



# Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

Issue No. 2005-02

History Family Research

May 2005

## DNA Testing Results Settle a Long-Standing Question in the Seeley Family

by Frederick C. Hart, Jr., and Anita A. Lustenberger

For a century and a half there has been speculation that the Obadiah Seeley who died in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1657 may have been a son of Captain Robert Seeley (1602–ca. 1667), a resident of Watertown, Mass., Wethersfield and New Haven, Conn., and other locations throughout the Long Island Sound Region.<sup>[1]</sup> But no one was certain. Donald L. Jacobus felt it appropriate to list Obadiah as “s. of Robert?” with a question mark and a notation that there was “no positive proof that Obadiah belongs here.”<sup>[2]</sup>

Diligent research by the Seeley Genealogical Society (SGS) and other interested descendants was never able to make a solid case for or against this relationship, so the question remained open in various quarters.<sup>[3]</sup> At one point, it was argued that Capt. Robert had a second son named Nathaniel, baptized in London on May 1, 1629, who may later have changed his name to Obadiah, and could therefore be the later resident in Stamford.<sup>[4]</sup> This theory remained alive until 1983 when Alan Phipps, researching for the SGS, discovered that this baptismal record was actually for a son of one Robert Hoskins, not Seeley at all, a finding reported almost immediately in the SGS *Newsletter*.<sup>[5]</sup> Phipps continued to note the significance of his finding in SGS *Newsletters*, and his *The English Ancestry of Robert Seeley (1602–1666)*, published for SGS as part of a genealogy of a branch of the Seeley family.<sup>[6]</sup> Inconsistently, that same genealogy went on without hesitation to treat Obadiah as Capt. Robert’s son.<sup>[7]</sup>

For his sketch of Capt. Robert Seeley in *The Great Migration Begins*, Robert C. Anderson came to the conclusion that no real evidence supported a relationship between Capt. Robert and Obadiah Seeley, and that there were several good reasons to

doubt that Obadiah was Robert’s son. He summarized as follows (emphasis added): “**Many secondary sources claim that Obadiah Seeley of Stamford was a son of Robert Seeley, but this should be rejected.**”<sup>[8]</sup> Fair enough. This statement

was certainly an unambiguous conclusion by one of the country’s leading genealogists. But even though this opinion deserved great respect, it was still based on analysis and interpretation of available evidence, rather than contemporary statements of fact.

With this background, after his own immersion in this same Seeley question at the request of SGS, and as an interested Obadiah Seeley descendant himself, one of us (FCH) attended GENTECH 2002 in Boston, where lectures on DNA and discussions with members of other surname societies already using DNA analysis to resolve similar long-standing questions made it

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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.

#### Membership

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

#### Membership Dues

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

Pay all dues to:

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#### Seelye National Research Center

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

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#### SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for September 2005 in Abilene, KS. Please advise the editor if your branch or family have plans for a sectional or local reunion in the interim. Others might like to know about it.

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

## The President's Report

I am changing my e-mail address to [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net). I'll keep my [jrseeley@aol.com](mailto:jrseeley@aol.com) e-mail address for a few more months.

Some have already registered for the SGS Reunion. I greatly appreciate that. Early registration will help ease my workload as the reunion gets closer. The reunion will be held in Abilene, Kan. from Sept. 14 to 18, 2005. A registration form is on the Seeley website and in this Newsletter.

Contact Nominating Committee Chairman Gene Seelye if you want to run for a position on the SGS Board for the 2005-2007 term. If you want to nominate someone from the floor during the business meeting, the constitution and by-laws require that you obtain the person's agreement before nominating them. Secret, paper ballots are required when more than one person is nominated for the same position. Let the SGS Secretary know if you plan to nominate someone so voting materials can be prepared. Voting will take place during the business meeting on Saturday morning, Sept. 17, 2005 at the Abilene Civic Center.

We are still waiting to review Jerome Anderson's research before we pursue further research in England on Obadiah's ancestors.

In an effort to help assure ourselves that the immigrant Robert Seeley is the one who was born in Huntingdon, England in 1602 and the son of William, SGS Member John Seely is conducting a line by line search for "Seeley" apprenticeships in the CORDWAINER'S records during the period our immigrant Robert lived in London, looking for another Robert. So far he has found a Thomas Seale, son of Robert Seale, but not another Robert apprentice. The possibility that there may have been two Roberts, both apprentice cordwainers, who lived in London at about the same time was raised by a genealogist who was asked by an SGS member to help verify Robert Seeley's ancestry. John has taken on a very tough job.

Are you still trying to determine if you are in the Nathaniel line or the Obadiah line or some other line? Are you trying to locate cousins, with whom you share a common paternal ancestor, to share data with? If so, consider contacting SGS Member Dr. Ken McCrea to get a 37-marker DNA test done. His contact info is on page 15. To review the latest Seeley DNA Lineage Test results, go <http://SeeleyDNA.info>. Test results can narrow your search and possibly provide you a contact who has a common paternal ancestor.

Kathie Olsen has suggested SGS sponsor a tour of New England in 2006 to visit sites that our immigrants Robert and Obadiah Seeley are known to have lived. I like that idea and others are interested as well. Kathie has agreed to chair the planning committee and lend her experience gained from planning the trip to Robert's England in 2004. We thank Kathie for continuing to volunteer to accept tough tasks for SGS. A suggestion has been made to schedule this trip during the peak of the change in color of the leaves in New England.

Due to space limitations, the list of "volunteers needed" was not included with this issue. However, I would like a volunteer to head up indexing the SGS Newsletter. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Ann and Ray Hall, Ruthetta Hansen, and I plan to meet with Terry Tietjens at the Seelye Research Center (SRC) in May to help complete SRC preparations for the reunion. We hope to have a handout on the SRC filing system that will be in each reunion registration packet.

**Jim Seeley, SGS President**



## DNA Testing (*continued from page 1*)

immediately clear to him that SGS should consider using this new technology. SGS should be able to make a final resolution of the Obadiah/Robert question through a study of selected Y-chromosome samples from within their own membership. The project was soon approved and initiated under the direction of Wesley A. Waring.

Oxford Ancestors<sup>[9]</sup> was selected as the laboratory for

On a forty-three-marker test, descendants of Nathaniel and Obadiah have been found to differ on eleven markers.

The discovery of the two separate DNA signatures has already been of aid to Seeleys whose paper trail did not link them to either man. Another male Seeley man independently submitted a sample to see if he could match the signature of either the Nathaniel or Obadiah line. His sample was sent to a different lab that uses twelve markers.<sup>[12]</sup>

The converted results showed he was related to Obadiah, and he is focusing his research in that direction.

