

Issue FIVE, Winter 2004, Volume 2, Number 5.

ISSN: 1469-3453

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, December 2004

Comment

In this issue I try to cash in on the popularity and interest generated in Family History by the BBC's "Who do you think you are?" series of programmes. Ian Hislop's story aroused my interest and I have picked up his comments about his father. We have some parallels with David Baddiel's saga, but I am critical of many of his actions and think that the BBC advisors have lead him astray. e.g. Cold calling on a mobile phone to possibly devout Jews on one of their holy days when they consider themselves forbidden to use a phone.

Finally, if the series has aroused your own interest I remind you again how to use the concentric circle diagram.

Apology

I apologise to *Kohlhoff.com* for using the information and photo of the "Knights of Gladness" from their web page without permission to try to get similar photos from my readers.

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.
Visitors from Far and Wide	Pages 2 to 4.
Who Do You Think You Are?	
Family History vs One-Name Study	Page 5
Update on DNA Testing	Page 8
Safe Dedicated Storage of our Records	Page 9
"Bring Out Your Dead !"	
A Plea for Photos	Page 10
The Last Words	Page 12

Success and Distribution 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. John & Mary Colloff, Algarve, Portugal.

Joseph (c.1814 – 1876). Hilary Colloff, Seattle, USA. Tracey Colloff, Bromley. Charlotte Hinde, West Sussex. William Colloff, Todmorden. Audrey Palin, Phyllis Colloff, Christine & John Wilson, Brian 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, Kelso, Australia. Katy Lorenschatt (Kohlhoff), Germany.

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

Visitors from Far and Wide

When I started *Colloff Cousins* five years ago it was with the simple aim of recording and spreading the information that had been uncovered about the origin of our surname. I hoped that it would kindle an interest similar to mine in some of the recipients and encourage them to share some of their own family history with us.

Now as I look back on *Colloff Cousins*' fifth year I see that it has done far more than that for me and I have been amazed at the stream of very nice people with whom it has brought me into contact. Further, I see that through *Colloff Cousins* I have met, and continue to meet, many charming individuals in some very enjoyable experiences that I could not have dreamt of five years ago.

Let me tell you about three incidents that have occurred since I belatedly started writing the last issue.

1. Fordingbridge, July.

First Annette and I had a very welcome visit from Roy and Dorothy Colloff, the first time that we had seen them since they moved from the little village of Alderholt to nearby Fordingbridge in the New Forest. Roy, Ken and Reg all have Benjamin as their great, great, great grandfather. We usually see Roy and Dorothy when they visit their daughter in Worsley, but due to Roy's poor health we had not seen them for a couple of years.

Both of them were looking very fit and had enjoyed an easy journey North having tried a local flight for the first time. Unfortunately we had so much to say to each other that the two cameras I had put ready were completely forgotten and I failed to get a picture for this issue.

2. Bathurst, Australia, August.

Then we had a very rare, surprising and very enjoyable visit from the other side of the world! It started with an E-mail from Elizabeth Kohlhoff in Australia asking for our phone number for her brother Doug, as he and his wife Kath were visiting Europe and might get

the chance to visit us. Within a matter of weeks Doug and Kath kindly made the time during their European holiday to contact and visit us!

Again I was so busy talking and doing a little bit of listening, plus enjoying the company, that I forgot the cameras, both film and digital, set primed and ready! Fortunately Kath was ready and Doug has since sent me this copy of the picture she took of Doug with Annette and I; along with a couple of shots from Germany later in their trip.



First is Kath's shot of Doug, Annette and I on our doorstep. They certainly had good weather when they visited us and we hope that for the rest of their holiday they had similar weather.

I was amazed at how busy they had been and Doug regaled us with the story of his ancestor for which he had found further details after doing some record searches in London. They left us to follow Elizabeth's footsteps to visit that part of Northern Germany once known as the Duchy of Pomerania, visiting many of the sites that Elizabeth describes in her book. This was apparently so successful that Doug is still sorting out the hundreds of photos that they took there.

