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Note
Social Sciences--Anthropology--Social and Cultural Anthropology

Collection number: MS 3802

California Historical Society

North Baker Research Library
San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Moore Family Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1968-1988
Collection number: MS 3802
Creator: Moore Family
Extent: 28 boxes
14.5 linear ft.
Repository: California Historical Society, North Baker Library
San Francisco, California 94105-4014

Abstract: The collection consists of letters, journals, typescripts, government documents and microfiche, research materials, and ephemera related to the Moore family's investigations into the deaths in Guyana on November 18, 1978, which included three family members and California Congressman Leo J. Ryan. The family correspondence includes letters written from Jonestown by Carolyn Moore Layton and Ann Moore that describe daily life in the agricultural community in Guyana, their relationships with Jim Jones, and their growing concern about negative reports in the U.S. media. The collection also contains correspondence with other members of Peoples Temple, including Larry Layton, husband of Carolyn Moore from 1967-1969, and former Temple spokesperson Michael Prokes. Research materials contain information about the Peoples Temple organization, history, supporters and detractors, including the Concerned Relatives and Citizens Committee, and newspaper articles on the Peoples Temple and Jonestown. A substantial portion of the collection consists of documents released by U.S. government agencies in response to numerous Freedom of Information Act requests and two lawsuits filed by the Moores along with the reports of private investigator John Hanrahan hired by the Moores to interview government officials. The collection includes the Moores' published materials and interviews by the media.

Physical location: Please consult repository.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Moore Family Papers. MS 3802, California Historical Society, Manuscript Collection.

Acquisition Information
The Moore Family Papers were donated to the California Historical Society in July 1989.

Biography
The members of the Moore family are Carolyn, Rebecca, and Ann; their parents, John and Barbara; Carolyn's son, Kimo, and Rebecca's husband, Fielding McGehee III. On November 18, 1978, Carolyn, Kimo, and Ann died in the Peoples Temple's murder-suicide ritual in Jonestown, Guyana.

Carolyn Moore Layton (1945-1978), the eldest sister, was a high school history teacher. She and her husband, Larry Layton, joined the Peoples Temple in 1968; they divorced in 1970. Carolyn became a member of the leadership circle and had significant financial responsibilities for the organization. In 1975, Carolyn gave birth to a son, Kimo Layton Prokes (1975-1978), also known as Jim-John, who was fathered by Jim Jones, leader of the Peoples Temple. She and Kimo moved to Jonestown, Guyana in the spring of 1977. Carolyn's death at 33 years old was attributed to cyanide poisoning used in the murder-suicide ritual. Kimo's remains were not identified.

Ann Elizabeth Moore (1954-1978), the youngest of the three sisters, was a nurse. She joined the Peoples Temple in 1972. After she moved to Guyana in May 1977, she became Jones' personal nurse. At the time of her death, she was 24 years old. Ann and Jim Jones were the only two people in the Jonestown settlement who died from gunshot wounds.

Rebecca Moore, Ph.D., a journalist with her doctorate in Religious Studies, teaches at San Diego State University. The Rev. John V. Moore is a retired United Methodist minister in the California-Nevada Annual Conference; his wife, Barbara, is an active community volunteer. Fielding McGehee III is a writer and editor.


Scope and Content of Collection
The Moore Family Papers document the involvement of family members with the Peoples Temple from 1968 to 1988. While letters written from Jonestown, Guyana by the Moore daughters, Carolyn and Ann, form a significant part of the family correspondence, the bulk of the collection was generated after the mass murder-suicides in Guyana on November 18, 1978. Assembled by family members after the 10th anniversary of the tragedy, the collection focuses on their efforts from 1978 to 1988 to investigate and publicize the circumstances that led to the deaths of their relatives and 916 other adults and children in Guyana. The collection consists of letters, manuscripts, government documents, research materials, photographs, audiotapes, books, and ephemera.

Correspondence between members of the Moore family reveals Carolyn and Ann's increasing commitment to their work for the Peoples Temple. Carolyn's letters in particular describe daily life in Jonestown and the community's growing concern and reactions to negative reports in the media. Ann's letters provide glimpses of her thoughts about her decision to join the Temple and her work as a nursing student in San Francisco hospitals and later in Jonestown. A statement she wrote about committing suicide is considered one of the last messages from Jonestown.

