

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2017



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*

William Harrison “Howdy” Martin

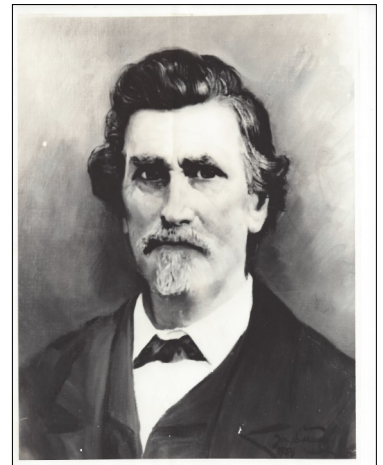
1823-1898

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 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 later admitted to the Bar. In 1850 he moved to Athens, Texas, and started a law practice in Henderson County. He proudly represented Freestone, Limestone, Henderson, and Navarro counties from 1853 to 1858 in the Texas Senate. Answering the call to defend his beloved South, 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.



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

www.martincamp.org

Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less.
General Robert E. Lee



Spotlight on Our Camp

Left: **Cmdr Teems** welcomes one of our own **Mrs. Bunny Freeman** who prepared and presented our historical program.

- 1.. Our April 10, 2017 SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with **Commander Terry Teems** presiding.
2. **Quartermaster David Miller** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
3. **Chaplain Jim Abney** gave the invocation and blessing for the food. We had 13 guests and members present. Everyone enjoyed light refreshments.

4. After a short break, **Cmdr. Teems** called the meeting back to order and introduced our speaker, **Mrs. Bunny Freeman**. She read letters sent from numerous Confederate soldiers in 1862-63 to their families describing battles, daily life as a soldier and general news about themselves. She also answered questions and encouraged comments from the floor. Her program was a very revealing insight to the soldiers' love to their families and to fighting for the freedom of the South.

5. **Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley** read the minutes of our March meeting as well as the financial report. Both approved by the membership present.

6. **Cmdr. Teems** also noted some of the following dates for us to remember:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 4/28-30 | Confederate Reunion Grounds, Mexia Civil War Living History and Reenactment |
| 5/5 | Civil War Living History-Day of Learning at the Diamond Don RV Park in Jefferson, TX.. |
| 6/2-4 | Texas Division Reunion in Ft. Worth. |
| 7/18-23 | National Reunion in Memphis, TN at the Cook Convention Center. |

7. On Saturday, April 27th, **Ms Teresa Day**, **Mrs. Bunny Freeman** and other camp members placed **57 Confederate flags** on the graves of Confederate soldiers buried in the Athens City Cemetery. **Camp Surgeon Steve Sifers** reported that a **Confederate flag** had been placed on the grave of a CSA Soldier in the Arms Cemetery as well.

8. **Chaplain Jim Abney** made a motion that we send a \$100.00 donation to the Confederate Museum Project. Motion was seconded and approved by members present.

9. Motion was made and seconded to give a \$50.00 scholarship to our Camp graduating seniors, **Color Sgt Bryan Sifers and Jesse Giles**.

10. Updated camp rosters were requested by **Mrs. Bunny Freeman** and **Ms Teresa Day**. **Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley** agreed to email them that information.

11. Prayer Requests:

***Aide de Camp David Lowry** and the family in loss of his mother, Mrs. Louise Lowry

*Our Nations leaders, our country, military and all first responders

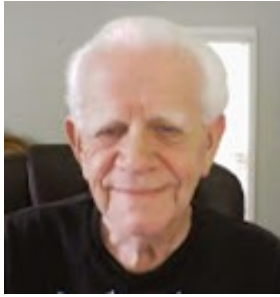
*Upcoming city elections

12. Before adjourning, **Chaplain Abney** gave the benediction and **Cmdr. Teems** lead all in singing of **"Dixie"**.



Right: Some of the crowd is shown intently listening to the CSA soldiers' letters read by our speaker, **Mrs. Bunny Freeman**.

Adjutant/Treasurer Don R. Bentley



We just can't imagine how deeply "hatred" ran in the truly dedicated Confederate soldier veins. He hated everything about the United States of America which included the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Stars and Stripes!

The Confederate song "*Good Ol' Rebel Soldier*" reflects that deep seated hatred. It was composed by Major Innes Randolph, C.S.A... Although the poor grammar and dialect evident in the lyrics to this song suggest otherwise, Innes Randolph was actually a learned man who achieved some fame in his post-war career as a Southern poet.