They travelled around some of the known Kohlhoff areas of origin including Altwarp/Reith, Ahlbeck, Luckow, Eggesin, Torgelow, Ramin/Schmaggerow, Ballwitz/Nemerow, Woldegk/Strasburg, Anklam, Loitz and Stralsund, but ran out of time for Rugen Island, Rostock, Fehmarn Island etc. Doug consoles himself that it does leave something for another trip!

He has been kind enough to send me, for this newsletter two of the shots that he has taken as follows.

First the church in Neuwarp (now Nowe Warpno, Poland) where Johann Balthasar Kohlhoff's maternal grandfather was pastor



Now the council chambers in Neuwarp (now Nowe Warpno, Poland) where Johann Balthasar Kohlhoff's father was burgermeister

Johann Balthasar was born in 1711 and after studying in Stettin, Stralsund, Rostock and Halle, he made his life in India as a missionary. He is the subject of the Kohlhoff Family History Book written by Elizabeth Kohlhoff (Doug's sister).

Doug ended by saying;

Together with Nathan and Shonda Kohlhoff (currently living in Germany) we visited Paula and Udo Hitz in Torgelow. Paula was born a Kohlhoff and has traced her Kohlhoff family tree back to 1705.

But that was not the end of our Colloff related visitors this summer.....

3 Kempsey, Worcestershire, October.

Derek and Margaret Colloff made a very welcome visit to us one Sunday in October. Although we have talked on the phone and written, Derek and I met again face to face after what I think must have been the best part of fifty years ! As can be imagined we had plenty to talk about and the time just flew by, and yet again I have to thank Derek for the photo of Derek and I, that Margaret took, to record the event.



Derek has visited his sister Brenda in Canada, and he was able to tell me how his niece Audine is getting on (she kindly wrote a piece about her life in British Columbia for ***Colloff Cousins***) and how my niece Hilary regularly visits Audine from Seattle. So, with this very local link, Derek's visit was closing this circle of family contacts!

His sister, Brenda, remembers being a bridesmaid at a Colloff wedding in Birmingham, but does not know if it was Stan, Wilf or Harold that was getting married. Unfortunately I could not help him as the only wedding photo that I have of Cis and Harold is just the bridal pair.

So another reason for my plea for photos! Can anyone help with a Colloff wedding in the 1930s?

As I said at the beginning of this piece, when I started *Colloff Cousins* I did not expect to make so many contacts and thought that I would perhaps visit Birmingham and London. To that I have added The New Forest, Alcester, Sutton Coldfield and Swansea, with unfulfilled long-standing invitations to Shotton and Witney

Who Do You Think You Are?

You must certainly have seen something, if not actually watched one or two of, this very popular series of programs that the BBC are just completing on television on BBC 2. If so I hope that you found them interesting but were not gulled into thinking that everyone has some interesting background hidden away somewhere. Believe me, that is not the case! There is anything from ten to a hundred times the amount of searching and research that was shown and rarely anything as interesting as they found for that series.

In addition, every researched family tree usually raises far more unanswered questions than it solves, which is not as satisfying as the discoveries made in the programmes. In my case it took me 15 years to find the death of my great grandfather Joseph, and I still do not know for sure where he was born in Middlesex, and what made him move from Middlesex to the Birmingham area. And one unanswered question is how Joseph and Jane Jermy came to be in Leicestershire in 1851 for the birth of their first daughter, and what became of her? In my Colloff One-Name Study, I have yet to prove my personal belief that all Colloffs are related and that we all hark back to the Kohlhoffs of Pomerania.

However there is an aspect other than the amount of work and the time it takes, that I want to outline and explain, because of the difference between what is shown in the programmes and the Colloff work that I describe here.

The Colloff work that I discuss here is part of my ***One-Name Study***, whereas the television programmes are concerned with family genealogy.

The Colloff One-Name Study

As I hope I have mentioned before, the aim of the study is to collect details of all of the people with the surname of the study, and to try to establish the relationships between the various members of the group with the aim of finding the source or sources of the name itself. For many studies, this ends up either with a single geographic location or a trade or occupation. Where it is the latter there can be many unrelated branches to the study, the best known of which are the Smiths, all descended from one of the many blacksmiths that were to be found working in every village.

Because we are researching every occurrence of the surname, the research for a ***One-Name Study*** follows the male line, usually almost exclusively. Looking back into the generations, although we all have two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, and so on, we only examine closely the details of one person from each generation; the male with the surname *Colloff*.

