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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 2001.

Comment

As I have said before, the information is yours, the mistakes, mine, but I hope to have included some of the needed corrections, with apologies, and thanks to those who were kind enough to point them out to me, ever so gently ☺.

Although I said last time that I would welcome contributions, this is a thin issue, partly because I received none! Instead I have just received terribly polite requests for extra copies. Surely there is some family story that you would like to share with us? Sharing some aspect of Colloff family history perhaps that is commonplace to you, but of interest to us all.

This time I also have a different excuse for my lack of copy ... people! Despite Ken & Maureen not managing to visit us this year, and Roy & Dorothy only briefly, we seem to have had a stream of friends and family since the beginning of October. More about one visitor inside.

Who else besides Mary spotted the Colloff in the credits to 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'? It is one from the Jewish offshoot, mentioned in P.4. 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
Comment, distribution & Conventions	Page 1.
Cousins	Page 2.
Happy return	Page 2
DNA testing and Genealogy	Pages 3 & 4.
Weird result on the Internet	Page 4.
An American Colloff	Page 5.
Vouchers for the 1901 census	Page 6.
Hello David Colloff	Page 6.
Corrections	Page 7.
Cousin Finder	Page 7.
The Last Word	Page 8.

Success of COLLOFF COUSINS

I encourage you to photocopy any of CC and send it on to anyone that you think might be interested. For computer owners I can provide a copy in colour in Adobe <*.pdf> or MS Word .doc format so that you can print off your own copies. I still hope to have my web page www.colloff.org.uk up and running soon. On it I hope to have coloured downloadable issues of COLLOFF COUSINS in .GIF and .html browsable formats.

If possible the pages containing living family information will only be accessible with a password freely sent to all family members, mainly to avoid Data Protection Act registration.

DISTRIBUTION I have split up the list of 24 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 Colloff, Cook, Australia, and John & Mary Colloff, Tonbridge.

Joseph (c.1814 - 1876), Hilary Colloff, Seattle, USA. Charlotte Hinde, West Sussex, William Colloff, Todmorden, Audrey Palin, Phyllis Colloff, Christine & John Wilson, Brian & Pauline Colloff, and Lyn & Garry James, Birmingham. Derek Colloff, Worcester. Audine & Jamie Watson, and Sheila Kirk, British Columbia. Trevor Rogers, Shotton. Edith Colloff, Swansea. Sidney Colloff, Alcester, Helen Williamson, Witney.

Kohlhoff Elizabeth Kohlhoff in Kelso, Australia, Katy Kohlhoff, Germany.

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

COUSINS

What does it mean to be a cousin (no matter how distant) of someone? Basically it means that somewhere back in time, maybe many centuries ago, there were two people who were ancestors of both you and your cousin. It also means that each and every ancestor of those two people, all the way back to wherever the beginning was, was also an ancestor of you and your cousin.

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A Happy Return for Colloff Cousins Issue Number 4

What a friendly lot you all are! Within days of posting off the last issue I was getting messages of thanks and comments. One contact that pleased me no end was to hear from Miss Edith Colloff, like myself a great grand-child of Joseph Colloff.

Two weeks earlier she had been away from her Swansea home, celebrating her 80th birthday at a 30 strong party, which was also celebrating the imminent graduation of Christopher, her nephew's son, from Cardiff University. Her nephew, Ian Gregory Colloff, works in Los Gatos, California, and in visiting the UK for his son's graduation, was also able to arrange a celebration to mark her milestone as well.

Felicitously, she returned home, full of the joys (and presents) from her party to find my latest issue of Colloff Cousins waiting for her. Inside she found on page four the record of her uncle, Frederick John, who died aged 24 in 1919, whilst in the British Army, stationed in Khartoum. She knew of this and phoned me straight away, first to courteously thank me for the copy and also to add the following details.

She had heard all about her uncle from her grandmother, who was still receiving her son's army pension of seven shillings and sixpence (37.5P) a week. He was not 24 when he died but only 22, actually two years younger than the date given in the army records, as he had added two years on his age to be accepted in the army during the first World War. Afterwards he had stayed on in the army and had been posted to the Sudan. There he had caught pneumonia and died in hospital in Khartoum, and was buried in the cemetery there.

Edith's grandmother had a photograph of her uncle's grave, and years later, when she met a lady who had lived in Khartoum, she asked her if she knew of the army graves in the cemetery there. Oh yes, she was told, you could not help noticing them as they were the only white tombstones there and really stood out.

