

“The Dutch for cripple is ‘krepel,’ Saxon ‘crypel.’

“Of course, it is possible that the name might, in the first place, have been spelled with an S, that it might for a long period have been dropped, and ultimately regained, in which case we may presume that we inherit our taste for literature from remote ancestors—the chroniclers doubtless of their day! The roots are :

Old German.....	Scribelen.
Old French.....	Escrire.
Latin.....	Scribere.

“But there is yet another view of the case : May the name not be derived from ‘scrip,’ a small bag generally possessed by a shepherd. The cognate roots are :

Icelandic.....	Skreppa.
Swedish.....	Skrappa.
Welsh.....	Ysgrap.”

I am tempted to believe Crisp to be the oldest form of the name, and Bardsley’s opinion as the most plausible. Webster’s primary definition of crisp is, “formed into stiff curls or ringlets.” The first Crisps were therefore probably noticeable for their stiff, curly hair. It is still possible, however, that the three horse-shoes on the family arms may possess some significance as referring to the shoemaker hypothesis of the origin of the name.

In the Record Office, Fetter Lane, London, is preserved the record of a charter granted to one Roger Crisp of London in the first year of King John (A. D. 1199).