Martin was born 23 Aug. 1839 to Frands Hansen and Ane Christensen. He was the 4th of 5 children, having a twin a few minutes older. He married Kjertsen Petersen, 22 Dec. 1865. They had 7 children: Ana Maria, Jensine Petrea-who married Ludvig Martinus (Libby) Madison, Thomas Christian who married Sarah Rasmussen and after she died, he married Elizabeth Haycock Brown, Peter Marinus who married Anne Roseta Cooper, Anton Martinus, who married Else Marrethe Sorensen, Ludvig Johan (known here as John Levi), Grenaa, who married Alice Haycock, Martin Christian, who married Marie Catrin Hansen Jensen.

Martin was a fisherman by trade, which was a hazardous occupation. After joining the LDS Church in Denmark, they made plans to come to America. The 2 oldest children Petrea and Tom, sponsored by saints in America came first. Then the missionaries helped raise funds so Martin Sr. Could come over. He hoped to make enough money to bring the rest of his family over. Martin, the youngest, was not yet born. After Martin was born the remainder of the family were able to come.

In 1898 the family came from southern Utah to Iona. They lived in the rock house on the Crowley road that was later owned by Delbert Frandsen.