I was pleased to congratulate Edith on her 80th birthday which had been marked by 73 cards, no less, and look forward to meeting her in Swansea soon.

J.C. 8 July 2001

DNA Testing and Genealogy

In the July 2001 issue of the Journal of One-Name Studies, one of our most valued members, Chris Pomeroy published an article entitled "DNA testing a valuable new tool for one-namers". As you may imagine this gave a fascinating inside story of the project which had used the data and contacts from his One-Name Study (O-NS) of 850,950 British-based adult men with the names Pomeroy, Pomroy and Pomery. He had been fortunate enough to have direct contact with Professor Bryan Sykes FRS who performed the grant-funded Pomeroy DNA tests at the University of Oxford's Department of Immunology .

Whilst reading the article I had wild dreams of following suit and getting mouth swabs (yes, that is all that is needed) from two males from the Benjamin, Joseph and Thomas branches of the Colloffs, and perhaps from the Australian Kohlhoffs, for expert comparison of the Y chromosomes. However as I read further I realised several things.

Firstly we would be at the back of a very long queue, where many wealthy and numerous O-NS's were already clamouring for attention. Then, the scientists themselves were most interested in pushing further forward their own state-of-the-art research, and so were looking for large families with the longest possible established pedigrees. There are many O-NS's covering four and five centuries, compared with our frugal two, with thousands of members, from which impeccable control groups can be selected to withstand the most rigorous mathematical examinations for bias and sample inadequacy.

From Chris Pomeroy's articles I quickly learnt that for each test at least £600 a time had had to be found to cover the costs not covered within the main research budget. From my own earthquake engineering days with BNFL when I was spending £1million a year on research I had learnt how such laboratory costs escalate when they are not part of some University research programme. I had needed some radio carbon dating of some geological samples, and no matter where I went in the world, and how much money I tried to throw at the project, it still took over six months at a very commercially orientated US university. In these circumstances, and following a few brief enquiries, I could see that we would be lucky to be talking of £1,500 per test, and still be at the end of a big queue.

Maybe in a few years' time, when the techniques and theories have all been accepted, there will be some straightforward commercial undertaking with a slick conveyor-belt operation that will do this new type of analysis for a nice fixed fee. At present I will just have to look on enviously as the large societies prove and disprove their established relationships.

For the present the completed test has revealed that although every one-namer wonders if their name stems from a single ancestor, as a result of DNA tests the Pomeroy group know for certain that theirs does not. The men with the names Pomeroy, Pomroy and Pomery most likely belong to one of at least seven major, different male ancestral groups that pre-date any form of documentary evidence.

I quote; 'The key DNA test useful to family historians analyses the Y-chromosome that is carried in the nuclear DNA of every living man. His DNA resembles that of his father and his paternal grandfather and is shared with male cousins of any degree that have the same male ancestor. There are two types of analysis used to distinguish and describe individual males, DNA: first, to identify the haplogroup they belong to, and second, to label their particular haplotype.

Every male human belongs to one of perhaps 50 haplogroups identified in the world population, one of which is found in around half of all European men. Everyone in the Pomeroy tests belonged to one of the two most common haplogroups found in the UK. Other parts of the Y-chromosome are, however, subject to more, though tiny, mutations over time. An analysis of the microsatellite regions of the Y-chromosome reveals a clear set of markers described as a haplotype. Collectively, the sequence revealed by the haplogroup and haplotype analysis reveals a DNA signature that can be used to distinguish one male-to-male lineage from another.'

If any of you want to know more, I can add further details in the next '*Colloff Cousins*', if you let me know where your areas of interest and queries are.

More DNA and Genealogy Information

Further coverage of this topic was given in five half hour BBC Radio 4 programmes entitled 'Surnames, Genes and Genealogy' broadcast from 19th. June to 17th. July 2001, with which the Guild chairman, Alec Tritton, assisted. Consequently as Guild librarian I hold the tape recordings of them on five cassettes, which I could make available. The first broadcast has the title 'There's only one Mr Sykes' in which Prof. Sykes discusses what happened when they applied his haplotype and haplogroup analysis to his own name group. In his case they did all come from the same single ancestor.

