Judge James Robert Martin, Jr. Papers

Correspondence Relating to the 1947 Willie Earle Lynching Trial

Guide and Inventory

Guide for correspondence, newspaper articles, and other documentation relating to Judge J. Robert Martin and his role in the 1947 Willie Earle Lynching Trial held in Greenville, SC. Also includes documentation from the Willie Earle Lynching symposium held at Furman University on November 27, 1990.
Martin Correspondence Pre-Verdict / May 1 – May 15, 1947 [1 Folder]

- Typewritten Letter, Hawley Lynn to Judge Martin, May 15, 1947
- Typewritten Letter, William H. Desmonde to Judge Martin, May 15, 1947
- Postcard, “A White Voter” to Judge Martin, May 15, 1947
- Typewritten Letter, Mrs. A. J. Castelli to Judge Martin, May 15, 1947
- Typewritten Letter, Dr. James L.P. Rumble to Judge Martin, May 15, 1947
- Handwritten Letter, Edward Hutchins to Judge Martin, May 15, 1947
- Postcard, Adaze Wolf to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947
- Typewritten Letter, Nancy R. ? to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

Martin Correspondence Pre-Verdict / May 16 – May 19, 1947 [1 Folder]

- Typewritten Letter, W.R. Dawson to Judge Martin, May 17, 1947
- Typewritten Letter, Oliver G. Wood to Judge Martin, May 17, 1947
- Telegram, W.D. Huffaker to Judge Martin, May 18, 1947
- Postcard, “An American – 100% White” to Judge Martin, May 18, 1947
- Handwritten Letter, Mrs. F.W. Sprague to Judge Martin, May 18, 1947
- Typewritten Letter, “A Citizen” to Judge Martin, May 19, 1947
- Handwritten Letter, F.C. Smith to Judge Martin, May 19, 1947
- Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, May 19, 1947
**Martin Correspondence Pre-Verdict / May 20, 1947 [1 Folder]**

Typewritten Letter, Lewis G. Prince to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Wm. Bryant to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

Typewritten Letter, William A. MacDonough to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

Typewritten Letter, “A business man” to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

Typewritten Letter, J.U. Watts to Judge Martin, w/ attached newspaper clipping, May 20, 1947

Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

Handwritten Letter, Mrs. Etta Logue to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

Postcard, C.M. Deans to Judge Martin, May 20, 1947

**Martin Correspondence Pre-Verdict / May 21, 1947 [1 Folder]**

Postcard, “A U.S.A. Citizen” to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

Postcard, M. Harris to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

Typewritten Letter, William P. Kennedy to Mr. J. Robert Martin, Sr., May 21, 1947

Handwritten Letter, - to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

Handwritten Letter, “A Reader of the Topeka Daily Capital” to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

Typewritten Letter, J.C. Keys, Jr. to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, May 21, 1947

**Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 22, 1947 [4 Folders / 1 of 4]**

Handwritten Letter, “Some who took advantage of freedom of speech” to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Postcard, T.J. Toney to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Telegram, A.M. Pritchard to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Telegram, Laura Z. Hobson to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, “Yours Truly” to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, J.B. Lockridge to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Rev. Gilbert F. Cofer to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, J. Bentham Walker to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Louise B. Wykes to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Mrs. Virginia G. Fisher to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Mrs. I.B. Rutledge to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 22, 1947 [4 Folders / 2 of 4]

Postcard, Mr. Jay Shaw to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, John Stephen Gilchrist to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, William McPeak to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Telegram, Margaret Halsey to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Telegram, Katherine and Dale Eunson to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, B.C. Sullivan to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Mrs. Rosa Landisman to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Waldo Bader to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Elizabeth W. Hard to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Helen ? to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Mrs. S.M. Latz to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Mrs. Charles Alber to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 22, 1947 [4 Folders / 3 of 4]

Typewritten Letter, W.F. Loggins to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Handwritten Letter, H.C. to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Mrs. W.J. Billingsley & Family and Mrs. J.T. Graham & Family to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Donald Grimm to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947


Handwritten Letter, Pegi and Greig Ritchie to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Handwritten Letter, Dom Sherridell ? to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947


Handwritten Letter, Mrs. Robert Mellow to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Handwritten Letter, L.A. Scipio to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Handwritten Letter, Earl W. York to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Alester G. Furman, Jr., to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 22, 1947 [4 Folders / 4 of 4]

Typewritten Letter, Mrs. Chas. W. Drew to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, W.S. Houck to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Handwritten Letter, Certlier T. Hamlin? to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Cliff Langford to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Handwritten Letter, ? I. Hemrich, M.D. to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Telegram, Roy Wilkins (NAACP) to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

