



# SGS Newsletter

Seeley Genealogical Society Est. 1965



HISTORY ★ FAMILY ★ RESEARCH

Issue 167-2016-01/February/2016

## Analysis of Y-DNA for Genealogy

By Walt Seelye  
SGS DNA Lineage  
Project Manager

DNA testing is a useful tool to augment traditional genealogical documentation. It can verify a paper trail, suggest new areas to research, or steer one away from a false trail. DNA can also test genealogical hypotheses and answer family mysteries. Additionally, DNA testing can usually show relatedness, though it cannot tell someone just

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how a possible kin is related, whether cousin, parent, or ancestor, nor can it build a family tree.



Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is contained in nearly every cell in the body. It carries the instructions for development and operation from conception to death. DNA forms the chromosomes in every cell's nucleus, and rings of DNA lie in the mitochondria within a cell but outside the nucleus.

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How would someone encode instructions to grow a human? Numeric codes? Using the ten digits 0-9 in different combinations yields different values: 1234590 is different from 640327. Computers use only 0 and 1; but, similarly, 1100100 is a different value from 1001001. Saying the same thing takes more bits than using decimal digits. DNA does this with organic chemistry. DNA is in between—not ten or two choices, but four molecules (nucleotide bases): adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine (A, C, G, and T).

**Please See Summary of SGS Research, Page 3**

## The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter

is published quarterly by the Seeley Genealogical Society

### Editors

Paul Taylor  
Jesse Crisler

Address newsletter correspondence to:  
SGS Newsletter Editor  
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See Contact Info on Page 11

### 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 11

### 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 11

### 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*

We are excited about the future of the Seeley Genealogical Society. We have had many wonderful members in the past and present who have done amazing things. Many of you are those members, and you are very appreciated.

Chris and Jerry Havnar have done an outstanding job with the SGS Website, as did Dan Seelye before them. We are so sorry about the passing of dear Jerry. Our hearts go out to Chris with love and appreciation. Chris told us that for the most part she was responsible for the content side of the Website, while Jerry took care of technical matters. Because of this, Chris said she would like some technical help for the Website. After discussing various options, the Executive Board voted to hire Logan Seelye, a professional programmer and grandson of Dan Seelye, to provide needed technical support and upgrade the SGS Website. A committee has been formed to give input into the conversion of the present site to a thoroughly new one. If you have any ideas on arrangement of information, design, or anything else related to the SGS Website, please get in touch with me or let Paul Taylor know via email at paul.taylor.va@gmail.com.

The SGS Souvenir Reunion Book will be coming out soon. I encourage all of you who have not yet purchased one to do so for only \$30.00 each. The book will be a record of everything that has taken place in SGS for the last two years; full of pictures, articles, notes, minutes, activities, memories and information. It will be a fine addition



to your personal genealogical library. Send your \$30.00 right away to Kathie Olsen at 777 East South Temple, Apartment 13H, Salt Lake City, UT 84102.

Apryl Cox, a professional genealogist, has found information on Sarah Seeley and Obadiah Bruen, whom DNA testing proves descend from Obadiah Seeley. She is now working on obtaining further information about Augustus Seeley, another proven descendant of Obadiah. Kathie and I had a very good meeting with Apryl last week.

Linda Crocker continues to find valuable information about Seeley ancestors, as reported in the Queries column of each issue of the SGS Newsletter. All SGS officers work hard. I thank all of them for all that they do. We are also grateful for all SGS members and what they contribute to our wonderful organization. We appreciate each of you. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

## CONTINUED From Page 1: Analysis of Y-DNA in Genealogy

Complete instructions for building a person are spelled out by various combinations of A, C, G, and T. These instructions provide every detail from hair color to toe length, and everything in between such as freckles or none, right- or left-handedness, etc. Hence a complete DNA sequence, one's blueprint, is about 3 billion bases long.

DNA analysis for genealogy looks at small subsets of the complete genome, less than 1/2%. In particular, most genealogical analysis does not uncover medical information, and since DNA is present in every cell, a blood drawing is not necessary—a simple cheek swab is enough.

