

Sensebach Heritage

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A family history newsletter for:
Sinsabaugh Sensibaugh Sensenbaugh Sinnebox
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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The Sanzenbachers - Researching Family Migrations

by Suzy Bettac

The search for my Sanzenbacher line began with ancestor Magdalena Sanzenbacher. She married Johann Frederick Unger the 24th of June 1828, in Columbiana County, Ohio.¹ The research would eventually expand to variant surnames through a variety of sources ranging from deeds, wills, and census to county biographies, cemetery records and passenger lists.

Knowing that women rarely traveled from Germany to the U.S. without a male companion—be it brother, cousin, brother-in-law or father, I began searching for one. Using a computed date of birth of 25 February 1808 derived from her headstone in the Petersburg Cemetery² and Wuerttemberg as the German state of her birth from the 1850 census, I began the process of locating other possible family members.

Ohio Sanzenbachers

The Ohio counties with the best concentration of Sanzenbacher/Sensebaughers in 1850 and 1860 were Columbiana and Mahoning. Mahoning County was formed from Columbiana in 1846, so the search involved working both counties' censuses and records.

Censuses of Unity Township, Columbiana County, Ohio provided initial information.

- 1830 - George and David Sincebaugh,³ who were contemporaries of Magdalena.
- 1840 - John Sensebauger⁴ and David Sensebach, contemporaries of Magdalena.
- 1850 - Rosina Sensenbacher,⁵ age 54 [b. 1796], head of household, with Catherine, b. 1824, Gottlieb, b. 1825, Dorothea, b. 1831 - all born in Germany and Mary A. b. 1842 Ohio.

- David Sencenbacher,⁶ age 44, weaver, born Germany, wife Rebecca, age 44, born at sea and children. All the children in the household were born in Ohio.

Even though the spelling of the surnames was not consistent the variations were close enough to warrant further pursuit.

A search of deeds in Columbiana County revealed that Matthias Sensenbacher had first purchased land in Columbiana County in 1827.⁷ In 1832 Matthias Sanzenbacher and wife Eliza, then of Stark County, Ohio, sold this land to David Sanzenbacher.⁸ The 1833 deed books show John and Jacob Sanzenbacher purchasing property together from Joseph Taylor.⁹ Frederick Unger and wife Magdalena sold land to David Sanzenbacher



Headstone of Christina (Strohmauer) Sanzenbacher, Ehefrau von (wife of) Gottlieb; Geb. (geboren-born) Sept. 5, 1770, Gest (gesterben-died) Jan 17 1847; Koch Cemetery, Unity Township, Columbiana County, Ohio.

in 1846.¹⁰ Thus, five men were identified as possible family connections: George, David, Matthias and Jacob, with Matthias having arrived before Magdalena's marriage date.

Columbiana County cemetery records provided the most substantial factual information.¹¹ St. Paul's Lutheran church and cemetery, popularly known as "Koch's", located in Unity township, was founded in 1839 by Martin Koch and Jacob Sanzenbacher, after breaking with the congregation of Unity "Brick" church, about two miles away. This cemetery is on the township border with Mahoning County. Abstracts done for the Koch cemetery revealed numerous spellings of the surname but nevertheless established that Johann George, Jacob and David Sanzenbacher [one variation] had attended the same church. Buried there are:

- David Sensanbaugher, died 21 Jan 1878, age 72 years, 8 months, 28 days [date of birth 23 April 1805].
- John George Sanzenbacher, born 14 September 1794, died 1 May 1845; wife Rosina, born 3 Sept 1796.
- A single obelisk stone containing the names Jacob Sanzenbacher, born 1 August 1799, died 17 April 1882; his wife Christina Barbara Zucker, died 24 December 1878; and Christina, Ehefrau von (wife of) Gottlieb Sanzenbacher, born 25 September 1770 and died 17 January 1847.
- Rebecca Sensenbauch, wife of David, died 2 June 1867, age 61 years, 3 months and 8 days.
- John G. Sensenbacher, born 12 Aug 1824, died 14 June 1791.

Because Christina was clearly a generation older than the other Sanzenbachers I had

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