Guide to the Papers of

Martin Luther King Jr.

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2023

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** King, Martin Luther (1929-1968)

**Title:** Papers of Martin Luther King Jr.

**Dates:** 1929-1968

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Nobel Peace Prize winner for his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. He is known for his nonviolent, peaceful tactics to protest and combat segregation and racism. King was a proud alumnus of Morehouse College and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity member. Dr. King was the founder and President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and worked with the NAACP. Martin Luther King, Jr. is celebrated for his “I Have to Dream” speech and March on Washington. He was married to Coretta Scott King.

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in folders. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

Alpha Phi Alpha

Coretta Scott King

March on Washington

Morehouse College

Tuskegee Civic Association mass meeting, July 2, 1957

**Persons:**

Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D.

**Biography**

Martin Luther King Jr was born on January 15, 1929, at 501 Auburn Ave. in Atlanta, Georgia. He was the second of three children of Reverend Martin Luther King Sr and Alberta William King. He has an older sister, Willie Christine King, and a younger brother Alfred Daniel Williams King, also known as A.D King.

At 15, King graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. He was admitted through an early enrollment entrance examination at Morehouse College due to the low student enrollment because of enlisting in World War II. In 1946, Atlanta Constitution published King’s first work, a letter to the editor about black people “are entitled to the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens.” By 1948, King was ordained and appointed assistant pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where his father held the title of head pastor. That same year Dr. King received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology at Morehouse College at 19. In 1951, he graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, in which he delivered the valedictory address at commencement. The following year in 1954, he began pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL. By 1955 at 25, King earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Systemic Theology from Boston University. In 1958, King published his first book, Stride Toward Freedom.

He married Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama, on June 18, 1953. The couple had four children: Yolanda Denise King, Martin Luther King III, Dexter King, and Bernice King.

Martin Luther King, Jr. is known for his nonviolent practices and peaceful protesting to combat racism which derived from his spiritual views. He spoke on topics such as equal rights for African Americans and women, economic issues, and the Vietnam War.  Dr. King delivered his profound “I Have a Speech” during the March on Washington, and his legendary “Letter from Birmingham Jail” provoked the entire world's emotions. It made him one of the influential leaders during the Civil Rights Movement. Additionally, he recited his “How Long, Not Long” speech by participating in the Selma-Montgomery March in 1965.

Dr. King was an affiliate with many organizations. He was a dedicated member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity through the Sigma Chapter in Boston Metro.  He helped establish and became president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Additionally, he worked closely with the NAACP. In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at 35. He received $54,123 in prize money and donated it to advance the civil rights movement further. King received the NAACP Medal in 1957 and the American Liberties Medallion from the American Jewish Committee in 1965.

Unfortunately, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated at the Loraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, at the age of 68.

Posthumous awards that were accepted on his behalf by Coretta Scott King were the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 1994. In addition, Congress enacted, and President Ronald Regan signed into law on November 2, 1983, to declare Martin Luther King Day a Federal Holiday. Coretta Scott King continued his legacy through The King Center, The Center for Nonviolent Social Change, in 1968.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Martin Luther King Jr consist of documents spanning 1953-1994 and include research articles, personal and business correspondence, and complied papers by Daniel T. Williams (University Archivist) concerning Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Articles and data on The Martin Luther King, Jr Center for Social Change (The King Center) and Memorial applying for National Endowment for Humanities proposal project. Personal correspondence to Daniel T. Williams and his involvement in The King Center to Coretta Scott King. Business correspondence from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Dr. Daniel Wynn.  Newspaper articles and clipping from Tuskegee Institute publications and other news outlets on The Montgomery Bus Boycott, The Martin Luther King, Jr. for Social Change, the legacy and remembrance of Dr. King, and Dr. King's visit to Tuskegee Institute. Biographical Sketch and data on Martin Luther King, Jr. There are graphics and photos of Dr. King, Coretta Scott King, his children, supporters, and friends. Pictures with President John F. Kennedy, protests, and March on Washington.  Include addresses and speeches from Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King. Furthermore, there are Tuskegee University and The King Center Annual Programs and Holiday Observances celebrating Dr. King.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 The New York Times Book Review [Dr. King’s Best Friend, October 29, 1989]

