



SGS International Reunion Held In Williamsburg

During the Sept. 4 board meeting, the board agreed that:

- * The \$500 contribution from the Living Trust of Winthrop Seeley would be added to the SGS Research Fund
- * Members would be encouraged to help defray the costs of mailing newsletters to libraries and societies that now get them at SGS expense by paying for newsletter subscriptions to their favorite and or local organizations.
- * Members would be encouraged to nominate a former SGS member for the FGS Posthumous Volunteer Hall of Honor [unlimited number of deceased individuals] and for the FGS Living Volunteer Hall of Honor [one per year]. Nominations should be made to Jim Seeley. Criteria are the amount and type of volunteer service rendered. The criteria do not include background, years of research, education, etc.
- * The annual SGS contribution to the Seelye Research Center is increased from \$500 to \$750.

During the Thursday meeting of the board of directors, Program Coordinator Tammy Graham led a get acquainted meeting of other members present including several first time attendees.

During the opening session on Thursday afternoon, Mr. Joe Schumacher, district director for U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis, made welcoming remarks and read a letter from the congresswoman.

The president introduced the reunion planning committee comprising of Tammy Graham [program coordinator], Tom Seeley [location coordinator], and Paul and Carolyn Taylor [tour coordinators]. He then introduced the members of the SGS Board of Directors.

The registration desk was open during daytime non-meeting hours and hosted by Veronica Seeley Newell, Donna M. Seeley, and Ivey Harris. More



SGS President Jim Seeley welcomes the membership in attendance to the 2003 SGS International Reunion held Sept. 4, 5, and 6 in Williamsburg, VA.

than 70 people attended the reunion. The registrars distributed registration folders, collected registration money, money for meals, and tours, sold reunion souvenirs [t-shirts, hats, lapel pins, tote bags, CDs containing John Seely's Ancestor File Index and the three SGS publications], and took orders for the 2003 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book (see the note about SGS publications on Page 15).

A hospitality room was open each day from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The board met there. SGS provided soft drinks, juice, cookies, a computer, and

Continued on Page 7

Inside This Issue

Presidents Report.....	2
DNA Testing Project Update.....	3
The Seeley Women Book	4
Treasurer's Report.....	6
Reunion Photos.....	7-9
Reunion Attendees	10
New Members.....	10
Canadian Corner	11
An Update On Logan Seelye	11
Queries	12-14
SGS Officers for 2003-2005	15
SGS Publications.....	15
Justus, My black Sheep.....	16



The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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Editor:

Paul Taylor

Address newsletter correspondence to:

SGS Newsletter
3848 Frazier Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Phone: 757-471-1188

email: pccntaylor@cox.net

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

Seelye National Research Center

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

Seelye Research Center, Director
 Terry Tietjens
 P.O. Box 337, 1105 N. Buckeye
 Abilene, KS 67410-0337
 Phone: (785) 263-1084
 email: terryt@access-one.com

SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for September 2005 in Abilene, KS. Please advise the editor if your branch or family have plans for a sectional or local reunion in the interim. Others might like to know about it.

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

The President's Report

I thought we had a very successful reunion with about 70 people attending. We have included a number of reunion articles in this newsletter.

The constitution and by-laws, as published with proposed changes in the May 2003 SGS Newsletter, were approved.

The reunion attendees agreed with me to publish a reunion souvenir book and to charge \$27 a copy to cover production and mailing costs. Proceeds will go to SGS.

See the book's contents and ordering info on page 15 under the headline SGS Publications. The book is designed as a keepsake for those who were able to attend and as a text and pictorial summary of the reunion for those who couldn't be there.

We have two new members on the SGS Executive Board; Chris Havnar is our new treasurer and Dian Little is our new chief genealogist. A biography of these ladies will appear in a newsletter soon. See the names of the new board members, appointees, and their email and postal addresses on page 15.

Wesley Waring has asked his geneticist advisor for her analysis of the DNA test results along with her recommendations on where we should go from here. Wesley will continue to lead the Obadiah DNA Test Project and report status in our quarterly newsletter. I have also appointed a committee to help the executive board and me determine what additional DNA testing SGS should sponsor. Our new Chief Genealogist Dian Little, heads the committee and she will be assisted by Ray Hall and Wesley Waring.

It was a pleasure to announce at the Reunion that John Seely earned an FGS [Federation of Genealogical Societies] Living Volunteer Hall of Honor award for 2003. I would like to hear members' recommendations for this same award for 2004 and recommendations for the FGS Posthumous Volunteer Hall of Honor. There is no limit on the number of nominees for the posthumous award. Criteria are the amount and type of volunteer service rendered. The criteria do not include background, years of research, education, etc.

Bill Thresher was awarded a certificate and a letter of commendation for his 11 years service as SGS Treasurer. George Seeley received a letter of commendation for his six years of service as a vice president and membership chairman. Both of these positions get at the heart of the strength of SGS and require considerable time and effort. Our thanks go to both of these gentlemen for their outstanding work.

It was suggested, at the reunion, that a project be initiated to examine the inputs of members and the ancestor file index to compile a list of all principal immigrants, other than Robert Seeley and Obadiah Seeley, with the objective of documenting descendant lines from other primary immigrants of all spellings of the Seeley surname. If you would be willing to lead, or contribute to such a project, please contact me.

Jim Seeley
 SGS President



Update on SGS DNA Testing Project

Story By Wesley Waring, SGS DNA Project Coordinator

As we reported in the last several SGS Newsletters, the reason the Y-Line DNA test project was started was to help determine whether or not there was a relationship between Nathaniel and Obadiah.

Previous research shows a baptism of Nathaniel son of Robert but no indication of a relationship between Obadiah and Robert.

Since this is a Y-chromosome test, the donors need to be males from an unbroken line back to the original ancestor.

Donors were found for all lines except Robert SGS #6 and Joseph SGS #8 on the Nathaniel line and Cornelius SGS #18 on the Obadiah line.

Oxford Ancestors Lab in the U.K. was chosen to do our testing.

When results of all the samples were complete, two of the samples on the Nathaniel line were identical giving a Y-Line signature for the Nathaniel line.

One of the samples from the Obadiah line was different from these two by only one number at one marker. This indicates that there is a relationship but it is uncertain how close. The lab grouped these three samples together.

