

CHAPTER I.

GEORGE ASHBRIDGE AND MARY MALIN.

GEORGE ASHBRIDGE came to America in 1698, landing in Philadelphia on the 5th of July.

He is said to have come from Yorkshire, and from what has been said before, this would seem to be not improbable.

The date of his birth may be assumed to have been somewhere between the years 1665 and 1680.

His inclinations after arriving in America were towards the farm and the acquisition of country property, and in 1700 he purchased seventy acres of land in Edgmond Township, Chester County (later changed to Delaware Co.), and in the year following became united in marriage with Mary Malin, of Upper Providence Township in the same county.

In 1708, not satisfied with his first location, he bought a tract of 341 acres in Goshen Township, in the same county, and moved there, building his house near the Ridley Creek, about three-quarters of a mile from the Willistown line. Here he made his home during the lifetime of his wife, and from time to time added to his land purchases, property adjoining his own, until this amounted to over 900 acres. All of this later during his lifetime was given, or sold for nominal sums to his three sons, affording them a start in life.

In 1728, Mary died, and George Ashbridge married again the following year a widow, Margaret (Jones) Paschall, and shortly afterwards removed to Chester, the county-seat, then a town of some importance, establishing himself in business as a baker.

While in Chester he occupied a house, built by a former owner, on Edgmont Ave., between Second St. and Graham St., part of which is still standing.

He was an active member of the various Meetings of Friends, where he was living at the time, which is shewn by the numerous references in the records. It is not, however, certain that he was a Quaker while in England, as there is no record of his bringing with him a certificate of removal. He died in 1748 in Chester.