



# Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

Established 1965

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History ★ Family ★ Research

February 2011

## Preparations Underway for 2011 SGS International Reunion

Story By Kathie Olsen, SGS President



Plans for the 2011 Seeley Genealogical Society International Reunion to be held July 14-17, 2011 continue to develop. The latest schedule of events is below. The reunion will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning 35 Arnot Road, Horseheads, N.Y. The theme is:

### Settling Down and Migrating Through: The Seeley Family in the Twin Tier area of Southern New York and Northern Pennsylvania

Here is the tentative, overall schedule:

#### Thursday, July 14, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Executive Board Meeting  
*Meeting for all elected and appointed officers. General membership may attend if desired.*
- 1:00 p.m. Opening Session  
*The opening session will include announcements, an introduction of the reunion theme and a welcoming keynote address by Kerry Lippincott, Education Coordinator of the Chemung County Historical Society. The theme for her address is an "Overview of the History of the Area, Including Seeley Family Settlers"*
- 2:45 p.m. Member Presentations  
*These will include discussions about Seeley Families who settled in or migrated through the area. Presenters will include:*
- Jim Seeley discussing William Seeley, SGS#1692
  - Dianne Seelye discussing Charles Seelye, SGS#2530
  - Eugene Seelye discussing Ebenezer Seelye, SGS#299;
  - Jesse Crisler discussing Justus [William] Seelye, SGS#282
  - Kathie Olsen discussing Justus Azel Seelye, SGS#836.
- Please volunteer to tell about your ancestor! The presentations will be about 15 minutes each. See the call for presentations on page 6 for more information.*

- 7:00 p.m. Dinner with Speaker  
*We are pleased to announce that J. Kelsey Jones, a prominent researcher in the area, has agreed to be the after-dinner speaker. See his bio on page 7.*

#### Friday, July 15, 2011

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Tours  
*We'll leave from the hotel. Admission fees will be the responsibility of the participant. We are hopeful that carpooling can be arranged to keep expenses as low as possible.*
- The Corning Museum of Glass (Admission fee is about \$14.00; children under 19 are free)
  - Historical Tour of Elmira, New York including sites relating to Mark Twain, Woodlawn Cemetery, Chemung Historical Society and the Booth Library (Admission fee is about \$5.00 for trolley)
- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Tours  
*We'll again leave from the hotel.*
- Finger Lakes Winery Tour (Admission fee is about \$5.00)
  - Historical Tour of Chemung County, New York, including Tioga Point, Pennsylvania, Fitzsimmons Cemetery, Seeley Creek, and the Revolutionary War Newtown Battlefield. (Cost unknown at this time)

- 7:00 p.m. Dinner with Speaker  
*We are pleased to announce that Joyce Tice, another prominent researcher in the area, has agreed to be the after-dinner speaker. See her bio on page 7.*

#### Saturday, July 16, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. SGS Membership/Business Meeting  
*Election of officers, selecting upcoming reunion site, Please See 2011 Reunion Page 6*

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## 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.

### SGS Mission Statement

The Society shall engage in research, study, verification, discussion, collation, publication, dissemination, and preservation of Seeley information for the Society, for its members and for posterity.

### Membership

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

### Membership Dues

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

Pay all dues to:

SGS Membership Chair  
Lynda Simmons  
125 Parkview Drive  
Park City, UT 84098  
(435) 649-9878  
summitkids@gmail.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 July 14-17, 2011 in the tri-counties area of New York and Pennsylvania (Bradford County, and Tioga County, Pennsylvania and Chemung County of New York). 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.

### Editorial Position

The editorial opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the writers 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

John Robert Seely passed away on Oct. 30, 2010 in Vista, California. He contributed so much to this organization over many years. His influence in the society has been tremendous. It was my privilege to attend John's memorial service in Rancho Palos Verdes, California on Monday, Nov. 8, 2010. I was honored to represent SGS and its many members who've known John and benefitted from his research and genealogical acumen. Donations have been made in his name to the SGS Memorial Fund. The following poem was included in the memorial program:



## Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one,  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the way,  
of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun,  
of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

I do not know if John wrote this poem (he wrote many poems) but it certainly captures the feelings that I had for John and I know many of you had as well. He was always pleasant, supportive and hard working. He left many good memories behind! There will always be an echo reminding us of John.

I am so excited for the Seeley Genealogical Society International Reunion to be held in the Twin Tier Area of Southern New York and Northern Pennsylvania, July 14-17, 2011 in Horseheads, N.Y. The opening session will be on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 1:00 pm. There will be an Executive Board Meeting that morning. Activities will include meetings of the Society; dinner gatherings with great speakers; member presentations, tours of area sites, a family picnic and plenty of opportunity to visit with one another and find out again what a great family we belong to! The reunion will conclude with a late breakfast on Sunday, July 17, 2011. See the summary of events for a more detailed listing.

This is a very beautiful area where many Seeley families settled. Some stayed in the area and others moved on to various other locations. I believe SGS should have a database so that we could know quickly who was living where and when. I intend to make that database sometime before the upcoming reunion.

A glance through the Generations One through Five book reveals that Suzannah Seeley Sayres, SGS#188 lived at Newtown, Chemung County, New York after the death of her husband in Orange County, New York. She died in 1807 in Horseheads, New York and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Her brother, Nathaniel Seeley, SGS#189 and his wife, Jemima Collins lived in Southport, Chemung County, New York. He is buried in Fitzsimmons Cemetery, which will be on the historical tour. The valley and creek of the area are both named after these Seeleys who settled there.

In the Sixth Generation book, we find Benjamin SGS#276 living in Deerfield, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Justus [William] SGS#282 lived for a short while at Tioga Point, (now Athens), Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Ebenezer SGS#299 settled in Knoxville, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Mercy Seeley Sayre SGS#472, a niece of Suzannah SGS#188, also lived at Horseheads. She died in 1805 and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Maybe we can find this cemetery and their gravesites while we are in town!

Israel SGS#484 settled in Wells Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Millicent Seeley Tuthill SGS#486 resided in Erin, Chemung County, New York. Samuel SGS#501, the son of Nathaniel SGS#189, lived in Elmira, Chemung County, New York as well as Southport. It is our hope that we will know more about these people and many more people who called this area home at the conclusion of our 2011 reunion.

Plan now to join us for the reunion. You can come early and stay late, there are

*Please See President's Report Page 11*

## Review Committee Proposes Changes to Constitution, By-Laws and Dues

Story By George Seeley, Constitution Review Committee Chair

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The SGS Constitution and By-Laws (approved Sept. 17, 2005) require that proposed changes to those documents be published in the SGS Newsletter at least three months prior to the next reunion in which a general membership meeting is convened. The printing of this article satisfies that requirement. The proposed changes outlined below will be voted on at the Membership Meeting at the 2011 SGS Reunion at the Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning in Horseheads, N.Y at 9:00 a.m. on July 16, 2011. Assuming a quorum is present, a three-fifths majority vote will be required to make the changes.*

At the August, 2009 Executive Board meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, several issues were raised regarding the wording of the current Constitution and By-Laws and the fiscal viability of the Seeley Genealogical Society. As a result of that discussion, SGS President Kathie Olsen appointed a review committee consisting of Ramon Hall, Mary Palley, Jim Seeley, Linda Crocker and George Seeley, Committee Chair.

After much discussion throughout the following winter, the committee presented its proposal at the April 29, 2010 Executive Board meeting in Abilene, Kan. Following discussion by the board members present, the proposed changes were approved. As required by the Constitution, the following changes are being published for review prior to the next reunion in July, 2011. The proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the suggested dues increase, require a three-fifths majority vote of the membership attending the business meeting of the reunion in Elmira in July, 2011.

