



# Seeley Genealogical Society

# Newsletter

Established 1965

Issue No. 129-2006-03

History Family Research

August 2006

## SGS Board of Directors Meets in Abilene, Kansas

*Story By Jim Seeley, SGS President*

Members of the SGS Executive Board who attended the May 19, 2006 meeting at the Seelye Research Center in Abilene, Ks. were Jim Seeley, Kathie Olsen, Ivey Harris, Dian Little, Joan Phillips, and Terry Tietjens (therefore, constituting a quorum). Other members attending were Ruthetta Hansen, John R. Seely, Ray Hall, Carolyn Haddon, and Pamela Turner.

The board approved, with minor changes, the research plan, submitted by Mr. Clifford L. Stott, CG, FSAG, to help SGS identify the ancestors in England of Obadiah Seeley who died in Stamford, Conn. on Aug. 25, 1657.

The board approved, in concept, the president's proposed approach to handling the matter regarding Whirlaway Corporation's paving over the burial site of Charles W. and Lucy Seeley, who were buried in a cemetery in Wellington, Lorain County, Ohio in the late 1800s. Details are contained in a separate article on page 4.

John Seely has updated the SGS Ancestor File Index and has prepared, with Dan Seelye's help, a 2006 version to replace the 2003 version now on the SGS CD-ROM. The new version is a "3-line" format that includes SGS numbers and new submissions to John since 2003. See ordering instructions elsewhere in this newsletter. New orders for the SGS CDROM will contain this 2006 version of the SGS Ancestor File Index.

The board also approved updating the SGS CD-ROM with Change #6 to the SGS Sixth Generation Families book. Eventually, the Seeley Website will be provided files that will contain both the SGS Ancestor File Index and the three SGS Publications. Information was approved for posting on the Seeley Website after it has been approved for the SGS CD-ROM.

The board voted to put on hold an update to the SGS CD-ROM with an updated Alan Phipps report on the English origins of Robert Seeley. It seems that a "final" report on the Phipps' research was never received.

However, all information SGS received has been published in the SGS Newsletter and combining that additional information into one document is underway.

The board recommended that an article describing the Seelye Research Center Filing System be placed in a future issue of the SGS Newsletter and on the Seeley Website.

Kathie Olsen provided an overview of the post-reunion tour of Robert and Obadiah

Seeley's New England.

SGS Executive Board members were reminded to let Nominating Committee Chairwoman Veronica Seeley Newell know of their desires on running for the board again for the 2007-2009 term.

A copy of the 2005 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book was sent to Esther Houtz Walter, for whom the book was dedicated. At Jim's request, Esther described her recollections of the early days of SGS. Parts of Esther's responding letter will be printed in a future SGS Newsletter.

Members and the SGS Executive Board were requested to nominate SGS members who should be recognized at the 2007 reunion. Recommendations should be sent to SGS President Jim Seeley.

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Member: Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society



SGS Newsletter: Honorable Mention, National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition

### The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

is published quarterly by the Seeley  
Genealogical Society

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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, Seele, Seela, Cieley, Cealy, Cilley, etc.

#### Membership Dues

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

Pay all dues to:

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

#### Seelye National Research Center

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

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

#### SGS International Reunions

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

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

## President's Report

This has been a busy quarter for SGS. A group of us (Carolyn Haddon, Pamela Turner, Ruthetta Hansen, Ray Hall, and I) met at the Seelye Research Center and filed documents that had been received over the past year. Four pages of documents were added to the Seeley Research Center Filing System manual. That list of documents will appear in a future newsletter. A special thanks to Pamela Turner and her mother Carolyn Haddon for their many hours of hard work!

The SGS Executive Board met May 19. Results appear on page 1.

Researcher, Clifford L. Stott, CG, FASG, has begun efforts to help SGS identify the ancestors in England of Obadiah Seeley who died in Stamford, Conn. on Aug. 25, 1657. The results of his efforts will be published in the SGS Newsletter. Mr. Stott's efforts are intended to augment the outstanding research, in New England records, on Obadiah's ancestors that was performed by Mr. Fred C. Hart, Jr., C.G.

Kathie Olsen and Dian Little scouted New England to plan for the post-2007 reunion tour of Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England. These ladies briefed the board on May 19 and the trip sounds every bit as exciting as the trip to England was. If you haven't done so already, let Kathie know if you are interested in taking the tour. It will depart from the hotel on Monday morning after the SGS reunion.

My sister Veronica Seeley Newell and I visited Connecticut to select a hotel for the 2007 reunion. A tentative selection has been made subject to negotiating a mutually agreeable contract. The Greater Hartford Convention & Visitors Bureau (GHVB) has been very helpful in sending out our needs to area hotels with convention/meeting facilities. Three proposals were received, and two were visited (the third was clearly out of our price range). The GHCVB has also given us names of tour companies for a tour of historic Wethersfield. The Wethersfield Historical Society has agreed to provide a tour guide for the bus tour and a guide for a walking tour of the Old Wethersfield Burial Grounds. The Historical Society has also agreed to provide an after dinner presentation at our hotel on Thursday evening concentrating on the history of Old Wethersfield to help set the stage for the tour on Friday morning.

Did you receive your May SGS Newsletter? Some did not. We need to know so that appropriate actions can be taken with our printer. Please let me and/or Paul Taylor know (contact data on page 15).

Kathie Olsen is publishing in this newsletter Change #2 to the Generation One Through Five SGS publication dated 1997. Change #1, that was published in the February 1998 SGS Newsletter, was included with the copy you purchased. Future purchases of the Generations One Through Five book will include Changes One and Two. Change #2 is for the Nathaniel Section only.

It's August and dues are due. Send your dues, payable to SGS, to our Membership Chairman, Ramon Hall.

I think Linda Crocker is doing an outstanding job as our Query Editor. She also helped me with research on the Charles W. and Lucy Seeley burial issue (see separate article on page 4). She can always use more help though. Please contact her if you have information on queries she publishes in the Newsletter.

Finally, I want to express sincere congratulations to SGS Newsletter Editor Paul Taylor. The SGS Newsletter received Honorable Mention selection by the National Genealogical Society's Family Newsletter competition. If you agree Paul has been doing an excellent job, how about sending him a note of thanks?

Jim Seeley  
SGS President



# Planning Begins in Earnest for 2007 Reunion

*Story By Jim Seeley, SGS President*

Planning has begun for the 2007 SGS International Reunion.

The theme for the event: "Our Immigrant Ancestors."

Here is a tentative, overall schedule for the 2007 SGS International Reunion that will be held in the vicinity of Robert Seeley's Wethersfield, Conn.

## Thursday 13 September

- 10 a.m. Board Meeting
- 1 p.m. Opening Session, Introductions, Announcements
- 6 p.m. Dinner at the Hotel with an after dinner speaker – "History of Old Wethersfield"

## Friday 14 September

Morning and afternoon - Local tours (Wethersfield and the "Burying Grounds"), or individual meetings & review documents in the hospitality room, or (for those not taking the local tours) self guided tours of Wethersfield and surrounding points of historical interest.

- 6 p.m. Dinner at the Hotel with an after dinner speaker.

## Saturday 15 September

- 9 a.m. SGS Business meeting (elections)

## Itinerary Taking Shape for Robert & Obadiah's New England Trip

*Story By Kathie, Olsen, SGS 1st Vice-President*

We hope you are planning to join us for a trip to "Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England, 2007." The trip will immediately follow the 2007 SGS International Reunion in Connecticut. The following is a tentative itinerary, subject to change. Individual prices have not yet been determined. But now is the time to mark your calendars and make your plans to join us!

