

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 November 1999.

### The team

I started my research into the family name in 1966, but after a few years my work on it became rather spasmodic. Then I was contacted by Mildred Colloff, in Dagenham, who was working with Ken Colloff, in Rainham, along similar lines.

Ken and Mildred were far more active than I, and made great strides with the London Colloffs, getting back to the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Then we were joined by Roy Colloff from Fordingbridge, who generously shared with us the work that he had had done, looking into his branch of the family.

By then, inspired by the information generated by Ken and Mildred I had computerised my records and began looking into ways to archive the work done so far. I started to use the Internet and so made contact with Matthew Colloff in Australia, and Trevor Rogers (whose mother was a Colloff) from Durham.

Between us we have continued to work at the family name, and broaden our contacts with other family members. These newsletters are to confirm and share these developments among all of the interested parties. They will also act as an update to the work that I have submitted to the Church of the Latter-day Saints (The Mormons) for their archives in Salt Lake City, and to the data on my archive C.D.

### CONVENTIONS

As I am, in a very minor way, putting this document in the public domain, I am observing the following conventions.

There will be no publishing of personal details, dates, addresses, etc. of living people without their express permission. This means that the family trees are likely to be rather boring as they may not show you, or your latest additions, or changes. So 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.

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### DISTRIBUTION.

Currently this newsletter will be produced and distributed by me. It will be sent to the above team members and to the following 'family' members who have expressed interest in, and helped with, this work. In some instances I will attempt to send it electronically via E-mail.

Hilary Colloff in Seattle, USA. Audrey Palin, Phyllis Colloff, and Christine & John Wilson, in Birmingham. Charlotte Hinde in Warrington. Derek Colloff in Worcester, John & Mary Colloff in Tonbridge. Elizabeth Kohlhoff in Kelso, Australia. Audine & Jamie Watson in Langley, British Columbia.

*Please advise me of any other preferred recipients*

The newsletter has been registered with the British Library against its ISSN Number, and with the Guild of One-Name Studies, who will both receive copies, for archive and reference purposes.

## Cover Picture.

I have reproduced this picture off our cover to explain why I intend to use it on the 'wrapper' cover of future newsletters. The section of map on the cover, from a 1950's road atlas, shows the Great North Road coming in from the North and changing to

the High Road as it nears Finchley, where Oak Cottage is located. It is interesting to speculate that if Benjamin Colloff had not stopped off in Finchley, we might all have been a Northern family!



## Acknowledgement

The picture entitled '**Oak Cottage, High Road. E. Finchley**' is reproduced here with the kind permission of the Barnet Local Studies and Archives, and with grateful thanks to Ken Colloff, who did an incredible amount of work to unearth it.

## The Nearest Thing that we have as an Ancestral Home

Whilst waiting for his heart by-pass operation in 1998, Kenneth Edward Colloff was amazingly busy getting valuable information from studying the Finchley Vestry minutes from around 1800. For days on end he travelled to Barnet where he was fortunate enough to be allowed to study the Vestry minute books for the early years of the 19th century, having learnt that our earliest traceable ancestor, Benjamin Colloff, had been on the Finchley Parish Vestry committee.

From this he learnt that Benjamin Colloff had rented from the Parish council a smallholding, and on this area of land was built Oak Cottage. More amazingly still, Ken found a water colour painting of Oak Cottage in the local history collection. It was painted in 1947 shortly before the building was demolished.

Thanks to Ken and the kind permission he obtained, this is reproduced here as the nearest thing that we have to an ancestral home. That is, until a connection to the Island of Reggen in Pomerania is found!

### Saplings and Trees.

As I explained in my 'Conventions' column, I will not publish personal details of anybody living without their express permission. Also, nearly all of the Colloff family trees that have been constructed so far appear to be too large to be shown in their entirety in this size of newsletter, so for this first issue I have omitted nearly all people still living.

