

# Chapter Two

Thomas  
and  
Rebecca (Bitters)  
Morris

## Rebecca Bitters

The oldest daughter of Arnold and Mary Bitters was born January 23, 1792 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Rebecca was eleven years old at the time of her father's death.

Little is known about her life.

We don't know when Rebecca married Thomas Middaugh of Lower Mt. Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. As was common at the time, Thomas is approximately ten years older than Rebecca. He was born April 25, 1783.

In 1809, Thomas and his father participated in the incorporation of the Hunter Settlement Presbyterian Church.

They were the parents of 10 children:

- Mary Middagh, born November 23, 1809
- Peter Middagh, born August 25, 1811
- John Middagh, born 1814
- William Bitters Middagh, born April 20, 1816
- James E. Middagh, born 1818
- Thomas N. Middagh, born March 17, 1822
- Andrew Van Vliet Middaugh, born September 16, 1824 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania and died April 5, 1846 at Northampton County, Pennsylvania
- George B. Middagh, born 1828 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania and died March 9, 1860 at Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania
- Amanda Middagh, born October 08, 1833 and died December 2, 1849 at Northampton County, Pennsylvania
- Mary Ann Middagh, born Abt. 1839 and her death date is unknown

1840 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Indiana  
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Middagh, Thomas

Male 10 - 15 years = 1, 15 - 20 years = 2, 20 - 30 years = 1, 60 - 70 years = 1

Female 10 - 15 years = 1, 30 - 40 years = 1, 60 - 70 years = 1

Thomas passed away May 27, 1841, at Northampton County, Pennsylvania and is buried at the Three Churches Cemetery.

1850 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Indiana  
Page 425

Enumerated 19 September 1850

Dwelling 123 Family 128

Rebecca Middagh, age 58, born Pennsylvania  
George B., age 22, merchant, born Pennsylvania

Mary Ann, age 11, born Pennsylvania, school within the year

Rebecca passed away August 31, 1852

My Folks

Story of the Forefathers of Oliver Francis Mershon, MD as told by himself,

In the words of Grace Lucile Olmstead Mershon

Privately Published

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Chapter VI

Ancestry of my Grandmother

Mary Middagh Mershon

Thomas Middagh and Wife Rebecca

"Unfortunately, I can record but little about the ancestry of my Grandmother Mershon, Mary Middagh, or "Middaugh," as it is also spelled. She was of Dutch descent, as were many others of our Antecedents. Her father's name was Thomas and he was born April 25, 1783. Like so many of our ancestors, he died before he reached the mark of three score and ten years (70) - on May 27, 1841. Since we have only the good old Bible name, Rebecca, by which to designate his wife, my great-grandmother, I can tell you only of her span of life, from January 23, 1792, to August 31, 1852."

## Mary Middagh

The firstborn of Thomas and Rebecca (Bitters) Middagh, was born November 23 1809 at Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Mary was married to Jacob Bergen Mershon, who was born October 13, 1808 in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The date of their marriage is unknown.

Jacob and Mary were the parents of

- George Middagh Mershon born July 22, 1847 in Richmond, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. George died February 28, 1929

Jacob died June 14, 1848 and Mary on June 23, 1874.

1860 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

July 11, 1860

Dwelling 813/Family 831

Christena Davidson, female, 87, real estate 400, personal property 100, born Pennsylvania  
Mary Mershon, female, 40, born Pennsylvania

**George Middagh Mershon** married Henrietta McFall on December 30, 1869 in Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Henrietta was born November 23, 1843 in Warren County, New Jersey.

George Passed away Feb 28, 1929 and Harrietta followed on September 8, 1931 at Northampton County, Pennsylvania

The descendants of George and Henrietta are well documented in a book written by one of their descendants My Folks - Story of the Forefathers of Oliver Francis Mershon MD, as told by himself. In the words of Grace Lucile Olmstead Mershon. This is a well written and easy to follow story. Unfortunately it is out of print but I was able to obtain a copy from a second hand bookstore.

