

Sensebach Heritage

Volume 8
Number 4
Winter 2003

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

On the Origins of Sensebachs

Across an Ocean and a River: Following Philip Sensebach

by Steven L. Sinsabaugh

Several large branches of the Sensebach family, including many of the spelling variations such as *Sincerbox* and *Sincerbeaux*, trace their American ancestry to a Johann Philip Sensebach who first appears on Staten Island in 1729.

Various previous family histories have suggested that this Philip later moved to the Wallkill / Montgomery area of Ulster (later Orange) County, New York. The histories then suggest that he (or possibly a son of the same name) moved across the Hudson River to Dutchess County. There he had a son named Andrew who was progenitor of these many "...box" and "...beaux" families. At one time Anna Magdalena, Johann Christian and Johann Jacob Sensebach of Wallkill were identified as children of the senior Philip; later research showed them instead to be children of Friederich Sensebach.¹ In these previous family histories,² the citation of primary source data is minimal or non-existent, so it is impossible to determine if their conclusions were based on firm evidence or conjecture.

The purpose of this article is to review and cite the extant primary evidence regarding Johann Philip Sensebach of Staten Island, to determine what can be proven, what can

be inferred, and what is not proven and purely speculation. We will first examine the possible German origins of Johann Philip Sensebach of Staten Island, and subsequently examine his and his family's possible moves to Wallkill, and possibly on to Dutchess County.

Part I: Westerwald to Staten Island

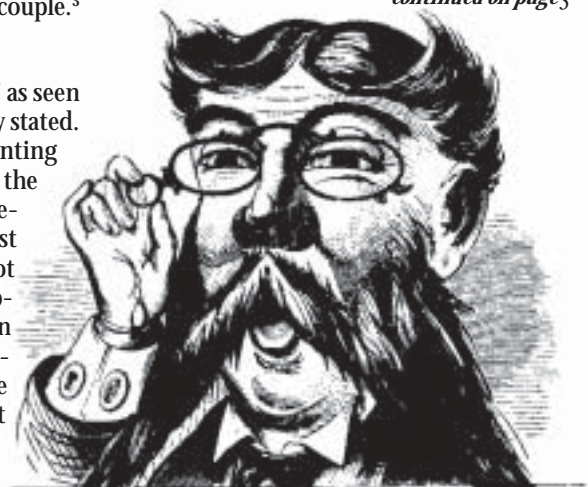
One of the earliest appearances of Sensebachs in the New World is a series of four baptisms at the Dutch Reformed Church on Staten Island from 1729 to 1736. These baptisms show various spellings, but clearly refer to offspring of the same couple.³ These are shown in Table 1.

The age of "Jan Philip Sinsenbach" as seen in the church records is not explicitly stated. However, as he was a father presenting children for baptism, we can bracket the probable years of his birth. If we presume he was at least 18 when the first child was baptized, and probably not greater than 60 when the last was baptized, his year of birth would have been between 1676 to 1711. If we further narrow his probable ages to the more likely range of 20 to 45, we arrive at 1691 to 1709.

In a previous issue of this newsletter we studied Friederich Sensebach, who came to New York from the Westerwald around the same time. In that article we noted that there were two clusters of "Sensebachs / Sensenbachs" in Germany at that time; in the Westerwald region and at Mosbach. Additional evidence showed that Friederich came from the Westerwald.

The Westerwald is a region of Germany north of Koblenz, on the east side of the Rhine River. Friederich's family appeared in the church records of the village of Oberhonnefeld.

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Date	Child	Parents	Sponsors
11 May 1729	Aaltje	Jan Philip Sinsenbach & Ule Catharine Pikkerling	Pieter Bouwman & Antje van Pelte
5 Sep. 1731	Christoffel	Jan Philip Sumsenbach & Ule Cathrina Pitterling	-
13 Jan. 1733/4	Christina	Johan Philip Zumsenbach & Ule Cathrine Pikkerling	Rachel van Engelen
28 March 1736	Hanna	Johan Philip Zumsenbach & Ule Catharine Pikkerling	Joh: de Groot & Elisabet Zikkel

Table 1: Children of Johann Philip Sensebach and Julianna Catharina Bikkerling baptized at the Dutch Reformed Church on Staten Island.