Only sections to be changed are being published. Current wording is underlined; proposed changes are in bold text.

### Constitution

Current Article III: Membership and Dues

Proposed Article III: **Membership, Dues and Fiscal Year**

Current Section 2: Dues shall be specified in the By-Laws.

Proposed Change: **Dues shall be specified in the SGS Newsletter subject to revision per Article I of the By-Laws.**

Proposed **new** Section:

#### **Section 3: Fiscal Year**

**Any and all references within the Constitution and By-Laws referring to the fiscal year shall refer to the period October 1 through September 30.**

Current Article IV (Officers) Section 3: The officers' and directors' term of service shall begin on the first day of the month following the election or reelection of officers at the national reunion.

Proposed Article IV (Officers) Section 3: **The officers' and directors' terms of office shall begin on October 1 following the election or reelection of officers and directors at the national reunion.**

### By-Laws

Current Article I (Dues and Membership) Section 1: Dues shall be established by the membership. Any change in the dues structure must be approved by a three-fifths vote of the members at a regular reunion subject to a quorum requirement. The fiscal period is to coincide with the terms of the officers. Dues are to be paid to the Membership Chairman, who will issue a membership card and forward the dues to the Treasurer.

Proposed Article I (Dues and Membership) Section 1: **It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to periodically review the dues structure to ensure the fiscal integrity of the society. Changes proposed by the Executive Board must be approved by a three-fifths majority vote of the membership at the national reunion, subject to quorum requirements. Dues are to be paid to the Membership Chair, who will issue a membership card and forward dues plus appropriate documentation to the Treasurer. The fiscal period for dues shall coincide with the Society's fiscal year.**

Current Article VI: Amendments

Section 1: The Constitution or By-Laws of the Society may be amended by a three-fifths majority of members, provided that a quorum is present at an authorized reunion. Any amendment proposal must be printed and submitted to the membership in the newsletter at least three months prior to the reunion.

Proposed Article VI: **Amendments and/or Revisions**

**Section 1: Amendments and/or revisions to the Constitution and the By-Laws will require approval by a three-fifths majority vote of the members at a national reunion subject to the quorum requirement. All proposed changes must be printed in the newsletter for membership review a minimum of three months prior to the reunion.**

### Fiscal Review

Following a review of the fiscal stability of the Society, the committee has determined that a dues increase is needed in order to keep the Society fiscally solvent. Postage and printing costs have risen dramatically to the point where they consume approximately 98% of our annual income. This, coupled with a drastic decrease in interest on savings and a decrease in membership, necessitates an increase in dues.

The Executive Board unanimously approved the increase which follows. Again, this information is being published in accordance with the guidelines prior to the vote at the next reunion.

	Current Dues	Proposed Dues
One Year	\$8	\$10
Two Years	\$15	\$18
Three Years	\$21	\$25
Five Years	\$30	\$36
LIFE	\$100	\$125

## Volunteers Needed to Serve on the 2011-2013 SGS Board of Directors

*By Jim Seeley, Chair of the 2011 Nominating Committee*

I am calling for volunteers to serve on the SGS Board of Directors for the two year term starting in 2011 and ending in 2013. Please give some serious thought to saying "yes." My contact information is on page 15.

Every volunteer organization needs hard working people to survive. The SGS President has asked me to chair the Nominating Committee to find volunteers to serve on the SGS Board. The new Board will be voted in during our biennial meeting in July 2011. I served six years as SGS President and once before on the Nominating Committee. I know how difficult it is to find volunteers to do SGS work.

Some members hold back because they are uncomfortable getting up in front of people to talk. But that is a criterion for maybe two of the nine positions on the SGS Executive Board.

The duties of the Elected Officers are described in the SGS By-laws, Article III. Here is an abridged summary of those duties.

- President: CEO of the Society; presides over all meetings; approves disbursement of funds; appoints members to committees; oversees reunion planning.
- First Vice President: Assumes the Presidency if the office becomes vacant.
- Second Vice President: Presides in the absence of the President and First VP.
- Secretary: Records meeting minutes and other assigned administrative duties.

- Treasurer: Pays the bills; safeguards the funds, maintains financial records.
- Chief Genealogist: Figuratively has custody of SGS genealogical files. Performs duties generally accepted as responsibilities of a genealogist.
- Directors: The three Directors serve as representatives of the general membership.

Here are some additional thoughts and suggestions:

- Every member should consider themselves a recruiter for new members.
- Each member should serve at least two years on either the Executive Board or on an SGS Committee.
- Having served for one term doesn't make you ineligible to serve again, and again.
- There are advantages to having continuity in SGS leadership, but to move forward, new Executive Board members bringing new ideas is a plus.
- Board members should have access to a computer for email and should plan to attend all SGS Reunions during their term.

Let me know which Board position(s) you would agree to serve in. Or, contact me to discuss the Board's duties.

By the way, we are still looking for a volunteer to serve as the SGS DNA lineage Project Manager. This is an unelected position appointed by the President. I am serving in an interim capacity and I'm anxious to hand over the position to a volunteer. Let SGS President Kathie Olsen and me know if you are interested.

## Founder of the SGS Ancestor File John R. Seely Passes Away

John Robert Seely passed away on Oct. 30, 2010. He was 88 years old, and lived a full and rewarding life.

Born on Aug. 29, 1922 in Kiwanee, Illinois, he moved to Southern California in 1945 and began his life with his wife, Maurine Brevoort Seely in 1950. Together, they bought a home in Carson in 1950, where he lived happily for the remainder of his life. John joins his beloved wife of 60 years, Maurine, who passed away in 1998, and is reunited with son Maurice Eugene Seely who passed away in 1971.

John leaves behind his son Robert with wife Kathy, and daughter Leone with William Storms, fiancé, and four grandchildren, Brian, Ian, Caroline and Lily.

John was a life long poet, copywriting the book "Rainbows & Raindrops of the Mind," and a long time genealogist, working with the Seeley Genealogical Society and the New England Genealogical Society.

A pioneer in the use of information technology in the study of family history, John's many genealogical accomplishments included starting and maintaining the Seeley Ancestor File. Over the course of three decades, John oversaw the expansion and updating of the database which now includes tens of thousands of entries. It is now proudly maintained by the Seeley Genealogical Society and will be a lasting part of John's legacy as it continues to prove itself an invaluable research tool to Seeley



descendants for years to come.

In the final few months of his life, he was blessed to be cared for by his son, Robert and his wife Kathy.

John was further blessed to live his last three months at Evergreen Chalet under the care of George and Miriam Mozes and their staff. The family wishes to thank Evergreen and Hospice for all their care and the many, many people who sent John cards and letters in his final months.

A memorial service was held at Green Hills Mortuary Chapel, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. on Nov. 8, 2010.

## Registration Form

### SGS 2011 International Reunion, Horseheads, N.Y., July 14-17, 2011

<i>ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):</i>	<i>ADDRESS:</i>
<i>SEELEY LINE (NATHANIEL, OBADIAH, OTHER):</i>	
<i>SGS MEMBER?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT A MEMBER	<i>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):</i>	<i>RELATIONSHIP (SPOUSE, SON, FRIEND, ETC.):</i>
<i>SGS MEMBER?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT A MEMBER	<i>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):</i>	<i>RELATIONSHIP (SPOUSE, SON, FRIEND, ETC.):</i>
<i>SGS MEMBER?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT A MEMBER	<i>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):</i>	<i>RELATIONSHIP (SPOUSE, SON, FRIEND, ETC.):</i>
<i>SGS MEMBER?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT A MEMBER	<i>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</i>

### LODGING

Call the Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning at 607-795-1111 for room reservations no later than Monday, June 13, 2011 to get the group rate of \$99.00 per night plus tax. Mention Seeley Genealogical Society. Specify handicapped accommodations, if needed. Specify a king bed or two double beds and smoking or non-smoking room.

