



# Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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History Family Research

November 2005

## Abilene Welcomes SGS for 2005 International Reunion

Story by Jim Seeley, SGS President

The board of directors met on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 14, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in the Seeley Research Center (SRC). The board hosted a welcoming picnic on the beautiful Seelye Mansion grounds at 6:00 p.m. attended by about 70 people.

Sixty-five people registered for the reunion. At the opening session on Thursday morning, SGS President Jim Seeley, SGS Director & Seelye Research Center Director Terry Tietjens, Mayor of Abilene Diane Miller, and Abilene Convention and Visitor Director Marciea Weaver welcomed all those

attending the eleventh reunion and membership meeting of the Seeley Genealogical Society. Jim introduced members of the Board of Directors, and then everyone was invited to introduce themselves and their guests.

Jim announced the theme of this years reunion was the "Seeley Family as Pioneers." He also reminded us that this is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of SGS, that we are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the Seelye Mansion, and that this is the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Seeleys in North America.

Thursday afternoon was a two-track session. One track allowed members to tour the Seelye Mansion, visit sights in the Abilene area, or meet at the Seelye Research Center. The second track allowed members to hear presentations at the meeting room in the Abilene Civic Center. Presentations were given on the SRC Filing System, use of the Personal Ancestor File (PAF) genealogy application, use of a Family History Library, latest changes to the three SGS publications, and planning for a future tour of New England to visit sites where immigrants Robert and Obadiah Seeley lived. The after-dinner speaker was Terry Tietjens who talked about the history of the Seelye Mansion.



A group of reunion attendees poses for a photo after a trolley tour of Abilene. Several of the tours were offered, providing attendees with an overview of the historic Abilene area.

Friday morning completed the two-track session that was started on Thursday afternoon. Lunches on Friday and Saturday were catered in the meeting room by the Kirby House restaurant and Barb's Deli. Dinners were enjoyed at Mr. K's Farmhouse, the Brookville Hotel, and

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Member: Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society



### The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

is published quarterly by the Seeley  
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#### Announcements:

The SGS Newsletter is published every February, May, August, and November. Announcements are published for free and are due to the editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

#### Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy, history or biography; amateur or professional. Although the name Seeley refers to one family surname, SGS counts among its family those with surnames spelled a variety of ways such as: Seeley, Seelye, Sealy, Sealey, Seley, Selye, Seale, Sealee, Seela, Cieley, Cealy, Cilley, etc.

#### Membership Dues

\$8 per year, \$15 two years, \$21 three years, or \$30 five years. Lifetime memberships are \$100. (Dues are in U.S. dollars and the membership year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31)

Pay all dues to:

SGS Membership Chairman  
Ramon E. Hall  
155 Bear Drive  
Evergreen, CO 80439-4323  
(303) 679-0384  
ramonhall@prodigy.net

#### Seelye National Research Center

is co-located with the Seelye Mansion in Abilene, KS. For more information, contact:

Seelye Research Center, Director  
Terry Tietjens  
P.O. Box 337, 1105 N. Buckeye  
Abilene, KS 67410-0337  
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#### SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for September 2007 in New England. Please advise the editor if your branch or family have plans for a sectional or local reunion in the interim. Others might like to know about it.

The editorial opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society or the editors, nor are the Society or its editors responsible for errors of fact or opinion. Proved errors will be corrected.

## President's Report

Reminder - I have changed my Email address to [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net) and I've dropped my AOL account.

Thanks to Terry Tietjens for all the work and worry he did as co-host of the 2005 SGS Reunion in Abilene. Thanks to all the SGS members who gave presentations and who helped prepare for the welcoming picnic and the farewell brunch. Thanks to those who helped set up and put away all the tables and chairs at the Civic Center and to those who helped by vacuuming and cleaning up. And, thanks to those who helped purchase and set out refreshments at both the Civic Center meeting room and the Seelye Research Center. It sure made it more fun (at least for me) to have so many cousins pitch in and help make the reunion a success. And, I think many of us got to know each other better during the process.

I also want to thank the members attending the reunion for placing their confidence in me as president for another 2-year term. Ivey Harris was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president replacing Ray Hall in that position. Ray has agreed to remain our membership chairman. He has given me some sound advice over the past few years and I really appreciate that. The remaining board members were all reelected.

Please see a separate article in this newsletter that summarizes the events of the Abilene reunion. The reunion will be much more completely documented, with pictures, in a **2005 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book** that is now under preparation. More than 30 people have already signed up to purchase one. If you want one, send your check for \$25 to Jim Seeley, payable to SGS; I'll put you on our list and get one in the mail to you. But, let me know quickly because the book will be going to the printers before I have an opportunity to remind you again. There'll only be one printing.

We were happy to meet our query editor in Abilene. Linda Crocker and her husband recently moved from England into a new home in Parkersburg, W.Va. Unfortunately, Linda fell after she returned home and broke several bones in one arm. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Linda.

