



SGS Newsletter

Seeley Genealogical Society Est. 1965



HISTORY ★ FAMILY ★ RESEARCH

Issue 175-2018-01/February/2018

SGS Reunion Committee Meets in San Diego

Story by Lynda Simmons, SGS President



The reunion planning committee met in San Diego January 8-10, to begin planning for the 2019 SGS International Reunion. Plans are still taking shape, but the dates have been set, so mark your calendars now to join SGS in San Diego, Wednesday, June 26 through Saturday June 29.

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There are many fun things to do in San Diego. We want all of you to come to the reunion and discover them for yourselves. We have many exciting events planned already and know that you and your family will have a wonderful time. Please put the dates on your calendar!

We have a great Reunion Committee, comprised of Camille Bell, Jesse Crisler, Linda Crocker, Kelly Findley, Kathie Olsen, Patricia Palmer, Margaret Petersen, James Seeley, LeAnne Seely and myself, most of whom came to San Diego for the planning session.

I heartily thank Kathie Olson for arranging accommodations for us at

the Welk Resort. This provided a home base for those able to join us, easy access to San Diego, and a place for us to meet and make plans.

We enjoyed exploring San Diego, especially Old Town. The Seeley Stables and the Cosmopolitan Hotel were both owned by Albert Seeley and his wife Emily. The hotel was first the home of Juan Bandini, who sold it to Albert Seeley, who in turn added a second floor, turning the house into a hotel for travelers to enjoy food and lodging.

SGS is negotiating with the Cosmopolitan Hotel for dinners and meeting rooms. We have also

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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
Marie Seelye

See Contact Info on Page 15

Seelye Research Center

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

Seelye Research Center, Director
Terry Tietjens

See Contact Info on Page 15

SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for 2019, in San Diego, CA. 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, Lynda Simmons

The job of SGS President is an interesting one with many responsibilities, but the best part is working with dedicated, bright, and thoughtful officers and members. One of these people is Pam Turner. She has been the SGS Librarian since 2005 and has made a huge impact on the organization by turning our little closet stuffed with papers into a useful Research Center. We are sad that Pam has found it necessary to resign as Librarian, but I am glad that she will continue to help SGS by indexing. We are all grateful to Pam for her years of hard work and dedicated service. Thank you, Pam, for your many years of SGS service!

Pam has organized the Seeley Research Center (SRC) and feels that the most important thing a new Librarian would need to do is to ensure that as the SRC receives new materials, they are put into the system where they can be found. Pam would really like to help train the next librarian. If any of you would be willing to be the SGS Librarian, please get in touch with me.

In January the 2019 Reunion Committee spent a very pleasant and productive week in San Diego securing places for meetings, lodging, and meals, as well as speakers and tours. We enjoyed lovely weather and each other's company. We set the dates for the 2019 SGS Reunion in San Diego for Thursday, June 27, to Saturday night, June 29, 2019, with a meeting of the SGS Executive Board the previous afternoon on Wednesday, June 26. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. This will

be the first SGS reunion in California. A separate article about exciting plans for the reunion can be found elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.



I know that many of you are members of state and local Seeley organizations. I recently enjoyed attending the Justus Azel Seely Family Organization (JASFO) meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was held at the Family History Library, where each person had a computer to use as various teachers gave instructions. The three sessions were highly informative, and the lunch afterward was delicious. I hope that all of you are also able to attend local meetings in your area, where you can enjoy learning more about our common Seeley ancestors and close cousins.

LeAnne Seely is the JASFO President. She is also the editor of the 2017 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book. Thank you, LeAnne, for all your work for SGS. The 2017 Reunion Souvenir Book can still be ordered at a cost of \$35.00. The book will not only report on meetings, events, and activities in Parkersburg, WV, where the reunion was held, but it will also provide a history of SGS for the last two years. To order a book, send your name, address, email address and money to Lynda Simmons (contact info page 15).

The SGS Executive is planning

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The Focus of Two Prominent Seeley Photographers

Story by Jesse Crisler, SGS Second Vice President

The Seeley surname in various spellings has figured prominently in many fields. Consider General Jack Seely (1868-1947) who, riding his favorite mount, Warrior, led one of the last cavalry charges in modern warfare, when, followed by more than a thousand horses and their riders, he charged Germans encamped at Moreuil Wood in France during the Allied Spring Offensive in the final year of WWI in March 1918. Perhaps not as famous but certainly no less inspiring for her accomplishments is Allysa Seely (b. 1989), who received a gold medal in the triathlon at the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro. Those who attended the 2015 SGS reunion in Abilene well remember the stirring presentation given by young adult writer Debra Seely about her forebears who settled the wild Kansas frontier. Any mention of Abilene naturally recalls to all of us the Seelye Mansion with its adjacent Patent Medicine Museum, home of Dr. Alfred Barnes Seelye (1870-1948), many of whose products became household items throughout the Midwest in the early years of the twentieth century. Many other fields number distinguished Seeleys in their ranks, but one field rarely noted for its Seeleys may well be photography. A look at the lives of two notable early twentieth-century photographers should help redress this omission.

Born in Monkton, Perth, Ontario, Canada, in 1886, Walter Frederick Seely (a great-grandson of SGS# 3223 Richard Seely, Seth, Obadiah, Obadiah, Obadiah, Obadiah), came to California in 1907 to visit his brothers Ed, Sandy, and Dick, the latter two owners of a portrait studio in Eureka;

unexpectedly, his visit lasted four years during which the four brothers



Photographer Walter Frederick Seely

expanded the photography business into the Redwood Gallery, devoting themselves to old-time barbershop quartet performances in their spare time. In 1911, when the brothers split to pursue their own careers, Walter Seely moved to Los Angeles.

Trained originally as a landscape artist, Seely eventually carved a niche for himself by artfully photographing female silent film stars such as Clara Bow (1905-1965), Laura La Plante (1904-1996), Theda Bara (1885-1955), and Marion Davies (1897-



A portrait of silent film star Clara Bow shot by Walter Frederick Seely.

1961). So successful was he that he opened his own studio on Sunset Boulevard, where after "talkies" eclipsed silent films, he returned to his first love and specialized in painting portraits of the children of movie stars, including Alan Ladd (1913-1964), Harold Lloyd (1893-1971), and Gordon McCrae (1921-1986).

In his final years Seely served as twenty-sixth president of the California Art Club. He died in 1959. While paintings by Seely are sometimes auctioned at various galleries, his fame today rests mainly on his highly prized photographs of those great silent stars.

Like Walter Seely, George Henry



Photographer George Henry Seeley

Seeley (1880-1955) also turned from painting to photography. Perhaps a more serious photographer, Seeley, originally from Stockbridge, MA, held his first solo exhibition in 1904 at the First American Photographic Salon in New York. Already known to his fellow Bay Stater, Alvin Langdon Coburn (1882-1966), who, though two years younger than Seeley, was then making photographic waves in New

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reserved all of the hotel's sleeping rooms. We will also book additional rooms in another motel nearby so there will be plenty of rooms for all who attend the reunion.

