon, the affidavits for warning orders, warning orders, the appointments of the attorney ad litem for the non-resident defendants, reports of attorney ad litem for the non-resident defendants, the proofs of publications of the warning orders, appointment of guardian ad litem for the minor defendants, the answer of the guardian ad litem, the answers of the defendants, Thomas J. Hinton, Mrs. Nella Frost and Mrs. Inez White, and of Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton, together with the oral testimony introduced, from all of which the Court finds:

That the complaint herein filed 2nd day of October, 1933, and that summons was issued addressed to the Sheriff of Hempstead County, Arkansas, and served on the defendant Mrs. Fannie Ward, by the sheriff of said county in said county and state and more than 20 days prior to this date; that summons was also issued addressed to the sheriff of Miller County, Arkansas for the defendants, Thomas J. Hinton, and Mrs. Thos. J. Hinton, his wife, and served on said defendants by the sheriff of said county in said county and state and more than twenty days prior to this date; that affidavit for warning order was filed by plaintiff in manner and form as required by law, 2nd day of October, 1933 stating that the defendants, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, Geo. W. Hinton and Lou Hinton, his wife,

Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, Ieileen Hinton and Mrs. Rainey, formerly Mrs. John Hinton, were non-residents of the State of Arkansas, and on said date the clerk of this court made and endorsed on the complaint herein warning order warning said defendants, and each of them to appear in this court and answer the complaint of the Plaintiff herein within thirty days and caused a copy of said warning order to be published in the "Hope Star", once a week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication more than 30 days prior to this date, said newspaper being published in Hope, Arkansas, and having been published therein and having had a bona fide circulation therein for the past several years, and on said 2nd day of October, 1933 the Hon. P. T. Staggs, a regular practicing attorney at this bar, was appointed attorney ad litem for said non-resident defendants by the clerk of this court and he immediately entered upon the discharge of his duties and has notified said non-resident defendants and each of them of the pendency of this suit and the allegations of the complaint and the relief prayed for therein and has filed his report herein and in all other respects has faithfully discharged his duties; that thereafter, on the 7th day of December 1933, the plaintiff also filed his affidavit herein stating that the defendants Fair Boyett and Mrs. Fair Boyett, his wife, were non-residents of this state and on said date the clerk of this court endorsed on the complaint warning order warning said defendants and each of them to appear in this court within 30 days and answer plaintiff's complaint and caused a copy of said warning order to be published in said HOPE STAR once a week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication being more than 30 days prior to this date, said newspaper being published in Hope, Arkansas, and having been published in said county and having had a bona fide circulation therein for the past several years, and on said 7 December 1933, the Hon. P. T. Staggs was appointed attorney ad litem for said Fair Boyett and Mrs. Fair Boyett and he immediately thereafter entered upon the discharge of his duties and notified said non-resident defendants and each of them of the pendency of this suit and the allegations of the complaint and the relief prayed for therein and has filed his report herein and in all other respects has faithfully discharged his duties as such attorney ad litem.

The court further finds that the Hon. G. P. Casey, a regular practicing attorney at this bar, was appointed guardian ad litem for the minor defendants, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton, by the clerk of this court, on the day ____ January, 1934, and he has filed his answer as such guardian ad litem, denying each and every allegation of the complaint prejudicial to the rights of said minor defendants and in all other respects has faithfully discharged his duties as such guardian ad litem.

The court further finds that each and all of the defendants have been duly and regularly summoned to appear herein for the time and in the manner required by law and that this court now has jurisdiction of this cause and the parties hereto.

That Lovett T. Hinton, who died many years ago, was the owner of the lands described in the complaint at the time of his death, which lands are in Hempstead County, Arkansas, and described as follows:

The West Half of the Southwest Quarter ($W\frac{1}{2}$, $Se\frac{1}{4}$) and all that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter ($NE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$) lying West of Hope-Falcon Public Road, all in Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirteen (13) South., Range Twenty-four (24) West, containing in all 109 acres, more or less.

That said Lovett T. Hinton died testate and his will was duly probated by the Probate Court of Hempstead County, Arkansas, which will is now of record in the will records of said court in Will Record C, Page 342; that he left him surviving his widow, Mrs. T. A. Hinton, who afterwards married Thomas Boyett, and he also left him surviving as his sole and only children and heirs at law the defendants, Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, Thomas J. Hinton and Geo. W. Hinton, together with V. F. (Virgil) Hinton and John Hinton; that said John Hinton has since died intestate, leaving him surviving his widow, who has since married and is now Mrs. Rainey, and the defendants, Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton, as his sole and only children and heirs at law.

The court further finds that after the death of said Lovett T. Hinton, part of his lands were portioned and the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter ($SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$), of said Section 22, was allotted to the defendant, Thos. J. Hinton who was then a minor and that the same was sold by proper order of the court and was purchased by the said Mrs. T. A. Boyett and that she was the owner of said forty acres at the time of her death. And; that the other lands above described constituted the home stead of the said Lovett T. Hinton at the time of his death.

That the said Mrs. T. A. Boyett has since died intestate, leaving her surviving said heirs Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, Thos. J. Hinton, Geo. W. Hinton, V. F. Hinton and the defendant, Fair Boyett, as her sole and only surviving children, who, together with the defendants, Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton sole and only children and heirs at law of John Hinton, deceased, are the sole and only heirs at law of the said Mrs. T. A. Boyett, deceased.

That the plaintiff purchased the interest of said V. F. (Virgil F.) Hinton in and to all the lands above described and also purchased the interest of said Geo. W. Hinton at execution sale, and plaintiff is now the owner of an undivided $\frac{2}{7}$ th interest in and to the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter ($SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$), of said Section 22, and is also the owner of an undivided $\frac{1}{3}$ rd interest in and to the other lands above described; that the defendants, Mrs. Fannie Ward, Mrs. Amanda Earhart and Thos. J. Hinton, each own an undivided $\frac{1}{7}$ th interest in and to said 40 acres and an undivided $\frac{1}{6}$ th interest in and to the other lands above described; that the defendants, Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton each own an undivided $\frac{1}{28}$ th interest in and to said 40 acres and each own an undivided $\frac{1}{24}$ th interest in and to the other lands above described; and the defendant, Fair Boyett, owns an undivided $\frac{1}{7}$ th interest in and to said 40 acres, but has

no interest in the other lands.

That said John Hinton died prior to the time of the death of said Mrs. T. A. Boyett and his widow has no interest in the 40 acres above described;

RECORD BOOK T, PAGE 485

and the other said lands being the homestead of the said Lovett T. Hinton and in the possession of Mrs. T. A. Boyett, and subject to her life estate therein until the time of her death, the defendant, Mrs. Rainey, formerly Mrs. John Hinton, has no interest therein and she therefore has no interest in any of said lands and will not be entitled to anything out of the proceeds of the sale thereof.

That no administration has been had on the estate of Mrs. T. A. Boyett, deceased and no administration has been had on the estate of John Hinton deceased.

That on account of the many interests in said lands and the location thereof and the improvements thereon and the nature and character of said lands, the same cannot be equitably divided in kind, and the same should be ordered sold for the purposes of partition, and the net proceeds after deducting the costs herein, including a reasonable attorney's fee for plaintiff's attorney, to be hereafter fixed by this court, should be divided among the several parties hereto according to their respective rights and interests as hereinbefore set forth.

The court further finds that this cause should be continued for further consideration as to the claims of Thomas J. Hinton and as to the claims of any of the other parties hereto for any indebtedness which they claim should be paid out of the proceeds of said sale.

