



# Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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History ★ Family ★ Research

November 2007

## SGS 2007 International Reunion Held in Cromwell, Connecticut

Story By SGS President Kathie Olsen

The Seeley Genealogical Society convened for its biennial meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, Conn. on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007.

This hotel had been the site of a previous reunion in 1992. The area is very rich in history for the Seeley Genealogical Society since it is close to the areas where both Robert and Obadiah settled.

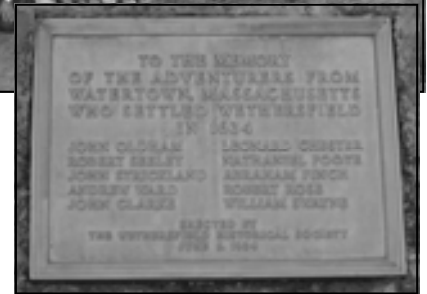
Registration began at 8 a.m. and the Hospitality Room was opened with displays, documents and artifacts. The board of directors met on Thursday morning. Several important decisions were made concerning finances and membership. It was decided to dedicate the Souvenir Book to Joan Phillips, our late secretary.

The opening session was held at 1 p.m. where the group was welcomed by the hotel staff. Introductions were made along with announcements. In the evening we had a nice dinner with a very interesting presentation by author Ann Kuckro, a 39 year resident of Wethersfield. It was entitled, "The Wethersfield Plantation and How it Grew." She incorporated her knowledge of the architecture of Wethersfield with her research on Robert Seeley, one of the ten adventurers.

Friday was a tour day with a morning bus tour. Ms. Kuckro's presentation had prepared us well to appreciate Wethersfield's homes and some of the architectural features. We visited the monument to the ten adventurers, the Robert Seeley home lot, and the Warehouse Museum on the Cove. In the afternoon, many chose to participate in a walking tour of the Wethersfield Burying Ground. We returned to the hotel for a lovely dinner with after dinner presentations including a skit about Mehitable Bennett Seely and Sarah



During the reunion, attendees took a tour of Old Wethersfield, Conn. and posed (above) in front of a memorial on the Town Green that honors the "adventurers" who settled the town. Founded in 1633-34, Wethersfield is known as "Ye Most Auncient Towne" in Connecticut, as set out by the Code of 1650 - "Colonial Records of Connecticut."



Seeley Wilcox, Utah pioneers who walked across the plains in 1847 at age 67. They were portrayed by Kathie Olsen and Dian Little. Linda Crocker gave an excellent presentation on how she answers queries. She gave us some helpful suggestions on how to conduct our own

**Please See Reunion Highlights on Page 13**

### Inside This Issue

President's Report.....	2
Probate Record of Obadiah Seeley (SGS #4) .....	3
Seeley DNA Lineage Project Update.....	4
Treasurer's Report .....	4
News From SGS Board Members .....	5
Obituaries.....	9
SGS Tour of New England.....	10
Reunion Photos.....	12
Military Notes .....	16
Queries .....	16
SGS Board of Directors Contact Data .....	23



Member: Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society



Honorable Mention, National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition: 2005 & 2006

### The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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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, Seelee, 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 Chairwoman  
Ivey Harris  
24469 163rd Street  
Leavenworth, KS 66048-7329  
(913) 351-3424  
iveyh@mac.com

#### Seelye National Research Center

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

Seelye Research Center, Director  
Terry Tietjens  
P.O. Box 337, 1105 N. Buckeye  
Abilene, KS 67410-0337  
Phone: (785) 263-1084  
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#### SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for August 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Please advise the editor if your branch or family has 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

Thank you so much for the trust placed in me by the membership of SGS. I will strive to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society by promoting research, study, verification, discussion, collation, publication, dissemination, and preservation of Seeley information for the Society, for its members and for posterity.

I am very appreciative of all the hard and devoted work that Jim Seeley and others of his board have accomplished. Many exciting projects were promoted during his tenure of office, such things as DNA research, the establishment and organization of the Seelye Research Center Library, this award winning newsletter, Tours of Robert Seeley's England and Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England, and three great reunions; Williamsburg, Va.; Abilene, Kan.; and Cromwell, Conn. Thank you so much for your fine leadership!

Thanks to those who have agreed to work with me! Marshall Seelye, a stalwart in SGS, has agreed to take on the role of First Vice President, Linda Crocker, our incredible Query Editor, will also serve as Second Vice President; Mary Flynn Palley, a newcomer to the board, is the Secretary, with Sally Seeley, an involved member for many years, as the Treasurer and Jim Seeley will move to the Past President spot! Serving as Directors are Terry Tietjens, Wesley Waring and Dian Little. Karl Weiler was elected as Chief Genealogist. Ivey Harris is new in the position of Membership Chairperson. Staying in their positions will be Chris and Jerry Havnar as Webmasters; John R. Seely as Ancestor Files Chairman; Paul Taylor as Newsletter Editor; Ruthetta Hansen as Historian and Assistant for Promotion; Ken McCrea as DNA Project Manager; Bob Seeley as CD-ROM Project Director and Pam Turner as Librarian, Seelye Research Center.

Hats off to Veronica Newell and her Nominations Committee for all their hard work in assembling this great group of Seeley Cousins to work together to promote the goals of the Society!

This newly elected Board of Directors and appointed officers met in our first meeting on Sept. 15, 2007 in Cromwell, Conn. Bob Seeley and Ken McCrea were unable to attend. Two committees were formed immediately. One, a Constitutional Revision Committee with Ramon Hall as chairperson and Kathie, Jim, Linda and Mary as members, will look at amending the Constitution to deal with a succession issue (Article IV, Section 5) and rewrite the job description of the Chief Genealogist (Article III, Section 7) and any other questions that might arise.

A second committee will explore the possibility of establishing criteria for subsidizing the cost of individual DNA tests. The committee members are Jim, Wesley, Karl, Dian, Ken and Kathie as chairperson. It is believed that the cost of the individual DNA test is prohibitive for some but the Society could benefit from the knowledge gained by completion of the test. Hopefully, these committees can report by the February, 2008 newsletter.

I also asked each elected and appointed officer to compile a list of anticipated expenses so that a budget could be established. We will meet again in May, 2008 in Abilene, Kan. at the Seelye Research Center. You are all invited to join us for the meeting and hopefully several days of organizing the resources there.

The membership of SGS voted that the next reunion will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah from Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009 until Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. Activities will include visits to the Family History Library, meetings of the Society, dinner gatherings with speakers, a bus tour of Salt Lake City, and attendance at a Tabernacle Choir practice. On Friday morning, Aug. 7, a bus tour will be arranged to take SGS members to Mt. Pleasant, Utah, founded by Seely family members, for a family picnic and tour of the community and on Saturday we will visit Emery County, Utah founded by Seely family members from Mt. Pleasant. We will see the

Please See *President's Report* on Page 6



## Probate Record of Obadiah Seeley (SGS #4) Discovered

Story by SGS Chief Genealogist Karl Weiler

John R. Seely asked if I had seen a document containing an inventory of immigrant Obadiah Seeley's estate. John thought that if there were tools a "turner" might use in his estate, it would be another indication that the Obadiah Seeley who appeared in the records of Stamford, Conn. in the 1640s was the same Obadiah Seeley who was an apprentice turner to Nehemiah Wallington in London. We know that Wallington's turner apprentice was recorded as being the son of William Seeley of Birmingham and that Obadiah Seeley was christened in 1614.

I went to Google on the Internet, entered "Obadiah Seeley inventory," and up came a Family History Center film number. I ordered the film and, after reading it, found I could not understand what it said. I contacted Mr. Clifford Stott CG, AG a professional researcher and he indicated he could read the document.

Over a period of three weeks I presented four probate wills to Mr. Stott to be translated: Obadiah Seeley SGS#4, Obadiah's son Obadiah Seeley SGS#17, Obadiah's son Jonas Seeley SGS#19, and Obadiah's wife's first husband John Miller. In this newsletter we'll start with the probate record of Obadiah Seeley, SGS#4. The remaining probate records will follow in succeeding newsletters.

NOTE: Spelling/misspellings are true to the original documents.

### Obadiah Seeley SGS # 4, Death- 25 Aug 1657, Stamford, Fairfield, Connecticut Probate Inventory List

Translated by Clifford Stott CG AG, 11 Sept 2007

#### [page 1]

The Inventory of the Estate of obadiah Sely deceased  
Anno 1657

Taken by Will<sup>m</sup> Newman and Robert Tasker the 29th of  
the 12<sup>mo</sup> 1665

the aprizement by George Slawson and John Holly

[pounds-shilling-pence]

Imprimis 1 house 4 Acres of Land	20 - 00 - 00
Item 5½ and [illegible word] Acres meadow	18 - 00 - 00
Item 5 Cows & a three year old heifer	21 - 12 - 00
Item 2 two year Cattell	05 - 10 - 00
Item 4 yearlings 2 Calves	08 - 10 - 00
Item 6 yearling Swine	06 - 00 - 00
Item 1 fether bed, 2 blankets	06 - 00 - 00
Item 4 fether pillows	02 - 00 - 00
Item 3 pair Courss Sheets	04 - 10 - 00
Item 1 sheet 5 pillow cases beers	01 - 09 - 00
Item 2 sutes of Apparell	01 - 10 - 00
Item 2 hats 3 [illegible] bands	02 - 03 - 00
Item 2 or 3 handkercheifs	00 - 01 - 06
Item 1 musket 1 Sword	07 - 00 - 00
Item 1 Chest 1 Powder horn	00 - 09 - 00
Item 5 Peces of Pewter	01 - 00 - 00
Item 1 Cresent Saw	00 - 08 - 00
Item 1 hand saw 3 wedges	00 - 08 - 06
Item 1 brewing tub	00 - 04 - 00
Item 1 Taper Auger 1 Tap borrower	00 - 03 - 06

Item 2 Axes 1 hatchet	00 - 07 - 06
Item 2 Turning Chissels	00 - 02 - 00
Item 2 Turning Googes[?]	00 - 02 - 06
Item 5 [illegible] [illegible]	00 - 02 - 06
Item 4 Stocks 1 hammer[?]	00 - 04 - 00
Item 1 Sieth 1 Turnmill	00 - 08 - 06
Item 1 pair pot hooks	00 - 01 - 06
Item 1 Smoking Iron	00 - 03 - 00
Item 1 meall[?] Trough	00 - 01 - 06
Item 2 Ancors 1 dubble Ancor	00 - 07 - 00
Item 1 keler 1 Charn	00 - 05 - 00
Item 2 great bools [bowls] 1 Tray	00 - 03 - 06
Item 4 Payls 2 Piggons 1 whele	00 - 09 - 06
Item 2 small wheles	00 - 08 - 00
Item 5 Chairs 3 meall[?] sines	00 - 16 - 06
Item 1 pair of Tongs 2 reels	00 - 02 - 08
Item 1 hooke 1 sickle	00 - 02 - 00
Item 1 bagg[?]	00 - 03 - 04
The Sum is errors excepted	106 - 09 - 00

Debts payd out of this estate to the vallu of 5 or 6<sup>l</sup>  
This aprizement made y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>: 9<sup>mo</sup>: 66 (according to the  
order of the Courte) by us whose names are under wr<sup>tt</sup>n

George Slawson, John Holly, 11: May 1666

The widdow Sely is to administer upon the estate  
[three illegible words] and Selyes Estate

William Hill Clarke

At A Court held at Fairfield the 7th Novem 1666 The  
widow maks oath that this is a true Inventory of the  
Estate of her husband Sely deceased acording to the  
best of her knowledge

William Hill Clarke

#### [page 2]

9th Novem 1666

Wheras the Inventory of obadiah Sely was this day  
exhibited to the Courte the Said Sely dying Intestate:  
That the Court distribute the estate as followeth: wheras  
there is three Children Left obadiah Cornelius and Jonas  
the Court orders that the Eldest son obadiah shall haue  
Twenty six pound[s] to be payd in the Land he is to have  
all the Land and what the Land amount to more then  
Twenty six pound[s] he is to pay it to the younger Child  
Jonas in part of his portion : The second sonn Cornelius  
is to have payd him Twenty pound[s]: and Jonas is to  
have Twenty pound[s]: And the widdow Mary Sely is to  
have the rest of the Estate as her proper portion: with the  
use of the Two Acres of y<sup>e</sup> meadowe pertayning to the  
Estate during her widowhood The sons to have ther  
portion at Twenty one years of age And yf any of them  
dye before they come to ther respective ages the  
survivors is to enioy there portions: The Court admits of  
the widdow to be administratrix on the Estate [dark  
smudge covering two words] Yf ther be aboue five  
pounds or six pounds of debts payable out of the Estate  
what debts shall more Legally appeare the widdow and the  
Three sons shall abate for the payment therof  
proportionally to ther por.