Three DNA tests are particularly useful in genealogy: Y-DNA from one's father, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from one's mother, and autosomal DNA (atDNA) from one's ancestors. SGS is currently looking at Y-DNA, as discussed below; more discussion of mtDNA and atDNA will follow in later issues.

Since Y-DNA testing uses a small subset of the Y chromosome, clearly one must be male to participate in Y-DNA testing. Females can participate by asking a brother, father, or other male relative to submit a swab. Y-DNA is passed from father to son with only an occasional mutation, so it will verify a connection through a father, his father, and so on. Generally, it follows the family surname, unless there has been a legal name change. Warning, however! Y-DNA (and mtDNA) may reveal a non-paternity event (NPE), such as adoption or infidelity, which can be interesting but possibly disruptive to family relations.

Short tandem repeat (STR) testing examines between 12 and 111 short segments of the Y chromosome and counts the number of repeats of a particular C, A, G, T sequence in each segment. The results are often presented in a table like this one:

	Nath	Walt
DYS385a	11	11
DYS385b	14	14
DYS388	12	12
DYS389 I	12	12
DYS389 II	29	29
DYS390	24	24
DYS391	11	11
DYS392	13	13
DYS393	13	13
DYS394	14	14
DYS426	12	12
DYS437	15	15
DYS438	12	12
DYS439	12	12
DYS442	12	12
Y-GATA-H4	12	11

(DYS = DNA Y-chromosome Segment number)

This table shows the number of repeats for the Nathaniel Seeley standard vs. my own repeats. Here we differ by only 1 repeat on one DYS, so we are a close match. (See the SGS Website for a full comparison at <http://www.seeley-society.net/sgs-research-SeeleyDNAResults.html>)

I am # N19 in the Nathaniel table. As DNA is copied from one

STR Matches	Probability that MRCA was not more than this many generations ago	
	50%	95%
35 of 37	6	14
36 of 37	4	10
37 of 37	2	7
110 of 111	2	7
111 of 111	1	5

generation to the next, random copying errors will appear. The average rate of change can be used to estimate how many generations have passed since two people shared a common ancestor (most recent common ancestor, MRCA).

Y-DNA will show that someone is closely related, or probably related, or not related, to "Bob," but it will not tell whether someone and Bob are brothers, cousins, or father and son. It can steer one toward or away from a particular line as one pursues a documentary trail.

If your surname is Seeley (any spelling), please submit your DNA to the SGS project. If you have any questions, please email me at [dna@seeley-society.net](mailto:dna@seeley-society.net).

### National Archives Genealogy Classes Available

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) offers a comprehensive program of genealogical workshops and courses in its facilities [nationwide](#). Topics include an introduction to genealogy and research into records such as census schedules, military service and pension records, and passenger lists:

- Introduction to Passenger Arrival Records, New York City, NY, April 12
- Brick Wall Workshops, Seattle, WA, April 14
- Introduction to Naturalization Records, New York City, NY, May 10
- Brick Wall Workshops, Seattle, WA, May 12
- Brick Wall Workshops, Seattle, WA, June 9
- Introduction to Military Records, New York City, NY, June 14

## Update Seelye Research Center

By Pam Turner, SRC Librarian

Time is flying by. It is already 2016 and time for the SGS Newsletter once again. I must admit that I haven't been



spending as much time with the Descendants of the 8th Generation Index as I would like, but that is because Chris Havnar and Linda Crocker have added a new number to the SGS books. That number is 1196e, William W Seeley, born 1792, son of Solomon Seeley, SGS #381a. This addition has rekindled my enthusiasm for researching my own family line, because we believe we are descended from this line, but haven't been able to find proof as yet. I'm hoping that this may be our missing link which will take us back to an immigrant ancestor. So I'm finding myself immersed in census records for hours on end trying to figure out this family. Wish me luck!

If anyone is descended from SGS #99, Justus Seelye, you may be interested to know that Linda Crocker has obtained a copy of the probate file for his estate. It has already been added to our records and if you would like a copy to add to your files, please just email me.

There will also be a research center working session along with board meetings held in Abilene on April 29-30. If you would like to help or take a more active interest in the Society, please come; everyone is welcome.