IT IS THEREFORE, considered, ordered, adjudged and decreed that all of said lands above described be and the same are hereby ordered sold by Dale Jones, who is hereby appointed Special Commissioner to make said sale and carry out the decree of the court herein, at public outcry, to the highest bidder, at the front door or entrance to the Courthouse, in the Town of Washington, in Hempstead County, Arkansas, on a credit of three months, between the hours for judicial sales, on Tuesday, 10 April, 1934, after having given due notice of the time, terms and place of said sale for the time and in the manner required by law for sales of real estate under execution and the purchaser or purchasers shall be required to execute note with approved personal surety thereon and said note shall bear interest from date of sale until paid at the rate of 10% per annum and a lien shall be retained on said lands to secure the payment of the purchase money, and that the Forty acres above described be sold separately from the other lands above described; and that the net proceeds of said sale after deducting the costs and a reasonable attorney's fee for plaintiff's attorneys to be hereafter fixed, be and the same are hereby ordered divided among the parties hereto according to their several interests and in accordance with the above findings and that upon a sale of said land and confirmation thereof, all right, title, interest and equity of redemption of the parties hereto including all dower and homestead rights of Mrs. Thos. J. Hinton, Lou Hinton and Mrs. Fair Boyett, wives, respectively of said Thomas J. Hinton, Geo. W. Hinton and Fair Boyett, and of Mrs. Rainey, widow of

John Hinton, deceased, in and to said lands be cut off and forever barred and divested out of them and vested in the purchaser or purchasers of said lands; and that the commissioner herein be and he is hereby ordered to report his proceedings hereunder to this court for approval.

RECORD BOOK T, PAGE 486

It is further ordered that this cause be continued for the further hearing and consideration of the claims of Thomas J. Hinton and any other of the parties hereto, and for such further orders as may be necessary or proper for the enforcement of the respective rights of the parties hereto.

**INSTRUMENT ORDER APPROVING SALE.
DATED 16, APRIL, 1934, RECORDED IN CHAN-
CERY RECORD BOOK T, PAGE 511-12.
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE: THE CHANCERY
COURT OF HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

C. V. Middlebrooks,

vs. (2725)

Mrs. Fannie Ward et al.

Now on this day, the same being a regular adjourned day of the regular March, 1934, term of this court, the commissioner's report of sale herein comes on for hearing, no exceptions having been filed thereto, which report is (omitting caption) in words and figures, as follows, to-wit:

"The subscriber respectfully reports, that in pursuance of the authority and directions contained in the decretal order of this Honorable Court, made and rendered in the above entitled cause, 5th day of March, 1934, he gave notice of the time, place and terms for the sale of the land and premises therein described (which is also hereinafter described) by publication in the manner and for the time prescribed by law and said decree, and on the day fixed for the sale, 10th day of April, 1934, he did offer said lands and premises for sale to the highest bidder, on a credit of three months, at the front door or entrance to the Courthouse, in the Town of Washington, Ark., the place designated by said decree for the sale thereof, and named in the notice (a copy of which is hereto annexed), and at such sale so made and had by him he first offered for sale the following described land situated in the in Hempstead county, Arkansas to wit:

The Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW ¼ SE ¼) and all that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE ¼ SE ¼) lying and being situated West of the Hope-Falcon Public Road, all in Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirteen (13) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West, and containing in all 69 acres, more or less,

and at such sale so made and had by him Mrs. Fannie Ward bid and offered \$1590 for said lands and premises, and that being the highest bid, the same was then and there struck off and sold to her for that sum.

He next offered for sale the following described land situated in the in Hempstead county, Arkansas to wit:

The Southwest of the Southeast Quarter (SW ¼ SE ¼) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirteen (13) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West, containing 40 acres, more or less,

and at such sale so made and had by him the said Mrs. Fannie Ward bid and offered \$300 for said lands and premises, and that being the highest bid, therefore, the same was then and there struck off and sold for that sum same was then and there struck off and sold to her for that sum.

That the purchaser gave her note for \$1890, due ninety (90) days after date, bearing interest from date until paid at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum, with R. H. Tunstall, surety thereon, and she will be entitled to ~ deed to said lands upon the payment of said note and interest.

Wherefore, he prays that said sale be approved and that he be authorized to execute to the purchaser a deed conveying to her, her heirs and as signs, forever, all of said lands upon the payment of said note and interest thereon, and that he be allowed \$15.00 for his services herein.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DALE JONES, Commissioner in Chancery

The court after considering said report and hearing the oral testimony introduced and being well and sufficiently advised in the premises finds:

That all the matters and facts set forth in said report of sale are true and correct; that said sale of said property described therein, and as described in the decree herein, was regular in every respect, and said sale was made and had by said commissioner at the time and place and upon the terms and after due notice, as provided in said decree and as set forth in said report; that said property was sold for a fair and reasonable price, and said sale and report of sale should be approved.

RECORD BOOK T, PAGE 513

IT IS THEREFORE, considered, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that said sale and said report of sale be and the same is hereby in all things approved and confirmed, and that the commissioner herein be and he, is hereby directed to execute a deed conveying to said Mrs. Fannie Ward, and to her heirs and assigns, forever, the land and property above described upon the payment of said note and interest thereon, and that said deed, when executed, be presented to this court for approval, and said commissioner be allowed the sum of \$15.00 for his services, and that he be discharged upon the execution and approval of said deed.

**INSTRUMENT AMMENDED COMPLIANT
DATED 6, JULY, 1934, RECORDED IN
CHANCERY RECORD BOOK U, PAGE 31.
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE: THE CHAN-
CERY COURT OF HEMPSTEAD COUNTY,
ARKANSAS**

C. V. Middlebrooks, et al.

PLAINTIFF

vs.

Mrs. Fannie Ward, et al...

DEFENDANTS

Comes the defendants. Mrs. Nellie Frost, Mrs. Inez White, adults, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Elieen Hinton, minors by Mrs. Bertie Davis, their stepmother and next friend, by P. T. Staggs, their attorney, and files herein their reply and separate answer to the amendment of Mrs. Fannie Ward and Mrs. Amanda Earhart. to their answer and intervention, and to the amended complaint of the plaintiff, C. V. Middlebrooks.

**INSTRUMENT DECREE
DATED 6, JULY, 1934, RE
CORDED IN CHANCERY RE
CORD BOOK U, PAGE 46-47.
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE:
THE CHANCERY COURT OF
HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR-
KANSAS**

C. V. Middlebrooks,

PLAINTIFF

vs.

Mrs. Fannie Ward, et al.,

DEFENDANT

DECREE

Now on this 6th day of July, 1934, the same being a regular day of the regular March, 1934, term of this Court, the plaintiff appears by his attorneys, Graves and Graves, and the defendant, Mrs. Fannie Ward, appears in person and by her attorney, H. M. Barney, and the defendant, Mrs. Amanda Earhart, also appears by her attorney, H. M. Barney, and the defendant, Thomas J. Hinton appears in person, and the defendants, Nella Frost and Inez White appear by her their attorney P.T. Staggs, and the minor defendants, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Ieileen Hinton, appear by their step-mother and next friend, Mrs. Bertie Davis, and also by their attorney, P. T. Staggs, and said minor defendants also appear by G. P. Casey, their guardian ad litem, and the other defendants come not, neither answer, plead, nor demur, but make default; and thereupon this cause comes on for hearing upon the answer and intervention of Mrs. Fannie Ward and Mrs. Amanda Earhart and their amendment thereto, plaintiff's reply and answer to said answer and intervention and plaintiff's reply and answer to the amendment to the intervention, together

RECORD BOOK U, PAGE 47

with the answer of Mrs. Nella Frost, Mrs. Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, and Ieileen Hinton to the answer and intervention of Mrs. Fannie Ward, and Mrs. Amanda Earhart. the answer of the guardian ad litem, the report of the attorney ad litem, proof of publication, warning order, and all other papers and pleadings in the case, together with the plaintiff's deposition and together with the oral testimony introduced, from all of which the court finds:

That the several interests of the parties hereto as fixed in the original decree herein are correct, and that said decree is correct and should be in all things approved and confirmed.

