



# Seelye Genealogical Society Newsletter

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History ★ Family ★ Research

May 2012

## SGS Members Meet in Abilene

*Story by Pam Turner, Kathie Olsen and Linda Crocker*

The last week of April brought us once again to Abilene to work in the Seelye Research Center (SRC).

This year, our work was centered on 20 boxes that were brought from John Seely's house. Many of these boxes contained the binders of the Esther Houtz records which were used as some of the source documents for the SGS Generation Books. Each binder from John was compared page for page to the binders in the SRC and missing items at the SRC were replaced so we would have as complete a set of data as available.

We added quite a few pages to the binders at the SRC and added four new binders to the set. These binders covered the Nathaniel Descendants, Generations four and five and Obadiah Descendants, Generations five and six. Out of the 20 boxes, only six are left to go through.

Three of these boxes contain the submitter records used to establish the SGS Ancestor File and the rest are John's personal files. During our next visit, the submitter files from John will be compared to the ones at the SRC insuring complete copies of documents are available for future researchers.

We also had many books donated to our collection since our last visit. Be on the lookout for a complete list of all the changes/additions to the SRC Index in a future newsletter. Going through all those binders also gave us the chance to copy many biographies and obituaries for Chris to add to our website.

Pam made arrangements for Valoise Armstrong, an archivist from the Eisenhower Center to take a look at our collection and preservation efforts and speak to the group about possible changes we should make. Valoise acknowledged the many hours of work which had been done in the SRC to preserve information about our Seelye family and gave some suggestions. She recommended an emergency plan should be put in place in case of a natural disaster or other problem in the center.

There were individual meetings on various topics. Jerry Havnar and Walt Seelye talked about updating DNA research reporting on the SGS website.

Linda and Kathie spent hours comparing notes in preparation for a complete list of all changes to the three published SGS volumes.

The annual Executive Board Meeting of Elected and Appointed Officers was held. The minutes of that meeting are in this newsletter on page seven.

While we did accomplish a lot we also had fun and



**SGS President Kathie Olsen (far right) introduces Guest Speaker Valoise Armstrong, Archivist at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, during the April 2012 meeting of the SGS Board of Directors.**

laughter. Perhaps the first laughing session was when Linda arrived.

She came down the stairs into the Research Center and announced "Hi, I'm here!" Everyone looked up, smiled, said "Hi" and went right back to what they were doing. Hardly a warm welcome after driving two days to get there!

Linda said, "Ok, I get it, I'm task-oriented just like you but I drove two days to get here. Where are my hugs?" Everyone burst into laughter (sheepishly) and Linda got her hugs.

As we worked we shared laughs over the number of duplicates of duplicates of duplicates. John was very

*Please See SGS Members Meet in Abilene Page 11*

### *Inside This Issue*

President's Report.....	2
A Grand Time in Grand Rapids 2013.....	3
SGS DNA Lineage Project.....	3
William Grey Seely, SGS# 2736 .....	4
SGS Asst. Genealogist Recognized .....	6
Minutes of SGS Board Meeting.....	7
SGS Queries .....	12
SGS Officers Contact Information.....	15
SGS Publications to Order .....	16



## The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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### Announcements

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

### 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

Effective Oct. 1, 2011 SGS Membership dues are \$10 per year, \$18 two years, \$25 three years, or \$36 five years. Lifetime memberships are \$125. (Dues are in U.S. dollars and the membership year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30)

Pay all dues to:

SGS Membership Chair  
Lynda Simmons  
125 Parkview Drive  
Park City, UT 84098  
(435) 649-9878  
summitkids@gmail.com

### Seelye 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 Aug. 8-11, 2013 in Grand Rapids, Mich. 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.

# SGS President's Report

There were two important meetings held by the Seeley Genealogical Society in the last few days of April. The first one was Thursday, April 26 in Abilene, Kansas. It was the annual Board Meeting of Elected and Appointed Officers of SGS. The second one was Monday, April 30 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was the planning meeting of the 2013 Reunion Committee. Both will have far reaching effects for this organization.

I certainly appreciate the elected and appointed officers of SGS! They are the best! The minutes of the meeting in Abilene are published in this newsletter so you are able to read the details of the meeting but some of the highlights include:

We have reached a point with the SGS generations publications that a decision needed to be made. There are approximately 160 Generation 1-5 books, but only four 6th Generation books, and two 7th Generation books. The board voted unanimously to not reprint the hard copies unless a printer could be found to reprint the six and seventh generation books from the paper masters at a reasonable cost. The CD which contains the digital version of the books will be changed to a read-only version. A complete list of errata of all changes in the three publications will be published in the newsletter and on the website. I will complete this work. A new CD will be offered at the next reunion with the errata included in each of the three publications. We would like to make it so that members can print one copy of each of the books from the CD, if they desire.

The board discussed research goals for 2011-2013. It was decided to concentrate our research dollars to study the "brick walls" of those men who have done the DNA test and didn't fit either the Nathaniel or Obadiah profiles. It is believed that this will lead to the names of other immigrants and DNA profiles for those immigrants. The board is very supportive of the DNA project and voted to give any man who pays for the DNA testing a free year membership to SGS with the newsletter being sent by email. We are certainly happy to have Walt Seelye on the board as the DNA project manager. Be sure to contact him if you have questions, concerns or comments about the DNA project.

There is good news concerning the Robert Seeley Johnson and Evelyn Johnson bequest. SGS has received the first \$5,000.00. \$2,000.00 has been sent to Terry Tietjens to help with the expense of re-roofing the Seelye Research Center. The other \$3000.00 will be put into the Memorial Fund in the name of Robert Seeley Johnson and Evelyn Johnson. A judge ruled in December that the residual of the estate should be divided between the five organizations listed in the will. This could result in a bequest of up to \$80,000.00. We will make no plans for this money until the money has been received.

Because SGS is a recipient of the Johnson Bequest, the board voted to apply for Non-Profit Status (Title 501c3) in Kansas because we have an address there. There are some advantages (tax deductions for contributors to SGS; protection for interest income; tax deductions for officer expenses); and some disadvantages (expenses to apply; tax returns; government interference) to being a Non-Profit organization. A constitutional change may be needed. I will be in charge of the process. Terry will consult with the attorney who has previously helped him with the application process.

In the future, site selection for the next reunion will be determined by nominations being submitted to the Executive Board, in advance of the Membership Meeting. The Executive Board will consider the nominations and then present their recommendations to the members at the Membership Meeting for their approval. Criteria for the site should include connection to the Seeley family, location, price, activities in the area, SGS members in the area, transportation, speakers, willingness to help, etc. Be thinking where you would like to go next - after Grand Rapids - and put together a nomination. More details will be available later.



*Please See SGS President's Report Page 11*

## 2013 SGS Reunion: A Grand Time is Planned for Grand Rapids

*Story by Kathie Olsen, SGS President*

The Seeley Genealogical Society's 2013 Reunion is planned for Grand Rapids, Mich. from Aug. 8-11, 2013.

