

# THE SEELYE CENTENNIAL

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Paper Read by Hon. Alfred Seelye Roe at the Celebration  
of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the  
Seelye Family in this County.

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*Saturday, August 28, 1915.*



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Our gathering to-day commemorates the centennial of the migration of Joseph Seelye and family into the Genesee country. Where we stand now was a wilderness then, except for a small clearing and a small log house, both of which had been made by Demarcus Holmes, the man who passed over after three years' time, all his interests to Joseph Seelye, a native of Kingsbury, Washington Co., N. Y. We have no conclusive evidence, as yet, though indications point to Wales as the latest European home of the family whose earliest representative in this country was probably Robert, who came with John Winthrop, October, 1630, and was first at Watertown, Massachusetts, later removing to Wethersfield, Connecticut; was a prominent figure in civil and military affairs of Connecticut and Long Island. His son, Nathaniel, was in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1645; married in Fairfield, of that state, and was the father of nine children, of whom John was the 5th. Nathaniel was killed, at the head of his company, in the Great Swamp fight with the Narragansett Indians, December 26th, 1675, and was presumably the second of our family in America.

His son, John, another Connecticut dweller, was the father of Benjamin, who, in company with others, was the purchaser of a 23,000 acre

tract of land in the vicinity of Lake George, New York, then Albany Co., now largely Warren and Washington. His name appears, with those of his associates, in an indenture, made by Ebenezer Seelye, disposing of his one-thousandth share to Peter Vandervoort, of New York City, for the sum of twenty-five pounds.

It is worthy of mention, considering the various spellings employed by members of the family in later generations, that this Ebenezer very distinctly signs his name with the y before the e in the last syllable, the earliest written spelling of the same that I have ever seen. Benjamin's wife was Deborah Hitchcock, a representative of a very prominent Massachusetts family. One of their children was Nehemiah, conspicuous in local affairs, a farmer by occupation, though I have heard that he was also a bridge builder, in which work he finally lost his life. He was a captain in the Charlotte County militia; Charlotte was the short-time royal name of a large part of the original Albany County, portions of which, as already stated, have been incorporated into Warren and Washington.

Captain Nehemiah was at Saratoga, and, presumptively, witnessed the surrender of Burgoyne. He was married to Mary Hopkins, another sterling New England name, and their home

was on the route down which came Burgoyne's army of British, Hessians and Indians in 1777. To cross the Seelye farm, it was necessary to build a considerable corduroy road over a swamp upon the place; remains of the road, I am told, are visible to this day. Whether by Tory, Briton, Hessian or Indian, we cannot tell, but the early home of the family was burned during the passage of the army, but, fortunately, the vigorous young wife, about twenty-six years of age, had placed her children and the best of the family effects in a farm-cart, and, by means of a yoke of oxen, had driven them to a place of safety.

This Mary Hopkins Seelye was worthy of more than passing mention. She evidently was the worthy wife of a valiant husband, and she survived him more than thirty years. When the century was still young, in the later twenties, she drove a chaise from her Kingsbury home across the country to visit her son, Joseph, in Rose, and then rode on still further, to break bread with daughter Deborah Millard, in Lockport. It is said that her chaise was the first covered vehicle ever seen in Niagara County, and was preserved as a curious relic till within recent years, since the elderly lady, leaving it with the Millards, returned east by an Erie Canal packet boat. Possibly, some of the modern notions of so-called efficiency were unknown to her, but as the mother and rearer of a family she had few if any superiors. I have been told by those who have seen both that the late Mrs. Jane Seelye Colvin much resembled her grand-mother. A sister of our ancestress married Jarit Wickwire, grandfather of the late Gleason Wickwire, of Rose, thereby adding to the general relationship said to prevail in our favored town. Our ancestress died November 3, 1834, aged 84 years.

Nehemiah Seelye died June 17, 1802, in his 60th year. Both graves are near the main entrance of the Kingsbury Street burial ground.