Please consider participating in the Seeley DNA Lineage Project. Having the test done will help validate your research, or, if you don't know your ancestral line, it can help you focus your research or put you in touch with cousins who share your ancestral line. The more Seeley descendants that participate in the DNA test, the more benefit it will have for us all. If you are interested, please contact SGS Member Dr. Ken McCrea, the project manager. His contact info is on page 15.

My priority over the next several months is to develop some specific research objectives, to be funded by SGS that will help us understand the lineage of our early ancestors better. We would like to strengthen the link to the Obadiah Seeley who was christened in Birmingham in 1614 if he is indeed our ancestor who appeared in the Stamford, Conn. records in the 1640s. We also want to help other lines research their ancestors, particularly when it may benefit several of our members. Send me your thoughts.

We need more volunteers to serve as area coordinators, particularly in the high Seeley family density areas of the Midwest and New England.

With the board of directors' agreement, I have disestablished the committee to charter SGS as a non-profit organization. There were no volunteers to help with this project and I felt my time was better spent on other higher priority initiatives. I will certainly reconstitute the committee if someone would volunteer to chair it.

If you haven't already done so, please send your lineage back to the 7<sup>th</sup> generation to John Seely. His address is on page 15. After he has entered your data in his database, he will forward your info on to the Seelye Research Center.

Jim Seeley  
SGS President



## Armistice Day Remembered

*Editor's Note: Walter C. Seelye, II sent along a note he found from his grandmother Anne Ide Barrows Seelye, wife of Walter Clark Seelye, chief surgeon of Memorial Hospital, Worcester, Mass.. The letter was written to Walt's great-grandmother, Henrietta Chapin Seelye (wife of L. Clark Seelye, 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Smith College, Northampton, Mass.), Anne's mother-in-law.*

Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 17, 1918

Dear Mater,

We haven't sent you a word since this glorious victory, nor have we heard from you, but we have known how we were all rejoicing together during these days from last Monday on. What a time for the children to remember! And I think that all of ours will remember it except perhaps Mary.

She talks a good deal about the day when the "war surrendered," but I am afraid it may be hazy in her memory. I think that the most wonderful feature of the celebration everywhere was its absolutely spontaneous character. To have old and young

and middle aged arise out of bed as they did in the cold darkness of an early November morning as soon as the whistles blew to announce the signing of the armistice, and go out into the streets, join in singing and marching crowds, all so good natured and friendly was truly a strange and inspiring sight. It was shortly after three when our signal came and the whistles blew steadily until eight o'clock and then off and on throughout the day. Walter had provided some red lights in anticipation, and the boys got out at five o'clock to light those off in front of the house. The four older children went down town earlier than we did with some neighbors in their car, but we all went down in our car about seven o'clock.

Monday Morning, Nov. 18, 1918

I didn't get this finished yesterday. Walter was playing trios with Mr. Darrah (cello) and Mrs. Turnbach (the secretary of our school, on the piano) and the music was so nice that I couldn't help stopping often to listen. Then we all had tea. After that I got the supper for the five children and read to them while they ate it. No, Laurens was taking his supper with Davis Crompton our next door neighbor. We are reading Old Curiosity Shop and the children enjoy it very much. We don't get very much time to read now that the children are in school and have studying to do in the evenings. Dr. and Mrs. Gilman and Miss Titcomb came in at seven o'clock to supper with us and so there was no more letter writing. Mary, the cook is in every other Sunday evening and we normally ask friends in to Sunday night supper when she is here to get it for us, -- and sometimes when she isn't.

It is a very wet day. It poured rain all last night. You

can imagine how quiet it seems here when even little Mary has gone off to school with the others.

To continue about our Victory Day celebration, -- when we reached down town we found ourselves in the midst of an impromptu procession some in automobiles, but most on foot, marching around by the city hall, singing, shouting, throwing confetti, waving flags, bumping along great tin cans tied on to the back of automobiles to make a noise. Big bonfires were burning at several street corners, operatives from many of the factories were forming in line with banners bearing their name and various legends on them, whistles and bells were keeping up a steady serenade and it was altogether a most enlivening sight. It was so bitterly cold that the

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Yesterday at church there was a very inspiring service in celebration of the victory, and the sad recital, while all the congregation stood, of the death of one of the Church young men, who had died from the effects of gas. Word had come only Friday last of it. He leaves a wife and baby boy, born since he went to France and whom of course he never saw.

---

children were really glad to get in at breakfast time, and I made hot cocoa and malted milk for them as an extra treat and to warm them up. Many of our friends even some elderly people were out by half past three, and I regret now that we didn't all get right up then but it was

so cold and the little children slept until five or so and we hated to wake them up as we knew the day would be long enough for them. Our evening paper the Gazette had an "extra" out three quarters of an hour after the first signal came and the boy was calling it out "Hooray, hooray, hooray! Worcester Gazette Extra!" in a deafening shout by our house at four o'clock! Of course we had to go to the door to buy that, and then by five the morning paper, the Telegram, had gotten out its morning edition and that was at the door.

