



Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

Established 1965

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History ★ Family ★ Research

May 2015

Past Reunion Attendees Share Why They Won't Miss Another

Story by Paul Taylor, SGS Newsletter Editor

The 2015 Seeley Genealogical Society International Reunion is set for July 27-29. The reunion promises to be special as it celebrates a number of milestones. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of SGS which was founded in 1965 by Rev. Garner Osborn and launched in March of that year with the first issue of the SGS Newsletter. It is also the 110th anniversary of the construction of the Seelye Mansion in Abilene, Kan., which will serve as host to the reunion's first day (see the reunion schedule of events elsewhere in this newsletter).

Making the commitment to attend the SGS reunion can sometimes be difficult. It requires travel, there is indeed some expense (though not as much as you might think—see the story in this newsletter about inexpensive, and in many cases free, things to do in Abilene), and there is the commitment of time, which is a resource many of us find in short supply these days. So is it worth it?

"The first SGS Reunion I attended was in 1992 with my sister, Donna Seeley. Then SGS President Bob Cox helped us determine our line back to immigrant Obadiah Seeley, using a copy of the notebooks compiled by Esther Houtz Walter. We had previously been able to go back only five generations. I was so excited to know my line all the way back to the 1600s that I had difficulty sleeping that night," said Jim Seeley who has attended every reunion since and gone on to serve as SGS chief genealogist and three terms as SGS president.

Like Jim Seeley, many reunion attendees are able to solve research problems by either tying their research to work done by others or by receiving invaluable research advice from those in attendance. For others, attending the SGS reunion is an unexpected opportunity to meet closely related cousins who can share previously unknown stories about their family.

"The last reunion in Michigan was surprising," said Pam Turner. "Attending the reunion were the Palmers from southern California whom we met at dinner one night. During the course of discussion, which of course included genealogy, we discovered that they were related to one Charles W. Seeley, who my family has been trying to trace, and discover whether we are connected. We each had information to add to the other's history. Only at a reunion



ABOVE: SGS officers elected at the 1992 SGS Reunion in Cromwell, Conn. Pictured left to right: Montell Seely (Asst. Genealogist), C.G. Hap Ward (Asst. Genealogist), Wesley Waring, Eugene Seelye (2nd Vice President), John R. Seely (1st Vice President), Marshall B. Seelye (President), Dorothy Vining (Judge Advocate), Daniel P. Seelye (Historian, Director at Large), Madeline Mills (Genealogist), Richard Chroninger (Newsletter Editor), and William Thresher (Treasurer). Not pictured: John P. Knapp (Secretary) and Anne P. Lugg (Director at Large). RIGHT: Patricia Brooks Palmer, Pam Turner, and John Palmer applaud one of the speakers at the 2013 SGS Reunion.



such as ours can 'cousins' from California, Colorado, and New York discover a connection to an individual from New York in the 1800s. This is what makes attending the reunions so fun. You never know what will happen!"

Others attend the reunion out of their love of history. For Camille Seeley Bell, that love of history began in an 11th grade history class in which her teacher read *Gone*

Please See SGS Reunion Page 3

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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 the education and benefit of 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, Seely, 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: seelyemansion@yahoo.com

SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for July 27-29, 2015, in Abilene, Kan. 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

Seeley Genealogical Society President, Katherine M. Olsen

I am really looking forward to our 2015 reunion to be held in Abilene, Kan. It will be held from Monday, July 27, to Wednesday, July 29. Early registration is much appreciated, and the "Early Bird Special" is available to anyone registering before June 1. That is a \$5.00 savings! I hope you are making plans to join us! Be sure to copy and share the reunion flyer with all of your relatives! I believe that reunions play a vital role in our Society. They give us the opportunity to be together in one place to share friendship and information and to learn together about our ancestors and their history. Besides that, they are fun! We have some wonderful events planned: breakfast on the lawn of the Seelye Mansion; tour Abilene; visit the Eisenhower Presidential Center or the Dickinson County Heritage Center and other cultural sites in Abilene; ride a carousel; dine at the Hitching Post Restaurant; ride the Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad; listen to speakers tell us about the history of Kansas, the Seeley family, and the Seeley Genealogical Society; visit with cousins; make new friends; enjoy the succulent goodness of Abilene's famous Brookville Hotel fried chicken; be a part of the Membership Meeting; enjoy a fabulous dinner in the Eisenhower Center Library; shop for antiques and other treasures in the area; and then stay on for the fabulous Central Kansas Free Fair, parade, and rodeo! Wow! I hope that all of you can be with us in Abilene!

This reunion celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Seeley Genealogical Society. This is a remarkable achievement which was accomplished by remarkable people. The Awards and Recognition Committee is preparing to honor some of them. If you have suggestions for specific people to honor, please get in touch with committee members Marshall Seelye, Thera Seeley Clark, or myself.

A registration form for the reunion in this newsletter corrects a few minor errors, so please use this form rather than the one printed in the February issue of the newsletter. May I also suggest that you use the Schedule of Events and the Registration Form together as you make your choices?

Site selection for the 2017 reunion will be determined by nominations submitted to the Executive Board in advance of the Membership Meeting to be held at the Abilene reunion. The Board will consider nominations and then present its recommendation to Society members at the Membership Meeting for approval. A Site Selection Form appears in this newsletter. Please take the time now to think about a great place for the next reunion and submit a nomination to me by mail or email before July 15, 2015.

There will also be discussions in the Executive Board Meeting and the Membership Meeting concerning changes to the dues structure and life membership category. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the current dues structure does not provide enough funds to support the goals and needs of SGS. If you have concerns or questions about these issues and will be unable to be at the Abilene reunion, please get in touch with me or another member of the Executive Board.

I appreciate the elected and appointed officers of SGS. This is an organization of volunteers. It takes a lot of committed people to move the organization forward. If you are willing to help in any way, please get in touch with members of the nominating committee: Jesse Crisler (Chairperson), Camille Seeley Bell, and Marie Seelye. I believe they are still looking for a new President.

Starting with the November issue of the SGS newsletter, SGS will move to an electronic version of the newsletter. Remember that if you want to receive the newsletter by email, you need to forward a current email address (ask someone to help you secure an email address; maybe a neighbor, a relative, or a friend will let you use theirs) to Lynda Simmons, SGS Membership Chair. If you wish to continue receiving a printed newsletter, you will need to send \$12.00 per year to the Treasurer before October 15.

Please feel free to get in touch with me with suggestions, concerns, or comments.



SGS Reunion (continued from page 1)

with the Wind aloud.

"These fictional people were placed in a moment of history and that time was real," Bell said. "I discovered that history is the story of real people, many times set in a moment of time that was unbelievable but real. Then I discovered that my ancestors were real people who lived in history. They were my people and they dovetailed in reality with great events that sometimes changed the course of a group of people or opened up possibilities to millions after them.

"In my 'history' there are several people who desired more, albeit freedom of religion or freedom from oppression or persecution. They took a chance, they risked their lives, they left relative safety and comfort and familiar surroundings. They left family, parents, siblings and even children for the hope of a better life. Many of my ancestors were pioneers, adventurous and brave," said Bell.

"I attend SGS Conferences in honor of my Seeley heritage," said Bell. "I was hooked right off when I first attended the conference in Williamsburg, Va. The combination of history and heritage, good people and a common desire to remember those who have gone before us sealed the deal. I have attended many conferences since then; I have met many wonderful cousins."



