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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, November 2000.

**The team**

I have had an excellent response from too many people to name them all here, but will attempt to ensure that I make suitable acknowledgements in the articles themselves.

Thus I will just thank those people who have been most active this year as;  
Kenneth Edward Colloff,

Roy William Colloff,

Matthew Colloff,

Trevor Rogers. and

Lyn James (formerly Marlene H. Colloff.)

There have been many generous responses to my request for photos as I hope you will see in the following pages. Please do keep them rolling in.

I am again grateful for a masterwork from Ken with his account of the Colloffs that moved from Finchley to Islington.

Thank you, everybody for making these efforts, I am pleased to welcome you to this OUR Millenium Christmas edition. ERRORS Sorry folks, I know I do make them, please carry on with trying to correct me. The information is yours, the mistakes, mine. J.C.

**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 Islington Research	Pages 2, 3 & 4.
The Godfather tells ALL	Pages 5 to 9.
Family News and Research	Page 9
Photo Gallery	Page 10.
Another Mystery Solved	Page 10.
<b><i>Celebrations!</i></b>	<b>Pages 11 &amp; 12</b>
Colloffs on the Internet	Page 13
The Last Word	Page 14.

**Success of COLLOFF COUSINS.**

I have been pleased by the success of this modest venture of mine and delighted that it appears to have brought a lot of pleasure to so many people. Do please keep telling me, if this is true, as it makes all of the effort so worth while. Again, let me encourage you to photocopy any of CC and send it on to anyone that you think might be interested. For the computer buffs among you, I will say that I hope to have my web page [www.colloff.org.uk](http://www.colloff.org.uk) up and running soon. On it I hope to have coloured downloadable issues of COLLOFF COUSINS in Adobe Acrobat format <\*.pdf>, possibly accessible with a password sent to all family members, to avoid Data Protection Act registration.

**DISTRIBUTION.** I have split up the list of 20 copies to the three (and-a-half?) 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.

**Kohlhoff** Elizabeth Kohlhoff in Kelso, Australia.

**Other,** The British Library. Guild of One-Name Studies, file.

*Please advise me of any other preferred recipients*



*Another superb write-up by Ken, which only tells a bit of the story of all the hard work that he has put into this. When he says that houses are not there, it is because he has unearthed all the old maps to trace what is left of those early streets in London's ever-changing landscape. Further, I know, that to carry on this research as he has done, Ken must be the supreme optimist. When he says that the coffee house is not there in Packington Street I believe that Ken actually went there ready to buy his morning coffee from Thomas' successors.*

*John.*

## **ISLINGTON RESEARCH**

**By Ken Colloff**

### **From Finchley to Islington**

In my previous article, ("Colloff Cousins" Summer 2000) I ended by saying that the Colloffs moved from Finchley to Islington, around the time of the death of old **Benjamin (c.1760-1834)**, my great-great-great-grandfather. The first to arrive in Islington was old Benjamin's first son William (**b 1813**), and at the age of eighteen, in 1831, he married an Ann Turk at St Mary's Islington. As old Benjamin had married an Elizabeth Turk at Holborn in 1819 my first thought was, did father and son marry a mother and daughter? The research is still ongoing. Unfortunately Ann died soon after the marriage but no death/burial entry has been found at present. The reason I'm so sure Ann died is because William remarried in 1833, as a widower, to an Ann Bates, also at St Mary's. I'm not sure but I think there may have been a child born of William's first marriage. No proof as yet, just a genealogical hunch, still searching. Will touch on that later.

William's second Marriage produced four children that I know of.; Elizabeth **b 1833** in Halton Street, [a lot of Halton Street still has the original houses, pity there was no number on the birth certificate]; next was Ann **b 1836** in Williams Place [a very appropriate name]; William **b 1838** in Hope Place, and John **b 1840** in Fitzroy Square. Sadly Ann only lived for two years and died in 1836. On most of the entries of his children's births, their father, William (**1813-c.1860**), had his occupation listed as coachman

When old Benjamin died in Finchley in 1834 his wife Elizabeth also moved to Islington with their youngest son Charles **b.1823**. In 1836, Elizabeth also remarried, this time to a John Dodd. That is another name that features regularly in the 'Finchley Vestry Minutes'.

Old Benjamin's second son Thomas **b.1816** seems to have vanished, despite extensive searches no marriage or death\burial records have been found. I say that Thomas was old Benjamin's second son, but I believe there was another son born between William and Thomas, namely Joseph **b.circa.1814**. That is the Joseph who started the midland branch of Colloffs at Coleshill. As yet, I have no written proof of Joseph's birth, and that is after going through the microfilms umpteen times in case I missed something. His estimated age comes from his death certificate [This states that he was born in Middlesex but also spelt his name wrong, despite the full formality of an inquest into his death! See 'Another Mystery Solved' J.C.].

Old Benjamin's youngest son, Charles **b 1823**, married a Sarah Faire also at St Mary's and they had four children. Hannah **b 1847**, Elizabeth **b 1850**, Emma Hannah **b 1853** and Benjamin **b 1856**, all born in Islington. The last-named, Benjamin **b 1856**, remained in Islington and married a Henrietta Thorn in

1874. They moved to Holborn and had six children. One of the children, a son, that they named Charles **b.1879**, went on to marry a Flora Annie Hawkins in 1898 in Holborn. They moved back to Islington and had one son named Charles George Alfred, **b.1911**.