A similar problem has been solved for the descendants of Augustus Seeley, born in New England about

| DYS#                         | 19 | 388 | 390 | 391 | 392 | 393       | 389i      | 389ii     | 425 | 426 |
|------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|
| <b>Nathaniel descendants</b> |    |     |     |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |
| Nathaniel [Jr] (SGS #5)      | 14 | 12  | 24  | 11  | 13  | 13        | 9         | <b>16</b> | 12  | 12  |
| Benjamin (SGS #7)            | 14 | 12  | 24  | 11  | 13  | 13        | 9         | 17        | M*  | 12  |
| John (SGS #9)                | 14 | 12  | 24  | 11  | 13  | 13        | 9         | 17        | M*  | 12  |
| <b>Obadiah descendants</b>   |    |     |     |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |
| Obadiah [Jr] (SGS #17)       | 14 | 12  | 24  | 11  | 13  | <b>12</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>16</b> | 12  | 12  |
| Jonas (SGS #19)              | 14 | 12  | 24  | 11  | 13  | <b>12</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>16</b> | 12  | 12  |

the project. YDNA samples were chosen to represent descendants of Nathaniel Seeley (SGS ID#2), a known son of Capt. Robert Seeley, from three of Nathaniel's sons: Nathaniel (SGS #5), Benjamin (SGS #7) and John (SGS #9). There were no donors available for Nathaniel's two other sons Robert (SGS #6) and Joseph (SGS #8). Sample donors were also chosen to represent descendants of Obadiah Seeley (SGS #4) from two of Obadiah's sons: Obadiah (SGS #17) and Jonas (SGS #19). There was no donor available to represent Obadiah's third son Cornelius (SGS #18).<sup>[10]</sup>

The final report of the project is now available on the SGS website.<sup>[11]</sup> The two groups of descendants differ by three out of ten markers. The conclusions are:

1. The test results have produced a DNA signature (haplotype) for the Nathaniel line and a DNA signature for the Obadiah line.
2. The DNA signatures show there is not a close relationship between Robert Seeley (1602–1667) and Obadiah Seeley (d. 1657).

Thanks to these recent efforts in two separate but important areas (Bob Anderson's authoritative genealogical analysis for *The Great Migration Begins*, and the SGS DNA Test Project), researchers interested in Obadiah Seeley may now be confident that he was not a son or close relative of Capt. Robert Seeley, as had once been thought. The simple ten-marker signatures were adequate to differentiate the descendants of Nathaniel and Obadiah and answer the original question. Subsequently, higher resolution tests of twenty-five and thirty-seven or forty-three markers have been run on the DNA of Seeley men at various laboratories.

1739. Augustus joined the New York Provincials in Queen's County, New York, at age nineteen, listing his occupation as hatter. He was listed again in the Muster Rolls in Albany County in 1761.<sup>[13]</sup> As a Loyalist he went to Upper Canada with Sir John Johnston, receiving land grants in Lancaster, Ontario, but settled in Elizabethtown (now Brockville), Ontario. His parents have never been located. A descendant in Ontario underwent a DNA analysis and his results showed the Obadiah signature. So Augustus may be descended from Obadiah, or from a cousin of Obadiah; he and Obadiah have a common surname ancestor.

One Seeley in England has been tested so far. He does not share a recent common paternal ancestor with Obadiah or Nathaniel, so there were at least three Seeley lineages in Great Britain. The Society is particularly interested in DNA analysis of Seeleys with Warwickshire ancestry because the only Obadiah Seeley found in early seventeenth-century English records was an Obadiah Seeley, son of William, baptized June 5, 1614, at St. Martin, Birmingham, Warwickshire.<sup>[14]</sup>

Readers are encouraged to visit the SGS website, [www.seeley-society.net](http://www.seeley-society.net), for further information and complete results and comments from the project team. We are seeking additional participants for the project — both those with known lineages who would like to confirm their "paper trail" genealogical research, and those still seeking to identify their Seeley/Seely/Seelye/Sealy/etc. ancestry. Currently the Seely line that settled at the Isle of Shoals in Maine is of particular interest. Additional SGS projects are planned to make further and more

*Please See DNA Testing Page 10*

## SGS 20 Years Ago: A Genealogical Journey Across America

*Story By Montell Seeley (From the May 1985 SGS Newsletter)*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: In the May 1985 issue of the SGS Newsletter an article appeared that recounted Montell Seeley's trip to research his loyalist line. The article is of particular interest now in that it contains some interesting notes about the New England area where Robert and Obadiah Seeley lived and where SGS is planning its 2006 trip (to say nothing of the fact that Wethersfield, Conn. has been mentioned as a possible site for a future Reunion). Additionally, Montell's article recalled a visit to Abilene, the site of this September's reunion. ENJOY!*

We met so many wonderful people and had so many choice experiences, but I will only touch on some of the highlights. Our first stop after leaving home was Boulder, Colo. where we stayed with Don and Nancy. It was the perfect stepping stone to launch us on a very memorable and enjoyable trip.

Next we stopped in Abilene, Kan. and stayed overnight with Helen and Marion Seelye, two sweet and gracious ladies. They live in what is known in Abilene as "The Seelye Mansion," a white frame, three-story structure located on the main street thru town. Their father, Dr. Alfred B. Seelye, manufactured patent medicines and then sold and delivered the products around the countryside. Since Marion and Helen, now in their 80's, were the only children and never married, there were no descendants to inherit the mansion. After much discussion and weighing of the pros and cons of the options, they decided to sell the mansion to twin brothers, Terry and Jerry Tietjens. The sisters have a life estate in the property. The Tietjens are doing a beautiful job of restoring the home, which was built in 1905. We met Terry, and recognize him to be one of the "salt of the earth" types -- honest, genuine, and a true Christian. Terry and Jerry take care of the Seelye sisters with the same care and affection they would give to their own grandmother.

In Watertown, Mass. there is a monument on the north bank of the Charles River, a statue of Sir Richard Saltonstall, who was the leader of the 40 men who founded Watertown. On the two sidewalls of the monument are inscribed the names of founders, which includes Robert Seely -- spelled SEELY.

I knew that Robert lived a few years in Wethersfield, Conn. and I wanted to locate the land he owned. I stopped at a little roadside fruit stand in the old part of town and asked the teenage boy in charge where I would find the historical society, or the courthouse. He replied, "If you want to know about the history of Wethersfield, go see Ed Willard. Go two blocks straight ahead, turn left, go one block and stop at the white house on the corner on the right. We did so. I knocked on the door; Mr. Willard

came to the door. I introduced myself, "I'm Montell Seely, from Utah. I'm doing research on my ancestors, and my 8th great grand-father was Robert Seely. He owned land here and I'd like to find it." Let me pause here and call to your attention that this is the year 1984. Robert came to Wethersfield in 1634, 350 years ago. So this is like looking for a needle in a strawstack, in a windstorm, on the Utah desert!

Well, when I said to Mr. Willard, "I'd like to find the land that he owned," a smile spread across his face. He opened the door wide and said 'you have come to the right place. This is the land he owned!"

For the next two hours we had a most rewarding visit with Ed and his gracious wife.

There is a marker placed on their property, at the corner of Broad & Elm Streets -3 and a half acres, SE corner of intersection.

Home Site of Capt. Robert Seeley  
One of the Adventurers, 1634  
Born in England, about 1608  
Died in Elizabeth, N.J. about 1666

Also, on the "green" (city square) a short distance from the home of Ed Willard, is a large marker erected by the Wethersfield Historical Society on June 8, 1934 and dedicated to the Memory of the Adventurers from Watertown, Mass., who settled Wethersfield in 1634 and one of the names shown thereon is Robert Seeley.

Robert owned land out on Long Island; so we braved the Manhattan, N.Y. traffic -- stopped to visit the Statue of Liberty on the way -- went over the Brooklyn Bridge, and found our way to Huntington, L.I. The city historian directed us to Baton's Neck, a parcel of 1200 acres, all of which Robert owned.

Robert's son, Nathaniel (1626-1675) lived most of his life in Fairfield, Conn. He was a Lt. in the Colonial Army, and was killed in an Indian battle that is now called "The Great Swamp Fight. This battle we learned took place in Rhode Island, so we went in that direction. After asking lots of questions for direction, we found the swamp, which is way out in the country. There is a monument there, with the date Dec. 19, 1675 but no names are on it. We followed a faint trail through the underbrush and swamp, picking our way over dead logs and across a small stream, until we came to a little clearing, where we had a short memorial service in honor of Nathaniel.