Registration and the hospitality room will be open on Thursday morning, the 8th. There will be a meeting of the SGS Executive Board that morning. Tours to historical and cultural sites are planned for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning with a dinner meeting and speaker on Thursday evening.

The opening session will be on Friday afternoon with sessions on early Michigan settlement including presentations by members of SGS about their ancestors who settled Michigan.

There will be another dinner and speaker on Friday evening. If you have a suggestion for a speaker or topic, please contact the reunion planning committee through Kathie Olsen (see page 15 for contact info). On Saturday, we will hold the membership meeting, a photo session, a picnic in the courtyard of the hotel, more historical and genealogical information sessions, and conclude with fun and games at a "pizza & pop" supper. The reunion will conclude with a late breakfast on Sunday, Aug. 11.

It is not too late for you to give ideas for this reunion! We would love to hear from you! If there are specific items you would like to have included, we need to hear from you!

The Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel at 4747 28th Street, SE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49512 has been selected as the conference hotel. They have offered us reasonable rates. The rooms, both "King" or "Two Queens," will be available for \$89.00 per room, plus tax (\$101.46) and Suites for \$150.00, plus tax (\$171.00).

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is very close to the Hilton Hotel. The hotel offers a free shuttle service from the airport.

It is exciting to go to different locations and find out about our relatives who lived in the area. I hope you are planning to come! I know you will enjoy yourself! Plan

## Calling All Seeley Males: SGS DNA Lineage Project Wants You!

*Story by Walt Seelye, SGS DNA Project Manager*

Captain Robert Seeley's son Nathaniel had eleven children; of his six sons, five survived him: Nathaniel, Robert, Benjamin, Joseph, and John. In the SGS Y-DNA collection, we have six representatives from Benjamin's descendants, and scant or none from the other sons.

Obadiah had three sons: Obadiah, Cornelius, and Jonas. We have three Jonas descendants, and scant or none from the others. If you have a direct male line of descent, i.e. if you carry the Seeley surname, please submit your DNA for lineage analysis. (Seeley, Seelye, Cilley,... Remember, our forefathers were too busy building a new nation to worry about spelling! And standardized spelling wasn't developed until later.) For this project we must use only direct male descendants.

What is the lab looking for? In the DNA double helix, every one of the 3 billion nucleotides is built from some combination of four amino acids (A, G, T, C). As the DNA is copied for generation after generation, sometimes a



Site of the 2013 SGS International Reunion, the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport, 4747 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49512-1915

now to join us for the reunion. You can come early and stay late, there are lots of things to see and do! Mark your calendar now! Encourage all your Seeley (no matter how you spell it) relatives to be there. It is always fun to be together! Registration will begin with the February 2013 newsletter.

### Call for Reunion Presentations

Did your ancestors settle down or migrate through Michigan? 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? Length of presentation will be about 15 minutes. An afternoon session on Friday, August 9, 2013 will consist of member presentations and we hope that will include you!

We are also looking for other presentations on an historical or genealogical topic for the upcoming reunion.

If you are willing to participate, please contact Kathie Olsen at [katherinemolsen@gmail.com](mailto:katherinemolsen@gmail.com) or 801-355-0301. Please include your ancestor's name and SGS #, if applicable. Thank you!

nucleotide will be repeated or dropped; these repetitions are called Short Tandem Repeats (STRs). The experts have calculated the average rate of this sort of mutation. There are sections of DNA known as non-coding DNA, also called "junk DNA", which means we don't know of any function for these segments; they are not part of any gene. STR changes in non-coding DNA don't seem to have any effect on your health or appearance, but they are useful as markers to distinguish the Seeleys from the Stuarts. While most of the DNA in each cell is a 50-50 mix from both parents, the Y-chromosome is passed unchanged (except for random mutations) from father to son. Examining the number of STRs in certain positions (markers) in the Y-chromosome, you should closely match your father, your grandfather, your great-grandfather, etc. By examining 37 markers, a match means 95% sure that you have a common ancestor within 8 generations. A difference of one

*Please See SGS DNA Project Page 12*

## Children and Grandchildren of William Grey Seely, SGS# 2736

### *SGS Research by Chief Genealogist Linda Crocker*

Back in 2009 we identified the William Seely married to Polly Eastman as SGS# 2736, William Grey Seely. William and his family are listed in the 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses in Freehold, Warren, Pa. William is born in N.Y. and Polly in Canada. The children of William and Polly are Edwin Delivan b. 1833, Edna b. 1836, Esther b. 1839, Adaline b. 1841, Leonard b. 1845, Loren L b. 1846, Ella b. 1849 and Charles E b. 1855.

We have a biography of Edwin Delivan Seeley on our website and information from research in our database on some of Edwin's siblings.

Recently I received an email from Judy Laslo about a posting on Rootsweb. A woman had found an old autograph album that originally belonged to India Bordwell of Bear Lake, Pa. It contains entries from family and friends and mentions an Edna Seeley who married John S Bordwell Dec. 22 1855 in Warren County Pa. John Bordwell is India's uncle.

#### 1880 Census Ridgway, Elk, PA

- Boardwell, JS age 46, physician b. NY, NY, NY
- Boardwell, Edna age 44 b. NY, NY, NY
- Boardwell, Addie, age 15, Cloris age 11, Stoddard age 5, all b. PA, NY, NY
- Messenger, Adda age 38, sister, widow b. NY, NY, NY

## An Update from the SGS Webmaster

### *Story by Chris Havnar*

The SGS website [www.seeley-society.net](http://www.seeley-society.net) celebrated its eighth year of operation May 11.

Based on a review of the monthly statistics the website averages about 600 visits per day. The most visited pages and most requested search string vary month to month, although Paul Stark Seeley and Sarah Emma Edmundson Seelye repeatedly are high on the list.

We have added a new category of information, a listing of obituaries of women born with a Seeley surname (all spellings) who married. Under Obituaries it is called 'Daughters'. Over the years we have talked to people who

## A Question and Answer About DNA Research

### *From an E-Mail Exchange Between Deborah McKinnon and Walt Seelye, SGS DNA Lineage Project Mgr.*

SGS DNA Lineage Project Manager Walt Seelye recently received an e-mail from a Seelye descendant asking for advice on a matter related to DNA testing. Here is her note and Walt's response.

*I am the great-great-great-granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Seelye born 1819 in Greenwich, N.Y., who died in 1901, Rochester, N.Y. and is buried in Mt Hope Cemetery. She married James Vick Seedsman, July 5 1846. He came to the U.S. in 1833 at age 12 with his parents and started the in 1865, Vick Seed Co Vick /Flower Journals published for 30 plus years from Rochester and giving it the name of 'The Flower City'. Mary was a devout Methodist. Her mother is allegedly Susan Witt and father John Seelye. Some census data connects a Susan to dates of Witt birth and death, buried in Mt Hope*

- Messenger, Coyt age 16 b. PA, PA, NY
- 2 servants  
(Stoddard W Bordwell is a doctor in Pittsburgh PA in the 1900 census, born July 1874)  
1870 census Corry, Erie, PA
- Missenger, Alfred F age 28 b. PA, merchant-tailor
- Missenger, Ada age 27 b. PA
- Missenger, Coit D age 6 b. PA
- Loveland, Ada, age 20, seamstress, b. PA  
1870 census Ridgway, Elk, PA
- Bordwell, John, , age 36, Physician, born NY
- Bordwell, Edna, , age 34, Keeping House, born NY
- Bordwell, Addie, age 5, Clarissa, age 2, both b. born PA
- Josephine Peterson age 24 b. Sweden, domestic servant  
(In 1860 John S age 26 and Edna C Bordwell age 24 were in Freehold, Warren, PA)

Thanks to this information from the autograph album we are now able to identify the husbands and children of two of William Grey Seely's daughters: Edna and Adaline/Ada.