The other two samples were closer to each other than to the other three, although one was from the Nathaniel side and one was from the Obadiah side. The lab grouped them together for that reason.

Since they aren't the same, we don't have a Y-Line signature for the Obadiah line.

The explanation from the lab is: (The samples were grouped according to the results of the

genetic analysis "objectively with no reference to any genealogical hypothesis". We do this as DNA analysis can only be used "safely" as a hypothesis tester, rather than the basis to formulate a hypothesis. In addition, written records are subject to far more accidental and, in some cases, deliberate modifications than is DNA.)

Our next step is to submit samples from different donors on the two Obadiah lines to see what the results are. That is in process.

The explanation for the *M is "an unusual change in the DNA sequence making it impossible to allocate a specific band for marker (*M)."

The Seeley Genealogical Society (SGS) numbers have been in use since the earliest publications. Robert is #1, Nathaniel #2, Obadiah #4. SGS #3 was assigned to a second son Nathaniel. This was proven to be wrong and his name removed so SGS #3 isn't in use. Nathaniel SGS #2 had 15 children. Only the surviving males are listed to avoid confusion.

The notes below are interpretations and comments from the lab.

1. The table shows the Y-Line signatures (haplotypes) of five Seeley/Seelye/Seelys analyzed at ten microsatellite regions on the Y-chromosome.

2. The Y-Line signatures for the participants have been separated into two groups. Each group (A [SGS #5 and SGS #17] and B {SGS #7, SGS #9 and SGS #19}) probably had its own recent Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA), but it is not possible to determine which group is most likely to represent the haplotype of the original

Continued on Page 5

Seeley Y-Line DNA Test Chart										
SGS #2 Nathaniel Line										
	DYS 19	DYS 388	DYS 390	DYS 391	DYS 392	DYS 393	DYS 389I	DYS 389-II-I	DYS 425	DYS 426
Nathaniel SGS # 5	14	12	24	11	13	13	09	16	12	12
Robert SGS #6										
Benjamin SGS#7	14	12	24	11	13	13	09	17	*M	12
Joseph SGS#8										
John SGS#9	14	12	24	11	13	13	09	17	*M	12
SGS #4 Obadiah Line										
Obadiah SGS#17	14	12	24	11	13	12	10	16	12	12
Cornelius SGS#18										
Jonas SGS#19	14	12	24	11	13	13	09	18	*M	12

The Seeley Women Book and How to Find Maiden Names

By Dian Little, SGS Chief Genealogist

The Seeley Genealogical Society is producing a book on Seeley Women. The objective is to add descendent data on women with a maiden Seeley [spelled a variety of ways] surname. The current SGS publications list these women's children, but stop there.

Please send me information you have on the children of 7th generation Seeley women and their descendants. Submissions could be of the following type:

- * New individuals descended from a woman with a Seeley maiden surname that are not listed in the 7th Generation Book. [e.g., names of 8th generation descendants not previously listed.]
- * Wives of Seeley men in published books.
- * Additional information for Seeley women from other published books

If you are adding to an existing family, please include SGS numbers. New numbers will be assigned to additional family members in coordination with databases in other published books. Please submit the information on paper or GEDCOM file to SGS Chief Genealogist Dian Little whose contact data can be found on page 15 of this newsletter.

Here is an example

of how additional or revised information on previously listed women will be incorporated. Fig. 1 shows how information is presented now in the 7th Generation Book, page 33, Nathaniel section.

Figure 1

790	Deborah Seelye (7) Nehemiah Seelye; Benjamin; John; Benjamin; Nathaniel; Robert) (b 20 May 1795) b 20 May 1795, Kingsbury NY) m Nov 1817, Oliver Millard...
	m Nov 1817 Oliver Leonard Millard...

Figure 2

Page	SGS #	Seeley Woman, Nathaniel Line/Spouse	Parents
7	13	Phoebe Seeley	Nathaniel & Mary Turney
7	15	Rebecca Seeley	Nathaniel & Mary Turney
10	36b	Martha Seeley	Joseph & Mary Goodwin Jackson
16	87	Anna Seeley	Nehemiah & Miriam Botsford

Figure 3

Page	SGS #	Seeley Woman, Obadiah Line/Spouse	Parents
3	54	Elizabeth Seeley	Cornelius & Priscilla Osborn
3	56	Sarah Seeley	Cornelius & Priscilla Osborn
4	161	Mary Seeley	Cornelius & Mary Jones
13	422	Mercy Seeley Elliot Green	Obadiah & Abigail Crissy

Figure 4 Wive's of Nathaniel & His Descendants

Page	SGS #	Seeley Wives, Nathaniel Line/Spouse	Parents
6	2	Mary Turney Nathaniel Seeley	Benjamin Turney & Mary O'dell
6	2	Elizabeth Burr Olmstead Gilbert Nathaniel Seeley, Nehemiah Olmstead Obadiah Gilbert	John/Jehu Burr
7	5	Hannah Bennett Nathaniel Seeley	James & Hannah Wheeler Bennett
7	5	Deborah Struges Benjamin Seeley	John & Deborah Barlow

Figure 5 Wive's of Obadiah & His Descendants

Page	SGS # spouse	Seeley Wives, Obadiah Line/Spouse	Parents
2	1317	1. Sarah Annah Slauter 2. Rhoda Weed	1. (?) 2. Jabez Weed & (?)
2	1320	Sarah Slater	(?)
2	1323	Kezia Jocelyn	(?)
2	1327	Mary Lessig	(?)

With the additional information the entry will include the data below. (Note: bold typeface indicates new or revised data.)

790 Deborah Seelye (7) Nehemiah Seelye;
Benjamin; John; Benjamin; Nathaniel; Robert)
(b 20 May 1795, Kingsbury NY)

m Nov 1817, Oliver Leonard Millard (b 1793).

As a widower, Oliver m as 2nd wife, his wife's niece, Electa Seelye, SGS #2222. Daughter of Benjamin Seelye.

Resided Lockport, NY at Millard's Bridge.

Children (8)

2247 Junius A Millard. (b 1816, d 1900.) He had a son, Oliver Leonard Millard, a banker of Jessel, MI.

2248 Mary **Amelia** Millard. m Alexander Campbell. B.

2250a John J. L. Millard. B1820

2249 **Dewitt** Clinton Millard (b 1823)...

