



# Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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History ★ Family ★ Research

February 2008

## SGS Update: What We Know About Robert Seeley

Story By SGS President Kathie Olsen

Recently, my sister-in-law asked me what was so special about Robert that I would travel across the country to attend the SGS Reunion. I have thought a lot about this and I realize that there is nothing so remarkable about Robert except that this organization exists to remember him and his accomplishments. He was not rich or famous, but he was a hard working, dependable man. He was resourceful, able to fill several roles. He was trained as a cordswainer, a type of shoemaker, but he also functioned as a surveyor and a soldier. I see him as handsome and strong. He had one little boy, Nathaniel, and now a posterity that probably numbers in the millions, many with the same characteristics as Robert.

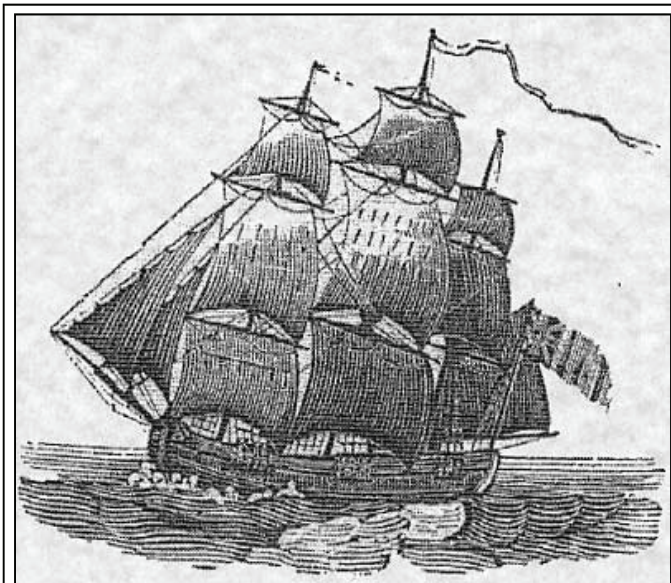
### Robert and the Winthrop Fleet

Dian Little secured a copy of the book, *The Hearth and the Eagle* by Anya Seton and lent it to me. This book was published in 1948 so it is certainly not a new publication but I had never read it before. It is a work of fiction which follows several generations but begins with a young couple, Phoebe and Mark Honeywood, much like our Robert and Mary, as members of the Winthrop Fleet. In the author's note, we read, "I am particularly indebted to... Governor Winthrop's own careful, detailed journal in which I was able to follow the day-by-day incidents of that historic voyage." I learned that not all of the travelers were Puritans, but many came to seek a new life for themselves and their families. I could visualize our newly wed couple, Robert and Mary, as I read.

I see Robert as a strong, hard working, steady influence for good among the passengers of the Winthrop Fleet. There is an organization for descendants of passengers of the Winthrop Fleet. Are any of you members of The Winthrop Society? I am hoping someone will be willing to be an active member of that group and represent Robert and Mary and report to SGS on your findings.

### Robert as an Adventurer

How many of you love to travel and see new things? I know I do. I think we inherited this characteristic from Robert. My grandmother Merrill, a Seely by birth, did not need any persuasion when confronted with the



Above, a depiction of the Flagship of the Winthrop Fleet, Arbella. The other ten ships in that initial sailing were Ambrose, Charles, Hopewell, Jewel, Mayflower (not to be confused with the Pilgrims' ship of the same name), Success, Talbot, Trial, Whale, William and Francis.

opportunity to travel. She could be ready in a minute, with her little grey traveling bag and a hat, off she went! Robert was off on new adventures all his life! He left his

Please See **Robert Seeley** on Page 3

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Member: Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society



### The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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

#### Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy, history or biography; amateur or professional. Although the name Seeley refers to one family surname, SGS counts among its family those with surnames spelled a variety of ways such as: Seeley, Seelye, Sealy, Sealey, Seley, Selye, Seale, 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 Chairwoman  
Ivey Harris  
24469 163rd Street  
Leavenworth, KS 66048-7329  
(913) 351-3424  
iveyh@mac.com

#### Seelye National Research Center

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

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

#### SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for August 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Please advise the editor if your branch or family has plans for a sectional or local reunion in the interim. Others might like to know about it.

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

## President's Report

It doesn't seem possible that I am writing a President's Report for the February newsletter. Where has the time gone since the SGS meetings in Cromwell, Connecticut in September? For me, the months in between have been extremely full with family responsibilities and celebrations. I hope these months have been productive and enjoyable for you!

Jim Seeley and Paul Taylor have been hard at work on the souvenir book for the Cromwell Reunion. Thanks so much! They are both pleased with the product and I'm sure you will be also. If you haven't already ordered one, please contact Jim Seeley. His contact information on page 15. The books are selling for \$20.00, payable to SGS, on a first-come, first-served basis.

We recently have been contacted by a volunteer with Find-a-Grave.com. She has located a Seely family plot in the Chester/Greycourt area of New York (in Orange County). She reported it is in a most deplorable condition. It has been vandalized. Headstones have been toppled and some have been spray painted. Jim Seeley has volunteered to coordinate action on this concern. He will visit the area this Spring. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact him. We certainly appreciate the efforts of this Find-a-Grave volunteer and others who are working so hard to preserve history.

The Constitutional Revision Committee with Ramon Hall as Chairperson and Kathie, Jim, Linda and Mary as members, will be looking at amending the Constitution to deal with a succession issue (Article IV, Section 5) and rewrite the job description of the Chief Genealogist (Article III, Section 7) and any other questions that might arise. If you have concerns, or suggestions, please contact one of the members of the committee.

A second committee will explore the possibility of establishing criteria for subsidizing the cost of individual DNA tests. The committee members are Jim, Wesley, Karl, Dian, Ken and Kathie as Chairperson. It is believed that the cost of the individual DNA test is prohibitive for some but the Society could benefit from the knowledge gained by completion of the test. Again, if you have concerns, or suggestions, please let us know.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors on Thursday, May 8 at 2:00 pm in Abilene, Kansas at the Seelye Research Center. Each elected and appointed officer has been asked to compile a list of anticipated expenses so that a budget can be established. If you have other issues you would like the board to address, please send them to me at [katherinemolsen@comcast.net](mailto:katherinemolsen@comcast.net). A summary of the board's actions will appear in the August 2008 newsletter. In addition to the Board of Directors meeting, we will be gathering on May 7, 8 and 9 to continue organizing the resources in the Center. In addition, there will be time for some pleasant association with each other. You are all invited to join us!

I would welcome your ideas for research objectives for Seeley Genealogical Society funds. What additional knowledge should we be pursuing at this time? Please contact me.

Don't forget the next reunion will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah from Tuesday, August 4, 2009 until Thursday, August 6, 2009. Activities will include visits to the Family History Library, meetings of the Society, dinner gatherings with speakers, a bus tour of Salt Lake City, and attendance at a Tabernacle Choir practice. On Friday morning, August 7, a bus tour will be arranged to take SGS members to Mt. Pleasant, Utah, founded by Seely family members, for a family picnic and tour of the community and on Saturday we will visit Emery County, Utah founded by Seely family members from Mt. Pleasant. We will see the sights and have a traditional "lamb fry" but the highlight of the day will be the Castle Valley Pageant, written by our own Montell Seely. This pageant begins at dusk and includes live animals,

Please See *President's Report* on Page 6





## What We Know About Robert Seeley *(continued from page 1)*

native Huntingdonshire to take up an apprenticeship in London. He left that life to join the Winthrop Fleet and come to the new world.

He settled in Watertown, Mass. in 1630 but left again to accompany John Oldham to scout out a new home in the wilderness as early as 1633. He was among the founders, known as "The Ten Adventurers," of Wethersfield, Conn. In 1637, he participated, as second in command to Captain John Mason, in the Pequot Wars. He carried a scar for the rest of his life. He left Wethersfield to help establish the "Quinipiac Colony" which was later known as New Haven Colony, which was founded by John Davenport, the minister from St. Stephen's Church, Coleman Street, in London. In 1651, apparently after the death of his wife, Mary, he embarked on new adventures. He served as the Captain of New Haven Forces fighting the Dutch and the Indians on Long Island. He returned to England. In 1662, he was appointed Commissioner for the town of Huntington, Long Island. He and others settled Elizabeth, N.J. in 1665. He married again in 1666 to Mary Manning Walker and apparently lived on Manning's Island (now known as Roosevelt Island) in the East River where we believe he died in 1667 or 1668. Quite a life of adventure!