A Family Genealogy (or Family History Study)

On the other hand, the family genealogist is only interested in all those people found because they are related to him or her as they occur in every generation. So he or she is interested not just in the two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents but also in brothers and sisters and Uncles and Aunts and their forebears and descendants. In fact the family genealogist can go on for ever tracing ever more distant relationships, whereas, in theory (but almost never, in fact) the scope of a One-Name-Study is restricted to just the pedigrees of all the people bearing the surname of interest.

Usually the two types of study are done together, the One-Namer almost naturally, like everybody else, wants to follow-up his antecedents on the distaff side as well, and establish just what the relationship was with that elderly lady he addressed as 'Aunt' as a child at family events.

Both studies produce family trees that appear at a glance to be similar. But the One-Namer's trees are primarily backward looking and concerned with the lineage of only a single male line. Sad to say, Colloff wives and daughters get short shrift in the Colloff ***One-Name Study***.

I am labouring this point because I am afraid that after watching one of these television programmes you look back at a ***Colloff Cousins*** and think that I have been short changing you all!

Not a bit of it! In Volume One Issue 3 I tried to encourage you to look into your own family history with a simple paper and pencil method. For this I enclosed the ***Circle Diagram*** demonstrating the layers (or segments of the concentric circles, on the diagram) of your relatives that were being discarded or ignored by this One-Name Study. Further, a family genealogy is considerably easier as you have some idea of the likely size and scope, based on the numbers of brothers and sisters, and uncles and aunts of your own generation. Finally, in a family history and you can set your own cut-off points.

At the start of a One-Name Study, you really have no idea as to how large it is going to be. In the Guild of One-Name Studies many attempts have been made to lay down a first estimate to guide new members. The more successful ones are based on the numbers of the name in the UK phone books and in the 1871 census, and getting those figures needs more than a little expertise.

I think that it is fair to say that the majority of Colloffs that I have met through this Colloff ***One-Name Study*** thought that they were members of a very select group

of 20 to 30 people with their almost unique surname. All of us have been surprised at the sizes of the branches that were hitherto unknown to them.

If I am wrong in this I would be grateful if you would contact me to discuss what you knew as it is just possible that you may have some valuable point of information overlooked by the rest of us.

Should any of you pursue your own family genealogy I am willing to help where I can and we could consider including it in a future **Colloff Cousins**

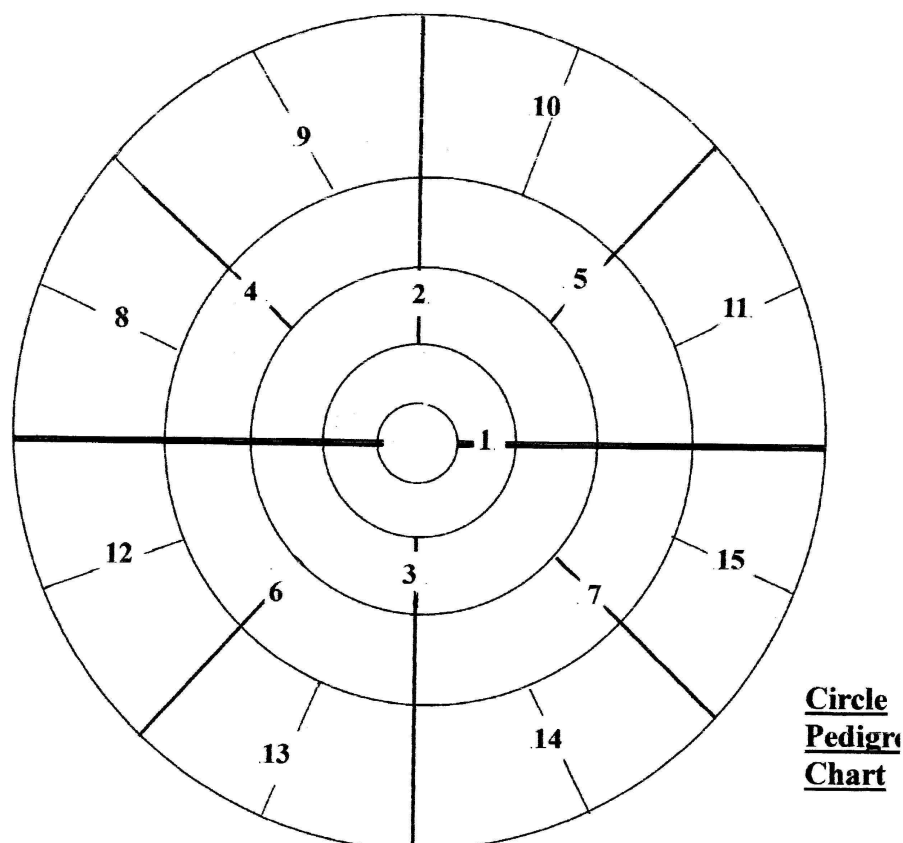
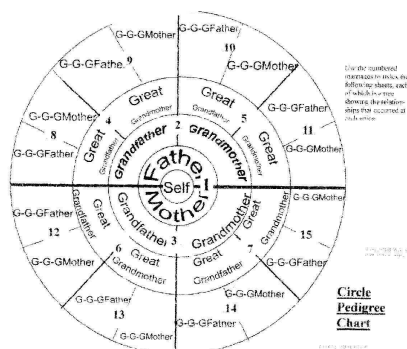
To demonstrate the difference between a family Genealogy and a One-Name Study I have shown the above points on the two following diagrams pages.

