



# SGS Newsletter

Seeley Genealogical Society Est. 1965



HISTORY ★ FAMILY ★ RESEARCH

Issue 184-2020-2/May/2020

## How I Met My Great-Grandfather

Story By SGS Member Jim Reinhardt

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I became a time traveler of sorts. My great-great-grandfather, Joseph Owen Seely (SGS#3100), died in 1879, but I got to know him through what he left behind and the great fortune that his descendants cared enough to preserve it. I came into possession of many of his diaries, letters written to him, some other documents, and an incomplete autobiography.

He had saved a few letters and papers belonging to his father, and his son and granddaughter continued this preservation by saving his papers. He obviously cared about his family history and wrote about it in his autobiography. He passed on this

interest in history to his children. He also was very supportive of his children's education, seeing to it that all of them had a higher education. He contributed to the building of an academy of higher learning in his local area and also to the college at Cazenovia, NY, which several of his children attended. He felt that knowledge was important and was called on to be a teacher for a time but found that farm work took too much

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**Photos:** Gravesite of Joseph Owen Seely (SGS#3100) at South Onondaga Cemetery, Onondaga County, NY. *Photo Courtesy of Find-A-Grave (Noelle Nann Fairbanks and Taryn DiTomasso)*





## 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  
Paul Taylor  
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, Sealee, 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 Treasurer Margaret Petersen (see contact info on page 15). Make checks payable to Seeley Genealogical Society.

### Seelye Research Center

is co-located with the Seelye Mansion in Abilene, KS. 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 2021, in St. Louis, MO. 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*

The Coronavirus Pandemic has impacted all of us. It has changed our lives. SGS has been touched by it as well. Jonathan, son of SGS Chief Genealogist Linda Crocker and her husband, Bob, and Anne Lugg, a former Executive Board member, both died from the virus. We are very sorry for these losses and send our deepest sympathy to their relatives.

As we go forward with fewer restrictions, please follow your state and local recommendations. Please take care to keep yourself and others safe.

Because of the Coronavirus, the SGS Board meeting scheduled for April 24, 2020, in Abilene, KS, was held via the Internet. Thanks to Paul Taylor for setting up our virtual meeting. Thanks to all of our officers, who each wrote a report of their SGS activities since June 2020 as well as sharing valuable insights during our meeting. They each do much for SGS. I am very grateful for their hard work and many accomplishments!

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) held its 2020 Convention on line. On May 20, 2020, NGS announced that the Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter had received an Honorable Mention in the Family Newsletter category. A big congratulations goes to Paul Taylor for producing such a high quality and interesting SGS Newsletter. We appreciate all the talent and hard work Paul puts into the Newsletter.

Another matter very affected by the Coronavirus is the SGS 2021 Reunion in St. Louis, MO. We have

an excellent Reunion Planning Committee, comprised of Stephanie Moore, John Mills, Camille Seeley Bell, Connie Birth, Jesse and Lou Ann



Crisler, Linda Crocker, Annette Seeley Earl, Kelly Findley, Kathie Olsen, and Paul Taylor. We have many ideas about hotels, speakers, and activities, but we cannot really make plans until we know our members can travel safely. We will make concrete plans just as soon as we can and inform you about them.

When Jim Seeley volunteered as the SGS Membership Chairperson, he only wanted to serve for a year. I asked him more than once to stay longer, but he did not want to continue. Jim did many good things in that year: surveying our members, categorizing responses, developing a Membership Plan, and creating a Membership Notebook. I want to thank Jim personally for all he did as Membership Chair and for all his past service to SGS, which includes serving as President for several years. Thank you very much, Jim!

Connie Birth is the new Membership Chair and Shanna Besendorfer the Assistant Chair. Connie was the Assistant Membership Chair and so is well qualified. Shanna is very capable and has good computer skills. They are already busily organizing the many things required for membership. SGS is very grateful to have both Connie

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# **Draft Minutes 2019-2021 SGS Executive Board Meeting, April 24, 2020**

*Submitted by Patricia Brooks Palmer, SGS Secretary*

SGS President Lynda Simmons called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. (EST).

**Quorum:** Kathie Olsen, Acting Parliamentarian, confirmed that a quorum was present.

**Elected and Appointed Officers Attending via Google Hangouts or phone connection:** Lynda Simmons, Kathie Olsen, Jesse Crisler, Linda Crocker, Wesley Waring, Terry Tietjens, Margaret Petersen, Paul Taylor, Pam Turner, Chris Havnar, Walt Seelye, Connie Martin Birth,

Shanna Besendorfer, and Patricia Brooks Palmer.

**Welcome and Announcements:**  
Lynda Simmons

- Lynda Simmons welcomed and thanked all in attendance, recognizing that though virtual attendance during the Covid-19 crisis was a necessity, she appreciated efforts to participate in the meeting.
- She recognized Connie Martin Birth and Shana Besendorfer as the new Membership and Assistant Membership Chairs and thanked Jim Seeley for his past

work as SGS Membership Chair.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 2019 SGS Executive Board Meetings, June 26 and June 29, 2019, were unanimously approved.

**Old Business and Updates:**

Lynda Simmons

- Logan Seelye, Paul Taylor, Margaret Petersen, and Lynda Simmons will discuss the feasibility of adding PayPal to the website.
- A Tri-fold brochure for distribution to Boosters of Old Town and the Cosmopolitan

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## **CONTINUED From Page 2: President's Report**

and Shanna for serving as officers.

Walt Seelye has been the DNA Project Chair since 2013. He has worked hard in this assignment. I want Walt to know how much we appreciate all that he has done. We thank him for his many years of great service to SGS.

Kara Donaldson will be our new DNA Project Chair. Kara has been involved in genealogy since 2008 and has had her own genealogical business since 2017. Her sons are descendants of Robert. We appreciate Kara's talents and willingness to serve SGS.

SGS is glad to announce that David Petersen has accepted a new SGS position. He will encourage younger people to join SGS and volunteer for various positions. Those of you who were in San Diego will remember the wonderful picnic we had at the Mormon Battalion Historic Site for which Dave cooked a delicious barbecue. We thank him for serving SGS then and now.

A new SGS Nominating Committee has been appointed.

Camille Seeley Bell will serve as Chair with Ivey Harris and Jesse Crisler as committee members. I appreciate their service. Please let them or me know if you would like to serve SGS as an officer or on a committee.

The Awards and Recognition Committee needs three SGS members to volunteer. This committee serves an important function by selecting the SGS Volunteer of the Year to be honored at the next SGS Reunion in St. Louis. Please let me know if you would like to serve on this committee.

The Website is being updated every day, thanks to the continuing efforts of Chris Havnar, Logan Seelye, and Paul Taylor. They are working very hard to redesign the Website and transfer a multitude of information from the old site to the new one. We appreciate all of their skill and hard work.

