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This is the newsletter for the One-Name Study of the surname COLLOFF. It will be published twice a year, Summer and Early each Winter and used to keep the other interested Colloff relations up to date with the latest research, whether completed by me, or by one of the other Cousins. John Colloff , June 2000.

The team

In the first issue I described the build up of the people that had contributed to this work as;

Kenneth Edward Colloff,
Mildred, wife of Reginald Percival,
Roy William Colloff,
and more recently;
Matthew Colloff, and
Trevor Rogers.

Following Trevor's generous distribution of that first newsletter we have been joined by Lyn James, who was born Marlene H. Colloff.

Lyn responded to my request for photos and I am grateful to her for those delightful photos published on page 8 which are the oldest and youngest Colloffs in her collection.

And I am especially grateful for a masterwork from Ken with his account of his fantastic delving into the Finchley vestry minutes.

Thank you both for making the effort, I hope that it encourages some more for my, or dare I say OUR Christmas edition.

CONVENTIONS

There will be no publishing of personal details, dates, addresses, etc. of living people without their express permission. If you want to see the details of you and yours on the trees, you will have to write to me giving me express permission to do exactly that. You might like to include your comments on this enterprise as well. ☺

Should you choose to send me a photo or two to include I will take that as permission to publish unless you expressly forbid it. Contributions in the form of letters, articles and/or photos by any of you would be a very welcome addition for me to include in forthcoming issues.

CONTENTS

Oak Cottage and map	Cover
The team, distribution & Conventions	Page 1.
Ken's Finchley Research	Pages 2 & 3.
Family News and Research	Page 4.
Pomeranians?	Pages 5 & 6.
13 German Colloffs	Page 7.
Photo Gallery	Page 7.
Unfulfilled Contacts	Page 8.
Colloffs on the Internet	Page 9.
The Last Word	Page 9.

Success of the First Newsletter.

I am delighted to say that my first effort at a news letter was received very well and people were kind enough to say how pleased they were with it. More importantly they were good enough to photocopy bits and send them on , and thanks to this generous gesture I have broadened yet again my circle of Colloff contacts. Of course this means that I have extended my circulation list, but that I am pleased to do.

However I would be grateful if you would like to copy all or part of any of them (sorry, got carried away there) *either* of them, and send them to all other Colloffs that you think might be interested.

DISTRIBUTION. I have split up the list of 20 copies to the three branches as follows.

Benjamin (c.1760 - 1834). Kenneth Edward Colloff, Rainham. Roy William Colloff, Alderholt. Mildred, wife of Reginald Percival Colloff, Dagenham.

Thomas (c.1790 – 1839+). Matthew via John & Mary Colloff, Tonbridge.

Joseph (c.1814 - 1876). Hilary Colloff, Seattle, USA. Charlotte Hinde, West Sussex.

Audrey Palin, Phyllis Colloff, Christine & John Wilson, Brian and Pauline Colloff, and Lyn James, Birmingham. Derek Colloff, Worcester. Audine & Jamie Watson, Langley, British Columbia. Trevor Rogers, Shotton. Edith Colloff, Swansea. Sidney Colloff, Alcester.

Other, Elizabeth Kohlhoff in Kelso, Australia. The British Library. Guild of One-Name Studies, file.
Please advise me of any other preferred recipients

I am very grateful to Ken for this account in his own words of the marvellous unearthing job that he did to painstakingly build up this picture. It took him half a day to run through with me all the information that he had collected. It left me dumbstruck, then amazed, when I remembered that he had done all of this whilst waiting for his heart by-pass operation! John.

Finchley Vestry Minutes **RESEARCH**

By Ken Colloff



Ken Colloff b 1932

I started my family research back in 1975 and unknown to me there were other Colloffs working along the same lines. If only we knew about each other at the time. Then there were many years of inactivity as work had to take priority. Any type of research is very time consuming. It was a phone call from Mildred Colloff, the wife of one of my cousins, that gave me the kick start into research again. Mildred had been working on her maiden name and also made a start on the Colloffs. As a result of Mildred's mail shots to the Colloffs in Birmingham one of her letters was passed on to John Colloff, and the rest is history as they say.

