

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Martin

Variants: MARTINS, MARTYN, MARTYNS, MARTEN, MARTENS, MARTAIN, MATIN, MARTINET

- **Current frequencies:** GB 109869, Ireland 14106
- **GB frequency 1881:** 73034
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Kent, and Surrey; Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Monaghan; Dublin

1 English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English personal name *Martin*, Medieval Latin *Martinus*.

Further information:

Martinus and its derivatives were popular as given names in much of W Europe during the Middle Ages, due largely to the cult of Saint Martin of Tours (316–397). This yielded an early surname in France, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Italy, England, Ireland, and elsewhere.

Early bearers:

given names:

Martinus, 1086 in Winton Domesday (Hants); Martinus, about 1166 in Northants Charters (Northants); Martinus Scray, 1379 in Poll Tax (Cornwall).

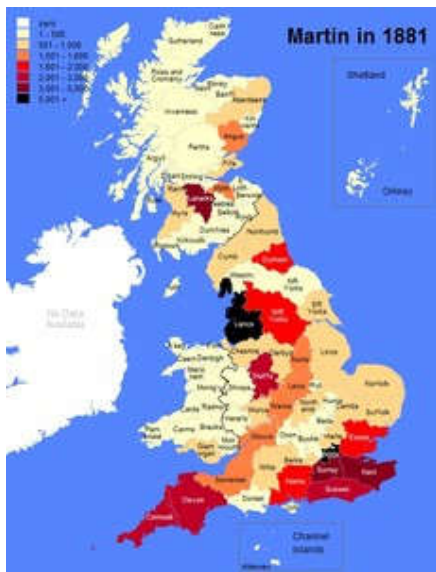
surnames: Walter Martin, 1166 in Red Book of the Exchequer (Cambs); Helewis Martin, 1189–99 in Curia Regis Rolls; Isabella Martyn, 1379 in Poll Tax (Bletsoe, Beds); Johannes Martine, 1379 in Poll Tax (Selby, WR Yorks); Elinor Martin, 1539 in IGI (Charlton Kings, Gloucs); Helin Martin, 1539 in IGI (Ipswich, Suffolk); Robert Martin, 1539 in IGI (Norwich, Norfolk); John Martin, 1540 in IGI (Guildford, Surrey); John Martin, 1540 in IGI (Rossington, WR Yorks); John Martin, 1558 in IGI (Saint Minver, Cornwall); John Martin, 1559 in IGI (Horsham, Sussex).

2 Irish: from **Ó Mártain**, 'descendant of Martin'. Otherwise, a shortened form of GILMARTIN or McMARTIN; sometimes also spelled *Martyn* .

Early bearers:

Gilla Arnain h-Ua Martain, 1217 in AU; Henry Marten, husbandman, 1567 in Fiants Elizabeth §1030 (Kilkenny); Dominick Marten, merchant, 1568–69 in Fiants Elizabeth §1294 (Galway); Donogh O'Martin, glover, 1574 in Fiants Elizabeth §2424; Teige O'Marten, horseman, 1581 in Fiants Elizabeth §3720 (Creagh, Roscommon); William Martene, sheriff of Galway, 1582 in Fiants Elizabeth §4045; Wm. Martin, 1591 in Fiants Elizabeth §5727 (Galway); Dominick Martin, 1597 in Fiants Elizabeth §6090 (Galloway); Shane O'Martin, husbandman, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6507 (Newton).

3 English: variant of MARTON.



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Martin, 1881 frequency.

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