

MIDDLETON-DOWNING

FAMILY HISTORY

INDIANAPOLIS, I. S.

gift: Compiler

NOV 17 1944

BEING A PUBLICATION
TO COMMEMORATE
THE SILVER JUBILEE,
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNU-
AL REUNION OF THE
MIDDLETON-DOWNING
DESCENDANTS AT
ELKHART, INDIANA,
AUGUST 7, 1932

DATE MICROFILM

ITEM ON ROLL

CAMERA NO.

CATALOGUE NO.

*"Would'st thou trust thy name to dumb forgetfulness,
or to the decaying graveyard stone? Nay, rather place
it on the page of a printed book."* ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF UTAH
27755

Published by

HAZEL MAY MIDDLETON KENDALL

203 West Fifth Street

Anderson, Indiana

1932

All insertions made by authoress

929. P23
M584 R

HHH/27

PREFACE

Did anyone ever have a more difficult task set before him than that of writing a preface to a book that never has been completed, is not now complete, and never will be complete unless perchance our historian may be sitting with pen in hand, after making the entry for the child born and christened, as Time ends.

Prefaces have been written that seem to have for their end an apology for what follows. There is no thought of that here. There have been written some that seem to serve no purpose but to make clear some obscure point in a story that perhaps might better not have been written at all. There is no such mystery between these covers. Again a preface finds its way into a book to lend the color of a shining literary personality to the story of a more or less obscure author. None will so describe the writer of these poor lines and the story to follow is written by life, love and death, the imperishable trio from whence springs all the inspiration of humanity, all the passion to be found in the human heart, and the will to do, without which this history would never have been put together. Without which, indeed, there would have been no history to write and no pen to record that fact.

If you ask then what purpose is to be served by this effort, let it be stated as two fold. First: we are not unmindful of the labor so freely spent in the preparation of the records. Let it be recorded here forever that our very dear relative, John Uriah Stotts, who, although deprived of physical ability to an extent that would have completely discouraged most of us, gave of mental ability and drew from an unfailing memory much that we are now deeply grateful for. In this he was aided greatly by Mrs. August Groll. I think credit may rightfully be given my own father, John C. Middleton, for the first desire to see such a record produced. He had, and gave to me, a reasonably complete record of the original thirteen children, of whom his father was one. In an effort to complete the record from his grandparents, John Wesley Middleton and Elizabeth Downing, down to his grandchildren, a diagram was worked out about as an efficiency expert would attempt to chart a business organization. That, of course, was a failure. Other attempts ended similarly and not until Hazel M. Kendall applied her skill and ardor to the task did it take on anything like permanent form. There are many others who have given much time and thought, and I hope to be held not ungrateful if not all names are given proper credit. So let us devote the first part of our preface to an appreciative acknowledgment

to all who have helped make the record possible. Your continued help down through the years will alone make the volume what you would like it to be.

Second: there may be some who will do me the honor to remember something of the remarks made at the boulder on the banks of the St. Joe River when it was dedicated to the memory of our forefathers in 1929. You will recall that we searched for some parallel in their lives and our own along which we might walk today arm in arm with them. It is not to be found in the material things. In that respect we are richer than their fondest dreams could suggest. It is not to be found in our mode of living. It may be doubted if we are more comfortable year in and out than were the children of John and Elizabeth, but surely we strive less for our comforts such as we hold them to be. It is equally doubtful if they were any less uncertain of their bread than we. The world has diminished much in size within the century. Riding horseback to Fort Wayne for the mail can scarce be compared with receiving mail brought to our door from the farthest point in the continent within the space of time required of them to travel sixty miles or more. They could not talk to their neighbors miles away without going to them, and the music of the world was denied them except as they might be able to produce it themselves. No. Not in these things will we find the tie that binds us to them.

Can you draw upon your imagination enough to picture the door of the log cabin swing open some morning and see John emerge with a smile on his browned countenance radiating joy untold. Seems like the birds never sang so sweetly before, the fields never were so green or the sky so blue. Why, even the crooning of the old Indian strikes his attention as never before. They named the baby James. Ah! we are arm in arm with them now. We, too, have found fields greener, skies bluer over night than we ever saw them before for exactly the same reason. Love still is, as it was then, the greatest of human emotions.

The family grows. One of the boys finds Indiana too small for him and strikes out for the west. A neighbor boy finds the light of his life in Mary and later she, too, leaves the log cabin behind. Again we are arm and arm with John and Elizabeth. Hard indeed is it for the boy to deliberately break the ties of home, but the urge to be doing will not be denied. A mother's tears flow just as freely today as they did then over the girl who establishes her own home. Not a one of them ever married a man who was half good enough for her, and in defense of the boy and his mother let it be said not a one of them found a girl who could cook well enough to keep him alive very long. But somehow the boy does make good, the girl does learn to cook and all the tears come to naught. Since civilization began and until civilization ends, the present may walk arm in arm with the past over similar scenes.

Then, finally, death enters the log cabin. Over the still figure the long arm of the inevitable reaches down the century, touches our shoulder and again we walk arm in arm with John and Elizabeth. We are wont to boast over the accomplishments of science toward reducing human suffering and are thankful for all that has accrued to our benefit; but how helpless we are, how utterly

dismayed, how our hearts bleed without hope of stay until time itself heals the wound, as we stand before the bier of a loved one. It has been said, and who will deny it, that it is not the noise of children that annoys us, but instead, the awful silence that follows their departure. O grave, where is thy victory?—in the laughing, chattering voice that we hear no longer. O death, where is thy sting?—in the vacant chair, the empty crib, the lost companionship of those whose lives are so intimately linked with ours.