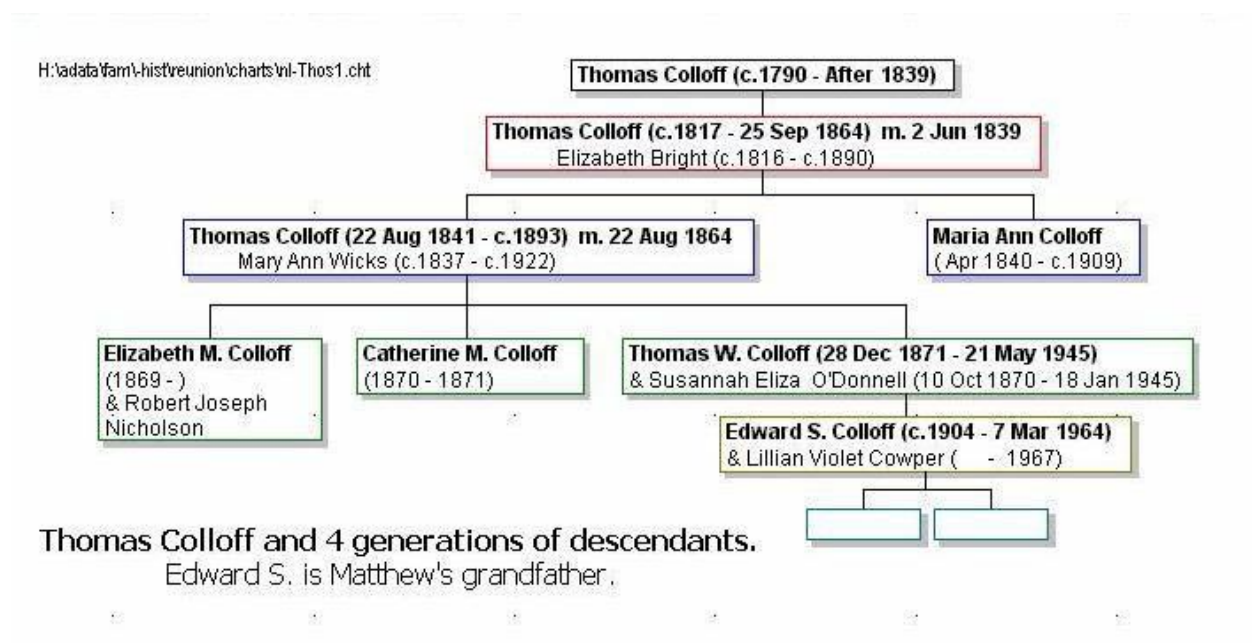
However, everybody is interested in family trees so I have included the saplings from which our respective trees grow.

At the present time we have traced three founders of all the English Colloffs.

They are; **Benjamin (c.1760 - 1834)**  
**Thomas (c.1790 - 1839+)**  
and my own, **Joseph (c.1814 - 1876).**

I enclose trees for each showing the first 2, 3, or 4 generations of their descendants.

The first, for Thomas, is the smallest and is in the more usual top to bottom format. The other two are in 'waterfall' format to fit on one page of this newsletter.