## 2015 SGS Annual Treasurer's Report

Submitted by 2013-2015 SGS Treasurer Sally Seeley  
For the Period Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015

**Beginning Balance, Oct. 1, 2014** **\$90,118.87**

### Receipts

Dues	\$1,281.00
LIFE Memberships	\$625.00
Books	\$154.00
CDs	\$55.00
Research Donations	\$4.00
General Fund Donations	\$1,554.00
Bank Interest	\$757.37
Hard Copies of Newsletters	\$661.00
Member Donations to SRC	\$550.00
Tax Refund	\$802.04
Reunion Registrations	\$7,404.00
Reunion Sales (Shirts, etc.)	\$799.00
Reunion Raffle Tickets	\$786.00
Reunion Souvenir Book Pre-Order	\$1,050.00

**Total Receipts** **\$16,482.41**

### Disbursements

Postage	\$115.46
Supplies	\$25.43
Newsletter Printing	\$2,781.25
Other Printing	\$216.10
Newsletter Postage	\$518.67
SGS Donation to SRC	\$750.00
NGS Dues	\$50.00
Webmasters	\$125.00
Ancestry Subscription	\$600.00
Researcher Apryl Cox	\$647.50
Award Plaque	\$64.11
Member Donations to SRC	\$550.00
Reunion Expenses	\$6,078.46

**Total Disbursements** **\$12,521.98**

**Ending Balance September 30, 2015** **\$94,079.30**

### Fund Balances

Research	\$1,913.12
DNA Fund	\$804.00
General Memorial	\$245.00
Johnson Memorial	\$83,946.20
Library Fund	\$500.00
General Fund	\$6,670.98

**Total Funds** **\$94,079.30**

### Distribution

Checking Account	\$17,791.53
CD's#1-4	\$76,287.77

**Total Distribution** **\$94,079.30**

PLEASE NOTE: Members have pre-ordered and paid for souvenir books which will be delivered and invoiced in 2016.

## More Children Found for SGS# 1074 Drucilla Seeley Winton

By Linda L. Crocker, SGS Chief Genealogist

This is another case of one thing leading to another. Paul Taylor, SGS Newsletter Editor, published an article he found about William Eugene Seeley (a Pearl Harbor casualty and namesake of a school in Groton, CT) on the SGS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/seeley.society/>.

A Seeley who grew up in Groton got in touch with a cousin asking if this William Seeley was one of their relatives. The cousin, Orrin C Winton ([orrin.winton@gmail.com](mailto:orrin.winton@gmail.com)),

responded that “it would be like looking for a needle in a haystack” because there are so many descendants of their ancestor Robert, let alone of other unrelated Seeleys. Meanwhile Jim Seeley, former SGS president, posted a reply, suggesting that the article be placed on the SGS Website. That sent Orrin to our

website, and he recognized that we were the same group that had published the multi-generation books on Seeley descendants. He had found his ancestor’s father, Joseph Seeley, SGS# 348 in the Sixth Generation volume years ago. I responded that we had Drucilla in the Seventh Generation volume with one son, Eli, and asked whether there were other children and whether he had more information on Drucilla. Orrin then sent me a list of Drucilla Seeley Winton’s children to whom I have assigned SGS numbers:

- 2720a Ezra Winton, b. 1810, Weston, Fairfield, CT; d. 1893, Bridgeport, Fairfield, CT
- 2720 Eli Winton, b. 6 Aug 1814, Weston, Fairfield, CT; d. 30 Nov 1897, Easton, Fairfield, CT
- 2720b (son) Winton

- 2720c Orin Winton, b. 1817; d. 25 Jul 1835

- 2720c Charles Winton, b. 1825/6, Weston, Fairfield, CT

Orrin also supplied further information on Drucilla and her husband. Drucilla was born in 1788/9 and died in 1876 in Easton, Fairfield, CT. Her husband, Alfred Winton, son of Ezra Winton and Anne Beach, was born 28 Sept 1787 in Weston and died there in 1833.

William Eugene Seeley is the great-great-grandson of SGS# 3036 William Seeley, a descendant of Obadiah Seeley. We have a Web page devoted to him: <http://www.seeley-society.net/vets/vetw2-williameseeley.html>. So “the needle in the haystack was found,” and the bonus was information for us on unrelated Seeley descendants.