The next number on the program was a very nice patriotic chapel service at the school. The children were then dismissed for the day. All the public schools were excused without even gathering, so Arthur came over to visit his old school and Miss Titcomb asked him to bring over his bugle. I forgot to say that he was bugling out of doors in the very early morning hours. We have a fine flag on a standard on the school platform and that morning Mr. Walsh the boys' teacher of science and athletics, led the children in saying the oath of allegiance to it. The children all rose and sang the Star Spangled Banner, the Marseillaise in French, the Battle Hymn of the Republic, My Country. Arthur stood up by the flag and blew "To the Colors" on his bugle, and it sounded very fine. His lips were stiff and lame by that time and he couldn't blow any more. Miss Titcomb led the simple devotional exercises; then were some speeches on the United War Work Campaign, and Mr. Walsh led the cheers, in which everyone joined heartily, for Marshall Foch, General Pershing, General Haig [Sir Douglas Haig (1861-1928), son of a Scottish whiskey distiller,

*Please See Armistice Day Remembered Page 7*

## SGS Board News *(continued from Page 2)*

**First Vice President Kathie Olsen:** Over the past several months in my position as First Vice President for Seeley Genealogical Society, I have done some preliminary research into the upcoming trip to New England, corresponded with the other members of the Constitution revision committee, attended the meetings of the Federation of Genealogical Societies as a representative of SGS, spent a lot of time sorting Seeley files to locate material concerning the documented changes to the SGS publications and prepared presentations for the reunion in Abilene.

**Treasurer Chris Havnar:** In October I obviously have tons of stuff going on - I finished all the reunion bills, the financial statement - and there were 43 cents that took 5 days to track to dirt. The Treasurer's Report is included in this newsletter.

**Webmaster Chris Havnar:** Although not new - it hasn't been reported in the newsletter to my recollection that the website (<http://www.seeley-society.net/vital-oregon.html>) has all Seely/ey/ye death certificates through 1953 starting about 1903 for the State of Oregon. These are the years that the state of Oregon considers to be public access - greater than 50 years from date of death.

In addition, the website has some delayed birth certificates - Oregon considers anything greater than 100 years ago to be public access. There are a couple of marriage records, the state of Oregon considers marriage certificates greater than 75 years ago to be public.

Additionally, I have spent many an hour in the University of Oregon library in microfiche since 2001 looking up obits for Seely/ey/ye's. There are still numerous obits to search for, and that need to be re-filmed as they are currently too dark to be readable, or they are in the ditch and are unreadable on that account.

Daniel Seelye and I scrambled to get many of the death certificates before the state of Oregon changed its pricing structure - once upon a time the price was 25 cents per page plus postage, now it is \$10 for out of state, \$5 in state. However, if you visit the State Archives in Salem it is still 25 cents per page.

Jerry and I are working on putting up Miscellaneous Seelye Obituaries from 2000 and forward. At this time we have 47 and are working on getting more.

**Membership Chairman Ramon Hall:** Since reappointment as membership chairman following the reunion in Abilene, my principal activity has been to process the new member and new life member applications received at the reunion. In October, renewal notices were also sent to eighty-five members who were due for renewal.

**Ancestor File Index Coordinator John R. Seely:** I am revising the "report format" used on the current CD-ROM to include the day and month for all vital records, if known. I am also adding Esther Houtz Walter's compiled notebook page numbers for the Nathaniel and Obadiah lineages. These pages often contain additional sources for family data such as titles of books with page number references. You can contact me to request this data.

A new "SUBMITTER FILE NUMBER LIST as of Sept. 3, 2005" is now on the shelf with the "Blue Books" at the Seelye Research Center. The most recent File # assigned is 747.

Several reunion attendees promised to send me their family data. Will you be among them? I keep your original submittal papers here in Carson and send an acid-free copy to Terry Tietjens at the Seelye Research Center to be added to the submitter Files there. I will contact you regarding your File# assignment.

**SGS Historian Ruthetta Hanson:** I just want to thank the people on my committee for such a good job they did at the reunion. They are: Ivey and Don Harris, Veronica Newell, and Mary Seely. It is just great to have wonderful volunteers. By the way, we still have SGS items to sell such as: SGS generation books, caps, pins, totebags, etc. If you're interested, you can reach me using the contact data on page 15.

Also I need pictures and information about Lloyd Seely and DeLoss Seeley who were our second and third presidents of SGS. This will help with my research.