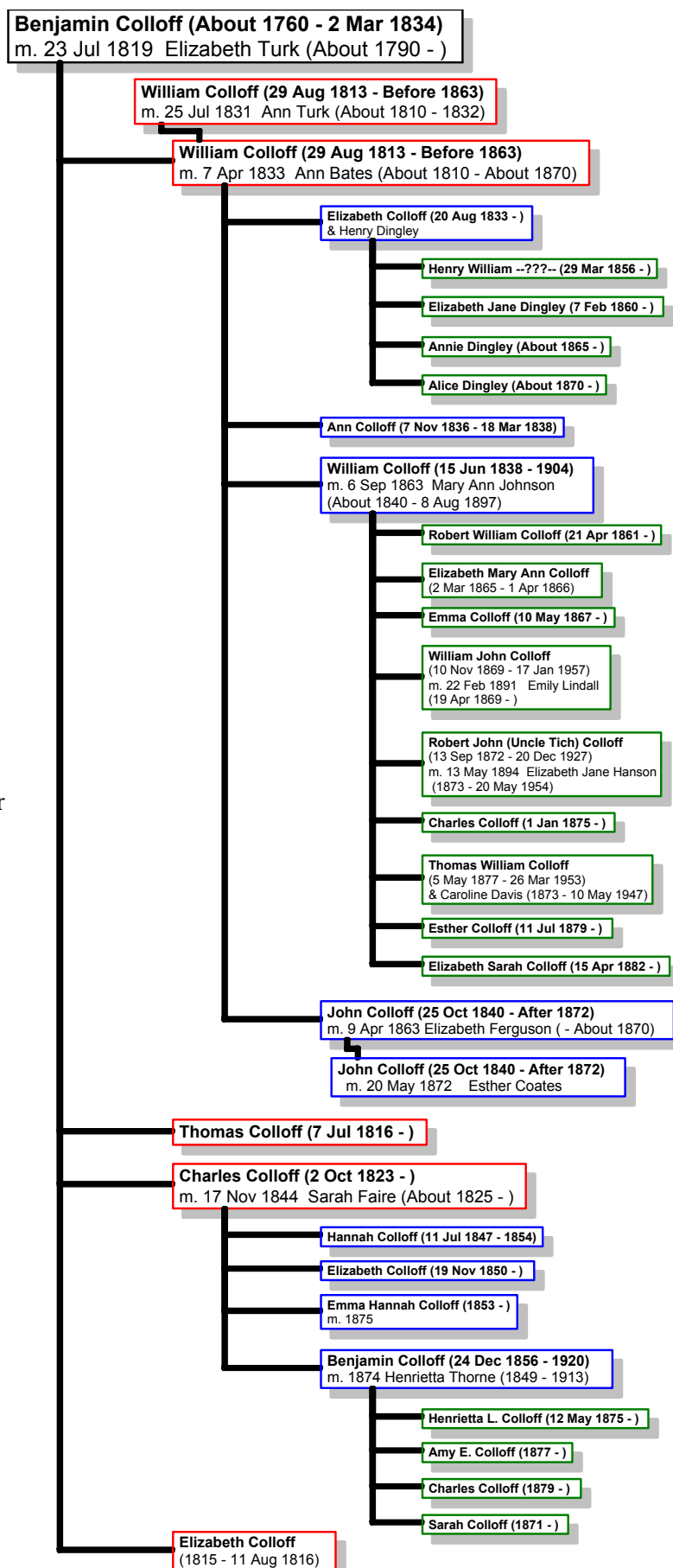
The links between all three of the above founders have yet to be established.

Going further back, the link to the KOHLHOFFs, (and their origins in the island of Reggen), has also yet to be proved, although it is seen as the most likely source of the name. There will be more details on this topic in the next issue.

