

Mary Ashley

Ex-Congressman's Mother, Kin Of Colonial Leader

Mrs. Mary Alida Ludlow Ashley, 93, who lived on Broadway in Maumee, died Friday in St. Luke's Hospital. She is the mother of Thomas Ludlow Ashley, longtime Toledo congressman, and the widow of William Meredith Ashley, whose grandfather, James M. Ashley, represented Toledo in Congress during the Civil War.

She was born Mary Alida Gouverneur Ludlow in Newburgh, N.Y., a descendant of Gouverneur Morris, a signer of the U.S. Constitution, minister to France, and U.S. senator from New York during the American Revolution and early years of the republic.

Mrs. Ashley attended a French convent school in Quebec, Canada, and Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Mass. She married William Meredith Ashley in 1917. She taught English history and theater at the former Smead School for Girls and continued teaching at its successor, Maumee Valley Country Day School, after it moved to Reynolds Road in 1934.

She served on the school's board of trustees in the late 1930s. Mrs. Ashley organized the Children's Theater of Toledo, a project developed by the Junior League. She was also active in the League of Women Voters and volunteered as a nurse's aide for Toledo Hospital during World War II.

When her husband retired in the late 1950s, the couple moved to Cape Cod, Mass., where Mrs. Ashley was active in the Barnstable Theater, directing many local productions. She was also chairman of the Barnstable County Democratic party in the 1970s. In the early 1980s, following her husband's death, she returned to live in Maumee.

Also surviving are her daughter, Mrs. Mary A. Edwards, and son, Charles S. Ashley.

Services will be at 4 p.m. tomorrow in St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The family requests any contributions be to the Maumee Valley Country Day School library fund.