**SGS New England Trip Coordinator Kathie Olsen:** SGS is planning another trip and we hope that you will be able to join us. It is tentatively scheduled to begin with a kick-off on Sunday evening, Sept. 16, 2007 at the hotel where the SGS reunion will be held from Sept. 12 - 16. We will take off from the hotel early in the morning on Monday, Sept. 17 to visit sites associated with both Robert and Obadiah Seeley in Connecticut and Massachusetts. We will return to the hotel on either Friday or Saturday depending on the itinerary. At the conclusion, people may make arrangements on their own to see the fantastic leaves of New England. Mark it on your calendar now!

**Query Editor Linda Crocker:** Well, your query editor has moved into her new home and enjoyed attending the SGS reunion in Abilene. She felt ready to really get into some research and then fell and broke her wrist and arm (luckily the left side). This is limiting the time she can spend comfortably at the computer. She looks forward to being distracted from the pain of recovery by receiving **lots** of interesting queries and updates.

### **SGS Contributes to NARA Gift Fund**

At the SGS reunion in Abilene, Treasurer Chris Havnar collected, and forwarded \$92 to the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) for the Malcolm H. Stern NARA Gift Fund. This contribution was collected from the 65 attendees of the 2005 SGS Reunion.

SGS President Jim Seeley received a grateful acknowledgement from FGS that they had received a \$92 gift from SGS. Members are asked to contribute voluntarily to this fund, which supports the microfilming of old records and making them available on the Internet, by the National Archives. Donations should be sent to the SGS Treasurer, Chris Havnar (page 15). Chris will consolidate the contributions and send the SGS donation to FGS on an annual basis.

## Canadian Corner



It would seem that among the many vocations at which Seeley's have done well is the craft of journalism. Today, a quick Google News search repeatedly reveals by-lines from scribes like Katharine Q. Seelye of the *New York Times*, and Hart Seely, journalist and editor of *Pieces of Intelligence: The Existential Poetry of Donald Rumsfeld*.

History is replete with examples of journalists covering the events that shape history, and, although most journalists would tell you it's a professional sin, it can also be an occupational hazard that they sometimes find themselves involved in the shaping of history.

Such was the case for journalist Henry E. Seelye of the *British Colonist*, a daily newspaper in Victoria, British Columbia in the late 1860's and early 1870's who reported on the rocky road to confederation for British Columbia as it joined in union with Canada.

Seelye was sent to Ottawa to cover the negotiations that would lead to confederation. But according to the diary of his publisher, David W. Higgins, his journey had an alternative purpose.

The terms of union with Canada contained no provision for responsible – or parliamentary – government for the new province. This was a problem for Higgins and John Robson, the paper's political editor.

"The late Hon. John Robson, the late Mr. H. E. Seelye and myself held a conference, and decided that in order to secure Parliamentary Government it would be necessary for one of our number to proceed to Ottawa, and inform the Government there that unless responsible Government was assured by the terms, we should oppose the adoption of the terms altogether and thus delay Confederation," Higgins wrote in his diary.

"Mr. Seelye was selected as the delegate, and proceeded to Ottawa in the same boat and on the same

## British Columbia, Confederation, and Journalist Henry Seelye

train that carried the Government delegates," Higgins' diary entry continued. "He was a warm personal friend of Mr. Tilley, afterwards Sir Leonard Tilley, then Minister of Customs at Ottawa, and he succeeded in convincing the Ottawa Government that our contention that the Province was sufficiently advanced to entitle it to representative institutions was correct. When the terms came back they contained a clause to that effect, and upon those lines the Government has ever since been administered. The expenses of Mr. Seelye's mission were entirely borne by myself."

According to one historian who introduced the diary of another player in the road to confederation, "It is now generally conceded that the inclusion of the guarantee of Responsible Government in the terms was largely the work of H. E. Seelye, the diligent special correspondent of the *Victoria Daily British Colonist*." (<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/helmcken/diary/>)

However it happened, British Columbia became a province of Canada on July 19, 1871. Here's how the event was covered back in Victoria in the next day's paper:

"To-day, British Columbia passed peacefully and, let us add, gracefully into the confederated empire of British North America. Perhaps it would be more proper to put it thus: To-day the confederated empire of British North America stretches to the shores of the Pacific, 'whose limpid waters,' to quote the poetic language of Mr. J. Spencer Thompson, 'leave in baptismal welcome the brow of the new-born Province which forms the last link in the transcontinental chain -- the last star in the constellation which is destined hereafter to shine so brightly in the northern hemisphere.'"

*Editor's Note: Have a story or piece of news of interest to Canadian Seeleys? Send them to the Newsletter Editor, Paul Taylor (contact data on pg. 19).*

## Letters

Dear Jim and Terry,

It was our first time to meet so many Seeley families and we found the experience delightful. The reunion was well organized and the on site reception was great. We felt welcome and informed. We especially enjoyed the two track schedule allowing the opportunity to play tourist as well as attend the meetings.

Thanks again for providing a great reunion.

