

MFA Newsletter December 2025

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Middlebrook/s and Allied Families. Thank you for your support of the MFA in 2025. May you're family tree continue to grow with many new discoveries in 2026.

MFA Meeting/Reunion, Oct. 23-26, Covington Georgia

This was our first annual meeting since 2019. The presentations by Dr. Avis Williams (Piecing Your Family Quilt Together), Micheal Skelton of SCV (Restoration of the Middlebrooks Cemetery), and Neal Middlebrook (Via Zoom, John Middlebrooks b. 1755), were very well received. The session "Sharing your Family History," led by Lanell Middlebrooks was a group discussion that everyone participated in. On Saturday, the field trip was to the Brick Store and the Middlebrooks Cemetery, near Porterdale.

Lanell Middlebrooks and Angelia Tucker did an outstanding job in making this years meeting a big success. Dave Clark, our web master did a great job in setting up the pre-registration page and sending out a mailing to all members. We also need to thank Jill Lum and Betsy Moore and Bill Hodges of the Newton County, Historical Society for all their help with the meeting.

The decision at our November 13th Zoom meeting was to instead of holding an in-person annual meeting was to do a **Zoom Family History Seminar**. Possible seminar topics are listed below. *Let us know if you would like to volunteer to do a presentation?*

2025 Summary of Meeting Evaluation Form

What did you like about the Meeting?

Presentations Avis Williams, including the Zoom John 1755 and Q&A and SCV.

Social meeting people

Ancestor sharing/discussion sessions

Improvements

Expand meeting outreach

More ancestor sharing sessions

Meeting pre-registration and registration

Encourage younger people to attend

Ways to reduce cost of meeting and increase attendance.

Locations and Hosting

Different time of year to appeal to young people

Locations with more Middlebrooks and more convenient, travel time etc

MFA Zoom Meeting Notes November 13, 2025

2025 Covington Meeting Evaluation

Meeting Challenges and Improvements

Major issues included low attendance and meeting costs. We reviewed an evaluation of the 2025 Covington meeting, noting that the presentations and ancestor sharing session were well-received.

Improving Meeting Attendance and Organization

Insufficient attendance hindered group activities and the need for better organization, including pre-registration and commitment from attendees, as well as the potential for holding future meetings in areas with more active members. Outreach efforts, including website postings and email notifications, were highlighted, but concerns were raised about the lack of direct phone contact with potential attendees. It was also noted the success of collecting dues and registrations during the event could be improved by focusing more on pre-registration. The use of secure online payment system was also discussed.

Genealogy Meeting Challenges and Solutions

It was discussed, that organizing a Zoom seminar to accommodate more participants would increase interest in genealogy research. They agreed to structure the seminar with separate sessions on different topics, such as Nathaniel and the Caswell County group, allowing attendees to choose which sessions to join. The use of PowerPoint and other tools to share information during the seminar was discussed. It was also discussed the possibility of recording the seminar and distributing materials to participants afterward.

Middlebrooks History Seminar Planning

Plans for a potential Zoom seminar in the new year, focusing on topics related to the Middlebrooks and Caswell County history. Neal agreed to draft an outline for the seminar, which would cover John 1754, Nathaniel, and Caswell County content, and send it out to board members and others for feedback. They decided to aim for a mid-January Zoom meeting to review the outline and potentially proceed with scheduling, with plans to promote the event through mass mailings, the website, and Facebook. It was suggested that tying the seminar to could enhance MFA membership recruitment of new members.

2025 Business Meeting

The MFA business meeting agenda was discussed. The following motions were approved and adopted: Treasures and Membership Reports, Extension of Board terms 2026-2027 and to proceed with filling vacant positions.

DNA Testing Expansion Discussion

Neal Middlebrook proposed expanding their current DNA analysis to include more detailed testing, such as the Big Y-700, to better understand the connections between North Carolina and Virginia Middlebrook/s families. The group discussed the potential costs and benefits of this deeper analysis, with Neal, indicating that they were initially looking at testing 3-4 samples. Lanell suggested starting with a smaller number of tests to gauge the potential results before committing to a larger scale. Neal will continue to update the board on the progress of the DNA proposal. Board approval is needed before moving forward with any financial obligations. Source: The above AI generated meeting summary was edited.