We had gone through the births deaths and marriage registers at "St Katherines House", as it was then, now relocated to Clerkenwell and renamed "The Family Record Centre", (F.R.C.). We extracted every Colloff we came across, including the variants. They took us back to Islington North London and Aston Birmingham. By this time we were back to 1837 the start of civil registration, and the genealogical brick wall. It was when I was reading John Colloff's research notes that he had made in the sixties, and which he had sent copies to Mildred, that I found a clue. There was an Eliza Colloff b 1824 Finchley. A phone call to "The Greater London Record Office", now known as "The London Metropolitan Archives" (L.M.A.), and they said they had microfilm records for Finchley. There were only two films covering the time span I was interested in, and they turned out to be the hole in the wall I was looking for. A blanket search soon revealed hidden treasures, the births of William b.1813, Thomas b.1816, and Charles b.1823. I also found a Sarah Colloff with two illegitimate children, Sarah b.1819 and an Eliza b.1822. Under burials I found George Colloff or Coltlove 19 November 1815 age 20, Elizabeth, 11 August 1816 age 15 months, Sarah 12 June 1831 age 46, and Benjamin 9 March 1834, no age given. At a later visit I also found the marriages of Benjamin to Elizabeth Turk 1819 at St Andrews Holborn and two for William b.1813; the first one to Ann Turk 1831, and the second one Ann Bates 1833. Both of these took place at St Marys Islington. At his second marriage William was recorded as a widower. No record found for the death of his first wife.

I then turned my attention to a copy from a book called "Finchley Vestry Minutes" which Roy Colloff had kindly sent to me previously, showing Benjamin with two votes for which he paid £60. My next step had to be a visit to "Barnet Local Studies and Archives" at Hendon N.W. London, the home of the "Finchley Vestry Minutes", a journey time of nearly 2 hrs depending on train connections. Little did I know how many visits I would be making, I think it was nine all told. The last ½ mile from Hendon station was up hill and usually against the wind, phew! The librarian produced the first of the books I ordered and they were as readable today as they were when first written 200 years ago. As I write in the same type of scrawl it made reading them that much easier.

I started finding entries for Benjamin Colloff immediately, referring to his rate arrears. From 1803 to 1807 there are seven entries of uncollected rates and "Defaulter to church rate", ranging from 1s4d to 6s. In September 1808 the entry reads "Paid Colloff for plants 3s" Our Benjamin must have had green fingers. In December 1809 an entry reads "Summons for Colloff 2s"? (That is due for a follow-up). In March 1812 Mr Colloff (sic) was paid for moving "Mr Crumps goods" the sum of 7s. Not only green fingers but removal man as well. March 1813 sees Benjamin Colloff making a bid of £50 p.a., for an allotment. Unfortunately a Mr Bean topped it with a bid of £52 10s p.a. From then on he kept a clean sheet, that was until April 1821 when he was listed as "Defaulter to 1st rate, £1-16s.

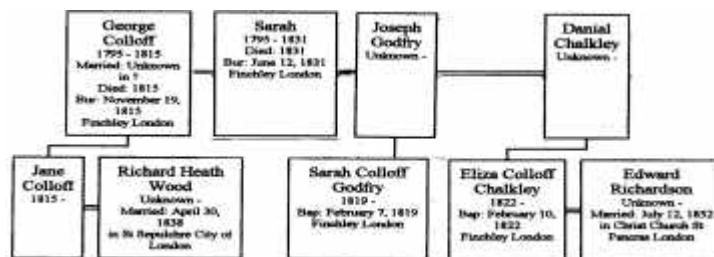
It was whilst I ploughed my way through the books the librarian showed me another file a local researcher had compiled, relating to all the prominent people in the area. It showed Benjamin Colliffe (sic) as holding the tenure of "Oak Cottage Site" for £13-15s p.a. With the cottage came a five-acre plot of land that was allotted to Finchley Charities under the enclosure act. As I was making a copy of this information the librarian produced the picture of Oak Cottage. To say I was over the moon would be an understatement. The order for a copy was placed there and then.