The Membership Application and Product Order Form has been changed with a few more changes still to be made. We are asking that you give an

alternate contact person on the form so that if for any reason we cannot locate you, we have a way to make contact. You will soon be able to pay for registration and products using Pay Pal on the Website. The form will reflect this change.

If you have not received your quarterly SGS Newsletter, please let Connie Birth, Shanna Besendorfer or me know. We want everyone to enjoy the Newsletter. We like to know that you are receiving it.

I have been thinking about the purpose of SGS. It give meaning to our membership and service. I believe that SGS's purpose is to find our Seeley ancestors, regardless of spelling, and share their information and stories with all of our Seeley cousins as well as any others who express interest in them. I hope we will all continue to do this and come together as cousins in SGS.

Thanks to all of you, both members and officers. You are good people with whom I love to work.

Have a great summer!

## CONTINUED From Page 3: Draft Meeting Minutes

Hotel is in Progress.

- The SGS Membership Action Plan has been completed.
- Kathie Olsen, chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee, has asked for assistance.
- Lynda Simmons has appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Camille Seeley Bell (Chair), Ivey Harris, and Jesse Crisler.
- Y-DNA: Walt Seelye wrote an article for the SGS Newsletter.
- Kara Donaldson has agreed to head the Y-DNA Project.
- Lynda Simmons thanked Walt Seelye for chairing the Y-DNA project and Marie Seelye for her work as Membership Chair.
- Pam Turner, Margaret Petersen, and Paul Taylor have completed devising a payment process for CDs, generation books, and other sale items.
- Recommended changes to the current SGS Constitution should be forwarded to Pam Turner, Chair of the Constitution Committee; any changes must be ratified by SGS members at the next reunion.
- Plans are in progress for the 2021 SGS Reunion in St. Louis, MO.
- Criteria for brickwall research has been completed

### Financial Report: Margaret

Petersen

- Margaret Petersen delivered the SGS Financial Report, noting the healthy shape of Society finances.
- Newsletter costs have been reduced significantly since most members now receive it electronically.
- SGS's invested CD Funds continue to accrue interest at a

significantly better rate than the present-day interest rates for CDs.

- Jesse Crisler moved and Linda Crocker seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved; motion unanimously approved.
- **SGS Constitution:** Pam Turner
- Pam Turner recommended that the Board view the Constitution as a flexible tool.
- She cited examples in the SGS Constitution which conflict with the By-laws.
- The Board discussed appointed versus elected positions as well as which Board members are or should be voting members.
- Paul Taylor reminded the Board that the timeline for discussion of changes to the Constitution must be followed with any proposed changes published in at least one Newsletter prior to a General Membership Meeting.
- Lynda Simmons thanked Pam Turner for her diligence asked Board members to send suggested constitutional revisions to Pam and herself before September.

### Membership: Connie Martin

Birth

- Connie Birth thanked Jim Seeley for his work to develop the SGS Membership Action Plan.
- She then led a discussion of the newly developed SGS Notebook, noting that she and Jim Seeley collaborated on compiling it.
- Updates to the SGS Notebook will be published yearly in the February SGS Newsletter.
- **Research:** Lynda Simmons
- Walt Seelye recommended that SGS continue 37-marker testing with which Lynda Simmons and Kara Donaldson agree.

- Linda Crocker presented recommended ongoing SGS research and provided
- the Board a list of brickwall possibilities for further research.
- **Communication:** Paul Taylor
- Paul Taylor reported that Chris Havnar is transferring huge amounts of information from the old to the new website as well as adding a wealth of new information.
- An SGS membership form is available on the website.
- Past issues of the Newsletter will be also be available.
- Queries will constitute the next extensive download to the site
- Pam Turner asked whether 8th Generation names should be moved to the website; Paul Taylor said that he and Logan Seelye will discuss organizational issues, the living people issues, and the process for loading the 8th Generation to the site,
- He also discussed ongoing changes to the site.
- He and Pam Turner recommended a separate email address for the PayPal account and that the Society's 501(c)(3) status be applied to acquiring a PayPal account.
- Walt Seelye noted that PayPal reduces its fees for 501(c)(3) organizations.
- He requested that the Board consider email options for increased email privacy for SGS Board members.
- Lynda Simmons commended Paul Taylor for producing an excellent Newsletter and for all his work as Communications Chair.

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## CONTINUED From Page 4: Draft Meeting Minutes

- Paul Taylor continues to post items on the SGS Facebook page, but he is always looking for more information.
- The Facebook page has gained over a hundred followers since the 2019 SGS Reunion in San Diego.
- Linda Crocker requested that brickwall queries be featured on the Facebook page.

### Seelye Mansion and Seelye

#### Research Center: Terry Tietjens

- Terry Tietjens reported that all is well at the Mansion.
- Tours will resume when the stay-at-home order is lifted in Kansas.
- **2021 Reunion:** Lynda Simmons
- Stephanie Mills Moore and John Mills prepared a report on plans for the next reunion, including suitable hotels, activities in St. Louis, possible reunion events, speakers, possible dates, etc.
- Lynda Simmons reviewed suggestions from San Diego Reunion surveys regarding what members deem important in a reunion.
- The Reunion Planning Committee will study all suggestions and incorporate as many as possible.
- Board members asked the committee also consider how St. Louis relates to Seeleys; whether any Seeleys part of westward movement through St. Louis; inviting local genealogical societies in St. Louis to attend the 2021 reunion; a field trip to, research at, and/or a reunion speaker from the National Personnel Records Center.
- Jesse Crisler asked whether Linda Crocker could present information on Missouri Seeleys at the 2021 reunion.

- Because of current Covid-19 restrictions, a date for the 2021 reunion cannot yet be determined.

### Seeley Genealogical Society

#### Brickwalls: Linda Crocker and Wesley Waring.

- Linda Crocker provided a list of brickwalls to be considered.
- The SGS Research Committee should carefully consider the merits of researching a particular Seeley line.
- The brickwall list is continually being added to.
- The committee should determine what needs to be researched next.
- SGS could consider hiring a professional genealogist to investigate a particular brickwall.
- Wesley Waring noted that the Association of Professional Genealogists maintains a list of genealogists by state and region.
- Wesley Waring recommended that SGS invite a speaker at the 2021 reunion from the National Archives and that time be allotted for personal research.
- Linda Crocker suggested the SGS members might want to use the National Archives before or after the reunion for more extended personal research.

### New Business:

#### Membership Survey Results:

##### Lynda Simmons

- Lynda Simmons provided responses to the SGS membership survey and a list of ideas categorized by areas of concern.
- She thanked Jim Seeley for all of his work on the survey itself and developing a Membership Action Plan.