### **Thomas (c.1817-1864)**

There were a few more Colloffs around Islington at the time. I refer to them as the Thomas family. A **Thomas Colloff** was born **circa 1817** Almost certainly in Finchley, no records to prove it, I worked out his age from his death certificate having died in 1864 at the age 47 in Clapham. I nearly had him confused with old Benjamin's second son, Thomas

**b.1816**. It was when Thomas **b.circa 1817** also moved to Islington and married an Elizabeth Bright in 1839 at St Mary's that it became clear that there were two Thomas Colloffs. On their marriage certificate, he gives his father's name as Thomas. I believe this Thomas, his father, could be the brother of old Benjamin who died in 1834.

Thomas **b.1817** and Elizabeth had two children, a Maria Ann **b.1840** and a Thomas **b.1841**, both at 3 Palmers Mews Holloway. It seems Maria never married and died in Wandsworth in 1909 age 68. Thomas **b.1841** went on to marry a Mary Ann Wicks in 1864 at St Georges, Hanover Square, London. They had three children, Elizabeth Mary **b.1869** at Wandsworth, Catherine Maude **b.1870** also in Wandsworth and coming back to Islington to have a son named Thomas William **b.1871** at 116 Packington Street. Matthew Colloff, (Thomas' great-great-great-grandson), tells me of another daughter by the name of Eleanor, as yet no trace of a birth date.

*[I understand that Thomas detected Eleanor from his study of the graves in some London churchyards. J.C.]*

Their children's birth certificates tell us that father and son; Thomas **b.1817** and Thomas **b.1841**, were both employed as coachman. It seems the latter, Thomas **b.1841**, gave the job up, as in the 1881 census his occupation was a Coffee-House Keeper at 116 Packington Street, Islington. No coffee house there today.

Thomas William **b.1871** married a Susannah Eliza O'Donnell in 1902 at Holborn. They also moved to Islington, had one son, broke with custom, and named him Edward Stanley (**1904-1964**), Matthew's grandfather. *[Pictures of him and his shop appear in this issue, thanks to Matthew's mother Mary. J.C.]*

### **My Ongoing Searches**

Going back to William **b.1813** and the hunch about a child from his first marriage, I purchased a birth certificate for Elizabeth Ann **b.1852** in Islington just to find her place on the tree. To my surprise, her father's name was James Colloff. Another surprise was that the mother was named Elizabeth Colloff nee Bates. So, now we have Ann and Elizabeth Turk plus Ann and Elizabeth Bates that all married Colloffs. I am still trying to find if the Bates were related also. I learnt that Ann Bates came from Huntingdon from the 1851 census. At the time of that census Ann was listed as a widow with three children; Elizabeth, William, and John; living at 12 Payne Street, Islington. Where was Elizabeth Ann born in 1852? 12 Payne Street I think, James is my genealogical hunch. I have searched the 1841 census to try

### **STOP PRESS Islington update**

From: "kencolloff"

Subject: Islington research

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 15:44:57 -0000

STOP PRESS

Hello John

I have found William & Ann on the 1841 census.

I was checking out Fitzroy Sq

where their youngest son John was born in

1840. Pages 24-31 covered Fitzroy

Sq. and there was no sign of them. I just

happened to drift on to page 32,

like you do, and 'eureka!!!' there they were,

living at Richardson Mews with

their children Elizabeth 1833 William 1838 &

John 1840. No James living with

them like I was hoping, so It's back to square one with him.

(The Fitzroy Sq. area in those days was known as 'Little Germany' say no more).

Ken.

to find William **b.1813** and Ann hoping they had a child by the name of James in their group, no luck. An ancestor with no birth, marriage, or death, records and so far seven visits to various record offices have produced no clues.

William **b.1813** died between 1840 and 1851. No trace of a death certificate yet. Perhaps he was in the army and died overseas. In that case we have to find which regiment he was in to continue the search.

### The Colloffs leave Islington.

1911 seems to be the last contact the Colloffs had with Islington. In 1863 my ancestors moved to East London and then into Essex. The Thomas Family already had connections in South London and eventually moved into Surrey and later Kent. The children of Benjamin **b.1856** who were born in Holborn moved to West Ham, which at that time was in Essex, until London expanded and boundaries changed.

