

# Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

ATHENS, TEXAS

## HOWDY HERALD

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### William Harrison “Howdy” Martin

**1823-1898**

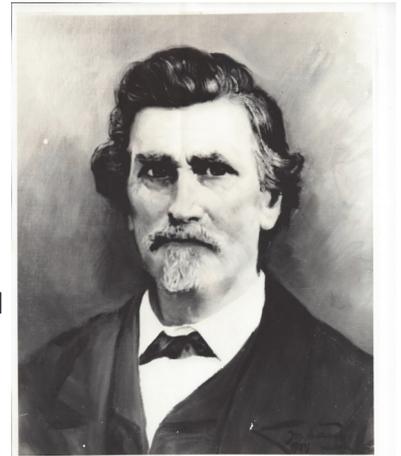
In 1861 during the War Between the States, William Harrison Martin enlisted in the Confederate Army and served in Company K of the 4th Texas Infantry that was assigned to Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Martin gained his nickname because of his refusal to salute superior officers. Instead, he would politely tip his hat and say “howdy.”

According to the Texas Historical Commission, Howdy Martin fought in the Eastern theater of operations in all of the major battles until the end of the fighting. After the signing of the surrender terms at Appomattox, Major Martin and Captain W. T. Hill led the remaining members of Hood’s Texas Brigade back to the Lone Star State.

He was born September 2, 1823, in Twiggs County, Georgia, to Benjamin and Charlotte Martin. His early schooling was in Alabama where he was admitted to the Bar. In 1850 he moved to Athens, Texas, and started a law practice in Henderson County. He represented Freestone, Limestone, Henderson, and Navarro counties from 1853 to 1858 in the Texas Senate. Answering the call, he raised a company of volunteers that became a part of Hood’s Texas Brigade. In April, 1864, he was promoted from captain to major. After the war, Martin was elected district attorney. He married Martha E. Gallimore of Navarro County and the couple had seven children. He was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1887 and served in the 50th and 51st Congresses 1887-1891 before retiring again to his farm near Athens.

Howdy Martin was a member of the Hill County Camp of Confederate Veterans when he died at his final home in Hill County on February 5, 1898. A lawyer, a Confederate officer who served the entire Civil War and a congressman, at 76 years old Major Howdy Martin was buried at the Hillsboro City Cemetery.

Sources: *Handbook of Texas Online, Athens Review 1998-2-11 and 2012-1-20*



THE CHARGE TO THE  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE  
VETERANS

*“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations”.*

Lt General Stephen Dill Lee  
General Commander  
United Confederate Veterans  
April 25, 1906

**Read more about Howdy Martin’s life, family and career on our camp website.**

[www.martincamp.org](http://www.martincamp.org)

# Spotlight on Our Camp

1. The June SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with Commander **Jimmy Abney** presiding.
2. Following Cmdr **Abney's** welcome and introduction of guests, Chaplain **Jim Day** led us in prayer prior to our meal. We had 27 guests and members in attendance.
3. Quartermaster **Phil Albright** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
4. Commander **Abney** introduced our very special guest speaker **Mr. Shawn Eytchson**, a retired United States Army sharpshooter and sniper. Not only was he an expert at engaging his audience, he obviously has done significant research of the training of our Confederate soldiers. We are very fortunate to hear his presentation.
5. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from May and gave the camp's financial report.
6. Cmdr **Abney** recognized our two recent Cross Roads High School graduates:



Cmdr Abney welcomes Shawn Eytchson

## 2nd Lt Cmdr Colby Albright and Compatriot Lucas Freeman.



He presented to them a cash gift on behalf of the Major Howdy Martin Camp. Our first time guest **Ryan Tarrant**, also graduated this week locally from Martins Mill High School.

7. We also recognized two May college graduates:

Adjutant **Dr. Jim Ogburn's** wife, **Maria Ogburn** earned her Master's in Music from University of Texas at Tyler.

Compatriot **Taylor Johnson** graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He was also commissioned as an Officer in the United States Air Force.

8. A discussion among those present was held about the Guardian Program that we recently enjoyed learning from **Phillip Davis** of the Gilmer SCV Camp. Compatriots **Brown, Ogburn** and **Day** offered membership applications with the rules and guidelines. Adjutant **Ogburn** shared that he has been busy building a website for all Henderson County Confederate graves to help us locate them in numerous cemeteries. Although incomplete, he invited us to view this most helpful site with endless possibilities at: [www.CSAGraves.org](http://www.CSAGraves.org)

