



Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

Established 1965

Issue No. 165-2015-03

History ★ Family ★ Research

August 2015

Highlights of the 16th SGS International Reunion

Story by Kathie Olsen, SGS President

When you call the Abilene, Kan., Convention and Visitors Bureau, they always answer by saying, "It's a great day in Abilene!" And so it was--several great days in Abilene! It was good to be there.

The Seeley Genealogical Society gathered for its biennial meeting in Abilene from Sunday, July 26, 2015, to Wednesday, July 29, 2015. The theme was "Our Golden Anniversary, 1965 -2015." There were sixty-nine people registered from fifteen states.

On Sunday, July 26, 2015, the SGS Executive Board, including both elected and appointed officers, met at 6:00 pm. A draft of the minutes of this meeting is in this Newsletter. We excused Chris Havnar and Bob Seeley who were unable to attend. The Board members were commended for their commitment to SGS. Various officers gave reports concerning their assignments. Several issues of importance were discussed. The Board voted to recommend that the 2017 reunion be held in Marietta, Ohio/Parkersburg, West Virginia in the Mid-Ohio Valley of the Ohio River.

Board members decided to dedicate the Reunion Souvenir Book to Marshall Seelye and his wife, Evelyn for their many years of leadership and service to SGS. He has continued in his activity even after her passing. We all miss Evelyn very much.

Monday, July 27, 2015, began early at the Seelye Mansion. Terry Tietjens had prepared his fabulous sweet rolls, fruit, juice, and coffee for all to enjoy. We gathered on the patio and welcomed each other as we arrived. Registration took place under the portico of the Mansion. Reunion tee shirts were for sale. (There are some left, so get in touch with Terry if you would like to purchase one. They are \$12.00 for all sizes, except XXL, which are



The 2015 SGS International Reunion was held in Abilene, Kan. July 27-29, 2015. It was the society's 16th reunion and marked its 50th anniversary. Members from across the country attended.

\$14.00. Terry's address is on page 15.) Everyone was encouraged to purchase raffle tickets. Toots Brundage, a member of SGS, had donated a beautiful handmade quilt in the Dresden plate pattern in shades of green. Raffle tickets were also sold for two porcelain dolls, which had been given to the Seelye Mansion Foundation to be used to raise money for SGS or the Seelye Mansion.

At 9:30 we gathered in front of the Seelye Research Center to dedicate a tree, which was had been planted to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of SGS. Each participant placed a handful of chips at the base of the tree as a way to encourage the growth of both the tree and SGS. Pam Turner, SRC Librarian, then cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Seelye Research Center and Hospitality Area, which remained open throughout the

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**This is the Final Issue of the SGS Newsletter
Before We Go To E-Mail Delivery***

Does SGS Have Your E-Mail Address?

In order for you to continue receiving this important benefit of SGS Membership, we must have your email address. Please send it to the SGS Membership Chair **TODAY** at seelyew@gmail.com

*You can continue to receive a hard copy of the SGS Newsletter delivered by U.S. Mail by sending a check or money order for \$12.00 (to cover printing and mailing costs) to the SGS Treasurer BEFORE Oct. 25, 2015.

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Member: National Genealogical Society

The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

is published quarterly by the
Seeley Genealogical Society

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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:

Marie Seelye
13802 Pine Glen Dr E
Black Forest, CO 80908-3508
(719) 495-4316
seelyew@gmail.com

Seelye Research Center

is co-located with the Seelye Mansion in Abilene, Kan. For more information, contact:
Seelye Research Center, Director
Terry Tietjens
P.O. Box 337, 1105 N. Buckeye
Abilene, KS 67410-0337
Phone: (785) 263-1084
email: seelyemansion@yahoo.com

SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for 2017 in the vicinity of Parkersburg, WV. Please advise the editor if your branch or family has plans for a sectional or local reunion in the interim. Others might like to know about it.

Editorial Position

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

SGS President's Report

Seeley Genealogical Society President, Katherine M. Olsen



Thanks to all who helped in any way to make the Abilene 2015 Reunion/conference a marvelous success. There were sixty-nine registrants from fifteen different states. I believe that reunions play a vital role in our Society. They give us the opportunity to be together in one place to share friendship and information and to learn about our ancestors and their history. Besides they are fun. There were some wonderful events that I will always remember: breakfast on the lawn of the Seelye Mansion; tours of the Seelye Mansion; visiting, relaxing, and enjoying the Seelye Research Center; tours of Abilene; visits to the Eisenhower Center and the Dickinson County Heritage Center; dinner at the Hitching Post Restaurant; riding the Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad; listening to speakers tell us about the history of Kansas, the Seeley Family, and SGS; visiting with cousins; making new friends; enjoying the succulent goodness of Abilene's own Brookville Hotel chicken; participating in a fabulous dinner meeting in the Eisenhower Center Library; and taking the opportunity, as some members did to attend the North Central Kansa Free Fair, parade, and Will Bill Hickok rodeo. Wow! What a great way to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of SGS. I wish that all of you could have been with us in Abilene.

Special thanks to "Mr. Abilene," Terry Tietjens. His influence for good is very apparent, and his expertise opened many doors to SGS that otherwise would have been closed. He made fabulous rolls and a wonderful dinner, and he also knows who else makes great food. We also certainly appreciate the support given by Michael Hook, President of the Seelye Mansion Foundation, as well as other members of the Seelye Mansion Foundation Board. Thanks also to Glenda Purkis, Amy Fager, and other people from the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Sincere thanks also go to Lou Ann Crisler for writing the Reunion theme song, "Seeleys on the Range" to the tune of "Home on the Range," which stirred feelings of pride for the legacy left us by our Seeley ancestors.

In addition to the 2015 Reunion, SGS has accomplished much since the last Reunion in Grand Rapids, Mich. Some of these include

- 501(c)3 status was achieved by SGS. All donations are now tax deductible, and many of the expenses of elected and appointed officers are also deductible;
- A souvenir book was published and distributed to those who paid for a copy;
- Eight newsletters have been published and distributed to members. This is one of the benefits of SGS membership. The Newsletter received an honorable mention in the Family Genealogy Societies Section competition sponsored by the National Genealogical Society;
- There are 332 members of SGS, including ten new members this year. Lynda Simmons, Membership Chair, has worked very hard to insure that the membership list is up-to-date;
- The SGS Website (www.seeley-society.net) continues to be a valuable resource to those interested in learning more about SGS and Seeley/Seelye/Seely genealogy;
- The Seeley Ancestral File contains almost 50,000 names with more added daily. Information in this file can be accessed by query to our Chief Genealogist, Linda Crocker;
- The Seelye Research Center recently acquired Esther Houtz Walter's SGS papers, now on display in the Center. An emergency policy for the SRC has been adopted and water detectors installed;
- A certified genealogist has been retained to analyze information gathered on Obadiah Seeley. Her and recommendations for possible future research are on the SGS Website;
- A tree was planted on the grounds of the Seelye Research Center to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Society.

Site selection for the 2017 reunion was determined by nominations being submitted to the Executive Board in advance of the Board meeting held at the Abilene Reunion. The Executive Board considered four nominations: Newburgh, New York, nominated by Elizabeth Alexander; Dayton, Ohio, nominated by its Convention and Visitors Bureau; Marietta, Ohio/Parkersburg, West Virginia, nominated by Linda

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SGS Reunion Highlights *(continued from page 1)*

Reunion for use by attendees for side meetings and visiting. Additionally, attendees were encouraged to bring any research, Seeley artifacts, or family history items they wanted to share with other attendees. These items were then displayed in the SRC.

From 10:00 am until 4:30 pm, registrants could choose to participate in many different activities: tours of the Seelye Mansion and Seelye Research Center and Hospitality Area, a shuttle to the Dickinson County Heritage Center and Carousel and the Eisenhower Center, or a tour of Abilene, including the Russell Stover chocolate factory on a historic trolley. A wonderful boxed lunch was served on the front porch of the Seelye Mansion.