- She also provided a summary of the Membership Action Plan and directors for each area:
- Fund research and DNA testing according to established brickwall criteria (Walt Seelye, Kara Donaldson, and Lynda Simmons).
- Focus on balanced reunions (Lynda Simmons).
- Continue an SGS Facebook presence (Paul Taylor).
- Incentivize joining SGS (Connie Birth and Shanna Besendorfer).
- Prioritize keeping current members (Connie Birth and Shanna Besendorfer).
- Focus more on the younger generation (David Petersen).
- Encourage involvement and volunteerism of SGS members in specific ways (Chair needed).
- Continue to update and transfer information to the new website as quickly as possible (Chris Havnar).

### Life Memberships and Newsletter:

After discussion the board unanimously approved a recommendation that Chris Havnar research the twenty-five SGS members who may not be receiving the Newsletter to determine whether they are still living and report her findings to the Board.

**SGS Dues Structure:** After discussion the Board decided to take no action at present regarding a proposal by Jim Seeley for a sliding scale for life-member dues.

### Possible Fall Board Meeting in

**Abilene:** Board members were enthusiastic regarding a possible Board meeting in Abilene in September 2020 or later in the fall.

**Adjournment:** 3:48 p.m.



## Opportunities to Serve: SGS Elected and Appointed Officers

*Story by Paul Taylor, SGS First Vice President*

Like most such organizations, the Seeley Genealogical Society is made up of like-minded members who share a common interest, in our case the study of genealogy related to the Seeley (ALL spellings) family. Every two years those members elect a slate of volunteer officers to represent their interests in the management of the Society. Among them is the Society's President, who also appoints additional volunteers to serve in a variety of positions, as needed.

In its current form the SGS Constitution and By-Laws list the following as elected officers: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Genealogist, and three Directors.

The Constitution and By-Laws also call on the President to appoint an Ancestor Files Chair, a Membership Chair, a Publications Editor, Assistant Genealogists, as required, a Director for the Seelye Research Center, and others, as needed.

Currently, the following positions have been identified as necessary and are filled by appointed volunteers: Historian, Parliamentarian, Webmaster, Assistant Membership Chair, Seelye Research Center Librarian, SGS CD-ROM Manager, and SGS DNA Lineage Project Manager.

As with any volunteer organization, there are a variety of ways members can help manage and improve SGS, which relies entirely on the efforts of its elected and appointed officers. In addition to volunteering to assist with general genealogical research, logistics, or management of

the Society, a number of standing and appointed committees that can always use a hand.

We will share more about those opportunities in a future issue of the Newsletter. For this issue, we focus on the work performed by the elected and appointed officers in order to give you an idea of how you might be able to serve in one of those positions. The bottom line up front is that If you are interested in learning more about any



**SGS President Lynda Simmons leads a discussion during the 2019 SGS Reunion in San Diego.**

of the positions, feel free to get in touch with the person currently filling it (see contact information on page 24). You may be able to volunteer in advance of the next election (at the 2021 SGS Reunion in St. Louis, date TBD) to get your feet wet and prepare for a term as an elected or appointed officer.

According to the SGS Constitution and By-Laws, the **SGS President** "shall be the chief executive officer of the Society and preside at all meetings." The President also serves as a member of all committees except the Nominating and Auditing Committees. The

President is authorized to approve disbursement of reasonable fund amounts from the Treasurer's account(s) for the routine operation of the Society, for correspondence, and for publication of the Newsletter. The President also serves as the chair of the committee to organize the biennial membership meeting.

This is obviously one of the most important positions in the Society, but according to current SGS President Lynda Simmons, who is looking to retire from her position in 2021 after serving three terms, it does not require extraordinary leadership experience.

"She or he needs to be open to different ideas and ways of doing things," says Simmons. "The President often has to mediate between different points of view. He or she needs to be a good listener and sometimes be able to deal with negative feedback. The SGS President must want to serve and be willing to spend several hours a week doing SGS work."

While the work is extensive, Simmons says it is also extremely rewarding. "When we were coming together last month for our virtual Board meeting during the pandemic, everyone was so happy to see everyone else. It reminded me of the saying, 'To know you is to love you!' I say, 'To serve with you in SGS is to love you!' I believe strongly that none of us is as smart as ALL of us! Because of this belief I know that if I can do this job, you can do it, too!"

The **SGS First Vice President** "shall perform duties assigned by the President, preside and perform all duties necessary in the absence of the

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President, and assume the Presidency if the office becomes vacant.” In his recent report to the SGS Executive Board, SGS First Vice President Paul Taylor wrote, “The majority of my time has been spent [in] providing what advice I can to SGS President Lynda Simmons. I sometimes wonder if our membership fully understands the amount of work being done by the Society. Lynda is involved in every aspect of it. She is a busy, BUSY person, a volunteer who leads a small group of volunteer elected and appointed officers. I truly hope the Nominating Committee is able to attract some new blood to fill some of our elected and appointed positions. I do not mind being First Vice President

(Lynda makes it easy for me), but I would much rather turn the position over to someone with a fresh perspective and new ideas to lead the society through its sixth decade of service. A lot of it is not simple work, but it is very rewarding!”

The **SGS Second Vice President** “shall perform duties assigned by the President [and] preside and perform all duties necessary in the absence of the President and First Vice President.”

“Translated into reality, what this means is that I talk with the SGS President, Lynda Simmons, at least weekly and then follow through on

tasks that she gives me,” said SGS Second Vice President Jesse Crisler.

“I am currently a member of the Nominating Committee, and in the past I have chaired this committee, he said. “I have also chaired at one time or another both the Awards and Recognition Committee and the Auditing Committee. Since none of

assignments, especially membership on various committees.

The **SGS Secretary** “shall record and preserve the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board and of the reunions. The Secretary will perform other administrative duties as assigned by the President.”

“Being a secretary to SGS is more

than just taking minutes,” said SGS Secretary Patricia Brooks Palmer. “It is an active, not a passive role. While it does involve attending the SGS Executive Board meetings and the reunions, the responsibility also includes covering the discussion of each agenda item (reports, discussion items, old and new business), transcribing the notes of the



SGS Second Vice President Jesse Crisler leads a tour of Old Town San Diego during the SGS Reunion there in June 2019. For those considering a position on the SGS Executive Board it's important to note that a wardrobe of western wear is not a requirement... but it doesn't hurt.

these is a standing committee, they are frequently reorganized with different members. I co-edit the SGS Newsletter, periodically contributing articles to it, and I am frequently asked by various other SGS officers to proofread material and documents on which they are working, including the new Membership Notebook, and errata for the Seventh Generation Book. I compiled the most recent Reunion Souvenir Book, covering the 2019 SGS Reunion in San Diego. I am also serving on the Planning Committee for the next reunion in St. Louis. Many SGS members would be well qualified to handle most of these

meetings, and producing the minutes in a timely and accurate manner. In addition, it is imperative that ‘action points’ are recorded and transcribed to ensure that SGS members have knowledge of actions taken on their behalf. As Secretary of SGS, I believe it is my duty to ensure that the minutes of Board meetings reflect the depth of the exercise of their duties the SGS Board faithfully takes on behalf of the Seeley Genealogical Society.”