9. **Chaplain Day** brought a sample of a flag supporter he has designed to use in our flag camp project . Made of conduit, it will safely secure the Confederate flags placed on all county Confederate graves. He stamped on a brass medallion our Howdy Martin Camp information and attached it to the pipe. When asked the cost, Day estimated the supplies were only one dollar each. He was given cash to pay for 20 flag supports.
10. **Cmdr Abbney** proposed our camp to once again set up a recruiting table at the Athens Cain Center Gun Show June 14-15. He will send out an email with details and asked for volunteers to sign up.
11. **Cmdr Abbney** discussed our upcoming SCV State Reunion in Houston. He asked to meet with our delegates to discuss and plan their trip this weekend.
12. **Chaplain Day** saluted Compatriot **Ray Brown** on his remarkable artistic talents. Brown recently made a custom ordered re-enactor knife for 8th Brigade Commander Marc Robinson. He also drew a beautiful pencil drawing of the Alamo in a very unique way using all 189 names of the fallen soldiers. Day brought to the meeting his recently framed print of the Alamo.



*Camp members and guests enjoyed a dinner of good food and great fellowship.*

**June Camp Birthdays.....**

***SCV Camp 1241 wishes a very happy and blessed birthday to.....***

**June 10 Taylor Johnson**

**June 13 Todd Fowler**

**June 21 Jayden Day**

**June 22 Michael Mitchell**

**June 29 Gerry McCray**



## June 5th Camp Monthly Meeting Guest Speaker

### Mr. Shawn Eytchson

#### Retired Infantry Sniper and General Warfare Instructor



Left:

Commander Abney welcomes from Kilgore Mr. Shawn Eytchson and his wife.

As Mr. Shawn Eytchson introduced himself and began his presentation at our July meeting, he passed out to us a very nice handout entitled,

#### ***"Rebel Dawn"***

Confederate Snipers and Sharpshooters in the Civil War

Those present knew we were glad we came!

***"Confederate sharpshooters were professional in everything they did" and "they were not liked by others in the camps!"***

***"Sharpshooters were the eyes and ears of their commanders and they changed history!"***

These are two of the facts shared by Mr. Eytchson as he began to share how his own military training tactics were so very similar to those used by the soldiers in the Civil War.

***"The Civil War was the trend setter of how today's sniper is trained."***

In 1862, Patrick Claybourn formed the first sharpshooter unit.

## The Whitworth Rifle Mr. Eytchson continues:

In 1854, Joseph Whitworth in Manchester, England made the best muzzle-loading rifle ever made according to today's shooting experts.

Only **100 Whitworth rifles** made it through the blockade to the South! The Yankees seized them before the intended Southern soldiers got the shipment. It shot a .451 caliber round made of 80% lead and 20% tin. The barrel was 33 to 36 inches long with a 1:20 twist.

A 530 grain bullet with a 85-100 powder charge would easily go through 35 wood 2 X 4's at 800 yards.

Mr. Eytchson believes **"the very best gun powder is made in Augusta, GA"**



Mr. Eytchson encouraged questions from the audience and seemed to enjoy visiting with our veterans Bob Lynch and Jim Day and others.



**Jimmy Abney**

Greetings,

If you missed our June camp meeting, you were missed and you missed one of the best historical programs or better said, "the best historical presentation of the year."

I am speaking of the presentation by Mr. Shawn Eytchson, a retired United States Army sniper and scout. He gave the history of the Southern sniper and how the methods he used in the Civil War is still taught to today's soldiers and used in war. I appreciate he and his wife traveling from Kilgore to share with us both his own personal experiences and his extensive historical research. He is a gifted speaker.

I would like to thank Dr. Jim Ogburn, Bro Jim Day, and Bro Jesse Giles for traveling with me to Houston for the

Right: SCV delegates met last year on July 20, 2013 in Vicksburg, Mississippi for the 118th National Reunion of SCV

Photo posted on website of the Stonewall Jackson SCV Camp #901, Denton, TX

The 119th National Reunion of Sons of Confederate Veterans is July 16, 17, 18, 19th in North Charlotte, South Carolina



## From the Commander

State Reunion. We had a good trip and a very good reunion. I hope Jesse learned a little bit about how politics works and why it is important to have a full slate of voting delegates every time. We enjoyed having him along.

We were honored to meet R. Michael Givens who serves as the National Commander-in-Chief of the SCV. We had an opportunity to visit with him and get pictures taken with him.

I hope everyone will attend our next meeting on July 3rd. I have some awards to present that we received at State.

The National Reunion is coming up in July and I hope you will be able to attend. If you have not been to a National Reunion I know you will enjoy it. A big thanks goes to Jim Day, Ray Brown, Jesse Giles and Jim Ogburn for placing flags on our Veterans' Graves in our county. Don't forget our next meeting and have a safe summer.

Your Commander,

Jimmy Abney

**KEEP THE FLAG FLYING!**

You will find more information about this year's SCV Reunion in the May/June *Confederate Veteran* or visit the web: <http://www.scv2014>.