### REUNION EXPENSES

Registration Fee (REG. FOLDER, SPEAKER, MEETING ROOM EXPENSES)	# of guests:	@ \$10.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Thursday Dinner (Lemon Pepper Chicken)	# attending:	@ \$27.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Thursday Dinner (Vegetarian Pasta Primavera w/Pesto Sauce)	# attending:	@ \$27.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Thursday Dinner (Roast Pork Loin)	# attending:	@ \$27.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Friday Dinner (London Broil Teriyaki)	# attending:	@ \$27.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Friday Dinner (Vegetarian Grilled Napoleon w/Marinara Sauce)	# attending:	@ \$27.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Friday Dinner (Baked Icelandic Haddock)	# attending:	@ \$27.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Saturday Picnic at Big Flats Town Park Pavilion	# attending:	@ \$10.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Saturday Buffet Dinner at El Monte's Restaurant	# attending:	@ \$25.00 ea.	Subtotal:
Sunday Late Breakfast Buffet	# attending:	@ \$15.00 ea.	Subtotal:
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

All meals are at the Hilton Garden Inn unless otherwise indicated. If you are only attending one event, the Registration Fee is waived.



Send check (payable to SGS) along with this registration form to:  
 Katherine M. Olsen, President  
 Seeley Genealogical Society  
 777 East South Temple, Apt. 13H  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1214

For more information, contact Kathie  
 at (801) 355-0301 or [katherinemolsen@gmail.com](mailto:katherinemolsen@gmail.com)

Please register early to give Kathie time to prepare name tags, meal tickets and registration packets.

Please ensure checks and completed registration forms are received by Kathie Olsen before Thursday, June 30, 2011.

SGS must confirm the number of meals no later than Friday, July 1, 2011.

## 2011 Reunion *(continued from page 1)*

*voting on society issues, discussion of concerns, etc.*

11:00 a.m. Group Photo (at hotel)  
12:00 p.m. Family Picnic at Big Flats Town Park.

A nice lunch is planned with sandwiches and trimmings at \$10.00 per person. We hope many of those who descend from Seeley families in the area will join us. If this is the only event you will be attending, the Registration Fee will be waived.

4:00 p.m. New officers meeting at the hotel.  
7:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner and Officer Installation at ElMonte's Restaurant in Horseheads, New York

### **Sunday, July 17, 2011**

11:00 a.m. A late breakfast at the hotel. A late check-out from the hotel has been arranged for those leaving the hotel after breakfast.

We have contracted with the Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning, Horseheads, New York to host the reunion. All events unless noted are at the Hilton Garden Inn. Reservations at the group rate of \$99.00 plus tax per night must be made for rooms at this hotel by Monday, June 13, 2011. The telephone number to call is 607-795-1111. Mention the Seeley Genealogical Society.

Please register early using the Registration Form in this newsletter. Please make sure that completed Registration Forms and checks are received by Kathie Olsen before Thursday, June 30, 2011.

## My First SGS Reunion -- Wow!

*Story By Jim Seeley, SGS Past President*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I asked members of the SGS Board of Directors to share with us why they enjoy attending the SGS Reunions. The thought was they could provide some insight to those who might be on the fence about whether to attend the 2011 reunion or not. The following story was provided by SGS Past President Jim Seeley. In it, he shares why he enjoys attending the reunions and what he gets out of them.

In 1989 my sister, Donna, invited me to go with her to my first SGS Reunion in Fort Wayne, Ind. We arrived a little early and we got into a discussion with SGS President Bob Cox about our ancestry. We could only go back 5 generations in our Seeley line, but Bob pulled the old gray/green SGS 3-ring binders from a table in the Hospitality Room and helped us find our ancestors all the way back to immigrant Obadiah Seeley. I was so excited with that information that I couldn't sleep that night!

Among some special cousins we met at the Reunion that year were John and Maurine Seely. Maureen taught my first one-hour class in Genealogy. Although we lived on opposite sides of the country, I remained close to John and Maureen until they both passed away. How disappointed I was not to see John at the meeting of the SGS Board in Abilene, Kan. in 2010. That is the first Abilene meeting he had missed in my memory. Unfortunately, he died this past October. Maureen had passed several years before him.

I also met Montell Seely at that first Reunion and purchased his Seeley Book. I sure was impressed with the cover, but as I leafed through it, I was more impressed with

## Call for Reunion Presentations

The theme of the SGS 2011 International Reunion is "Settling Down and Migrating Through: The Seeley Family in the Twin Tier area of Southern New York and Northern Pennsylvania."

Did your ancestors settle down or migrate through the Twin Tier area of Southern New York and Northern Pennsylvania? Many Seeley families did. SGS would like to know about these people.

Would you be willing to prepare and present a paper on the history of your ancestor?

L e n g t h o f presentation will be about 15 minutes. An afternoon session on Thursday, July 14, 2011 will consist of member presentations and we hope that will include you! Please contact Kathie Olsen at [katherinemolsen@gmail.com](mailto:katherinemolsen@gmail.com). Please include your ancestor's name and SGS # if applicable.



the hours of research that must have gone into such a magnificent compilation of his Seely family line. Several years later, during the SGS tour of our ancestor's homes in England, I sat by Montell on the tour bus one day and explained how SGS had determined, through DNA testing, that immigrants Robert and Obadiah Seeley were not closely related. I could tell he didn't really want to believe it, but he didn't want to question the science of DNA either. Montell had such great expectations with the second SGS Meeting in Salt Lake City in 2009, but, unfortunately he was killed in a tragic accident before that Reunion.

What special friends I have met attending the SGS Reunion! I could go on and on with many other stories. The best thing about SGS friends is that they are also most likely your cousins. Cousin/friends are people you don't have to impress and that makes the friendship all the more special.

Every SGS Reunion I've attended has been as exciting for me as the first. I not only get the chance to renew old friendships, but I get to meet new friends as well. Yes, John and Montell are no longer with us, but I know they would be happy with all the new cousin/friends that have joined and attended the SGS Reunions each year.



## Meet SGS Reunion Speaker J. Kelsey Jones



J. Kelsey Jones became interested in genealogy and history at age twelve when a great aunt visited and mentioned that a cousin was trying to join the Mayflower Society. That statement was enough to capture Kelsey's intrigue. As soon as he was able to drive, at age sixteen, he was venturing to courthouses, cemeteries, and other locations.

Kelsey has been the Executive Director of a public private partnership for 11 years involved in economic and community development in Watkins Glen, New York. He also operates a small farm with Corriedale Sheep aptly named Seeley Creek Valley Farm located in the valley of the same name in the town of Southport, Chemung

County, New York. The rich soils of the fertile valley were likely what attracted the family of Nathaniel Seeley and Jemima Collins to the area and for whom the valley and creek derived their name.

Kelsey is the appointed Town Historian of the Town of Southport and serves on the Southport Historical Society Board. He is also past president and currently President Elect of the Bradford County Historical Society in Towanda, Pennsylvania; secretary of the board of the Tioga Point Museum in Athens, Pennsylvania; and a board member of the Schuyler County Historical Society in Montour Falls, New York.

He also actively serves on Chamber, Workforce, and Regional Planning boards. Kelsey is not a Seeley descendant but has actively and extensively researched the Seeley family in Chemung County and their important and early contribution to the region.

## Meet SGS Reunion Speaker Joyce Tice



Joyce M. Tice is a local community history and genealogy expert in the Tri-County area of Pennsylvania and New York.