DIAGRAM of a FAMILY

HISTORY GENEALOGY

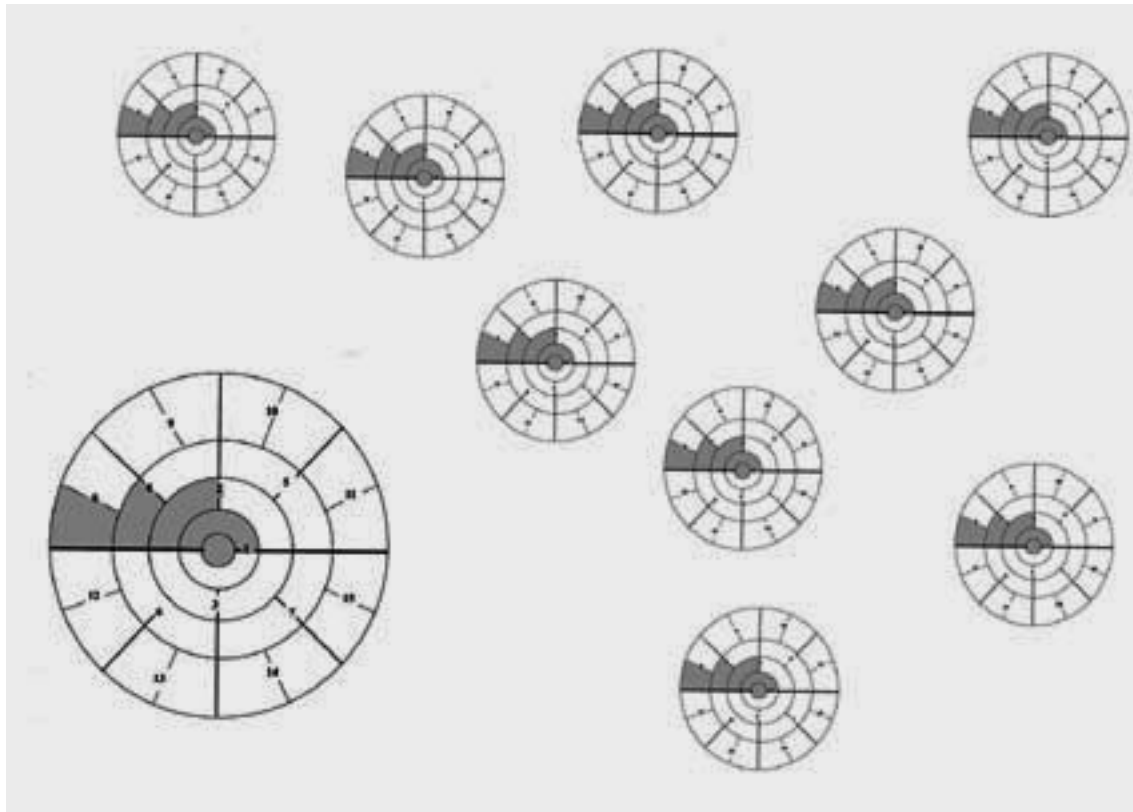
The relationships of everyone in one circle for the single family are studied and recorded.

