



SGS Newsletter

Seeley Genealogical Society Est. 1965



HISTORY ★ FAMILY ★ RESEARCH

Issue 169-2016-03/August/2016

2016 Research Report on Obadiah Seeley

*Submitted by Apryl Cox, AG®
July 13, 2016*

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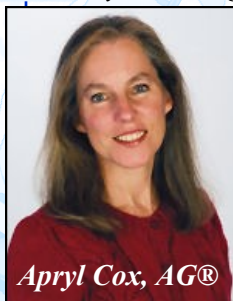
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Editor's Note: This is the second research report prepared for the Seeley Genealogical Society by Accredited Genealogist (AG) Apryl Cox. Both reports were funded by the society at the recommendation of the SGS Research Committee. What follows is the complete text of the



Apryl Cox, AG®

report. A summary of the first report can be found in the November 2015 SGS Newsletter, (The full version of that report is available to SGS Members by request from Kathie Olsen whose contact information can be found at the back of this

newsletter.)

Objectives

- Continue research on Obadiah Seeley's ancestry in England by doing the following:
 - Seek the marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell in Sheldon, Warwickshire, and other Warwickshire and Worcestershire parishes in the vicinity, about 1608. Verify Alice's surname is Bissell.
 - Search for Alice Bissell's christening and parents in Sheldon, Warwickshire.
 - Conduct research on William Seeley's proposed parents, William Seeley and Anne or Alice Bloxish or Blocksidge.

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The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

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See Contact Info on Page 15

Announcements

The SGS Newsletter is published every February, May, August, and November. Announcements are published for free and are due to the editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

SGS Mission Statement

The Society shall engage in research, study, verification, discussion, collation, publication, dissemination, and preservation of Seeley information for the Society, for the education and benefit of its members and for posterity.

Membership

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

Membership Dues

Effective Oct. 1, 2011 SGS Membership dues are \$10 per year, \$18 two years, \$25 three years, or \$36 five years. Lifetime memberships are \$125. (Dues are in U.S. dollars and the membership year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30) Pay all dues to:

SGS Membership Chair

Marie Seelye

See Contact Info on Page 15

Seelye Research Center

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

Seelye Research Center, Director

Terry Tietjens

See Contact Info on Page 15

SGS International Reunions

are held every two years. The next one is scheduled for 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, Lynda Simmons

I am excited about our next SGS Reunion in Parkersburg, West Virginia and Marietta, Ohio! It will be held from Thursday June 15 to Sunday June 18, 2017. The SGS Board will meet on Wednesday afternoon, June 14, with dinner afterwards and then be back at the hotel to greet all of you as you arrive Wednesday evening.

The reunion will be full of good information and lots of fun. I really enjoyed my visit to this part of the Ohio River Valley! I know how much you will appreciate being in this beautiful part of the United States for our SGS 2017 Reunion.

There are many exciting things to see and do in this area. Parkersburg and Marietta are only 16 miles apart with many wonderful things to do and see in each town and in the area between. Both towns are located on the scenic Ohio River. The area is full of history with Marietta being the first settlement in the Northwest Territory. There are magnificent mansions and museums! A delightful dinner cruise on the Ohio River, visits to historic buildings and islands, good food, searching for Seeley ancestors and hearing about other Seeley relatives are just some of the wonderful things that you will experience at this reunion.

The SGS Reunion Committee is eager to share all of this with you. We want to give a big "Thank You" to Linda Crocker for all of her hard work in making our visit to Parkersburg and Marietta pleasant and productive. Please make plans to come and enjoy the 2017 Reunion.

The SGS Reunion will start with



a panoramic view of this picturesque river valley and its settlements from Fort Boreman, overlooking the confluence of the Ohio and Little Kanawha Rivers. Meetings and tours will follow with a variety to suit all ages and family members. Remember, we would love to have as many young people attend as possible and all of you, too.

Make sure you mark your calendars now and then look for registration materials in the November 2016 and February 2017 SGS Newsletters. You can look forward to meeting new cousins and being reunited with those you know, sharing ideas and information with each other, seeing wonderful sites and relishing the very pleasant friendly atmosphere of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Remember, the 2017 SGS International Reunion is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, to Sunday, June 18, 2017. Mark your calendars and start planning today.

Ancestry Divests Itself of Family Tree Maker

By Pam Turner, SRC Librarian



On Dec. 8, 2015, Ancestry announced that it would stop selling Family Tree Maker (FTM) as of Dec. 31, 2015. It also stated that it would continue to support the current owners of Family Tree Maker at least through January 1, 2017. The purpose behind this was to “concentrate on providing product enhancements and support” to Ancestry users. As you can imagine, the initial response to this was not favorable, to say the least. Over 10,000 posts on the Ancestry blog from December 2015 to March 2016 decried the decision by Ancestry, with many threatening to remove their family trees and cancel their subscriptions.

On Feb. 2, 2016, Ancestry posted another blog titled “New Family Tree Maker Options.” In that post, Ancestry announced that there would be two options for desktop software that will work with Ancestry. Software MacKiev, which has been the developer of FTM for more than six years, will be acquiring that

software line and will be publishing it for both Mac and Windows users. The second software developer, RootsMagic, entered into an agreement with Ancestry that will allow RootsMagic users access to Ancestry hints, searches and the ability to save trees on Ancestry.

The MacKiev website shows under the top features sections of FTM the ability to follow hints (green leaves) and to use the sync feature between desktop and Ancestry. Under the Frequently Asked Questions section, Software MacKiev states that FTM is currently available for purchase through its online store, but that there will also be a free update sometime soon, and discounts for people who have older versions of FTM will be offered. You can find all of the FAQ’s at <http://www.mackiev.com/familytreemaker/ftm3/faq.html>.

RootsMagic, another long-time player in the genealogy software market is using this decision by Ancestry to lure FTM users to its product with discounts and free merchandise. RootsMagic software does not currently have the ability to use the search and sync with Ancestry

services, but importing from FTM to RootsMagic is now available. For the FAQ’s visit <http://www.rootsmagic.com/ancestry/>.

The departure of Ancestry from the software market may open up opportunities not seen before. Ancestry will no longer be in competition with other software makers, and they may allow others access to their systems. The start of this can be seen by RootsMagic being allowed access to the Ancestry site in the same manner as FTM. I can only hope that this trend continues, allowing us more choices in software programs with access to our favored genealogy search sites. Time will only tell.

1 <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/12/08/ancestry-to-retire-family-tree-maker-software/>

2 <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/02/02/good-news-for-users-of-family-tree-maker/>

3 <http://www.mackiev.com/ftm/index.html>

Editor’s Note: Check out the next issue of the SGS Newsletter as Pam takes a look at other genealogical software packages that are available on the market.

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- Examine probate records for Seeley and Bissell testators of Warwickshire and Worcestershire.
- Examine probate, land, and marriage records in Rye, Westchester, New York, and Newburgh, Orange, New York, seeking the family of Augustus Seeley (b. about 1748; d. 1811 Elizabethtown, Leeds, Ontario, Canada).
- Results**
- Found the 1608 marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell in Yardley, Worcestershire. This record proved Alice’s surname was Bissell.
- Examined the 1612 will of William Bissell that identified Alice (Bissell) Seeley as William Bissell’s daughter.
- Located christening records for four of Alice Bissell’s siblings. Christenings for Alice and her brother Samuel were not found.
- Identified the marriage of Alice Bissell’s parents. William Bissell and Alice Chamber married in 1571 in Kings Norton, Worcestershire.
- Located two potential christenings for William Bissell in Yardley, Worcestershire. Neither entry included the names of parents.
- Examined wills for Chamber testators. Located one will that mentioned a daughter Alice, but the testator was proven not to be the father of the ancestral Alice Chamber. He could be Alice’s

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brother.