2250b Minerva Millard. B 1826

2250b
2250

Minerva Millard. B 1826
Cornelia Hortense Millard (b 1828) m Gaston J. Banghau and had children.

All of the children of Oliver Leonard Millard and Deborah Seelye were born in Lockport N. Y. at Millard's Bridge. He owned a farm at Millard's Bridge.

Note: Hortense Bingham Millard SGS #2250 is the daughter of Dewitt Clinton Millard #2249, not Deborah and Leonard.

Initially, I would like members to provide info on the specific SGS women listed in Figures two, three, four and five.

Ideas on Finding Maiden Names

As early families migrated away from the eastern cities they often traveled in related family groups, from and to neighboring communities. These relationships were represented in census, church and land records. □

SGS Trip to England in 2004

All are invited to join SGS for a visit to England in 2004. Tentative cost is \$999 per person including hotels, breakfasts and some other meals, plus admissions to attractions. For more information, contact Kathie Olsen (contact data on page 15).

Tentative Itinerary

Sat., Sept. 11	Meet at Plaza Hotel, Hyde Park, London, England
Sun., Sept. 12	General Meeting of all participants Leave London at 9:00 Drive to Huntingdon Visit Hinchingsbrooke House Stay at Marriott Hotel
Mon., Sept. 13	Visit Huntingdon and area Great Gransden, Huntingdon area Churches Houghton Mills Stay at Marriott Hotel
Tues., Sept. 14	Drive to Stratford Visit Kenilworth Castle Visit birthplace of Shakespeare Attend Theatre Stay at Stratford
Wed., Sept. 15	Drive to Portsmouth via Oxford Visit Portsmouth Dockyards Possible visit to Isle of Wight Stay at ?
Thu., Sept. 16	Drive to Battle (Site of the Battle of Hastings, Battle Abbey) Return to London Stay at Plaza Hotel on Hyde Park
Fri., Sept. 17	Visit the Sites of London □

DNA Update Continued (From Page 3)

"Seeley/Seelye/Seely" line. Indeed, it is possible that there was more than one founder of what is now considered to be the "Seeley/Seelye/Seely" line, but the relative rarity of these Y-Line signatures indicates a single common origin.

3. The Y-Line signatures in group A differ from each other at two markers, indicating that, on the balance of probability, their Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA) lived within the last 1,000 years.

4. Of the three Y-Line signatures in group B, two are identical and one differs from the others at only one marker, indicating that, on the balance of probability, their CPA also lived within the last 500 to 1,000 years.

5. The Y-Line signatures in group A differ from those in group B at two or four markers. The CPA for the two groups, on the balance of probability, lived within the last 2,000 years.

6. The comments above represent just one possible set of interpretations of these genetic data and have been made objectively with no reference to any genealogical hypothesis. As such, these comments should be treated with appropriate caution and the interpretation of the underlying genetics of the Seeley/Seelye/Seely surname in the modern population may change if more data becomes available.

Updates to the DNA project will be made in the newsletter when available. Contact Wes Waring for more information (info on page 15). □

Area Coordinators

SGS has a program whereby area coordinators assist the executive board in achieving goals for the organization. Among other things, area coordinators help the query editor respond to queries in their area and they help the membership chair with initiatives to help increase the number of members in their area. But perhaps most importantly they can be great sources of information about SGS and genealogy in general.

Arizona	Ann Hall (Ramon Hall's Wife)*
New York	Marshall Seelye* (Warren, Washington & Saratoga Counties)
California	Christine Havnar*
Utah	Jeffry A. Allred allred@inetz.com 10287 S. Calla Lily Way Sandy, UT
Colorado	Ann Hall*
Wyoming	Ann Hall
Kansas	Terry Tietjens*
Quebec, Canada	Dian Little*
Montana	Ann Hall*
New Mexico	Ann Hall*

*Means addresses are on page 15 ☐

Volunteers Needed

Listed below are SGS Projects that need volunteers. Also listed is a person to contact if you are willing to contribute some time. Contact data for the below POCs can be found on page 15.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Points Of Contact</u>
Area Coordinator	Dian Little
Plan SGS Genealogical Research	Dian Little
Assist at SGS Research Center	Terry Tietjens
Plan for SGS Reunion in 2005	Jim Seeley
Give Presentation @ 2005 Reunion	Jim Seeley
Contribute to <i>Seeley Women</i> book	Dian Little
Compile a "Famous Seeleys" list	Marshall Seelye
Compile list of Seeley Veterans	Marshall Seelye
Obadiah DNA Test Project	Wesley Waring
Other DNA Projects	Dian Little
Nominating Committee for 2005	Jim Seeley
Trip to Great Britain in 2004	Kathie Olsen
Identify primary immigrants	Jim Seeley

The last project is a new one that would examine inputs from members and the ancestor file index (now available on CD) to ultimately document descendant lines from other primary immigrants of all spellings of the Seeley surname [other than Robert and Obadiah Seeley]. It would be wonderful if each member could contribute to at least one project. About 20 members, plus folks who respond to queries, do SGS volunteer work now. Each has our gratitude. ☐

Seeley Genealogical Society Treasurer's Report

For the fiscal year 2003
October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003

Beginning Balance October 1, 2002	20,847.98
Add Receipts:	
Dues	2,188.00
Fifth Generation Books	374.00
Sixth Generation Books	272.00
Seventh Generation Books	525.00
Life Membership	1,100.00
Research	409.00
Bank Interest	610.76
Prepaid DNA Test	500.00
Winthrop Seelye Legacy	500.00
Pins, Hats, & Shirts	71.00
Tote Bags	360.00
Compact Disks	345.00
Reunion Books	540.00
Convention Registration	345.00
Prepaid Tours	590.00
Prepaid Meals	3,549.00
Total Receipts:	12,278.76
Total Available Cash	33,126.74
Less Disbursements:	
Postage	579.05
Supplies	177.12
Newsletters	2,071.13
Donation Seelye Archives	500.00
Dues for Fed. Of Gen. Soc.	65.00
Convention Meals	3,614.83
Convention Meeting Rooms	370.78
Convention Audio/Vis. Equipment.	49.80
Convention Speakers	755.61
Convention Tours	885.00
Convention Tote Bags	199.25
DNA Sample Kits	1,230.00
Total Disbursements	10,497.57
Ending Balance September 30, 2003	22,629.17
Regular Checking Account	8,872.13
Eff-Seelye Mem. Res. Acct.	2,457.04
Life Membership C.D.	11,300.00