## Other Societies Offer Networking Opportunities

By Walt Seelye, SGS DNA Lineage Project Manager and Winthrop Society Treasurer

If you are a descendant of Robert Seeley, there are two lineage societies which might interest you. The first is The Winthrop Society, Descendants of the Great Migration, 1630-1635.

The Winthrop Society does not comprise descendants of the Separatists who founded Plimoth Plantation in 1620 (that’s my wife’s folks); it includes descendants of Puritans who settled Boston in 1630, or, as my wife says, “Johnnies-come-Lately.” Robert Seeley came in the original Winthrop Fleet. The Winthrop Society maintains a growing archive for research. Much information is available on its website, <http://www.winthropsociety.com>.

When I joined the Winthrop

Society, I took advantage of established research and saved the Society Registrar a lot of time by using the SGS CD (<http://www.seeley-society.net/seeleybook.html>) containing research done by Kathie Olsen, Madeline Mills, and others. I sent a copy of the CD with my application, printouts of the pages from the CD showing my descent from Robert to Seth Seelye (SGS #2056, listed on the CD), plus documentation linking me to Seth. If you wish to join, I suggest you use the same technique, and then refer the Society Registrar to CD used in Walt Seelye’s application, member #10818.

Application to the Society costs \$30.00; an Annual Member then pays an \$80.00 Enrollment fee, and \$20.00

per year thereafter, while a Life Member pays the \$30.00 Application and a one-time fee of \$350.00. Membership includes a semiannual newsletter. There is an annual meeting in April, and the Society participates in Boston Charter Day in September.

The second organization is Descendants of Sheriffs & Constables of Colonial & Antebellum America. Sheriffs & Constables honors law enforcement officials from Colonial times to the Civil War. This includes sheriffs, constables, and many others. The office of County Sheriff is the oldest law enforcement office known within the common-law system. Find out more at <http://sheriffsandconstables.org>. Robert

**Please See Networking Opportunities Page 8**

## The Only Man in New England to be Drawn and Quartered

By Walt Seelye, SGS DNA Lineage Project Manager and Winthrop Society Treasurer

In the year 1675, King Philip, or Metacom, was sachem of the Wampanoag tribe. In King Philip's War, the Indians wanted to regain lands under English control. They waged successful attacks on settlements in Massachusetts and Connecticut, but Rhode Island was spared at the beginning, as the Narragansett tribe remained officially neutral. However, since the Narragansetts had allegedly sheltered many of King Philip's men, most colonists distrusted them and feared the tribe would join King Philip's cause come spring.

December 1675 began a bitterly cold New

England winter with blizzard-like conditions for several days. Plymouth Colony governor Josiah Winslow led a combined militia from Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Plantation, and Connecticut colonies—over 1,000 colonials with about 150 Indian scouts and guides—in a preemptive strike against the Narragansett tribe. They found several abandoned Narragansett villages were around Narragansett Bay and burned them. The tribe had retreated to a large palisade in the center of a nearly impenetrable swamp near present-day Kingston, RI. However, extremely cold temperatures had frozen the swamp, allowing colonists access to the Narragansetts' base.

At 5 a.m. on December 19, 1675, a very cold, storm-filled day, the



The Great Swamp Fight of Dec. 19, 1675 was a pivotal battle in King Philip's War. Our ancestor, Nathaniel Seely, Captain, 3rd Company, Connecticut Regiment, was one of many killed in that attack. Nathaniel was baptized on Sept. 16, 1627 at St. Stephens Parish, London, and came with his parents, Robert and Mary (Mason) Seely, in the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. Nathaniel was in New Haven, CT, by 1646, and became a freeman in Fairfield, CT, in 1657.

militia force, led by Indian Peter, struggled through wicked winds and three feet of snow for eight hours to penetrate the Great Swamp. The main Narragansett fort occupied about five acres. Its walls were constructed of upright tree trunks, with further strengthening from a sixteen-foot thick brush and clay barrier. A number of watchtowers were situated at the fort's corners, providing positions for covering fire. A moat surrounded the whole enclosure, with a large tree trunk spanning it to provide entrance to the stronghold. Inside were about five hundred wigwams as well as a large number of warriors, women, children, and old men.

