

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2014



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

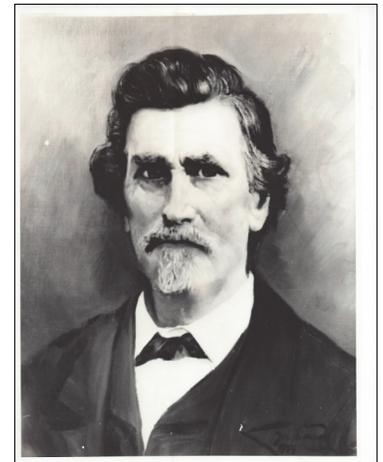
1823-1898

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 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.



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

1. Our December 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** offered the blessing for our meal. We had 23 guests and members present to enjoy our Christmas dinner catered by Athens Danny's Barbeque.



Cmdr **Abney** and Compatriot **Ray Brown** proudly present our new **Howdy Martin Flag** that is an exact replica of the flag that Howdy carried throughout the War.

3. Quartermaster elect **Dale Sifford** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
4. Cmdr **Abney** announced that 1st Lt **Joey Ables** has the flu and unable to attend the meeting. Also, our speaker has cancelled.
5. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from November and once again gave us a sound financial report. **Ogburn** plans to contact 7 members who have not yet paid. Our camp now has 49 members, 1 cadet and 1 friend.
6. Camp Certificates were presented to 4 new members. **Dale Sifford**, **Terence Tisdale**, **Steve Sifers** were given SCV Membership Certificates and to **Paul Morelli** our camp's first Friends of the SCV Certificate.
7. Compatriot **Ray Brown** presented to Comdr **Abney** and the camp a replica of the **Howdy Martin Flag** that is framed and hanging in the Henderson County Museum. After studying the flag in detail, Brown provided measurements and pictures to a business in Waxahachie. He had previously been given a estimate for making our camp a replica of this flag. The Camp approval for the \$130.00 expenditure was given at our August meeting. This beautiful historical flag will be flown at various camp events. The camp thanked Compatriot **Brown** for all of his hard work in this project.
8. Cmdr **Abney** asked for a show of hands of those who could be on our camp float at the Athens Lighted Christmas Parade on December 6th. He asked that we meet about 4:00 on Saturday at the TVCC parking lot to complete final decorations on the trailer and truck provided by Chaplain **Jim Day**. The parade starts at 6:30 and a discussion was held about needing members to both ride on the float and walk behind it to pass out candy. An email will be sent to our camp roster reminding everyone to support our very first parade entry in our hometown.
9. Cmdr **Abney** reminded everyone that we were invited by Compatriot **Kyle Sims** to attend an Annual Christmas Gala hosted by the Col. Middleton Tate Johnson Camp 1648 of Arlington on Saturday, December 13th. More information is available on their website: ahearrean@sbcglobal.net.

10. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** also announced an invitation has been extended to us to attend the James P Douglas Camp 124 Christmas dinner and awards banquet on December 18th @6:30 at the Tyler Women's Building. The cost is \$25 each and for more information contact Commander **Dennis Brand**.
11. Officers that were nominated in the November meeting were given the final vote of approval at the December meeting. A motion was made and approved to install new officers for 2015 at the January meeting. 8th Brigade Commander **Marc Robinson** will be asked to officiate the ceremony. It was agreed that officers will wear a uniform for pictures to be submitted to the Veterans Magazine as was done last year.
12. Cmdr **Abney** asked for names for our camp prayer list. Two families in Athens and Eustace were asked to be remembered because they lost everything in house fires. It was noted that FBC Athens has a Help Center to offer families in immediate need of assistance.
13. Before adjourning, Chaplain **Day** shared with a prayer and everyone sang "**Dixie.**"

**Next meeting changed to
second Thursday....January 8th
at 6:30 See you there!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Happy Birthday to you from the Howdy Martin Camp 1241....

December	8	Lynn Sanders, Mike Coleman
	9	James Brown
	15	Joe Don Shelton
	23	Aaron Freeman
	29	Bill Monds





From the Commander

Greetings to all,

Our first parade entry in our hometown was very well received by a huge crowd along the parade route. Also, there have been many very nice pictures of our float and camp members posted on social media. From the looks on our faces, we all had a great event and no doubt made our ancestors proud. While decorating the float at the college campus, we had several ask about camp membership and Compatriot **Ron Freeman** had applications ready to pass out. Comments were heard that they did not even know such a SCV camp existed in Athens. I am so proud of everyone who contributed in any way to make our first parade so successful. Also, thank you to Chaplain

Jim Day for providing his lighted trailer and truck and setting up the theme of our float "A Soldier's Camp." And Compatriot **Ray Brown** did an excellent job designing the required sign, "Welcome Home Veterans Merry Christmas!"

At the parade it was brought up that January 1st the first Thursday of January. Members present all voiced approval to

change our meeting date to January 8, 2015.

Please pass on this very important meeting change to everyone on the roster. Also, officers will be sworn in so please remember to wear a uniform or a coat for our picture to be made for the Veterans Magazine. Check your emails for reminders and updates for all camp activities.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The New Year 2015 offers many new opportunities and challenges for our camp. I truly believe we are ready and able to work hard, set new goals and meet or even exceed them.

