

Don and Lois Colton Family History Pages Christmas 1990 Edition

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!*

We are grateful to count each of you among our circle of family and friends. We are pleased you could join us for our Christmas Newsletter.

*We pray that the blessings of God
Will rest upon you and your loved ones,
In this holiday season
And through the coming years,
That peace and joy will fill your hearts,
And success will come to your efforts.*

That brief message and Christmas prayer could have been written in a card. But much has happened since our last newsletter, and our wishes for you are only a fraction of what we want to remember about ourselves and share with you. We invite you to enjoy with us these pages of our family history.

Five Years in Seattle

In 1990, we celebrated five years at our current address (14140 101 PL NE, Bothell, WA 98011-5237, (206) 823-5221). That is the longest our family has ever been at one address! We plan to stay here many more years. Since becoming a family 15 years ago, we have lived in Utah, Texas, Massachusetts, and Washington.

The Silent Television

We had the mixed blessing several months ago when we suddenly lost the picture and sound in our color TV. The repair shop said it would cost more to fix than to buy a new one. We checked our pockets and decided to "think about it" for a while.

In the mean time, our huge video collection is languishing, and we have been doing less vegetating in front of the tube.

"Come For Family Time"

Most mornings at our home begin with "family time" at 5:50 AM. This includes singing a hymn (all verses, a different one each day), having an opening prayer, reading scriptures (each person reads three minutes, whether that happens to be a single sentence or a whole page), another hymn, and a closing prayer. It takes about 30 minutes. Then Don runs out the door to catch his bus. We recently finished the Old Testament for the second time. We have also read the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and are currently reading the New Testament for the second or third time. It is very pleasing to cover so much territory in a few short years.

Most nights around 7:15, our "family time" includes singing songs (each person gets to choose one, and we sing one verse each), a prayer, a round of hugs and kisses, and finally a chapter from a story. At 7:30, the kids go to their rooms for "quiet time," while exhausted parents try to regain their sanity. At 8:30 on school nights, it's lights out.

As a family, we have recently read the following books. Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, The Boxcar Children (several), Bobsey Twins (Jungle Park), Mystery of the Purple Pirate, and Rats of NIMH (The Secret of NIMH, and Racso and the Rats of NIMH).

Personal Highlights

On each pages that follow, we highlight members of our family, giving name, birthday, likes and dislikes, current activities and accomplishments, and other such information.

The material comes from personal interviews, and is taken largely word for word from each person. We hope you enjoy it.

Don

Don's full name is Larry Don Colton. His birthday is January 30. He was born in Champaign, Illinois. He is thirty-something years old now.

Don teaches Computer Programming at Griffin College, a private school in downtown Seattle, Washington. He started there in June 1988. Before that, he worked various jobs at Microsoft Corporation for three and a half years.

Psychological Types

Larissa points out that Don seems to have a different hobby every year or two. Recently it has been psychological typology. That is the study of personality types in normal human beings.

Don's readings in this area were part of a broad sweep of literature intended to improve his teaching style and effectiveness. Other readings included "The Way It Spoze To Be," by James Hearndon, and "The Craft Of Teaching," by Kenneth Eble. On a recommendation, he bought and read "Gifts Differing," by Myers and Briggs.

"Gifts Differing" struck a responsive chord. It explained in reasonable terms some of Don's unusual experiences. His personality type occurs in only 1% of the population. Through much of childhood, he had few friends that were like him. The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) divides personalities into 16 types.

Back to the bookstore, Don read other MBTI-based books, "Please Understand Me," by Kiersey and Bates, and "Type Talk," by Kroeger. He convinced his students to take the Kiersey version of the MBTI. They were delighted. Many said it was the first personality description that really fit.

At home, Don talked Lois into learning about it. It provides a framework for explaining personality conflicts in the neighborhood and at

school. Parts of it may even be true!

Here is the run-down of personality types in our family, as best we can guess today. Don is INTJ. Lois is INFJ. Larissa is ESTJ. Joseph is INTJ. Benjamin is INFJ. Daniel is ESFP. Stacia is ENFJ.

If any of you are interested in this kind of personality analysis, Don would be interested to hear about it.

Continuing Education

Don continues to educate himself. He is probably doing a lot more now, as a college professor, than he found time for as a computer programmer or manager.

On a regular basis, Don studies the scriptures. He is currently reading in Exodus (Old Testament) and Ether (Book of Mormon).