Though comparatively massive, the fort was eventually overrun after a fierce fight. The fort was burned, its



A Portrait of King Philip, by Paul Revere, from the 1772 edition of Benjamin Church's *The Entertaining History of King Philip's War*.

inhabitants, including women and children, killed or evicted, and most of the tribe's winter stores destroyed. Contemporary historians estimate that about three hundred Indians were killed. Many of the warriors and their

Please See Drawn and Quartered, Page 7

## CONTINUED From Page 6: Drawn and Quartered



During a 2007 SGS Trip to Robert and Obadiah Seeley's New England SGS Members visited the monument at the site of the Great Swamp Fight.

In 1906, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations erected a rough stone monument at the site of the Great Swamp Fight.

Joshua Tefft wounded Capt. Nathaniel Seely, who subsequently died. An Indian spy reported that Joshua, "did them good service & kild & woounded 5 or 6 English in that fight & before they wold trust him hee had kild a miller an English man at Narragansett and brought his scalpe to them." Tefft was convicted of high treason by the United Colonies command and was hanged, drawn, and quartered, the only Englishman so punished in all New England history.

The official punishment for the crime of treason reads, "For high treason, if a man, he being accused by two lawful witnesses or accusers, shall be drawn upon a hurdell unto the place of execution, and there shall be hanged by the neck, cut down alive, his entrails and privie members cut from him and burned in his view; then shall his head be cut off and his body quartered; his lands and his goods all forfeited."

families escaped into the frozen swamp; there hundreds more died from wounds and harsh winter conditions. Consequently, the surviving members of the Narragansett tribe joined the fight alongside Philip. The colonists lost many of their officers in this assault and about seventy of their men were killed with nearly 150 more wounded. Many of these wounded died on the return march.

In some cases, local residents fought on the Indian side of the battle. Why? They sought to preserve their own life and property and that of their neighbors against the marauding militia from outside, that is, from other colonies. Records indicate that

The government of Rhode Island swiftly admonished the United Colonies militia as unwelcome intruders, but there was little else it could do, though after the war Rhode Island did restore Tefft's property to his family.

King Philip's War was the single greatest calamity to occur in seventeenth-century Puritan New England. In little over a year, nearly half of the region's ninety towns were destroyed, its economy all but ruined, and much of its population killed, including one-tenth of all men available for military service. Proportionately, it was one of the bloodiest and costliest wars in the history of North America.

In 1906, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations erected a rough stone monument at the site of the Great Swamp Fight (41°29'41"N, 71°35'44.2"W). My wife and I visited the site in 2014. Though considerably overgrown, the memorial is impressive: a twenty-foot central stone column engraved with "The Great Swamp Fight 19 December 1675," surrounded by four rough granite blocks representing the four colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Plantation, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. A slate plaque in front of the column briefly describes the attack.

### References:

1. G.W. Ellis & J.E. Morris, King Philip's War, 1906
2. G. Bodge, Soldiers in the King Philip's War, 1896
3. J.R. Bartlett, Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1856

## CONTINUED From Page 5: Networking Opportunities

Seeley was a Marshal of New Haven, CT, in 1639. The "record copy" of my Winthrop Society application, approved, signed, and dated by the Winthrop Society Registrar, proved my link to Robert Seeley and was accepted by Sheriffs & Constables.

Sheriffs & Constables requires a one-time \$235.00 fee. It also holds an annual meeting in April in Washington, DC, and publishes a newsletter.

Both organizations are looking for new members and would be glad to hear from you. If I can help you or answer any questions, please contact me at 13802 Pine Glen Dr E, Black Forest, CO 80908-3508 ([seelvew@gmail.com](mailto:seelvew@gmail.com); 719-495-4316).

## BYUtv Premieres Family History Competition Show

In an expansion of its innovative programming and unique series lineup, BYUtv premiered its all-new original, unscripted competition reality show, *Relative Race*, Feb. 28. *Relative Race* follows four married couples on a 10-day journey across the country as they complete challenges, meet unknown relatives traced through DNA and compete for a \$25,000 grand prize. Driven by the science and technology of AncestryDNA, the reality series takes viewers alongside the teams as they test their emotional and physical endurance while simultaneously discovering more about themselves and establishing connections with family they didn't know they had.