Tice graduated from Mansfield High School and Mansfield State College [now Mansfield University] and taught English for a few years. In 1982, she earned an MBA from Cornell University in finance and accounting. She specialized in

financial systems for Johnson & Johnson and Nabisco and spent twenty years as an accounting systems consultant to small businesses in New York State.

In 1992 she founded the Sullivan-Rutland Genealogy Project which tracks the population of eastern Tioga County, Penn. as well as their ancestors and descendants. In 1996 she founded the Tri-Counties Genealogy & History website ([www.joycetice.com](http://www.joycetice.com)) for Tioga and Bradford Counties in Pennsylvania and Chemung County, New York. It presently includes more than 17,000 pages of local history tools, resources and information.

She describes the site as "a library, a museum, a central repository in electronic format for our history. While some pages of the site represent my own research and authorship, my main role is as editor and publisher of

materials sent in by others."

She says her site is intended to be a communication forum for present day descendants of Tri-County area pioneers, a place for them "to get together to exchange information, learn about the area, and have a good time doing it.

In 2003 she founded the Sullivan Township Museum, and she also displays local history projects in Mansfield's 1890s Museum every September. She writes a local history column for Mountain Home Magazine in Wellsboro. She is the coauthor of Mansfield's Sesquicentennial book published in 2007.

She says her reason for dedicating so much time and effort to history is simple. "I want to encourage people to look at the whole environment to understand the lives these women and men lived, the hardships they endured when our area was under development, and the lasting contributions they made in their lives to the world in which we now live," she said.

Tice takes a holistic attitude in her study of history.

"I don't believe that you can study people without an understanding of the time and place in which they lived, and you can not understand communities without understanding the people who created and lived in them. So the Tri-Counties site is structured around the communities of this three county area.

## Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning: Reunion Hotel Amenities



The Hilton Garden Inn Elmira/Corning is located in Horseheads, N.Y. adjacent to the Elmira airport. According to the hotel's website, it provides "all the comforts of home by furnishing all of our guestrooms with microwaves,

refrigerators, coffee makers, hairdryers, and irons and ironing boards. Complimentary wired and wireless high speed internet is convenient in every room. The lounge

chair allows you to watch television in comfort. Our Garden Sleep System beds topped with crisp white duvets are perfect for a good night's sleep."

The hotel also features luggage storage, coin laundry, elevators, a gift shop, pool and room service.

The web site invites guests to "visit our Great American Grill for breakfast, lunch or dinner or simply take advantage of the fabulous variety of foods available in our Pavilion Pantry. Relax in the Ernie Davis Lounge, where local history abounds!

Check-in time is 2:00 p.m. and check-out time is noon.

## One Clue Leads to Another On the Trail of Undiscovered Seeleys!

*Story By Linda Crocker, SGS Chief Genealogist*

All sorts of things land in my Inbox. Of course, I continue to help folks with their Seeley lines which is very rewarding — several happy folks recently — but other things come too.

A while ago Paul Seeley (pnseeley@juno.com) sent me a pdf that was an 840 page document on descendants of Richard Warren of the Mayflower. Paul had noticed three Seeleys were mentioned. One was Martha Isabelle Seeley. It turns out she is a granddaughter of SGS# 3145. She married John Spencer Stone who is a Warren descendant (married him here where I live in Parkersburg, W. Va!)

Another Warren descendant is Lydia Delano born Sept. 13, 1777 in Pittsfield, Mass. and died in 1826 who married a Samuel Seeley. Too many Samuel Seeleys to get far with that one but Paul thinks it might be SGS# 1940.

The third was Julia Elizabeth Seelye born 1809, daughter of Isaac and Julia, who married David Hervey Little. That led me to the Penn Yan Democrat (Penn Yan, Yates Co. NY) Genealogical Extracts from issues printed in 1850 (incomplete).

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1850

“Died, at the residence of Hon. William M. Oliver, in this village, on Friday last, the 20th inst., Mrs. Julia Seelye, relict of the late Isaac Seelye, Esq. Counsellor at Law, of Cherry Valley, and mother of Mrs. William M. Oliver, aged 65 years.

“Although this excellent and amiable lady was not a permanent resident amongst us, yet she had secured an attached circle of friends amongst those who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. Possessed of that attractive charm of manners which give delight to the social and domestic circle, and which made her an agreeable companion to the youthful and aged; with conversational powers which made her society pleasant and desirable; and with an intelligence which marked an accomplished woman, she was the ornament of the society in which she mingled. - Above all things, she had that cheerful and attractive piety which denoted the full assurance of hope, and which wins respect, while it promotes confidence. It is hardly necessary to say that her death was happy and peaceful, for she knew in whom she believed; and to add, that it has left a vacancy in the midst of her sorrowing friends, which cannot easily be supplied.”

Which led me to a biography of Isaac Seelye, SGS# 1913 on our website that mentions Julia:

“...In 1804 he was married in Suffield, Conn., by the Rev. Ebenezer Gay, to Julia Leonard, of Feeding Hills parish, in West Springfield, Mass.; by whom he had a son who died in early life, and two daughters who left descendants.

Mrs. Seelye made her home after her husband's death with her younger daughter in Cherry Valley, but died while on a visit to her elder daughter, in Penn Yan, N.Y., on Sept. 20, 1850.

Which led to an online history ([www.pyhistory.org](http://www.pyhistory.org)) about Penn Yan people:

William Morrison Oliver

“William Oliver was an identical twin to his brother Dr. Andrew Oliver, so perhaps one picture will do for both. See the portrait of Andrew on his own page.

“They were born in 1791 in Londonderry, N.H., and William came directly to Penn Yan from the family home in Springfield, Otsego County, where their father had gone to accept a job as pastor of the Associate Reform Church there. William's arrival is said to have been in 1818, at the same time as Dr. John Hatmaker of Milo; this is the year the first deed to his property at 158 Main Street was made. Though apparently he only bought the land to become eligible as a freeholder for public office, he probably built the house soon afterwards. It is known to have been there after about 1825.

“He began the study of law in Springfield, under the direction of Judge Morse in Cherry Valley and was admitted to the bar about 1812. He arrived in Penn Yan a year after his brother and gained a solid reputation. He was Yates County's first First Judge, appointed in 1823. He served until 1828 and then from 1838 until 1844, presiding over the Court of Common Pleas, at first in Asa Cole's tavern at the Main and Head Street crossroads, and later in both the first Court House (built in 1824 and burned in 1834) and the second one (built in 1835 and still standing today). He also served 4 years in the State Senate, beginning in 1836, and was chosen President of the Senate (Lieutenant Governor) in 1838, and then served two years in Congress, 1841-1843.

“In 1833 he helped start the Yates County Bank, (the first time local citizens could bank in their own town; in those days all paper money was printed by local banks), and he was cashier when the bank failed in 1857 at the height of the Panic of that year. No one ever held him responsible for the bank's failure, but he felt it quite keenly and made a new residence outside Penn Yan, on a farm on what is now called Oliver Road in the town of Torrey.”

William Oliver married first to Eleanor Young (back in Otsego County, in 1811) and had three children:

- Andrew Oliver, 1816-1889, a prominent lawyer; he married Catharine Hazard. Andrew Oliver was admitted to the bar in 1838, became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1843 and served until 1847; he was elected to Congress twice, serving from 1853-1857, and then again served as County Judge and Surrogate from 1872-1877. He wrote out his own papers, and had very nearly illegible handwriting; but he was apparently a very well-respected judge.
  - James Oliver, 1818-1820.
  - John Morrison Oliver, 1828-1872; he married Joanna Wagener (who after his death married William S. Briggs as his third wife) and became a Major General during the Civil War. He died in Washington, D.C., where the President had summoned him to serve as an associate justice of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
- Eleanor Young Oliver died in 1834 and William

*Please See On the Trail Page 11*



## Pulling the string on a newly discovered Seeley

*Story By Chris Havnar, SGS Assistant Genealogist*

Before Thanksgiving I received a letter from SGS member, Janet Pease, who sent along a fact she found while doing research on other families.

