

EARLY SHREVE FAMILIES.

The ancestry of the Shreve family emerges from tradition when the annals of Plymouth, Mass., and Portsmouth, R. I., at an early date record the name "Sheriff." Dec. 7th, 1641, at Plymouth, Thomas Sheriff and wife were parties to a complaint filed then, and twenty-five years later, Dec. 10th, 1666, they were parties to a deed recorded in Portsmouth. An inventory of his estate was filed June 11th, 1675, at Portsmouth. In these vicinities then they must have lived and he died. He was probably born between 1625 and 1630, and his wife, Martha ———, five years later. He then died, aged forty-five or fifty years, she surviving more than sixteen years, marrying a second and a third time, respectively, Thomas Hazard and Lewis Hues. The names on these records is spelled "Sheriff," while in business transactions between his sons the name "Sheriff" and "Shreve" are both used by them. The next later generation, as shown by the records of the meetings of the Society of Friends in Burlington County, New Jersey, spell the name "Sreve." Very generally after these generations the orthography of the name is "Shreve." At the present date none are found that spell the name otherwise.

Samuel H. Shreve, C. E., of New York City, in the latter part of his life, devoted much labor to the study of early Shreve ancestry. Mr. Barclay White contributes the two following communications from him. The splendid account, written fourteen years ago, is considered accurate in statement and conclusions by those subsequently studying family ancestry, excepting that Caleb Shreve of New Jersey is the son of Thomas Shreve of Rhode Island.

7 mo. 9, 1895.

L. P. ALLEN,
Greeting:

The late Sam'l H. Shreve, C. E., of New York City, under date Dec. 4, 1883, addressed me as follows:

I have been interested in the subject of the Shreve family for some years and have embraced every opportunity to add to my stock of information.