*Ending balance includes the three accts. above.
W.J. Thresher
September 30, 2003



Row 1: Silvia Allred, John R. Seely, Geneva Hobbs, Marian Hileman, Lillian DeJohn, Betty Kjeldgaard, Evelyn Thresher, Dorthy Boucher, Evelyn Seelye, Dian Little, Ruthetta Hansen, Donna Seeley, Susan V. App

Row 2: Kathie Olsen, Tammy Graham, Carolyn Seeley Taylor, James R. Seeley, Sally Seeley, Ivey Harris, Klare M. Van Dusen, Melvin E. Seeley, Arthur Wade, Marshall Seelye, Frances Ellis, George Ellis, Ann Hall, Liz Alexander, Chris Havnar, Veronica Newell, Amy Manina

Row 3: Don Brill, Tom Seeley, Terry Tietjens, Garry M. Adam, Donald Harris, Robert S. Van Dusen, Lucinda Tomko, Bertrand Van't Hooft, William Thresher, Eugene Seelye, George Seeley, Wesley Waring, Jeffry Allred, Ray Hall, Dave Alexander, Bill Hileman, Leon App, John Manina

Reunion Highlights

Continued (From Page 1)

a copier. There were many interesting items on display including an updated copy of the ancestor file index [the "Blue Books"], items from the Seelye Research Center, and items from individuals.

Secretary's Report - A quorum was declared at the beginning of the Friday morning business meeting. Joan Phillips was unable to attend, but she telefaxed minutes from the last meeting, which were read for her by Dian Little. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Thresher presented the treasurer's report [as of Aug. 31] showing a balance of \$22,182.14. He will update the report as of the end of his term of office on Sept. 30. A copy of that report is on page 6 and will appear in the SGS 2003 Reunion Souvenir Book.

Audit Committee's Report - The audit committee, consisting of Tammy Graham and Chris Havnar, reported that their audit of the

Continued on Page 8



2003 SGS Reunion "Latest and Greatest"
Zoe Clyde (left), the youngest Seeley in attendance at the reunion, poses for a photo with Lillian DeJohn, the most senior Seeley attending. Eleven week-old Zoe was born June 17 to Rebecca and Matt Clyde, daughter and son-in-law of SGS members Jeffrey and Silvia Allred. Lillian most recently celebrated her 94th birthday.

Reunion Highlights Continued (From Page 7)

Nominating Committee's Report - Eugene Seelye chaired the nominating committee consisting of Walt Davis and Phyllis Smith. The following slate of nominees was elected.

President – James R. Seeley
 First Vice President – Katherine M. Olsen
 Second Vice President – Ramon E. Hall
 Secretary – Joan J. Phillips
 Treasurer – Christine Havnar
 Chief Genealogist – Dian Little
 Director – Marshall B. Seelye
 Director – Terry Tietjens
 Director – Wesley Waring
 Director [Past President] – Daniel P. Seelye

The new President later appointed the following:

Membership Chairperson – Ramon E. Hall
 Assistant Membership Chair for Promotion

[formerly Publicity Chair] – Ruthetta Hansen
 Research Center Director – Terry Tietjens
 Newsletter [Pubs] Editor – W. Paul Taylor
 SGS Ancestor File Index Coord. – John Seely
 Query Editor – Linda Crocker
 Assistant Genealogist – To be added
 Historian – To be added

Site of 2005 Reunion - Abilene, KS was voted as the site for the next SGS International Reunion and it is scheduled for the week following Labor Day. Salt Lake City, UT and Connecticut were approved for consideration as future sites.

Constitution and By-Laws - The membership voted to approve the changes recommended by the committee chaired by Kathie Olsen and consisting of Ray Hall and Walter Davis. Those changes were published in the May newsletter. The approved version will be published in the SGS 2003 Reunion Souvenir Book.

SGS Members Honored - The Federation of Genealogical Societies inducted John R. Seely into its Living Volunteer Hall of Honor. The SGS President read and presented John with the SGS letter nominating him for the honor and presented a certificate and letter from FGS.

The SGS President also presented William Thresher with a certificate and letter commending him for his 11 years of outstanding service as SGS



First Vice President Kathie Olsen (left) and Chief Genealogist Dian Little attend one of the member presentations at the reunion

2003 Board of Directors



On the night of the final dinner, the 2003 Board of Directors was sworn in. (Back Row) Ramon Hall, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chairman; John Seeley, SGS Ancestor File Index Coordinator; Marshall Seelye, Director; Terry Tietjens, Director and Seelye Research Center Director; Eugene Seeley, Judge Advocate; Wesley Waring, Director; (Front Row) Chris Havnar, Treasurer; Dian Little, Chief Genealogist; Kathie Olsen, 1st Vice President; Ruthetta Hansen, Assistant Membership Chair for Promotion; Jim Seeley, President. Not pictured: Joan Phillips, Secretary; Dan Seelye, Director (Past President); Paul Taylor, Newsletter Editor; Linda Crocker, Query Editor. The appointed positions of Historian and Assistant Genealogist remain vacant.

SGS Award Winners



SGS President Jim Seeley congratulates John Seely (left above) who was inducted into the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Living Volunteer Hall of Honor. John has been an active member of SGS for more than twenty years during which he accomplished the monumental task of electronically compiling the SGS Ancestor Index File. Also recognized at the ceremony were SGS Board Members William Thresher (above) and George Seeley (below left) for having played important roles in the organization. Bill was elected treasurer of SGS five consecutive times serving in the position eleven years. George has served on the board for six years in the positions of vice president and membership chair.

Treasurer.

George Seeley was also commended. The SGS President presented a letter to George commending him for six years of outstanding service as the SGS Membership Chairman. He also noted the assistance provided by George's wife, Sally.

Board and Presenters Thanked - The president thanked the outgoing board of directors for their work and their support during the past two years. He also thanked the members who made presentations

After Dinner Speakers - On Thursday evening, Dr. Dorothy Boyd-Rush gave a presentation on 18th and 19th Century handwriting. On Friday evening, she gave a presentation on how newspapers may provide useful genealogical research opportunities. On Saturday evening, Mr. Donald Moore gave a presentation on Virginia Headrights.

