

Register of the
Azaria Chamberlain
Case (Australia)
Collection 138

Center for Adventist Research
Andrews University
James White Library
Berrien Springs, Michigan
April 20, 2018
Processed by Jim Ford

Azaria Chamberlain Case

Collection 138

Scope and Content

The Azaria Chamberlain murder trial was the “trial of the century” in Australia. It seems everyone had an opinion in the matter. It began Sunday August 17, 1980, when the Chamberlain family, Michael and Lindy, with their two sons and infant daughter, were camped at the popular tourist attraction, Ayers Rock, in the Northern Territory of Australia. Just after putting the two younger children to bed there was a baby cry. Lindy went to investigate. She screamed, “A dingo took my baby.” Thus began six years of inquiry, trial, trial in the media, and rampant speculation and innuendo about what really happened.

The Northern Territory government eventually charged Michael and Lindy Chamberlain with murdering their baby, Azaria, as some type of sacrifice in the desert. Lindy was charged with murder and Michael as an accomplice in the crime. There was no body or murder weapon or even a good motive presented, but there were a lot of circumstantial evidence. The main evidence, which led to Lindy’s conviction, was forensic. Blood samples in the tent, in the car, and other places were identified as fetal blood. Cut marks on clothing were described as made by scissors. Lindy was convicted of murder and sent to jail for life. Michael was convicted as an accomplice but given a suspended sentence.

Through the various initial inquests and the subsequent murder trial, the Australian media, print and television, had a field day. The public was riveted by the story of a young mother murdering her child. Early on the public was largely favorable to the conviction of Lindy Chamberlain for murder. However, a growing number of supporters continued to question the circumstantial evidence employed and brought in other experts to rebut the scientific forensic evidence presented. Additional new evidence came to light as well as a growing body of knowledge that dingos, a large dog-like creature, were known to be aggressive towards infants and children.

Over time, the move to free Lindy and the contradicted evidence as well as the new evidence led to Lindy being freed from jail. At about the same time, a Royal Commission of Inquiry began to meet where all of the original evidence was again reviewed along with all of the new evidence. In early 1987, it was found that there was reasonable doubts regarding Lindy’s guilt. She and Michael’s convictions were reversed. Later, through Lindy’s efforts, two other inquiries completely cleared her of any crime in the matter.

The user of this collection must bear in mind how the Center for Adventist Research acquired it. The Heritage Room at Avondale College brought together the duplicate copies of the holdings regarding the Chamberlain case and sent them to

Andrews University. We do not know where the Avondale center got the records, though it is clear the source was friendly to the Chamberlain cause. With the exception of the Royal Commission transcripts the collection is by no means comprehensive or complete. It will help to give a sense of the media coverage and some of the efforts to counter the evidence given at the initial trial.

The bulk of the papers in this collection are the transcripts of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Chamberlain Convictions, 1986 to 1987, over 9,000 pages of court transcripts. These transcripts are complete. There are transcripts from two other legal proceedings in 1981 and 1982. These are not complete. Also included are some letters associated with the movement to overturn the convictions, including several circular letters from Michael and Lindy Chamberlain. As the movement to free Lindy got underway many documents and “new” evidence came out. The collection has some of that, but surely not everything. The same is true for the media coverage included in the collection. There are a sampling of newspaper articles mostly from the free Lindy perspective.

Arrangement

The present order was set by the Center for Adventist Research. In each series of records, the order is generally chronological. Where there is no date, such as in a lot of the documents, the order is alphabetical by some portion of the document title. The court transcripts form the vast bulk of the collection. They are in chronological order.

Provenance

This collection came from the Adventist Heritage Centre at Avondale College in New South Wales, Australia, in 2011. It was part of a large shipment from Avondale to Andrews of various publications, media, and these records.

Use

All users of this collection will complete the “Application to Use Unpublished Records,” and observe the regulation specified in the “Patron’s Agreement” and “Researcher’s Code of Conduct.” All records in this collection are open and available for research. There was a note that portions of the Chamberlain documents may not be fully open, but there was no notation as to which portions.

Suggested citation for this collection:

Box ____, Fld ____, Azaria Chamberlain Case (Collection 138), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Series</u>
4	General Information
4	Correspondence
5	Documents
7	Press and Media Coverage
8	Transcripts

Azaria Chamberlain Case

Collection 138

I. General Information

Provided by the processor for background context.

Box 1 Fld 1

Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton. Wikipedia article.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindy_Chamberlain-Creighton.

Accessed Apr 12, 2018.

The Trial of Lindy and Michael Chamberlain ("The Dingo Trial"). Famous Trials.

<http://www.famous-trials.com/dingo/462-transcript>. Accessed Apr 12, 2018.

II. Correspondence

Box 1 Fld 2

Andrew Kirkam to S. Tipple, 27 Jun 1983.

