

14528-052  
Daniel J Riley  
14528-052  
Federal Correctional Institute  
33 1/2 Pembroke Road  
Danbury, CT 06811  
United States

WESTCHESTER NY 1075  
10 JUN 2008 PM 1 L

75126-2088

14528-052  
Rudy Davis  
PO BOX 2088  
Forney, TX 75126  
United States



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TO: 14528052  
SUBJECT: UNION LEADER story today:  
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Taser and assaulting is peaceful?

No law made people liable was the argument - not about the Constitution

"PLAINFIELD -- Because it ended so peacefully, it's easy to forget how tense the eight-month standoff was leading up to the October 2007 arrest of Edward and Elaine Brown at their large compound in Plainfield.

On the internet, Ed Brown, now 76, was a hero to the "tax deniers," those who maintained in a convoluted argument the federal Constitution did not require payment of federal income tax. Elaine Brown, now 78, was a respected dentist with a thriving practice and office in a West Lebanon shopping plaza the couple owned.

Steve Monier, the U.S. marshal at the time, knew better because while he grew to actually like and respect the Browns, they were attracting some very dangerous, potentially violent followers. propaganda

"The federal authorities knew Ed pretty well. He had given an outspoken interview right after 9/11 and he got involved in the constitutional rangers who had among them some serious career criminals that committed a lot of violence to support their activities," Monier said. not one ranger had a criminal record. Mr Brown's assault conviction was expunged by the Governor

"They were both armed all the time. Ed always went everywhere with a .45 handgun. He also used to have an M1 carbine, a lightweight, semi-automatic gun between the seats of his car. Elaine always carried a Glock in her purse."

And Ed Brown talked a very violent game in many media interviews, including an interview every day during the standoff with a Texas pro-militia internet radio program with more than 20,000 listeners. Had way more listeners

lie - Browns spoke with a Chicago based reporter several days a week

"From the beginning of the standoff, he started soliciting help from his militia folks from around the country," Monier said. "We saw that they were inviting people, some of whom they had no idea who they were, they invited them right up the driveway."

Over 1,000 militia members protected and supported the Browns on the ground, and many many more via extraneous activity

"This turned out to be their Achilles heel and was how we brought this to a non-violent end."

The story of the Browns' arrest starts as a tax case. For a decade, the couple did not pay any income taxes; in 2006, the two were indicted and charged with being liable for taxes of more than \$625,000. owed taxes on that amount - not that amount - on not of they owed about \$90K

In January 2007, a jury found the Browns guilty; in February, Elaine Brown violated the terms of her probation, which called for her to stay with her son's family in Worcester, Mass.

"She ended up cutting the ankle bracelet one night while her son was at work and headed to join her husband in Plainfield, and we then knew this could go on for a while," Monier said.

Pressure mounts

Meanwhile, Monier and his large team of investigators, surveillance operators, researchers and computer technicians continued to keep tabs on the Browns in their large compound.

On their minds was the Ruby Ridge disaster in 1992 when the attempt to arrest Randy Weaver on firearms charges in Naples, Idaho, turned into a shootout that killed a deputy U.S. marshal, Weaver's wife, his son, and a dog.

The 1993 armed takeover of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, became a 14-month standoff which concluded with 76 people killed, including leader David Koresh. murdered by the enemy's government

At the height of the Plainfield standoff in June 2007, Randy Weaver came to visit the Browns and they hosted a news conference outside the home.

"From the beginning we wanted to do this the right way," Monier said. "We did not want Plainfield to be in the same vernacular as Waco and Ruby Ridge."

Complete lie! Twice they tried to provoke a gun battle. Shooting at us must be the "right way." On 6-7-07 + 7-28-07 They shot at us

After Ruby Ridge, Congress gave the U.S. Attorney General the power to take away any action of the U.S. Marshals Services and hand it over to the FBI.

"There were two camps of comments to our office throughout this. One camp was why was the federal government threatening these non-violent people asserting their constitutional rights?" Monier said. "The other camp was from people in Plainfield and surrounding towns demanding us to go in with tanks and end this stain on their community."