Race suicide was a term unheard of in the days of Nehemiah Seelye and his energetic wife, for the fragmentary records tell us that to them were born eleven children. Whether the names are in correct order or not, I cannot say, for we are told that the records, as written by the first Nehemiah Seelye or his wife, were destroyed in some one of the several fires to which the possessors have been exposed. I do not find that Grand-father George Seelye used a single date in the list of names he collected from whatever sources. According to burial ground descriptions, Benjamin Seelye was older than Joseph, yet in the table prepared by my revered ancestor, the latter appears before Benjamin. Had the State of New York required and retained vital statistics, as did the New England States, we of to-day would have very much less trouble in seeking ancestral facts. However, with thankful hearts for what has come to us, we make the best of what we have and pass along our acquirements to our successors. I find the following Christian names as those of the children of Nehemiah and Mary Hopkins Seelye: Abel, John, Nehemiah, Joseph, Benjamin, Polly, Bradley, Ezra, an undecipherable name, Deborah and Lewis. Inasmuch as we know from family records that Lewis was older than either Joseph or Benjamin, it is probable that Grandfather wrote down the names just as they occurred to him.

In this list, the name of Abel Seelye is associated with Betsey Calkins, yet other family data state that he was an unmarried man, serving in the U. S. navy. John Seelye married Elizabeth Thompson, and to them were born Thomas, Jane, Mary and

Elizabeth; Jane, and possibly all the children were born in Moreau, Saratoga County. Thomas, the only son of the family, as a young man, went to Texas, married there, and was practically lost to his Northern kinsfolk. We cannot help wondering whether in gray, sons of Thomas fought regiments having in their blue ranks the sons of his sister Jane. The latter was the wife of Oliver C. Colvin, both of them long residents of Galen, Rose and Butler. Mary Ann was the wife of Dr. Thomas Mason, and Elizabeth married twice—first to William Pitt Moore, and second to John Brown. They lived and died in Sandusky, Ohio. John Seelye kept a hotel in Black Rock, now a part of Buffalo, and died there, a comparatively young man. After his death, Samuel Thompson, a brother of Mrs. John Seelye, came to her aid and carried on the hotel. Later the widow Seelye married Jeremiah Finch, of Glens Falls, New York. Finch drove his horses and vehicle across the State to secure his wife, and then with her and her four children, drove back again. Mrs. Finch lived many years, and her name was one frequently heard in the family of her daughter, Mrs. Colvin.

The next name, Nehemiah, is only a name to me, possibly that of one who died in infancy or childhood. Not so with Joseph, which comes next in our array, for he was married twice, was the first of his family to enter this town, and his children's children are here to this day. His first wife, and the mother of his children, was Elizabeth Carrier, who was born in Sharon, Connecticut, of a long New England lineage, going back among other names to those of the Fullers, Edward and Samuel, father and son, both of whom came to Plymouth in the Mayflower. After her

death he married Lorinda Clark, of Waterloo, who survived him many years. Of the children of Joseph and Elizabeth Seelye, Clinton and Herman died in infancy, in Sherbourne, Chenango County, George, Mary and Delos will receive further mention later.

Benjamin Seelye, we have always understood, as the good and dutiful son, stood by his mother until she had passed within the veil, and then, with wife and children, came to this part of the Empire State, so prolific in the choicest gifts of nature. In Washington County, our good Uncle Ben had married Eunice Barnum, a native of Shaftsbury, Vermont, and those of us who used the words "Aunt Eunice," in addressing the dear old lady, felt toward her quite as much affection as did those—and what a lot there was—who called her "grandma." She, too, proved a prolific vine, and made glad the heart of her husband in the persons of eight children, two sons and six daughters, practically just the reverse of her father's family, where two daughters offset even a larger number of sons. Her sons were John Jay and Nehemiah; the daughters, Julia Emily, Electa, Polly, Emma, Belle and Caroline. Like his brother Joseph, Uncle Ben was large and very stout, and everybody loved the glad-faced old man—aged 81 years and one month. He died April 15, 1854. Aunt Eunice died May 27, 1863, in her 85th year. Of this branch of the family there will be more hereafter.