If you want information on the other children of William Grey and Polly Seely contact me.

wondered why Seeley-born women were not as celebrated as their brothers and mothers. This addition changes that. The addition of this category was announced at the board meeting in Abilene in April.

We already have slightly more than 200 'Daughter' obits on the website: [www.seeley-society.net/daughters/index.html](http://www.seeley-society.net/daughters/index.html). We are looking to increase that number.

If we are not currently honoring your ancestor, please forward a copy of the obituary for women born with a Seeley surname (or those who died with a Seeley surname).

*Cemetery. James Vick and Mary Seelye Vick married in the 1840's and their first daughter Mary Clarice Vick is the mother of my great-grandmother Bessie French (White) also buried in the same plot. Mary Clarice married Sanford French about 1864. He died in 1882, the same year a son of theirs was born and near the death of Seedsman James Vick. In an obituary of Mary Seelye Vick a brother Charles Vick is mentioned. There are multiple references in SARS data to the connections but no dates. In the DAR my great-grandmother is number 54866. This is the Seelye with the Nathan or Nathaniel ancestor.*

*I have been contacted by Ancestry to be part of a beta with DNA. I have long roots to the Ralph Keeler Family thru son Jonah, the Samuel. I am considering sending my DNA.*

*Please See DNA Q&A Page 11*

## 101st Local Seeley Reunion

The one hundredth annual reunion of the descendants of James A. and Ida (Knights) Seeley is Sunday July 29, 2012 at noon at the Alba Community Park in Bradford County Pa. Bring a dish to pass, your own beverage, place settings, and lawn chair. There is a pavilion with tables and benches. The first reunion was July 29, 1911 (see photo at right) so this summer's gathering will be the 101st anniversary of the first reunion, but only the 100th gathering because the event was cancelled one year as a result of the austerity of World War II. The reunion is a fixture for the family which still has the notebooks containing faded but legible, hand-written reunion meeting minutes going back to the first reunion in 1911.



## You Can Receive Your Copy of the SGS Newsletter Electronically, Fast

The SGS Newsletter is now available electronically to members who would be willing to forgo a printed and mailed copy.

Those who choose to go with the electronic version will receive an e-mail with a private link to the SGS Website where they can download an Adobe Acrobat version of the newsletter. They can save it to their computer and/or print it out themselves. The file is set up to print on standard 8.5 x 11 letter-sized paper.

Additionally, those who receive the newsletter electronically will see it as soon as it is complete and approved for release by the SGS President, while those receiving the printed and mailed version will have to wait for the production and mailing process which can sometimes be weeks.

Reducing the number of printed copies, the folding,

taping, labeling, mailing, etc. of the newsletter will in some small degree also reduce the Society's environmental footprint. Plus money saved by reducing the number of hard copies printed and mailed can instead be devoted to continuing research into the history of our great family.

As stewards of the Society's finances, the SGS Board of Directors is always on the lookout for ways to more effectively and efficiently administer the organization in order to ensure our members receive the most benefit from the funds with which it is entrusted through dues and generous donations.

Printing and mailing hard copies of the newsletter has always been the Society's largest expense, but in recent years it has grown to consume an increasingly larger percentage of the annual budget. The SGS Board of Directors remains committed to ensuring members continue to receive this valuable service whether in print or electronically. However, it is hoped all who have access to e-mail and the internet consider receiving the newsletter electronically instead of receiving a hard copy printed and mailed by the Society.

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter electronically, all you have to do is send your name, city and email address to: [summitkids@yahoo.com](mailto:summitkids@yahoo.com).

## Membership Update

*Story by Lynda Simmons, SGS Membership Chair*

Membership is the heart of the Seeley Genealogical Society. We currently have the following membership:

Libraries	14
Genealogical Societies	14
Lifetime Members	167
<u>Dues Paying Members</u>	<u>216</u>
Total Membership	390

As your Membership Chairperson, I would like you to think about Membership a new way:

**M**emories to share about your family

**E**very member brings relatives to the Seeley Genealogical Society (SGS)

**M**embers of your family includes all Seelys regardless of the spelling

**B**etter genealogy is available at SGS.

**E**veryone has the wonderful newsletter to read, whether by email or print

**R**elatives are in SGS for you to meet and get to know.

**S**pelling in the Seeley Genealogical Society can vary from Ciley to Seley and more.

**H**appy times are had at SGS Reunions

**I**nteresting stories and histories are shared in SGS.

**P**lan to be at our next SGS Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2013.

## Does SGS Have Your E-Mail Address?

**The Answer Is: Probably Not.**

**News travels fast in the information age and sometimes it's helpful to be able to reach out to SGS membership immediately.**

**Please send an e-mail note with your e-mail address to SGS Membership Chairman Lynda Simmons at [summitkids@yahoo.com](mailto:summitkids@yahoo.com)**

**Afraid of spam? Fear not! SGS will not publish, sell, or share your e-mail address and will only reach out to you with important society information.**

## SGS Asst. Genealogist Recognized by County Genealogical Society

### *San Mateo County Genealogical Society*

Chris Havnar describes herself as a "genealogy pixie". She is following in the footsteps of her cousin, John Gallagher who translated and abstracted many early California baptismal and death records now in the possession of "Los Californianos".

As a beginning genealogist Chris encountered folks who were willing to do some research for her. To thank those people for their efforts she decided to repay the "pixies" by preserving San Mateo County obituaries. First she began doing obituary searches and soon learned that San Mateo County obits could be found in newspapers in San Mateo County, San Francisco County and Santa Clara County. Eventually she discovered the Obituary Daily Times housed at Rootsweb.com. The Obituary Daily Times is a daily index of published obituaries. No one was indexing the San Mateo County Times or the Pacifica Tribune, both newspapers she subscribed to. She began volunteering with ODT in 1998. Eventually she expanded her indexing to include the Half Moon Bay Review. Over the years she began doing extractions from newspapers beginning with Daly City and moving on to early issues of the San Mateo County Gazette. These extractions are housed at [www.sfgenealogy.com](http://www.sfgenealogy.com). Chris has given SMCGS several years of both the Pacifica Tribune and the San Mateo County Times obituaries. The SMCGS Publications committee is scanning these obituaries and they will be available to the public for a small fee.

