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There are no Waller papers as such. The diplomatic records (RG 59) of the National Archives, the Waller case papers published in *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States*, the governors' papers in the Kansas State Historical Society, *Documents Diplomatique*, the manuscript collection of the Library of Congress, and various newspapers have yielded approximately 500 pieces of correspondence that shed some light on John Lewis Waller's personal life. Of these, 150 were written by Waller himself. Most of the documents deal with Waller's political and diplomatic life and mention his family, personality, and economic condition only in passing. Consequently, there are vast gaps in the story of his life. At times he virtually disappears from the narrative. Yet, given the relative invisibility of blacks as individuals in the written record of American history, there is a relative wealth of material on Waller. Obviously, I felt there was enough to warrant a biography.

Identifying the forces and personalities that shaped the black experience in Kansas during the last quarter of the nineteenth century proved a much simpler task than uncovering information on Waller's personal life. The Kansas Historical Society at Topeka contains an abundance of information. Particularly valuable are the papers of the various governors who held office from 1878 through 1900. These papers, which comprise the bulk of the society's manuscript holdings, contain correspondence to and from the governors, and the records and correspondence of the various departments of state during that particular chief executive's tenure. The society's newspaper collection is immense. Between 1875 and 1900 Kansas blacks were publishers of nearly thirty newspapers; at least remnants of almost all have been preserved at Topeka. The files
pertaining to Brown vs. Board of Education contain much valuable information on the history of racial discrimination in Kansas.

For Waller's exploits in Madagascar, United States policy toward Madagascar, and the byzantine maneuverings in Washington and Paris relating to the Waller affair, see first the Waller case papers published in Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States. The case papers are the documents gathered together by the State Department at the request of Congress. Also helpful are the miscellaneous letters of the Department of State and the correspondence of the American diplomatic representatives at Tamatave and Paris. The Harrison, Washington, Cleveland, Blaine, Gresham, and Olney papers all contain correspondence concerning the Waller affair. The Olney papers are the most significant. John Mercer Langston was chief counsel to both Waller and Wallerland. His papers, available on microfilm at the Amistad Research Center of Dillard University (the originals are at Fisk University), are invaluable. Documents Diplomatique: Affaires de Madagascar, 1885–1895 is a compilation of French diplomatic correspondence on Franco-Malagasy relations during the decade in which France drew Madagascar into its orbit. It contains a wealth of information on Waller, Wallerland, and the Waller affair.

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