The court further finds that plaintiff's attorneys are entitled to a fee of \$75.00 for their services in this partition suit and that the same should be taxed as a part of the costs in this case, and one-sixth of said attorney's fee and also one-sixth of all other costs should be charged against the proceed of the sale of the forty acres of land belonging to Mrs. T. A. Boyett, deceased. which is described in the original decree herein; and that the following amounts were paid out by the defendants, Thomas J. Hinton for the funeral expenses and clothing for the deceased and for a marker at her grave, and these amounts should be paid to him out of the proceeds or the sale of said forty acres before any distribution thereof, said amounts being as follows to-wit:

Funeral expenses Healy and Roth	\$60.00
Additional funeral expenses paid Hope Furniture Company	\$21.00
Clothing furnished the deceased	\$13.00
Marker at grave	\$80.25
Total	\$174.25

and that the balance of the proceeds of the sale of the forty acres should be divided among the parties hereto according to their several interests as set out in the original decree herein.

The Court further finds that five-sixths of the cost of this proceeding, including attorney's fee, should be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the sixty-nine acre tract of land described in the original decree herein.

The Court further finds that Mrs. Amanda Earhart expended the sum of \$225.00 toward the building of a house on said sixty-nine acre tract of land, which was built in the year 1920, and that she should have and recover the sum of \$143.15, based on the present value of said house, and that this amount should be paid to her before the distribution of said funds.

The Court further finds that the defendant Thomas J. Hinton paid \$15.92 for insurance premium on the buildings and on said sixty-nine acre tract, and he should be paid that amount before any distribution of said funds.

The Court further finds that the balance of the proceeds of the sale of said sixty-nine acre tract, after deducting the amounts due Mrs. Amanda Earhart and Thomas J. Hinton as above provided, should be prorated among plaintiff and defendants according to their respective rights and interests as fixed by the Court and in the original decree herein.

The Court further finds that a fee of \$5.00 for the attorney ad litem and a fee of \$5.00 for the guardian ad litem should be taxed as a part of the costs herein.

IT IS THEREFORE considered, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the fee for plaintiff's attorneys ,in this partition suit be and the same I is hereby fixed at \$75.00, and that one-sixth of said fee and one-sixth of all the costs be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the forty acre tract, and that the other five-sixths of said fee and court costs be paid out of the proceeds of the sixty-nine acre tract, and that the sum of \$174.25 be end is hereby ordered paid to the defendant, Thomas J. Hinton out of the proceeds of the forty acre tract, in, accordance with the above findings, and that the sum of \$143.15 ii be paid Mrs. Amanda Earhart out of the proceeds of the sale of the Sixty-nine acres and that the further sum of \$15.92 be paid to the said Thomas J. Hinton out of the proceeds of the sale of said sixty-nine acre tract; and that the balance of the proceeds of the sale of said lands be and the same is hereby ordered distributed among the plaintiff and defendants according to their several interests as fixed in the original decree herein.

It is further ordered that the commissioner report his distribution of said funds to this court for approval.

**INSTRUMENT ORDER APPROVING DEED.
DATED 6, JULY, 1934, RECORDED IN
CHANCERY RECORD BOOK U, PAGE 65.
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE: THE CHAN-
CERY COURT OF HEMPSTEAD COUNTY,
ARKANSAS**

C. V. Middlebrooks,

vs.

.

Mrs. Fannie Ward et al.

On this day Dale Jones, the Commissioner appointed to execute the decree rendered in this cause, produces to the Court here his deed to Mrs. Fannie Ward, the purchaser of the lands and premises mentioned and described in said decree, and upon examination of said deed, the same is, in all things approved. And thereupon the said Dale Jones, here in open court, acknowledges that he has executed said deed to said Mrs. Fannie Ward for the lands and premises therein described to-wit:

The West Half of the Southwest Quarter ($W\frac{1}{2}$, $Se\frac{1}{4}$) and all that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter ($NE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$) lying West of Hope-Falcon Public Road, all in Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirteen (13) South., Range Twenty-four (24) West, containing in all 109 acres, more or less.

in Hempstead County, Arkansas, for the consideration and purposes therein mentioned and set forth; and it is ordered by the Court that a copy of this order and acknowledgment be entered upon said deed and certified by the clerk, under the seal of this Court, to the end that the same may be entitled to record.

**INSTRUMENT: COMMISSIONERS DEED.
DATED: JULY 6, 1934, FILED: JULY 18,
1934 RECORDED IN CHANCERY RECORD
BOOK 135, PAGE 140. ACKNOWLEDGED
BEFORE: A. C. ANDERSON, COUNTY
CLERK, HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARKAN
SAS , in open court on 6 July 1934 on
same date (and a certified copy of the or
der shown is attached to this deed and re
corded as a part thereof.)**

**Dale Jones,
Commissioner in Chancery**

To

Mrs. Fannie Ward.

RECITES: That the grantor, for the consideration of \$1890.00, paid, does grant, bargain, sell and convey the

The Southwest of the Southeast Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirteen (13) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West, containing 40 acres, more or less, also the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) and all that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) lying and being situated West of the Hope-Falcon Public Road, all in Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirteen (13) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West, and containing in all 69 acres, more or less, - said land containing in all 109 acres, more or less.

Under decretal order of the Chancery Court of Hempstead County, Ark., dated 5 March 1934, in re: C. V. Middlebrooks, PLAINTIFF, and Mrs. Fannie Ward and others, DEFENDANTS.

Premises sold, 10 April, 1934, in front of the Courthouse, in the town of Washington, Arkansas, which sale was reported to and approved by said Court, 10 April, 1934, and the execution and delivery of this deed authorized. 16 April, 1934.

INSTRUMENT: MORTGAGE.
DATED: July 6, 1934.
FILED: July 17, 1934, AT 1 P.M.
RECORD BOOK 137, PAGE 89
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE:
MARY ARNOLD, N. P., Hempstead
County, Arkansas, July 13, 1934

Mrs. Fannie Ward

To

R. H. Tunstall.

RECITES: That the mortgagor, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and to secure the payment of five notes of even date for \$290.71 each, due Nov. 1, 1935-1936-1937-1938-1939, with 10% per annum interest on each of said notes from date until paid, interest payable annually, does grant, bargain, sell and convey the:

W ½ SE ¼, and all that part of the NE ¼, SE ¼ lying West of the Hope-Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13S., 24W., 109 acres, more or less.

This mortgage also secures the payment of any and all other indebtedness due by mortgagor to mortgagee, if any, whether evidenced by note, account or otherwise, up to the time this mortgage is satisfied or foreclosed.

**INSTRUMENT: WARRANTY DEED
DATED: SEPTEMBER 11, 1934
FILED: SEPTEMBER 13, 1934, AT 8 A. M.
RECORD BOOK 139, PAGE 466. AC
KNOWLEDGED BEFORE: MARY ARNOLD,
N. P. , Hempstead County, Arkansas, Sep-
tember 11, 1934.**

Mrs. Fannie Ward

To

**M. T. Hubbard and Amie Hubbard,
his wife, by entirety.**

I, Mrs. Fannie Ward, a woman, for the consideration of \$10, paid, and other good and valuable consideration, and the further consideration that grantees do hereby assume and agree to pay to R. H. Tunstall my entire indebtedness to him, which is secured by mortgage on the lands hereinafter described, which mortgage is dated July 6, 1934, and is now of record in the recorder's office of Hempstead County, Arkansas, in Book 137, page 89, and for the further consideration that grantees hereby agree to comfortably support and maintain me in a home on the lands hereinafter described during the remainder of my life, and hereby reserving to myself the use and possession of a house to be occupied as my home on said lands so long as I live, and subject to all the conditions and reservations hereinafter written, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey the

West half of Southeast quarter and all that part of the Northeast quarter of Southeast quarter lying and being situated West of the Hope and Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13S., 24W., 109 acres, more or less.

It is now understood and agreed that I am living in the main dwelling house on said lands and I hereby reserve the right to continue to have the sole and exclusive use and occupancy of said house as long as I live if I so desire, though this shall not prevent our living together in one house on said lands with the understanding that I shall at all times have the right to have a house to myself if I so desire; and that if the grantees herein should fail, neglect or refuse to support and maintain me comfortably in a home on said lands in keeping with the way they are supporting and maintaining themselves, then I reserve the right to the use and rents from enough of said lands to so maintain myself during the remainder of my life and I shall have and hereby reserve a lien on said lands to guarantee to me such home and support and maintenance on said lands during the remainder of my life.