The letters, sermons, and essays that comprise the personal papers of the Rev. John V. and Barbara Moore provide insight into the family's involvement and dedication to social justice issues. Published statements about their visit to Jonestown in May 1978 document their experience of the settlement and their attempts to gain media coverage of their impressions. The Moores' correspondence with other members of Peoples Temple and their families reveals their personal commitment to providing consolation and to continuing their investigations of the tragedy.

The work of Dr. Rebecca Moore and Fielding McGehee III on the Peoples Temple and Jonestown produced a scholarly history, as well as a large body of legal documents and papers related to numerous Freedom of Information Act requests. Their papers provide a unique view of the U.S. Government's changing responses over a ten-year span to the provisions of The Privacy Act of 1974.

The Moore Family Papers are divided into three series: Series 1: Family Correspondence and Personal Papers; Series 2: Peoples Temple Related Materials; Series 3: U.S. Government and Legal Documents. Materials are organized as the family collected and documented their research that became the basis for their publications and ongoing investigations of the events that led to the deaths in Guyana.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Peoples Temple
Jones, Jim, 1931-1978
Moore family
Moore, Ann Elizabeth
Layton, Carolyn Moore
Ryan, Leo J.--Assassination
Moore, John V., Rev.
Moore, Barbara
Layton, Larry
Concerned Relatives and Citizens Committee.
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation--Trials, litigation, etc.
United States. Central Intelligence Agency--Trials, litigation, etc.
Utopias--Guyana--Jonestown.

Other Index Terms Related to this Collection
Moore, Ann Elizabeth
Layton, Carolyn Moore
Moore, Rebecca, 1951-
Moore, Rebecca, 1951--Sympathetic history of Jonestown
Moore, Rebecca, 1951--In defense of Peoples Temple and other essays
Moore, Rebecca, 1951--Jonestown letters: correspondence of the Moore family, 1970-1985
Moore, John V., Rev.
Moore, Barbara
McGehee, Fielding M. 1949-
Layton, Larry
Prokes, Michael
Hanrahan, John
United States. Dept. of Justice
United States. Dept. of State
United States. Social Security Administration
United States. Internal Revenue Service
United States. Bureau of Customs
United States. Federal Communications Commission

Related Collections
The California Historical Society holds several collections related to the Peoples Temple:

MS 3800, Peoples Temple Records,

Date (inclusive): 1941-1983
MS 3801, FBI Papers from Jonestown,

Date (inclusive): 1972-1978
MS 3803, John R. Hall Research Materials,

Date (inclusive): 1978-1987
MS 4062, Ross E. Case Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1961-1984

Separated Materials
Photographs shelved as MSP 3802.

Series I: **Family Correspondence and Personal Papers, 1970-1988.**

Physical Description: Boxes 1-9, Folders 1-55, Box 17, Audiotapes 1-2

Scope and Content Note

Family correspondence contains letters between members of the Moore family. Of special note to researchers are the letters from Ann and Carolyn (Folders 1-4) that describe daily life in Jonestown. Additional family correspondence is also located in folders on specific subjects such as burials, manuscript drafts, and lawsuits. Among the materials relating to the deaths of Carolyn, Ann and Kimo are their autopsy reports (Folders 16-17), of note because they represent two of only seven autopsies performed on the 910 bodies found in Jonestown. A few personal items were also recovered from Jonestown: drawings by Ann, a box filled with notes that belonged to Carolyn, and a cloth "Marcie doll" created and produced for sale in Guyana by Peoples Temple members.

The personal papers of Rev. John and Barbara Moore include audiotapes of sermons John gave the week after Jonestown and at their family’s memorial services (Box 17, Audiotapes 1-2). Barbara’s photographs include family snapshots from before 1977, and images from their visit to Jonestown in May 1978. The remaining sub-series focus on Rebecca and Fielding ‘s research and manuscript drafts. Photographs from their May 1979 trip to Guyana to interview officials and visit Jonestown are included with John and Barbara’s.