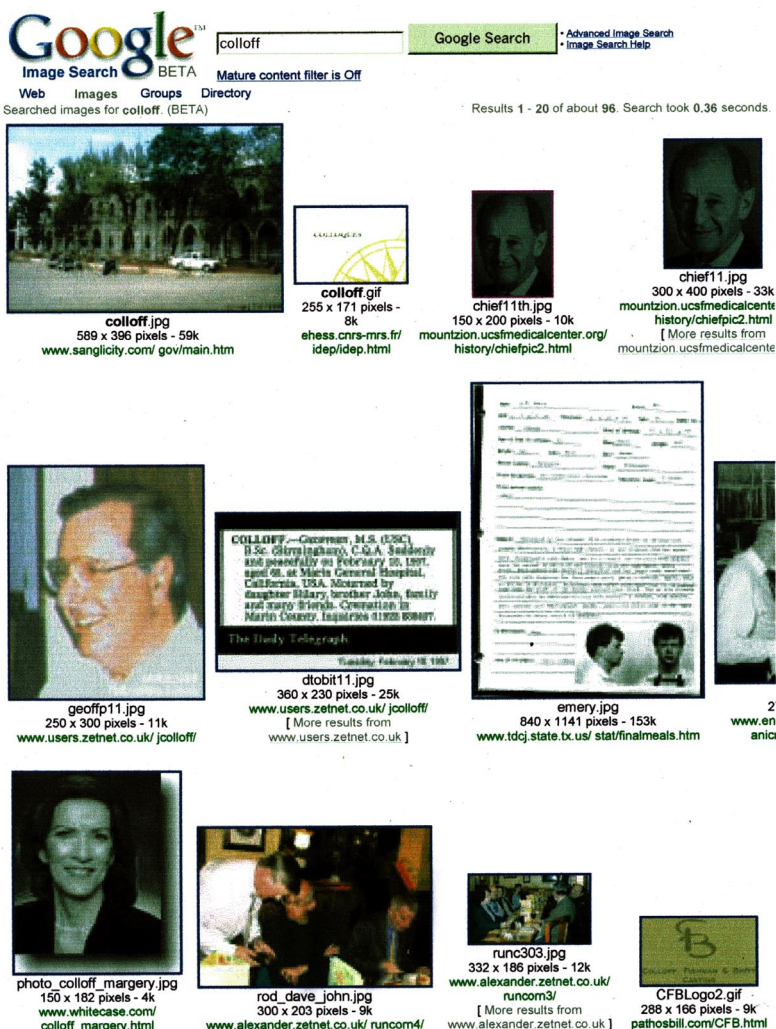
P.S. Chris Pomeroy has just revealed that there are now over 100 labs world-wide undertaking commercial DNA testing. Maybe we will not have to wait too long after all.

Weird Result on the Internet

Whilst great things are still happening on the Internet, (see my article about the 1901 census) a peculiar thing happened to me on the Internet which gave rise to this article and made me wonder if we are reaching its limits. I reproduce the page that appeared on my screen after asking one of the Internet search engines to look for **images** connected with Colloff. This was the first of 96 pages of results and when I explain what is on it you will see why I proceeded no further.

Google Search: colloff

Page 1 of 2



On the top row, I have no idea where Sanglicity is; who the 'chief' is; nor why a French web page has a fancy heading on it. None of them have any Colloff connection that I could determine.

The bottom row has a shot of the glamorous New York attorney, Margery Colloff, who has ignored my E-mails and is of the Jewish branch that say they adopted our name at Ellis Island. Next are two shots of me at a social event organised locally by users of my Internet Service Provider (ISP) that I knew about (I mean the photos, I did stay conscious throughout the event as well); and another disconnected fancy heading.

The middle row has two images from my own original, very old (in Internet terms) web pages, about my brother Geoffrey; followed by the prison record of a convicted murderer. Unfortunately grisly curiosity made me try to find the Colloff link to the latter, which I was never able to determine.

The sheet gives details of one Jeff Emery (b.25 Jun 1959, d.27 May 1986); an air conditioning repair man. He was convicted of murdering