### **Tentative Itinerary**

#### **Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England**

#### Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007

12:30 p.m. Meeting

#### Monday, Sept. 17, 2007

8 a.m. Depart for Wethersfield, Conn.  
Robert Seeley Home lot  
Wethersfield Town Green and Rock Monument  
Drive to Watertown, Mass.  
Church with model of Arabella  
Saltonstall Monument  
Stay over in Plymouth Mass. area

#### Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007

Plimouth Plantation  
Stay over in Plymouth Mass. area

#### Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007

Narragansett War Monument (1677) Nathaniel killed, R.I.  
Stonington, Conn. for lunch  
Mystic Seaport  
Stay over in -----, Conn.

#### Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

Saybrook Fort Monument  
Connecticut River Museum

- 1 p.m. Member Presentations
- 3:30 p.m. New SGS Board of Directors Meeting
- 6 p.m. Dinner at hotel and install SGS Board of Directors (speaker or presentation)

## Sunday 16 September

- Noon Farewell lunch at the hotel.
- 7 p.m. Meeting at the hotel for Robert and Obadiah's New England tour participants

We have tentatively selected the Crown Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, Conn. to host the reunion, subject to negotiating a mutually agreeable contract. We have tightened up the schedule somewhat to reduce costs. Our plan is to have our meetings and meals (with after dinner speakers) all in one location so that those of us who aren't as mobile will have an easier time of attending all the functions. This is the same facility that hosted the 1992 SGS reunion when it was called the Radisson Hotel so, it has pleasant memories for many of us. I recommend you not make hotel reservations until we have negotiated a final group rate.

Please send your suggestions to make the reunion better to SGS President Jim Seeley.

New Haven Historical Society Museum  
New Haven Town Green  
Robert Seeley Home Lot  
Fairfield Pequot War (1637) Robert injured  
Stay over in -----, Conn.

## Friday, Sept. 21, 2007

Stamford, CT  
Hoyt Barnum House  
Historical Society  
Obadiah Seeley home lot  
Bedford, NY (founded Obadiah's sons)  
Town Green  
Cemetery  
Quintessential "New England"  
Return to -----, Conn.

### **Submit Your Line to SGS**

SGS members are requested to send their Seeley line to John Seely (contact info is on page 15). The title of your submission should include the name and SGS number of your ***eighth*** generation ancestor (as described in the SGS Seventh Generation Families book). For other lines, the title should include the name (with birth and/or death dates) of your ***earliest*** ancestor. Right now the research center has *dozens* of documents entitled "Descendants of Robert Seeley." That makes it nearly impossible to differentiate between the reports. Some of these reports took years of work and expense to produce, all of which is wasted if family history researchers cannot distinguish one report from another. Thanks for your help!!!

# Seeley Grave Sites Paved Over

*Story By Jim Seeley, SGS President*

On April 19, 2006, The Chronicle (of Elyria, Ohio) printed an article "Burial site presents grave dilemma." The following day, The Plain Dealer (of Cleveland, Ohio) printed an article "Company gets OK to pave over graves."

The grave sites in question are those of Charles W. Seeley (SGS # 3445) who died Feb. 4, 1890 and his wife, Lucy who died April 6, 1882 (per page 455 of the book *Cemetery Inscriptions of Lorain County, Ohio 1980*, by Penny Hanes). The burial sites are located on land now claimed to be owned by the Whirlaway Corporation (Tom Zupan, owner). The burial site is adjacent to what is now called the West Herrick Cemetery in Wellington, Lorain County, Ohio.

Members of the Seeley Genealogical Society became aware of the paving over of the sites several days after the April 19 and 20 newspaper articles. SGS attempted to find descendants of Charles and Lucy Seeley without success. After SGS and census records were searched, the closest descendants found were those of two of Charles W. Seeley's brothers. By this time, the burial sites had been paved over.

Mr. Zupan said that he wanted to do the right thing. He was unable to locate a relative to take responsibility for the matter. He contacted Mr. Bill Norton (now deceased) of the Norton Funeral Home who recommended the remains not be moved and that the grave marker be placed in the adjacent cemetery.

Zupan contacted a colleague who had a relationship with a member of the state cemetery board. That colleague explained he was unaware of any laws or

regulations that would offer guidance because the site was on private property. Zupan also sought guidance from his priest. He sought permission of the Village Cemetery Board to re-locate the Seeley memorial marker inside the cemetery. However, no official either approved or disapproved the re-paving project as had been reported in The Plain Dealer article headline of 20 April.

The Seeley Genealogical Society's reaction, to paving over the grave site of a Seeley cousin, varied from indignation to "let's not get involved." SGS President Jim Seeley sent a list of questions to Zupan, then, with Zupan's response, met with SGS Board of Directors. With guidance of the SGS board, Seeley sent a response to Zupan making the following points: SGS does not have the authority or desire to speak for any descendants of the deceased, should any descendants be found; SGS does not have the resources to take any specific action; SGS noted an inconsistency in ownership of the land containing the burial site, to wit, Lucy must have been buried there shortly after her death in 1882, a source told Zupan that the land was sold by Charles W. Seeley in 1883, then Charles W. Seeley was buried there himself after his death in 1890; SGS requested that the location of the burial site be recorded in the County's land records for the benefit of future land owners and family researchers since Zupan's plan was to separate the marker from the burial site; and finally, SGS requested that Zupan do his best to respect the dignity of the deceased's burial site.

Communications between Seeley and Zupan have been frank but cordial.

## Middle East Specialist Ambassador Talcott Seelye Dies at 84

Talcott W. Seelye, a former United States ambassador to Tunisia and Syria, died Thursday, June 8, 2006, at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, at the age of 84.

The cause was pancreatic cancer, his family said.

A career diplomat, Mr. Seelye was the ambassador to Tunisia from 1972 to 1976 and to Syria from 1978 to 1981. In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford appointed him special envoy to Lebanon after the assassination there of the United States ambassador, Francis E. Meloy Jr., at the height of the country's civil war.

During Mr. Seelye's years with the foreign service, he often angered supporters of Israel for advocating Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands. After retiring in 1981, he established Talcott Seelye Associates, a consultancy on Middle East affairs.

Mr. Seelye was born on March 6, 1922, in Beirut, Lebanon; his father, Laurens, taught philosophy at the American University there.

During World War II, Mr. Seelye served as an Army officer in Iran and Italy. In 1947, he earned an undergraduate degree in history from Amherst College.

Mr. Seelye began his career in foreign service in the

late 1940's, quickly becoming a Middle East specialist. In the 1950's and 60's, he was a political officer in Jordan, a consul in Kuwait and deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires in Saudi Arabia, among other postings.

He held several positions in the State Department, including director of Arabian Peninsula affairs and senior deputy assistant secretary for African affairs.

Mr. Seelye is survived by his wife, the former Joan Hazeltine, whom he married in 1950; four children, Lauren Seelye Harris of Washington; Ammanda Salzman of Riverside, Connecticut; Talcott Jr., of New York; and Kate, a former Middle East correspondent for National Public Radio, of Beirut; two sisters, Mary-Averett Seelye and Muriel Heineman, both of Mitchellville, Maryland; and three grandchildren.