William Hill Clarke

## Update on the Seeley DNA Lineage Project

Story by Seeley DNA Lineage Project Manager,

Dr. Ken McCrea

The Seeley DNA project has the exciting possibility of opening avenues for new areas of research. When the DNA study showed that Robert and Obadiah were not closely related, SGS could focus on finding out who Obadiah was and much new information has turned up. The Seeley DNA project has helped several researchers who are working on unconnected Seeley lines. The DNA testing provides an excellent way of determining whether a Seeley male is a descendant of the Robert-Nathaniel line, the Obadiah line or another line.

There are additional goals of the DNA study. First, if we can get enough people tested who have known lines back to Robert or Obadiah, we may someday be able to use the DNA results to determine more than one generation of descent from the immigrants. We do not yet have enough data to do this, and this will require testing many additional Seeley lines. If you have a known Seeley line and would be interested in helping with this goal, please let me know.

Additionally, we have yet to test any descendants on the other Seeley lines not currently known to be related to Robert or Obadiah. It is possible that some of the other lines may also be related to them.

To be tested, the person must be male, and have a direct, all male lineage back to a Seeley (or other spelling) surnamed man – and therefore would have the Seeley surname. If you are on a lineage with some female Seeley generations (therefore don't have the Seeley surname), you would need to find a Seeley-surnamed relative who descends from the same line. In my own case, my most recent Seeley-surnamed ancestor was William Seeley (1781-1865). It took me about a year and a half to locate a person to test, but when I did find them, the testing revealed that I am a descendant on the Robert-Nathaniel line.

The company that we have been using has been taken over by Ancestry.com. The test kits are now ordered directly through them. The link to their DNA web site is at: <http://dna.ancestry.com/welcome.aspx>

The price of the test and everything else should remain the same. The test we have been using is the Advanced Paternal Lineage Test (Y-Chromosome 46)

The cost is \$199.

If you have questions, or want to discuss the DNA project, please feel free to get in touch with me (contact data on page 23).



## Seeley Genealogical Society Treasurer's Report

For the period October 1, 2006  
To September 30, 2007

Beginning Balance	\$20,662.05
Add Receipts:	
Dues	\$1,232.00
Life Membership	\$0.00
Books	\$194.00
Filing System	\$20.00
CD - Compact Disks	\$240.00
Donations to Research	\$70.99
Donations - Unrestricted	\$110.00
Bank Interest	\$478.64
Convention Registration	\$1,080.00
Convention Prepaid Tours	\$1,273.00
Convention Prepaid Meals	\$4,381.00
Convention Totes	\$0.00
Convention Shirts/Pins/Caps	\$255.00
Convention Souvenir Book	\$540.00
Voluntary NARA donation	<u>\$212.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$10,086.63
Total Available Cash	\$30,748.68
Less Disbursements:	
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Postage	\$396.13
Supplies	\$142.49
Newsletters	\$2,784.80
Donation Seelye Archives	\$750.00
Dues - Federation Gen Soc	\$75.00
FGS - Conference	\$0.00
Research	\$0.00
Convention Space Rental/ Equipment	\$694.20
Convention Meals	\$4,397.82
Convention Tours	\$451.00
Convention Speaker	\$550.00
Convention - Lapel Pins	\$359.88
Voluntary NARA donation	<u>\$216.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$10,817.32
Balance as of 9/30/2007	\$19,931.36
Research Account	\$1,586.25
Life Membership Account	\$13,800.00
Checking Account	<u>\$4,545.11</u>
	\$19,931.36

Chris Havnar  
SGS Treasurer  
Submitted 9/29/2007

## News Notes from SGS Elected and Appointed Officers

### Marshall Seelye, SGS First Vice President



As you know I'm now the First Vice President. What you may not know is that even though I was President for 8 years, I was never a Vice President. I attended two reunions and at the second one was drafted (or perhaps railroaded or perhaps coerced :-)) into the Presidency. Evelyn was not thrilled; I think she realized that she would do the work and I would do the talking. How right she was!

This time I was drafted (or perhaps railroaded or perhaps coerced :-)) but don't have Evelyn to do my work. The position needed to be filled so here I am. I am honored to again be in an active position with the society and will strive to be of some use. I don't have specifics regarding what I may be able to accomplish in the next two years, but hope my contributions can be meaningful.

Also, as one of four SGS Area Coordinators for New York, I welcome queries that pertain to my local area where I can research answers from local sources.

### Karl Weiler, SGS Chief Genealogist



I am delighted that SGS has elected me to be the Chief Genealogist. I come to this job with an open heart and open mind and I pledge to work very hard to increase our knowledge of Seeley genealogy and history through documentation. It has been agreed that the job description of the Chief Genealogist needs be changed in order to more accurately describe the position.

For instance, genealogy queries, a presumed job of the Chief Genealogist, are being handled so expertly by our Query Editor Linda Crocker – nobody can do that better. So a committee has been formed to deal with this question.

In the meantime, several areas of research interest were mentioned to me at the past national meeting in September 2007 and I hope to be able to delve into as many of them as time will allow. They are:

- Document the Obadiah Seeley, SGS#4, line.
- Keep looking for and hopefully find the "smoking gun" to prove the relationship between the Obadiah Seeley in England and the Obadiah Seeley in New England.
- Locate a Seeley family presently living in England that is closely related to Obadiah, SGS#4, through DNA testing.
- Produce a documented history of Robert Seeley, SGS#1 including documents proving his death and burial.
- Follow up on two families identified in DNA testing, Augustus Seeley and William Seeley.
- Encourage DNA testing for additional Seeley individuals, especially those with unidentified lines.

If you have other interests or areas of research that you would like me to follow, please feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone (see contact information on page 23).

### Sally Seeley, SGS Treasurer



I agreed to serve as treasurer because sometimes it's time to "give back" and help out a bit. I have a good background in business, with a degree in marketing and management and several accounting courses under my belt. It also frees up Chris to devote more time to the wonderful web site that she and her husband have done such a beautiful job with.

I am most comfortable with being a "behind the scenes" type of person, which is another reason why this position suits me. I look forward to being able to do my part to help advance the Society!

We had a great time at the reunion, and it seems that as we attend more of them and get to know more people better, they become more and more fun. We are so eagerly looking forward to Salt Lake City. We attended that last one there and have wanted to go back again. The agenda is extremely ambitious for the hosts, but the rest of us will have such a memorable experience!

### Linda Crocker, SGS Second VP and Query Editor



As to what's new in queries, I have spent some time this quarter trying to identify the lineages of some of the people who have biographies posted on our website. Chris Havnar has also identified some lineages which I have verified. If you visit the website ([www.seeley-society.net](http://www.seeley-society.net)) and click on 'Our Genealogy' and then choose 'Seeley Biographies' you will find lots of biographies mostly culled

from various county histories. At the bottom of each biography, after the citation you will find the person's Seeley lineage if we have determined it. This continues to be a work in progress. In particular I have recently identified children and collateral lines pertaining to W.J. Seely and Andrew Dingman Seely. The information has been sent to Kathie Olsen and John Seely to be added to our files and database. If you would like the details for your records just ask and I would be happy to email them to you.

As the newly elected SGS Second Vice President I will continue my work with queries. I am grateful that the board has decided to reimburse me for my Ancestry.com subscription and I will continue to use it to try to unravel more Seeley mysteries and add to our collection of Seeley data. I was also deeply touched and honored to receive a commendation from the Society for my work as Query Editor and will do my best to continue to provide a

Please See **SGS Board** on Page 8

## Seeley Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

### *Crowne Plaza Hotel Cromwell, Connecticut, September 13, 2007*

Members present were: President, James R. Seeley; 1st Vice President, Kathie Olsen; 2nd Vice President, Ivey Harris; Secretary, Eugene Seelye; Treasurer, Chris Havnar; Chief Genealogist, Dian Little; Director Marshall Seelye; Director Terry Tietjens; and Director Wesley Waring. Also present: John Seely, Ancestor File Chair; Linda Crocker, Query Editor; Paul Taylor, Newsletter Editor; Ruthetta Hansen, Historian; Karl Weiler and Pam Turner.



Immediately following their final meeting, the 2005-2007 elected and appointed members of the Board of Directors pose for a photo in the hospitality room at the Cromwell, Conn. Crowne Plaza Hotel, site of the SGS 2007 International Reunion. Pictured are: (Back Row From Left), Newsletter Editor Paul Taylor, Assistant Genealogist (Obadiah) Karl Weiler, Director Wesley Waring, Director Marshall Seelye, Secretary Eugene Seeley, President Jim Seeley, Director Terry Tietjens. (Front Row From Left) SGS Ancestor File Chairman John Seely, Treasurer Chris Havnar, First Vice President Kathie Olsen, Chief Genealogist Dian Little, Second Vice President Ivey Harris and Query Editor Linda Crocker.

There being a quorum, President Seeley called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. There were no minutes from the previous Executive Board Meeting. A financial report was circulated and it will be filed for audit.

Discussion was held in regards to reimbursing the Webmaster/mistress for expenses. Marshall Seelye moved that \$125 per year be paid to the Havnars for services. Ivey Harris seconded the motion and it carried.

Discussion was held in regards to reimbursing the Query Editor for expenses. Kathie Olsen moved that \$145 per year be paid to Linda Crocker for expenses. Dian Little seconded the motion and it carried.

Discussion was held in regards to maintaining annual membership in both the Federated Genealogical Society (\$70) and the National Genealogical Society (\$50). Marshall Seelye moved that annual dues to both organizations be continued. Kathie Olsen seconded the motion and it carried.

Increasing the dues for SGS membership was discussed but the general consensus was to leave it as is.

The Constitution states the SGS President chairs "the committee to organize the membership meetings." Marshall Seelye moved that the Board recommend to the membership that the 2009 reunion be held in the Salt Lake City, Utah area subject to input by the new SGS President. Chris Havnar seconded the motion and it carried. Possible future locations might be Albany, N.Y., San Diego, Calif., and/or Abilene, Kan.

The time frame for the next reunion was discussed. Marshall Seelye moved that dates in July or August 2009 be recommended to the membership subject to comments by the new SGS President. Dian Little

seconded the motion and it carried.

After discussion, Dian Little moved that the 2007 Reunion Souvenir Book be dedicated to Joan Phillips who died during her tenure as Secretary of the SGS. Ivey Harris seconded the motion and it carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene A. Seelye, Secretary

### **President's Report** *(continued from page 2)*

sights and have a traditional "lamb fry" but the highlight of the day will be the Castle Valley Pageant, written by our own Montell Seelye.

This pageant begins at dusk and includes live animals, music by the Tabernacle Choir, and a stirring performance of the sacrifices made by our ancestors to establish settlements and communities in the wilderness. The setting is incredible. The buses will return you to Salt Lake City midday on Sunday, Aug. 9. We will stay in Price, Utah for two nights. Plan now to join us for both the reunion and the tour! It is our hope that a host family can be found for all participants coming for this reunion and tour! You can come early and stay late!

Thanks to you as members for all you are doing to promote our understanding of our heritage as members of the Seeley family (no matter how we spell it!). And thanks again for your confidence in my ability to lead. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments or concerns.

Kathie Olsen (Katherine M. Olsen)  
President, Seeley Genealogical Society

## Seeley Genealogical Society Membership Meeting Minutes

### *Crowne Plaza Hotel Cromwell, Connecticut, September 13, 2007*

Kathie Olsen, Parliamentarian, declared a quorum (25) was present for the membership meeting of the Seeley Genealogical Society called to order by President James R. Seeley at 9:30 a.m., Sept. 15, 2007, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, Conn.

