

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Kirk D. Lyons
Title:	[Waco] Branch Davidians: Kirk D. Lyons Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1979-1998
Bulk Dates:	1993-1995
Abstract:	The [Waco] Branch Davidians: Kirk D. Lyons Collection consists of materials collected by Kirk D. Lyons concerning the Branch Davidian sect. This collection includes legal documents, secondary literature, and field manuals that describe American military procedures in the early 1990s.
Accession #:	3671
Extent:	6.3 linear feet (14 manuscript boxes)
Language:	Collection materials are in English.
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

The religious sect known as the Branch Davidians was the product of a reform movement within the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Problems began when a group of Adventists, led by Bulgarian immigrant Victor Houteff, began to challenge the traditional hierarchy of the denomination. Houteff claimed to have received personal revelations from God and published his controversial views in a book entitled The Shepherd's Rod (1932). Houteff and his followers believed that the spiritual gift of prophecy was necessary for effective leadership so that King David's earthly kingdom could be re-established on earth prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ. After the leaders of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church excommunicated his sect, Houteff moved to Waco, Texas, and continued to preach until his death in 1955.

Upon Houteff's death, the mantle of leadership fell to Benjamin Roden and his wife Lois. This couple led the Branch Davidians well into the 1980s. Some of their work including sermons, pamphlets, and personal correspondence are found in the Mark Swett Collection.

The 1980s brought about division within the Branch Davidian sect. A newcomer named Vernon Howell had joined the Branch in 1981. Three years later, a schism occurred within the Branch Davidians, with Howell leading his own group of followers to a new site in Palestine, Texas. Through a series of confrontations between Howell and George Roden, the son of Ben and Lois Roden, control of the Branch Davidians' headquarters in Waco passed to Howell who legally changed his name to David Koresh in 1990. Rumors concerning polygamy, abuse, and arms dealing within the Branch Davidian group aroused the suspicions of the federal government. Thus, federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives began to monitor the group.

In response to a stockpiling of illegal weapons, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives secured a search warrant for the investigation of the Branch Davidians' compound near Waco, Texas. From 1993 February 28th until April 19th, Branch Davidians under the leadership of David Koresh resisted federal agents' attempts to storm their Mount Carmel Center. The fifty-day siege ended when the compound erupted in flames, killing David Koresh and most of his followers.

Kirk D. Lyons grew up in Texas as the son of an Air Force officer. From a young age, Lyons was confronted with the issue of racial equality which was realized through the forced integration of public schools. Upon graduation from the University of Texas, Lyons attended the law school at the University of Houston. His career as a lawyer reflected his inclinations towards white supremacist and neo-Confederate groups. In the early 1990s, Lyons became involved with the CAUSE Foundation (Canada, Australia, United States, South Africa, and Europe) that sought to defend perceived white majority rights. It was this organization that led the defense of the Waco Branch Davidians following the Siege of 1993. Lyons himself had convinced fellow Houston attorney Dick DeGuerin to represent David Koresh during the 50-day siege.

Since the burning of the Mount Carmel Center, Lyons has continued to defend controversial causes. He aided in the defense of those implicated in the Oklahoma City Bombing as well as countless cases of racially-motivated murders. After the CAUSE Foundation shut down in 1998, Lyons shifted his attentions to the Southern Legal Resource Center which is concerned with fighting for perceived Southern rights, particularly those related to the Confederate flag. Lyons currently lives in Black Mountain, North Carolina, and is involved with the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization.

Sources:

“In the Lyons Den.” *Intelligence Report* vol. 99 (2000 Summer).

<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2000/summer/in-the-lyons-den?page=0,0>. Accessed 2011 August 29.

Kerstetter, Todd. “That’s Just the American Way: The Branch Davidian Tragedy and Western Religious History.” *Western Historical Quarterly* vol. 35, no. 4 (2004 Winter): 453-471.

Lawson, Ronald. “Seventh-Day Adventist Responses to Branch Davidian Notoriety: Patterns of Diversity within a Sect Reducing Tension with Society.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* vol. 34, no. 3 (1995 September): 323-341.

“Local Man Offers Insight into Waco.” *Religion News Report* vol. 4, no. 223 (2000 July 4). <http://www.apologeticsindex.org/news/an200704.html#top>. Accessed 2011 August 3.

Rosenfeld Jean E., Mary Z. Stange, and Ivan Strenski. “Understanding Waco.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* vol. 62, no. 3 (1994 Autumn): 919-946.