Mary Pyle

Editor,

On several occasions, my cousin, Kay Larson, of Easton, Pa., and I have either gone together or

independently to look up vital records at City Hall in Meriden Conn.. We have found the staff there the most helpful, doing whatever they could to help us with records, answer questions, and even dig deeper than called for. Sept. 9, 2005, Kay and I opted to thank this staff with a flower arrangement in thanks for all they have done. Would you believe, all of the staff were overwhelmed. The City Clerk, Irene Masse, came out and gave us both great big hugs.

It goes to show that there are human faces in town and city halls!

Thanks!

Jean Seeley Richards

## 25 Years Ago in SGS -- Notes From Donald Eff

Issue 26 of the SGS Newsletter, the first newsletter published in nearly a year, was covered the Winter of 1980 and 1981. Like many SGS members today, then newly-elected SGS President Donald Eff was full of excitement following a successful SGS reunion.

"A warm welcome to all SEELEY'S, no matter how you spell your name!" began Donald in his column *From the Pen of the President*. "August 16, 1980, a SEELEY Reunion was held in Lyons, Colo., the first such event of what is planned as a regular feature to take place every third year. Thanks to Sherrie Moss and Esther Houtz it was a well planned, enjoyable gathering attended by some 83 SEELEY descendants from 18 states, ranging from Conn. & Mass., in the Northeast to Minn. in the north, and from Fla. & Ark. in the south, westward to Calif. & Wash. For some inexplicable reason the previous President, DeLoss Seeley failed to receive his notice and invitation and so was not present to conduct the business session. Esther Houtz chaired the floor in his absence. Two new officers were elected....1) Donald Eff, President from Boulder, Colo. and 2) Robert Seeley Johnson, Vice President from Chicago, Ill. Returned to office were Marion Seelye, Secretary, Preston Seelye, Treasurer, and Charles Martin, Custodian. Esther Houtz, who has been the moving force behind this family society continues as genealogist and publisher, assisted by Hank Seeley and Sherrie Moss. Addresses of all are shown above. It was voted at the business meeting, that dues would be \$5.00 per year, payable to the Treasurer, but that they may also be sent % the President or Esther Houtz. The initial Newsletter under the leadership of this group, will be sent to any and all SEELEY'S, but future issues only to paid-up members.

"It might be well to review here for your edification,

some of the history of the SGS, a family organization which has the same initials as the Stamford, Connecticut Genealogical Society. Stamford was a hotbed of SEELEY ancestors and the location from which both of my SEELEY lines emanated. Our SEELEY Genealogical Society was organized by the Rev. Garner Osborn (now deceased) in 1965. A rather informal organization, it depended on donations and the work of Esther Houtz to gain recognition and membership. The primary aim was and is, to foster family relationships, gather and disseminate SEELEY information, and promote knowledge and understanding of the SEELEY name and history. Unfortunately the major share of this work load hinged on the time and effort of Esther, and as anyone who has suffered through the loss of a loved one can understand, the death of her husband in 1979 created a vacuum in her life that required time and industry to heal. In a period such as this, which requires a rearrangement of priorities and a rejuvenation of desire and interest, help is a necessity. This we intend to provide by assuming some of the tasks.

"So, we seek your membership, your news items, support and help in an effort to resume the previous level of operation and hopefully even to improve on that...

"I am placing notices in publications of other genealogical organizations. It was such a notice in the Orange County Genealogical Society of New York, that led to my interest and involvement in our society.

"Queries and notices have by far been the most popular item in previous issues of the SGS Newsletters and will continue to be emphasized. Responses to items in the "HELP WANTED" section, should be sent to Esther Houtz, Genealogist, who will in turn, put you in touch with the inquirer. Respectively, Donn Eff, President."

## 20 Years Ago in SGS -- The Sealy Brothers of the Isles of Shoals

In the November 1985 issue of the SGS Newsletter, a pair of new members shared details of their ancestors. They were descendants of the Isles of Shoals SEALY brothers. For those who may not have successfully traced their lineage and have not pursued the possibility of descent from the Isle of Shoals, as well as new members who may be unaware of this line, here are portions of the genealogy of this group.

### THE SEALY BROTHERS OF THE ISLES OF SHOALS

by Walter Goodwin DAVIS, B.A., L.L.B.,  
appearing in the *NEGHR Vol. 85 (1931)*.

The broad estuary of the River Teign, in the county of Devon, is bounded on the west by a range of rounded hills, which descend sharply to the water. About a mile from the mouth of the river a steep trail ascends a wooded valley and from its highest point one looks down on the ancient gray church tower and clustered thatched roofs of the little village of Stoke-in-Teignhead, backed by another line of Devon combs. In this peaceful country spot, with no visible hint of the sea, but only a short walk from the Channel cliffs and the still harbor of Teignmouth, lived in the 17th century a hardy seafaring population,

which sent many sons on the New World adventure, among them the four SEALY brothers of the Isles of Shoals.