Polly Seelye, the elder daughter of Nehemiah's family, married, May 11, 1800, in Kingsbury, William Smith, born, grandfather's records say, in Sharon, Connecticut, June 16, 1776. Polly was born December 1, 1777. I have heard my mother say that the Smiths were well to-do people, but

not a scrap of evidence have we as to where they lived, save that the Millards say "Dutchess County." A few, possibly, here to-day, may recall that when the estate of Joseph Seelye was undergoing settlement, a man by the name of Smith blew into these precincts, claiming to be related to the foregoing family, but the trouble he started hereabouts made many wish he had never been born anywhere. I remember that he was the pet aversion of grandfather and Uncle Delos. The following is the record of the Smith family, of which we hope to know more at no distant date: Ensign G., b. Aug. 24, 1801, md. Sept. 11, 1822, Eliza Thorn; Eliza A., b. June 22, 1804, md. Nov. 18, 1830, Edgar Thorn; John M., b. Nov. 21, 1813—no further record; Wm. Seelye, b. April 18, 1810, md. Oct. 10, 1833, Julia A. Badgley; Isaac Platt, b. July 15, 1821, md. Oct. 16, 1849, Martha L. Allen. Their children's names are given as Mary Estelle, b. Dec. 22, 1850; Lizzie, b. Sept. 17, 1855, and Henry, b. Sept. 2, 1858.

Next in Nehemiah's family, as my records give them, are two brothers, Ezra and Bradley, with nothing further concerning them. There is also a name, not made out. Then comes daughter Deborah, doubtless named for her father's mother, Deborah Hitchcock. A fortnight since, I could not have given any Millard facts, but, thanks to a recent discovery, in the person of Miss Mabel L. Campbell, a great-grand-daughter of Deborah and Oliver Millard, we are considerably enlightened as to facts pertaining to the Lockport relatives with whom the Rose folks used to exchange visits. Oliver Leonard Millard and Deborah Seelye were married in November, 1817, and moved to a farm a short distance from Lockport, the locality bearing the name of Millard's Bridge,

from a bridge across the canal near this point. There were born to the Millards four children, viz: Junius A., having a son, Oliver Leonard, who, a banker, lives in Hersey, Michigan; Mary A. H., who married Alexander Campbell, and their son, Frank D., is the father of my fair informant as above, other members of the Campbell family being John, Leverette (dead), Hortense (dead), Deborah, Ella, Merrick and Alice, all now living in Niagara County. The other two members of the Oliver-Deborah pair were Clinton D. and Hortense Bangham, both of whom married and left children still living in the vicinity. Evidently our kinswoman, Deborah, died at a comparatively early age, since we find that her husband married, for his second wife, Deborah's niece, Electa Seelye Clark, a daughter of Benjamin.

Last, in this somewhat extended list, is Lewis. I regret that I am unable to tell more about him, his residence and occupation, though his great-grandson, Lewis Seelye Town, of Rose, from family records, gleans the following facts. He was born April 9; 1771, and died Sept. 15, 1808; my grandfather's record makes Desire Mott his first wife, and Philena Stewart, b. Dec. 7, 1777, his second, whom he wed Dec. 7, 1800, and she apparently was the mother of his first two children. She died March 27, 1805. It was frequently heard by me, in my early boyhood, that she was connected with the British royal house of Stewart. My records accord to him as his third wife, Hannah Pratt. The children of Lewis and Philena were Polly and Lewis, and John Milton, son probably, of Hannah Pratt, the third wife. Of these, Polly, the "Aunt Polly" Town of several generations, will be mentioned later. Her brother, Lewis, b. Chittenango, N. Y.,