*Editor's note: This obituary ran in the June 15th issue of the New York Times. Readers may also remember that Ambassador Seelye was featured in the "Seelye in the Spotlight" section of the February 2004 issue of the SGS Newsletter. His lineage: Talcott(12), Laurens(11), William(10), Julius(9), Seth(8), Nathan(7), Seth(6), Nathan(5), James(4), Nathaniel(3), Nathaniel(2), Robert(1),*

## Change #2 (July 1, 2006) to Generations One Through Five Book—Nathaniel Section

Story By Kathie Olsen, SGS 1st Vice President

SGS No.	PAGE No.	NAME	CHANGE SUMMARY	REFERENCES
SGS#89	16	Seeley, Nehemiah	Add Abigail still living at his death. Delete m 2nd, 26 Sep 1769, Redding, CT, Sarah Dibble. Sarah Dibble was wife of Nehemiah Seeley SGS#239.	
SGS#107cc	21	Sherman, Sarah	Add SGS#107cc Sarah Sherman (b about 1730; d before 5 Nov 1806, Newtown, CT) m 4 Dec 1754/9, Newtown, CT, George Terrill, Jr. (chr 28 Jan 1727/28, Milford, CT; d 1 Apr 1806, Newtown, CT)	Add Bobseine, Marilyn Kelley submission
SGS#40	21	Seeley, Rebecca	Add William Castle is brother to Isaac Castle who is father of Samuel Castle who m Martha Seeley SGS#47	
SGS#268aa	36	Seeley, Ephraim	Change SGS# from 268+* to 268aa	
SGS#281	39	Seelye, Joseph	Add /Mercy to the name of Mary/Mercy Tupper.	Add Thomas Tupper and His Descendants
SGS#339	45	Fithian, Seeley	Add m 1st, 25 Apr 1790, Ruth Burgin. Delete (b 1767; d 1783) Add m 2nd, Esther Hunt (d 1830)	
SGS#107c	46	Seeley, Henry	Change to Child of 1st wife (6)	
SGS#119	46	Seeley, John		Reference should read Genealogy of Stratford and Derby, CT

### A Couple of Notes from Ancestor File Chairman John Seely

I've been busy putting my "home brew edition" of poems together. I've sold 12 books so far and given away about six.

No new submitters this quarter. I have been adding names etc. from past submitters to extend the generations down to living descendants where possible. I assume my CD update is helping as I haven't had any complaints or suggestions for improvement.

I found an item from a "Walrod-Walrath" newsletter dated June 2000 which might be interesting.

"My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue wrapped package. 'This' he said, 'is not a slip. This is lingerie.' He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite; silk, handmade, and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag, with an astronomical figure on it was

still attached. 'Jan bought it the first time we went to New York, at least nine or ten years ago. She never wore it, she was saving it for a special occasion-well-I guess this is the occasion.'

"He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortuary. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment then slammed the drawer shut and turned to me. 'Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion.'"



## Seely Descendants Seek Help Refurbishing Family Cemetery

*Story By William Welch*

The Seely Cemetery is an old family cemetery located on property that once belonged to Josiah Seely (SGS #191). It is located in a small wooded area on Greycourt Road just east of the old town center of Chester, N.Y. The site is on private property now owned by Mr. Charles Johnson of Chester. He and his son, Gary, farm the acreage around the cemetery.

Records obtained from the Orange County, New York Genealogical Society indicate that thirty members of the extended Seely family are interred there. Many are listed in the Seely Genealogy Society's three books including my g.g. grandfather, Albert (SGS #1746); g.g.g. grandfather Henry (SGS #514); and g.g.g.g. grandfather Josiah (SGS #191). They are direct line ancestors who were followed by my g. grandfather, David Roe Seely (SGS #3855); grandfather, Frank Dunning Seely Sr.; and father, Frank Dunning Seely Jr.

While on a trip east in April, seven members of our family located and visited the cemetery. Finding the cemetery was a wonderful experience. The excitement and joy at being in that very special place was somewhat overshadowed by the sad condition of the cemetery. Time, weather and vandals have taken their toll. Most of the grave markers were broken, covered with debris or missing. Many small trees have grown in the cemetery and around the markers. The site was strewn with discarded bottles and trash and show signs of being a frequent hangout for the party crowd.

Following our visit, we felt strongly that steps must be taken to restore and protect the sanctity of this very special place. The cemetery is hallowed ground and as descendants of Josiah we feel obligated to preserve the memory of all those buried there by protecting what

remains the best way possible. The property owner and his son have indicated their full support of any endeavor to clear and protect the cemetery and have offered their assistance. All work would be done with the property owner's prior approval. Applicable local cemetery restoration laws and regulations, if any, would be followed.

The scope of the project would involve the removal of small trees and brush; recovery of downed and broken grave markers; cleaning, repairing and resetting the grave markers; photographing and recording grave marker inscriptions; erecting a protective fence; and installation of an appropriate plaque or marker that identifies the cemetery and lists the names of all the family members buried there. The first phase would be the clearing and fencing of the cemetery. The other phases would follow.

Help will be needed and the involvement of others will make it a true family project. The purpose of this newsletter item, therefore, is to locate descendants of Josiah Seely who live within driving distance of Chester and who would be available to lend assistance or would have knowledge of individuals or companies who have been involved in pioneer cemetery restoration and protection.

We would particularly like to contact any direct descendants of David Roe Seely (SGS #3855). He was a resident of Chester at the time of his death in 1903.

William D. (Seely) Welch  
1282 Hillhaven Lane  
Lincoln, CA 95678-8232  
916-408-3765  
[bnjwelch@starstream.net](mailto:bnjwelch@starstream.net)

## 20 Years Ago in SGS: President Reagan Praises Arabella

*Editor's Note: The following note ran in the August 1986 SGS Newsletter.*

According to reports from several Seeleys, in President Ronald Reagan's speech prior to the unveiling of the refurbished "Statue of Liberty" in New York harbor, on Thursday evening, July 3, 1986 speaking from Governor's Island, the President twice mentioned the ship "Arabella", the ship of our common ancestor, Robert Seeley, of the Winthrop Fleet, in Massachusetts in 1630, as part of his discussion of American immigrants. The first report on this historic note was from member Gerard R. Case of Jersey City, N.J. 07306.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to the miracle of the internet and technology, we can now share the subject of the above note. The text of the speech mentioned above (as well as many others by President Reagan, can be found at <http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/speeches/1986/70386d.htm>)*

"I've spoken before of the tiny Arabella, a ship at anchor just off the Massachusetts coast. A little group of Puritans huddled on the deck. And then John Winthrop,

who would later become the first Governor of Massachusetts, reminded his fellow Puritans there on that tiny deck that they must keep faith with their God, that the eyes of all the world were upon them, and that they must not forsake the mission that God had sent them on, and they must be a light unto the nations of all the world -- a shining city upon a hill.

"Call it mysticism if you will, I have always believed there was some divine providence that placed this great land here between the two great oceans, to be found by a special kind of people from every corner of the world, who had a special love for freedom and a special courage that enabled them to leave their own land, leave their friends and their countrymen, and come to this new and strange land to build a New World of peace and freedom and hope.

"Lincoln spoke about hope as he left the hometown he would never see again to take up the duties of the Presidency and bring America through a terrible Civil War. At each stop on his long train ride to Washington,

*Please See SGS 20 Years Ago Page 11*

## Obadiah Seeley, Servant and Apprentice of Nehemiah Wallington

*Extracted By Dian Little, SGS Chief Genealogist*

*Editor's Note: SGS Chief Genealogist Dian Little extracted the following notes from "Wallington's World A Puritan Artisan in Seventeenth-Century London," by Paul S. Seaver, published by the Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1985*

Nehemiah Wallington was a London Puritan artisan whose long life (1598-1658) left almost no discernible impact on his time. Yet he was nevertheless in almost every respect an exceptional Englishman. In an era of high mobility when many Englishmen moved sometimes great distances in search of work, of better economic prospects, or of means to escape from religious persecution, Wallington lived out his life in the tiny parish of St. Leonard's Eastcheap a few dozen yards north of London Bridge.

In a time when most ordinary Englishmen in the course of adolescence sought apprenticeships or went into service in another household, Wallington remained in the house of his birth, where he learned his father's trade as a turner and became free of the Company of Turners by patrimony. [p. 1]

On Saturday late in November 1630, when all but the infant Samuel were in the shop—Wallington and his father, Grace and little Sarah, and the two apprentices, Obediah Seeley (sic) and Theophilus Ward—Theophilus, who was showing chairs in the back room, dislodged a heavy one with his "bustling" about, apparently one at the top of a stack, which crashed down into the shop through the doorway and demolished a powdering tub that Wallington was in the process of selling to another customer. "It was God's great mercy...that it hit none of us, for if it had, it would have maimed us, if not killed us. [p. 59]

Part of what was distinctive about the Wallingtons was a sense of family which...nevertheless extended beyond the nuclear grouping of parents and children. Shortly after Nehemiah married, feeling the weight of "the charge of so many souls," he bought a copy of William

Gouge's "Of Domestic Duties," which was first published in 1622, "so everyone of us may learn and know our duties and honor God every one in his place where God has set them." A few years later, with the same intention in mind, he drew up a list of "31 articles for my family for the reforming our lives," to which the adult members of the family "set our hands."