The parish registers of Stoke-in-Teignhead begin in 1538. Before 1574 there is no mention of the Sealy family, which possibly came from the country to the eastward where, in the parish of Kenton, a Thomas SELY was vicar in 1452 and the name is commonly met with for two succeeding centuries. The following records, however, make it possible to trace the English ancestry of the Sealy brothers of the Isles of Shoals back to their grandfather, Richard Sealy of Stoke-in-Teignhead, and supply much information about his family.

From Probate Records:

1. The Will of Richard Sealie of the parish of Stokentinhead, co. Devon, date 10 April 1620. To the church stoores a sheepe. To the poor people of the parish 5s. To John Sealy, the son-in-law of John Wills, a sheepe. To George Scalie's children a sheepe apiece and all the rest of my goods after the death of my wife, Gillian Sealie. My sonne Andrew is to be executor.

*Please See SGS 20 Years Ago Page 7*

## 20 Years Ago in SGS -- Isles of Shoals Sealys *(continued from page 6)*

Proved by the executor 5 May 1620. Inventory .£21. 18s. 4d.

2. Administration on the goods of George Seely, late of Stokeinteignhead, co. Devon, sayler, was granted, 27 Oct. 1637, to his widow Dorothea Seely and Thomas Andrew, marriner, both of Stokeinteignhead, Inventory £31.16s2d. taken by Thomas Andrew, Andrew Sely and Richard Andrew 3 Oct. 1637.

3. The Will of Gregory Sealey of the parish of Stokeinteignhead, co. Devon, dated 14 Feb. 1639/40. To the poor of the parish 5s. To George and John Sealey, sonnes of my brother George Sealey, 40s. each. The rest to my mother, Winifred Wills, who is to be sole executrix. Witnesses; Richard Isacke Richard White. Proved 14 Jan. 1640/1. Inventory taken by Willm knolls and Richard White 11 Dec. 1640, including an item "dew unto the said Gregory for his Newfoundland voyage."

4. Administration on the goods of John Sealy, late of Stokeinteignhead, co. Devon, was granted, 30 Nov. 1644, to his widow, Agnes Sealy. Inventory amounting to £17. 17s. taken by Elles Blakkaller and Michell -Endell 10 July 1643. (these 4 items all in the Archdeaconry Court of Exeter.)

5. The will of Andrewe Sealy of Kingstainton, co. Devon, yeoman, dated 14 April 1664. To the poor of Kingstainton 3s. 4d. To my son John Sealy 20s., the greatest brasse pott, one iron barr, and the glasse of the windowes. To my son George Sealy 20s. and my greatest brasse panne. To my son William Sealy £8 within one yeare. To my son Thomas Sealy £4 within one yeare, my second best brasse pott, two little brasse pannes, and two pewter dishes. To my grandchildren, sons and daughters of my son John Sealy, 10s, each. To my grandchild Robert Sealy of Plymouth one colte or 40s. To the daughters of my son Andrew Sealy 50s. each, when twenty-one. Residue to my son Andrew, who is to be executor. Witnesses; John Selman, John Wilking. Proved 15 April 1663. Inventory, £55. 17s. 6d. (Archdeaconry Court of Totnes.)

From the Parish Registers of Stoke-in-Teignhead, co. Devon.

### Baptisms

1574 Alise, daughter of Richard Sealie, 23 May  
 1576 Elizabeth, daughter of Richerd Sealie, 9 Dec  
 1591 John, son of Richard Sealie, 20 November  
 1597 Andrew, son of Richard Sealie, 8 April  
 1597 Elizabeth, daughter of George Sealie, 18 October  
 1599 George, son of George Sealie, 26 Jan 1599/1600  
 1602 Johan, daughter of George Sealie, 8 June  
 1604 John, son of George Sealie, 13 August  
 1607 Gregory, son of Gregory Sealey, 4 October  
 1610 Christopher, son of George Sealey, 16 Sept.  
 1620 Richard, son of Andrew Sealie, 4 Feb. 1620/21  
 1622 George, son of Andrew Sealie, 19 December  
 1626 Andrew, son of Andrew Sealye, 25 Feb. 1626/7  
 1629 George, son of George Sealey, 3 April  
 1629 Robert, son of Andrew Sealey, 7 June  
 1631 John, son of Georpe Sealey, 13 November

1632 William, son of Andrew Sealye, 30 July  
 1634 Thomas, son of Andrew Sealye, 30 Jan. 1634/5  
 1638 Dorithe, daughter of John Sealie, 18 October  
 1638 Thomas, son of Andrew Sealy, 28 July,  
 1638 John, son of John Sealy, 13 October

