# The Sinnock Name

## Name Variants

The story of the Sinnock name begins, perhaps, with William Sevenoke (b. abt 1380), the adopted son of John Rumschedde, Lord of a Manor in Sevenoaks, Kent, England. William became a respectable and wealthy grocer, as well as a mayor of London in 1418. William was one of the “The Nine Worthies of London” a book writing in 1592 by Richard Johnson. In his will, William founded Sevenoaks School for Boys (now girls too) in Sevenoaks, Kent, his home town. This school still exists as one of the oldest schools in England. Though William may be an ancestor, it is doubtful, but his name is the first use of a name variant possibly related to ours.

 

*Figure 1. Coat of Arms registered for Willyam Sevenoak (left), from Burkes Registry and seal of the Sevenoaks School (right) from Sevenoaks School and its Founder, by J. T. Lennox, 1932*

The story appears to pick up again in Eastbourne, East Sussex, England in the mid 1500’s after Henry VIII ordered all parishes to record all births, deaths, and marriages even of commoners. From there, the family spread throughout southern England and beyond. A common family legend that was mentioned often by Sinnocks from the United States, England, and New Zealand is that the Sinnock name is derived from the name “Sevenoaks”. Several current Sinnock family members have named a business or art studio for the Sevenoaks name. William of Sevenoaks, Kent, may be the source of this legend, though I have found no spelling of the Sevenoaks name from our possible early ancestors.

However, several variants of the name do appear early in our family history. In parish registers of Eastbourne and nearby towns and villages the last name of Sinnock ancestors is variously spelled (alphabetically) Sennock, Sennok, Sennocke, Senoke, Sevenoak, Sevenoaks, Sevenock, Sevenocke, Sevenoke, Simnock, Simock, Sinaok, Sincocke, Sinnock, Sinnocke, Sinock, Sinuck, Sunnock, Synnack, Synnocke, Synock, Zeanoke, and Zenoke. Other similar names not yet linked in any great way to the Sinnock name include Seanocke, Senneck, Sennocke, Sennoke, Senaok, Senock, Sevenoake, Sevenoakes, Sinnick, Sinnicks, Sinnoke, Synnock, and Synnuck. Table 1 lists these name variants sorted by earliest appearance of each name. It shows the parish, census or civil registration where each was first used and the number of occurrences in the parish registers, civil registration, and census. This table provides a good sample of the range of names used for early Sinnock families in England. It should be remembered how and who recorded the parish registers, often barely literate vicars or commonly their slightly more literate assistants. Accents were heavy and highly regional, so if a person moved from Sevenoaks, Kent, he might tell the vicar his name is Christofer from Sevenoaks, The vicar or his assistant might” hear” though an unfamiliar accent, Christofer “Senoke”; plus try as they might, they probably had trouble spelling “Sevenoaks”. Once “Senoke was established --- then its myriad derivatives listed above. Table 1 indicates the early role of the spelling “Senoke” in the parish records.