Chris enjoys a deep California ancestry. Three of her Gallagher ancestors arrived in California on the barque, "John W. Carter" which arrived in San Francisco via Cape Horn on March 14, 1849, just months after news of the



gold rush reached the east coast. The brothers first went to the gold fields but eventually settled in Alviso, Mipitas and San Francisco. Two of the three brothers married daughters of John Martin and Basilisa Bernal. Her Seely ancestors can be traced to the Winthrop fleet of 1630. Charles Seely sailed for California in

1854 via the Isthmus of Panama but returned to the east in 1857 to bring his family across the plains with ox teams in the spring of 1859. She and her husband run the Seeley Genealogical Society website at [www.seeley-society.net](http://www.seeley-society.net).

SMCGS salutes Chris for her efforts to make San Mateo County obituaries more available to genealogy researchers.

### **National Archives Family Research Guide**

The Foundation for the National Archives announces the publication of the Genealogy Tool Kit: Getting Started on Your Family History at the National Archives, written by National Archives genealogy archives specialist John P. Deeben. This 160-page step-by-step guide was published by the Foundation and launched to coincide with the celebration of the National Archives' release of the 1940 U.S. Census. The Genealogy Tool Kit will help family researchers of all levels of experience to explore how their ancestors interacted with the Federal Government over the course of their lives. The Genealogy Tool Kit helps genealogists to navigate the records at the National Archives. The Tool Kit is available for purchase in the Archives Shop in Washington, DC, over the phone at 202-357-5271, or via email at [nationalarchivesstore@nara.gov](mailto:nationalarchivesstore@nara.gov)

## Update from SGS Awards and Recognition Committee

### *Story by Jim Seeley, SGS Awards and Recognition Committee Chair*

The Awards and Recognition Committee believes that there are individuals in our organization who deserve special recognition. We continue to be amazed by the many hours SGS volunteers are putting in on their areas of responsibility for the benefit of society members. All SGS members are encouraged to nominate deserving SGS volunteers for an award to Jim Seeley ([jrseeley@comcast.net](mailto:jrseeley@comcast.net)) with a rationale to substantiate their recommendation.

Jim will forward the recommendation to the other Committee Members, Kathie Olsen and Marshall Seelye. The committee will then rule on the nomination. If it is approved, an appropriate award will be prepared and the SGS President will present the award during the next SGS Membership Meeting in 2013. The plan is to keep the

recommendations and approval of awards a secret until the award is presented.

The Committee also plans to nominate the SGS Newsletter to the National Genealogical Society for their annual Family Association Newsletter award. Our Newsletter came in second the only two other times we have applied for the award. We are required to send copies of our Newsletter for their consideration. I believe the more member participation that is evident in the newsletter, the better our chances. So, I'm asking members to send our Newsletter Editor, Paul Taylor, information on your family events, your family research, or on your family history. Try to keep your input to less than one page of type written material. Whether we win or not, your input will be enjoyed and possibly beneficial to other members' research.



# Seeley Genealogical Society

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## Executive Board Meeting Minutes Seeley Genealogical Society Abilene, Kansas, April 26, 2012

President Olsen called the meeting to order at 1:55 pm. A quorum was present.

She expressed thanks to all for their commitment to SGS!! She excused Paul Taylor, Mary Palley, Sally Seeley, Jim Seeley, Lynda Simmons, Dian Little, Pauline Gamer, Bob Seeley and George Seeley. She announced that Margaret Petersen would serve as Acting Secretary. Those present included President Olsen, Wesley Waring, Margaret Petersen, Chris Havnar, Linda Crocker, Pam Turner, Marshall Seelye, Terry Tietjens, Ruthetta Hansen, and Walt Seelye. Marie Seelye, Walt's wife, was also in attendance. President Olsen welcomed Walt as DNA Lineage Project Manager.

Minutes of last meeting, July 16, 2011, were read by Margaret. They were approved as read with one correction. The Gerald Ford Museum is in Grand Rapids, not the Gerald Ford Library.

Financial report to date - Sally by email - There was a balance of \$18,776.23 on October 1, 2011. The balance on April 23, 2012 was \$17,895.21. An invoice for the February newsletter has not been submitted. The money paid for 2011 Souvenir Books is still in the account.

Membership report to date - Lynda by email/read by Margaret. There are 14 libraries, 14 genealogical societies, 167 Life Members and 195 dues paying members. There was a request for information on Marilyn Fanjoy, St. Johns, New Brunswick (Wes will check on her.); Shirley Seeley, Newport, MI (Chris will check on her); and William Thresher (Marshall visited him in Florida and had his winter address and phone number).

Chris reported that the website is a work in progress. Things are constantly changing. A recent addition was 197 obituaries for Seeley women with other surnames. This is presently called "Seeley Daughters."

Pam reported on the possibility of applying for various grants. It is a complicated process and takes a lot of time and effort. One criteria common to most grants is the Title 501c3 designation. Pam will formulate a plan to seek a grant for equipment, supplies, books, and personnel to allow maximum accessibility of our resources to our members. The board voted unanimously to support Pam in this effort.

John R. Seely files are being sorted and filed by Pam along with other volunteers.

Terry continues to distribute SGS materials. He has mailed several sets of books to those who have ordered them. He gives newsletters to potential members.

After discussion the group voted unanimously that SGS should continue producing the newsletter in the same manner that has been done in the past while research is done concerning the email option. Two

questions concern the group. One was the feasibility of putting the link on the website so that it is only accessible to members. Chris will check into this question. The other concerns the minimum number essential to getting the lowest rate for printing. Paul will need to check on this one.

At the present time there are approximately 160 Generation 1-5 books, four 6th Generation books, and two 7th Generation books. The CD presently has a read/write program. Chris will talk to Bob in Oregon about changing it to a Read-only version. Many options were discussed. The board voted unanimously to not reprint the hard copies. However, Terry would like to consult the printers who do his work to see how much they would charge to print books from the paper masters. A complete list of errata of all changes in the three publications will be published in the newsletter and on the website. Kathie will complete this work. A new CD will be offered at the next reunion with the errata included in each of the three publications. We would like to make it so that members can print one copy, if they desire. Chris will also mention this to Bob. There should be a clear explanation in the newsletter which Kathie will write.

The Awards and Recognition Committee plans to nominate the SGS newsletter to the National Genealogical Society Competition in January, 2013. We would also like to locate an award given to websites for genealogical societies. The committee believes that there are individuals in our organization who deserve special recognition. It is proposed that these awards be given at the next Membership Meeting in 2013. All members are encouraged to nominate deserving SGS volunteers. Members should be informed of the process in the next newsletter. Kathie will ask Jim to write that article.

Kathie led the discussion on research goals for 2011-2013. Paul submitted a request to set up a project to identify other 16th or 17th century Seeley immigrants. After much discussion, it was decided to concentrate our research dollars to study the "brick walls" of those men who have done the DNA test and didn't fit either the Nathaniel or Obadiah profiles. The board voted unanimously to pursue this goal. It is believed that this will lead to the other immigrants. Walt will give the names to Linda. Linda will contact a genealogist who has been working in our line to find out the details of cost and scope of search. She was authorized to spend \$1650.00 from the research fund. We agreed to find out information on some immigrant Sealy families who came from Ireland.