What with this information, the £50 bid for the allotment, and £60 for two votes, I began to think I had found the rich ancestor. Alas, It wasn't to be, as in June 1822 I found the following entry Mrs Colloff applied to this Vestry, her husband being very ill and having three small children, It was agreed to allow her 13s-6d per week till next Vestry. This arrangement continued to November 1822 when there were two journeys with Mr Colloff to hospital 10s. No mention of what he was suffering from, (may be another lead to check out). Benjamin Colloff continued to receive help from the Vestry, and in October 1832 Mrs Colloff was allowed 4s per week for Susan Davis, a nurse. In November 1832 there was another 2s-6d for the nurse. The next entry we have is February 1834 "Mrs Colloff's husband being dead and she being in distress she was ordered £1 for her present necessities. The last mention of Benjamin Colloff is 27 March 1834, 16s. probably funeral expenses. Two years later Mrs Colloff remarried in Islington to a John Dodd. Another name that cropped up a lot in the "Finchley Vestry Minutes".

Back to November 1815 and I find another Mrs Colloff receiving relief from the Vestry. There are five entries between Nov 1815 and Mar 1816, and on the last two she is referred to as widow Colloff. Could this be the wife of the George Colloff or Collove who's burial I found in the micro films at the "London Metropolitan Archives? Judging by the amounts she received I felt sure that there was a child as well. Although this was not confirmed until the entry for Aug 1818, Mrs Collifs (sic) self and child 4 weeks £1. This child had to be Jane b 1814/15. When Jane Married in 1838 she gave her father's name as George. On Jan 3 1819 Mrs Colloff gave birth, to an illegitimate child who we now know as Sarah. A Mr Godfrey was ordered by the Vestry to pay £1 per month toward the maintenance of Mrs Colloff's bastard child. It looks as though Mr Godfrey defaulted a couple of times, as in Aug and Sep 1821 Mrs Colloff received 2s-6d on both occasions. In Oct 1821 there were expenses of 3s-6d regarding the examination and warrant for Mrs Colloff in a case of bastardy.

On Jan 14 1822 Mrs Colloff gave birth to another illegitimate child. This was the Eliza I found in John's research notes, which led me to Finchley in the first place. The father this time was a Danial Chalkley. The entry for 23 Jan 1822 reads, Expences retaining the recognizances of Danl' Chalkley in a case of bastardy. S.Colloff. £1-11s-2d. This is the first time Mrs Colloff's Christian name initial has been mentioned. In the same month the Vestry relieved Mrs Colloff Lying in 15s and ordered that Mrs Colloff who was delivered of her second bastard child on Sunday 14 Jan last which children are now chargeable to this parish. It is ordered that as soon as she has recovered sufficiently she be taken before a magistrate and punished. It would be interesting to know what form this punishment took, as there was no money for fines, community service in the workhouse perhaps! It looks like S Colloff, who we now know as Sarah, was a bit of a rebel.

It looks as though both men honoured their responsibility as nothing more was found until the 27 June 1831 when the entry reads Mrs Colloff lately deceased and left three children unprovided for, a Mr Doel residing in Baron St, Pentonville has taken two of the children and it is agreed to allow him half a crown per week. The two children had to be Sarah and Eliza as in June 1832 the Vestry ordered Jane Colloff a pair of shoes. So it looks as though Jane age about 15/16 stayed in Finchley and probably went into service until her marriage in 1838. The following tree for George & Sarah is my interpretation of the information I found.



George's widow Sarah whose three children, Jane, Sarah and Eliza had three different fathers as described in the text

Everything I found at the "London Metropolitan Archives" was confirmed by the detailed information I found at the "Barnet Local Studies and Archives". I think genealogist call it "Putting the Meat on the Bones".

The Colloffs then left Finchley and moved to Islington, but that's another story.

Which I hope you will let me have, Ken for a later edition of 'COLLOFF Cousins'.

Family News and Research discoveries.

This is a rather thin item in content and the most that I can do for this issue is to ask you to let me have any family news and especially photos that you want to share with us. Lyn's photo obviously tells us of the latest addition of a grandchild and I would be delighted to reproduce all similar additions in future. I am sure that everyone will be interested in your photos of the oldest and newest Colloffs.

Working Backwards.

I am afraid that there is little news on the research front in terms of working backwards. I have yet to follow up on a lead given to me by Peter Towey, the president of the Anglo-German Family History Society. When I told him that Benjamin appears to have kept a market garden at Oak Cottage, he told me that there was a booklet on a group of German market gardeners that established themselves in North London, that may suggest a link or two. This was from the back of his memory and he could not give me any further details, so I have some searching to do in the library.

Living Colloffs.

My contacts with living Colloffs continues to broaden with many pleasant surprises, and a single shaming one! Let me deal with that one first.

