

From the time of the Caleb Shreve who settled at Mount Pleasant, Mansfield Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, I am satisfied that what I have is authentic. Previous to that it is traditional, but I believe mainly correct.

The first Shreve of whom I have any account was Sir William Shreve, who came from the Southeastern part of Europe, some say Greece, others hint at Turkey, in both of which countries, especially in the latter, the name Sheriff was not uncommon, but borne only by Mohammedan families. I cannot fix the time of Sir William. He married Elizabeth Fairfax (tradition says Lady Elizabeth, but I always suspect titles, etc., in family traditions), and had a son William, who married a young lady of Amsterdam by the singular name of Ora Ora, or Oara Oara, the daughter of a wealthy nobleman. I have no doubt of Oara being an ancestress of the family.

After their marriage, the story of which is quite romantic, they came to Portsmouth, R. I. They had positively two sons, Caleb and John, and probably a third, William, who left no descendants.

We are now able to make a guess at the date of Caleb's birth from an old deed still in the family. This deed is from John Cooke of Portsmouth, in Colony of Rhode Island, to John Shreve of the same town, and conveys three-fourths of all his right and property at Shrewsbury, N. J. Deed is dated January 9th, 1676-7; on the back is a transfer from the said John Shreve to his beloved brother, Caleb Shreve.

Caleb Shreve received warrants for land from the East New Jersey proprietors as early as 1676. He was certainly of age at the time, and it would be safe to assume that his birth occurred about 1650 to 1655. Allowing thirty years to a generation, we would have for the date of the birth of Sir William, 1590, which is confirmed by the tradition that he was born in the latter part of the Sixteenth century.

This account, you will notice, does not agree with Savage's guess work, referred to by Mr. Saltar, in the Mount Holly, New Jersey Mirror of April 4th last, that John Shreve of Portsmouth was the son of Thomas of Massachusetts.

I will give you the sources of the tradition of Caleb Shreve's ancestors. I have several statements made by members of the family some fifty to seventy-five years ago, but the best of all, or the one which the few since discovered by me have confirmed most, is that which comes from Col. Israel Shreve, who died in 1799. He was grandson of Caleb, and took a very great interest in family matters. He was very young when his father died: but there continued to live with the family two