



Martin Digital History

Newsletter of martindigitalhistory.org

April 2025

Uploads to martindigitalhistory.org:

Dr. Parker Day



Thanks to Sandra Thurlow and her continuing generosity, we have added many photos of the early days of the Martin Memorial Hospital and several of “Dr. Parker Day.” The date 11 November 1961 was proclaimed “Dr. Parker Day” by the Martin County Commissioners and the mayor of Stuart. On that day, all those who had been delivered by Dr. Parker were invited to attend the dedication of the new J.D. Parker Elementary School. Dr. Parker arrived in Stuart in 1924 and retired in 1972, after serving Stuart and surrounding communities for almost 50 years.



Dr. Julian Parker (1895-1987) and Stuart Mayor Jack Hartman (1926-1997)



Dr. Parker with two toddlers; Dr. Parker delivered more than 4,000 babies between 1924 and 1985.



Approximately 500 persons who were delivered by Dr. Parker attended the event.

Uploads to martindigitalhistory.org:

Hunting Buggy Collection

Thanks to HSMC for loaning us this collection, which features Harry Dyer and Jim Pomeroy with their “woods buggy,” a car that had been adapted for use in hunting and camping.



Uploads to martindigitalhistory.org:

Flower Farms

Thanks to Sandra Thurlow for loaning us a collection of images of some of the flower farms, which filled the treasure coast with acres of blossoms.

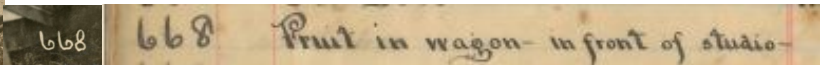


Florida Photographic Concern Registers

Lent by a new participant, St. Lucie County, we have digitized four record books from the famous photography studio in Fort Pierce. The record books record the negative numbers and either a description of the subject or the name of the person ordering the photograph, as well as several other pieces of information. These registers are extremely useful. A large number of early photographs of Martin County were taken by Florida Photographic Concern. Before 1925, parts of what is now Martin County were in St. Lucie County. The photographers also took many photographs all over Florida. Their images of Stuart, Jensen, and surrounding areas have been used thousands of times without attribution, as Sandra Thurlow has so well pointed out in her recent presentations.

These books provide us with crucial added information. We often get a print that clearly has the negative number, but no other information. We can now look up the negative number and get more details about the image. For instance, we have an image of a man driving a cart filled with pineapples. I knew it had been used in the 1923 presentation to the U.S. engineers depicting life in this area, but I didn't know the date the photograph was taken and suspected it was earlier than 1923. Using one of the record books, I know now it was taken in about 1919 and in Ft. Pierce.

One problem we have is that while one book has the information listed by negative number, the next book has the details listed by subject. The book is organized alphabetically, with negative numbers and descriptions under each letter. So negative number 7344, which shows a footpath lined by palm trees, is under "H" for "Hobe Sound views." Finding 7344 while not knowing it was taken in Hobe Sound would take all day. **If anyone would like to volunteer to type the information in this volume into a spreadsheet, we would be happy to have the assistance!**



Project Updates

- We added 400 items to the online project in March 2025
- Online exhibits are slowly expanding. I'm working on short histories of buildings in the area.
- The project now has over 9,260 items on the Digital Public Library of America



Martin County Celebrates its Centennial in 2025!
Check out the website for events and information!
martincounty100.com

Interested in Martin County history? Visit and
subscribe to Sandra Thurlow's
[Sandy History Lady Blog](http://SandyHistoryLadyBlog)



What is the Martin Digital History Project?

The mission of Martin Digital History (MDH) is to encourage the appreciation of Martin County's unique history by collaborating with community members and local organizations to collect, present, and interpret relevant digital content. This project, orchestrated by the Martin County Library System, is the result of the planning teamwork of several far-sighted community members and organizations, including Sandra Thurlow, Black Heritage Initiative, Stuart Heritage, the Historical Society of Martin County, the Library Foundation of Martin County, and many others. It is open for public participation.

- This newsletter will attempt to keep all informed about the project, including new participants and accessions, plans, events, etc. [Click here to subscribe to this newsletter.](#)
- More information: martindigitalhistory.org
- Feedback, comments, questions? Contact the archivist: Georgen Charnes, gcharnes@martin.fl.us



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