**Jim Ogburn, MD**

## Camp Adjutant Jim Ogburn, MD

Howdy,

Thank you camp for allowing me to attend the SCV Reunion in Houston as your delegate! I am so ready to share and put feet to the information I learned there. All four of us were so very proud to represent our Camp 1241!

I still have available 40 to 50 Confederate Flags for the camp to use to honor our Southern veterans' final resting places in Henderson County. I also have the metal pipes with the camp tags attached to hold the flags more securely next to a grave.

As you could tell at our last meeting, I am excited about the many possibilities of using the CSA Website I am designing. The links within the data base will help us to search our own families for additional Confederate Veteran Ancestors. It will also help finding veteran ancestors for new members. I will have more to report about the site later, but you may access it at [www.CSAGraves.org](http://www.CSAGraves.org)

Several of us truly enjoyed the local gun show this past weekend at the Cain Center in Athens. Visitors to our table were quick to tell us they were interested in finding out more about our camp. I am proud to be a member of a our young SCV camp that is making others notice and ask questions.

Applications were filled out and I expect our new prospects will be at the July meeting. Hopefully you will also be there to meet and greet them.

### *Prayer Requests*

**Jimmy Abney** (hurt leg tendon)

**Joey Ables** (unspoken)

**Dan Dyer** (back at work)

**Pete Edison** (hurt ankle)

**Jackie Blalock** (gun show trader — his granddaughter **Lisa Anders** has cancer)

**Guy Smith** (Day's Athens friend cancer)

### **SCV 119th Nat'l Reunion**

**(In South Carolina July 16-19)**

On right: The metal pipe is first hammered into the ground next to a CSA Grave, then the Confederate Flag is inserted into the pipe to hold it more securely. The round tag is attached to the pipe and will provide information about our camp to each visitor.

Let us all keep up the good work in our answer to The Charge!

**Jim Ogburn, MD**  
Deo Vindice!



## 1st Lt Commander Joey Ables

My work schedule and circumstances beyond my control have kept me from meeting with my fellow compatriots these last several months and I do apologize. I miss our meetings because I certainly know that strength in our answer to the Charge is found in our dedication to support one another. Our camp is young compared to so many others in Texas, but we are determined to not just focus on numbers and get so big that each member is only a number. Thank you for your calls and prayers on my behalf.

I am thrilled to hear of your approval of my securing Mr. Shawn Etychson to speak at our last meeting. He is a very engaging presenter because he knows from his own experience what he is talking about!

For our July meeting I have contacted Mr. Charles Hayes for our program. Another very engaging speaker, Mr Hayes is the author of "Gray and the Blue" which is a comic strip telling the history of the War for Southern Independence. His program is entitled, "Jackson in the Valley!"

Hope to see you July 3rd @ 6:30 sharp!

*Joey Ables*

Deo Vindice



**Joey Ables**



**June 14, 2014 FLAG DAY**

*My flag proudly flying at my house. Jim Day*

*Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less.*

**General Robert E. Lee**

# June 2014 Camp Activities



Program Cover for the 117th Reunion in Houston



Camp delegates met our National Commander-in-Chief R. Michael Givens



# 117th Texas Division Reunion Houston



Out of 85 Texas SCV Camps, delegates from 47 Camps were here.

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE  
 HOWDY MARTIN CAMP #1241  
HOWDY HERALD NEWSLETTER

It is our goal to share the news of all members of our camp in such a way that this newsletter and all that follow will honor and pay respect to all past and present family of our great Southern States. Members are encouraged to bring to our camp meetings articles for submission to this publication. The deadline for entries is the Monday following our regular Thursday camp meeting.

Jim Day, Editor  
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 903-681-5313

**Camp meetings are on the First Thursday of each month.**  
 We meet at the Calvary Baptist Church in Athens on the corner of Hwy 175 East and Crestway Drive.

Meetings begin at 6:30pm with a pot luck dinner furnished by members. Guests are welcome and you may bring your family.

**Upcoming dates:**

**July 3 Camp Meeting**

**July 17-19 Nat'l Reunion**  
**North Charlotte, SC**

## June 2014 Camp Activities

### Cain Center Gun Show

Athens, Texas June 14-15

*Right:*

*Commander Jimmy Abney*

*Compatriot Bob Lynch*

*Chaplain Jim Day*

*Compatriot Ray Brown*

Armed with flags, brightly colored brochures, magazines, newsletters, applications, and family history forms our Major Howdy Martin Camp was very prepared at the Gun Show. Several new members were signed up and handouts were given to many prospects. It was a great show for the SCV!



*Left:*

Adjutant/Treasurer Dr Jim Ogburn assists Charles Coleman in filling out his application for SCV Membership to our camp.

*Below:*

Questions and Answers for all those who visited our SCV table.