### Was the trip to Wethersfield by land or by water?

There had been a question in my mind about the trip from Watertown in Massachusetts Colony to the Wethersfield settlement on the Connecticut River. Did Robert, Mary and Nathaniel go by land or by water? In reading *The River Towns of Connecticut* by Charles M. Andrews we learn that the Pequot Indians had invaded the Connecticut shore and were making war on the weaker Indian tribes who lived along the Connecticut River. The weaker tribes sent envoys to both the Plymouth Colony and the Watertown settlement to ask the Englishmen to come to their rescue. The Plymouth Group sent a party who went through the Long Island Sound and up the Connecticut River and settled the area that is now known as Windsor. The Dutch had also established a trading post in the area of present day Hartford. In *The History of Ancient Wethersfield* by Henry R. Stiles, it states "John Oldham and three with him went overland to Connecticut to trade, the Sacham (Indian leader) used them kindly, and gave them some beaver, and they brought of the hemp which grew there." This is taken from the journal of Governor Winthrop. Perhaps Robert was one of the three who went along on this expedition but in any case the journey was overland along Indian trails.

### Robert Seeley's role in Wethersfield

We read the following from *The History of Ancient Wethersfield*: "3. (In the list of Adventurers) Sergeant (afterwards Lieutenant) Robert Seeley was also an owner of "adventure land." Although it appears that he held "as an adventurer" under William Bassum (or Bassam) it is quite probable that the latter only held possession during

Mr. Seeley's absence at Watertown, Mass., where he was finishing some work (principally surveying), which he had been employed to do there. Bond (author of *History of Watertown*) quite ignores him, and Savage fails to trace him any farther than Watertown. Lt. Seeley, however, was a prominent man in the Colony, notably in the Pequot campaign, in which he was second in command; and also, later, as commandant of the fort at Saybrook. He was a near neighbor of Finch, on the east side of Broad Street in Wethersfield, and sold his house to Matthew Mitchell in 1640-1."

### The Pequot War vs. The Massacre at Mystic

Because of Robert Seeley's involvement in the Pequot War, I was very interested when the History Channel ran a series called *10 Days that Unexpectedly Changed America*. The first day highlighted was May 26, 1637, the day when Robert and the other colonists burned the village of Mystic and killed an estimated 400-700 Pequot villagers. The other members of the Pequot tribe escaped to other villages but most of them were eventually killed, or captured and given as slaves to tribes friendly to the English. The Pequot Indians were fierce, aggressive and unwilling to negotiate peace. Several settlers of Wethersfield and surrounding area were killed in skirmishes with the Pequots. Other Indian tribes were terrorized by the Pequots and they joined the English to defeat them. The colonists believed that for their own defense it was necessary to destroy these Indians. The colonists (estimated at 250 men who could bear arms) were greatly outnumbered by the Pequot warriors (estimated at 2000). At the conclusion of the Pequot War, it was believed that the Pequot Indians were eliminated.

This video production was filmed at Plimouth Plantation and it is very beautifully done. As I viewed the video, however, I realized that I was hearing about this

**Please See Robert Seeley on Page 5**



The Pequot War was the first serious armed conflict between indigenous people and settlers in New England. Robert Seeley fought alongside Captain Robert Mason and was wounded in battle.

## Inventory of the Estate of Obadiah Seeley (SGS#17)

*Story By SGS Chief Genealogist Karl Weiler*

In the November 2007 SGS Newsletter we published the inventory of the estate of immigrant Obadiah Seeley, SGS#4. Below is the inventory of the estate of his oldest son, Obadiah Seeley, SGS #17. The latter was born about 1648/49 in Stamford, Fairfield County, Conn. and he married Esther Stevens (b about 1648/9) in 1669, the daughter of Thomas and Ann Stevens of Stamford. Obadiah died on July 25, 1679/80 in Stamford, Fairfield,

Conn.

The below inventory of Obadiah Seeley's (SGS#17) Estate, Fairfield District Probate , 3:55 is from Family History Library film no. 004,287. It was obtained by SGS Chief Genealogist Karl Weiler. The Family History Library film was interpreted by Clifford Stott, CG AG. The spellings and misspellings are the way they were translated from the original document.

### An Inventory of obadia Selys estate deceased taken by us whose names are underwritten this 25 of July 1680

	(pounds-shillings-pence)
Item house & homelot & orchard	80 - 00 - 0
Item 5½ Acres of Meadowe of wch 2 Acres are for the use of her Mother Sely[during] her life time	45 - 00 - 0
Item 32¾ Acres of land more or less at shiphand	05 - 00 - 0
Item 2½ Acres of land in the horspasture	02 - 10 - 0
Item 4½ Acres of land in ye ox pasture	20 - 00 - 0
Item 6 Acres of Land upon Noreton hill	06 - 00 - 0
Item 3 Acres of land given by the Towne to Mayntayne a gate	
Item 2 Cowes	06 - 10 - 0
Item 1: 3 year old 3£ 1: 2 year old 2£	05 - 00 - 0
Item 3 Calves 1 - 15 - 0 one horse 3£	04 - 15 - 0
Item 1 Cupboard 12/s a Cradle 4/s	00 - 16 - 0
Item 2 Iron pots 25	01 - 05 - 0
Item a brass kettle a skellet	00 - 16 - 0
Item a milk payl 2 [crossed out word] karters[?]	00 - 05 - 00
Item 3 chayres and Standing Stoole	00 - 06 - 00
Item Dishes and Trenchers	00 - 10 - 00
Item Earthen ware 4/s pewter & spoons 7/s	00 - 11 - 0
Item meat Troff Tub & Sive	00 - 4 - 0
Item hogshead mashing Tubb & payle	00 - 10 - 0
Item bible & books 7/s caid 2s	00 - 09 - 0
Item 3 glass bottles	00 - 03 - 0
Item a great wheel & little wheele	00 - 11 - 0
Item a churne & frying pan	00 - 09 - 0
Item 4 Ancors a powdring Tubb & meat	01 - 07 - 0
Item 2 dishes earthen pot	00 - 02 - 8
Item old Iron horse brand forktines	00 - 03 - 00
Item one brode Axe one narrow Axe	00 - 07 - 00
Item Coulter & share Long bolt & cart bolt & Clevis	00 - 14 - 00
Item a Cart Tonge trammell and Lamp	01 - 04 - 00
Item 2 Cushings an old bagg	00 - 03 - 00
Item flax Corn and malt	01 - 08 - 00
Item 2 old howes hopples & Hetchils	00 - 12 - 00
Item a gunn and Amunition	01 - 10 - 00
Item Sieth and Tackling	00 - 10 - 00
Item 3 boyes dublet and bretches	02 - 09 - 00

Item	Stockings old clothes	01 - 00 - 00
Item	3 Shirts 2 pair of Sheets	03 - 05 - 00
Item	4 napkins 3 neckclothes	00 - 09 - 00
Item	2 Chests 2 bedsteads	01 - 10 - 00
Item	Curtains & Vallens	01 - 10 - 00
Item	2 slvr [silver?] bottones	00 - 02 - 00
Item	beds & bedding boulster pillowes	06 - 05 - 00
Item	6 yds ½ home spunn cloath	01 - 06 - 00
Item	a pair of skales 2 pound yarn	00 - 06 - 06
Item	looking glass	00 - 02 - 00
Item	3 Swine & 7 piggs	05 - 16 - 00
Item	a grind stone	00 - 05 - 00
Item	a Cowbell and wrighting Booke	00 - 06 - [?]
Item	bestell Rings	00 - 02 - 06
Item	yokes and horse Tackling	00 - 07 - 00

Apprized by us Townsmen the day and date above written

Jon~ Bell

Joseph Theale

Abraham Amber

Jonas Sely maks oath that the above Inventory is a true Inventory of his brother  
obadiahs Estate acording to the best of his knowledg 2 Novemr 1680

Willm Hill Clarke

## What We Know About Robert Seeley *(continued from page 3)*

event from a different perspective. From a flyer for this video, we read, "On May 26, 1637, the long simmering culture clash between English settlers and the powerful and expansionist Pequot Indians in the Connecticut River Valley boiled over as the settlers brutally attacked a Pequot encampment, leaving hundreds of men, women and children dead. Known as the Pequot War, this was the first time the English settlers engaged in a major battle with Native Americans after years of relative peaceful coexistence. This massacre in Mystic, Conn. set the pattern of the taking of Indian land throughout the country." The Pequots, whom the early settlers thought they had destroyed, have become a very wealthy, political power by the establishment of a very successful casino in Connecticut. Apparently, with money and political power, it is possible to change history or at least the interpretation of history.

Was Robert a hero or not? I guess it depends on your perspective.

### Can we locate records of Robert Seeley's stay in England?

Robert apparently returned to England in 1655 and stayed until 1661-2. On Nov. 22, 1659, Nathaniel Seeley of Fairfield, Connecticut, "a son of Robert Seeley in England," sold land that was his father's. It might prove interesting to know where he was in England and what he was doing. This should be a topic of research.