Camille Seeley Bell attended her first SGS reunion with five sisters in 2003 at Williamsburg, Va. Pictured above, they are (left to right) Debra Hancock, Annette Earl, Camille, LaVona Lewis, Colleen Kossin, and Thera Clark. They are the daughters of Cloyd and Zada Seeley of Bountiful, Utah.

For others, the trip to the reunion is as special as the reunion itself because they plan it to include visits to sites related to their family history.

"This will be the third SGS reunion I will have attended," said Jesse Crisler. "My first reunion was in 2011 at Horseheads, N.Y., to which I traveled with my wife, Lou Ann, and ten other Seeley cousins and in-laws by van from Salt Lake City. Both going and coming we stopped along the way at nationally significant historical sites, others of interest to members of the LDS church as well, and still others where our common ancestors, Justus Azel Seelye (SGS# 836) and his wife, Mehitable Bennett, had lived in Luzerne Co., Penn., Steuben Co., N. Y., and Lee, Van Buren, and Pottawattamie Counties, Iowa, and then along the Mormon trail through Nebraska, Wyoming, and Utah."

In 2013 Crisler and his wife were joined by seven Seeley cousins for a similar trek, hitting sites of historical or familial interest in Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The Crislers are now preparing to attend the Abilene reunion, a much shorter journey from Salt Lake City. This time they will travel in their own car, either alone or with another couple, planning for a single stop along the way in Colorado to visit Esther Walter, who joined SGS during its first year of operation back in 1965.

"I also have non-Seeley relatives in Kansas whom we plan to see," said Crisler.

According to Crisler, there are a number of great reasons to attend a reunion. "Places where reunions have been held feature interesting attractions of their own. For example, at the reunion in Grand Rapids, our daughter and her family, then living in Cleveland, drove up for the weekend. We had a great time at the zoo, and, as an added bonus, my savvy daughter, Lil, was able to make sure my PowerPoint presentation at the reunion proceeded without the normal technological glitches. We also have formed fast friendships with others we've met at reunions, and not just the cousins whom we've traveled with. Speakers at reunions, whether local historians or Seeley descendants, also disseminate interesting information in their presentations. Finally, we like finding other people who are just as interested in genealogy and family history as we are," said Crisler.

For others, it is not so much that they expect something specific, but, rather, that they know *something* interesting will happen. "The first SGS reunion that I went to was at Salt Lake City, Utah in 1995," said Ruthetta Seelye Hansen. "Since then I have never missed one. I have learned a lot about my ancestors and how to do



Jesse Crisler attended his first SGS reunion in 2011 at Horseheads, N.Y. with eleven other intrepid travelers. Pictured here, they are Thera Clark, Lynda Simmons, Ken Petersen, Margaret Petersen, Kathie Olsen, Brandon James, LeAnne Seely, Janet Daniels, Lou Ann Crisler, Camille Bell, Jesse Crisler, and Joan Kingsbury. The group is joined in this photo on the far right by Michelle Olsen.

research. Also, I have met incredible people and have made friends for life. There is always a surprise at each SGS reunion, and no two are alike. I hope to be able to go to a lot more of our reunions in the future!"

No matter what their reasons for attending, those who do so always walk away from them looking forward to the next one. Do not miss this exciting opportunity to meet new people, to immerse yourself in the history of your family, to share stories valued by those who have not heard them before, to plan a trip that will be remembered for a lifetime, to enjoy a place you may not have visited before, to learn from a panel of learned speakers, and to make friends for life from an immense group of cousins whose shared family history extends backwards in time more than four hundred years.

Additional Details Released for SGS Reunion in Abilene

Story by Kathie Olsen, SGS President

(Updated April 15, 2015)

Sunday, July 26, 2015

Seelye Research Center

6 p.m.: SGS Elected and Appointed Officers Meeting

Discussion will include reports by elected and appointed officers. Full agenda to be published in advance of meeting, but one of the major topics for discussion will be the selection of the site for the 2017 SGS Reunion. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Monday, July 27, 2015

Seelye Mansion

8 a.m. to Noon: Registration

8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Breakfast

Served on the grounds of the Seelye Mansion—Terry Tietjens's fabulous sweet rolls, fruit, juice, and coffee. No charge. (Reservations needed in advance)

9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Tree Planting Ceremony

Commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of SGS. There will also be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Seelye Research Center and Hospitality Area

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Tours

1. Seelye Mansion, and Seelye Research Center & Hospitality Area
2. Shuttle to Dickinson County Heritage Center & Carousel and Eisenhower Presidential Center (Reservation with \$4.00 per person needed in advance to cover shuttle transportation to and from the Seelye Mansion. Bring \$4.00 per person for admission to the Heritage Center and \$10.00 per person for admission to the Presidential Center. Meet return shuttle at 12:30 p.m.)
3. Historic Trolley Tour of Abilene and the Russell Stover Factory (Reservation with \$10.00 per person needed in advance. Departs 10:15 a.m., returns 12:15 p.m.)

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.: Boxed Lunch on lawn of Seelye Mansion

Choice of ham, turkey, or vegetarian sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, and choice of coffee, lemonade, or water (Reservation with \$9.00 per person needed in advance)

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Tours

4. Seelye Mansion, and Seelye Research Center & Hospitality Area
5. Shuttle to Dickinson County Heritage Center & Carousel, and Eisenhower Presidential Center (Reservation with \$4.00 per person needed in advance to cover shuttle transportation to and from the Seelye Mansion. Bring \$4.00 per person for admission to the Heritage Center and \$10.00 per person for admission to the Presidential Center. Meet return shuttle at 4:30 p.m.)
6. Historic Trolley Tour of Abilene and the Russell Stover Factory (Reservation with \$10.00 per person needed in advance. Departs 2:15 p.m., returns 4:15 p.m.)

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Dinner at the Hitching Post Restaurant

Choice of barbeque beef, roast pork, or vegetarian (Reservation with \$20.00 per person needed in advance)



advance)

7:30 to 9 p.m.: Ride Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad
(Reservation with \$12.00 per person needed in advance)

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Abilene Civic Center

8 a.m. to 9 a.m.: Registration

9 a.m. to Noon: Opening Session and Announcements

History of Abilene, Dickinson County and Kansas by Michael Hook, Historian
Historic Kansas and Fiction by Debra Seely, author of young adult fiction about the history of Kansas

Noon to 1 p.m.: Registration

Noon to 1 p.m.: Boxed Lunch

Choice of roast beef, tuna salad, or vegetarian sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, and choice of coffee, lemonade, or water (Reservation with \$9.00 per person needed in advance)

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Afternoon Session

Seeleys in Early Kansas by Terry Tietjens, Ivey Harris, Ruthetta Seelye Hansen, and other locals

My Seeley Ancestors by reunion attendees (Please volunteer to tell us about your ancestor! The presentations can be 5 to 15 minutes each.)

Current Research Results about Other Kansas Seeleys by Linda Crocker, SGS Chief Genealogist

A Discussion of the Seeley/Seelye/Seely/Seela Surname by Linda Crocker, SGS Chief Genealogist and Jesse Crisler, SGS 2nd Vice President.

(Child Care/Youth Group is Available—\$10.00 per child, per day, reservation needed in advance)

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Dinner and Speaker at Abilene Civic Center

Presidents of SGS and A Conversation with one of our Founding Members, Esther Houtz Walter, moderated by Jesse Crisler, SGS 2nd Vice Pres.