Postcard, G.R.R. to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Katharine Anthony? to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Charles Furnald Smith to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Arthur G. Falls, M.D. to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Addie Aidman and Betty Nelson to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Charles W. Marker to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Rose Phelps to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Mildred Lee Atwood to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Simon Horwitz to Judge Martin, May 22, 1947

**Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 23, 1947 [2 Folders / 1 of 2]**

Typewritten Letter, Rev. John W. Taylor to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Freida B. Beelger to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, J.E. McDonald to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Harlan Mendenhall to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Handwritten Letter, J. Bentham Walker to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Laura Morris Shaulis to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Handwritten Letter, N.E. Cartee to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, John B. Payne to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Betty Hearn to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Hugh A. Bayne to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, J.C. Thomson to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 23, 1947 [2 Folders / 2 of 2]

Postcard, Bertha Baker to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Card, Mrs. Simon Michael Bessie to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Mrs. Johnson to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Arthur W. Harrison to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Postcard, Mrs. M.C. Voight to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Telegram, Roslin E. Seideman to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, George C. Adams to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, James R. Harris to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Max Bloom to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Guy H. Ranson to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Judge Julian F. Bouchelle to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Phillip Freedman to Judge Martin, May 23, 1947

Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 24 – May 25, 1947 [1 Folder]

Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Telegram, Walters Pace Setters Negro Vets of WW to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Telegram, W.H. Jernagin to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Typewritten Letter, William S. Howland to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Typewritten Letter, “A Torontonian” to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Jonah J. Goldstein to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Estelle Martin Hudson to Judge Martin, May 24, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Lyle Stuart to Judge Martin, May 25, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Marjory S. Strawn? to Judge Martin, May 25, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Mrs. Elise Washburn to Judge Martin, May 25, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Jack Brown to Judge Martin, May 25, 1947
Handwritten Letter, John Knox Tibbits to Judge Martin, May 25, 1947

Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 26, 1947 [1 Folder]

Postcard, “Texas” to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Henry C. Fege to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Kenneth Knigin to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Postcard, Carlos Rodriguez to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Frank G. Lankard to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Handwritten Letter, “A Friend” to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Susan P. Frost to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Arthur G. Best to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Werner Plaut to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947 w/ attachment, Typewritten Poem
Handwritten Letter, Miss Virginia Gideon to Judge Martin, May 26, 1947

Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / May 27 – May 31, 1947 [1 Folder]

Handwritten Letter, Miss Dorothy A. Glennon to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Carl B. Rix to Joseph Thomson, May 27, 1947
Handwritten Letter, - to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Telegram, Louis Gori to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Postcard, Evangeline Wilcox to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Typewritten Letter, David S. Ruhe to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Typewritten Letter, George Lee Winstead to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Tusca Morris to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Joel Fried to Judge Martin, May 27, 1947
Telegram, 42nd Ward Citizens Committee of Chicago to Judge Martin, May 28, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Wolfgang Boesenberg to Judge Martin, May 28, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Carl Wiegman to Judge Martin, May 28, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Elise Loeb to Judge Martin, May 29, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Julien D. Martin to Judge Martin, May 30, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Mrs. Lloyd M. Southwick to Judge Martin, May 30, 1947
Handwritten Letter, - to Judge Martin, May 31, 1947

**Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / June 1 – June 15, 1947 [1 Folder]**

Typewritten Letter, Dorothy Wheelock to Judge Martin, June 2, 1947
Typewritten Letter, ? to Judge Martin, June 2, 1947
Typewritten Letter, C.E. Morgan to Judge Martin, June 3, 1947
Postcard, - to Judge Martin, June 3, 1947
Postcard, - to Judge Martin, June 5, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Turner Adams to Judge Martin, June 5, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Mrs. F.T. Cushing to Judge Martin, June 6, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Mrs. C.B. Snow to Judge Martin, June 8, 1947
Typewritten Letter, J.C. Keys, Jr. to Judge Martin, June 9, 1947
Typewritten Letter, J.C. Thomson to Judge Martin, June 9, 1947, w/ attachment;
Typewritten Letter, Walter W. Sikes to Judge Martin, June 10, 1947
Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, June 6 (Postmarked June 10), 1947
Typewritten Letter, Paulynne G. McKissack to Judge Martin, June 10, 1947
Typewritten Letter, John W. Kelly to Judge Martin, June 13, 1947