-----oOo-----

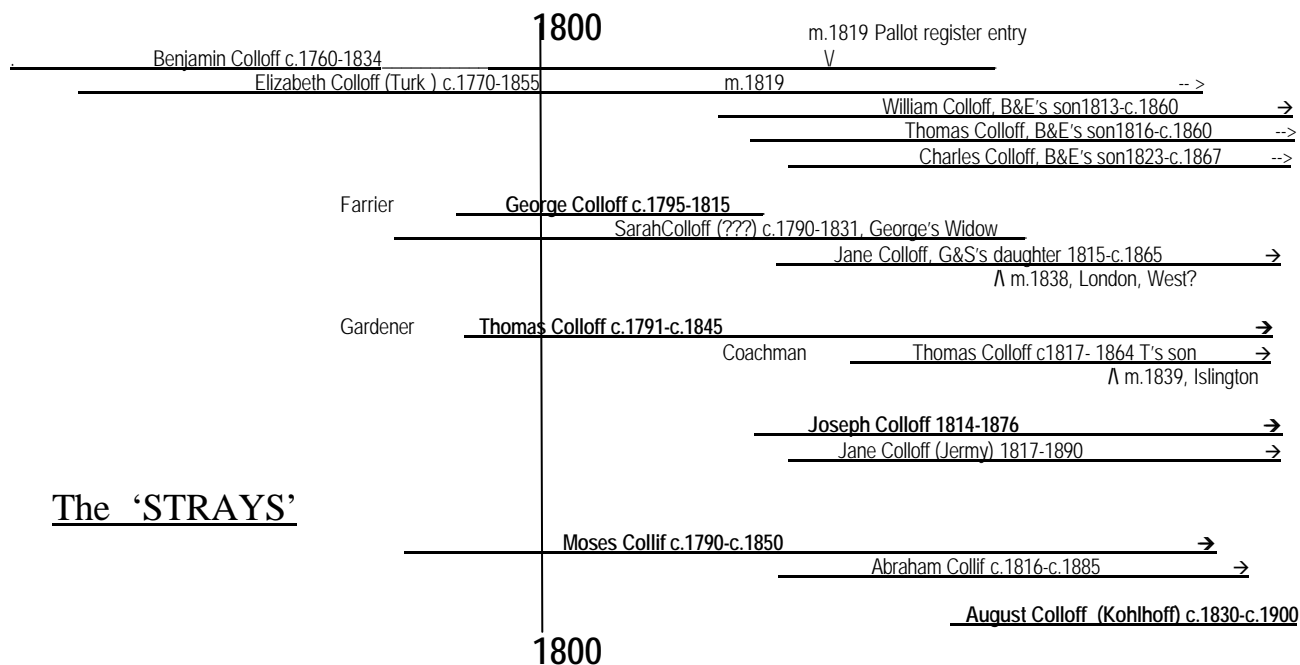
### Colloffs Alive and Recorded, 1750 to 1830.

Unlike Ken, I find myself unable to carry in my head the several family groupings of Colloffs of whom we have records in the above years, and I am concerned that, like my great-grandfather's death and the age of my Granddad at that time, I am missing something obvious. Like Ken, I assume, and agree with, the sort of relationships that he suggests, between these people, but want to ensure that

such suppositions do not blind me to alternative solutions. So I present this line diagram depicting simply what I believe is known, and the facts derived from those records for your comments, corrections and additions please.

**N.B.** Somewhat chauvinistically, as this is for my One-Name Study I am showing mainly the male lines

### Those that have been 'TREE-ed'



### The 'STRAYS'

But who have I missed?

# The Godfather Tells ALL!

## **The Results of a Web Search**

As I may have mentioned I have a permanent arrangement with the 'Karnak' search engine to keep scanning the web, and every week it sends me an E-mail about any new sites it has found that mention 'Colloff'. So every week I check through the latest list of web pages to see if a new Colloff not on any of our trees, has come to light. In this way I picked up the publicity given by their employers to Jayne as Payroll Co-ordinator with the Hospitality Group in Australia, and my niece Hilary with Dairy Queen in Seattle,. But now I have made a great find.

## **List of Pioneers**

The reference did not look too promising as it was giving homely details about Brown County, South Dakota, in the early pioneer days. It describes how the buffalo and Indians have gone and there is this expanse of country to be opened up to homesteading pioneers, and goes on to list them. I trawled through the long list of names and found what clever Karnak had noted for me, in 1740, August Colloff had joined one of the pioneer bands to go and stake a land claim in Brown County.

This left me wondering why this had not come to light before, so I checked on where the information had come from, and found a simple explanation. In the 1940s, the people of Brown County realised that they were fast losing what little history that they had, as the original

pioneers were dead or dying, and memories of those early days were fading fast. So a committee was set up to collect these memories and a book was put together and published. Now with the advent of the Internet, they had decided to put the book on the web, and this included this list of pioneers.

In reading through this mass of detail it listed the members of the committee through the 20 years that it had taken to put this all together, and glancing through I found that a Miss Kohlhoff had been chairman for a while in the 1950s.

## **The Kohlhoffs were there!**

So I went back and checked the list again and found that there were four Kohlhoffs in the same band of pioneers. From then on I checked every list and reference for both Colloffs and Kohlhoffs, to find several of the latter, but no further mention of Colloff. Had he died in an Indian raid, or due to the hardship these pioneers suffered? So I checked all the lists of graves in the various churches in vain. But what I did see was that there was a great majority of people with a German background in these lists, and that they must have created a little Germany in the wilds of South Dakota to survive by mutual help. So I searched every list that there was and finally found a later mention of this sometime Colloff.

In a list of christenings August Kohlhoff appeared as Godfather

to the new baby of another family. There was no further mention, but as he was the only August in any of the many lists I believe that I know what happened.

## **Use of the Latin version of Kohlhoff**

August must have come from Europe with a group of friends and neighbours all of German background, around 1860, and found that he was understood better if he used the Latin form of his name that Elizabeth Kohlhoff had found and pointed out to me from her Kohlhoff studies. So he travelled across America as a Colloff, and used that name when he registered with the pioneers. But when he found himself settling into this area where everybody had, or was familiar with, Germanic names and spelling, he changed back.

This change of convenience convinces me that this is the true source of our name. In England, old Benjamin found himself in an established English community and so he, and all the other Colloffs, stayed with his use of the Latin spelling, so that that is what we are all using today.

