

QUICK FACTS

General Information

Location Columbia, S.C.
 Founded 1801
 Enrollment 27,390
 Nickname..... Gamecocks
 Colors Garnet (PMS 202) & Black
 President Dr. Harris Pastides
 Athletics Director Eric Hyman
 NCAA Faculty Rep..... Bill Bearden
 Senior Associate AD/SWA..... Val Sheley

Equestrian Program Information

Facility One Wood Farm (Blythewood, S.C.)
 First Year of Equestrian 1997
 Overall National Titles..... 2: 2005, 2007
 Hunter Seat National Titles..... 3: 2005-07

Staff Information

Head Coach..... Boo Major (S. Carolina '81)
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Asst. Coach Ruth Sorrel (S. Carolina '00)
 5th Yr / (803) 777-1417 / Sorrel@mailbox.sc.edu

Asst. Coach Alixe Schwartz (St. Lawrence, '01)
 2nd Yr / (803) 735-7187 / Alixes@mailbox.sc.edu

Administrative Asst. Molly Hankinson
 (803) 777-3829 / shoemakm@mailbox.sc.edu

Team Information

2008-09 Team Record 8-5
 2008-09 Hunter Seat Record..... 11-5
 2008-09 Western Record 8-9
 VENC Finish (O/H/W)..... 6th/3rd/6th
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost..... 19/6

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2009-10 SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Opponent	Site
Sunday	Sept. 20	TCU	Home
Friday	Oct. 2	Auburn	Away
Friday	Oct. 23	Georgia	Home
Friday	Nov. 6	UT Martin	Home
Saturday	Nov. 7	Fresno State	Home
Friday	Nov. 20	Baylor	Neutral
Saturday	Nov. 21	New Mexico State	Away
Saturday	Jan. 30	Oklahoma State	Home
Saturday	Feb. 6	Auburn	Home
Saturday	Feb. 13	Ohio State (Western)	Home
		SMU (Hunter Seat)	Away
Saturday	Feb. 27	Georgia	Away
Saturday	March 20	Delaware State	Away
Sunday	March 21	Sacred Heart	Away

Southern Equestrian Championships: Auburn, Ala.

Friday - Saturday, March 26-27

Varsity Equestrian National Championships, Waco, Texas

Thursday - Saturday, April 15-17



GAMECOCK EQUESTRIAN

THE PATTERN FOR WINNING...

Known as the first major school in the country to sponsor equestrian, South Carolina enters the program's 13th year of existence. Since its beginnings in 1997, the program has continued to thrive and has cemented its status as an elite program with two national championships in the last five years.

USC's first national honor came in 2004 when standout Tara Brothers won the most coveted individual award from the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), the IHSA Hunter Seat National Title, also known as the Cacchione Cup.

Under the reign of head coach Boo Major, on April 16, 2005, USC brought home its first national title in Varsity Equestrian as South Carolina tallied 60 points to edge out rival Georgia. Held at the Santa Fe Horse Park in New Mexico, the Gamecocks won the Hunter Seat Division with 40 points and the Western team totaled 20 points for a fifth-place finish.

In 2006, the Hunter Seat team recorded a repeat performance by winning its second consecutive national title at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships held in Albuquerque, N.M. The Gamecocks defeated Auburn for the title, 906-853. Overall, USC was named Co-Reserve Champion, tying with Oklahoma State for second-place.

In 2007, the Gamecocks again set the bar for excellence by bringing home the program's second national title in three years and third consecutive Hunter Seat title. Held in Waco, Texas, the Hunter Seat team outscored its three VENC opponents 20-3. The Western Team was named Reserve Champion



The 2005 National Championship Team

for its best showing at nationals. In addition, the Hunter Seat team went undefeated throughout the season - 15-0 - en route to the title.

The 2008 season saw the beginning of an individual championship tournament at the VENC as standout Kristen Terebesi was one of seven riders invited to participate in the Hunter Seat events. Terebesi brought home the individual championships in both equitation on the flat and equitation over fences to become the first rider to win two individual championships in a season.

The Gamecocks had five riders earn national seeds in 2009 and were highlighted by Victoria Middleton's reserve title in equitation on the flat.