**Martin Post-Verdict Correspondence / June 16 – August 2, 1947 [1 Folder]**

Typewritten Letter, Julian S. Wolfe to Judge Martin, June 19, 1947
Typewritten Letter, R.W. Macaulay to Judge Martin, June 20, 1947
Telegram, Rev. Robert N. Williams and Rev. Smallwood E. Williams to Judge Martin, June 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, David W. Robinson to Judge Martin, June 23, 1947
Typewritten Letter, J.C. Thomson to Judge Martin, June 24, 1947, w/ attachments;
Handwritten Letter, - to Judge Martin, June 24, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Betty Davidow to Judge Martin, June 26, 1947
Postcard, Laura C. Harrison to Judge Martin, July 2, 1947
Handwritten Letter, Sidney S. Tison to Judge Martin, July 10, 1947
Typewritten Letter, William H. Gill to Judge Martin, July 16, 1947
Typewritten Letter, Sidney Waugh to Judge Martin, August 2, 1947

**Martin Undated Correspondence [1 Folder]**

Handwritten Letter, E. Belch to Judge Martin, undated
Handwritten Letter, Mark Heath to Judge Martin, undated
Handwritten Letter, Janet Wakelee to Judge Martin, undated
Handwritten Letter, No Name to Judge Martin, undated
Handwritten Letter, Bennett E. Geer to Judge Martin, undated
Handwritten Letter, Mrs. J.N. Wimer to Judge Martin, undated
Handwritten Letter, Hubard Bebb to Judge Martin, undated

Handwritten Letter, “An Admirer” to Judge Martin, undated, w/ attachment: newspaper clipping

Handwritten Letter, Sam Watt to Judge Martin, undated, w/ attachments: 2 pictures of Sam Watt

**Misc. Trial Correspondence [1 Folder]**

Handwritten Letter, Mrs. Cecil Barham to “Judge and Jury,” May 22, 1947

Typewritten Letter, J.C. Thomson to Harrison Tweed, May 23, 1947

Typewritten Letter, J.C. Thomson to Carl Rix, May 23, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Mrs. M. Irwin to “Jury,” May 24, 1947

Handwritten Letter, Florice Wright, May 25, 1947

Typewritten Letter, Mrs. Harper Sibley to Governor Strom Thurmond, June 6, 1947

Handwritten Letter, “A Virginian,” undated

Handwritten Letter, No Name, undated

Handwritten Letter, M.L. Isbel Hall, May 23, 1947, w/ attachment: newspaper clipping

**Trial Newspaper Clippings 1947 [3 Folders / 1 of 3]**


Newspaper Clipping, “Judge in Lynch Trial,” The Asheville Citizen, May 16, 1947


Newspaper Article, “Jury Acquits 28 Accused of Lynching,” John Popham, Globe and Mail (Toronto), May 22, 1947

Newspaper Clipping, “Trial By Fury,” approx. May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, “Justice Outraged,” The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, Tennessee), May 23, 1947


Newspaper Article, “Prejudice Versus Justice,” Tampa Morning Tribune, undated


**Trial Newspaper Clippings 1947 [3 Folders / 2 of 3]**


Newspaper Article, “Justice at Greenville,” undated

Newspaper Article, “That Southern Lynching,” Summit County Democrat, May 28, 1947

Newspaper Article, “Some Variations Seen In a Familiar Pattern,” May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, “Morgan Blake Urges Professional Courtesy in Lynchings,” Tampa Morning Tribune, May 23, 1947


Newspaper Article, “It Could Have Been Your Son,” The AFRO, May 24, 1947
Newspaper Article, “The Shape of Things,” The Nation (New York), May 24, 1947

Newspaper Article, “Inexplicable Verdict,” The Times-Picayune (New Orleans), May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, “Delayed Justice,” Chicago Times, undated

**Trial Newspaper Clippings 1947 [3 Folders / 3 of 3]**

Newspaper Article, “Greenville” Chicago Daily Tribune, May 24, 1947

Newspaper Clipping, “White Supremacy Celebrates,” Summit County Democrat (Ohio), May 28, 1947

Newspaper Article, “South Carolina Lynching Case Shows Progress,” Christian Century, June 4, 1947


Newspaper Clipping, excerpts from multiple publications: “Community’s Feeling” (Easley Progress), “The Hue And Cry” (Columbia Record), “Realistic Act” (Columbia State), “Not Amazing” (Spartanburg Herald), undated

Newspaper Article, “Lynch Case Will Go To Trial On Monday,” Cheves Ligon, undated

Newspaper Article, “Outstanding Judge,” undated


Newspaper Article, “Due Process of Law,” Atlanta Journal, undated

Newspaper Article, “Man to Man,” Harold L. Ickes, undated

Newspaper Article, “South Carolina Makes a Start,” undated


“**Opera in Greenville,” The New Yorker, June 14, 1947, article by Rebecca West**

Magazine Article, “A Reporter At Large: Opera In Greenville,” Rebecca West, The New Yorker, June 14, 1947, pp. 31-65


Pamphlet, “The Willie Earle Lynching: A Symposium at Furman University,”
November 27, 1990


Newspaper Article, “Black lynchings in South linked to cotton prices,” Carolyn S. Carlson, The State, undated