The **SGS Treasurer** shall safeguard the funds and maintain all accounts in the name of The Seeley

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## CONTINUED From Page 7: SGS Elected and Appointed Officers

Genealogical Society. He [or she] shall be responsible for adequate financial records. When the Executive Board shall determine bonding is required, this will be done at the expense of the Society. If investment of funds of the Society is made, approval of the Executive Board is required.”

The **SGS Chief Genealogist** shall have custody of the genealogical files of the Society and maintain such other files necessary for the performance of his or her duties and safeguard them from common hazards. The duties are those generally accepted as responsibilities of a genealogist.” The Chief Genealogist “will also work closely with the Director of the [Seelye] Research Center to [ensure] that all Society records are copied and/or archived at the Center for researchers’ use.”

The three **SGS Directors** “serve as representatives of the general membership. They may be assigned duties by the President to assist in the administration of the Society.”

Among the appointed positions specifically mentioned in the Constitution and By-Laws is the **SGS Publications Editor**: “The Publications Editor shall be responsible for the organization, printing and mailing of the quarterly newsletter. The Newsletter shall include inquiries submitted to the Society for general membership response. The closest liaison must be maintained with the Membership Chairman and the Chief Genealogist to perform these duties.” For nearly eighteen years Paul Taylor has filled this position, and he believes it is time for a change.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my

time as the publications editor,” Taylor said. “It began with a redesign and update of the Newsletter shortly after taking over in 2003. More than ten years later, we redesigned the Newsletter again, incorporating color and transitioning to electronic distribution. Collecting work from the officers, finding other items to include, and then designing it all into a cohesive, easy-to-read product with news you can use is great fun. But I also believe that if a society like ours if going to continue to grow and thrive for another fifty years, we need to bring in new ideas and new perspectives. I will be sad to hang up my editorial hat but will happily provide an extensive turnover to the next editor, so he or she is set up for success. I will offer what advice and counsel I can and then proudly watch as the new editor takes the SGS Newsletter into the future.”

The **SGS Ancestor Files Chairman**: “The Ancestor Files Chairman shall be responsible for maintaining a computerized database of all ancestor files submitted by members of the Society. He shall also be responsible for responding to inquiries to the Society regarding established lineage.”

The **SGS Research Center Director**: “The Research Center Director shall be responsible for maintaining the [Seelye] Research Center in Abilene, Kansas, as a resource to Society members and members of the General Public. He shall act as an advisor to the President and to the Chief Genealogist.”

The **SGS Membership Chairman**: “The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for the promotion of the Society membership, maintenance of membership rolls, and collection and forwarding of dues to the Treasurer. He shall be appointed by the President from the membership, exclusive of the Treasurer.”

The **SGS Assistant Genealogist**: “Assistant Genealogists, when appointed, will be responsible for specific tasks in support of the Chief Genealogist’s function.”

The **SGS Historian** is responsible for capturing and recording the history of the Society. To a large degree, this is accomplished through the publication, by an appointed volunteer (usually someone other than the Historian), of a souvenir Book for each reunion. The book includes

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SGS Chief Genealogist Linda Crocker conducts research at the Family History Center during the 2009 SGS Reunion in Salt Lake City.



## CONTINUED From Page 8: SGS Elected and Appointed Officers

minutes of the Executive Board and General Membership meetings for the preceding two years, an updated list of elected and appointed officers, and a list of previous reunions with highlights from each. However, the Historian is responsible for updating the ongoing historical narrative of the Society, which is also included in Reunion Souvenir Books.

The **SGS Parliamentarian** provides advice and counsel to the President for running the General Membership and Executive Board meetings, which are conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and the SGS Constitution and By-Laws. The parliamentarian also helps the President ensure that decisions made at meetings are carried out in accordance with these documents.

The **SGS Webmaster** manages the governance and flow of content onto the SGS Website. The Website is currently being redesigned to a new content management system that will allow multiple officers to update sections of the site for which they are responsible. The Webmaster ensures that those actions are carried out in accordance with established SGS Website policy.

The **SGS Assistant Membership Chair** assists the Membership Chair in the performance of duties related to the management and recruitment of SGS membership.

The **SGS DNA Lineage Project Manager** manages, tracks, evaluates, and shares the results of an ongoing project to use DNA to learn about unknown Seeley family lines.

The **Seelye Research Center Librarian** provides management and filing policy for the Seelye Research

Center located on the grounds of the Historic Seelye Mansion in Abilene, KS. This includes managing the Society's hard-copy records and collections housed in the Center as well as electronic copies of records



During one of the SGS Executive Board Meetings at the 2019 SGS Reunion in San Diego, Seelye Research Center Librarian Pam Turner discusses a recent project to update one of the SGS publications.

which may be housed elsewhere.

"As the librarian for SGS, I deal with a lot of paper, as you would imagine," said SRC Librarian Pam Turner. The Librarian "needs to decide if items should be kept, how they should be filed, and how to identify them so others can find them. That is basically what needs to be done at the SRC. I, however, have added indexing and digitizing the Ancestor File information that Linda Crocker and Chris Havnar find and send to me. This is what is called the Descendants of the 8th Generation Index. I have also added scanning to the list of duties to help protect and make access to our information easier for everyone."

The **SGS CD-ROM Manager** is responsible for producing and mailing copies of the SGS CD-ROM when

ordered by those interested in obtaining copies. The CDs include copies of all the society's funded research projects as well as copies of its major published works. Pam Turner also serves as the CD-ROM Manager.

"That position requires keeping the CD-ROM updated when new information is published by SGS, making copies of the CD-ROM when needed, and mailing them out when ordered," she said.

"As for the time involved with these positions, the CD-ROM Manager takes the least amount of time once the files are set up. The job of Librarian can be extensive. I believe that if I were to work 40 hours a week on just indexing the Descendants of the 8th Generation, I would still not be done in a year's time," Said Turner.

"Even though being a volunteer can take a lot of time, it can be very rewarding. If you believe SGS is a valuable organization, then volunteering gives you that good feeling that you are helping SGS carry on and help others find their ancestors. Any assistance is worthwhile and greatly appreciated!"

### New SGS Members

- Christopher & Kathy Brown  
*Grandville, MI*
- Victoria Kathleen Hamilton  
*Wilsonville, OR*
- Cathleen & Stephan Levie  
*Gloucester, MA*
- Robert C. Seal  
*Garden Valley, ID*
- Kara L. Seelye Donaldson  
*Boca Raton, FL*

### New SGS Life Members

- Lisa Seelye Drew & James Drew  
*Lincoln, IL*

# SGS Queries *(as of May 22, 2020)*

*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 answer challenging research questions.