Wright, Stuart A. “A Decade after Waco: Reassessing Crisis Negotiations at Mount Carmel in Light of New Government Disclosures.” *Nova Religio* vol. 7, no. 2 (2003 November): 101-110.

Scope and Content:

The [Waco] Branch Davidians: Kirk D. Lyons Collection was received as a gift from Kirk D. Lyons in 2003 June. The collection begins with legal briefs and reports of various court cases brought against the surviving members of the Branch Davidian sect. This series comprises the majority of the collection, particularly a case in which the United States prosecuted 12 leading Davidians in 1994 (*USA vs. Branch et al*). The other half of the collection contains secondary literature that was generated in reaction to the Waco Siege of 1993. Much of this is sympathetic towards the Davidians.

Organization and Arrangement:

The [Waco] Branch Davidians: Kirk D. Lyons Collection is arranged into 2 series: I. Legal Documents and II. Literary Productions.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

Copyright is retained by the author (s) of this collection for materials they have authored or otherwise produced. After the lifetime of the creator (s), copyright passes to Baylor University. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

All requests for copying materials must be submitted to The Texas Collection in writing. Please use the Request Form for Copying Materials sheet.

Index Terms:

Branch Davidians.

Davidianer.

Koresh, David, 1959-1993.

Mount Carmel Center, Waco, Tex.

Seventh-Day Adventists--History.

Waco Branch Davidian Disaster, Tex., 1993.

Waco Branch Davidian Disaster, Tex., 1993--investigation.

Related Materials:

[Waco] Branch Davidians, Robert F. "Bob" Darden Collection, #2334.

[Waco] Branch Davidians, Don Marion Collection, #3097.

[Waco] Branch Davidians, Kenneth G.C. Newport Collection, #3485.

[Waco] Branch Davidians, Joe Robert Collection, #3205.

[Waco] Branch Davidians, Amo Paul Bishop Roden Collection, #3312.

[Waco] Branch Davidians, Mark Swett Collection, #3520.

[Waco] Branch Davidians, William Smith Collection, #3194.

Separated Materials: None.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	Gift from Kirk D. Lyons, received on 2006 June 13.
Citation:	[Waco] Branch Davidians: Kirk D. Lyons Collection, Accession, #3671, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Thomas DeShong, 2011 August 31.

Container List:

Series I: Legal Documents, 1993-1996, undated, 4.95 linear feet (11 document boxes).

This legal series, which constitutes the majority of the Kirk D. Lyons Collection, chronicles various judicial cases that stemmed from the events of the Waco Siege of 1993. *USA vs. Branch et al.* (1994), a case in which the United States prosecuted 12 of the most influential survivors of the Branch Davidian sect, forms the heart of the series. This series is in excellent condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Legal Documents: Brief: Richard Flamm: Brief of <i>Amicus Curiae</i>	1996 October
	2	Legal Documents: Brief: "Investigation into the Activities of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Toward the Branch Davidians"	1996 August
	3	Legal Documents: Brief: Gordon Novel: "Phase 1 Investigation"	1995 February
	4	Legal Documents: Brief: Gordon Novel: "Supplemental to Report"	1995 February
	5	Legal Documents: Brief: Alan Stone: "Report and Recommendations Concerning the Handling of Incidents Such as the Branch Davidian Standoff in Waco, Texas"	1993 November
	6	Legal Documents: Brief: "Ruby Ridge"	Undated
	7	Legal Documents: Brief: <i>USA vs. Schroeder</i>	1993 March
2	1	Legal Documents: Brief: <i>USA vs. Weaver and Harris</i> : (1 of 2)	1993
	2	Legal Documents: Brief: <i>USA vs. Weaver and Harris</i> : (2 of 2)	1993
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Pre-Trial	1994 January 6
	4	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (1 of 33)	1994 January 10
	5	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (2 of 33)	1994 January 11
3	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (3 of 33)	1994 January 12
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (4 of 33)	1994 January 13
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (5 of 33)	1994 January 14

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
4	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (6 of 33)	1994 January 18
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (7 of 33)	1994 January 19
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (8 of 33)	1994 January 20
5	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (9 of 33)	1994 January 21
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (10 of 33)	1994 January 24
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (11 of 33)	1994 January 25
6	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (12 of 33)	1994 January 25
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (13 of 33)	1994 January 27
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (14 of 33)	1994 January 28
7	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (15 of 33)	1994 January 31
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (16 of 33)	1994 February 1
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (17 of 33)	1994 February 2
8	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (18 of 33)	1994 February 3
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (19 of 33)	1994 February 4
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (20 of 33)	1994 February 7
	4	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (21 of 33)	1994 February 8
9	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (22 of 33)	1994 February 9
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (23 of 33)	1994 February 10
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (24 of 33)	1994 February 11
	4	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (25 of 33)	1994 February 14
	5	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (26 of 33)	1994 February 15
10	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (27 of 33)	1994 February 16