The SGS Executive Board plans to meet on Wednesday afternoon, June 26, 2019. Any members who are in town are invited to come to this meeting and the dinner to follow it, and then we will have a welcoming meeting.

We plan to have meetings each morning with interesting speakers describing the area and genealogy connections. We would also love to hear from any of you in order to learn more about your families and their histories. We also want to learn more about DNA and the redesign of our website. If you would be willing to speak to us, please let me know.

We have also planned tours of San Diego, the Harbor, and Old Town for the afternoons. Lunches will be available each day before we depart for various afternoon activities. We have also planned a delicious Dutch-

oven dinner on Thursday night, cooked by SGS member Karl Weiler at the Mormon Battalion Visitors Center in Old Town. In fact, delicious dinners are planned for each night of the reunion.

Saturday morning will be our Membership Meeting, after which we will take a group picture, followed by lunch, a tour of Old Town itself, and a board meeting. That evening we will have the traditional closing dinner with awards, installation of officers, and entertainment.

Besides these activities, San Diego boasts many wonderful sites, including the San Diego Zoo, the USS *Midway* which is now a museum, Balboa Park, Sea World, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, Point Loma where the explorer Juan Cabrillo first landed, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, Del Coronado Hotel, and many beautiful beaches.

San Diego will be a wonderful place for our 2019 SG Reunion! Please plan on coming!



When owned by Albert and Emily Seeley, the Cosmopolitan Hotel (above) became the social center of Old Town San Diego hosting galas, balls, dances, family reunions and weddings. (Wikimedia Commons Photo by Roman Eugeniusz) Kathie Olsen, Jim Seeley, Jesse Crisler, Lynda Simmons, Margaret Peterson, Mark Simmons, and Patricia Palmer (left) ventured to San Diego for the meeting of the 2019 SGS Reunion Planning Committee. (Photo provided by Lynda Simmons)

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to meet in Abilene, KS, on Friday afternoon, April 27, 2018, and Saturday morning, April 28, 2018. Board members and all interested SGS members are encouraged to participate in these meetings. SGS First Vice President Paul Taylor hooked up officers who were able to attend this meeting in 2016 via the Internet, and we hope to duplicate that effort this time.

Lynda Simmons
SGS President

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York, Seeley through the success of this first exhibition came to the attention of Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946), one of America's most eminent photographers, who invited him to join Photo-Secession, an association of young photographers.

Unfortunately, following WWI, as American interest in pictorial photography waned, so did Seeley's own productivity. Turning once again to painting, especially still lifes, Seeley also returned to his native Stockbridge, where he supported himself by teaching art and reporting for the local newspaper. Though Seeley's work hangs in such important museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and New York's Museum of Modern Art, few today are aware of his significance in the history of photography.



Firefly, a 1907 photo by George H. Seeley

Additional Genealogical Research into the Ancestry of Obadiah Seeley

Submitted by Apryl Cox, AG®

Editor's Note: This is the third research report in a project funded by SGS. A summary of the first report is in the November 2015 SGS Newsletter (full version available by request from Kathie Olsen). The second report was published in the August 2016 newsletter.

The objective of this project was to continue research on Obadiah Seeley's ancestry in England by (1) continuing with probate research in an attempt to prove or disprove Thomas and Elizabeth Bissell as the parents of William Bissell (b. abt. 1547), (2) seeking the parents of Alice Chamber who was probably born in the late 1540s or early 1550s, and (3) locating the marriage of William Seeley and Anne or Alice Bloxish, and continuing to extend their lines.

Background Information

During the previous project, the 1608 marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell was found in the parish of Yardley, Worcestershire. This record proved Alice's surname was Bissell. The 1612 will of William Bissell was examined, and it identified Alice (Bissell) Seeley as William Bissell's daughter. Christening records were located for four of Alice Bissell's siblings, but christenings for Alice and her brother Samuel were not found. The marriage of Alice Bissell's parents, William Bissell and Alice Chamber, was located in the parish of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, dated 1571. Two potential christenings for William Bissell were located in Yardley, Worcestershire; neither entry included the names of parents.

Wills for Chamber testators were

examined and one will was located that mentioned a daughter Alice. However, the testator was proven not to be the father of the ancestral Alice Chamber, but he could be Alice's brother. Wills were also examined for Bissell testators, and a likely couple to be the parents of William Bissell was identified. Thomas Bissell's 1595 will named his eldest son as William Bissell. Presumably Thomas's next oldest son was Richard who was christened in 1548. A birth before 1548 for the ancestral William Bissell would fit perfectly.

In addition, Seeley/Seale and Bloxish probate records were examined. The 1558 will of Richard Blockesyche was located. This document named a daughter Alice whose birth probably occurred in an appropriate time period to be the ancestress. Richard's family needed to be pursued.

William Bissell

William Bissell married Alice Chamber in 1571 in the parish of Kings Norton, Worcestershire. The large number of Bissells noted in the Kings Norton church registers indicated William Bissell may have been born in this parish. But there were also many Bissell entries found in the parish registers of Yardley, and many of the Bissell testators whose probate records were presented in the last research report had also been residents of Yardley. The ancestral William Bissell may have originated from either parish. The most likely candidate to be the father of the ancestral William Bissell identified in the previous report was Thomas Bissell of Kings Norton who left a

will probated in 1595. The abstract of that will, presented in the previous report, is repeated here.

- 1595 will of Thomas Bissell, yeoman of Kings Norton¹
- Will dated 3 Jul 1595; probated 29 Jul 1595
- Will named his eldest son William Bissell; other sons Richard Bissell, John Bissell, and Humphrey Bissell; daughters Alice, Isabel, Anne, and Joyce [no surnames listed]; wife Elizabeth who is the executrix; overseers are sons John and Humphrey

Christening records were located previously for several of the children named in Thomas Bissell's will; all were christened in Kings Norton parish. William Bissell's christening was not found, but this is easily explained. William Bissell was named as Thomas's eldest son; the next oldest son, Richard, was christened in 1548. This would mean William was likely born about 1546 or earlier. The existing Kings Norton parish registers begin in 1546, and are incomplete in the early years. William's christening may have occurred just prior to the existing church records. If so, his record no longer exists.

Three Bissell individuals were named as godparents for three of William Bissell's children: Elizabeth Bissell (godmother of his daughter Elizabeth, christened in 1572), Thomas Bissell (godfather of his son John, christened in 1574), and John Bissell (godfather of his son William, christened in 1579). These three individuals were likely close relations of William Bissell; Thomas Bissell and Elizabeth Bissell could be

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William's parents, and John Bissell could be William's brother—if William was, in fact, the son of Thomas Bissell, the 1595 testator.