1 2 TV Guide Magazine [Remembering Dr. King]

1 3 Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Preservation District Envelopes

1 4 The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc Library and

Archives

1 5 Biographical Data [The Honorable Nathaniel R. Jones United States

Circuit Judge]

1 6 “Reply”, The Southerner Member of a Branch of a White Citizens Council –

Charles G. Gomillion

1 7 Tuskegee Civic Association, The Macon County Committee from C.G Gomillion

02/14/1958

1 8 Reverend Dr. Calvin S. Morris Curriculum Vita

1 9 MLK Jr. Observance – April 2, 1980, Pictures

1 10 MLK Jr. Holiday Observance at Tuskegee University Chapel, January 1988

Pictures

1 11 MLK Observance, The Tuskegee Chapel January 21, 1991, Cassette Tapes (2)

1 12 Pictures of “I Had a Dream” and Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Memorial in Selma

1 13 Tuskegee Institute’s The Campus Digest: December 18, 1964, and January 24,

1986 issues

1 14 Black Life Newspaper [King: He Didn’t See the World in Black and White]

Vol. 3, No 1 – January/February 1990

1 15 St. Petersburg Times [ Ex-Advisor Draws Fire for His Portrait Martin Luther

King] October 27, 1989

1 16 MLK Observance at Tuskegee University; January 20, 1986, 11am Chapel –

Cassette Tapes (2)

**Box Folder**

2 1 National Affairs [‘I Like the Word Black’ – Dr. King] May 6, 1963

2 2 The Avenues [ Mrs. Coretta Scott King] Vol. 4 January 1988

2 3 Rolling Stone Magazine [Portrait of a Generation] Issue 523, April 7, 1988

2 4 Nobel Peace Prize Article and Pictures

2 5 Jock Manton’s Statute of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pictures

2 6 The Martin Luther King Jr. for Social Change Presents The Fourth Annual

Benefit Concert, January 15, 1975

2 7 Martin Luther King Jr. National Site Historic Site “Official Map and Guide” and

Birth Home Pamphlets

2 8 Readers’ Guide to Periodic Literature Biography Index on Dr. King, September

1967-November 1971

2 9 Montgomery Bus Boycott 1956 News Clippings

2 10 Passages from Dr. King Speeches, 1958-1967

2 11 Various Clippings on Dr. King

2 12 Flyers to Celebrate Dr. King’s Birthday, January 15, 1981 – Freedom Workshops

2 13 Article [The Leadership of Martin Luther King]

2 14 Letter from Dr. L. H. Foster to Reverend Jesse Jackson in regards of Martin

Luther King Day at Tuskegee

2 15 Portrait of Dr. King and Dr. King with Family, November 1966

2 16 Photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. Standing at the Front Entrance of His Birth

Home, August 1967

2 17 Pictures of Dr. Martin Luther King

2 18 Dr. Martin Luther King with His Family Pictures

2 19 Funeral and Memorial Photos of Dr. King

2 20 Photos of Mrs. Coretta Scott King

2 21 Protest Photos of Dr. King and His Supporters and Friends

2 22 Post Cards Souvenirs

2 23 Dr. King Speaking Engagements Photos

2 24 John F. Kennedy and Dr. King Photo

2 25 Photos from the Civil Rights Movement

2 26 Malcolm and Dr. King Graphics

2 27 Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement Timeline Pamphlet

**Box Folder**

3 1 Library Documentation Project, Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Center

3 2 [A Brief Progress Report] on the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center,

January 13, 1970

3 3 Correspondence Coretta Scott King on the Martin Luther King Jr. Center

3 4 [Your Literary I.Q Afro- American History] Daniel T. Williams, 1971

3 5 MLK Quotes

3 6 Annual Celebration of Dr. King’s Birthday, January 13-15, 1977

3 7 Biographical Information; The Reverend Calvin S. Morris Executive Director,

Dr. King’s Center

3 8 National Endowment for the Humanities Proposal Project for the Martin Luther

King Jr. Center

3 9 Southern Christian Leadership Conference Financial Records Archives

3 10 Pictures from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change

3 11 Coretta Scott King addressing Tuskegee Institute, April 12, 1970

3 12 The Martin King Jr. for Social Change; Fourth Annual Meeting, April 6-7, 1973

