

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

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Sensebachs in the Civil War

Richard M. Sensabaugh of Hawkins Co., Tennessee

by Steven L. Sinsabaugh

Genealogists spend considerable time tracking down the snippets of data available on the life of an ancestor and attempt to piece together a life story. Usually the results are rather sketchy. The scraps of information, often just basic birth, marriage, death, and census records, tell little about the person beyond the basic vital facts.

Occasionally, however, we stumble into an ancestor who either, due to his circumstances, had a lot written about them, or who wrote a lot about themselves. Richard Mitchell Sensabaugh is an example of both. He was a son of David Sensabaugh of Hawkins County, Tennessee; a grandson of John and Eve Sensabaugh of Virginia. He attended school and college at a time that it was the exception, and not the rule. He had a farm and owned slaves. He served the cause of the Confederacy, first as a sapper, then as a purchase agent, gathering supplies for the army in hostile territory. His 'career', both ante-

and post-bellum, included teaching, retail sales, and politics. In his pension file he, and others, tell much about his life, particularly regarding his war service. He also wrote a genealogy of his family and his own life story.

So, for the remainder of this and other articles on Richard, we'll just let him tell us the story in his own words, and the words of those associated with him. The occasional segue will be added in italics, to differentiate it from original documents.

Soldier's Application for Pension

We enter Richard's life through his Civil War pension file. The file is found in the Tennessee Archives in Nashville - the federal government having no part in providing pensions to Confederate veterans. The first document is the form filled out by Richard, with many questions to be answered. The top part of the first page is shown below.

I, Richard Mitchell Sensabaugh, a native of the State of Tennessee and now a citizen of

Tennessee, resident at 5½ miles from Rogersville in the County of Hawkins in said State of Tennessee, and who was a soldier from the State of Tennessee, in the war between the United States and the Confederate States, do hereby apply for aid under the Act of the General Assembly of Tennessee, entitled "An Act for the benefit of the indigent and disabled soldiers of the late war between the States, and to pay the fees of attorneys or agents for procuring such pensions, and fixing a penalty for the violation of the same, and amendments thereto." And I do solemnly swear that, while in the discharge of my duties in the service of the Confederate States as a member of Capt. Ed Winston's Company of Sappers & Miners, under Gen. A. E. Jackson's command ("Mudwall Jackson")...I contracted the following disease or disabilities, to wit: Rheumatism, appearing first in what the Doctors called, variously, Lumbago, Nephritic Colic, and rheumatism and that by reason of such wound and disability I am now entitled to receive the ben-

continued on page 7

Soldier's Application for Pension

Under Class 1, 2, 3, or 4.

I, Richard Mitchell Sensabaugh, a native of the State of Tennessee
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States as a member of Capt. Ed Winston's Company of Sappers & Miners, under
Gen. A. E. Jackson's Command ("Mudwall Jackson") I was wounded in the battle or battles of