Additional probate records for Bissell individuals that were not examined in the previous project were sought. The information they contained was compared and evaluated in conjunction with the information provided in the many Bissell probate records found previously. This search produced three more wills. Brief abstracts of these documents are as follows:

- 1571 will of Robert Byssell of Wotton, Warwick²
- Will dated 1568
- Persons named in the will were daughters Sarah and Martha (minors); wife Avys; son Nathaniel
- 1594 will of William Bissell, wheelwright of Kings Norton³
- Will probated 1594
- Persons named in the will were wife Margery; four daughters, Joan, Mary, Anne and Dorothy

Robert Byssell of Wotton did not mention any relation named William. William Bissell, the wheelwright, was buried on 17 December 1594 in Kings Norton. His wife Margery was likely the same Margery Bissell, widow, of Kings Norton, who left a will dated 30 November 1609. She was buried at Kings Norton on 21 April 1610. Her will is found in the court index, but was not filmed, likely because it no longer exists. However, as William Bissell, the 1594 testator, did not name any sons in his will, this William and Margery Bissell are not the parents of the ancestral William Bissell. The probable christenings for William Bissell's children are dated

28 November 1565 for daughter Joan, 4 November 1569 for daughter Mary, 7 February 1575 for daughter Anne, and 22 January 1579 for daughter Dorothy. This is the same time period in which the ancestral William Bissell was christening his children.

Therefore, the two William Bissells were not brothers, but may have been cousins.

- John Byssell, blacksmith of Yardley, Worcester⁴
- Will dated 12 Aug 1634; probated 14 Nov 1634
- Persons named in the will were five daughters, Ellinor, Elizabeth, Marie, Anne and Frances (all minors); wife Mary; cousin William Byssell of Yardley; cousins John Marston the elder and John Marston his son, both of Yardley
- Witnesses were John Marston and William Byssell

John Byssell of Yardley named his cousin William Byssell of Yardley. The ancestral William Bissell was not this testator's cousin as the ancestor lived in Kings Norton, not in Yardley. None of the three additional wills offered information about the ancestor. The best candidate to be the father of William Bissell remains Thomas Bissell of Kings Norton, the 1595 testator.

The hypothesis is that William Bissell was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bissell. William Bissell and Alice Chamber named their first daughter Elizabeth (after his mother?), their second daughter Alice (after Alice, and possibly her mother), their first son John (after her father?), their second son Thomas (after his father?) and their third son William (after William).

Probate records are the best source to extend an ancestral line before church records begin. Unfortunately, no further probate records for Bissell/Byssell individuals of Kings Norton were found in indexes to the two courts with jurisdiction over this parish (the court of the Bishop of Worcester and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury). The Bissell ancestral line has ended with Thomas Bissell and his wife Elizabeth who were probably born about 1520 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire.

Alice Chamber

Alice Chamber married William Bissell on 25 November 1571 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England. Based on her marriage year, Alice's estimated birth range was considered to be the late 1530s through the early 1550s. A potential christening record for Alice had not been found. Previously, multiple wills for Chamber/Chambers testators were examined and analyzed. One will mentioned a daughter Alice, but the testator was proven not to be the father of the ancestral Alice Chamber, but he may have been her brother.

Godparents for William Bissell and Alice Chamber's children were listed in their christening records. The list of godparents included multiple Chamber individuals: John Chamber, George Chamber, Margaret Chamber, Thomas Chamber, and Marten Chamber. These five individuals were likely Alice's close relations—parents, siblings, grandparents, or aunt and uncles. Another godparent named in a christening record was Agnes Greve, perhaps Alice's aunt or grandmother. In addition, godparents

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for two Chambers children who were christened in Kings Norton in 1559 and 1561 included Greves individuals: Richard Greve, Thomas Greves, and Margaret Greves. Clearly the Chambers and Greves were somehow related. Since the Chambers probate records searched previously did not directly reveal the parents of Alice Chambers, perhaps reading the wills of Greves testators would indicate who her parents were.

The 1575 will of John Chamber of Kings Norton that was presented in the previous report named Richard Greve as his brother-in-law. John Chamber's wife was Margaret and his brother was Thomas Chamber. John Chamber, his wife Margaret Chamber, and his brother-in-law Richard Greve were likely three of the godparents named for the children of William Bissell and Alice Chamber. This placed the John Chamber who died about 1575 as a probable very close relation of Alice.

Probate research for the Greve surname produced the 1551 will of Thomas Greve that named his daughter Margaret as the wife of John Chamber (d. 1575). Therefore, Thomas Greve's son, Richard Greve, was the brother-in-law named by John Chamber in his will. An abstract of Thomas Greve's will is as follows:

- *1551 will of Thomas Greve of Kings Norton*⁵
- *Will dated 25 Mar 1551; probated 8 Jun 1551*
- *To be buried at Kings Norton*
- *Persons named in the will were sons Richard Greve, Marten Greve, John Greve, William Greve; daughters Alice Ratten, Margaret Chamber, and youngest daughter Mary; wife Isabell*

- *Overseers were "my sons" John Ratton, John Greve, William Greve, Richard Greve, and John Chamber*

Thomas Greve named John Chamber as his "son," meaning son-in-law, clearly tying the Chamber and Greves families together.

The children named by John Chamber in his will dated 1572 (probated 1575) were Dorothy Chamber, Elizabeth Chamber (his youngest daughter, a minor), John Chamber, Peter Chamber, Thomas Chamber and Richard Chamber. Since John's youngest daughter Elizabeth was under the age of 21 in 1572, she was born between 1552 and 1572. The two Chamber christening records found in Kings Norton's church registers that listed Greve or Greves individuals as godparents were as follows:

- *Elizabeth Chamber, christened 6 Oct 1559 (godparents were Isabel Grisalde, Richard Greve, Elizabeth Sparry),*
- *Richard Chamber, christened 18 May 1561 (godparents were Thomas Greves, Margaret Greves, John Bissell)*

Both of the above children are likely the younger children of John Chamber (d. 1575) and his wife Margaret Greve. Elizabeth's godfather, Richard Greve, was probably Margaret (Greve) Chamber's brother. Richard Chamber's godfather, Thomas Greves, was not Margaret (Greve) Chamber's father as he died ten years earlier in 1551. Nor was Thomas Greves her brother since her father did not name a son Thomas in his will. The identity of Thomas Greves is unknown at this point. Perhaps he was a cousin or an uncle.

Studying Greves probate records helped identify at least one connection between the Greves and the Chambers (the marriage of John Chamber and Margaret Greve), but did not clearly identify the parents of Alice Chamber. Alice was not the daughter of John Chamber and Margaret Greve or she would have been named in their will as a daughter. But since a John Chamber and a Margaret Chamber were godparents for two of Alice (Chamber) Bissell's children (John was a godfather for their daughter Elizabeth Bissell, christened on 21 December 1572; Margaret Chamber was a godmother for their son John Bissell, christened on 31 October 1574), John Chamber may have been Alice Chamber's older brother, uncle, or cousin.