When I realised that an Edith Colloff, that Ken had contacted in Swansea, was from my Birmingham branch, descended from my grandfather's youngest brother, Thomas (1865 - 1937) I got Ken to kindly let me have her phone number and spoke to her. She is a charming lady and was able to chat about family matters. I look forward to meeting her soon.

The Birmingham Split

During our chat I mentioned that I had been unable to find my grandfather, William (1870 - 1954) in the 1881 census. To my shame I found that I had had the clue in front of me for 15 years, without realising it, ever since I had found the newspaper report of his death and the coroner's inquest. Edith had to point out to me that when Joseph (c.1814 - 1876) drowned in March 1876, my grandfather was only six years' old, and his nearest siblings 20, 16 and 11. To support her young family, the widow soon

remarried, and by the time of the 1881 census the two younger boys were aged 16 and 11. They and their sisters Mary Ann and Jane, aged 25 and 21, are all recorded as living with their mother and step-father; Mr and Mrs Cooke. Found at last, but nothing there to help us look any further back.

This not only found them in the census for me, but it explained something that had been puzzling me for a long time. How could there have been all these Colloffs living and working in Birmingham, all related as we now know to Joseph, yet totally out of contact with each other from about 1900 onwards despite the unusual name in its uncorrupted spelling?

At the time of his death in 1876, Joseph's two oldest sons, Joseph Benjamin (1852 - 1922) and Charles (1854 - 1921), were 24 and 22, grown men and living their own lives. Once their mother was securely remarried, not unnaturally the families drifted apart, as they got on with earning a living for their own families in those hard times. There I had it, at last, the Birmingham split explained!

I am extremely grateful to Edith for this enlightenment and for the following postscript that she gave me. One day, as a little girl she was walking along Hob Moor Road, in Small Heath, with her grandmother, when her grandmother pointed out a man on the other side of the road. "You see that big man over there? Well he is your grandfather's brother!" That was it. No explanation, but it stuck in little Edith's memory to help confirm the above.

Other New Contacts

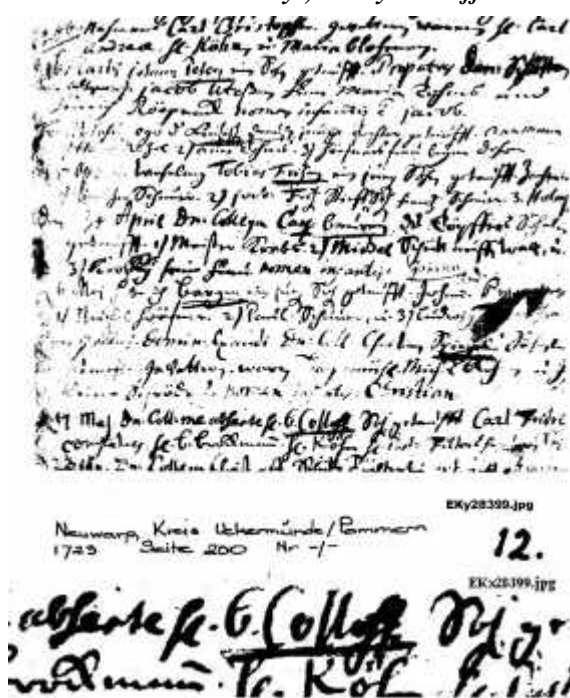
As mentioned elsewhere I have been contacted by Lyn James and visited her at her home in Handsworth Wood. My thanks to Lyn for one of my sets of Oldest and Youngest Colloffs. The other contact was due to business men who said that they knew other Colloffs and I followed these links to talk with Sidney Colloff of Alcester. Despite several tries I have not yet met Sid face to face. When our paths have been likely to cross one or the other of us has been elsewhere, busy enjoying retirement. ☺ My thanks to Sid for contributing his photos and stories of unfulfilled Colloff contacts.

Perhaps We Are Pomeranians?

As promised in the first newsletter I give below the reasons for my best guess at the source of our name being **Kohlhoff**. Briefly my belief is triggered by the fact that our spelling is the way that the Kohlhoff family is referred to when Latin is being used for the old church records. I reproduce one of the five examples that I have of this occurring.