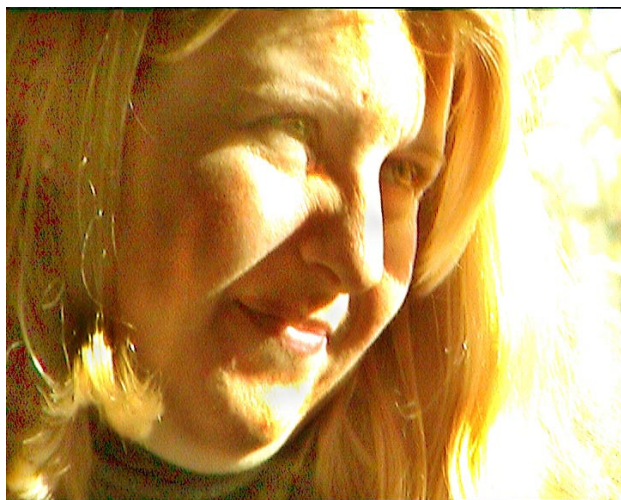
file:///H:/Adata/Fam_hist/Wletters/N5letter/Google%20Image%20search%201of96/Google%2... 29/11/2001
a Miss Muhlinghaus in Texas on 12 Oct. 1979. However I found myself wading through a large group of web pages devoted to giving the details of the last meals ordered by convicted criminals before their execution in American jails! As I say, thankfully I was unable to find any Colloff connection at all, and am left wondering; **"Who on earth goes looking for that sort of information?"**

An American Colloff

Well,
streets,

Fast
in all
did in

named
Sindy
little



known places, which never seem to have native residents. In the past I have been delighted to find a man born in Dunkirk serving vegetables in a market in the South of France, and I have worked with a former colleague born in Dover. So, Sindy from Anchorage was a rare item for my 'collection'!

When I asked Sindy if she had been in any earthquakes in Alaska, after saying no, she reversed my disappointment by telling of her experiences in the major earthquake in Kobe, Japan where she lived for three years.. Having been the Company's earthquake engineering specialist throughout my last 15 years with British Nuclear Fuels, we just bored the rest of the party to tears!



HILARY battles with the combined wits of Will, Jack and Sindy in a game of 'Guess Who?'

West Sussex Colloff Meeting.

We learnt that Hilary (and Sindy) had already generated (excuse the pun) a Colloff reunion with my daughters Tracey and Charlotte, and granddaughter Elizabeth, at Charlotte's home in West Sussex.

Apparently it was quite scary due to the family resemblance between all four ladies, plus many Colloff gestures and tricks of speech which they each increasingly noted in each other.

Annette and I welcomed them both and were pleased that my son Will and his son Jack Alaric, were able to join us from Todmorden for the day. I took them all down into Warrington to see the large sculpture in the market place of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, which celebrates the birth of Alice In Wonderland's author in nearby Daresbury..



Jack Alaric Colloff asks the Mad Hatter if he may join his tea party,
Golden Square, Warrington.

RELEASE OF THE 1901 UK CENSUS

This is the latest thing that the genealogical world is getting excited about. Under the 100 year rule this is to be released to the general public in the New Year in a new way ... on '**Pay-to-View**' on the Internet. So if you cannot get to London you can use a home computer, or a computer in your local library or computer café, and interrogate the index. If you find an entry of interest you then have to pay, first to view it, and then some more if you want a copy of the entry.

Because of the interest that there is in the information to be released, and this new way of accessing it, the Public Record Office (PRO) has been running a trial of the system using part of an earlier census that has been indexed for a couple of counties. From the results of the trial the PRO is certain that the new system is going to run without a hitch. We shall see.

The interesting part is how you are going to manage to pay to view. There are two ways. The most immediate is to use a credit card, giving your details over a secure connection on the Internet to the PRO, who take the amount you specify. The disadvantage is that you have to use the time you have bought, and is credited to your account, within the next 24 hours. Anyone who has searched in old records will realise just how tricky this can be. Very very occasionally the record is just there where you expected it to be and you have it copied down and are finished in a matter of minutes.

Much more frequently the record is slightly different, or not where you expected, and off you have to go searching and checking facts afresh and theorising over possible mis-spellings and confusions over dates. The rub is that this is very rarely achieved in a neat 24 hour cycle, and you will have lost the remainder of your money.

The alternative is that the PRO is selling vouchers varying in value from £5, £10 to £50. These have an indefinite life, and only start to reduce in value when you give the security numbers to the PRO over the Internet. I think that you then have six months in which to use the rest of the credit from your voucher.

For any keen genealogist the voucher scheme is the obvious way to go. As the PRO give a small discount on orders for vouchers over £1,000, the Guild of One-Name Studies (GoO-NS) has registered as a voucher supplier and is selling vouchers to members with a smaller discount for orders over £50. The Guild bookstall manager who has organised the GoO-NS scheme is arranging to get quite a few low value vouchers so that small groups can get perhaps five ten pound vouchers at a discount between them.

The scheme has yet to be seen working, but if in the future anyone wants to have a go to see where families moved to in the early 20th Century, I am willing to consider getting vouchers via the Guild on a shared basis.

