

**Finding Aid to the John R. Hall research materials
on Peoples Temple, 1954-2003, bulk 1978-2003**

Collection number: MS 3803

North Baker Research Library
California Historical Society

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Peoples Temple/Jonestown Fund at the California Historical Society

Finding Aid Written By:
Denice Stephenson

Date Completed:
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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection Title

John R. Hall research materials on Peoples Temple

Dates

1954-2003, bulk 1978-2003

Collection Number

MS 3803

Collector

John R. Hall

Extent

Number of containers: 38 boxes

Repository

California Historical Society
North Baker Research Library
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Abstract

Consists of materials Hall generated and collected in his research on Peoples Temple for the preparation of his book *Gone from the Promised Land: Jonestown in American Cultural History*, published in 1987. Includes correspondence, manuscript drafts, notes, legal documents, transcripts, scholarly articles, newspaper clippings, ephemera, realia and audiotapes. Includes materials from the early years of the church's history. Also includes Hall's papers pertaining to Freedom of Information Act releases and an item level inventory of materials cited in his book.

Materials used by Hall in preparation of, and cited in, his book, *Gone from the promised land: Jonestown in American cultural history*, published in 1987. Includes correspondence, legal documents, clippings, transcripts of conversations and broadcasts (1954-1983), and ephemera collected and generated by members of Peoples Temple (1960-1978), particularly in the early years of the organization's history. Much of the collection is photocopies. Includes an audiotape of the Peoples Temple murder/suicide ritual of Nov. 18, 1978 in Jonestown, Guyana. Also includes Hall's papers pertaining to Freedom of Information Act releases and an item level inventory of materials cited in his book.

Language of Material

Collection materials are in English.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Access

Collection is open for research, with the following exceptions:

Boxes 2-3, folders 25-67 are restricted. Inquiries concerning these files should be directed to the Director of Library and Archives.

Publication Rights

All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Director of the Library and Archives, North Baker Research Library, California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Consent is given on behalf of the California Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission from the copyright owner. Such permission must be obtained from the copyright owner.

Restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation

[*Identification of item*], John R. Hall Research Materials on Peoples Temple, MS 3803, North Baker Research Library, California Historical Society, San Francisco.

Alternate Forms Available

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Additional Notes on Collection

Original collection container changed to Box 1. Otherwise, order of original collection has been maintained. Additions housed in sequentially numbered boxes.

Separated Material

Printed materials have been transferred to the book collection.

Photographs have been transferred to the Photography Collection (MSP 3803).

Related Collections

Peoples Temple records, 1941-1983, MS 3800

FBI collection of Peoples Temple papers from Jonestown, Guyana: photocopies, 1931-1978, MS 3801

Moore Family papers, 1968-1988, MS 3802

Photographs from John R. Hall research materials on Peoples Temple, 1954-2003, MSP 3803

Ross E. Case collection pertaining to Peoples Temple, 1961-1984, MS 4062

Margaret T. Singer materials on Peoples Temple, 1956-1998, MS 4123

Peoples Temple ephemera and publications, 1959-1979, MS 4124

Newspaper clippings on Peoples Temple: photocopies, 1953-1978, MS 4125

Peoples Temple miscellany collection, 1951-[ongoing], MS 4126

Photographs of Peoples Temple in U.S. and Guyana, 1967-1978, PC 010

Related Book

Hall, John R. *Gone from the Promised Land: Jonestown in American Cultural History*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Books, 1987. (BP 605.P46 H35 1987)

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Peoples Temple

Jonestown Mass Suicide, Jonestown, Guyana, 1978

Collective settlements, sociological aspects

Collective settlements, social aspects

United States church history, 20th century

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition Information

The John R. Hall research materials on Peoples Temple were given to the California Historical Society by John R. Hall in February 1987. Additions were made in March 2004.

Accruals

Future additions are expected.

Processing Information

Processed by Denice Stephenson in 2003; additions processed in 2005-2006.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON JOHN R. HALL

John R. Hall, Ph.D (1946 -) is a professor in the Sociology Department at the University of California, Davis. His research interests are theory and methodology; comparative/historical sociology; and sociology of culture and religion. From 2004-2006, Hall served as visiting professor in the School of Social and Political Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He has written and edited numerous scholarly texts and articles, including *Gone from the Promised Land: Jonestown in American Cultural History*, published in 1987.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY OF PEOPLES TEMPLE