Single trees, based around each marriage are ultimately combined on one sheet to create the **FAMILY TREE**.



**Circle
Pedigree
Chart**

Diagram Showing the Scope of a *ONE-NAME STUDY*.



By shading the only people of interest in a One Name Study I have used the Pedigree Circle Diagram to show how it differs from that on the previous page.

Referring to that circle diagram you will see that the One-Name Study follows only one male forebear in the successive generations depicted in each concentric circle as follows;

The *Husband*, his *Grandfather* of the same surname, his *Great Grandfather* of the same surname, his *Great Great Grandfather* of the same surname, etc., etc.

But this is done for every male found for the surname of the study, so every list of records is searched for occurrences of the surname. Experience very quickly shows that you also have to search every possible variation of mis-spelling, mis-pronunciation, and mis-hearing that can occur for the surname.

Update on DNA Testing.

Since the generous gift from my son of a 24 loci test\recording of my DNA I have been disappointed by receiving, almost every other month, a long E-mail, the nub of which is;

*From: <info@familytreedna.com>
Subject: Family Tree DNA Y-DNA12 Test Match 12 for 12
Date: Thu, 4 Nov 2004 18:49:58 -0600*

You have a match!

An exact match has been found between you and another person(s) in the Family Tree DNA database. You and the other person(s) have matched in all loci, which means that there is a 99.9% likelihood that you have a common ancestor. There is a 50% likelihood that the common ancestor is within the last 14.5 generations and 90% within the last 48 generations. If you and your match share a "prior" item of knowledge, such as a common surname, then a recent (within 14.5 generations) common ancestor is fairly likely. If not, then the common ancestor is probably closer to the 48 generations.

Waiting for a Positive Result

Allowing for 20 years per generation the match implies a link around 300 years ago, which taken from my birth puts it around 1650 at best. Somewhat disappointing, especially when you find that the majority of people are only having the cheaper 12 loci tests.

When the tests were set up I realised that it would be a question of waiting for whenever somebody else, possibly related, also had a 24 loci test. I had resigned myself to a very long wait, seeing very little point in encouraging others to take the cheaper 12 loci test, and ignoring the trickle of 12 loci matches. A recent DNA discussion on the Internet has changed my mind.

The Value of a Negative Result

A One-Name Study about four times the size of ours had several branches with serious doubts about including of one of the branches with the rest of them. Instead of looking for a positive link (for which I have been waiting) they took a negative attitude. Using the 12 loci tests, all but the 'rogue' branch got a match. Turning the wording of the above message round, the *UN*-likelihood of a common ancestor indicated by the DNA tests was taken as sufficient proof that the 'rogue' branch was not related.

Of course in the above case there was no animosity, just a simple desire to find the truth, and I have used 'rogue' in no derogatory sense but simply to denote the 'odd-one-out' branch. Unfortunately, and especially in the cases given the most publicity, the DNA tests are being used to prove or disprove paternity in distressingly aggressive legal battles. A current case of Blind Man's *BLUFF* springs to mind, and so utter confidentiality is offered by the DNA testing laboratories, and positive steps have to be taken to have results compared.

Trying Random Comparisons

Despite this my hopes have revived for DNA testing to help us get back before 1800 with our Colloff Family History. As more and more people have their DNA tested the chance of obtaining a constructive result increases. Unfortunately the present reporting system only looks for matches and to generate a negative result you need to know that somebody of a possible relationship has been tested.

Bearing that in mind I would be grateful if you could let me know if you hear of anyone having been tested, even if only for 12 loci. A comparison could at least to us knowing that there is no possibility of a link in that direction.

Safe Dedicated Storage of our Records.

Guild of One-Name Studies

Well, the records are still there on the web in the Guild of One-Name Studies members' on-line archive, safely stored, but I am afraid that I have not managed to progress matters any further than as I reported in the last issue. Currently only I can access them, but I do intend to change that so that some of you can access them as well.