At 5:00 pm, Terry and his staff served a delicious meal at the Hitching Post Restaurant. Lou Ann Crisler introduced the Reunion theme song, "Seeleys on the Range," set to the tune of "Home on the Range," the Kansas state song; the words reminded us of our heritage and the legacy which our ancestors left for us. Terry provided a rousing accompaniment. After dinner, we boarded the Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad for a trip



Dinner on Monday, July 27, was at Abilene's Hitching Post Restaurant and was the premiere of the reunion theme song.

back in time, viewing the Kansas landscape that supports many species of native Kansas wildlife and beautiful fields of modern Kansas agriculture. A gorgeous sunset ended this memorable day.

Bright and early on Tuesday morning, July 28, 2015, we convened at the Abilene Convention Center for the opening session of our conference. After a welcome and announcements, Michael Hook, President of the Seelye Mansion Foundation Board and a local historian then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of Abilene, Dickinson County, and Kansas.

Debra Seely, an author of young adult fiction about the history of Kansas, spoke to us. We were happy to have both her and her husband, Dave, spend the day with us. She has published two books, *Grasslands* and *The Last of the Roundup Boys*, for readers ages ten to fourteen, both set in the 1880s near her favorite place in the world, her grandparents' farm on the Kansas prairie. Glenn Cox and Bill Craven, two SGS members, quickly read both books and hope that she will write a third one soon. Debra graciously autographed copies of the books purchased by Society members.



Author Debra Seely shared the inspiration for her two novels *Grasslands* and *The Last of the Roundup Boys*.

After another boxed lunch, we reconvened for the afternoon session. Michael introduced us to the history of the A. B. Seelye family, and

Ruthetta Seelye Hansen shared her family story. Kathie Olsen gave some information on her great-grandfather, John Henry Seely, a Utah state legislator and livestock breeder. Linda Crocker explained her research on other Seeleys who settled in Kansas; she also shared a Website () that examined Seeley surnames of all spellings. It was interesting to note where in the world and the United States these surnames are more prevalent. Several other SGS members, including Mark Seely, LeAnne Seely, and Jesse Crisler, told brief impromptu stories about their ancestors.

In the evening, we enjoyed a buffet dinner catered by Abilene's own Brookville Hotel, featuring fried chicken, soul food of the Midwest. Second Vice President Jesse Crisler gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the growth and development of SGS by reviewing the lives of its eight presidents, its sixteen reunions in eleven different places, and major accomplishments of SGS over the fifty years since its founding by the Reverend Garner Osborn. Jesse then read Esther Walter's responses to email interview questions submitted to her prior to the Reunion.

The membership meeting convened at the Abilene Civic Center on Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at 9:15 a.m. A draft of the minutes of this meeting will be in the November newsletter as well as the souvenir book. We started with announcements and the theme song, then SGS officers were recognized and thanked for their service, the minutes of the last membership meeting were read and approved, the auditing

committee reported, and SGS Treasurer Sally Seeley presented the treasurer's report, which was approved. Many accomplishments of SGS from 2013 to 2015 were noted in a "State of the Society" address; these are listed in the President's report in this issue of the Newsletter.

Paul Taylor then led a discussion on SGS publications. The August Newsletter will be the last to be printed and mailed to all members. The Newsletter will be redesigned for the November issue. It will be in color for those receiving it by email. The printed copy for those who have prepaid will be in black and white. Orders are now being taken for the 2015 Reunion Souvenir Book; if you have not already ordered one, you still can for \$35.00. The book will be dedicated to Marshall and Evelyn Seelye in recognition of their many years of leadership and service to SGS. Paul also mentioned the society's Facebook page, the purpose of which is to increase awareness of SGS and direct



On Tuesday night, July 28, SGS Vice President Jesse Crisler gave a presentation about the service of all of SGS's presidents.



SGS President Kathie Olsen brought to order her fourth and final general membership meeting on Wednesday July 29.

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Draft 2013-2015 SGS Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Abilene, Kansas, July 26, 2015

Submitted by Camille Seeley Bell, SGS Secretary

SGS President Katherine Olsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Members Present: Kathie Olsen, Paul Taylor, Jesse Crisler, Camille Seeley Bell, Sally Seeley, Linda Crocker, Terry Tietjens, Wesley Waring, and Ruthetta Seelye Hansen.

Past President and Appointed Officers Present: Jim Seeley, Lynda Simmons, Margaret Petersen, George Seeley, and Pam Turner.

SGS Members and Friends Present: Bill and Sherri Hileman, Sue Craven, Marion Hileman, Michael Hook, John and Patricia Palmer, and Marshall Seelye.

Appointed Officers Excused: Chris Havnar and Walt Seelye.

Quorum: George Seeley certified that a quorum of officers was present and reminded those present that only elected officers vote.

Welcome and Thank-you: Kathie Olsen

Minutes: Minutes of Elected and Appointed Officers Meeting of July 18, 2014 in Abilene, Kan., read by Secretary Camille Seeley Bell; minutes were unanimously approved as read.

Other Actions by the Board Resolved After July 18, 2014: Electronic Newsletter delivery approval by majority via e-mail in February 2015.

Treasurer's Report: SGS Treasurer Sally Seeley presented the treasurer's report. Balance as of July 15, 2015, is \$93,977.99; see report for details. Report was unanimously approved.

- Auditing Committee consisting of Lou Ann Crisler and Sherri Hileman was nominated and unanimously approved.

Dues Structure and Life Memberships: Marshall Seelye commented that with the elimination of newsletter printing and postage costs SGS should be even financially; therefore, the dues structure and life memberships should remain as they are. After discussion the Board unanimously approved a motion to this effect.

First Vice President/Publications Report: Paul Taylor reported that the August 2015 Newsletter will be the last printed and mailed copy. The November Newsletter will be in a new color format and will be sent via e-mail. There will be a few printed black-and-white copies mailed to those who have pre-paid \$12.00 to help cover printing and mailing costs.

- The SGS Newsletter received Honorable Mention in the Family Genealogical Newsletter competition. Wes Waring commented that a color copy be used for the next submission.
- Paul encouraged everyone to join the SGS Facebook page. There are now more "friends" on Facebook than SGS members. The purpose of the page is to increase awareness of SGS and to direct visitors to the SGS Website.
- Assignments were made for submissions for the 2015



SGS President Kathie Olsen calls to order the final SGS Executive Board meeting for the 2013-2015 SGS Executive Board July 26, 2015.

Reunion Souvenir Book. The cost of the book will be \$30.00, if paid at the Reunion, and \$35.00 after. The motion carried unanimously.

- Those volunteering to serve on a publications committee were Kathie Olsen, Jesse Crisler, Paul Taylor, Lynda Simmons, Linda Crocker, and Pam Turner. Chris Havnar and Bob Seeley will be invited to serve on this committee because of their SGS positions.

Second Vice

President Report: Jesse Crisler SGS Second Vice-President submitted a written report covering his SGS work during the 2013-2015 term:

- 2015 Reunion Planning Committee
 - Discovered Debra Seely, a Kansas author of Young Adult fiction through research on "Seeley" authors; after email exchange and with approval of SGS Executive Board invited her to speak at 2015 Reunion in Abilene, Kan., to which she graciously agreed
 - Wrote articles for SGS Newsletter about Debra Seely and her creative work
 - Attended Reunion Planning Committee meeting in Abilene in July 2014
 - Attended Executive Board meeting in Abilene in July 2014
 - Agreed to make two presentations as part of program of 2015 Reunion



SGS 2nd Vice President Jesse Crisler updates the board on his activities during this term.