Walt reported that he is re-entering the information about previous DNA testing to clarify it. After Marshall's suggestion, the board voted unanimously to give any man who pays for the DNA testing a free year membership to SGS with the newsletter being sent by email.

Linda and Chris reported that the committee to study the SGS Database of Other Surnames has resolved some of the issues. They will now enter information submitted on the descendants of Seeley women into the database as they receive the information from individuals. However, there is a question concerning large family organizations submitting very large databases into our database. Perhaps it may be better to just cross reference the information to the other database. Both Linda and Chris are overwhelmed by the amount of data to be entered. However, they feel their working arrangement would not be improved by the addition of more people.

Ruthetta and her committee have been assigned to write a history of SGS. The committee was charged to update and consolidate existing histories into a two page, type-written copy which highlights the accomplishments of SGS and can be printed in future Souvenir Books before the reunion pages.

Kathie announced that SGS has not renewed the Federation of Genealogical Society Membership. The board approved this action.



The board voted to continue membership in the National Genealogical Society. Kathie will continue to be the representative but there will be more effort to recruit members to attend the annual conferences for NGS in their areas. SGS will provide funds for the conference registration.

Reunion 2013 will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Kathie, Margaret and Linda will attend a planning meeting on Monday, April 30 in Grand Rapids. Many decisions will be made by the reunion committee including dates, hotel, schedule, speakers, display room, research materials, meals, etc.

Kathie expressed concern at the process of site selection at the 2011 reunion for the 2013 reunion. In minutes of the membership meeting in 2007, the "Board of Directors [had] recommended and the membership [had] approved" for the next reunion site. The board voted unanimously that the procedure for selecting a site should include a nominating process to the Executive Board for its approval. The Executive Board will consider the nominations and then present their recommendation to the members at the Membership Meeting for their approval. Criteria for the site should include connection to the Seeley family, location, price, activities, SGS members in the area, transportation, speakers, etc. Kathie will write a newsletter article to clarify.

Jim wrote, "Regarding a potential 2014 tour to England: I have had no response from members that any are interested either in going on a trip, or coordinating it." Due to lack of interest, the board voted unanimously to let this idea go.

There were no nominating committee recommendations. Kathie will contact Jim for his input.

Kathie reported on the Johnson Bequest. A judge ruled in December that the residuals should go to the five organizations listed in the will. This could result in a bequest of up to \$80,000.00. We will make no plans for this money until the money has been received.

Due to the potential of receiving this bequest, it seems that we should consider applying for Non-Profit Status (Title 501c3). Kathie led a discussion which included the pros (tax deductions for contributors to SGS; protect interest income; tax deductions for officer expenses); cons (expenses to apply; tax return; government interference) and the process. A constitutional change may be needed. After discussion, the board voted to proceed with the application process in Kansas, because we have an address there. The vote was not unanimous with one vote against applying. Terry will consult with the attorney who has previously helped him with the application process. Kathie will return to Kansas, if needed.

Pam was asked to compose an Emergency Plan for the Seelye Research Center in case of an emergency such as a natural disaster.

The next meeting of the board in Abilene will be the 4th Thursday of April 2014. Pam may arrange for other work meetings to assist with the sorting and filing at the SRC.

Adjournment: 6:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret M. Petersen, Acting Secretary

## National Archives Releases 1940 Census to the Public

### *Story from Archives.gov*

The National Archives released the 1940 census to the public on April 2, 2012 after a mandatory 72-year waiting period. This website, designed and hosted by Archives.com, provides access to digital images of the census – more than 3.8 million pages.

The 1940 census was taken in April 1940. The Federal government requires a census to be taken once every ten years for the apportionment of members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The first census was taken in 1790. Over the years, the format of census schedules changed and more questions were asked.

Census records are the only records that describe the entire population of the U.S. on a particular day. The 1940 census is no different. The answers given to the census takers tell us, in detail, what the United States looked like on April 1, 1940, and what issues were most relevant to Americans after a decade of economic depression.

The 1940 census reflects economic tumult of the Great Depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal recovery program of the 1930s. Between 1930 and 1940, the population of the Continental United States increased 7.2% to 131,669,275. The territories of Alaska, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Panama Canal, and the American Virgin Islands comprised 2,477,023 people.

Some questions asked in earlier years were moved to the supplemental census, a 5 percent sampling of the population.

Unlike more recent censuses, the 1940 census was taken entirely by census enumerators going door to door and collecting information. If a person wasn't home when the census taker came, the census taker would make a return visit. People who were counted on return visits are listed at the end of the regular pages for the enumeration district on pages that begin with number 61.

There were also separate pages for people living in a hotel, tourist home, or trailer camp. These people were to be counted on April 8th and 9th. Their census information begins on page 81A for each enumeration district. Sometimes entries for those enumerated later and those in tourist homes and trailer camps are less than one page,

while stretching several pages in large urban areas. In some districts, there were no such entries.

The Census Bureau, interested in internal migration, asked everyone where he or she lived on April 1, 1935. The census also asked if people were living at the same address in 1940 as they had been on April 1, 1935.

The census asked 13 questions about the employment status of people 14 years old and older. Included were new questions about the "Amount of money, wages, or salary received (including commissions)" (column 32) and "Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary (Y or N)" (column 33).

The census asked if anyone in the household during the week of March 24–30, 1940, was at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the WPA, the NYA, the CCC, or state or local work relief agencies. The WPA, established May 6, 1935, developed programs to move unemployed workers from relief to jobs. The WPA workers, among other things, rebuilt the national infrastructure, wrote guides to the 48 states, worked in the arts and theater, and assisted with disaster relief. The NYA, established under the WPA, gave part-time jobs to high school and college students to earn money to continue their education. The CCC, created March 31, 1933, employed men aged 18–25 in conservation work in the national parks and forests.

At the bottom of each schedule, a supplementary census asked additional questions of two people enumerated on preselected lines on the form. The question of the parents' birthplace was moved to the supplemental schedule, in columns 36–37. Veterans (columns 39–41) were asked if they served in the World War, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, or Boxer Rebellion and if in a Regular Establishment (Army, Navy, or Marine Corps), peacetime service only, or another war or expedition. The supplemental schedule also asked about participation in two national insurance plans—Social Security and Railroad Retirement (columns 42–44).

The 1940 census also includes territorial censuses for Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Panama Canal, Puerto Rico, and American Virgin Islands.



**SEELEY MILITARY NOTE:** Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 1st Class Jason D. Seely performs maintenance on a pilot's survival vest aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). (U.S. Navy photo)

### Nominating Committee Needs Help!

According to the SGS constitution, the society's president must appoint a nominating committee to find candidates for the 2013-2015 SGS Board of Directors. In addition to finding the people to fill vacating positions on the board, the Nominating Committee itself needs one more person to serve as the committee chair. If you are willing to be the chairperson of the Nominating Committee or are willing to be an officer, please contact SGS President Kathie Olsen at 801-355-0301 or [katherinemolsen@gmail.com](mailto:katherinemolsen@gmail.com). This is an all-volunteer organization and it cannot function without your help!