My next ancestor is Benjamin (3), son of Nathaniel. Our only lead was that he lived at East Hampton, L.I. We drove out there and searched, but found nothing.

Next came John (4). We located the land that he owned -- in Newtown, Conn., and then we moved on to New Milford and located the land he owned there.

*Please See Genealogical Journey Page 5*

## Genealogical Journey (*continued from page 4*)

Also found a copy of his will, and his signature. He spelled his name SEELYE. He died in 1740.

Next is Joseph (5) who lived almost his entire life of 80 years in New Milford, Conn. He owned the two or three water-powered sawmills, probably the up and down kind, and we even located the area on Rock Creek where one of them stood.

My next ancestor is Justus (6). He had an uncle and a cousin, both named Justus. By this time there were many Seelyes living in and around New Milford so there were many land records to search and it became time-consuming and confusing to try and keep them all straight.

This brought us to the year 1776 and the Revolutionary War. Joseph was about 65 years old, and apparently did not take sides, but his three sons did. Abner went with the patriots and apparently joined the Green Mountain Boys. Joseph Jr. and my ancestor, Justus (6) were loyalists and fought with the British Army. Justus became a sergeant in the King's American Dragoons.

After the war, Justus and his family became refugees to Canada. He received a land grant of 284 acres near the present town of Pennfield, N.B. It is still called Seeley's Cove, and is now owned by Edw.

and Frances Spear. We had traveled all night in order to get to Canada and have a full day to search. At 7 a.m. I stopped at a cafe to ask directions. Two old-timers were at a table having their morning coffee, and from them I learned that Seeley's Cove was just down the road a piece. It was 7:30 a.m. when I knocked on the Spear's door. I only wanted permission to look around and take some pictures of Seeley's Cove, but they insisted we come in and have breakfast, and then took us on a guided tour of the Cove. They have lived all their lives there, and make a living fishing for lobster and herring.

My next ancestor was Justus Azel (7). He and Justus (6) moved back to the States and lived in Luzerne, PA. We did not locate their land. Just prior to the War of 1812 they moved back to Canada—this time to Ontario, about 20 miles north of Toronto. We couldn't find their land, either.

This is only a small sampling of our activities on our trip in June and July, 1984. We barely "scratched the surface" in gathering the data available concerning our Seely ancestry. I hope to take many trips in search of our "roots".

**Sincerely,**  
**Montell Seeley**

## Longtime SGS Member Evelyn Thresher Passes Away



Evelyn A. Thresher, age 75, of Shelton, entered into rest Wednesday, March 30, 2005, at Lee County Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Fla.

She was the devoted wife of 56 years to William Thresher

Mrs. Thresher was born in Stratford, N.Y. on February 26, 1930, daughter of the late Albert and Hazel Seeley Gullis, and has been a Shelton

resident for the last 40 years. Evelyn was a graduate of Stratford High School in New York and SUNY of Cortland, N.Y.

She was a teacher at Mohegan School for 20 years, until her retirement in 1985, and had previously taught in New York for five years.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a past Matron of the Eastern Star in Ilion, N.Y.

Mrs. Thresher was a member of Genealogy and Quilting Societies and was an avid quilter.

She was a former member of the Shelton Education Association, a Girl Scout leader, and council member, and a past Deacon of the Huntington Congregational Church.

She enjoyed spending winters with her husband in Florida, and summers at their home in Upstate New York.

She was the beloved mother of William Thresher, Betty Zarrella, Evelyn Hallberg, and Barbara Truitt. She is also survived by her brother, George Gullis; and her sister, Pamela Leskovar; 10 loving grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews; and was predeceased by her brother, William Gullis.

Friends greeted the family on Monday, April 4, 2005, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Riverview Funeral Home in Shelton.

A funeral service was held Tuesday April 5, 2005 at the Huntington Congregational Church on Tuesday at 12 noon.

Her burial will be in the spring in the Dolgeville Cemetery in Dolgeville, N.Y.

At the request of the family, Memorial Contributions may be made to the Huntington Congregational Church, 19 Church Street, Shelton, Conn. 06484.

## Canadian Corner

By Dian Little



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This issue's Canadian Corner is a follow-up to the November 2004 issue in which we ran a small column about Captain Caleb Seeley who was one of the most successful privateers in the War of 1812. We heard from one of Captain Seeley's descendants. This is what he had to say:

I was surprised and pleased to read your note on my illustrious great-grandfather Caleb Seely in the November issue. He did indeed lead an interesting life and I thought I would add a few details concerning him.

He was a son of Ebenezer Seely and Bethiah Gilbert (from whom my given name ultimately derives) of Orange County, N. Y. In 1783 the family left for the Maritimes for reasons which seemed good at the time. They soon took up commercial activity including the popular and lucrative business of privateering.

The *Liverpool Packet* was a rehabilitated and renamed former slaver bought by Enos Collins of Liverpool, N. S. During the War it was captained by Joseph Barss until his capture, and somewhat later by young Caleb. They both seem to have been quite successful in terrorizing shipping off the coast of New

England. Proceeds from cargo sales and other commercial ventures made Enos Collins one of the richest men in Canada, rich enough to found the first bank in Nova Scotia.

Caleb also did well for himself by marrying Enos's younger half-sister Phoebe. He and later his son Edwin Collins acquired a small fleet of sailing vessels which plied the Caribbean trade through much of the 19th century. After Edwin Collins died, and with the decline of sailing vessels toward the end of the century, the remaining ships were sold, and most of E. C.'s children packed up and moved to Blaine, Washington and vicinity, where the fishing industry was booming, and where eventually I was born.

Among my relics of that era are a painting of the bark *Vesta* and a silver-capped walking stick given to Caleb in 1864 by his granddaughters, the Agnew sisters, and an account book for some of the vessels. More information about this period of Nova Scotia history can be found in the Simeon Perkins House Museum in Liverpool, which Caleb bought and in which his descendants lived until 1935.

There is a family legend that Caleb danced a jig to celebrate the establishment of the Dominion of Canada, two years before his death in 1869.

I do not know of any living descendants of Caleb, other than my immediate family, that bear the Seely surname. If there are such, I would certainly like to hear about them.

Sincerely,  
Gilbert R. Seely

## Other Early Seeley Emigrants from England

As a way to help determine the ancestral lines of Seeleys (spelled a variety of ways) now living in North America, who haven't found a link with either Robert Seeley (immigrated in 1630) or Obadiah Seeley (first appearing in Stamford, CT records in the 1640s), the following is a short list of Seeleys who emigrated from England according to a document obtained from the LDS Church titled ***The Original Lists of Persons of Quality***. More about this document below:

1. W<sup>m</sup> Seely, 29 years was transported to "Barbadoes" on the *Alexander*. He took the required oath of allegiance. The *Alexander* departed England on "2 Maij 1635."
2. Henry Sealy departed England 16 August 1679 in the Ketch *Neptune* for Virginia, Joseph Knott Command<sup>r</sup>. A servant belonging to Henry Sealy, Thurlo Smith is also listed on the same boat.

A subtitle to this document is: ***Emigrants; Religious Exiles; Political Rebels; Serving Men Sold for a Term of Years; Apprentices; Children Stolen; Maidens Pressed; and others who went from***

***Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600 – 1700, with their ages, the localities where they formerly lived in the Mother Country, the Names of the ships in which they embarked, and other interesting particulars.*** Edited by John Camden Hotten, G.A. Baker & Co., Inc, New York, 1931. Microfiched 3 June 1987 Project and Fiche # 2PNK7-105 # 312, G.S. CALL # 6051412.