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- Accepted assignment to pursue a fundraising idea for the Reunion
 - Accepted assignment to serve as chair of SGS Nominating Committee with Camille Seeley Bell, current SGS secretary, and Marie Seelye as members
 - With Lou Ann Crisler designed flyer to advertise 2015 Reunion through SGS Newsletter and SGS Website
 - Esther Walter
 - After learning of Esther Walter's early involvement in SGS, made contact with her via telephone and email, inviting her to donate her original Seeley notebooks for permanent display at Seelye Research Center, to which she agreed. With Lou Ann Crisler visited Esther at her home in Allenspark, Colo., on way to Reunion Planning Committee meeting in July 2014, to secure notebooks and related materials of genealogical interest to SGS, depositing them with Pam Turner, SRC Librarian, at this meeting
 - Located copies of a number of SGS publications to present to Esther
 - Wrote formal agreement acknowledging Esther's donation of Seeley genealogical materials, giving original to her with given to Kathie Olsen, current SGS President, for permanent file
 - Subsequently wrote article for SGS Newsletter about Esther's donation as well as her association with SGS during its formative years
 - Devised questions for interview with Esther via email for presentation at 2015 Reunion
 - Fundraising
 - Asked SGS life member Loleath "Toots" Brundage to donate a quilt as a fundraiser for 2015 reunion; she then donated a lovely handmade quilt in the Dresden plate pattern
 - Sold tickets in advance for quilt drawing at 2015 Reunion and then later at reunion itself with Lou Ann Crisler
 - Wrote article for SGS Newsletter about quilt
 - SGS Nominating Committee
 - Worked with Camille Seeley Bell and Marie Seelye to create slate of officers to present to members at 2015.
 - In connection with this assignment asked over thirty SGS members to serve as President before receiving affirmative response from Lynda Simmons, current SGS Membership Chair; asked Patricia Palmer and Margaret Petersen, current Assistant Membership Chair, to serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively
 - Publications Committee
 - Served as "first respondent" in proofreading all issues of SGS Newsletter since last reunion in 2013.
 - Researched writers with Seeley surname (all spellings) and wrote article about them for SGS Newsletter
 - Contributed several other articles to various issues of SGS Newsletter
 - Proofread entire 2013 Reunion Souvenir Book
 - Reconstructed presentation by Tim Gleisner for inclusion in Souvenir Book
 - Located illustrations to accompany presentation by Jack Dempsey for inclusion in Souvenir Book
 - Wrote "Seeleys: A Sure Foundation," based on presentation given at 2013 Reunion, for inclusion in Souvenir Book
 - Miscellaneous
 - Recruited JASFO members to attend 2015 Reunion
 - Fielded joint request from Camille Seeley Bell and Linda Crocker, current SGS Genealogist and Query Editor, to help a descendant of Sarah Ann Seeley, a descendant of Justus Azel Seeley, in her research, which eventually yielded photos of the graves of both Sarah Ann Seeley and her first husband, Asa McGahen, both buried in the McKay Cemetery in Hancock Co., IL.
 - Proofread and edited compiled research reports on Obadiah Seeley
- Nominating Committee:** Consisting of Jesse Crisler, Marie Seelye and Camille Seeley Bell, committee will present recommendations for elected officers at the membership meeting.
- Director Report:** Terry Tietjens provided an update on his SGS-related activities.
- Michael Hook was introduced as the President of the Seelye Mansion Foundation.
 - In the near future they will be painting the Seelye Research Center white with black trim to coordinate with the Seelye Mansion property.



SGS Membership Chair Lynda Simmons reviews the challenges of preparing to change to electronic delivery of the SGS Newsletter.

- Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Terry for his commitment and service to SGS.
- Terry Tietjens and John and Patricia Palmer were excused at this time.

Membership Report: Membership Chair Lynda Simmons submitted a written report covering her work as SGS Membership Chair:

When the Seeley Genealogical Society Board decided that the SGS Newsletter would be sent to members by email beginning in November 2015, or they could pay \$12.00 per year to receive a printed copy, I became very concerned about our many

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Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 5)*

members for whom we had no email addresses. The SGS Newsletter widely publicized the need for member email addresses, but members were not sending their information. Also, a very few members had paid for the SGS Newsletter in paper copies.

In May I decided that something must be done. Of the 336 members on the SGS Master List, 111 members did not have email addresses listed. I wrote individual letters to each of those 111 members. About fifty members responded to my letter with either their email addresses or by sending \$12.00. Several letters were returned, and we tried to find correct addresses for these members. Some members had died. I was happy when Terry had Paul send out an invitation to our Reunion in Abilene, Kan., using the email addresses on the Master List. I was grateful when only four of those email addresses failed.

I then reorganized the SGS Master List by email addresses so I could easily identify members for whom we still had no email addresses or who had not paid \$12.00. I looked up all missing phone numbers that I could. Then I called every available phone number. It was good to talk to many members, several of whom gave me their email addresses. There are, however, a great many phone numbers, which have been disconnected. I am still working on this. As I called, I found that many of these members are in their late eighties and early nineties. Many do not have computers and lost the first letter I sent. I have sent many second letters. Hopefully, we will have contacted every member or know where they are before our SGS November Newsletter is sent.

Interestingly, several libraries and genealogical societies have not sent their email addresses. I have sent each of them at least two letters about changing the delivery of the Newsletter to email, but they have not responded.

SGS Website Report: SGS Webmaster Chris Havnar prepared a written report that was presented by Linda Crocker:

Once again, I can report that the Website has not changed much in substance over the past two years, but it has increased in size.

As of July 19, 2015, there are 4,179 Seeley surnamed (all spellings) obituaries. In 2013 there were 3736; in 2011 there were 3055; and in 2009 there were 2159.

In prior years, we did not report on the number of death certificates, death certificate transcriptions, or obituaries published on the Vital Records portion of the Website. This year I have counted them; now I know why I had not in prior years. It is just a lot of work to count them one by one.



SGS Chief Genealogist Linda Crocker presents a report on the SGS Website for Webmaster Chris Havnar.

In the Oregon Vital Records, we host 151 different death certificates of Seeley individuals. Additional death certificates are available from the State of Oregon once fifty years has passed. At \$10.00 per certificate I have not been in a hurry to request those that are available from the Oregon archives. We have 256 obituaries for Oregonian Seeleys who passed away during the time frame of the Oregon



Sue Craven, Michael Hook, Bill Hileman, Sherry Hileman, and Marion Hileman attended the meeting.

Death Index.

In the California Vital Records section, we host 473 death certificate transcriptions. Death certificate transcriptions mean someone looked at a copy of the actual death certificate and copied down the information. Many counties have closed their records for transcription, so this number will not likely increase in the future, unless I find an additional source of records. We have 280 obituaries for California Seeleys who passed away during the time frame of the California Death Index.

In 2011 SGS membership voted to have a category of obituaries for women born with the Seeley surname (all spellings) who married and passed away with a different surname. We currently have 733 obituaries for them; in 2013 there were 409; in May 2012 there were 200.

We have 448 marriage entries. In 2013 we had 383; in 2011 we had 294; and in 2009 we had 164. Some entries are very short, giving only bride, groom, place, and date. Some entries from society pages are extensive.

I did not count the number of directories currently on the Website. I do not remember adding more than just a couple or so over the past two years. In 2013 there were 525 listing. I did not count the number of entries prior to 2013. For the period of time from 1880 to 1900, directories are a wonderful source of information.

I ask that you share with me any obituaries you have on your ancestors that are not already memorialized on the Website and any pages from directories that you may have found while documenting your ancestors. This weekend someone stopped by the Website, transcribed a 1908 obituary, and gave us a copy of the original newspaper page.

I have a huge pile of obituaries still to type and

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post on the Website. I will get to them as time permits.

Thank you in advance.

I can be reached at chris.havnar@gmail.com.

SGS Ancestral File Report: Linda Crocker, Co-Chair of the Ancestral File Committee, prepared a written report that she presented at the board meeting.