Submit queries to SGS Query Editor Linda Crocker at [llbc100@msn.com](mailto:llbc100@msn.com), or mail to Linda at home (contact information on page 15). Queries are assigned a query number by the Query Editor. Linda summarizes the query and responses for inclusion in the quarterly SGS Newsletter.

Be sure to follow a few guidelines when submitting a query:

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

## What resources have you

**already consulted?** SGS publications or website? Census? Public records? Cemetery records? County histories? Family Bible? Others? (Specify.)

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

**After your query is printed,** please keep us informed of any information you receive or further progress you make on your own. Other members may be interested in 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 others. Your query will also be posted on the website. Make sure we have your current and complete contact information—sometimes we receive new information months or even years after a query appears.

If you have information to share on queries from current or past issues of the Newsletter, send it to the query submitter and also to Linda Crocker, **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 two digit year, two digit month of the Newsletter issue and query sequence number.

*QUERY EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you to my Seeley "cousins" for the thoughtful cards and the beautiful flowers sent to comfort me and my family in the loss of our older son, Jonathan. I am very appreciative of your love and kindness. Linda Crocker*

## New Queries:

**2005-1** Submitted by Chris Havnar ([chris.havnar@gmail.com](mailto:chris.havnar@gmail.com))

This is based on obituaries Chris has researched for the SGS Ancestor File.

### **Hattie Virginia Hicks Seeley**

Hattie Virginia Hicks Seeley, age 72 of Carnesville, passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Born in Gainesville, Georgia on December 12, 1948, to the late William Bud Hicks and Sarah Bone Hicks. Mrs. Seeley was a homemaker, loving wife, and mother of 3. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Tom Seeley; brothers, Bobby Hicks and Stanley Hicks; sister, Connie Bettis.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories her sons and daughters-in-law, Nicholas & Jenny Seeley of Carnesville, Daniel & Tonya Seeley of Clarksville and John & Stacey Seeley of Commerce; 20 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; brother, Eddie Hicks of Comer; sisters, Pam Faulkner of Hall County and Shirley Martin of Jefferson; several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In consideration of the CDC recommendations and Governor Kemp's requirement of no more than 10 people, private family services and visitation will be held. Interment

will follow in Nicholson City Cemetery. Published online by Now Habersham.com and WRWH.com

### **Tom Seeley**

Mr. Tom Seeley age 77 of Carnesville died Saturday, October 17, 2015, at his residence. Mr. Seeley was born in Jefferson to the late, Tom Seeley and Hattie Long Seeley Bennett. Mr. Seeley was a poultry truck driver. In addition to his parents, Mr. Seeley was also preceded in death by his brothers, Ellis and Tim Bennett. Mr. Seeley is survived by his wife, Virginia Hicks Seeley of Carnesville; sons, John Seeley, Nicholas Tom Seeley, and Daniel Ryan Seeley all of Carnesville; sisters, May Alene Seeley of Pendergrass, Edna May Kimsey of Pendergrass, and Alice Collier of Braselton; 13 grandchildren. Funeral service will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 2:00 PM from the chapel of Little-Ward Funeral Home with Rev. Roger Peck officiating with the interment following at Nicholson Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Tuesday night from 6-8 PM.

Published online by Little Ward Funeral Home.

Based on the obituaries, Chris was able to add Tom and his children and sisters to the Ancestor File, but who is Tom's father Tom?

**SGS Response:** I found a grave record and short obituary for Tom's sister Edna Mae.

[Findagrave.com](http://Findagrave.com)

- Edna Mae Long Kimsey, b. July 9, 1935, Crawford, Oglethorpe, GA, d. May 18, 2016, in GA, buried at Pond Fork Baptist Church Cemetery, Talmo, Jackson, GA

**Please See SGS Queries, Page 11**



**CONTINUED From Page 10: SGS Queries****Edna Mae Long Kimsey**

*Evans Funeral Home announces the death of Mrs. Edna Mae Long Kimsey, age 80, of Pendergrass, Georgia who entered into rest Wednesday, May 18, 2016. Mrs. Kimsey was born in Crawford, Georgia a daughter of the late Tom Seeley and the late Hattie Long, was retired from Wayne Poultry and was a member of the Braselton Church of God. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Kimsey is preceded by her husband William Kimsey. Survivors include two sisters; Mae Allene Seeley of Commerce and Alice Collier of Braselton and several nieces and nephews.*

*Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, May 21, 2016, in the Chapel of Evans Funeral Home with burial to follow in Pond Fork Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday May 20, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.*

1940 census Redstone, Jackson, GA

- Turpin, William age 62, b. GA, weaver at cotton mill
- Turpin, Eula, wife, age 38, b. GA, fill batten at cotton mill
- Turpin, Ernest J., age 14, b. GA, son
- Seeley, Hattie, sister, md, age 28, b. GA
- Seeley, May A, niece, age 7; Edna M, niece, age 5; Thomas Jr., nephew, age 2, all b. GA
- Long, Peter A., father-in-law, age 57, widower, b. GA

1930 census Jefferson, Jackson, GA District 3

- Sealy, Tom, age 48 b. GA, GA, GA, single, works in cotton mill as carder, lives in boarding house with other mill workers

I could not locate this Tom in the 1940 census or in earlier census records with any assurance that I had the right person. There is a Tom, age 37, b. NC, farmer, in the 1920 census as the son of Rody/Rhody Sealy in Robeson Co., NC.

1930 census Jefferson, Jackson, GA, District 3

- Long, Peter A., age 52, b. GA, GA, GA, widower quills, cotton mill
- Long, Frank, age 25, floor sweeper, cotton mill; Albert, age 22, fills batteries, cotton mill; Hattie, age 18, fills batteries, cotton mill; Hill, age 14; Lizzie, age 12, all b. GA, GA, GA

SS Applications and Claims

- Hattie Long Celia Bennett, b. Apr 2, 1913, Union Co., GA, d. Nov 1988, parents Peter A Long and Ettie J. Alec; name listed as Hattie Long Celia in May 1941, Hattie Long Bennett in Nov 1943, Hattie Long in Jan 1944, Hattie L. Bennett on Dec 7, 1988

Findagrave

- Wilbur Nash "Tom" Sealey, b. Mar 2, 1883, Robeson Co., NC, d. Dec 11, 1949, Durham, Durham, NC, buried Fairmont Cemetery, Fairmont, Robeson, NC

1910 census Sterlings Mill, Robeson, NC

- Sealy, Wilbur, age 28, b. NC, NC, NC, farmer
- Sealy, Rhoda, age 57, widow, mother, b. NC, NC, NC, 4 children, 4 living
- Sealy, Ippie, age 17; Bertha, age 14, both b. NC, NC, NC

(In 1900 the family includes Rhoda's son Benjamin age 14)

Wilbur cannot be identified in the 1920 or 1930 census. In 1940 he is married to Mary, living in Lumberton, Robeson, NC.