South Carolina continues to set a standard in equestrian and has proven to be a national contender each year. As one of the benchmark programs in the history of the sport, South Carolina is a reason that Varsity Equestrian is a step closer to full NCAA sponsorship.



The 2007 National Championship Team

National Championship Teams

**2005
Santa Fe, N.M.**

- Kristen Terebesi
- Kelley Campbell
- Claire Sharp
- Tara Brothers
- Chelsea Koornick
- Courtney Borton
- Allison Bradley
- Lindsay Williams
- Laura Pipkin
- Katy Biffle
- Rachel Sternoff

**2006
(Hunt Team Only)
Albuquerque, N.M.**

- Kristen Terebesi
- Kelley Campbell
- Tara Brothers
- Sarah Lowe
- Lindsey Pace
- Carly Johns (Alternate)

**2006
(Co-Reserve Champions)
Albuquerque, N.M.**

- Kristen Terebesi
- Kelley Campbell
- Tara Brothers
- Sarah Lowe
- Lindsey Pace
- Carly Johns (Alternate)
- Rachel Sternoff
- Allison Bradley
- Katy Biffle
- Lindsay Williams
- Laura Pipkin
- Katie Grossnickle
- Rebekah Roof (Alternate)

**2007
Waco, Texas**

- Katy Biffle
- Nicole Bourgeois
- Allison Bradley
- Kelly Campbell
- Katie Grossnickle
- Carly Johns
- Sarah Lowe
- Megan Massaro
- Lindsey Pace
- Rebekah Roof
- Rachel Sternoff
- Kristen Terebesi
- Lindsay Williams
- Sarah Stephens (Alternate)
- Kristina Pependick (Alternate)

THREE-TIME HUNTER SEAT NATIONAL CHAMPION :: 2005, 2006, 2007

...BEGINS WITH SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIDERS



TARA BROTHERS

May 9, 2004 - Tara Brothers won the equestrian Hunter Seat National Championship following a weekend of competition at the IHSA Nationals in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Brothers defeated 28 other competitors during the three day competition to earn

the title.

Brothers began the competition on Thursday (May 6) by placing seventh in the flat phase. Trailing the leader by seven points, Brothers was in a position to win if she could produce a solid jumping round. During Friday's (May 7) jumping phase, Brothers put in the best round of the day with a score of 95, besting the second place finisher by three points.

The combination of Brothers' scores for the first two days put her in the lead by four points. The final phase of competition took place on Saturday when the top five were asked to perform a demanding test over a shortened jumping course. Brothers once again put in a solid performance that kept her on top and allowed her to capture the Cacchione Cup and in the process become the first South Carolina athlete to win a national title in the sport of equestrian.

"Tara was extremely confident at Nationals," Coach Boo Major said. "Her relaxed demeanor and ability to focus under extreme pressure allowed her to concentrate on the details of her performance that put her ahead of the others. There was no question she had won the national title before the judges' decision was announced - she was that good."



KRISTEN TEREBESI

April 19, 2008 - South Carolina senior rider Kristen Terebesi won the individual national championship in both equitation on the flat and equitation on the fences Saturday at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships to lead the Gamecock equestrian team at the Heart O' Texas Fair Complex in Waco, Texas.

The 2007-08 season marks the first year that individual national champions were crowned at the VENC's with Terebesi taking home top honors in both Hunter Seat events.

Seeded second in equitation over fences, Terebesi defeated Lisa Wells (Fresno State) in the first round before recording the victory against the nation's top seeded rider in Nicole Brown (Baylor) for the championship. The only rider in the nation to earn a championship bid in two of the four individual events, Terebesi also fought her way through the equitation on the flat bracket. She defeated No. 4 Bailey Mahoney (Oklahoma State) in the first round before upsetting another top seed in Haylie Jayne (Georgia) for her second championship of the day. She competed against both riders in the regular season and dropped both contests, but won the two that mattered as she finishes her career at South Carolina with a 27-4 record in postseason competition.

"We had a rocky start to the week but came back and kicked it into gear to give out some great performances," Terebesi said. "The individual wins were a bonus, and I couldn't be more proud to bring them back for Carolina."



