

GENEALOGY OF THE SEELY FAMILY

Compiled by W. L. Seely

"My thoughts are with the dead; with them
I live in long-passed years;
Their virtues love, their faults condemn,
Partake their hopes and fears;
And from their lessons seek and find
Instruction with an humble mind."
Southey

"The glory of children are their fathers."
Prov. 17:6.

(Note: History of the Seely family in Normandy is omitted.)

SEELY - formerly of Normandy and owing its origin to those barons who distinguished themselves on the plains of Hastings, in the two islands of Sicily, and in Palestine. Later our Parliament contained their presence, which was distinguished in science as previously by arms.

It is the duty of the historian to preserve the memory of their ancient houses, owes a great duty to others, as each day lessens the traces of their history and makes disappear the last vestiges of their castles.

Cailly in Normandy, Richard 1st, 3rd Duke of Normandy, and wife, the beautiful Connor (?)
Godefray of Eu and of Brionne
Gillebeut, Count of Brionne
Osbern, 1st Lord of Cailly
Rogen, 2nd Lord of Cailly
Osbern, 3rd Lord of Cailly

while Viscount was ambassador to the court of Edward, King of England, from Duke William in 1060. William, his son, fought at Hastings and established the family in England, 1066.

Conner (?), a woman of high lineage from a Danish family, sister of Weirse and of a line of which by some wives the family of seely in England takes its origin.

This is verified in the geneology 1 of the descendants of William of Cailly, who established himself in England.

List of the Knights at Dives, Calvados (?), Normandy rewarded with grants of lands:
Sir William de Cely, (Celi or Saily), elder brother of Gilbert, Grand master of the Temple.

Thos. de Cailly, in Parliament of Edward 2.
Edward Seilly, Sely, or Selle

8th in descent from William
Living tempus Edward 3

his son, Sir Bennet Seely or Cely

Torf "The Home of Beaumont."

Turolf of Port Andeman—eva—sister of Gunnor

Sir William Seely or Cely, Kt. Temp. Henry VII
William Seely or Sealy, Esq.

his sister married into the Maynard family and was ancestress of Lord Maynard.

Edward Seely or Sealy of Bridgewater, England.
William Seely or Sealy

b. 13 Nov. 1593. Mayor

The name is on ancient records in various forms: Ceely, Selye, Seily, Sely, Seely, Seale, Seelye, Seelie.

Seely is the form most generally used in New Brunswick at present. Families of this name were to be found at early dates in the counties of Oxford, Norfolk, London, Gloucester, Somerset, Devon, Suffolk, Lincoln, and Northumberland, also in Wales.

1 Sir Joseph Hurd, Heralds Office, London. Cailly in Normandy p. 16

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Among the early, unconnected records of the family in England are those of William Sely, of Oxfordshire in the year 1273 A.D., Egidius Seely of Norfolk County, and John Seely of Gloucester. Thomas Seely of London in the time of King Edward the First. William Seely of Somersetshire in the reign of King Edward the Third. Thomas Seely of Bristol in 1563 and Margaret Seely of London in the early seventeenth century.

It is not definitely known from which of the many lines of the family in England the first emigrant of that name was descended, but all of the families bearing the name are believed to be related to some extent.

Robert Seely, the first of the name in America, was a London man in the employ of Mathew Cradock and came in the fleet with Winthrop in the year 1630. Tradition in the family states he was of one of the lines that settled in Wales; this has not yet been officially confirmed.

The castle and manor of Sully, to Reginald Sully 1 (Warrington history of Wales, p.224. On map Suilly, 1211.) one of the Knights who went with Fitzshannon to Glamorgan, South Wales about 1091.

Tradition for several generations attributes the family as being of direct descent from the ancient and noble House of Lord Cailly or Seely or Celi. According to "Burkes Landed Gentry" the family was of Norman extraction Ceilli or Seely or Cely; was sent to England by William the Conqueror when Duke of Normandy. His relative Le Sire de Cailli accompanied the Duke to England in 1066. From the former descended Sir Bennedict Seely or Sely. Sir Bennedict was beheaded at Oxford in 1400 for loyalty to King Richard. After Sir Bennedict we come to his direct descendent William Seely or Sealy Esq. who was mayor of Bridgewater, County Somerset and in 1607 married Joan, daughter and heir Bullifant of South Moulton, Devon. She being a descendent of the House of Bullifant, France. In Fronde's History of England vol. VIII, p. 452, in the year 1563 a petition was addressed to the Lords of Elizabeth in Council by Dorothy Seely of the City of Bristol for the release of her husband Thomas Seely of the Queens Guard from confinement for assault. Mention is also made of the son of the aforesaid.

Thomas Seely is captain in command of the "Min " with Drake on his voyage to the East Indies 1585-6.

Visitation of London 1563.

Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Richard Seely married Thomas L. Taylor Esq. of Lydgate, Suffolk.

Ollyvar Selye - Grace daughter of John Branstone, Gent. London. Ollyvar Ceely was mayor of Plymouth, 1660.

At Credition near Exeter in the grave yard there, some very old grave stones erected to the Seely family.

In the old Cathedral in Bridgewater, County Somerset, England, there is an old stained glass window, stating that in this place the Seelys have been buried for generations.

In Penbrokeshire, South Wales, on the Cheddar (?) River, of which Seely River is an affluent is Seely-Ham.