The SGS Ancestor File is a system for storing basic data about all Seeleys of any spelling and their descendants. This database is stored in the cloud but offline since it includes not only our ancestors but also living people. The current database grew out of a system John Seely devised beginning in 1982 as an index to information on members of the Seeley family. In 2002 Dan Seelye converted the original database into a Word document, and John continued to work with it. By 2008 John became unable to manage the increasing amount of data we were collecting, so SGS assigned Chris Havnar and me to take over his work. My husband, Bob, managed to convert the Word files into an Excel database. At that time we added fields for SGS numbers and for cities of birth, marriage, and death (there were already fields for county and state, dates for each event, names of parents and spouse, generation number, and source codes). Because Excel can be sorted by various fields and searched, it is much easier to add, edit, find, and extract information in this format. In addition to the Seeley Surname database we also have a database of Seeley descendants, called the Other Surname database, where we record descendants of Seeley women through one or more generations.

The data in the system began with submissions of information by SGS members and with information from research done for queries. It includes all the names in the SGS printed genealogies, many of their descendants, along with lots of Seeleys who do not connect to those lines. We continue to add data from a variety of sources. Chris Havnar subscribes to various internet-based newspapers which she searches for obituaries and wedding and birth announcements. They often are an excellent source of data on one individual's whole extended family. If anyone mentioned is old enough to be in the 1940 census, we sometimes can go even further, maybe linking them to a known line. It is common for us to add anywhere from five to thirty-five or forty individuals to the database just by starting with one newspaper article. Items I add are usually extensions of Chris's work or information I accumulate as I work on queries. Chris and I have a system for checking each other's work to prevent transcription errors. That also gives us an opportunity to expand on each other's work.

As of Monday, July 27, 2015, the Ancestor File contained 49,628 names, almost for each year that SGS has been in existence! The Seeley Surname database contained information on 33,901 individuals with the surname Seeley (all spellings), and the Other Surname database had 15,737 individuals. This is an addition of about 2500 individuals to the Seeley Surname file and almost 2000 to the Other Surname file since the last SGS Reunion in 2013. Additionally, we have added, updated, or corrected birth, marriage,

and death dates and places, added the names of spouses and/or connected people in previous generations for many of the individuals we already had. We occasionally encounter duplicate entries for what turn out to be the same person and consolidate them into one. Every time we make an addition or change to the databases, we also include a code about the source of the information.

We do not seem to be running out of Seeleys to add to the database. While some of the recent entries are for people born in the second half of the twentieth century, we continue to discover Seeleys from earlier eras as well. You can help us by sending either of us obituaries, birth announcements, marriage notices, biographies, etc., current or historic, for anyone with a Seeley name of any spelling. Please check the Website first to see whether we already have the document; if not, we will be happy to add your submission there and get any new names or updates entered in the database.

Since the SGS Ancestor File is not online, you need to get in touch with one of us to find out what we may have on an individual or family you are interested in; we will be happy to extract the information you need.

Chris and I both enjoy serving SGS in this way. We are never bored. There is always something to enter, edit, or research.

SGS Research Center (SRC) Report: SRC Librarian



SRC Librarian Pam Turner shares her report on the SRC.

Pam Turner prepared a written report for the Board meeting.

Since the last Reunion, the Board has discussed the direction of the Seelye Research Center and the protection of its data. Out of those discussions a mission statement and acquisition policy have been established which were published in the August 2014 Newsletter and can also be seen on the welcome board as you

enter the SRC. The reasons for developing these statements are twofold. The first is to give guidance to everyone as to the type of items we wish to keep and accept at the SRC. The second is to fulfill a requirement if SGS ever wanted to pursue grant money for the SRC.

Last year we completed the incorporation of John Seely's files into the SRC. This took two filing sessions with many people working to file the approximately seventeen boxes we received.

Work continues to progress on our disaster prevention program for the SRC. We have installed water detector alarms and will be working on raising the filing cabinets to help protect contents in the event of a flood. Materials in the SRC are being scanned for

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Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 7)*

digital protection with copies of the items being held in three different locations.

A new display case donated by Jim Seeley was added to the SRC which currently showcases the development of SGS data for the last 50 years, starting



Jesse Crisler shows those attending the board meeting a beautiful quilt made by SGS member Loleath "Toots" Brundage to raffle off during the reunion with proceeds going to SGS. Spoiler alert: Sue Craven went home with the quilt!

with work done by Esther Houtz Walter and Garner Osborn.

As always, work continues on the descendants of

the eighth generation. As of July, the index line count is up to 15,443 lines of data with a combined count of 374 scanned files, and there have been seventeen new number files added.

I hope you take the chance to visit the SRC while you are here. I would love to give you a tour and answer any questions you might have.

- Additional discussion items related to the SRC included:
 - Pam would like to purchase bookends and book covers.
 - Every archive article is reviewed by Pam before being included in the SRC collection. Other items donated, not meeting the criteria, will be donated to the Seelye Mansion collection.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion to have \$200 available from operating funds for SRC expenditures.

Research Goals Committee Report: Wes Waring, Chairman of the Research Goals Committee, presented a report highlighting recent research activities.

- Apryl Cox, a certified genealogist, has been retained to analyze information gathered on Obadiah Seeley. She submitted her report and recommendations for future research. She was paid \$647.50 from research funds. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that Kathie

Please See Meeting Minutes Page 13

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

Crocker; and Salt Lake City, Utah, nominated by Jesse Crisler. After considering Information on each of these sites, the Board selected the Marietta, Ohio/Parkersburg, West Virginia site in the Mid-Ohio Valley on the banks of the Ohio River. This recommendation was presented to SGS members at the membership meeting who approved the site unanimously. Plan now to attend. It will be great.

There were discussions in the Executive Board meeting and the membership meeting concerning changes to the dues structure and the life membership. Since future Newsletter expenses will not be coming out of SGS funds, the Board decided that no changes would be made to the dues structure or life memberships at this time.

Do not forget that this will be the last issue of the Newsletter to be printed for all members. Starting with the November issue, SGS will move to an electronic version of the Newsletter. If you want to receive the Newsletter by email, we need a current email address (ask someone to help you secure an email address; maybe a neighbor, a relative, or a friend will let you use theirs), which you will need to furnish to our new Membership Chair Marie Seelye. If you wish to continue receiving a copy of the printed Newsletter, you will need to send \$12.00 per year to SGS Treasurer Margaret Petersen before Oct. 25, 2015. This will then become an annual change.

I certainly appreciate those who volunteer to serve as elected and appointed officers of SGS. All bring their own talents and abilities to the table. Thank-you for all the support you have given me over these many years. Special thanks to Sally Seeley who has served as Treasurer and Camille Seeley Bell who has served as Secretary. The three of us are all completing our service at this time. I have served SGS in many capacities,

starting in 1991 to compile the Sixth Generation Book with my mother, Madeline Merrill Mills. We also completed the Generation One through Five Book and the Seventh Generation Book. I have served on numerous committees. I arranged two SGS tours: Robert Seeley's England in 2004 and Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England in 2007. I served as Vice President and became President in 2007. While President, I have chaired four reunions in Salt Lake City, Utah, Horseheads, N.Y., Grand Rapids, Mich., and Abilene, Kan. I worked with attorneys to secure the Johnson Bequest for SGS. I also wrote and submitted an application for tax-exempt status (Title 501[c]3) for SGS.

It is with great pleasure that I turn the Society's reins over to a new set of elected officers, which was elected at the membership meeting in Abilene with a term of office beginning October 1, 2015. The newly elected officers are:

- Lynda Simmons, President
125 Parkview Drive, Park City, Utah 84098
435-649-9878, summitkids@gmail.com
- Patricia Palmer, Secretary
100 Crest Court, Lincoln, CA 95648
916-543-8719, palmnet@aol.com
- Margaret Petersen, Treasurer
2728 S. Highland Drive, #4, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106
801-466-3674, kpetersen7835@msn.com
- Marie Seelye, Membership Chair (appointed office)
13802 Pine Glen Drive, E, Black Forest, CO 80908
719-495-4316, seelyew@gmail.com

Other elected and appointed officers will remain the same, and I will assume the ex officio appointment as Past President for as long as Lynda serves as President.

Thank you very much for your encouragement and support during my time as President.

Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 12)*

would continue to work with Apryl to clarify areas of concern and future research.

