



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Lee Hancock Collection

1975-2004 (Bulk dates: 1993-2000)

Collection SWWC-099

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Hancock, John Lee
Title:	Guide to the Lee Hancock Collection
Dates:	1975-2004 (Bulk dates: 1993-2000)
Abstract:	Documents, clippings, videos, and other research materials represent journalist Lee Hancock's research into the events of the Branch Davidian standoff near Waco in 1993. The materials are arranged into the following five series: Non-Branch Davidian Incidents, Media Coverage, Investigations, House of Representatives Hearings, and Lawsuits.
Identification:	SWWC-099
Extent:	10 Linear Feet, 20 boxes
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Historical Notes

On February 28, 1993 the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) attempted to issue an arrest warrant for Vernon Wayne Howell and a search warrant for the Mount Carmel Center near Waco, Texas on the basis of illegal weapons possession. The Branch Davidians in Mount Carmel and the ATF began a shootout that ended in the deaths of four ATF agents and six Branch Davidians. The occupants of Mount Carmel and government agencies remained in a standoff for fifty-one days until the FBI launched CS gas into the compound in an effort to make the Branch Davidians exit. The CS gas assault on April 19, 1993 ended in a fire in which seventy-six people inside Mount Carmel died, including twenty-three children.

After the fire a series of lawsuits and investigations began, including the 1994 criminal trial of the Branch Davidians, the 1995 congressional hearings, and a wrongful-death civil trial in 2000. The ATF and other government agencies were investigated by the FBI, the Texas Rangers and others for their handling of the raid, the standoff and the tear-gas assault.

As a journalist for the *Dallas Morning News*, Lee Hancock reported about the Branch Davidian standoff near Waco from the first day of the siege on February 28, 1993 until the fire on April 19, 1993. She continued to follow the story for the next ten years, including covering the subsequent investigations and trials. Through her sources, Hancock was able to retrieve documents from government agencies and release important information to the public, including the 1999 revelation that pyrotechnic CS gas was used on the last day of the siege before the fire.

After the tenth anniversary of the April 19, 1993 Mount Carmel fire, Dr. Catherine Wessinger, Professor of the History of Religions at Loyola University in New Orleans, contacted Hancock for an article Wessinger was writing about Branch Davidian standoff coverage in the media. At that point, Hancock had turned her focus to covering other stories, so she donated her research materials to Wessinger. Dr. Wessinger placed the materials in the Loyola University Archives in 2004 where initial processing of the collection began. Additional materials from Lee Hancock were donated in 2006.

In 2009, Dr. Wessinger met Wittliff Collections archivist Joel Minor at a memorial in Waco, and was impressed with his work on the Dick Reavis Papers and the *Ashes of Waco* digital

collection. Since the Loyola University Archives had not completed processing the collection, Wessinger recommended to Lee Hancock that the collection be moved to Texas State University. The collection was relocated to Texas State University in late 2010 and processed in 2011.

Dr. Catherine Wessinger wrote two articles related to the Hancock collection, “The Lee Hancock Collection: Federal and State Materials on the Branch Davidian Case,” and “Deaths in the Fire at the Branch Davidians’ Mount Carmel: Who Bears Responsibility?” Both articles can be found in the November 2009 issue of *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, volume 13, number 2. It is available in the Wittliff Collections.

Today, Lee Hancock continues as a journalist at the *Dallas Morning News*. Besides the Branch Davidian standoff, Ms. Hancock has written investigative articles about such topics as the April 19, 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and the November 5, 2009 Fort Hood Shootings

Sources: Catherine Wessinger correspondence with Maggie DeBrecht, Wessinger’s article “The Lee Hancock Collection,” and materials from the Lee Hancock Research Collection.

Scope and Contents

The Lee Hancock Collection spans 1975-2004, with the bulk of materials covering 1993, 1995, 1999, and 2000. The collection is comprised of documents, clippings, videos, and other materials that Lee Hancock collected relating to the Branch Davidian standoff near Waco, Texas in 1993 and subsequent events. Except for the Media Coverage series, most materials within folders have been left in Hancock's original order and arrangement. Therefore, there is some overlap of materials between folders, and some variance in the chronology of documents. Some date ranges span several years but only contain a few documents from each year. Folder titles in quotations are original folder titles written by Hancock.

The collection is arranged into the following five series: Non-Branch Davidian Incidents, Media Coverage, Investigations, House of Representatives Hearings, and Lawsuits.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Lee Hancock to Loyola University, 2004 and 2006, transferred to The Wittliff Collections with Hancock's permission, 2010.

Separated Materials

Books in the Lee Hancock Collection have been cataloged and the records are searchable through the Alkek Library online catalog.

Preferred Citation

Lee Hancock Collection, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use:

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws.