- Examined wills for Bissell testators and identified a likely couple to be the parents of William Bissell. Thomas Bissell's 1595 will named his eldest son as William Bissell. Presumably Thomas's next oldest son was Richard who was christened in 1548. A birth before 1548 for the ancestral William Bissell would fit perfectly.
- Examined Seeley/Seale and Bloxish probate records. Found the 1558 will of Richard Blockesyche that named a daughter Alice whose birth probably occurred in an appropriate time period to be the ancestress.
- Due to the research required for the first objective, the second objective (research in New York) was not addressed. It becomes a recommendation for a future project.

Recommendations July 13, 2016

- Continue with probate research in an attempt to prove or disprove Thomas and Elizabeth Bissell as the parents of William Bissell (b. abt. 1547).
- Continue to seek the parents of Alice Chamber who was probably born in the late 1540s or early 1550s.
- Locate the marriage of William Seeley and Anne or Alice Bloxish. Then continue to extend their ancestral lines. The 1558 will of Richard Blockesyche named a daughter Alice whose birth probably occurred in an appropriate time period to be the ancestress. Richard's family needs to be pursued further.
- Examine probate, land, and marriage records in Rye, Westchester, New York, and Newburgh, Orange County, New York, seeking the family of Augustus Seeley (b. about 1748; d. 1811, Elizabethtown, Leeds, Ontario, Canada). Specifically, begin by searching the following sources:
 - Bedford, New York, *Bedford*

historical records : 1680-1899 (Bedford Hills, NY:

- Town of Bedford, NY, 1966-1980) FHL book 974.7277/B1 N2b v. 4.
- Ronald B. Reynolds, *Bedford genealogy: descendants of the twenty-two original settlers* (Bedford Hills, NY: Town of Bedford, NY, 1978) FHL book 974.7277/B1 N2b v. 9.
- *Marriages with dates taken from genealogical and church records in Westchester and Putnam Counties, 1683-1906* (Salt Lake City, UT: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1941) FHL film 17999 it 9.
- William Smith Pelletreau, *Early wills of Westchester County, New York, from 1664 to 1784 : a careful abstract of all wills (nearly 800) recorded in New York surrogate's office and at White plains, N.Y., from 1664-1784; also the genealogy of "the Havilands" of Westchester County, and descendants of Hon. James Graham (Watkinson and Ackerly families) with genealogical and historical notes* (Salt Lake City, UT: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975) FHL book 974.7277 P2.
- Orange County Genealogical Society, New York, *Early Orange county wills, two volumes in one, 1731-1830* (Goshen, NY: Orange County Genealogical Society (New York), 1991) FHL book 974.731 R2o.
- Orange County, New York, County Clerk, *Deeds, 1703-1900 ; Index to deeds, 1703-1965* (Salt Lake City, UT: Filmed for the Genealogical Society of Utah by Reproduction Systems, 1970) FHL film 826918 & 826950.
- Edward Manning Ruttenber, *History of the town of Newburgh* (New York, NY: E.M. Ruttenber & Co., 1859)

FHL book 974.73/N1 H2r.

- Read the following two wills:
 - ♦ James Seely of Poundridge, Westchester, D-224 & 244, 11/5/1813.
 - ♦ Wyx Seely of Poundridge, Westchester, B-256, 11/21/1796.

Seeley Genealogical Society Research Report July 13, 2016

The objectives of this project were to continue research on Obadiah Seeley's ancestry in England by finding the marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell, seeking christening records for William Seeley and Alice Bissell, conducting research on William Seeley's proposed parents, William Seeley and Anne Bloxish or Blocksidge, and seeking probate records for Seeley and Bissell testators of Warwickshire and Worcestershire. In addition, an examination of probate, land, and marriage records in Rye, Westchester, New York, and Newburgh, Orange County, New York, was to be conducted to seek the family of Augustus Seeley (b. about 1748; d. 1811, Elizabethtown, Leeds, Ontario, Canada).

Marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell

The marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell was located in a Worcestershire parish near enough to Birmingham to be part of *Ancestry's* Birmingham church records collection.

- Mar 5 Nov 1608 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – William Seeley and Alice Byssell¹
- The marriage record confirmed Alice's surname but did not state whether Alice was a spinster or a widow when she married.

Christening Records for William Seeley and Alice Bissell

Christening records for William Seeley and Alice Bissell were sought in Sheldon parish² where they christened their daughter Sarah, in Birmingham³ where they christened their other four children, and in

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Yardley⁴ where they married. No potential christenings were located for William and Alice in these parishes.⁵ A general search in Warwickshire and Worcestershire was conducted in *FamilySearch* databases. No potential christenings were found for Alice; only one potential christening was found for William—the 30 April 1579 christening of William, son of Ralph Seale, in Lapworth, Warwickshire.⁶ Based on their marriage year, the couple may have been born between 1578 and 1590.

Since William and Alice Seeley christened their first child, Sarah, in the parish of Sheldon, either William or Alice must have had a connection with families living in that parish. No Seeley entries were found in the Sheldon parish registers other than Sarah Seeley's christening in 1609, but there were at least two or three Bissell families living there as indicated by the following events.⁷

- Mar 7 Feb 1576 Sheldon – John Byssell and Anne Warwicke
- Chr 1 Feb 1578 Sheldon – John, son of John Byssell
- Chr 23 Feb 1588/9 Sheldon – Thomas, son of John Byssell
- Chr 16 Nov 1590 Sheldon – John, son of John Byssell [buried 12 Mar 1590/1]
- Chr 19 Feb 1591/2 Sheldon – William Byssell [no parents listed, but the only Bissell man christening children in Sheldon at this time was John]
- Chr 19 Mar 1598 Sheldon – Edward, son of John Bissell
- Chr 2 Mar 1600 Sheldon – Samuel, son of John Bissell
- Chr 18 Nov 1602 Sheldon – Habacuck, son of John Byssell [buried 11 Mar 1619/20]
- Chr 1 Feb 1604 Sheldon – Lemuell, son of Thomas Byssell
- Chr 19 Feb 1605/6 Sheldon – Ellen, daughter of John Bissell
- Chr 16 Oct 1608 Sheldon – Thomas, son of John Bissell
- Bur 26 Oct 1618 Sheldon – Ellenor, wife of John Byssell
- Bur 5 Feb 1618/9 Sheldon – Ellenor, daughter of John Byssell
- Mar 25 Sep 1620 Sheldon – John Bissell and Elizabethaeth Wilson

- Bur 20 Jan 1621/2 Sheldon – Elizabeth, daughter of John Bissell
 - Mar 24 Feb 1622/3 Sheldon – John Bissell and Marie Darbie
 - Bur 23 Mar 1629/30 Sheldon – John Bissell
 - Chr 24 May 1612 Sheldon – John, son of William Bissell of Yardley
- The John Bissell who was christening his children in Sheldon in the early 1600s is likely the reason why William and Alice Seeley christened their own child in this parish. John could be Alice's brother. The 10-year gap between the Bissell children christened in 1578 and 1588 suggests either the family moved out of the parish for a time or the marriage of John Bissell to Anne Warwicke was John Bissell's second marriage and he had just the one child by her. The 1576 marriage year was well-suited for this couple to be the parents of the ancestral Alice Bissell who was likely born between 1578 and 1590. John Bissell was explored further.

Three John Bissell marriages were identified other than the 1576 marriage in Sheldon to Anne Warwicke. Since the wife of John Bissell of Sheldon was Ellenor in 1618, this indicates that either Anne died and John had remarried, or the John who married Ellenor was a different man from the John Bissell who married Anne Warwicke.

