

# 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 <sup>1</sup>	Number of Occurrences			Earliest Appearance		
	Parish Register	Census	Civil Reg.	Parish	County	Year <sup>2</sup>
Sevenoke	1	0	0	Sevenoaks	Kent	1380 <sup>3</sup>
Sevenoaks <sup>4</sup>	13	251	1074	Sevenoaks	Kent	1415 <sup>5</sup>
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
Sennocke* <sup>6</sup>	3	0	0	Westchilmington	West Sussex	1588 <sup>7</sup>
Senock*	4	0	0	Northiam	East Sussex	1596 <sup>8</sup>
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
Sinnocke*	1	0	0	Bodiam	East Sussex	1615 <sup>11</sup>
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	1695 <sup>11</sup>
Sincocke	1	0	0	Bexhill	East Sussex	1700 <sup>11</sup>
Sinnick*	2	167	469	London City	London	1701 <sup>9</sup>
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 <sup>10</sup>
Sunnock	0	0	0	Selmeston	East Sussex	1777 <sup>11</sup>
Synnuck*	0	34	243	Hereford	Hertfordshire	1816
Sinnicks*	0	29	66	Lymington	Hampshire	1844 <sup>12</sup>
Synnock*	6	50	164	Aldgate	London	1575 <sup>14</sup>
Sinnocke	3	0	0	St.Mary Bourne	Hampshire	1577 <sup>10</sup>
Sevenoak	5	0	0	Weobley	Hereford	1707 <sup>10</sup>
Seenoak*	0	0	0	Brenchley	Kent	1817 <sup>10</sup>

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 buried*". 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

<sup>1</sup> Asterisks indicate no relation yet established to the Sinnock name among individuals listed in the *Sinnock Name Variant* database

<sup>2</sup> Dates of earliest appearance are based on birth dates from parish registers unless otherwise noted.

<sup>3</sup> Sevenoaks School and its Founder, by J. T. Lennox, 1932

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> My personal estimate based on marriage dates or children's' birth dates

<sup>6</sup> All entries for this name are from the International Genealogical Index

<sup>7</sup> From the International Genealogical Index

<sup>8</sup> From a letter by Mark Milton

<sup>9</sup> From London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538 - 1812

<sup>10</sup> From England and Wales Christening Records

<sup>11</sup> England and Wales Christening Records, 1530 - 1906

<sup>12</sup> From Civil Registration Index of Deaths, England and Wales, 1837 - 2005

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 buried”, 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<sup>13</sup> 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 version 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 gparents

No.	Family	Most Recent Common Sinnock (or maternal ancestor)
96	Barber	Ruth m. Arthur Hill, my maternal grandparents
85	Conant	Betsey m. Joseph Barber, my 3rd maternal gparents
78	Eddy	Betsey m. Edmund Potter, my 3rd maternal gparents
77	Coggeshall	Hannah m. Joshua Nichols, my 3rd gparents
73	Slackford	Thomas m. Ann Sinnock

<sup>13</sup> 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.

No.	Family	Most Recent Common Sinnock (or maternal ancestor)
69	Bartholomew	Mary m. Lester Barber, my maternal ggpayers
63	Smith	Annie m. William Sinnock
61	Moore	John m. Florence Raven, gdau of Ruth Sinnock
60	Henry	Eliza m. William Obear, my 2nd ggpayers
57	Parks	Henry m. Mary Smith, d. of Lucy Sinnock
56	Knowlton	Mary Ann m. Benjamin Bartholomew, my 2nd maternal ggpayers
50	Hill	Mary Hill m. Pomeroy Sinnock, Jr., my parents
50	Potter	Maria m. Humphrey Barber, my 2nd maternal ggpayers

No.	Family	Most Recent Common Sinnock (or maternal ancestor)
47	Fuller	William m. Philadelphia Sinnock
47	Kay	Sarah Ann m. George Sinnock, my 2nd ggpayers
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 ggpayers
41	Shattuck	Caroline m. Ira Bartholomew, my 4th maternal ggpayers
40	Munson	Edna m. William Beer
40	Owen	Mary m. Alvin C. Carter

### 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