Martin Christian Frandsen was born 18 Oct. 1882 in Grenaa, Denmark, the son of Martin and Kjersten Frandsen. He came to the United States with his mother when he was 11 months old. The family settled in Moroni, Sanpete, Utah. Here the children received their elementary education.

The family moved to Iona, Idaho in 1898 when Martin was 16. He and his brothers Peter and Levi helped Samuel Haycock trail a large herd of sheep from southern Utah to the valley surrounding Iona. It was a long tedious journey but they made it after weeks of slow traveling. They walked most of the way.

Martin was a shy young man and he never wanted to learn to dance. He was an adept marble player. He and others played marbles outside the old rock school house which was used for church, school and parties.

Martin’s older brother, Peter, served a mission in Denmark. During his labors there he became acquainted with a family in the city of Esbjerg. They were Emil and Anno Hansen. Like many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints they desired to come to Zion. They could not all go at the same time so they chose to send the eldest daughter, Marie. Marie was born at a town called Rebe on 31 Jan. 1890. Elder Frandsen had been appointed head of the immigration Department and had quite a few saints in his charge. One of them being Marie. They had a very pleasant voyage, docking at Inebeck, Canada. Peter took her to Iona where she stayed with his parents, which was very pleasant for her because they spoke the same language. While she was there Martin came home from a job herding and shearing sheep. When telling the story she said she thought he needed to be sheared. It didn’t take long until they went for a long buggy rides. They were married 17 Sep. 1908 by Bishop Charles W. Rockwood.

Martin worked at farming and with sheep shearing but decided to strike out for himself. Dry farming was just a few years old in this part of the country so they decided to try dry farming. They homesteaded 200 acres back of the big hill east of Iona, near the Martin Flat. Dry farming turned out to be heartbreaking for so many men, their wives and families. They would move up there after school and then down again when it started. In the year 1922 they sold 40 acres of the dry farm land and turned the rest back to the government. Martin then worked for C. W. Hansen until his death. He worked on the railroad for awhile.

When John Stosich brought his new wife from Germany, they were neighbors to the Frandsens. She was unable to speak English which made it very hard for her. Martin couldn’t speak German but he could understand some of the things that John and his wife said. He offered and was accepted to help Mrs. Stosich learn to speak English. They were very happy over the success of his teaching. He also showed her how to tie and quilt quilts.

Martin and Marie had 8 children: Eva Marie married Lewis O. Thorne and live in Nampa, Idaho; Wilford (Tut) married Lavon Sharp; Wilburn (Wib) married Marjorie Farnsworth; Lavon (V0n) married Ernestine Martin; Anno died at age 5; Marvin married Shirlee Quinn and lives at Fresno, Cal.; Mildred (Michy) married Dino Kanakis and lives at Phoenix, Arizona; and Lyla married Walt Sather and lives in Palmdale, California.

Martin C. Frandsen died suddenly of a heart attack 3 Dec. 1958 at the age of 76. He was a resident of Iona for over 60 years. Marie stayed in Iona several years after Martin’s death and then decided to move to Idaho Falls. She was visiting with her daughter, Eva, at Nampa, Idaho.
where she passed away on 6 Jan. 1975 at the age of 85. She and Martin are both buried in the Iona Cemetery.

Information from the Iona Centennial Book 1883-1993 Their picture is in the book.