### Where and when did Robert Seeley die?

Another topic needing to be researched concerns Robert's death. SGS publication, *Descendants of Robert Seeley (SGS#1)—Generations One Through Five*, states that "Robert Seeley died intestate in New York, N.Y. on

Oct. 11 1667. He is believed to have been buried on the Manning Estates. Letters of Administration were granted to his widow on Oct. 19, 1668. *The History of Ancient Wethersfield* states that "He died at Elizabeth, N.J., of which town he was a first settler, in 1668." Another publication, *A Founding Family* by Frederick W. Newman, Jr. states, "A year or two thereafter [after he married Mary Manning Walker on Dec. 2, 1666], he died intestate. Some sources state in 1667 but this is in error. Court records state that documents were delivered to New York from Huntington in June 1667 and Aug. 12, 1667. In addition the Court Records of New Amsterdam dated June 23, 1668 show him as plaintiff in an action, "Robert Celly vs. Jande Caeper, dft, for a land survey, amounting to 14 shillings 6 pence. Death certainly took place between June 23, 1668 and Oct. 17, 1668, probably on Oct. 11 but there is no actual proof thereon. On Oct. 17, 1668, his widow applied for the administration of the estate, granted two days later. (New York Surrogate Office, Book I, Wills 1665-1683)"

### Robert Seeley's Descendants

You may be interested to know that Clair Hendrickson, a descendant of Robert, has entered the information from the SGS publications (Generations One through Five, Generation Six and Generation Seven) into the Personal Ancestral File program. He is now in the process of obtaining information on Robert's descendants in the International Genealogical Index maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This information will be made available to SGS members when he has finished. Keep an eye on future issues of the newsletter where details on how to obtain a copy of Clair's work will be published.

## A Note from Seelye Research Center Librarian Pam Turner

Hope everyone had a nice holiday. The filing team will be meeting in Abilene, Kansas, May 8-10 to try and knock out some more areas of the research center. Anyone is welcome to come and help or just check out what we do and learn about the center. I want to thank everyone that volunteers, both in Abilene and long distance, your work is greatly appreciated.



Since I don't have anything specific to report regarding the center, I thought I'd pass along some web sites that have great information on preserving your treasures. The first is Conserve O Grams, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/>. This is a National Parks Service site that covers a wide range of topics. Some of the topics are geared to professional conservators but I found a large amount of information for the layman. The second site is <http://www.mnhs.org/people/mngg/stories/preserve.htm>. This is the Minnesota Historical Society's web site. This site is geared to people trying to preserve their family histories and gives you ideas not only on how to preserve your items but also how to catalog them. When you are done with this area, go to the home page and do some looking around. This site has loads of information for genealogists.

Hope this helps you to start preserving your treasures. Just remember, it doesn't do any good to gather your family history if it crumbles in the next generations' hands.

## Presidents Report *(continued from page 2)*

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

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

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

### New Members

Membership Chair, Ivey Geraldine Seeley  
Harris passes along the 369 East Maple Road  
names and addresses of Birmingham, MI 48009  
the newest members of our Eldon Seeley  
Society! 36Jenness St  
Lynn, MA 01904

### New Members

Lillian Davis  
42 W. College Ave # 215  
Yardley, PA 19067  
Robert C. Seeley  
125 Palomar  
Shell Beach, CA 93449

### New LIFE Members

David J. & Nancy J Seeley  
1945 Brion Road  
Liberty, PA 16930-9028  
Joan M. Mushka  
104 Lockwood Rd  
Regina, SK S4S 3G2

### See the May SGS Newsletter

Ever wonder how our award-winning query editor researches queries? Be sure to check out the May 2008 issue of the SGS Newsletter for some helpful hints from Linda you can use in your own genealogical research!

## SGS Queries

(Data As of Jan. 18, 2008)

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

Please send your queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at [lbc100@msn.com](mailto:lbc100@msn.com) or mail to Linda at home (see inside back cover). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor and are then sent to the Query Team and Area Coordinators for their input. Linda summarizes each query and any responses for inclusion in the newsletter.

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

### QUERY UPDATES:

Update to Query 0111-7 Submitted by Elizabeth

Kommersmith ([bessyjane@hotmail.com](mailto:bessyjane@hotmail.com))

We were looking for further information on **George Washington Seely SGS# 3900**. In researching another query I found the following:

1840 census Arcadia, Wayne, NY:

Charles Seeley	
1 male 10-15	1 male 15-20
1 male 20-30	1 male 40-50
1 female under 5	1 female 5-10
1 female 10-15	1 female 15-20
1 female 40-50	

1850 census Arcadia, Wayne, NY:

Phebe Seeley, age 59, b. NJ  
George Seeley, age 24, farmer, b. NY (SGS# 3900)  
Jane Seeley, age 11, b. NY (SGS# 3903)  
Phebe A Puffer, age 27, b. NJ (SGS# 3899)



Charles A Puffer, age 4, b. NY

Phebe A Puffer, age 2, b. NY

1860 census Washington Elkhart, IN:

Seely, George W., age 34, b. NY, druggist

Seely, Charlotte A, age 35, b. NY

Seely, Charles A, age 3, b. IN

1870 census Bristol, Washington Twp., Elkhart, IN:

Seely, George W., age 44, b. NY, druggist

Seely, Charlotte, age 47, b. NY

Seely, Charles A, age 13, b. IN

1880 census Bristol, Elkhart, IN:

Seely, George W., age 54, druggist, b. NY, f.b. NY, m.b. NJ

Seely, Charlotte A., age 57, b. NY, parents b. NY

Seely, Charles A., age 23, druggist, b. IN, parents b. NY

Adams, Susan, age 94, mother-in-law, b. NY, parents b. NY

1900 census Porter, Cass, MI:

George W Seely, b. Mar 1826 NY, father b. NY, mother b. NJ, farmer

Seely, Charlotte A., b. Jan 1823 NY, parents b. NY, married 49 years, 1 child, 1 living

Seely, Charles A., son, b. Sept. 1856 IN, parents b. NY, farm laborer

Seely, Winifred B., dau.-in-law, b. Mar 1866 England, parents b. England, married 10 years, 3 children, 3 living

Seely, Ruth E., gr.dau., b. July 1891, MI, f.b. IN, m.b. Eng.

Seely, George W., gr son, b. Jan 1894 MI

Seely, Alice L., gr.dau., b. July 1895 MI

Riley, Charles E., hired labor, b. May 1871 OH

1910 Long Beach, Los Angeles, CA:

Seely, Charles, age 54, b. IN, parents b. NY, masseur at baths

Seely, Winifred, age 43, b. England, parents b. Eng., 4 children, 4 living, married 20 years

Seely, Ruth, age 18, b. MI, father b. IN, mother b. Eng (parents same for all children)

Seely, George, age 16, b. MI

Seely, Alice, age 14, b. MI

Seely, Winifred, age 2, b. CA

Seely, George, father, widower, age 84, b. NY, f.b. NY, m.b. NJ

1920 census Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA:

Seely, Charles Adams, age 63, b. IN, parents b. NY

Seely, Winifred B., age 53, b. England, to US in 1876, naturalized 1890

Seely, Winifred Whitfield, age 12, b. CA

From the SGS website: CA vital records:

Charles Adams Seely b. 1 Sept 1856 IN; d. 4 May 1940 Los Angeles County, age 83 Father's surname: Seely Mother's surname: Adams

So, the wife of George Washington Seely, SGS# 3900 is Charlotte Adams.

**Update to Query 0711-1** Re: Daniel Thorpe Seeley SGS# 2114

The original query was submitted by Joe Hauck who wondered about the identity of the maker of a couple of

19<sup>th</sup> C. rifles. SGS member Robert Seeley Van Dusen has sent in a detailed genealogy of the ancestors and descendants of James Dayton Seeley, his ancestor and younger brother of Daniel Thorpe Seeley. This confirms his parents as Levi Seeley (SGS# 699) and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Hannah Thorpe. Additional information on Daniel says that he was a gunsmith by trade, having learned from Andrew Buckhan in Delhi, NY. Daniel worked in the Remington Gun Works at Ilion, NY and at the Colt Revolver Works at New Haven, CT during the Civil War. He then worked in North Harpersfield, NY and then at Delhi and later moved to Dunkirk NY in 1869. He married Anna McNary of Schoharie, NY 25 Nov. 1869. They lived in Dunkirk until moving to Bradford, PA in 1879. Daniel died there 8 Jan 1892. Anna died 25 Dec 1920. Their 2 children were Don Augustus b. 31 July 1871 and Nellie May b. 23 October 1873, both at Dunkirk.

