

# Sensebach Heritage

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**A family history newsletter for:**  
Sinsabaugh Sensibaugh Sensenbaugh Sinsebox  
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Sincebaugh Sencebaugh Sincerbeaux Sincerbox  
Sensabaugh Sencibaugh Cincebeaux Sensaboy  
Sensebaugh Cencebaugh Cincebox Senciboy  
**and other variations of the name**

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## The Sensenbaughs of Morrison Cove

by Kit Henry Sensenbaugh

**P**eter Sensenbaugh and Mary Magdalena Smeltzer obtained a marriage license on 12 February 1798 at the Frederick County, Maryland, courthouse.<sup>1</sup> Eight days later they were married at the Zion Lutheran Church in Middletown, Frederick County; the bride's maiden name is recorded as "Schmelzern", reflecting the Germanic tradition with women's names.<sup>2</sup> Magdalena is buried in Wolfsville, Frederick County; her gravestone lists her birth and death dates as 13 January 1769 and 1 November 1862.<sup>3</sup> The inscription lists her as the wife of Peter Sensenbaugh, but there is no evidence Peter is buried there. After 1800 Peter does not appear in Maryland census records; but from 1810 to 1860 Magdalena does appear in Frederick County census records.<sup>4-10</sup>

To this union were born five children: Jacob, Catherine, John, Joseph, and Magdalena. The first three were born in Frederick County, where the Zion Lutheran Church in Middletown recorded the births and baptisms.<sup>2</sup> Jacob was born on 2 January 1799 and baptized 31 March 1799. Chatarin (Catherine) was born 10 July 1800 and baptized 31 August 1800. Johannes (John) was born on 8 January 1802 and baptized 9 May 1802. All are listed as the children of Peter and Magdalena. The surname spelling differs in these early records; Sensebach, Senebach and Sensenbach are used. Incidentally the story passed down through the family is that the spelling of the name "Sensebach" was changed to "Sensenbaugh" in the next generation to prevent the frequent mispronunciation of "Sensenback."<sup>11</sup>

The other two children, Joseph and Magdalena, do not appear in Zion Lutheran church records. From their gravestones in Wolfsville we know that Joseph was born

on 23 May 1804 and Magdalena on the 17 October 1806.<sup>3</sup> In the 1870 census Joseph listed his birth place as Pennsylvania.<sup>12</sup> So apparently the family, between the baptism of John in May 1802, and the birth of Joseph in May 1804, relocated to Pennsylvania.

### Morrison Cove

Family traditions have always connected the Maryland Sensenbaughs with Morrison Cove in Pennsylvania.<sup>11</sup> The cove is located on the border between present-day Bedford and Blair Counties in south-central Pennsylvania; however, during the early 1800's Blair County was not yet formed and the cove was entirely in Bedford County. The probate records of that era provide a clue as to why Peter and Magdalena moved to Pennsylvania.

A Peter Sensenbaugh died in Morrison Cove on or before 30 October 1802.<sup>13</sup> The probate records (which do not include lists of heirs) list another Peter Sensenbaugh as an administrator. The probate record states that Peter Sensenbaugh (the administrator) was in Morrison Cove on 6 November 1802. In 1808 the Woodberry Township, Bedford County (in Morrison Cove) tax list shows Peter as a farmer taxed \$1.86, owning 200 acres, 2 horses, and 1 cow.<sup>14</sup> This Peter, the administrator, almost certainly was Peter from Maryland, the husband of Magdalena Smeltzer.

Family tradition states that Peter Sensenbaugh (husband of Magdalena Schmelzer) was accidentally shot and died in Morrisons Cove.<sup>11</sup> Probate records for Peter in Bedford County were filed 30 April 1808.<sup>13</sup>

### Returning to Maryland

Unable to support her family in Pennsylvania, Magdalena was brought back to Frederick County by the Schmeltzers.<sup>11</sup> She lived on a small farm a few hundred yards north of the Wolfsville Lutheran Church across the road from the north part of the Klein Farm. The farm was named "Travel By Night" because of the original owner's all-night horseback ride to file his claim in Baltimore.<sup>15</sup> The house was built about 100 yards downhill and not visible from Wolfsville Road. The family probably came and went from the back road, which is named Sensenbaugh Road.

The house on Sensenbaugh Road had remained pretty much as it was in the early 1800's until the 1950's. No plumbing or electric wiring were ever installed. The Sensenbaugh family were weavers. They wove