John Chamber's 1575 will named just one sibling, a brother Thomas Chamber. The 1585 will of Martin Chamber of Kings Norton (discussed in the previous report) named a brother Humphrey Chamber. (Martin Chamber served as a godfather for Alice Chamber Bissell's son Thomas, christened on 17 November 1576). Based on information in the wills of John Chamber and Martin Chamber, both men likely christened their children between the 1550s and the 1570s, a time frame that would mean they were old enough to be Alice's older brothers or uncles.

The 1614 will of Humphrey Chamber of Kings Norton (presented in the previous report) named his deceased brother Martin's children, John and Thomas Chamber. Humphrey also named his goddaughter Anne Greves, and John Greves the son of Edward Greves.

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Clearly there was likely more than one familial relationship between the Chamber and Greve and Greves families.

The George Chamber who was a godfather to Alice (Chamber) Bissell's son John (christened 1574) was likely the George Chambers of Yardley who died in 1617. He married in Kings Norton in 1577 to Joane Marten and was probably born in the 1550s—shortly after the ancestral Alice Chamber. George could be Alice's brother. George did name one of his daughters Alice. Godparents for George's children who were christened in 1578 and 1583 included Thomas Greve, Thomas Chamber, and Martin Chamber—the same men asked by Alice (Chamber) Bissell to be godfathers for her children.

It seems the ancestral Alice Chamber might be a sister or cousin to George Chamber, Martin Chamber, Thomas Chamber, Humphrey Chamber, John Chamber (wife is Margaret Greve), and maybe Richard Chamber. Humphrey and Martin were definitely brothers; John and Thomas were definitely brothers. Since church records for Kings Norton parish begin in 1546, they are dated too late to find christening records for some of the above Chamber individuals. Two christenings were found in the parish records for children named Martin Chamber; one dated 1546, the other dated 1548. Neither entry included the names of parents. Searches were made for probate records for any Chamber individual dated in the early to mid-1500s that might clarify who the parents of some of the above individuals were. This attempt was not successful. The 1565 will of Alice

Chamber of Tardebigge was discovered, but the will was partially destroyed. A large hole in the middle of the document obscured some of Alice's relations. The existing sections indicated Alice Chamber of Tardebigge had children named Elinor, Anne, and Richard. There could have been, and probably were, more.

Kings Norton burial records were searched to learn the names of Chamber individuals who died between the inception of the Kings Norton registers and 1590 as one or two of the burial entries probably related to the ancestral Alice Chamber's parents. This is the list of Chamber individuals buried in Kings Norton during the search period.

- *Bur 22 Mar 1554 Kings Norton – Alice Chamber*
- *Bur 12 Aug 1558 Kings Norton – Alice Chamber*
- *Bur 18 Apr 1569 Kings Norton – John Chamber Sr.*
- *Bur 29 Sep 1569 Kings Norton – Sibill Chamber*
- *Bur 25 Feb 1573/4 Kings Norton – John Chamber of Branderde (this man is probably the John Chamber whose will was written in 1572 and probated in 1575)*
- *Bur 19 Apr 1584 Kings Norton – Marten Chamber (this was the Martin Chamber who wrote the 1584 will)*
- *Bur 1 Nov 1590 Kings Norton – Isabell Chambers*

Note that the burial entries did not specify the names of parents, spouses, etc. There was no indication whether these individuals were children or adults. One or two of the above persons is probably one of Alice Chamber's parents. Her father was not

Martin Chamber or John Chamber of Branderde (he was the man married to Margaret Greves). But her father could be the John Chamber, Sr. who died in 1569; her mother could be one of the two Alice Chambers, Sibill Chamber, or Isabell Chamber. There is a definite possibility that John Chamber, Sr. might be the father of the John Chamber who married Margaret and who died in 1573/4 leaving a will. If so, John Chamber Sr. could be the father of John, Alice, Thomas, and other Chamber individuals of Kings Norton.

In the hope of finding some mention of the Chamber families in Kings Norton, monumental inscriptions for the parish, published in 1947, were searched, but most of the entries were for persons buried in the 1800s and 1900s.⁶ A history of Kings Norton parish was also searched, but no mention was found of any Chambers.⁷ A heraldic visitation for the county of Worcestershire taken in 1634 was reviewed, but the only surname of interest was that of Greves (see the Research Calendar for details).⁸

Despite rigorous efforts using church and probate records, the parents of Alice Chamber have not been identified. Most likely, she had at least one brother, George Chamber. The John Chamber whose will was probated in 1575 was likely another brother. Alice may have been the daughter of John Chamber, Sr., who died in 1569. Unfortunately, John Chamber Sr. did not leave a will. Due to the number of Chamber families living in Kings Norton parish in the 16th century, Alice Chamber was probably born in this parish.

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Alice Bloxish

The marriage of William Seeley to Anne or Alice Bloxish was sought in the vicinity of Birmingham, Warwickshire. Their elusive marriage was located in Yardley, Worcestershire (the couple had been indexed incorrectly as William Serko and Alice Blarkserge).

- *Mar 31 Jan 1579/80 Yardley, Worcestershire – Willm Seeley and Alice Blockeseche*⁹

A marriage in 1580 suggested Alice may have been born in the mid- to late 1550s. Although a christening for Alice Bloxish was not found in Birmingham or Yardley dated in the 1550s, the following Bloxish entries were noted:

- *Chr Feb 1554/5 Birmingham St. Martin – Robert, son of Richard Bokeshey*¹⁰
- *Mar 22 Jan 1558/9 Birmingham St. Martin – Richard Collins and Agnes Bloxich*¹¹

Richard “Bokeshey” was the only man of that surname found christening children in the 1550s in the Birmingham area. His will was found and discussed in the report. Richard did name a daughter Alice and was the only candidate being considered to be her father. An abstract of his will is repeated here:

- *1558 will of Richard Blockesyche of Birmingham*¹²
- *Will dated 14 Oct 1558; proved 15 Jan 1558/9*
- *Persons named in the will were his eldest son William; sons Richard and Robart; eldest daughter Jone; daughter Alice; Elisabeth, his wife's eldest daughter; John and James, his wife's sons; wife Agnes who is the*

executrix; brother Moryse Blocksyge

The 1555 christening of Richard's son Robert verifies Richard was having children in the 1550s when Alice was likely born. His will indicates his current wife, Agnes, was his second wife as she had three children of her own by another man (Elsabeth, John and James). Richard “Bloxiche” was buried on 21 October 1558 at Birmingham St. Martin.¹³ Therefore, it was his widow Agnes “Bloxich” who married Richard Collins the following January at Birmingham St. Martin, as seen in the marriage entry above.