Peoples Temple began as an independent Pentecostal church founded by Jim and Marceline Jones in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1955 and became affiliated with the Disciples of Christ denomination in 1960. In 1965, the church moved to Northern California with approximately a hundred members. In 1970, Peoples Temple began holding services and recruiting thousands of members from African American communities in San Francisco and Los Angeles and later opened large churches in both cities. In 1973, the church initiated plans for an agricultural and rural development mission in Guyana, South America that became known as Jonestown. In 1977, media coverage of Peoples Temple practices and political activities led the government to investigate the church's financial and social welfare programs and hundreds of Peoples Temple members, including Jim Jones, moved to Jonestown. On November 18, 1978, California Congressman Leo J. Ryan and three journalists accompanying Ryan on a fact-finding mission to Jonestown were killed by armed Peoples Temple members and more than nine hundred Jonestown residents died, most from poisoning. Immediately after the deaths, Peoples Temple assets were frozen and placed under the supervision of the San Francisco Superior Court. Over \$1.8 billion in claims were filed against the Peoples Temple estate. After overseeing the burial of hundreds of unclaimed and unidentified bodies from Jonestown, the court recovered and disbursed \$13 million in assets. In 1983, Peoples Temple was dissolved and its records were repositated at the California Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF COLLECTION

Consists of materials Hall generated and collected in his research on Peoples Temple for the preparation of his book *Gone from the Promised Land: Jonestown in American Cultural History*, published in 1987. Includes correspondence, manuscript drafts, notes, legal documents, transcripts, scholarly articles, newspaper clippings, ephemera, realia and audiotapes. Includes materials from the early years of the church's history. Also includes Hall's papers pertaining to Freedom of Information Act releases and an item level inventory of materials cited in his book.

The collection has been divided into four series: Manuscript Materials; Reports; Newspaper Clippings and Audiotapes.

SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

Arranged at the folder level.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1: MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS, 1954-1987

Boxes 1-4; Box 5, folders 84-85; Box 8, audiotapes 1-4

Arranged into two subseries: 1.1 Cited Documents and 1.2 Drafts and Related Materials.

Bulk consists of papers related to research and publication of Hall's *Gone from the Promised Land: Jonestown in American Cultural History* published in 1987. Includes audiotapes and realia.

SUBSERIES 1.1: CITED DOCUMENTS, 1954-1987

Box 1

Arranged by alphanumeric code.

Bulk consists of photocopies of correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, transcripts and ephemera that Hall used in constructing his analysis of Peoples Temple. Includes materials from the early years of the church's history. Also includes original flyers and pamphlets; an audiotape of the deaths in Jonestown on November 18, 1978; and an item level inventory.

SUBSERIES 1.2: DRAFTS AND RELATED MATERIALS, 1961-1988

Boxes 2-3 [*RESTRICTED*]; Box 4, folders 68-78; Box 5, folders 84-85; Box 8 audiotapes 1-4

Arranged hierarchically and chronologically within folders.

Consists of chapter and manuscript drafts, notes, correspondence, interview transcripts, scholarly articles, newspaper clippings, audiotapes and realia. Files on individuals and organizations include correspondence, notes and interview transcripts. Peoples Temple records include lists of members and organizational and legal papers. Many of the documents are annotated.

Freedom of Information Act requests in Box 2, folders 39-40 include correspondence with the U.S. Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Papers pertaining to audiotapes in folders 41-43 include inventories, notes, summaries, transcripts and correspondence with other researchers.

Scholarly papers in folder 49 include articles on the Old Believers. Newspaper clippings in folders 52-55 include Hall's notes on articles pertaining to symbolization, cults, society at large, freedom of religion, brainwashing, religious violence and charlatans.

Hall's correspondence with the California Historical Society in Box 2, folder 56 pertains to research in the Peoples Temple collection and the donation of his collection. A related article by Hall, "Donating my Peoples Temple Archives to the California Historical Society," is available at <http://jonestown.sdsu.edu/>.

Interviews in Box 3, folders 57-67 include contact information, notes, transcripts or correspondence with Leigh Wilson, Travis Linn, Barton and Dorothy Hunter, Tim and Grace Stoen, Louise Mosley, Steven Katsaris, Jeannie Mills, Sandra Bradshaw, T. Buford, and Bea Orsot.

Box 4 contains lists of Peoples Temple members, and administrative and legal papers, printed materials and includes authorizations signed by Jonestown residents allowing the release of information gathered by U.S. Embassy officials in Guyana. For additional samples of Peoples Temple printed materials, see Peoples Temple ephemera and publications (MS 4124).

The illustrated wall calendar in Box 5, folder 84 includes a page on the deaths in Jonestown.

Boxes 2-3, folders 25-67 are restricted. Inquiries concerning these files should be directed to the Director of Library and Archives.

SERIES 2: REPORTS, 1979-1980

Box 4, folder 79; Box 5, folders 80-83

Arranged hierarchically.

Consists of five reports issued by U.S. county, state, and federal agencies in the aftermath of the deaths in Jonestown in November 1978. The reports include analysis of Peoples Temple members' practices pertaining to Social Security and other government benefits; guardianships; and relationships with public officials.

