

INTRODUCTORY.

Scattered through the literature dealing with the history of many of the families which settled in Pennsylvania between the time of its foundation as a British colony by Penn, and the Revolution of 1776, are to be found numerous references to one George Ashbridge and his descendants.

A considerable number of these are still living in or near Philadelphia, and have no doubt been long familiar with the main features of the emigration and settlement of their English ancestor.

As in most families, however, not all of the children remained at home in Chester County, and so it happened that one family of several members moved to Canada, and others have since settled in the South, and to the descendants of these wanderers the opportunities for retaining the knowledge of old times have been necessarily curtailed.

In this respect, my own knowledge of anything further back than 1793, was limited, up to some three years ago, to a few family traditions relating to Pennsylvania and Welsh ancestry (with a suggestion also of Pennsylvania Dutch), and to a few written records in my great grandmother's Bible of children born before the Revolution.

However, about this time an opening was presented to extend my information, and in the process of tracing the connection between the Canadian and Pennsylvanian families, many facts came to me from various sources relating to other branches as well as to my own.

I decided finally to attempt some systematic arrangement of these records in one publication, and the result is presented in the following pages, in which the most attention has been given to details of the period covered by the first three generations.

The name of Ashbridge in America may be said to be an uncommon one, and no doubt most of those bearing it are descendants of George Ashbridge mentioned above.

Leaving out Philadelphia, Washington and Toronto, the directories of practically all the larger cities on the continent are free from it, and in