Richard's eldest daughter Joane was likely born in the mid- to late 1540s as she married Robert Bennet in Birmingham St. Martin on 25 October 1570.¹⁴ It may have been Richard Bloxish's stepdaughter, Elizabeth Bloxiche, who married Henerie Dosey in Birmingham St. Martin on 24 January 1567/8, if Elizabeth took the surname of her stepfather.¹⁵

Just two references in church records were found regarding Richard Bloxish's brother Morice whom he named in his will.

- *Chr 29 Jan 1563/4 Aston, St. Peter and St. Paul – Thomas, son of Morice Bloxsuche*¹⁶
- *Bur 18 Oct 1603 Aston, St. Peter and St. Paul – Maurice Bloxsech*¹⁷

Morice Bloxish did not leave a will, which is unfortunate as his will could have clarified which of the men who were found living in Aston were his children. The parish registers for Aston, St. Peter and St. Paul, also known as Aston juxta Birmingham, begin in 1544. The registers skip a number of years, mostly in the earliest

time period. These registers were searched for the Bloxish family. The first entry encountered was a marriage for Richard Bloxish dated 1577. Richard Bloxish (will dated 1558) had a son Richard who would have been born probably about 1552, so a marriage year of 1577 would suit him. The only known child of Morice Bloxish was his son Thomas who was christened in 1564. However, Morice probably had additional children, some of whom may have been born before that date. If he did, their christenings were not found in or near Aston or Birmingham. Whether the Richard Bloxish who married in 1577 was the son of Richard Bloxish (will dated 1558) or Morice Bloxish could not be determined. The Richard Bloxish who left the 1558 will definitely had a son Richard as he was named in the will. And this son Richard was not found marrying or christening children in Birmingham, which means he was free to be the man who married in Aston. This evidence suggests Richard's (will dated 1558) son Richard may have moved to Aston where his uncle Morice was living. The following entries pertain to this Richard Bloxish.¹⁸

- *Mar 29 Jan 1576/7 Aston – Richard Bloxishe and Mary Holdon*¹⁹
- *Chr 8 Nov 1579 Aston – Humfrey, son of Richard Bloxishe of Erdington*
- *Chr 3 Oct 1580 Aston – Humfrey, son of Richard Bloxishe of Erdington*
- *Chr 26 May 1583 Aston – Margaret, daughter of Richard Bloxishe of Erdington*

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- *Bur 28 Sep 1583 Aston – Margaret, daughter of Richard Bloxishe of Erdington*
- *Chr 15 Sep 1586 Aston – Margaret, daughter of Richard Blocksush*

Although a burial for Richard's first son named Humfrey was not found in these registers, it is almost certain that Humfrey died soon after his birth since a second son was given the same name. The Richard Bloxishe who married in 1577 left a will dated 1619; it was presented in the last report. An abstract of the will is repeated here.

- *1619 will of Richard Bloxwich of Aston juxta Birmingham²⁰*
- *Will dated 1 Jul 1619; proved 23 Jul 1619*
- *Persons named in the will were daughter Margaret Birch; Thomas Birch, son of Roger Birch; Richard Bloxish, son of Thomas Bloxish; daughter Marie Bloxich; wife Marie Bloxish who is the executor*
- *Witnesses were Thomas Humfrie and Edward Bloxiche*

Richard's will did not provide sufficient information to determine whether he was the son of Richard Bloxish (will dated 1558) or Morice Bloxish.

Multiple Bloxishe entries are found in the Aston church registers dated in the 16th century. There is a good possibility that brothers Richard and Morice Bloxish were born in Aston or nearby. Richard Bloxish probably married his first wife, whose name is unknown, about the time the Aston registers begin in 1544. His marriage was not found in those registers. Richard Bloxish was likely born about 1520, possibly in Aston.

As Richard Bloxish's 1558 will was the earliest dated probate record found for a testator of this surname, further research to extend the Bloxish line has likely come to its end. There is a town called Bloxwich in southern Staffordshire, not far from Birmingham and Aston. This could be where the Bloxish surname originated some centuries earlier.

William Seeley

William Seeley's family members were not pursued during this research period and this has become an important recommendation for the future. One clue to the extension of his ancestry may be the following marriage found while searching the Aston church records for the Bloxish surname:

- *Mar 30 Apr 1566 Aston, Warwickshire – Thomas Saunders and Margaret Seele²¹*
- *Perhaps the Seeley and Bloxish families originated in the same parish.*

Conclusion

A study and evaluation of church and probate records led to the conclusion that the most likely parents for William Bissell were Thomas Bissell and his wife Elizabeth of Kings Norton, Worcestershire. Thomas left a will dated 1595 that named his eldest son William. Christening records located for several of Thomas Bissell's children indicated William would have been born about 1546 or earlier, which fits perfectly with the estimated birth year of the ancestral William Bissell. Searches for additional probate records for Bissell/Byssell individuals of Kings Norton were made and the documents found

were examined. They did not offer any useful information to extend the line. There are no earlier probate records for Bissells of Kings Norton parish to be searched. With all available probate records examined and with the Bissell line extended before the inception of Church of England parish registers, the Bissell ancestral line has ended with Thomas and Elizabeth Bissell who were probably born about 1520 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire.

Alice Chamber was likely the sister, niece, or cousin of the John Chamber whose will was probated in 1575. John Chamber married Margaret Greve, daughter of Thomas Greve. The multiple Chamber and Greve and Greves individuals who served as godparents to the children of William Bissell and Alice Chamber indicate familial connections between these families. The Chamber and Greve godparents were likely Alice's close relations. One godparent in particular, George Chamber, was likely a brother of Alice. Despite rigorous efforts using church and probate records, the parents of Alice Chamber have not been identified. George Chamber and the John Chamber whose will was probated in 1575 were likely her brothers. Alice's father may have been the John Chamber, Sr., who died in 1569. Unfortunately, this man did not leave a will that would have better clarified which of the Chambers born between the 1530s and the 1550s were siblings.

The only candidate discovered who could be the father of Alice Bloxish was the Richard Bloxish who left the 1558 will that named Alice as his daughter. The christening record

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of one of Richard Bloxish's children indicated Richard was christening children in the 1550s when Alice was probably born. The name of Alice's mother is unknown since the woman named in Richard's will as his wife was his second wife. Church register entries were found concerning Morice Bloxish, the brother of Richard Bloxish. Probate records for Bloxish testators were examined, but no further evidence was located to extend the Bloxish line past Richard Bloxish. The line has ended with Richard Bloxish who was probably born about 1520 in Aston, Warwickshire.