The document cautions that the pages DO NOT compile a complete list of the early settlers in America. Only those who left the shores of England LEGALLY appear. Passengers were "examined" by the minister as to their conformity to the church discipline of England, that they had taken the oaths of allegiance of supremacy, and that they paid a "subsidy" to the crown. "Among the thousands who emigrated to New England, it cannot be doubted but that a very large number left to avoid payment of the hateful subsidy, and that they would not take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy."

*This summary was made by Jim Seeley based on extracts of the above document provided by John R. Seeley on Oct. 30, 2004.*



## SGS International Reunion Set for Sept. 14-18

This section of the newsletter contains some information about the 11th International Reunion of the Seeley Genealogical Society reunion scheduled for Sept. 14-18. At the risk of sounding editorial, the reunion is an enormously good time for all who

attend, and it is hoped you will be able to make it. There are a number of speakers, presentations, and opportunities to exchange information as part of the schedule of events.

But why come to an SGS Reunion?

For Kathie Olsen, who has attended numerous SGS Reunions, and plans to attend this one, the answer is simple.

"It's just plain fun!" she said.

"There is something so special about being together with people who are somehow connected to you -- even if the connection is distant. It is an opportunity to meet people you haven't met before

and learn things you haven't learned before," she continued.

"The reunion organizers always work hard to provide a worthwhile schedule of activities, and besides that the company is good, and so is the food!" she said.

Ruthetta Hansen has also attended SGS Reunions in the past.

"Every reunion is a once in a lifetime event," said Hansen.

"It's not just any reunion, because of the quality of the events, the genuine spirit of fellowship, the attention to detail, and the over-all air of excitement and friendship prevalent throughout the reunion. All the SGS committees are working for you, so learning is an important part of our reunion, along with excellent speakers that provide us with useful information."

In addition to all that, there's also plenty to see and do while visiting Abilene, such as the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, the Great Plains Theatre Festival, and you can feed that sweet tooth at the Russell Stover Candies factory outlet.

So mark your calendar now for Sept. 14-18, 2005, and we'll see you in the country's heartland -- Abilene, Kansas --at the reunion!

## Accommodations in Abilene

The below rates were quoted to either Jim Seeley or Terry Tietjens as best available Reunion rates. The quotes were multiplied by 1.205 to include the 7.05% sales and 5% bed tax. Typically the larger and more beds, the higher the rates, thus the range in numbers. These rates have not been compared with best rates quoted on the Internet. When you call to make your reservations, be sure to mention the Seeley Genealogical Society Reunion.

| <b>Hotels and Motels</b>                        | <b>Rate</b>                             |
|---|---|
| Best Western President's Inn<br>785-263-2050    | \$42.20 to \$61.50                      |
| Days Inn<br>785-263-2800                        | \$54.20 (2 people)<br>Continental Bkfst |
| Diamond Motel<br>1-800-701-1000 or 785-263-2360 | \$42.20 (2 people)                      |
| Super 8 Motel<br>785-263-4545                   | \$48.20 to \$54.20                      |
| Holiday Inn Express<br>785-263-4049             | \$84.35 (2 people)<br>Continental Bkfst |

| <b>Bed &amp; Breakfasts</b>               | <b>Rate</b>         |
|---|---------------------|
| Victorian Reflections B&B<br>785-263-7774 | \$66.30 to \$102.40 |
| Ehrsam Place B&B<br>785-263-8747          | \$90.40 to \$114.50 |

| <b>Campgrounds</b>  |              |
|---|--------------|
| Covered Wagon Campground<br><a href="mailto:coveredwagon@w3ha.com">coveredwagon@w3ha.com</a>  | 785-263-2343 |
| Four Seasons RV Acres<br><a href="mailto:4seasons@access-one.com">4seasons@access-one.com</a> | 785-598-2221 |

## Reunion Presentations Planned

The following presentations are planned during the SGS Reunion Sept. 14-18, 2005. See the overall reunion agenda on page 8 for more details.

- The Seelye Research Center Filing System
- Update on Robert Seeley's Ancestry
- Update on Obadiah Seeley & Sarah Seeley Bruin
- Using the Family History Library
- Latest Changes to the three SGS Pubs
- Genealogy Training
- Plans for a Trip to Robert and Obadiah Seeleys' New England
- Use of the PAF Genealogy Application
- DNA Lineage Test Project Results To-date
- Robert and Mary Seeley's Courageous Trip to the New World
- The History of the Seelye Mansion
- A Report on the SGS 2004 Tour of England
- Report on the Federation of Genealogical Societies
- Another Robert Seeley in London (?)
- The SGS Ancestor File Index

Our Guest Speaker is Mary Jane McIntire from Salina, Kan. She will give a presentation on Friday afternoon and an after-dinner presentation on Friday evening.

The reunion schedule is filling up. However, if you would like to give a presentation, contact Jim Seeley as soon as possible at [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net).

## Overall Agenda for SGS Reunion, Sept. 14-18, 2005

(Agenda is subject to change.)

Upon arrival in Abilene, KS, pick up your Registration Packet (with name tag) at the Registration Desk.

| Date                            | Wednesday Sept. 14, 2005  | Thursday Sept. 15, 2005   | Friday Sept. 16, 2005  | Saturday Sept. 17, 2005   | Sunday Sept. 18, 2005  |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b><sup>1</sup>Registration</b> | 4:30 p.m.<br>Early Registration at Seelye Mansion.  | Registration<br>8:00-9:30 a.m. &<br>4:30-5:00 p.m.<br>(Civic Center)  | Registration<br>8:00-9:00 a.m.<br>4:30-5:00 p.m.<br>(Civic Center)                                 | Final Registration<br>8:00-9:00 a.m.<br>(Civic Center)  | A.M. – Attend church of your choice <sup>8</sup> .                         |
| <b>SRC Sked.</b>                | 4:30 p.m. –<br>9:00 p.m.<br>Seelye Research Center ( <b>SRC</b> ) Open                              | 8:00 a.m. –<br>9:00 p.m.<br>SRC Open  | 8:00 a.m. –<br>9:00 p.m.<br>SRC Open   | 11:30 a.m. –<br>9:00 p.m.<br>SRC Open   | 8:00 a.m. –<br>6:00 p.m.<br>SRC Open                                       |
| <b>AM</b>                       |   | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.<br>Opening Session, welcome, introductions, announcements.                                    | 9:00-11:30 a.m.<br>Presentations,<br><b>Abilene Trolley Tour</b> or study at SRC                   | <b>9:00-11:30 a.m. Business Meeting</b><br>Voting - All should attend.  | 10:00 a.m. –<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Alternate time for New Director's meeting    |
| <b>Lunch</b>                    |   | 11:30 a.m.<br>Lunch on your own. Noon: <b>Final sign-up for Fri. Trolley Tour</b> .                             | 11:30 a.m. –<br><sup>3</sup> Catered lunch at Civic Center by Kirby House Restaurant               | 11:30 a.m. –<br><sup>3</sup> Catered lunch at Civic Center by Barb's Deli Restaurant                                    | Noon- <b>Free Farewell Brunch</b> <sup>2</sup> on the Lawn, Seelye Mansion |
| <b>PM</b>                       | 2:30 p.m. –<br>SGS Board meeting in SRC.  | 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.<br>Presentations or tours or study at SRC  | 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.<br>Presentations & <b>Guest Speaker</b>   | 12:30 p.m.<br>Mansion Tour; Presentations; Closing remarks.   | Farewell and have a safe journey home!                                     |
|                                 |   |   |  | 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.<br>Director's Mtg.   |  |
| <b>Dinner</b>                   | 6:00 p.m. –<br><b>Free</b> BBQ on the Seelye Mansion Lawn hosted by Board of Directors <sup>2</sup> | 6:00 p.m. –<br><sup>3</sup> Pay ahead Dinner at Mr. K's <sup>4</sup> . Presentation: History of Seelye Mansion. | 6:30 p.m. – <sup>3</sup> Pay ahead Dinner at Brookville Hotel <sup>5</sup><br><b>Guest Speaker</b> | 6:00 p.m. -<br><sup>3</sup> Dinner at Abilene Country Club <sup>6</sup> . Install new officers, Report on England tour. |  |

### NOTES:

- The registration fee is \$12 per person. Registration packets will be provided. The registration desk will not be open during meeting times. Registration forms are available in this newsletter and online at <http://www.seeley-society.net>. Please pay for meals and Abilene Trolley Tour when you register.
- Your SGS Board of Directors will host the free Welcome BBQ on Wednesday and the free farewell brunch on Sunday, both at the Seelye Mansion.
- Non-registered attendees may pay at the registration desk as long as you do so TWO days ahead of time (for caterer notification purposes).
- Thursday evening PAY AHEAD dinner will be at Mr. K's Farm House at 6:00 p.m. Directions are in your registration packet.