If anyone can connect Wilbur Nash "Tom" Sealy to Hattie Long or can identify another Tom as her husband, please contact me.

**2005-2** Submitted by Linda Jones ([wex5556@cox.net](mailto:wex5556@cox.net))

Linda is trying to verify that Ann Seely Norval, SGS# 1502, is really the daughter of Katherine Brinker, wife of John Nichols Seely, SGS# 441. She provided the following information:

Katherine is not mentioned in the will of her husband, John, who died in 1835, so she presumably died earlier. John's son Abraham was the administrator of John's estate and submitted a claim against the estate (Ralls Co., MO, Probate Records, dated Apr 27, 1835) that stated in part: "For boarding, washing, mending, making and clothes furnished for the said John N. Seely, decd., from October in the year 1825 up to March 26, 1835, [??] 9 years and 4 months at \$40 per year is \$373.33." This claim lends support for Katherine Seely's death occurring in or prior to October 1825.

John N. Seely was in MO in the very early 1800's; daughters Susan and Mary md. in St. Charles Co. on Oct 6, 1801, and Aug 31, 1802, respectively; he is listed in the 1805 MO Territorial Census; he appeared before the territorial Land Commissioners Aug 23, 1806, and on Sep 22, 1810, they allowed his claim of 800 arpents of land (Claim #474), originally granted by Spanish Land Grant, in Ferdinand Twp., St. Louis District, under the provisions of federal law that required residence and cultivation by Dec 20, 1803.

James James (John and Katherine Seely's son-in law, husband of daughter Mary) gave supporting testimony to the territorial Land Commissioners on Aug 23, 1806, in which he said the claimant "had then a wife and 10 children," providing indirect evidence that Katherine was alive as of Dec 1803.

Deeds of sale spanning the period 1817-1833 for land in St. Louis District do not mention Katherine (or a wife, even generically). The earliest deed found was from Feb 13, 1817, recorded Feb 25, 1819 (St Louis Co., MO Deed Book H, 1818-1819, pg 217), which may imply Katherine was already deceased at that point.

John N. Seely was party to judicial proceedings in 1820 and 1821, per the Missouri Judicial Records Historical Database (MO State Archives). I have not yet obtained copies of those records to see whether his wife was mentioned.

Linda has researched Ann Seely Norvell's siblings to identify any who may have been born after 1809, in an attempt to locate records (death certificates or other) that would show who their mother was, without success. Her research shows only one sibling born after Ann—Nelly Seely Johnson, b. ca 1813, d. intestate ca Jan 1841 in Ralls Co., MO, brother Abraham named administrator (Ralls Co. MO Probate Records), no death certificate. Katherine (Catherine) Seely Watt is frequently shown as b. ca 1812, but 1850 census records and other sources indicate ca 1804. Katherine md. John Watt, Mar 12, 1829, Pike Co., MO, d. Aug 18, 1854, Randolph Co., IL; no death certificate or probate files have been found.

**SGS Response:**

Please See SGS Queries, Page 14

**CONTINUED From Page 11: SGS Queries**1830 census of Spencer, Ralls, MO

- Seely, Abram: 1 male 30-40, 1 male 80-90, 1 female under 5, 1 female 10-15 (this corresponds to Abraham Seely, father John N., daughter Matilda, and probably wife or younger sister)

Next home is Elijah Lingo, husband of Abraham's sister Elizabeth

Next is John Tapsley, a single man

Next is Isaac Seely, brother of Abraham.

Conclusion: based on this, it looks like John Nichols Seely is living with his son Abraham, and Katherine has died. The 1820 census is lost, but based on the information from John's will, I would agree that Katherine died about October 1825. Of course, that is assuming that she did not die earlier with John remarrying and that wife dying, but I think that is a stretch. There are lots of children with descendants in this family, so I think it would have come up. If Katherine did not die until 1825, she would be the mother of Ann Seely Norval. Also, since the Generations One-Five were published, we have noted that Ann Seely was married a second time to Kellam Abernath(e)y. I have sent that information to Linda. Please contact me if you have any other information on John Nichols Seely and his wife, Katherine Brinker, especially to verify her death, or you would like information on descendants.

**2005-3** Submitted by Chris Havnar  
([chris.havnar@gmail.com](mailto:chris.havnar@gmail.com))

Chris has found several obituaries that lead back to Edward Horace Seeley who died in 1897 in Waukesha, WI. However, we had not been able to take the line further back than the 1880 census:

1880 census Genesee, Waukesha, WI

- Sealey, E.H. age 41, b. NY, NY, NY, S.S. agent
- Sealey, Lucella, age 31, b. WI, VT, VT
- Willie Sealey age 1 b. WI, NY, WI

**SGS Response:** First, I tried to find Edward Horace in earlier census records.

1850 census Madrid, St Lawrence, NY

- Seely, Robert W., age 46, b. VT, farmer
- Seely, Lorinda, age 38, b. NY
- Seely, Gilbert L(?), age 16; Edward, age 13; Hannah M., age 9, all b. NY

Edward H. Seely registered for the Civil War draft from Madrid, age 26 in 1863. I could not find him in the 1860 or 1870 census. His older brother is still at home in 1860:

1860 census Madrid, St Lawrence, NY

- Seeley, Robert W., age 56, b. VT, farmer
- Seeley, Lorinda, age 48, b. NY
- Seeley, Dennis Gilbert, age 24, b. NY

I tried going back:

1840 census St Lawrence Co., NY

- Robert W. Seeley: 1 male under 5, 1 male 5-10, 1 male 30-40, 1 female 20-30

1830 census Madrid, St Lawrence Co., NY

- Philo Seeley: 1 male 10-15, 2 males 15-20, 1 male 20-30, 1 male 50-60; 2 females 20-30, 1 female 40-50

1820 census Charlotte, Chittenden, VT

- Philo Seeley: 3 males under 10, 1 male 16-18, 1 male 26-45; 1 female under 10, 2 females 10-16, 1 female 16-26, 1 female 26-45

This Philo seems to correspond to SGS# 834, but we

only list one child for him.

Then I found this:

New York Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999  
Surrogates Court, St Lawrence Co., NY

- Oct 4, 1887, in matter of last will and testament of Robert W Seeley of Madrid names heirs Dennis G. Seeley of Madrid, NY, Edward H. Seeley of Waukesha, WI, and Hannah M. Wadleigh of Potsdam, NY  
Conclusion: This confirms that the father of Edward Horace Seeley of Waukesha, WI, is Robert W. Seeley of Madrid, St Lawrence, NY. Can anyone prove that Robert W. is the son of Philo (or another person) and/or identify the children of this Philo, his death date and place, etc.