- Mar 19 Jan 1584 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – John Byssell and Ellenor Aston
- Mar 3 Jun 1594 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – John Byssell and Margaret Lawton
- Mar 20 Aug 1598 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – John Byssell the younger and Ellenor Lawrence

Yardley parish in Worcestershire and Sheldon parish in Warwickshire are contiguous parishes. To be married in one parish and christen children in the neighboring parish would not be unexpected. Either the John Byssell and Ellenor who married in Yardley in 1584 or the couple who married in Yardley in 1598 could be the couple who lived in Sheldon when Ellenor, wife of John Byssell, was

buried in 1618.

To better sort out the John Bissell couples, christenings for these couples were sought in Yardley with the following results:

- Chr 6 Jun 1581 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – Thomas, son of John Byssell
- Chr 21 Mar 1585 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – Anne, daughter of John and Ellenor Byssell
- Chr 10 Jan 1587 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – Margaret, daughter of John Byssell Jr. [buried 24 Jan 1587]
- Chr 8 Jan 1597/8 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – Robert, son of John Byssell
- Chr 4 May 1600 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – Alice, daughter of John Byssell
- Chr 27 Jun 1602 Yardley, St. Edburgha, Worcester – Alice, daughter of John Byssell

The christenings in 1600 and 1602 in both Yardley and Sheldon indicate the presence of at least two John Bissell couples bearing children. The couple in Yardley (at least in 1585) was John and Ellenor, likely the same couple who married in Yardley in 1584. They, too, might have been candidates to be the parents of Alice Bissell. But they christened children in 1585 and 1587 which leaves only the years 1588 through 1590 to have given birth to Alice. No Alice Bissell christenings were found in Yardley during those years.

Probate research for the Bissell line in Worcestershire courts was conducted in order to identify a couple that named Alice (Bissell) Seeley as a daughter. This search proved successful. But Alice's father was not John Bissell; he was William Bissell.

The 1612 will of William Bissell of Kings Norton, Worcestershire (a contiguous parish to Yardley), named his daughter "Alys Seeley."⁸ Other persons named in William's will were his daughter Elizabeth and sons Thomas, Samuel, Wylliam and John Bissell. Son John was named as William's executor. The will was probated on 18 September 1612, just

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12 days after William Bissell was buried in Kings Norton parish on 6 September 1612.⁹

William Bissell's marriage and christening entries for the children named in his will were sought. The following entries were located in Kings Norton parish.

- Mar 25 Nov 1571 Kings Norton – William Bissell and Alice Chamber¹⁰
- Chr 21 Dec 1572 Kings Norton – Elizabeth, daughter of William Bissell; godparents John Chamber and Elizabeth Bissell¹¹
- Chr 31 Oct 1574 Kings Norton – John, son of William Bissell; godparents Thomas Bissell, George Chamber, Margaret Chamber¹²
- Chr 17 Nov 1576 Kings Norton – Thomas, son of William Bissell; godparents Thomas Chamber, Marten Chamber, Dorothy [?]¹³
- Chr 18 Jun 1579 Kings Norton – William, son of William Bissell; godparents Thomas Chamber, John Bissell and Agnes Greve¹⁴

Christening records for daughter Alice and son Samuel Bissell were not located. Based on Alice's marriage year of 1608, she was likely born in the early 1580s. Samuel may have been born about 1578 between his brothers Thomas and William. The godparents of William Bissell and Alice Chamber's children were mainly Bissells and Chamberses. These individuals could be their siblings, parents, or uncles and aunts. Their names could become important in establishing the correct parentage of William Bissell and Alice Chamber.

William and Alice were likely born in the 1540s or early 1550s based on their 1571 marriage year. Although a christening for Alice Chamber was not located in the Birmingham area, there were three Chamber children christened in Kings Norton parish about the time Alice would have been born. If her christening was not recorded, she may have been a sibling of the following children:

- Chr 13 Jan 1553 Kings Norton – Isabell Chamber¹⁵

- Chr 6 Oct 1559 Kings Norton – Elizabeth Chamber; godparents Isabel Grisold, Richard Greve, Elizabeth Sparry¹⁶
- Chr 18 May 1561 Kings Norton – Richard Chamber; godparents Thomas Greves, John Bissell, Margaret Greves¹⁷

A Greves individual also served as a godparent for a child of William Bissell and Alice Chamber which shows a connection between these families.

Two possible christenings were located for William Bissell in Yardley, a contiguous parish with Kings Norton. The 1552 christening is a bit late for a marriage in 1571, but still possible. Unfortunately, christening entries in Yardley parish for this time period did not include the names of parents.

- Chr 6 Aug 1547 Yardley – William Bissell¹⁸
- Chr 13 Dec 1552 Yardley – William Byssell¹⁹

Probate records were sought that might identify the parents of William Bissell and Alice Chamber. The wills of four Chamber testators were read. Brief abstracts are as follows:

- 1575 will of John Chamber of Kings Norton²⁰
 - Will dated Feb 1572; probated 1575
 - Will named wife Margaret; daughter Dorothy Chamber; youngest daughter Elizabeth Chamber (minor); sons John, Peter, Thomas and Richard Chamber; brothers-in-law Richard Greve and John Potter; brother Thomas Chamber
- 1584 will of Martin Chamber, wheelwright of Kings Norton²¹
 - Will dated 18 Apr 1584; probated 14 Sep 1584
 - Will named kinsman John Norcott; brother Humphrey Chamber who is the executor; witnesses Thomas Chambers, Richard Chambers, Thomas Bissell
- 1614 will of Humphrey Chamber of Kings Norton²²
 - Will dated 12 Apr [year torn off]; probated 1614

- Will named Richard Anlye, son of [torn off]; brother's son, William Chamber; cousins Philip and John Norcott; deceased brother Martin Chamber; Johane Pare; John Greves, son of Edward Greves; children of Martin Chamber [John and Thomas Chamber]; godchildren Anne Greves and John Homes; Katheryne Gregory; Alice, wife of Edward Anlye; brother-in-law Richard Martin

- 1617 will of George Chambers of Yardley²³

- Will probated 31 Oct 1617
- Will named wife Johane; daughter Agnes; sons Thomas and John (youngest son); daughter Alyce; sister Dorothy

Only the 1617 will of George Chambers of Yardley named an Alice. Unfortunately this will is in very poor condition with significant portions that are unreadable. The marriage of George Chamber to Johane and christenings for his two sons were found in Kings Norton parish.

- Mar 17 Dec 1577 Kings Norton – George Chamber and Johane Marten²⁴
- Chr 18 Sep 1578 Kings Norton – Thomas, son of George Chamber; godparents Thomas Greve and Thomas Chamber²⁵
- Chr 5 May 1583 Kings Norton – John, son of George Chamber; godparents John Swift and Marten Chamber²⁶

No christenings were found for George Chamber's daughters Agnes and Alyce, but both events likely occurred between 1579 and 1582 or after 1583. The ancestral Alice Chamber was probably born in the 1540s to the early 1550s, so George Chamber, the testator, would not be her father, but he could be her brother.

The existing church records for Kings Norton parish begin halfway through the year 1546. It is quite possible that both William Bissell and Alice Chamber were born and christened before that year in Kings

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Children's Ancestry Corner

By Seeley Genealogical Society
Membership Chair Marie Seelye



Editor's Note: This section of the newsletter is the second of a series dedicated to youngsters. You are encouraged to share these pages with your children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Use them as a way to begin a conversation with them, tell them stories about their family history, and perhaps engender in them a love for genealogy.