Besides the signatures of Nehemiah and Grace, the document contained that of the apprentice, James Weld, and the three servants—Obediah Seeley, Theophilus Ward, and Susan Pate. Such a document suggests that Nehemiah tended to see "family" as simply another term for "household," but his usage on other occasions makes clear that, though he did tend to include his household in his family, the latter included much more. The Wallingtons remained "in this doleful city" during the plague of 1625. [p. 79]

Nehemiah records a letter from Francis Wilsmore...Jan. 14 1638/39, he signs himself "your poor yet loving brother in Christ." Evidently at some point they had met in London, for Wilsmore asks to be remembered to Grace Wallington and to Obediah Seeley, who had been Nehemiah's servant and then apprentice between 1627 and 1635. [p. 101]

On at least one occasion, in 1637, Wallington registered with the Turners' Company the terms of service of a journeyman, Obediah Seeley, as indeed the ordinances of the company required: the terms were recorded as "eight pounds per annum and meat and drink, etc." [p.121] Note regarding this statement, "GL, MS. 3295/s, January 21, 1636/37; the year of service ran from October 19. Evidently Nehemiah had not rushed right out to the company Hall to record the arrangement. Seeley, the son of a Birmingham panner, had been apprenticed to Wallington for nine years at Michaelmas 1626. GL, MS, 3302/1, January 11, 1626/27. [p 236]

GL=Guild Library MG=A Record of the Mercies of God

### Volunteers Needed

Here is a list of SGS projects that need volunteers. Also listed is a person to contact if you are willing to help. U. S. Mail addresses for each POC are found on page 15 of the Newsletter.

#### Project

\*Area Coordinator (Assist with Queries & Membership)  
Plan SGS Genealogical Research  
Present paper at 2007 SGS Reunion  
Submit names for "Famous Seeleys" list  
Submit names of Seeley veterans in Armed Services  
Participate in Seeley DNA Lineage Test  
Establish SGS as a non-profit [501 C (3)] organization  
Contribute to SGS Newsletter  
Recommend sites to visit during 2007 New England trip  
On Site Rep for 2007 SGS Reunion [Wethersfield, CT]

\*The only areas covered are Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, New York (Warren, Washington, & Saratoga Counties only), Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, and Quebec Canada. For duties, see the February 2005 Newsletter, page 3.

#### Points of Contact

Jim Seeley, [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net)  
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Marshall Seelye, [mseelye@localnet.com](mailto:mseelye@localnet.com)  
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Dr. Ken McCrea, [Ken@3cat.us](mailto:Ken@3cat.us)  
Jim Seeley, [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net)  
Paul Taylor, [pccntaylor@cox.net](mailto:pccntaylor@cox.net)  
Kathie Olsen, [katherinemolsen@comcast.net](mailto:katherinemolsen@comcast.net)  
Jim Seeley, [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net)

## Meet Your Board of Directors

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



### Joan Phillips, Secretary

Joan Jackson Phillips was elected Secretary of the Seeley Genealogical Society in 1997 at the St. John, New Brunswick, reunion. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, in March 1931, to Donald and Isabella Jackson. She was the second of two daughters.

Joan spent her entire working life in Chicago. After graduating from high school, she attended Monticello Women's College and Michigan State University. After a carefree post-college fling, during which time she learned to ski, went to Europe, and generally had a good time, she returned to Chicago Teachers College to earn her teachers credits and a Masters Degree. She spent the rest of her career teaching in a Vocational High School, where she taught Bookkeeping, Marketing and Business Law. In 1987, Joan retired from teaching and moved to Saugatuck, MI.

Joan has been twice married (once widowed, and once divorced). She says she is enjoying her retirement since she can participate in all the activities she never had time for while working.

Joan's lineage is Robert (1), Nathaniel, Robert (2), Nehemiah (1), Nehemiah (2), Stephen, Jeremiah, James, Mary Emeline Sealey. Mary Emeline married Joseph T. Jackson. Their son, Joseph W. Jackson was Joan's grandfather. Joan is the second

cousin of Richard Chroninger, former editor of the SGS Newsletter, and sister of Nancy Jackson Warnock, both members of the Seeley Genealogical Society.

### Wesley Waring, Director

Wesley was born and went to school in northern Minnesota and currently lives in Maple Grove, a northwest suburb of Minneapolis. He is a machinist at Oildyne, a division of Parker Hannifin a company specializing in hydraulic equipment.

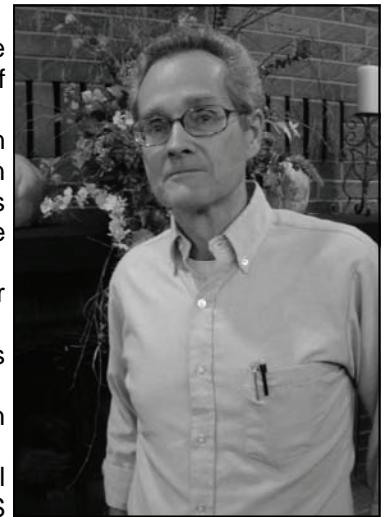
His mother was first generation born in Minnesota and his father was born in Ontario very little of his research is in Minnesota. Wesley has always had an interest in family history partly because it was frequently discussed at home. His grandparents died when he was too young to ask questions. However, other family members were willing to talk about what they remembered.

His father's mother is the Seely connection. She was born in Ontario and her grandfather Obadiah in New Brunswick.

Wesley has traveled to Ontario several times to visit cousins and three times attended Seely Family reunions in New Brunswick.

His interest in family history led to his interest in being involved with SGS in an attempt to correct the relationship between Robert Seeley and Obadiah Seeley.

Over the last several years he has volunteered for the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) and its branches. He has been Vice President and President for MGS and currently is program chair.



### Dan Seelye, Director (Past President)

Daniel Parsons Seelye is Director (Past President) of SGS. He was elected president of the society at the 1997 reunion in St. John, New Brunswick and served two consecutive two-year terms. Dan was born in Dec. 1926 in Juneau, Alaska to Mary Esther Tipton (Hale) (Seelye) Robinson, and Charles Parsons Seelye. He lived in Alaska with brother Wesley Harrison, and sisters Mary Helen, Audrey Joyce, and Nola May Hale, until about 1937, when they moved to Midland, Wash. near Tacoma.

After two years in the Merchant Marine, Dan was drafted in 1944 and served in the Army through the end of the war. In 1949, he married Ruth Marie Kachulis in Tacoma. He worked briefly at McChord Air Force Base until 1953 when he opened his own electrical shop in Lakewood, Wash. Dan retired in Jan. 1989. Dan and Ruth had two sons, Daniel and Scott, three grandsons and one granddaughter. Ruth passed away in July of 2003 and Dan remarried Margie in May of 2004. They now spend their winters in Desert Hot Springs, Calif. and return to Lakewood about May each year.

Dan traces his Seelye/Seeley lineage from Obadiah(2), Jonas(3), Samuel(4), Charles(5), David(6), Daniel(7), Lyman(8), Charles Wesley(9), Charles Parsons(10), and Daniel Parsons(11).



## Obadiah Seeley, of Stamford Connecticut

*Extracted By Karl Weiler, SGS Assistant Genealogist*

The following is a selection of references showing Obadiah Seeley in Stamford Connecticut.

He is noted on page 10 of the book "The Story of The Early Settlers of Stamford, Connecticut 1641-1700" by Jeanne Majdalany. It says in the fall of 1642 a new group of settlers were accepted in Stamford.