Here's what she found:

Pottawattamie County, Iowa Guardian Bonds, "Book 1", 1881 – 1905 page 161

"Mary P. SEELEY is appointed guardian of Mabel Grace SEELEY and Wilber Allen SEELEY on 21 Feb 1880. Amos Fry, Security."

The 1880 census shows Mary Seeley age 23, in Minden, Pottawattamie, Iowa enumerated with her daughter "Ethel" Grace age four and son Wilbur A. age two, living next door to Amos Frye and family. Mary Seeley indicates that she was born in Illinois, her father in Ohio and her mother in England. This matches data for Amos Frye and his wife Ruth and all the children.

Ancestry.com had a link from the census to a public family tree of SMITHDD3, now also known as SGS contributor #853. #853 left many bread crumbs scattered over Ancestry.com which I followed.

The first record was the Illinois Marriage Index which showed a Jan. 6, 1875 marriage in Henry County between Allen A. Seeley and Mary P. Fry. Our ancestor file had an entry for an Allen A. Seeley married to Mary P. Fry in 1875. However, this entry did not have ancestors for Allen. Contributor #853 in his family tree called Allen, Allen Ambrose. The ancestor file had an Allen Ambrose as SGS # 3446 – 9th generation, with no wife listed. My first thought was that these two entries were the same person, now I wanted to prove this fact.

I followed all the links for Wilber Allen Seeley. In 1918 he completed his draft registration with Snohomish County

as a 40 year old, and Mary P. Seely was his nearest relative. In 1920 he is enumerated with his mother in Meadowdale, Snohomish, Wash. In 1930 he is enumerated with both his mother and his widowed sister Mabel G. Wilson in Meadowdale, Snohomish, Wash.

I then followed the links for Mabel Grace Seeley Wilson. The 1900 census finds her in Logan, Jerauld County, S.D., married for 4 years, the mother of 3. 1910 the Wilsons have moved to Wessington Springs, Jerauld County, S.D., and Mabel has been married 14 years and is now the mother of six children, five now living.

Contributor #853 provides links for five of the children, providing South Dakota birth and Oregon death index records for Allen Gordon Wilson; South Dakota birth and marriage records for Esther Eva Wilson Smith; Washington Death Index records for Harold E. Wilson; South Dakota birth records for Marjorie Carol Wilson; and South Dakota marriage records and California Death Index records for Ruth Wilson Melton.

I was able to go back to a death certificate record I had transcribed in Santa Clara County back in 2002 when California Death Records were still considered public information.

Finally I clicked on the record for Mary Prince Fry. Contributor #853 had linked her record with a web page from the Washington State Digital Archives which indexed her death, listing her father as Amos Fry, her mother as Ruth Prince and her husband as Allen Ambrose Seeley.

Now we can confidently merge the records for Allen A. and Allen Ambrose Seeley and add his children Wilber Allen and Mabel Grace Seeley to the Ancestor file and add Mabel Grace's children to the Non-Seeley Children file.

## New Year Check List, Item One: Back Up Your Research

*Story By Pam Turner, Seelye Research Center Librarian*

Hi, all and Happy New Year. As you know, last fall we lost a good friend; John Seely. Before he died, John requested that all of his research papers be donated to the Seelye Research Center. We thank John and his family for this generous gift to our genealogy history. Please know that John will be missed by all who knew him.

Now the holidays are past us, and it's time to get back to work on our genealogy projects. One project that should be on everyone's list is the back-up and protection of your family history. The way to protect your family history is to duplicate it and store it in different areas.

If everything is on paper, make a copy and give it to another family member or send it to the research center in Abilene, Kan. If you use a computer to store your family history, make back-ups that are stored separately from your computer. If you decide to send your discs to

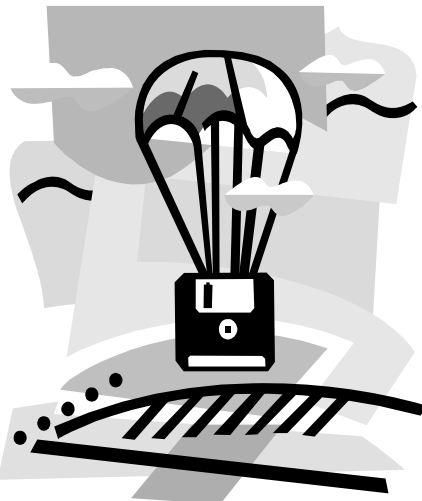
the research center for use by others, please make sure that the discs are in a GEDCOM format and labeled with the software used to make them.

Also, please send a brief description of your family with your discs. The history should include which SGS # the family is (if known) and what generations it covers along with the area of the country.

I will then use that information to index this disc. You also want to make sure that you keep your back-ups current with technology. As you know, technology is always changing, so make sure that you are keeping your copies of your data current with technology.

Protecting your information is not hard, but it is time consuming and must be kept up as your data changes.

Please make it a priority among your genealogy to-do lists; you'll be happy you did.



## Seeley Provides IED Training to Help Marines Identify Threats

*Story and Photo by Sgt. Deanne Hurla*

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan -- While driving down the dusty roads of Afghanistan, Marines watch out the windows of their vehicles. The lead driver halts the convoy and calls for a search team to dismount. A possible improvised explosive device has been spotted.

Although it's a training exercise, IED's are a constant threat to coalition forces convoying through the region.

Marines from 1st Combat Engineer Battalion teach Marines about several different IED's and how they are used during a Counter IED Class aboard Camp Bastion. The instructors, who are specially trained to handle demolition materials and IED's, teach Marines how to use metal detectors, how to perform dismounted sweeps and what to look for when identifying IED's.

Deployed Marines must complete this training before they can take part in a convoy.

Instructors use examples from their personal experiences and after action reports about IED's in Afghanistan, explained Sgt. Calvin Seeley, Counter IED course chief instructor for 1st CEB.

Items such as pressure cookers, homemade pressure plates and other common materials are used by enemy forces to make improvised explosive devices. IED's range in size from smaller anti-personnel bombs to much larger ones used on armored vehicles. To aid the Marines in finding IED's, they are taught to use a metal detector that can find low and high metallic materials buried in the ground.

In one portion of the class, Marines perform a dismounted sweep of a man-made canal as part of their practical application.

"They are put into groups and try to find a low metallic pressure plate we've buried and identify some indicators of IED's that are common in Afghanistan," said Seeley, who is originally from Wyandotte, Mich. "[The practical application is] to help them see what it is actually going to look like when they are out there.