## SGS Members Meet in Abilene *(continued from page 1)*

thorough. However it was helpful because occasionally (every 80 or 90 pages) he had something we didn't have. We also found copies of correspondence that was only too familiar - letters like, "I'm writing to you but I might have already. It's about my great-uncle James Seely. Can you send his picture? My sister-in-law Donna says she gave it to Charlie. Your cousin Susie in Amarillo."

After dragging ourselves away from our work we spent time socializing with one another. Despite negotiating over the time ("It may be only 4:00 on the West Coast but it is 7:00 on the East Coast"), we enjoyed several lovely meals in various restaurants of Abilene, including Terry's delicious rolls in Old Abilene Town. We also tried out a lively new restaurant called Ike's. Terry took the group on a personalized tour of the Seelye Mansion. We all love his enthusiasm for this incredible structure!

Plan to join us next time. Pam may plan more work meetings to complete the filing of John's material. The next annual Executive Board Meeting in Abilene will be the 4th Thursday of April, 2014. All are welcome and appreciated!

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

Grand Rapids is going to be a "Grand" place for a reunion. There is a special feeling there! It is family friendly! There are museums, parks, a zoo, beaches about 20 minutes away on Lake Michigan and an ice skating rink right behind the hotel!

Many thanks to Marion Hileman who made the arrangements with the "Experience Grand Rapids" team. She even stopped in Grand Rapids on the way home from Elmira, New York in 2011, to begin the planning process! In addition to Marion, Sue Ann and Rick Craven, Bill Hileman, Roeberta Shingledecker, Linda Crocker, Margaret Petersen and I made up the planning committee!

The Hilton Grand Rapids Airport will be our conference hotel. The dates are Thursday, Aug. 8 to Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013.

Activities will include meetings of the Society; historical and genealogical information sessions; dinner gatherings with great speakers; member presentations, tours of area

## DNA Q&A *(continued from page 4)*

*I hope this would help answer my unanswered Seeley/ Morehouse questions and confirm the Keeler link.*

*Deborah MacKinnon*

Walt responded, "Your ancestor John Seelye, Jr. (1793 -1883), who married Susan Witt, is listed as Seeley Genealogical Society # 2216 on our website

<http://www.seeley-society.net/seeleygen.html>

You can get more info on him and his forebears on the SGS CD-ROM, which has the first seven generations (John is gen 8) on this continent. Order it for \$15 from:

<http://www.seeley-society.net/seeleybook.html>

If you are solid back to John, this will take you back to 1602.

DNA is another matter. Ancestry's project analyzes autosomal DNA, which can show you not only distant cousins, but also your cultural & ethnic roots, such as



SGS Members Ruthetta Hansen, Marshall Seelye, Linda Crocker, Marie Seelye, Walt Seelye, Margaret Petersen, Wesley Waring and Terry Tietjens take a break from meetings and work at the April 2012 meeting of the SGS Board of Directors to pose for a photo with the Steinway Grand Piano at the Seelye Mansion.

"I want to thank everyone who came and helped out," said Pam Turner, SGS Research Center Librarian. "When all was said and done we had 13 people show up from both ends of the United States and points in between. Thanks to all of you for your hard work; I appreciate it very much!"

sites, a family picnic and plenty of opportunity to visit with one another and find out again what a great family we belong to! Mark your calendars now and please plan to attend! The theme for the conference is: "A Grand Time in Grand Rapids: Whether you are a Seeley Grandparent or Grandchild, you'll have a Grand Time".

I would like to thank everyone who is involved with the Seeley Genealogical Society 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 to "engage in research, study, verification, discussion, collation, publication, dissemination and preservation of Society information for the Society, for its members and for posterity." SGS Constitution, Article II, Section 2.

Katherine M. (Kathie) Olsen  
SGS President

Scottish, German, etc., and sometimes the migrations of your distant ancestors. If you read Brian Sykes' books (his latest is DNA USA), he draws sweeping conclusions about human origins. Our SGS DNA project is more limited and focused: we use a 37-marker Y-DNA analysis to determine specific lineage through the male Seelye line. One of our major questions was determining whether Obadiah was a son of Robert, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, since we could not determine this from the few paper records we could find.

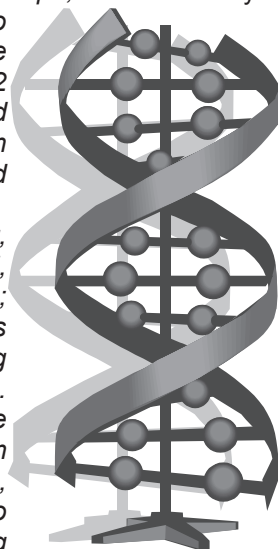
[On Page 3 of this newsletter is] a short article which explains that you can't help us with Y-DNA—your nearest male Seelye-surname is several generations back, and deceased. But please don't be discouraged from participating in the Ancestry autosomal DNA project; it could help answer your questions, and SGS might be able to benefit also if you share your results with us.

## SGS DNA Project *(continued from page 3)*

STR in a single marker is an acceptable mutation, i.e. close enough. To put it another way, modifying an example in *The Journey of Man* (Ellis, Spencer. New York: Random House, 2002):

*Patriarch Smith perfects his ultimate chili recipe, and passes it to his sons, who pass it unchanged to their sons; while grandson #1 passes it to the next generation unchanged, grandson #2 increases the amount of habanero peppers, and grandson #3 minimizes the habaneros. Each passes his version to the next generation, and so on.*

*Meanwhile, in another part of the forest, Patriarch Jones claims his is the ultimate chili, using jalapeno peppers instead of habaneros; his son agrees and passes this recipe to his sons, who add or subtract onions before passing the recipe to the next generation, and so on. After many generations there is some divergence among recipes, but every Smith recipe can be traced back to Patriarch Smith, and every Jones recipe can be traced to Patriarch Jones, because of the prevailing difference in peppers. If each son of each generation wrote down his version of the recipe, then you could see exactly when it diverged from the original; without this record, you could compare today's recipes and see that certain versions are nearly or exactly alike and came from some common intermediate ancestor. Further, you can see that farther back in the mists of time, Smith and Jones forbears probably started with a common basic chili recipe (would they admit it?).*



Y-DNA analysis could help all of us in our lineage:

1. If your lineage is well documented back to Nathaniel or Obadiah, your Y-DNA will help refine a standard to help others;
2. If your efforts have not filled in all generations, your Y-DNA profile could guide you toward the right ancestor.

The markers from this analysis will not identify any health issues, since we're looking at non-coding DNA. Anything submitted to SGS will be kept confidential; we use it only to establish lineage, not identity; and our published results will protect your personal information. DNA laboratories vary widely: Genebank ([www.genebank.com](http://www.genebank.com)) says their mission is to share information and connect people; if you want to keep your results private, "Don't use your real name." The DNA sample is destroyed after analysis is complete. Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)) promises complete confidentiality, and stores the sample. Family Tree DNA ([www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)) lets you set the level of privacy when you set up your account, and stores your sample so it may be used for further tests until exhausted. Oxford Ancestors did not respond to my query. Please explore these sites and satisfy yourself if you have any concerns.

