

# Sensebach Heritage

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A family history newsletter for:

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

## The Small Sunday School

by Steven L. Sinsabaugh

Previous issues of *Sensebach Heritage* have reviewed the life of Reverend Oscar Fitzgerald Sensabaugh through his diaries. The stories from the diaries, titled *Recollections*, recall his adventures carrying the Gospel through the mountains of North Carolina and the frontier of Colorado in the late 1800's.

One of Oscar's sons, Leonidas F. Sensabaugh (named after his grandfather), carried on the family tradition of spreading the faith. He was born 28 January 1879 in Grassy Cove, Cumberland County, Tennessee.

A few years ago I came across one of Leonidas' books, titled *The Small Sunday School: Its Plans and Work*, online. First published by Cokesbury Press in 1930, this diminutive book still carried its dust jacket, which lists the original price as 75 cents. Seventy-five years later, I paid more. Inside the book was a sticker stating that certain chapters were outdated due to "the change in plans for the educational work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South." Consequently the publisher had reduced the price to 35 cents.

The front of the dust jacket describes the purpose of the book.

*The suggestions contained in this book of 163 pages will prove invaluable. It would be difficult to imagine a practical problem that is likely to confront officers and teachers which is not intelligently discussed and a helpful solution offered. A careful study of the book will give to all a*

*larger vision of usefulness and a deepening sense of responsibility for the spiritual development of childhood and youth.*

*"The author's plea for 'the very best in the worship of God,' and in the training of our children, should not go unheeded; and he is quite right in saying: 'Sunday school teachers have a golden opportunity for service to God and man that is excelled only by the privilege of Christian parenthood.'" - The Sunday School Times.*

Inside the dust jacket is a photo of Leonidas and a brief biography.

*As Superintendent of Sunday Schools, Director of Religious Education, Conference Superintendent of Sunday Schools in Oklahoma, and then Director of Training Work of a large denomination, Mr. Sensabaugh brings to his readers the fruitful experience of twenty-one years' administrative activities and observations.*

In 1914 the Sunday School Council of Evangelical Denominations took steps to create a more adequate training course for Sunday school officers and teachers, which had been strongly advised by the Religious Education Association. The Standard Training Series was planned and adopted.

But an additional course was needed for workers, pastors, and others who carry on the work of the kingdom under the limitations of the small Church. The two books of Mr. Sensabaugh are real contributions to this field.

Inside, the book includes a dedication by Leonidas.

*"To my Father the Reverend O. F. Sensabaugh - who for nearly fifty years, as an itinerant Methodist preacher, has ardently supported the work of the Sunday school, this little volume is affectionately dedicated"*

In the introduction Leonidas gives a very brief history of the Sunday school movement in America, leading into the need to train Church teachers and officers. After the Methodist Evangelical church had established a standard training course, the need for a course for small churches was recognized.

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