John H. Phillips. Memorandum in the Matter of the Queen v L. & M. Chamberlain.

Lindy Chamberlain to Dear Friends. 30 Jun 1983.

Michael Chamberlain to Dear Peter and Nowi. Nov 1983.

Russell Kranz to Charles Johnson. 22 Nov 1983.

Neal C. Wilson to Mrs. Cavell Driscoll. 24 Nov 1983.

Minter Simpson and Co. to Robin Durie, United Telecasters. 27 Feb 1984.

[Michael Chamberlain] to [no name]. Feb 1984.

Michael Chamberlain to Milton _____. 20 Jun 1984.

Jack Evans to Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Chapman. 13 Jul 1984.

Trevor Nyman to J. Driscoll. 28 Mar 1985.

III. Documents

These may be letters, summaries of private research, “new” evidence, appeals for Lindy’s conviction to be overturned, mailings from the Chamberlain Innocence Committee, summary of court hearings, and other such documents.

Box 1 Fld 3 1984

Betty Hocking, National Freedom Council Plea for Justice Committee to Ninian Stephen, Governor-General of Australia. 3 May 1984.

David I. Smith (Official Secretary to the Governor-General) to [Betty] Hocking. 16 May 1984. (2 copies)

Jim Driscoll to Dear Friends. 17 Oct 1984.

Jim Driscoll to Dear Friends. 28 Nov 1984.

Box 1 Fld 4 1985

Ron D. Craig and Russell M. Kranz. “*Adventist News* January 23, 1985 and the Chamberlain Case. Assessment and Analysis, February 27, 1985.”

J. A. Driscoll, National Chamberlain Fighting Fund, to Dear Friends. 31 Mar 1985. Incomplete.

Maurice Neil. “Advice in Matters of Mrs. A. L. Chamberlain and Mr. M. L. Chamberlain.” 19 Apr 1985

Reginald Sholl, Chairman of the Chamberlain Innocence Committee, to The Editor, *The Weekend Australian*. 13 Jun 1985. (2 copies; copy 2 is incomplete)

Nonie Hodgson, Azaria Chamberlain Information Service, to Dear _____. 26 Jun 1985. (2 copies)

Orjan Ouchterlony, Goteborgs Universitet, to S. Tipple. 28 Nov 1985

Box 1 Fld 5 1986

Open Letters From Michael and Lindy Chamberlain. 15 Jul 1986

Summary of the Transcripts of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Chamberlain Convictions, 15 to 19 Sep 1986. Summarized by Norman H. Young.

Summary of the Transcripts of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Chamberlain Convictions, 30 Sep to 3 Oct 1986. Summarized by Norman H. Young.

Summary of the Transcripts of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Chamberlain Convictions, 7 Oct to 6 Nov 1986. Summarized by Norman H. Young.

Box 1 Fld 6 No date. Arrangement generally by title or some form of it.

Analysis of High Court Decision in the Chamberlain Case by the Former Justice F. Gallagher. Regina-v-Chamberlain. From the Chamberlain Innocence Committee. (2 copies)

Appellants' Submissions re Clothing of Mrs. Chamberlain.

Appellants' Submissions re Opportunity to Bury Body R. A. Swift to Stuart Tipple. The Chamberlain Case. Chamberlain Facts and Fallacies. (3 copies; 2 different printings)

Curriculum Vitae. C.V. for the members of the Chamberlain Innocence Committee.

Glen Miller. In the Matter of Alice Lynne Chamberlain and Michael Leigh Chamberlain. Counsel's Memorandum. (2 copies)

Azaria Chamberlain Information Service to Dear Senator _____. Includes a list of senators, 6 Mar 1984. (2 copies)

Eye Witness Evidence. Appears to be a part of a larger document.

Box 1 Fld 7

Key Points. (2 copies)

Lindy Chamberlain – Need for an Inquiry.

G. J. and S. C. Lowe. To Whom It May Concern.

New Evidence About Hair Found on the Jumpsuit and Singlet of A. Chamberlain. From the Chamberlain Innocence Committee.

Andrew Kirkham. Observations on Further Material Obtained in Respect of Chamberlain. (2 copies)

Observations re Lighting.

Opening Statement. From the Chamberlain Innocence Committee.

Opening Statement by Sir Reginald Sholl. From the Chamberlain Innocence Committee.

Outline of Action Plan for Chamberlain Innocence Committee.

Box 1 Fld 8

Synopsis of Evidence of Dingo Attacks

Synopsis of Eye Witness Evidence. (2 copies)

Statement by Aidan Leigh Chamberlain. (2 copies)

Submission to Government Seeking Judicial Inquiry Into Convictions of Mr. & Mrs. Chamberlain. (2 copies)

Summary of Fresh Evidence.

Summary of Witnesses Statement Taken by Terry Hancock and Trial Evidence.