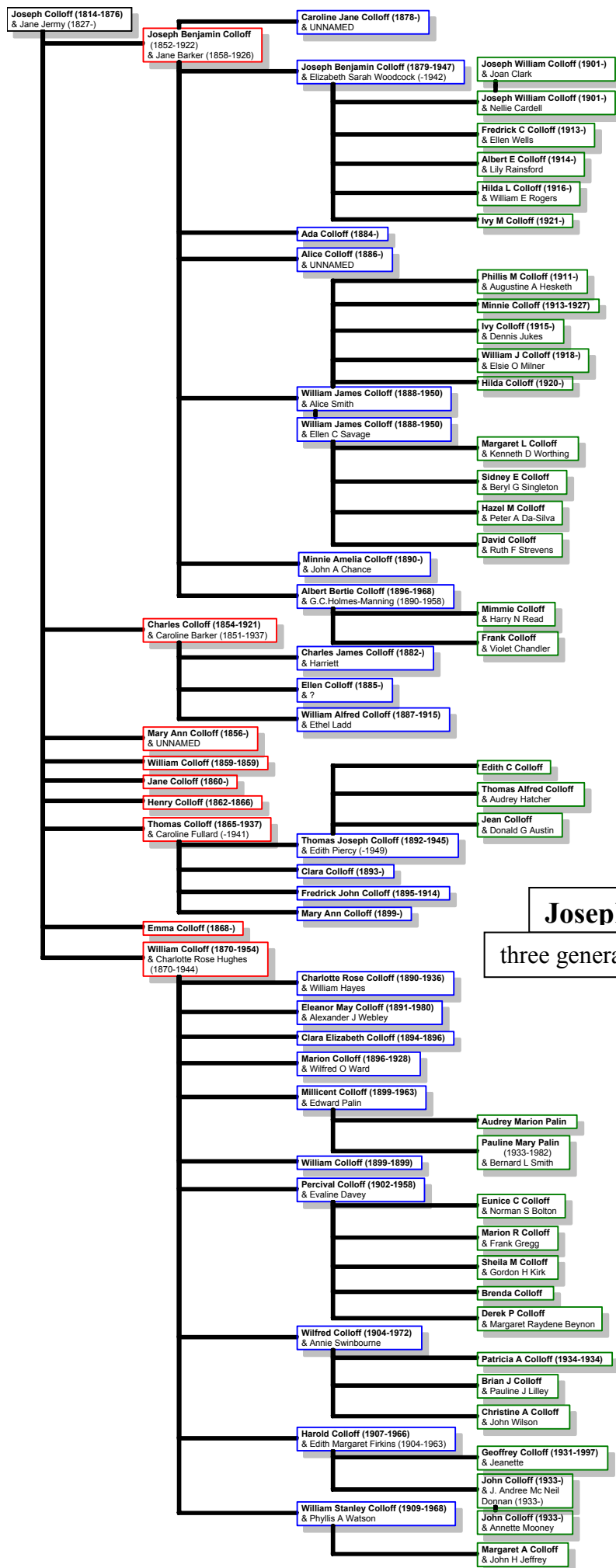
Efforts with the help of Trevor (Roper) will continue, in trying to contact the German Colloffs found in the internet on-line German telephone directory. Apart from the Swiss coincidence, I have not found Colloffs in any European countries other than England and Germany, and there are no early traces in Wales or Scotland.

## Benjamin Colloff's three generations of descendants

William John; b.1869,  
is Roy's grandfather.  
Robert John; b.1872,  
is Ken's [&Reg's] g'father

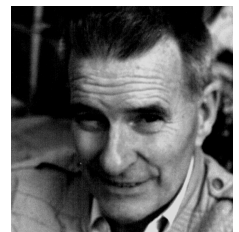


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Hilda L. b.1916  
is Trevor's mother.

Joseph Colloff's  
three generations of descendants



John Colloff b.1933



## COINCIDENCES. A Swiss Near Miss

The picture here is apparently of a Colloff gravestone that was discovered in quite unusual circumstances, and set off an unwitting wild goose chase. Roy William Colloff's sister is married to an American of German descent, and following his retirement they took a long vacation to visit Europe from their home in California.

Here we have our first chain of coincidences, as she had lived only a handful of miles across San Francisco Bay from my brother Geoffrey, for many years, up to his death in 1997. Neither knew of the existence of the other so nearby. Like me, her husband had retired at about the same time, both of us from the nuclear power industry.

Leave those minor coincidences aside, and back to their European holiday. In the course of this her husband expressed a desire to visit his parents' grave in a



small German town. Having found the right location in the cemetery, she stepped back to get a better shot for the keepsake photo she was taking, and tripped over the stone shown here. Once she had got over the shock of finding her own maiden name on a stone in this surprising location, she took this photo, which Roy kindly lent to me to make this copy.

I asked a Swiss contact on the Internet who was also interested in genealogy, how to find more information. He gave me the address of the local authority in Schaffhausen to whom I wrote asking for further details. Unfortunately these only leads back to those native German Colloffs with whom we are still trying to make contact.

It turns out that Otto Colloff was a German who became a naturalised Swiss in 1927. Since then Ken has found the marriage between Otto and Anna Luthi in the London records. Anna was a Swiss citizen from Bleienbach BE, and she and Otto lived for many years in Schaffhausen. They had one daughter, Heidi, who married Ernst Brunner in 1942 in Bern, and lived in Seedorf. I have not made any further contact

The stone was not a gravestone, but a cremation memorial, which has since been removed.