Randolph attended Hobart College in Geneva, New York and was a graduate of the State and National Law School in Poughkeepsie. During the Civil War he was a topographical engineer and held the rank of major.

After the Civil War he settled at Richmond where he was worked at the *Examiner* while pursuing his poetry and other writing. The poetry of this period was collected and published by his son Harold Randolph after his death. It was in 1868 that Randolph moved to Baltimore and took up the practice of law, continuing his newspaper work with Baltimore newspapers.

Here's the lyrics to the song,

"Good Ol' Rebel Soldier"

Oh, I'm a good old Rebel soldier, now that's just what I am;
For this "Fair Land of Freedom" I do not give a damn!
I'm glad I fit against it, I only wish we'd won,
And I don't want no pardon for anything I done.

I hates the Constitution, this "Great Republic," too!
I hates the Freedman's Bureau and uniforms of blue!
I hates the nasty eagle with all its brags and fuss,
And the lying, thieving Yankees, I hates 'em wuss and wuss!

I hates the Yankee nation and everything they do,
I hates the Declaration of Independence, too!
I hates the "Glorious Union" -- 'tis dripping with our blood,
And I hates their striped banner, and I fit it all I could.

I followed old Marse Robert for four years, near about,
Got wounded in three places, and starved at Point Lookout.
I cotched the "roomatism" a'campin' in the snow,
But I killed a chance o' Yankees, and I'd like to kill some mo'!

Three hundred thousand Yankees is stiff in Southern dust!
We got three hundred thousand before they conquered us.
They died of Southern fever and Southern steel and shot,
But I wish we'd got three million instead of what we got.

I can't take up my musket and fight 'em now no more,
But I ain't a'gonna love 'em, now that's for sartain sure!
I do not want no pardon for what I was and am,
And I won't be reconstructed, and I do not care a damn!

See what I mean about the hatred! We may think that it was a bit harsh but when one see's his friends and kin folks blown to pieces, it has a tendency to instill this much hatred.

We were not there and perhaps will never understand it. Yet, it is what spurred them on to fight for what we believe, as they did, a just cause. May we never forget.



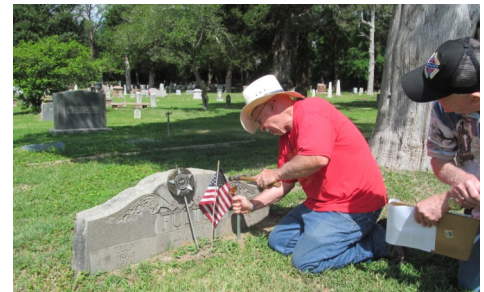
Standing up for Dixie

Don R. Bentley
Adjutant/Treasurer

APRIL IS CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

HOWDY MARTIN CAMP MEMBERS HONOR 57 CSA VETERANS

ATHENS CITY CEMETERY, APRIL 8TH



Above Left: Advisor Bunny Freeman, Quartermaster David Miller, Chaplain Jimmy Abney, Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley and 1st Lt Cmdr Ron Freeman removed weathered flags from our CSA Veterans' Graves and proudly posted a new flag for each one.

Our Camp keeps a watchful eye on many cemeteries in Henderson County to try our best to be sure flags are in good condition throughout the year. In addition, each has a "flag pipe holder" to protect the flag from lawn maintenance damage. Attached to the pipe is a brass medallion that identifies to others that it was placed there by the Howdy Martin Camp 1241 to proudly honor those who answered the call to duty. These were designed and hand made by recently deceased Chaplain Jim Day.

A special thank you goes to Chris Perryman who recently brought dozens of flags to our meeting as directed by his mother who asked that they be used at Athens area cemeteries. Thank you very much Chris and Mrs. Perryman.

This year we were finished in one hour and ten minutes using a map of the entire cemetery and a chart of each section A to P with each veteran identified by name and plot number. Especially helpful this year was a Pictorial Directory of each grave photographed last year. A directory will be donated on behalf of Howdy Martin Camp to the Henderson County Historical Committee. This annual event is taken very seriously by the Howdy Camp and we are dedicated in our resolve to never forget our Southern Veterans.



