

PREFACE.

The author publishes this book with a full knowledge of the imperfections that will be manifest to all that read it, and he would further delay sending it to press could he thereby eliminate them. He has endeavored to secure information of interest and value, and trusts that in a measure he has succeeded, but he has not been able to secure as full information as he desired in many instances. Were the faults of the work only those of omission he would be pleased, for such he could not avoid. It has only been through the co-operation of many of Shreve descent that these tabulations and brief sketches of the descendants of Mercy Shreve and James White have been as well presented as they are, and when so many persons have contributed data it is unreasonable to expect no errors to have been made. Great care has been devoted to transcribing data and to proof reading and it is believed the work is as free from errors as similar publications usually are.

The historian Bancroft is authority for the early colonial history and the history of Quakerism, and the language is largely his own. Data collected by the late Samuel H. Shreve of New York City, and supplied by Mr. Barclay White, has been freely used in the history of the early Shreve families, and credit has been given them in that part, while Austin's Dictionary of Rhode Island affords data relating to Thomas Sheriff and his immediate family. It is fortunate, that among each of the four branches recorded of the descendants of Mercy Shreve and James White, there live some elderly descendants who have in possession family records and data to which access has been had, and who have cordially supplied other matter of equal interest to all, of which they were personally cognizant. Mrs. Mary D. Grant, of Cincinnati, O., and Mrs. Eliza Force, of Rockford, Mich., grandchildren of Joseph White, at an early period supplied important data of the early families of that branch. Mrs. Lucy E. Stockett and Miss Sarah B. Holt, sisters, and great-grandchildren of Thomas White, and Safety M. Henderson, of Whitehall, Ill., grandchild, promptly contributed data of their branch. The tabulation of these two branches was first completed. Mr. Joel White and his sister, Mrs. Emma Sheets, of Limaville, Ohio, grandchildren of Robert White, aided by their aged mother, now deceased, supplied the early records of their branch, and Mrs. Mary A. Hand, of Hatboro, Pa., a grandchild of Hope Robbins, afforded full information of her branch and