The Tower of London and Why the Colonists Came to America



When our ancestors walked around London (for work or to find food), they may well have seen the Tower of London. The Tower was built in 1070 and was used as a prison during the time our ancestors were in London. Today, many believe that the Tower is haunted by ghosts of those who died there. It also has been used as a treasury, a castle in which the king lived, an armory, and the home of the Crown Jewels of England. Its prime purpose since the 1600s has been tourism. It is what many colonists bound for the New World would have seen in 1628 as they headed down the river to cross the ocean.

But why would people leave their

homes? The voyage was long and perilous, and life in the New World was dangerous and hard. People left for many reasons including religious freedom, the promise of a better life, and the opportunity to own land. But many were also upset with the king, Charles I.

He had lots of parties for his friends and spent lots of money on clothing. The people were tired of paying the taxes that made it possible for him to do this. He also did not let Parliament members do their job and told them to go home, so he could spend more money. Also, people were afraid he was going back to the

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Catholic religion and church rules. They were against this and so some became Separatists from the church and decided to go to the New World.

We know at least two of our ancestors emigrated to America from England. Many believe Robert Seeley, left London, Monday, March 29, 1630, and sailed on April 8, 1630 from the Isle of Wight, along with his wife and child as a part of the John Winthrop Fleet, on the ship *Arbella/ Arabella*. They arrived in Salem, MA, June 12, 1630. Less is known of

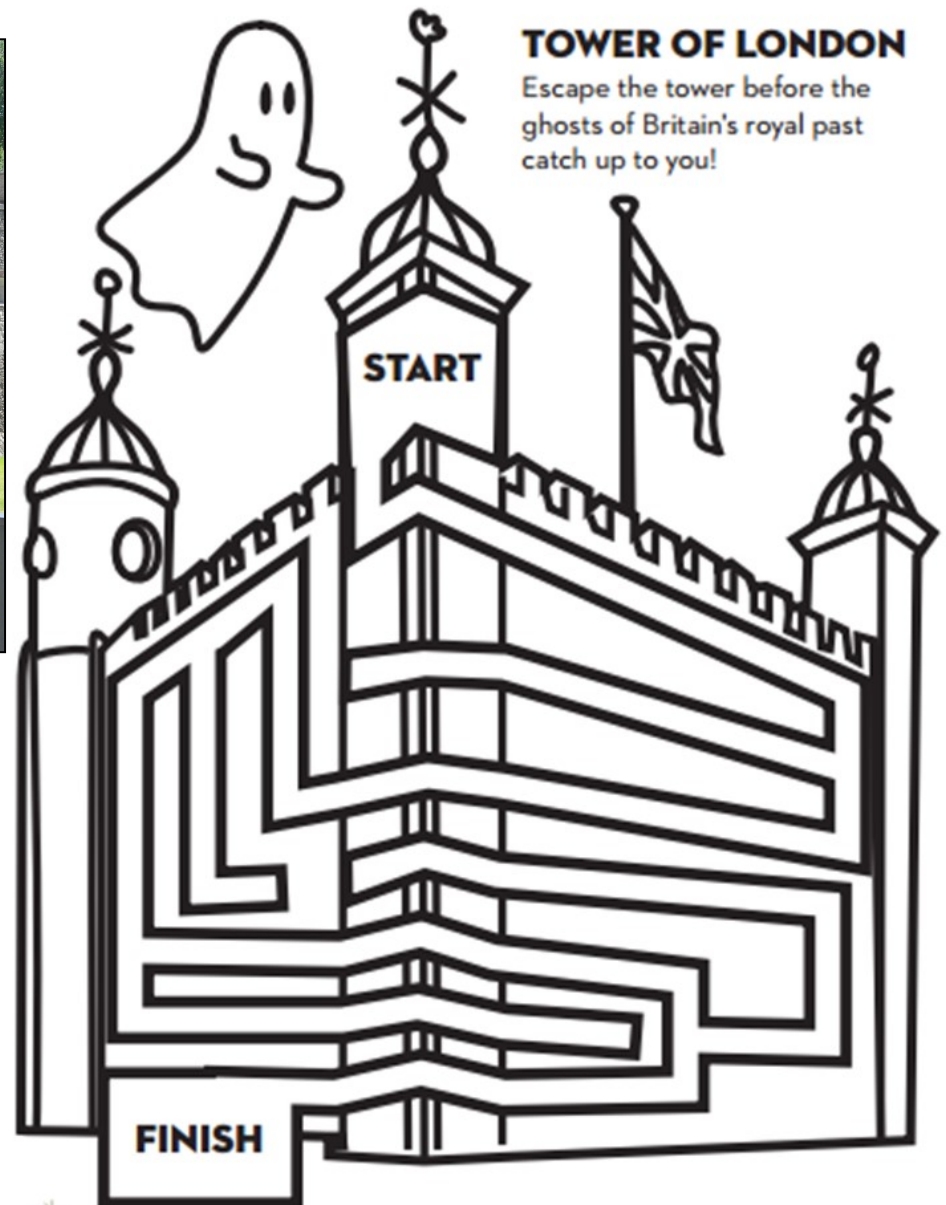
Obadiah Seeley. What we do know is that he was an early resident of Stamford, CT, as several entries in the records show. On Feb. 20, 1648 John Holly had nine acres of land in Rock Neck, Stamford, bounded by lands of Obadiah Seeley on the north.

Perhaps you can ask your parents or grandparents to help you with the puzzles below. First, challenge yourself to a ghostly maze right in the middle of one of London's creepiest landmarks. The inhabitants of the

Tower of London aren't very happy -- they're ghosts, for one -- so get out quickly while you can. When you are finished, you may color the picture. Look at the picture of me and my husband, Walt Seelye standing in front of the Tower of London below to see the color of the Tower. Then try your hand at the crossword puzzle that lists the English colonies in America. While you're working on the puzzles, think of some questions to ask your folks about your family history!



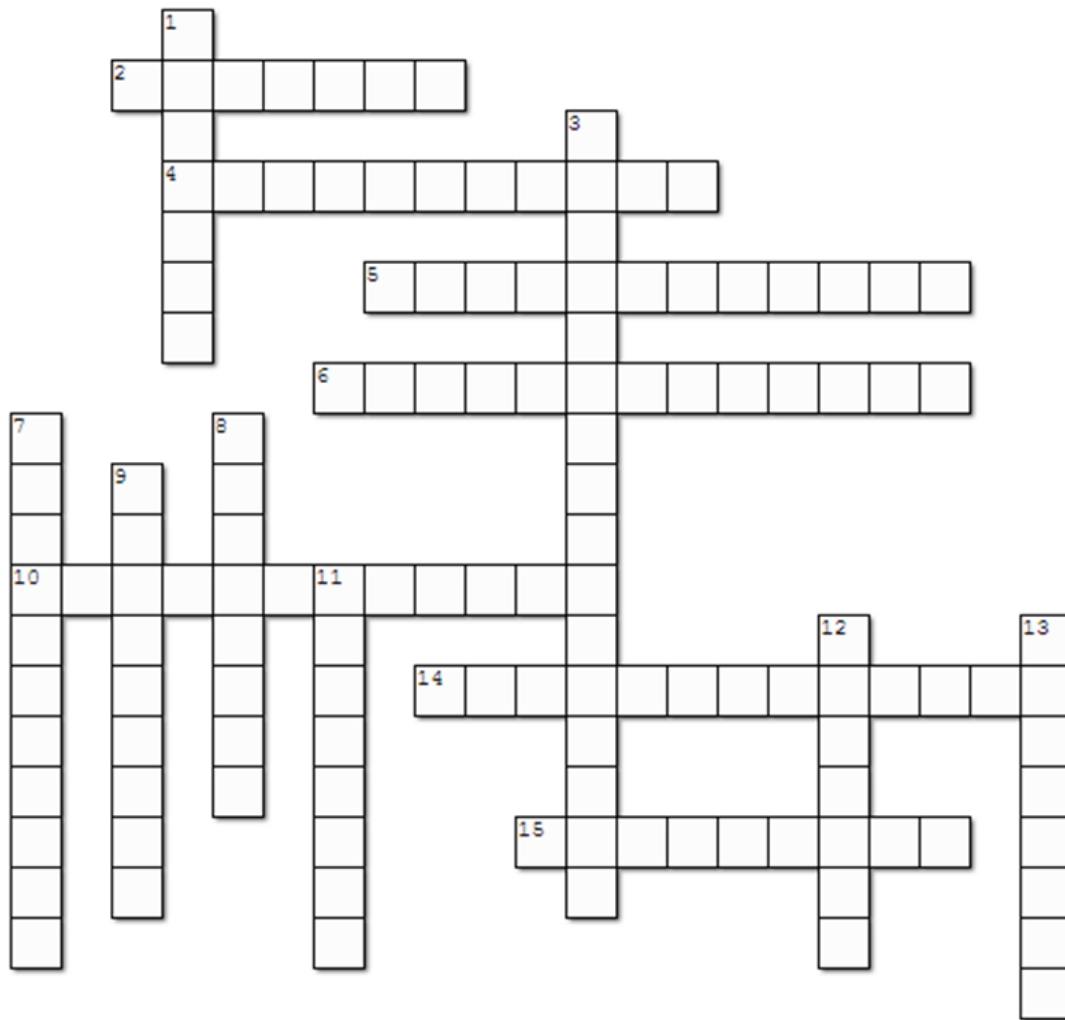
Top: Marie Seelye and her husband Walt, visit the Tower of London. Above: One of the Royal Guards who protect the Tower which is still the site where the crown jewels are stored.