Group Photo - An outside group photo was taken Saturday morning of all attendees (page 7). All attendees were identified and a color copy will be in the SGS 2003 Reunion Souvenir Book.

Reunion Souvenir Book - Copies of the member presentations and the after-dinner presentations will be included in the SGS 2003

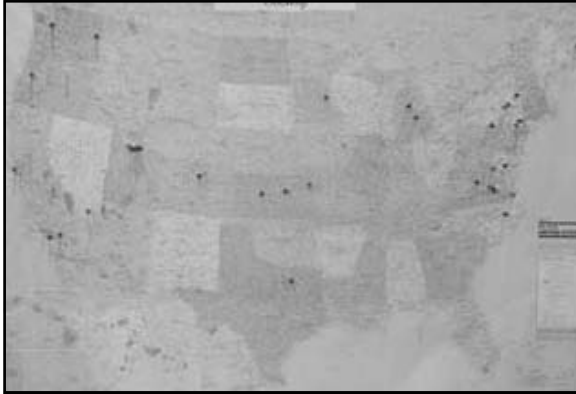


ABOVE: The hospitality room offered a comfortable location for additional side meetings. It also served as a display room for Seeley family artifacts that members brought with them to the reunion.

Reunion Souvenir Book. The book will also contain: highlights of the reunion, a copy of the approved Seeley Genealogical Society Constitution and By-Laws, a list of attendees, a list of SGS reunions held including dates, locations, and the board members elected [prepared by Terry Tietjens] and reunion photos, including a group photo. Twenty-Seven people have already signed up for a copy. Contact Jim Seeley for a copy; include a check made out to SGS for \$27.□

Reunion Attendees

The reunion was attended by seventy people from around the United States and Canada. Below is a list of those who attended.



Garry M. Adam
Liz Alexander
Dave Alexander
Florence Ann Allen
Gail Allen
Jeffry Allred
Silvia Allred
Leon E. App
Susan V. App
Camille Bell
Clifford C. Bizek
Dorothy Boucher
Dorothy Boyd-Rush
Don Brill
Thera Clark
Zoe Clyde
Lillian DeJohn
Alta Dunn
Melvin Dunn
Annette Seeley Earl
Frances Ellis
George Ellis
Tammy Graham
Ann Hall
Ramon Hall
Debbie Hancock
Ruthetta Hansen
Donald Harris
Ivey Harris
Chris Havnar
Bill Hileman
Marian Hileman
Geneva Hobbs
Karen Jordan
Betty Kjeldgaard

Colleen Kossin
Dian Little
LaVona Lewis
Lauren LeVine
Amy Manina
John Manina
Linda Meyer
Richard Meyer
Donald Moore
Veronica Newell
Kathie Olsen
Michelle Olsen
Donna Seeley
George Seeley
Sally Seeley
James R. Seeley
Melvin E. Seeley
Thomas A. Seeley
John R. Seely
Eugene Seelye
Evelyn Seelye
Marshall Seelye
Carolyn Taylor
Paul Taylor
Cameron Taylor
Nicholas Taylor
Evelyn Thresher
William Thresher
Terry Tietjens
Lucinda B. Tomko
Klare M. VanDusen
Robert S. VanDusen
Bertrand van't Hooft
Arthur Wade
Wesley Waring

SGS Welcomes new members

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Terry
1751 SW Turner Rd
West Linn, OR 97068-9652

Dorothy Boucher
7331 Rt 102
Glenwood, NB, Canada E5M
2M7

Judy M. Smith
964 Windsor St
Napa, CA 94558

James & Ruth Ennenga
6913 Chartwell Rd
Knoxville, TN 37931

Viola Kunzwiler
32 Catherine St
Oswego, NY 13126

Ronald & Frances De Muri
19 Buckskin Rd
Bell Canyon, CA 91307

Robin L. & Gary W. Deems
14109 Caminito Vistana
San Diego, CA 92130

John P. & Judy C. Felt
330 N Pickett St
Alexandria, VA 22304-2104

New Life Members

E. Neil & Joyce Fesler
4214 Modena Dr
San Antonio, TX 78218-4332

Ruthetta S. Hansen
Rt. 1, Box 41
McCracken, KS 67556

Rand and Camille Bell
93 Valley View Dr
South Salt Lake, UT 84064

Melvin E. Seeley
839 Chruch St
Chesaning, MI 48616

Rita Anne Seeley
2206 W Star Lake Dr
Elma, WA 98541-9646

8th Generation Information

Although there are no plans to publish an 8th generation book, it is hoped to eventually put together 8th generation data in electronic form to make available to the membership. Please provide Terry Tietjens [contact info is on page 15] your lineage data back to your 8th generation ancestor, if you have not already done so.

Canadian Corner

By Dorothy Boucher



Greetings from New Brunswick, Canada. It is fall now and I have just enjoyed the splendid show of autumn foliage along the St. John River. It is amusing to watch the antics of the birds and squirrels in my yard as they enjoy the crisp, sunny days of October.

My visit to Williamsburg, Virginia was my first that far south of the border and it was most memorable. I enjoyed the beauty and hospitality of the area and the historic sites were fantastic. I do hope I have occasion to visit there again. It was also my first reunion and I was so impressed by the organization and was happy to meet so many of my Seely cousins from across the United States.

While my brother, Art Wade, and I were at the reunion, we discussed with several participants the story of Sarah Emma Edmonds who was the wife of our great, great uncle Linus Seely. Upon returning from the reunion, we were made aware of a memorial service that was held to honor her and her contributions during the American Civil War. Sarah served with the infantry during the war, with soldiers from Michigan. Disguised as a male, she went by the name of Frank Thompson. Sarah was from Magaguadavic, New Brunswick and after the war, she and Linus moved to Texas and raised three children.

Sarah Edmonds Seely will be the subject of a

documentary that is being compiled by Pepita Ferrari of Montreal. The edited film will be delivered to the History Channel in January but the date of airing has not been determined. Pepita definitely hopes to launch the film in New Brunswick in the spring. I, for one, can hardly wait. Sarah has been a hero of mine since I was a little girl and my mother told me of her exploits.