Since 1984, Don has been reading the dictionary, more or less every day. He is now in the V's, and plans to finish by 1994. The motivation was to understand root meanings of words, to develop an intuitive feel. Don is pleased with the results. Other benefits include correcting wrong perceptions about words, and generally increasing Don's vocabulary. Bring on the Reader's Digest Word Power Quizzes. Don is ready!

Don's interest has been drawn to the classics. He recently read Dante's Inferno and Purgatorio. He dabbled briefly in Milton, and found the going a bit slow. He currently studies the "Dictionary of Cultural Literacy," which promises to make Don a cultural luminary. (Turning a sow's ear into a silk purse?)

Other Interests and Activities

On the Self Discipline front, Don is into Time and Resource Management. He may not get things done any faster, but he is starting to get a feel for how long it takes, at least.

At Church, Don served three years as Cubmaster, and then one year as Executive Secretary to the Bishop and Priesthood Executive Committee. He is now serving as Ward Clerk and Meetinghouse Computer Specialist. Don continues his scouting activities by serving on the scout committee for troop 616, to which Joseph belongs.

On the health and well-being front, Don is working to keep his Cholesterol level in check. It has been somewhat over 200, but now is in line. Exercise

and good eating have paid this benefit, but the will power is waning, and Don is sometimes known to go a whole week without real exercise, and to indulge in candy (but it's Christmas...). Don was diagnosed two or three years ago as having Asthma, and an extreme allergy to dust mites. So, he takes Ventolin (Albuterol) when he is short of breath, and Beconase Aqueous nasal spray to overcome swelling of the nasal tissues. Don actually breathes through his nose most of the time now, and hardly ever did when growing up. Lois says the Beconase smells awful. Don can't tell.

Don also provides some computer support to his father's family history research. The family data bank prints out to nearly 1000 pages, with 50 to 100 persons per page.

Lois

Lois's full name is Lois Ann Colton. Her birthday is December 11. She was born in Richland, Washington. She is thirty-something years old now.

Lois raises five children (soon to be six). She has selected the names John Alden Colton and Alyssa Janae Colton as the primary choices for the newcomer. We expect the addition sometime around June 1991.

Lois likes picture puzzles during the holidays. Don gave her a 2000-piece puzzle of a stained glass window. After many hours, the border is 98% done, but it is slow going. Lois has never done a 2000-piece puzzle before, and now she knows why. After seven days, there are only three pieces of the border missing!

On the home front, Lois has been dabbling in wallpaper. In the past month or so, she has papered Stacia's bedroom and most of the kitchen. Don helped some, and he didn't mess things up too badly.

During a recent windstorm, we lost our huge willow tree. A main root snapped, and over it went, crushing the neighbors fence. Lois, the trooper, was out the next day or two chopping off the parts outside our yard and stacking them up. Good exercise. Then Aubrey and Doris, Lois's parents, came with a chain saw and

sliced the rest of the tree into firewood. We also got some firewood from the trimming of our maple tree.

At church, Lois served recently as a counselor in the Young Women's presidency, and is now serving as a substitute teacher in the Primary. She has also been a Cub Scout Den Leader and a counselor in the Relief Society.

Larissa

Larissa's full name is Larissa Ann Colton. Her birthday is May 7, 1977. She was born in Provo, Utah. She is 13 years old now.

Larissa is in the eighth grade. She attends at Kamiakin Junior High school in Kirkland, Washington. Her favorite classes are Algebra, Drama, Home & Family, P.E., and English. Her less favorite classes are U.S. History and Science.

Reading

Larissa likes reading books and magazines. She averages about three books a week. Some of her favorite series are Sweet Valley High (she has read 64 of them), Sweet Valley Twins (she has read about 45 of them), and Babysitter's Club (she has read 29 of them). She also likes mystery and adventure. That includes the Hardy Boy series, the New Bobsey Twins series, the Three Investigators series, and some Choose Your Own Adventure books.

Music

Larissa likes listening to music. Her favorite radio station is KPLZ-FM 101.5. Some of her favorite groups are Wilson Phillips and Sweet Sensation. Her favorite singers include Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul, Tommy Page, and Stevie Bee.

Movies

Larissa likes many different kinds of movies. Here are some recent movies she has enjoyed. The Little Mermaid, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Return to Snowy River, Parent Trap III, Indiana Jones and the Lost Ark. The Hunt for Red

October, China Cry, and The Burbs. One movie she wants to see is Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

Active Sports

Larissa enjoys playing active games, such as floor hockey, volleyball, softball, track, swimming, and basketball. Right now in P.E. she is playing volleyball. She was one of the first people chosen for her group because she is good at it. Some people consider her a jock-ette.