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Investigative reporting
- Journalism
- Waco Branch Davidian Disaster, Tex., 1993
- Women journalists

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Non-Branch Davidian Incidents, 1975-1996

Box	Folder	
1	1	"MOVE Documents/Articles", 1975-1996
1	2	News Releases-FBI, Atlanta/Talladega Prison Riots, 1983-1991
1	3	"HRT Atlanta/Talladega Prison Riots", 1987-1993
1	4	Federal Raid on Ruby Ridge, ID/Randy Weaver, 1992-1993, 1995
1	5	The Federal Raid on Ruby Ridge, ID: Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Government Information of the Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate One Hundred Fourth Congress First Session on Examining Certain Federal Law Enforcement Actions with Regard to the 1992 Incident at Ruby Ridge, ID, September-October 1995
1	6	Oklahoma Bombing/Timothy James McVeigh, April-December 1995

Series II: Media Coverage, 1983-2000, undated, bulk: 1993-1995, 1999-2000

Lee Hancock Articles, 1992-2000, undated

1	7	"Hancock Articles", March 1992, March-August 1993
2	1	"Hancock Articles", May-June 1993, January-June 1994
2	2	"Waco Clips-99" Hancock Articles. October 1995, July-December 1999, February 2000, undated. Included is a request by William H. Zeliff, Jr. for documents from Attorney General Janet Reno on October 19, 1995., 1995, 1999-2000
2	3	Bound Lee Hancock Articles, July 1999-June 2000
2	4	"Waco/Davidians DMN[Dallas Morning News]-2000 Coverage" January, March, November 2000. Also included is a response by Maurice Cox, dated November 20, 2000, to the John C. Danforth report, 2000
2	5	"93-94 Davidian Clips Standoff/Trial" March-October 1993, January-February 1994. Includes a copy of the May 3, 1993 TIME Magazine, "Tragedy in Waco.", 1993-1994
3	1	"93-94 Davidian Clips Standoff/Trial" March-October 1993, January-February 1994. Includes a copy of the May 3, 1993 TIME Magazine, "Tragedy in Waco.", 1993-1994
3	2	Cult Standoff Day 1 and 2, March 1st-2nd 1993. Includes a typed listing of articles from March 1st until October 11th, 1993
3	3	"Cult Standoff March", March 1993
3	4	"Cult Tragedy April", April 1993
3	5	Cult Investigation May", May 1993
3	6	"Cult Investigation June", June 1993
3	7	"Branch Davidian Trial", March 7, 1992, August 22, 1993, January-March, June 1994

Other Media Coverage, 1983-2000, undated

20		KWTV-TV Waco, TX. "3 Branch Davidian Tear Gas Stories" by Joe Calao. VHS Tape, undated
3	8	"Waco/Weaver (FBI HRT)", January 1983-August 1992, April-October 1993, August 1995, undated
3	9	"Davidian Tract" 1988 reprint. The tract is a photocopy of a Branch Davidian pamphlet, 1988
4	1-3	"Waco-93 Media Coverage/Transcripts" , February 1988, February-October 1993
4	4	"Waco-Militia Faxes, Miscellaneous Alternate Media" , June 30, 1991, January-November 1993, September-November 1999, June 2, 2000
20		"David Koresh's 58-Minute Tape," Cassette Tape, March 2, 1993
20		"Inside Mount Carmel, Interviews Including David Koresh." VHS Tape, 1993
4	5	Waco Coverage. Dick Reavis article, SIOC Activity Record, and photocopies from a book of Spanish and English poems, March-July 1993, July 1999
4	6	News Releases, April 1993
5	1	"Waco-Post Mortem" Includes map and diagram of the Davidian compound, June-August 1993, undated
5	2	"Bob Ricks-August 93 Waco-Tulsa Rotary Club Speech". Included is a copy of the speech on cassette tape, August 25, 1993
5	3	"Waco-SDX Task Force Report on Media 9/8/93". Article and report on the role of media in the Waco/Branch Davidian events. Includes handwritten notes, July-September 1993
5	4	Coverage, February 1994, June-July 1995
5	5	"Waco-95 Hearing Coverage". Includes copy of June 1995 Soldier of Fortune Magazine, April-August 1995
5	6-7	"Waco/Davidians-Other Media Coverage 1999", July-December 1999, April-May 2000
6	1	"Waco/Davidians-Other Media Coverage 1999", July-December 1999, April-May 2000

Press Releases and Briefings, 1990-2000, bulk: 1993

6	2	Press Releases and Briefings
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Series III: Investigations, 1990-2000, 2004, undated