5. Friday family style chicken dinner PAY AHEAD dinner will be at the Brookville Hotel at 6:30 p.m. Directions are in your registration packet.

6. Saturday night PAY AHEAD buffet dinner will be at the Abilene Country Club. Directions are in your registration packet.

7. A copy of presentations and speeches will be available in the 2005 Reunion Souvenir Book available for \$25 from the registrar. The book will be similar to the 2003 Reunion Souvenir Book (available for review in SRC).

8. A list of churches and their locations is in your registration packet.

Please pre-register and pay ahead for lunches, dinners, and the Abilene Trolley Tour. We must give exact numbers well ahead of time. Registration form is in this newsletter and at [www.seeley-Society.net](http://www.seeley-Society.net)

## 2005 SGS Reunion Souvenir Book

We plan to publish a reunion souvenir book again this year. The book will be a great souvenir for those who attend the reunion. It will document, in words and pictures, all the activities that occur during the reunion for those who would like to attend but just can't for health or other reasons. There is a special reunion logo that will appear on the cover. The format will be similar to the 2003 Reunion Souvenir Book (held in Williamsburg, VA) that was dedicated to the memory of SGS Founder, Garner Osborn. The cost of the book will be \$25.00 and it will be dedicated to a deceased or living Member of SGS. Paul Taylor published the 2003 book and has agreed to do so again in 2005.

The 2005 Reunion Souvenir Book will also contain copies of the presentations by members and the guest speaker, a copy of the approved constitution and by-laws, a list of reunion attendees, reunion photographs, and more.

You will be able sign up for and pay for your souvenir book at the reunion when you see the registrar. Checks should be made payable to SGS. If

you can't attend the reunion, order your book from Jim Seeley and mail your check to him, payable to SGS, at 108 Westridge Drive, Churchville, VA 24421. Proceeds will help cover reunion expenses.

### Stern NARA Gift Fund

Since its inception in 1983, the Malcolm H. Stern NARA Gift Fund (named for the first chairman of the fund) has contributed nearly \$100,000 to the National Archives and Records Administration to create finding aids and produce microfilms of interest to the genealogical community. It has been funded primarily by \$1 contributions from members of societies who are members of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

If you plan to attend the SGS Reunion in September, we will take up a collection from attendees for the Stern NARA Gift Fund at that time. If you cannot attend the Reunion, please send me your contribution. I'll consolidate them then forward the contributions on to the SGS Treasurer. My address is on page 15. **Jim Seeley**

### 2005 SGS Reunion Registration Form

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):</b>                | <b>LINE (e.g. NATHANIEL, OBADIAH, OTHER):</b>          |
| <b>ADDRESS (NUMBER, STREET):</b>                          | <b>TELEPHONE NO.:</b>                                  |
| <b>ADDRESS (CITY,STATE,ZIP):</b>                          | <b>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</b>                                 |
| <b>ADDITIONAL GUEST NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL LAST)</b> | <b>RELATIONSHIP (i.e. SPOUSE, SON, DAUGHTER, ETC.)</b> |
| <b>ADDITIONAL GUEST NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL LAST)</b> | <b>RELATIONSHIP (i.e. SPOUSE, SON, DAUGHTER, ETC.)</b> |
| <b>ADDITIONAL GUEST NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL LAST)</b> | <b>RELATIONSHIP (i.e. SPOUSE, SON, DAUGHTER, ETC.)</b> |

### Reunion Expenses

|  |                     |                     |                  |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Registration Fee</b>  | <b># of guests:</b> | <b>@\$12.00 ea.</b> | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
| <b>Lunch Friday, Catered by Kirby House</b>                    | <b># of guests:</b> | <b>@ \$7.50 ea.</b> | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
| <b>Lunch Saturday Catered by Barb's Deli</b>                   | <b># of guests:</b> | <b>@ \$7.00 ea.</b> | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
| <b>Dinner Thursday @ Mr. K's Farm House</b>                    | <b># of guests:</b> | <b>@\$12.00 ea.</b> | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
| <b>Dinner Friday @ Brookville Hotel (Chicken Family Style)</b> | <b># of guests:</b> | <b>@\$17.00 ea.</b> | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
| <b>Dinner Saturday @ Country Club (Buffet)</b>                 | <b># of guests:</b> | <b>@\$18.00 ea.</b> | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
| <b>Abilene Trolley Tour</b>                                    | <b>#of guests:</b>  | <b>@\$3.00 ea.</b>  | <b>Subtotal:</b> |
|  |                     |                     | <b>TOTAL:</b>    |

Make checks payable to SGS and mail to: Jim Seeley, SGS President  
108 Westridge Drive  
Churchville, VA 24421

Contact Jim for more information at [jrseeley@aol.com](mailto:jrseeley@aol.com) or [jrseeley@adelphia.net](mailto:jrseeley@adelphia.net) or via telephone at (540) 337-8633

**Sites to Visit: Seelye Mansion, Eisenhower Center, Candy Factory, Lebold Mansion, Dickenson County Historical Society, Greyhound Hall of Fame, and Old Abilene Town.**

## DNA Testing (*continued from page 3*)

detailed uses of DNA analysis for the benefit of members.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1860–1862, repr. Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1965), 4: 49. Savage even felt rather confident in this relationship, using the words, "Obadiah, Stamford, prob[ably] s[on] of Robert . . ." Elijah B. Huntington, *History of Stamford, Connecticut From Its Settlement in 1641 To The Present Time* (Stamford: the author, 1868, repr. Harrison, N.Y.: Harbor Hill Books, 1979), 61, perhaps following Savage, since the word "probably" is used again here for the relationship.

<sup>2</sup> Donald L. Jacobus, *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield*, 2 volumes in 3 (Fairfield, Conn.: Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter, NSDAR, 1930–1932, repr. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1976), 1: 525.

<sup>3</sup> As recently as 1998–1999, one of us (FCH) was asked to undertake some research and analysis on this subject for SGS. Although some new information was added to the mix, none of it rose to the level of being conclusive on the issue of a Robert/Obadiah relationship.

<sup>4</sup> *The American Genealogist*, 22 [1962]: 194; Ralph M. Seeley, "The English Life of Robert Seeley," *Register*, 116 [1962]: 159–65.

<sup>5</sup> "Addenda & Comments on Alan J. Phipps, 'The English Ancestry of Robert Seeley,'" *SGS Newsletter*, Issue 34 [February 1983]: 7.