Recommendations

- Continue research on the Seeley line as this was not completed during this project. As Augustus Seeley may or may not be a direct descendant of Obadiah Seeley, all male children of William Seeley (Obadiah's father) need to be traced down to learn whether any of them immigrated to Massachusetts and may be the direct ancestor of Augustus Seeley. Obadiah Seeley had no full brothers who survived to adulthood, but through his father's second marriage to Hannah, he had four half-brothers—only one of whom (Jeremiah) is known to have died young. The fate of the other three men, Samuel, Jonathan and Jonas, is unknown. In addition, all male descendants of William's Seeley's parents, William Seeley and Alice Bloxish, need to be identified and traced down for the same purpose.
- Follow recommendations from the AugustusSeeley2016March

and SeeleyEngland2016July reports concerning the American Seeley line:

- o Trace the seven identified descendants of Obadiah Seeley who are candidates to be Augustus Seeley's father to learn whether any lived in Massachusetts about 1739.
 - o Consider other possibilities for Augustus Seeley's ancestry such as (1) Augustus Seeley could be related to the Cilleys of Maine, and (2) Augustus might be a descendant of one of Obadiah's siblings or ancestors who immigrated to Massachusetts. Also consider the possibility that Seeley families may have lived in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, in the mid-1700s as Berkshire borders Rensselaer County, New York (where the Brisbins lived).
 - o Examine probate, land, and marriage records in Rye, Westchester, New York, and Newburgh, Orange, New York, seeking the family of Augustus Seeley (b. about 1748; d. 1811 Elizabethtown, Leeds, Ontario, Canada).
1. Will of Thomas Bissell of Kings Norton, Worcester, 1595, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97950 #53. Documents 15a-b
 2. Church of England. Episcopal Consistory Court of the Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953) FHL film 97911.
 3. Church of England. Episcopal Consistory Court of the Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953) FHL film 97947.
 4. "Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858," 1634 will of John Byssell, blacksmith of Yardley, Worcester, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).
 5. "Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858," 1551 will of Thomas Greve of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Documents 1a-b
 6. *Monumental inscriptions of St. Nicholas, Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England* (1947) FHL book 942.47/K1 V3m.
 7. Helen Goodger, *Kings Norton* (Studley: Brewin, c1990) FHL book 942.47/K1 H2g.
 8. Alfred Trego Butler, *The visitation of Worcestershire 1634* (London, England: Harleian Society, 1938) FHL book 942 B4h v. 27 and 90.
 9. Church of England. Parish Church of Yardley, Worcestershire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 2
 10. Church of England. Parish Church of Birmingham St. Martin, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 4
 11. Church of England. Parish Church of Birmingham St. Martin, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 3
 12. Will of Richard Blockesych of Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1558, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com). Documents 4a-c
 13. Church of England. Parish Church of Birmingham St. Martin, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 5
 14. Church of England. Parish Church of Birmingham St. Martin, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 6
 15. Church of England. Parish Church of

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SGS Queries (as of February 9, 2018)

Coordinated and Compiled by SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker

The SGS query column leverages the amassed knowledge of SGS, the research skills of the Society's query team, and the knowledge of SGS members to help answer challenging research questions.

Submit queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at llbc100@msn.com, or mail to Linda at home (contact information on page 15). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor, researched, and then sent to the query team for input. Linda summarizes the query and responses for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Be sure to follow a few guidelines when submitting a query:

Be specific and detailed: Give all the information you have about the person or family in question,

especially dates and locations.

What resources have you already consulted? SGS publications or website? 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 a Seeley family? Our sources?

After your query is printed, please keep us informed of any information you receive or further progress you make on your own. Other members may be interested in 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 new information. One more name,

date, or place may be the key to linking your line to others. Your query will also be posted on the website. Make sure we have your current and complete contact information—sometimes we receive new information months or even years after a query appears.

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

The query number is the two digit year, two digit month of the Newsletter issue and query sequence number.

NEW QUERIES:

1802-1 Submitted by Christina Waters (xtina@ucsc.edu)

Christina has been trying to unravel a mystery about her grandfather, Walter Clarence Grant. According to Christina's mother, Walter was b. 22 September 1883 and moved from the Boston area to Santa Cruz, CA ca. 1915. She located WC Grant's Selective Service record online, and in the 1917/18 draft he listed his "nearest relative" as Frank Albert Seeley of Great Barrington, MA. She also found a Selective Service record for Frank Albert Seeley, born Jan. 5, 1874 who listed his "nearest relative" as Emma Seeley of Great Barrington, MA. As Seeley was 44 at the time of this record, Christina supposes that Emma Seeley might have been his wife. Christina's elderly mother longs to find out anything about her father's past. He told his California wife and children only that his father was also named Walter Clarence Grant, Sr., his mother's name was Agatha Seeley, and he had a possible sister named Doris. Upon his death, his widow (Christina's mother's mother, Hilda V. Anderson) revealed that W.C. Grant had had a wife and child in the East, both deceased before he came to California. Nothing is known of them, no names, no addresses. The trail is very cold. Christina is hoping the impressive network SGS has involving Seeley family lore, we might be able to place Frank Albert Seeley, and help connect her to her grandfather, Walter Clarence Grant.

SGS Response: As with any query I first try to verify the information from the submitter.

WWI Draft record (12 Sept 1918)

- Walter Clarence Grant, age 35, b. 22 Sept 1883, resides Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz, CA, working as a grocery clerk in Boulder Creek, nearest relative: Frank A Seeley, Boston, MA

1920 census Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

- Grant, Walter C., age 34, b. MA, MA, MA, salesman at retail grocery
- Grant, Hilda V., age 26 b. CA, NOR, NOR
- Grant, Virlyne F., age 2 mos b. CA, MA, CA
- Anderson, Anna, mother-in-law age 67, widow, b. NOR, NOR, NOR, to US in 1874

1930 census Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

- Grant, Walter C. age 42, b. MA, NOR, NOR, retail merchant in grocery he owns, md. 11 yrs. to
- Grant, Hilda V., age 36, b. CA, MA, MA
- Grant, Virlyne F., age 10, Merlyn M., age 6, Walter C., Jr., age 5, all b. CA, MA, CA
- In Santa Cruz in 1940 the family is Walter C., age 54, Hilda V., age 48, Marie M., age 16 and Walter C age 15

CADI

- Walter C. Grant, b. 23 Sep 1884, MA, d. 14 Sep 1960, Santa Cruz

US Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists

- Walter Grant, departed Bordeaux, France on 23 Dec 1918, arrived Newport News, VA on 5 Jan 1918 (1919?) on the ship Pocahontas
- He resides in Dorchester, MA, and names his sister Miss M. L. Grant as next of kin
- He is in Co. B, 358 Inf., as a 2nd Lt.