Clause of general warranty

U. S. I. R. stamp affixed 50 cents.

Continuation Certificate

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
COUNTY OF HEMPSTEAD**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have carefully examined the records of Hempstead County, Arkansas, from the 23d day of May, 1933, at 4 P. M., the date of the last certificate, for all instruments of record affecting the title to the lands or town lots described in Caption hereof, and find only as shown herein in transfers 38 to 49, inclusive.

This 13th day of Jan., 1937 , at 8 o'clock A. M. 1933 taxes paid by Mrs. Fannie Ward, receipt #1941; 1934 and 1935 taxes paid by M. T. Hubbard, receipt Nos. 459 and 7420, respectively.

Signed: F. Y. Trimble
Abstracter

**INSTRUMENT: RELEASE. DATED:
JANUARY 16, 1937
FILED: JANUARY 21, 1937. AT M. RECORD
BOOK 151, PAGE 254. ACKNOWLEDGED
BEFORE: Mary Arnold, N. P., Hempstead
County, Arkansas, January 16, 1937. Ap
pearer: R. H. Tunstall**

R. H. Tunstall,

To

Mrs. Fannie Ward.

In consideration of full payment of all indebtedness mentioned in a certain mortgage, dated July 6, 1934, and recorded in Book 137, page 89, in the recorder's office of Hempstead County, Arkansas, and covering the:

W ½ SE ¼ and all that part of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope-Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13s., 24w., 109 acres, more or less,

the lien on the property above mentioned is hereby discharged and released in full.

INSTRUMENT: MORTGAGE, DATED: JANUARY 16, 1937 FILED: December 11, 1937 AT M. RECORD BOOK 131, PAGE 216. ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE: Mary Arnold, N. P., Hempstead County, Arkansas, January 16, 1937

**M. T. Hubbard and Amie
Hubbard, his wife, and
Mrs. Fannie Ward,**

To

J. H. Haynes

Mortgagors, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and to secure the payment of five notes of even date, the first four for \$200 each, and the 5th for \$300, due November 1, 1937-1938-1939-1940-1941, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey the:

W ½ SE ¼ and all that part of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope-Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13s., 24w., 109 acres, more or less,

MARGINAL ENDORSEMENT: For value received, * * * the within mortgage is satisfied in full and discharged of record, this January 13, 1938.

J. H. HAYNES.
Attest: RALPH BAILEY, Clerk.

**INSTRUMENT: MORTGAGE.,
DATED: DECEMBER 17, 1937
FILED: DECEMBER 20, 1937. AT M.
RECORD BOOK 137, PAGE 275 AC-
KNOWLEDGED BEFORE:
Mary Arnold, N. P., Hempstead.
County, Arkansas, 12 xx 1937.
Appearers: Fannie Ward, and M. T.
Hubbard and Amie Hubbard, his
wife, jointly and separately. Wife re-
linquishes dower and homestead.
She also joins throughout mortgage
and acknowledgment as a party
mortgagor.**

**M. T. Hubbard and Amie
Hubbard, his wife,
Fannie Ward,**

To

R. H. Tunstall

Mortgagors, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and to secure the payment of their five notes of even date for \$225, \$250, \$300, \$375, \$200 due on or before 1-2-3-4-5 years after date, with 10% per annum interest on each of said notes from date until paid, interest payable annually, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey the:

W ½ SE ¼ and all that part of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope-Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13s., 24w., 109 acres, more or less

All or any part of the notes hereinabove described may be paid at any time prior to maturity. Default in the payment of any of said notes or any installment of interest when due shall mature all unpaid notes at the option of the holder thereof.

This mortgage also secures the payment of any and all renewals of said notes or any of them or any part thereof, as well as any and all other indebtedness which we or either of us may owe said mortgagee, his heirs or assigns, at any time hereafter prior to the time this mortgage is satisfied, whether evidenced by note, account or otherwise.

**TAX PAYMENTS FOR LAST PAST FIVE YEARS ON LANDS
UNDER EXAMINATION:**

YEAR:	RECEIPT NUMBER:	BY WHOM PAID:
1936,	3294,	M. T. Hubbard
1937,	6890,	M. T. Hubbard
1938,	5018,	M. T. Hubbard

1939: Delinquent, and forfeited to State of Arkansas, November 4, 1940, but paid in redemption, February 21, 1941, by M. T. Hubbard.

1940: Amount to pay: \$20.80.

The property under examination is in no local and/or special improvement district, nor any road improvement district of any kind. Ok: F. Y. Trimble

JUDGMENTS

I HEREBY CERTIFY That there are no valid judgments, or liens of any kind, against any of the following named grantees which are liens on the lands described herein in any court of record in Hempstead County, Arkansas, except as shown herein.

(THE FOLLOWING NAMES AND INITIALS EXAMINED AGAINST, AND NONE OTHERS)

M. T. HUBBARD

AMIE HUBBARD

Signed: F. Y. TRIMBLE,
Abstracter.

I

INSTRUMENT: PATENT (Photostatic copy.)
DATED: AUGUST 1, 18.37.
FILED: APRIL 7, 1941 AT M.
RECORD BOOK 168, PAGE 73
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE:

United States

To

Henry M. Robinson,
Thomas Franklin,
Joel J. Robinson.

The United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with act of congress of April 24th, 1820, entitled AN ACT MAKING FURTHER PROVISION FOR THE SALE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, the

South half of Sec. 15; the South half of Sec. 14; the North half of Sec. 22; the North half of Sec. 23; the SE ¼ of Sec. 22, and the SW ¼ of Sec. 2.3, all in T. 1.3S. , R. 24W, 1,600 acres, more or less.

INSTRUMENT MORTGAGE. DATED: April 14 1941 FILED: April 14, 1941, AT 8 A. M. RECORD BOOK 163, PAGE 318. ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE: F. Y. Trimble, N. P., Hempstead Co., Arkansas, April 14. 1941 Appearers: Fannie Ward, and M. T. Hubbard and .Amie Hubbard, his wife, jointly and separately, wife relinquishes dower and homestead.

**M. T. Hubbard and his,
wife, Amie Hubbard, and
Fannie Ward,**

To

**F. W. Dyke, as Trustee for County,
The Guardian Company,
(an Arkansas corporation)**

Mortgagors, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and to secure the payment of their note of even date for \$2,100, with 4 ½ % per annum interest thereon from date, due and payable in Monthly installments of \$10.35 each, beginning June 1, 1941, according to the tenor and conditions of said note, and as in this mortgage fully set forth, EXCEPT that the final payment of principal and interest, if not sooner paid, shall be due and payable, May 1, 1961, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey the:

W ½ SE ¼, of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope Falcon public road, all in Section 22, Township 13S., R. 24 W, EXCEPT a 1-acre tract described as: Beginning at the NW corner of the NW ¼ SE ¼ of said Section 22 and run thence East 316 ½ links, thence South links, 22 and thence West 316 ½ , thence North 316 ½ links back to point of beginning, - 109 acres, more or less, in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

**STATE OF ARKANSAS,
County of Hempstead.**

AFFIDAVIT:

I, Tom Middlebrooks, on oath state that I am a citizen and resident of Hempstead County, Arkansas, and more than twenty-one years of age. I further state on oath that I am a son of Mrs. Fannie Ward and a grand son of Lovett T. Hinton and Theodocia A. Hinton-Boyett, both now deceased, and a nephew of John Hinton, deceased.

I further state on oath that on the 5th day of March, 1934 the following named persons, to-wit:

Fannie Ward, Amanda Earhart, Thos. J. Hinton, Geo. W. Hinton, Nella Frost, Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton, Leileen Hinton and Fair Boyett

were the sole surviving heirs at law of said Lovett T. Hinton and Theodocia A. Hinton-Boyett, both deceased, -the said Nella Frost, Inez White, Johnnie Mae Hinton and Leileen Hinton being the sole and only children and heirs at law of John Hinton, deceased, who was a son of said Lovett T. Hinton and Theodocia A. Hinton-Boyett.

