

MASTER INDEX TO THE J.F.K. ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATIONS: The Reports and Supporting Volumes of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and the Warren Commission

by Sylvia Meagher in collaboration with Gary Owens
Introduction by Russell Stetler

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The *Master Index* provides indexes to the reports and the forty supporting volumes of the two major official investigations of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy—the first, by the Warren Commission in 1964, and the second, by the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1979. These massive historical reports with their accompanying volumes of hearings and exhibits were published with little or no internal indexation. The *Master Index* fills the gap by providing a series of indexes which introduce order and enable accessibility to information in this immense body of evidence. It is an indispensable tool to researchers and investigators interested in the JFK assassination and to students of governmental investigatory processes.

Part I of the *Master Index* deals with the report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. It provides individual indexes to the report and to each of the fourteen volumes of appendices; a subject index consisting of numerous topics and sub-topics, with references under each heading to relevant material in each of the volumes; a comprehensive name index providing relevant citations for each name in each of the volumes; and a key to names, classifying the individuals according to identity and function.

Part II of the *Master Index* consists of the 1966 *Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits*, which has been out of print for many years but is still being sought by students and researchers. This subject index covers the Warren Report and its twenty-six volumes of hearings and documentation. It also provides a selected name index and a key to names.

About the authors: Sylvia Meagher is an authority on the JFK assassination and the author of *Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities, and the Report*. She compiled the *Subject Index to the Warren Report* and is the author of numerous magazine articles. Gary Owens is an associate professor of history at Huron College in Ontario. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and received his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. He has lectured frequently about the JFK assassination.



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Sincerely hope that you will
have an early and
complete recovery.

Please don't feel that
you have to reply to this
note. Just take good
care of yourself.

With warm affection,

Ayubie

8 Nov. 1980

Dear Harold,

I have been very
sorry and distressed to
learn that you are
not well and have
been hospitalized. Apart
from my personal affection
for you, you are the
greatest single asset
we have among the critics.
For both reasons, I

Dear Sylvia,

11/13/80

Thanks for the good wishes. I appreciate your saying no response is necessary, but I'll update you on some things. I don't know how much Paul or Roger told you.

Paul has had a glance at what I've put together, something like 60 file cabinets of various kinds of records. While I was in the hospital the last of what may be the most important single record came - 14 cartons. My wife has just finished placing them in file folders and filing them where, fortunately, I'd correctly estimated the space it would take.

The Dallas field office had a special index of the various files it would not try to keep secret. (I put it this way because there are other files I've not yet gotten.) In length, the cards are 40 linear feet. The FBI withheld some, rewrote some, but what remains is an especially valuable tool. Because I won another battle, for the cross references where they withheld Dallas field office records on the ground that they were "previously processed" at FBIHQ, in the general releases, we can now, by use of the index, locate all the indexed material, either in the Dallas file or, through these x-refs, in the general releases.

All of this stuff is in the basement, where there are rows of file cabinets and extra lighting for those who use the records. (Also a table and a typewriter for them.) The problem this makes for me is that I've been in the basement only once since mid-September. I tried it yesterday to see if I could get back up. I could, but that does not mean that I can use those files, because I can't. I can't do much bending and any standing at all makes real problems because of what happened to me after successful surgery.

The operation was to replace the artery in the left thigh. From groin to knee it is now plastic. But while I was in the hospital and on medication intended to prevent it, there was new venous thrombosis. The day I was discharged blood clots broke loose and settled in the left foot. There was another operation, to clean that out. It was not possible below the ankle, so there is worse circulation now. The foot is numb, as is part of the leg, both are swollen and there is an assortment of pains and discomforts. I can't sit long, or walk long, and I have to keep the leg both up and down, up for the vein problem and not up for the artery problem. By the time I've walked about 200 steps I have to stop for the pain to ease off.

I don't know how much improvement is expected or is possible, but I do know that what recovery is possible will take a long time and I'm trying to psych myself up for it. I've been told that I'll be lucky to be able to spend 10 minutes at a time outside this winter and right now I can't walk to our mailbox and back, about 800 feet.

My immediate hope is that I'll soon get to where I can sleep the night through. I'm up now about every 30-45 minutes. Generally I fall right back to sleep after letting the leg hang and then walking around a bit, but this morning I gave up at 3:30, and it is not the only such time.

There are still withheld Dallas records. My appeal has finally been acted on, after years and perhaps a file drawer of appeals and documentation of them, which make a separate and historically important record. The decision was bucked upward and I don't know when I'll hear. I expect that as a result I'll be getting at least some additional records, but I don't really know.

The newest remand on the old spectro case is being stonewalled by DJ but that can last only so long. I now have proof of additional shooting-related testing the results of which remain withheld. I also have proof of the finding of the bullet that could have hit the curbstone (Tague) and of the FBI's lack of interest in it, accord to the records. In time I'll be using these and other new information in court.

When that time comes I have a big job ahead of me. This includes the review of a large box of copies of records made in anticipation of the remand while I was going over records as I received them.

What I'll be able to do I'll do. I don't know how much will be possible for Cesar. We have not had any support and the costs have been fantastic. Now when I need help even more there is even less probability of any being available.

I have all the records exactly as I received them and they are filed by their FBI (and other) file numbers. Each file drawer has its contents notes on the outside and there is also a card file by means of which, if one knows the number of the record, one can determine immediately which cabinet and which drawer within that cabinet to get.

After four years of stonewalling I'm also getting DJ records, as Roger probably told you. In these I've found proof that the LBJ DJ had a special task force in support of the WC's findings. I've filed a request for its records.

As I read records, to the degree possible I've made copies for subject filing. These now fill an entire file cabinet. But with so much paper, without something of this sort retrieval becomes largely impossible.

Hope everything is going well with you.

Best wishes,