1880 census Boston, Suffolk, MA (South Boston)

- Grant, Walter C., age 40, b. Nova Scotia, IRE, IRE,

CONTINUED From Page 12: SGS Queries

printer

- Grant, Mary, age 36, b. Prince Edward Island, IRE, IRE
- Grant, William T., age 16, Mary C., age 14, Edward, age 12, all b. PEI, NS, PEI; Gertie, age 3, Chas F., age 11 mos., both b. MA, NS, PEI

- Flynn, Jos. W., age 23, boarder, b. NS, NS, NS, printer

1900 census Boston, Suffolk, MA Ward 24

- Grant, Walter C. b. Mar 1840 CAN, CAN, CAN, printer, md 36 yrs. to
- Grant, Mary, b. Apr 1846, CAN, CAN, CAN, 10 ch., 5 living
- Grant, Gertrude b. Apr 1877 compositor, Charles, b. July 1879, painter, both b. MA, CAN, CAN

1900 census Boston, Suffolk, MA Ward 9, Precinct 7

- Grant, Hannah, b. Jan 1854 CAN, CAN, CAN, widow, housekeeper, md 28 yrs., 7 ch., 7 living
- Grant, Mary T., b. Nov 1875, MA, CAN, CAN; Everett F., b. Nov 1879, grocery clerk, Hannah M., b. May 1882 table girl, John J., b. Apr 1885, meat store boy, Walter b. Sept 1886, all b. CAN, CAN, CAN

1910 census Boston, Suffolk, MA Ward 9, Precinct 7

- Grant, Hannah, age 58, b. NS, IRE, IRE, widow, md 32 yrs., 7 ch., 6 living
- Grant, John J., age 22, laundry washer, Walter, age 24, teamster for store, both b. NS, NS, NS

MABI

- Walter C. Grant, b. 12 June 1873, Boston, Suffolk, MA, to Walter C. Grant, printer b. NS, and his wife, Mary, b. IRE

MADI

- Walter C. Grant, age 7 mos., d. 11 Jan 1874, of bronchitis, son of Walter C. Grant, b. NS, and his wife Mary, b. IRE

In conclusion, we can see that the WWI Draft Registration says that relative Frank A Seeley lives in Boston (not Great Barrington which is at the other end of the state) but no specific address is given. I cannot identify a Frank Seeley in Boston that seems to have any relationship to Walter Grant. While there is a Frank Albert Seeley in Great Barrington, he also seems to have no connection to Walter. Further the only Walter C., son of Walter C. Grant in Boston (or surroundings) died as an infant in the 1870s. If anyone can shed some light on the relationship between Frank Seeley and Walter Grant, or can definitely tie Walter to his parents, contact your Query Editor.

1802-2 Submitted by Jim Beaudette
(Beaudette@msn.com)

Here is another query that involves WWI. Jim sent this photo (right) to Paul Taylor, asking if we had any information on his great-uncle's friend, Charles R. Seeley, and their time in France. The photo was taken of his great-uncle Albert's friends in France during WWI.

SGS Response: I looked at the SGS Ancestor File, and of course we have lots of Charles R., Charles R____, and just plain Charles to choose from, so I looked for more information.

US Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists

- Seeley, Charles R., Cpl, Co. "I", 34th INF, on outgoing ship *America*, sailing from Hoboken, NJ, 17 Aug 1918, next of kin Mrs. Carrie Seeley, mother, of Meckling, SD
- Seeley, Chas R., Cpl, F34th INF, on ship *DeKalb*,

sailing from Brest, 2 Dec 1918, arriving Hoboken, NJ, 13 Dec 1918, next of kin Mrs Carrie C. Seeley, mother, of Meckling, SD

1920 census Meckling, Clay, SD

- Seeley, Bert, age 53, b. WI, WI, WI, farmer
- Seeley, Carrie, age 42, b. NE, PA, WI
- Seeley, Charles R., age 21, farm laborer, Theodore, age 18, farm laborer, Altie (female) age 6 yrs., 5 mos., all b. NE, WI, NE

1900 census Galena, Dixon, NE

- Seeley, Herbert D., b. Aug 1868, WI, WI, WI, farm laborer, md 2 yrs. to
- Seeley, Caroline, b. Jan 1878, NE, NY, WI
- Seeley, Charles R., b. Dec 1898, Theodor S., b. March 1900, both b. NE, WI, NE

MT Marr Rec

- 10 May 1922, at Billings, MT Charles R Seeley, age 23, of Meckling, SD, b. Allen NE, son of Herbert D. Seeley and Carrie Holmes md. Terressa V. Finley, age 19, of Ipswich, SD, born there, dau of James Finley. Clergyman Geo. Mahlon Miller, 1st Cong. Church.
- 21 Apr 1924 at Presho, Lyman, SD, Charles Raymond Seeley, age 25, divorced md Elizabeth Alice Smith, age 18, single, by TH Joekel, pastor, Ger. Lutheran Church, Presho, SD

Findagrave

- Charles Raymond Seeley, b. 8 Dec 1898 at Allen, Dixon, NE, d. 6 May 1983, at Presho, Lyman, SD, son of Herbert Daniel Seeley and Caroline Louise Holmes brother of Theodore Sylvester Seeley (1900-1979) and Alta Alice Seeley Collar (1913-1975), husband of Elizabeth Alice Smith Seeley (1904-1984)
- Herbert Daniel Seeley, b. Aug 1868, WI, d. 1966, bur. Bluff View Cemetery, Vermillion, Clay, SD
- Caroline Louise Holmes Seeley, b. 8 Jan 1878, NE, d. 2 Apr 1953, Clay Co., SD, bur. Bluff View Cemetery, Vermillion, Clay, SD dau. of Julius Jediah Holmes (1853-1931) and Frances Lowe Holmes (1856-1932)

NE Marr Rec

- At Ponce, NE, on 20 Dec 1897, Herbert D. Seeley, age 30, b. WI, to Theodore Seeley and Caroline Ramssdale md. Caroline Holmes, age 20, b. NE, to Jud Holmes and Frances Lowe, both residents of Dixon Co., NE, md by A W Rose, County Judge

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James Smith, Ivan W. Nelson, Charles R. Seeley Co I 4th ID who served with Albert Beaudette during World War I.

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1870 census Willow, Richland, WI

- Seeley, Theodore, age 24, b. WI, farmer
- Seeley, Caroline, age 18, b. WI
- Seeley, Herbert, age 1, b. WI

1860 census Westford, Richland, WI

- Seely, Charles, age 44, b. CT, farmer
- Seely, Caroline, age 47, b. CT
- Seely, Lewis, age 22, laborer, Ann, age 20, both b. CT
- Seely, Julia age 17, Thiadore, age 14, William, age 12, Sarah age 8, Charles age 4, all b. WI

1850 Baraboo, Sauk, WI

- Seely, Charles, age 32, silver smith, b. CT
- Seely, Caroline, age 36, b. CT
- Seely, Harriet, age 14, Lewis, age 12, Ann, age 10, Joseph, age 8, all b. CT, Julia Ann, age 6, Theodore, age 4, William, age 1, all b. WI
- Wood, Ann, age 60, b. CT

WIMI

- Theodore Seely md. 24 Mar 1867 in Richland Co., WI, to Caroline Ramsdel

If you go to our website and look at Research Query 2009-B, you will see that we have quite a bit on the family of Charles and Caroline Johnson Seely (<http://www.seeley-society.net/qlist2k9-res.html>). Although we have a marriage record for Charles and Caroline in Newtown, Fairfield, CT we haven't been able to find Charles's parents. However, this query does add several of his descendants to the SGS Ancestral File. If this family seems familiar, another branch was the subject of a query in the last newsletter (Query 1711-4).

