

The Ashbridge Family of America

READERS of THE JOURNAL and other students of Quaker literature will be well acquainted with the name and some of the life history of Elizabeth Ashbridge (1713-1755),¹ but little has hitherto become known of the family into which Elizabeth Sullivan (*née* Sampson) married in 1746.

Wellington T. Ashbridge, late of Kelowna, B.C., and now of Toronto, Canada, compiled in 1912 *The Ashbridge Book*, a fine quarto volume of xiv. + 182 pp. and various illustrations, and he has recently presented a copy of his work to D.

The immigrant ancestor was George Ashbridge (d. 1748), who landed in Philadelphia in 1698. It is not known whether he was a Friend at this date, but later he is shown as actively interested in Quakerism. In *Clovercroft Chronicles*, by Mary Rhoads Haines, 1893, we read :

“ It is said that on landing at Philadelphia, George Ashbridge had with him a Bible, an axe, and an English coin of some value. The coin he gave to one who needed it more than himself, the axe was no doubt kept for use, and the Bible is probably still in possession of one of his descendants.”

In 1701, G. Ashbridge married Mary Malin, both living in Chester (afterwards Delaware) County, Pa. Mary died in 1728, and in the following year George married Margaret (Jones) Paschall. The sixth child of the first marriage was Aaron, b. 1712, d. 1776. He married firstly Sarah Dawes, secondly Elizabeth Sullivan, and thirdly Mary Tomlinson. Aaron was a prominent man in local affairs, acting as a Justice of the Peace. He was also an Overseer of Goshen Meeting ; in 1773, however, Goshen records state : “ Aaron Ashbridge of Goshen Meeting complained of for drinking to excess,” and in 1775 further complaint was made of his drinking “ so as to be disguised therewith on a public road.” Later in the same year Aaron was disowned, “ a serviseable member for many years past,” and yet in his will, dated after his dismissal from the Society, he left three hundred pounds for setting up and supporting a school for Friends' children in Pennsylvania.

Various disownments of other members of the family are recorded in this book, but there are still descendants of the family in the Society. The book also contains some “ sketches of collateral lines—Davies, Hoopes, Sharpless, Yarnall, Thomas, Trimble, James, Wilcot, Mercer, Bennett, Heron, Hill, Rooney, Bright, Fox, Davis, Garratt, Massey, Maris, Rhoads, Downing, Smedley, and others.

Gilbert Cope aided the Compiler in his work.

¹ THE JOURNAL, i., ii., vii., x. ; *Some Account*, various edd., esp. *Quaker Grey*, by Albert C. Curtis, 1904 ; *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 31 (1858), p. 212 ; *Evans's Friends' Library*, iv. ; MSS. in D.