

Sensebach Heritage

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A family history newsletter for:

Sinsabaugh Sensibaugh Sensenbaugh Sinsebox
Sinsapaugh Sencabaugh Sencenbaugh Sencerbox
Sincebaugh Sencebaugh Sincerbeaux Sincerbox
Sensabaugh Sencibaugh Cincebeaux Sensaboy
Sensebaugh Cencebaugh Cincebox Senciboy
and other variations of the name

Emily and John, John and Emily

by Steven L. Sinsabaugh

In 1823 two Emily Deckers were born and baptized at the Brick Reformed Church in Montgomery, Orange County, New York. This fact is relevant to those tracking Sensebach lines, as one of these Emilys is a daughter of Leah Sinsabaugh. Knowing which Emily is which becomes even more important two decades later when we want to trace the 'Sinsabaugh' Emily Decker.

This type of problem is not uncommon. The Sensebachs had been settled in the Montgomery area for nearly a century; the Brick Reformed Church (which had only become 'Brick' in 1804) had seen generations of Sensebachs, and later Sinsabaughs, born, baptized, marry and die. The many Sinsabaugh lines of this era, combined with the common practice of naming children after parents, grandparents, and other relatives, resulted in the frequent occurrence of 'same-named' people in the community. Two girls with the same name, born and baptized within the same year at the same church, was just an extreme example of this phenomenon.

Thus we have first the genealogical puzzle of separating our 'Sinsabaugh' Emily Decker from the non-Sinsabaugh Emily a few decades later when both marry. Then the genealogical puzzle takes a nasty turn for the worse: both Emily Deckers may have married men by the name of John Sinsabaugh! So we now have our puzzle to solve.

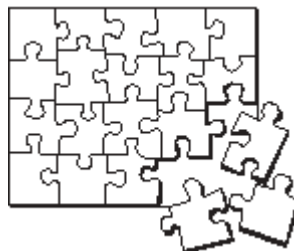
The beginning - Two Emily Deckers are born.

The Brick Reformed Church¹ records clearly show two "Emeline"² Decker girls baptized in 1823. The records list only dates of birth, and no sponsors. Emily(b₁) was born 25 July 1823, with parents David P. Decker and Lavina Roat. Emily(b₂) was born 7 November 1823, with parents Philip Decker Jr. and

Mary Ann Bookstaver. The fathers, David and Phillip Jr., may have been brothers; Brick Reformed Church records show baptisms of a David Decker on 3 July 1798, and a Philip Decker on 2 January 1790, both sons of Philip Decker and Elizabeth Wallis.³

Throughout this article I will use the designations of Emily(b₁) and Emily(b₂) to refer to and differentiate the two girls baptized in 1823.

Lavina Roat, mother of Emily(b₁), was the daughter of Leah Sinsabaugh and Frederick Roat. Leah was the daughter of Johann Christian Sensebach, and the granddaughter of Friederich Sensebach, who first came to America from Germany.⁴



Marriage Records

Only one marriage record of an Emily Decker to a John Sinsabaugh has been found. On 13 November 1843 Emele Decker and John Sinsabaugh, both of Crawford, were married at the Brick Reformed Church. Witnesses were Solomon Roat and David Roat. This Emily will be designated Emily(m₁). The Roat witnesses suggest (but do not prove) that Emily(m₁) may be Emily(b₁), since her mother's maiden name was Roat.

Deaths: Two Emily Sinsabaughs

Now let's jump to the end of the 19th century. The New York records contain two Emily Sinsabaugh death certificates.

The first is for an Emily Sinsabaugh who

died 25 June 1887.⁵ Her age at death was 62 years and 11 months. Her place of death is listed as Montgomery, Orange County, New York, where she was a widow. Her parents are listed as David Decker and Levina Roat. She is buried in Montgomery. The informant was John Sinsabaugh. Let's label this Emily as Emily(d₈₇). Based on the parents' names, and dates of birth that match day and month (though a one year difference), it is reasonable to assume that Emily(d₈₇) was Emily(b₁). Henceforth we shall refer to her as Emily(b₁/d₈₇).

The second death certificate is for Emily Sinsabaugh, who died 14 January 1892, in Crawford, Orange County, New York.⁶ Her age at death was 67 years and 3 days. She, too, was a widow. The informant was a Frank Sincibaugh.⁷ Her parents are listed as John M. Sinsabaugh and Rachel Creig. Let's label this Emily as Emily(d₉₂).

A third death certificate of interest is that for a John Sinsabaugh, who died on 11 May 1886 in Crawford, New York, at age 68 years, 7 months. He is listed as married, though his wife's name is not included. He is listed as a laborer. His parents' names are given as David and Mariah Sinsabaugh. The informant is a J. E. Ward.⁸

This John Sinsabaugh, who died on 11 May 1886 at age 68 years, 7 months, would implicitly have been born in October 1817.⁹ Referring back to the Brick Reformed Church records, we find that, sometime in 1820, a John Marvel Sinsabaugh was baptized, along with a Amanda Youngblood Sinsabaugh.¹⁰ Both were apparently baptized together. John Marvel's date of birth is listed as 21 October 1817. The parents were David Sinsabaugh and Maria Garrison, matching the death certificate. Henceforth we shall refer to this John Sinsabaugh as John Marvel Sinsabaugh.

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