SERIES 3: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1961-1988

Box 5, folders 86-89; Boxes 6-7

Arranged hierarchically and chronologically within folders.

Bulk consists of newsclippings on Peoples Temple after the deaths in Jonestown in November 1978. Includes several periodicals and photocopies of earlier articles about Jim Jones and Peoples Temple. Also includes maps and correspondence about travel to Guyana in Box 6, folder 94. The original Guyanese newspapers in Box 7, folders 95-97 contain special editions published in the immediate aftermath of the deaths.

SERIES 4: AUDIOTAPES, 1977-2003

Box 8, audiotapes 5-15; Boxes 9-38

Arranged hierarchically. Contents of Boxes 9-37 arranged by the FBI's alphanumeric code, Q1-Q1059. Contents of Box 38 arranged chronologically.

Bulk consists of audiotapes dubs of Peoples Temple recordings collected by the FBI in their investigation of the death of Congressman Leo J. Ryan in Guyana and released under the Freedom of Information Act to Fielding McGehee of The Jonestown Institute. Includes audiotapes originally released by the FBI to Hall and his recordings of media broadcasts and lectures pertaining to Peoples Temple and related topics. Also included here are three compact

discs that contain documents from the FBI's RYMUR (Jonestown) Bureau File 89-4286 and audiotapes from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Boxes 17-38 contain listening copies of 775 audio recordings. A list of the audiotapes may be found in the appendix. Transcripts and/or summaries of the recordings are available at <http://jonestown.sdsu.edu/>.

CONTAINER LIST**SERIES 1: MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS, 1954-1987****SUBSERIES 1.1: CITED DOCUMENTS, 1954-1987**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Box 1	1	Item level inventory of cited documents	1987
	2-23	Cited materials	1954-1987
	24	<i>Jonestown Tape</i> , Creative Arts Guild, Inc.	1979
SUBSERIES 1.2: DRAFTS AND RELATED MATERIALS, 1961-1988			
Box 2	25	Research grant proposals [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1980-1983
	26	Chapter drafts and notes [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979-1984
	27	Manuscript draft [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1984
	28-29	Research notes [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1984-1985, undated
	30	Jim Jones genealogy and early ministry [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1983-1987
	31	Correspondence on manuscript drafts [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1984-1985
	32	Bibliographies and notes on sources [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1981-1982
	33	Draft of guide to historical documents in book [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1987
	34-36	Charles Garry [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979-1983
Box 8	1-2	Ross E. Case interview audiotapes	1984
Box 2	37	George R. Berdes [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979-1980
	38	Richard A. McCoy [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1980
	39-40	Freedom of Information Act requests [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1980-1984
	41-43	Papers pertaining to audiotapes [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1988-2003, undated
	44	M. Touchette [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979
	45	Rebecca Moore [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1983-1986
Box 8	3-4	Moore family memorial service audiotape dubs	1978
Box 2	46-49	Scholarly papers [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979-1988
	50	Manuscript on Stephanite movement [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	undated

	51	Church of Scientology [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979
	52-55	Notes and newsclippings [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979-1985, undated
	56	California Historical Society [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1984-1988
Box 3	57-67	Interviews [<i>RESTRICTED</i>]	1979-1986
Box 4	68	Imprint of Peoples Temple incorporation seal	1965
	69	Photocopies of Peoples Temple correspondence, memos and schedules	[1984]
	70-71	Peoples Temple publications	1973-1977
	72	Authorizations signed by Jonestown residents	1978
	73	Christine Cobb affidavit	1978
	74	List of Peoples Temple members in Guyana	1979
	75	Lists of Peoples Temple members	1961-1978
	76	Lists of Jonestown survivors	undated
	77	Peoples Temple petition for dissolution	1978
	78	Peoples Temple public auction flyer	1979
Box 5	84	Calendar of Social Changes	1979-1980
	85	Fla-Vor-Aid packet	undated
SERIES 2: REPORTS, 1979-1980			
Box 4	79	Los Angeles County District Attorney's final report on Jim Jones allegation of bribery	1980
Box 5	80	California State Department of Social Services investigation report on Peoples Temple	1979
	81	State of California Office of the Attorney General report of investigation of Peoples Temple	1980
	82	Report on the death of Representative Leo J. Ryan, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. Congress	1979
	83	Department of State evaluation of U.S. Embassy in Guyana	1979
SERIES 3: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1961-1988			
Boxes 5-6	86-90	Peoples Temple	1961-1986

Box 6	91	Mark Lane	1979-1981
	92	Book reviews	1979-1987
	93	10 th anniversary of Jonestown deaths	1988
	94	Guyana	1979-1982
Box 7	95-97	Issues of <i>The Citizen</i> and <i>Guyana Chronicle</i>	1978
SERIES 4:		AUDIOTAPES, 1977-2003	
Box 8	5-12	Media broadcasts and lectures audiotapes	1977-1980
	13-15	FBI compact discs	2003
Boxes 9-16		FBI reel-to-reel audiotape dubs	1981-[1984]
Boxes 17-37		FBI cassette audiotape dubs	1981-2003
Box 38		FCC cassette audiotape dubs	1977-1978

APPENDIX

List of available listening copies of FBI (Boxes 17-37) and FCC (Box 38) audiotape dubs.

