

# Sensebach Heritage

Volume 6  
Number 1  
Spring 2001

A family history newsletter for:

Sinsabaugh Sensibaugh Sensenbaugh Sinsebox  
Sinsapaugh Sencabaugh Sencenbaugh Sencerbox  
Sincebaugh Sencebaugh Sincerbeaux Sincerbox  
Sensaugh Sencibaugh Cincebeaux Sensaboy  
Sensebaugh Cencebaugh Cincebox Senciboy  
and other variations of the name

## Adam Henry Sinsabaugh - A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Biography

by Steven Sinsabaugh

A fascinating resource many genealogists encounter is the county histories that were popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. These county histories, often prepared by the same publishers, tended to follow a standard format. They would begin with a generic history of the United States. This would be followed by the county history, often broken down into histories of individual towns and townships. The final, and often largest, part of the history would be biographies of "pioneers and prominent men". These biographies were based on information provided directly from the individual or his family. The writers would then prepare a flattering biography, since the "prominent men" and their families would be a primary target of book sales.

These biographies are useful for family research, but genealogists have learned to take the data in them with a healthy degree of skepticism. They would use florid language in describing the subject. The subject's ancestry would also be included; this was usually based on oral family stories and very often has errors.

This issue focuses on Adam Henry Sinsabaugh of Orange County, New York. Adam Henry was born in 1802 and held several political offices in Orange County, including sheriff. He was the brother of David Sinsabaugh, whose four sons were the subject of a previous article in the newsletter (*The Sinsabaugh Brothers of Bradford County*). We begin with a transcribed biography from an 1881 Orange County history, with a few inserted comments. Subsequent articles review the genealogy included in the biography; chart his tangled family tree; transcribe a pension request letter his mother wrote; and reproduce his mother's ornate birth certificate.

### History of Orange County, New York, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men.

Compiled by E.M. Ruttenber and L. H. Clark and a Corps of Biographical Writers

#### Adam H. Sinsabaugh

In 1730 four families, - Sinsabaugh, Millsbaugh, Bookstaver, and Youngblood, - on account of religious persecution in their native country, left Germany and settled in the town of Montgomery, Orange Co., N.Y. Their first winter was spent in a dug-out, or temporary place to live. In the following spring they built a log church, and there continued worship for many years. These families purchased 1000 acres of land in the town, and part of the same property is in possession of their descendants at the present time.

The names of the heads of these families are found at Albany, where they were naturalized and swore allegiance to George III., in 1735. Of the first-named family, Jacob was great-grandfather of our subject. Frederick, son of Jacob, was born in the town of Montgomery, and reared the following children, who were married and reared families, settling in the vicinity of their birthplace, viz.: Adam, Mary, Elizabeth, Betsy, Henry, Frederick, Mrs. DeHart, and Abram. Of these children, Henry, born in 1758, married Margaret, daughter of John A. Brown, of Easton, Pa., who was the youngest in a family of fourteen children. She died in 1842, aged seventy-four.

[Editor's note: The genealogy outlined in the previous paragraph is incorrect. See page 5.]

Henry Sinsabaugh spent his life as a merchant at Nazareth, Pa., and as a farmer in Sullivan County, and in the town of Montgomery, Orange Co., where he died in 1826. He was a volunteer soldier in the war of the Revolution, and was at the battle of Fort Montgomery. His son David was a soldier in the war of 1812. His children are Susan, wife of Philip Gross; Catherine, wife of Daniel Plumley, of Montgomery; David, and Adam H.

Adam H. Sinsabaugh was born in the town of Montgomery, May 11, 1802. His minority was mostly spent at home, where he received only limited opportunities for any education from books. He married,

continued on page 4