I have the complete genealogy provided by Robert and will eventually take it to Abilene to be filed.

**Update to Query 0711-3** Re: Benjamin Seeley/Ceely Member Dr Richard Seeley ([rasdsee@aol.com](mailto:rasdsee@aol.com)) has been trying to verify his descent from and the origins of Benjamin Seeley/Ceely who m. Susannah Merrifield 30 Aug 1742 Marblehead, MA. Richard believes his line is through their son Thomas who removed to Nova Scotia.

Douglas A Wenny ([Douglas.wenny@verizon.net](mailto:Douglas.wenny@verizon.net)) responds that according to Peter Crowell, a researcher in Nova Scotia, Benjamin and Susannah were in the Pubnico area of Yarmouth County, NS in 1761. Further information is that Thomas Merryfield Seeley married at Argyle, Yarmouth Co., NS, 06 Nov 1777, Mehitable Forbes. He died in 1799 (will dated 08 Mar 1799, filed 03 Apr 1799) in Nova Scotia.

Douglas's wife is descended from Nathan Seeley, born at Argyle, NS 19 Jun 1790, son of Thomas Merryfield and Mehitable (Forbes) Seeley. (This son would be in addition to the two sons listed previously: Benjamin and Henry.) Nathan's son Stephen Seeley ended up in Boston, MA and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery where Douglas has viewed his gravestone.

He also writes that concerning the Mehitable who married Thomas Merryfield Seeley, he believes that she was born at Berwick, ME, 06 May 1757, daughter of Nathan Forbes/Furbish and Mary (Emery). Richard thought that she was the daughter of Josiah Forbes.

If anyone has further information on the children of Thomas Merrifield Seeley or Mehitable's ancestry please contact me.

**Update to 0711-7** Re: Isaac C Seeley

The original query traced Isaac C Seeley, subject of a biography on our website back to Nathaniel and Sophia Ann Sherwood Seeley. We are still trying to determine Nathaniel's parentage. Sean Seeley contacted us about his grandfather William Floyd Seeley whose death certificate and obituary are also on our website. Tracing William Floyd Seeley back through the census I determined that he was the son of Jay Seeley (b. Feb 1881 MN) who was the son of Samuel and Josephine Twombly Seeley, resident in Mineola, Goodhue, MN in

## SGS Queries (continued from page 7)

1875. The best identification I can make is that Samuel (also identified as S E in a later census) is Samuel E Seeley son of Nathaniel Seeley and Sophia Ann Sherwood of Plainwell, Allegan Co MI. Any information verifying that this is correct or identifying Nathaniel's lineage would be welcome.

**Update to 0711-8** Re: Mary Seeley, SGS# 11

Marilynn Muñoz ([hotshots@netgate.net](mailto:hotshots@netgate.net)) had asked about the children of Mary Seeley, SGS# 11 and her husband Jonathan Squires, in particular their son Seeley b. 1701, Fairfield, CT. Ardienne Damicus ([adwdmt@aol.com](mailto:adwdmt@aol.com)), our Area Coordinator for CT, found the following information in Vol. II, Part 3 of "History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield." by The Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter of the DAR. Ardienne says "This volume has no date. The book also has no sources listed and is the one that I think has incorrect info on my Lloyd Seeley's ancestors". (So use with caution!)

Squire (pp. 575-579) 1. George, then lists 4 sons the 4th one being Jonathan (- after 1723) m. Mary Seeley; 3 sons listed - Jonathan (b. 1687), Nathaniel (1697-1783), Seeley (no dates).

Nathaniel had a son Seeley, b. 6 Oct. 1728 who married Esther Taylor and they had a son Seeley, bapt. 20 July, 1783

Seeley, (son of Jonathan ?) "Of Norwalk, with wife Phebe conveyed 1754 to John Seymour; he died before 1768. He m. Phebe Sears, dau. of Joshua of Norwalk, whose will 1754 called her Phebe Squire. She was bapt. at Harwich, Mass, 8 Apr. 1733 and d. at Wilton 8 Dec. 1807. Among other children they had Selah (or Seeley) b. 9 Sept. 1754; removed to Chenango, Broome County, NY, and died at Binghamton, 28 Dec. 1837. m. at Wilton, 2 Apr. 1778, Hannah Abbot, who d. 10 May 1839. They had 10 children. A footnote says that he had two sons drowned at Norwalk, 10 Aug. 1798 (see Vol. III, p. 313).

Since this reference may not be reliable we would still like to find primary records on this family.

**Update to 0711-9** Re: Mercy Seeley Blatchley

This query from Iva Jean Wheeler ([ijwheeler@comcast.net](mailto:ijwheeler@comcast.net)) was about the ancestry of Mercy Seeley Blatchley. Ardienne Damicus ([adwdmt@aol.com](mailto:adwdmt@aol.com)), our Area Coordinator for CT, found the following information.

Ebenezer Carter of Norwalk in his will 6 Mar. 1775 (test 3 Aug 1775) names children of his deceased granddaughter Mercy Blatchley: Sarah, Sam, Seeley, Mary, Jos

New Canaan baptisms and marriages:

Feb. 17, 1761 Joseph Blatchley m. Mercy Seeley (the query had her husband as Robert, Jr. but Iva Jean had mis-transcribed her notes)

The following baptisms:

- p. 24 Samuel Blatchley, son of Joseph, 4/1/1764
- p. 28 Mary Blatchley, dau of Joseph, 9/27/1767
- p. 30 Joseph Blatchley, son of Joseph, 6/25/1769
- p. 33 Carter Blatchley, son of Joseph, 2/19/1772 (died shortly after baptism)

In the Canaan Parish 1733-1933 Rev. Drummond's Journal of Family visitations. (He was the Congregational minister.) p. 93 Jan 29 Joseph Blatchley (widower) Sarah, Samuel, Ebenezer, Seally, Mary, Joseph (children) This was also listed as a census of 1773.

If Mercy Seeley Blatchley is a granddaughter of Ebenezer then her mother was a daughter of Ebenezer Carter who married a Seeley. Can anyone find this marriage?

## NEW QUERIES

**0802-1** Submitted by Judy Lock ([texasyankee@cablone.net](mailto:texasyankee@cablone.net))

In researching her husband's Collins line, Judy found John Johnson/Johnston Collins, son of James Mallory Collins and Permelia who married Ida J. Seeley. Ida was the daughter of **George Washington Seeley**, born January 1, 1837, (no proof) place unknown, and Margaret Melinda Southern. Ida was born in (Winters,) California according to census records. The dates Judy has for the birth of George Washington Seeley differ from the ones at the Seeley site, but she is wondering if he could somehow be connected. (Note that this is not the same George Washington Seeley referred to above in the update to Query 0111-7, just a coincidence)

**SGS Response:** 1930 Orange, Orange, CA:

Collins, John J., age 62, b. MO with Ida M., age 57, b. CA and Norman S., age 18, b. CA

1920 Orange, Orange, CA:

Collins, John J., age 51, Ida M., age 46, Eva M., age 24, Ross M., 19, Raymond L., 16 and Norman S. age 8.

1910 census Pajero, Monterey, CA:

Collins, John J., age 43, b. MO, father b. TN, mother b. MO

Collins, Ida M., age 37, b. CA, parents b. IA  
4 children: Eva M 15, Loyd R. 13, Ross M 9 and Raymond L 6, a;; b. CA

1900 census San Juan, San Benito, CA:

Collins, John J., b. Mar 1867 MO, parents b. MO, farmer, married 6 years to

Collins, Ida M., b. May 1872, CA, parents b. IA, 3 children, 3 living

Collins, Eva M., b. Mar 1895 CA

Collins, Lloyd, b. May 1896 CA

Collins, Ross, b. May 1900 CA

1880 census Buckeye, Yolo, CA:

Seeley, George W., age 43, b. IL, parents b. NY, gardener

Seeley, Malinda M., age 29, b. IA, parents b. VA

Seeley, Ida May, age 7, b. CA, father b. IL, mother b. IA (same for all children)

Seeley, George L., age 6

Seeley, Edwin E., 11 mos (b. July 1879)

1900 census Pajero, Monterey, CA:

Seely, Margaret, b. Dec 1850 IA, parents b. VA, married 27 years, 4 children, 4 living

Seely, Louis, b. Nov 1873 CA, father b. IL, mother b.



IA, farm laborer

Seely, Edwin Elbert, b. July 1879 CA, farm laborer

Seeley, Jessie Bell, b. Mar 1881 CA

In 1910 Margaret M Seely is in Tule River, Tulare, Ca with Edwin and Jessie, she is still married.

In 1920 she is widowed and in Los Angeles with Jessie who is still single.