Boo Major with 2005 team championship catalysts and Carolina's future (2007, Terebesi, left) and past (2004, Brothers, right) individual national champions. Terebesi and Brothers spent two seasons together in 2005 and 2006, helping the team win Hunter Seat national titles both years.

CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH AT BASEBALL



On Wednesday, February 20, 2005, the Carolina equestrian team was honored at the South Carolina baseball home game against Clemson. Four days after earning the program's first overall national championship, the riders were cheered on by 5,922 at Sarge Frye Field as freshman Kristen Terebesi threw out the ceremonial "first pitch".

SC STATE HOUSE HONOR



On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, the South Carolina State House honored the equestrian team after winning its second national championship. A resolution was read from the House floor that commended the team for its efforts in winning the 2007 VENC championship, the team's second in three years. Coach Major and her team were presented with a framed copy of the resolution.

SC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HONOR



On Wednesday, August 20, 2008, South Carolina Department of Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers, the Department of Agriculture, the South Carolina Peach Council and the South Carolina Watermelon Board and Association recognized the Gamecock equestrian team at One Wood Farm for its outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments.

SC ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME BANQUET



On Monday, May 18, 2009, the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet invited the South Carolina equestrian team to be honored for the team's past accomplishments and championship history. The honor was sponsored by the Town of Blythewood, the South Carolina Horseman's Council and past S.C. Athletic Hall of Fame Presidents Sonny Dickinson and Pete CiVenere.

THREE-TIME HUNTER SEAT NATIONAL CHAMPION :: 2005, 2006, 2007

ONE WOOD FARM

One Wood Farm, located in Blythewood, S.C. and owned by the University Development Foundation, is a 24-stall facility with two outdoor all surface arenas and a covered arena. All feature sprinkler systems. There are nine turn-out areas, four wash stalls, four grooming stalls, three air-conditioned and heated tack rooms, a climate controlled feed room, an office, full bathroom, a sitting area and a locker room. The locker room is a large climate controlled full bath facility with areas to store riding apparel, double sink, multiple mirrors and electrical outlets.

The facility also has a house used for team functions, lunches and as an area for the members of the team to relax. Various events are held there, and it also serves as a meeting place for the team to have meals before and after home competitions.

The facility has been a welcome home to the South Carolina equestrian team since the Gamecocks began occupying it at the start of the 2004-05 season. Heading into its sixth year in the Blythewood facility, South Carolina has won 19 its past 20 regular season competitions dating back to October 21, 2005. That streak includes wins against the country's toughest competition including Georgia, Auburn, Baylor, Texas A&M, Oklahoma State and TCU.

DIRECTIONS TO ONE WOOD FARM (FROM COLUMBIA)

Take I-77 North to Exit 27 (Blythewood Road).
Turn left and go approximately one mile.
Turn right onto Syrup Mill Road.
One Wood Farm is 0.8 miles down on the left.



2005, 2007 :: TWO-TIME OVERALL NATIONAL CHAMPION

ABOUT EQUESTRIAN

Since 1998, the NCAA proclaimed Equestrian as an emerging sport. Efforts continue to be made to advance the sport to full NCAA status. To reach this goal, there must be 40 Division I/II schools that sponsor the sport at the varsity level. There are currently 23 schools that carry equestrian as a varsity sport.

In 2006, the Varsity Steering committee established the bracketed format at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships (VENC). The format will provide a more level playing field and determine a national champion.

DUAL-MEET FORMAT

The dual-meet format was implemented in 2003 and designed in the annual equestrian coaches meetings hosted by US Equestrian Federation. Teams compete in four events: English equitation over fences, English equitation on the flat, Western horsemanship and Western reining. In each event, five athletes from each team ride head-to-head in each event on the same set of horses provided by the host school. Riders are assigned to horses through a random draw, facing the challenge of riding an unfamiliar horse after a timed warm-up period.

GENERAL SCORING

Hunter Seat rides are scored on a scale of 0-100. In equitation on the flat, there are nine maneuvers each worth 10 points, plus an overall score worth 10 points, to total 100 possible points per ride.

Maneuvers are scored on the following scale: 10 = Excellent; 9 = Very Good; 8 = Good; 7 = Fairly Good; 6 = Satisfactory; 5 = Sufficient; 4 = Insufficient; 3 = Fairly Bad; 2 = Bad; 1 = Very Bad; 0 = Not Executed.

