



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## WILLIAM BITTLE (1816-1891) AND FAMILY

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

*[The following is excerpted and adapted from Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania, by Gilbert Cope and Henry Graham Ashmead, published by The Lewis Company, New York and Chicago in 1904.]*

**WILLIAM BITTLE**, a farmer, built in 1811 what is now known as the "old Eagle Hotel," on the West Chester pike.

His son, also named **WILLIAM BITTLE**, was the father of two children:

1. Hannah Bittle, who married Joseph Esrey;
2. William Bittle, who was born December 26, 1816, in Haverford township and received the ancestral name of William.

This last **WILLIAM BITTLE**, the third of the name, succeeded his grandfather as proprietor of the hotel, and later engaged in farming. He was a man of standing in the community, serving as school director, tax collector and holding other township offices. In politics he was a Republican. He attended the Friends' Meeting. He married Jane G. Worrell, daughter of David and Sarah (Gibbons) Worrell, and they were the parents of ten children:

1. Sarah Bittle, who became the wife of John Kirk of Darby township;
2. William Bittle was born at the old Eagle Hotel, on the West Chester pike, in Haverford township August 23, 1843; his educational training was obtained in the schools of the neighborhood and when he had attained his majority he engaged in the grocery trade in Philadelphia, where he was also for some time engaged in the wholesale and retail produce trade and met with a well merited degree of success. In 1902 he retired from active business pursuits. He was married in Philadelphia February 12, 1868, to America Jane Werner, daughter of Henry and Eliza (Stewart) Werner, of Duncannon, Pennsylvania, and had born to him one son, William Bittle, who was born March 19, 1869, and died in August, 1869;
3. Jennie Bittle, who lives in Haverford township;
4. Hannah Bittle, who married William V. Carter, of Ardmore;
5. Lydia Bittle, who is the wife of John E. Stanley, of Haverford;
- 6., 7., 8. Joseph, Howard and Rebecca Bittle, all of whom died in infancy;
9. Lizzie M. Bittle, who married William Steward, of Haverford;
10. Walter S. Bittle, mentioned, at length, hereinafter.

Mrs. Bittle, the mother of this family, died in June, 1861, and Mr. Bittle passed away May 3, 1891, on the old homestead where he had been born and had always lived.

**WALTER S. BITTLE**, one of the leading dairy farmers of Delaware county, son of William and Jane (Worrell) Bittle, was born April 17, 1861, on the old homestead in Haverford township, Delaware county,

and passed his boyhood on the ancestral farm. He was educated at John M. Lock's school, at Norristown, and after completing his education settled on the homestead, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. His farm contains thirty-three acres of fine land, in the cultivation of which he employs all the modern appliances. He makes a specialty of dairying, in which he is very successful. Politically he is a Republican. He and all his family attend the Friends' Meeting.

Mr. Bittle married, October 27, 1885, Emily Hagy, daughter of the late Daniel and Mary (Wynn) Hagy, the former named having been an extensive farmer and paper manufacturer of Montgomery county, and a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Hagy. Mr. and Mrs. Bittle are the parents of three children:

1. Henry H. Bittle, born January 1, 1888;
2. Helen Bittle, born July 15, 1890;
3. Emily Bittle, born March 6, 1901.

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