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More worksheets at www.education.com/worksheets

Crossword Puzzle: English Colonies in America



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://TheTeachersCorner.net)

Across

2. A colony in the New England region of the modern United States founded as a Dutch colony by Peter Minuit in 1626 but given this new name when taken over by English in 1664.
4. A colony in the New England region of the modern United States founded by Roger Williams 1636.
5. A colony in the middle region of the modern United States founded by William Penn in 1682.
6. A colony in the southern region of the modern United States founded by Virginia colonists. In 1653 eight nobleman, referred to as the Lord Proprietors, were granted the rights to the colony by King Charles II.
10. A Puritan colony in the New England region of the modern U.S. founded by John Mason in 1636.
14. A colony in the southern region of the modern U.S. given in 1663 by Charles II to proprietors, among them Anthony Ashley Cooper, in return for their financial and political assistance in restoring him to the throne in 1660.
15. A colony in the southern region of the modern United States founded by John Smith in 1607.

Down

1. A colony in the southern region of the modern United States founded by James Oglethorpe in 1733.
3. A colony in the New England region of the modern United States founded by John Winthrop in 1630.
7. A colony in the New England region of the modern United States founded by Thomas Hooker in 1636.
8. A colony in the middle region of the modern United States founded by Peter Minuit in 1638.
9. A colony in the middle region of the modern United States founded by Sweden in 1660 but taken over by the English under Lord Berkeley in 1664.
11. A colony in the New England region of the modern United States founded by William Bradford in 1620.
12. A colony in the southern region of the modern United States founded by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1585.
13. A colony in the middle region of the modern United States founded by George Calvert in 1634.

DOWN
1. GEORGIA
2. NEW YORK
3. MASSACHUSETTS BAY
4. RHODE ISLAND
5. PENNSYLVANIA
6. NORTH CAROLINA
7. CONNECTICUT
8. DELAWARE
9. NEW JERSEY
10. NEW HAMPSHIRE
11. PLYMOUTH
12. ROANOKE
13. MARYLAND

ACROSS
1. JAMESTOWN
2. SOUTH CAROLINA
3. NEW HAMPSHIRE
4. NORTH CAROLINA
5. PENNSYLVANIA
6. NORTH CAROLINA
7. NEW HAMPSHIRE
8. NEW HAMPSHIRE
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12. NEW HAMPSHIRE
13. NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Norton parish. The earliest Bissell and Chamber christenings found in this parish beginning in 1546 were as follows:

- Chr 29 Dec 1546 Kings Norton - Martyn Chamber
- Chr 8 Apr 1548 Kings Norton - Martyn Chamber
- Chr 24 Apr 1548 Kings Norton - Richard Bissell
- Chr 8 Jan 1550/1 Kings Norton - Joyce Bissell

These christenings indicate that families of both surnames lived within the parish when the extant registers begin. Additional probate records might lead to the identity of the parents of Alice Chamber. The names of godparents for Alice Chamber's children should be kept in mind since they may be her parents or siblings. They were John, George, Margaret, Marten and Thomas Chamber.

Wills of Bissell testators were also examined and brief abstracts of these documents are as follows:

- 1595 will of Thomas Bissell, yeoman of Kings Norton²⁷
 - Will dated 3 Jul 1595; probated 29 Jul 1595
 - Will named his **eldest son William Bissell**; sons Richard Bissell, John Bissell, and Humphrey Bissell; daughters Alice, Isabel, Anne, and Joyce [no surname listed]; wife Elizabeth who is the executrix; overseers are sons John and Humphrey

Christening records were sought for the children named in Thomas Bissell's will to learn whether his son William may have been born in the 1540s. The following possibilities were located in Kings Norton and Yardley parishes:²⁸

- Chr 24 Apr 1548 Kings Norton - Richard Bissell
- Chr 8 Jun 1550/1 Kings Norton - Joyce Bissell
- Chr 30 May 1551 Yardley - John Byssell
- Chr 23 Aug 1553 Kings Norton - Alice Bissell
- Chr 14 Aug 1563 Kings Norton - Humfrey Bissell; godparents Humfrey Greves, Richard Priest, Dorothy Greves

- Chr 30 Nov 1567 Yardley - John, son of Thomas Bissell
- Chr 5 Jan 1573 Yardley - John, son of Thomas Bissell
- Chr 11 Dec 1576 Yardley - William, son of Thomas Bissell
- Chr 14 Aug 1579 Yardley - Richard, son of Thomas Bissell
- Chr 18 Jun 1581 Yardley - Anne Bissell

Multiple possible christenings were located for Thomas Bissell's children named John and Richard, but only one possible entry for each of his children named Joyce, Alice, and Humfrey was found. Those christenings occurred in 1551, 1553 and 1563 in Kings Norton parish. If the Richard Bissell christened in 1548 was Thomas Bissell's son, then Thomas's son William would have been born before 1548 since the will named William as the eldest son. A birth before 1548 would fit perfectly with the ancestral William Bissell's estimated birth year. Also, a Thomas Bissell and an Elizabeth Bissell served as godparents for two of William and Alice (Chamber) Bissell's children. Thomas and Elizabeth Bissell are definitely potential parents of the ancestral William Bissell.

The next Bissell will examined also named a son William Bissell.

- 1598 will of William Bissell, yeoman of Yardley²⁹
 - Will dated 1 Feb 1596; probated 23 Oct 1598
 - Will named "**all the children of my son William Bissell;**" "**to William, the eldest son of my son William;**" sons John Bissell and Richard Bissell; son-in-law Henry Bache; daughter Agnes Bache [she has children]; son-in-law Nicholas Hollden and his children; daughter Alice, wife of Nicholas Hollden; friend George Chamber

The marriage of William Bissell's daughter Alice was located in Yardley. Her marriage year of 1584 allowed for a rough calculation of her projected birth year—about 1562.

- Mar 12 Jul 1584 Yardley - Nicholas Holden and Alice Bissell³⁰

A potential christening for Alice Bissell was found in Yardley, but no other possible christenings for other children named by William Bissell in his will were located.