Environmental Impact

Larissa rearranges her bedroom about once every two months. She gets bored of it quickly, and decides it is time for a change. Generally her room stays pretty clean, probably because she rearranges it so often, and it needs to be clean before you can move the furniture. One major rearrangement that is coming up will be around her 14th birthday or soon after, when she acquires a roommate, who will be a newborn brother or sister.

Sleep

Larissa loves to get her sleep whenever she can get it. Which she doesn't get much of, because she gets up at 5:50 every day. So she doesn't take her Saturdays for granted. They are highly valued.

Food

Eating is another favorite. She does not eat as much because she is trying to shrink her stomach, but she still bakes cookies, cakes, and pies for everyone else (and makes sure to taste-test them all). Of course, she calls it "homework" for her Home & Family class.

Clothes

Larissa's dress code includes many things. She normally does not care what people think of whatever she wears. She wears really wild clothes. Among her favorite items are vests, stretch pants, sweatshirts, and tee-shirts. She normally wears pinks and purples and blues. Purple is her main dressing color this year. She buys a lot of her own clothes, but a lot of her school clothes were paid for by money her mother gave her at the start of the school year.

Grades and School

Larissa likes to get A's, but is usually never terribly sad if she gets a B+ or something, but she always tries to improve it. At this moment she has an A in each of her classes. Last year, second semester, she also had straight A's. Naturally, that encourages her parents to trust her study habits, even though it seems strange to them that one would study with one ear to the telephone, and the other ear to the radio. She is trying to keep it going until 12th grade, so she can graduate with a 4.0 grade average. She is hoping for a scholarship to Brigham Young University. She has wanted to go to BYU since she was very young. Her desire to go increased the last time she saw BYU, which was about summer of sixth grade. Currently, she is working very hard on a U.S. History project with one of her friends, Ben.

Recently Larissa was invited to compete against four other people for a position in the Humanities program at Kamiakin. This is a high honor.

Joseph

Larissa loves all of her brothers and sisters, but especially Joseph. They feel very close, probably because they are only a year apart. Joseph often shares his feelings with her, and she is pleased that he trusts her. She tries to help him and she usually knows what to tell him.

Larissa was especially happy that Joseph voted for her as a Natural Helper. Natural Helpers are student volunteers who help other students with their problems. Many students talk to the Natural Helpers when they need help.

Young Women

Larissa is the president of her class (the Beehives) in Young Women at church. She likes attending and planning activities. She spends about three hours each week with the Young Women of the ward, not including time on Sunday.

The Beehive Class is lucky enough to plan the Young Women and Young Men activity for December! Their theme is usually Christmas.

Joseph

Joseph's full name is Joseph Wright Colton. His birthday is June 14, 1978. He was born in Lubbock, Texas. He is 12 years old now.

Joseph is in Seventh Grade. He attends at Kamiakin Junior High School in Kirkland, Washington. His favorite classes are Technology, Computers, Science, Math, and Language Arts. His less favorite class is Social Studies. Due to his Home and Family class, Joseph has been baking a lot lately, and some of us are getting a little fatter because of him. He feels no guilt.

Joseph Likes to Read

Joseph likes to read all day long. Some of the books he has read recently include: Call It Courage, The Door in the Wall, Justin Morgan Had A Horse, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, The Karate Kid Part III, Johnny Tremain, The Sign of the Beaver, My Side of the Mountain, How to Eat Fried Worms, The Secret of NIMH, and The Celery Stalks at Midnight.

In the Three Investigators series, Joseph has read #2 Mystery of the Stuttering Parrot, #5 Mystery of the Vanishing Treasure, #6 Secret of Skeleton Island, #30 Secret of Shark Reef, #32 Mystery of the Blazing Cliffs, #33 Mystery of the Purple Pirate, #35 Mystery of the Kidnapped Whale, #36 Mystery of the Missing Mermaid, and #38 Mystery of the Smashing Glass.

In the Hardy Boys series, Joseph has read #11 Brother Against Brother, #21 Street Spies, #25 The Borderline Case, and #26 Trouble In The Pipeline.

Other Activities

Joseph likes LEGOs, the plastic building blocks. He has 80 men, the last he counted, 15 horses, three parrots, one ghost, and maybe 3000 or 4000 building pieces.