Chief Deputy Gary DiMartino became the federal government's pipeline to the Browns, calling them by telephone almost every day. *and telling them lies*

DiMartino recalled one day having a bad cold, which Ed Brown noticed during a call. Brown asked for the advice of his wife, Elaine, who was a big proponent of holistic healing.

"Then at one point Ed blurts out, 'Why the heck do I care about his welfare, he's trying to lock us up,'" Monier said.

It was DiMartino's idea to use a ruse to arrest the Browns. *The undercover Marshals offered automatic weapons and grenades, but were turned down by Riley + Mr. Brown*

In Plainfield, the plan was to have a federal marshal infiltrate the home as a Brown supporter.

"If you had called down to central casting and said, 'Send us some good old boys from Georgia,' this is who they would have looked like," Monier said. "They were very brave deputies from the U.S. marshal's office and they did a fabulous job."

One stayed with the Browns for a week and called on four of his "friends" to come over to the compound because the Browns wanted to "burglarize" the now federally occupied dentist office to get equipment so that Elaine could see patients at their home.

"It was Oct. 4, 7:45 p.m. The undercover deputies were sitting on the porch alone at night with the couple having pizza and beer," Monier said.

Moments later, the Browns were under arrest.

50,000 rounds of ammo

*there was 65,000 rounds*

Investigators searching the home later found an underground bunker with more than 50,000 rounds of ammunition. Throughout the property there were more than 200 explosive devices, most of them pipe bombs. *There was 21 pipe bombs and few other devices totalling about 30 not 200*

Four individuals who assisted Ed and Elaine Brown in the standoff were also convicted.

Danny Riley of Cohoes, N.Y., was sentenced to 36 years in federal prison, after having been convicted of helping to supply the Browns, and of stockpiling weapons and threatening law enforcement officials.

*I brought them food ? I never threatened anyone as the evidence at trial showed*

Also convicted were Jason Gerhard of Brookhaven, N.Y., sentenced to 20 years in prison; Cirino Gonzalez of Alice, Texas who got eight years; and Robert Wolffe of Randolph, Vt., who was sentenced to 2 1/2 years after he cooperated with authorities.

*Three years for judge imposed perjury enhancement*

*Cooperate or your wife gets arrested next*

On social media, Wolffe has furthered the conspiracy theories that planes never hit the World Trade Center towers on 9/11 and that the students calling for gun control after the Parkland, Fla., shooting were professional actors.

"We are living in a bubble where we ignore the truth in front of our eyes, we have no freedom, we have no rights, we have no Constitutional Republic!" Wolffe posted on his Facebook page last month. "We are slaves."

The Browns holed up in their fortified Plainfield home for months in 2007. (AP FILE PHOTO/JIM COLE)

House back on market

Officials with the town of Plainfield weren't happy with one result: When the 100-acre compound was sold in October 2015 at auction for \$205,000 to Plainfield resident James Hollander, the town got from the federal government \$36,334 only 16 percent of the back property taxes and fees owed on the property.

Plainfield Town Administrator Steve Halleran said after a judge upheld that outcome, the town decided not to further contest it.

"It seems incredible to us that the federal government spent \$174,000 maintaining that property," Halleran said. "The taxpayers are getting hosed." *The feds basically stole the money from the town. The feds did no maintenance whatsoever on the property. Put up no trespassing signs is about it.*

Last year, Hollander put the property up for sale. It is now listed at \$319,000. *Its been assessed at \$605,000*

According to the federal Bureau of Prisons, Edward Brown is housed in the Gilmer Federal Correctional Institution, a medium-security prison in West Virginia serving a term that doesn't end until July 2045.

Elaine Brown is in the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas, a facility for female prisoners with "speciality medical care or mental health needs." Her term doesn't end until November 2042.

"On one level I do feel bad; they are going to die in federal prison," Monier said. *Johnson claims might release them*

"But we warned them; it was their choice to go from financial to potentially violent criminals and they have had to pay the price."

klandrigan@unionleader.com " " To Ed and Dan, [ plus this one to Jack too (not prior two) ].

*In the end, it cost and is costing the tax payer more money than they collected in taxes, in this case. What is logical about that?*