#### **Old Business**

The minutes of the September 2005 membership meeting in Abilene, Kan as summarized in the November 2005 issue of the SGS Newsletter were approved.

The Treasurer's report by Chris Havnar, Treasurer, was approved as presented subject to audit.

#### **New Business**

Veronica Newell, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the following slate of officers for the organization: President, Katherine Olsen; 1st Vice President, Marshall Seelye; 2nd Vice President, Linda Crocker; Secretary Mary Palley; Treasurer, Sally Seeley; Chief Genealogist, Karl Weiler; Director, Wesley Waring; Director, Terry Tietjens and Director, Dian Little. There being no further nominations, all were unanimously elected.

Kathie Olsen requested members currently serving in appointed positions continue their service in their positions. For those not present she said she would contact them to ask them to continue serving.

Montell Seelye proposed the 2009 reunion be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. After discussion it was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the reunion be held in

Salt Lake City, Utah.

The new President recommended that the reunion dates be Aug. 4-9, 2009. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the reunion be held Aug. 4-6, 2009 with optional time after to visit other areas and events in Utah.

Sally Seeley, Audit Committee Chair, reported the Treasurer's books were in order.

The membership was informed that the 2007 Reunion Souvenir Book would be dedicated to Joan Phillips.

An award was presented to Paul Taylor, Editor of the SGS Newsletter, for placing second in both the 2005 and 2006 National Genealogical Society Family Newsletter Competitions.

President Seeley gave a Certificate of Commendation to Linda Crocker for her work as Query Editor.

Kathie Olsen, incoming President, presented outgoing President, James Seeley with a framed picture of the "Joseph Conrad," a ship currently berthed in Mystic Seaport, Conn. in appreciation for his service as President.

The meeting concluded with James Seeley turning over the Daniel P. Seelye Memorial Gavel of SGS to the new President, Kathie Olsen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eugene A. Seelye, Secretary



One of the highlights of the SGS 2007 International Reunion was the Membership Meeting at which the attending members voted on a number of measures affecting the future of the Society. Among them, the membership decided the location for the next reunion would not only be in Salt Lake City, but that the time frame of the meeting would be shifted to late summer in order to afford SGS members with children the opportunity to attend the reunion without having to miss school.

## News from the SGS Board *(continued from page 5)*

high level of service to our members and anyone with a Seeley connection.

At the reunion, Carol Haddon distributed an index for past issues of the SGS newsletter she had created. We really appreciate all the effort she put into this endeavor. My husband Bob (a database expert) and I have been working to combine the individual indexes into a master index in Excel that is searchable and sortable. If anyone would like a copy (it is also a work in progress) just let me know and I can email a copy to you. You need to have Excel on your computer to access the data. I have newsletters back to May 1984 and Carol has a complete set and we would both be happy to look up information if you can cite an index entry that interests you. See my contact data on page 23.

### **Pam Turner, Seelye Research Center Librarian**



I hope your summer was as enjoyable as mine; which was spent traveling and learning. Since I don't have anything to directly report regarding the research center, I thought I'd pass along something I learned recently. I attended a lecture presented by an archivist who works for our local museum. This was a very informative lecture on how to preserve your family heirlooms (pictures, papers, etc.). Probably the most important piece of information I can pass on to you is get your color photos protected ASAP; these photos start deteriorating as soon as they are printed. Black & white photos are the most stable so you can save them to last in your preservation efforts. As I learn more, I will pass that information on to you. In the meantime, I recommend you contact your local museums or historical societies and see if any classes are being taught on this subject. It's important you start preserving your heirlooms sooner

rather than later.

In a similar line of thought, we need your help with indexing. This will not involve any travel; I will send the work to you. The only requirement is that you have access to the SGS generation books and are familiar with using them. No work will start until after May 2008. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out. Thank you. May you all have a great holiday season.

### **Chris Havnar, SGS Webmaster**



The Georgia Archives, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, has released 275,000 Georgia deaths records from between 1919 and 1927. They are available online through the Archives' Virtual Vault (<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php>)

I checked the database for Seeley/Seely/Seelye's, but didn't find any. However, the database

may be of use to others in their genealogical research.

The records include birthplace and date, names of parents, even the birthplace of the parents. And, increasingly, genealogists are interested in cause of death; as many as one-third of all known diseases have a genetic cause. The certificates include age, county of death, occupation, gender, race and cause of death. The data open all kinds of possibilities to statistical researchers.

Also, the Saint Louis, Missouri County Library has made Death Certificates from 1910 to 1956 available online.

The certificates are available for free online and are supplied by the St. Louis County Library. Go to [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) and click on genealogy. You will see a site where you can view and print the actual death certificates in Missouri from 1910 to 1956.

## Seeleys Sighted in Davison, Michigan Cemetery

*Submitted By Laura Keating*

I came across the Seelye web site (which I think is a wonderful resource!) and noticed that under "Cemeteries" you did not have the web site for the Pine Grove Cemetery in Davison, Mich. <http://pinegrove2.tripod.com/index.html> It has listed the following individuals under the S listing:

B4c - Seelye Abel Sr.	B4c - Seelye Abigail
B4c - Seelye A. J. S.	B4b - Seelye Alson
A20 - Seelye Alson ( J )	B4c - Seelye Andrew J.
B4d - Seelye Edgar J.	A20 - Seelye Effie L.
A20 - Seelye Ellen V.	B4c - Seelye Grace
B4c - Seelye Herbert Lent	A20 - Seelye Jessie L.
B4b - Seelye Lorenza L. (Wicker)	B07 - Seelye Lida

This is a wonderful site with locations and even photos of some of the graves. (I'm going there the end of the month to take photos)

Remind people to look under other letters of the

alphabet for Seelye family too, for example here is the W listing where Debby Seelye is listed under her married name Wicker. The webmaster has noted some of the maiden names.

B4a - Wicker Aurelia  
 B4b - Wicker Charles P. M.  
 B4a - Wicker Debby Harger (Seelye)  
 B36 - Wicker Ethel A.  
 B36 - Wicker Ethel D.  
 B4b - Wicker George  
 B4b - Wicker Ida M. Powers  
 B36 - Wicker Phebe M. (Hurd)  
 B4a - Wicker Reuben  
 B4a - Wicker Seth J.  
 B36 - Wicker Seth J.

I hope this will provide answers for other people looking for family members.



# PASSAGES

## Valerie Seely James, 42 March 23, 1965-Sept. 24, 2007



Valerie Seely James of Adams, Utah died at her home Monday, Sept. 24, 2007, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. She was 42.

A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Northwest 12th Street and Gilliam Avenue in Pendleton.

Mrs. James was born March 23, 1965, in Price, Utah, to Montell and Kathryn Pincock Seely. She attended schools in Provo and Emery County, Utah. She graduated from Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, and attended Brigham Young University in Provo.

She served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Curitiba, Brazil, Mission.

She married Brant H. James on Feb. 25, 1989, in

Manti, Utah.

Mrs. James was a home-school mom. She was active in the Pendleton Home School Association and her church. She enjoyed supporting her children in the school bands, was a member the Public Affairs committee and served on the library board and the Adams American newsletter.

She enjoyed music, reading, writing and family history.

She is survived by her husband; parents; daughter Emilie; sons Brandon and Ryan; brother Mark and his wife Brenda Seely of West Valley City, Utah; sisters LeAnne Seely of Castle Dale, Karla and her husband Thane Thalman of Phoenix, Fawn and husband Tim Miller of Manti, Utah, and Janell and husband Kyle Beagley of Price, Utah.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Monette Seely.

## Betty J. Seeley, 81 Nov. 13, 1925-Sept. 19, 2007



Betty J. Seeley, 81, of Gillett, Pa. passed away, surrounded by family and friends, on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007, at the Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, N.Y.

Betty was born on Nov. 13, 1925, in Canton Township, in Bradford County, Pa. She was the daughter of the late Clyde H. and Marjorie (Fitzwater) Seeley.

Betty was a 1944 graduate of Troy High School. She was a silk screener for over 38 years at Corning, Inc. and retired in 1985. Betty was Protestant by faith.

Betty is survived by her dearest friend, Frederica A. Barrett of Gillett, Pa. and Frederica's family which

includes her daughter and son-in-law Jolene and Sam Heath of Laceyville, Pa., her grandchildren, Tim and Harriet Heath with children, Samantha, Heather and Jimmy Heath, all of Mt. Bethel, Pa., Terri Heath and daughter Tiffany Shaver of Johnson City, N.Y. and Trina Heath and companion Dan Romanick of Elmira, N.Y. Betty is also survived by: her sister Melissa (Ralph) Coppola of Elmira, N.Y.; brother Clyde (Peggy) Seeley of Canton, Pa.; brother Jim Seeley of Churchville, Va.; sister Veronica Seeley Newell of Wellsburg, N.Y.; brother Wendell Seeley of Gillette, Pa.; sister Donna Seeley of Gillett, Pa.; brother-in-law Bud (Marilyn) Smouter of Casar, N.C.; 60 nieces and nephews, spanning four generations; and many cousins.

Betty was preceded in death by: her parents; her stepmother, Mildred Seeley; her brother, Dalton Seeley; her sisters, Evelyn Anderson, Madeline Maynard and Winnifred Smouter; her sister-in-law, Joanne Seeley, her niece, Marjorie Guytine; and nephew, Steve Smouter.

Family and friends were able to call from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007, at the Gerald W. Vickery, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc., 110 West Main Street, Troy, Pa. The widely attended funeral service to honor Betty's life was held after the viewing at 2 p.m. on Saturday, with Rev. Charles Root officiating. Burial followed the service in Gillett Cemetery. Betty's great grandfather was James Seely, SGS#3686.

## Note from Nancy Warnock

Ray Hall received the following note from Nancy Warnock, Joan Phillips' sister, on Aug. 7.

"Please thank the Society members for all their kind cards, notes and letters. Joan will be missed...Please correct the date of her death to 5-20-07. Thank you, Nancy Warnock."

### 2007 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book

Members who wish to purchase a copy of the 2007 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book should send a check for \$20, payable to SGS, to Jim Seeley (see contact information on page 23). Thirty one copies were sold to reunion attendees. The book will be similar to ones published for the 2003 and 2005 SGS Reunions and is designed for both those members who could not attend and as a keepsake for those who did.

Contents will include reunion highlights, New England tour highlights, member and guest speaker presentations, a list of reunion attendees, reunion and tour photographs. Our newsletter editor, Paul Taylor, has agreed to compile, edit, and publish the book again. Please let Jim know by Dec. 15 if you want a copy. His contact info is inside the last page of this newsletter.

## SGS Visits Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England

*Story and Photos by LeAnne Seely*

Our tour of Robert and Obadiah's New England began at Cromwell, Conn., where we had gathered for the 2007 SGS Conference. The conference having concluded on Sunday morning, a preliminary meeting of tour participants was held on Sunday evening, Sept. 16, 2007, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We introduced ourselves to each other, received a packet of helpful information for the tour, and reviewed the outlined itinerary. We discussed adding a few destinations if time permitted on the various days, and also tentatively scheduled a recap session for each evening of the tour—a time to discuss our favorite parts of the day and the things we had learned.

Monday morning, Sept. 17, we met our guide, Liisa Kaminski, and our bus driver, John Knox. We boarded our tour bus at the Crowne, joined in a silent family prayer, and headed for our first stop, Wethersfield, just a few miles

down the road. We had a pleasant driving tour of Old Wethersfield, making a few stops: The plaque on the town green bearing the names of the Ten Adventurers of Wethersfield (of which Robert Seeley was one), the plaque marking Robert's home lot on Broad Street facing the green, and the warehouse on the former riverfront, now a small cove on the Connecticut River, the river having changed its course since the time Wethersfield was founded.

After learning about the warehouse and river trades, our tour participants reassembled on the bus and backtracked, chronologically speaking, to Watertown, Mass., now a suburb of Boston. Our first stop in Watertown was a small church building on the site of the original church erected when members of the Winthrop Fleet commenced a settlement at Watertown, having originally made landfall at Salem, Mass.

Continuing toward Boston proper, we stopped at the Saltonstall Memorial, a large monument to Sir Richard Saltonstall and the group of settlers who accompanied him up the Charles River from Boston Harbor to establish Watertown. Robert Seeley's name is listed on the monument. They had landed at Salem in June of 1630, continued down the coast to present-day Boston, and by July of 1630 had established the First Church of Watertown, a puritan congregation.