On page 16 the book says, "In reassessing the situation in Stamford after the departure of the large Long Island group, one finds that of the fifty-nine men that arrived in 1641 and 1642 there remained only twenty-eight. Those founding men were remarkably hardy, for in spite of toil and turmoil, only one of their number died during these early years. John Miller, who arrived in 1642, died that same year. His wife married Obadiah Seely shortly thereafter, and his three young sons, John, Jonathan, and Joseph grew up in the Seely house."

The book "The Winthrop Fleet of 1630" by Charles Edward Banks, on page 26, it lists the conditions of travel from England to New England. "It is understood that each emigrant traveled at his own expense for himself and those dependent upon him, and it should be here explained in this connection that there were four classes of emigrants: (1) Those who paid for their passage over; (2) Those who had some profession, art or trade and were to receive remuneration for same in money or grants of land; (3) Those who paid a part of their passage and were to labor at the rate of three shillings a day after arrival in repayment; (4) Indentured servants were carried at the expense of their masters, who were to receive in return fifty acres of land for each servant transported."

The deaths of Obadiah Seeley in 1657 and Habakuk Seely in 1658 are noted on page 48 of "The Story of the Early Settlers of Stamford, Connecticut 1641-1700" by Jeanne Majdalany. The book also notes, "Malaria is not an inevitably fatal disease, but it is a devastating one. A

community stricken by it would be sadly debilitated for a considerable period of time. Those people who were laid low but recovered would be subject to recurrent attacks and left with lingering weakness."

On page 49, the book reads, "In each man's Inventory a house and land were accounted for. Land for obvious reasons was not expensive, nor was a house. Obadiah Seely's list states that his house and four acres were worth twenty pounds, and five and a half acres of meadow, thirty pounds. John Waterbury's land and home were prized at eighty pounds. The average was thirty pounds.

On page 56, it says, "The inventories of Obadiah Seely and Thomas Stevens reveal estates of approximately the same value—a little over £100. Obadiah had a large number of carpentry tools, and Thomas had a douse box and the only pair of scissors listed. Otherwise their Inventories are unremarkable. Obadiah, who had a double house-lot south of Waterbury's on South Street, had married Mary, the widow of John Miller. They presumably, therefore, had a household of young boys—Miller's three plus their own Obadiah, Cornelius, Jonas and Habakuk, who died less than a year after his father. Thomas Stevens also had a household of boys. There were five, plus one girl. Thomas made provision for them in his will, giving his wife control for as long as she remained single. Both the Seely and Stevens names continue through Stamford's history."

Other references in New England mentioning Obadiah Seeley:

- FHC Film # 926467 Birth Marriage and Death of Stamford Ct. 1641-1868
- Book "The Barbour Collection of Stamford Conn. Vital Records 1641-1852

### SGS CD-ROM Updated

Many SGS members have purchased the SGS CD-ROM. This CD contains the following four items:

- The SGS Ancestor File Index.
- The 3 SGS Publications.
- Robert Seeley research report by Alan J. Phipps.
- Obadiah Seeley research reports by Fred C. Hart

The original plan was to provide updates to the disk free of charge via Email. We have a problem.

The ongoing updates to the SGS Ancestor File Index, are considerably larger than what can be distributed via Email. Also, the Sixth Generation Families folders are being updated with Change #6 (published in the February 2006 Newsletter). Because the updates have such large file sizes, we will be required to send the data on an additional CD-ROM. To cover the costs of producing and mailing these additional disks, we must ask those who have previously received the disk to order the newly updated disk. However, we kept track of the names of those members, so when the updated CD is

ready, it will be available for only \$5 to those who have previously purchased a copy. Its availability will be announced in the newsletter, probably by the end of 2006. This money will just cover the cost of materials and shipping and will be retained by the SGS CDRom Project Director, Bob Seeley, rps@rpseeley.com.

For those who have not previously bought the SGS CD-ROM, the price for the updated CD remains \$15.

Please wait until the updated CDs are available before ordering them from Bob

### Seymour Alvord Seelye (SGS# 2454)

SGS would like to know who sent a CD-ROM containing the descendants of Seymour Alvord Seelye (SGS # 2454) to the Seelye Research Center in the Family Tree Maker application format. Seymour is an eighth generation Seelye in the Nathaniel line. A paper copy of the data was sent to John Seely to incorporate in his Seeley Ancestor File. (Only the Personal Ancestor File application is available at the SRC.) Will the submitter of this info please contact John Seely or Jim Seeley? Our contact info is on page 15.

## Military Notes — Airman Sealey Pitches in to Preserve History

*Story By Staff Sgt. Chris Stagner, 422nd Air Base Squadron Public Affairs*

Airmen from RAFs Croughton and Fairford in England banded together on April 27 and 28 to provide much-needed improvements to the ancestral home of the nation's first president, George Washington.

The improvements are part of an initiative to make the home more user friendly. Improvements include providing people with disabilities better access to the historic site, removing 20 tons of sod, and laying about 250 feet of sidewalks.

The work accomplished by the Airmen another in a long line of volunteer activities the American military community has done with the Manor.

"We've got a strong connection with the base(s)," said John Gaskill, Sulgrave Manor head gardener. "We appreciate all the work they regularly do to support us."

### **Elsewhere In Seeley Military News...**

#### **Seeley Graduates Army Combat Training**

June 12, 2006 -- Army Reserve Pvt. Patrick A. Seeley has graduated Basic Combat Training at Fort Knox, Ky.

During the nine-week training period, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.

Seeley is the son of John and Pamela Seeley of Danville, Va.



Airman 1st Class Jeremy Sealey from the 422nd Communications Squadron shovels dirt and gravel onto a loader to be used on sidewalks.

#### **Seelye Graduates Air Force Basic Training**

May 24, 2006 -- Air Force Airman Jordan S. Seelye has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Tom Seelye of Warneke Road, Detroit Lakes, Minn., and Terri Seelye of Audubon, Minn.

Seelye is a 2005 graduate of Detroit Lakes High.

### **Can We Help Tear Down Your Brick Wall?**

*Story By Linda Crocker, SGS Query Editor*

Have you been researching your Seeley line for years or even decades and come to a "brick wall?" I know I have. I thought that for the November issue of the SGS Newsletter we could compile a list of the Seeley ancestors who seem to have just dropped into some locality with no clue as to their parentage or origin. My guess is that most of these folks are lingering about in the early 1800's. Maybe we'll find some clusters that will show us where to focus our research efforts or maybe your brick wall will be someone else's aunt or uncle (a few generations back).

Send your "Brick Wall Seeley" to me (contact information on page 15) using the following format and with "Brick Wall" in the subject line.

Ancestor name, earliest verifiable evidence (marriage date, census record, death date, etc with locality), names of spouse and children, one other clue if you have one (his father's name is said to be John, the local history says he came from Conn., etc). The Brick Wall deadline will be Oct. 1. Why not send your information today before you forget?

#### **New Members**

Andrew Waber

14012 Postime Dr  
Jacksonville, FL 32250-1628

Roberta A & Henry P McGhee

266 Cedar Ln  
Torrington, CT 06790-2327

Constance S & Robert F Parrott

10202 Crescent Moon Dr  
Houston, TX 77064-4319

Conrad B Seelye

173 Crown Cir  
So. San Francisco, CA 94080-1166

Joseph D & Joann Seelye

205 S Heaton  
Morrison, IL 61270-2009

### **DUES ARE DUE**

All members are requested to examine the label on this copy of the SGS Newsletter to note the "Paid To" date. If it says 8/6 or 8/06 it indicates that your dues are due for renewal. The multiple year renewal option is encouraged, both to save you money and future postage, and to save the SGS future renewal expenses. Please send your renewals to the address on the bottom of the Membership Form on page 15.