Meal catered by the Brookville Hotel, renowned throughout the state of Kansas, featuring a buffet of fried chicken and trimmings with musical entertainment to be provided during dinner (Reservation with \$20.00 per person needed in advance)

Please See Reunion Schedule Page 11

Holiday Inn Express Offers Break to SGS Reunion Attendees

Story by Kathie Olsen, SGS President

Although many of the 2015 SGS International Reunion's activities will be held at the Abilene Convention Center, the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Abilene, Kan., will serve as the Reunion Hotel. It is offering a rate of \$99.00 per night plus tax, including breakfast (about \$20 off the normal rate). If you would like to stay there, call (785) 263-4049 no later than June 25, 2015, and mention that you are with the Seeley Genealogical Society. The number of rooms being held is limited, so call soon. Other lodging options include:

Abilene's Victorian Inn Bed and Breakfast

820 NW Third

www.abilenesvictorianinn.com

(888) 807-7774

Super 8

2207 N. Buckeye

super8abilene@yahoo.com

(785) 263-4545, 1-800-800-8000

America's Best Value Inn

2210 N. Buckeye

www.abvi.com,

(785) 263-2050

Diamond Motel

1407 NW Third

www.diamondmotel.com, diamondmotelkanas@gmail.com

(785) 263-2360

Budget Lodge Inn

116 NW 14th

www.budgetlodgeinn.net, budgetlodgeinn@yahoo.com



Abilene's Holiday Inn Express & Suites (110 E. Lafayette Ave., Abilene, KS 67410) is offering a break of about \$20 a night for reunion attendees. Call (785) 263-4049 no later than June 25, 2015, and mention that you are with the Seeley Genealogical Society.

(785) 263-3600

Covered Wagon Campground

803 S. Buckeye

www.coveredwagonrvpark.com

(785) 263-2343

If you are not able to secure reservations at any of these places, there is additional lodging in Salina, Chapman, Junction City, and other locations not too far from Abilene.



Site Location Nomination Form

FOR THE

SGS 2017 International Reunion

NOTE: Please send to the SGS President by July 1, 2015.

Kathie Olsen, 777 E. South Temple, Apt. 13H, Salt Lake City, UT 84102, (801) 355-0301, katherinemolsen@gmail.com

The SGS Executive Board will consider nominations at the Board Meeting of elected and appointed officers on Sunday, July 26, 2015. Recommendations will be presented at the Membership Meeting and voted on at that time.

I WOULD LIKE THE SGS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND APPOINTED OFFICERS TO CONSIDER AS A POSSIBLE SITE FOR THE 2017 REUNION THE FOLLOWING CITY:

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS TO SGS OR SEELEY FAMILY MEMBERS:

CONVENIENT LOCATION, TRANSPORTATION, PRICE CONSIDERATIONS, ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA, OR POTENTIAL SPEAKERS (PLEASE EXPLAIN):

I am willing to serve on the committee if this site is selected

☐ YES ☐ NO

Include a local tourist bureau brochure, if available.

NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)

E-MAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

PHONE NUMBER



Registration Form

SGS 2015 International Reunion

Abilene, Kansas

July 27 - 29, 2015

ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST): SEELEY LINE (ROBERT, OBADIAH, OTHER):	STREET ADDRESS:
<input type="checkbox"/> SSG MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> SGS LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AN SGS MEMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS:
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):	RELATIONSHIP:
<input type="checkbox"/> SSG MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> SGS LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AN SGS MEMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS:
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):	RELATIONSHIP:
<input type="checkbox"/> SSG MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> SGS LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AN SGS MEMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS:
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):	RELATIONSHIP:
<input type="checkbox"/> SSG MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> SGS LIFE MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AN SGS MEMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS:

LODGING

(1) CALL THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS AND SUITES (A NON-SMOKING HOTEL) AT (785) 263-4049 FOR RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN JUNE 25, 2015, FOR THE GROUP RATE OF \$99.00 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX; MENTION THE SEELEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, SPECIFY HANDICAP ACCOMMODATIONS, IF NEEDED, AND SPECIFY A KING BED OR TWO DOUBLE BEDS; OR (2) SEE OTHER LODGING OPTIONS IN THE MAY SGS NEWSLETTER.

REUNION EXPENSES

EARLY BIRD (Prior to June 1) REGISTRATION FEE	# ATTENDING:	@\$30.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
FULL REGISTRATION FEE (Reg. Folder, Speakers, Meeting Room Expenses)	# ATTENDING:	@\$35.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
DAILY REGISTRATION FEE (Reg. Folder, Speakers, Meeting Room Expenses)	# OF DAYS:	@\$12.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY BREAKFAST (@Seelye Mansion Featuring Terry's Sweet Rolls, Fruit, Etc.)	# ATTENDING:	@FREE	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY A.M. TOUR (Shuttle to Dickinson Heritage and Eisenhower Centers)	# ATTENDING:	@\$4.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY A.M. TOUR (Trolley Tour of Abilene and Visit to Chocolate Factory)	# ATTENDING:	@\$10.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY LUNCH (Boxed Lunch with Ham Sandwich)	# ATTENDING:	@\$9.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY LUNCH (Boxed Lunch with Turkey Sandwich)	# ATTENDING:	@\$9.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY LUNCH (Boxed Lunch with Vegetarian Sandwich)	# ATTENDING:	@\$9.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY P.M. TOUR: (Shuttle to Dickinson Heritage and Eisenhower Centers)	# ATTENDING:	@\$4.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY P.M. TOUR (Trolley Tour of Abilene and Visit to Chocolate Factory)	# ATTENDING:	@\$10.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY DINNER (At The Hitching Post Restaurant w/Barbeque Beef)	# ATTENDING:	@\$20.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY DINNER (At The Hitching Post Restaurant w/Roast Pork)	# ATTENDING:	@\$20.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY DINNER (At The Hitching Post Restaurant w/Vegetarian Meal)	# ATTENDING:	@\$20.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
MONDAY NIGHT TRAIN RIDE (Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad)	# ATTENDING:	@\$12.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
TUESDAY LUNCH (Boxed Lunch with Roast Beef Sandwich)	# ATTENDING:	@\$9.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
TUESDAY LUNCH (Boxed Lunch with Tuna Salad Sandwich)	# ATTENDING:	@\$9.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
TUESDAY LUNCH (Boxed Lunch with Vegetarian Sandwich)	# ATTENDING:	@\$9.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
TUESDAY CHILD CARE (Parents Should Order A Boxed Lunch For Their Children)	# ATTENDING:	@\$10.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
TUESDAY DINNER (Fried Chicken Buffet catered by The Brookville Hotel)	# ATTENDING:	@\$20.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
WEDNESDAY DINNER (Tender Beef Brisket)	# ATTENDING:	@\$25.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
WEDNESDAY DINNER (Coq Au Vin)	# ATTENDING:	@\$25.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
WEDNESDAY DINNER (Stuffed Baked Squash)	# ATTENDING:	@\$25.00 EA.	SUBTOTAL:
			TOTAL:

SEND CHECK (PAYABLE TO SGS) ALONG WITH THIS COMPLETED 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

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO GIVE KATHIE TIME TO PREPARE NAME TAGS, MEAL TICKETS AND REGISTRATION PACKETS. PLEASE ENSURE THAT COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS AND CHECKS ARE RECEIVED BY KATHIE OLSEN BEFORE MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015.