Immediately following the SGS 2007 International Reunion, a group of SGS Members headed off onto an exciting tour of Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England. Above, they paused for a photo at a memorial for Sir Richard Saltonstall and the group of settlers who accompanied him up the Charles River from Boston Harbor to establish Watertown. Robert Seeley's (SGS #1) name is listed on the monument. Picture above are: 1st row: Enid Cox, Lynda Simmons, Liz Alexander, Margaret Petersen, Coleen Thompson, LeAnne Seely, Veronica Newell. 2nd row: Sibyl Page, Roeberta Shingledecker, Wilda Obey, Kathryn Seely, Camille Bell, Uneta Grange, Ruthetta Hansen, Kathie Olsen, Montell Seely. 3rd row: Terry Tietjens, Janet Seely (partially hidden), Patricia Crosby-Burns, Glenn Cox, Jim Seeley, Karen Shingledecker, Karl Weiler, Dian Little (partially hidden), Jim Obey. Not pictured: Mary Palley, Dell Johnson, Eugene Seelye, Geneva Hobbs, David Alexander, Sue Ann Craven, Marion Hileman.

To close our day, we checked in to the beachfront Pilgrim Sands Motel at Plymouth, Mass., and each tour member was on his own for obtaining his supper. Those who chose to participate in the recap meeting congregated in the lobby in the evening and reviewed the high points of the day.

On Tuesday, Sept. 18, after a lovely continental breakfast at the hotel, we boarded the bus for a short drive into the middle of town to see historic Plymouth Rock. Although our Robert was not aboard the Mayflower in 1620, we knew we would learn a lot about the early political climate and environmental surroundings of the Massachusetts colonies by visiting the well-restored sites in the Plymouth area. We saw the rock at the harbor, climbed a small hill to visit the statue of Chief Massasoit (more about him later), and then reboarded the bus for nearby Plimoth Plantation. The plantation is a living history museum built as an exact replica of the Plimoth colony as it existed in 1627.

Plimoth Plantation as a living history museum is engineered to be a replica of the original plantation though not located on the exact site (but not more than a few miles off). The village "inhabitants" dress and act as specific people who really lived at the plantation in 1627. By contrast, the interpreters at the neighboring Wampanoag Village are simply dressed in period clothing

and conducting period types of chores and activities. They interact with the tourists as modern people, not as actors in specific roles. The two types of settings allow visitors to observe and ask questions in different ways and gain a wider variety of knowledge.

In early afternoon, we boarded the bus again to return to the center of Plymouth and a tour of the Mayflower II at its berth in the harbor there. The Mayflower II is a seaworthy replica of its namesake and is also staffed, like the plantation, with actors in character and costume.

We then headed out to the arm of Cape Cod for a few modern tourist attractions; namely, the Cape Cod Potato Chip factory (complete with free samples!), the John F. Kennedy Museum at Hyannis (where the Kennedy family is well-known for having a summer home), and a local outlet of The Christmas Tree Store (a well-known New England chain store). We then continued our jaunt to Yarmouth for a traditional Cape Cod lobster dinner, a great treat for some of the non-New-Englanders in our group. (Steak or chicken entrees were also available!)

After another lovely continental breakfast on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 19, we boarded the trusty bus again, this time heading through Rhode Island toward Mystic, Conn. Mystic was a major seaport on the mouth of the Mystic River. The European settlement there was named after the native name for the area, Mistack. While Robert was living at Watertown (1634 – 1637), he was recruited to join the militia in their defense of the settlements receiving attacks from the Pequot Indians. The white settlers allied themselves with the Narragansetts and the Mohicans and journeyed to the Mystic area where the Pequots had forts and were preparing an attack. In this Pequot war of 1637, a band of soldiers and Indian warriors under the command of Captain John Mason (to whom Robert Seeley was second-in-command) attacked the Pequot fort at Mystic and burned it to the ground. Hundreds of Pequots perished in the attack, later to be known as the Massacre at Mystic. Our tour group gained insight into the causes of the Pequot war and its far-reaching effects by watching a documentary on the Massacre at Mystic while riding our

tour bus to the city of Mystic. The documentary was well-done but unsettling, considering the subject matter.

The re-created Mystic Seaport Village, is restored to the 1800s time period. Various sailing and fishing vessels populate the dock and the working shipbuilding and restoration area, and several period buildings are arranged to represent the Mystic Seaport town as it would have looked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibits were informative and enlightening. Though our early Seeley ancestors were not fishermen

or sailors themselves, they traveled extensively on the waterways and were very familiar with ships.

Before arriving at Wakefield, R.I., we detoured to the secluded wooded area near West Kingston, to see the monument at the site of the Great Swamp Fight, a 1675 battle in the King Philip's War. Do not confuse this battle with the Great Swamp Fight that ended the Pequot War in 1637. Here is the explanation: Robert Seeley was a soldier in the Pequot War of 1637, which war ended at Fairfield, Connecticut (more about that monument later). His son Nathaniel was a soldier in the King Philip's War almost 40 years later and died at the Great Swamp Fight battle of that war near West Kingston, R.I., in 1675. This 1675 battleground was the area where we took a detour on our way to Wakefield.

The lobster feast at Captain Jack's was all it promised to be, and we returned to our hotel rooms satisfied—after a brief recap of the day's activities, held in the hotel lobby.

The morning of Thursday, Sept. 20, saw us enjoying another wonderful continental breakfast followed by a bus drive over to Old Saybrook and the site of the Saybrook Fort at the mouth of the Connecticut River. Robert had served in the militia there during the Pequot war. Years later, he was assigned duty as ammunition tender at the Saybrook Fort under the command of Lion Gardner. A statue of Gardner stands at the site of the old fort.



Plimouth Plantation is a living history museum engineered to be a replica of the original plantation though not located on the exact site. The village "inhabitants" dress and act as specific people who really lived at the plantation in 1627. They conduct their day-to-day chores such as animal husbandry, meal preparation, field work, and construction as though the present year was 1627 and the tourists like Montell Seely (above) are simply curious visitors to their plantation.



During a visit to "the quintessential New England town" of Bedford, N.Y. the group spent some time wandering through the old cemetery next to the town green looking for Seeleys.

Please See *New England Tour* Page 15

## SGS 2007 International Reunion Attendees



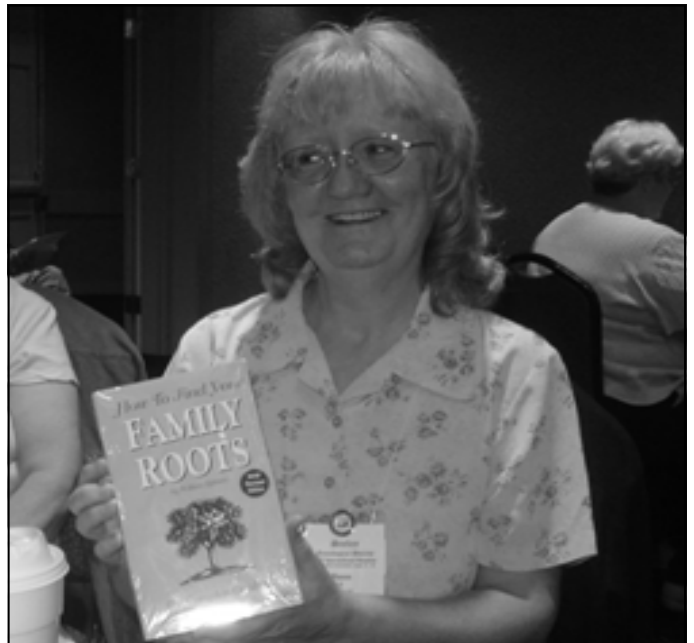
**Back Row:** Carl Thorsen, Richard Seeley, Patricia Crosby-Burns, Glenn Cox, Billie Barnes, LeAnne Seely, Terry Tietjens, Dell Johnson, Montell Seely, Wes Waring, Jim Seeley, Marshall Seelye, Elden Seeley, Eugene Seelye, David Alexander, Clifford Bizek, Karl Weiler, Jerry Havnar, George Seeley

**Middle Row:** Anita Speer, Sue Ann Craven, Sally Seeley, Evelyn Russo, Isabel Mingoello, Chris Havnar, Pam Turner, Margaret Petersen, Ivey Harris, Camille Bell, Sibyl Page, Wilda Obey, Enid Cox, Jim Obey, Ardiene Damicis, Janet Seely, Mary Palley, Kathryn Seely, Linda Crocker, Uneta Grange, Carolyn Seeley Taylor

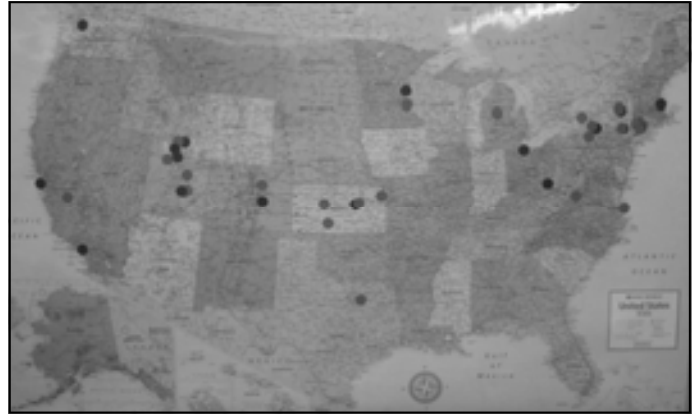
**Seated:** Richard Speer, Veronica Seeley Newell, IvaJean Wheeler, Richard Wheeler, John Seely, Ruthetta Hansen, Geneva Hobbs, Marion Hileman, Elizabeth Alexander, Laura Condi, Roberta McGhee, Carol Haddon, Kathie Olsen

**First Row:** Cameron Seeley Taylor, Nicholas Graham Taylor

**Not Pictured:** Frederick C. Hart, Jr., Bill Hosley, Anne Kuckro, Dian Little, Roeberta Shingledecker, Karen Shingledecker, Lynda Simmons, Paul Taylor, Coleen Thompson



In addition to the board meetings, membership meetings, member presentations, guest lectures, dinners, sight-seeing, and playing in the pool, the reunion also featured a skit presented by Dian Little, Kathie Olsen, and LeAnne Seely (above left) about Seely pioneers who settled the west, and from whom all three ladies are descended. As has been the case in the past, the reunion featured a large hospitality room where members had smaller meetings and discussions. Richard and Anita Speer (left) look through one of the displays. Members brought genealogical data, books, photos, and other items for others to browse. Terry Tietjens, owner of the Seelye Mansion, also brought some artifacts from Dr. A.B. Seelye's collection of products. Terry gave them away to reunion attendees at the conclusion of the event. There was also a drawing for some small prizes like the book *Family Roots* won by Evelyn Russo (above).



As the above map indicates, reunion attendees came from all over the country. Reunion attendees (above left) board the bus that took them on a tour of Old Wethersfield settled by Robert Seeley. Among the sights visited were the meeting house (below right) and its cemetery which includes a variety of skillfully crafted markers featuring artful carvings and interesting reading. Buried in the cemetery is Lorana Seely (left) who died at 19 in 1811. Inscribed on the stone is the poem: "Let frantic mirth turn pensive here, Here let youth weep its transient bloom, Let friendship pay the tribute tear, Loranah moulders in the tomb."



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

research. Reverend Dr. Richard Seeley spent some time discussing his ancestral line believed to come from the Isle of Guernsey. He lives in the area of Cromwell and we were happy to have him and his brother with us.

Saturday began with the business meeting. New officers were elected and Salt Lake City was selected as the site for the 2009 reunion. We gathered for a group photo by the pool. Frederick C. Hart, Jr. was the afternoon speaker. Fred is a certified genealogist and one of the descendants of Obadiah Seeley. He spoke about the settlement of Long Island Sound and some of the early families including Robert and Obadiah Seeley. This was followed by Kathie Olsen catching us up on new findings about Robert and then Karl Weiler shared some new research on Obadiah. New officers were installed at a dinner meeting which was followed by a presentation by Bill Hosley, Director of the New Haven Museum and

Historical Society, who shared information about an exhibition currently on display at the museum, *The Great River: New Perspectives on 250 years of Connecticut Valley Art and History*.