Possible 2026 Zoom Seminar Topics

Starting your Family History Journey

The 1909 Register of the Middlebrook Family.

Family crest or coat of arms and Middlebrough/Middlebrooks England Ancestors.

Our Immigrant Ancestor?

Migration of our Southern Middlebrook/s Ancestors.

The Middlebrooks of Virginia: John b. 1754 and Nathaniel b. 1764

Thomas and Racheal Middlebrook of Virginia

(Our oldest known colonial southern ancestor.)

Isaac Middlebrooks and Ann Sims of Orange and Caswell, Co. NC.

The Caswell County brothers: Isaac b. 1753; John b. 1755, Sims b. 1762, Thomas b. 1763. (Could be an overview or discussed separately.)

What does DNA tell us about our ancestor connections?

What's in the Middlebrook/s name.

Publishing your Family History.

Our family in the Colonial Wars.

Benefits of joining the Middlebrooks Family Association.

Other Seminar Suggestions?

Next Zoom Meeting January 15, 2026

Come join us at **6:30 PM, CST**. We will be discussing Zoom family history seminar topics, logistics, outreach and presenters. If you are interested in attending, e-mail Brent Bragg or Neal Middlebrook. We will send out the meeting pass code and ID.

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!

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!*

Time to Renew or Join as a 2026 MFA Member

We would like to thank past and current members for supporting the Middlebrooks Family Association (MFA). Please consider renewing or joining as a new member for 2026. ***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 are interested.

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.

Fake E-Mails

Some our 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

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, Bob Middlebrooks, mid293@earthlink.net. or Neal Middlebrook nealmidbroo1@charter.net MFA DNA co-project managers.

Family Tree DNA Holiday Sale (December. 1-31)

If you are thinking about upgrading your DNA test, now might be a good time. You can save \$50. Let us know, if you are considering upgrading.

Family Search Full Text Search

FamilySearch has a **Full-Text Search** feature that allows you to search nearly 2 billion historical record images using AI-generated transcripts. This tool is valuable for finding details in records that haven't been manually indexed yet, such as land deeds, wills, and other documents.

How to Access the Full-Text Search

You must have a free FamilySearch account and be signed in to use the feature.

- **Main Search Menu:** The Full-Text Search is now a standard tool found in the main **Search** menu under the **Full Text** option.
- **Direct URL:** You can access it directly at the [FamilySearch Full-Text Search page](#).
- **All-Collections Search:** When you use the main "Search for an Ancestor" feature on the homepage, full-text results are available as a filter option in the left sidebar of the results page.
- **FamilySearch Catalog:** In the [FamilySearch Catalog](#), a document icon with a plus sign indicates that a specific collection is full-text searchable.

Key Record Types Available

The Full-Text Search is particularly strong in records that contain lengthy narrative text which is difficult to index manually. Specific record types include:

- **Land and Property Records:** Deeds, plat maps, and associated documentation.
- **Probate and Court Records:** Wills, estate files, probate letters, and court minutes.
- **Notarial Records:** Legal documents from Mexico and other Latin American countries.
- **Vital Records & Church Registers:** Birth, marriage, death, and christening records.
- **Military Files:** Service records and pension applications.
- **Newspapers and Periodicals:** Obituaries, local news, and other announcements.
- **Biographies and Histories:** Compiled genealogies, local histories, and directories.
- **Specialized Collections:** U.S. Plantation Records, Freedmen's Bureau records, and more.

Ancestry Full Text Search

Ancestry is currently rolling out a Full Text Search feature on its platform. This new functionality uses AI-generated transcripts to allow users to search the entire text of digitized, unindexed records, including handwritten documents. The availability can depend on your subscription level and which part of the website you are using at the time. Ancestry, is currently, in the Beta testing phase. Full Text Search may not be immediately available to all users.

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.