I realise that this is a personal view, and that other people have put a lot of hard work into investigating other possible sources of our name. However this simple action by August of changing the spelling of his name, in the wild mid-West of America, convinces me.

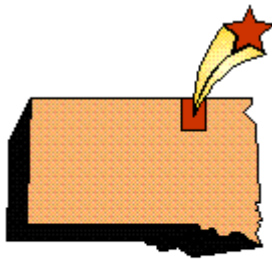
## The Godfather Tells ALL! (continued)

### **The Hard Facts**

So that you can all assess the evidence for yourselves, I give the following sources of my discoveries.

### **Brown County, South Dakota**

Perhaps I should start these background notes with some maps. As you will see the state of South Dakota, its Counties and their township boundaries, are all rectangular blocks, used to divide up the vast lands of the American mid-West to accept Western civilisation.



Brown County,  
South Dakota



Brown County Townships, showing JAMES, where August Colloff was Godfather to Bernhard Wockenluse in 1889.

I found this information on the web via the Genweb organisation to whom I am very grateful for their efforts in trying to help family history researchers.

They were at; <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/sd/sdfiles.htm>>

The source of the information was the following book from which I give pertinent abstracts.

#### "EARLY HISTORY OF BROWN COUNTY

#### A LITERATURE OF THE PEOPLE

#### BY TERRITORIAL PIONEERS AND DESCENDANTS"

Publisher, Western Printing Co.

Copyright 1970 by Brown County Territorial Pioneers, Aberdeen, S.D.

"In writing the History of Brown County before the turn of the century, the Committee found Mrs. Kelly a fund of knowledge. Her prodigious memory of happenings, people and events has been invaluable and all this is so necessary in gathering, material for an accurate history.

In 1940 a movement was started by a few interested Pioneers, encouraged by Mrs. Kelly, to form an organization of all Pioneers who had lived in Brown County before November 2, 1889, the year the territory became a

state. The response was tremendous and cards and letters poured in from every state in the union requesting membership. The enthusiasm has grown with the years and while death has taken many of our original Pioneers, Mrs. Kelly has spent her later years writing to their families. The appreciation of those left was most apparent by the large number who attended the Statehood Luncheon this centennial year December 2, 1963 at the Alonzo Ward Hotel. There were 150 people to be exact."

### The Godfather Tells ALL! (continued)

The book describes how the area had been cleared and reports the occasional visits by Indians who had to be forced back onto their reservation as they tried to reclaim their ancestral lands. It also described how hard the times had been;

"In the spring of 1880 John J. Zimmerman, his brother-in-law, Win. F. Sidow, both of St. Charles, Minn., and Gustav Merten, of Lomira, Wisc., went to Watertown, Dakota Territory, to look over the land offered at the U. S. Government Land Office, where they were given instructions as to how to reach the area later organized as Brown County. When they came to what became Aberdeen Twp. they each chose a quarter of land as a claim. Their mode of travel had been by walking, both ways, from Watertown to Aberdeen. Their trail was that of buffalo and deer and occasionally they would need to retrace their steps because they would have followed a trail ending as a "salt lick". It was the month of March, no snow, beautiful weather, prairie grass tall and thick. They found at Aberdeen only three tents, presumably those of the surveyors. By October of the same year the

tents were gone but there were three shacks in their place.

Because of the deep snow many of the settlers found they were not able to go to Watertown for supplies, and some nearly starved--1880-81.

Mr. Henry Slack was one of the earliest of settlers in the Rondell area. When he was an aged man he asked to ride with someone who was coming to Aberdeen on business, so that he could stop to see his early day acquaintance, Gustav Merten. On seeing him and with tears streaming from his eyes Mr. Slack's exclamation was, "Well, Gus, it's a lot different than it used to be, those were hard days!"

Among the acknowledgements I was very interested to find the following;

"The following have served as officers of the organization:

**President:** William E. Hosley, 1949-1950;  
Charles W. Jones, 1950-1951;  
Fred W. Atkins, 1951-1952;  
Charles Creed, 1952-1953;  
Fred W. Atkins, 1953-1954;  
Ford Zietlow, 1954-1956;  
Mrs. J. E. Kelly, 1957-1965.

**Vice President:**

Miss Matilda Gage, 1949-1950;  
Mrs. Chris Jensen, 1950-1953;  
Mrs. Angela Jewett Bassett, 1954-1965.

**Second Vice President:**

**Miss Lydia Kohlhoff**, 1962-1963;  
Mrs. Lemana Heckman, 1963-1964;  
Miss Helen Bergh, 1964-1965."

Since then I have found details of Larry Kohlhoff and his family who appear still to live in the area. I will continue to try to make contact with the Kohlhoffs in the locality.

Nearly at the end of the book was the long list of the pioneers of 1870 where I found;

Collins, Richard  
Collins, Timothy  
Collins, Walter E.

**Colloff, August**

Colver, Frank  
Comer, M. F.  
Combs, Elias  
Comstock, S. P.