#### **A Note from the SGS Historian**

SGS Historian Ruthetta Hansen is working on a project and needs your help. She is looking for more information to include in our archives about our second president, Lloyd Seely from Oregon, and our third president, DeLoss Seeley. She would also like to obtain photos (either print or digital) of each to place on a wall in the Seelye Research Center alongside photos of our other presidents. Ruthetta's contact info is on page 15.

## SGS Queries

(Data as of July 7, 2006)

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

Please send your queries to Query Editor Linda Crocker at [llbc100@msn.com](mailto:llbc100@msn.com) or mail to Linda at home. 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

There is nothing new to report. Please help. You don't have to be on the Query Team to answer queries. Escape the heat this summer/early fall in front of your computer or in your local library or cemetery or town hall and investigate a query from one of the past newsletters or this one. Maybe you live near one of the localities mentioned or near a great regional library. Lots of times someone else taking a fresh look at the material leads to a breakthrough. You could be someone's hero! Just remember to let me know all about it.

### NEW QUERIES

**Query 0608-1** Submitted by Noel E. Seeley ([noeleo@indco.net](mailto:noeleo@indco.net))

Noel is looking for information and the ancestry of his father Elmer Seeley b. 14 June 1917 in CO. He died when Noel was 21 in 1981 and he knows little about his family except that Elmer had brothers named Clarence and Orin and a sister named Irene.

**SGS Response:** In the 1920 census for District 116, Justice Precinct, Wichita County, TX:

Seeley, George, age 39, rents his home, b. CO, father and mother b. CO, oil well driller

----, Edna, age 33, b. CO, father and mother b. CO

----, Clarence, age 7 8/12, b. CO

----, Orrin, age 4 8/12, b. CO

----, Elmer, age 2, b. CO

In the 1930 census I couldn't find George, Edna nor Orrin. However I found:

Elmer Seeley, age 12, b. CO, living as a foster child with Noel Myers and his wife Ethel, both age 38 in District 11, Precinct 7, Crowley Co. CO

Clarence Seeley, age 17, b. CO, is an inmate at the State Industrial School, District 14, Precinct 10, Jefferson Co. CO. He is working as a cook in the commissary.

Irene Silly, age 10, b. CO, is living as a ward of Detlef Kuehl and his wife Christine, natives of Germany, in District 26, Precinct 16, Garfield Co. CO. They have another ward as well, Frank Norvell, age 13.

George Seeley, father of Elmer, could be the George Seeley born Nov. 1880 in CO as listed in the 1900 census of Boulder, Superior Co. CO as follows:

Seeley, WF b. Oct 1856, age 43, b. PA, father b. CT,

mother b. PA, occupation: teamster married 20 years to Florence b. May 1862, age 38, b. MO, father b. WI, mother b. OH

Children:

----, Seeley, George b. Nov. 1880, age 19, b. CO, occupation: laborer in Section RR

----, Pearl b. Sep 1882

----, Genevieve b. Sep 1885

----, Mattie b. Dec. 1888 all children b. CO

----, Wesley b. Apr. 1890

----, Lorie b. Oct. 1895 (male)

----, Johnnie b. Nov. 1897

I can't find George in the 1910 census. It is only indexed by head of household. He isn't with William Seeley and Florence who are living in Coal Creek,

*Please See SGS Queries Page 12*

### 20 Years Ago In SGS (continued from page 6)

the news grew worse: The nation was dividing; his own life was in peril. On he pushed, undaunted. In Philadelphia he spoke in Independence Hall, where 85 years earlier the Declaration of Independence had been signed. He noted that much more had been achieved there than just independence from Great Britain. It was, he said, 'hope to the world, future for all time.'

"Well, that is the common thread that binds us to those Quakers [Puritans] on the tiny deck of the Arabella, to the beleaguered farmers and landowners signing the Declaration in Philadelphia in that hot Philadelphia hall, to Lincoln on a train ready to guide his people through the conflagration, to all the millions crowded in the steerage who passed this lady and wept at the sight of her, and those who've worked here in the scaffolding with their hands and with their love -- Jean Wiart, Scott Aronsen, Tony Soraci, Robert Kearney, and so many others.

"We're bound together because, like them, we too dare to hope -- hope that our children will always find here the land of liberty in a land that is free. We dare to hope too that we'll understand our work can never be truly done until every man, woman, and child shares in our gift, in our hope, and stands with us in the light of liberty -- the light that, tonight, will shortly cast its glow upon her, as it has upon us for two centuries, keeping faith with a dream of long ago and guiding millions still to a future of peace and freedom."

### NGS Member Number

The SGS Member number for the National Genealogical Society is 112181. Use the member number to set up an account on the NGS Website at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org). Access to NGS Forum Magazine is a member benefit. The Members-Only section of the NGS website allows members to search NGS databases and use other features.

## SGS Queries (continued from page 11)

Jefferson Co. CO with Lorie, 15, John, 13 and Dora, 8 and doesn't appear as a head of household himself.

The 1890 census doesn't exist for most places including CO. There is a George E Seeley, age 4 in the 1885 census of Jefferson Co. CO. His parents are listed as Colonel W Seeley, age 28 and Annie Seeley, age 23. One sister is listed, Helen M. or Herlie M. (hard to read, maybe it's Perlie M.), age 2. If this is the right family there is a CW Seeley, age 24, b. PA, father b. CT, mother b. Pa with wife Anna, 19, b. MO in the 1880 census for Gunnison City, Gunnison, CO. With them are CD Seeley, CW's brother, age 27 and CD's daughter RA, age 6 mos.

Can anyone help by verifying that George, father of Elmer is the same as George, son of William/WF Seeley? Who is Florence, wife of William? What is the ancestry of William/WF Seeley? Who is Edna, mother of Elmer? Also, there must be a story as to why the children were split up by 1930.

**Query 0608-2** Submitted by Norbert Trokki ([ntrokki@aol.com](mailto:ntrokki@aol.com)) of W. Babylon, NY

Norbert contacted us via the website and asked "Recently I bought a silver baby cup (ed: on Ebay) signed "William H. Seely IV" and >Officers & Ladies 125 Signal Battalion. If you could, please help me find the original owner of this relic."

**SGS Response:** Our newsletter editor Paul Taylor contributed:

It's something of a tradition among military officers to present a silver baby cup to new parents in their units (there's one on display in our living room that says "Carolyn" "Wardroom USS John R Perry"). The name William H. Seely, IV is probably the name of the baby to whom the cup was presented by the officers and ladies of the U.S. Army's 125th Signal Battalion.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion is located about five miles north of Schofield Barracks at Helemano Military Reservation in Hawaii. The unit was established as the 125<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion on Feb 1, 1957, so it is very likely that William H. Seely, IV was not only born after that date, but is still alive. The 125<sup>th</sup> is a subordinate command to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Further investigation by Paul found a few copies of the unit's newsletters online and notably the issue of Aug. 19, 1966 where 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William H. Seely III is listed on the newsletter masthead as the Information Officer. This was the only issue where he was listed so Paul assumes it was a temporary assignment. If William III had a 3 year tour of duty with the 125<sup>th</sup>, then William IV would have been born between 1963 and 1969.

Paul and I both found a promotion for a William H Seely III in the Marine Corps in 2005 where he still seems to be on active duty as a LTCOL. We're not sure this is the same person since it is a different branch of the military and not much in the way of promotions in 40 years (maybe he was out for a while and re-enlisted in a different branch?).

If anyone recognizes William H. Seely III or IV and/or can place them in one of our Seeley lines, let me know.

**Query 0608-3** Submitted by Erin Lemke ([tjesl1@chartermi.net](mailto:tjesl1@chartermi.net))

Erin sent the following family line: Erin's grandmother was Effie May Seelye who was born 7/30/1912. Effie's father was Jay Morris Seelye (1883-1956). Jay's Father was James William Seelye (1852-1918). James' Father was Nehemiah Jay Seelye (1821-1880). Nehemiah was born in Black Rock, N.Y. and his father's name was Ezra. Ezra was married to Sofia (Sophia) Pike.