Lineage of Micheal Middlebrook Boyd

Fairfield CT

Joseph Middlebrook (1613-1686) and Mary Bateman and MaryTurney
Jonathan Middlebrooks (1684-1754) Martha Squires

Norwalk CT

Micheal Middlebrook (1712-1791) and Abiah Summers

Wilton, CT

Summers Middlebrook (1748-1835) and Susannah Beal
Col. George Middlebrook (1792-1855) and Lucretia Sturges
Samuel Bradley Middlebrook (1828-1907) and Sarah L. Lockwood
Mercy Weed Middlebrook married to George Eustis Boyd

Frederic Eustis Boyd married to Kathleen Whatley Jackson (2nd marriage to Rose Boyd)

Michael Middlebrook Boyd (my father)

Marian Middlebrook Boyd (me)

Micheal Middlebrook Boyd Obituary

Contributed by Marian Middlebrook Boyd

ROXBURY – Michael Middlebrook Boyd passed away in Danbury, Connecticut on October 15, 2025, at age 86. Michael was born in Norwalk, Connecticut on August 16, 1939, to Frederic Eustis Boyd and Kathleen Whatley Jackson Boyd. He grew up in Wilton, CT with his half-brother, Leland Gerard Sterry (Lee), who passed away in 2014, and his four best friends, the Chelminski brothers: Duba, Rudy, Vic, and Mitchell.

He attended Wilton schools before graduating from Proctor Academy in Andover, NH. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from University of Dallas and then served in the Army, stationed at Fort Sill, OK. In 1961, he married Judith Malone Paulk (Judy) in Dallas, Texas. They had two daughters, Kathleen Sinclair Boyd (Katsy) and Marian Middlebrook Boyd (Brook).

He began his career as a much-beloved science teacher at The Hockaday School in Dallas and throughout his life stayed in touch with several former students who would regularly call him during their class reunions. In 1973, Michael decided to focus on his love of the outdoors and working with his hands and made a career shift to become a general contractor. He utilized those

In 1999, Michael left Texas to move back to Connecticut where he built his dream home in the woods of Roxbury. He loved those woods and served for years as a volunteer for the Roxbury Land Trust. Every summer, he would spend his evenings sitting on his deck enjoying the view and listening to the sounds of nature, which were often followed by impromptu home-cooked dinners with friends. In winter, he was always in his chair in front of a roaring fire which he declared "good company." He loved the Roxbury community and will be remembered for his fondness for all animals, especially raccoons, and his never-ending willingness to lend a helping hand to others.

A life-long car lover and a licensed pilot since the age of 16, Michael's prized possessions were his 1950 Willys Jeep, 1963 Porsche 356, and Cessna 152 airplane. He taught both his daughters and several of their friends how to drive stick shift in that Willys Jeep. He also loved to travel and was proud to have visited all seven continents. He took his daughters on innumerable trips around the globe and loved to share stories about his adventures, always concluding, "travel is the best education."

Michael is survived by his daughters Katsy and Brook, nephews Lee and Michael Sterry, long-time companion, Antonia Davidson, and dear friends, Vicky and Don Webb (Dallas), Holly Stark, and Susan Humphreys. Katsy and Brook are grateful for all the help given to Michael and the family, by the Roxbury community, these past few years.

Source: https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/obituaries/michael-middlebrook-boyd/article_b242a8e3-ae0-4f5a-9df9-df9665122271.html

**Obituary of Ann Selman Middlebrook, wife of
Thomas Middlebrook (b. 1763)**

A MOTHER IN ISRAEL FALLEN.

Departed this life on the 6th day of January last, at the house of her son, Jas. M. Middlebrooks, in Upson county, Mrs. Ann Middlebrooks, in the 81st year of her age. She was the daughter of William and Frances Silliman, of Hancock county, where she in early life was united in marriage with her late husband, Thomas Middlebrooks, and they shortly afterwards removed to, and were among the first settlers in Jones county, and in the year 1822, she was received into the fellowship of County Line Church, being baptized by Elder John Hambrick, and ever afterwards by good works and a consistent life of piety gave continued evidence of love to her blessed Saviour. She raised a family of eleven children, ten of whom from the influence of her precepts and examples united themselves with the church during the life of their mother, nine joining the Baptist, and one the Methodist. But few have discharged the duties of wife, mother, and church member better than she did; her seat was seldom vacant when she was able to attend church. Her death was quiet and gentle; departing in full triumphs of faith, leaving something near three hundred and fifty descendants. May their last end be like hers. H.

Contributed by. Holli Middlebrook Smith

*From the Christian Index (Washington, GA)
1835-1866 (Published March 30, 1859)*

Ancestor Spotlight

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

The Benefits of Using AI in Family History Research

The use of AI has greatly expanded the access to family history records. You are able to search records before they are digitized or indexed. You can discover new information about your ancestors, because AI can quickly process massive volumes of data/records.