SGS MUST CONFIRM MEAL NUMBERS AND PARTICIPATION IN TOURS NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015.



SAVE THE DATE!
Our Golden Anniversary
SGS 1965-2015
July 27 – 29, 2015

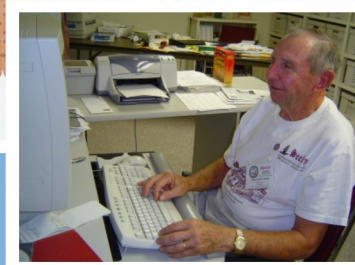


**Historic
 Abilene Kansas**
 Seelye Mansion tours
 Seeley Histories
 Seely Genealogy
 Eisenhower Center
 Heritage Center/Carousel
 Steam train rides
 Trolley rides
 Much more



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Held in conjunction with the 70th Wild Bill Hickock rodeo
 And Central Kansas Free Fair and Parade – July 30 – August 5



REGISTER EARLY (motel rooms will go fast)
 Check out our Facebook page and the SGS Web site
 for registration information as it becomes available!

Bring Your Family to the Seeley Genealogical Society Reunion in Abilene, Enjoy A Family Vacation On the Cheap!

By Cecilia Harris and AbileneCityHall.com

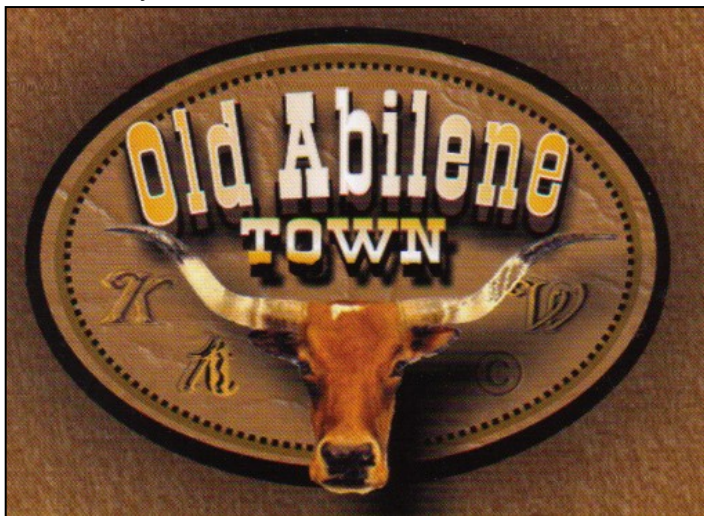
The future of SGS depends on new members. That means that we all need to encourage our children, grandchildren, and maybe even great-grandchildren to join us in Abilene for the reunion to see what the Society and family history are all about. While the idea of sitting through a three-day conference with their grandparents may not be all that tantalizing to youngsters, there are plenty of things to do in Abilene that are safe, fun for all ages, and, best of all, FREE!

Hear the whistle and watch the steam escape as the Abilene and Smoky Valley Excursion Train pulls away from



the 1887 depot powered by a 1919 steam engine or a diesel engine. Wave to those in the 1902 passenger car or the open observation cars as it rolls down the track followed by a yellow caboose until it's out of sight. Spend a few dollars and hop aboard the train that travels through the river valley for an unforgettable family experience.

Old Abilene Town, where the depot is located, also is free. Here you can visit with can-can dancers in the saloon



and then step out on the boardwalk to watch gunfighters in the street. Splurge less than \$10 to buy the whole family sarsaparillas, an old-time beverage.

Cross the street and pet two retired racing greyhounds, San Tan Goforit (Jade) and Gary Gityourown, at the Greyhound Hall of Fame, where you can also view greyhound artwork, read about greyhounds in ancient times, and watch a televised race—all with no admission

charge.

At the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, &



Boyhood Home, you can visit the chapel where Eisenhower is buried, watch movies in the Visitors Center, and view exhibits in the Library, all for free. For between \$20 and \$40, a family of four can tour the museum where kids can play fun video games as they gain knowledge about the 1950s, while parents view displays that are sure to bring back memories sparking a storytelling session before turning in for the night in one of the city's more than reasonably priced motel rooms.

Stop in at the Jeffcoat Photography Studio Museum to view the works of three generations of photographers who documented people, places and events in Abilene and the surrounding area. There is also an extensive collection of camera and related equipment at the museum, which charges no admission fee.



Interested in art? The American Indian Art Center displays only Native American produced art and crafts, including paintings, carvings, pottery, jewelry, and novels by artists from thirty Woodland and Plains tribes—all for

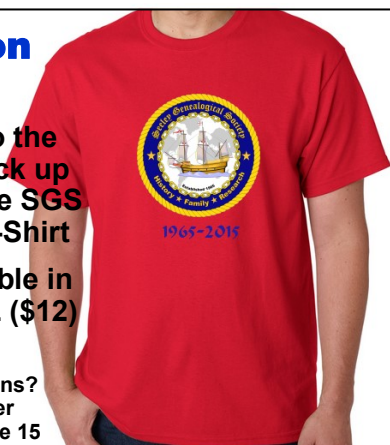
Please See Vacation on the Cheap Page 9

SGS Reunion Fashion

Be sure to come to the reunion ready to pick up your commemorative SGS 50th Anniversary T-Shirt

Shirts will be available in sizes S, M, L and XL (\$12) and 2X (\$14).

Have additional questions?
Contact Linda Crocker
See contact info on page 15



Vacation on the Cheap *(continued from page 8)*

free.

Enjoy the quiet as you stroll through neighborhoods of Victorian homes. The reunion will kick off its first day



hosted at the Seelye Mansion; it is the only Abilene mansion open to the public, and you will see it for free! Then sit for a spell in Little Ike Park downtown before getting a treat at the old-fashioned soda fountain in Banks Drug Store, where you will also enjoy old-fashioned prices.

Drive to the west side of town to Russell Stover's, a chocolate factory, where you can watch candy makers hand-dipping candy, and it will not cost you a cent . . . unless you decide indulge in the candy sold in the store, much of which is "seconds" that



taste as good as but cost much less than the same boxed candy sold in retail stores.

Let the kids run off some energy at Eisenhower Park with its 1930s limestone picnic tables and buildings under century-old shade trees. Amidst modern playground equipment is an extensive flower garden with a



fountain and a walking path. For a minimal fee, check out



the slide and diving boards at the park's brand new swimming pool.

While the sports fans in your family play tennis on the courts, show their skills at the skateboard park, pitch a few horseshoes, or watch a rousing baseball game at the ball diamond, the shopaholics can window shop in Abilene's historic downtown district where they will find antiques, handmade jewelry, custom-scented hand-poured candles, quilting fabric, bone china teapots, home décor, and artwork. Those who love to read can pull up a sofa at the Rivendell bookstore or visit the historic Carnegie Library.



Relax on the porch swing of a quiet Victorian-era bed-and-breakfast for a reasonable fee and watch the fireflies before turning in for the night.

Many simple pleasures are free in Abilene, and so is the opportunity for you and your family to enjoy them together, while introducing the next generation to a world of family history and cousins with whom to share both!

Members, SGS Needs Your Help!