Sir Richard Seltonstall was born in 1586 in the Parish of Halifax, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England, and was one of the patentees of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay and was appointed First Assostant. He came over with the Winthrop Fleet and arrived in Salem aboard the "Arabella" June 12th, 1630, bringing out the charter with them. He returned to England, and at his death, left a legacy to Harvard College. An uncle was Lord Mayor of London in 1597-8.

Sir Richard with Robert Seely and others went four miles up the Charles River and founded Watertown, Massachusetts, 1630.

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Sir "Crest Little Watertown" Watertown Historical Society. In the back of this book is a map showing the home lots of the first settlers, and the exact location of house of Robert Seely.

Robert Seely sailed from the Isle of Wight on Thursday 8th April 1630 in one of the eleven vessels comprising Governor Winthrop's fleet, (tradition says Arabella). They landed at Naumkeag (the Indian name for Salem, Mass.) June 12, 1630. Accompanying him were Mary, his wife, and their two sons, Nathaniel and Obediah.

Soon after his arrival, he, in company with others, led by Sir Richard Saltonstall, went four miles up the Charles River and founded the town of Watertown where he was allotted 16 acres of land, In July 1630 Robert Seely with four others organized the first Church of Watertown (oldest church next to Salem). On May 18, 1631, he was one of the first twenty-five to be made a Freeman. He was appointed Surveyor 13, November 1634 and laid out the highways of Watertown. In May 1635 he moved with others and planned a settlement in Connecticut - Wethersfield. His lot can be identified there today at the corner of Plant Lane and Broad Street, sold out and joined the New Haven Colony, the first meeting of the company was held April 18th, 1638. While in Wethersfield in 1637 War with the Pequot Indians broke out and he was appointed Lieutenant of the Wethersfield Co. One of the signers of the "Fundamental Agreement" a curiosity in the history of civil government. This was on June 4, 1639. The motives which led to the agreement were various, all centering in general security and common defence of the settlements.

He was marchall of the New Haven Colony 1639, 1640, 1641. Lieutenant of the Artillery Co. of New Haven 1648. In 1654 commanded the troops of New Haven under Sed and Leverett against the Netherlands. In 1652 he appears as owning land in Stamford, Conn.

In 1654 he was sent to help with the L(ong) I(sland) Indians with powder and lead "to keep peace with them." In 1662 the court awarded him 15 pounds and gave him the use of a house at Saybrook where he had charge of the fort. Feby. of that year the town of Huntington sent a boat to Saybrook for him. In 1663 he was appointed a commissioner to the town of Huntington, L. I. and represented Huntington at the general assembly of Hartford, Conn. in May 1663. He was appointed Chief Military Officer of Huntington at this time. In 1665 he with others planted Elizabeth, N. J. and held land there in 1666.

He was one of the eight named patentees of Huntington, L. I. incorporated by Governor Nicoll Nov. 1st, 1666. The Trustees named in the patent rights were: Jonas Wood, Wm. Leveredge, Robert Seely, John Ketchum, Thomas Skidmore, Isaac Platt, Thos. Jones, Thos. Weeks.

In 1663 he had a controversy with the town of Stratford about his rights in land there and the court adjudged that the town of Stratford pay him 25 pounds, and he made over to them all his rights and title.

Capt. Robert Seely Died Oct., 1667
Adm. on Est. 19 Oct. 1668.

Lieutenant Seel was shot in the eyebrow with an Indian arrow the point turning downward, I pulled out the arrow myself.

Major Mason
Pequot War

SEELY COAT OF ARMS

Coat of arms	A sword	
	A wheat sheaf	Vide
	A scallop shell	

Definition in Welsh language - "Fair and Easy"

See Simpson's Heraldry & Bus, Encyclopedia Letter H & S
Tailnis Analytics
Hutchinsons Memoirs

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Literally the "Coat of Arms" signified -

First....."The Sword"- We will be our own defenders.

Second....."The Wheat Sheaf"- We live by agriculture and by our efforts.

Third....."The Scallop Shell"- Our dwellings are on the sea shore, and our privileges include the productions of the sea.

First....They were a clan. Tribe of families of themselves, arming among themselves to accomplish family purposes, and though personal differences might arise between them yet they set all these aside when their rights were invaded.

Second...Personal courage was a family trait. Independent, fearless, persevering, revengeful, vindictive, not forgetful of injuries, proud of their families, relentless persecutors of an enemy that attempted oppression, not quick in passion but to wrath, a desire for revenge was abiding and perpetual. Friendship once forfeited could not be restored.

Third....Talented, mingled with benevolence, abundant in kindness, quiet in peace, malignant in war, scorning meanness, noble, humane, living by diligence and assiduity, devotional, reverential, not boasters, yet active, rather given to setire, possessing some self-esteem, unflinchingly maintaining their rights. In controversary keen and wary, but ever respectful to equals. They acknowledge no superiors, were opposed to Aristocracy, looked on Lords and peasents with even eye, lived as if they felt the full force of the axiom which was a favorite with them "We can take care of ourselves."

Analysis of the "Coat of Arms."

We are a family a tribe or clan

We trample on no man's rights:

no man shall trample on ours.

Unaided we will live

Our hopes are in ourselves

Our ability is equal to our desires.

Our enemies feel they are such.

Our friends are ardent.

And whether enemies or friends

each party is fully acquainted with the estimate we put on the.