James William Seelye was married to Sally Ann (Annis). James was born on October 26, 1852 and died January 12, 1918 in Eaton Rapids, MI. James and Sally had three children; Allena Agnes (who married Edward Hume), Jay Morris (who married Alice Leora Milller) and William Stirling (who married Vera Long).

James's Father was Nehemiah Jay Seelye born 10/6/1821 in Black Rock, N.Y. and died 10/31/1880 in Eaton Rapids. He was married to Girzy Stirling (or Sterling) who was from Lenrich, Canada. Girzy was born July 20, 1825 and died March 4, 1887. They were married April 8, 1847. Girzy and Nehemiah had the following children: George Henry (who married Roxanna D. Annis and had 1 daughter, Effie Sophia), Stirling Jay, **James William**, Sofia Effie & Agnes Jane (who died of diphtheria), Mary Ursula (who married Mack Polhemus) and Helen Agnes (who married George Channel)

The parents of Nehemiah are Ezra Seelye and Sophia Pike. Sophia lived with Nehemiah after Ezra's death. She was buried at Roselawn Cemetary in Eaton Rapids, MI. Erin would like to learn about Ezra's ancestry.

**SGS Response:** I checked census records, working backwards to verify Erin's information. Jay M Seelye is in the 1920 census for Reed City, Osceola, MI with his wife Alice L. and children Effie M., George W. and his father-in-law Philander E Miller. They were all b. in MI to parents b. in MI In the 1900 census for Eaton Rapids, Eaton, MI I found James W. Seelye, b. Oct 1852 in MI to a father b. NY and mother b. Canada. With him are wife Sally A and children Allina A. b. Apr 1880, Jay M. b. June 1883, and William S. b. Nov 1889.

In the 1880 census for Eaton Rapids: William Seelye, age 27, b. MI, f. b. NY, m. b. Canada with Sally age 25 (MI, NY, NY) and Nellie age 2 mos.

Next house listed: NJ Seelye, age 57, b. NY, father b. NY, mother b. Canada; wife Girzy, age 54, b. Canada to parents b. Scotland, with Sterling J age 30, Mary 19 and Hellen 13 all b. MI.

The 1870 census for Eaton Rapids has the family as: Jay W. Seelye age 48, b. NY, Girty age 45, b. Canada, George, 22, Sterling J, 20, James W., 17, Mary M., 9 and Hellen A, 3, all b. MI

The 1860 census for Eaton rapids lists NJ Seeley, 38, Gissey, 34, George H., 12, Sterling, 10, William, 7, Eppie, 4 and Agnes, 1.

The 1850 census for Eaton Rapids has Nehemiah J Seelye, age 28, Girzy, age 26, George H., age 2, Jay S. age 2 mos. and Sophia, age 47. Also in Eaton Rapids are William Sterling, age 63, and his wife Jane, 61, both b.

Scotland In 1840 I find a Sophia Seelye as Head of Household in Gainsville, Genesee, NY with 1 male 5-10, 1 male 10-15, 1 female 5-10, 1 female 10-15 and 1 female 30-40 (herself) In 1830 I find an E Seeley in Buffalo, Erie, NY with 1 male < 5, 2 male <10, 1 male 30-40 and 1 female 20-30. Black Rock, NY became part of Buffalo.

Looking in the SGS Sixth Generation volume (Nathaniel) I think Ezra SGS #789 looks like a possible match for Ezra, father of Nehemiah. Ezra #789 has a father named Nehemiah (SGS #273), a brother named John Jay/James who died in Black Rock and another brother Nehemiah who died in Buffalo. Does anyone have information to corroborate or disprove this theory? Please remember to use the query number to identify your response.

**Query 0608-4** Submitted by Jim Seeley ([jim.seeley@comcast.net](mailto:jim.seeley@comcast.net))

Jim has been trying to connect his branch of the Seeley family into the main group for several years without success.

He says, "We hail from Kentucky, Clay and Laurel Counties. My great-grandfather is Pleasant Davis Seeley (1864-1947), born out of wedlock to Virginia Seeley (1848-?), and we only have anecdotal evidence who his father may have been. I recently had a breakthrough and found Virginia's parents and family in Kentucky Census records, back to John Seeley (born 1823, married Catherine Cook).

"I think I have a possible link to Michael Seeley (born 1750 in Stratford, CT, died 11 Apr 1823 in Luzerne Co, PA) through his grandson John but my data falls a little bit short. Our family tradition has it that Virginia's family was from PA and Germany. In the William Seeley GED file I got many years ago I find a Joseph Garrison, born in Germany, wed to Sarah Seely - daughter of Michael. I note she was born in NJ but the family settled in PA. I have a son to Michael (and brother of Sarah) named John(1778-1855), who himself has a son named John. This grandson of William I have no information on.

"The 1850 Kentucky Census has our John Seeley listed as being born in NJ. He doesn't appear in the 1860 Census but wife Catherine and children do, so I believe he died between 1850-1860. I believe he could be related to Michael Seeley since there is the NJ connection, the PA connection and the Germany connection. Is there any more information on the grandson John of Michael Seeley that might help me confirm this? I think grandson John may have been born in NJ, lived for a time in PA, then moved to Kentucky before 1850."

**SGS Response:** In the census these Seeleys spell their name Ceeley, Cely, Sealy and Seely.

The 'Michael Seeley' Jim refers to is a confusion between 2 Michaels (as noted on page 43 of The Sixth Generation From Nathaniel Seeley). The Michael who died in Luzerne County is SGS #463, b. in Sussex Co. NJ. He does have a son John (SGS # 1573) but this John does not have a son named John according to our

information.

I did find a possible entry for John Seely in the 1860 census of Clay Co. KY where he is age 65, b. NJ and working as a tailor. This is the same occupation John has in the 1850 census of Clay Co. where his name is spelled Ceeley and he is age 48 and b. NJ. In that census he is with wife Catherine and children William, 5 and Virginia, 2. Meanwhile back in the 1860 census his wife Catherine and children are in neighboring Laurel Co., spelling their name Cely. Catherine is listed as illiterate in 1850 - that might explain all the different spellings.

Our SGS database lists John Seely as married to Catherine Cook on 12 April 1843 in Clay County KY. The information comes from the IGI. I looked at that but couldn't find any supporting documentation. Without supporting evidence any information in the IGI has to be taken with a big grain of salt! I also think someone guessed John was born about 1823 based on the marriage date.

So, the question is, can anyone suggest who John may be, born 1795 – 1802 (according to census records) in New Jersey? He married Catherine in KY but she is much younger (b. 1827-29). Maybe he had an earlier marriage???

**Query 0608-5** Submitted by Dorothy Seely Birch, 509 Lilly, Greenfield, MO 65661 (417-637-2773)

Dorothy is looking for the ancestry of her great-grandfather John Seeley. According to census records he was born in July 1830 in NJ (or NY according to 1860 census) to a father from England and mother from NJ. He married Sarah Elizabeth Knowles on 17 Feb 1857 in Jackson County, MI. In the 1860 census they are listed with Sarah's family, headed by her father Benjamin Knowles, in Brooklyn, Jackson, MI. John and Sarah had 6 children but only 2 survived to adulthood: Ann Elvira Seely, b. 11 May 1858 and m. 1875 John Gill (m2 Daniel Starkey) and George Abram Seely, b. 9 May 1863, Whitehall, Muskegon, MI. According to Dorothy the family moved to Nebraska in 1870 and on to Mitchell County, KS by 1874. John Seeley homesteaded in Logan Township and died in Beloit, Mitchell, KS on 16 December 1914. Dorothy is a daughter of George's son Ray.

Family lore is that John's father was named Uriah, was born in England as the 2nd son of a titled person and came to America to avoid conscription. However I can't find any such person in the census records.

Can anyone identify the origins of this John Seely? If you write to Dorothy please send me a copy of your correspondence. If you prefer, you can email me and I'll send Dorothy the information.