By Lynda Simmons SGS Membership Chair

Thanks to all of you who have sent in your email addresses or your \$12.00 for a printed copy of the SGS Newsletter. The SGS Newsletter is such a good one that it would be a shame not to receive a copy.

There are many members for whom we have no email addresses. We really need them. If you do not have a computer or are uncomfortable with email, please ask a child, relative, or friend to help you so that you can receive email. Then please send us that email address.

If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the SGS Newsletter in the mail, please let us know and send \$12.00 per year to the Treasurer by October 15. Some have paid ahead. You decide what method is best for you, but please let me hear from you.

Thanks again for being a member of this great Seeley Genealogical Society!

Lynda Simmons
Membership Chairperson
summitkids@gmail.com
435-649-9878

Rodeo Tickets

One of the really fun activities
after the Abilene Reunion, 2015, will be the
Central Kansas Free Fair and Rodeo
starting on Thursday, July 30 with a parade
beginning at 4:00 pm at N 7th and Buckeye.

The PRCA Wild
Bill Hickok Rodeo
is Thursday to
Saturday at 7:30
pm
Tickets will be
available online at
www.CKFF.net/
tickets beginning
May 1, 2015.



Quilt Donated to Raffle at Abilene Reunion

By Jesse Crisler, SGS 2nd Vice President



Long-time SGS member Toots Brundage has donated a beautiful quilt to the Society to be raffled off at this year's reunion in Abilene. She had previously donated one to the Justus Azel Seelye Family

Organization for a silent auction at its last reunion in August 2014. The prevailing color of that one was blue, while the new quilt's main color is green in the famous Dresden Plates pattern. Hand-sewn and quilted, the quilt is a virtual square, measuring 100" x 100".

Reunion attendees can purchase tickets for the quilt at the reunion, but anyone can purchase a ticket in advance. Tickets will be \$10.00 each, and all proceeds will be put in the SGS operating fund. Handmade quilts such as this one often sell for hundreds of dollars at quilt shops, so we are especially grateful to Toots for her generosity.

If you wish to purchase a ticket (or several!), send a check to Jesse Crisler, SGS Second Vice President (contact information on p. 15 of this newsletter). Purchase a ticket or two now and then purchase another in Abilene at the reunion. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Membership Meeting, and the lucky winner can then claim this wonderful keepsake as a memento of this year's reunion. What makes the quilt even more meaningful is that this reunion also commemorates the Golden Anniversary of SGS.

New Website May Help Researchers Better Understand the Times in Which Their Ancestors Lived

From PRWeb.com

HistoryLines, <https://historylines.com>, is a new website for genealogists and family historians. The site endeavors to allow all to understand the story of their forebears by discovering the historical events and environment that surrounded their ancestors. The intent of the site is to produce a personalized timeline allowing users to see their relatives in historical context and read a detailed biography based on when and where their ancestor lived in history.

"There are a couple of aspects of family history research that are really problematic for genealogists," says Jeff Haddon, HistoryLines co-founder. "First, genealogists want to know more about their ancestors than names and dates. They're anxious for a glimpse into their ancestors' daily lives to really understand what it was like to live in their time. But the research required to get to that level of detail can be extremely time consuming. And even if they successfully gather the data, they still have to compile it into a life sketch or biography. Multiply that effort by hundreds of ancestors in the typical family tree, and you have a real time problem on your hands. There are not enough hours in a lifetime to research and write all those biographies!"

In the past, genealogists have relied on personal details discovered in artifacts like journals, census records and war records. While those types of sources are available for some ancestors, they are hard to come by for

many others. Experienced genealogists often resort to historical research to fill in the gaps, but that research consumes valuable time that could be utilized elsewhere. According to Haddon, HistoryLines hopes to simplify that process dramatically for genealogists.

Additional features of the HistoryLines site include the ability to edit the existing story or even to add personal events to a timeline or story. Users are able to build a family tree on the site or to pull in their family tree from FamilySearch.org, thanks to the FamilySearch partner certification received by HistoryLines.com in December 2014. Users can also upload a GEDCOM file containing their family tree, further simplifying the process.

Currently, HistoryLines offers historical data for the British Isles, Ireland, and the United States from 1600 to the present. Haddon

confirms that data for additional countries and centuries will continuously be added until all locations and all centuries are represented.

"As useful as the product is now, it's only the beginning," said Haddon. "We have a rich roadmap of exciting features and capabilities ahead of us that will continue to add value long into the future. Our mission is to make genealogists' lives easier," says Haddon. Much of the technology and processes behind the HistoryLines site functionality is covered by a pending U.S. patent application.

Reunion Schedule *(continued from page 4)*

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Abilene Civic Center and Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard

8 a.m. to 9 a.m.: Registration

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Membership Meeting

Including reports on the state of the Society, elections, site selection vote on recommendation from SGS Executive Board, discussion of possible changes to the SGS Constitution and Bylaws, and new business. All interested persons are invited to attend.

11 a.m.: Group photo

Noon to 1 p.m.: Lunch on your own

1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Free Time

Visit downtown, museums, antique shops, art galleries, old-fashioned soda fountain at Bankes Drug Store,

farmer's market, walking tour of Abilene, Rivendell Bookstore, etc.

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: New SGS Elected and Appointed Officers Meeting at the Seelye Research Center

All interested persons are invited to attend.

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Dinner and Speaker at the Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard

The reunion's final get-together will feature an awards and recognition ceremony, the installation of the 2015-2017 SGS Board of Directors, musical entertainment, and a special speaker. The meal will be catered by AppleMint Catering with choice of tender beef brisket, coq au vin (chicken breast), or stuffed baked squash (Reservation with \$25.00 per person needed in advance)

SGS Queries

*Coordinated and Compiled by SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker
(Data Current as of April 15, 2015)*

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, 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 0408-3 Re: Charles R Seely

The original submitter, Rebecca (Becky) Spencer (beckyspencersportsnut@yahoo.com), was in touch with us to share death information on Charles's wife, Margaret Kershner. Becky found a cemetery record on Findagrave.com, showing that Margaret died 29 May 1946 at the I.O.O.F. Hospital, Liberty Twp., Clay, MO. An obituary for Margaret stated that her husband had died there several years earlier. Chris Havnar and I had recently done some research on this family. Chris found Margaret's cemetery record and also a tombstone recorded in the same cemetery for C.R. Seely (1851-1933). Unfortunately, we cannot find a corresponding death record. However, we did find more information on Charles.