Department of Justice, 1993-2000, undated

6	3	DOJ 302s/Statements Includes Reno Deposition 3/2000", April, July, and August 1993
6	4	"DOJ Statements/Docs", August 11 and 27, 1993, March 28, 2000
6	5	DOJ Reports. Evaluations and recommendations related to the events at Waco, August-October 1993
6	6	Report to the Deputy Attorney General on the Events at Waco, October 8, 1993

7	1-2	Department of Justice Documents. Document concerning whether CS gas is banned by the Paris Chemical Weapons Convention, and listing of documents produced by attorney David H. Moore in response to a Congressional subpoena, September 1999
7	3	DVD-R "Hancock Scanned FBI Docs", undated
7	4	"FBI Siege Timelines", February-April 1993
7	5-6	Waco FBI Major Event Log", February-July 1993
7	7	Event Log, February-April 1993
8	1-2	Event Log, February-April 1993
8	3	"Event Logs", March-April 1993
8	4-5	"4-18 and 4-19 Tape (Title III) Transcripts and Monitor Logs". Includes one copy of a BATF transcript for April 18-19, 1993, April 1993
8	6	"Negotiation Memos". (Includes a document titled "Suicide Addendum" dated April 18, 1993), March-April 1993
9	1	"Negotiations/Interviews", March-August 1993, May 11, 1995
9	2	"Negotiations/Interviews" (Includes copy of an article by Hancock dated December 30, 1999), August 1993
9	3	"OPS Plan", March-November 1993, July 1995, September 1999
9	4	"FBI: Davidian Backgrounds", March-September 1993
9	5	"FBI Interview Reports", April-September 1993
9	6	"FBI Interviews/Memos", June-September 1993
9	7	"Waco FBI Command 302s", April 21, 1993, July 13, 1993
9	8	"FBI HQ 302s Sessions, Potts, Clarke, Cowson, Kahoe, Betz", June-September 1993
10	1	"HRT-302s 1993", April-June 1993
10	2-3	"HRT Docs". Hostage Rescue Team statements, April-June 1993
10	4	"DOJ Statements", July-September 1993
10	5	"White House Statements", August-September 1993, May 9, 1994
10	6	"ELSUR Application Wacmur", March-November 1993
10	7	"Electronic Surveillance Video Surveillance" (Includes a color copy of a photograph of a tank and electronic surveillance equipment), March-September 1993
10	8	"FBI-Video/Audio Evidence Wacmur Processing", June-December 1993
10	9	"FBI Secrecy" (Documents concerning the release of FBI information, and a memorandum on HRT vehicles flying state flags), May 12, 1993, June 3-18, 1993
10	10	"Waco-FBI 'After Action' Report", August 24, 1993
10	11	"FBI/Army 'One Tongue' Memo", October 26, 1993
20		"The FLIR Project" C.O.P.S. Productions L.L.C. Advance Press Copy. VHS Tape
20		Night Stalker-FLIR Item #275 2:04. VHS Tape, March 27, 28, April 1-2, 1993
20		FBI Laboratory Division Investigative Support Section Special Photographic Unit, Night Stalker-FLIR 05:58:12-08:00:02. Tapes 1 and 2. (Dub'd: 10/08/99) VHS Tape, April 19, 1993
20		FBI Laboratory Division Investigative Support Section Special Photographic Unit, Night Stalker-FLIR 05:58:12-08:00:02. Tapes 1 and 2. (Dub'd: 10/12/99 and 10/14/99) VHS Tape, April 19, 1993
20		FBI Laboratory Division Investigative Support Section Special Photographic Unit,

- 20 Night Stalker-FLIR 07:57:43-09:28:20. (Dub'd 10/08/99.) VHS Tape, April 19, 1993
- 20 FBI Laboratory Division Investigative Support Section Special Photographic Unit, Night Stalker-FLIR 10:41:58-12:16:13. (Dub'd 10/15/99.) VHS Tape., April 19, 1993
- 20 FBI Laboratory Division Investigative Support Section Special Photographic Unit, Night Stalker-FLIR 12:16:38-13:39:07. (Dub'd 10/15/99.) VHS Tape, April 19, 1993
- 20 Night Stalker-FLIR Footage Shows Examples of Glint.VHS Tape, October 14-15, 1999
- 10 12 "HRT Sniper Log", April 19, 1993
- 10 13 "HRT Radio Log", April 19, 1993
- 10 14 "HRT-Medals Documents", April 19, 1993, February-March 1994, undated

Department of Treasury, 1993-1995, 2004

- 11 1 "Treasury Investigation" , April-September 1993
- 11 2 "Ranger/Treasury Interviews", May-August 1993
- 11 3 "Treasury Review", June 15-18, 1993, July 11, 1993
- 11 4 Report of the Department of Treasury, September 1993
- 11 5 Treasury Appeal Documents", April, November 1993, February-October 1994, July 1995
- 11 6 "ATF Affidavits" , April 13-18, 1993, October 22, 2004
- 11 7 "ATF Hearing Statements", April-September 1993, February 1995