SGS Awards and Recognition Committee:

Committee Chair Kathie Olsen (who took over after Jim Seeley resigned) reported on the committee's efforts.

- Newsletter nominated for recognition by NGS and earned honorable mention in its category.
- A recipient of the SGS Outstanding Volunteer was selected and will be announced at the meeting on Wednesday evening.

Old Business: Discussion was led by SGS President Kathie Olsen.

- 2015 Reunion:
 - After discussion a motion to dedicate the 2015 Souvenir Book to honor Marshall and Evelyn Seelye for their leadership and service to SGS carried unanimously.
 - The only speaker requiring a stipend is Debra Seeley. It was unanimously agreed that she would be paid \$200.
 - Jesse presented information on a quilt donated by JASFO member Toots Brundage; the quilt and two porcelain dolls from the Seelye Mansion donated

collection will be raffled during the Reunion.

- Linda Crocker showed the 2015 Reunion T-shirts which will cost \$12.00 and \$14.00 for XXL.

New Business: Discussion was led by SGS President Kathie Olsen.

- 2017 Reunion nominations: four different locations were nominated to be considered for the 2017 SGS International Reunion.
 - Elizabeth Alexander nominated Newburgh, N.Y.
 - Linda Crocker nominated Marietta, Ohio/Parkersburg, West Virginia.
 - The Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau of Dayton, Ohio nominated its city.
 - Jesse Crisler nominated Salt Lake City, Utah.
 - After questions and a discussion, the Board voted to recommend that the membership approve Marietta, Ohio/Parkersburg, West Virginia as the site of the 2017 SGS Reunion. Linda Crocker volunteered to serve on the Reunion Committee along with Lynda Simmons as chair, Sally and George Seeley, Jesse and Lou Ann Crisler, and Kathie Olsen.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 9:07.

2015 SGS Reunion Highlights *(continued from page 3)*

visitors to the Website.

The Executive Board recommended that no changes be made to the dues structure or life memberships at this time. This was approved by the membership.

Jesse Crisler, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the nominees for vacant offices. This committee, consisting of Jesse, Camille Seeley Bell, and Marie Seelye, worked tirelessly to secure nominees. The slate included Lynda Simmons, President; Patricia Palmer, Secretary; and Margaret Petersen, Treasurer. All other elected and appointed officers have agreed to remain in position. With no other nominations from the floor, nominations were approved by the membership.

The Executive Board, having received four nominations for the 2017 reunion, recommended that Marietta, Ohio/Parkersburg, West Virginia be the site for the 2017 Reunion; after a presentation by Linda Crocker, members approved this recommendation. It sounds like a great place to meet! I hope you are planning to attend.

After the membership meeting, a group photo was taken on the steps of the Seelye Mansion. Paul Taylor uses a fun system to identify all the people in the photo, which is always good for a laugh, and the pictures are always great.

After the photo session, members enjoyed free time. Many chose to tour the Seelye Mansion, hang out at the Seelye Research Center and Hospitality Area, visit downtown Abilene with its many museums, antique shops, art galleries, soda fountain, or the farmer's market, or take a walking tour of Abilene.

An SGS elected and appointed officers meeting, 2015-17, was held in the Seelye Research Center at 4:30. This meeting was conducted by Lynda Simmons, incoming President. A draft of the minutes of this meeting will be in the Reunion Souvenir Book.

On the final night of the Reunion, the group assembled in the Eisenhower Presidential Library courtyard for a

lovely dinner and a special speaker. It was awesome for this group to be able to come together in this location, where Presidents of the United States and other world leaders have been entertained.

We were first greeted by the Sisters of Hope, who harmonized many of old favorites. They are a non-profit group, which donates all proceeds to charity.

Tim Rives, Deputy Director and Supervisory Archivist of the Eisenhower Library, spoke about the life and times of Dwight David Eisenhower. Born in Texas but brought to Abilene as a small boy, he grew up to become General of the Army and President of the United States.

At the conclusion of this very informative talk, Lou Ann Crisler with the help of Nick Taylor drew the winning names in the raffle. Bea Seeley and Camille Seeley Bell each won a beautiful Porcelain doll, and Sue Craven won the lovely handmade quilt, donated by Toots Brundage. The raffle yielded over \$700.00 for the Society's general operating fund. Thanks to Toots, Jesse, and Lou Ann for their contributions to a successful raffle. The Awards and Recognition Committee then presented a certificate of Honorable Mention for the Family Society Newsletter competition of the National Genealogical Society to SGS Newsletter editor Paul Taylor. It is indeed an award-winning Newsletter. Certificates of appreciation were then presented to three outgoing officers: Sally Seeley, Camille Seeley Bell, and Kathie Olsen. Marshall Seelye, a member of the Committee, gave a sincere tribute to the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award, Jim Seeley, who family received the award on his behalf.

The newly elected SGS Executive Board was installed by George Seeley, Parliamentarian. Lou Ann Crisler led the group in a last rendition of "Seeleys on the Range," soloing on two new verses. As a final gesture, Kathie Olsen used the gavel to conclude the reunion/conference. She then presented the "Daniel Seelye Memorial Gavel" to the incoming President, Lynda Simmons.

2015 SGS Reunion Souvenir Books For Sale

Did you miss the Seeley Genealogical Society's 2015 International Reunion in Abilene, Kan.? Were you there and had SUCH a good time that you wish your friends and family had come too? Fear not. The experience is being captured in an illustrated, detailed Reunion Souvenir Book!

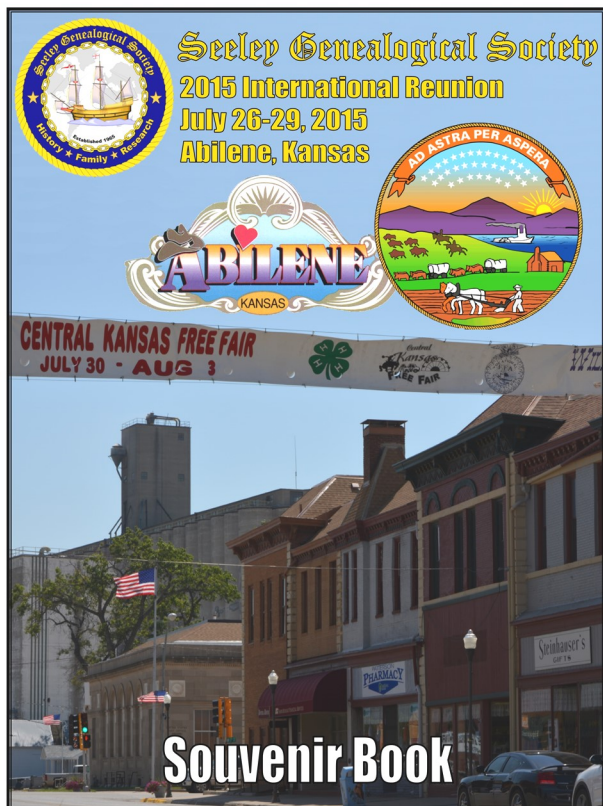
For the seventh reunion in a row, SGS will compile and produce a souvenir book to include many pictures of attendees, accompanied by the names of those in the photos to help you learn our cousins' names.

It will also include a dedication page; a list of SGS members known to have recently passed away (please let us know if you know of any others); reunion highlights; a description of the tours taken; copies of presentations given; a copy of the SGS Constitution and By-Laws; a copy of the treasurer's report; a list of past reunion locations and officers elected at them; a list of reunion attendees with a group photo; and more.

The book is designed to inform members who were unable to attend, what took place at the Abilene Reunion AND serve as a souvenir for those who did attend. It is also one part of our initiative to document SGS.

If you have not already ordered a book, please send a check, payable to SGS, to Kathie Olsen (her address is on page 15) for \$35.00 U.S. per copy. We anticipate the books will be mailed early next year. The book is expected to be between 100 and 120 pages.

The SGS Reunion Souvenir Book is a great gift idea, but only one printing is planned, so order yours today!