### Marriages

1579 Robert Selle and Elizabeth Peter, 23 November  
 1590 Richard Sealie and Julian Selman, 26 Jan 1590/1  
 1596 George Sealie and Winifred Selman, 25 Nov  
 1612 John Wills and Winifred Sealie, 16 Feb 1612/13  
 1628 George Sealye and Doritie Andrew, 21 Jan 1628/9  
 1645 John Hooper and Agnes Sealye, 8 Jan 1645/6  
 1664 John Cealie and Agnes Tapley, 8 December

### Burials

1580 Elizabeth, wife of Robert Sealie, 15 September  
 1590 Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Sealie, 29 July  
 1590 Annis, daughter of Richard Sealie, 30 July  
 1590 Johan, wife of Richard Sealie, 13 August  
 1603 Johan, daughter of George Sealie, 16 August  
 1625 Joane, daughter of Andrew Sealie, 22 December  
 1643 John Seely, 28 June

### Armistice Day *(continued from page 3)*

CINC of British Expeditionary Forces, best known for Somme offensive], for Belgium, Italy, and for President Wilson. After more singing of war songs called for by the children, and a story of Americans at the front by one of the fathers, Mr. Reginald Washburn, the school broke up. It is something they will always remember. In the afternoon there was a great parade that lasted about 2 1/2 hours. The little children and I were fortunate enough to find a friend's automobile to sit in, or we should have been very tired. As it was we had a front line view and enjoyed it very much.

Yesterday at church there was a very inspiring service in celebration of the victory, and the sad recital, while all the congregation stood, of the death of one of the Church young men, who had died from the effects of gas. Word had come only Friday last of it. He leaves a wife and baby boy, born since he went to France and whom of course he never saw. Our minister, Dr. Knapp was in France for a year, you know. He said that behind the lines in France everyone expected last summer that the war would last another year, but that the men actually at the front felt confident that it would be over before Christmas.

I have written a shockingly long letter. What are your Thanksgiving plans? We hope to have my family here, Mother and Mary are coming and perhaps my older brother's family, and Albert's wife and baby. I hope that these two will come several days earlier and make us a little visit. I made my mince meat Saturday.

We had a nice over midday dinner visit from Seelye and Mary Bixler, a week ago Saturday. I wonder what Seelye will do now. He expected then to go south to an officer's training camp.

Much love to you all from us all,  
 Anne.

## Meet Your Board of Directors

*Editor's Note: It's been my true pleasure to work with the hard-working (and fun) volunteers of the SGS Board of Directors over the past two years, and as I begin my second "tour of duty" as the editor of the SGS Newsletter, I'm looking forward to working with them for at least two more years! I thought you would like to get to know them a little better as well, so I hope to be able to include bios and photos of all of them in the coming issues of the newsletter.*

### Jim Seeley, SGS President



Jim was raised on a dairy farm in Canton Township in Bradford County, Pa. After graduating from High School, he went to Mansfield University for one year with the intent of becoming a teacher. But he then accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He graduated from there in 1959 and spent 30 years in the Navy retiring as a Captain. He then worked as a systems engineer for 15 years, founding a business group within EG&G, Inc. in technical risk management, before retiring again in 2002.

Jim's sister, Donna, talked him into going with her to the 1989 Seeley Genealogical Society reunion in Fort Wayne, Ind. where SGS President Bob Cox helped Jim and Donna trace their lineage back to Obadiah Seeley from documents SGS had brought there. This, more than any other incident, got Jim interested in genealogy and SGS. Starting as chief genealogist, then as president, the wonderful satisfaction of helping others trace their ancestry is the most satisfying part of working with SGS.

Jim helped design and implement a filing system for the Seelye Research Center in Abilene, Kan. During his term in office, he hopes to "polish" that system, identify research objectives that will tie the immigrant Obadiah Seeley with his ancestors in England, and plan and host the next SGS reunion in the New England area in 2007. "Every reunion, I meet more wonderful cousins and I look forward to renewing our friendship every two years."

### Katherine M. Olsen, First Vice President

Kathie was born in Salt Lake City, Utah to Alanson and Madeline Merrill Mills. Her mother's mother was Zella Gertrude Seely so naturally her mother researched that line. Her first introduction to genealogy research was reading microfilms with her mother at the Family History Library when she was still a small child. In 1992, her mom came home from the Seeley Genealogical Society meetings with the assignment of completing the Sixth Generation Book and she enlisted Kathie's help. Kathie was a school librarian at this time and knew how to use computers! They had many enjoyable hours together entering the information which Madeline had interfiled from many different sources. Kathie's first SGS reunion was the one held in Salt Lake City in 1995 and she has enjoyed all the reunions and other meetings she has attended since that time.

Before the next reunion, it is her goal to make all the necessary arrangements for the Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England trip, compile and publish all documented changes that have been noted for the SGS publications that she and her mother compiled, and finish other assignments SGS President Jim Seeley gives her!