This recollection of our family member's participation in the American Civil War has reminded me that November is drawing near and November 11 will be Remembrance Day here in Canada and Veteran's Day in the U.S. While in the midst of preparation for the observances to take place at our local legion, I am constantly mindful of all the soldiers who left our countries to fight overseas to defend our freedom. The men and women who laid down their lives for our freedom and should never be forgotten and we should be most mindful of those from our family who made this sacrifice for us. If we have veterans still with us, perhaps we could make a special effort to honor their contributions to our peace and well being. Without them our family may not have grown and flourished as it has. The local cenotaph bears the names of our three uncles who fought in WW II, and our grandfather who was wounded at Vimy Ridge in WW I is buried in the Field of Honor" in Saint John New Brunswick. I will remember them.

Dorothy Boucher
7331 Route 102
Glenwood, New Brunswick
Canada E5M 2M7
Phone: 506-468-2346
E-mail: vboucher@nbnet.nb.ca

An Update on the Progress and Recovery of Logan Seelye

On July 2, Logan Seelye, grandson of SGS Director and Past President Dan Seelye, suffered a severe neck injury during high school football practice. Below is an update from Logan's dad.

"Today (Oct. 7) marks the 100th day since Logan was injured. Oct. 26 will be the 58th day at home after 58 days in the hospital. He is making remarkable progress in school, at home, and with his therapy. He continues to work with the football coaches and has run the defense in a couple of J.V. games. Logan, Sally and I have so many people to thank for their prayers, monetary donations and offers to assist in our home modification. We are truly a blessed family. Logan sums it up best, 'I never knew how many people care about me.' We are getting our routines down at home and life is beginning to return to normal. He has a follow

up with his neurosurgeon today in Seattle for x-rays. Then Dr Daily will determine if his brace can be taken off on a permanent basis. Again, thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. We survive off of your strength."



You can find two news stories highlighting Logan's remarkable spirit and "love of the game" on the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's website: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/preps/131362_logan18.html and http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/preps/145764_prep28.html

SGS Queries

(Data as of October 15, 2003)

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

Please send your queries to Query Editor Linda Crocker at llc100@btopenworld.com or mail to Linda at home (see page 15) or to P.O. Box 1326, Harwich, MA 02645. Queries are assigned a query number by the query editor and are then sent to the query team and area coordinators. 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 remember to also send a copy of the information to Linda so the query can be updated in the next newsletter.

Query Updates

Update to Query 0208-9 re: Mary/Mercy Seeley

Virginia Gakle (becgak@infinet.com) submitted this query back in June 2002. She was looking for information on Mary/Mercy Seeley born Feb. 22, 1874 in Newark, NJ. Someone named Frieslich adopted her at some later date. Ann Hall has recently discovered a Freislich family in the 1880 U.S. census index. William Freislich is living with several children (but not Mary/Mercy) in Rome, Oneida Co., NY. Mary/Mercy married Nicholas Allison and died in 1941 in Utica, NY.

New Queries

Query 0311-1 Submitted by Ruth Ennenga (RuthEnnenga@aol.com)

Subject: Lemuel Bowen

Ruth's husband James Lewis Ennenga is descended from SGS #1260, Lemuel Bowen, son of Mason Bowen and Hannah Seeley. She would like to know where Lemuel died and where he is buried. She has information on Lemuel's children including letters from two of his daughters. Ruth also has a copy of Mason's will (1826) and several pictures of Lemuel and his family she is willing to copy and share.

SGS Interim Response: John Seely has been in contact with another Bowen descendant. Ruth was encouraged to send copies of her information to John and Terry Tietjens. If anyone can determine Lemuel's place of death or burial please send the information to Ruth and copy it to Linda.

Query 0311-2 Submitted by Holly Childs (vchilds@childsfamily.com)

Subject: Lois Knapp and Jonas Seely

Holly found a copy of a Bible record for Jonas Seely (SGS #513) in an old issue of the Orange County [NY] Gen. Soc. Newsletter. Most of the entries are for the children and siblings of Jonas. The first entry in the Bible's record is Jonas' marriage to Elizabeth C. Townsend on Dec. 1, 1791. Holly is puzzled by the second entry that shows Jonas Seely marrying Lois Knapp Jan. 27, 1825. This marriage isn't listed in the SGS Generations volumes. Is this a second marriage for Jonas #513?

SGS Interim Response: None to date. If you have information on this marriage please contact Linda and Holly.

Query 0311-3 Submitted by Holly Childs (vchilds@childsfamily.com)

Subject: Millicent Strong and Bazaleel Seely

Another mysterious marriage discovered by Holly in her perusal of those old Orange Co. Gen. Soc. Newsletters involves Bezaleel Seely who married Millicent Strong (born 15 August 1757, the fifth child of Benjamin Strong, brother of Capt. Selah Strong).

In the SGS volumes we have a Bazaleel Seely (SGS #186) who married Elizabeth Millicent Strong. However this Bazaleel was born in August 1725 and his children were born between 1750 and 1770. Are there two Bezaleels who married two Millicent Strongs??? Has a mistake been made somewhere?

SGS Interim Response: None to date. If anyone can shed some light on this mystery please do!

Query 0311-4 Submitted by June McColm (mjune31@msn.com)

Subject: Seeley wives

June is interested in finding information on the wives of the Seely men in her line (James (6), Nathaniel, Ebenezer, Jonas, Obadiah, ?). James Seely is SGS #503.

SGS Interim Response: Dian Little has given some thought to a book about Seeley women but this would be about women born into the Seeley family rather than those marrying in. If you have information on these particular Seely wives please contact June. If anyone is interested in researching the Seely wives we would be happy to add that sort of information to our files and database.

Contact Jim Seeley or Linda Crocker if you want to discuss the idea.

Query 0311-5 Submitted by Dick Elden (rainforest@rcn.com)

Subject: Dorcas Cilly (Sealy)

Dick is a new member of SGS. After some success with a previous query he is wondering if we can help him with information on Dorcas Cilly (Sealy). One report he has seen lists her as a daughter of Richard Sealy, and granddaughter of Andrew Sealy. She married James Gibbins.

SGS Interim Response: There isn't any information on this family in the SGS publications. Linda has been unable to contact Dick to get further information such as dates and places. Hopefully Dick will get in touch when he receives this newsletter. Meanwhile if anyone recognizes this family please contact Linda.