"For the most part, a lot of people actually identify the pressure plate in the canal system," Seeley continued. "They are good at identifying the tell-tale signs that there is

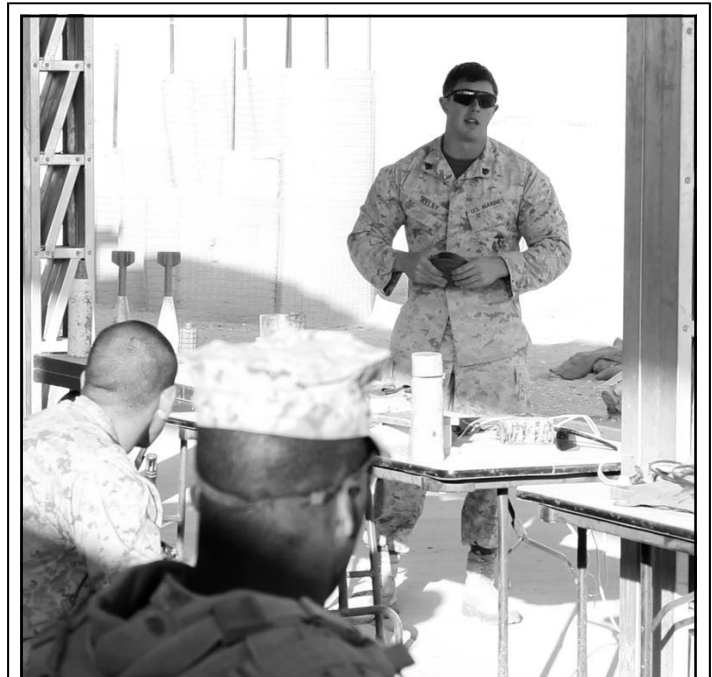
### Army Pvt. Christopher E. Seely

Nov. 16, 2010 -- Army Pvt. Christopher E. Seely has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

He is the son of Audra and Glenn Ellis of Howell St., Nichols, N.Y.

Seely graduated in 2010 from Tioga Central High School, Tioga Center, N.Y.



Sgt. Calvin Seeley, chief instructor for 1st Combat Engineer Battalion Counter Improvised Explosive Device Class, teaches Marines about the different types of IEDs and how they are made during a Counter IED Class held at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.

an IED in the ground, as well as locating the general area of where it's located."

Some of the tell-tale signs include small rock formations or trails of disturbed ground, both of which can indicate an IED is close. Though the training MWSS-373 Marines receive in the Counter IED Class is beneficial and could save their lives, it doesn't make them experts, and they still need to be extremely cautious when on a convoy.

Though the Marines do not often complete dismounted searches, they still need to know what to look for while driving down the roads of Afghanistan. Each time a Marine leaves a secure area, they are searching for potential threats and ensuring the Marines to their right and left are kept safe from IED's.

### Air Force Airman Justin T. Seely

Dec 28, 2010 -- Air Force Airman Justin T. Seely graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, physical fitness, basic warfare principles and skills, and Air Force core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Maricela Seely of W. Fifth St, Justin, Texas.

Seely graduated in 2009 from Northwest High School, Justin.

## Air Force Airman Zachary D. Seeley



Dec 29, 2010 -- Air Force Airman Zachary D. Seeley graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Amy Aquino of Ridgewick Road, and David Seeley of Lincoln Ave., both of Glen Burnie, Md.

Seeley graduated in 2009 from Glen Burnie High School.

## Army Pvt. Shannon L. Seeley



Dec 30, 2010 -- Army Pvt. Shannon L. Seeley has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

She is the daughter of Tressie Fudurich of North Chase St., and granddaughter of Nancy Holmes of South Court St., both of Sullivan, Ind.

Seeley graduated in 2010 from Sullivan High School.

## Keeping the Fleet in the Fight



Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Seeley (below), from Lake Park, Minn., reviews maintenance requirement cards as he repairs the ignition of a forklift aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. Seeley is an Aviation Support

Equipment Technician responsible for operating, maintaining, repairing and testing automotive electrical systems in ground support equipment, gasoline and diesel systems, and associated automotive, hydraulic and pneumatic systems. Seeley also maintains gas turbine compressor units, ground air-conditioning units, and performs metal fabrication, repair and painting of tow tractors and other aircraft servicing units. *U.S. Navy Photo by Seaman Josue Escobosa.*



## Presidents Report (continued from page 2)

lots of things to see and do! Mark your calendar now! Early registration will be appreciated! See the registration form in this newsletter. Encourage all your Seeley (no matter how you spell it) relatives to be there. It is always fun to be together!

I would like to thank everyone involved with SGS in any way. Each member is very important. Thanks to all of our elected and appointed officers! They are all volunteers who give of their time and energy freely and I thank them all! Thanks to all those who spend many hours to help the Society reach its goal, as stated in the SGS Constitution, Article II, Section 2 to "engage in research, study, verification, discussion, collation, publication, dissemination and preservation of Society information for the Society, for its members and for posterity."

Kathie Olsen (Katherine M. Olsen)

President, Seeley Genealogical Society

## On the Trail (continued from page 8)

remarried, to Harriet Maria Seelye. They had four children:

- James Morse Oliver, 1839-1863; he became a physician and served as a surgeon in the Civil War, dying suddenly at Fort Richmond on Staten Island.
- William Seelye Oliver, born in 1842.
- Harriet Oliver, born in 1845; she married Charles P. Boswell.
- Henry Oliver, born in 1847. All members of the family who died in Penn Yan, and a number of those who did not, are buried in Lake View Cemetery in the village.

That led to:

### 1850 census Penn Yan, Yates, N.Y.

Oliver, William M, age 54 b. N.H., bank cashier

Oliver, Harriet age 40 b. N.Y.

Oliver, Andrew, age 34, lawyer b. N.Y.

Oliver, James A age 9, William age 7, Harriet age 5, Henry age 3, all b. N.Y.

Three servants

### 1850 census Cherry Valley, Otsego, N.Y.

Little, David H age 42, lawyer, b. N.Y.

Little, Julia E age 41 b. N.Y.

Little, William S. age 18, David age 16, Julia age 14, Francis age 11, Charles age 7, Isaac S age 3, all b. N.Y.

Three servants

Seely, Mrs. Julia age 63 b. N.Y.

### Burials at Cherry Valley cemetery, Otsego, N.Y.

LITTLE, David H., Aug. 3, 1807 - Aug. 1, 1878

LITTLE, Julia E., March 19, 1809 - March 22, 1899

(Children of David H. and Julia E.) :

LITTLE, Charlie, April 9, 1843 - March 17, 1855

LITTLE, Isaac Seelye, Jan. 10, 1847 - Mar. 24, 1855

LITTLE, Alice, Jan. 22, 1854 - Mar. 24, 1855

I also found a death notice for David, cemetery record for Julia and biographies for Francis and William S., all children of Julia E Seelye and David Hervey Little. I also found cemetery records in Mt Hope Cemetery, Rochester, Monroe, N.Y. for members of the Oliver and Little families. If you would like those details, please contact me.

Much of this information was new to the database.

## SGS Queries

*Coordinated and Compiled by SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker (Data Current as of Jan. 15, 2011)*

### Introduction to Queries

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

Please send your queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at llbc100@msn.com 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 0102-1** Re: Samuel Seeley b. 1810, resided northwest PA

Debbie Kempf, the submitter, has a new email address: debbie.kempf@verizon.net

**Update to Query 1011-1** Re: Sally Gibbs, wife of Jeduthan Seely, SGS# 975

Betty Allen (bjallen@embarqmail.com), a long-time member of SGS, sent detailed information on descendants of Jeduthan and Sally for our files. We still haven't correctly identified the parents of Sally however.

**Update to Query 1011-2** Re: Raymond Sylvester Seeley

We had traced Raymond back to be a grandson of Albert A. and Mary L. Seeley but we didn't know Albert's lineage and we didn't know which son of Albert's had fathered Raymond.

Judy Lazlo (juteshouse@comcast.net), the original submitter, found a death notice for Raymond in the Danbury (CT) News Times, April 14, 1984: Raymond S. Seeley, 78, formerly of Jenson's Mobile Park, Danbury, husband of the late Evelyn Marron Seeley, died Thursday at Filosa Convalescent Home Inc., Danbury, after a long illness. Mr. Seeley was born New York City, October 8, 1905, son of the late Stewart and Margaret Meehan Seeley. He came to Danbury as a young man and was a Danbury resident most of his life. He was an Army veteran of World War II, having served in the Pacific Theater, and was a retired employee of the former Barden-Parker Corporation of Danbury. There are no immediate

survivors. The funeral will be conducted Monday at 10 a.m. at Green Funeral Home, 57 Main Street, Danbury. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery. Friends may call at Green Funeral Home Monday after 9:30 a.m.