On Sunday, a farewell breakfast buffet brunch was held giving us the opportunity to visit with one another before going our separate ways. Thirty two of the reunion attendees met in the evening to prepare to participate in the Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England Tour which left the hotel early Monday morning.

There will be a Reunion Souvenir Book which will contain the text of the presentations, other information and lots of pictures. Contact Jim Seeley to order a copy if you haven't already done so.

Thanks to Jim Seeley for the many hours he spent making sure this reunion was a memorable experience for all who attended.



### Letter of Commendation for Linda Crocker

*In one of his final acts as SGS President, Jim Seeley presented a letter of commendation to Query Editor Linda Crocker at the SGS Reunion.*

Dear Linda;

This letter commends you for your outstanding performance as the Query Editor for the Seeley Genealogical Society.

In the February 2003 issue of the SGS Newsletter, members were informed of your agreement to assume the challenging position as Query Editor. My expectation at that time was that you would use the existing Query Team, and the resources they had, to respond to queries. However, you have, at your own expense, visited specific sites to gather information. You have extensively analyzed U.S., State, and other Census data and you have used other internet sources to assist people with finding more information on their ancestors.

More heartwarming was your courage in accepting this position shortly after losing your mother. You responded to the first 47 queries while living in the United Kingdom and you had not even met members of the Seeley Genealogical Society. You continued your volunteer duties during a challenging move back to the United States, temporarily living in Massachusetts before finally settling in Parkersburg, West Virginia. In all, according to my count, you have responded to 128 queries in the four and a half years you've been our query editor.

But the number of queries you've processed doesn't tell the whole story. You've responded to queries submitted via the Seeley website from non-members. You encouraged members to submit "brick wall" queries. The scope of effort you have expended and the amount of data you've published in the SGS Newsletter has truly impressed our members and has contributed to the newsletter winning national attention. The broad range of resources you have used in developing query responses has been continually impressive.

Linda, you have impressively raised the bar as the SGS Query Editor. Your performance has been way beyond our original expectations and has set a wonderful example for other SGS volunteers. I am proud to present you with a Certificate of Commendation on behalf of and with the thanks of the Seeley Genealogical Society.

Warm regards,  
James R. Seeley, President



### He Stands Relieved

At the end of the reunion, outgoing SGS President Jim Seeley accepts a gift of appreciation from incoming SGS President Kathie Olsen. The gift is a framed watercolor of the ship *Joseph Conrad* in appreciation for his service as President. Kathie also takes possession of the ceremonial gavel which is passed from SGS President to SGS President. A long-time member of SGS, Jim served three two-year terms as SGS President and one two-year term as SGS Chief Genealogist. Kathie comes to the job having served on the executive board for 10 years as the Assistant Genealogist, a Director, and three two-year terms as First Vice President.



### SGS Officers 2007-2009

Shortly after being sworn in, the 2007-2009 SGS Board of Directors pose for a photo. Pictured are Chief Genealogist Karl Weiler, Second Vice President Marshall Seelye, Ancestor File Coordinator John Seely, Director Wes Waring, Director Terry Tietjens, President Kathie Olsen, Second Vice President Linda Crocker, Treasurer Sally Seeley, and Director Dian Little. Not pictured is Secretary Mary Palley. Contact information for the elected and appointed officers can be found on page 23.

## SGS Tours New England *(continued from page 5)*

Approaching late morning, we continued upstream to the Connecticut River Museum at Essex. A particularly interesting exhibit there was a collection of hundreds of miniature ships in bottles. Up the street we lunched at the historic Griswold Inn, a popular spot—and for good reason!

In the afternoon, we commenced down the coast of Connecticut to New Haven. Robert was again a founding father in the settlement of this community in 1638. This time he was recruited by his former pastor in London, the Reverend John Davenport. Robert's experience had included the settling of Watertown and Wethersfield as well as military service in the Pequot War. We stopped at the New Haven Historical Society Museum for a brief tour to whet our appetites. Then a local guide took us on a tour of the town green, explaining some of the history of the city and its various important buildings. Back on the bus, we drove a few blocks from the green and located the site where Robert's own property had been. Now it is a parking lot on the corner of George Street and Orange Street in central New Haven.

The day was rounded out by a VERY brief stop at the Pequot War Monument in Fairfield, Conn.—brief because the monument is situated on a road island in downtown Fairfield and we had to be very careful of traffic in order to approach it at all. The island itself seemed to be experiencing some remodeling of some kind and was all dug up and surrounded by “slow men working” tape and

traffic cones, though because of the early evening hour, we saw no men working there at all, slow or otherwise. This Pequot War Monument in Fairfield marks the Great Swamp Fight that ended the Pequot War of 1637 (as opposed to the Great Swamp Fight of 1675 in which Nathaniel was killed, as mentioned earlier). Though Robert himself was not in this particular battle, the ending of the war meant he was free to accompany the Reverend Davenport to New Haven.

To close the day, we checked in to the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Norwalk, Conn., each participant fending for his own supper. Another recap session closed our evening.

Friday, Sept. 21, marked our final day as a tour group. We boarded the bus this time for Stamford, Conn., the home of Obadiah Seeley. Not much is known of his arrival in the colonies, but the available information about him centers on Stamford and nearby Bedford, N.Y., just over the state border.

In Stamford, our first stop was the Hoyt Barnum House, a well-preserved historic site, interesting to us because it was built around the era of Obadiah's residency in Stamford and is not far from Obadiah's home lot.

Our second stop was the old burying ground maintained by the Stamford Historic Society. We observed many Seeley headstones in the burying ground (though not Obadiah's) and some in our group made note of the Seeley names and dates in order to further our genealogical database of family connections.

Our final stop in Stamford took us to the headquarters of the Stamford Historical Society, a magnificent building of stone masonry work and housing a small museum and library. We were treated to a brief summary of Seeley involvement in the Stamford area.

We then proceeded into New York state to the quintessential New England town of Bedford. We spent a lovely afternoon wandering in the old cemetery next to the town green and appreciating the very beginnings of the changing colors of fall foliage in New England.

Late afternoon found us approaching our starting point of Cromwell, Conn. Our final destination took us to Windsor, near Hartford, for a look at the John Mason statue there. This monument had originally been erected in Mason's honor for his victory at Mystic, mentioned earlier. However, it was later deemed prudent to move the statue to Windsor, Conn., where he had been one of the settlers. Robert Seeley was Captain Mason's second-in-command during the Pequot War, you will remember.

Back in Cromwell, our bus made a stop at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for some members of our group to retrieve vehicles left there for the duration of the tour. Then we all congregated at the Comfort Inn near the airport to check in for our final night's stay. Our closing activity was a lovely banquet at the Pasco's Restaurant in East Windsor. We bade farewell to our tour host and bus driver and to each other.

### New Members

SGS is proud to welcome the newest members of our Society! In numbers, there is strength!!!

#### Norma Awrey

P.O. Box 6052  
Kansas City, KS 66106

#### Billie Barnes

1524 South Pine  
Greensburg, KS 67054

#### Patricia Crosby-Burns

6853 Abbey Glen Way #B  
West Valley, UT 84128

#### Marge Burris

6017-A Kansas Ave Circle  
Kansas City, KS 66111

#### Paul A Seeley/Jennifer L

#### Cochrane

877 Spence St  
Pontiac, MI 48340-3058

#### Ardienne & D. Damicis

64 Beach Ave  
Milford, CT 06480-8157

#### Uneta Grange

P.O. Box 595  
Huntington, UT 84528

#### Darrell & Marie Hickey

125 Annie  
Wichita, KS 67215

#### Evelyn A. Russo

124 Wedgewood Dr  
Watertown, CT 06795

#### Brian D & Laurel R Seeley

2222 Eisenhower Rd  
Six Lakes, MI 48886

#### Gladys & Eldon Stouffer

2218 Kennington  
Salina, KS 67401

#### Kevin T and Pamela W

#### Webster

4166 Cedar Dr  
Grapevine, TX 76051

### New LIFE Members

#### Stephen J Hollands

812 Greenwood Cir Apt 2  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

#### Richard B & Julia H

#### Seelye

12528 NE 94th St  
Kirkland, WA 98033-5875

## Military Notes

### Army National Guard Spec. Kristi L. Sealy

Army National Guard Spec. Kristi L. Sealy has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition, core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

She is the daughter of Don and Annelle Sealy of Kay Ave., Pearland, Texas.

Sealy graduated in 1997 from Pearland High School, and received a master's degree in 2005 from the University of Texas at Austin.

### Army National Guard Pfc. Bret M. Sealy

Army National Guard Pfc. Bret M. Sealy has also graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

He is the grandson of Damon Bush, and son of Kay Sealy both of Richland Springs, Texas.

Sealy graduated in 2004 from Richland Springs

High School, and in 2007 from Motorcycle Mechanics Institute, Orlando, Fla.

### Travis M. Seale

Travis M. Seale graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

The 33 days of training provide professional training and evaluation in military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina. The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and officer traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course.

Upon successful completion of the course, the ROTC program, and graduation from college, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, National Guard, or Reserve.

The cadet is a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio and is the son of Michael D. and Kathy L. Seale of Rose Blvd., Moulton, Texas.

## SGS Queries

(Data As of Oct. 12, 2007)

Query number is 2 digit year, 2 digit month of newsletter, query sequence number.

Please send your queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at [llbc100@msn.com](mailto:llbc100@msn.com) or mail to Linda at home (see inside back cover). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor and are then sent to the Query Team and Area Coordinators for their input. Linda summarizes each query and any responses for inclusion in the newsletter.

**If you have any information on the queries below contact the submitter but also remember to send a copy of the information to Linda so the query can be updated in the next newsletter.**

### QUERY UPDATES:

**Update to Query 0311-8** Submitted by James O Martin, 503 West Center Street, Logan, UT 84321

James had been interested in finding the ancestors of John W. Seeley b. 1813 CT and his wife Lavinia E Shove. James has found that Lavinia's parents are Seth Shove Jr and his wife Patience Barber.

Barbour Collection: Warren, Litchfield, CT

Seeley, John, m. Lavina SHOVE, Mar. 30, 1833, by Benoni P. Beardsley, J.P.

He is still looking for the ancestors of John W.

**Update to Query 0702-3** Submitted by Renee Mizar ([reneemizar@yahoo.com](mailto:reneemizar@yahoo.com))

Renee was looking for the death and burial places of her great-grandmother, Effie Julia Seeley who had been married to George Mizar. Renee has discovered that Effie died in 1960 (at the age of 78) in Kelso,

Washington, where she had lived for many years. At some point she had remarried...she died with the last name of Edwards.

Renee still hasn't found the death date or burial place of Effie's father Rionel Seeley. His last known location is Butte, Boyd, NE in 1920 when he was age 67 and married to his second wife, Rose Hupp, age 45.

**Update to Query 0705-9** Submitted by Barbara Surratt ([geninut39@yahoo.com](mailto:geninut39@yahoo.com))

Barbara posted a query asking about the father of Bartholomew Seelye of Manito, Tazewell County, Illinois. Jim Seelye of Pekin, Tazewell Co. IL ([seelyjv@gallatinriver.net](mailto:seelyjv@gallatinriver.net)) replies that Bartholomew and his own GG-Grandfather, Abner Seelye, were both sons of Jonathan Seelye. Exactly where Jonathan was born (and when) is still a mystery - Some information says northern New York state and some says Canada. Below is one piece of information he has re. Jonathan's family.

"Jonathan Seelye was the head of the family party that came over land from Ohio to Illinois in 1833, settling on land which he had entered from the government in Topeka Township, Mason County (Illinois), where he built his log cabin and cleared and cultivated a farm. Unlike many of the early settlers, at the time of his arrival he was possessed of a few thousand dollars, considered a fortune in that day and locality, and thus did not have to suffer the hardships that fell to the lot of the majority who located in this region with little to assist them save their splendid determination and industry. Jonathan was a man who always liked to be close to nature, and as the community offered plenty of good fishing and as deer and



other game were to be found in the near vicinity, he was perfectly satisfied with his new surroundings. However, he was by no means an indolent man, but worked industriously when not engaged in hunting or fishing, and became one of the substantial and influential figures of his locality. He brought up his children to God-fearing ways, saw them marry and take homes of their own, and died rich in years and contentment, being buried on the old home place. At his side lies his faithful and worthy wife, a Pennsylvania Dutch woman, whom he married in Ohio. They were the parents of: Abner, Jonathan, Douglas, Julias, Bartholomew, Riley, who married twice, Emily who was married twice and died in Havana, Illinois and another daughter."