Query 0311-6 Submitted by Jesy Shepard (ShepMrsD@aol.com)

Subject: Lucy Ann Vaughn and Austin H. Seeley (SGS #742)

Jesy and her family are trying to find out the identity of Austin H. Seeley who married Lucy Ann Vaughn (b. 1818 in Canada) in Otego, NY. They resided in Cape Breton Island, Canada where they had several children from the mid-1830's to mid 1850's. Meanwhile Austin H. Seeley, our # 742, was married to Phebe Allen Rice Dec. 27, 1821. They resided in Erie Co., PA where they had the last five of their six children from the 1820's to 1841. Phebe Rice Allen Seeley died in 1875. It is interesting to note the following: the first child of Austin H. and Phebe was born in 1821 Otsego Co. NY, their 5th child was named Lucy Ann (b. Jun. 23, 1831). Their 6th child was Erwin, b. Feb. 18, 1841. He is Jesy's direct ancestor.

SGS Interim Response: Dan Seelye's database shows Austin H. Seeley married to both women with the note that the parentage of the Austin H. married to Lucy Ann Vaughn is not proven. It seems that either Austin was a bigamist or there are two Austins, possibly related, that have been confused. Anyone with helpful information should contact the Query Editor and Jesy.

Query 0311-7 Submitted by Robin Deems (rdeems@san.rr.com)

Subject: Bethany Young Shaw Seelye

The SGS Seventh Generation volume states that SGS # 849 Thomas Barnes Seelye married 2nd Bethany Young Shaw 3rd Sept. 1820 in Pownal, VT. It goes on to say that Bethany is a sister to Brigham Young. Robin's husband is descended from Thomas and Bethany through their son Sylvanus Danforth Seelye. Robin can't find any

evidence to support the assertion that Bethany is Brigham Young's sister.

SGS Interim Response: Kathie Olsen has done research on Bethany's connection to the Young family and can't prove (or disprove) the connection. Bethany isn't mentioned in the family histories written by Brigham Young's daughter and isn't listed in the LDS database. One theory is that she was estranged from the family because she didn't join the LDS church. However a brother-in-law also didn't join and he is mentioned in the family history. Dian Little suggests checking the Vermont Vital Records Index which is available at LDS Family History Centers. If anyone can prove or disprove Bethany's connection to Brigham Young please pass your information to Linda.

Query 0311-8 Submitted by James O. Martin (503 West Center St., Logan, UT 84321-4427)

Subject: John W. Seeley

James has written requesting the parentage and ancestry of John W. Seeley, born abt. 1813 in Connecticut and m. Mar. 30, 1833 in Warren, Litchfield, CT to Laura Shove. John and Laura had six children in Connecticut, then they moved to Polk District, Washington, WI where their last two sons were born. James sent the names and approximate birthdates of all the children. Contact the query editor if you need that information.

SGS Interim response: John W. Seeley and Laura don't appear to be listed in the SGS publications. Please forward any information you may have on this couple to James and also send a copy to your query editor so it can be printed in a future issue of the newsletter.

Query 0311-9 Submitted by Talcott Seelye (twseelye@aol.com)

Subject: Seth Seelye, Nathaniel Seeley and P.T. Barnum

Talcott Seelye sent a query about the relationship of his ancestor Seth Seelye to the Nathaniel Seeley who married one of P.T. Barnum's daughters. Before this query made the rounds of our query team Talcott sent this information... The Nathan Seelye referred to below is SGS #640.

'My direct ancestor, "Squire Nathan" Seelye, born in 1766, located his family in Bethel, CT. He was the one who changed the name Seeley to Seelye. One of his sons was Seth (SGS #2056), my ancestor, who married Abigail Taylor and fathered the famous college Presidents Julius and Laenus. Seth had a brother named George (SGS #2059) who decided to change the name back to

Continued on Page 14

Queries Continued (From Page 13)

Seeley! One of George's sons was named Nathan who in 1867 married one of P.T. Barnum's two daughters, Pauline Taylor. (Barnum had no sons.) They in turn had two sons, one of whom was named Clinton Hallet Seeley. When Barnum died, having no sons, he left the bulk of his estate to Clinton. However, he had one condition: Clinton had to change his name to C. Barnum Seeley in order to perpetuate the name of this great circus impresario.

Barnum's brother hosted a bachelor party for C. Barnum at Sherry's restaurant in New York on the eve of his marriage. The featured attraction was the belly dancer "Little Egypt". Since "Little Egypt" had previously posed in the nude for artists, word immediately got out that she was dancing in the nude at this party. Police arrived and broke up the party. It became known as "The Awful Seeley Dinner". Oscar Hammerstein wrote a musical entitled "Silly's Dinner" based on the putative nude entertainment by "Little Egypt"....'

Talcott says he got all this from a variety of sources.

If you have something to add to this account send your information to Linda Crocker, Query Editor.

How To Submit a Query

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

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

What resources have you already consulted? The SGS Publications? The census? Cemetery records? Ancestry.com?

What exactly do you want to know? Parent's names and details? Information on siblings? Information on a family marrying into the Seeley family?

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

One more name, date or place may be the key to connecting your line to another. Also make sure we have your current email and normal address – sometimes we get information several months after publication.

Longtime SGS Member Ruth Seelye Passes Away

Ruth was born on January 4, 1930 to Michael and Wanda Kachulis in Tacoma, Washington and passed away peacefully on July 28, 2003 in Lakewood, Washington. Ruth was 73 years old when she was taken into the hands of our Lord. Her husband of 54 years, Daniel P. Seelye, was by



her bedside at the time of her passing. Ruth is survived by her sister, Alice Duran; sons, Daniel (Sally) Seelye, Scott (Debbie) Seelye and her grandchildren - who were the joys of her life - Aaron, Adam, Alyse and Logan Seelye. She also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

Ruth lived all her life in the Tacoma area. After graduating from Lincoln High School she worked as a civil service employee at McChord Air Force base for the 318th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. With over 30 years of excellent service and retiring in 1985, many of her friends and family referred to her as "General" Ruth. Although Tacoma was home, Ruth and Dan have spent the last 15 winters "snow-birding" at Sparkling Waters in Desert Hot Springs, CA. She loved the tranquility of the desert colors as they interwove into the hills and surrounding mountains as the sun rose and set each day. Taking care of her flowers, bird watching (naming every hummingbird she saw), reading, knitting and enjoying the time with Dan is what she loved to do.