July 11, 1803, and died in Rochester, Jan. 28, 1883, orphaned at an early age, was bound out to learn the blacksmith's trade, having very little if any school advantages. No one in our family annals better illustrates the typical American who rises above circumstances. When President Andrew Johnson, himself self-taught, during Lewis Seelye's Congressional term, prepared for a reception, he would specially ask for the New York blacksmith to assist. Engaged in manufacturing, he was ever interested in the progress of the city of Rochester, for many years holding local offices. He was the first treasurer of Monroe County, and was the founder of the Rochester Chronicle, later joined with the Democrat. He was elected to Congress in 1866, serving from '67 to '69. Like his father, Lewis Seelye was three times married. His first wife, Mary E. Kennedy, died after six weeks of wedded life, during a period of Asiatic cholera, for whom the young man was nearly crazed with grief, refusing both food and consolation. His second wife bore him two children, William (deceased), and Josephine, and his third, Harriet Santee, three. Of the latter group, Devillo is supposed to be in California. His daughter Josephine married James McElroy; her daughter is Mrs. Josephine Parker, of Pittsburg, Pa., and she is the mother of two sons and one daughter, John Milton, son of the first Lewis, was a business man in New York City, and having accumulated a fortune, for those early days, died at a comparatively early age. It is not amiss to state that Lewis Seelye, whose body rests in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, was the first, so far as I know, to depart from the long time spelling of the name Seelye. He may have thought the first syllable too easy. At any rate, he dropped one of the "e"'s, leaving it Selye. Thus much for the generation of which Joseph Seelye was a member.

Of the next generation, I propose dwelling most on those members whose lives have been identified with Rose or adjoining towns. Following the order thus far employed, we come first to the children of John and Elizabeth Thompson Seelye. Jane Seelye married at an early age, Oliver Colvin, a native of Washington County, and always a notable figure wherever found. He was a brother of the late Dr. Nathan Colvin, of Clyde, and it was ever a favorite boast that he was aboard the boat which, in 1825, made the opening trip on the Erie Canal from Black Rock to Troy. Governor DeWitt Clinton was another passenger. Their numerous children were born in Galen, though Clara, the youngest, was a native of Virginia. So severed by time and space were the oldest and the youngest members of this family, several of the younger never saw the oldest. Cornelia, the oldest child, married early, and as Mrs. Stratton, went to California, reared a considerable family, and died there. She was followed by Thomas and Augustus, who also married and died in ElDorado. Sidney, after being a good soldier in the Ninth N. Y. Heavy Artillery, married Electa Powers, and followed sister and brothers to the Pacific Coast. Leaving children, he, too, died. Elizabeth, long the wife of Clark Sanders, of Waterloo, reared a family of daughters, and, only a few weeks ago, followed her husband to the spirit world. Narcissa, the wife of the late Eugene Hickok, a worthy Rose farmer, is the mother of Horton and Jennie, both deceased, though the latter became the wife of Clinton J. Barless, and left a daughter, Musette, reared by her grandmother. Asabel, who lost an arm at Petersburg, in the 111th N. Y. Infantry, married Annette Soper, of Butler, leaving several children. He, also, has joined his comrades on the other shore. William Pitt has been married twice, first to Mary LaDue, of Wolcott, and second, Alice Seelye, of Brockport, not of our immediate

family so far as known. The children of Pitt and his first wife are Oliver, of Sodus, and Benjamin, of Philadelphia. For many years a druggist, in Wolcott and Elmira, until very recently he has continued that line of trade in Clyde. Frances, better known to her immediate friends as Frank, is the wife of Giles W. Winchell, and they occupy the old farm on the Rose border of Butler. Their children were Fred and Laura, the former dying as he entered man's estate; the latter is still at home. The youngest, born while the Colvins sojourned in Virginia, was Clara Virginia, known usually by her first name, but ever lovingly addressed by her father as "Jinnie," became the wife of Harvey L. Dickinson, of Rose, and, like four other members of her family, moved to California, where she died, loved and respected by every one who knew her. Mrs. Colvin's sister, Mary Ann, was the wife of Truman Mason, a physician. She was the mother of two sons, Truman and Jasper. The latter married and died in Utica. Truman married a Galloway, of Wolcott, and had children, Belle, Claude and Ralph, all of Wolcott, I believe.