I obtained this evidence from Miss Elizabeth Kohlhoff after reading in her book¹ about her ancestor Johann Balthazar Kohlhoff. When referring to his parents she wrote on page 25;

“The family of Caspar Kohlhoff and Regina Hesse were all baptised in the church at Neuwarp. The records were partly written in Latin and the names frequently abbreviated. The name Kohlhoff was written in various ways, mostly ‘Colloff’!”



17 May 1723, Kohlhoff entry in the Neuwarp church records. I have enlarged the name from the third line up.

During quite a lengthy exchange of E-mails, Elizabeth also stated that her own researches had involved travelling in 1980, to Poland and Eastern Germany, and ended by her having to employ a genealogical specialist on German Church Books and very old German handwriting. Currently she is continuing to work to establish her own forebears,

back beyond the scope of her already published book. Amongst the evidence produced for this research were cases where, in Church Latin transcripts, Kohlhoff was clearly spelt out as Colloff for members of that family and I have obtained copies of these from her.

Her research shows that her family came from the village of Neuwarp in Pomerania, in the area where the River Oder runs into the Baltic Sea, and suggests that before that they came from an island in the Baltic Sea, possibly Rugen. The area that was known as Pomerania is split by the border between Germany and Poland. It is an area that has changed hands between Sweden, Germany and Poland over the centuries. It is detailed on the map below and ringed by the old German states of Mecklenburg, Brandenburg and Prussia.



Location of Pomerania and the Isle of Rugen on the Baltic Sea

Finally some background and the other theories that have been generated over the years.

Russians or Bulgarians.

A Russian source is the favourite location suggested by the man in the street for our name. Usually with references to the movie actor Boris Karloff who played Frankenstein-like roles in old horror films. However, I have visited Russia a couple of times, once in the communist regime and later when it had almost finished changing.

COLLOFF Cousins, v.I #2

At no time was a Russian origin suggested or even questioned for our name.

Before then I had been advised by an eastern European specialist that the name was *definitely* from Eastern Europe and possibly Bulgarian. On a subsequent visit to Bulgaria I had begun to master the Cyrillic alphabet and looked in a Bulgarian phone book to find a page of 'Kolof's [actually ÊÛÊÛÔ; that is kappa , omega, lambda, omega, phi]. I have never found any evidence to support this theory and abandoned it in the face of the Kohlhoff evidence.

Great Yarmouth

For this lead we have to thank Mildred, as it is as a result of her very hard work that we have copies of 16th century writings that look like Colloff from St.Nicholas' church in Great Yarmouth.



The seventh line up from the bottom in the right-hand side column is the last entry in November 1567 and appears to read Elizabeth Colloff.

I do not have sufficient expertise to judge this data, despite having used the computer to enhance the script as much as possible. There do not appear to be any further similar records in the next 25 years which closes off any of the usual birth \marriage \death sequences one would use to trace this line further.

However I have been fortunate enough to be able to submit them to an expert in pre-Elizabethan old

English handwriting and she is quite clear that Colloff does not appear in any of the records that Mildred obtained and I submitted to her.

Coltlove.

Let me be quite clear here that this is equally as valid a theory as the Kohlhoff solution and I have no justification for supporting Kohlhoff in preference to it apart from my own gut feeling. Roy has kindly shared his work in this area with us, and I am still trying to put my resistance to this theory into sustainable phrases.

In the Finchley vestry minutes that Ken reports on elsewhere in this newsletter there are references to both Ben Colloff and Ben Coltlove. Roy's research has shown that a man born Ben Coltlove appears to have changed his name to Ben Colloff after he moved to London, and reverted to Coltlove on his death certificate.

Anywhere Else?

Despite extensive searches I have not found Colloffs in any country in Europe other than England and Germany. The Swiss Colloff, also unearthed by Roy, turned out to be a naturalised German, and we have found no other.

There are no Colloffs in Canada, and the few Colloffs in the U.S. that I have traced had their names changed (simplified) at Ellis Island on entering the country. The Colloffs in New Zealand and Australia only trace back to our English roots. There were no English Colloff convicts.

Finally I was able to get a fellow GOON to thoroughly check out 19th century Scotland and there are no Scottish Colloffs.

¹"**Pastoral Symphony**, the family and descendants of Johann Balthasar Kohlhoff." Compiled by **Elizabeth A. Kohlhoff** 1989. ISBN 0 7316 6932 0 Printed at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, Richmond, NSW. Australia.



