

the Commonwealth it was clear that the family were puritans, for the Roundhead names Moses and Faith appeared. In 1633, during the lifetime of three generations of Thomases, the name suffered an important transmutation. Prior to that year it had been written Crips. How naturally it became corrupted to Scrips, will be seen by attempting to repeat quickly the name of Thomas Crips, and it was while the principal head of the family bore the name Thomas that the change in writing the surname occurred. The change probably occurred with the incoming of a new rector or clerk who wrote the name from sound. It was made so abruptly that some infants who a few months before had been baptized as Cripes, were buried just after as Scripses. The change, the result purely of ignorance or carelessness, illustrates the transmutations that have no doubt taken place in hosts of other surnames.

The registers of Trinity parish, Ely, were generally well kept, and, considering their age, have been remarkably well preserved, but back of the year 1600 the writing becomes small and close, and more difficult of deciphering, and having accomplished what I desired, viz., the establishing of the origin of the name, I there concluded my researches.