1870 census Silveyville, Solano, CA:

Souther, Martin, age 42, b. VA

Souther, Elizabeth, age 41, b. VA

Souther, Margaret, age 19, b. IA

Souther, Charles, age 15, b. IA

Souther, Emma, age 11

Souther, Lowella, age 7, b. IA

I haven't located George W. in 1870. There is a 37 year old John Seely a few homes away from the Souther family in Silveyville and Charles R Seely (see his bio on our website) is also in Silveyville with his family.

1870 Buckeye, Yolo, CA:

Seeley, Norman B., age 59, b. NY, miller

Seeley, Lydia, age 57, b. NY

Next home:

Seeley, Mc.J, age 22, b. IA, farmer

Jones, Hezekiah, age 22, b. IN

Jones, Josephine, age 21, b. IA

Jones, Daniel M., b. Mar 1870 CA

1860 census Vacaville, Solano, CA:

Seeley, G W, age 23, b. IL, farmer

6 other men of various names and ages and origins, also farming

1860 census Rome, Jones, IA:

Norman B Seeley and Lidia are there with Norman age 20, Mark age 12 and Josephine age 9

1856 state census Rome, Jones, IA:

Seely, N B, age 45, b. NY in IA 17 years, farmer

Seely, L, age 43, b. Pa, in IA 16 years

Seely, G W, age 18, b. IL, in IA 16 years

Seely, Non, age 16, b. IA, in IA 16 years

Seely, M, age 8, b. IA

Seely, J, age 6, b. IA

Yelden, W, age 65, b. Nova Scotia, in IA 14 years, no occupation

Long, D, age 23, b. OH, no occupation

1850 census Rome, Jones, IA:

Seely, Norman B., age 40, b. NY, farmer

Seely, Lydia, age 38, b. NY

Seely, George, age 14, b. IL

Seely, Sarah, age 12, b. IL

Seely, Norman, age 10, b. IA

Seely, Ellen, age 8, b. IA

Seely, Mack, age 2, b. IA

Seely, Josephine, age 6 mos., b. IA

Yelden, William, age 60, b. Nova Scotia, farmer

Salms, Jonas, age 22, b. OH, farmer

Ward, William, age 33, b. Canada, carpenter

Crook, Charles, age 29, b. NY

Norman B. Seely is SGS # 2665, b. 29 Aug 1809 Genesee Co. NY, d 29 Oct 1873 (gravestone) Portland, IL, buried Jones Co IA (Olin Cemetery, Rome). He married abt 1830 Lydia Crook, b. 18 Feb 1813 Holland,

Erie Co, NY to Asa and Mary Dustin Crook. She d. 26 Aug 1879 CA. Norman's biography is on our website.

There are a death certificate and obituaries for George W Seely (d. 2 Mar 1916) on our website (Our Genealogy, Vital Records - California). They show his father as Norman Seely, his birth in Iowa, his children including Ida Collins, etc. The birth date does not match his age at death – we believe the birth year was figured incorrectly.

Chris Havnar (([ichavnar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ichavnar@sbcglobal.net))) sent along quite a bit of information on Josephine Seely Jones daughter of Norman B and Lydia Seely above and her husband Hezekiah and son Daniel 'Mack' Jones. She also has transcribed Ida May Seeley's marriage record. Contact Chris for details.

She also has information on Margaret Malinda Southern, wife of George W. Additionally it is interesting that Malinda's aunt Salena Southern married Charles R. Seely (b. 1830), elder brother of George W.

**0802-2** Submitted by Donna Hawks ([jim.donna.h@juno.com](mailto:jim.donna.h@juno.com))

Donna is curious about the death date of **Rebecca Seeley, SGS#40**. According to The Descendants of Robert Seeley, Generations One through Five, Rebecca's last child, Tabitha Castle, was baptized 14 October 1733 at Roxbury, CT, she died about 1735 and her husband William Castle remarried 1 Sept 1735 Hannah \_\_\_\_\_. Donna notes that "many other sources give her death date as 1725". Donna descends from William and Rebecca's son Jabez Castle, SGS# 111.

**SGS Response:** No further information to date. If you can verify Rebecca's death date please contact Donna and remember to also inform your Query Editor.

**0802-3** Submitted by Sally Close Meabon ([cmeabon@ec.rr.com](mailto:cmeabon@ec.rr.com))

Sally is trying to verify her information on **Harriet Seelye, SGS#956**, married Rueben Closs/Close, especially the information following the \*\*\* I inserted below. In the SGS database we have Reuben dying in 1891 but I think this must be a different Reuben. Harriet's children are not listed in the 7th Generation Volume. Sally's Information:

REUBEN(3) CLOSE (NEWBURY(2) CLOOS, REUBEN(1)) was born 16 May 1798 in NY, and died 11/11/1846. He married HARRIET SEELEY 1828, daughter of NATHANIEL SEELYE and REBECCA GOODSPEED. She was born 13 Feb 1802 in Southport, Chemung Co., NY, and died 08 Dec 1879 in Chatham Township, Tioga Co., PA. Both are buried in the Old Cloos Burying Grounds on Ally Close Hill Road in Tioga Co., PA.

Children of REUBEN CLOSE and HARRIET SEELEY are:

i. FIDELIA CLOSE, b. 23 Mar 1822, PA; d. 14 Mar 1896; m. REUBEN MORSE, 08 Feb 1843; b. 15 Sep 1817, Andover, Windsor, VT; d. 12 Oct 1902, Knoxville, PA.

ii. GEORGE CLOSE, b. 03 Feb 1824, Chatham Township, Tioga Co., PA; d. 12 Apr 1895, his home on

## SGS Queries (continued from page 9)

Stevenson St. in Westfield, PA; m. RACHEL MILLER, 15 Feb 1845; b. 04 Feb 1822, PA; d. 14 Jan 1896.

iii. CHARLES CLOSE, b. 03 Feb 1826, Chatham Township, Tioga Co., PA; d. 16 May 1883, Charleston Township, Tioga Co., PA; m. JAYNE M. OWLETT, 07 Dec 1847, Roundtop, PA; b. 04 Apr 1850, England; d. 15 Mar 1916.

iv. JULIA CLOSE, b. 01 Jun 1828; d. 02 Nov 1899; m. WILLIS PEAKE, 15 Dec 1846; b. 03 Jul 1820, Schoharie Co., NY; d. 01 Nov 1885.

v. NEWBURY CLOSE, 3RD, b. 14 Jul 1830, Tioga Co., PA; d. 04 Dec 1909, Red Bluff, CA; m. (1) ABBIE SLOCUM, 26 Jan 1852; d. 04 Sep 1856; m. (2) LUCY CAROLINE LOCKWOOD, 30 Apr 1857; b. Abt. 1840, NY; d. 23 May 1878, Addison, Steuben Co., NY; m. (3) LODEMA 'CYNTHIA' GIBSON PAYNE, 09 Oct 1878, Steuben Co., NY; b. 14 Aug 1831, PA; d. 20 Jun 1918, Red Bluff, CA.

vi. REUBEN CLOSE, JR., b. 03 Aug 1832, Clymer Twp, Tioga Co., PA; d. 1910; m. HARRIET LOCKWOOD; b. 11 Jan 1836, Locke, Cayuga Co., NY; d. 17 Jul 1909, Little Marsh, Tioga Co., PA.

vii. HARRIET F. CLOSE, b. 25 Nov 1835, NY; m. JESSE B. DOAN; b. CT.

viii. POLLY CLOSE, b. 28 Mar 1837, PA; d. Mar 1871; m. SILAS ARTHUR MAY, SR., 24 Aug 1856; b. 18 Sep 1833, PA; d. 05 Dec 1896, Coleman, MI.

ix. ELIZABETH CLOSE, b. 05 Dec 1839, PA; d. 13 Jan 1852.

x. WILLIAM WALLACE CLOSE, b. 29 May 1844, PA; d. 20 Feb 1852.

### 1850 Federal Census for Chatham Township, household 149-220 says:

CLOSE HARRIETT 48 f NY \$3,000 214

Newberry age 20 PA Laborer

Reuben age 18 PA

Polly age 13 PA

Elizabeth age 10 PA

W.W. age 6 (male) PA

daughter Harriet age 15 was with sister Fidelia Morse on the census.

\*\*\*One report says that Reuben was a Civil War Vet, was wounded at the battle of Bull Run, that Reuben & Harriet were divorced, that he was married 3 to 5 times, never worked, gambled and chewed tobacco. (None of which Sally has been able to confirm)

1804 - 1880 Tioga County, Pennsylvania Records Helpful Genealogical Data Abstracted From Docket Books A B C p.213 136 Close Reuben Nov. 11, 1846 Dec. 18, 1846 Chatham Adm. - Harriett Close and George Close Bail - Armon Close, Redding Macumber.