The information was taken from a story about Jonathan's grandson, Joseph, that appeared in the following text: "The History of Illinois and Her People" by George Washington Smith, published in Chicago by the American Historical Society, 1927.

#### NEW QUERIES:

**Query 0711-1** Submitted by Joe Hauck (catskilljoe@yahoo.com)

Joe contacted us because he was trying to find out more about a D.T. Seeley who made and signed a double barrel rifle. The lock is marked JOSH GULCHER and Joe knows about him as he has another rifle with a Gulcher lock, but the barrel is marked D.T. Seeley Dunkirk, NY no.32x. He was told it was made as a gift for a NY senator 'way back when'. It is in great condition - really deep lands and grooves. It looks to be around 40 cal. He doesn't think it has ever been fired, no pitting or anything around the nipple. This rifle was made somewhere between 1840 and 1870.

Joe also found a mention on the internet of another rifle that was also made by D. T. Seeley - a Remington Revolving Percussion Rifle. This rifle, a .36 caliber, has a 29½" octagon barrel and dates from about 1865. Produced by D. T. Seeley of Delhi, New York (as stamped on the top of the barrel), the attractive stock is made of walnut. Seeley produced weapons from about 1864 to 1874. The trigger guard is of German silver and the gun has an elevated rear sight. The metal of the gun has a dark brown patina with some denting on the barrel. The stock is loose at its connection to the gun but the action functions properly. This is a very rare and attractive piece that dates from the end of the Civil War. Estimate: \$4,000 - \$5,000. Joe says it is somewhat unusual for Remington to allow a gunsmith to sign an ordinary firearm so either this rifle or DT Seeley were special. Possibly he used Remington parts to make the special order piece.

**SGS Response:** From the Seeley Genealogical Society database:

Don Augustus Seeley born 31 Jul 1871 Dunkirk, Chautauqua, NY, resided Pittsburgh, PA

Nellie May Seeley born 23 Oct 1875 Dunkirk, Chautauqua, NY, resided Bradford, PA and married Charles Palmer (?) who was b. Casey, IL

Parents of Don and Nellie: Daniel Thorpe Seeley and

Anna McNary

Daniel Thorpe Seeley b. 28 Jul 1839 Harrpersfield, Delaware, NY,; d. 8 Jan 1892 Bradford, Bradford, PA. He m. 25 Nov 1869 Schoharie, NY Anna B. McNary who was b. 10 Nov 1849 NY and d. 25 Dec 1926.

Parents of Daniel Thorpe Seeley are Levi Seeley (SGS#699) (1795-1885) of Harpersfield, Delaware, NY and his 2nd wife Hannah Thorpe. Levi is a 7th generation descendant of Robert Seeley (1602-1667). Daniel Thorpe Seeley is SGS# 2114.

From the 1880 census Bradford, McKean, PA:

Seeley, Daniel T., age 40, gunsmith, b. NY, parents b. NY

Seeley, Anna, age 37, b. NY, parents b. Ireland

Seeley, Don A, age 8, b. NY

Seeley, Nellie M., age 6, b. NY

Note that the first rifle is signed Dunkirk, NY which is in Chautauqua County and is where Daniel Thorpe Seeley's children were born. The Delhi, NY where the 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle was made is in Delaware County, NY, 2 towns west of Harpersfield where Daniel was born.

Does anyone have information as to sources for linking Daniel T. of Bradford, PA to Levi of Harpersfield? I found Davis T., age 10 living in Levi's household in 1850; I can't place Daniel T./Davis Seeley in the 1860 or 1870 census records.

**Query 0711-2** Submitted by Christine Havnar (jchavnar@sbcglobal.net)

One of the biographies on our website is for Alfred L. Seeley who operated a mail delivery service in San Diego. There is a link to the Seeley Stable Museum where Mr. Seeley is identified as Albert Lewis Seeley. According to an article quoted in The Journal of San Diego History, July 1957 Mr. Seeley's name is Alfred Lazarous Seeley. Chris wants to find a lineage for Alfred/Albert > Seeley.

**SGS Response:** On the SGS CD there are 2 entries:

Seeley, Albert b. abt 1825 Galena, IL and m. abt 1857 Yreka, Sisk., CA to Emma Walker

Seeley, Albert Lewis b. abt 1822 Marshall Co. IL and d. abt 1895 Sonoma ? CA married to Emily Walker b. abt 1835 Manchester, England

No parents are listed for either entry.

In the May 1994 issue of the SGS newsletter there is an article by Barbara Cullings who had visited the Seeley Stable. In talking with the attendant Barbara was given more information: Albert and Emily Walker Seeley had 6 children, one an adopted son who committed suicide in 1877. Their daughter Florence died at age 2 in 1885. After leaving San Diego in 1895 he built a home in San Francisco and later homesteaded in Sonoma County.

I can't find Albert/Alfred in the 1850 census.

1860 census Dawson, TX

A. L. Seely, age 29, b. IL, road agent He is one of several men living with Wellington Bramhall and wife Mary D. - all involved with stage stop work.

1870 census San Diego, San Diego, CA:

Seeley, Albert, age 39, b. IL, mail contractor

Seeley, Emilie, age 35, b. ENG

*Please See SGS Queries Page 18*

**SGS Queries** (continued from page 17)

Seeley, Mary, age 4, b. CA  
 Seeley, Charles, age 10, b. TX  
 Warren, Vina, age 11, b. CA

1880 census San Diego, San Diego, CA:

Sealey, Albert L., age 53, mail cont., b. IL, f. b. NY,  
 m. b. -

Sealey, Emma, age 38, b. England as are parents  
 all children. b. CA to f. b. IL, m. b. Eng.

Sealey, Mary, age 14  
 Sealey, William, age 8  
 Sealey, Carrie, age 5  
 Sealey, Fannie, age 3

1900 census San Francisco, CA:

Seeley, Emily M, b. Feb 1836 England, widow,  
 entered US in 1860, 5 ch., 5 living

Seeley, Clara, dau., single, b. Jun 1879 CA, f. b. IL,  
 m. b. ENG

McLean, Lavene, dau., married, b. Jun 1878 CA, f. b.  
 IL, m. b. ENG 1 ch., 1 living

1910 census San Francisco, San Francisco, CA:

Seely, Emily, age 66, b. England, widow, 8 ch, 5  
 living

Hicks, Ada, age 27, roomer, b. CA, parents b. Ireland

Hicks, Ada M, age 4, roomer, b. CA, parents b. CA

1920 census San Francisco, San Francisco, CA:

Seeley, Emily, age 85, b. ENG, entered US in 1864,  
 widow

Frank, Leo, age 58, barber, b. Germany, boarder

California Marriage Records:

Fannie L Seeley m. Henry Watts McLean 5 Apr 1898  
 Los Angeles, CA

Emily Seeley died 27 January 1920 in San Francisco  
 at age 85. Chris is trying to get a copy of the death  
 record. Can anyone find Albert/Alfred's birth or death  
 information?

**Query 0711-3** Submitted by Dr Richard Seeley  
 ([rassdsee@aol.com](mailto:rassdsee@aol.com))

Dr Seeley who spoke at the 2007 reunion would like  
 to verify his information on his descent from Benjamin  
 Seeley, reportedly of the Isle of Guernsey and emigrant  
 in Argyle, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia before 1775. There he  
 married Susan Merrifield (b. 30 Aug 1742) and had 2  
 sons, Thomas and Henry.

Thomas m. 16 Nov 1777 Mehitable, dau. of Josiah  
 Forbes. They had 2 sons, Benjamin and Henry (b. 16  
 Sept 1778).

Henry married Margaret (Peggy) Hart Scotia on 10  
 July 1806. They had a son Benjamin.  
 Benjamin was married 4 times. Richard descends from  
 the 2nd wife, Margaret Synder/Snyder. Benjamin and  
 Margaret had 5 children:

Elias, b. 1839, d. 21 Oct 1933, married Lydia E  
 Larkin, resided Beverly, Essex, MA. One son, Edward.  
 Margaret Susan, married twice, resided Beverly, Essex,  
 MA

William Willoby Austin who m. Emily Trefry of Nova  
 Scotia.

George Samuel Seeley b. approx. 1839 Smith Cove,  
 Digby, Nova Scotia and d. 3 Nov 1901 Beverly, Essex,

MA. He was a fisherman and resided in Beverly, Essex,  
 MA. He married Nancy E Meservey of Marblehead who  
 was b. Beverly 7 Aug 1836 or 1837 to Joseph and Sarah  
 Meservey and who d. 3 Sept 1855. Richard says George  
 S. and Nancy Seeley had 2 sons, Joseph Benjamin  
 Foster Seeley and Arthur Seeley and a daughter. Joseph  
 Benjamin Foster Seeley was Richard's grandfather  
 through his son Joseph Harold, one of 8 children of  
 Joseph BF Seeley and his wife Catherine Perkins Gould,  
 residents of Salem, MA.

**SGS Response:** This family was also the subject of  
 Query 0405-3 from Rick Morgan (no valid email  
 available) however we have more information now.

1860 census Beverly, Essex, MA:

George S Seeley, age 22, Lobster Man, b. NS

Nancy E Seeley, age 22, b. MA

1870 census Beverly, Essex, MA

1st family in dwelling is headed by Charlotte Maines,  
 age 73, b. Nova Scotia. Other Maines family members  
 are James, 38, John, 39, John h. 10, Sarah, 8, Charlotte,  
 6, Mary, 4 and Mary A., 31, all b. Nova Scotia

Next family is Seeley, George, age 32, mariner, b. Nova  
 Scotia, parents of foreign birth

Seeley, Nancy E., age 32, b. Nova Scotia, parents of  
 foreign birth

Seeley, George A., age 3, b. MA

Seeley, Carrie E., b. Dec 1869 MA

Maservey, Wm W., age 19, carpenter, b. MA

Next family (still same dwelling)

Seeley, Elias L., age 29, Shoemaker, b. Nova Scotia

Seeley, Lydia E., age 24, b. Nova Scotia

Seeley, Edward W., age 4, b. Nova Scotia

Crosby, Edward, age 25, show factory worker, b.

Nova Scotia

1880 census Beverly, Essex, MA:

Seeley, George S., age 42, Fisherman, b. Nova  
 Scotia as were his parents

Seeley, Nancy E., age 42, b. MA as were her parents

Seeley, George A., son, age 13, b. MA

Seeley, Carrie E., daughter, age 10, b. MA

Seeley, Joseph F., son, age 6, b. MA

Meservey, William W., brother, age 26, Carpenter, b.

MA

1900 census Beverly, Essex, MA:

Seeley, Joseph, b. Jan. 1875, MA, salesman-  
 groceries, married 4 years to

Seeley, Catherine, b. Dec 1876, MA 2 children both  
 living

Seeley, Harold, b. June 1898 MA

Seeley, Rodney, b. Dec 1899 MA

Seeley, George (father), widower, b. May 1828, age  
 62, b. Canada (Eng.), fish dealer, immigrated to US in  
 1849, naturalized citizen. (I'd say George was b. in May  
 1838 - someone couldn't subtract 62 from 1900 correctly,  
 I've seen this same mistake before. This would match his  
 age in earlier census records)

I also found George Seeley listed as a Civil War  
 veteran residing in Beverly in 1890. It says he served as  
 a private in Company K, 40 m & m (?) from 11 Aug 1862

to 25 Apr 1865. There is a comment that is hard to read but it looks like he was discharged with a disability received in action and is/was hospitalized in Worcester, MA. Then I found this:

American Civil War Soldiers database on Ancestry.com:

George Seeley: Residence: Beverly, MA, Occupation: Fish Dealer, Enlistment date: 9 Aug. 1862, age 23 as a Private, Service Record: Enlisted in Company K, 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on 3 Sept 1862. Disability discharge from same company and regiment on 23 April 1865 at Readville, MA

From Massachusetts Vital Records 1841 - 1910:

Seeley, George Arthur d. Beverly 1888 (this would be the son of George S.)