### Ivey Harris, Second Vice President



Ivey was born in 1941, in Meade County, Kan. Daughter of Floyd Clinton Hickey and Mary Elizabeth Seelye Hickey. Her grandfather's family (Samuel A. Seelye) moved to Great Bend, Kan. in 1874, about 2 years before he was born in 1876. Ivey knows her great-grandfather was born in Kentucky, moved to Indiana as a small child, then moved to Illinois where he lived before moving to Kansas. He was married to Florence Dunn of Seward, Kansas, Dec. 11, 1907. They had one child who was Ivey's mother Mary Elizabeth Seelye.

Ivey's older sister got her involved with SGS just before the first Abilene reunion in 1999 and then she pulled out of the picture. By the time of the first meeting, Ivey had learned an awful lot about her family and had her lineage back to Robert. Or so she thought. When she returned home she discovered a mistake and now has no idea where her family connects. She believes Samuel's dad was a Benjamin and his father was a William. Ivey still considers herself new to the genealogy game and is looking forward to learning more, so she can go in search of the information to complete her lineage. Ivey is married to Donald E. Harris and they have six children. Ivey works at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. for the Army as a secretary, and has been employed there for 23 years.







**FIRST ROW:** Lynda Simmons, Kathie Olsen, Montell Seely, LeAnne Seely, Pamela Samp, Theron Samp, Rick Samp, Elizabeth Samp, Mary Pyle, Carolyn Seeley, Ivey Harris.

**SECOND ROW (Seated):** Richard Speer, LoLeath Brundage, Linda Weiler, Jerry Nelson, Kathryn Seely, Mary Benecke, Dian Little, Marjorie Mae Seelye, John Seely, Mary Seely.

**THIRD ROW:** Anita Speer, Chris Havnar, Karl Weiler, Veronica Newell, Joan Phillips, Linda Crocker, Nancy Warnock, Ruthie Stevens, Pamela Turner, Caroline Haddon, Laura Condie, Sally Seeley, Barbara Bates, Ruthetta Hansen, Elizabeth Alexander.

**FOURTH ROW:** Terry Tietjens, Jim Seeley, Jerry Havnar, Wendell Seeley, Ramon Hall, Walter Nelson, Clair Seeley, Robert Seeley, Marshall Seelye, Kent Pyle, Wesley Waring, Dan Seelye, David Alexander, George Seeley, Barbara Torres, Donald Harris.

## 2005 SGS Reunion *(continued from page 1)*

the Abilene Country Club. Friday afternoon's session, started with an outstanding "skit" titled *Robert & Mary Seeley's Courageous Journey to the New World*. Montell Seely played Robert and his wife Kathryn played Mary. Montell and Kathryn's daughter Leanne narrated the play. Then a presentation was given on the Seeley DNA Lineage Project followed by our guest speaker's presentation *Can You Teach an Old Dog New Tricks?* The final presentation on Friday provided an update on Obadiah Seeley and his possible sister Sarah Seeley Bruen.

Saturday morning was the business meeting. Changes to the SGS constitution and by-laws were approved, new SGS officers were elected, and the New England area was selected for the Sept. 13-15, 2007 SGS Reunion. It was tentatively decided to start the New England tour of sites where Robert and Obadiah Seeley lived from the reunion hotel on Monday Sept. 17. The board of directors recommended that each SGS member voluntarily contribute one dollar per year to the National Archives gift fund for microfilming old records and making them available on line. These contributions should be sent to the SGS treasurer for consolidation and forwarding annually to the Federation of Genealogical Societies for the "NARA Gift Fund."

SGS member and former board member George Seeley installed the new board of directors on Saturday evening after dinner. SGS member Rick Samp gave a photo presentation of last fall's SGS trip to England. A farewell brunch was held on Sunday at noon on the Seelye Mansion grounds.



### "Latest and Greatest"

Theron Samp, 12, the youngest Seeley in attendance at the reunion, poses for a photo with Mary Benecke, 85, the most senior Seeley attending.

## More from the 2005 SGS Reunion...



The reunion opened with a cookout put on by the SGS Board of Directors and hosted by Terry Tietjens at the Seelye Mansion on Wednesday, Sept. 14. (Above left) SGS President welcomes reunion attendees to the dinner and Abilene. Before the fun of the cookout, the 2003-2005 SGS board held its final business meeting (above right) in the Seelye Research Center. Final decisions were made about the reunion agenda and recommendations that would be made to the membership at the general business meeting held Saturday, Sept. 17. The reunion officially kicked off on Thursday, Sept. 15 with a greeting from the Mayor of Abilene. A photographer from Abilene's daily newspaper The Reflector Chronicle was on hand to capture images as the reunion got underway (above center). During the reunion Montell Seely, his wife Kathryn and daughter LeAnne performed a play (below) about Robert and Mary Seely and the challenges they faced in the early 1600's. In addition to the genealogical fun to be had, there was a lot to see and do while visiting historic Abilene which is home to, among other things, the Dwight D. Eisenhower boyhood home and Presidential Library (left).