Home Made DVDs

In the context of storing records, I have now installed a DVD burner on my computer, and when I have mastered both the various types of storage media, and the different formats that can be used, I will be making archive DVDs that play on most modern domestic DVD players. These will contain and show all the *Colloff Cousins* issued so far and other archived data including some of the photos that you have been kind enough to send to me.

It appears that the life of the CD as a storage media is roughly 40 years, and the makers of blank CDs for home manufacture claim a usable life of 100 years. As the DVD is more advanced than the CD and is the latest storage media of the 21st century, I am hoping that a DVD made now will be usable in our descendants hands still in the 22nd century. Previously domestic storage of family history of such ambitious longevity was restricted to photographs and large, heavy, family bibles!

Colloff Photo Archive

I am still working on this idea, but one thing that it would be nice to have perhaps on an archival DVD is a as full a photo gallery as possible of all of today's Colloffs.

Expanding on comments I have made elsewhere in this issue I have in mind photos of people of a more, (...-er how do I put this .. ?) mature age. Within the small family group it is nice to get and share pictures of the latest baby and of the younger members as they are growing up. However once there is a gap of more than two generations between the viewers and the subjects, there is far more general interest in subjects over the age of, say 20. From that age onwards, family traits can be detected and fashions and lifestyles of the time are on display, making such photos of much more historical interest. I would welcome your comments on this idea of a photo archive and my views on the better subjects.

I am still searching for the photo I once had of my grandfather in a bowler hat and Sunday best suit. It would remind me that, working in the building trade as he did, at that time a bowler hat was the equivalent of today's safety helmet.



To help make my point I show here a small photo from 1916 off the **Kohlhoff** web site that fascinated me. It is of three brothers who played in a larger dance band in their spare time and called themselves '**The Knights of Gladness**'. They are Paul, Herman and Frederick Kohlhoff and they played at dances in the Chico area of California around 1916. I like the thought of that, find their instruments interesting, and can study the picture to show what style of clothes young men were wearing at that time.

Even at this scale you can detect white fronted shoes (very *avant garde*, *there were no trainers in those days*) two inch turn-ups on the trousers and only one inch wide lapels to the jackets!

Have we anything similar from the **Colloffs**?

'Bring Out Your Dead!'

This ghoulish cry from the Great Plague of London sums up my next request. Well not really, but almost literally. I am looking for your old photos, especially of older generations, and it arises from two other articles in this issue. (Who Do You Think You Are? And Derek's visit)

First while watching some of the BBC 2's programmes 'Who Do You Think You Are?', Ian Hislop complained that all the photos that his father left were of Ian and his sister. His father had died when Ian was eight and he had little memory of him. When he turned to the photos most of them were of the younger generation, all looking forwards rather than backwards in time and there were some of his mother but very few of his father. In many families, the Hislops and my own included, Dad is usually behind the camera and rarely featured, if at all.

I found Ian Hislop's episode had two surprising similarities and I found them rather disturbing. I noted that his father was a Civil Engineer like myself and had also worked in Nigeria. I worked in Nigeria nearly ten years before his father but it seems that very little had changed. Like me his father had had a black japanned tin trunk which still had Ian's father's things in it. It was to this that Ian went looking for family photos.

I still have one of the two tin trunks that I took to Africa, painted in large letters (conspicuously at the time it was done in 1959) with my name and destination for the voyage home, as you will see from the photo. This was because the route to West Africa was served by the Elder Dempster line using two identical ships the M.V.s Apapa and Ashanti (I think). Sometimes they were both in port in Lagos, one going North and the other South and it was essential to ensure that your luggage went onto the right ship if it was not to end up in South Africa instead of with you back in England.

I suppose that these tin trunks are also outdated, no longer needed as at that time they were the only way to keep out damp, mildew, ants and termites, in the tropics. I have included a picture of mine, purchased in 1958, along with a tropical weight suit, from Bakers of Golden Square, London; when I went to work in Africa.