1850 census Lebanon, Meigs, OH

- Seely, Peter, age 21, laborer, b. OH
- Seely, Lydia, age 20, b. VA
- Seely, Ellen, age 3, Shepherd, age 1, both b. OH

Civil War Pensions

- Lydia Seely filed for a widow's pension on 28 Nov 1862, saying husband Pitt Seely served in Co. D, 59th Indiana Infantry

US Register of Deaths of Volunteers

- Pitt Seely, Serg, Co. 10, 59th reg't, d. 14 Apr 1862, Reg't Hospital

1860 census Washington, Greene, IN

- Sealey, Pitt, age 33, farmer, b. OH
- Sealey, Liddia, age 33, b. VA
- Sealey, Elenor, age 12, Shepard F., age 10, Charley E., age 9, Dudley N., age 7, all b. OH

Findagrave.com

- Dudley W., son of P. and L. Seely, d. 29 Dec 1866, age 14 yrs., 4 mos, 7 days. bur. Bogard Cemetery, Newberry, Greene, IN

INMI

- Elenor Seely, md. William A. Hawkins, 4 Feb 1864

Findagrave.com

- Elenor Seely Hawkins, b. 13 Dec 1847, Greene Co., IN, d. 5 Apr 1885, Coffey Co., KS, wife of William A. Hawkins, mother of 3 sons, bur. Rock Creek Cemetery, Waverly, Coffey, KS

I did not find any more information on Shepherd Seely. Pitt Seely is a son of SGS# 3144 Thomas Seely, b. 1800/01, Washington Co., OH, d. 1871, Greene Co., IN. The line is Pitt, Thomas (3144), Thomas, Abijah, John S., Obadiah, Obadiah, Obadiah

Update to Query 0711-9 Re: Mercy Seeley Blatchley, granddaughter of Ebenezer Carter of Norwalk, CT

We recently received a response from Pamela Miller (sunkst7@aol.com), who is also a descendant of Mercy. She writes, "I have found records showing Mercy Carter, daughter of Ebenezer Carter (who was taken captive), married Ebenezer Seeley (Sheldon's *History of Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Vol. 2, p. 101 of the Genealogy section). She left a daughter, Mercy Seeley, who married Joseph Blatchley in 1761 (*Early Connecticut Marriages, Fourth Book*, ed. by F. Bailey, p. 23). She died, and he married Cata Smith in 1775 (p. 26). However, Sheldon's *History* lists Ebenezer Carter's death as July 1774. I found his wife Hannah's death, Feb 1774, in Canaan in *Connecticut, Church Records Abstracts*, Vol. 74, New Canaan, but Ebenezer's death is not in those records. I also checked Vol. 33, Fairfield, and Vol. 35, Franklin, without success."

SGS Response: I have not been able to verify the marriage of Mercy Carter to Ebenezer Seeley in any other

Please See SGS Queries Page 12

SGS Queries (continued from page 11)

source nor that the Mercy Seeley that married Joseph Blatchley is a daughter of this couple. The *History of Deerfield, Massachusetts*, states that Mercy Carter Seeley died a year after her marriage (md. about 1740, d. 1741). If anyone can find a birth or baptismal record for Mercy Seeley, supposedly b. 1740 to Ebenezer and Mercy Carter Seeley, please notify me.

Update to Query 1311-1 Re: George Seeley b. February 1871 in OH

Grace Pierce (dongracepp@msn.com), wife of a grandson of Eleanor, sister of the above George, was in touch with us. She sent a copy of Eleanor's marriage record: Ellenor Seeley, age 23, resident of Chicago, b. abt. 1875, Berea, OH, to George Seeley and Catherine Kelley, md. 19 Jan 1898, Charlevoix, Charlevoix, MI, to Harris K. Pierce, age 31, resident of Charlevoix where he was b. to Daniel H. Pierce and Adelia Griffith (MI Marriage Records, 1867-1952, MI Dept. of Community Health). Grace also told us that Kenneth Pierce, son of Eleanor and Harris, had a twin sister, Elizabeth, who died at age 3 mos. (b. 27 Sept 1906, d. 27 Dec 1906), and is buried in Brookside Cemetery, Charlevoix, MI. When I forwarded this information to the original submitter, Karen Hart (karenhart@torchlake.com), she was able to locate a grave for Elinor Seeley Pierce in Evergreen Cemetery (Lot 336), Kalkaska, MI. This grave is shared with Annie Seeley and George F Seeley, believed to be her sister and father. These three graves are unmarked but noted in cemetery records. Just west of these graves in Lot 335 are four graves with headstones for George and Isadore Seeley, Alvin Seeley, and Vera Seeley Buckel. None of us have been able to find an 1880 census record for George and Bridget/Catherine Seeley or any of their children. If you can find one, I might give you a prize!

New Queries

1505-1 Submitted by Chris Havnar (chris.havnar@gmail.com)

In researching an obituary for the SGS website Chris stumbled upon a strange set of records. Here is the obituary: "Catherine A. Vondran November 2, 1919-October 6, 2014 Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania Age 94

"Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother Catherine A. Vondran (née Seeley), age 94, of Drexel Hill, PA, passed away on October 6, 2014. Born in Philadelphia and grew up in Atlantic City, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Violet Seeley (née Albertson). Catherine was employed as a Transcriptionist in the Radiology Department of Delaware County Memorial Hospital. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph J. Vondran and the loving mother of Dorothy J., Joseph J., Jr. (Lori), Dennis C. (Christine), and Kevin E. (Careena) Vondran. She is also survived by her 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Relatives and friends are invited to her viewing Sunday, October 12, 2014, 7:00-9:00 PM, and Monday, October 13, 2014, 9:00-10:00 AM, Donohue Funeral Home, 8401 West Chester Pike (cor. Lynn Blvd.), Upper Darby, PA, (610) 449-0300, and to her Funeral Mass 10:30 AM, St. Bernadette Church, 1035 Turner Avenue, Drexel Hill. Interment SS Peter & Paul Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory to St. Jude

Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38104, or Presbyterian Inspired Life, 2000 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444, would be appreciated." (Published online by The Donohue Funeral Home.) Chris found the following records:

1940 census Atlantic City, Atlantic, NJ

- Seeley, Charles, head, age 40, b. PA, 1935 same place, truck driver, private ice co.
- Seeley, Violet, wife, age 39, b. PA, 1935 same place
- Seeley, Cathrine, daughter, age 20, b. PA 1935, same place, secretary school
- Frances H Moore, lodger, age 30, b. NJ, 1935 same place, ice helper, private ice co.

1930 census: Atlantic City, Atlantic, NJ

- Burkett, George, head, age 56, age at 1st marriage, 22, b. Phila, PA, Phila, PA, Phila, PA, proprietor, ice truck engineer
- Burkett, Julia, wife, age 37, age at first marriage, 21, b. Perth Amboy, NJ, Hungary, Hungary
- Burkett, Charles, son, age 29, age at first marriage, 17, born Phila, PA, Phila, PA, Phila, PA, helper, ice wagon
- Burkett, Violet, daughter-in-law, age 29, age at 1st marriage, 17, born Phila, PA, Phila, PA, Phila, PA
- Burkett, Catherine, grandchild, age 10, b. Phila, PA, Phila, PA, Phila, PA
- Burkett, Dorothy, grandchild, age 9, b. Atlantic City NJ, Phila, PA, Phila, PA
- Burkett, Mary, mother, age 83, widow, b. Phila, PA, Wilmington, DE, Wilmington, DE

PAMIndex

- Catherine A. Seeley, female, md. to Joseph J. Vondran, male, Philadelphia, PA, 1947, marr. lic. # 833464

US Public Record:

- Catherina A. Vondran, b. 2 Nov 1919, resided Agnew Dr., Drexel Hill, PA, 1974 and 1993

The question is are Charles Burkett and Charles Seeley the same person, and, if so, is he a Seeley or a Burkett?

SGS Response: PADI

- Charles Aloysius Seeley, husband of Violet Albertson, son of George Seeley and Margaret Nelson, b. 23 Apr 1899, Philadelphia, PA, d. 26 Apr 1957, Philadelphia, PA

WWI Draft Registration

- Charles A. Seeley, living Philadelphia, b. 23 Apr 1898, driver, names father George Seeley, Atlantic City, NJ, as next of kin
- James A. Seeley, living Philadelphia. b. there 15 Feb 1896, names father George Seeley, Atlantic City, NJ, as next of kin

WWII Draft Registration

- James Anthony Seeley, b. 15 Feb 1897, Philadelphia, resides Philadelphia, works at shipyard in Philadelphia, names George Seeley, Atlantic City, NJ, as next of kin.

