

# A Guide to the Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph, 1954 SC 0066

Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph  
1954



## Title Statement

A Guide to the Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph, 1954 SC 0066

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

SC 0066

### Unit Date

1954

### Language

English .

### Abstract

The Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph, 1954, depicts the cast, including students and presumably teachers and administrators, of a minstrel show at the Middlebrook School in Augusta County, Virginia.

**Creator**

Daggy, Walter S., 1896-1988

**Extent**

0.06 cubic feet 1 letter folder

**Repository**

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

**Conditions Governing Use**

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**Acquisition Information**

Acquired from Rolling Hills Antique Mall in Harrisonburg, Virginia in January 2017.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], [box #, folder #], Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph, 1954, SC 0066, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

## Bio/Historical Note

The tradition of the blackface minstrelsy dates back to the early nineteenth century and continued into the mid-twentieth century in various types of mass media (theatre, television, and film). As the name suggests, blackface minstrel shows primarily featured white men who would apply black makeup and act as African Americans. Stereotypical mannerisms, gestures, and dialects were often employed.

Dating to the mid-1910s, the Middlebrook School housed grades one through seven and high school, and served the Middlebrook community of Augusta County, Virginia. Several school consolidations took place over the next fifty years until the Middlebrook Grade School shuttered its doors in 1967.

The photographer, Walter S. Daggy (1896-1988), was based out of Mt. Solon, Virginia. His primary occupation was farming, but he also worked as a photographer for area newspapers. Daggy married Minnie Props on January 18, 1918 and was a lifelong resident of Mt. Solon.

## Scope and Content

The Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph, 1954, depicts the cast, including students and presumably teachers and administrators, of a minstrel show at the Middlebrook School in Augusta County, Virginia. The 8 x 10 inch black-and-white photograph features twenty-six youth and adults standing on a stage in a posed group shot. All but three are in blackface. In stereotypical fashion, one performer is holding a watermelon and one is holding a chicken.

The photographer's stamp is imprinted on the verso; it reads: "'Today's Photographic Pleasures Are Tomorrow's Valued Treasures' Walter S. Daggy Photo and Finishing Mt. Solon, VA."

## Keywords

Minstrel shows -- Virginia -- Augusta County -- History -- 20th century

Blackface entertainers -- Virginia -- Augusta County -- History -- 20th century

Black-and-white photographs

## Bibliography

Johnson, Stephen, ed. *Burnt Cork: Traditions and Legacies of Blackface Minstrelsy*. Amherst & Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2012. Obituary for Walter S. Daggy, *Daily News Leader*, January 30, 1988. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Thematic National Register Nomination Inventory Form,

Middlebrook School, VHLC 007-0686, 1985. Accessed February 8, 2016.  
[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Augusta/007-0686\\_Middlebrook\\_Schools\\_1985\\_Final\\_Nomination.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Augusta/007-0686_Middlebrook_Schools_1985_Final_Nomination.pdf).

## **Provenance**

The provenance of the photograph, specifically the location and date, was attributed by the seller and is assumed to be accurate.

## **Arrangement**

The collection is housed in one letter folder.

## **Description of Subordinate Components**

### **Middlebrook School Minstrel Show Photograph**

**Unit Date** 1954

**Mixed Materials [1000886509]** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)