The said John Hinton departed this life intestate in Boone County, Arkansas, on or about December 16, 1925 leaving him surviving his four children above named and his widow, Mrs. John Hinton, who has since married a Mr. Rainey and is now Mrs. Rainey.

The said Theodocia A. Hinton-Boyett, departed this life intestate in Pulaski County, Arkansas, on or about April 28, 1933, leaving her surviving no husband and the nine persons first above named as her sole surviving heirs at law.

No administration was had upon the estates of said John Hinton and Theodocia A. Hinton-Boyett, deceased, and all of their debts have long since been paid.

Signed: Tom Middlebrooks

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 8th day of March, 1941.

(SEAL)

Signed: F. Y. Trimble
Notary

My com. expires: January 14, 1945

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

I, Wm. S. Wellshear, Clerk of the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Arkansas; certify that I have carefully examined the records of said court for the TEXARKANA Division of said district, and find therein no unsatisfied judgment

or decree or pending suit or proceeding in bankruptcy against Mrs. Fannie Ward, M. T.

Hubbard and Amie Hubbard

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said court at office in

the city of TEXARKANA, Arkansas, this 17th day of April, 1941.

Signed: Wm. S. Wellshear, Clerk

By Lowell D. Gibbons, Deputy

**INSTRUMENT: MORTGAGE DATED:
DECEMBER 17, 1937 FILED: AT P.
M. RECORD BOOK 137, PAGE 275.
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE:**

**T. Hubbard and Amie
Hubbard, his wife, and
Fannie Ward**

To

R. H. Tunstall.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the margin of the record of the mortgage above referred to is endorsed as follows, to-wit:

"For value received, * * * the within mortgage is satisfied in full and discharged of record, this June 25th, 1941.

R. H. TUNSTALL
Attest: J. P. BYERS, Clerk."

Signed: F. Y. Trimble
Abstracter.

**INSTRUMENT: MORTGAGE
DATED: APRIL 14, 1941
FILED: JULY 28, 1941, AT 8
A. M. RECORD BOOK 169,
PAGE 189, ACKNOWLEDGED
BEFORE: Mildred M. Sanders,
N. P., Pulaski, County April
14, 1941. Appearers: M. T.
Hubbard and Amie Hubbard,
his wire, jointly and sepa-
rately; and Fannie Ward.
Wife joins throughout mort-
gage and acknowledgment as
a party mortgagor.**

**M. T. Hubbard and his
wife, Amie Hubbard,
and Fannie Ward,**

To

**F. W. Dyke, as Trustee for
The Guardian Company
(an Arkansas corporation)**

Mortgagors, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and to secure the payment of their note of even date for \$2,100, with 4 ½ % per annum interest there-on from date, due and payable in monthly installments of \$13.29 each, beginning June 1, 1941, according to the tenor and conditions of said note, and as in this mortgage fully set forth, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey the:

W ½ SE ¼ and all of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope and Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13S., 24W., EXCEPT one acre described as: Beginning at the NW corner of the NW ¼ SE ¼ of said Sec. 22 and run thence East 316 ½ links, thence South 316 ½ links, thence West 316 ½ links, thence North 316 ½ links back to the point of beginning, - 109 acres, more or less.

**INSTRUMENT: ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE
DATED: JUNE 13, 1941. FILED: JUNE 28, 1941.
AT M. RECORD BOOK 168, PAGE 215. AC
KNOWLEDGED BEFORE: Mildred M. Sanders, N.
P., Pulaski County, Arkansas, June 13, 1941. Ap-
pearers: Jack C. East and M. D. Camp, as Vice
President and Asst. Secretary, respectively, of
The Guardian Company, a corporation.**

**The Guardian Company
BY: JACK C. EAST, Vice
President, and M. D. CAMP
Asst. Secretary, (S E A L)**

To

The RFC Mortgage Company.

Assignor, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and other valuable considerations, does hereby sell, transfer, assign, set over and deliver unto said assignee, its successors and assigns, that certain deed or trust executed by M. T. Hubbard and Amie Hubbard unto F. W. Dyke, as Trustee for The Guardian Company, dated April 14, 1941, and recorded in Book 163, page 318, in the recorder's office of Hempstead County, Arkansas, and the note (s) and indebtedness described in and now secured by the instrument aforesaid.

**INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE,
DATED: JULY 15, 1941, FILED: JULY 28, 1941,
AT 8 A. M. RECORD BOOK 168, PAGE 351,
ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE: John R. Burnside, N.
P., Pulaski. County, Arkansas, July 15, 1941 Ap-
pearer: J. W. Jarrett as attorney in fact for The
RFC Mortgage Company.**

**The RFC Mortgage Company
BY: J. W. JARRETT
J. W. Jarrett, as attorney in fact**

To

The Guardian Company

Assignor, for the consideration of \$1, paid, and other valuable considerations, does hereby sell, transfer, assign, set over and deliver unto said assignee, its successors and assigns, without recourse and without any representation or warranty of any character on the part of said assignor, the following deed of trust:

Deed of trust, dated April 14, 1941, executed by M. T. Hubbard and Amie Hubbard, his wife, to F. W. Dyke, as Trustee for The Guardian Company, which deed of trust was, June 13, 1941, transferred and assigned by said The Guardian Company to The RFC Mortgage Company, by assignment recorded in Record Book 168, page 215, in the recorder's office of Hempstead County, Arkansas,- said deed of trust being of record in said recorder's office in Record Book 163, page 318.

**INSTRUMENT: RELEASE OF MORTGAGE
DATED: JULY 17, 1941, FILED: JULY 28,
1941, AT 8 A. M. RECORD BOOK 168,
PAGE 350, ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE:
Mildred M. Sanders, N. P., Pulaski County,
Arkansas, July 17, 1941. Appearers: Jack
C. East and M. D. Camp, as Vice President
and Asst. Secretary, respectively, of The
Guardian Company, a corporation.**

**The Guardian Company,
BY: JACK C. EAST, Vice Pres-
ident, and M. D. CAMP, Asst.
Secretary, (S E A L)**

To

M. T. Hubbard et al.

Grantor, by its officers aforesaid, for the consideration of \$1, paid, does hereby release and discharge in full the hereinafter described real property from the lien of a deed of trust executed by M. T. Hubbard, Amie Hubbard and Fannie Ward to F. W. Dyke, as Trustee for The Guardian Company, dated April 14, 1941, and recorded in Book 163, page 318, in the recorder's office of Hempstead County, Arkansas, the real property herein released being the:

W ½ SE ¼ and all of the NE ¼ SE ¼ lying West of the Hope and Falcon public road, all in Sec. 22, 13S., 24W., EXCEPT one acre described as: Beginning at the NW corner of the NW ¼ SE ¼ of said Sec. 22 and run thence East 316 ½ links, thence South 316 ½ links, thence West 316 ½ links, thence North 316 ½ links back to the point of beginning, - 109 acres, more or less.

the purpose of this instrument is to release the lien of the aforesaid deed of trust for the reason that the aforesaid deed of trust has been satisfied and is henceforth null and void.



Appendix C

**Case
NO. 2725
In the Hempstead County
Chancery Court**

**Testimony of Amanda Earhart taken
by the Hempstead County Chancery
Court on the 18th day of May, 1934.**

**In the Hempstead County Chancery Court
NO. 2725**

C. V. Middlebrook, ----- Plaintiff

Vs.

Mrs. Fannie Ward, ET AL-----Defendant

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 18th day of May, 1934, it being an adjourned day of the Regular March 1934 Term of the Hempstead County Chancery Court, the above numbered and entitled cause coming on for hearing and to be heard, the HON PRATT P. BACON, Regular Chancellor for Hempstead County present and presiding, the following proceedings were had and done as follows, to-wit:

Present:----- Graves & Graves,
Attorneys for Pltf.

Present:-----Hon. H. M. Barney,
Attorney for Defts.

The testimony of the witnesses taken by the Hempstead County Chancery Court on the 18th day of May, 1934, and by the Court ordered to be reported by Oza R. Middlebrook, the Official Reporter of this Court, and upon application of either party to the suit to be transcribed and filed as depositions in this action.