## Peter Middagh

The second child and oldest son of Thomas and Rebecca (Bitters) Middagh, was born August 25 1811, at Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

All that is known about his wife is her name was Eve

Peter and Eve were the parents of three children:

- Thomas Middagh born about 1842
- Emma Middagh born about 1845
- Andrew Middagh born about 1848

Census records as notorious as they are for being wrong indicate there was one male child under the age of 5 in 1840. This could have been Thomas or possibly another child born between 1835 & 1840 who died before September 27, 1850.

1840 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

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Middagh, Peter

Males 0 - 5 years = 1, 20- 30 years = 1

Females 20 - 30 = 1

1850 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Sept 27 1850

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Middagh, Peter, age 38, Farmer, born Pennsylvania

Eve, age 35, born Pennsylvania

Thomas, age 8, born Pennsylvania

Emma, age 6, born Pennsylvania

Andrew, age 2, born Pennsylvania

1860 Census

Lower Mt. Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Page 156

Enumerated 24 July 1860

Dwelling 1126 Family 1157

Middagh, Peter, age 45, laborer, born Pennsylvania, personal Property \$200

Eve, age 40, born Pennsylvania

Thomas, age 18, laborer, born Pennsylvania, attended School

Emma, age 15, born Pennsylvania, Attended School

Andrew, age 12, born Pennsylvania, Attended School

1870 Census

Lower Mt. Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

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Dwelling 271 Family 189

Middagh, Peter, age 58, farmer, born Pennsylvania  
Eve, age 53, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania  
Emma, age 24, born Pennsylvania  
Andrew, age 22, Clerk in Grocery Store, born in Pennsylvania

1880 Census  
Centerville, Johnsonville District, Upper Mt Bethel Twp  
Northampton County, Pennsylvania  
Page 4  
June 3, 1880  
Dwelling 32/Family 36

Middagh, Peter, 68, Gentleman, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania  
Middagh, Eve, 64, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania, both Parents born Pennsylvania

Peter died December 1, 1880.

## John Middagh

The third child and second son of Thomas and Rebecca (Bitters) Middagh, was born about 1814, at Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

All that is known of John's wife is that her name is Maria.

John and Maria were the parents of seven children :

- Mary A. Middagh born About 1839, death date unknown
- Thomas born about 1841, death date unknown
- Theodore T. Middagh born about 1843, death date unknown
- William Middagh born about 1845, death date unknown
- Jane C. Middagh born about 1846, death date probably between September 18, 1850 & July 7, 1860.
- Cornelius Middagh born about 1847, death date unknown
- Franklin H. Middagh born about 1849, death date unknown

### 1850 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania  
September 18, 1860  
Page 423  
Dwelling 91 family 96

John Middagh, age 35, Farmer, born Pennsylvania  
Maria, age 33, born Pennsylvania  
Thomas, age 9, born Pennsylvania  
Theodore, age 7, born Pennsylvania  
William, age 6, born Pennsylvania  
Jane C., age 4, born Pennsylvania  
Franklin, age 2, born Pennsylvania

Living next door is his brother Thomas  
Dwelling 92, family 97

Thomas Middagh, age 28, Labourer, born Pennsylvania  
Mary C, age 22, born Pennsylvania  
Sarah, age 2, born Pennsylvania

John Middagh died July 1851

### 1860 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania  
July 7 1860  
Page 101/102  
Dwelling 739 Family 753

Middagh, Maria, age 43, born Pennsylvania  
Mary A. , age 21, born Pennsylvania  
Thomas, age 19, laborer, born Pennsylvania  
Theodore T., age 17, born Pennsylvania  
William, age 15, born Pennsylvania  
Cornelius, age 13, born Pennsylvania

Frank H, age 11, born Pennsylvania

1870 Census

Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

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Dwelling 184 Family 199

Middagh, Maria, age 53, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania

Jennie, age 23, born Pennsylvania



**William Bitters Middagh**

The fourth child and third son of Thomas and Rebecca (Bitters) Middagh, was born April 20 1816, at Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

All that is known of William' wife is her name was Mary.

William and Mary were teh parents of one child:

- Robert A. Middaugh born about 1846, death unknown.