**Query 0608-6** Submitted by Yvonne Seeley ([yerknco@optonline.net](mailto:yerknco@optonline.net))

Yvie is looking for James Seeley, died July 1917 (as per the front cover of the family bible). He was married to Ellen Geary (born Oct 20, 1860, died Sept 24, 1937) on October 24, 1885. James and Ellen Seeley had four children:

Raymond Charles Seeley, Sr., (born May 30, 1903)

*Please See SGS Queries Page 14*

## SGS Queries (continued from page 13)

Beatrice Seeley (unk birthdate, died Dec 10, 1946)  
James Seeley (unk birthdate, died Oct 19, 1949)  
Ethel Seeley (unk birthdate, died Dec 9, 1947)

Raymond Charles Seeley, Sr. lived in Flushing, NY (he is her husband's grandfather) and raised his family there. The family was told that James and Ellen came from Ireland by one story, but in another they were English. Ellen Geary's father was Michael Geary (Born Oct 13, 1896) and her mother's name was Catherine (unknown maiden name).

**SGS Response:** From the 1900 census for Brooklyn Ward 5 (District 45), Kings Co. NY Seeley, James b. April 1860, married 16 years, b. NY, parents b. Ireland, produce salesman wife: Nellie, b. Oct. 1860, married 16 years, 8 children, 5 living, b. NY, parents b. Ireland son James b. June 1888 dau. Mabel b. Oct 1890 dau. Ethel b. Dec. 1892 son William b. May 1895 dau. Beatrice b. July 1897.

From the 1910 census Brooklyn Ward 25 (District 97), Kings, NY Seeley, James J. age 51, married 25 years, b. NY, father b. NY, mother b. Ire. (Irish), fruit salesman wife: Nellie J., age 49, b. NY, father b. England (Irish), mother b. Ireland (Irish) son James J. age 22, b. NY, working as mail clerk at Post Office dau Mabel V. age 20, b. NY, working as telephone operator dau Ethel T age 18 working as willower at a factory son Raymond, age 7, attended school

From the 1920 census of District 272, Brooklyn Assembly District 5, Kings, NY Seeley, Nellie (Head of family), age 59, widow, b. NY, parents b. Ireland son Raymond, age 16, working as clerk at an agency son-in-law Andrew Kellers(? , could be Kellen, etc) age 23, b. NY, working as clerk at a bank daughter Bertrice Kellers(?), age 22 Nellie owns the house and rents part to a couple in their 40's, John and Helen Bauer.

Unfortunately the 1890 census is lost except for a few fragments that do not include New York or Brooklyn.

From the 1880 census New York (Manhattan) - district 140, New York Seeley, James, age 55, b. Ireland, parents b. Ireland, working as laborer, cannot read or write wife, Rose, age 50, b. Ireland, parents b. Ireland dau. Rose, age 23, b. NY, saleslady son James, age 21, b. NY, porter dau. Mary E., age 14, b. NY, at school dau. Maggie, age 12, b. NY, at school dau. Josie, age 9, b. NY, at school.

From the 1880 census New York (Manhattan) - district 58, NY Geary, Michael, age 57, b. Ireland, drives truck wife Catherine, age 47, b. Ireland, keeps house son William, age 22, b. NY, drives truck dau. Nellie, age 20, b. NY, artificial flowers dau. Margaret, age 18, b. NY, hair dresser son, Michael, age 16, b. NY, tinsmith son John, age 12, b. NY, attends school.

From the 1870 census of New York Ward 13 District 7 (2nd Enum), NY, NY Seeley, James, age 45, b. Ireland, labourer wife Rose, age 45, b. Ireland dau. Rose, age 13, b. NY son James, age 11, b. NY son Thomas, age 10, b. NY dau Mary, age 4, b. NY dau Margaret, age 3, b. NY.

I haven't been able to find James and Rose in the

1860 census although they should be there somewhere since Rose and James were born in NY State.

I suggested that Yvie pursue this by consulting the NY State census for New York City for 1855, 1865, etc. She could also check immigration records for James Seeley's arrival in 1857 or earlier. She might also check church records in that area of New York City. We don't know if James and Rose married in New York or Ireland. I wonder if they had older children since they seem old for the ages of the children listed.

Let me know if you have other suggestions or information.

### 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? Others? (specify)

**What exactly do you want to know?** Parent's names and details? Information on siblings? 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 any further progress you make on your own. Other members may be interested or related to your line.

We will publish an update to your original query which may lead to even more information. One more name, date or place may be the key to connecting your line to another. Your query will also be posted on our website. Make sure we have your current email and normal address – sometimes we get information several months after publication.

### HOW TO ANSWER A QUERY

If you have information to share on any queries, current or from 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.

### WHAT'S NEW IN QUERIES

I'm still having fun researching some of the queries. It's something I try to do if I have the time and there is enough information in the query to work with. I have also re-directed information and questions sent to me via our website. Recently someone sent me a copy of a lineage purportedly linking William Seeley, father of Robert, SGS#1 with William the Conqueror. I asked Kathie Olsen to draft an appropriate reply (no evidence to support this) and have saved it for future use. I do wish I would get more responses to queries so I could provide more updates.

## SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2005 - 2007

**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 Non-Voting Officers and Volunteers for 2005 - 2007

**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  
(In U.S. Dollars)  FIVE YEARS \$30.00  LIFETIME \$100.00

MAIL FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEE TO: RAMON HALL, SGS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  
(Make Checks Payable to SGS) 155 BEAR DRIVE  
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## SGS Publications Available for Order

All Checks should be made payable to SGS.

There are three major SGS publications available for order from the Seelye Research Center.

1. ***The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657): Generations One Through Five, 1997 Edition, w/ Changes 1 and 2 (U.S. \$17)***
2. ***The Sixth Generation Families, 1995 Edition, w/Changes 1 through 6 (U.S. \$17)***
3. ***The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1601-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 2000 Edition (U.S. \$25)***

Prior issues of the **SGS Newsletter** can be purchased for \$2 each. Make checks out to the Seeley Genealogical Society and send to Seelye Research Center Director Terry Tietjens (contact info on page 15).

The **SGS CD-ROM** contains files in both MS Word and Adobe Acrobat formats, both of which are user-friendly and easily searchable. Also, when any of the included documents are updated, those changes will be forwarded to those who have already purchased the CD. The SGS CD-ROM includes:

### **Folder A - SGS Publications**

***(By Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen)***

1. Generations One Through Five Robert & Obadiah
2. Sixth Generation Robert
3. Sixth Generation Obadiah
4. Seventh Generation Robert
5. Seventh Generation Obadiah

### **Folder B - SGS Ancestral File Index** ***(Database Index by John R. Seely)***

1. John Seely Seeley List
2. Seeley Children, Alphabetical List
3. Seeley Children, List by Mother
4. Non-Seeley Children, Alphabetical List
5. Non-Seeley Children, List by Seeley Mother
6. Submitters SGS

### **Folder C - Fred C. Hart, Jr., CG Research Reports** ***on Obadiah Seeley (with attachments)***

1. Origin of Obadiah Seeley
  - a. Chronological Listing of Obadiah Seeley's Stamford, CT Records
  - b. Stamford, CT Records (Introduction)
2. Obadiah's Relationship with John Lawre(n)son and Family of John Miller
  - a. Lawre(n)son/Seeley Events
  - b. Miller - Seeley Events
3. Origin of Early Stamford Settlers
  - a. Register of St Martin
  - b. The Family of William Seeley
  - c. Stamford Settlers Before 1700
4. Mary, Wife of Obadiah
  - a. Doubtful Angel
5. Probate Record for William Seeley

### **Folder D - Report from Alan Phipps, MA, AG,**

1. The English Ancestry of Robert Seeley  
The SGS CD-ROM (U.S.\$15) is available from Bob Seeley (see contact data on page 15).