If any of our readers are related to the Charles R. Seeley of the photo, please let us know and also contact the submitter.

1802-3 Submitted by Chris Havnar (chris.havnar@gmail.com)

Chris found an obituary for Judith T. Seeley (1941-2016). The obituary says that Judy is originally from the northeast, moved to LA in 1995 and is survived by her husband Larry. The burial and service were in Opelousas, LA. Various children were mentioned but none are Seeleys so Judy must have had at least one prior marriage. I can send you a copy of the complete obituary if you would like one; it will eventually be posted on the SGS website. Chris found a public record for Larry D/Larry Dean Seeley showing him with Judith in Opelousas and a couple of other locations in LA and Panama City, FL and giving his birth date: 20 May 1939.

SGS Response: I found a Larry Dean Seeley of the correct age in Abilene, KS.

1940 census Grant, Dickinson, KS (April 27-29 1940)

- Seely, Earl, age 32, b. NE, resided Harris, Anderson, KS, in 1935, hired hand on farm
- Seely, Goldie, age 24, b. KS
- Seely, Larry Dean, age 11 mos., b. KS

1953 census Abilene, Dickinson, KS (also listed in 1959, 60, 61)

- Haynes, Glen L., age 42
- Haynes, Golda, age 37
- Haynes Gerald, age 16
- Seeley, Larry, age 13, Inys, age 12
- Haynes, Chester, age 6

Findagrave

- Elmer Seeley, b. 10 Jan 1907, d. 30 Sep 1944, bur. Abilene Cemetery, Abilene, Dickinson, KS
- "At Rest" RC (Abilene Reflector Chronicle newspaper) "2 Oct 1944, died in Abilene hospital age 36 y surv by wife; 1 son, Larry Dean, 1 dau Inys; parents Mr and Mrs Walter Seeley of Marion; 2 bros, Ralph of Solomon; Harvey of Littleton, CO, 1 sis Mrs Rex Dody of Marion"

1930 census Grant, Marion, KS

- Seeley, Walter, age 60, b. IA, IA, IA, farmer 1st md. at age 21
- Seeley, Minnie, age 54, b. IL, OH, IN, 1st md at age 17
- Seeley, Elmer, age 22, divorced, b. NE, IA, IL, farm laborer

1920 census Grant, Marion, KS

- Seeley, Walter E., age 49, b. IA, WI, IA, farmer
- Seeley, Minnie, age 49, b. IL, OH, IN,
- Seeley, Eliza, age 14, Elmer, age 12, Ralph, age 10, all b. NE, IA, IL

1910 census Tryon, McPherson, NE

- Seeley, Walter E., age 40, b. IA, IA, IA, farmer, md 18 yrs. to
 - Seeley, Minnie, age 35, b. IL, IL, IL, 4 ch., 4 living
 - Seeley, Harvey E., age 7, b. KS, IA, IL, Eliza, age 4, Elmer, age 3, Mannie, age 6 mos, all b. NE, IA, KS
- We have Walter in the SGS Ancestor File. Walter is in the 11th generation of SGS #3439 (Walter, Joseph Thomas, Joseph Willis, Cornelius, Daniel, David, Charles, Samuel, Jonas, Obadiah).

Of course, what we need is some proof that the Larry Dean Seeley of Abilene, KS, is the same person as Larry Dean Seeley of Louisiana. Please contact me if you can verify the connection.

CONTINUED From Page 11: Obadiah Research

Birmingham St. Martin, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 7

16. Church of England. Parish Church of Aston, St. Peter and St. Paul, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) Document 8

17. Church of England. Parish Church of Aston, Warwickshire, *The first volume, 1544 to 1639/40, of the registers of the parish church of Aston-juxta-Birmingham* (Birmingham, England: C. Cooper, 1900) FHL book 942.48/A3 V26a.

18. William F. Carter, *The first volume, 1544 to 1639/40, of the registers of the parish church of Aston-juxta-Birmingham* (Birmingham, England: C. Cooper, 1900) FHL book 942.48/A3 V26a.

19. William F. Carter, *The first volume, 1544 to 1639/40, of the registers of the parish church of Aston-juxta-Birmingham* (Birmingham, England : C. Cooper, 1900) FHL book 942.48/A3 V26a. Document 9

20. Will of Richard Bloxwich of Aston juxta Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1619, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

21. Church of England. Parish Church of Aston, Warwickshire, *The first volume, 1544 to 1639/40, of the registers of the parish church of Aston-juxta-Birmingham* (Birmingham, England : C. Cooper, 1900) FHL book 942.48/A3 V26a.

SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2017 - 2019

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

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SGS Appointed Officers and Volunteers for 2017 - 2019

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 (\$12 a year)
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: (In U.S. Dollars)		<input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> TWO YEARS \$18 <input type="checkbox"/> THREE YEARS \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> FIVE YEARS \$36 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME \$125
MAIL FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEE TO: Marie Seelye 13802 Pine Glen Dr. E. Black Forest, CO 80908		DONATION: I/we would like to make a tax deductible donation to SGS in the amount of \$ _____ (U.S.)

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Seeley Genealogical Society

% MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

MARIE SEELYE

13802 PINE GLEN Dr. E.

BLACK FOREST, CO 80908

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

SGS Publications for Order

SGS has several publications and research tools for sale.

1. Print/mailed version of the *SGS Newsletter* (U.S. \$12 per year)
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)
 - Item 1 should be ordered from Marie Seelye
 - Items 2, 3, 4, 5 should be ordered from Terry Tietjens
 - Item 6 from Pamela Turner
 - Item 7 from Pamela Turner

Contact information is on page 15.

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

When the photo below was posted to the Facebook page of one SGS Reunion attendee, there were an astronomical number of comments, the overwhelming majority of which said how **AWESOME** Veronica Seeley Newell and Nick Taylor looked in their commemorative

SGS 50th Anniversary T-Shirts!



Did you get yours?

If not, you're in luck!!!

While supplies last, you too can look as cool as Veronica and Nick, but order yours today, they're going FAST! Shirts are available in sizes S, M, L and XL (\$12.00) and 2X (\$14.00).

To get yours, contact Linda Crocker (see contact info on page 15).