

keeping. It was no small part of the work of the women to supply the warm, comfortable bedding for the household. The old Dutch ovens and open fireplaces were the facilities for cooking, and fire was supplied by flint, steel and tinder. The pine knot, tallow dip, and genial fireplace afforded the light for the long winter evenings. Medicinal herbs were gathered from the fields and forests, while the science of cure was learned from the friendly Indian. Books were scarce and expensive, but the Bible was always the first to enter the household. Such were the surroundings of our early ancestors. Superior homes only came with development and advancing civilization. Many in those times were unaware of better surroundings and certainly never lived to enjoy them.

It is, therefore, not surprising that the history of entire localities is summed up in a few lines, and that of individual families entirely lost. The old court and church records are the principal sources of information. The probate records afford the names of solvent persons and their heirs, with inventory of their estates; while it is the province of the church records to take notice of marriages and births, recording the names of all connected with those occurrences, and the dates they transpired. When parties were insolvent or married "outside" of the church, these records are unavailing, and the chain of descent is broken. These records are frequently imperfect, sometimes entirely lost, often only partially intelligible, but without they are of inestimable value to genealogists. The next records of value are those attending the stirring events of the Revolutionary war, and from that period the obstacles to successful research are not so great.

The following preliminary tabulation may be offered, showing the reputed ancestry of Caleb Shreve of New Jersey, of which he is the fourth generation in descent:

[First Generation]. (Traditionary).

Sir Wm. Shreve and Lady Elizabeth Fairfax.

[Second Generation]. (Traditionary).

Wm. Shreve and Oara Oara.

[Third Generation].

Thomas Shreve (or Sheriff), and Martha ———.

[Fourth Generation].

Caleb Shreve and Sarah Areson.

In the tabulations that follow Caleb Shreve and Sarah Areson will be designated as the first generation.

1. CALEB SHREVE, probably the third child and third son of Thomas Sheriff (or Shreve), of Rhode Island Colony, and