Arrangement

Divided into five sub-series: Family Correspondence; Materials Relating to the Deaths of Carolyn, Ann and Kimo; Rev. John V. and Barbara Moore Personal Papers; Rebecca Moore Personal Papers; and, Fielding McGehee III Notes.

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**Family correspondence, 1970-1987**

Physical Description: Box 1:1-11

Scope and Content Note

Family correspondence contains letters between members of the Moore family. Of special note to researchers are the letters from Ann and Carolyn (Folders 1-4) that describe daily life in Jonestown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder 1:1</th>
<th>Letters from Ann to John and Barbara, 1976-1978</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:2</td>
<td>Letters from Ann to Rebecca, 1972-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:3</td>
<td>Letters from Carolyn to John and Barbara, 1976-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:4</td>
<td>Letters from Carolyn to Rebecca, 1970-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:5</td>
<td>Letters from Rebecca to John and Barbara, 1979-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:6-8</td>
<td>Letters from Barbara to Rebecca, 1972-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:9-10</td>
<td>Letters from John to Rebecca, 1973-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1:11</td>
<td>Letters from Fielding to John and Barbara, 1981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Physical Description: Box 2:12-20; Box 3

Scope and Content Note

Family correspondence is also located in folders on specific subjects such as burials, manuscript drafts, and lawsuits. Among the materials relating to the deaths of Carolyn, Ann and Kimo are their autopsy reports (Folders 16-17), of note because they represent two of only seven autopsies performed on the 910 bodies found in Jonestown. A few personal items were also recovered from Jonestown: drawings by Ann, a box filled with notes that belonged to Carolyn, and a cloth "Marcie doll" created and produced for sale in Guyana by Peoples Temple members.

**Physical Description:** Box 4:21-22; Box 17:1-2; Box 4:23-28

**Scope and Content Note**

The personal papers of Rev. John and Barbara Moore include audiotapes of sermons John gave the week after Jonestown and at their family’s memorial services (Box 17, Audiotapes 1-2). Barbara’s photographs include family snapshots from before 1977, and images from their visit to Jonestown in May 1978.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:1-2</td>
<td>Audiotapes of John’s sermons, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:23</td>
<td>Published articles, 1978-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:24-25</td>
<td>Correspondence with church and public officials, 1975-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:26</td>
<td>Notes on conversations with journalists, 1975-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:27-28</td>
<td>Sermons and condolences received, 1978-1982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Rebecca Moore Personal Papers, 1978-1988

**Physical Description:** Box 5:29-36; Box 6; Box 7:37-40; Box 8:41-46; Box 9:47-52

**Scope and Content Note**

This sub-series focuses on Rebecca’s research and manuscript drafts. Photographs from the May 1979 trip to Guyana to interview officials and visit Jonestown are included with John and Barbara’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:32</td>
<td>Draft of essay “In Defense of Peoples Temple” and CIA essays, 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:33</td>
<td>Film treatment “Last Rights,” 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:34</td>
<td>Correspondence and notes on interviews with Guyanese officials and papers related to May 1979 travel to Guyana, 1978-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:36</td>
<td>Research on Jonestown survivors, 1978-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Index card notes on chronology, survivors and media, 1978-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:39</td>
<td>Research on conspiracies and Jonestown, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:40</td>
<td>Research on Don Freed and Joseph Mazor, 1978-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:41-43</td>
<td>Draft of The Jonestown Letters: Correspondence of the Moore Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:44-46</td>
<td>Draft of A Sympathetic History of Jonestown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:47-49</td>
<td>Correspondence with publishers and literary agents, 1980-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:50</td>
<td>Correspondence with lawyers on copyright issues, 1979-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:51</td>
<td>Publishing contacts, notes and essay, 1982-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:52</td>
<td>Condolence letters received, 1978-1982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fielding McGehee III Notes, 1979-1988

Physical Description: Box 9:53-55

Scope and Content Note

This remaining sub-series focuses on Fielding’s research notes and correspondence. Photographs from the May 1979 trip to Guyana to interview officials and visit Jonestown are included with John and Barbara’s.

