

To Benjamin Coleman Esq^r —
the Veteran Champion of Spiritualism
with the best regards of the author.

A. P. Blavatsky

New York
1877.

THE AUTHOR

Dedicates these Volumes

TO THE

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,

WHICH WAS FOUNDED AT NEW YORK, A.D. 1875,

TO STUDY THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH THEY TREAT.

Lizzie C. Beckers

1877

*“Isis Unveiled” Vol. 1 & 2
by H. P. Blavatsky*

Second edition Nov. 1877

*This copy, which contains a table of contents,
is signed by H. P. Blavatsky with the inscription:*

*“To Benjamin Coleman Esq.
the veteran champion of Spiritualism
with the best regards of the author.”
H. P. Blavatsky
New York 1877*

Benjamin Coleman, known as the “Father of English Spiritualism”, has one very brief mention in Vol. 1 pg. 53 of H. P. B.’s Collected Writings. He was a very well-known spiritualist of the day and was the author of “Spiritualism in America” published in 1861.

refeehbritten.org/docs/benjamin_coleman_biographical_summary)

This book also contains two favorable newspaper clippings of book reviews pasted into the front from the New York Herald and the Philadelphia Press. Theosophical historian and author Michael Gomes, having examined them, believes that H. P. B. herself has cut these out and pasted them into the book before sending it to Mr. Coleman, as she was well known for her “scrapbooking” of articles, reviews, news items, letters to the editor, etc. that she kept for her own records.

Collected Writings VOLUME I 1875 [H.P.B.’S ROLE AT THE EDDYS’ HOMESTEAD]

[In H.P.B.’s Scrapbook, Vol. I, pp. 11-12, a cutting is pasted from The Spiritualist of January 1, 1875. It is entitled “Materialized Spirit Forms” and is an article written by **Benjamin Coleman** who deals with Robert Dale Owen’s opinion on the genuineness of the phenomena of materialization. The following parts were commented upon by H.P.B.:

“The Countess’ presence at several of the Eddy séances led to most surprising manifestations, including the appearance of several spirits of persons known to her in foreign countries.”

H.P.B. marked this sentence with blue pencil and added at the side in pen and ink:]

Yes; for I have called them out MYSELF.

H.P.B.

[The last sentence of the article: “These American facts, coupled with our own, should have an important bearing in correcting the errors of both science and theology”—was continued by H.P.B. who added in pen and ink:]

—and—Spiritualism please add. Belief in the agency of “Spirits” or disembodied souls in these phenomena is as foolish & irrational as belief in the agency of the Holy Ghost in the fabrication of Jesus if the latter ever lived.

H. P. Blavatsky.

Benjamin Coleman (1808–1883) was a London-based writer, lecturer, and promoter of Spiritualism in Britain. He is sometimes referred to as “*the Father of English Spiritualists*” because of his early and energetic role in introducing and popularizing Spiritualist ideas in England.

Who Benjamin Coleman Was

- **Background:** Born in 1808, Coleman became a businessman and later devoted himself to Spiritualism.
- **Role in Spiritualism:** He was one of the first to organize lectures, demonstrations, and publications on Spiritualist phenomena in England during the mid-19th century.
- **Publications:** He wrote pamphlets and articles defending Spiritualism against critics, and helped spread accounts of séances and mediumship.
- **Recognition:** His advocacy earned him the nickname “*Father of English Spiritualists*” because he gave the movement structure and visibility in Britain.
- **Death:** He passed away on June 19TH, 1879.

Relation to Blavatsky

- Coleman and Blavatsky were **contemporaries** in the broader Spiritualist and occult milieu of the 19th century.
- However, Coleman was primarily associated with **Spiritualism in England**, while Blavatsky (1831–1891) founded the **Theosophical Society** in 1875 in New York.
- There is **no evidence of a close personal connection** between them. Coleman’s work laid groundwork for public interest in spiritual phenomena, which indirectly created a receptive environment for Blavatsky’s later Theosophical teachings.

✅ **Key takeaway:** Benjamin Coleman was a pioneering English Spiritualist, nicknamed “*Father of English Spiritualists*.” He was not directly tied to Blavatsky, but his efforts in popularizing Spiritualism in Britain helped shape the cultural context in which Theosophy later gained traction.