- Chr 25 Jan 1561 Yardley - Alice Byssell³¹

William Bissell's 1598 will indicated his son William had multiple children who were living as of 1 February 1596 and that the eldest son was named William. The family of the ancestral William and Alice (Chamber) Bissell in February 1596 consisted of six known children, one of whom was a son William. But William was their fourth son, not their eldest. Burials were not found for any of the three oldest sons of William Bissell and Alice Chamber before 1596. Therefore, the William Bissell who left the 1598 will was probably not the ancestral William Bissell's father.

One more Bissell will was read during this session. This will was in very poor condition with about half of the document made unreadable due to dark areas on both sides.

- 1607 will of Thomas Bissell, yeoman of Yardley³²
 - Will named eldest son Thomas [has children including a son John]; John Bissell, **William Bissell**, and Richard Bissell, my [unreadable] and to Henry Bissell my youngest son; Elizabeth [unreadable] my [unreadable] and to Anne Bissell my daughter; second son John Bissell

If the William Bissell named in Thomas's will was Thomas's son, then he is unlikely to be the same man who married Alice Chamber. The reason for this conclusion is age. The ancestral William Bissell was likely born in the 1540s. Therefore, his father was probably born in the 1510s or 1520s. This would make Thomas Bissell, the 1607 testator, in his 90s when he wrote his will.

Bissell and Chamber probate research could continue in the future. For now, Thomas (the 1595 testator) and Elizabeth Bissell are the most

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likely parents for William Bissell.

William Seeley and Anne or Alice Bloxish

Many online family trees show William Seeley's parents as William Seeley and Anne or Alice Bloxish. William is usually found in these trees being born and dying in Huntingdonshire, but marrying in Birmingham. This would not be typical and is probably unrealistic. A marriage between William Seeley and Anne or Alice Bloxish was sought, but not found, in extracted parishes found on *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry*, *FindMyPast*, and *FreeReg*.

Probate records were sought for Seeley and Bloxish testators as these documents might reveal the family relationships being sought. Brief abstracts of the examined documents are as follows:

- 1585 will of Edward Seale of Tamworth³³
 - Will dated 14 Jun 1585; proved 1 Oct 1585
 - Will named daughters Agnes Johnes, Margaret Cotton, Elizabeth Seale, Mary Seale, Joyes Seale; son-in-law Thomas Bette; son John Seale who receives the land; **son William Seale receives money**
- 1665 will of Kathren Seale, widow of Birmingham³⁴
 - Will dated 9 May 1664; proved 25 Apr 1665
 - Will named son Robert Seale and his wife Elizabeth; daughter Rebekkah, wife of George Glidd; son-in-law George Glidd; son John Seale and his wife Margrett; son Thomas Seale.
- 1614 estate of Richard Seale of Southam³⁵
 - **William Seale**, Richard Seale and Agnes Seale named as children of Richard Seale

Richard Seale was buried at Southam on 2 October 1614. Apparently, his children were very young. A christening dated 4 September 1610 was located for Richard, son of Richard and Elinor Seale, at Southam. Richard would not

be the father of the ancestral William Seeley.

- 1600 administration of Robert Seale, malster of Tamworth³⁶
 - Administration was granted on 1 April 1600
- 1683/4 administration for Robert Seale, apothecary of Birmingham³⁷
 - Administration granted 18 Jan 1683/4
 - Robert's widow is Dorothy
- 1600 will of Thomas Seale, butcher of Tamworth³⁸
 - Will dated 23 Sep 1600; proved 10 Nov 1600
 - Will named eldest son Richard Seale; second son John Seale; youngest son Christopher Seale; eldest daughter Elizabeth Seale; youngest daughter Grace Seale; wife Elizabeth
- 1629/30 inventory of William Blockswich of Birmingham³⁹
 - Inventory taken 10 Feb 1629/30
- 1665 will of Alice Bloxwich, widow of Birmingham⁴⁰
 - Will dated 19 Jul 1664; proved 10 May 1665
 - Will named son Joseph Bloxwich who received the Birmingham property; son William Bloxwich
- 1619 will of Richard Bloxwich of Aston juxta Birmingham⁴¹
 - Will dated 1 Jul 1619; proved 23 Jul 1619
 - Will named daughter Margaret Birch; Thomas Birch, son of Roger Birch; Richard Bloxish, son of Thomas Bloxish; daughter Marie Bloxich; wife Marie Bloxish who is the executor; witnesses Thomas Humfrie and Edward Bloxiche
- 1642 will of Humfrey Bloxiche, yeoman of Aston juxta Birmingham⁴²
 - Will dated 22 Jun 1641; proved 2 Aug 1642
 - Will named Isabel Bloxiche, daughter of his brother Thomas Bloxiche, late of Erdington, gent; brother Edward Bloxiche; Humfrey Bloxiche, son of the said Edward Bloxiche [minor];

Mary Birch, daughter of Roger Byrche of Erdington, yeoman; brother-in-law Thomas Higginbotham; cousin Thomas Byrche, son of Roger Byrche

- 1638 inventory of Thomas Bloxwich, yeoman of Erdington, Aston juxta Birmingham⁴³
 - Inventory taken 18 Sep 1638
- 1647 will of Edward Bloxwich, yeoman of Handsworth, Staffordshire⁴⁴
 - Will dated 1646; proved 4 May 1647
 - Will named wife Mary; daughter Mary Bloxwich; son Edward Bloxwich; Thomas Higginbotham who is one of the men who inventoried the estate
- 1558 will of Richard Blockesyche of Birmingham⁴⁵
 - Will dated 14 Oct 1558; proved 15 Jan 1558/9
 - Will named eldest son William; sons Richard and Robart; eldest daughter Jone; **daughter Alice**; Elsabeth, his wife's eldest daughter; John and James, his wife's sons; wife Agnes who is the executrix; brother Moryse Blockesyge

Only one of the Bloxish wills named an Ann or Alice Bloxish or Seeley. The 1558 will of Richard Blockesyche named his daughter Alice but did not provide her last name. Christenings were sought for the children of Richard Blockesyche in Birmingham and just one entry was found.

- Chr Feb 1554/5 St. Martin's Birmingham – Robert, son of Richard Blokeshey⁴⁶

The existing church registers for St. Martin's begin in 1554. Richard's son Robert was apparently his youngest son. Robert may have been Richard's youngest child. If true, then the remainder of Richard's children, including his daughter Alice, would have been born before 1554. If the ancestral William Seeley was born about 1584, his parents were likely born between the 1540s and 1560.

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The probable birth of Alice, daughter of Richard Blockesyche, would fit into this time frame. Further research can be conducted on the family of Richard Blockesyche in the future.

Conclusion 13 July 2016

The 1608 marriage of William Seeley and Alice Bissell was found in Yardley, Worcestershire. This record proved Alice's surname was Bissell. The 1612 will of William Bissell proved Alice (Bissell) Seeley was William Bissell's daughter. Christening records were located for four of Alice Bissell's siblings, but no christenings were found for Alice or

her brother Samuel. The marriage of Alice Bissell's parents, William Bissell and Alice Chamber, was located in Kings Norton, Worcestershire, dated 1571.

Two potential christenings for William Bissell were found in Yardley, Worcestershire. The examination of Bissell probate records produced the 1595 will for Thomas Bissell who named his eldest son William Bissell. The probable christening of Thomas Bissell's next oldest son, Richard, was found; it was dated 1548. Therefore, Thomas Bissell's son William was born before 1548 which fits perfectly with the

time frame in which the ancestral William Bissell was probably born.

One will for a Chamber testator was located that mentioned a daughter Alice, but the testator was proven not to be the father of the ancestral Alice Chamber. He could be Alice's brother.