Box-folder 9:53
Notes on FBI tapes, transcripts and radio interviews, 1979

Box-folder 9:54
Notes on files in law office of Charles R. Garry, 1979

Box-folder 9:55
Correspondence about anniversaries of Johnstown, 1984-1988


Physical Description: Boxes 10-16, Folders 56-112; Box 17-18, Audiotapes 3-17

Scope and Content Note

Contains correspondence between the Moores and Peoples Temple members and relatives (Folders 56-72). Information about the organization, its history, supporters and detractors, such as the Concerned Relatives, is included in this series as well as court documents about the dissolution of the Peoples Temple and disbursement of its assets. Newspaper articles (sorted into subjects by the Moores), audiotapes of the murder-suicide ritual “White Night,” radio interview shows on Jonestown, and conversations between members of Peoples Temple are also found here. This series also contains records of the family’s attempts to contact relatives of those who died in Guyana to urge Congress to continue investigations into the circumstances that led to their deaths.

Box-folder 10:56-57
Moore and Layton families’ correspondence, 1969-1987

Box-folder 10:58
Larry Layton’s appeal for leniency, 1986-1987

Box-folder 10:59-60
Newscippings on Layton family, 1978-1987

Box-folder 10:61
Papers related to Mike Prokes’ suicide, 1978-1979

Box-folder 10:62
Peoples Temple members’ letters to Moore family, 1977-1979

Box-folder 10:63
Press conference and correspondence with Charles Garry, 1978-1980

Box-folder 10:64
Concerned Relatives’ accusation and petition, April 11, 1978

Box-folder 10:65
Lawsuits filed against Peoples Temple, 1976-October 1978

Box-folder 10:66
Peoples Temple responses to accusations and lawsuits, 1976-1978

Box-folder 10:67
Lawsuits and legal documents filed by Peoples Temple, 1978

Box-folder 10:68
Public officials’ statements in support of Peoples Temple, 1976-1978

Box-folder 10:69
Internal memos and papers on Apostolic Corporation, 1973-1978

Box-folder 10:70
“Gang of Eight” letter to Jim Jones from former members, 1973

Box-folder 10:71

Box-folder 10:72
Peoples Temple flyers and pamphlets on Jonestown, 1976-1977

Box-folder 10:73-79
Peoples Temple’s assets, 1978-1983

Box-folder 13:80-82
Committee for Justice correspondence and papers, 1983-1984

Box-folder 13:83-84
List of Peoples Temple members who went to Guyana, 1978

Box-folder 13:85-87
Screenplay by Ezra Schacht on conspiracies, 1983

Box-folder 14:88-16:107
Newscippings

Box-folder 14:88
Jim Jones, 1968-1983

Box-folder 14:89
Peoples Temple before Jonestown, 1972-1978

Box-folder 15:90-94
Jonestown, 1978-1979

Box-folder 15:95
Jonestown, 1980-September, 1988

Box-folder 15:96-97
10th anniversary of Jonestown, November 1988

Box-folder 15:98
Congressman Leo J. Ryan, 1978-1987

Box-folder 15:99
Charles R. Garry, 1977-1979

Box-folder 15:100
Mark Lane, 1978-1979

Box-folder 15:101
Stephan Jones, 1978-1983

Box-folder 15:102
Mills family and hit squad, 1978-1980

Box-folder 15:103
Book reviews, 1978-1982

Box-folder 15:104
Critiques of Jonestown media coverage, 1978-1986

Box-folder 15:105-106
Jonestown from Guyana publications, 1977-1988

Box-folder 16:107
Cults, 1978-1988
| Box-folder 16:108 | Periodicals on cults and new religions, 1979-1984 |
| Box-folder 16:110-112 | Newslippings, maps, travel guides to Guyana, 1979-1988 |
| Box-folder 17:3-9 | Audiotapes of "White Night," 1978 |
| Box-folder 18:10-17 | Audiotapes of radio interviews and speeches, 1978-1981 |