SGS Queries

*Coordinated and Compiled by SGS Query Editor
Linda Crocker*

(Data Current as of April 15, 2015)

Query number is two digit year, two digit month of Newsletter, query sequence number.

Please send your queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at llbc100@msn.com or mail to Linda at home (see inside back cover). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor, researched, and then sent to the Query Team and Area Coordinators for their input. Linda summarizes each query and any responses for inclusion in the Newsletter.

If you have any information on the queries below, get in touch the submitter but also remember to send a copy of the information to Linda, so the query can be updated in the next Newsletter.

Query Updates

Update to Query 1205-5 Re: Rita Seely Timpson

Submitter Roger Timpson was looking for the lineage of Rita Seely, born 1875, who was said to be the daughter of Alexander M. Seely of St. John, New

Please See SGS Queries Page 11

When the photo below was posted to the Facebook page of one 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 order yours, get in touch with Terry Tietjens (see contact info on page 15).

SGS Queries (continued from page 10)

Brunswick. We cited Harold N. Fanjoy and C. G. Ward, *The Seeleys of New Brunswick* (St. John, New Brunswick, 1992), which gives her parents as Alexander M. Seely, born 1847 (son of SGS# 3224 Alexander McLaughlin Seely), and Ellen D. Walton. We could not find Rita in the 1881 Canadian census.

1881 census Toxteth Park, Liverpool, Lancashire, ENG

- Sedman, Eliza, age 50, mariner's wife, b. Shrewsbury, Salop
- Sedman, Eliza, dau., age 20; Mary J., dau., age 19, both b. Liverpool, Lancashire
- Sedman, John, son, age 16, apprentice seaman, b. Liverpool, Lancashire
- Seely, Alexander, visitor, age 33, master mariner, b. America
- Seely, Ella, age 30, b. America
- Seely, Rita, age 6; Gertrude age 4

Soc. Sec. Applications and Claims Index

- Gertrude E. Seely
- SSN: 117108253
- Birth: 15 Aug 1876 at St John New Brunswick, CAN
- Father: Alexander M. Seely
- Mother: Ella W. Dougherty
- Type of Claim: Original SSN
- Notes: Jun 1937, name listed as Gertrude E Seely

I found many listings under Canadian Seafarer Records for Alexander Miles Seely, born about 1847, mostly travelling between Saint John, New Brunswick and Liverpool, but also a record in Australia and one where his ship was wrecked at Cap Gris Nez in France in 1877.

I looked to see whether I could find if Ella/Ellen Seely's surname had been Walton or Dougherty.

- Daniel F. Johnson
- County: St. John, Place: Saint John
- Newspaper: *Progress*, vol. 85, no. 205, dated 24 Sep. 1892

The language of the text is the original used in the newspaper entry, as transcribed by Daniel F. Johnson. Records acquired by the Provincial Archives are not translated from the language in which they originate.

"Wife of Alexander Seely

"The following interesting extract was recently published in a city paper credited to 'Mrs. Helen E. Gregory-Fletcher, M.A.,' whoever that lady may be:

'A prominent member of the New York Press club and an authority on Russian matters is the Countess Ella NORRAIKOW. She was born in Toronto, but spent most of her girlhood in St. John, N.B. Though a through Canadian the countess looks more like a Spaniard; she is so dark and has such brilliancy and vivacity of expression. While in New Brunswick she married the late Hon. A. Seely, a prominent government official, and after her marriage she travelled for a number of years visiting Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, Russia, Burma, India and South America. Shortly after Mr. Seely's death, she settled in New York and there married Count Adolphus NORRAIKOW, an exiled Russian who has been a wealthy and well known lawyer in St. Petersburg, but whose opinions did not please the Imperial government. The countess is a woman of the world in the best sense of the term, a fine musician and an accomplished linguist. She is a constant contributor to the Harper publications, Cosmopolitan,

Independent, Lippincott's Magazine, etc. Lately, she has written a play which is to be produced by Manager Palmer of New York during the coming season. She has crossed the ocean no less than eighteen times and in both London and New York society has a large circle of connections and friends.'

"The St. John friends of the Countess Norraikow will recognize several important errors of fact in the above account. She was not born in Toronto, but in St. John and some say on the West side. Her original name was DOHERTY, but she was adopted at an early age by Wm. WALTON and before her first marriage was known by her friends as Ella WALTON. She was born, brought up and educated here and was never a resident of any other place during her childhood. She did not marry Hon. A. Seely, but Capt. Alexander SEELY, who was a son of Hon. A. SEELY, who is simply a member of the Legislative Council and not a prominent government official. She was proficient in piano playing, but up to the time of her leaving here to go to sea with her husband gave no indication of the literary ability with which she is now credited. The travels to which reference is made were in the ship commanded by her husband and they terminated some 10 or 12 years ago in a tragedy at Callao, Peru. During the voyage thither Capt. Seely became enraged at the attentions shown to his wife by the mate and took the latter's life. He was arrested on his arrival at Callao and thrown into prison. The story which reached St. John at a later date was that he died in the prison while awaiting his trial. It was afterwards alleged that he died of smallpox and that his wife could neither see him during his illness nor have a look at the body after death. About four or five years ago she married a Russian resident of New York who was said to have a large estate in his native land, but was not on good terms (with) the czar. The strangest part of the story is that while Mrs. Seely seems to have accepted the account of her husband's death in prison, there has been from the outset a doubt of it among his friends in this city. There was a mystery about the affair that was never made quite clear, and there was more than one version of the circumstances under which the mate was killed. It was rumored, but on no positive authority, that Capt. Seely had not died, but had been aided by his friends to escape, though what afterwards became of him nobody could learn."

Next I found an account in Nicholas James Mount, *When Canadian Literature Moved to New York* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005), about John Emery McLean. Born in Ontario, McLean apprenticed with a printer and later moved to New York City, where he began as a proofreader and then worked as an editor for various magazines, including *Metaphysical Magazine*. In 1898 McLean married Countess Norraikow, a writer and metaphysician of New York City. The article repeats information about the countess's being originally Ella Walton, a twice-widowed orphan. After many years of foreign travel she returned to North America as a widow, moved to New York City and later married Count Norraikow. The couple began writing to support their income. The count translated some of Tolstoy's works (with Ella doing some revising), and she had articles

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SGS Queries (continued from page 11)

published, as mentioned above. The count died of syphilis in late 1892. After marrying John McLean, Ella continued to write and apparently also developed a successful practice in metaphysical healing. In 1917 McLean remarried; I was not able to discover what happened to Ella.

Roger Timpson, the original submitter, has sent me several copies of Bible records and newspaper clippings he obtained from his third cousin. Some of the clippings refer to the "countess," but Roger did not know who she was.

1871 census Queen Ward, St John, New Brunswick, CAN

- Walton, William, age 53, b. IRE, leather dealer
- Walton, Sarah J., age 48, b. New Brunswick
- Walton, Ella, age 22, b. New Brunswick

New York, New York, Marriage Index

- Name: Adolphus Norraikow
- Marriage Date: 28 Jul 1885
- Marriage Place: Manhattan, New York
- Spouse: Ella Seely
- Certificate Number: 47479

Also

- Name: Ella Norraikow
- Marriage Date: 10 Oct 1898
- Marriage Place: Manhattan, New York
- Spouse: William H. McLean
- Certificate Number: 7413

I do not know why the name of the spouse is wrong—a transcription error? Several of the clippings Roger sent were about this wedding, and the husband is definitely John Emery McLean.

Any further information on the disappearance/death of sea captain Alexander Seeley or the death and burial place of Ella would be welcome.

Update to Query 1208-1 Re: Richard Seeley, husband of Margaret Gertrude Davidson

D. R. Jackson (djax@jacksonpublications.com) was looking for information on Richard and his family. I recently found a Wayne Co. MI marriage record for this couple.

Richard Lewis Seely, b. abt. 1928, in Detroit, Wayne, MI, to Charles Lewis Seely and Elisabeth Bratt, md. there 7 Oct 1949, Margaret Gertrude Davidson, age 19, b. Windsor, ONT, to William Davidson and Alma Marion Marflak.