*Table 1. Sinnock Name Variants and their Earliest Appearance*

| Name[[1]](#footnote-1) | **Number of Occurrences** | **Earliest Appearance** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Parish Register*** | ***Census*** | ***Civil Reg.*** | ***Parish*** | ***County*** | ***Year*[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
| Sevenoke | 1 | 0 | 0 | Sevenoaks | Kent | 1380[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Sevenoaks[[4]](#footnote-4) | 13 | 251 | 1074 | Sevenoaks | Kent | 1415[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| Senoke | 27 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1559 |
| Sennocke\* | 4 | 0 | 0 | Friston | East Sussex | 1563 |
| Senocke | 11 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1564 |
| Sennock | 43 | 13 | 9 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1569 |
| Sevenocke | 7 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1576 |
| Synnocke | 12 | 0 | 0 | Bishopstone | East Sussex | 1577 |
| Sennoke\*[[6]](#footnote-6) | 3 | 0 | 0 | Westchiltington | West Sussex | 1588[[7]](#footnote-7) |
| Senock\* | 4 | 0 | 0 | Northiam | East Sussex | 1596[[8]](#footnote-8) |
| Zenoke | 6 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1603 |
| Sinnock | 256 | 1206 | 1294 | Hastings | East Sussex | 1605 |
| Sevenock | 2 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1611 |
| Zeanoke | 1 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1613 |
| Sinnoke\* | 1 | 0 | 0 | Bodiam | East Sussex | 161511 |
| Sinock | 0 | 3 | 4 | Battle | East Sussex | 1633 |
| Sevenoakes\* | 2 | 57 | 69 | East Grinstead | West Sussex | 1684 |
| Simock | 1 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 1690 |
| Synnack | 2 | 0 | 0 | Friston | East Sussex | 1690 |
| Sinaok | 2 | 0 | 0 | Friston | East Sussex | 1694 |
| Sinuck | 1 | 0 | 0 | Ninfield | East Sussex | 1694 |
| Synock | 1 | 0 | 0 | Eastbourne | East Sussex | 169511 |
| Sincocke | 1 | 0 | 0 | Bexhill | East Sussex | 170011 |
| Sinnick\* | 2 | 167 | 469 | London City | London | 1701[[9]](#footnote-9) |
| Sevenoake\* | 1 | 0 | 0 | Peasmarch | East Sussex | 1702 |
| Simnock | 1 | 0 | 0 | Bexhill | East Sussex | 1708 |
| Sennok | 1 | 0 | 0 | Horsted | West Sussex | 1727 |
| Senneck\* | 0 | 109 | 410 | Steeple, Dorset | Dorset | 1745[[10]](#footnote-10) |
| Sunnock | 0 | 0 | 0 | Selmeston | East Sussex | 1777[[11]](#footnote-11) |
| Synnuck\* | 0 | 34 | 243 | Hereford | Hertfordshire | 1816 |
| Sinnicks\* | 0 | 29 | 66 | Lymington | Hampshire | 1844[[12]](#footnote-12) |
| Synnock\* | 6 | 50 | 164 | Aldgate | London | 157514 |
| Sinnocke | 3 | 0 | 0 | St.Mary Bourne | Hampshire | 157710 |
| Sevenoak | 5 | 0 | 0 | Weobley | Herreford | 170710 |
| Senoak\* | 0 | 0 | 0 | Brenchley | Kent | 181710 |

The earliest entry found so far for any variation of the Sinnock name is in the St. Mary‘s Parish Register for Eastbourne, East Sussex, England for November 24, 1559. It reads *“Christofer Senoke was buryed”*. The earliest entry for birth of a Sinnock ancestor is from the same parish for April 15, 1580 *“Christopher the sonne of John Sevenocke christened”*. John Sevenocke, Christopher’s father, was one of four ”Sevenocke” or “Senoke” males and one “Senoke” female that married and/or had children in Eastbourne between 1560 and 1588. I assume these five individuals (Jane, Thomas, Matthew, John and William) were siblings. Though they may not be related, they are the

earliest ancestors of Sinnocks for which I have records. However, uniqueness of their name, closeness of their ages, and common locations in and around Eastbourne strongly suggest they are indeed related, if not as closely as siblings, perhaps as cousins. Two entries in the Eastbourne Parish Register suggest candidates for the father of these presumed siblings: the burial of Christofer Senoke mentioned above and *“Robert Senocke buryed”,* April 18, 1569. Either of these individuals, Robert or Christopher, may be the progenitor of most Sinnocks recorded in the current *Sinnocks and Kin* database (2015). I cannot establish which, if either, is the father of John Sevenocke and the grandfather of Christopher. In any event, there apparently was a Sinnock living in the Eastbourne area of East Sussex, England in the early 1500’s who gave rise to more than 1260 descendants with the Sinnock name, some still living in the United States, England, New Zealand, and Australia.\

