



Martin Digital History

Peter & Julie Cummings Library (Martin County Library System)
2551 SW Matheson Ave, Palm City, FL 34990
Archivist: Georgen Charnes gcharnes@martin.fl.us

Martin Digital History Collection Policy

Section 1: Mission:

The mission of MDH is to encourage the appreciation of Martin County's unique history by collaborating with community members to collect, present, and interpret relevant digital content, including images, artifacts, and documents.

Section 2. Ethical and Legal Considerations:

The MDH will not knowingly acquire or exhibit artifacts that have been stolen or removed from commercially exploited archaeological or historic sites.

Martin County staff, trustees, committee members, and volunteers do not provide appraisals of historical materials. Those interested in an appraisal should consult a reputable appraiser; a list is available from the International Society of Appraisers (<https://www.isa-appraisers.org/>).

The staff of the MDH are not copyright experts. However, whenever possible, a good faith attempt has been made to ascertain the copyright status of items available in this project. Items that may be copyrighted will be marked as "in copyright" or "copyright undetermined" and if a user wishes to include an item in a publication, the burden of permissions is passed to them. MDH will use best efforts to make such determination of copyright status but bears no responsibility for such determination and specifically waives liability for all claims, liabilities, losses and causes of actions in connection therewith.

Out of respect, images featuring nudity or death will not be made available online.

Section 3. Scope of Collections:

The MDH is interested in developing a digital collection of materials concerning the social, economic, cultural, and political history of Martin County owned or held by other organizations or people; we are not a collecting agency.

Priority is given to materials that document activities of particular significance in the development of the area, such as images of people, places, and events; oral histories; and maps. MDH will be borrowing items for digitization from community members and including them in an online catalog. If an item loaned to the MDHC does not support research in the history of the Treasure Coast, it may not be included in the project.

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to support a scanning service, but we can often make equipment available for the patron to use for this purpose.

Martin County is committed to collecting, presenting, and including material from all our citizens, to represent the full history of the region more accurately. We recognize that diversity, equity, and inclusion are key values for a fair society, and will strive to include historical materials from all



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communities, and to describe the items respectfully. Additionally, we are endeavoring to make our digital spaces more accessible to all; if you experience a barrier that affects your ability to access any digital content, please let us know.

Section 4. Responsibility for Collections:

To participate in this project, individuals who loan items to the MDH must be willing to formally gift the scan of the item to Martin County. While the donation will be acknowledged in the online presentation, we cannot always control its use by patrons, and the loaner must acknowledge that MDC, not its employees, agents, and representative are not responsible for this use. No remuneration will be made to the loaning individual or agency now or later. Objects in custody that become abandoned (held for more than 6 months with no response to attempts to communicate) may be donated to an appropriate institution in accordance with all applicable laws.

Items will be stored while at the MDH office in a secure location. However, while we can advise patrons on how to best store and preserve their historical materials, we unfortunately cannot offer conservation treatments or rehousing at preservation standards. MDH bears no responsibility for the security of historical items in its care.

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