**SGS Response:** Harriet is listed in the 1870 census of Chatham, Tioga, PA as a widow living with her son Reuben Cloos and his family. I have suggested that Sally investigate the docket information further. Certainly if Reuben died in 1846 he wasn't in the Civil War. I also sent Sally information on Harriet's siblings.

If anyone has further information on Harriet and/or

Reuben Close/Cloos/Closs, her husband, please let me know.

**Query 0802-4** Submitted by William Kernan ([wkernan@hotmail.com](mailto:wkernan@hotmail.com))

William is looking for the ancestry of **Boyd Ferguson Seeley**, who was born on March 05, 1835 in Erie, Erie Co., Pennsylvania, the son of Obadiah Seeley (1794-1852) and Betsy Ferguson (1804-1854). Boyd married Rebecca Allen (1837-1923) in Monroe Co., Wisconsin in 1857. He served in the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry between 1861 and 1865. Boyd and Rebecca had eight children between 1855 and 1885: Esther, Bettie, Julius, Elfie/Effie, Guy, Irene, Ivy, and Maud.

Boyd's father, Obadiah, was born in about 1794 in Genesee Co., New York. He married Betsy Ferguson (1804-1854), and had seven children. Obadiah died in about 1852 in Erie Co., Pennsylvania.

**SGS Response:** We have a copy of Boyd's death certificate on our website, as well as his wife Rebecca's and her funeral notice. Obadiah and Betsy are in our database with children Walter, Margaret Jane, Effie, Boyd Ferguson, David A., Rachel and Reuben. Obadiah's parents are 'unknown'. He is also not identified in the SGS volumes.

Census information:

#### 1820 census Orangeville, Genesee, NY:

Seely, Obadiah 1 male 16-26, 1 female 16-26  
Next door is Reuben Furgerson.

Also listed there: Seely, Thomas 1 male 10-16, 1 male 16-26, 1 male 26-45; 1 female under 10, 2 females 16-26

#### 1830 census Orangeville, Genesee, NY:

Seeley, Obadiah, 1 male 5-10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 30-40; 1 female 5-10, 1 female 20-30, 1 female 40-50

#### 1840 census Greenfield, Erie, PA:

Seely, Obadiah 2 males under 5, 1 5-10, 1 15-20, 1 40-50; 1 female under 5, 1 5-10, 1 20 - 30, 1 40-50

#### 1850 census North East, Erie, PA:

Seeley, Obadiah, age 56, b. NY laborer

Seeley, Betsey, age 46, b. NY

Seeley, Boyd, age 16, b. PA, laborer

Seeley, David, age 14, b. PA

Seeley, Rachel, age 12, b. PA

Seeley, Reuben, age 10, b. PA

Next house:

Seeley, Walter, age 28, b. NY, laborer

Seeley, Alma, age 29, b. PA

Seeley, Francis, age 5, b. PA

Seeley, Warren, age 3, b. PA

Seeley, William, age 1, b. PA

#### 1860 Leon, Monroe, WI:

Seely, Boyd, age 25, b. PA

Seely, Rebecca, age 23, b. NY

Seely, Betsey, age 1, b. WI

Seely, David, age 21, b. PA

#### 1870 census, Leon, Monroe, WI:

Seeley, Boyd F., age 38, farmer, b. PA

Seeley, Rebecca, age 36, b. NY

Seeley, Betsey, age 10, b. WI

Seeley, Julius, age 8, b. WI

Seeley, Alpha, age 3, b. WI

A photo of Boyd F Seeley's grave in Corvallis, OR is available at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

Let me know if you can identify Boyd's father Obadiah Seeley/Seely.

**Query 0802-5** Submitted by Diana ([mrsqgypc@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsqgypc@hotmail.com))

Diana is searching for information on **Albert Seeley** married to Martha Booth, who lived in Iowa. She is also searching for more information on their daughter, Mabel Seeley. Mabel Seeley (married name Nielsen) was born Dec 9, 1900, in Iowa. She was adopted by another family by 1910. Mabel is Diana's grandmother and is buried in Minnesota. Diana would like to find birth and death dates for Albert, his parents names, and possibly if Mabel had siblings, and why was she adopted. Is there a burial site for Albert and Martha? She says Albert was born about 1867, and Martha was born to Isaac Booth and Ann Campbell.

**SGS Response:** 1900 census La Porte, Black Hawk, IA:

Seeley, Albert P., age 32, day laborer, b. June 1867 MN to father b. Scotland, mother b. England, married 15 years to

Seeley, Martha D., age 33, b. July 1866 IL to father b. MI, mother b. OH, has had 2 children, one living

Seeley, Clarence F., age 12 b. July 1887 MN, father b. MN, mother b. IL

1910 census Morning Sun, Louisa, IA:

Seeley, Clarence F., age 23, b. MN, father b. MN, mother b. IN, barber

Seeley, Ellen E., age 23, b. IA, father b. PA, mother b. NY, married 2 years, no children

1920 Wapsinonoc, Muscatine, IA:

Seeley, Clarence, age 32, b. MN, father b. MN, mother b. IN

Seeley, Ellen, age 32, b. Ia, parents b. NY

Seeley, Margaret, age 8, b. Ia, father b. MN, mother b. IA

1925 census West Liberty, Muscatine, IA:

Seeley, Clarence, age 37, b. MN to Albert Seeley and Mattie Book (she was b. and married in IA)

Seeley, Ellen, age 37, b. IA to Ben Heath (b. PA) and Perry Armstrong (b. NY and married IA)

Seeley Margaret, age 14, b. IA dau. of Clarence and Ellen

1930 Wapsinonoc, Muscatine, IA:

Clarence, Ellen, Margaret still together. Clarence is a traveling salesman, Ellen is a clerk in a dept. store and Margaret is a clerk in a hat store

WWI draft registration says his name is Clarence Franklin Seeley and that his birth date is 20 July 1887 Chatfield, MN (Fillmore Co.)

Soc. Sec. death index has his last residence in Muscatine, IA and death Mar 1967.

I haven't been able to find this Albert before 1900. He also does not appear in the SGS database.

If you can identify Albert's parents or more information about him please let me know.

**Query 0802-6** Submitted by Gail Ann Rosebrock ([mickey1022\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mickey1022_2000@yahoo.com))

Gail is the daughter of the late Melvin Earl Seeley from Chesaning, MI who d. July 25, 2005 and his wife Lillian Seeley Dejohn who d. May 20, 2005. Gail was told by her aunt Lillian that she was entitled to Indian money but she never passed on any paperwork that would verify this claim. Melvin's father was **Richard Grover Seeley** who died in 1948. Gail has asked us to investigate for an Indian bloodline.

**SGS Response:** 1930 census Lakefield, Saginaw, MI:

Seeley, Richard, age 40, m. at age 18, b. MI, father b. Pa, mother b. NY, farmer, rents

Seeley, Anna, age 40, m. at age 17, b. MI, parents b. Canada (English)

Seeley, Grace, age 12, b. MI, parents b. MI

Seeley, Melvin, age 5, b. MI, parents b. MI

Seeley, Marian, age 1 and 4/12, b. MI, parents b. MI

Seeley, Carl, age 5, adopted son, b. MI, parents b. Germany

LaRue, Sylvia, mother, age 70, widow, b. NY, parents b. NY

Dixon, Alfred, boarder, age 16, b. MI, parents b. US

1920 census Merrill, Jones Field Township, Saginaw, MI:

Seeley, Richard, age 30, b. MI, father b. MI, mother b. Canada- English, blacksmith

Seeley, Anna, age 30, b. MI, parents b. Canada - English

Seeley, Lillian, age 10, b. MI as were parents

Seeley, Claisa, age 7, b. MI as were parents

Seeley, Gracie, age 2 1/2, b. MI as were parents

1910 census, Douglass, Montcalm, MI:

Seeley, Richard G., age 20, b. MI, father b. MI, mother b. NY, m'd 2 years, laborer - odd jobs

Seeley, Anna L., age 20, b. MI, parents b. Canada - English, 2 children, 1 living

Seeley, Lillian S., age ?/12, b. MI, parents b. MI

1910 census Lafayette, Gratiot, MI:

Walsh, Isaac, age 57, widower, b. Ireland. farmer boarders:

Larue, George E., age 53, b. Mi, parents b. NY, does odd jobs, married 1st time 7 years ago to

Larue, Silva, age 50, b. NY, father b. PA, mother b. MI, has had 14 children, 10 living, 2nd marriage

Seeley, Fred C., age 10, b. MI, father b. MI, mother b. NY

Jenkins, Ida, age 26, b. PA, father b. PA, mother b. MI, married 10 years, 4 children, 4 living