The children of Joseph Seelye, who survived early childhood, were Ensign, George, Mary and Delos, all of whom were members of the party that helped make up the load which Nathaniel Sheffield an older brother, of George Seelye's second wife, who then an infant, drove by blazed trees, in the very early spring of 1815, into this almost unbroken wilderness. One of the tragedies of frontier life is marked by the track of the Seelyes, since the boy. Sheffield, only nineteen years old, walked back to his Chango County home, which he reached through snow and slush, weary almost to exhaustion, so that quick consumption set in, carrying off the youthful driver in two months' time. Nearly a mile further south from where we are to-day, Deacon Aaron Shepard had built his log house by the side of a

perennial spring, but neighbors were few and very remote. In his boyhood, George Seelye saw a black bear run across this garden, and Joseph Seelye, a good shot, spent many hours waiting at nearby runways to bring down a deer. The howl of the wolf was a familiar sound at eventide and through the night. It surely was frontier life to which Joseph brought his gentle and cultured wife, Elizabeth Carrier, and we can imagine the feelings of the mother, when her nine-year old boy, Ensign, next younger than George, was brought into her presence from a field just northwest of where we are, having been killed by the fall of a tree, which he, a mere lad, had just cut down. His grave, for a number of years, was a little east of the great walnut tree across the road, and many a tear, Deacon Seelye used to say, his mother wept over the place where his body lay. When the burial ground was opened to the southward, his was the first grave hallowed there.

The house, near which we gather to-day, is one of the very first framed structures in this part of the town. Deacon Seelye says he drew logs for the lumber to Pineville, some distance to the eastward of South Butler, to be sawed there, this being long before Briggs' sawmill, long so busy, two miles south of us, and he also told me that he was eighteen years old at the time. As he was born in 1806, and the house was erected soon after, it is fair to suppose that the edifice must have been built about 1825, or ninety years ago. In my boyhood nothing afforded me greater pleasure than to go at will about the well built structure, not arranged as modern houses are now, but it was eminently servicable then. Multitudinous tenants have played havoc with what was built to endure hundreds of years. With no disrespect to my ancestor, I can state in this presence that he was peculiar to a degree, one of the memories of my childhood being his grave-stones, for head and foot, that



for long years stood leaning against the horse-barn, once standing at the entrance to the door-yard. I have learned that, visiting his sister in Lockport, he ordered a blackwalnut coffin for himself, declaring that ordinary tamarack was not good enough for him. Of great avoirdupoise, he used to sit in his shirt-sleeves, on his north piazza, in mid-winter, declaring that he enjoyed the season. The mother of his children, Elizabeth Carrier, died September 10, 1833, in her 54th year. His second wife, Lorinda Clark, was a faithful attendant on her somewhat whimsical husband, whom she was wont to call "Old Gentleman," until he was called to the other world, Feb. 9, 1854, in his 78th year.

It was the good fortune of Joseph Seelye to have his three children settled as his nearest neighbors, the oldest, George, to the southward, at the corners; Mary, as Mrs. Wade, was just over the rise of land to the south-east, and Delos at the brow of the hill, to the south west. George Seelye, a school teacher, when quite young, was married before attaining his majority to Polly Catharine, daughter of Deacon Aaron Shepard, one of his schoolmates. She was the mother of another Polly Catharine, who, at an unusually early age, became the wife of Austin Marinus Roe, of Rose, for more than sixty years a Methodist clergyman. The first wife, dying in 1829, five years later, Mr. Seelye wedded Sarah Ann Sheffield, of Sherburne, who was the mother of James Judson, Eudora M. and L. Estelle. I find that the limitations of time prevent the continued naming of successive generations, so it will suffice to state that the children of Polly C. and A. M. Roe are Alfred Seelye, S. Adelaide, E. George Mortimer and Charles M. Roe, of whom S. Adelaide, wife of the late Dr. Laurence Johnson, died in 1893, leaving issue. I find that my scheme for this occasion has been quite too ambitious, since the descendants of Joseph Seelye to-day stretch away to the fifth generation, or grand-children