Please sign up for a 37-marker Y-DNA analysis. For Family Tree DNA, join the Sealey Project in order to get the group rate (\$149 versus \$169). When you get your results, send them to me. Please e-mail, call, or write me with any questions. Thank you for your support!

## SGS Queries

*Coordinated and Compiled by SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker (Data Current as of May 12, 2012)*

### 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](mailto:llbc100@msn.com) or mail to Linda at home (see inside back cover). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor, researched and 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 1105-3** Re Andrew Jackson Seeley Patricia (Trish) Seeley Stahl ([tastahl03@hotmail.com](mailto:tastahl03@hotmail.com)), the original submitter, contacted us with more information. She located baptisms of some of Andrew Jackson Seeley's children that would place him in Philadelphia. Pennsylvania

Church and Town Records 1708-1985 (Ancestry.com): On May 7, 1854 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church George Mercier Seeley b Dec 14, 1850 and William Smith Seeley. Sept 28, 1852, parents Andrew J and Kate M, were both baptized. Additionally, Philip Milldolla Shultz Seeley b. May 3, 1861 was baptized on Nov. 8, 1861 at the Church of the Evangelist in Philadelphia. Lizzie Virginia Beck Seeley was baptized at the same church on June 18, 1864.



**Linda Crocker**  
SGS Query Editor

This would place the family in the Philadelphia area but they are not included in the 1860 census. It is interesting that the 1850 census of Philadelphia cited in the original query response showed Andrew J Seeley age 24 and his wife Catherine age 20 living in the same household as George W. Mercer age 30 and his wife Anna age 27. In the 1860 census of Philadelphia Catherine Seeley b. 1787 is living with George and Anna Mercer. Patricia wonders if

Catherine Seeley b. 1787 is the mother of Andrew Jackson Seeley and also Anna Mercer.

**SGS Response:** I found another baptism at the Church of the Evangelist in Philadelphia: Thomas Henry Seeley b. 28 Feb 1860, baptized 18 Apr 1860, son of Andrew Jackson and Catherine Seeley.

Philadelphia Marriages:

- Mar 13 Andrew J Seeley to Catherine LEABOURN at 1st Independent Church, Philadelphia

In the 1850 census Andrew Jackson Seeley is in the North Mulberry Ward of Philadelphia. The 1840 census of the same ward has Henry Seelye with 1 male age 5-9, 1 male age 10-14, 1 male 50-59, 1 female under 5, 1 female 20-29, 1 female 40-49.

Looking in North Mulberry Ward, Philadelphia, PA in 1850 I found:

- Henry B Seely age 55 b. PA, collector?
- Catherine Seely age 50 b. PA

Philadelphia PA death certificate index

- Catharine Seelye b. abt 1790, d. 18 Nov 1862 at Philadelphia age 72, FHL film No. 1003691
- Henry B Seelye b. abt 1781 d. 15 Jun 1860 at Philadelphia, bur. at Philadelphia Burying Ground, Passayunk Road, FHL film no. 1977187

We don't have information about this Henry Seelye in our database. I can't find the cemetery records. I have suggested that Trish have a DNA test done on a male Seelye/Seeley relative. Can anyone identify this Seelye?

**Update to Query 1202-2** Re John H Seely

The submitter contacted us. Her name is Francie Killpatrick Fresh and her email is [franfresh@insightbb.com](mailto:franfresh@insightbb.com).

**New Queries:**

**Query 1205-1** Submitted by Tienne Linden ([tienne@comcast.net](mailto:tienne@comcast.net))

Tienne's great-grandparents were James Tainter Seely and Lulu Hill. James was the son of George Seely and Charlotte (Lottie) Tainter. Charlotte divorced George and remarried in the early 1900's. Tienne says Charlotte was murdered by her 2nd husband. She is looking for his name and any other information about them.

**SGS Response:** I found a 2nd marriage for George Seely in the Wisconsin Marriage Index: Geo H Seely md Mary E Gilman 4 Dec 1894 in Dunn County WI. I cannot find a 2nd marriage for Charlotte/Lottie Tainter Seely nor any info about her death.

There are two biographies of George H Seely on our website:

- <http://www.seeley-society.net/bios-ly/bio-ghseely.html>
- <http://www.seeley-society.net/bios-ey/bio-georgehenryseeley1.html>

George is the grandson of SGS#3096, Henry Seely of Onondaga Co. NY

If you have any information on Charlotte Tainter's 2nd marriage please contact me.

**Query 1205-2** Submitted by dreamer55\_98@yahoo.com

The submitter questioned why we have the wife of John Seelye, SGS# 32 listed as Martha Benjamin.. She

says "In several places (family trees) Martha's maiden name is given as Martha Benjamin daughter of Caleb Benjamin. However, The Benjamin Family in America, compiled by Gloria Wall Bicha and Helen Benjamin Brown, FHL 929.273 B438a, states:

*"Martha Benjamin, b January 19, 1681 at Weathersfield, Conn, was living unmarried in 1706 with Uncle Samuel Hale and in 1718 with Capt. Samuel Wells. Poor Martha was not very bright and the court records show she had at least 2 children, the last born in July 1718."*

However John Seelye and his wife Martha had 12 children born in CT between 1708 and 1734. His wife Martha was named in his will probated 17 Jun 1740.

**SGS Response:** I examined the records at the SGS Research Center when I was there in April. I found 2 references cited that may have provided Martha's surname: Genealogy of Park Benjamin (929.273 B438 h, 1948) and Gen. of the Benjamin Family by Baker. However I also found one paper that listed her as Martha Redfield. John Seelye conveyed land in Newtown CT to his "brother James Redfield" Someone may have thought that this meant that this James was Martha's brother. However John Seelye's mother Deborah remarried after her husband's death a man named James Redfield and had one son with her new husband: James Redfield Jr. This would be the 'brother' referred to in the land transaction. John's sister Sarah and her husband Daniel Frost also conveyed land to James Redfield. Of course it is possible that Mr Redfield had a daughter named Martha before he married Deborah.

We have removed Martha's surname as Benjamin from our records.

Let me know if you can find proof or further information on the correct surname of John Seelye's wife Martha.

**Query 1205-3** Submitted by Caroline Marshall Pointer via Facebook

Caroline recently purchased a photo that had the name of E.D. Seeley on the back. With the clues that are located on the back of the photo, she and other researchers have determined that it's quite possibly a photo of Ebenezer D. Seeley's [b. 1858 NJ] father, Randolph M. Seeley [b.1821 NJ] [Randolph was married to Hannah Sherwood]. From a preliminary search online, this Randolph M. Seeley seems to be the son of Ebenezer Seeley and Mary Marshall of NJ; grandson of Ebenezer Seeley and Mary Clark of NJ; and great-grandson of Enos Seeley and Naomi Petty of NJ.