Hello 54 year Old David Colloff

I have had on my computer for quite some time a reference to web pages listing all of the Cheshire Births Marriages and Deaths.

When I finally went to it I found that you could search Births, or Marriages or Deaths, year by year.

As you can imagine this is a somewhat lengthy process, and I only had time to search the births ... and found;

DAVID COLLOFF, Born in Nantwich, Cheshire, 1947-48.

Unfortunately I have not had the opportunity since to check the registers at the Family History Centre at Myddleton Street, London, to see the details of his parents and locate him on one of our family trees.

So if you know of a 54 year old David Colloff, please let me know and I will be able to welcome him properly into the Colloff fold.

The Corrections for Previous Issues.

I do most sincerely apologise for these mistakes and thank the various people who have been kind enough to point them out to me. Please do not hesitate to question anything you find in these pages. One of my aims with '**Colloff Cousins**' is that by having a copy go into the archives of the British Library there is a record of our discoveries (and some of my wild ideas) that will be available in the years to come, for any future researchers.

Issue 1. Page 6. Roy's brother-in-law is of Swiss descent and the event occurred in a Swiss town.

Issue 2. Page 7. My captions to Lyn's photos were wrong. I only managed to get the baby right! The centre picture is of Lyn's grandfather, Joseph (b. 1879, d.1947) and the right hand studio portrait is of her father Fred (b. 1912, d.1984).
The lower right hand photo is incorrectly labelled, Ellen is holding Sid's half brother and sister, William and Hilda. I wrongly referred to them as step- rather than half- siblings.

Issue 3. ***I think that I did not get anything wrong here! However I did send out some copies missing a few pages, which I hope I have now rectified.***

Issue 4. Page 13. The date of birth of my aunt, Millicent Palin was in December 1899, so the first William must have been born before her, very early in 1899, and they will be changed in position on the tree.
The date of death of my aunt, May Webley was 17th. January 1986, not 1980.

Note: One small consolation for me in the above is that it shows that somebody somewhere is reading my little rag!

A Cousin Finder. I found this small program on Chris Pomeroy's web pages. It is in the form of a spread sheet file into which you put the information about the two cousins that are being related. This can be either by specifying the number of generations on either side back to the common ancestor, or by the number of 'greats' on either side from the common ancestor.

The 'live' version is loaded into a computer running M\$oft Excel, and the print-out describes the relationship and the most likely blood and genetic relationship. I can supply it on a floppy disc.

For my example I have taken the relationship between Lyn James and my granddaughter Elizabeth, with the common ancestor of Joseph Colloff (1814 - 1876).

COUSIN FINDER

version 1.0 by T.A.Upshaw, 12 Oct 99

PERSONS; ONE, Lyn James: TWO Liz Hinde.

Person 1. Generations back to common ancestor; 4 (must be greater than zero)
Person 2. Generations back to common ancestor; 5 (e.g. father=1, grandmother=2, etc.)
Descendant from 2 different spouses of common ancestor? No (i.e. half cousins)

RELATIONSHIP = 3 cousins = 3rd cousins
1 times removed = once removed.

OR

Person 1. Number of "greats" for common ancestor; 2 (for cousins ONLY must be zero)
Person 2. Number of "greats" for common ancestor; 3 (e.g. grandfather=0, great great grandmother=2 greats)
Descendant from 2 different spouses of common ancestor? No (i.e. half cousins)

RELATIONSHIP = 3 cousins = 3rd cousins
1 times removed = once removed.

RESULT; Third cousins, once removed.

The Last Word

As most of you will have realised, with typical Colloff frugality, I use this early winter issue of *COLLOFF Cousins* to save on postage of our Christmas cards as well. However, I find that the following anonymous words also sum up the way that I feel about each issue of *COLLOFF Cousins* and its distribution list.

MY CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a look.
And that is when I realise that these names are a part
Not of the book they're written in, but of my heart.
For each name stands for someone who crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme.
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name.
And while you may not be aware of any special "link",
Just knowing you has changed my life a lot more than you think.
For once I've known somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas Card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on this list of folks I am indebted to.
For I am but the total of the many folks I've met,
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some way you have a part in shaping things I do.
And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew,
The best gift life can offer is knowing folks like you.
And may the Spirit of Christmas that forever endures
Leave it's richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

--Anonymous '98

Merry Christmas to you all,
John and Annette.

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