Joseph shares a room with his legos and books, and fifty or more dead flies on his window sill. He enjoys sleeping in the top bunk of a bunk bed. The legos sleep on the bottom bunk, which does not have a

matress.

Joseph climbs trees, catches fish with his bare hands ("polar bear" hands). He enjoys riding a bicycle.

He is in scouts, holds the rank of First Class, and is working on the rank of Star. He has two merit badges, Pioneering and Orienteering. He attended summer camp on Hood Canal (a finger of Puget Sound). His favorite scout game is Capture The Flag.

He likes to draw. He took an Art class at Lake Washington Vocational Technical High School during the summer of 1989.

He likes playing games with his daddy.

He loves computers. He does some computer programming in BASIC. He likes games by Sierra, particularly Kings Quest and Space Quest.

Ben

Ben's full name is Benjamin David Colton. His birthday is June 19, 1980. He was born in Lubbock, Texas. He is years 10 old now. We still call him Benjamin, but away from home he prefers Ben. He started going by Ben when other kids started calling him "Ben-german" rather than Benjamin.

Benjamin is in the fourth grade. He attends at Helen Keller Elementary school in Kirkland, Washington. His favorite subjects are math, science, health, social studies, physical education, and library. His less favorite classes are spelling, reading, study skills, and music.

Benjamin likes eating. For example, pizza wheels, pizza, hamburgers, and hot dogs.

Some of his friends are Shawn Collett and Jason Dietzel.

His favorite toy is LEGOs. And he likes playing with trains.

Benjamin enjoys playing in the snow. He likes throwing snowballs at other people. Today it is snowy out.

Benjamin likes playing with the computer. He likes Space Quest II (by Sierra). He likes listening to the music the computer can play.

Benjamin likes listening to stories. He enjoyed "Racso and the Rats of NIMH" and how it tells about the

adventures that they go through.

Benjamin likes playing board games. Some of his favorites are RISK (by Parker Brothers) and TACTICS (by Avalon Hill).

Benjamin likes telling jokes. Here is one:

Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue,
I may look funny,
But so do you!

Daniel

Daniel's full name is Daniel Thomas Colton. His birthday is January 28, 1983. He was born in Concord, Massachusetts. He is seven years old now.

Daniel is in the second grade. He attends at Helen Keller Elementary school in Kirkland, Washington. His favorite subjects are rocks, making book covers, making a book about Christmas, reading, writing, spelling, math, fossils, crystals, agates, arrow heads, math timer (time tests on math), computer.

Daniel has many friends. Some from school (possibly in his class) are Colin DeWalt, Paul Quiz, Matt Story, Aaron Robinson, Geoffrey Turner, Beau Cannon, Andy Lewis, Kyle Hancock, and Adam Casias. One church friend is Shawn Collett.

Daniel has some toys. His favorites are Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Teenage Mutant Ninja Rabbits, including: New Michaelangelo, New Donatello, New Rafael, New Leonardo, New Casey Jones, Leatherhead, Bee-Bop, Rock Steady, Krang, Rat King, and Splinter.

Daniel likes candy. He likes bubble-taste, bonkers, taffy, and tapioca.

Stacia

Stacia's full name is Stacia Marie Colton. Her birthday is August 13, 1986. She was born in Kirkland, Washington. She is four years old now.

Stacia has long asserted she was in

preschool, even though she stayed home all day. She was probably referring to a Primary class she attends at church with other children her same age. Recently she did actually start attending preschool at the local high school. She drew a pretty picture of a ballerina. She got some mail from her preschool. She plays games sitting around in circles. She likes one where she can be any animal she wants. She likes another one where you wake up when it is dark and go to sleep when the lights are one.

Stacia likes ponies. She has more than a dozen, and plays with them frequently. She likes playing with her dollies. She likes playing with her teddy bear. Stacia likes sharing her toys.

Stacia likes sitting on her heat vent, especially when it is cold outside. Stacia likes getting dressed by herself. She likes her dress.

Stacia likes to eat. She likes macaroni and cheese.

Stacia likes playing with Aaron's pet kitty. (It is Aaron's Dad's, and they have a garage!) Stacia's friends are Tettie and Andrea.

Thanks

That's it for this time. If you read this far, you must have enjoyed it, or else you are doing a school report on Lifestyles of the Poor and Obscure. In either case, we are pleased to count you among our friends, and hope to hear from you occasionally.

If you are ever in the area, a visit is always welcome! - The Coltons