Armed with only paper maps, rental cars, burner flip phones and a

\$25 per diem, the couples receive instructions via text message to complete challenges that lead them to their long lost relatives. The last team to finish each day receives a strike, and after three strikes, teams are eliminated. *Relative Race* will culminate in a dramatic finale, as all remaining couples race 4,500 miles from San Francisco to the finish in New York City.

The first season will consist of 10 episodes, followed by a "Where Are They Now" episode during which the couples discuss their experience racing across the country.

BYUtv is available in more than 55 million households in every state of the country on Dish Network, DirecTV, more than 800 cable systems, and online at <http://www.byutv.org/>

## 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 as well as the knowledge of SGS members to help query submitters answer research questions.

Submit your queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at [llbc100@msn.com](mailto: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.

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

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.

**Please See SGS Queries, Page 9**

**CONTINUED From Page 8: SGS Queries****Query Updates (Data Current as of April 15, 2015)**

**Update to Query 1511-3** Re: John S Seely, b. 1834, Quebec

We have been trying to determine whether John S. Seely b. 1845/6 Quebec, father of Thomas Charles Seely, is a descendant of SGS# 3033, John Seeley. The original submitter, Tom Erickson ([terickso25@gmail.com](mailto:terickso25@gmail.com)), believes that the father of John S. is Richard Norman Seely, youngest son of SGS#3033. Richard Norman was b. 28 June 1827 and baptized at St Gabriel Presbyterian Church, Montreal, 28 Aug 1827. We cannot find a record of Richard after the 1851 Canadian census (below)

1851 census Elgin, Beauharnois, QUE

- Seely, John, farmer, age 67, b. US
- Gibb, Mary, age 65, b. US
- Seely, Emmeline, age 32; Richard, age 24; John, age 6, all b. CAN

1861 census Elgin, Huntingdon, QUE

- Seely, John, Sr., age 77, b. US, farmer (Apparently, one female (Emmeline?), age 40, died of consumption in the previous year.)
- Seely, John, age 15, b. Lower Canada, labourer
- Lafavre, John, age 24, b. Lower Canada, labourer
- Lafavre, Mrs. John, age 25, b. Lower Canada
- Lafavre, Mary, age 18, b. Lower Canada
- Seely, Hiram, age 49, b. Lower Canada, farmer
- Seely, Mrs. Hiram, age 49, b. Lower Canada
- Seely, John, age 13; Ann, age 11; Sophia, age 8, all b. Lower Canada

This seems to show John living with his grandfather John and near his Uncle Hiram and his cousins, one of whom is also named John.

So, we are still looking (unsuccessfully) for information on the fate of Richard Norman Seely and proof that he is the father of the John Seely, who married Mary Sellers and lived in Belmont, Franklin, NY. Tom believes he has located some Seely descendants of Hiram and will try to get a DNA test done on one of them.

**Update to Query 1111-2** Re: John B Seeley, b. 1835, NY, d. 1903, IL

The original submitter, Darlene ([DBaker@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:DBaker@ci.glendale.ca.us)), is still trying to determine the lineage of her ancestor. We had not been able to find the correct John before 1870. Her father had a DNA test that showed descent from Robert. SGS# 3112 Gideon Seely is identified as residing and dying in Hartland, but this Gideon is in the Obadiah line. Darlene recently rejoined SGS, and I looked into this again and found the following information:

1855 census Hartland, Niagara, NY

- Seeley, Gideon, age 46, b. Greene Co., NY, farmer
- Seeley, Betsy, age 45, b. Delaware Co., NY
- Seeley, John, age 20; George, age 15; Harriet, age 13; Mugene, age 8, all b. Niagara Co.
- Mason, Mary, dau., age 18, b. Niagara Co.

Mason, William, age 20, son-in-law, b. VT  
I think that this is the correct family since in the 1880 census John reported that his mother was born in Delaware Co.