1920 Lakefield, Saginaw, MI:

George and Sylvia E Larue are living here with Roy C Seeley, age 22 and Fred C. Seeley age 20, both b. MI, listed as George's stepsons

1900 census Thomaston, Saginaw, MI:

Seeley, Silvy E., b Feb 1860, age 40, widow, b. NY, 13 children, 11 living, housework, lives in rented house

Seeley, Clarence E., son, b. May 1877 MI, father b. MI, mother b. NY, farm laborer

Seeley, Thomas R., son, b. June 1879 MI, father b. MI, mother b. NY, farm laborer

## SGS Queries (continued from page 11)

French, Flora B., dau., b. Mar 1883 MI, parents b. MI married 1 year to

French, James H, son-in-law, b. Dec 1872 MI, f.b. unknown, m.b. MI, farm laborer

Seeley, Bartley E., son, b. Feb 1885 MI, parents b. MI (same for following children)

Seeley, Jack A., son, b. Mar 1887 MI

Seeley, Richard G, son, b. July 1889 MI

Seeley, Martin M., son, b. Mar 1896 MI

Seeley, Roy, son, b. Mar 1897 MI

Seeley, Campan, son, b. June 1899 MI

Sutton, Alfred D, uncle, b. Oct 1855, married 21 years, b. NY, parents b. NY

### 1880 census Conway, Livingston, MI:

Seely, J, age 21, b. MI, parents b. PA, farm laborer

Seely, S., age 20, b. NY, father b. NY, mother b. MI

Seely, Edwin, age 3, b. MI, f. b. MI, m. b. NY

Seely, Thomas, age 1, b. MI, f. b. MI, m. b. NY

Next door is N. Cobin, wife Lucy and family

### From the SGS database:

John Astalman Seeley born 10 Mar 1859 MI, died 8 Apr 1900 Thomas Twp., Saginaw Co, MI (death certificate), m. 4 Dec 1878 Conway/Lansing, Ingham, MI to Cobin, Sylvia Emeranse b.14 Feb 1860 Tonawanda, Erie, NY, died 23 Mar 1931 Lafayette Twp, Garrison, MI (dc). His parents: Martin Seeley and Lydia Perkins.

Martin Seelye is SGS# 2363, b. 25 Oct 1814 Pownal, VT; d. 26 March 1869 Belle Oak, Ingham, MI

### Dibeau Marriage database for Michigan:

Seeley, John and Cobin, Silva M married Ingham County 1878

I don't see an Indian connection – the census entries all say 'white'. I wonder if it could be through Richard's wife Anna or his mother Sylvia. If anyone has further information please contact me.

**Query 0802-7** Submitted by: Karen (Eldred) Thornhill [only1karen@gmail.com](mailto:only1karen@gmail.com)

Karen asks if we have any information on **Hiram Seeley** b.1826 New York and d. 24 Apr 1862 Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. He was married to Eunice Prentice (spelled Eunice Pruntice on son's death certificate) who was b.1833 New York and died Hartford, Van Buren Co, Michigan. Their son Willard Ryland "Riley" Seeley, b.1 May 1854, Monroe Co, New York and d.15 Feb 1923, Van Buren Co, Michigan was Karen's great-grandfather. Riley had a sister and brother: Lilly Seeley, b.10 Dec 1857, Michigan, died 1936, and Hiram Bennett Seeley, b. 21 Jun 1859, Michigan and d. 11 Nov 1937, Hartford, Van Buren Co, Michigan. Riley had six spouses that Karen knows of, but the one who helped him produce a living offspring was Marie Cramner b. abt 1864 Michigan [calculated from child's birth]. Riley and Marie's child, Rosetta 'Rosa' Seeley was Karen's grandmother. She was b. 25 Feb 1885 McDonald, Van Buren Co, Michigan and d. 01 Feb 1933 Fremont, Newaygo Co, Michigan. Rose had two spouses and Karen is happy to share her information. Karen has several possible different sets of

grandparents from several different sources for Riley and would dearly like to know which are correct.

**SGS Response:** 1880 census Hartford, Van Buren, MI

Prentice, Willard, age 72, widower, farmer, b. VT as were his parents

Seeley, Hiram, age 21, grandson, laborer, b. MI, parents b. NY

Anthony, Henry, 24, grandson, b. NY as were his parents

### 1870 census Hartford, Van Buren, MI:

Rumerfield, R D, age 25, b. NY, laborer

Rumerfield, Rosetta, age 17, b. Canada

Rumerfield, Ellery, age 2/12, b. MI

Seely, Hiram, age 11, 'at home', b. MI, attended school

Further down the page:

Prentiss, Willard, age 63, b. NY

Prentiss, Mary A., age 60, b. NY

Anthony, Henry, age 13, b. NY

### 1860 Hartford, Van Buren, MI:

Printiss, Willard, age 51, b. NY, farmer

Printiss, Mary Ann, age 50, b. NY

Printiss, Amanda M., age 16, b. NY

Printiss, George, age 11, b. NY

Printiss, Henry A., age 3, b. NY

I can't find Hiram nor Eunice and children in the 1860 census. Alonson Seeley, b. 1843 NY (see below), is living with Justus Seeley, age 47, b. NY and his wife Sarah and their children (ages 7 - 21, all born NY) in Montrose, Dane, Wisconsin. Justus is in our SGS database but his parents are unknown. Bennett Seely (SGS# 1908) and Rhoda's children are listed in the database as Norman b. (married Lavelle Crowe), Hiram m. Eunice Prentice, and Alanson. Hiram and Eunice's 3 children are also listed.

### 1850 census Clarkson, Monroe, NY:

Seely, Rhoda, age 62, b. NY

Seely, Norman, age 30, b. NY

Seely, Laville, age 21, b. NY

Seely, Hiram, age 25, b. NY

Seely, Eunice, age 17, b. NY

Seely, Alanson, age 7, b. NY

Norman age 29, Lavilla age 21 and Mary age 2 Seeley are listed in Clarkson on a different day with the family of Wm G and Achsah Crowel, both age 47 and b. MA and sons John Crowel 24 b. Ma and Charles 12, b. NY. Lavilla's parents???

### 1850 Clarkson, Monroe, NY:

Preston, Willard, age 43, b. NY

Preston, Mary Ann, age 40, b. NY

Children: Darius, 18, Nancy, 12, Phebe, 11, Amanda, 7, George, 1

### 1850 Shelby, Orleans, NY:

Seeley, George, age 32, b. NY, grocer

Seeley, Zeruah, age 30, b. NY

Seeley, Harry, age 4, b. NY

Seeley, Daniel B, age 2, b. NY

Seeley, Clarence, 9 mos, b. NY

Corah, Emaline, age 18?, b. NY



Emaline age 16 is listed with the family of John and Zeruah Corah also in Sheldon. I would guess that she is Zeruah Seeley's sister and is helping out and was listed in both places.

1820 Ballston, Saratoga, NY:

Bennett Seeley: 3 males under 10, 1 male 26-45, 1 female under 10, 1 female 26-45, 1 female over 45

1830 Clarkson, Monroe Co. NY:

Bennett Seely: 2 males under 5, 2 males 5-10, 2 males 10-15, 1 male 15-20, 1 male 40-50; 1 female 15-20, 1 female 40-50

1840 census Clarkson, Monroe, NY:

B Seeley: 2 males 10-15, 2 males 15-20, 1 male 20-30, 1 male 40-50; 1 female 20-30, 1 female 40-50

Kathie Olsen sent information on Bennett and Rhoda Seeley's family: 8 children; (all born Ballston, Saratoga County New York) Joseph (b abt 1812), Mary Ann (b abt 1815, m Stephen Brown), William (b abt 1817; m Maria, d 28 Sep 1849, Sweden, Monroe County, New York), George Washington (b 30 Nov 1818, m Zeruah H. Colby), Norman Seely (b abt 1820), Henry (b abt 1822), Hiram (b abt 1824), Myron (b after 1827). The sources of the information are Elizabeth White research, Surrogate Court, Rochester, Monroe County, New York and Old Cemetery, Morton, New York (now Orleans County).

Transcript of Surrogate Court record:

Will of Bennett Seeley Pro. Oct. 4th 1847. Administrators, Andrew Manly and Rhoda Seeley. Children given in Will as in the record (above). Petition of Joseph Seeley of Sweden in County of Monroe shows that Bennett Seeley of town of Clarkson, died in town of Albion on 8th day of Sept. 1847.

In his Will he appointed Charles Banond Bates, executor. Validity of Will questioned. Daniel L. Clark was appointed special guardian to Myron Seeley, a minor not yet 21 years.