<sup>6</sup> Harold N. Fanjoy and C. G. Ward, *The Seeleys of New Brunswick*, First Edition (Saint John, New Brunswick: Ronalds Printing, 1992), 1–11 at 5–6.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 15, 340.

<sup>8</sup> Robert C. Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 3: 1650.

<sup>9</sup> *OxfordAncestors.com*

<sup>10</sup> The SGS ID numbers were assigned at a time when it was still considered likely that Obadiah was a son of Capt. Robert, and that numbering is preserved today as a convenience.

<sup>11</sup> [www.seeley-society.net/final\\_report.html](http://www.seeley-society.net/final_report.html). The project management and analysis on the site is provided by Dr. Ken McCrea (Ken@SeeleyDNA.info).

<sup>12</sup> *FamilyTreeDNA.com*

<sup>13</sup> Florence Christoph, *Upstate New York in the 1760s*, (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992), 244. He was described as twenty-two years old and from Boston.

<sup>14</sup> Alan J. Phipps, "Seeley Interim Research Report," prepared for the 23–26 August 1989 Annual Reunion of the SGS, 6.

FREDERICK C. HART, JR., CG, can be contacted at

Hartfc@aol.com; the Seeley Society home page is [seeleysociety.net](http://seeleysociety.net).

**ANITA A. LUSTENBERGER, CG**, although bereft of Seeley ancestry, is certified in genetic counseling and in genealogy.

*Column note:* Persons wishing to contact Hubert F. Cobb ("Cobb Family Genetics Study," winter 2005) regarding Cobb ancestry should use his new email address: [hfcobb@securespeed.us](mailto:hfcobb@securespeed.us).

Reprinted by permission of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Frederick C. Hart, Jr., and Anita A. Lustenberger, "DNA Testing Results Settle a Long-Standing Question in the Seeley Family," *New England Ancestors* 6 (spring 2005): 46–7, 51.

For more information about New England Ancestors magazine and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, please visit [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org).

### Genealogy Tip From SGS Assistant Genealogist Jane Carpenter

Just when I thought I had my line absolutely correct, I found that something just didn't fit.

While reviewing my Seeley dependency chart, I noticed that one of the "branches" was only two years of age when his first child was born. This proved to me once again that we very much need to review our data and have at least two if not three sources proving our family tree. I went back to my original notes and discovered that I had omitted one generation and picked up the wrong grandson in another. Thus the mistake.

My line now reads: (1) Thomas Seeley (2) William Seeley (3) Robert Seeley, (4) Nathaniel Seeley (5) Benjamin Seeley (6) John Seeley (7) Ebenezer Seeley (8) Ebenezer Seeley (9) Jeduthan Seeley (10) Horace Gibbs Seeley (11) William B. Seeley (12) Raymond Sylvester Seeley (my father) (13) Jane Alice Seeley (me).

My error was I had a David where the second Ebenezer (#8) now is located. I went back to the Conn. records, found the probate and land records and proved that Ebenezer (#7) had a son Ebenezer (#8) and so on.

My purpose in sending this little reminder is to say that each of us needs to review our records periodically, especially noting dates, places and sources. I once spent over six months researching a line that I later found was no relation to me whatever. Be careful not to "make things fit" if they don't. Hope this helps someone find someone special. We all can learn something new every day. Good hunting!

**Jane Carpenter**  
**SGS Assistant Genealogist**

## Seeley Military Notes

**Staff Sgt. Richard E. Seeley,  
U.S. Marine Corps**



AL TAQADDUM, Iraq (March 31, 2005) - Staff Sgt. Richard E. Seeley, external UAV pilot and native of Eustis, Fla., watches as Marines from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2 taxi a Pioneer UAV down the flight line prior to take off. External pilots control the aircraft during takeoffs and landings, and then pass off the controls to the internal pilots in the ground control station. The Pioneers are capable of up to 5 hours of flight, and respond to missions throughout the Al Anbar province. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Cpl. Rocco DeFilippis)

Vehicle Squadron 2 taxi a Pioneer UAV down the flight line prior to take off. External pilots control the aircraft during takeoffs and landings, and then pass off the controls to the internal pilots in the ground control station. The Pioneers are capable of up to 5 hours of flight, and respond to missions throughout the Al Anbar province. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Cpl. Rocco DeFilippis)

### **Private James C. Seale, U.S. Army**

(AFNEWS HTNC, March 11, 2005) -- Army Pvt. James C. Seale has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Jim and Donna Seale of Tanglewood, San Angelo, Texas.

The private is a 2001 graduate of San Angelo Central High School.

### **Private Clois L. Seely, U.S. Army**

(AFNEWS HTNC, Feb. 22, 2005) -- Army Pvt. Clois L. Seely has graduated from the Light-wheeled Vehicle Mechanic advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

The course is designed to train soldiers to perform maintenance, troubleshoot, and repair wheeled vehicles and related mechanical components, including suspension systems, internal combustion engines and power trains, spark- and compression-ignition engines, wheel-hub assemblies, hydraulic brake and steering systems, and operate a

wheeled vehicle crane, hoist, and winch assemblies.

He is the son of John W. and Tammy M. Seely of S. Denton, Weatherford, Texas.

Seely is a 2004 graduate of Weatherford High School.

### **Major Scott D. Seeley, U.S. Army Reserve**

Scott D. Seeley was born in 1961 in South Ruislip, London, England. He moved around with his family to several locations including Ethiopia, Africa. Scott's father, Carl W. Seeley, retired from over 20 years of service in Ayer, MA in 1968. Scott went to Ayer Jr./Sr. High School where he excelled in several sports including football and wrestling. He was a Life Boy Scout and active with the local Catholic Church.

After graduating from high school in 1979, Scott enlisted in the U.S. Army as a military policeman. He served as an MP at Fort Dix and deployed to Fort McCoy to guard migrant Cubans in 1980. Scott applied for and was selected to attend the U.S. Military Academy Prep School. Scott subsequently received several nominations and an appointment to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Scott played one year of football and earned several letters throwing the hammer and weight for the West Point Track and Field Team. He achieved a life long dream by graduating with a commission as a 2nd Lt. in the Field Artillery in 1985. Upon graduating from USMA, Scott attended the Field Artillery Basic Course and was assigned to Nurnberg, Germany. Scott spent five years in Germany assigned as a fire direction officer, platoon leader and battalion adjutant. Scott returned to Fort Sill in 1990 where he attended the Field Artillery Advance Course and commanded a battery. Scott departed Fort Sill in 1993 for the Miami Recruiting Battalion in South Florida. His assignments with the Miami Hurricane Recruiting Battalion include the battalion operations officer and battalion executive officer. Scott chose to take an early retirement in 1996 remaining in the Individual Ready Reserve.

Scott was recalled into the Reserves in 1999. He served as the battalion operations officer for the 419<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion in Bartonville, Illinois from 1999 to 2001. Scott is currently the Battalion Executive for the 766<sup>th</sup> TC Battalion located in South Bend, IN. Scott recently mobilized with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently a Major and continues to serve in the Reserves with the 766<sup>th</sup> TC Battalion.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5 Awards), Army Achievement Medal (4 Awards), Army Good Conduct Award, Humanitarian Service Medal, War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Army,

*Please See Military Notes Page 12*

## Seeley Military Notes (*continued from page 11*)

Reserve Component Achievement Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization and 10 Year Devices, and Airborne Badge. Scott is the Manager Composite Products for Certaineed Corporation in Jackson, MI. Scott resides in MI with his Wife Carol, Sons Jeremy (22), Keenan (16) and Daughter Katie (16)

### Sergeant Cregg Sealy, U.S. Marine Corps



AL ASAD, Iraq (April 8, 2005) – Sgt. Cregg A. Sealy, border patrol instructor and native of Brooklyn, N.Y., yells out instructions while Iraqi Border Patrolmen conduct marksmanship training here. Sealy and his fellow instructors trained 45 patrolmen, who graduated the three-week course April 9. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Cpl. Rocco DeFilippis)

### Sergeant Wayne P. Seeley, U.S. Army

SGT Seeley joined the Marine Corps in May 1987, and graduated from Marine Corp Boot Camp at Marine Corp Recruit Depot Paris Island, S.C. Later in 1987 he finished School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, N.C. and was assigned to 2nd Battalion 8th Marines. Late in 1988, he was assigned to 2nd Light Armor Infantry Battalion and became a Light Armor Vehicle crewmember. While in the 2nd LAI BN, he was deployed in support of Operation Just Cost in Panama in 1989 as well as Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield from late 1990 and into early 1991. In May 1991, he was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps.