Benefits:

- Decipher challenging, faded, or old handwritten documents.
- Identify relationships, patterns and connections.
- Helps prioritize promising sources, suggest potential records to explore next, and flag inconsistencies or gaps.
- Helps with creating family history narratives and stories from information.
- Provide detailed historical context about the time and location in which your ancestors lived.
- Used to restore, colorize, and interpret old family photographs.
- To analyze complex DNA data.

Cautions

AI should be used to augment not replace the genealogist. You need to be careful of false matches, inaccurate or invented data and loss of context etc. In other words, you still need interpret and evaluate the data/records. Is the information consistent with what you already know about your ancestor - location, time period, likely connections to other family lines or relatives etc. Source: edited AI information and other sources.

Full Text Search Summary: Middlebrook/s of Colonial Virginia

York County

- **John Middlebrook** listed as a servant 8 March 1705.

Spotsylvania County

- **Sarah Middlebrook** apprenticeship, five-year-old girl, mother **Ann Middlebrook**.

Norfolk County

- Deposition of **John Middlebrook** 10 July 1704.

Louisa County

- **Thomas and Rachel Middlebrook** estate settlement 1764-1766
- **Mary Middlebrook**, daughter of Jenney Wright 17 November 1791.
- **John Middlebrook** listed a free white male above 16 1799

Hanover County

- **John Middlebrook**, one white male above 16, 1792-1803.

Goochland County

- Mary Middlebrook court petition to summon Mathew Agoo, February 1731.

Amherst County

- **William Middlebrook** a bastard child of **Elizabeth Middlebrook** 6 October 1777.
- William Middlebrook payment as court witness against John Cabell, May 1790.
- **William Middlebrook** (plaintiff/witness in Samuel Farguson's suit requested payment for travel May 1790.

Charles City County

- **Thomas Middlebrook** requests payment from Richard Gumbo, attended court four days May 1741.
- Court orders **Thomas Middlebrook** to be bound to Phillip Thomas by church wardens to teach him a trade. September 1741.
- Court orders **Thomas Middlebrook** to pay Thomas Wendy 40 schillings, June 1742.
- Will of William Parrish proved by **John Middlebrook** and others, January 1745.

Caroline County

- **John Middlebrooks** Personal Property and Land Book Tax Lists 1785, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790 1792. Taxes paid by George Phillips.
- **John Middlebrook** 72-3/4 ac., and James Dickenson, Personal Property and Land Book, 1791-92, 93.
- March Term of Court 1790, **John Middlebrook** owed debt to Edward Clarke.
- **John Middlebrook**, paid 11.27 for land processioning by court, 14 June 1796.
- **John Middlebrook**, Personal Property tax Lists 1795, 1796, 1797, 1799.
- **William Gatewood** purchases 1796 11-3/4 acres from **John Middlebrook**, Personal Property Tax List and Land Book 1796.
- **John Middlebrook** sold 15-3/4 acres to William Gatewood, Personal Property and Land Book, 1797.
- John Middlebrook Personal Property, 1798
- Church wardens to bind out **John Middlebrook** and Tiller. Order Book, 1799-1802

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 an 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

Sandy Ahmad

- sandylahmad@gmail.com

Joyce Arnold

- joycearnold93@gmail.com

Mary Baker

- mmbaker65@hotmail.com

Brent Bragg

- bbragg6920@aol.com

Sally Berlocher

- sberlocher@gmail.com

Dave Clark

- cdave1000@gmail.com

Angelia Middlebrook Gantz

- angeliagantz@yahoo.com

Ian Middlebrook

- ian@middlebrook.org.uk

Neal Middlebrook

- nealmidbroo1@charter.net

Bob Middlebrooks

- mid293@earthlink.net

Lanell Middlebrooks

- lmbdks@gmail.com

John David Middlebrooks

- Jmiddlebrook001@yahoo.com

Leonard Middlebrooks

- gambol@bellsouth.net

Joan Miller

- jmil1912@hotmail.com

Ken Pearman

- ken.pearman@hotmail.com

Leslie Shealy

- dixiegirl30@hotmail.com

William Sterling

- wgs10@embarqmail.com

Ellen Thompson Jennings

- ellen@familyhistoryhound.com

Angelia Tucker

- angeliatucker30@gmail.com

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