In equitation over fences, the scoring follows USEF standards.

Western riders in both reining and horsemanship are judged using a 70-point scale where points are added and subtracted from the base score. Western scoring for maneuvers is as follows: +1 1/2 = Excellent; +1 = Very Good; +1/2 = Good; 0 = Average; -1/2 = Insufficient; -1 = Bad, -1 1/2 = Very Bad. Penalties can also be assessed for major errors.

Horsemanship and equitation on the flat riders are judged on their ability to control and compete the horse while maintaining the correct riding position. Riders in equitation over fences are judged on their ability to position the horse correctly and not interfere with its balance while maintaining the correct riding position for a smooth, polished performance. Reiners are judged for precision and application of natural aids as they execute maneuvers at varying speeds.

KEY TERMS

Hunter Seat

The category of equitation English riders compete in, whose foundation lies in jumping and riding across country, such as foxhunting. Hunter Seat riders wear a helmet, shirt with collar, jacket, breeches, tall boots and gloves.

Western

The term Western is based on the equipment used. Western riding evolved in the American West with the foundation coming mostly from cattle ranchers. Western riders wear very bright and colorful, eye-catching outfits that include a hat, blouse, jeans, chaps, boots and accessories that show off their correct position. Blouses can vary in color and design and should complement the rider's build.

Equitation On The Flat

Competition where English riders are judged on their ability to control the horse while maintaining the correct riding position. Pattern consists of nine maneuvers within a rectangular-shaped arena.

Equitation Over Fences

Riders jump a predetermined course, usually consisting of eight to 10 jumps. Judges are looking at rider's position, consistency of pace and accuracy of leads, turns and distances to the fences.

Horsemanship

Competition where Western riders are judged on their ability to control the horse while maintaining the correct riding position on a predetermined pattern that consists of a varying number of maneuvers.

Reining

The riders perform an individual, pre-assigned pattern from memory, demonstrating a variety of stops, turns and circles at various speeds. Judges are looking for precision, technical application of natural aids and the rider's ability to show an unfamiliar horse.

What The Judges Are Looking For

Body signals from the seat, legs, hands and voice to communicate commands to the horse, while appearing comfortable, relaxed and balanced. Signals should be subtle or imperceptible to the judge and spectators and exaggerated shifting of the rider's weight is not desirable. If it looks easy, the rider is doing a good job.

VARSITY EQUESTRIAN

South Carolina competes yearly in the Varsity Equestrian National Championships (VENC), the highest level of competition for collegiate equestrian.

www.varsityequestrian.com



THREE-TIME HUNTER SEAT NATIONAL CHAMPION :: 2005, 2006, 2007

OVERALL

With Varsity Equestrian National Championships in 2005 and 2007, it began to look as if every odd numbered year would be the year of the Gamecocks. Unfortunately, South Carolina head coach **Boo Major**'s team was not able to repeat that success in 2009. However, with a team that returns 19 riders from a sixth place VENC showing and the addition of a strong recruiting class, the Gamecocks will look to once again claim their spot atop the collegiate equestrian ranks.

"We will have a bigger team this year," Major said. "Thirty-five is the largest number we have ever had on our team, and we are excited to see how the dynamics will work out. I think we have a good shot at a successful 2009-10 season. We are definitely younger on the western side but have great leaders that will help show the new folks the Gamecock way."

With 35 members on the team, Major will have no shortage of options on both the Hunter Seat and Western teams. In addition to lineup mainstays such as Megan Massaro, Carly Babcock, Nicole Bourgeois, Chloe Gray, Emily Bookwalter and Hailey Thornton, the Gamecocks added 15 new riders from across the country to prepare for what promises to be one of the finest seasons in South Carolina equestrian history.

"The freshman class is huge – comprised of seven western riders and eight hunter seat riders," Major said. "It is the biggest class we have ever brought into our equestrian program so you could definitely say we will be a young team this year. I expect the young ones to make some mistakes, but I think the leadership of our fantastic senior class will continue to keep us very competitive. We have a good base to have an exceptional team for many years to come if we work hard and maintain the right attitude."