While in the Marine Corps he earned the Marine Corp Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Southwest Asia Service Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> award), and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> award).

In Nov. 1991, he joined the Massachusetts Army National Guard and was assigned to B Company of

the 181 Infantry. While with the MA Army National Guard, he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) Professional Development Ribbon and the Army Service Ribbon.

In June 2000, he joined the Active Army and went to UH-60 Blackhawk Utility Helicopter Maintainers Course and was awarded the Aviator Crewmember Badge. After graduation in Nov. 2000, he was assigned to C Company 1st Battalion of the 52nd Aviation in Soul, Korea. While in the 52nd, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Since Nov. 2001 he has been assigned to a unit stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. He graduated from Aviation Life Support Equipment School, Environmental Quality Officer School, Dunker Training, Dunker Instructor Course, Life Guard Course, Helicopter Oxygen Supply System Course and Oxygen Cylinder Inspector Course. He has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and has earned the Army Commendation Medal (2nd award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Major Seeley and SGT Seeley are both the sons of Mr. Carl Seeley who sent in their biographies. Carl is himself a veteran of the U.S. Military and we look forward to seeing his bio in a future issue!*

### New SGS Members

#### Beatrice A Seeley Ketner

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 4030 Oak Ridge Dr<br>Harrison, MI 48625-9017 | Wayne P Seeley<br>5034 Teeter St NR B<br>Ft Campbell, KY 42223 |
|--|--|

#### Mr. Brian Longeway

|   |   |
|---|---|
| PO Box 820<br>Carstairs, AB TOM ONO<br>CANADA | Fawn M Ketner Keegan<br>10418 McBroom St<br>Shadow Hills, CA 91040<br>-1226 |
|---|---|

#### Patricia J. Raikes

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1316 SW Western Ave #6<br>Topeka, KS 66604-2969 | <b>New SGS LIFE Member</b> |
|---|----------------------------|

#### Michael C Seeley

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 101 Mason Rd<br>W Townsand, MA 01474 | Robert & Sharon Seeley<br>2334 S Balsam Ln<br>Lakewood, CO<br>80227-3162 |
|--------------------------------------|--|

#### Scott D Seeley

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 5025 Mable St<br>Jackson, MI 49202 |  |
|------------------------------------|--|

## SGS Queries

**(Data as of April 10, 2005)**

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

Please send your queries to Query Editor Linda Crocker at [lhc100@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lhc100@hotmail.co.uk) or mail to Linda at home (see new address). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor and are then sent to the Query Team and Area Coordinators. 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 remember to also send a copy of the information to Linda so the query can be updated in the next newsletter.**

### QUERY UPDATES

**Update to Query 0408-1** Re: James T. Seeley

Susan Scott ([sscotty@cox.net](mailto:sscotty@cox.net)) has contacted us again about James Seely, our SGS#520.

She asks if the James T. Seeley listed on the 1810 and 1820 census in Williamson, Ontario Co., NY is the same James Seeley listed on the 1800 census in Romulus, Seneca Co., NY? The James Seeley listed in Romulus married Miss Galloway and is the son of John Seeley and Mary Corner Seeley. James Seeley's daughter, Betsey Elizabeth Seeley, married Francis Drake in Ovid, Seneca Co., NY. Their grandson was James Thomas Drake. As there is no Thomas in our Drake line, this may be where the name came from. Any help will be appreciated!

**Update to Query 0502-5** Re: John Seely of Hudson Co. NJ

Jim Seeley, SGS President, responded to Anita Woods, the submitter of this query. He suggested that if she hits a brick wall that she look into having a DNA test done on a Seely-surnamed male descendant of John Seely. This would be a way to focus her research in the right area if the test were to match other test results and link her Seely to either Robert Seeley or Obadiah Seeley.

### NEW QUERIES

**Query 0505-1** Submitted by Roger T. Seelye

Subject: Wilbur Seelye

Roger is looking for Wilbur Seelye's parents and siblings. Wilbur was born around 1860-65?, married Elizabeth C. Morgan-who was born in 1866 at Grand Island, NY and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan with her parents in 1876. Wilbur and Elizabeth (marriage date and place unknown) had three children: Wilbur, Agnes and Arthur (Roger's father), all born in Michigan. Arthur was born in Allegan, MI in 1894. Wilbur died in 1901. Wilbur had a brother Edgar who lived in Greenville, MI and died around 1955-60. Roger's father said that his father Wilbur had several brothers that scattered and were not kept track of. He

would like to find Wilbur's father and siblings

**SGS Interim Response:** John R. Seely, SGS Database Coordinator responded that Wilbur Hill Seelye and his wife, Elizabeth Cordelia Morgan are in the 9th generation of descent from Robert Seeley through his son, Nathaniel.

Wilbur's parents, according to the SGS Database are Barnabus H. & Mary Ellen (Hill) "Seeley". Barnabus is SGS#2628 in the *Seventh Generation Families* published by SGS. John was able to provide Roger with information on Wilbur's siblings. He asked Roger to send along information on his mother, wife of Arthur.

**Query 0505-2** Submitted by Dick Kellerman ([rkbk2526@aol.com](mailto:rkbk2526@aol.com))

Subject: Phoebe Ball Wood, wife of Daniel Seeley, SGS# 609

Dick wants to know if we have any more information on Daniel Seeley's 2nd wife Phoebe Ball Wood? Daniel was a Revolutionary War Veteran. The Seventh Generation book indicated she may be the daughter of Eliphalet Ball, founder of Ballston NY. Their son Hirman Seeley and Hester Selleck were Dick's 2nd Great Grandparents. He has various pictures of people in his line and is willing to share.

**SGS Interim Response:** No new information has been received. Dick was encouraged to submit the photos to the Seeley Research Center. Anyone with information on Phoebe Ball should send it to Dick and send a copy to me, your Query Editor.

**Query 0505-3** Submitted by David Seeley ([seeleyjh@comcast.net](mailto:seeleyjh@comcast.net))

David is the great-grandson of John Byron Seeley (1843-1926) and Jane Ann (Wasson) Seeley (1855 –1939). John B's father was Austin Seeley (circa 1803 – early 1850's). Austin spent many years in Inverness County in Nova Scotia near the River Denys Basin where he operated a sawmill.

He married Lucy Vaughn in 1836-37. Their children were James W. (1838), Hiram H., John Byron (1843), Ann, Jane, Walter, and Benjamin Franklin. The family left Nova Scotia in the early 1850's and moved to Refrew, Ontario. Austin died in 1858 (or so) and many family members moved to Illinois. Census records from some of Austin's children indicate that they believed their father was born in New York. However, my great-grandfather's census records denote his father, Austin was born in Massachusetts. Please note Austin Seeley of Vermont is not the Austin he is referring to.