The Thirteen German Colloffs who do not want to talk

In an Internet search of the current German telephone directory I found thirteen German Colloffs, and decided to try to contact them. I realised that this would be a once-off try. Somebody who has not replied to the first letter is not going to take any notice of any further letters, so I had to do the very best that I could to ensure a reply with this one first letter. I had my 'cold calling' letter translated into German. I contacted the German Post Office to determine the correct denomination to put on my self-addressed envelopes for their replies. I wrote again to purchase 15 stamps and paid for them by International Giro. I posted off my thirteen letters and reply paid envelopes, and waited. And, alas, am still waiting.

The only result is that I am now on the mailing list of two branches of the philately section of the German Post Office, once from my enquiry and once from my purchase, and I get two copies of all their publicity trying to sell me their latest stamps!

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Photo Gallery.

This is a new section where I will put the oldest and newest Colloff photos that you send to me for the rest of our enlarged 'family' to see. The first entries are from my newest contacts, who I thank for their contributions.

Lyn James sent me, among many others in a superb virtual album on CD, the following photos;



On the left is Lauren Colloff b. 1999, with in the middle her great-grandfather Frederick Charles Colloff (1912 – 1984). On the right is an early studio portrait of her great great grandfather Joseph Benjamin Colloff (1879 - 1947), one of the eleven grandsons of our original Joseph (ca.1814 - 1876)

Then Sidney kindly sent me one mystery photo and two known family photos taken around 1928;



The picture on the left is the mystery

Does anybody recognise this couple and are they Colloffs? I date it at about 1900 based on clothes and hair styles.

The centre is Sid's father, William James, (1888 – 1950) holding his sister Margaret.

On the right Sid's mother Ellen holds Margaret with Sid's step brother and sister, William & Hilda.

Unfulfilled Colloff Contacts.

First Encounters - Where Are They Now?

As I have made fresh contacts with different Colloff cousins, I began to hear stories of chance encounters with or about other Colloffs. Usually they are the first time of somebody being aware of a total stranger with the same name.

I suppose that the most outstanding was the 'Swiss Miss' that I reported in the last issue, courtesy of Roy of Alderholt. However the first I received was when I met Ken Colloff of Rainham (the hero who has done so much of the research that is in these newsletters).

Once the courtesies of our first meeting were over, Ken could not wait to ask if I had done my National Service in the army because he had been burning with curiosity since an event in the early 1950s. My apologies to Ken if I have the details wrong, but to us the phrase 'National Service' has a lot of detail that did not need explaining. I have assumed the detail to explain why Ken found this contact so infuriatingly frustrating and is still hoping for an answer.

The Marchers

I think it was in the early days of his service, on the 6 week course of 'square bashing' used by the army to instil discipline. All of the military services used this system to get new recruits into the habit of automatically obeying, as one man, marching orders screamed at them by short-tempered NCOs.

One day, when the whole batch that joined with him was arrayed in ranks on the parade ground for inspection and to deal with regimental matters, there was the command for 'Colloff' to step forward. In obedience to his recent training Ken took one pace smartly forward, standing rigidly to attention, eyes front, wondering what fate the army had in store for him.

To his surprise, far enough away for him not to be able to see from his rigid 'at attention' stance, another Colloff had marched forward from the ranks! Because of the strict discipline that was part of this training, Ken dare not look to see what he looked like, or which squad he was from! The parade was dismissed soon afterwards with the different squads of soldiers being sent scurrying here and there on the trivial errands that were used to keep the National Servicemen busy.

Ken was never able to follow up this contact, and nearly 50 years later, he is still wondering who it was. I am afraid that I was another disappointment for him, having worn an Airforce blue, rather than khaki, uniform.

Any More or were you one of the shadowy persons mentioned above?

Should any of you have similar stories I would be pleased to have them to put in later issues of this newsletter. Of course, if you can identify any of the four mystery Colloffs described above we would all be delighted to hear from you. To preserve anonymity, surnames will be omitted if wished, from any follow-up accounts. ☺

The Bowlers

After I had made contact with Sidney Colloff of Alcester, one of the Birmingham Colloffs, he asked me his burning question along the same lines. 'Did I play bowls?' Again my negative brought disappointment, but I had another first contact story!