And further down the list;

Knox, James  
Knudson, Syver

Koch, Chris  
Koch, William H.  
Koehn, Peter

**Kohlhoff, A.**

**Kohlhoff, Laura**

**Kohlhoff, Lydia**

**Kohlhoff, Minnie**

Koning, Henry  
Korsedahl, Bastian H.  
Korta, Emil  
Korte, Esther Zimmerman

The Godfather Tells ALL! (continued)

From here I searched all of the other records that I could find of Brown County for further traces of both spellings. Births, marriages and deaths were only given as the records of each individual church and I scoured these only to find this single entry in a church in the township of James;

James, Brown Co., SD - Trinity (German) Lutheran Church Baptism Records

This file contains information transcribed from the church register for the Trinity Lutheran Congregation of the town of James, Brown Co., South Dakota. Information transcribed by James Lewis. This file may be freely copied by individuals and non-profit organizations for their private use. Any other use, including publication, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission by electronic, mechanical, or other means requires the written approval of the file's author.

This file is part of the SDGENWEB Archives. If you arrived here inside a frame or from a link from somewhere else, our front door is at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/sd/sdfiles.htm>

CHURCH RECORDS OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION, JAMES, SOUTH DAKOTA

<u>No.</u>	<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Baptism Date</u>	<u>Father and Mother's Names</u>	<u>Godparents</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>Kindesname</u>	<u>Tag der Geburt</u>	<u>Tag der Taufe</u>	<u>Vater- und Muttername</u>	<u>Taufpathen</u>
85	Wilhelmina Amanda Voigt	24 Sep 1889	20 Oct 1889	Carl Voigt Emilie Voigt	Wilhelmina Affeldt, Sarah Lehmann Emil Voigt
86	Bernhard Julius August Wockenfuß [Wockenfuss]	27 Oct 1889	17 Nov 1889	F. Wockenfuß [Wockenfuss] Johanna Schmidt	August Kohlhoff, Julius Urban Mathilde Pasch
87	Selma Magaretha Haida Ziesmann	16 Jan 1890	9 Feb 1890	Carl Ziesmann Paulina Schmidt	Wilhelm Richard Albert Leitzke Magaretha Dörfler [Doerfler]
88	Bernhard Emil Kühnert [Kuehnert]	30 Jan 1890	2 Mar 1890	Fritz Kühnert [Kuehnert] Ernstine Bukatz	Otto Adrian Ida Draeger Johann Friedel

Which is where I saw that Augustus had reverted to his German spelling of our name.

Finally, should anyone want to follow in my electronic footsteps on this voyage of discovery here is the table of contents of the book.

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Page</u>
Title Page	1	Brainard Township	78
Brown County Territorial Pioneer Committee	2	Cambria Township	79
Poem of Dedication	3	Carlisle Township	83
Map of Historical Sites in Brown County	4	Claremont Township	84
Dedication	5	Detroit Township	88
Preface	6	Oneota and Franklin Townships	90
History of Brown County	7	Frederick Township	92
The Lay of the Land	13	Garden Prairie Township	96
The Acquisition of Land	15	Garland Township	99
Judicial History of Brown County	16	East Gem Township	101
The Nettie Baldwin	18	West Gem Township	105
Columbia Township	21	Liberty and Greenfield Townships	109
Aberdeen Township	29	Groton Township	111
Early History of Aberdeen	36	Groton City	114
Allison Township	64	East Hanson Township	120
Bates Township	65	West Hanson Township	125
Verdon	71	Henry Township	127
Bath Township	73	Highland Township	132
		Lansing Township	134
		Lincoln Township	135
		Mercier Township	137
		New Hope Township	138
		Ordway Township	140
		Osceola Township	145
		Palmyra Township	147
		Portage Township	148
		Putney Township	150
		Ravinia Township	153
		Richland Township	154
		Riverside Township	156
		Rondell Township	158
		Savo Township	166
		Shelby Township	168
		Warner Township	170
		Westport Township	177
		Early Artists	181
		Pioneer County Women	186
		Father Haire Story	188
		Pioneer Chapter	191
		Pioneer Doctors and Dentists	200
		List of Names of Pioneers	200
		Table of Contents	208



### The Godfather Tells ALL! (continued)

**Married on the Way to Brown County?** I have not yet had time to follow up the following entries that I found on the Mormon's International Genealogical Index (IGI);

**9. Ana COLLOFF** - International  
Genealogical Index/NA  
Gender: F Marriage: 28 Nov 1875  
Macomb, Michigan

**10. August COLLOFF** - International  
Genealogical Index/NA  
Gender: M Marriage: 19 Dec 1875,  
Macomb, Michigan.

This must surely be the same August, but if so where was his wife when he got to South Dakota barely a year later? Had the ship that brought him from Europe taken him into America via the Great Lakes to land in Michigan, and then he moved overland from there? Another area for research, especially if the other entry is the marriage of a daughter or sister.

### **Family News and Research discoveries.**

#### Living Colloffs.

Well, despite having had non-family visits from friends from both Moscow and Spain (via Holland), not at the same time of course, I have managed to meet Sid. I had an interesting evening with him and his wife at Alcester, whilst we were holidaying at Moreton-in Marsh, and have yet to fully integrate the information I gleaned. Alas I still have not made it to Swansea to meet Edith, but hope to do so in the near future.

On the cards already is a mini 'gather' at Milford Gardens with Trevor and Lyn and anyone else that can be roped in.

Of course, my '*Celebration!*' page shows that there are plenty of us alive, well and kicking.