IV. Press and Media Coverage

Note: See also *Adventist News* and the *Azaria Newsletter* located in the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research for more coverage from the Seventh-day Adventist perspective. Neither publication were sponsored by the official church and therefore do not speak for the church.

Box 1 Fld 9 Chamberlain Innocence Committee Press Kit.

Box 1 Fld 10 Letterhead stationary for the Aid the Chamberlains Committee.

Box 1 Fld 11 Seventh-day Adventist Church News Releases

Newspaper Coverage

The included newspaper articles were selected by someone and does not represent the full spectrum of printed news coverage of the Azaria Chamberlain event and surrounding legal proceedings. Most if not all appear to support Lindy Chamberlain or be from that perspective.

Box 1 Fld 12 1980

Box 1 Fld 13 1982

Box 1 Fld 14 1983

Box 1 Fld 15 1984

Box 1 Fld 16 1985

Box 1 Fld 17 1986

Box 1 Fld 18 No date

V. Transcripts

Northern Territory of Australia Coroners Court. In the Matter of An Inquest into the Death of Missing Child, Azaria Chantel Loren Chamberlain at Ayers Rock on 17 August 1980. Transcript of Proceedings Before the Coroner, Mr. D. J. Barritt. , 1981.

Box 1 Fld 19 Feb 9 to 13, 1981, pages 383 to 716.

The Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia. Between: the Queen and Alice Lynne Chamberlain and Michael Leigh Chamberlain. Transcript of Proceedings at Darwin.

Box 1 Fld 20 Volume 3, pages 606 to 967, Sep 21 to 24, 1982.

Box 1 Fld 21 Volume 4, pages 968 to 1405, Sep 27 to 30, 1982.

Box 1 Fld 22 Volume 5, pages 1406 to 1810, Oct 1 to 8, 1982.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Chamberlain Convictions. Transcript of Proceedings, May 8, 1986 to Mar 19, 1987.

Box 1 Fld 23	8 May 1986	pages 1 to 101
Box 1 Fld 24	6 June 1986	pages 102 to 185
Box 1 Fld 25	10 June 1986	pages 186 to 269
Box 1 Fld 26	11 June 1986	pages 270 to 334
Box 1 Fld 27	12 June 1986	pages 335 to 410
Box 1 Fld 28	13 June 1986	pages 411 to 514
Box 1 Fld 29	16 June 1986	pages 515 to 641
Box 2 Fld 1	17 June 1986	pages 642 to 739
Box 2 Fld 2	18 June 1986	pages 740 to 851
Box 2 Fld 3	19 June 1986	pages 852 to 928
Box 2 Fld 4	6 August 1986	pages 929 to 1029
Box 2 Fld 5	7 August 1986	pages 1030 to 1140
Box 2 Fld 6	8 August 1986	pages 1141 to 1237
Box 2 Fld 7	11 August 1986	pages 1238 to 1340
Box 2 Fld 8	12 August 1986	pages 1341 to 1438
Box 2 Fld 9	13 August 1986	pages 1439 to 1543
Box 2 Fld 10	14 August 1986	pages 1544 to 1628
Box 2 Fld 11	15 August 1986	pages 1629 to 1730
Box 2 Fld 12	18 August 1986	pages 1731 to 1829
Box 2 Fld 13	20 August 1986	pages 1830 to 1947
Box 2 Fld 14	21 August 1986	pages 1948 to 2053
Box 2 Fld 15	22 August 1986	pages 2054 to 2158
Box 2 Fld 16	25 August 1986	pages 2159 to 2249
Box 2 Fld 17	26 August 1986	pages 2250 to 2332
Box 2 Fld 18	27 August 1986	pages 2333 to 2409