Each audiotape in Boxes 17-37 contains the letter Q preceding its assigned number (Q 1, Q 2).

Box 17	1, 2, 3, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 8, 9.1, 9.2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32
Box 18	34, 39, 43-46, 47, 48, 49.1, 49.2, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 107.1, 107.2, 127, 129, 130, 133, 134, 135, 141, 144, 148, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155.1, 155.2, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 164
Box 19	167, 168.1, 168.2, 169, 170, 200, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 181, 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191.1191.2, 192.1, 192.2, 194, 196.1, 196.2, 197.1, 197.2, 198, 199, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205
Box 20	206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 214.1, 214.2, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229, 231, 232.1, 232.2, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 240, 241, 242.1, 242.2, 243, 244, 245
Box 21	246, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 262, 263, 264.1, 264.2, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 271, 272.1, 272.2, 273, 274, 278.1, 278.3.4.5, 278.5, 278.2, 279, 280, 281.1, 281.2,
Box 22	282, 283.1, 283.2, 284, 285, 286.1.1, 286.1.2, 286.2, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 304, 305, 306, 307, 309, 311, 313, 314, 315, 3317,318, 319, 320, 322, 323
Box 23	324, 326, 327.1, 327.2, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 335, 337, 338, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 347, 348, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 361, 364, 365, 368, 371, 373, 375, 378
Box 24	379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 388, 390, 391, 393, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401.1,401.2, 402, 403, 404, 405, 408, 409, 410, 414, 415, 416, 417.1, 417.2
Box 25	418, 422, 425, 426, 428.1, 428.2, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 440,441, 442, 444, 445, 451, 454, 456.1, 456.2, 456.3, 467, 480.1, 480.2, 497.1, 497.2, 502, 506.1,506.2, 534, 568
Box 26	569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 582, 581, 583, 585, 586,587,588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596.a, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604
Box 27	606, 608, 609, 610, 611.1, 611.2, 612, 612.a, 613, 614, 616, 617.1, 617.2, 618, 620, 621,622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642
Box 28	643, 644, 645, 646, 648, 649, 650, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662,663, 665, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 683, 684
Box 29	685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 698, 699, 700, 701,

- 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722
- Box 30 723, 724, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759
- Box 31 760, 761, 762, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780.1, 780.2, 781.1, 781.2, 782.1, 782.2, 783, 784, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 794, 797, 798, 799
- Box 32 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805.1, 805.2, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810.1, 810.2, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815.1, 815.2, 819, 831, 833, 834, 836, 847, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 873, 874, 875
- Box 33 876, 877, 881, 882, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 899, 900, 901, 902, 904, 905, 906, 907, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 916, 917, 919, 920, 921,
- Box 34 922, 923, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947.1, 947.2, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959
- Box 35 960.1.1, 960.1.2, 960.2, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 9966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985.1, 985.2, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992
- Box 36 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1007, 1011, 1014, 1015.1, 1015.2, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020.1, 1020.2, 1020.a, 1021.1.1, 1021.1.2, 1021.2, 1022.1, 1022.2, 1023, 1024.1, 1024.2, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033
- Box 37 1034, 1035, 1053.1, 1053.2, 1053.3, 1053.4, 1053.5, 1053.6, 1054.1, 1054.2, 1054.3, 1054.4, 1055.1, 1055.2, 1055.3, 1055.4, 1056.1, 1056.2, 1056.3, 1056.4, 1056.5, 1057.1, 1057.2, 1057.3, 1057.4, 11057.5, 1058.1, 1058.2, 1058.3, 1058.4, 1059.1, 1059.2, 1059.3, 1059.4, 1059.5, 1059.6,
- Box 38 77R71 April 21, 1977; Tape 4 April 28, 1977; Tape 5 April 29, 1977; Tape 6 April 29, 1977; 77R71 May 12, 1977; Tape 1 September 12, 1977; Tape 2 September 12, 1977; Tape 3, September 12, 1977; WA6DJT, February 26, 1978; 14344, 6KHZ February 26, 1978; 77R71 May 11, 1978; WA6DJT, May 3, 1978; Untitled May 17, 1978; WD6DV1 May 17, 1978; 1435KH2 May 18, 1978 (3 audiotapes); W6DV1 May 18, 1978; 143z2.8 Tape 2 April 21; Tape 3 April 22-23; 893 May 10; 14360.0KHZ May 10; Tape 9 undated