**2005-4** Submitted by Shannon Robinson via the SGS Facebook page.

Shannon says, "This may be a long shot, but I am looking for my elementary school teacher who was a Seeley and said her dad made candy. She taught at John Ballantyne Elementary School in El Cajon (San Diego, CA) back in the 70s to early 80s. If anyone knows if she is still alive and kicking, I'd love to find her. Thanks!"

**SGS Response:**U.S. City Directories, 1973, San Diego

- Seeley, Everett J. (Glenada) (Seeley Candy Co), r. El Cajon

SSDI

- Everett J. Seeley, b. Mar 28, 1910, d. Sep 17, 1997, last residence: El Cajon, San Diego, CA

Obituary published in The San Diego Union Tribune, Tuesday Sep 23, 1997

*Everett Seeley, 87; master candy maker, store owner To generations of San Diegans with a passion for homemade marshmallows and hand-dipped chocolates, Everett James Seeley was the king of confections. From 1935 until his retirement 40 years later, Mr. Seeley owned candy stores in either San Diego or Chula Vista. Seven years after he retired, the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Durango, Colo., hired him as a master candy maker, and he provided the expertise to get the franchise off the ground.*

*Mr. Seeley, who returned to San Diego last December after living 15 years in Durango, died of congestive heart failure Wednesday at Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa. He was 87.*

*For many years, Mr. Seeley sold peanut brittle and other confections to the San Diego Zoo and the former Pacific Southwest Airlines. His Seely's Candy Co. drew sweet-tooth patrons over the years to sites at 16th and C and 17th and L streets in San Diego. And his Seeley Candy Stick was a fixture in the South Bay. "His favorite flavor was rocky road with dark or milk chocolate," said Barry Sacks of El Cajon, Mr. Seeley's brother-in-law. "And he made his own marshmallow. "He was such a kind and gentle guy, that not once did he leave anybody with a bad taste in their mouth, and I'm not just talking about the candy. He gave an average of \$4,000 a year to charities."*

*Mr. Seeley was born and raised in Coquille, Ore., where he ran track and played varsity football. His first venture into the food business was a bakery in Oregon. He served in the Army during World War II and was stationed*

**Please See SGS Queries, Page 13**



**CONTINUED From Page 12: SGS Queries**

Three former educators from El Cajon retained him as a consultant in starting the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchise in the late 1970s. Before long, he was employed in Durango full time as the firm's master candy maker. "Without his knowledge they couldn't start the business," his brother-in-law said.

Mr. Seeley's wife of 31 years, Glenda Seeley, died in 1972.

"They were married June 11, 1941, and she was the only woman in his life," his brother-in-law said. Survivors include two daughters, Trudy G. Seeley-Ramirez of Santa Monica and Jan A. Seeley-Sacks of El Cajon and a grandson.

Cremation was planned. No services are scheduled.

**CABI**

- Jan Alice Seeley, b. Jun 3, 1953, San Diego, mother: Kendall
- Trudy Glenada Seeley, b. Sep 28, 1950, San Diego, CA, mother: Kendall

**CAMI**

- Trudy G. Seeley md. Armand E Ramirez Feb 28, 1976 Alameda, CA

**US Pub Rec**

- Jan Alice Seeley Sacks, resides El Cajon, CA, with Bernard (Barry) Robert Sacks
- Trudy G. Ramirez resides in Santa Monica, CA

Conclusion: I have forwarded the information to Shannon. Everett Seeley is in the 11<sup>th</sup> generation of Linus Seeley, SGS# 3270. It should also be noted that the Barry Sacks mentioned in the obituary is Mr. Seeley's son-in-law, husband of Jan.

**Let's Have a Seeley Census!**

Story by Lynda Simmons, SGS President

Yvonne Katris responded to the SGS Survey with an interesting idea. She suggested that SGS could create a Seeley Census in honor of the 2020 U.S. Census.

All members could spread the word and send in information on all Seeleys (any spelling) they know of. SGS could give a prize or membership to whoever turns in the most names of people who are not already SGS members.

We like Yvonne's idea of having a Seeley Census. We would love to get to know more people with the name of Seeley as well as those whose parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and earlier ancestors were Seeleys. This is a way to promote the Seeley Genealogical Society. SGS exists for all those who are interested in Seeley ancestors and their Seeley cousins.

Please gather names and addresses of all the Seeleys you know. Send that information to Lynda Simmons (see contact info on page 15) by July 4, 2020. The SGS member sending the greatest number of Seeley contacts will receive a complimentary three-year membership to the Seeley Genealogical Society, which can be used for themselves or as a gift for someone else.

**National Genealogical Society Honors SGS Newsletter**

Story by Lynda Simmons, SGS President

On May 20, 2020, the National Genealogical Society announced that the Seeley Genealogical Society. Had received an Honorable Mention in the Family Newsletter category. This acknowledges the hard work and creativity of our SGS Newsletter Editor Paul Taylor. Congratulations to Paul!

Paul has done an excellent job for many years as the Editor of the Newsletter which has received this award before. Paul has spent countless hours writing articles, collecting and organizing information, finding photos, and constructing the layout of each issue of the Newsletter. We thank Paul for the wonderful job he has done and is doing as SGS Newsletter Editor.

Paul is assisted by Jesse Crisler who does the proofreading and often



writes articles for the Newsletter. Thank you both for a job well done.

SGS has belonged to the National Genealogical Society (NGS) for many years. The goals of that organization are to promote genealogical skill development, establish high standards of genealogical research, and increase awareness of and interest in family history.

To accomplish this, NGS provides educational programs, publishes several publications in the field of genealogy, and creates networking opportunities for its members.

I am pleased that NGS has recognized the outstanding quality of the SGS Newsletter and its editor. Paul was also honored as the SGS Volunteer of the Year in June 2019 at the SGS Reunion in San Diego, CA.

## CONTINUED From Page 1: Great-Grandfather

time to devote the time necessary to teaching. One son, Henry Martyn Seely, became a respected professor at Middlebury College in Vermont. Another, Carrie Adella Seely, also became a teacher. His namesake established a bank in Kalamazoo, MI, and all others married well and/or did well in their lives.

Erwin Lansing Seely, his son and my great-grandfather, took over the farm that he had established, and my grandmother continued to run it after he died. I lived on that farm until I was four years old and met my great-grandfather at that time. There was no significance in that to me at that young age, but now I feel privileged to have met him. Perhaps he was something of a reflection of his father. If so, Joseph Owen Seely was a kind man, and that is supported in what others have written about him.

I read his autobiography and then began a journey through his dairies. Before long I was back in the early to mid-1800s, learning of his triumphs and struggles in rural central New York. His closest neighbors, he said, were Indians about a mile and a half away. They were good neighbors, he said, and they must have thought the same of him, for they got along well with him.