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
10	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (28 of 33)	1994 February 17
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (29 of 33)	1994 February 18
	4	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (30 of 33)	1994 February 22
	5	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (31 of 33)	1994 February 23
11	1	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (32 of 33)	1994 February 25-26
	2	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Trial: (33 of 33)	undated
	3	Legal Documents: Book: <i>USA vs. Branch et al.</i> Sentencing	1994 June 16-17

Series II: Literary Productions, 1979-1998, undated, 1.8 linear feet (4 document boxes).

This series contains books and articles written as a reaction to the Waco Siege of 1993 as well as military field manuals that detail the protocol that the American soldiers were expected to follow in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Most of the series is in excellent condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
11	4	Literary Productions: Postcard: "Waco the Big Lie"	undated
	5	Literary Productions: Article: Stuart Wright: "Anatomy of a Government Massacre"	1998
	6	Literary Productions: Article: Gary Null: "Holocaust of Waco"	1995
	7	Literary Productions: Article: Michael Reagan: "The Waco Cover-Up"	1995 September
	8	Literary Productions: Article: "The Waco Search Warrant"	Undated
	9	Literary Productions: Article: Dick J. Reavis: "What Really Happened at Waco?"	1995 July
	10	Literary Productions: Article: Society of Professional Journalists: "Waco: What Went Right, What Went Wrong"	1993
12	1	Literary Productions: Book: Paul Blackman: <i>Affidavit to Kill</i>	1993
	2	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Civil Disturbance</i>	1985 November

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
12	3	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Explosives and Demolitions</i>	1992
	4	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Grenades and Pyrotechnic Signals</i>	1988 December
	5	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Military Explosives</i>	1984 September
13	1	Literary Productions: Book: US Air Force: <i>Military Operations in Low Intensity Conflict</i>	1990
	2	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain</i>	1979
	3	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Contamination Avoidance</i>	1986
	4	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense, Chemical Warfare, Smoke, and Flame Operations</i>	1991
	5	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Protection</i>	1985
	6	Literary Productions: Book: US Military: <i>Potential Military Chemical/Biological Agents and Compounds</i>	1990
	7	Literary Productions: Book: US Army: <i>Psychological Operations</i>	1993
14	1	Literary Productions: Book: Ron Cole: <i>Sinister Twilight</i>	1994
	2	Literary Productions: Book: Maurice Cox: <i>Sun Reflection Geometry: Draft</i>	1998
	3	Literary Productions: Book: Maurice Cox: <i>Sun Reflection Geometry: Final Copy</i>	1998
	4	Literary Productions: Book: Paul Blackman and David Kopel: <i>The God Who Answers by Fire</i>	1994
	5	Literary Productions: Book: Carol Moore: <i>The Massacre of the Branch Davidians</i>	1994
	6	Literary Productions: Book: Ron Cole: <i>God Rocks: Draft</i>	1993
	7	Literary Productions: Book: Ron Cole: <i>What Happened in Waco, Texas? (a.k.a. God Rocks): Final Copy</i>	1993

Notes:

Much of the original classification has been maintained in the processing of this collection. The legal documents and literary productions have been organized alphabetically according to the title of the brief, article, or book.

Note that folders 14:6 and 14:7 are the same text. *God Rocks* was the initial draft of the work. The revised edition was renamed *What Happened in Waco, Texas?*

Lyons shared a personal tie with William Smith who contributed another Waco Branch Davidian collection. See the [Waco] Branch Davidians: William Smith Collection for more information on the CAUSE Foundation.

The Kirk D. Lyons Collection provides an excellent overview of the legal proceedings following the Waco Siege of 1993. For a more comprehensive view of the history of the Waco Branch Davidian sect, see [Waco] Branch Davidians: Joe Robert Collection. This includes significant primary source material from the Roden family who led the sect prior to the arrival of Vernon Howell (a.k.a. David Koresh).

For more information on David Koresh and the Siege itself, see [Waco] Branch Davidians: Mark Swett Collection. This collection also includes a vast amount of audio cassettes and video tapes related to the Waco Siege.