Mrs. AMANDA EARHART, after having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Barney

Q Your name is Mrs. Amanda Earhart?

A Yes, sir.

Q Where is your home at this time, Mrs. Earhart?

A In Oklahoma City.

Q What kin, if any, are you to Mrs. T. A. Boyett?

A I am her daughter.

Q Is Mrs. T. A. Boyett living or dead?

A She is dead.

Q When did she die, if you know?

A About a year ago or a little over.

Q Where was she at the time of her death?

A In the State Hospital for Nervous Diseases at Little Rock.

Q How long had she been there, Mrs. Earhart?

A Something like twenty-five or thirty years; I don't just remember.

Q You and your sister Mrs. Fanny Ward, are both daughters of Mrs. Boyett, are you not?

A Yes, sir.

Q How many brothers did you have?

A Four.

Q Six children all told?

A Yes, sir.

Q Those were all Hinton children were they not?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then your mother later married Mr. Boyett and had one child by him, did she not?

A Yes, sir.

Q You are familiar with the 69 acre tract in controversy, are you not, the Old Hinton Home place and also the 40 acres adjoining it?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you ever live on that place, Mrs. Earhart?

A Not to say live there, I have visited there quite often.

Q You were raised there, were you not?

A Oh, yes, I was raised there.

Q That was your mother's home, was it not?

A Yes, sir.

Q How was that home established there, by her first husband?

A You mean the old place?

Q I am talking about the old place, the 69 acre tract. That 69 acre tract was a part of the old home place, was it not?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was the old dwelling house on that 69 acres?

A Not the old house. There was one house built there on mother's place; that was when my sister moved out there to live thirty-five years ago, I suppose.

Q Was your mother living there then?

A No, sir.

Q Where was she living?

A She was living in Hope.

Q That was still, however, the old home place, as I understand it?

A Yes, sir.

Q Were there any other houses ever built on that place by you children?

A Yes, sir.

Q When was that?

A I suppose that has been fifteen or sixteen years ago.

Q What were the circumstances under which that house was built?

A It was built for my sister to live in. She left there and I came down on a visit and I asked the boys if they build a house there for their mother to live in if I would furnish the money.

Q What boys are you speaking of?

A My sister's boys, her boys.

Q Now, one of them is C. V. Middlebrook, is he not?

A Yes, sir.

Q And Oscar Middlebrook?

A Yes, sir.

A Now they built the house and I furnished the money for them to put the house up.

Q How much money did you furnish them?

A Five Hundred Dollars.

Q What was it used for?

A It was used to buy lumber and whatever they needed to put the house up, --- lumber and nails and whatever they used.

Q Did you have an understanding with Mr. Tom Hinton at that time with reference to the building of that house?

A Yes, sir.

Q Or any of your other brothers/

A Yes, sir, there was one here then.

Mr. Graves: I object to that testimony.

Court: The objection is overruled .

To which ruling of the court the plaintiff at the time excepted and asked that his exceptions be noted of record, which was accordingly done.

Q What, if any, understanding did you have with your sister, Mrs. Ward, and your brothers with regard to the building of that house for this sister, Mrs. Ward?

A I just told my brothers if they would protect me if anything came up, I would furnish the money to build the house for my sister.

Q How were you to get your money back?

A He said he would see that I got it back when the estate was wound up.

Q Who told you that?

A Tom Hinton, my brother.

Q What was his connection with that property outside of being an heir?

A He was guardian for my mother and my mother's estate.

Q You new that he was the guardian, did you not?

A yes, sir.

Q And that went into the building of that house?

A Yes, sir.

Court: Which tract of land is this house on?

A On the 69 acre tract.

Mr. Barney:

Q Now, that is not the tract across the road that your brother Tom Hinton owns, is it?

A No, that joins this same tract.

Q This 69 acres is a part of the old homestead, is it not?

A Yes, sir.

Q That your mother and your father had?

A Yes, sir.

Q Have you ever received that \$500.00?

A No, sir.

CROSS EXAMINATION
By Mr. Graves:

Q To whom did you give the \$500.00, or send it to?

A To Verdo Middlebrook.

Q You sent the money to him?

A Yes, sir.

Q Is that C. V. Middlebrooks?

A Yes, sir.

Q He is the plaintiff in this case, is he not?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you send it all at one time?

A No, I didn't send it all at once; when they wrote me they needed money I sent \$100.00 two or three times and just along as they needed it.

Q Did you send any to Mrs. Ward?

A No.

Q Did you send it all to Verdo?

A Yes, sir he was to buy everything and put the house up.

Q You sent just over \$500.00?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you have any receipts or cancelled checks or anything of the kind?

A No, sir.

Q Did you have any written agreement with reference to furnishing the money?

A No, sir.

- Q Did you have a written agreement as to how you were to be paid back?
- A No, sir.
- Q You didn't have anything in writing from your brother Mr. Tom Hinton?
- A No, sir.
- Q Nor from anyone else?
- A No, sir.
- Q Did your mother live there in the house after it was built?
- A No, sir.
- Q She was in the State Hospital all the time, was she not?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q Before that and afterwards?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q Who lived in the house?
- A My sister, Mrs. Fannie Ward.
- Q For whom was the house built?
- A It was built for her.
- Q And none of the other heirs got any benefit from that house except your sister Mrs. Fannie Ward?
- A No, sir.
- Q Did you have any agreement with any other heirs about furnishing this money for that purpose?
- A None except Mr. Tom Hinton.
- Q Did you have any agreement with Mrs. Fannie Ward?

A Well, she was not living there at the time and I asked her if she would go back up there if we would build her a house. She had lived there all the time except about four years and Verdo was living in the other house and I told her if they would build the house I would furnish the money and they said they would and I went back home.

Q Why were you doing that for the benefit of the property or the benefit of your sister?

A Well, I built it mostly for my sister but I know it would add that much to the property.

Q Did your sister have a husband at that time?

A Yes, sir.

Q He is still living is he not?

A Yes, sir.

Q Have they been living there since that time?

A Yes, sir

Q When was the house built if you know?

A I don't even remember the year, but I think about fifteen years, as well as I can remember.

Q And the agreement between you and your brother Tom Hinton was he would see that you were protected in it?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did he make the agreement that you would get your money back when the estate was wound up?

A he said he would see that I did or would help me to get it.

Q The main reason you furnished the money was to provide a home for your sister, was it not?

A Yes, sir.

Q There was a home there on the place, was there not?

A Yes, sir.

Q What was the reason your sister could not live there?

A Well, Verdo was living there and she would not go back unless we built this new house for her.

Q Do you know how much was spent in the building of that house?

A No, sir, I don't.

Q You just know that you put \$500.00 in it?

A Yes, sir.

Q And this was all sent to Verdo Middlebrook for that purpose?

A Yes, sir.

Q He is C. V. Middlebrook, the plaintiff in this case.

A Yes, sir.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION
By Mr. Barney

Q Now, the Verdo Middlebrook you have been talking about is C. V. Middlebrook, the plaintiff in this case?

A Yes, sir.

Q What relation is he to you, Mrs. Earhart?

A He is my nephew.

Q And he is the son of your sister, Mrs. Ward?

A Yes, sir.

Q About how old is C. V. Middlebrook?

A I suppose thirty-five, maybe a little more.

Q Somewhere around 35?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, you say he was living there in the old place on this 69 acres at the time you and your sister and Mr. Hinton talked about Mrs. Ward going back there to live?

A Yes, sir.

Q He was occupying the old house?

A yes, sir.

Q was Mr. C. V. Middlebrook a married man at the time?

A Yes, sir.

Q And he was living there with his family?

A Yes, sir.

Q Mrs. Ward had remarried at that time?

A Yes, sir.

Q And was she living on rented lands about four miles from there?

A Yes, sir.

Q The old house was a one family house, was it not?

A yes, sir.

Q Now, when did Mr. Middlebrooks leave there?

A About four years ago.

Q And where is he now?

A In Los Angeles, California.

Q Is that his home now?

A Yes, sir.

Q He and his family are out there?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did anyone else put any money in the erection of that house?

A My sister said she put about \$100.00 in.

Q Do you know where that money came from?

A No sir.

RE-CROSS EXAMINATION
By Mr. Graves:

Q You say your sister said she put \$100.00 in it?

A Yes, sir.

Q You don't know what she put in do you?

A No, sir.

Q Do you know who built the house ?

A Verdo and Oscar Middlebrook>

Q Oscar is his brother?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know whether or not your \$500.00 paid for all the material that went into that house ?

A No, sir, I don't know that.

Q You don't know whether they bought other materials besides that, do you/

A No, sir.

Q And you don't know how much the house cost, do you?

A No, sir

STATE OF ARKANSAS

COUNTY OF MILLER

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Oza R. Middlebrook, Official Court Reporter for the Sixth Chancery District of Arkansas, do hereby certify that the 12 foregoing pages of typewritten matter contain a true and correct transcript of my short-hand notes taken at the trial of the within cause on the 18th day of May, 1934, in the Hempstead County Chancery Court and covers all testimony introduced at said trial.

WITNESS my hand as such Official Court Reporter on this the 20th day of June, 1934.

Signed: Oza R. Middlebrook
Official Court Reporter for the Sixth
Chancery District of Arkansas.



Appendix D

**Summary of Lovett Tyler Hinton Deeds
Hempstead County, Arkansas
1867-1883**

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

Grantor	Grantee	Date of In- stru.	Date of Filing	Legal Description	Deed Book/ Page
James R. Giles	L. T. Hinton	Jan. 8, 1867	Jan. 8, 1867	N ½, NE ¼, & NE ¼, NW ¼, (except 20 ac. on the south side of the NE ¼), all in Sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 100 acres.	W/587
Hope Lum- ber Com- pany	L. T. Hinton	Nov. 26, 1877	Mar. 28, 1889	SE ¼, NE ¼ & SW ¼, NE ¼, & NE ¼, NW ¼, & NW ¼, NW ¼, & SE ¼, MW ¼, & SW ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 14, 13S, 24W, 240 acres.	22/502
L. T. Hinton & T. A. Hinton	J. F. Hamiter?	May 8, 1878	Mar. 3, 1884	N ½, NE ¼, (except 20 acres on the south side of the same) & NE ¼, NW ¼, sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 100 acres	16/82
L. T. Hinton	Louis Murph	May 25, 1878	Nov. 8, 1881	1 square acre NW ¼, NW ¼, SW ¼, sec. 22, 13S, 24W (Trustee African Church Bethel)	13/151 -52
Wm. H. Car- ruth trustee for Thomas C. & Emily Smith Sr.	L. T. Hinton	Feb. 20, 1874	Feb. 20, 1921	SE ¼, Sec. 22, & SW ¼, Sec. 23, 13S, 24W, 320 acres. (Quit claim made on May 12, 1868 by Emily C. Smith)	84/448
W. N. Porterfield & Frances J. Porterfield his wife	L. Hinton	Dec. 12, 1881	Apr. 10, 1882	Se ¼, SW ¼, & SW ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 26 13S, 24W, & 3 acres Sec. 35 13S, 24W, 83 ac.	13/599 -600

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

I. P. F. Finely & L. C. Finely his wife	L. T. Hinton	Dec. 11, 1882	Mar. 18, 1920	NE ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 15, & NW ¼, SW ¼, Sec. 14, 13S, 24W, 80 acres (Dower was released also on Dec. 11, 1882 by L. C. Finely)	76/505-06
L. T. Hinton	James H. Dudley	Dec. 22, 1882	Feb. 20, 1889	E ½, SW ¼, Sec. 14 13S, 24W, 80 acres, also, the SE ¼, NE ¼, & SW ¼, NE ¼, Sec. 14, 13S, 24W, 80 acres.	21/372
John H. Davis & Elizabeth J. Davis	L.T. Hinton	Jan. 10, 1883	May 8, 1911	W ½, SE ¼, Sec. 18, & NW ¼, NE ¼, Sec. 19, 13S, 23W (Deed with relinquishment of dower)	
James W. Mauldin & Nancy R. Mauldin, his wife	L. T. Hinton	Feb. 13, 1883	Dec. 20, 1915	S ½, NE ¼, & S ½, S ½, N ½, NE ¼, & NW ¼, SE ¼, & N ½, NE ¼, SE ¼, in Sec. 26, 13S, 24 W	63/542



Appendix E

**Abstract of Title: John C. Porterfield
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of
Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac.
North 10 ac. of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of
sec. 35, 13S, 24W, 7.87 ac.
F. Y. Trimble Abstractor**

**Prepared by:
Trimble Abstract Company
First National Bank Building
Hope, Arkansas
August 3, 1936**

Abstract of Title: John C. Porterfield

**SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac.
North 10 ac. of NE ¼, NW ¼ of sec. 35, 13S, 24W, 7.87 ac.**

Date of Instrument / Recorded	Grantor/ Grantee	Type/ DB/PG.	Location	Comments
Aug. 10, 1837 March 26, 1884	<i>United States/ George Hannah</i>	P. L. Grant 17/231- 232	S ½, sec. 26, 13S, 24W 320ac. N ½, sec. 35, 13S, 24W 320ac.	Cert. # 2888 Cert. # 2887
Sept. 13, 1888 Dec. 15, 1838	<i>George Hannah/ George Hannah Jr.</i>	WD. D/289	S ½, sec. 26, 13S, 24W 320ac. N ½, sec. 35, 13S, 24W 320ac.	Son of George Sr.
Apr. 4, 1884 Mar. 26, 1884	<i>George C. & M. V. Hannah/ John B. Burwell</i>	WD. 17/233	S ½, sec. 26, 13S, 24W 320ac. N ½, sec. 35, 13S, 24W 320ac.	Deed was misplaced. The transaction must have occurred much earlier.
Dec. 27, 1869 Mar. 12, 1870	<i>James and Elizabeth Gallo- way/ Isaac Mouser</i>	WD. W/517	W ½ SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. land.) Sale is for four undi- vided 13 th 's	Deed/s are missing. Hannah Jr. must have sold to George Mouser. In a span of 31 years it may have changed hands 2-3 times?
Jan. 8, 1870 Mar. 12, 1870	<i>James & Phoebe Jones/ Isaac Mouser</i>	WD. W/522	W ½, SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. land.) Sale is for one undi- vided 13 th	Estate of George Mouser is being parti- tioned. Son Isaac is buying 80 acres.
Jan. 11, 1870 Mar. 10, 1870	<i>Willis & Sarah Nations/ Isaac Mouser</i>	QC W/513	S ½, SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. land.)	Estate of George Mouser is being parti- tioned. Son Isaac is buying 80 acres.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

Jan. 12, 1870 Mar. 12, 1870	<i>Thomas G. & Margaret B. Eads/Isaac Mouser</i>	WD. W/514	S ½, SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. Porterfield land.)	Estate of George Mouser is being partitioned. Son Isaac is buying 80 acres.
Jan. 15, 1870 Mar. 3, 1870	<i>Asberry & Annie Sutton/Isaac Mouser</i>	WD. W/515	W ½, SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. Porterfield land.)	Same as above.
Dec. 26, 1870 Dec. 23, 1879	<i>Martin & Elizabeth/Mouser Isaac Mouser</i>	WD. 10/434	W ½, SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W, 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. land.) 1/13 th interest.	Same as above.
Jul. 18, 1871 Dec. 23, 1879	<i>George Mouser/Isaac Mouser</i>	WD. 10/433	W ½, SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S 24W, 80 ac. (40 acres is part of J. C. land.) 1/13 th interest.	Same as above.
Jan. 12, 1881 Jan. 20, 1881	<i>John B. & Mary F. Burwell J. W. Hannah (J. W. Hannah is attorney for Burwell's)</i>	PA. 12/164	SE ¼ of Sec. 26, SW ¼, of Sec. 26. & N ½, sec. 35, all in 13S, 24W	Deed/s are missing. Burwell's may have inherited or bought land from Isaac Mouser and George Hannah Jr's relatives?
Jan. 24, 1881 Jan. 24, 1881	<i>John B. & Mary F. Burwell/ William N. Porterfield</i>	WD. 12/178	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13S, 24W, 80 ac.	Joel W. Hannah is attorney for Burwell's.
Dec. 2, 1881 Mar. 15, 1883	<i>John B. & Mary F. Burwell/George H. Andrews</i>	WD. 14/514	NW ¼, Sec. 35, 13S, 24W, 160 ac.	Joel W. Hannah is attorney for Burwell's.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