Department of Defense, 1992-2000

- 11 8 Department of Defense Documents, September 21, 1992, 1993-1995
- 11 9 Department of Defense Documents, 1993, 1995, 1998
- 12 1 "Hardy DOD Docs" (Includes two CDs of Hardy FOIA documents.) , 1993, 1998-2000
- 12 2 "U.S. Army/DOD Records", 1993, 1998-1999

Attorney General, 1993, 2000

- 12 3-5 "Waco-Reno Briefing Book", February-April 1993
- 12 6 "Attorney General Statements", April-August 1993
- 13 1 Interim Report to the Deputy Attorney General, July 21, 2000
- 13 2-3 "Final Report to the Deputy Attorney General", November 8, 2000

Texas Rangers, 1993

- 13 4 "ATF/Ranger Images", March-May 1993
- 13 5 "ATF/Ranger Interviews", March-July 22, 1993
- 14 1 "ATF/Ranger Statements", March-July 1993
- 14 2 "Ranger Interview" (Interviews of Sharon Wheeler and Jimmy Glover), March 26-29, 1993
- 14 3 "Ranger/Treasury Interviews" (Interviews of Phillip Chojnacki and Ted Royster), March 26-29, 1993

- 14 4 "Ranger Investigation" , March 1993
- 14 5 "Ranger Investigation Reports" , March-July 1993
- 14 6 "Rangers Report/ATF Raid" , April 25-May 11, 1993
- 14 7 "Texas Rangers-93 Reports" , June 11, 1993
- 14 8 "Ranger Reports" (Duplicate of the "Texas Rangers-93 Reports."), June 11, 1993

Additional Investigations , 1990-2000

- 15 1 "Waco-U.S. State Department - 95 FOIA Response" , 1990-1992, July 20, 1995
- 15 2 "Waco-Commerce Dept. FOIA Response" , March 1993, June 2000
- 20 "Psychotherapeutics Briefing," Dr. Igor Smirnov and Janet Morris. VHS Tape. (A viewing copy is available on DVD), March 17,1993
- 15 3 "Office of Special Counsel FLIR Protocol and Operations Meeting" , February 16, 2000
- 15 4 "GAO Report on Military Assistance" (Includes handwritten notes), August 26, 1999, August 21, 2000

Series IV: House of Representatives Hearings, 1993-1996

- 15 5 "HOR Hearings" 911 Transcripts, February 28, 1993
- 15 6 "HOR Hearings", March-June 1993
- 15 7 "HOR Hearings" , April 27-29, 1993
- 15 8 "ATF-95 Hearing Statements Noble" , February 1995-July 1995, April 14, 1993, September 17, 1993
- 15 9 "95 Hearing-Q and A to DOJ, FBI/ DOC Production", 1995
- 15 10 "Waco-95 Congressional Hearings" (Handouts, statements, and testimonies), 1993, 1995
- 16 1-2 "Waco-95 Congressional Hearings" (Handouts, statements, and testimonies), 1993, 1995
- 16 3 Activities of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies - Joint Hearings (Part 1) , July 1995
- 16 4 Activities of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies-Joint Hearings (Part 2 and 3), July - August 1995
- 16 5 Investigation into the Activities of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, August 2, 1996

Series V: Lawsuits, 1993-2001

- 17 1 "Waco-Early Civil Litigation Some Pleadings and Notes", March 17, 1993,September 3, 1993, February 24, 1995
- 17 2 Correspondence Related to Missing FLIR Footage, June 13-14,1994
- 17 3-4 "McNamara Waco Leak Charge", 1993-1996, September 12, 1999
- 17 5 David T. Hardy vs. FBI, BATF, July 1995, July-August 1997, July 1999
- 17 6 "McNulty Misc." (Includes color photographs taken after the fire.),

September-November 1997

17	7	Waco/Davidian Bill Johnston”, 1993-2001
18	1-2	Waco/Davidian Bill Johnston”, 1993-2001
18	3	“Title III Transcripts-2000 Civil Trial” Andrade, et al. vs. Chojnacki, et al. (Transcripts of conversations within the compound and with negotiators.), March-April 1993
18	4	Prosecution-HRT Interview Notes” Andrade, et al. vs. Chojnacki, et al, March-April 1993, September 1999, undated
18	5-6	“Waco-Depositions/Depo Excerpts” Andrade, et al. vs. Chojnacki, et al., 1999-2000
19	1-2	“Waco-Depositions/Depo Excerpts” Andrade, et al. vs. Chojnacki, et al., 1999-2000
19	3-4	“Waco-Civil Trial June 2000 Gun Fire Pleading” Andrade, et al. vs. Chojnacki, et al., 2000