



Family Heirloom Displayed: Left to right - Dan Middleton, Pam Cole, Paul Middleton, Mark Middleton, Evelyn Middleton Cole, Zoe Middleton Koinsan, Faye Middleton Burrow.

THE MIDDLETON COUNTERPANE

Mary Emma Oliver Pegram Middleton (maker of the counterpane) was born on October 10, 1840 in Guilford, North Carolina. Her parents were William Allen and Lily Mariah Williams Oliver. She married Daniel Pegram on November 15, 1857. They had three children: Martha, Mary and a son. Only Mary "Molly" lived to adulthood. She married a Palmer and had one son named, Billy. Due to the Civil War, Mary Emma Oliver Pegram became a war widow.

After the Civil War, Mary Oliver Pegram married John Alexander Middleton on March 13, 1867 in Guilford County, North Carolina. They had eight children. They were James Allen –born January 3, 1868, died August 23, 1950. Addie-born March 1, 1870, died February 26, 1952. TRIPLETS: Elmer, Edna, Edmer –born on July 9, 1872. Elmer died July 4, 1896, Edna died January 30, 1924 and Edmer died August 22, 1945. Robert Morris was born May 9, 1875 and died on September 21, 1932. TWINS: Joseph Alexander and Emma Josephine were born May 21, 1878. Joe died in 1963 and Emma died on April 25, 1959.

Mary Oliver Middleton died July 15, 1898 and was buried in the cemetery west of the Mt. Moriah Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Fuson, Wright County, Missouri. She and her husband had joined the church in 1880.

The family story is that Mary made the counterpane from the sheep's wool, carded the wool and made it into rolls, spun the wool into thread as well as dyed the wool. It was woven into a design. Our grandmother (May Elizabeth Varney Middleton) called this wool blanket or coverlet, a counterpane. Also, it was reported that Mary made a counterpane for each of her children. Perhaps she wove the counterpanes in the years from 1880 to 1898. Just a guess! When would she have had time to weave with all the little "ones".

Dan Middleton, son of Ted, grandson of Robert Morris and great-grandson of Mary Oliver Middleton inherited the counterpane belonging to Robert Morris Middleton.

Possible resource for more information on counterpanes is www.colonialsense.com . Click on other antiques. You are looking for a Jacquard woven coverlet or just "Google" until you see something that looks like Mary Middleton's counterpane.

Linda (Lyn) Middleton Phillips compiled this information on July 12, 2011