Born in Red River County, Texas - came across plains to California in 1953 by ox cart. Began to teach school at age 18. Came to San Dimas Canyon in 1868 kept bees - only there 3 years, moved to Claremont, then Pomona. 1886, elected L. A. County Supervisor - first to be elected from eastern end of the County. Served 4 years, and during those years, more bridges were built in the east end of the County than ever before, among them the old El Monte wooden bridge half a mile long. He and his wife had 18 children

In 1872, his father William C. Martin, or Uncle Billy, bought a homesteader's claim to 160 acres at the mounth of San Dimas Canyon and lived here, farming and raising bees, until 1887.