## “Sinnock” Spelling

The earliest entry found for the current spelling of the “Sinnock” name appears in the St. Clement’s Parish Register, Hastings, East Sussex, January 16, 1605 *“Agnes wife of Thomas Sinnock buried”*. The earliest entry for a known direct Sinnock ancestor, which she is not, is from the Eastbourne St. Mary’s Parish Register, October 11, 1649, *“Elias Sinnock & Margery Frankwell married”*. Other entries from 1650 to 1670 in the same register give Elias’ last name as “Zeanoke”, “Sinnocke”, “Senock”, and “Sennock” as well as “Sinnock”. From 1695 to 1714 the grandchildren of Elias by his son Elias were named “Sinock” and “Synnock” as well as “Sinnock”. In the Eastbourne area, the evolution of the Sinnock name was from John Senocke or Sevenocke (b. abt 1550) to Christopher Senoke (b.1580) to Elias Sinnock (b.1613). Nearby Hailsham, East Sussex is another town of many Sinnock ancestors. Sinnocks first appeared in the Hailsham Parish Register August 2, 1692, *“Samuel Sennock s. of Nicholas & Ursula baptized”*. Nicholas [[13]](#footnote-13) and Ursula apparently were the first Sinnocks in Hailsham, having moved from Eastbourne. Entries in the early Hailsham register include spellings of “Sennock”, “Sennocke”, and “Sinnock”, all for children of Nicholas and Ursula, indicating a lack of established spellings of parishioner names at that time. In Hastings the name was also evolving beginning with an entry in the St. Clement’s Parish Register of *“Emanuel Sennock & Agnes White married”* for June 30, 1598. In the 1600’s, the name “Sennock” was common in Hastings, and it was not until about 1750 that the “Sinnock” spelling became well established there and elsewhere

## Other Family Names

Table 2 lists the names of families with more than 40 known members in order of abundance in the *Sinnocks and Kin* database. The table is sorted by the number of individuals for each family name (left column). It is no surprise that the Sinnock name is overwhelmingly the most common. Others names are far less common, at most only 10% of the Sinnock name. However these other family names reflect information about maternal lines. A more complete listing of last names is available in the companion document, *Sinnocks and Kin Database Description,* where a verision of this table lists 155 families with 10 or more members in the database. Also the Microsoft Excel file, *Sinnock.Statistics.xlsx*, contains more detail about family names, including associations of families with original Sinnock family lines from Eastbourne, Sussex.

*Table 2. Most Common Last Names from the Sinnocks and Kin database*

| No. | Family | Most Recent Common Sinnock (or maternal ancestor) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1377 | Sinnock | ? Senoke |
| 126 | Hyland | Thomas (Catt) m. Elizabeth Sinnock |
| 123 | Diwell | Richard m. Elizabeth Sinnock |
| 115 | Boniface | Thomas m. Elizabeth Sinnock |
| 115 | Foord | Edward m. Jane Bodle, d of Harriett Sinnock |
| 103 | Pomeroy | Frances m. Thomas Nichols, my 2nd ggparents |
| 96 | Barber | Ruth m. Arthur Hill, my maternal grandparents |
| 85 | Conant | Betsey m. Joseph Barber, my 3rd maternal ggparents |
| 78 | Eddy | Betsey m. Edmund Potter, my 3rd maternal ggparents |
| 77 | Coggeshall | Hannah m. Joshua Nichols, my 3rd ggparents |
| 73 | Slackford | Thomas m. Ann Sinnock |
| 69 | Bartholomew | Mary m. Lester Barber, my maternal ggparents |
| 63 | Smith | Annie m. William Sinnock |
| 61 | Moore | John m. Florence Raven, gdau of Ruth Sinnock |
| 60 | Henry | Eliza m. William Obear, my 2nd ggparents |
| 57 | Parks | Henry m. Mary Smith, d. of Lucy Sinnock |
| 56 | Knowlton | Mary Ann m. Benjamin Bartholomew, my 2nd maternal ggparents |
| 50 | Hill | Mary Hill m. Pomeroy Sinnock, Jr., my parents |
| 50 | Potter | Maria m. Humphrey Barber, my 2nd maternal ggparents |
| 47 | Fuller | William m. Philadelphia Sinnock |
| 47 | Kay | Sarah Ann m. George Sinnock, my 2nd ggparents |
| 46 | Brown | David m. Sharron Kay Sinnock |
| 43 | Cramp | James m. Sarah Sinnock |
| 41 | Boone | Hattie J. Callaway’s ancestor Edmund’s brother, Flanders, married Jemima Boone |
| 41 | Nichols | Thomas C. m. Frances Pomeroy, my 2nd ggparents |
| 41 | Shattuck | Caroline m. Ira Bartholomew, my 4th maternal ggparents |
| 40 | Munson | Edna m. William Beer |
| 40 | Owen | Mary m. Alvin C. Carter |