Seeley, George S. d. Beverly 1901

Joseph Benjamin Foster Seeley b. Beverly and of Beverly m. Catherine Perkins Gould b. Topsfield and of Beverly on 29 April 1896. His parents George S. and Nancy E (Meservey) Seeley. Her parents William and Lois (Rice) Gould. First marriage for both.

Benjamin Ceely and Susannah Merryfield m. 30 Aug 1742 Marblehead, MA (Second Baptist Church). Five children recorded at Marblehead: Benjamin Seeley b. 1743, George Seeley b. 1746 and buried 8 Dec 1747, Remembrance/Remember Seeley, b. 1748, Thomas Merryfield Seeley b. 1750 (bapt 28 Oct 1750) and Henry Seeley b. 1753.

The IGI says their 6th child, Sarah Seeley was b. 1754 in Berwick, ME. She married Palatiah Goodwin 21 Dec 1771 Argyle, Nova Scotia.

So, it looks to me as though we have a Benjamin Ceely/Seeley in Marblehead, Essex, MA, origin unknown. His son Thomas Merryfield was b. 1750 in Marblehead but married in Nova Scotia in 1777, Thomas has Henry b. 1778, Henry has Benjamin who has George Samuel in 1838, all in Nova Scotia and then George Samuel Seeley goes to Beverly, Essex, MA and we can trace the line down from there through the census. What we are looking for is proof of the relationships from Thomas Merryfield Seeley down to George Samuel Seeley such as birth, census, tax, marriage records, wills, etc. Also the origin of Benjamin Seeley/Ceely of Marblehead, MA in 1742. Remember to send any information to both Dr Seeley **and** your Query Editor.

**Query 0711-4** Submitted by Julie Boehm (julie2te@aol.com)

Julie is looking for information to confirm and expand upon what she inherited in old family papers. Anna Seely b.1789 Somersetshire d.1868 Wooster, Ohio m. George Albert/Alfred James b. 1785 Somersetshire d.1858 Wooster, Ohio They had a child Amelia b. 1818/1819 Bath, England. d.1888 Aurora, Illinois m. James Charles James in Franklin, Ohio. Julie has information on their descendants that she is willing to share with anyone interested.

**SGS Response:** 1880 census Aurora, Kane, IL:

James, George, age 20, machinist, b. OH, parents b. Eng.

James, Amalia, mother, widow, age 50, b. Eng., parents b. Eng.

James, Amanda, sister, age 30, b. OH  
James, Clara, sister, age 18, b. OH  
James, Charles, father, age 67 (entry has a line through it and no birth info, perhaps he died recently)

1870 census Aurora, Kane, IL:

James, JC, age 58, music dealer, b. England  
James, Amelia, 50, b. England  
James, Fred, age 31, b. OH as are all children  
James, Addie, age 24  
James, Frank, age 21  
James, Ella, age 19  
James, Zilla, age 17  
James, Geo, age 12  
James, Eva, age 9

1860 census Wooster, Wayne, Ohio:

J C James, age 49, b. England, variety store  
Amelia James, age 39, b. England  
Fred D. James, age 23, b. OH, Dig. Artist (I think an early form of photography)

Amanda H. James, age 18, b. OH  
Frank W. James, age 13, b. OH  
Ella N. James, age 9, b. OH  
Letitia G. James, age 7, b. OH  
Geo A James, age 2, b. OH  
Clara E. James, age 3/12, b. OH

1860 census Franklin, Wayne, OH:

David James, age 32, b. England  
Ellen James, age 24, b. OH  
Thomas James, age 4, b. OH  
Ann James, age 2, b. OH  
Ann James, age 67, b. PA  
Holy Moris, age 23, b. OH

1870 census Franklin, Wayne, OH:

James, Sealy (indexed as Ledly), age 52, b. England  
James, Martha, age 29, b. OH, parents foreign birth  
James, Thomas, age 9, b. OH  
James, Alfred, age 7, b. OH  
James, Edward, age 5, b. OH  
James, George, age 3, b. OH  
James, Harvey, b. Nov. 1869 OH

1860 census Franklin, Wayne, OH:

Seely James, age 47, b. England  
Martha James, age 18, b. OH

1850 census Franklin, Wayne, OH:

George James, age 60, farmer, b. England  
Ann James, age 58, b. England  
Sealy James, age 32, farmer, b. England  
David James, age 22, farmer, b. England  
Seth Smith, age 32, laborer, b. OH

According to naturalization records of Wayne Co. OH George James arrived in the US in 1845, Sealey James in 1847 and James C James in 1834.

Obituary: *Wooster Republican* 11 Feb 1858  
James, George: Died 31 Jan 1858  
George James departed this life at his residence in Franklin Township, Jan 31, aged 67y. [Note: poem]

Can anyone find information on Ann/Anna Sealy/Seeley's birth or marriage in England to George James or immigration into the US?

*Please See SGS Queries Page 20*

**SGS Queries** (continued from page 19)

**Query 0711-5** Submitted by Christine Havnar (jchavnar@sbcglobal.net)

The following biography was been posted on our website. We would like to determine T B Seeley's lineage.

T. B. SEELEY, train dispatcher and superintendent telegraph Sioux City & Pacific Railroad Company, is a native of DeKalb County, Ind.. When a boy he came to Harrison County, Iowa, with his parents; there he assisted on their farm; in 1875 he came to Dodge County, Neb., and with the exception of one year has worked for this company since; in 1878 he removed to Sioux City, where he remained one year; September, 1879, came to Onawa, Iowa; was appointed station agent and soon after removed to Missouri Valley; there held the position as train dispatcher; March 1880, came to Blair and has held his present position. From: Washington County "History of the State of Nebraska; containing a full account of its growth from an uninhabited territory to a wealthy and important state. Illustrated." Published: Chicago, The Western Historical Company, A. T. Andreas Proprietor 1882.

**SGS Response:** 1860 census Butler, Wilmington, DeKalb Co. IN:

Seely, M. T., age 32, railroad agent, b. NY  
 Seely, Charlotte, age 31, b. MI  
 Seely, Sterling, age 6, b. MI  
 Seely, Theadore, age 4, b. IN  
 Seely, Emagene, age 2, b. IN  
 Seely, Clerisse, Sen., age 55, b. NY  
 Seely, Clerisse, Jr., age 25, b. NY

1870 census Harrison, Harrison, IA:

Seeley, M T, age 44, b. NY, house carpenter  
 Seeley, Charlotte, age 31, b. MI  
 Seeley, Sterling, age 16, b. MI, apprentice carpenter  
 Seeley, Theodore, age 13, b. IN  
 Seeley, Imogene, age 12, b. IN  
 Smith, Gemie, age 16, b. MI

1880 census Fremont, Dodge, NE:

Seeley, Marcus, age 53, carpenter, b. NY, no info on parents

Seeley, Charlotte, age 53, b. MI, parents b. NY  
 Seeley, Joseph, son, age 24, b. MI, f. b. NY, m. b. MI, Carpenter  
 Seeley, Laura, d-in-law, age 20, b. IL, f. b. RI, m .b. ME

Scott, Emma, age 22, boarder, b. IL, milliner  
 Scott, Walter, age 2, boarder, b. IL

1880 census Blair, Washington, NE:

M C Seely, age 25, b. NY, telegraphing, boarding in a hotel

1885 census Fremont, Dodge, NE:

Seeley, Joseph I, age 31, b. MI  
 Seeley, Laura, age 25, b. IL  
 Seeley, Imogene, age 4, b. NE  
 Seeley, Verna, age 2, b. NE  
 Seeley, Lottie, b. 12 May 1885, NE  
 Seeley, Marquis F, age 58, b. NY  
 Seeley, Charlotte, age 57, b. MI

Burial at Ridge Cemetery, Fremont, Dodge, NE:

Charlotte Seeley 11 Dec 1828 - 30 Aug 1889

1900 census Chicago, Cook, IL:

Seeley, Marcus, b. June 1826 NY, parents b. NY, architect married 10 years to Seeley, Jennie, b. May 1844, Ireland

Some questions: Is Theodore Seeley, son of Marcus/ M T Seeley the same person as the T B Seeley of the biography? What happened to T B Seeley after 1882 (date of bio)? Who are the parents/ancestors of Marcus/ MT Seeley b. 1826-28 NY? Send any information to me so I can write an update in the next newsletter.

**Query 0711-6** Submitted by Debbi Smith (breken2022@yahoo.com)

Debbi came across a Seeley gravesite in the Rock Hill Cemetery in Foxboro, MA. She has posted photos of the gravestone on [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).

Almon F Seeley 5 Jan 1819 - 7 11 1907

Elvira Graves Seeley 21 Jan 1825 - 1 Apr 1904

Son Rodney H Seeley 16 Nov 1846 - 15 Nov 1902

She is wondering who these Seeleys are.

**SGS Response:** 1900 census Foxboro, Norfolk, MA (Fourth Street)

Seeley, Almond, b. Jan 1819 NY as were parents, age 81, married 55 years, retired

Seeley, Elvira, b. Jan 1825 NY as were parents, 4 children, 1 living

1880 census Athol, Worcester, MA

Seeley, Almon F., age 60, b. NY, father b. MA, mother b. NY, occupation: Road master

Seeley, Elvira, age 54, b. NY as were her parents

1850 census Moira, Franklin, NY

Seeley, Almon, age 31, b. NY, farmer

Seeley, Alvira, age 24, b. NY

Seeley, Rodney H, age 3, b. NY

Seeley, Mary M, 1 mo., b. NY

1840 census Moira, Franklin, NY

Benjamin Seeley: 1 male 5-10, 1 male 10- 15, 1 male 20-30, 1 male 50-60; 1 female under 5, 2 female 15-20, 1 female 40-50

There are three Seelys in Malone, Franklin, NY

Alla Seely, Nathan W. Seely and Nathaniel Seely. None have a son the age of Almon.

There is an Ira Seeley in Fort Covington, Franklin, NY: 1 male 10-15, 1 male 15-20, 1 male 50-60; 1 female 15-20, 1 female 20-30, 1 female 50-60

From "A History of St Lawrence and Franklin Counties, NY"

Appleton Foote of Middlebury, VT an agent for the proprietors of Moira brought in Benjamin Seeley and family to assist him and they were the first family to settle in Moira.

Can anyone identify this Benjamin Seeley and/ or show that he is the father of Almon F.?

**Query 0711-7** Submitted by Christine Havnar (jchavnar@sbcglobal.net)

Here are excerpts from another biography Chris found for our website.

Isaac Casper Seeley from "History of the City of

Minneapolis, Minnesota" edited by Isaac Atwater, published 1893 by Munsell & Company, pages 715-718.

Nearly the entire business life of Mr. Seeley has been passed in Minneapolis. Coming here at the age of thirty years, after a boyhood passed upon a western farm, a collegiate education procured by his own industry, a war experience of thrilling incident in the saddle as a dashing cavalry soldier, and months of cruelest suffering in Anderson prison, followed by a six year's course in college and law school, he has for twenty years been one of the most active, enterprising and successful business men of the city.

His ancestors were among the colonial settlers of Connecticut of Pilgrim stock. A branch of the family emigrated to Saratoga County, N.Y., whence Nathaniel Seeley, his father, passed to Michigan, where he taught school, and eventually settled down on a farm. He married Sophia Ann Sherwood, a native of Rochester, N.Y.

Isaac C. Seeley was born January 22, 1843, in the township of Plainwell, Allegan County, Mich. He grew up amid rural surroundings and engaged in rustic labors. He was an active lad, with eyes and ears alert to whatever was passing in the world around him. He was seventeen years old when the presidential election occurred at which Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were competitors, one of the most exciting which has ever agitated the nation. He joined a wide awake club at Plainwell, and drove a wagon to bring voters to the polls. Of course he attached himself to the Republican party. About this time he left home to attend a seminary in preparation for college, and being obliged to provide for himself, he obtained and taught a school near Kalamazoo, Mich. When the tocsin of war sounded throughout the country, calling the young men to arms, himself and another young man, were the first two recruits who put down their names Allegan County. He was rejected as too young to be a soldier. He applied himself again to study and teaching, and after sixteen months again enlisted. He was mustered into the service August 14, 1862, and was assigned to Company "L," Fourth Regiment of Michigan Cavalry. This regiment has a brilliant record. (see our website for details)

Isaac Seeley was discharged at Nashville on the 8th of July, 1865. Mr. Seeley married February 9, 1876, Mrs. Julia M. Willard, daughter of Henry L. Hubbard of Minneapolis. They have one daughter, Edith, born Oct. 5th, 1877.