What struck home to me was Ian Hislop complaining that he had so few pictures of his father, and lots of footage of him and his sister as children, not at all what he was looking for. It reminded me strongly of when I first arrived in Sokoto in Northern Nigeria to work for the Government of Northern Nigeria. In the few weeks whilst I was being kitted out to go off into bush, I was invited out to dinner by several of the other government employees. This was meant very kindly as there was little else to do and I picked up quite a few useful hints and tips about life in the Tropics. What the program also reminded me of was the home movies that were shown every time after dinner at every visit.

Whilst they did show some of the interesting bits of Africa that were around, they mainly featured the children, occasionally the mother, and rarely

the father. Sometimes there were a few scrambled shots of other family members taken during home leave. But as Ian found out, of very little use or interest to the family historian trying to learn about his parents.

As a Civil Engineer myself I would like to have seen some shots of the projects that his father worked on, as I am sure that Ian Hislop would as well. Then I realised that I was as guilty as Hislop senior. When I started to work with Age Concern a few years back, they asked me to provide a photo of myself for simple recognition purposes. After wading

through at least ten packets of photos, I finally found one from about eight years earlier. A subject average of myself in my picture taking of about 0.2%!

Over my work, I do have a little bit of an excuse. Both at British Nuclear Fuels and ICI unauthorised and private photographs were expressly forbidden and cameras not allowed on site, which made things a little awkward. However, nothing but my own inertia stopped me from taking shots from public areas of my work locations.

This reminded me of the pleasure that I got from trying to put names on my Auntie Phyllis's wedding photo. Helen, my Cousin Audrey Palin's niece kindly lent it to me and although it was only a post-card sized print, after scanning and sharpening in the computer I was easily able to recognise my three-year-old self, my mother, father and brother, and very many family members, including Audrey as one of the bridesmaids with her sister Pauline.

My determination to ask for photos again was firmed up when my Cousin Derek asked about my parents' wedding photos for his sister, who believed she was a bridesmaid at it and had no copies of her own. Unfortunately I could not satisfy Derek's request but I can use it to broaden the following request.

I would be very pleased to receive, on loan, any wedding photos that you have, most especially those large family groups, for inclusion, if I get enough, in a special section in the next issue. It would be nice if there are some names to go with the photos, but if they are not there it does not matter. Perhaps another Colloff Cousin will be able to add names. But if not, every photo has some historical social comment encapsulated in it, showing styles of dress and the comparative ages of everybody at that moment in time.

In fact I think that perhaps such wedding group photos may be becoming a thing of the past, indulged in only from the Victorians to us Second Elizabethans. Factors against their survival are the fewer actual weddings and the current advent of mobile-phone cameras giving a plethora of snaps, none of which will be retained! ☺



So please lend me your photos to add to the data locked away in *Colloff Cousins*.

It does not matter if the original photos are small or damaged. This photo of four ladies and its mount is the size of a postcard, but I got this picture of my Grandmother ***Rose (née Hughes) Colloff*** from it.



To encourage you I show below the small picture of Annette's mother that her father carried around in his wallet. He almost destroyed it with great cracks, creases and holes in it. Below is the version I repaired for her to distribute to her mother's three great grandchildren, with a choice of toning to suit all tastes! ☺

Whatever you send to me. I will do my best to repair and reconstruct in the computer, and return fair copies to you along with the originals.



The Last Words

Confirmation. In the last issue I quoted the following from 'TheTimes'

1930 The death on 12 January 1930 was reported of Caroline Eliza Nell, aged 85.

She was the dearly loved wife of Louis Nell of Columbo, Ceylon, and daughter of the Rev. Christian Samuel Kohlhoff of Erungalore, South India.

And I added; (Should this be Bangalore? JC)

Elizabeth has kindly confirmed that 'The Times' was correct and it is Erungalore

News from Portugal. I have had a very English looking Christmas card from John and Mary. They are now in their own house and very much enjoying their move to Portugal.

Very nice to hear from you!

*Well that is the end of another issue, and even more day later than the last,
but that is not sufficient reason to rush off without wishing you all a Very
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year*

John and Annette.

John Colloff, The Haven, 3 Milford Gardens, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5EF, England.

colloff@one-name.org

**P.S. To bring us into the Christmas Spirit I could not resist this
seasonal picture of Audine's two girls Rachel and Breanna.**

