



Seeley Genealogical Society

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10 August 2013

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SUBJ: OUTSTANDING SGS VOLUNTEERS, 2011 TO 2013

The Seeley website, at www.seeley-society.net, was designed, developed, and is maintained by SGS LIFE Members (Mr. and Mrs.) Chris and Jerry Havnar. In 2004 they took over the Seelye website from Daniel Seelye (SGS president from 1998 to 2001).

The tabs leading to major “pages” of the website provide a glimpse into the large volume of data and information there. The pages are: Home, Our Genealogy, SGS Research, Queries, Photo Gallery, Membership, FAQ, and About Us.

The second page, “Our Genealogy” contains most of the expanded Seeley Family Genealogical information.

The third page, SGS Research contains Seeley DNA Project information, copies of all SGS funded research on immigrants Robert and Obadiah Seeley, and a listing of all documents shelved at the Seelye Research Center in Abilene, KS along with locating guidelines.

The fourth page, Queries, lists all queries submitted by Seeley members and researchers since 2000. Query numbers are assigned for ease of reference. Responses by the SGS Chief Genealogist are provided.

The fifth page, Photo Gallery, contains photographs of some of the SGS leadership over the years.

The sixth page, Membership, contains a copy of all quarterly SGS Newsletters published since 2000 and other key society information including a membership application form.

The seventh page, FAQ or Frequently Asked Questions, provides in a question and answer format, information commonly asked about the Seeley Genealogical Society.

The eighth and last page, About Us, contains limited information about the Society.

Just maintaining the website is a daily chore. Yet, about three times a week, Chris checks various websites for recent obituaries. Approximately every six weeks or so she checks the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), to ensure that SGS has all published obituaries. For those folks for whom SGS does not already have an obituary she goes to Google.com leading her to a mortuary that has a published obituary or a small town newspaper. As of July 10, 2011 there were 3055 obituaries on the website. She has made a special effort to search for obituaries for Seeley born women. They are then passed on for SGS database entries and to the Seelye Research Center Librarian. Recently, she has added a section under obituaries called “Daughters” that now contains 356 women who were born as a Seeley (of various spellings) and had an obituary published under their married name.

Chris has added a list of Seeley Veterans that she obtains from various published sources as well as SGS Members. She has added a list of Seeley Marriages that have occurred about 50 years ago or more. Vital

Records are captured and much, much more.

Besides her work on the website Chris has spent countless hours over several years working in conjunction with the Chief Genealogist, Linda Crocker, to improve and expand the SGS Ancestor File (database). She researches each obituary she adds to the website and uses any information she finds to update or add to the information in the SGS Ancestor File. She has also sorted through the data at the Seelye Research Center and online sources for other documents such as wedding announcements, biographies, news stories, etc., that she can add to the website and use as source material for the database. Everything Chris finds is sent on for filing at the Research Center. Chris proofs all the entries Linda makes to the database. Her attention to detail in correcting errors found in the database has been praised by those volunteers she works with. Before each SGS Reunion, Chris prepares a clean version of the SGS Ancestor File so that the SGS CD-ROM can be updated to the most recent version.

In past years, Chris has served as SGS Treasurer. She recently volunteered to serve and was approved by the SGS Executive Board as interim SGS Secretary until a replacement is installed during the 2013 SGS Reunion.

Jerry has worked hard organizing all the data received, formatting it as required, and putting it up on the website. On his own initiative, Jerry installed a wireless capability at the Seelye Research Center permitting multiple researchers to have access to the Internet simultaneously. His work has been continuous and impressive.

Chris and Jerry Havnar are always ready to step up to serve wherever they are needed in work required by the Seeley Genealogical Society. For Chris and Jerry's loyalty and extraordinary volunteerism to SGS, they are hereby recognized as the first Biennial SGS Outstanding Volunteers.

Congratulations.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE M. OLSEN
President,
Seeley Genealogical Society