So let the second part of this preface be set apart as a token of our kinship with the same God whom they worshipped a hundred years ago. The same sun is still in the heavens, the same stars blink down upon us, who, after all, are not so far removed from those whose memory we honor in the pages to follow.

Fred Grant Middleton
916 Becker Street,
Hammond, Indiana.

Descendant of Wesley Middleton.

INTENDED EDITORIAL OF JOHN URIAH STOTTS
BEFORE HIS WORK WENT TO PRESS.
WHO DIED IN 1928

We are trying to bring together the scattered units of the Middleton-Downing family; keeping alive the feeling of personal relation which develops through interest and attachment.

Sentiment is more powerful than law in shaping relation of life. First in importance among these sentiments is family devotion; next in order is patriotic pride.

To be a member of a group that can claim descent from clear blooded ancestry is an honor; one to be proud of. Blood should be thicker than water in a family sense and to carry on its traditions becomes a matter of pride again.

The family instinct sustained by family pride and fostered by periodic reunions is an important factor in this direction. The family ties are the oldest of all ties; they persist through all the stages of social advance in each generation. It is the underpinning of civilization; as society advances in proportion to the perfection of its family units.

Anyone who is personally interested, with a desire to help bring these scattered units together in one big family, will do well to contribute all information pertaining to the Middleton-Downing family to the president or secretary of the reunion. Thus can we weld this great family, link by link, for generations to come, and any link left unwelded may cause many disappointments to future generations.

We all emphasize this belief—that the spiritual influence of love and good will cannot be excluded from these family reunions if it is to be of real satisfaction and joy.

PREFACE

Incline our hearts with Godly fear
To seek Thy face, Thy word revere,
Cause Thou all wrong, all strife to cease
And lead us in the paths of peace.

John Uriah Stotts
Elkhart Co., Indiana.

Descendant of Mary Middleton-Stotts.

CONTENTS

	Page
CHAPTER I	
Early Middleton History	13
CHAPTER II	
John and Elizabeth Downing-Middleton.....	16
CHAPTER III	
James Middleton	23
CHAPTER IV	
Mary Middleton-Stotts	27
CHAPTER V	
Jonathan Downing Middleton	35
CHAPTER VI	
William Middleton	40
CHAPTER VII	
John Downing Middleton	45
CHAPTER VIII	
Wesley Middleton	52
CHAPTER IX	
Sarah Howard Middleton-Minear	55
CHAPTER X	
Eliza Heary Middleton-Settle	62
CHAPTER XI	
David Downing Middleton	74
CHAPTER XII	
Joseph Bigelow Middleton	81
CHAPTER XIII	
Nancy Jane Middleton-Lake	90
CHAPTER XIV	
Elizabeth Ann Middleton-Mitchel	96
CHAPTER XV	
Somerset Middleton	101
CHAPTER XVI	
Middleton-Downing Reunions	104

FOREWORD

This book has been written to preserve for future generations the records of the eventful past. Data has been gathered and inscribed upon the printed page with the hopes that some day later descendants will discover and add information which will throw more light on this family whose history extends through the shadows of the centuries.

The foregoing is all we are able to relate of our forefathers. Much time and labor has been expended in careful and painstaking research in collecting data over some period of years; yet time has failed to reveal all the relations which were so earnestly sought.

As it is the commendation of a good huntsman to find game in a wide wood so it is no imputation if he hath not caught all.

—Plato

It has been a pleasure to gather any little news of the family whose members relied upon themselves and equipped themselves for life as well as any American pioneer could. He, who tries to forget all the joy and the sorrow of the past, robs himself and his children of their most precious heritage when reared in ignorance of the progenitors, whose slightest acts and remarks should be held sacred by us as the descendants.

Many family incidents and good deeds are not recorded in courthouses, town halls or church records, but are written only in the Book of Life.

We hesitate to mention the names of those who sent information lest some may be unintentionally or unknowingly omitted. At the 1908 reunion, Zena Garl-Kibbe read a short history of the family which Aunt Libby Mitchel had told her. This was followed up by Dora Light, Edith Groll and John Uriah Stotts, an invalid who, from far and wide, gathered data for several years and then presented it to Fred Middleton who compiled an elaborate chart. Without help of the contributors, this history could not have been completed to the extent that it is. We are deeply indebted to Lois Middleton for helpful suggestions and for the task of typing the complicated manuscript for the printers.

May this book be a source whereby all the descendants may become acquainted. Wherever possible, addresses and occupations have been given. In the light of the intimate contacts and devotions displayed among the children of John and

MIDDLETON-DOWNING FAMILY HISTORY

Elizabeth Downing-Middleton, may the widely scattered descendants strive to maintain cordial relations in memory of that early brotherly and sisterly love.

Hazel May Middleton Kendall
203 West Fifth Street,
Anderson, Indiana.

Descendant of John Downing Middleton.

EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS:

b.—born, d.—died, m.—married, cem.—cemetery,
dau.—daughter. Roman numerals indicate first generation, capital letters the second generation, Arabic numbers the third generation, small letters the fourth generation, and numbers in parentheses the fifth generation.