My great-great-grandmother was his second wife, Laura Louisa Rowland, and they had two children. His first wife, Susanna Sterns, bore his first nine children, one of whom lived less than a year. All others lived from sixty-five to ninety-three years. My great grandfather was ninety-one, and my grandmother was ninety-two. We will see whether that trend carries on to me. My mother died in her sixties, so we will see.

Joseph Owen Seely and his father, Gideon, were trusted to the point of acting as the bank for the area where they lived. They held multiple mortgages, lent and held money for others, and also sold and traded land. Gideon Seely, Jr., had been granted several hundred acres of land in New York for his service in the Revolutionary War. Gideon was a private and served under his father,



Joseph Owen Seely (SGS#3100)

Captain Gideon Seely. In 1798, when Joseph Owen was just over a year old, his father moved his family to central New York from Bedford in Westchester County, NY. Joseph Owen was carried the whole way by an older sister.

The farm work was demanding, but it was the way of life that many at the time lived. He tells of buying supplies at a nearby town and selling his produce, including butter, eggs, vegetables, and apples, in his immediate area and in the growing city of Syracuse. The farm evolved to an apple farm which my grandmother

and grandfather ran. My grandmother continued running the farm after the early death of her husband before I was born. She died in 1984, when the farm was taken over by her son.

The entire story I was able to piece together gave great insight into the life of Joseph Owen Seely and the life of the times in his part of the world. From this I produced a book, quoting pieces of his autobiography and diaries as well as bits from letters. This, hopefully, has helped my children and grandchildren to appreciate their heritage. I truly felt I had met him, and though I could not ask him questions, he provided many answers. After reading my book, one of my daughters thought that I should write a historical novel based on his life. I might, but I might have to travel back in time again to do it.

*Joseph (SGS#3100), Gideon (SGS#1332), Gideon (SGS#402), John S. (SGS#149), Obadiah (SGS#49), Obadiah (SGS#17), Obadiah (SGS#4)*

## SRC Librarian, CD-ROM Manager Report

*Submitted by Pam Turner*

The filing trip and Board meeting planned for April was cancelled due to Covid-19. I'm still working on revising the Sixth Generation book. I have retyped the book, and the past changes that have been published. I have completed adding the Ancestor File and Seventh Generation information to the Nathaniel section and will soon start on the Obadiah section.

Sales of the Seventh Generation book have slowed down, but we still get a few orders. So far, twenty-seven copies of this book have been sold and we have sold twenty copies of the CD since the last reunion.



## SGS Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2019 - 2021

**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.

### President

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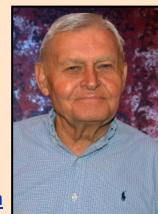
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## SGS Appointed Officers and Volunteers for 2019- 2021

**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."

### Past President & Acting Parliamentarian

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## SGS Standing Committees

SGS welcomes you to take a more active role in the Society. Consider serving in an elected or appointed position, or join one of our committees dedicated to improving the society and serving its members. Contact Lynda Simmons for more information.

- **Nominating Committee:**  
Not a permanent committee. The president shall appoint a nominating committee one year in advance of the reunion, as per the SGS Constitution.
- **Auditing Committee:**  
Not a permanent committee. Appointed by the president every two years to audit financial records and activities of SGS.
- **Awards and Recognition Committee:**  
Seeks opportunities to recognize the work and achievements of the society and its members.
- **SGS Research Committee:**  
Conducts and arranges for genealogical research on behalf of the society.
- **DNA Research Committee:**  
Manages the SGS DNA lineage project and works with the above committee to research and share information about the use of DNA in genealogy.
- **Publications/Communication Committee:**  
Oversees the publishing of the SGS Newsletter, Reunion Souvenir Book, and other publications.
- **SGS Website Redesign Committee:**  
Oversees the website redesign.
- **2021 Reunion Committee:**  
Arranges the upcoming SGS reunion which will be held in St. Louis, MO.



## Seeley Genealogical Society Membership Application

### AND Product Order Form

DATE:

FULL NAME:	SPOUSE'S NAME:		
ADDRESS:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP+4:
HOME TELEPHONE:	CELL PHONE:		
EMAIL ADDRESS:	SPOUSE EMAIL ADDRESS:		

I AM A DESCENDANT OF:  
☐ ROBERT SEELEY (1602-1667)   ☐ OBADIAH SEELEY (1614-1657)   ☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ UNKNOWN

I AM WILLING TO SHARE INFORMATION ON MY SEELEY FAMILY LINE WITH SGS   ☐ YES   ☐ NO

#### Alternate Contact Data In Case Member Moves Or Becomes Unreachable

FULL NAME:	RELATIONSHIP:
TELEPHONE:	EMAIL ADDRESS:

#### Seeley Genealogical Society Services And Products

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP	\$10.00 US		SUBTOTAL:
TWO YEARS MEMBERSHIP	\$18.00 US		SUBTOTAL:
THREE YEARS MEMBERSHIP	\$25.00 US		SUBTOTAL:
FIVE YEARS MEMBERSHIP	\$36.00 US		SUBTOTAL:
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$125.00 US		SUBTOTAL:
RECEIVE NEWSLETTER FREE BY EMAIL ( <i>WITH SGS MEMBERSHIP</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		SUBTOTAL:
RECEIVE PRINTED NEWSLETTER BY MAIL ( <i>WITH SGS MEMBERSHIP</i> )	\$12.00 US/YEAR	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
THE SGS CD-ROM – REVISED SEPTEMBER 2019 THAT INCLUDES: • SGS Publications by Madeline Mills and Katherine Olsen (corrections included). • <i>The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), Generations One through Five</i> • <i>The Sixth Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657)</i> • <i>The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 2019 Edition</i> • SGS Funded Research Reports including those by Fred C. Hart, Jr. CG; Alan Phipps, MA, AG, Clifford L. Stott, CG, and Apryl Cox, AG • SGS Newsletters (includes all issues from 1965-2014, in PDF format and searchable text format. Also includes searchable indexes of all articles through 2006)	\$15.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
Print: <i>The Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), Generations One through Five, 1997 Edition</i>	\$17.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
Print: <i>The Sixth Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657), 1995 Edition (Currently Unavailable)</i>	\$35.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
Print: <i>The Seventh Generation Families: Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) and Obadiah Seeley (1617-1657), 2019 Edition</i>	\$35.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
2019 SGS International Reunion Souvenir Book	\$35.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
SGS 50th Anniversary T-Shirts: S _____ XL _____	\$12.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
SGS 50th Anniversary T-Shirt: 2XL _____	\$14.00 US	QUANTITY:	SUBTOTAL:
Tax Free Donation to SGS, a 501(c)(3) Organization			SUBTOTAL:

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM (WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO SGS) TO:  
 MARGARET PETERSEN, SGS TREASURER, 2728 S. HIGHLAND DRIVE #4, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84106

TOTAL: