

MFA Newsletter October 2025



***Middlebrooks Family Association Reunion
Covington, Georgia, October 23-26, 2025.***

***Holiday Day Inn Express & Suites
470-441-9500***

***Mention the MFA 2025 Reunion when
making you're reservation.***

Please spread the word to family and relatives about the Reunion. This will be a great time to **meet your Middlebrook/s cousins, socialize, share your family history, learn more about our Georgia ancestors and visit old homesteads and cemeteries etc.**

Find out more about the reunion by clicking on the link below.

<https://middlebrooksfamily.org/2025-annual-meeting/> You can "Click Here" to send us an RSVP, and review documents used in this years reunion. Also, let us know if you have any questions.

Agenda Highlights:

Piecing your Family Quilt Together

John Middlebrooks (b. 1755) Family of NC and GA

Isaac (b. 1753) and Elizabeth Middlebrooks and Jeremiah Boggess

Restoration of the Middlebrooks Family Cemetery

Sharing your Family History: "*Bring your Family Tree*"

How to get started in building your Family Tree

Middlebrooks Timeline and Migration NC-GA

Ancestor groups and open forum to share you're family tree

Field Trip:

Brick Store

Middlebrooks and Stanton Family Cemeteries

Stanton Springs, location of Middlebrooks and Stanton lands.

Newsletter

We need your help! Two ways you can help is to send articles or information to be included in the ***Social Happenings/Announcements or Ancestor Spotlight*** sections of the newsletter. These two sections are important in helping us stay informed and providing information about our ancestors. We will be including a new section under Ancestor Spotlight called **Unknown Connections**, by Leonard Middlebrooks. *Help us solve the mystery of these family connections!*

Zoom Meetings

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

Zoom Annual Business Meeting Friday, October 24th

Let us know, if you would like to attend our next Zoom meeting. It is an open meeting anyone is welcome to attend. E-mail Brent Bragg bbragg6920@aol.com for the Zoom Meeting ID and Pass Code. Please send me any topics you would like to discuss. nealmidbroo1@charter.net

Time to Renew 2025 MFA Membership

We would like to thank past and current members for supporting the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA). Please consider renewing your membership for 2025. **July 31, is the end of the fiscal year for the MFA.** Dues are: \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family living at the same address.

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

Vacant Positions: *Come join the MFA Team*

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

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

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

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

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

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

What do Ancestor Team Leaders do anyway?

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

The DNA Connections Between the Northern and Southern Branches of our Middlebrook/s Ancestors?

One of the challenges we face is trying to find DNA participants to document our ancestral connections between our northern and southern branches of the family. Our efforts to find genealogical records have not been successful.

We are looking for **direct line male descendants of our Connecticut Middlebrooks ancestors**. Please contact Ellen Thompson Jennings, ellen@familyhistoryhound.com or Bob Middlebrooks, mid293@earthlink.net. MFA DNA project managers.

Fake E-Mails

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

Social Happenings/Announcements

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

Sorghum Cane and Cooking, by Ray W. Middlebrook

We planted about 1-½ acres of sorghum cane. 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.

Ancestor Spotlight

John Middlebrooks and Millie Sutton of Newton County

Before January of 1823, the John Middlebrooks family had moved to Newton County, from Putnam County, Georgia. The move to Newton County, also included sons, John Jr, David, Isaac S., Zere, daughter Abigail Caroline, who married Batt Stanton. The only son who did not move with the family was Anderson Crawford. He lived in Morgan County, Georgia, until 1830, then moved to Clarke County, Georgia. He remained there until his death.

John Middlebrooks purchased land lot 131, First District, before 22 January 1823 on Shoal Creek, tributary of North Fork of Little River. Son, Isaac S. Middlebrooks, witnessed the deed. John lived on his 125 acres (land lot 131) until his death 30 December 1830. In 1831 as part of John's estate settlement the land was sold for \$150, to son David Middlebrooks. John's wife, Millie, died *circa* 1840, Newton County

The Brick Store Community

John Middlebrooks P. O. was the Brick Store, Newton County, two miles from where the family settled (land lot 131) on Shoal Creek, Little River. The Middlebrooks travelled to the Brick Store to get their mail, buy supplies and sell or trade goods. In 1818 the town was given the name of Winton. The town was at the intersection of well, traveled roads and stagecoach routes. This was the first location of a brick building in the county. The Brick Store location was drawn on the 1820 land lottery map, in lot 161 (197). William Deaton sold the land to Martin Robb (Kolb?) on 24 December 1821.

Over the years the Brick Store served as a home, store, courthouse, stagecoach stop, post office, jail, elections, debates, temperance lodge. The building, was first constructed as the residence of Martin Kolb, sometime before 1822. The Brick Store also names the community that grew up around it.

The Brick Store is significant locally in the area of commerce because the building housed a mercantile between 1821 and 1935 and evolved the operation of such enterprises during that period.

During the antebellum period, this store was a waypoint for migrants and early white settlers who purchased supplies and used the building as a social gathering place and campsite. Frontier merchants maintained contact with distant wholesalers as well as with local suppliers.

In 1822, the county's first Superior Court was held at the Brick Store. Later a tavern and inn for stagecoach passengers was built as part of the Brick Store Community. The Brick Store house also served as an early covert of law enforcement.

The Brick Store Community included schools and churches. Three churches were in the Brick Store neighborhood, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Harris Spring Primitive Baptist Church and Graves Chapel.

Stagecoach Stop

Brick Store sat along the early roads through Newton County, long before US Hwy 278 crossed the land. When stage coaches traveled the area before the Civil War, Brick Store served as a stop. Passengers could get food or rest at a nearby inn.

Independent Order of Good Templars

In 1879, then-owner Peter P. Knox leased the second floor of Brick Store to the trustees of Brick Store Lodge No. 479 of the Independent Order of Good Templars, a strict temperance organization. The organization was dedicated to abstinence from alcohol, but distinguished itself from other temperance organizations by the fact that it did not exclude women or people of color.

Kidnapping Victim Found at Brick Store

An interesting account of events at Brick Store in 1894 appeared in a later newspaper article. Lovick Rowe, then 15 years old, was in Monroe, Georgia, on a trip to buy supplies with his father. The boy disappeared, and eyewitnesses told the father that someone had put the boy in their wagon and driven off. Lovick's father and the sheriff tracked the wagon to Brick Store where they discovered the boy bound in the wagon. The kidnappers were found in the inn behind Brick Store. Apparently several such incidents occurred in which boys were kidnapped to be sold in the logging camps of middle and south Georgia.

Wagon Maker

During the 1850s and 1860s, owner Isaac H. Parker built a thriving carriage industry around Brick Store. Just a few households away were another carriage maker, a wagon maker, a carpenter, and a chair maker. A blacksmith shop was also part of the Brick Store community.

Sources:

HMdb.org

THE HISTORICAL MARKER DATABASE <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=265086>

A History of Newton County, Georgia Pages, 317-340

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 27 Feb 2009

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/a3967448-9f55-4175-a9fa-a5db97add24/>



***Brick Store Newton County
today.
Oldest-brick-building in
Newton-County***



Newton County 1912 Brick Store Community School.

MIDDLEBROOKs - Unknown Connections

by Leonard Middlebrooks [T63]

This is the beginning a new MFA Newsletter column. The **Unknown Connections** are Middlebrooks (MKs) whom MFA has not connected to any of our known ancestor groups. JA and I are the co-team leaders for this Middlebrooks group and we would like to enlist the help of the 350+ MFA participants to see if any one might help in identifying which ancestral group they might belong.

Over the years JA an I have accumulated numerous Unknowns; some of these we determined their connections and added these to the master family database, others remain a mystery. We have brick-walled in our personal lineage research and have found that attempting to unravel these mystery Middlebrookes keeps us active in MFA's 1909 Middlebrooks Register update.

If you need a copy of Louis F. Middlebrook's 1909 Register to help with your record keeping, one is available at this link: <https://archive.org/details/RegisterOfTheMiddlebrookFamilyDescendantsOfJosephMiddlebrook>

Scroll down the screen right hand side for the download options; select the PDF option. Most PDF readers have a search option [control f] to quickly find a name. The Register is in the public domain, so feel free to downed load.

We will start this Unknown Middlebrooks column with two toughies and hopefully four not so tough.

1] Isaac Middlebrook: 1800 HARRISON COUNTY, (WEST) VIRGINIA, LAND TAX

Originally compiled by the WPA from the land tax books in the county courthouse in Clarksburg. Provided for digitizing by the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Digitized by Charlotte Fleming on behalf of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, 2000.

2] John Middlebrook: Originally compiled by the WPA from the land tax books in the Clarksburg county courthouse. Provided for digitizing by the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Digitized by Charlotte Fleming on behalf of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, 2000. A List of Land Tax within the District of Benjamin Bartlette and Joseph Davisson Commr, in the County of Harrison for the Year 1799.

3 - 6] From the Index of Louisiana Civil War Soldiers (Name, Unit, Company)

Middlebrooks-James-M.- G. Co. 15th La. Inf. **Middlebrooks- N.M.-** C Co. Capt. 3rd La. Inf. **Middlebrooks W. S.-** F Co. 27th La. Inf. **Middlebrooks William -**C Co. 3rd Lt. La. Inf.

Email your thoughts and results to Leonard Middlebrooks, gambol@bellsouth.net and we will post in a MFA Newsletter.

MFA Table of Organization

November 2024

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

Executive Committee/Officers

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President

Vice President, Vacant

Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Neal Middlebrook, Acting President, 2024-2025

Lanell Middlebrooks, Secretary/Treasurer, 2024-2025

Leonard Middlebrooks, 2024-2025

Sally Berlocher, 2024-2025

Ken Pearman, 2024-2025

Brent Bragg, 2024-2025

Ancestor Team Leaders

Isaac born 1753: Leonard Middlebrooks

John b. 1754: Brent Bragg

John b. 1755: John David Middlebrooks and Leslie Shealy

Joseph b. 1610: Leonard Middlebrooks

Joseph b. 1773: Dave Clark

Micajah b. 1758: Vacant

Nathaniel b. 1764: Sandy Ahmad

Robert b. 1766: Vacant

Sims b. 1762: Neal Middlebrook

Thomas b. 1763: Joyce Arnold

England Middlebrooks: Ian Middlebrook and Neal Middlebrook

Unknown Ancestors: Leonard Middlebrooks

On-Going Projects

Cemetery: William Sterling

DAR-SAR-UDC: Joan Miller

DNA: Ellen Thompson, Bob Middlebrooks and Dave Clark

Family Register Update and Repository: Leonard Middlebrooks

Middlebrook Family Trees: Dave Clark

MFA Website: Dave Clark

MFA Newsletter Editor: Vacant

Military Register Update: Vacant

MFA Facebook: Joyce Arnold, Ellen Thompson Jennings and
Neal Middlebrook

MFA Email Directory

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Angelia Tucker

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

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

MFA_Bylaws_2017_11_13.pdf