1920 census Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

- Albertson, Chas., Sr., age 48, b. PA, PA, PA, paper hanger
- Albertson, Ray, wife, age 49, b. PA, PA, PA
- Albertson, Chas. Jr., age 12, Helen, age 10, both b. PA, PA, PA

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SGS Queries (continued from page 12)

- Ceeley, Catherin, granddaughter, age 9 mos., b. PA, PA, PA
- Ceeley, Chas., son-in-law, age 21, b. PA, PA, PA, milkman
- Ceeley, Violet, daughter, age 19, b. PA, PA, PA
1920 census Atlantic City, Atlantic, NJ
(Entries for this family all have a line drawn through them; however, they are also listed at another address with same information except that George is 42, Margaret is 20, and John is 16.)
- Burkett, George, age 43, b. PA, PA, PA, widowed, teamster, ice co.
- Burkett, Margaret, age 19, John, age 17, both b. PA, PA, PA
- Thompson, Edna, age 33, md., roomer, b. NJ, NJ, NJ
1910 census Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- Sweley, George, age 34, b. PA, PA, PA, driver, ice wagon, md. 14 yrs. to
- Sweley, Margaret, age 32, b. PA, IRE, IRE, borne children, 5 living
- Sweley, James A., age 14, drug store errand boy, Charles A., age 11, Margaret, Jr., age 9, Mary H., age 7, John J., age 5, all b. PA, PA, PA

SSDI

- James Seeley
SSN: 198-03-3635 (issued in PA bef. 1951)
Last residence: 19018 Clifton Heights, Delaware, PA
B. 15 Feb 1897, d. Jan 1983
- John Seeley
SSN: 156-18-5032 (issued in NJ bef. 1951)
Last residence: 8232 Pleasantville, Atlantic, NJ
7 Aug 1904, d. Mar 1966

PADI

- George Burkett Seeley, b. 9 Nov 1872, d. 4 Nov 1953, bur. 7 Nov 1953, Philadelphia, PA; father, William Seeley, ice business, widowed, d. Old Man's Home, bur. Laurel Memorial Park, Pomona, Atlantic, NJ
- Margaret Seeley, b. abt. 1876, Philadelphia, d. 16 Feb 1915, Philadelphia, PA, md., father, James Nelson, parents b. IRE
- William Burkeitt, b. Philadelphia, PA, abt. 1833, d. 9 Apr 1890, Philadelphia, age 57, cigar maker, bur. Mount Moriah Cemetery, md.

1880 census Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

- Burkeitt, William, age 48, b. PA, PA, PA, cigar maker
- Burkeitt, Mary A., age 42, wife, b. DE, DE, DE
- Winsor, Mary, age 23, step-daughter, b. PA, DE, DE
- Burkeitt, Geo, age 8, son, b. PA, MD, PA; Hannah E., daughter, age 4, b. PA, PA, DE

I also found William Burkeitt/Burkett in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses for Philadelphia. If anyone can find out how/why/when George Burkeitt became George Seeley, please get in touch me.

1505-2 Submitted by Neal Blood
(neal@bluenotecomputing.com)

Neal was in touch with us to "try to bridge the gap between his grandmother's great-grandfather, Samuel Seeley, and the 'legendary' Robert (1602-1667)." Neal descends from Samuel's son Lyman James, b. 1821, d. 1901, both in Cambridge, Lamoille, VT.

SGS Response: To begin with, Samuel is not a descendant of Robert, according to a DNA test done by a

descendant. See <http://www.seeley-society.net/sqs-research-SeeleyDNAResults.html>, note 21 under those not matching the Nathaniel nor Obadiah DNA profiles. I did some more research on this family to expand upon earlier efforts. I found the following children for Samuel and his wife Charlotte, based on census records, birth, marriage, and death records, obituaries, and a biography: Abel Hildreth, b. 1820, Alford M., b. 1829, Laura A., b. 1842, Lyman James, b. 1821, Miriam M., b. 1839, Sarah J., b. 1835, Spellman Samuel, b. 1833, and William Henry, b. 1824, all b. Cambridge, Lamoille, VT. There is confusion over Charlotte's last name: a biography of Alford M. has his mother as Charlotte Moore; a marriage record for William Henry calls her Charlotte Morey; his death record lists her as Charlotte Mowry; Spellman's death record calls her Charlotte Macre. Here is the information on Samuel:

1840 census Cambridge, Lamoille, VT

- Samuel Seley: 1 male age 5-10, 1 male age 10-15, 2 males age 15-20, 1 male 20-30, 1 male 40-50; 2 females under 5, 1 female age 20-30, 1 female age 30-40

1850 census Cambridge, Lamoille, VT

- Seeley, Samuel, age 57, b. VT, farmer
- Seeley, Charlotte, age 48, b. VT
- Seeley, Samuel S., age 17, Sarah J., age 15, Marium M., age 11, Laura A., age 8, all b. VT

1860 census Cambridge, Lamoille, VT

- Seley, Samuel, age 65, b. VT, farmer
- Seley, Charlotte, age 58, b. VT
- Seley, Solomon S., age 26 b. VT, farmer (In later census and Civil War records this is Spellman S.)

Findagrave.com

- S M Seley, d. 23 Feb 1870, age 77, bur. Jeffersonville Cemetery, Jeffersonville, Lamoille, VT

In two obituaries Samuel and Charlotte are noted as being among the first settlers of Cambridge. A biography of Alford states that they were both born in NY, although a census record shows them born in VT. I found a death record for Gilmore Seeley, b. Cambridge, d. there 5 Nov 1865, age 74, single. He is listed in Cambridge in 1860 as Gilman Seeley, age 73, b. VT, one of four paupers living with Hartson and Emily Perry. He is listed as a private from Jericho, Chittenden, VT, during the War of 1812. I do not know how (or if) he is related to Samuel, but Jericho is only two townships away from Cambridge. If anyone wants all the information I have on Samuel and his descendants, please ask. I would also love any information on Samuel's ancestors.

1505-3 Submitted by Lisa Seeley Williams McClelland
(lelemcclelland@gmail.com)

Lisa was born in 1977 to Joseph Seleno? Seeley, b. 18 Oct 1905, CA, and Nellie Lorraine Higgins. Joseph died shortly after Lisa was born, 1 November 1978, New York City. Lisa has two older siblings, Sean and Lola. Her parents never married, and the children are surnamed Williams (Nellie was the widow of a Mr Williams). Lisa has been told that Joseph's mother was named Louise and that she moved from Panama to CA before he was born. Joseph and Nellie met in NY. At that time he had a son named Joseph. Lisa has also been told that Joseph had several

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SGS Queries *(continued from page 13)*

other children, possibly a Marietta or Henrietta, and a brother named Con? It is also possible that Joseph was born in Panama. Lisa also says he was a mercenary.

SGS Response: I have not been able to find anything about Joseph except his SSN death information in NY. His birth is not listed in the CA Birth Index, and I cannot find him in any census record. If you recognize this family, get in touch with Lisa and send me a copy of your information.