Box 2 Fld 19	15 September 1986	pages 2410 to 2503
Box 2 Fld 20	16 September 1986	pages 2504 to 2616
Box 2 Fld 21	17 September 1986	pages 2617 to 2713
Box 2 Fld 22	18 September 1986	pages 2714 to 2819
Box 2 Fld 23	19 September 1986	pages 2820 to 2921
Box 2 Fld 24	30 September 1986	pages 2922 to 3003
Box 2 Fld 25	1 October 1986	pages 3004 to 3098
Box 2 Fld 26	2 October 1986	pages 3099 to 3168
Box 2 Fld 27	3 October 1986	pages 3169 to 3227
Box 2 Fld 28	7 October 1986	pages 3228 to 3329
Box 2 Fld 29	8 October 1986	pages 3330 to 3435
Box 2 Fld 30	9 October 1986	pages 3436 to 3547
Box 2 Fld 31	10 October 1986	pages 3548 to 3622
Box 2 Fld 32	13 October 1986	pages 3623 to 3717
Box 3 Fld 1	14 October 1986	pages 3718 to 3828
Box 3 Fld 2	15 October 1986	pages 3829 to 3920
Box 3 Fld 3	16 October 1986	pages 3921 to 4012
Box 3 Fld 4	20 October 1986	pages 4013 to 4125
Box 3 Fld 5	21 October 1986	pages 4126 to 4227
Box 3 Fld 6	22 October 1986	pages 4228 to 4291
Box 3 Fld 7	23 October 1986	pages 4292 to 4400
Box 3 Fld 8	27 October 1986	pages 4401 to 4503
Box 3 Fld 9	28 October 1986	pages 4504 to 4616
Box 3 Fld 10	29 October 1986	pages 4617 to 4718
Box 3 Fld 11	30 October 1986	pages 4719 to 4778
Box 3 Fld 12	3 November 1986	pages 4779 to 4877
Box 3 Fld 13	4 November 1986	pages 4877 [sic] to 4972
Box 3 Fld 14	5 November 1986	pages 4973 to 5066
Box 3 Fld 15	6 November 1986	pages 5067 to 5160
Box 3 Fld 16	24 November 1986	pages 5161 to 5253
Box 3 Fld 17	25 November 1986	pages 5254 to 5362
Box 3 Fld 18	26 November 1986	pages 5363 to 5448
Box 3 Fld 19	27 November 1986	pages 5449 to 5548
Box 3 Fld 20	1 December 1986	pages 5549 to 5653
Box 3 Fld 21	2 December 1986	pages 5654 to 5757
Box 3 Fld 22	3 December 1986	pages 5758 to 5860
Box 3 Fld 23	4 December 1986	pages 5861 to 5961
Box 3 Fld 24	8 December 1986	pages 5962 to 6055
Box 3 Fld 25	9 December 1986	pages 6056 to 6157
Box 3 Fld 26	10 December 1986	pages 6158 to 6247
Box 3 Fld 27	11 December 1986	pages 6248 to 6335
Box 3 Fld 28	15 December 1986	pages 6336 to 6431
Box 3 Fld 29	16 December 1986	pages 6432 to 6531
Box 3 Fld 30	17 December 1986	pages 6532 to 6609
Box 3 Fld 31	18 December 1986	pages 6610 to 6705

Box 3 Fld 32	19 December 1986	pages 6706 to 6757
Box 4 Fld 1	19 January 1987	pages 6758 to 6850
Box 4 Fld 2	20 January 1987	pages 6851 to 6956
Box 4 Fld 3	21 January 1987	pages 6957 to 7059
Box 4 Fld 4	22 January 1987	pages 7060 to 7160
Box 4 Fld 5	27 January 1987	pages 7161 to 7266
Box 4 Fld 6	28 January 1987	pages 7267 to 7372
Box 4 Fld 7	29 January 1987	pages 7373 to 7479
Box 4 Fld 8	30 January 1987	pages 7480 to 7569
Box 4 Fld 9	2 February 1987	pages 7570 to 7655
Box 4 Fld 10	3 February 1987	pages 7656 to 7766
Box 4 Fld 11	4 February 1987	pages 7767 to 7882
Box 4 Fld 12	5 February 1987	pages 7883 to 7997
Box 4 Fld 13	9 February 1987	pages 7999 [sic] to 8114
Box 4 Fld 14	10 February 1987	pages 8115 to 8220
Box 4 Fld 15	11 February 1987	pages 8221 to 8326
Box 4 Fld 16	12 February 1987	pages 8327 to 8427
Box 4 Fld 17	13 February 1987	pages 8428 to 8531
Box 4 Fld 18	17 February 1987	pages 8532 to 8593
Box 4 Fld 19	5 March 1987	pages 8594 to 8703
Box 4 Fld 20	6 March 1987	pages 8704 to 8791
Box 4 Fld 21	9 March 1987	pages 8792 to 8868
Box 4 Fld 22	10 March 1987	pages 8869 to 8962
Box 4 Fld 23	11 March 1987	pages 8963 to 9057
Box 4 Fld 24	12 March 1987	pages 9058 to 9140
Box 4 Fld 25	13 March 1987	pages 9141 to 9166
Box 4 Fld 26	16 March 1987	pages 9167 to 9249
Box 4 Fld 27	17 March 1987	pages 9250 to 9334
Box 4 Fld 28	18 March 1987	pages 9335 to 9399
Box 4 Fld 29	19 March 1987	pages 9400 to 9450

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Chamberlain Convictions, Report, 1987.
Box 4 Fld 30 Report, 1987.

In the Court of Criminal Appeal of the Northern Territory of Australia,
between: Attorney-General for the Northern Territory, Applicant,
and Alice Lynne Chamberlain and Michael Leigh Chamberlain,
Respondents. 1988. 31 pages.
Box 4 Fld 31 Reason for Judgment, delivered 15 Sep 1988.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ The End ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