William died November 7, 1897 at Strousberg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania

**James E. Middagh**

The fifth child and fourth son of Thomas and Rebecca (Bitters) Middagh, was born about 1818, at Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

His wife's name was Catherine, she was born about 1823.

James and Catherine were the parents of ten children:

- Minerva Middagh born about 1844, date of death unknown
- Alice Middagh, born about 1845, date of death unknown
- Edmund Middagh, born about 1847, date of death unknown
- Amanda Middagh, born September 1850, date of death unknown
- John Middagh, born about 1851, date of death unknown
- Warren H. Middagh, born about 1853, date of death unknown
- Angeline Middagh, born about 1855, date of death unknown
- Maria Middagh, born October 1859, date of death unknown
- Harry J. Middagh, born about 1866, date of death unknown
- Ella M. Middagh, born about 1868, date of death unknown

1850 Census

Lower Mt Bethel, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Sept 20 1850

page 426

Dwelling 141 Family 147

Middagh, James, age 31, shoemaker, born Pennsylvania

Catherine, age 27, born Pennsylvania

Minerva, age 6, born Pennsylvania

Elton, age 5, born Pennsylvania

Edmond, age 3, born Pennsylvania

Runier, William, age 19, shoemaker, born Pennsylvania

1860 Census

Lower Mt Bethel, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

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Enumerated July 11, 1860

Dwelling 799 Family 816

Middagh, James, age 45, shoemaker, born Pennsylvania

Catherine, age 40, born Pennsylvania

Minerva, age 16, born Pennsylvania

Alice, age 15, born Pennsylvania

Edmund, age 13, born Pennsylvania

Amanda, age 11, born Pennsylvania

John, age 9, born Pennsylvania

Warren H, age 7, born Pennsylvania

Angeline, age 5, born Pennsylvania

Maria, age 9/12, born Pennsylvania

1870 Census

Lower Mt Bethel, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Page 4

Enumerated 28 July 1870

Middagh, James, age 57, shoemaker, born Pennsylvania  
Catherine, age 46, born Pennsylvania  
Edmund, age 23, day labor, born Pennsylvania  
Amanda, age 19, born Pennsylvania  
John, age 17, born Pennsylvania  
Warren, age 14, born Pennsylvania  
Angeline, age 12, born Pennsylvania  
Maria, age 10, born Pennsylvania  
Harry J, age 4, born Pennsylvania

1880 Census  
Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania  
Page 4  
June 4, 1880  
Dwelling 104/Family 115

Middagh, James, 61, shoemaker, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania  
Catherine, 36, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania  
Harry, 14, son, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania  
Ella M, 12, daughter, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania

1900 Census  
Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania  
Sheet 5B  
June 9 1900  
Dwelling 108/Family 111

Middagh, James E, 81, born February 1819, Widowed, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania, Shoemaker  
Britain, Amanda, Daughter, 49, born September 1850, Widow, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania  
Britain, George, Grandson, 12, born October 1887, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania

**Thomas N. Middagh**

The sixth child and fifth son of Thomas and Rebecca (Bitters) Middagh, was born March 17 1822, at Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Thomas married Mary C., date unknown.

Thomas and Mary C. were the parents of one child:

- Sarah Middagh, born about 1848, date of death unknown

Thomas died December 12 1868 at Northampton County, Pennsylvania

1850 Census  
Lower Mt Bethel Twp, Pennsylvania  
Sept 18 1850  
Page 423  
Dwelling 92, family 97

Thomas Middagh, age 28, Labourer, born Pennsylvania  
Mary C, age 22, born Pennsylvania  
Sarah, age 2, born Pennsylvania

Living next door is his brother John

Dwelling 91 family 96  
John Middagh, age 35, Farmer, born Pennsylvania  
Maria, age 33, born Pennsylvania  
Thomas, age 9, born Pennsylvania  
Theadore, age 7, born Pennsylvania  
William, age 6, born Pennsylvania  
Jane C., age 4, born Pennsylvania  
Franklin, age 2, born Pennsylvania