HUNTER SEAT

The South Carolina Hunter Seat team has been one of the strongest in the nation since equestrian moved to the varsity format in 2005. Under the guidance of Major, the team won an unprecedented three consecutive national championships from 2005-07, highlighted by a perfect 15-0 run in the 2006-07 season to mark the first time that a team went through an entire regular and postseason undefeated. Under Hunter Seat coach Alixe Schwartz, the 2008-09 team took a big step towards reclaiming that glory with an 11-5 record and bronze medal finish at nationals.

The team only loses two seniors from that VENC lineup and returns a collection of riders that have proven to be some of the best in the country, starting with senior **Megan Massaro** (Summerfield, Fla.). Massaro may have had the most solid and consistent season of any Hunter Seat rider in the country last year with a combined record of 22-4-3 – a .810 win percentage – and 10 MVP rides. She earned the nation's top seed in equitation on the flat as a junior with a 12-1-2 record and four MVP rides. As a consummate rider, Massaro also showed as one of the top riders in equitation over

fences where she posted a 10-3-1 record with six MVP rides through the course of the season, earning first alternate honors for the individual national championships – what essentially amounts to a No. 9 seed.

Another senior that had a breakout junior campaign last season was **Carly Babcock** (Deer Harbor, Wash.), a strong equitation on the flat rider who made a strong debut as a regular lineup member. Babcock earned the nation's No. 3 seed after posting an undefeated regular season at 8-0-2 with two MVP rides. With a full season behind her, Babcock should be poised for yet another strong run for the Gamecocks.

The third South Carolina member to earn one of the eight national seeds awarded in equitation on the flat was **Victoria Middleton** (Marietta, Ga.), the sophomore sensation who finished as the national runner-up in the event last year after entering VENC's with the No. 5 seed and a 12-1-1 overall record. A rider that steps up in big competition, she went undefeated in team competition at nationals and now sports a 10-2 all-time record in postseason meets. Unfortunately, Middleton will miss the 2009-10 season as she recovers from a serious head injury suffered on July 24, 2009 while prepping for a competition in Vermont.

In equitation over fences, senior **Nicole Bourgeois** (Sherwood, Ore.) is a top rider that will miss the fall but compete in spring. Bourgeois has been a solid rider for the Gamecocks since stepping onto campus and continued her strong showings last year to earn the No. 6 national seed. She went 9-4-1 with two MVP rides and is 7-1-1 all-time at the VENC's.

"Megan Massaro will be our most experienced returner in Hunter Seat next year," Major said. "She will compete in both equitation on the fence and on the flat again. Carly Babcock will be solid on the flat as well. Over fences, the combination of Megan and Nicole Bourgeois will be a duo to contend with."



Other returning Gamecocks to watch are seniors **Eleanor Kunsman** (Flemington, N.J.), **Katie Stenberg** (Rehoboth, Mass.) and **Alex Haskell** (Cincinnati, Ohio). Also expected to contribute is sophomore **Paige Dekko** (Naples, Fla.).

South Carolina welcomes eight newcomers to the team including South Carolina natives **Jeanette Collins** (Greenville, S.C.) and **Logan Holler** (Columbia, S.C.). Other newcomers

with the potential to enter the regular lineup as freshmen include **Alex Arute** (Avon, Conn.), **Sara Green** (Sherborn, Mass.) and **Kimberly McCormack** (Clermont, N.J.).

WESTERN

Opposite of the Hunter Seat team's wealth of returning experience is that of the Western Team. Assistant coach **Ruth Sorrel**'s squad lost its top two riders from last year with the graduation of nationally ranked horsemanship rider Katie Grossnickle and team captain Rebekah Roof.

Picking up the reins in horsemanship will be senior **Emily Bookwalter** (Fillmore, Ind.) and junior **Hailey Thornton** (Mishawaka, Ind.). Bookwalter competed regularly for the first time last season and was a member of the S.E.C. and VENC teams. She finished the year with a 7-6-2 record. Thornton went 5-4-1 in the regular season in her second year in the program. **Maggie Fortune** (Hartford, Conn.) was a member of the S.E.C. and VENC teams as a freshman and posted two MVP rides in her first collegiate season.