Dec. 12, 1881 Apr. 10, 1882	<i>William N. & Francis Porterfield/L. Hinton</i>	WD. 13/599	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac., 3 acres Sec. 35, 13S, 24W. Where Hope-Falcon Rd. crosses the north line of Sec. 35.	Deed for 3 acres was granted to W. N. Porterfield before it was acquired by L. Hinton.
Jan. 16, 1883 May 8, 1911	<i>L. T. Hinton/J. H. Davis</i>	WD. 53/184	See record	This may be the deed for the 83 acres?
Nov. 2, 1889 Feb. 9, 1915	<i>H. B. & Laura Davis/ J. W. Porterfield</i>	WD. 63/134	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac., 3 acres Sec. 35, 13S, 24W.	
Nov. 12, 1903 Feb. 9, 1915	<i>J. C. & Dora Dodson/ R. L. Porterfield</i>	WD. 63/135	E ½, NW ¼, Sec. 35, 80 ac. E ½, NW ¼, Sec. 35, 20 ac. (lying west of Hope-Falcon Road) all in 13S, 24W	Property listed in Will.
Mar. 30, 1911 Mar. 20, 1915	<i>J. W. Porterfield/ J. C. Porterfield</i>	WD. 63/213	S ½, NE ¼, SE ¼, & SE ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 26, 13S, 24W , 60 ac.	This is not the same location as the home- stead. The deed index says Nov. 30, 1911/Feb. 20, 1915
Jun. 13, 1932	<i>J. W. Porterfield Es- tate/State of Arkan- sas</i>	WD. (State) G/149- 50	Estate foreclosed due to non-payment of 1931 property taxes. See Record	On Dec. 30, 1933, back taxes paid by the J. W. Porterfield Es- tate and prop- erty is re- deemed.
Dec. 23, 1936 Aug. 3, 1936	<i>A. J. & Lula (Porterfield) Cash/ J. C. Porterfield</i>	WD. 140/58 5	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 35 13S, 24W, 10 ac.	One-third un- divided inter- est conveyed.

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

Mar. 4, 1936 Aug. 3, 1936	<i>B. W. and Effie (Porterfield) Burns/ J. C. Porterfield</i>	WD. 140/58 4	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 10 ac.	One-third undi- vided interest con- veyed. Seven addi- tional acres is in deed description.
Aug. 18, 1950 Aug. 21, 1950	<i>Gorda Mauldin Riley (Daughter of Sally Porterfield Maudlin)/ J. C. Porterfield</i>	QCD. 215/27 2	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 7.87 ac.	Conveys all right and title as grand- daughter of J. W. Porterfield.
Oct. 10, 1950	<i>Tom & Frances Rogers (Son of Mollie Rogers)/J. C. Porter- field</i>	WD. 235/21 1	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 7.87 ac.	Conveys all right and title as grand- son of J. W. Porter- field.
Nov. 3, 1950 Apr. 6, 1955	<i>Kattie Reeves (Grand-daughter of J. W. Porterfield & daughter of Mollie Rogers)/J. C. Porter- field</i>	WD. 235/21 2	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 7.87 ac.	Conveys all right and title as grand- daughter of J. W. Porterfield.
Nov. 3, 1950 Apr. 6, 1955	<i>Rosetta Foster (Grand-daughter)/ J. C. Porterfield</i>	WD. 235/21 3	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 7.87 ac.	Conveys all right and title as grand- daughter of J. W. Porterfield.
Jan. 9, 1957 Feb. 6, 1957	<i>L. C. Beyers/ J. H. & Lenna Porterfield & Auda Wilkerson</i>	Comm. Deed 161/14 5	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 7.87 ac.	See Chancery Court: J. H. Porter- field Et AL vs. Hampton Rogers ET AL, Sept. 6, 1956

The Ancestors and Descendants of James and Frances Middlebrooks

Mar. 20, 1961 Nov. 13, 1962	<i>Auda (Porterfield) Wilkerson/J. H. Porterfield</i>	WD. 280/401	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80 ac. NE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 3513S, 24W, 7.87 ac.	Undivided half inter- est con- veyed. Also, lots in Hope (E ½, Lot 2, Blk. 15, Col- lege Addi- tion)
Apr. 19, 1966 Apr. 29, 1966	<i>Auda P. Wilkerson/ James H. Porterfield Jr.</i>	WD. 309/223	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80	Conveys ½ undi- vided in- terests.
Oct. 25, 1973 Nov. 28, 1973	<i>Lenna (Widow of J. H. Porterfield), David L. & Janis Porterfield (Son & daughter of J. H.)/James H. Porter- field Jr.</i>	WD. 386/197	SE ¼ of SW ¼ and SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 26, 13 S, 24W, 80	Conveys ½ undi- vided in- terests.



Appendix F

Unidentified Photographs of People

Unknown Photographs

Figures 1-8 were tied together by a string with Hinton written on the back. The only adult included in the pictures is Docia (Giles) Hinton. These may have been Docia's children or grandchildren? All photos are paper except where noted.



**Unknown boy,
Courtesy of Mina
Marie (Hubbard)
Moiser**



**Unknown girl, Cour-
tesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Moiser**



**Unknown boy,
Courtesy of Mina
Marie (Hubbard)
Moiser**



**Unknown baby,
Courtesy of Mina
Marie (Hubbard)
Moiser**



**Unknown girl, Cour-
tesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Moiser**



**Unknown girl, Cour-
tesy of Mina Marie
(Hubbard) Moiser**



Tin Plate. Unknown child, Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



Docia (Giles) Hinton, Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



Lady on right was named R. Hinton on the back of another photograph. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



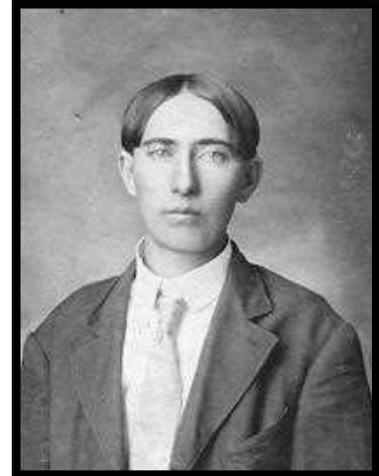
Unknown, R. Hinton on the back of photograph. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



Unknown child, Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



Mrs. Leigh written back. Picture taken in Little Rock. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



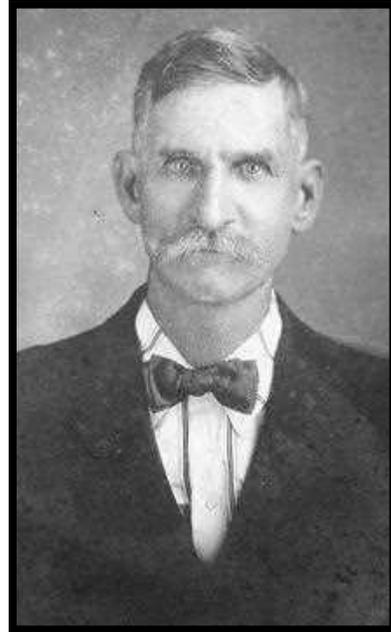
Unknown teenage boy, Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



Unknown family. Courtesy of Mina Marie (Hubbard) Moiser



**Unknown child,
Courtesy of Vicki
Hooten.**



**Unknown gentleman,
Courtesy of Vicki Hooten.**



**Unknown lady, Courtesy of
Vicki Hooten.**



**Unknown lady, Courtesy
of Vicki Hooten.**



Unknown baby



Unknown baby



Unknown baby