1850 census Hartland, Niagara, NY

- Seeley, Gideon, age 41, b. NY, farmer

- Seeley, Elizabeth, age 41, b. NY
  - Seeley, John, age 15; Mary, age 13; George, age 11; Harriet, age 9; Emma J., age 4, all b. NY
  - Brown, George, age 20, b. NY, farmer
- 1840 census Lewiston, Niagara, NY
- Seely, Gideon: 2 males under 5; 1 male, age 40-50; 1 female under 5; 1 female, age 30-40

There are two other Seely men listed in the 1840 census in Niagara County: Orange, age 30-39, in Royalton, and Eben, age 30-39, in Hartland. They could be SGS# 2491 and 2492, sons of Justus Seelye, but we have no son Gideon listed for him.

If you can shed some light on these Niagara County, NY, Seeleys, we would love to hear from you.

**New Queries**

**Query 1602-1** Submitted by Bruce Miller ([nordata@earthlink.net](mailto:nordata@earthlink.net))

Bruce owns a powder horn that is inscribed with a map of the Mohawk Valley and Fort Herkimer, New York, as well as the name Ebenezer Seely; it is dated 1758. The horn is currently on loan to a display at Fort Stanwix in Rome, NY. On the left end of the horn is inscribed, "This horn belong to Ebenezer Seely," in the center is the map, and at the right is inscribed, "Fort Herkimer, A1758D."



Powder horns were made in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to hold the gunpowder that was used in muskets. The horns were often decorated with pictures, diary entries, rhymes, or maps. Some of those with maps may have been used as guides for travel through the wilderness or may have been a way of recording special memories. Bruce owns several horns and Revolutionary War-era firearms. He acquired this one near his home in Chemung Co., NY, and was interested in it because he grew up near Fort Herkimer.

Of course the question for us is who is this Ebenezer Seely?

**SGS Response:** Bruce supposes that Ebenezer would be at least twenty years of age or older to be travelling to Fort Herkimer and have the time and funds to purchase and engrave (or have engraved) such a horn, which means that he would be born before 1738 (and still alive in 1758).

We find several candidates:

- SGS# 63 Ebenezer Seeley, b. 1696/7, Stamford, Fairfield, CT, d. 1767, Goshen, Orange, NY

**Please See SGS Queries, Page 10**

## CONTINUED From Page 9: SGS Queries

- SGS# 81 Ebenezer Seeley, b. 1717, Fairfield Co., CT, died 1790 Litchfield, Litchfield, CT
- SGS# 101 Ebenezer Seelye, b.1729, Fairfield Co., CT, d. 1805, Bennington, Bennington, VT
- SGS# 168 Ebenezer Seeley, b. abt 1717, Westchester Co., NY
- SGS# 184 Ebenezer Seeley, b. 1720, Fairfield Co., CT, d. 1770, Fairfield, CT

Ideally, we would like enough information to know that one of these men had a reason to have traveled to Fort Herkimer as well as a connection to the Chemung County area of the southern tier of New York. Even better would be a will showing the powder horn having been passed on to a descendant.

We have evidence that many descendants of #63 ended up in Chemung Co. or neighboring Tioga Co., PA. Those of us who attended the SGS Reunion in Horseheads, NY, in 2011 visited quite a few of their gravesites.

The same is not true for #81 (descendants in CT), #101 (one daughter with grandchildren mostly in VT or northern NY State), #163 (no known descendants) nor #184 (descendants in Orange Co., NY, and New Brunswick, Canada). So it seems most likely that Ebenezer, SGS# 63, son of Jonas, son of Obadiah, is our man. SGS# 184 is a son of this Ebenezer. However since the horn ended up in Chemung Co., it may have been passed from Ebenezer, Sr., to his son Nathaniel, who settled in Chemung Co. We also have a note that #63 was called Lt. Ebenezer Seeley, perhaps explaining a trip to Fort Herkimer.

Further research could entail looking at SGS# 63 Ebenezer Seeley's will to see whether it mentions a powder horn and examining military records to see whether we can place Ebenezer at Fort Herkimer. Please get in touch with me if you have more information or research ideas.

**Query 1602-2** Submitted by Scott M Vocht ([scovo111@yahoo.com](mailto:scovo111@yahoo.com))

New member Scott has traced his line back to his third-great-grandfather, Wyatt Claudius Sealy, b. 24 March 1811, SC, d. 28 Sept 1888, Talbot County, GA.