#### Going Back.

You will see elsewhere that, whilst I have not gone very far back, I have found a strong link to the Kohlhoff's that increases the likelihood of our being of Pomeranian extraction. To mark this I have moved Elizabeth Kohlhoff up to a 'half branch' on the distribution list on the first page.

Welcome Elizabeth. ☺

### **The Birmingham Splits Explained.**

During the course of my studies I have always been puzzled by the fact that whilst Ken had contact with, and knew of, the many Colloffs descended from Benjamin and centred round London; in the smaller Birmingham area, the same did not apply to Joseph's descendants.

#### **Death caused the first split.**

My father, brought up in Hobmoor Road, Small Heath, did not appear to be aware of any other Colloffs around, up to WW II, and the same seemed to apply to my aunts and uncles in other parts of Birmingham. This ignorance began to become clear when I realised that one split occurred when Joseph drowned in 1876, and the grown children, two earliest living sons

(Joseph Benjamin and Charles) and daughter (Mary Ann), that had left home, drifted apart from his widow. This drift would have increased after the widow Jane (nee Jermy) remarried William Cooke in 1878, taking her four dependant children (Jane, Thomas, Emma, and William).

As I reported in the last *COLLOFF COUSINS* Edith from Swansea was made aware as a child, of my grandfather, William, by her grandmother, Caroline (c.1870-1941). Edith's grandfather Thomas (1865-1937) was part of the 1876 rift, so there must have been something else to turn the two younger brothers away from each other.

#### **Business Disagreement cause of the second split.?**

It was Sid, during my visit to Alcester, who gave me the bones of the next split, although I do not

know the precise timing of it between 1930 and 1940.

It appears that there was a long association by Joseph Benjamin (1852-1922) and his sons with a well known firm of Birmingham builders. After their father's death, some of the brothers, and possibly a cousin or two, tried to set up on their own. Sid, being only a child at the time, knew very few of the details, apart from the fact that his father William James (1888-1950) was to be a driver.

Apparently the deal fell through and gave rise to some acrimony that has tended kept the participants apart, at least for the remainder of their lifetimes, and perhaps beyond.

If anyone can add any further details I would be delighted to learn of them, and, with permission, put them in the next issue.

### Photo Gallery.

From the last issue, do you remember Sid's mystery photo on the right?



Well the picture on the left is of **Joseph Benjamin Colloff (1879-1947)** and his wife **Elizabeth Sarah (Woodcock)**. It has been put forward by Trevor, and I have to agree that I think that these are the same people. They are Lyn's grandparents with about 25 years between the two photos.

Not exactly, that is, as the original had many crease marks right across it, as you can see on the thumbnail shot. Within days of sending it to Lyn, it was returned on a floppy disc on which her husband Garry had worked the transformation that you see. Such a repair is a very tricky task. The picture is enlarged on the computer screen until you can see the separate pixels (dots) that make up the picture. Where there is damage, you have to find a pixel from an equivalent part of the picture, copy it and put it in its place, proceeding from dot to dot. Every now and then you have to reduce the picture again so that you have an overall view to check that what you have done is realistic. You have to agree that Garry has done a fantastic repair job, and helped identify the mystery couple.

## Another Mystery Solved.

*Birmingham*      *March 1876.*

Rumours about a suicide in the family were laid to rest when the coroner closed his inquest, recording an accidental death by drowning on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March this year of our Lord, 1876, of Joseph Colliff, aged 62, from Middlesex.

Our *Birmingham Post* reporter, who attended the inquest, gave the following account of the background to this unfortunate affair. Note, since the inquest we have determined that the unfortunate man's name was actually spelt COLLOFF, and we

have determined, with some difficulty that he left a widow with three dependant young children, and four other sons and a daughter. It appears that Joseph Colloff spent the last evening of his life drinking in his local public house, leaving it, rather inebriated late in the evening to make his way home through the unlit brickfields. Despite having worked there making bricks for some time, it appears that he lost his way and fell into one of the flooded pits from which the clay for the bricks had been extracted. It appears that due to the combination of his inebriation and the slippery slopes

of the clay pit, he was unable to get out and unfortunately drowned. When he was found in the morning, a shutter was fetched from the hostelry that he had visited the night before and he was carried back there. The coroner had the body laid on the bar where he had been drinking a few short hours' ago and held his court of inquest around it, with the conclusion reported at the start of this article

*Current Note I have ascertained that the Birmingham Registry Office holds no further details of this inquest* J.C..

# Celebrations

I have been fortunate to receive the following photographs of happy Colloff events.

## A 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

This is Lyn's mother Ellen Colloff (nee Wells) b.26 June 1910, enjoying her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party with her family.



I particularly like the top picture of her conducting her 'home-grown' choir in a rousing version of the 'Happy Birthday to You' song, before she cut her cake.

Below it, she is with four of her five sisters and her son Ray.



On the right here she is with her older sister and three great grandchildren

## A Bedtime Celebration?.



This, I gather is not a unique event, as Trevor and Sharon celebrate son Patrick finally agreeing that it is bedtime. Trevor is the third son of Hilda Lillian (nee Colloff) Rogers, (1916-1997); the older daughter of Joseph Benjamin Colloff (1879-1947)





## A GOLDEN WEDDING

Finally, in Benjamin's branch, from Alderholt, I learn that Roy and Dorothy Colloff celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2000.