1505-4 Submitted by Carmella Van Koughnet (Camella.VanKoughnet@DignityHealth.org)

Lester Harvey Van Koughnet (also spelled Van Koughnett, Vanconant, Van Conant, etc.) is Carmella's great-great-grandfather. According to the death certificates of some of his children, their mother was Melissa/Malissa Seeley. Carmella would like to find Melissa's birthplace and parents. Melissa is buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, MI. Carmella included some records but was not sure whether they were all records for Melissa. She also had an obituary for Melissa, but it gave no information on her parents, siblings, nor birthplace.

SGS Response:

1860 census Kimball, St. Clair, MI

- Vanconant, Lester, age 31, b. CAN, farm laborer
- Vanconant, Melissa, age 25, b. CAN
- Vanconant, George, age 2, b. NY

1861 census Lennox and Addington, Canada West

- Vancoughnet, Lester, age 44, b. CAN West, farmer, absent in MI
- Vancoughnet, Mindwell, age 50, b. USA
- Vancoughnet, Philip, age 22, Jno., age 20, Lester, age 14, all farm laborers b. CAN West

1865 census Schroeppe, Oswego, NY

- Kirtland, Asa O., age 44, b. VT, farmer
- Kirtland, Orphany, age 36, wife, b. Warren Co. NY, 3 children
- Kirtland, Melvina L., age 19, Emma, age 16, both b. Oswego Co., NY; Jenny, age 9, b. IA
- Seeley, Clarence, age 6, ward, b. Onondaga Co., NY
- Kirtland, Amelia E., age 17, boarder, b. Onondaga Co., NY

Next family in same house

- Van Koughnett, Lester, age 45, b. CAN, farmer, md. twice
- Van Koughnett, Melissa, age 30, b. CAN, 5 children
- Van Koughnett, Phillip, age 25, John, age 22, both b. CAN, both farmers
- Van Koughnett, Alice, age 4, b. MI; Lottie, age 11 mos., b. Oswego Co., NY

A couple of houses later there is a Henry Seeley, age 34, b. CAN, farmhand for Charles W. Candee

1870 census Riley, St. Clair, MI

- VanConant, John, age 28, b. NY, farm laborer
- VanConant, Mary, age 27, b. NY
- VanVomnant, Roland, age 6, David, age 4, James, age 1, all b. MI

Next house

- VanConant, Lester, age 50, b. CAN, farmer, cannot read or write
- VanConant, Malissa, age 32, b. CAN
- VanConant, Alice, age 9, Mimmi, age 3, both b. MI; Willard, age 1, b. NY

2 houses further

- VanConant, Cyrus, age 50, farmer b. CAN, cannot read or write
- VanConant, Elizabeth, age 48, b. CAN, cannot read or write

- Van Conant, Hannah, age 16, b. NY

1880 census Grant, Clare, MI

- Vankoughnett, Lester H., age 64, farmer, b. CAN, CAN, CAN, cannot read or write
- Vankoughnett, Malissa, age 44, b. CAN, CT, CT
- Vankoughnett, Mimi, age 12, Willard, age 10, both b. NY, CAN, CAN; , age 6, Lena M., age 3, Alice, age 19, all born MI, CAN, CAN

WA Marriage

- Lena Skyring, living Aberdeen, WA, age 32, divorced, b. MI to H. Van Koughnett. b. MI. and M. Seeley, b. CAN, md. to James A Daley, cook, age 27, of Aberdeen, single, b. MI, to James A. Daley, b. CAN, and Mary McHugh, b. CAN, md. 7 Oct 1916, Montesano, Greys Harbor, WA

MI Marriage

- Willard Vanconant, age 22, of Lake Station, laborer, b. NY to Lester Vanconant and Malissa Seeley, md. 23 Feb 1892, Harrison, Clare, MI, to Lillie Alexander, age 21, of Lake Station, b. MI to William Alexander and Deborah Bartley

I have not been able to identify Melissa Seeley in any census before 1860. If you can find her, let me know.

How to Submit a Query

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

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

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

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

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

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

How to Answer a Query

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

SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2013 - 2015

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 2013 - 2015

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.
ADDRESS (Number, Street)		E-MAIL ADDRESS
ADDRESS (City, State, Zip)		<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
DESCENDANT OF: <input type="checkbox"/> Robert <input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Attached) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		NEWSLETTER DELIVERY: <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input type="checkbox"/> 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		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING TO <input type="checkbox"/> NO
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> TWO YEARS \$18 <input type="checkbox"/> THREE YEARS \$25 (In U.S. Dollars) <input type="checkbox"/> FIVE YEARS \$36 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME \$125		
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

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U.S. Postage
PAID
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PERMIT NO. XXX

Please notify SGS via email at summitkids@gmail.com if the person on the above label is no longer living at this address.

SGS Publications for Order

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

SGS has several publications and research tools for sale.

1. Printed and mailed version of the *SGS Newsletter* (U.S. \$12)
2. *The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), Generations One Through Five, 1997 Edition* (U.S. \$17)
3. *The Sixth Generation Families, 1995 Edition* (U.S. \$35)
4. *The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1601-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 2000 Edition* (U.S. \$35)
5. Set of All Three SGS Publications (above) (U.S. \$85)
6. The SGS CD-ROM -- Revised August 2013 (U.S. \$15) that includes:
 - The Three SGS Publications by Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen
 - SGS Newsletters from Issue 1 in 1965 through August 2013
 - 1980s Research Rpt. on Obadiah Seeley (New Eng. records), Fred C. Hart, Jr., CG
 - Research Report on Robert Seeley by Alan Phipps, MA, AG
 - 2006 Research Rpt on Obadiah Seeley (old English records), Clifford L. Stott, CG
7. The SRC Document Index (with Change Seven entered) lists documents shelved at the Seelye Research Center (U.S. \$10)
8. The SGS GEDCOM CD is a file of genealogical information from SGS publications and the International Genealogical Index (U.S. \$15)
9. Souvenir Book of 2013 Grand Rapids, Mich. Reunion (U.S. \$30)
 - Item 1 should be ordered from Lynda Simmons
 - Items 2, 3, 4, 5 should be ordered from Terry Tietjens
 - Item 6 from Bob Seeley
 - Item 7 from Pamela Turner
 - Items 8 and 9 from Kathie Olsen

You can find contact information (address, phone number, & email 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, ramonhall@prodigy.net
*California	Christine Havnar
Colorado	Ann Hall, ramonhall@prodigy.net
Connecticut	Ardienne Damicis, adwdmt@aol.com
Florida	Andrew Waber, wabnoles@yahoo.com
*Kansas	Terry Tietjens
Michigan	Paul Seeley, pnseeley@juno.com
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*Nebraska	Terry Tietjens
New Mexico	Ann Hall, ramonhall@prodigy.net
New York	Marshall Seelye, am815@localnet.com (Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties)
New York	Janet Seely, jseely@frontiernet.net (Genesee and Monroe Counties)
New York	Laura Condie, billaura@aol.com (Southern Tier Counties and Finger Lakes Region)
New York	Liz Alexander, mrsvquest@aol.com (Dutchess County)
*New York	Mary Palley, mary@palley.com (Remainder of N.Y.)
Ohio	Andrew Waber, wabnoles@yahoo.com
*Oklahoma	Terry Tietjens
*Ontario, Canada	Dian Little
*Oregon	Bob Seeley
*Pennsylvania	Jim Seeley
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