Please contact the Camp if you would like to honor a CSA Veteran in any Henderson County Cemetery. Our website is **www.martincamp.org** and our meetings are the **2nd Monday each month.**

Confederate Reunion Grounds

State Historic Site

CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY AND REENACTMENT

April 28 — School Day for 400+ students
Volunteers need to help Buster Horn's
Family Serve in his Food Lodge.
Set up your camp, Shop with Sutlers,

April 29 & 30 — Camp Activities,
Demonstrations, Battles
(Howdy Camp Members may join
Buster' Cannon Crew during Battles

ADMISSION

Adults	\$5.00
Children 12 and under	FREE
2-Day Pass Sat/Sun	\$7.50



www.visitcrg.com

Directions

Travel 6 miles south of Mexia on State Highway 14.
Then drive 2.5 miles west on FM 270.
Enter parking lot on right.

Bring your Lawn Chairs and
Musical instruments.

Exact Period dress encouraged but not
Mandatory.

Bring your camera to capture
Memories. "**Liberty**" and
Buster Horn will participate in Battles.

Reunion Grounds are clean and very
well manicured. Paved streets are easy
to walk or ride for handicap walkers,
wheelchairs or scooters.

Clean on site restrooms.

Howdy Camp Newsletter would love to
include photos in our next edition.

*I salute the
Confederate
Flag...*



*With Affection,
Reverence and
undying
devotion*



*To the Cause
For Which It
Stands.*

Just as a reminder, our
Second Monday Camp Meeting
is published in the Athens Daily Review
in its Community Calendar each day for
the week prior to our meeting!



*The Significance
Of Membership In
The Sons Of
Confederate Veterans*

*Cannot Be Overstated. The Veterans
Themselves Entrusted Their Legacy
To The Sons... A Responsibility Not
To Be Taken Lightly. Ours Is Truly
A Heritage Of Honor. Deo Vindice.*



Flags - Banners - Accessories

Eric & Erica Rumbo
367 North Trade Days Blvd.
Canton, TX 75103
(214) 957-0385

E-mail:
service@iamericasflags.com

www.iamericasflags.com

Eric in Canton has supplied our Howdy Camp with flags for many years. If you are needing a specialty flag, call him.

Prayer Requests

Aide de Camp David Lowry family in loss of his mother,
Mrs. Louise Lowry

Nation's leaders, our country, military and all first responders

Upcoming City Elections

Howdy Martin Camp meetings are on the Second Monday of each month.

We meet at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym in Athens on the corner of Hwy 175 East and Crestway Drive. Notice of our camp meetings may be found listed in the Athens Review Newspaper in the Community Calendar section.

Meetings begin at **7:00pm** with refreshments furnished by camp members followed by a short historical program. Guests are welcome and you may bring your family.

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE Major W H Howdy Martin SCV Camp1241 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 2nd Monday camp meeting.

T Day, Friend of the Martin Camp SCV
7751 CR 3713, Athens, TX 75752
903-676-8760

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.

Ignore(ance)!

6-03-2012

It has been said that, "Ignorance is bliss." Some have even proposed that, "What you don't know won't hurt you." There may cases where these statements are true, but most people will disagree. Given a choice we would prefer not to be ignorant or kept in the dark. Yet, the level of ignorance and misconception in a society that claims to be so enlightened, is monumental.

In 2 Peter 3: 5, the Scripture refers to those who are willingly ignorant. To be willingly ignorant is to ignore what is true because it is inconvenient, politically incorrect, or doesn't fit some mold that we have been led to believe. They choose to be ignorant, although the truth is readily available, because it suits them to be ignorant. In other words, their mind is made up, don't confuse them with facts.

Speaking to the woman at the well, Jesus said, **"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He wouldest have given thee living water."** (John 4: 10) This woman of Samaria was ignorant, and it was not bliss. She did not know who she was speaking to, and it was hurting. It was standing between her and the "Gift of God." And, the gift of God of which Jesus spoke, was everlasting life. (Vs. 14) But fortunately, she was not willingly ignorant. In spite of what she had been taught all her life (Vs. 20), she was prepared to accept the truth when she heard it. Additionally, many others also changed their thinking, and received the "living water" when they heard Jesus speak. (Vs. 39-42)

Many, and probably most, people today accept as truth whatever they were brought up to believe, and in a lot of cases, whatever they see as being in their best interest to believe. We can't help what we were taught as we were growing up. But as adults, we should not be willingly ignorant. We must question and test what we were fed as children. We must ask,

"Is what I believe supported by the facts and truth?"

