

## XVIII

### *Griffith Family*

1. ABRAHAM GRIFFITH, probably the first of the Friends' Colony to settle in the Great Swamp, which later became Richland Township, was born in Wales in the year 1680. A memorial of him published in *The Friend* (Volume 33, page 29) states that he was "born in Wales in the year 1680." The records of Richland Meeting show that he died 10 mo. 3, 1760, "in the 82d year of his age."

Abraham's father, Howell Griffith, with wife and children, arrived in Philadelphia in or prior to the year 1689, as on 2 mo. 3, 1689-90, he purchased of Griffith Jones a lot on "the bank" at High (now Market) Street. "Besse's Sufferings" shows that he was one of the sufferers for his religious faith and was committed to Carnarthshire Jail, 4 mo. (June), 1684. He died intestate and letters of administration were granted on his estate to his eldest son, Abraham Griffith, 2 mo. 17, 1710. On the same day "Abraham Griffith of Philadelphia, Cordwainer, son and heir of Howell Griffith, late of the said city, Cordwainer, deceased," conveyed this lot to Abraham Bickley.

We do not have the names of the other children of Howell Griffith, but there is reason to believe that Evan Griffith, of Southampton Township, Bucks County (also a shoemaker), later of Gwynedd, was a brother to Abraham, and that Diana Griffith, who married, first, Abraham Hewlings, of Wellingsboro, Burlington County, New Jersey, and second, in Richland, in 1730, Thomas Heed, and Patience, the wife of George Phillips, another early settler in the Swamp, were his sisters.

Abraham Griffith was a member of Richland Meeting from the time that it was first established, and from 1720 until his death, on 10 mo. 3, 1760, was a recognized minister among Friends. The memorial before referred to says of him: "His gift in the ministry was exercised to the edification of the Church. He was not large in utterance yet exercised the gift with fluency and zeal. He was a reprover of pride and vanity and an example of temperance and zeal." He married, 1708, at Abington Meeting, Hannah Lester, daughter of Peter and Mary (Duncalf) Lester, then of Byberry. (See No. 2, Chapter XXVII.) She survived her husband and removed with her son Isaac and his family to Maryland in 1770.

The first purchase of land in Richland by Abraham Griffith was 300 acres of the Griffith Jones tract, June 25, 1712. It was located on the west side of the Jones tract, north of the tract conveyed about the same date to John Ball, and extended northward from the road now leading