with the word great three times repeated. J. Judson Seelye married Frances Osgood, daughter of Artemas Osgood, of Rose, and to them were born two sons, Ernest O. and George S. "Jud" Seelye, as his many friends called him, served in the Ninth Heavy Artillery during the war, was for a time with his sons in South Dakota, and died in Rose, Sept. 30, 1909. His son Ernest is the president of this Association, and George's son, Leaton is the secretary. George S. Seelye died in 1903. Eudora married Lucien Osgood, a brother of Judson's wife, and died in 1870, in her 29th year. L. Estelle married Merritt G. McKoon, of Butler, who died in 1896. Everybody will recognize Mrs. McKoon as one of the efficient promoters of this organization. The first George Seelye died Dec. 30, 1885. He was the first deacon of the Rose Baptist Church, and in the State Militia he rose to the colonelcy of his regiment, his later commissions bearing the signatures of Governors William L. Marcy and William H. Seward. Locally he was known both as Deacon and Colonel Seelye. His wife died March 26, 1897.

Mary, Joseph Seelye's only daughter, became the wife of Dudley Wade, a nephew of the wife of Deacon Aaron Shepard. Their early home, where their children were born, we have stated as being a short distance to the south-east. Here were born Elizabeth, who died in childhood, Joseph Seelye, Imogene, Emily, Ensign and Frank, the latter dying in early manhood, in Boston, in 1875. Joseph married Emma Osgood, a sister of Frances and Lucien, and lived many years in the Valley, dying in 1902. He left one daughter, Nellie, wife of Bert. E. Valentine, a member of our exceedingly active executive committee. Sons Wade and Joseph, in this household, are likely to prolong the familiar names. Mrs. Joseph Wade died in 1899. Imogene married Chester S. Irish, who died in 1873, and is the mother of Lorena, who married Charles Valentine, Dora, the wife of

Arthur Brown, of Oswego, and the mother of Monica, who is here to-day; the third daughter, Maude, is the wife of E. E. Beare, now of Pennsylvania. They have a daughter Mary Eugenia. Emily, as Mrs. Cushman, of Butler, died a number of years ago. Ensign married Lucy, daughter of Kendrick Sheffield, and has long resided in the Valley; the only son, Frank, who married Nellie Wilkinson, of Ohio, is a successful business man in Wellsville, Ohio. The daughter, Lulu, is the wife of Herbert Osgood, son of Lucien. Dudley Wade died in 1876 and Mrs. Wade in 1899.

Delos Seelye. b. June 8, 1816, was the idol of my childhood. His stature, and attentions paid to me, made him more than ordinarily dear to me. He married Almanda Fuller, of a Rose family, and three of their children survived infancy, Angeline, Annie and Elnora. Angeline married Joseph Roat, of Steuben County, and they were the parents of Nellie and Inez. The former, the widow of Edwin A. Berry, with son, Percy C., is in Syracuse, and Inez, the widow of J. A. Manning, is in Watkins. Mrs. Roat died in 1909. Annie was the wife of Felton Hickok, who served in the Ninth Heavy during the war, and to them was born William Delos, who died in Buffalo in 1913, leaving a son Delos. Mrs. Hickok died in 1911. Elnora, the youngest child of Delos and Almanda married Valorous Ellinwood, of excellent Rose stock, and their children are Guy, Raymond, Amy (deceased), Mary, Benjamin, Ruth and Eunice, of whom Guy, Ray and Ruth are married and have children. Ben., also, is just married. Mrs. Ellinwood died in 1905; Delos Seelye died in 1870, in 55th year; his wife died in 1883, in her 66th year.

Of the numerous children of Benjamin and Eunice Seelye, Polly became Mrs. Farr, of Fort Ann, where both resided until they went to Iowa. Emma was the wife of Jared Young, also of Fort Ann, mother of Belle and Electa Young, once familiar names in