Ruth was involved with AA and was on her 30th year of sobriety. The one prayer that she always entrusted in was the: Serenity Prayer "God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Logan Seelye Donation Fund at any Key Bank Branch. (Publication Date: July 31, 2003)

New Membership Chair

A reminder to all members, we have a new membership chairman: Ramon Hall. If you have ideas about how SGS can increase its membership or if you have any other business in that arena, please contact Ray. His contact data can be found on page 15.

Dues are Due

Please check your address label on this newsletter and note the date that your dues are "Paid To" in the upper left hand corner of the label. If your date shows 08/03, your dues are now due for 2003-2004. You can remit dues or address questions to Ray Hall (address at right).□

Hello From New Newsletter Editor

Hi, my name is Paul and I married a Seeley. No, that's not the opening line of a support group meeting, but it bears mentioning in that I'm taking over for Ray Hall as the newsletter editor and I thought you might like to know who I am. I've been truly blessed to have married into such a great and fun family that's giving me the opportunity to get back to my roots in editing and layout & design. Even better, Ray has done such a fabulous job not only in doing the newsletter for the past six years, but in making the turnover a very informative and painless event that has made my maiden voyage a smooth one. Thanks, Ray!

Like Ray, I'll be relying heavily on you, the SGS membership, to make our newsletter as great as it can be. I encourage you to send me stories that you think will be of interest to the family or that might be useful to those of us actively engaged in genealogical research. Additionally, if you have any comments or questions about something you read in the newsletter, let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you and serving this great organization.

Paul Taylor
3848 Frazier Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
pcntaylor@cox.net

SGS Officers for 2003 - 2005

President James R. Seeley, 108 Westridge Dr., Churchville, VA 24421, (540) 337-8633, jrseeley@aol.com

1st Vice President Katherine M. Olsen, 639 8th Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84103, (801) 355-0301, davidkathie@mstar2.net

2nd Vice Pres. & Membership Ramon E. Hall, 155 Bear Drive, Evergreen, CO 80439 (303) 679-0384, ramonhall@prodigy.net

Secretary Joan J. Phillips, P O Box 969, Saugatuck, MI 49453, (269) 857-2839

Treasurer Chris Havnar, 625 Canyon Dr., Pacifica, CA 94044, jchavnar@sbcglobal.net

Chief Genealogist Dian Little, 18210 15th NE #102, Box 55607, Shoreline, WA 98155, (206) 306-0988, little44@msn.com

Director (Past Pres.) Daniel P. Seelye, 17800 Langlois Rd #508, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92441, (760) 329-0422, SeelyeDan@worldnet.att.net

Director Wesley Waring, 16179 89th Ave. N, Maple Grove, MN 55311, (763) 494-3277, wesleyawaring@compuserve.com

Director Marshall B. Seelye, 945 Vaughn Rd, Hudson Falls, NY 12839, (518) 792-3867, mseelye@localnet.com

Director & Research Center Terry Tietjens, P.O. Box 337, 1105 N. Buckeye, Abilene, KS 67410, (785) 263-1084, terryt@access-one.com

Asst. Membership/Promotion, Ruthetta Seelye Hansen, 1129 S County Line, McCracken, KS 67556, (785) 394-2316, rhansen@gbta.net

SGS Ancestor File Index John R. Seely, 160 E. 234 St., Carson, CA 90745, (310) 834-6244, jrnmbsseely@aol.com

Newsletter Editor Paul Taylor, 3848 Frazier Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, (785) 471-1188, pcntaylor@cox.net

Query Editor Linda L Crocker, 14 The Avenue, Stokesley TS9 5ET U.K., llc100@btopenworld.com

Judge Advocate Eugene Seelye, 5 Sherman St., Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-0960, easeelye@epix.net

Historian Vacant

Asst. Genealogist Vacant

SGS Publications

Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1677) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657): Generations One Through Five, 1997 Edition, and *The Sixth Generation Families*, 1995 Edition, are both available for \$17 including postage. *The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1601-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657)*, 2000 Edition, is available for \$25 including postage. Prior issues of the Newsletter are available for \$2 each. They can be ordered from the Seelye Research Center Director Terry Tietjens (contact info above).

The three books above plus the SGS index file (John Seely's *Blue Books*) are available on a compact disk in Microsoft Word format. Also available is the *SGS 2003 Reunion Souvenir Book* which contains reunion highlights, the 11 members' presentations, the Constitution and By-laws, after-dinner speakers' notes, a list of attendees, a list of past reunion dates/locations/ officers elected, and reunion photographs, including a group photo with all attendees identified! - The CD is \$15 and the reunion book is \$27. Both are available from SGS President Jim Seeley (contact info above).

Justus, My Black Sheep

Story By Karen Merrill Martin

Who would have guessed that a boy named Justus (sometimes spelled Justice) would grow up to be the black sheep of the family?

Justus Seelye (my 4th Great grandfather) was born in 1771 in Upstate New York during a time when the people of the Colonies were choosing sides – Tories, loyal to the King and Whigs who wanted control of their own land. In 1780 little Justus made a start at becoming someone of whom the family could be proud. He was smuggled into a neighbor's house where a meeting of Tories, disguised as Indians, was being held. He listened to the proceedings, then escaped to his home to report the events and conversations of the evening. The Tories were subsequently captured, court martialed and hung.

That would be a “fun” piece of information to add to my family history story, but Justus would provide an even juicier tidbit later in his life. By 1815, Justus was married to Betsy Fuller and they had 14 children. Then in May 1815, an indictment was filed in Warren County against Justice Seelye for bigamy. (Personally, I'm thinking that after 14

kids Betsy told him to get out.) Amongst a bevy of “towit”s and other lawyerly language, it was stated that he “with force and arms... did marry one Elsa Phillipton and take her... to be his wife, when at the same time... the former wife... being alive.” Since there are no further records about this case it isn't clear whether he was convicted.

There are also a number of papers showing he owed a great deal of money to a variety of people and refused or was unable to pay it back. One judgment against him in 1817 requires him to repay \$4,000 “lawful money of the State of New York” which he owed to two local men. Again in this case his name was spelled Justice.

At a distance of nearly two hundred years, this no longer seems the scandal I'm sure it was at the time. Justus returned to Betsy and they had three more children (can you believe it) and they are buried together in a small family cemetery outside Queensbury. And I, as their descendent, am happy to add both of them to my family tree. The color of ones wool is after all not very important. □

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% MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
RAMON E. HALL
155 BEAR DRIVE
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