The Gamecocks return four regular riders in reining and will be led by junior **Chloe Gray** (Tampa, Fla.) who has made an impact since she first arrived on campus. Gray has competed in all regular and postseason competitions since her freshman year and has also been invited each of the past two years to compete in the NRHA Collegiate Reining Championships. Gray went 10-6 on the year with two MVP rides and posted a 4-1 record in the postseason.

Also returning in reining is senior **Amy Biffle** (Orange Grove, Texas) and junior **Lydia Roof** (Lexington, S.C.). Biffle, also a horsemanship rider, competed as a regular in reining for the first time last year and will look to continue to improve with a year under her belt. Roof filled in admirably as a transfer from Stephen F. Austin and went 2-2 at the VENC's.

"We have a very young Western team this year," Major said. "Emily Bookwalter really blossomed last year as a horsemanship rider, and Chloe Gray will be one to keep your eyes on this year."

The Western team welcomes seven newcomers to the team in 2009-10, including potential regular riders in **Kayla Gamble** (Hilliard, Ohio), **Amanda Pope** (Portal, Ga.) and Audrey Jewell (Monroe, Ga.).



VICTORIA MIDDLETON TO MISS FALL 2009



Junior Victoria Middleton was injured Friday, July 24 while bathing a horse in preparation for a horse show in Bennington, Vt. The horse became scared and broke fencing where it was tied, causing the rail to hit Victoria in the face and knocking her to the ground. During the fall, she hit her head on the cement surface.

After evaluation at a hospital in Vermont, Victoria was sent to Albany Medical Center in Albany, N.Y., where she remained in the critical care unit with facial and brain injuries. Weeks later, she was sent closer to her Marietta, Ga., home to the Shephard Center in Atlanta, Ga. After spending three weeks at the Shephard Center, Middleton was released and taken home on Wed., Sept. 2 where she will continue her rehabilitation.

In the days after learning of her injuries, thousands of Gamecock fans visited the Caring Bridge website set up by her family to leave words of encouragement to Victoria and her family. The website continues to bring periodic updates of Victoria's status and her fight back to full health. It can be found at: www.caring-bridge.org/visit/victoriainmiddleton.

"We are certainly going to miss Victoria this fall and hope she will be back with us in the spring," South Carolina head coach Boo Major said. "She is such a huge part of our team both in the competition arena and out. The team is an integral part of her recovery, and it is exciting to learn of the daily improvements she is making. We will dedicate this season to Victoria and hope she will be back to celebrate her recovery soon with us."

VICTORIA MIDDLETON BIO

2008-09: Went 12-1-1 on the year with three MVP rides in equitation on the flat ... Member of the S.E.C. and VENC teams ... Earned the nation's No. 5 seed and finished individually as Reserve National Champion ... Went undefeated in team competition in the postseason, going 4-0 combined at the S.E.C.'s and VENC's ... Had a high score of 91 in win against Auburn's Ali Loprete ... Defeated national No. 7 seed Carolina Cramer of UT Martin 80-73 for her first MVP ride of the season ... Ended the season on an 11-match winning streak ... Earned MVP rides against UT Martin, Auburn and Georgia ... Named to SEC Academic Honor Roll.

2007-08: Enjoyed a strong freshman season in equitation with a 7-6 record ... Member of the S.E.C. and VENC teams ... Earned first collegiate victory in 84-68 ride against TCU to open the season ... Ride against TCU was also her high score of the year ... Named MVP after 77-62 win against South Dakota State ... Went 4-1 in the postseason including a 3-0 mark at the VENC's ... Defeated Georgia 76-74 in the S.E.C. final to earn MVP honors ... Recorded victories against Auburn, Fresno State and Baylor at nationals to close the season ... SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll.

High School: Two-time Maclay qualifier...2006 GHJA J.D. Pounds medal winner...Qualified for USEF Pessoa Medal Finals...2005 Junior Equitation Challenge GHJA finals winner...Named champion in GHJA Junior Amateur Hunters.

Personal: Full name is Victoria Lynn Middleton...Majoring in Business...Chose USC over Auburn and New Mexico State...Born December 11, 1988...Has two sisters and one brother, William... Parents are Leslie and Stan Thomas and Bill Middleton.