Rose. John Jay, the older son, married Minerva Boynton, and they reared sons, Irwin, Fred and Burt, of whom Irwin, who married Sarah Williams, of Marion, resides in N. Rose, having one daughter, Nettie, married. Fred married Lottie Sours, of Huron, and died some years since, leaving a son Gray P. Burt, the youngest, is married, and a teacher in New York City. John Jay Seelye died in 1887; his widow followed in 1901. Nehemiah, Benjamin's second son, married Margaret Burns, and once lived in Rose, but after the war, moved to Michigan, and there died. The children were Royal, Alfred, Mary and Frank. Alfred was a member of Co. H. of the Ninth Heavy, and was severely wounded at Cedar Creek. He has since died. Julia, Uncle Ben's oldest daughter, was Mrs. William Dickinson, of Rose, and of her six children, I can give hardly more than the names, as Charlotte, who was twice married—first to John Partridge; second, to Joseph Boynton. She left a son, Merville. Calista became the wife of Ben. Aldrich, an exemplary farmer, of North Rose. Their one daughter, Harriet (deceased), was Mrs. Everett Slaight, of North Rose. Eliza is Mrs. James Brisbin, mother of George E. Brisbin, of Clyde. Isadore Amelia is Mrs. Philo B. Boynton. Judson died many years ago. and Jay R., married a Bovee, and lived in or near North Rose. Electa Seelye, daughter of Benjamin and Eunice, as Mrs. Garret Clark, was the mother of Byron Clark, of Savannah, recently deceased, whose name and face were once very familiar in these parts. Other children of Electa were Mary, Pluma, Julia and Ruth. We have seen that after the death of Garret Clark, Electa became the second wife of O. L. Millard, of Lockport. Belle was Mrs. Melvin Gillett, a teacher of mine, years ago. and I remember that distant relationship did not lessen in any degree the weight of his big stick. Caroline, the youngest of the family, became the wife of David

Stanley, of North Huron, whose children were Alice, afterward Mrs. Michael Vandercook, of Indianapolis, Elmer, Elton and Pluma, who married Edward Clark, whose daughter, Margaret is Mrs. Harry Ward, of Rochester.

The last family in this enumeration is that of Lewis Seelye, son of Nehemiah. We have already named those children, whose affiliations did not lay hold on Rose, and now, finally we have "Aunt Polly" Town and her numerous following. In her girlhood, she had come to reside with her Uncle Joseph, so that between her and her children and her Uncle Joseph's descendants there was much more than ordinary affection. Residing on a road, long known as Town Street, among the early settlers of the section were Asa and Silas Town, both men being worthy natives of Winchendon, Mass., descended from one of the hapless women hanged for witchcraft in Salem. While still quite young, Polly Town became the wife of Silas Town, and, through a long and radiant life, she lived admired and loved by all who had her in acquaintance. Though but a boy, I can yet recall the sparkle of her bright brown eye and the wave of her beautiful hair. The children born to the pair were Emily, Milton, Sarah, Mary, Lewis, Lucy and Eugene. All of the daughters inherited their mother's good looks, and Emily we remember as Mrs. William Vandereof, and the mother of Clarence E. Sarah married—first, John Vandereof; and second, Asa Plumb. Her one child was James Elvin, who lived in Rose. Sarah was the last of the family to die. Mary was the wife of Joel Lee, a Rose

farmer, and to them were born two children, who in early womanhood and manhood passed out of this life. Sarah and Mary were particular friends of my mother, who, through a long life, cherished a lock of Sarah's hair. Lucy became the wife of George Howland, of Rose. Lewis S. was a young man of more than usual promise, who, after engaging in business in Clyde, died at the early age of twenty-three, and is buried in the Collins-Seelye burial ground. Eugene married Ellene Norris, and remained on the old farm, dying in 1882, leaving two children, May Evelina and Norris. Aunt Polly Town's oldest son, John Milton, took for his wife Clarinda, a sister of Joel Lee, already named as Mary Town's husband. Their home for many years was a little north of the old Town home, and it lay under the western slope of the long and steep hill. Before his death, he sold this farm and moved into the Allen neighborhood, to the place so long known as the Philetus Chamberlain farm. Later he moved to Rose Valley, where he died in 1882, in his 60th year. His only son, Lewis Seelye, who needs no introduction to the Rose people of today, married Miss Rose Stublely, and they are keeping alive the traditions of the Seelyes, Towns and Stubleys, and whatever strains of geneological interest may enter in the development of years, growing children about their hearthstones proclaim the continuation of the name, and we hope that where Seelye cannot be the family name, it may be, for generations to come, the Christian appellation in many a derived relationship.