**SGS Response: 1850 census Gunplain, Allegan, MI**

Nathanl Seeley, age 38, b. NY, farmer  
 Sophia A Seeley, age 24, b NY  
 Jacob C Seeley, age 7, b. MI as are his siblings  
 Eunice M. Seeley, age 5  
 George D. Seeley, age 3  
 Samuel E Seeley, age 2

**1860 census Gunplain, Allegan, MI**

Nathaniel Seale, age 48, b. NY, farmer  
 Sophia A. Seale, age 35, b. NY  
 Isaac Seale, age 17, b. MI as are his siblings  
 Nanse Seale, age 15

George Seale, age 13  
 Samuel E. Seale, age 12  
 Alfred Seale, age 10  
 Louisa Seale, age 8  
 Mary Seale, age 6  
 Albert Seale, age 4  
 Emma Seale, age 2  
 Infant Seale, age 1/12

**1870 census Plainwell, Allegan, MI (Indexed Luley)**

Seeley, Nathaniel, age 59, b. NY, farmer  
 Seeley, Sophia, age 47  
 Seeley, Isaac C., age 27, student, b. MI as are all children  
 Seeley, Alfred M., age 20, works on farm  
 Seeley, Lucy A., age 18, at home  
 Seeley, Mary J., age 16, at home  
 Seeley, Albert S., age 14, works on farm  
 Seeley, Emma R., age 12, at school  
 Seeley, Abby, age 8, at school  
 Seeley, Lane J (male), age 2

**1880 census Gun Plains Township, Allegan, MI**

Seeley, Nathaniel, age 68, b. NY, parents b. CT, farmer  
 Seeley, Sophia, age 56, wife, b. NY, parents b. unknown  
 Seeley, Abner, age 28, son, b. MI, parents b. NY, works on farm  
 Seeley, Emma, age 22, dau., b. MI, parents b. NY  
 Seeley, Abby, age 17, b. MI, parents b. NY  
 Seeley, Lain, age 12, son, b. MI, parents b. NY  
 Russ, Mary R., age 6 mos (b. Dec 1879) grand-dau., b. MI, parents b. MI

**1880 census Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., MN**

Seeley, Isaac C, age 38, b. MI, parents b. NY Real estate and Loan Agent  
 Seeley, Julia M. age 39, b. NY, parents b. NY  
 Seeley, Edith L., age 2, dau. b. MN  
 Willard, Fannie M., age 22, step-dau., b. NY, parents b. NY  
 Willard, George H., age 20, step-son, clerk in office, b. Louisiana, parents b. NY

**1900 census Kalamazoo Ward 2, Kalamazoo, MI**

Seeley, Alfred, b. June 28 1850 MI, parents b. NY, painter and paper hanger  
 Seeley, Julia, b. Mar 17 1855 NY, no children  
 Rees, Mable E., niece, b. Feb 17 1878 MI, parents b. MI, day laborer

**1900 census Minneapolis, Hennepin, MN (indexed as Serley)**

Seeley, I. C., b. Jan 1843, MI, real estate and ins.  
 Seeley, Julia M, b. Oct 1843, married 24 years, 4 children, 3 living  
 Willard, George H, step-son, b. Sept 1861, LA, insurance firm  
 Pevay, John W, son-in-law, b. July 1859 NH, book Keeper, bank  
 Pevay, Edith S., dau. b. Oct 1877 MN 2 servants  
 Woodside Cemetery, Gun Plains Township, Allegan Co MI

*Please See SGS Queries Page 22*

**SGS Queries** (continued from page 21)

Seeley: G.C., 1846 - 1918

Nathaniel, 1811 - 1888

Nathaniel, son of N & SA b. May 9, 1860, d. Aug 11 1863

Sophia, 1824 - 1903 (CR Sophia Ann d. Oct 19 1903, age 79 at Mattaw)

From USGenWeb, Michigan, Allegan County vitals

Seeley, Nathaniel and Sophia Ann Sherwood married 18 Jul 1839

Seeley, Alfred N. and Delia G Bennett 15 Mar 1882

Seeley, Charles D and Libbie Weaver 17 Sept 1882

Seeley, Lucy A and James J Steele 21 Nov 1870

Seeley, Emma R and Charles F Hicks 4 Apr 1883

John Seely's database on the SGS CD shows that this Nathaniel Seeley who married Sophia Ann Sherwood was b. 28 Dec 1811 in Saratoga, NY to Isaac and Mary Seeley - lineage unknown.

Can anyone verify this information and identify this Isaac Seeley, grandfather of Isaac Casper Seeley?

**Query 0711-8** Submitted by Marilyn Muñoz (hotshots@netgate.net)

Marilynn is wondering about the children of Mary Seeley (SGS #11) and Jonathan Squires, in particular their son Seeley b. 1701 and his wife. We have several children listed for Mary and Jonathan Squire/s in the SGS database including Seeley and show him married to Phebe Sears, b. 1733, dau. of Joshua Sears and Mary Thatcher. Can anyone find out where that information came from and the sources it is based on?

The other Squire/s children listed are Ann b. abt 1685 Woodbury, CT, all the others b. in Fairfield, CT: Jonathan b. abt 1687, Nathaniel (SGS # 48a) b. abt 1690, Abigail b. abt 1694, Mary b. abt 1694, Deborah b. abt 1699, with Seeley born last in 1701.

**SGS Response:** I haven't found a listing of these children. None of the children are in the Barbour transcription for Fairfield, CT. I saw one reference that Seeley Squire enlisted in the Rev War from Norwalk, CT and may have been from Woodbury, Litchfield, CT. Our "Descendants of Robert Seely, Generations One Through Five" only lists Nathaniel as a child of Mary and Jonathan Squire with the note "probably other children". It says the information is from Lineage Books, Daughters of American Colonists. If you can verify the name of the wife of Seeley Squire or document the births of Seeley and his siblings please contact me.

**Query 0711-9** Submitted by Iva Jean Wheeler (ijwheeler@comcast.net)

Iva Jean is looking for the ancestry of Mercy Seeley. She was married 27 Aug.1761 in New Canaan, Fairfield, CT. First Cong. Church to Robert Blatchley Jr. They had 5 children, all baptized at same church in New Canaan:

Sarah Blatchley b. 28 Mar 1762

Samuel Blatchley b. 1 Apr 1764

Ebenezer Selah (Seeley) Blatchley b. 27 Oct 1765

Mary Blatchley b. 27 Sep 1767

Joseph Blatchley b. 25 Jun 1769.

Mercy died about 1770-1773 as Robert Blatchley Jr. married Cata (Catherine) Smith in the same church 3 Jan

1775.

Iva Jean has been looking for Mercy for quite a while - she had a query in the Feb. 1992 SGS newsletter.

**SGS Response:** None to date. Please let me know if you have any information on this Mercy Seeley.

**Query 0711-10** Submitted by Linda Crocker (llbc100@msn.com)

In doing some research for the queries I came across "The History of Ancient Woodbury (CT)" by William Cothren, a book the U of Michigan has added to their digital library. There is a reference on p.670 to Molly Pierce, 6th child of Samuel and Martha Edmonds Pierce, b. between 1795 and 1800 who married \_\_\_\_\_ Seeley and had a daughter Patty who m.1 Garry French and m.2 Henry B. Stiles of Southbury, CT. Patty and Henry B. Stiles' children (listed on page 700) were Jennette M, Ellen E. and Alice Stiles. I'm wondering who Patty Seeley's father is.

The "Peirce Genealogy" (Frederick Peirce, 1880) identifies Mary Pierce, dau of Samuel and Martha Edmonds Pierce as b. 6 Feb 1780 and d. 9 Jun 1851, m. unknown Seeley. However the "History of Ancient Woodbury" identifies Mary as the 2nd child (same birth date) of Samuel and Martha and lists no husband.

**SGS Response:** Patty is in the database as Patty T., just listed with her 2nd husband, Henry B. Stiles. Can anyone identify the father of Patty Seeley?

**HOW TO SUBMIT A QUERY**

If you would like to submit a query please follow a few guidelines.

**Be specific and detailed:** Give us all the information you have about the person or family in question, **especially dates and locations.**

**What resources have you already consulted?** The SGS publications or website? The census? Cemetery records? County histories? Family Bible? Others? (specify)

**What exactly do you want to know?** Parents' names and details? Sibling information? Information on a family marrying into the Seeley family? Our sources?

**After your query is printed** please keep us informed about any information you receive or further progress you make on your own. Other members may be interested or related to your line.

We will publish an update to your query with any new information we receive. This may lead to even more information. One more name, date or place may be the key to linking your line to another. Your query will also be posted on our website. Make sure we have your current contact details – sometimes we get new information months or even years after your query appears.

**HOW TO ANSWER A QUERY**

If you have information to share on queries from current or past issues, send it to the query submitter and also to Linda Crocker, Query Editor. Please include the Query number, preferably in the subject line of your email. Remember to cite your sources.

## SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2007 - 2009

**SGS Constitution, Art IV, Sect. 1:** The elected officers of the Society shall be a President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Genealogist, and three Directors elected from the general membership.

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## SGS Appointed Officers & Volunteers for 2007 - 2009

**SGS Constitution, Art IV, Sect. 1:** "The President shall appoint an Ancestor Files Chairman, a Membership Chairman, a Publications Editor, Assistant Genealogists as required, and a Director for the National Research Center." **SGS By-Laws, Art. III, Section 9:** "The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the board of directors and committees in a non-voting advisory capacity." **SGS By-Laws, Art. III, SECTION 10:** "The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may establish other positions and collateral duties not named elsewhere."

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## Seeley Genealogical Society Membership Form

NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

TELEPHONE NO. (Optional)

ADDRESS (Number, Street)

E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)

ADDRESS (City, State, Zip)

DESCENDANT OF:  Robert  Obadiah  Other (Attached)  Unknown

I/we have submitted our Seeley line back as far as known  
to John R. Seely, SGS Ancestor Files Chairman

YES  PLANNING TO  
 NO

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:  ONE YEAR \$8.00  TWO YEARS \$15.00  THREE YEARS \$21.00  
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MAIL FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEE TO: IVEY HARRIS  
24469 163rd STREET  
LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048-7329



## Seeley Genealogical Society

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## SGS Publications for Order

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

SGS has several publications and research tools for sale.

1. *The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), Generations One Through Five, 1997 Edition* (U.S. \$17)
2. *The Sixth Generation Families, 1995 Edition* (U.S. \$17)
3. *The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1601-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 2000 Edition* (U.S. \$25)
4. The SGS CD-ROM -- Rev. 7, Jan. 2007 (U.S. \$15) that includes:
  - Folder A: the Three SGS Publications by Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen
  - Folder B: SGS Ancestral File Index by J.R. Seely
  - Folder C: 1980's Research Rpt. on Obadiah Seeley (New Eng. records), Fred C. Hart, Jr., CG
  - Folder D: Research Report on Robert Seeley by Alan Phipps, MA, AG
  - Folder E: 2006 Research Rpt on Obadiah Seeley (old English records), Clifford L. Stott, CG
5. The SRC Document Index (with change 2 entered) lists documents shelved at the Seelye Research Center (U.S. \$10).

Items 1, 2, and 3 should be ordered from Terry Tietjens, item 4 from Bob Seeley, and item 5 from Pamela Turner. You can find contact information (address, phone number, & e-mail address) on page 19.

## SGS Area Coordinators

(List Updated as of November 2007)

Area Coordinators help the Query Editor respond to queries. They also help the Membership Chairperson recruit new members in their areas. Here are the volunteer SGS area coordinators:

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*SGS Query Editor	Linda Crocker

Is your state or province missing from the above list? If so, we need you! Contact Kathie Olsen.

\*Means address is on page 19