1940 census Detroit, Wayne, MI

- Seely, Robert, age 24, b. MI, dr. asst., dog hospital
- Seely, Mary, age 22, b. SCOT, telephone operator

Same building:

- Seely, Charles, age 48, b. CT, gage supervisor, auto parts co.
- Seely, Elizabeth, age 50, b. ENG
- Seely, Charles W. age 26, inspector, auto plant, b. CT; Richard, age 11, b. MI

1930 census Detroit, Wayne, MI

- Seely, Charles L., age 39, b. CT, CT, RI, manages tool crit?, auto factory, md. 18 yrs. to
- Seely, Elizabeth, age 40, b. ENG, ENG, ENG
- Seely, Charles, Jr., age 16, b. CT, CT, ENG; Robert James, age 14, newsboy; Richard L., age 1 yr., 10 mos., both b. MI, CT, ENG

1920 census Detroit, Wayne, MI

- Seely, Chas Louis, age 28, b. CT, CT, CT, machinist,

screw works

- Seely, Elizabeth, age 30, b. ENG, ENG, ENG, to US in 1903
- Seely, Chas. Wm., age 6, b. CT, CT, ENG; Robt. James, age 4, b. MI, CT, ENG

1910 census: Stamford Ward 1, Fairfield, CT

- Charles Sceeley, head, age 45, first mg., md. 21 yrs., b. US US US, clerk, cigar store
- Louisa Sceeley, wife, age 38, first mg., md. 21 yrs., mother of 2, b. RI ?? RI
- Louis Sceeley, son, age 18, b. CT US RI, helper, house cleaning
- Walter Sceeley, son, age 16, b. CT US RI, apprentice, cigar maker

1900 census Stamford, Fairfield, CT

- Charles F. Seeley, head, age 34, b. June 1865, md. 11 yrs., b. CT CT CT, fireman, pumping station
- Louise Seeley, wife, age 30, b. Jan 1870, md. 11 yrs., mother of 2, b. RI ?? RI
- Charles L. Seeley, son, age 9, b. April 1891, b. CT CT RI
- Walter F. Seeley, son, age 6, b. Oct 1893, b. CT CT RI

1930 census Stamford, Fairfield, CT (on Bank St.)

- Seeley, Charles F., age 63, b. CT, CT, CT, assembler, sock factory, md. 40 yrs. to
- Seeley, Louise, age 57, b. RI, GER, RI,
- several roomers

I cannot find this family in the 1920 census. In 1940 Louise is a widow living alone in Stamford.

CT Military census 1917

- Charles Frederick Seeley, age 51, of Bank St., Stamford, CT, md., one dependent, bricklayer, no military service

WWI Draft

- Charles Louis Seely, b. 26 Apr 1891, Stamford, CT, machinist, resides Detroit, MI, has wife and 2 ch.

Unfortunately, I have not located a birth, death, marriage, or earlier census record for Charles Frederick. I would appreciate any help.

New Queries:

1508-1 Submitted by Craig Benton (krang1@comcast.net)

Craig is trying to prove that Oliver Seeley/Seelye (SGS# 2273), born 1791 in CT, is the son of Abner Seelye, Jr. (SGS# 816), who was born in 1768 in New Milford, CT. Abner Seeley, father of Abner, Jr., served in the Revolutionary War. The only source Craig has found is a mention of Oliver as Abner's son in James E. Quinlan, *History of Sullivan County* (Liberty, NY: G. M. Beebe & W. T. Morgans, 1873). Craig is a descendant of Oliver's daughter Alpha. Searching records in New Milford, a paid genealogist could not prove the link.

SGS Response: Sullivan County is a difficult area to research in this timeframe because early records were destroyed when the county courthouse burned. The reference in Quinlan's *History of Sullivan County* is not considered a primary source, but so far it seems to be the only source linking these two men. Anyone finding a primary source such as a birth record for Oliver naming his parents or a will for Abner, Jr., naming Oliver is urged to

Please See SGS Queries Page 13

SGS Queries (continued from page 12)

get in touch with Craig and send a copy to SGS.

1508-2 From Chris Havnar (chris.havnar@gmail.com)

Chris found the following obituary:

"Mrs. G.L. Hampson Dies Sunday Evening

*"Well Known Church and W.C.T.Y. Worker Passes Away
From Gall Bladder Trouble and Erysipelas*

"Mrs. Mary Hampson, wife of George L. Hampson of 1108 Edgar avenue, passed away at the family residence at 7:15 o'clock on Sunday evening. Death was due to erysipelas and gall bladder trouble. Mrs. Hampson had been in failing health since the first of the year, but did not become bedfast until three days ago. On Sunday afternoon, a few hours before her death, she appeared much improved and members of the family expected her to recover.

"Arrangements for the funeral service cannot be made until after word is received from relatives living at a distance. Services probably will be conducted from the Methodist Episcopal Church. Burial will be made in Dodge Grove cemetery.

"Mrs. Hampson was born in Pennsylvania. She had been a resident of Mattoon since 1895. Surviving in addition to the husband are several children, including Joseph L. Hampson, Indianapolis; Ray Hampson, New York; Clifford Hampson, Mattoon; Herbert Hampson, Rantoul and Miss Ether Hampson, Morris, Okla. Miss Lizzie Seeley and Miss Margaret Seeley, residents of Morris, are sisters.

"Mrs. Hampson was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and also of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union."

Published in *Daily Journal-Gazette*, Mattoon, IL, Monday, 4 Feb. 1918.

Chris found a death record for Margaret Seeley, born 17 Feb 1863, in Morris, Grundy, IL, died there 18 Feb 1941. Her parents are listed as Ezra Seeley and Adelia Wilkes.

Looking at census records, she found

1850 census Morris, Grundy, IL

- Ezra P Seeley, age 40, b. NY, lawyer
- Adelia H. Seeley, age 26, b. NY

1870 census Waubensee, Grundy, IL

- Adelea H. Seely, age 45, b. NY
- Mary Seely, age 12 b. IL
- Lydia Seely, age 9, b. IL
- Maggie Seely, age 7, b. IL

1880 census Morris, Grundy, IL

- Adelia Seeley, age 50, b. NY, NY, NY
- Lizzie Seeley, age 19, b. IL, ?, NY
- Maggie Seeley, age 17, b. IL, ?, NY

1900 census Morris, Grundy, IL

- Adelia H. Seeley, head, age 77 widow, b. Feb 1823, mother of 4, 3 living, NY NY NY
- Margret Seeley, dau., age 37, b. Feb 1863, IL CT NY, dressmaker
- Eliza Seeley, dau., age 39, b. Sep. 1870, b. IL CT NY, cashier, grocery

(Note that cemetery records indicate a birth year of 1860)

Chris also found photos of matching cemetery stones in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris, Grundy, IL, around the Seeley monument for Eliza (1860-1927), Hattie (1856-

1859), Mother (1823-1903), and Father (1810-1862). Who is Ezra P.?

SGS Response: I found a Rootswab entry about Evergreen Cemetery, indicating that Hettie Seeley, d. 1 Mar 1859, Ezra Paul Seeley, d. 18 Jul 1862, and Adelia Harriet Seeley, d. 8 Apr 1903, were all moved to Block 16 on 26 April 1904.

There are several references to Ezra P. Seeley as a lawyer and office holder in Morris in the *History of Grundy County* (Grundy Co: O. L. Baskin, 1882) but nothing indicating his ancestry or provenance.

In John M. Palmer, ed., *The Bench and Bar of Illinois* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1889), vol. 2, p. 775, I found the following reference to Ezra in the Grundy Co. section:

"Ezra P. Seeley was our next lawyer, and came from the state of New York in 1845. He was a well-read lawyer, but not apt in his application of the law to the facts, and was very abusive to the witnesses who testified for the 'other fellow'; hence, he was by no means a successful lawyer before a jury. He represented his ward in the village council, and served one or two terms as justice of the peace."