3 13 The Institute of the Black World [A Part of Dr. King Memorial Center] 1969

3 14 Coretta Scott King Address to the Fourth Annual Conference of the Center in

Boston

3 15 [A Report of Certain Reactions by Atlanta Public to the Death of the Reverend

Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.] Fred R. Crawford, Roy Norman, and Leah Dabbs

3 16 First World Magazine [The Kennedy – King Assassinations] May/June 1977

3 17 Playboy Interview [ Martin Luther King] January 1965, Reprint

3 18 [Booker T. Washington: A Register of His Papers in the Tuskegee Archives]

Daniel T. Williams, 1974

3 19 [The Leadership Philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Its Educational

Implications] Dissertation Proposal, Joseph Carpenter, Jr.

## Box Folder

4 1 Tuskegee Institute The Campus Digest: Volume 47, Number 9, January 20, 1978

4 2 Tuskegee/Macon County Alabama Dr. Martin Luther King Week Celebration,

January 8-15, 1982

4 3 Pictures of Martin L. King Room, November 11, 1973

4 4 Tuskegee Gram [Former Associate Will Address King Observance] January 21,

1988

4 5 Tuskegee Institute Newsletters and Chapel Bulletin, July 27,1955-May 28,1965

4 6 Martin Luther King Jr. Letter to Rev. Andrew L. Johnson, Scheduling a Visit to

Tuskegee Institute 09/21/1966

4 7 Martin Luther King Jr. at Tuskegee University Visit List

4 8 Letters from Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr to Dr. Daniel Wynn 04/18/1956-

01/27/1959

4 9 Communication from Benjamin F. Payton, President about MLK Day and

Annuals Program

4 10 Tuskegee University, The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Observance

Annual Program Years 1-8

4 11 Tuskegee University, The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Observance

12th and 13th Annual Program

4 12 Martin Luther King, Jr. Historical Sites/Historic Resource Study, August 1994

4 13 Dedication Services for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument

4 14 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance at Tuskegee University Speakers

4 15 Tuskegee Institute 50th- 55th Birthday Celebration of Rev. Doctor King, Jr.

Annual Program

4 16 Tuskegee Institute Dedication of the Martin Luther King Room, November 11,

1973

**Box Folder**

5 1 Pamphlets on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission

5 2 “Let My People Go” A Litany of Commemoration of The Reverend Martin

Luther King, Jr.

5 3 Graphics from The Associated Publishers, INC on Dr. King

5 4 Full Employment, Volume 1, No.1 April 1975 and Volume 2, No.1 May 1976

5 5 Obsequies Martin Luther King, Jr. Ebenezer Baptist Church April 9, 1968

5 6 The Tuskegee News, Volume 126, No. 3, January 15,1987

5 7 The Atlanta Journal – Religion [Mantle Press] January 11, 1992

5 8 The Montgomery Advertiser, January 17, 1993, and October 28, 1994 Issues

5 9 The King Center Reports [A Progress Memo] 1974

5 10 Dr. King’s Archival Collection

5 11 The Martin Luther King, Jr. for Social Change

5 12 The American Library Association Annual Conference, Coretta Scott King Award

and Exhibit, June 25-July 1, 1972

5 13 [The Casualties of the War in Vietnam] Address By Dr. King, February 25, 1967

5 14 Dr. Kings Record of Arrests

5 15 [A Christmas Sermon] Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

5 16 Groundbreaking Ceremony Freedom Hall Complex, October 18,1979

5 17 Martin Luther King, Jr Center for Social Change Birthday Anniversary

5 18 First Annual Institute on Non-Violence, Summer 1976

5 19 First Annual Dinner of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center Honorary Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, Sr., 1977

5 20 369 Veterans Association, 55th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Memorial