As a result of David's participation in the SGS DNA study, he believes he is in the Obadiah line through Ebenezer, SGS #476. A theory that David is considering is that Austin's father was James D.

*Please See SGS Constitution &By-Laws Page 14*

## Queries (*continued from page 6*)

Seeley, son of Ebenezer. In 1783 Ebenezer, a Loyalist, was kicked out of Orange County, New York, and took his family to St. John, New Brunswick.

Can anyone verify this theory? David would also appreciate any information on Lucy Vaughan (Austin's wife), who is believed to be from a shipbuilding family in eastern Canada.

**SGS Interim Response:** Jim Seeley suggested that David consult *The Seelys of New Brunswick* by Fanjoy and Ward.

**Query 0505-4** Submitted by Judy Laslo ([juteshouse@comcast.net](mailto:juteshouse@comcast.net))

Subject: Laura Seeley

Judy is trying to locate the parents of Laura Seeley b abt 1803 in Fairfield County Connecticut. She married Zalmon Coley abt 1828 in Fairfield County CT. Laura died March 16, 1869 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County CT. She and her husband and many of her children are buried in Stepney cemetery, Stepney, Fairfield County CT. Stepney is a little town between Newtown, CT and Monroe, CT. Death records at Bridgeport town hall just give date of death - no parents or cause of death mentioned. A death notice in the Bridgeport Post dated March 17, 1869 also doesn't mention the parents of Laura.

Census records for 1830 have Zalmon & Laura Coley living in Trumbull, Fairfield County, CT with 1 male under 5, 1 male 20-30, 2 females under 5, 1 female 5-10, 1 female 20-30. Because of this census report Judy assumes that Zalmon Coley and Laura Seeley were married in Trumbull, Connecticut. In 1840 they were living in Weston, Fairfield County Connecticut. In 1850 & 1860 they were living in Newtown, Fairfield County Connecticut. Zalmon & Laura moved to Stepney, Connecticut sometime between 1860-1865.

Does anyone know if Laura Seeley Coley is the Laura Seeley b 1801 in Weston, Fairfield County Connecticut, daughter of Nathaniel Freeman Seeley (SGS # 1904) & Ann Haines?

**SGS Interim Response:** The Query Team hasn't found anything for Judy. Can anyone else help?

**Query 0505-5** Submitted by Evelyn Marsh ([o\\_e\\_marshall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:o_e_marshall@sbcglobal.net))

Evelyn's husband's maternal great-grandmother was Lucy Parker Freeman (b.13 Oct 1841 in Sumpter County, AL) and m. Orlando Stinson Holland (b.06 Oct. 1827 in Thomaston, Upson, GA) 01 Feb 1859 in Enterprise, Clark Co., MS. She is buried in the Seeley Plot in New Haven, CT.

Lucy's parents were George Freeman & Theresa Tatt according to information on the back of a professional photo of Lucy and her older sister (unknown name). This sister married a Seeley and they had a child Minnie Seeley. Minnie Seeley married Sam Post of Newton, CT who became a state senator. Her second marriage was to Frederick

M. Ward of New Haven, CT. Evelyn would like to know the name of Lucy's sister, the name of the cemetery in New Haven and whether Minnie is the abbreviation of another name, possibly Matilda.

**SGS Interim Response:** I found George and Theresa Freeman in the 1850 census of Sumter Co. AL but their daughters don't correspond to Evelyn's information. I found Minnie listed as Minnie S. Post in the 1910 census of New Haven, CT, age 50 and a widow working as a housekeeper for Alexander M. Ward Age 93 and his son Frederick M. (age 54). Lucy Holland (age 59) was with Kate Holland (age 25) in the 1890 census in Bibb Co. GA both lodging with Julia Goodall, a widow age 66, her 3 daughters Jessie, 42, Minnie, 24 and Julia, 21 and a son Jno. In the 1860 census of Mobile, AL I found Seth D. Seeley, age 26, b. CT with his wife Julia, age 20, b. AL and dau. Mary, 3 mos., b. AL. In 1870 the family is in New Haven with Mary now age 10 and 2<sup>nd</sup> dau. Julia age 6. Perhaps Minnie is Mary and Lucy's sister is Julia??? So far I haven't been able to find Lucy and Julia together as sisters in a Freeman family. Please send me a copy of any further information about this family. Also, who is Seth D. Seeley?

## HOW TO SUBMIT A QUERY

If you would like to submit a query please follow a few guidelines. **Be specific and detailed:** Give us as much information as you have about the person or family in question, especially dates and locations.

**What resources have you already consulted?** The SGS Publications? The census? Cemetery records? Ancestry.com? Others? (specify) **What exactly do you want to know?** Parent's names and details? Information on siblings? Information on a family marrying into the Seeley family? **After your query is printed** please keep us informed about any information you receive or any further progress you make on your own. Other members may also be interested or related to your line. One more name, date or place may be the key to connecting your line to another. Your query will also be posted on our website. Make sure we have your current email and normal address – sometimes we get information several months after publication.

SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker is in the process of moving from England back to the United States. Her address from April 25 to Aug. 1 is:

Parkerpointe Townhouses, Suite 2  
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Parkersburg, WV 26104

After Aug. 1, her address will be:

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Parkersburg, WV 26101

For the time being her e-mail address will remain:  
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## SGS Publications Available for Order

All Checks should be made payable to SGS.

There are three major SGS publications available for order from the Seelye Research Center.

1. ***The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657): Generations One Through Five, 1997 Edition (U.S. \$17)***
2. ***The Sixth Generation Families, 1995 Edition (U.S. \$17)***
3. ***The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1601-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 2000 Edition (U.S. \$25)***

Order from Terry Tietjens at the Seelye Research Center for information (contact data below).

Prior issues of the **SGS Newsletter** are also available through the Seelye Research Center and can be purchased for \$2 each.

Finally, the **SGS CD-ROM** includes numerous files in both MS Word and Adobe Acrobat formats, both easily searchable. The **SGS CD-ROM** (U.S.\$15) is available from Bob Seeley (see contact data below). It includes:

### Folder A - SGS Publications

(By Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen)

1. Generations One Through Five Robert & Obadiah
2. Sixth Generation Robert
3. Sixth Generation Obadiah
4. Seventh Generation Robert
5. Seventh Generation Obadiah

### Folder B - SGS Ancestral File Index (Database Index by John R. Seely)

1. John Seely Seeley List
2. Seeley Children, Alphabetical List
3. Seeley Children, List by Mother
4. Non-Seeley Children, Alphabetical List
5. Non-Seeley Children, List by Seeley Mother
6. Submitters SGS

### Folder C - Fred C. Hart, Jr., CG Research Reports on Obadiah Seeley (with attachments)

1. Origin of Obadiah Seeley
  - a. Chronological Listing of Obadiah Seeley's Stamford, CT Records
  - b. Stamford, CT Records (Introduction)
2. Obadiah's Relationship with John Lawre(n)son and Family of John Miller
  - a. Lawre(n)son/Seeley Events
  - b. Miller - Seeley Events
3. Origin of Early Stamford Settlers
  - a. Register of St Martin
  - b. The Family of William Seeley
  - c. Stamford Settlers Before 1700
4. Mary, Wife of Obadiah
  - a. Doubtful Angel
5. Probate Record for William Seeley

### Folder D - Report from Alan Phipps, MA, AG,

1. The English Ancestry of Robert Seeley

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**DESCENDANT OF:**     Robert     Obadiah     Other (Attached)     Unknown

I/we have submitted our Seeley line back as far as known  
to Terry Tietjens, Director, Seelye Research Center,  
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