I wondered if the Justus Seely that Alanson is living with in 1860 is the same as his oldest brother Joseph - the age would be right. However I found Joseph A Seely age 38 b. NY in the 1850 census of Sweden, Monroe Co (next town to Clarkson) with wife Julia A. age 34 and 2 sons: Chas A age 12 and Wm B age 10.

Justis Seely age 37, b. NY is in Clarkson with wife Sarah age 34 b. VT and children: Emily age 13, Esther age 11, Calvin age 9, Charlotte age 7, Lemira age 4 and Cyrus age 1. Bennett Seeley had a brother Justus (SGS# 1905) so perhaps this Justis is Bennett's nephew.

The only other Seely family in Clarkson is Mariah Seely age 25, b. NY with Alice Seely age 2, b. NY and Ira Upsom age 55 and Sally Upsom age 53, both b. NY. Possibly this is the widow of William Seely, (son of Bennett) who d. 1849 in Sweden, Monroe, NY. William and wife Maria S. Upsom are listed in the SGS database as is their daughter Alice b. abt 1847 and died abt 1911 Brockport, Monroe, NY and married William Goodrich.

Can anyone find what happened to Hiram and Eunice Seely? Perhaps the 1855 census of Monroe County NY would have them listed.

**New Query 0802-8** Submitted by Christine Havnar

([ichavnar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ichavnar@sbcglobal.net))

Chris has posted a biography of Oscar A Seely b. 29 Sept 1841 on our website. His father was David R Seely/Sealy/Seeley a blacksmith who lived in NY, IL and eventually Fayette Co, IA. His mother is supposedly Mary Ann Van Alstyne Seely, b. PA, who died at Rochester, Monroe, NY in 1841. We want to know David Seely's ancestry.

**SGS Response: 1850 census Irondequoit, Monroe, NY:**

David Sealy, blacksmith, age 38, b. NY

Laura Sealy, age 28, b. NY

Oscar Sealy, age 8, b. NY

Peltin (?) Bennett, age 15, b. NY

1840, Rochester, Monroe, NY:

Seeley, David R: 1 male 20-30, 1 female 20-30

1870 Hopkins, Whiteside, IL:

Seeley, Oscar A., age 28, b. IL, works on farm

Seeley, Emaline, age 19, b. IL

Seeley, Louis, age 2, b. IL

1870 Westfield, Fayette, IA:

Seeley, David, age 55, blacksmith, b. NY

Seeley, Ellen, age 40, b. VT

Seeley, Alice, 18, b. NY

Seeley, Joseph, 13, b. IL

Seeley, Caredon, 9, b. IL

Seeley, Leona, 7, b. IL

Elliott, George, 20, farmhand, b. NY

1880 Hinckley, DeKalb, IL

Seeley, Oscar, age 38, b. NY as are parents, carpenter, divorced

Seeley, Willie, son age 7, b. IL, parents b. NY

Seeley, Lena, dau. age 11, b. IL, parents b. NY

Seeley, Ida, niece age 17, b. NY as were parents, keeping House

1885 Fayette, Fayette, IA:

Seeley, David R., 69, b. NY, blacksmith

Seeley, Ellen A, 55, carpet weaver

Childs, Alice, 33, b. NY, carpet weaver

1900 census of Havre, Chouteau, MT:

Oscar Seely b. Sept. 1841 NY, parents b. NY, widower, farmer.

I don't find him in later censuses nor have I found a death record.

1900 Fayette, Fayette, IA:

Seeley, David R, 88, b. Jul 1811 NY, parents b. CT, married 39 years

Seeley, Ellen A., 70, b. Jan 1830 VT, parents b. VT, 6 children, 4 living

Illinois Marriage database::

Seely, David R m. Childs, Ellen A. Mrs. 09/11/1860 Whiteside County

SGS database shows David Ross Seely married to Eleanor Amelia Bannister and Mrs Ellen Childs, obviously the same person and his 2nd marriage.

1860 Union Grove, Whiteside, IL:

Childs, Ellen, 29, b. VT domestic living in home of S Bannister, age 58, b. VT, his wife Amelia, 48, b. VT, 2 sons

Childs, Alice, 8, b. NY

*Please See SGS Queries Page 14*

## SGS Queries (continued from page 13)

Childs, Elma, 6, b. NY

Childs, Joseph, 3, b. IL

### 1860 Mount Pleasant, Whiteside, IL

(family indexed as Saly)

Seely, David, 45, farm laborer, b. NY

Seely, Oscar, 17, b. NY, farm laborer (indexed as Scard!)

Hough, Wesley, age 20, b. IA, farm laborer

### 1850 Madrid, St Lawrence, NY:

Banister, Samuel, 50, b. VT

Banister, Amelia, 51, b. VT

Banister, Ellen, 20, b. VT

Banister, Alvira, 16, b. NY

Banister, Mary, 12, b. NY

Can anyone find the parents of David Ross Seeley or maybe his marriage to Mary Ann Van Alstyne?

**New Query 0802-9** Submitted by Christine Havnar ([ichavnar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ichavnar@sbcglobal.net))

Edward Eugene Seeley's biography is one of the unidentified ones on our website. Can anyone identify the origins of his father William R (Ross in the SGS database) Seeley?

**SGS Response:** 1860 census Victor, DeKalb, IL

Seeley, Wm R, 32, farmer, b. NY

Seeley, Sarah A., 28, b. NY

Seeley, Charles A., 7, b. NY

Seeley, Mary E, 4, b. NY

Seeley, Edward H., age 2, b. NY

Seeley, Edwin E., age 4 mos, b. IL

### 1870 census Hardin, Hardin, IA:

Seeley, Wm R, 41, building contractor, b. NY

Seeley, Sarah A., 38, b. NY

Seeley, Chas A., 17, b. NY, working on farm

Seeley, Mary E, 14, b. NY

Seeley, Willard., age 12, b. IL

Seeley, Eddie, age 10, b. IL

### 1880 Buckeye, Hardin, IA

Seeley, Wm R., 57, farmer, b. NY, parents b. NY

Seeley, Sarah A., age 47, b. NY, parents b. NY

Seeley, Charles A., son, age 28, b. NY, parents b. NY, carpenter

Seeley, Willard H., age 22, b. IL, parents b. NY, at home

Seeley, Eugene E, age 20, b. IL, parents b. NY, at home

### 1885 state census Buckeye, Hardin, IA

Seeley, William R., age 56, Sarah A. age 52, Eugene E., age 24

### 1900 census Buckeye, Hardin, IA

Seeley, Eugene R., b. Feb 1860, farmer, b. IL, parents b. NY

Seeley, Clara A, b. May 1854 VA, father b. Germany, mother b. VA, married 15 years 4 children, 4 living

Seeley, Mable A, b. Jun 1886 IA

Seeley, Eleanor J., b Jan 1889 IA

Seeley, William A. b Jul 1892 IA

Seeley, Cleve M, b. Feb 1897 IA

### 1910 Hardin, Hardin, IA

Sweley, Edward E., age 50, b. IL, parents b. NY

Sweley, Clara A, age 55, b. VA, f.b. Germany, m.b. VA

Sweley, Cleve M., 13, b. IA, f.b. IL, m.b. VA

When I find mis-spellings like this (or Oscar's in the previous query) I submit a correction – not too easy to find these folks otherwise!

I also found an obituary for Sarah A Seeley, widow of William R. She died suddenly 25 June 1900 at the home of her daughter, Mrs A G Kellogg in Webster City, IA

I can't identify which William Seeley is the right one in the 1850 census. If you have information on this family let me know.

## HOW TO SUBMIT A QUERY

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HOW TO ANSWER A QUERY

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

## WHAT'S NEW IN QUERIES?

If you have read through the queries you get an idea of how confusing it can get. Two different George Washington Seelys, a David Ross Seeley and a William Ross Seeley, etc. I also run across other interesting folks or circumstances as I research one query that may lead to another research question. It was especially gratifying to get information for updates to several queries this time — that's really what this column is all about: Sharing!

I will continue, as time permits, to try to identify the ancestry of those Seel(e)ys who have biographies posted to our website – I have figured out several in the last couple of months.

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

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

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## SGS Appointed Officers & Volunteers for 2007 - 2009

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

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## Seeley Genealogical Society Membership Form

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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  
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## SGS Publications for Order

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

SGS has several publications and research tools for sale.

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

Items 1, 2, and 3 should be ordered from Terry Tietjens, item 4 from Bob Seeley, and item 5 from Pamela Turner. You can find contact information (address, phone number, & e-mail address) on page 15.

## SGS Area Coordinators

(List Updated as of November 2007)

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

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*SGS Query Editor	Linda Crocker

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

\*Means address is on page 15