

# 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.

**Filed in: *Judge James Robert Martin, Jr. Papers* [1 Box]**

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**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  
Typewritten Letter, “E.J.C. (Equal Justice Crusaders)” 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, "A grateful [sic] Southerner" 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

Typewritten Letter, Ruth? Wilson 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

Typewritten Letter, Gretchen Wiedt, Velma Huseman?, ?, Florence F. Johnson, and Alice Dow? 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

Handwritten Letter, Asa? Moore (A.M.) Janney 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 Torontonion" 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, J.C. Thomson to Arthur J. Freund, June 9, 1947

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, Paulyne 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;  
Typewritten Letter, Carl B. Rix to Joseph Thomson, May 27, 1947; Typewritten  
Letter, Arthur J. Freund to J.C. Thomson, June 12, 1947

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 Article, "Seats Nine Jurors in Lynching Case," John N. Popham, The New York Times, May 13, 1947

Newspaper Article, "All Acquitted by Lynch Jury in 5¼ Hours," Robert S. Bird, New York Herald Tribune, approx. May 21, 1947

Newspaper Clippng, "Judge in Lynch Trial," The Asheville Citizen, May 16, 1947

Newspaper Article, "'Law or Violence,' Lynch Jury Choice," John N. Popham, The New York Times, May 21, 1947

Newspaper Article, "South Carolina Makes A Start," The New York Times, May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, "'Ghastly Farce-No Justice' Lynching Case Arouses U.S.," Toronto Star, May 22, 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, "Greenville's Jury Says, 'Not Guilty,'" St. Louis Star-Times, May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, "Due Process," The Nashville Tennessean, May 23, 1947.

Newspaper Article, "A Jury Betrays Southern Justice," Richmond Times-Dispatch, May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, "Prejudice Versus Justice," Tampa Morning Tribune, undated

Newspaper Clipping, "At Mass Lynching Trial Yesterday," The New York Times, May 23, 1947

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

Newspaper Article, "The Lynching Acquittal," Youngstown Vindicator, May 22, 1947

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, "Due Process of Law," Atlanta Constitution, May 21, 1947

Newspaper Article, "Editorials: Lynch Law Scores Again," Chicago Sun, May 23, 1947

Newspaper Clipping, "A Jury Betrays Southern Justice," Richmond Times-Dispatch, May 23, 1947

Newspaper Article, "Lynch Verdict," Washington Post, undated

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 Article, "Lynch Verdict," undated.

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, "The Brighter Side at Greenville," John N. Popham, from the New York Times, 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

Newspaper Clippings, 3 pictures with incorrect captions: "Judge," undated, "Judge In Lynch Trial," undated, "Death Was Close," 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

**Radio Broadcast Transcript, May 25, 1947. Walter Winchell Show.**

Transcript, (1 page), Walter Winchell, May 25, 1947.

**“Willie Earle Lynching Symposium,” 1990. Furman University Material and Publicity.**

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

Newspaper Article, “The Civil Right Not To Be Lyched: The Case of Willie Earle,” Will  
Gravely with Will Moredock, Point, Vol. 1 No. 13, Nov. 23-Dec. 6, 1990, pp. 4-6

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

Newspaper Article, “Memories spur S.C. native to write book on 1947 lynching,” The  
State, Nov. 26, 1990