As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we have tested and questioned. We have studied the facts and know the truth. Robert E. Lee was not a traitor, but a patriotic citizen. Our Confederate forefathers were not criminals, but brave and honorable men fighting to defend their homeland against an illegal invasion. We know the War for Southern Independence was not about slavery, but states rights and the preservation of the Constitution as presented by our founding fathers. We also know that Abraham Lincoln was not a great man worthy of honor, but a criminal and scallywag. All this, and much more we all know, but do we all know the truth about Jesus Christ?

It is my continuing prayer that every member of the SCV, their families, friends, and all others, would commit their lives to Jesus Christ, and come to know Him as Savior, Lord, and coming King. Jesus is the answer to every question and the power behind every endeavor.

Bro Len speaks at the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication



William Harrison Martin**"Old Howdy"**

Bill Martin, Attorney

State Senator

Captain Co. K 4th TX Inf, CSA

Major, 4th Texas, CSA

District Attorney

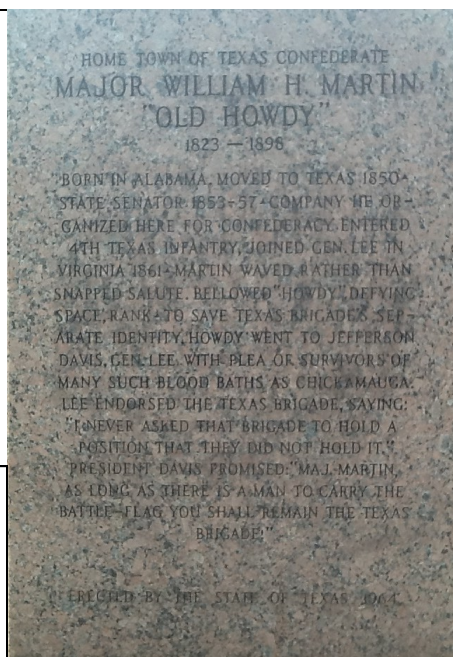
U.S. Congressman, Texas

Husband, Father, Grandfather

Great Grandfather



Above: Howdy's Grave, Hillsboro City Cemetery, Hillsboro, TX.
Right: Howdy's Marker is located in Athens on Hwy 19 South in the Confederate Park.

**Camp Officers 2017**

Commander — Terry Teems

1st Lt Commander — Ron Freeman

2nd Lt Commander—Jim Ogburn, MD

3rd Lt Commander— Luke Freeman

Adjutant/Treasurer — Don R. Bentley

Chaplain— Jimmy Abney

Color Sgt — Bryan Sifers

Sgt at Arms —James Buster Horn

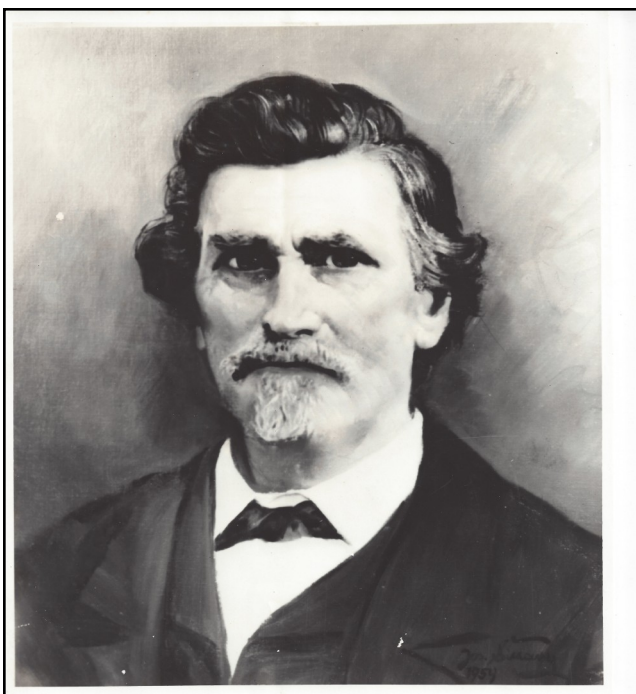
Quartermaster — David Miller

Webmaster— Michael Burton

Historian— Gaylon Patterson

Aide de Camp — David Lowry

Surgeon — Steve Sifers

**Above: Major W. H. Howdy Martin**

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.