Parade, May 7, 1972

5 21 Southern Christian Leadership Conference: July 1963, September/October 1983

and November/December 1983 Issues

5 22 Campaign ’76 [Julian Bond “I’d Run to Win], Volume 1 No.1 May, 1975

**Box Folder**

6 1 The Birmingham News, 1965-1980 Issues

6 2 The Miami News: [Chronicling Martin Luther King, Jr. Rise] December 2, 1988

6 3 The Index-Journal Greenwood, S.C., December 29, 1980

6 4 The Miami Herald Newspaper, 1973-1988 Issues

6 5 The Montgomery Advertiser, April 5, 1968, and January 20, 1991, Issues

6 6 Ebony Magazine [Coretta King; In Her Husband’s Footsteps] September 1968

6 7 Time Magazine [Man of the Year: Martin Luther King, Jr.] January 3,1964

6 8 The Miami Times Newspaper, January 17,1991 Issue and Special Edition

6 9 The Washington Post, Articles January 16, 1975 – January 16,1975

6 10 The Washington Star Newspaper, Articles October 24, 1975 – February 1, 1976

6 11 The New York Times, Articles April 10, 1968 – April 3, 1978

6 12 The Philadelphia Inquirer, Articles December 17, 1975, and February 16, 1976

6 13 Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Soul Force, January 1972, Vol. 6

No. 1

6 14 Chicago Tribune [Leaders Express Shock, Grief at Dr. King’s Assassination]

April 5, 1968

6 15 New American Newspaper [Dr. King Leaves Rich Non-Violent Legacy] April 15,

1968, Vol. 4 No. 11

6 16 Journal and Guide Newspaper [Did a Number: Hear Him Denounced!] June 19,

1965

6 17 Alabama Journal [King’s Death Ignites Violence] April 5, 1968

6 18 The Atlanta Inquirer [Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Stirs Love]

April 13, 1968

6 19 The Bulletin [Germany Mourns World’s Loss of Martin Luther King] April 09,

1968

6 20 The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Articles April 04, 1969 – January 20, 1991

6 21 Jet Magazine, April 18, 1968, and January 23,1969 Issues

6 22 [Memorial: Martin Luther King] Published Country Wide Publications, INC,

1968

6 23 Cathedral Age [Martin Luther King, Jr. and Washington Cathedral] Summer Issue

1968

6 24 Columbus Times [The Alpha Fraternity Remembers Dr. Martin Luther King]

January 18, 1989

**Box Folder**

7 1 Newspaper Clippings on Dr. Martin Luther King, September 6, 1976 – May 23,

1977

7 2 Meet the Press Interview transcript with Dr. King, Vol. 9 No. 2, March 28, 1965

7 3 Commission on Colleges – Southern Association of Colleges and Colleges, 1974

and 1976 Publications

7 4 Alabama Journal [A Monument to Martin L. King] Gary Wills, March 12, 1973

7 5 [Shelving and Office Furniture for Archives Building] Patricia Bartkowski

7 6 Biographical and Accomplishment of Dr. King

7 7 Addresses Delivered by Dr. King

7 8 Southern Christian Leadership Conference [Civil Rights Patriarch Dies in Atlanta:

Daddy King] December/January 1984-1985

7 9 Black Family Magazine [The King Family Twelve Years Later] November 1980-

January 1981

7 10 Jet Magazine [May 2, 1968, and August 4, 1977] Issues

7 11 The Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize Special Award Ceremony in

Honor Dr. Kenneth Kaunda

7 12 [Inventory of Academic Leadership] Samuel M. Nabrit and Julius S. Scott, Jr.

7 13 [Morehouse College and Martin Luther King, Jr] Hugh M. Gloster, Morehouse

College President, 04/07/1968

7 14 Buttons, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center 10th Anniversary, 1978

7 15 Addresses from William C. Walker, Drawer ‘A’ Fort, Leavenworth, Kansas

7 16 Congrefs of the United States, New York

7 17 Memorial Service(s) of Dr. King

7 18 Ebony Magazine [Biggest Protest March in History] November 1963

7 19 The Atlanta Journal – Atlanta Weekly [ M.L. King Sr Speaks Out] October 11,

1981

7 20 The New York Times [History in the Making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr]

December 15, 1985

7 21 Life Magazine – Special Issue [The Dream Then and Now] Spring 1988

7 22 Life Magazine [Bobby and Martin 25 Years After Their Deaths] April 1993