Judy suggests that Albert's parents are Chester Seeley b. 1808 MA and his wife Pamela.

#### 1850 census Great Barrington, Berkshire, MA

Seeley, Chester, age 42 b. MA, shoemaker

Seeley, Pamela, age 38 b. MA

Seeley, Dwight age 13, Eliza age 12, John age 9, Frank age 5, Albert age 3, all b. MA

#### 1860 census Great Barrington, Berkshire, MA

Seeley, Justus, age 54 b. MA, shoemaker

Seeley, Pamela age 50 b. MA

Seeley, Albert, age 12 b. MA

Seeley, Elizabeth, age 22, spinster b. MA

Seeley, Pamela J age 3 b. MA

#### 1870 census Great Barrington, Berkshire, MA

Seeley, Justus, age 64 b. MA, shoemaker

Seeley, Permelia N. age 61 housekeeper

Seeley, John, age 27, laborer

Phunk, Mrs David, age 29, no occupation b. MA

Phunk, David, age 30, laborer b. MA

Parker, Mary age 45, no occupation

#### 1880 West Stockbridge, Berkshire, MA

Seely, Albert age 30, farmer b. MA, MA, MA

Seely, Grace age 29 b. MA, CT, MA

Seely, Alfred age 4, Elmore age 2, Egbert age 9 mos., all b. MA, MA, MA

Seely, Justus, age 73, widowed b. MA, MA, MA, laborer

This is a problem since our Albert is already married to Mary L. However, I found:

#### 1880 census Great Barrington, Berkshire, MA

Seeley, William age 62 b. MA, CT, CT, machinist

Seeley, Margaret age 61 b. NY, NY, NY

Seeley, Stewart age 21 tinsmith b. MA, MA, NY, md within yr

Seeley, Charles age 36, laborer, Fred age 22, samuel age 19, both tin smiths, Ella age 15, all b. MA, MA, NY

Seeley, Anna, age 20, dau-in-law b. MA, md within yr

Seeley, Frank, age 5, grson b. RI, MA, RI (*this will be son of Albert and Mary - note that he is not with them in 1880 census*)

#### 1870 census Exeter, Washington, RI

Seeley, William age 52, sawyer b. MA

Seeley, Mary F age 50 b. NY

Seeley, Charles H age 27, Albert A age 25, William age 20, all work in sawmill, Steward age 16, Frederick age 12, Samuel age 9, Ella age 6, all b. MA

Noble, Edward age 25, teamer b. CT

Ward, Frederick A age 36, carpenter b. MA

Kilborn, Mark age 37, works in sawmill b. MA

#### 1860 census Great Barrington, Berkshire, MA

Seeley, Wm, age 41, sawyer, b. MA

Seeley, Mariette, age 40 b. NY

*Please See SGS Queries Page 13*

## DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES

Not sure if your dues are due?

Check out the address label on this issue of the Newsletter.

The second line gives you the month and year your dues are paid to. For example:

08/12 means Paul & Carolyn's dues are paid up to August 2012

Paul & Carolyn Taylor  
Paid To: 08/12  
3848 Frazier Lane  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

**SGS Queries** (continued from page 12)

Seeley, Charles age 16, laborer, Albert age 15, John age 13, William age 10, Stewart and Julia twins age 6, Joel F and Frederick, twins age 2, all b. MA

Chapter, Horace age 25, laborer b. MA

1850 census Great Barrington, Berkshire, MA

Seeley, Joel, cooper age 60 b. MA

Seeley, Sally age 55 b. MA

Seeley, William age 32, laborer b. MA

Seeley, Mariette age 31 b. MA

Seeley, Chas. age 7, Albert age 5, John age 2, all b. MA

Case, Emeline, age 35 b. NY

In the SGS database we have:

Justus b. 1810 md to Pamela Ann Seymour in 1833 in Berkshire Co. MA (this is from MA vital records)

We also have a lineage for William md to Margaret Curtis, son of Joel Butler Seeley b. 1788 New Haven CT md to Sally A Allen in 1809 in Seneca Co. NY, son of Abraham b. 1763 New Haven Ct, md to Eunice Butler in 1787 in New Haven, son of Abraham b. 1730 md Mary Barnes 1758 New Haven.

We do not know the ancestry of this Abraham Seeley (see Query 0808-6 on the SGS website).

I also found Stuart Seeley's WWI Draft Registration but I still can't find him or Raymond in the 1910 census.

WWI Draft Reg'n

Stuart Seeley b. 10 Jan 1878, resides New York City, works as stableman, names mother Mary Seeley of Great Barrington MA as next of kin

If you have any information to add please contact your SGS Chief Genealogist and Judy.

**New Queries**

**Query 1102-1** Submitted by Jessica Seely Howard (charles@cut.net)

Jessica is trying to find the parents of a Deborah Seely who married Amos Acla (Ackley) March 1811 in Tonowanda, Erie, NY. Deborah was born 5 April 1798 in PA, and Amos was born 22 May 1789. Deborah's spouse, Amos Acla, is the child of Benjamin Acla and Hannah Bennett. Hannah Bennett is the sister of Mehitable Bennett who married Justus Azel Seely. Also Amos and Deborah have a child named Alvin T Ackley who married Sarah A Minier. Sarah was born 22 Feb 1836 in PA. Jessica would also like to know if Amos Acla and Deborah Seely had any other children. Jessica found the following census records:

1860 census Asylum, Bradford, PA

Acla, Amos, age 74, cooper b. NJ

Acla, Deborah, age 62 b. PA

1870 census Asylum, Bradford, PA

Acla, Alvin, age 37 b. PA

Acla, Sarah age 33 b. PA

Acla, Addie age 16, McClellan age 6, Ella, age 1, all b. PA

Acla, Deborah age 73 b. PA

**SGS Response:** Jim Seeley (jrseeley@comcast.net) questioned whether the marriage of Amos Ackley to Deborah Seeley was really in Erie Co. NY. Jessica then found this record:

Marriage and Deaths from the Wyoming (PA) Historical and Genealogical Society

Ackley, Amos, m. Towanda, by George Scott, Esq., (March 1811) to Deborah Seely, both of Towanda.

Towanda is in Bradford Co. PA.

1850 census Durell, Bradford, PA

Acla, Amos, age 63, farmer b. PA (indexed as Aela)

Acla, Deborah age 54 b. PA

Acla, Clarissa, age 23, Sylvester age 20, Alvin age 18, (both sons farmers) Wealthy age 15, all b. PA Perkins, David, age 31, farmer, b. PA

On either side of the Acla family I found Benjamin families.

Looking at the 1810 census for Towanda, Luzerne, PA there is a Samuel Seeley age over 45 with a wife over 45 and 2 girls, 1 age <10 and one age 10-16 who could be Deborah.

1840 Census of Pensioners, Revolutionary or Military Service - Bradford County

Samuel Seeley age 98 living in the household of Amos Ackler in Monroe Township, Bradford, PA

From *The History of Bradford County* by HC Bradsby, 1891, Ch. XXVI. Asylum Township, pages 391-393

Stephen Durell located at the mouth of the creek since named in his honor (Durell Creek) in 1789 or 1790, and built a house and sawmill there. In the fall of 1787, Benjamin Ackla, Richard Benjamin and Amos Bennett came to what was afterward called Bennett's Creek, and built sot-tie log houses. Amos Bennett came to Wyalusing as early, probably, as 1783-84, and lived there some five or six years. He built a little tub-mill at the falls, just below the road on Bennett's creek. The ruins of a sawmill now mark the site. He had a house on the flats below the present residence of William Storrs.