This Chaplain's Message is dedicated in memory of Brother Len Patterson for his years of service to his Lord and to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our Camp #1241 has been honored to receive permission from Ms Patterson to reprint Brother Len's messages that were written from his heart to share his testimony of salvation through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

### Are We Ready?

It is a natural impulse for men to be moved with compassion for their country and forefathers. There is nothing evil, there is nothing sinful or wrong in the thoughts that fill our hearts. It is only natural to feel resentment and anger toward a tyrannical government and willfully ignorant men whipping the memory of our brave Confederate ancestors and trying to destroy our proud Southern heritage. And, it is only natural that we feel the surge of righteous ambition against those who oppose the truth. However, we may also feel a dull sense of futility, as though we are beating the air or trying to joust with windmills.

Many of us are committed to the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, but this very commitment may be the reason for our feeling of futility. You see, we must first commit ourselves to God. God is the Lord of all, and He is completely able to assume His own responsibilities and accomplish His aims. *Where we fail, He is able to succeed. God does not need us. We need God!*

This nation was founded by Christian men to be a nation "under God," and God is perfectly capable of taking care of those who would usurp His authority. And, He will. Too often we organize, promote, work, and spend God out of our business, and then ask for His blessings.

If we are to achieve victory over those who oppose us and our just Cause we must follow our God. The challenge we hear so often today is "Do more! Give more! Be more!" But God says, *"Be still and know that I am God."* In other words, quit the panic; quit beating the air; quit jousting with windmills, and just let God be God. In Psalms 144:1, the Scripture says, "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight."

Are we ready, as a Confederation, to come to the point where we realize that all we can produce, at our best, is ashes? Are we ready to come to the place where we can accept ourselves for what we are: Helpless without Him? Are we ready to commit ourselves to God and follow His guidance and direction? Are we ready to stand firmly on the field of battle knowing that our God is leading us to victory?

Are we ready to put God at the head of our lives, our homes, our businesses, and at the head of the Sons of Confederate Veterans?

If so, then we are ready.

Brother Len Patterson, Th.D  
Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Bro. Len Patterson, TH.D.  
1941-2013  
Past Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi

## William Harrison Martin

"Old Howdy"

Bill Martin, Attorney

State Senator

Captain Co. K 4th TX Inf, CSA

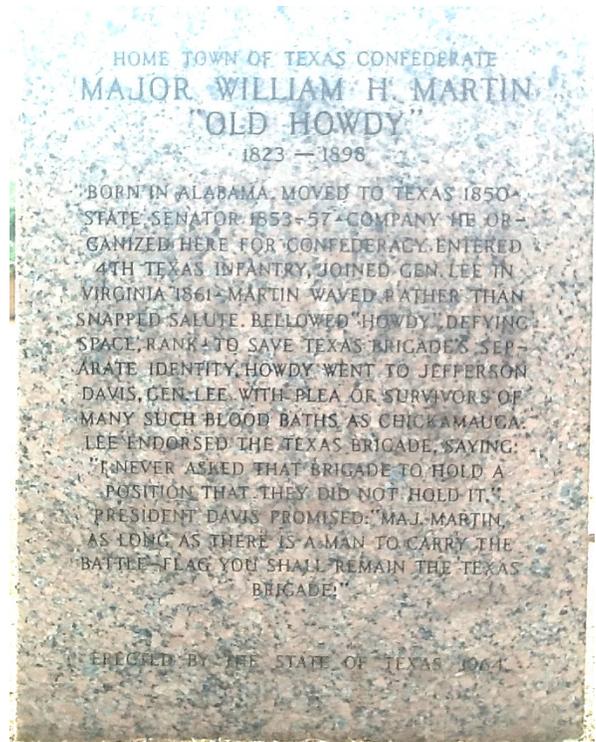
Major, 4th Texas, CSA

District Attorney

U.S. Congressman, Texas

Husband, Father, Grandfather

Great Grandfather



## Camp Officers 2014

Commander — Jimmy Abney

1st Lt Commander — Joey Ables

2nd Lt Commander — Colby Albright

3rd Lt Commander — David Lowry

Adjutant/Treasurer — Jim Ogburn, MD

Chaplain — Jim Day

Sgt at Arms/ Color Sgt — Terry Teems

Quartermaster — Phil Albright

Webmaster — Michael Burton

Aide de Camp/Historian — Jesse Giles

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a genealogical-historical non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history and honoring the memory of our Confederate ancestors. Opinions expressed by individual writers of the *Howdy Herald Newsletter* are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Howdy Martin Camp #1241 Athens, TX.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to limited space for such material that honors and supports The Charge given to us in the year 1906 that may be found herein. This Newsletter is compiled and submitted to our Webmaster as nearly the same date as possible immediately following our Camp's monthly meeting.