If anyone has more information on Ezra, please get in touch with me.

1508-3 Submitted by Gene Seelye of Knoxville, PA

Gene had found a reference to an S. M. Seely of New York City, who had bought a lot of land in PA in the 1860's as an oil speculator. Gene wondered who this wealthy Seely might be.

SGS Response: 1880 census New York, New York, NY

- Seeley, S.M., boarder, age 55, b. MI, banker
- Seeley, Mary, boarder, age 45, b. MI
- Seeley, Jan, boarder, age 19, b. MI

I did not locate them in 1870

1860 census Coldwater, Branch, MI

- Seely, S.M., age 38, b. NJ, speculator
 - Seely, Mrs., age 23, b. NJ
- They are living in a hotel.

Then I found a reference in Randall Hazelton, *Coldwater* (Coldwater, MI: Arcadia Publishing, 2004): "Coldwater's first millionaire was S. M. Seely who in 1865 made \$1.5 Million from oil speculations."

Civil War Draft

- Sutherland M. Seeley age 36, b. NY, horse dealer, registered in Coldwater, Branch, MI

Michigan Death Index

- Sutherland Moore Seeley, b. abt. 1823 in NY to Holly Seely and Elizabeth Moore, d. 16 Oct 1899 Coldwater, Branch, MI, age 76, occupation capitalist, md.

Then I found a biography in Henry P. Collin, A

TWENTIETH CENTURY History and Biographical Record Branch County, Michigan

(Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1906), pp. 405-406:

"Sutherland Moore Seely, now deceased, was born August 15, 1826, near Middletown, Orange County, New York. He was the ninth in a family of ten children born unto Holly and Elizabeth (Moore) Seely. The father was a native of Goshen, Orange County, New York, born August 7, 1787, and was of English and Scotch lineage, although the family was established in New England during an early period in the colonization of this county. The mother of our

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subject was of Quaker parentage and was born at Cornwall, New York, September 16, 1790. In the year 1829 Holly Seely, having sustained heavy losses through fire, removed his family to Newburgh, New York, and afterward to Sussex county, New Jersey, and there conducted a tannery. It was during their residence in Sussex County that the wife and mother died in 1835. After her death Mr. Seely never attended school, and all his schooling came between his fifth and eighth years. The father afterward married again and later removed to Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, where he also conducted a tannery. About 1832 the family came to Michigan, settling near Ypsilanti, and not more than a year later Southerland M. Seely started out in life for himself. He left a home where he had no advantages or hope for an education and when thirteen years of age began the battle of life for himself as a poor boy. The facts of his career disclose wonderful success as he steadily made his way upward undeterred by obstacles and difficulties in his path. He became both wealthy and well informed. Going to Erie, Pennsylvania, he accepted a position as errand boy and general helper in a hotel and after three or four months he went to Georgetown, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a short period and was again employed in a hotel. At Mogadore, Ohio, he was employed for two years in a tannery, after which he was foreman there, remaining until 1844. In the following year he went to Mendham, New Jersey, where for a short period he worked in a tannery and afterward he was engaged in the boot and shoe business with Lewis A. Thompson, who subsequently became his father-in-law. This business relation was maintained until 1852 when on account of ill health he withdrew and turned his attention to the business of purchasing western horses and shipping them to the eastern market. Soon afterward, however, he purchased a stage coach line running from Coldwater to Marshall, Michigan, and used his horses on that line. He then planned a mail route from Marshall to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and in this manner extended the stage route, devoting his energies to the business until 1859, when he sold out and engaged in purchasing and selling horses again. To this he gave his time until after the outbreak of the Civil war. His next enterprise was a tannery at Coldwater, and in the winter of 1863-4 he removed to New York City, where he engaged in dealing in bonds, stocks and mortgages. That business claimed his energies for several years and he was so successful that he amassed a large sum of money. He was perhaps the most noted capitalist that has lived in Branch County. In 1871 he returned to Coldwater on account of declining health and continued his residence here until his death October 16, 1899. Mr. Seely traveled extensively both in America and abroad and gained that culture, knowledge and experience which only travel can bring. His conversation was enriched with many interesting reminiscences and anecdotes of his journeys, and he was a most congenial companion. Though he was never a church member he attended the services of the Presbyterian church and was a very charitable man, giving freely of his means to those who needed assistance and to worthy benevolent objects. It was on the 7th of April, 1853, that Mr. Seely was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Thompson, a daughter of Lewis A. Thompson of Mendham, New Jersey, who was born there in 1833 and

now resides in Detroit. She is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Seely have two daughters: Annie, who is living in Coldwater; and Mrs. W. N. Worcester, of Detroit. The life history of Mr. Seely is notable in the fact that he rose from a very humble financial position to one of affluence. His business discernment and judgment were rarely at fault. He seemed to understand intricate business problems almost at a glance and he knew how best to utilize his opportunities so as to produce the greatest results. Nor was his path strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes. He was just and upright in all his dealings and the secret of his prosperity lay in his close application, his indefatigable energy and his keen sagacity. In his life he displayed the sterling traits of character of friend, father and husband, being always loyal to those with whom he enjoyed social relations, while to his family he was most devoted.

Southerland Moore Seely is SGS# 3781 (Southerland, Holly, James, Nathaniel, Ebenezer, Jonas, Obadiah). We didn't have information on his descendants. Looking at census records his daughter Annie remained in Coldwater, didn't marry and died in 1933. His daughter Kate married Willard N Worcester, a druggist and had 3 children. Kate died in 1938 and is buried in Oak Grove cemetery in Coldwater along with her sister Annie, her parents and an older sister Grace who died in 1863 aged 1 and a half. If you would like information on Kate's children please contact me.

How to Submit a Query

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

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

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

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

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

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

How to Answer a Query

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

SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2013 - 2015

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

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SGS Appointed Officers & Volunteers for 2013 - 2015

SGS Constitution, Art IV, Sect. 1: "The President shall appoint an Ancestor Files Chair, a Membership Chair, a Publications Editor, Assistant Genealogists as required, and a Director for the National Research Center." **SGS By-Laws, Art. III, Section 9:** "The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the board of directors and committees in a non-voting advisory capacity." **SGS By-Laws, Art. III, SECTION 10:** "The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may establish other positions and collateral duties not named elsewhere."

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Seeley Genealogical Society Membership Form

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last) | | TELEPHONE NO. |
| ADDRESS (Number, Street) | | E-MAIL ADDRESS |
| ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) | | <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| DESCENDANT OF: <input type="checkbox"/> Robert <input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Attached) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | | NEWSLETTER DELIVERY: <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Mail |
| I/we have submitted our Seeley line as far as known to Linda Crocker <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING TO or Chris Havnar (contact info above) for inclusion in the SGS Ancestor File <input type="checkbox"/> NO | | |
| MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> TWO YEARS \$18 <input type="checkbox"/> THREE YEARS \$25 (In U.S. Dollars) <input type="checkbox"/> FIVE YEARS \$36 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME \$125 | | |
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Seeley Genealogical Society

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

SGS Publications for Order

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

SGS has several publications and research tools for sale.

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

You can find contact information (address, phone number, & email address) on page 15.

SGS Area Coordinators

Area Coordinators help the Query Editor respond to queries. They also help the Membership Chair recruit new members in their areas.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
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| New York | Laura Condie, billaura@aol.com (Southern Tier Counties and Finger Lakes Region) |
| New York | Liz Alexander, mrsvquest@aol.com (Dutchess County) |
| *New York | Mary Palley, mary@palley.com (Remainder of N.Y.) |
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| *Oklahoma | Terry Tietjens |
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| *Oregon | Bob Seeley |
| *Pennsylvania | Jim Seeley |
| Wyoming | Ann Hall, ramonhall@prodigy.net |
| *SGS Query Editor | Linda Crocker |

Is your state or province missing from the above list? If so, we need you! Contact Kathie Olsen.

*Means address is on page 15