**SGS Response:** Wyatt Sealy is enumerated in the 1850 through 1880 census records of Talbot and Taylor Counties in GA. He and his wife, Mary Adeline Stearns, are buried in the Stearns Family Cemetery in Talbot Co. A citation in the Findagrave entry for Wyatt refers to A Rockaway in Talbot, Vol. II, by Wm. H. Davidson. Perhaps one of our readers has access to a copy of this book and can check it for more information on Wyatt's family. Various online trees claims that Wyatt's father was James Foster Sealy, that James's wife was Elizabeth Nunn, daughter of Elijah Nunn and Frances Wyatt, and that James was a son of Samuel Sealy and his wife, Sarah. Samuel is a son of John Sealy and Jean Jagers. Both John Sealy and his son Samuel served in the Revolutionary War. You can read a bit about parts of this family here at <http://www.seeley-society.net/clans/johnrite.html>. Note that the section on James Foster Sealy is not complete. Please get in touch with us if you can verify all or parts of the lineage of Wyatt back to John Sealy and Jean Jagers or offer a verifiable alternative.

**Query 1602-3** Submitted by Candace Wilmot ([cwilmot@illinois.edu](mailto:cwilmot@illinois.edu))

Candace is looking for the ancestry of her second-great-grandmother, Almena Seeley Clifford, b. 1803, Norwalk, Fairfield, CT, d. 27 Jan 1882, Serena, LaSalle, IL, wife of John Clifford, b. 1806, Plymouth, Grafton, NH.

**SGS Response:** 1850 census Ottawa, LaSalle, IL

- Clifford, John, age 44, b. NH, farmer
- Clifford, Aminia, age 43, b. CT
- Clifford, Aminia, age 20; John C., age 13; George, age 12; Richard, age 10; Mary, age 8; and Electa, age 6, all b. NY

The same family is also listed in the 1850 census of Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY

- Wheelock, Polly, age 64, b. CT
- Clifford, John, age 42, b. NH, farmer
- Clifford, Almena, age 46, b. CT
- Clifford, Almena, age 20; Calvin, age 15; George, age 13; Richard, age 10; Mary, age 8; and Maria, age 5, all b. NY

1840 census Plattsburgh Village, Clinton, NY

- John Clifford, Jr: 2 males under 5; 2 males, age 5-10; 1 male, age 10-15; 1 male, age 30-40; 1 female under 5; 1 female, age 30-40

NH Birth Index

- John Clifford, b. 24 Nov 1806, Bridgewater, Grafton, NH, to John Clifford

1860 census Serena, LaSalle, IL

- Clifford, Calvin, age 24, farmer, b. NY
- Ferguson, Amenia, age 29, b. NY
- Ferguson, John H., age 5; Elizabeth, age 2, both b. MO; Frederick, age 4 mos., b. IL
- Wheelock, Polly, age 75, b. CT

Some sources give Almena's surname as Wheelock, but it is possible that Polly remarried after the death of a first husband. We want to find a marriage record for John Clifford and Almena; to determine whether Almena is a Seeley, we would like to find her parents' names.

## NARA Offers "Help! I'm Stuck" Genealogy Consultations

Planning a trip to Washington, DC, this year? If so, you can take advantage of some professional research assistance from the National Archives to help jump start your genealogy or get advice for that genealogical question that has you stumped. Archivist Claire Prechtel-Klusens is available from noon to 4 p.m. to answer your questions. Sign up for first-come, first-served 20-minute appointments at the Microfilm Research desk on Saturdays. The genealogy consultations take place on one Saturday a month, in the Microfilm Research Room, Research Center (Penn. Ave. Entrance), 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Consultations are currently scheduled for April 16, May 21, June 18, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10.

## SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2015 - 2017

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**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

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I/we have submitted our Seeley line as far as known to Linda Crocker or Chris Havnar (contact info above) for inclusion in the SGS Ancestor File		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING TO <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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## Seeley Genealogical Society

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### SGS Publications for Order

All checks should be made payable to SGS.

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 (1614-1667), 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 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 11.

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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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