One Saturday lunch-time there was a knock at Sid's door at his home in Alcester. Two men stood on the door-step and confirmed that he was Mr Colloff. They too were Colloffs briefly visiting the town, and having seen his name in the local telephone directory they had taken a few minutes to sneak away from their party to look him up!

They explained that they were from a visiting bowls team and had to return to the team immediately, but they would come back later that afternoon, when the matches were over, for a good chat. Of course they never did, hence Sid's greeting to any new male Colloff.

When I asked Sid if I could put this in the newsletter, he had another tale for me!

The Motorist

This occurred when Sid was keeping a pub in Worcester on a busy street facing the River Severn. Sid had just had the sign over the door, naming him as the licensee, repainted making his name quite conspicuous. A man younger than him popped in and asked if he was the licensee on the sign. Sid said that he was and the visitor said that he was also a Colloff, and having caught sight of the sign in passing he wanted to make himself known.

He was rushing because his car was parked on the double yellow lines outside and he dashed off before he got a fine from the busy parking wardens. [Not a group noted for their genealogical sensitivity]. He said that he would be back, but Sid never saw him again. He gave up when he moved from the pub, realising that this link was lost.

Colloffs on the Internet, The Raw Material of Research.

I continue to make searches on the Internet, in fact I have one search engine called Karnak that sends me weekly E-mails on any new Colloff entries that it finds. I then visit the web pages mentioned and have to scan them to find the Colloff entry that has triggered the alert.

From this I learnt of the letter written to 'The Veterinary Record' by the son of my 'true' cousin Derek (son of Percival, 1902 - 1958). He is a vet and he wrote to his 'trade' Journal about cattle. This certainly made a change from Matthew's prolific works about bugs and mites that appear regularly on the Internet as a result of his busy research work.

All of the American sightings that I reported in the first issue are not related to us.

There are two family groups there, both of whom appeared to have adopted the name when their earlier relations entered the US in the late 19th century. One of the families is clearly Jewish with father and son running together in a marathon. This has been confirmed by the on-line search that I made of the Californian State records of births and deaths for 1905 to 1997, which included Hilary and her father Geoffrey, my brother.

I have not received any follow-ups on my previous UK listings of Ian Colloff, working for ICL Ltd in Bracknell, or Graham Colloff racing his Van Diemen in 1998.

I would be grateful if you see a known family connection if you would let me know, especially anything from Germany.

I am grateful to Trevor for a possible explanation of the lack of replies to my letters to Germany. Since the re-unification of Germany there has been a spate of legal cases as people dispossessed at the time of the East/West German split, try to reclaim what they lost in land, property or valuables. This makes the ex-communists very suspicious of all such 'external' enquiries, especially from the West, where I might be trying to prove a valuable relationship.

The Last Word

As the shy, unassuming person that I am, it is so unusual for me to have the last word that I really revel in this half of the page. ☺

However, I have an uneasy suspicion that you may be disappointed in the contents of this newsletter as I have had to make the items more factual. I hope that you find them of interest and that any disappointment inspires you to make contributions, thinking "What a load of rubbish! I can do better than that." Please do! Your efforts will be more than welcome. Letters, photos, anecdotes, whatever, all marked for publication will receive careful attention.

If you have an item of interest in a book, magazine or letter I suggest that use a photocopier to take a copy that you can send to me. I use our local 'Spar' at 5P. a copy. If it is a photograph that you send, I undertake to copy it, and return the original, (possibly with an extra computer enhanced print, with the odd mark and stain taken out).

Personally Annette and I continue to enjoy our retirement and increasingly find it difficult to believe what long hours we worked for so many years of our lives. We continue to encourage all and sundry to look forward and plan positively for their retirement as we are finding it the most rewarding time of our lives. This has been enhanced by contacts with you all, and especially when we have managed to meet. Since the last newsletter I have met Lyn at her home in Handsworth Wood; and Annette and I had a wonderful day with Roy and Dorothy when we visited Alderholt, and they entertained us to an excellent lunch. That was the second family outing of that fortnight's holiday at Winchester, as we also visited my daughter Charlotte, following her move to West Sussex from near to us in Warrington.

Well this is the end of the second edition. Please let me know if you do not want to be bombarded with any more issues, and I will desist.

Hoping that you enjoy your summer holidays, from Annette and I.

John Colloff, The Haven, 3 Milford Gardens, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5EF, England. colloff@one-name.org