The Photograph is of Roy and Dorothy Colloff who celebrated their Golden Wedding in July this year.

After working in London for most of his life, Roy only began to take an interest in the Family History after he retired and moved to the New Forest. Then he realised how much easier research would have been in London!

They celebrated with a family get-together at Abingdon, and this was later followed by their son and daughter treating them to a weekend in a London hotel with tea at the Ritz, followed by a show. They are both very active, taking almost as many holidays as possible between Dorothy's activities which range from lace making, through calligraphy, to handbell ringing.

We send them our congratulations and hope that they ring up many more happy years together



## A Celebration We All Know About.

I am grateful to Trevor Rogers for this jolly photograph of a Birmingham Street Party, celebrating VE (Victory in Europe) in 1944.

The two young ladies looking straight into the camera in the foreground are Trevor's aunts, and the boy in the pirate's hat seated immediately behind them is his uncle. Nearest camera Florence Colloff, on her right Elsie Colloff.

Trevor says that he thinks that the boy is his Uncle Fred, Lyn's father, b.1913, which would make him 31. Looking at a family tree I wonder if this is Sydney, who I visited in Alcester?

Whilst I was not there, I remember VE day well. I was at home, where I was born, in Fallowfield, Manchester. Victoria Road was a quiet suburban road with a concrete surface. The bonfire that we had that night left a six foot diameter scar that was visible for forty years until the road was resurfaced.

The evening was enlivened by a single 'firework' of my amateur manufacture; an open tin can filled with a mixture of Saltpetre, Sulphur, Carbon and iron filings. I cannot remember how I lit it, but it lasted a good ten minutes, flaring and spluttering away like a Roman Candle and the can glowing red hot.



## Unlucky Thirteen.

Well I was all set to stop here, and then I realised that I was ending with thirteen pages, which many people would not really like. So I am adding a short genealogical section in case you want to work up your own family history

### Making a Start with Your Family History.

I hope that parts of this newsletter may have made one or two of you want to record a bit of your own family history, so I thought that I would give a few first steps that I have found to be useful. Everybody is always told that the first thing to do is to talk to family members, oldest first. This is correct but without a framework in which to record the information that you glean, you end up with a lot of disjointed notes. So the first step that I advise people to take is to make a circle diagram on which to record their own pedigree.

### **Make a Circle Pedigree**

You set your self in the middle and in the concentric rings, working outwards you put, in order, in each ring; your parents, your grandparents, your great grandparents, your great great grandparents, etc. I hope that the diagram makes this clear. Photocopy it, snopake out my labels, put your own ancestors in, and you have made a start!

Actually I have been rather mischievous and included a blank form at the end of this newsletter! So come on, it won't take a minute or two will it? You know your parents, and grannies and granddads....there you go!

### **Construct 'Local' family Trees**

Now use the circle diagram as an index to all the marriages that went into your creation. Make your parents marriage number 1, grandparents , 2 and 3, and so on, putting the number at a suitable junction on the circle or pedigree diagram. Then construct the usual family tree around each wedding on separate sheets of paper, each given the number of the wedding on the circle diagram.

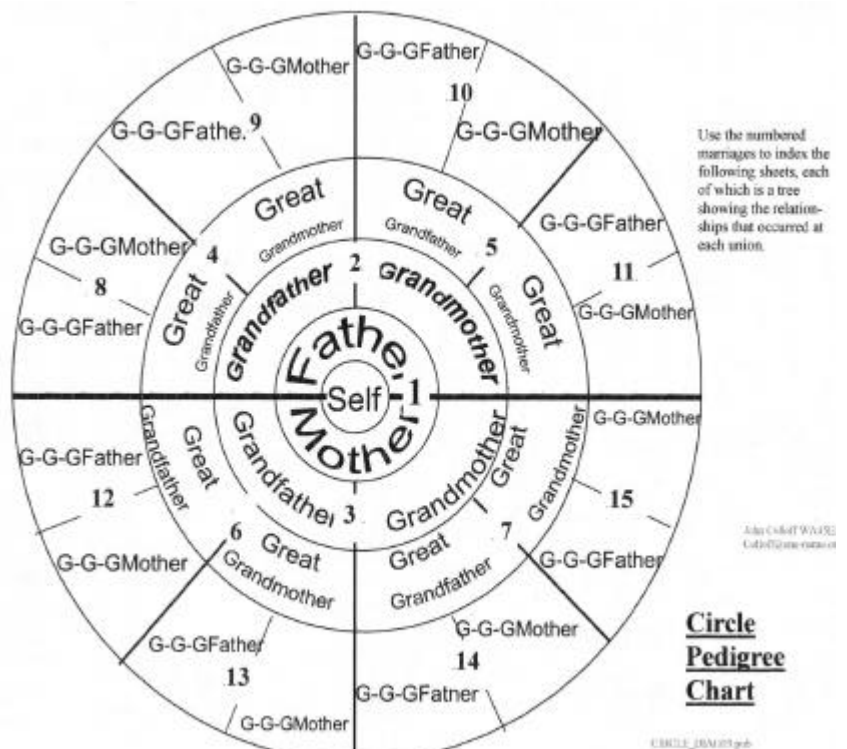
### **Input Family details.**

Now you have the framework on which you can put your family details, brothers and sister, uncles and aunts, skeletons and all. On the 'local' family tree you can easily show the details of divorce and widowhood, early deaths and even the odd 'early' birth. ☺

You will soon find that you have a whole host of questions to apply to the family elders, the most common being; "What was your name before you were married ... Grandma, .....Auntie?"