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## First Names

Table 3 lists the 25 most common first names for both men and women in the *Sinnocks and Kin* database. The names themselves tell a story. For example, we are a family of Adam and Eve. We possess the virtues of Constance, Experience, Grace, Justus, Providence, Prudence, Resolved, and Thankful. We are Black, Brown, Green, and White. We loved and still love the names “Elizabeth” and “John”, but lately we prefer unique names such as “Brianna”, “Zoey”, and “Summer”. As with last names, a more complete listing of first names is available in the companion document, *Sinnocks and Kin Database Description.*

*Table 3. Most Common First Names of Women and Men*

*Source: Sinnocks and Kin database, May, 2015*

| Rank | Women | No. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Ann(e) | 751 |
| 2 | Mary | 567 |
| 3 | Elizabeth | 495 |
| 4 | Sarah | 228 |
| 5 | Jane | 172 |
| 6 | Margaret | 126 |
| 7 | Alice | 112 |
| 8 | Ellen | 99 |
| 9 | Frances | 90 |
| 10 | K(C)atherine | 80 |
| 11 | Martha | 79 |
| 12 | Ruth | 79 |
| 13 | Anna | 64 |
| 14 | Susan | 62 |
| 15 | Hannah | 61 |
| 16 | Edith | 60 |
| 17 | Lucy | 59 |
| 18 | Joan (Joanna) | 52 |
| 19 | Eliza | 50 |
| 20 | Rebecca | 42 |
| 21 | Susanna | 41 |
| 22 | Lydia | 34 |
| 23 | Amy | 33 |
| 24 | Abigail (Abby) | 32 |
| 25 | Agnes | 32 |

| Rank | Men | No. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | John | 655 |
| 2 | William | 609 |
| 3 | James | 338 |
| 4 | Thomas | 329 |
| 5 | George | 272 |
| 6 | Henry | 217 |
| 7 | Charles | 208 |
| 8 | Robert | 186 |
| 9 | Edward | 180 |
| 10 | Richard | 177 |
| 11 | Joseph | 147 |
| 12 | Samuel | 116 |
| 13 | David | 93 |
| 14 | Stephen (Steven) | 77 |
| 15 | Benjamin | 70 |
| 16 | Daniel | 64 |
| 17 | Frank (Franklin) | 59 |
| 18 | Michael | 59 |
| 19 | Walter | 52 |
| 20 | Harry | 51 |
| 21 | Andrew | 48 |
| 22 | Francis | 44 |
| 23 | Donald | 38 |
| 24 | Roger | 31 |
| 25 | Nicholas | 20 |

1. Asterisks indicate no relation yet established to the Sinnock name among individuals listed in the *Sinnock Name Variant* database [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Dates of earliest appearance are based on birth dates from parish registers unless otherwise noted. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Sevenoaks School and its Founder, by J. T. Lennox, 1932 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Sevenoaks is a name at least as common as Sinnock in southeast England, but only 4 of the 812 listed in the *Sinnock Name Variants* database have been linked to Sinnocks [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. My personal estimate based on marriage dates or children’s’ birth dates [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. All entries for this name are from the International Genealogical Index [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. From the International Genealogical Index [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. From a letter by Mark Milton [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. From London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538 - 1812 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. From England and Wales Christening Records [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. England and Wales Christening Records, 1530 - 1906 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. From Civil Registration Index of Deaths, England and Wales, 1837 - 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Bracketed numbers after a name indicate individuals with the same name, the number often in order of appearance in this text. The index is linked to these numbers. The numbers often are jarring at first when reading the text, but are useful for distinguishing same-named individuals, especially for common names such as Elizabeth, George, James, Mary, Samuel, Sarah, and William. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)