

Sensebach Heritage

Volume 10
Number 4
Autumn/Winter 2007

A family history newsletter for:

Sinsabaugh Sensibaugh Sensenbaugh Sensebox
Sinsapaugh Sencabaugh Sencenbaugh Sencerbox
Sincebaugh Sencebaugh Sincerbeaux Sincerbox
Sensabaugh Sencibaugh Cincebeaux Sensaboy
Sensebaugh Cencebaugh Cincebox Senciboy

and other variations of the name

Major Mysteries of the Sensebach Family Tree

by Steven L. Sinsabaugh

Over the last twelve years we've addressed a number of the puzzles in the Sensebach family. In our premier issue, we traced the various appearances of a Christian Sensabaugh in New York, Nova Scotia, and Upper Canada; and showed that they were all the appearances of the same well-traveled man. The following issue sealed the case by showing Christian's unique signature on both New York and Upper Canada documents.

In several issues of the *Sensebach Heritage* we reviewed the early New York family. Winter 1998 (Vol. 3, No. 4) featured "Friederich Sensebach and His Family," where we proved that the Friederich Sensebach, born in 1687 in the Westerwald area of Germany, along with children Anna Magdalena, Johann Jacob and Johann Christ, had migrated to the Wallkill region of New York between 1721 and 1728. Since many of the branches of the Sensebach family can be tied back to his sons Jacob and Christian, this was a major breakthrough. While others, notably Henry Z. Jones, had previously postulated this connection, we were the first to document an explicit case, proving the connection beyond reasonable doubt.

A few years later, in the Winter 2003 issue (Vol. 8, No. 4), we investigated Philip Sensebach. He was the progenitor of many of the branches that spell the name Sincerbox, Sincebox, Sincerbeaux, et var. Previous works had suggested a number of different family structures, based on the Sensenbachs found in the Staten Island Reformed Church records between 1729 and 1736. The article showed that, by also examining the Westerwald church records and other extant records, the Philip on Staten Island was the brother

of Friederich. He can be traced then to the Wallkill, where by 1742 he had settled near Friederich's offspring.

Another mystery solved was the origins of William Sencabaugh of Prince Edward Island, Canada. William, who fathered ten children, is well established as the founder of the PEI branches of the family; but from whence he came was unclear. In the Winter 2000 issue (Vol. 5, No. 4) we reviewed the evidence, and built a strong case that he was the son of Jacob, grandson of Friederich, and brother of the Christian Sensabaugh who ended up in Upper Canada.

The later generations of our family hold their own share of mysteries and puzzles. In the Spring 1997 issue (Vol. 2, No. 1) we cleared up the structure of the early Sensabaugh family in Virginia, using the file of a court case that spanned three decades. Thirteen children and heirs of John and Eve Sensabaugh of Augusta County, Virginia, fought over his estate; these thirteen sibling went on to establish major branches of the family in Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Texas and elsewhere.

The subject of siblings surfaced again in the story of Simeon Sinsabaugh of Ohio, in Spring and Summer 2003 (Vol. 8, Nos. 1 & 2). In this two-part article we cleared up the confusion over who was, and was not, a son of Simeon. Past genealogies had a number of structures; this article went through son-by-son to build the case for, or against, each relationship. Six sons were proven and one was disproven for this family that has offspring through the Midwest and California.

More Mysteries To Go

In 1900 Professor David Hilbert, of the University of Göttingen, gave a famous speech (ok, famous in mathematical circles), titled "The Problems of Mathematics" at the International Congress of Mathematicians. The speech outlined the 23 most important unsolved problems in mathematics. The focusing effect of this speech on the next century of mathematics was extraordinary; thousands of papers were written attacking these 23 problems; most 20th century mathematical advances can be traced to work on these problems. By the end of the century a number of these problems were not yet solved.

In a similar vein, (though hopefully with better results) I'd like to devote this final issue of the *Sensebach Heritage* to outlining my view of fifteen remaining major challenges in the genealogy of the Sensebach family in America.

Building a family genealogy of such a large family as ours, whose forebearers arrived nearly three centuries ago, consists of tracing literally thousands of families. By definition, thousands of mys-

teries exist – was person X the son of person Y? did person Z ever marry and have children? But for

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