Richard Benjamin lived where H. L. Haight now lives. His children were Jonathan, John, Patty, Polly, Peter, David, Jesse, Sally, Hetty, Betsey, and Joshua, besides two who died in infancy. Jonathan married Leah, daughter of Benjamin Ackla, and lived on the Seeley hill, and died February 1, 1847, aged seventy-seven years. The property is now owned by William Storrs. Deacon Reuben Wells and a Mr. Shaw came to the Gilbert place at an early day, and planted a piece of corn. They lived in a log house near the spring, a few rods below the residence of Richard Gilbert. Samuel Gilbert came about 1790 and lived a year or two at Kingston, and then moved to the farm now occupied by Richard Gilbert. Charles Homet emigrated from France to America in January, 1793, and settled in Asylum in 1796. He was one of the French families who remained in Bradford, and did not return, after the restoration, to his native land. He died December 29, 1838, in the seventieth year of his age. His wife, Theresa (Schillinger), preceded him January 3, 1823, aged sixty-three years. Mr. Homet married, for his second wife, Cynthia Sickler, in 1827, by whom he had one daughter, the wife of E. T. Fox.

Anthony Vander Poel came about 1790, to Bradford county. He was the ancestor of the large family of that name now in Bradford. His first

*Please See SGS Queries Page 14*

## SGS Queries (continued from page 13)

stopping-place was Aquaga, where lie remained a year or two and then came to Durell creek, and from thence moved into the French settlement and engaged in the employ of that colony. He built a small log mill on Fowler creek, and lived there four or five years, but, being despoiled of the title to his land, removed to Wyalusino, and after a short time moved to the hill near Moody's pond, where he died, aged ninety-nine years, in the spring of 1838, and was buried on Ellis hill. Isaac Wheeler came into Asylum along with Anthony Vander Poel. . Nicholas Johnson, a brother of Isaac Wheeler's wife, came some time between 1797 and 1800, but located at first at Towanda, where he lived for several years, and then settled in Asylum. About two years after Nicholas Johnson came into tile county his brother Richard also came, but never gained any permanent location, and, with his wife, is buried at Frenchtown. Richard Wheeler, a brother of Isaac Wheeler, also came about the time the Johnsons did, but returned to New York, and finally came back again, and died here. Ambrose Vincent, who married a sister of Mrs. Isaac Wheeler, came about 1804-6. Henry Cornelius married another sister of Mrs. Wheeler, was a Revolutionary pensioner, and came into the county soon after the Johnsons. He died on the mountain below Towanda, on a little farm he bought there.

Samuel Seeley was a Revolutionary soldier. He came to the Connecticut grant before the war. After the war he came back to look after his family, but could not find them. Thinking they were killed or had died, he went back to Goshen, N. Y., from whence he originally came, where he married Miss Deborah Benjamin, a sister of Richard Benjamin, and in 1802 came to Wyalusing creek, where lie lived a few years, and then removed to the Herrick place, where be remained some seventeen or eighteen years, then to where Keizer now lives, in 1827. In 1815 he built a sawmill near Myron Frisbies', but ere it was scarcely finished Hollenback served an ejection on him, and he abandoned the place.

I think I have made a case for this Deborah being a daughter of Samuel Seely of Goshen NY, died Bradford Co. PA. However we don't have anything on the origins of this Samuel. The History seems to indicate he had an earlier family before he married Deborah Benjamin. Can any of you help?

**New Query 1102-2** Submitted by Barb Stevens (bstevens\_ca@rogers.com)

Barb is trying to find out who Nathaniel Seely's parents were. Nathaniel was born 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 1785 and died 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1870. He married Betsey Lockwood, who was born 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 1788 and died 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1871. They were married on 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 1806.

**SGS Response:** We have Nathaniel and Elizabeth Lockwood Seely in our database but with no further information. We have names of their children: Abby Jane b. 1826, Agnes b. 1828, md. Mr Harris, Almira b. 1835, Betsy Ann b. 1816, Caroline Rose b. 1818, Elizabeth b. 1811, Gershom b. 1824, James b. 1822, Lucinda b. 1814 md John Stevens, Marinda b. 1808 md Alexander Cargill, Mary b. 1812, Susan b. 1820 md John Stevens (changing this to

Jonathan Stevens – see below)

From *Stevens Genealogy* by Predmore

Jonathan Stevens 3rd, son of Jonathan Jr., born July 24, 1797, died April 22, 1868, married October 30, 1856 by J.M. Ashley, Susan Seely, born July 28, 1820, died May 5, 1905, daughter of Nathaniel and Betsey Lockwood Seely. Children: Seely Stevens, born August 3, 1857, died July 8, 1941; Alfaretta (Allie), born May 15, 1859

John Stevens, born November 8, 1822, died March 22, 1911, son of David, married Lucinda Seely, born October 13, 1814, died June 29, 1890, widow of Frank Jaquish of Highland Falls and dau of Nathaniel and Betsey Lockwood Seely. Children: Annie; Mary, born October 13, 1854; Adam, born September 15, 1856, died August 14, 1911; Charles F., born March 24, 1858, died June 22, 1936; Rachel. John married second Margaretta Reynolds.

1850 census Cornwall, Orange, NY

Seely, Nathaniel, age 65, laborer b. NY

Seely, Elizabeth age 61 b. CT

Seely, Susan age 28, Almira age 15 both b. NY

In 1860 Almira age 24 is living with Daniel and Betsy Seely, age 69 and 65 in Cornwall. In 1870 Elmira Seely a seamstress age 34 living with Betsy Seely age 82 b. CT and William Jacques age 32 laborer b. NY In 1880 she is in Highland, Orange NY as aunt of William Jaquish and is with him in 1900.

So, how does this Nathaniel Seeley tie in to our Seeley lines? Contact me with your ideas.

## How to Submit a Query

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

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

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

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

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

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

## How to Answer a Query

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

## SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2009 - 2011

**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 2009 - 2011

**SGS Constitution, Art IV, Sect. 1:** "The President shall appoint an Ancestor Files Chair, a Membership Chair, 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 as far as known to Linda Crocker  YES  PLANNING TO  
or Chris Havnar (contact info above) for inclusion in the SGS Ancestor File  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: Lynda Simmons  
125 Parkview Drive  
Park City, Utah 84098

DONATION: I/we would like to make a donation to SGS in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (U.S.)



# Seeley Genealogical Society

% MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
LYNDA SIMMONS  
125 PARKVIEW DRIVE  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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 -- Revised August 2009 (U.S. \$15) that includes:
  - Folder A: the Three SGS Publications by Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen
  - Folder B: SGS Ancestor File Index Revised August 2009 by Chris Havnar & Linda Crocker (original by John 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 Five entered) lists documents shelved at the Seelye Research Center (U.S. \$10).
6. The SGS GEDCOM CD is a file of genealogical information from SGS publications and the International Genealogical Index. (U.S. \$15)
7. Souvenir Book of 2009 Salt Lake City Reunion (U.S. \$20)

Items 1, 2, and 3 should be ordered from Terry Tietjens, item 4 from Bob Seeley, item 5 from Pamela Turner, and items 6 and 7 from Kathie Olsen. You can find contact information (address, phone number, & e-mail address) on page 15.

## SGS Area Coordinators

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

Arizona	Ann Hall, ramonhall@prodigy.net
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New York	(Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties)
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*New York	Mary Palley, (Remainder of N.Y.)
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Wyoming	Ann Hall, ramonhall@prodigy.net
*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