### **Be careful, who you ask what!**

Do give it a go, I hope that you will find that it is great fun, and you might even be able to lay some family rumours to rest, provided you are looking far enough back. Please do not go in expecting to get all the details of a recent divorce, you are quite likely to be told to mind your own business! Genealogy is like a good brandy, it is best savoured when it has had a few tens of years in which to mature.



### **This is NOT a One-Name Study.**

Perhaps I should make a point here and you will see what a lazy beggar I really am. In the above I am describing how to make a complete family tree of both the male and distaff sides. My prime interest is a One-Name Study of the family name COLLOFF. After one marriage away from the name I really have no interest in the distaff side, sorry girls! But when you look at the above diagram you will see that I am only interested in half of the first ring, a quarter of the second ring, an eighth of the Great Grandparents' ring, and so on. This greatly reduces the coverage needed and is a great deal less than the enormous amount of work that Elizabeth Kohlhoff has done in trying to trace every descendant of her ancestor Johann Balthasar Kohlhoff (1711-1790) in her book '*Pastoral Symphony*'.

### **Collofs on the Internet, The Raw Material of Research.**

I have received follow-ups since the last issue on my UK listing of Graham Colloff racing his Van Diemen in 1998. Ken has located him

I continue to find references to the American 'Show Biz.' Colloffs, from work in 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' to work by Anya, an actress; and Pamela, a writer: all in the USA. I also continue to find more Antipodean references to Matthew.J., and his work on Australian, insects and parasites; as well as Jayne, publicity hospitality and Bruce, at a New Zealand technical institution.

My latest Colloff sightings include two further American references;  
Colloff, Edwin, MD. "Electronic Databases for Primary Care" November 22, 1999 Stanford Uni. USA. and

Colloff, Roger, USA, a Vietnam vet. Writing of his experiences in that theatre of war.

**The Coll-Off acronym** for *College Office* has cropped up again in an impressive roll call for the Alpha Phi Omega International Collegiate Service Fraternity in Australia listing the Herald, Scribe, Grand & Prime Chancellors, and the Keeper & Guardian of the Treasury.

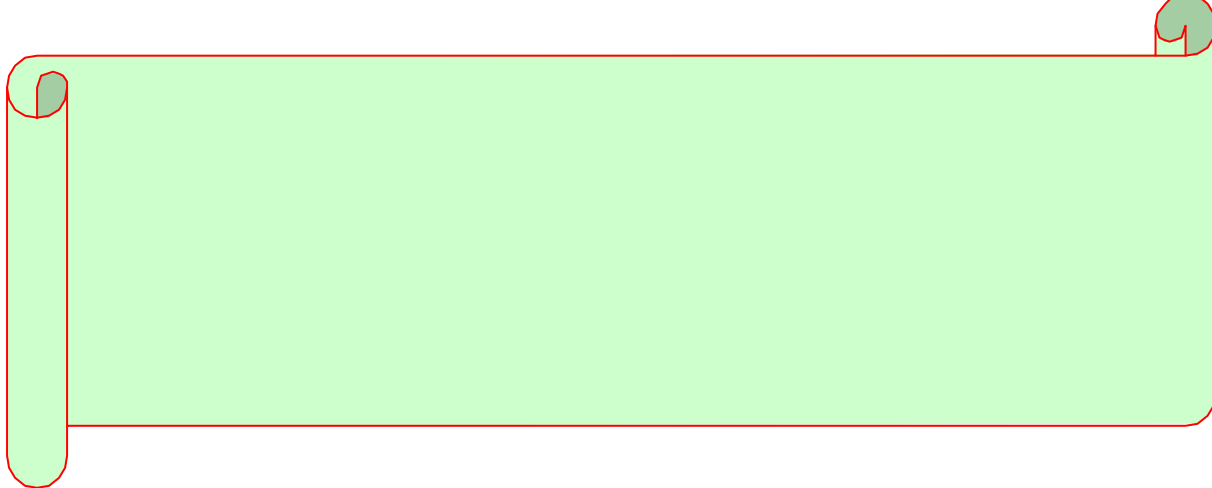
This took quite a while to sort out as at first I thought that it was a joke, then as I struggled through more and more web pages, found that they were dead serious!

### **The Last Word**

Again, if you are 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, will all receive careful attention. I made a mistake in the last issue when I said; "all marked for publication" which is not what I say on the first page. What I meant to put was that all contributions will be considered for publication unless they are marked specifically otherwise. 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, but nothing as expert as Garry's work).

Here ends the third edition. Please let me know if you do not want to be bombarded with any more issues, and I will desist.



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#### **PostScript FOR Computer Users with Internet Access.**

If you want a free genealogical program to dabble with yourself, it is possible to download the Mormon's program **Personal Ancestral File** from the Internet. It is known as PAF4 for Windows.

Go to <http://www.familysearch.org/>

Then click on 'Order Family History Resources' panel on that page.

At that page click on Software Downloads - Free.

PAF is the first item, number 36100999, and clicking on it will download this genealogy program.

Alternatively it can be purchased for around £5 from;

The LDS Distribution Centre, 399 Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham B33 0UH