



Seeley Genealogical Society

2019 Outstanding Volunteer Award

Presented to

William Paul Taylor

**In recognition of your many years of voluntary
service given to Seeley Genealogical Society**

**SGS Volunteer of the Year
Presented by Jesse Crisler**

The recipient of this year's SGS Outstanding Volunteer Award is Paul Taylor. When I asked him about his membership status, he told me he was not sure how long he had been a member of the Seeley Genealogical Society, which suggests that Paul has always been more committed to service than to recognition.

What is known for certain is that he became the editor of the SGS Newsletter in 2003 at the tenth reunion in Williamsburg, VA, inheriting this important position from Ramon E. Hall. Before Paul took over as editor, the Newsletter had mainly been a vehicle for announcements to SGS members. Designing a new logo for the Society, Paul completely revamped both the look of the Newsletter and its purpose, reformatting it and transforming it into a multi-page quarterly packed not just with news of the Society, but also with timely pieces about famous Seeleys, items concerning genealogical research, and stories of historical interest to members. A few years ago Paul also introduced color to the Newsletter, taking it to yet another level. His efforts at steadily improving the Newsletter have paid off, for it has placed a few times in the annual competition sponsored by the National Genealogical Society. Since I have had the privilege of working with Paul as assistant editor for the past several years, I can attest to his dedication toward making the Newsletter something of which the Society as a whole can be proud.

Paul has also produced seven Reunion Souvenir Books, which have required not just assembling the collection of talks given at various reunions by both members and outside speakers, but also the compilation of these talks and many other items into prized keepsakes enhanced by candid photographs taken by Paul himself, including the more formally posed photograph of all those attending each reunion. Again, from working with Paul on three of these souvenir books, I know what a monumental task producing one of them is, requiring an astonishing amount of time and effort.

As both Newsletter and Reunion Souvenir Book editor, quite naturally Paul is also head of both the SGS Publications and Communication Committee, which oversees all publications of the Society, and the SGS Website Committee, which under his leadership is supervising the ongoing redesign of the SGS Website, an unexpectedly complicated process.

Besides the many demands resulting from producing four issues of the Newsletter each year and guiding both SGS publications and the Website, Paul is also the Society's First Vice President, a position to which he was installed in 2009 in Salt Lake City, UT, at the thirteenth reunion. Because of his technical expertise, we have been able to hold recent board meetings with a full complement of elected and appointed officers in "attendance" through the magic of video conferencing, which Paul in Virginia and Michael Hook in Abilene, Kansas, have arranged at the Seelye Research Center.

In the estimation of the SGS Awards and Recognition Committee, Paul is eminently qualified to receive the SGS Outstanding Volunteer Award. He reminded me not long ago that he had always deemed his work with the Society temporary, noting that he would gladly step aside at the first hint of a qualified or interested replacement. I think I am safe in saying, Paul, that you should not consider your days as First Vice President, Newsletter editor, or chair of the various committees you sit on numbered, for your talents in those and other capacities have become well nigh indispensable.

I am delighted to have been able to review your contributions tonight, Paul. Congratulations.