One will was located for a Bloxish testator that named a daughter Alice whose birth probably occurred in an appropriate time period to be the Alice or Anne Bloxish who married William Seeley Sr. The family of Richard Blockesyche, the 1558 testator of Birmingham, must be pursued in the future.

Footnotes

- ¹ Church of England. Parish Church of St. Edburgha, Yardley, Worcestershire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 3.
- ² Church of England. Parish Church of Sheldon, Warwickshire, *The parish registers of St. Giles, Sheldon, Warwickshire* (Birmingham [England] : Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry, [1977]-) FHL book 942.48/S2 K29ch.
- ³ Church of England. St. Martin's Birmingham, Warwickshire, *Transcript of the first register book of the parish church of Saint Martin, Birmingham, 1554-1653* (Wallsall, England : W. Henry Robinson, 1889) FHL book 942.48/B2 V26b.
- ⁴ Church of England. Parish Church of St. Edburgha, Yardley, Worcestershire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).
- ⁵ Church of England. Parish Church of Lapworth, Warwickshire, *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).
- ⁶ Church of England. Parish Church of Lapworth, Warwickshire, *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).
- ⁷ Church of England. Parish Church of Sheldon, Warwickshire, *The parish registers of St. Giles, Sheldon, Warwickshire* (Birmingham [England] : Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry, [1977]-) FHL book 942.48/S2 K29ch.
- ⁸ Church of England. Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857*; 1612 will of William Bissell of Kings Norton, Worcestershire (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953) FHL film 97989 #85. Document 5.
- ⁹ William Bissell burial entry, 1612, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 13.
- ¹⁰ Bissell-Chamber marriage entry, 1571, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 10.
- ¹¹ Elizabeth Bissell christening entry, 1572, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 6.
- ¹² John Bissell christening entry, 1574, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 8.
- ¹³ Thomas Bissell christening entry, 1576, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 9.
- ¹⁴ William Bissell christening entry, 1579, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 7.
- ¹⁵ Isabell Chamber christening entry, 1553, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).
- ¹⁶ Elizabeth Chamber christening entry, 1559, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).
- ¹⁷ Richard Chamber christening entry, 1561, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).
- ¹⁸ William Bissell christening entry, 1547, Yardley, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 11.
- ¹⁹ William Byssell christening entry, 1552, Yardley, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 12.
- ²⁰ Will of John Chamber of Kings Norton, Worcester, 1575, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97917 #99.
- ²¹ Will of Martin Chamber of Kings Norton, Worcester, 1584, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97929 #23.
- ²² Will of Humphrey Chamber of Kings Norton, Worcester, 1614, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97995 #22.
- ²³ Will of George Chambers of Yardley, Worcester, 1617, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester,

Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857 (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 98995 #60. Documents 14 & 14a

²⁴ Chamber-Marten marriage entry, 1577, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 18.

²⁵ Thomas Chamber baptism entry, 1579, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 19.

²⁶ John Chamber baptism entry, 1583, Kings Norton, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 20.

²⁷ Will of Thomas Bissell of Kings Norton, Worcester, 1595, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97950 #53. Documents 15a-b.

²⁸ "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).

²⁹ Will of William Bissell of Yardley, Worcester, 1598, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97958 #124. Documents 16a-b.

³⁰ Holden-Bissell marriage entry, 1584, Yardley, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).

³¹ Alice Byssell baptism entry, 1561, Yardley, Worcester, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com).

³² Will of Thomas Bissell of Yardley, Worcester, 1607, Church of England, Diocese of Worcester, *Wills of the consistory court of Worcester, 1493-1857* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953). FHL film 97978 #1.

³³ Will of Edward Seale of Tamworth, Warwickshire, 1585, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com). Documents 1a-c.

³⁴ Will of Kathren Seale of Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1665, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

³⁵ Estate of Richard Seale of Southam, Warwickshire, 1614, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com). Document 2.

³⁶ Administration for Robert Seale of Tamworth, Warwickshire, 1600, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

³⁷ Administration for Robert Seale of Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1683/4, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

³⁸ Will of Thomas Seale of Tamworth, Warwickshire, 1600, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

³⁹ Inventory for William Blockswich of Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1629/30, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

⁴⁰ Will of Alice Bloxwich of Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1665, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

⁴¹ Will of Richard Bloxwich of Aston juxta Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1619, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

⁴² Will of Humfrey Bloxiche of Aston juxta Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1642, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

⁴³ Inventory of Thomas Bloxwich of Erdington, Aston juxta Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1638, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

⁴⁴ Will of Edward Bloxich of Handsworth, Staffordshire, 1647, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com).

⁴⁵ Will of Richard Blockesyche of Birmingham, Warwickshire, 1558, "Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860," *FindMyPast* (www.findmypast.com). Documents 4a-c.

⁴⁶ Robert Blokeshey baptism entry, 1555, St. Martin's Birmingham, Warwickshire, "Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com). Document 21.

SGS Queries

Coordinated and Compiled by SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker

The SGS query column leverages the amassed knowledge of SGS, the research skills of the society's query team, and the knowledge of SGS members to help those who submit queries answer challenging research questions.

Submit 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 for their input. Linda summarizes each query and any responses for inclusion in the newsletter.

Be sure to follow a few guidelines when submitting your query.

Be specific and detailed: Give us all the information you have about

the person or family in question, especially dates and locations.

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

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

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

We will publish an update to your query with any new information we receive. This may lead to even more

new 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 and complete contact information—sometimes we receive new information months or even years after your query appears.

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, **so the query can be updated in the next newsletter. Please include the query number**, preferably in the subject line of your email. Remember to cite your sources.

The query number is the 2 digit year, 2 digit month of newsletter, query sequence number.

New Queries

1608-1 Submitted by Mike Robson (mike.mikerobson@gmail.com)

Mike is working on a series of books about the Victoria Cross (VC) and says that his nine-volume set will cover all of the VC recipients with details of their deeds contained within the narrative of the wars and battles where the deeds took place. He is also including a biography of each recipient and this is where he wants the help of SGS. He says details of William Henry Harrison Seeley's personal life are very limited within the public domain, and he thought we may have access to more detailed biographical information. If so he hopes we would be willing to share.

SGS Response: We have information about William in the Veterans section of our website:

William Henry Harrison Seeley

- Birth: 1 May 1840
 - Death: 1 Oct 1914
 - Burial: Evergreen Cemetery, Stoughton, Norfolk, MA
- First American citizen to win the Victoria Cross, Great Britain's highest award for valor, and still the only American to have won the award outside of World War I. Seeley was an Ordinary Seaman in the Royal Navy during the bombardment of the fishing port of Shimonoseki, Japan, 6



Sep 1864. Choshu, a large samurai domain in western Honshu that was, at the end of the Tokugawa period, a hotbed of anti-foreign xenophobia, had been attacking British, French, and American ships, and, in 1864, Western ships, in retaliation, bombarded Shimonoseki. In the action, Seeley, serving on the HMS Euryalus, distinguished himself by carrying out a daring reconnaissance to ascertain the enemy's position, and then, although wounded, continued to take part in the final assault on the battery. The Choshu samurai, making the best of a bad situation, signed a treaty and settled down to study Western strategy, tactics, and technology. These events were part of the inspiration for the Tom Cruise film *The Last Samurai*. Seeley was presented his medal at Southsea on 22 Sep 1865 together with Thomas Pride and Duncan Gordon Boyes.