## Colloffs on the Internet, The Raw Material of Research.

I thought that it would be of interest to show the results from a day's work on the Internet. About three hours were spent connected on line (by normal telephone) and four hours to sift the results. ☺

On Saturday 27th November I used a new search engine, with the unlikely name of GOOGLE, to search the Internet for Colloff, and had 175 results returned to me in 3.67 seconds! The rest of the time was spent in looking at the results and the original web pages on which they were found

Many of the results were the same as I had found from previous searches using other search engines. These had given most references (mainly in Australia) to Matthew's many academic papers, and several references to my own web activities. From the US there were some articles by a Pamela Colloff, an aspiring

journalist, and Marjery Colloff, (her mother, I think), a partner in a New York law firm (who has not replied to my several E-mails).

Then there were the references to Colloff at Emery University that I had investigated before. I had got very excited as it appeared that a large department at the university had been named after a Colloff. I sent off an enquiring E-mail about a year ago and got a disappointingly prompt reply. Somebody at the university had chosen our name as an acronym for ... **College Office!**

The other new references were to my niece, Hilary, and daughter Tracey, based on the people for whom they work.

The following are the new references that I gained about Colloffs, that may give leads to unknown branches of the family.

*I will report further in the next issue on the following six new 'sightings'.*

*I would be grateful if you see a known family connection if you would let me know.*

### 1. News Report

**Mondale Aide Passes Away.** After a battle with cancer, **Roger Colloff**, Vice President and General Manager of New York's WCBS-TV since 1984, passed away in early February. A Legislative Assistant to then-Senator Walter Mondale for three years, in 1975 Colloff became Director of Governmental Affairs in Washington for CBS Inc. When Carter won the presidency he joined the transition team, subsequently holding various Carter Administration posts until jumping back to Black Rock in 1979 as Vice President and Assistant to the President of CBS News. In 1981 Colloff was named CBS News Vice President for public affairs broadcasts, a post which put in him charge of *Face the Nation* and *60 Minutes* until he switched back to the corporate side of CBS in 1983.

### 2. 5 km Race Report

**1997 Run To The Farside 5k - Men**

**11/30/97 - San Francisco, CA**

1321. Shamir Colloff 14 **44:12** 14-19/135

1322. Edwin Colloff 48 **44:15** 40-49/341

### 3. Report from 'The Jewish Bulletin'

Shamir, son of Edna and Edwin COLLOFF; B'nai Mitzvah Saturday 29th June 1996.

Colloffs on the Internet (continued)

#### **4. From a Membership List**

##### **Opportunity International Network**

Nicholas Colloff United Kingdom [106634.3502@compuserve.com](mailto:106634.3502@compuserve.com)

#### **5. Motor Racing News Report**

##### **1998 BARC Formula Renault Championship Positions**

[<http://www.rallye.co.uk/racing/1998/champ\\_positions.html>](http://www.rallye.co.uk/racing/1998/champ_positions.html)

.....David LUMER Swift SC94R 3 16 Graham COLLOFF Van Diemen RF92 2 17= Richard.....

[www.rallye.co.uk/racing/1998/champ\\_positions.html](http://www.rallye.co.uk/racing/1998/champ_positions.html)

#### **6. Report on research Project**

##### **AIKMS PROJECT TITLE:**

CRAMP: Combining randomisation and mixed-policy caching for bounded-contention shared-memory

Amongst the participants;

ICL Ltd (contacts: **Ian Colloff**, Jeff Poskett, Owen Evans)

Lovelace Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8SN Telephone: 01344 424842

### **In Conclusion**

Well that is the end of this, the first edition. Please let me know if you personally do not want to be bombarded with any more issues, and I will desist. Equally I would be grateful for your comments, and delighted to receive contributions to appear in the next [Summer 2000] issue.

Letters, photos, anecdotes, whatever, all marked for publication will receive careful attention.

If you have an item of interest in a book, I suggest that you go to your local 'convenience' store, print shop, or library, and use their 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.

**So a Happy Christmas and prosperous new millennium to you all from  
Annette and I.**

John Colloff, 30 November 1999.

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