**Series III:** U.S. Government and Legal Documents, 1974-1985

**Physical Description:** Boxes 19-28, Folders 113-198

**Scope and Content Note**
Organized in order of FOIA requests, then by responding government agency, materials in this series document the family's investigations into the role of the U.S. Government before and after the events in Guyana. Requests for information filed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to each agency are followed by replies, denials and/or subsequent releases. Sixty-one sheets of microfiche released by U.S. Department of State are located in Folder 158. Of the two lawsuits filed by the family, McGehee v. CIA had a substantial impact on the release of information and on general FOIA activities. The files of private investigator John Hanrahan, who was hired by the Moore family to interview U.S. government officials and file additional FOIA requests, are found in Folders 128-130, 160-167.

| Box-folder 19:113 | FOIA guidelines and program reports, 1974-1984 |
| Box-folder 19:114 | Newslippings on FOIA, 1978-1984 |
| Box-folder 19:115 | U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms FOIA requests, 1980 |
| Box-folder 19:116 | U.S. Customs Service FOIA requests and releases, 1980 |
| Box-folder 19:121 | U.S. Postal and Internal Revenue Services FOIA requests, 1980 |
| Box-folder 20:123 | California Attorney General reports on Peoples Temple, 1981 |
| Box-folder 21:130 | FCC FOIA requests and releases, 1981 |
| Box-folder 21:131 | U.S. Department of Justice annual report on FOIA activities, 1982 |
| Box-folder 21:132 | FOIA releases on drugs from U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement and other agencies, 1980-1981 |
| Box-folder 21:133-134 | U.S. Department of Justice FOIA requests and releases, 1980-1984 |
| Box-folder 21:135 | Deposition of Louis B. Sims for Leon Steinberg v. Interpol, 1979 |
| Box-folder 21:136-147 | Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) FOIA |
| Box-folder 21:136 | Correspondence and newslippings, 1979-1985 |
| Box-folder 22:137 | Requests about John and Barbara Moore, 1979-1980 |
| Box-folder 22:138 | Releases on Congressman Ryan and Guyana Index, 1980 |
| Box-folder 22:139 | Releases on Peoples Temple prior to Nov. 18, 1978; 1982 |
| Box-folder 22:140 | Releases on Peoples Temple, Jim Jones and Mike Prokes, 1982-1983 |
| Box-folder 22:141-142 | Release of Peoples Temple member's journal, 1984 |
| Box-folder 22:143 | Releases on Peoples Temple communications between U.S. and Guyana, 1980 |
| Box-folder 22:144 | Releases on Peoples Temple contact with communist countries, 1980 |
| Box-folder 22:145-146 | Releases on Peoples Temple and Soviet Union, 1980 |
| Box-folder 23:147 | Releases on drugs and medical personnel in Jonestown, 1980 |

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| Box-folder 23:148-155 | Correspondence, 1979-1985 |
| Box-folder 24:155 | Releases on Carolyn Moore Layton, 1984 |
| Box-folder 24:156 | U.S. Department of State evaluation report of U.S. Embassy in Guyana and newslippings, 1979 |

| Box-folder 24:157 | Correspondence with U.S. Department of State and public officials about FOIA requests, 1980-1985 |
Box-folder 24:158  U.S. Department of State FOIA release of microfiche records on Peoples Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, 1982
Box-folder 24:159  Rebecca's notes on microfiche records, 1983
Box-folder 24:161-164  U.S. Department of State FOIA requests and releases
Box-folder 25:164  1984-1985
Box-folder 25:165-167  Hanrahan and Moore family
Box-folder 25:165-166  Correspondence on Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), 1978-1982
Box-folder 25:168-169  CIA reports to Congress on FOIA activities, 1977-1985
Box-folder 25:170  Legislative proposal on CIA reform, 1980
Box-folder 25:171-172  Newscollections on CIA, 1974-1985
Box-folder 25:174-193  McGehee v. CIA
Box-folder 26:174-177  Correspondence, 1978-1987
Box-folder 27:181-188  1981-1984
Box-folder 28:189  Released documents
Box-folder 28:189  Department of State, 1984
Box-folder 28:190-193  CIA, 1984
Box-folder 28:194-196  CIA FOIA requests and releases, 1982-1987
Box-folder 28:197-198  McGehee v. CIA, 1983
Box-folder 28:198  CIA and Jonestown, 1980-1983