In a listing of those receiving the Victoria Cross I found:

- Name: William Henry Harrison Seeley
 - Birth: 1 May 1840 at Topsham, ME
 - Death: 1 Oct 1914 at 26 Barrows Street, Dedham, MA
- MA Marriage Index
- William H Seeley (farmer, widower, age 60), b. about 1840 at Topsham, ME, son of Dayton A Seeley and Lucy J Johnston, md. 1 Oct 1900 at Sharon, MA, to Mary E. Moore Silver, widow of _____ Silver, age 60 b. Pittston, ME, to John E. Moore and Emeline Jackson

MA Death Index

Please See SGS Queries, Page 14



CONTINUED From Page 13: SGS Queries

- Lucy J. Seely b. about 1823 at Milford, ME, to Benjn and Sally _____, d. 1 Dec 1881, Stoughton, MA, aged 58

- William Henry Harrison Seeley (retired sailor), age 74, b. about 1840 at Topsham, ME, to Alden A. Seeley and Lucy Johnson, d. 1 Oct 1914 at Dedham, MA

1880 census Stoughton, Norfolk, MA

- Selee, William, age 39, laborer b. ME, ME, ME
- Selee, Mary, age 31, b. MA, NH, NH
- Selee, Willie G., age 10, Minnie G., age 9, George G., age 5, all b. MA, ME, MA
- Selee, Lucy J. age 57, mother, seamstress, b. ME, ME, ME, widow

1870 census Stoughton, Norfolk, MA

- Seeley, William, age 31, b. ME, works in woolen mill
- Seeley, Mary S., age 21 b. NH
- Seeley, William G., age 1, Minnie G., age 3 mos. (b. Feb 1870), both b. MA
- Seeley, Lucy J., age 48, b. ME, works in woolen mill
- Seeley, Alden, age 25 b. ME, works in last factory

1865 census Walpole, Norfolk, MA

- Seeley, Lucy J., age 43, b. ME, housewife
- Seeley, Mary A., age 19, b. ME, worsted work,
- Seeley, Alden A., age 21, seaman

1860 census Sharon, Norfolk, MA

- Saley, Dayton A., age 45, blacksmith b. MA
- Saley, Lucy, age 36, b. MA
- Saley, Boadicea, age 18, Alden, age 16, both cotton spinners, Nancy A., age 14, Betsy, age 9, all b. MA
- Johnson, Martha, age 26, Hellen M., age 23, both cotton weavers, b. MA

1850 census Milford, Penobscot, ME

- Seely, Dayton A., age 34 b. New Bruns.
- Seely, Lucy J., age 27, b. ME
- Seely, William H. H., age 10, Boadicea, age 8, Alden A., age 7, Mary A., age 4, Charles E., age 1, all b. ME

1840 census Topsham, Lincoln, ME

- Sealey, Dayton: 1 male under 5, 1 male 5-10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male age 20-30, 1 female age 15-20

1830 census Topsham, Lincoln, ME

- Seeley, Joseph: 1 male under 5, 1 male 15-20, 1 male 50-60; 3 females age 5-10, 1 female age 15-20, 1 female age 40-50

NH Death Record

- William Seeley (husband of Anna Seeley age 75), b. about 1869 at West Stoughton, MA, to William Seeley (born ME) and Mary Stedman (b. Stoughton, MA), d. 25 March 1940 at the County Farm, Brentwood, Rockingham, NH, aged 71 years, 5 months, 13 days

I also found marriage records for William Henry Harrison Seeley's siblings Alden, Boadicea, and Mary Ann, all naming Dayton and Lucy Johnson Seeley as their parents and records for William H. H. Seeley's children William G., Minnie and George.

It seems likely from the census information that Dayton, father of William H. H. Seeley is a son of Joseph Seeley but I could not find any proof. If you can find any information on the ancestry of Dayton Seeley, please contact me.

1608-2 submitted by Steven Schluter (steven.schluter@gmail.com)

New SGS member Steve is a grandson of Mildred

Bertha Sealey. Mildred's line goes back via Albert Kipling, Albert Burtis, John Edward, Daniel, John Sealey b. 1786 and died 1855, son of James Sealey (1747-1788) and Martha Smith. Steve has been able to use various vital records, probate records, etc. from Hempstead, Nassau County, NY to verify the information back to John. However He wants to confirm that John is the son of James who is the son of Israel b. 1727 CT, son of Ebenezer (1696/7 – 1767).

SGS Response: This Ebenezer is our SGS# 63. According to our information Israel, (SGS# 187), son of Ebenezer and Mercy Dean was born 4 Sep 1727 and died 1792, unmarried. Our source is Ebenezer's will which mentions Israel among the sons, but James is listed among the grandchildren. Additionally, this Israel left his property to his younger brother Josiah when he died.

The Barbour Collection lists Israel born Sept. 4, 1727 as a son of Ebenezer and Mary. Is Mary the same woman as Mercy? All the children of Ebenezer are born in Stamford, CT to Ebenezer and Mercy/Marcy, except for Israel and Bazaleel (who was born in 1725), both born in Stamford to Ebenezer and Mary.

Steve found a copy of a letter from the Long Island Historical Society to another Sealey descendant asking about this line. The letter cites an unpublished manuscript from the Wardwell collection that states that John, the father of Daniel, was the youngest son of James, son of Israel. It would help if someone could locate this manuscript and see what sources it used.

Any other information showing that this Israel was married and had children would also be helpful as would a copy of the will leaving his property to his brother.

1608-3 Submitted by Donna Scott (dmsmtcpa@yahoo.com)

This query also deals with a son of SGS#63, Ebenezer Seeley. This is about Nathaniel who is SGS# 189. Donna is applying for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution for her husband, Rick. She has his line back through his grandmother to Mahala Seely who md Andrew Miller. A biography of Mahala Seely Miller (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson County, Iowa* [1889]) states that she was born in Wells, Bradford, PA to William Seely, son of Samuel. William's wife was Sarah Judson. Mahala married Andrew Miller in Wells in 1839 and they moved to Iowa in 1857. Donna has this William as the son of Samuel SGS# 501, son of Nathaniel, SGS#189. She needs documentation that this is correct and would also like to know about Nathaniel's war service.

SGS Response: This information does not agree with what is printed *The Sixth Generation Families*. We have a son William for Samuel but he is married to a different woman and has different children listed in the Seventh Generation. However, Donna's information does agree with that of J. Kelsey Jones (see <http://www.joycette.com/kelsey/kjws3.htm>). We have a note in the printed volumes that there is confusion between the William, son of Samuel, SGS# 501 and William, son of Samuel, SGS# 467. Unfortunately, we have neither of these Williams married to Sarah Judson. This would be a good problem for a professional researcher to tackle as we have had several queries about these Williams. Also see Query 0105-10.

SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2015 - 2017

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

SGS Publications for Order

SGS has several publications and research tools for sale.

1. Print/mailed version of the *SGS Newsletter* (U.S. \$12 per year)
2. *The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), Generations One Through Five, 1997 Edition* (U.S. \$17)
3. *The Sixth Generation Families, 1995 Edition* (U.S. \$35)
4. *The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1601-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 2000 Edition* (U.S. \$35)
5. Set of All Three SGS Publications (above) (U.S. \$85)
6. The SGS CD-ROM -- Revised August 2013 (U.S. \$15) that includes:
 - The Three SGS Publications by Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen
 - SGS Newsletters from Issue 1 in 1965 through August 2013
 - 1980s Research Rpt. on Obadiah Seeley (New Eng. records), Fred C. Hart, Jr., CG
 - Research Report on Robert Seeley by Alan Phipps, MA, AG
 - 2006 Research Rpt on Obadiah Seeley (old English records), Clifford L. Stott, CG
7. The SRC Document Index (with Change Seven entered) lists documents shelved at the Seelye Research Center (U.S. \$10)
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, MI Reunion (U.S. \$30)
 - Item 1 should be ordered from Marie Seelye
 - 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

Contact information is on page 15.

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

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

SGS 50th Anniversary T-Shirts!



Did you get yours?

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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 Linda Crocker (see contact info on page 19).