Caroline maintains a forum where other researchers and myself research ephemera and photos to find the story behind the item. She has the photo posted there as well as the research work. If anyone is interested in taking a look at the photo and the preliminary work in order to authenticate it, she'd greatly appreciate it. If it can be identified, Caroline would like to give the photo to SGS. Caroline is especially hoping to locate a descendant who may also have a photo so the two could be compared to see if they match.

**SGS Response:** 1860 census Covington, Tioga, PA  
 • Seely, R.M., age 33, b. NJ, ~~Mass. State~~ **Queries Page 14**

## SGS Queries *(continued from page 13)*

- Seely, H.M., age 24, b. PA
- Seely, Chas S, age 3, Ella, age 1, both b. PA  
I can't find this family in 1870.

In 1880 Randolph M and Hannah M are in Northumberland, Northumberland, PA with son Eben D. age 21 b. PA - I wonder if the Ella of 1860 was really Eben ... In 1900 Hannah says she has 2 ch., 2 living. This Eben/Ebenezer consistently says he was b. in NJ in later censuses.) Randolph b. 1826 Cumberland Co. NJ is SGS# 2987, an 8th generation descendant of Robert Seeley.

If you descend from this family post a response on the SGS Facebook site or contact me and I will do it for you.

1900 census Justice Precinct 5, Hill, TX

- Seeley, Ebenezer D b. Mar 1859 NJ, NJ, PA, carpenter, md 18 yr to
- Seeley, Laura E. b. Oct 1849 OH, OH, KY, 2 ch., 2 living

Seeley, Randolph S. b. Dec 1883; Sherwood D. b. Mar 1888, both b. TX, NJ, OH

Randolph b. 1826 Cumberland Co. NJ is SGS# 2987, an 8th generation descendant of Robert Seeley.

If you descend from this family post a response on the SGS Facebook site or contact me and I will do it for you.

**Query 1205-4** Submitted by Curt Moorman (curt.moorman@gmail.com)

Curt contacted us because he had DNA testing that showed he is a Seeley, not a Moorman. His Moorman line is Curtis Elvin, William Elvin, Richard Floyd, William Henry, James Andrew, Benjamin, Andrew, Benjamin. This Moorman line begins in NC and moves into MS and then TX. Curt has 6 generations of photos of the males in his line and says they all have the same face.

**SGS Response:** We have no Moormans in our database. I checked the wives of the Moormans in Curt's line and didn't find any of them either. There are Sealey/Seeley, Seale, Ceeley lines that followed the same migration pattern. I also put Curt in touch with Walt Seelye our DNA Project Manager. If you have any Moormans in your line please contact Curt and copy me in your response.

**Query 1205-5** Submitted by Roger D Timpson (roadwarrior1@verizon.net)

Roger's great-grandfather's brother Edward C Timpson married Rita W Seely at Elizabeth NJ 29 April 1891. Rita says she is the daughter of the late Alexander M Seely of St John New Brunswick. Roger would like to know her lineage.

**SGS Response:** We have Alexander M Seely b. 1847 New Brunswick, son of SGS# 3224 Alexander McLaughlin Seely. According to The Seelys of New Brunswick (Fanjoy and Ward) Alexander M was married to Ellen D Walton in 1872. Alexander was a sea captain and died before his father who died in 1882.

I have not been able to find Rita nor her mother Ellen in the Canadian census of 1881. According to the 1900 census of Elizabeth, Union, NJ Reda Timpson (she is Rita in later census records) was b. Jul 1874 in Canada to Canadian born parents and emigrated to the US in 1890.

Rita Seely and Edward C Timpson had three children: Laura, Maude and Edward.

We would like to find a birth, christening or census record to link Rita to her parents.

**Query 1205-6** Submitted by Rev. Janice Hesselink (jclink51@mhccable.com)

Janice has an ancestor, Peter (Petrus) Seely Ostrom, baptized at Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY in 1765 and died 1811 in Rhinebeck. He married Alida Pawling. Janice wonders if Peter Seely Ostrom was named after a good friend or relative whose surname was Seely. Peter (Petrus) Seely Ostrom and Alida Pawling had a number of children; they named one of them Jesse Seely Ostrom. Jesse is Janice's gr. gr. grandfather.

The Ostroms (Van Oosterum) came from Holland, settled in New Amsterdam, then moved up the Hudson River to Kingston, NY, on to Poughkeepsie, NY and then Rhinebeck, NY.

**SGS Response:** There are no Ostroms or Van Oosterums in our database. There are some Peter/Petrus/Pieter Seeleys in the Albany area in the early 1700's. They do not seem to fit in the Obadiah or Nathaniel lines – the information comes from the IGI. Can anyone connect the Ostrom family to the Seely family? Janice and I would love to hear from you.

## 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 2011 - 2013

**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.

**President**

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## SGS Appointed Officers & Volunteers for 2011 - 2013

**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."

**Director (Past President)**

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**Membership Chair**

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**Assistant Genealogist – Robert/Nathaniel,**

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**Query Editor/SGS Ancestor File Co-Chair**

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**Librarian, Seelye Research Center**

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**Parliamentarian**

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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)

New Membership  Renewal

DESCENDANT OF:

Robert  Obadiah  
 Other (Attached)  Unknown

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY:  E-Mail  
 Regular Mail

I/we have submitted our Seeley line as far as known to Linda Crocker or Chris Havnar (contact info above) for inclusion in the SGS Ancestor File

YES  PLANNING TO  
 NO

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

ONE YEAR \$10.00  TWO YEARS \$18.00  THREE YEARS \$25.00  
 FIVE YEARS \$36.00  LIFETIME \$125.00  
(In U.S. Dollars)

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  
PARK CITY, UT 84098

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Harrisonburg, VA  
PERMIT NO. XXX

## 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 July 2011 (U.S. \$15) that includes:
  - Folder A: the Three SGS Publications by Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen
  - Folder B: SGS Ancestor File Version 2011 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 2011 Horseheads, N.Y. Reunion (U.S. \$25)

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.

Arizona	Ann Hall, <a href="mailto:ramonhall@prodigy.net">ramonhall@prodigy.net</a>
*California	Christine Havnar
Colorado	Ann Hall, <a href="mailto:ramonhall@prodigy.net">ramonhall@prodigy.net</a>
Connecticut	Ardienne Damicis, <a href="mailto:adwdmt@aol.com">adwdmt@aol.com</a>
Florida	Andrew Waber, <a href="mailto:wabnoles@yahoo.com">wabnoles@yahoo.com</a>
*Kansas	Terry Tietjens
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New York	Janet Seely, <a href="mailto:jseely@frontiernet.net">jseely@frontiernet.net</a> (Genesee and Monroe Counties)
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*New York	Mary Palley, (Remainder of N.Y.)
Ohio	Andrew Waber, <a href="mailto:wabnoles@yahoo.com">wabnoles@yahoo.com</a>
*Oklahoma	Terry Tietjens
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*Oregon	Bob Seeley
*Pennsylvania	Jim Seeley
Wyoming	Ann Hall, <a href="mailto:ramonhall@prodigy.net">ramonhall@prodigy.net</a>
*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