The Howdy Martin Camp does indeed..... **"Keep the Flag Flying!"**

Your commander,

Jimmy Abney



"Howdy's Flag" is framed and is proudly displayed at the Henderson County Historical Museum located at 217 North Prairieville Street in Athens. At the August Camp meeting, members voted their approval to special order a reproduction of the flag for use at various Howdy Martin Camp events.

Athens Lighted Christmas Parade

December 6, 2014 — See more parade pictures at www.martincamp.org



Above: Final decorations added at TVCC Campus.

Below: Our first parade float in line ready to greet the crowd!



Above: The soldier's camp fire "warms" those on camp float.



Above left: Ray Brown and family, Steve Sifers, David Lowry walking behind the float in front of the Henderson County Courthouse. Above right: Chaplain Jim & Teresa Day, Ron (not pictured) and Bunny Freeman, and Ray Brown walking downtown.

Here is a little Christmas story from an 1889 book of Civil War remembrances. Illustration by Thomas Nast

A Soldier's Christmas Story

A soldier, writing from his camp near Fredericksburg, narrated the following, which occurred while he was on picket duty with his company:

It was Christmas day and after partaking of a Christmas dinner of salt pork and hard tack, our attention was attracted by a rebel picket who hailed us from the opposite side of the river.

"I say, Yank, if a fellow goes over there, will you let him come back again?"

Receiving an affirmative answer, he proceeded to test the truth of it by paddling himself across the river. He was decidedly the cleanest specimen of a rebel I had seen. In answer to a question, he said he belonged to the Georgia Legion. One of our boys remarked, "I met quite a number of your boys at South Mountain."

"Yes, I suppose so—if you were there," said the rebel, while his face grew very sad. "We left many of our boys there. My brother, poor Will, was killed there. It was a hot place for a while, and we had to leave it in a hurry."

"That's so, Georgia; your fellows fought well there, and had all the advantage, but the old Keystone boys were pressing you hard. By the way, I have a likeness here (taking it out of his pocket), that I picked up on the battle-field the next morning, and I have carried it ever since."

He handed it to the rebel, who, on looking at it pressed it to his lips exclaiming, "*My mother! My mother!*"

He exhibited considerable emotion at the recovery of the picture, but on the recovery of his composure he said that his brother had it in his possession, and must have lost it in the fight. He then asked the name of the one to whom he was indebted for the lost likeness of his mother, remarking, "There may be better times soon, and we may know each other better."

He had taken from his pocket a small pocket bible in which to write the address, when Alex, who had taken no part in the conversation, fairly yelled, "I know that book; I lost it at Bull Bun!"

"That's whar I got it, Mr. Yank," said the rebel, and he handed it to Alex.

"I am much obliged to you, Georgia Legion; I would not part with it for all the Southern Confederacy."

I was a little curious to know something further of the book, so I asked Alex to let me see it. He passed it to me. I opened it, and on the flyleaf was written in a neat hand, "My Christmas Gift, to Alex, Dec. 25th, 1860. Ella."

"Well, Alex," said I, "It is not often one has the same gift presented to him a second time."

"True, Captain; and if I could but see the giver of that today, there's but one other gift I would want."

"What's that, Alex?"

"This rebellion played out, and my discharge in my pocket."

The boys had all been busy talking to our rebel friend, who, seeing a horseman approaching in the direction of his post, bid us a hasty good-by, and made a quick trip across the Rappahannock.

Night came on, and those not on duty lay down on the frozen ground to dream of other Christmas nights, when we knew not of war."

Passage is from *The Civil War in Song and Story: 1860-65* by Frank Moore, (New York: P. F. Collier, 1889) page 161.

December Howdy Martin Camp *Christmas Dinner*



Members enjoyed good fellowship and great barbeque, trimmings and cobblers that was catered by Danny's Barbeque.



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to all SCV Camps



December Howdy Martin Camp *Honors New Members*



Left: Cmdr Abney, Quartermaster Elect Dale Sifford,
Adjutant/Treasurer Ogburn
Below: Abney, 3rd Lt Cmdr Elect Terence Tisdale,
Adjutant/Treasurer Ogburn



Above: Cmdr Abney, Compatriot Steve Sifers, Adjutant/
Treasurer Ogburn
Right: Cmdr Abney, Friend of the SCV Paul Morelli,
Adjutant/ Treasurer Ogburn



On December 13th our camp is invited to attend the **Annual Christmas Gala** at the Arlington Moose Lodge which is north of the Parks Mall. Hosts are the Mid-Cities Bluebonnet UDC, Col M. T. Johnson SCV, OCR and Nicola Marshall CofC. Doors open at 5:00 with dinner at 6:00 followed by the guest speaker **Susan Hathaway, of the Virginia Flaggers.**

Reservations are \$30.00 each and \$50.00 per couple. Call [817-821-8805](tel:817-821-8805) for further information.



Jim Ogburn, MD

Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD

A big Howdy Welcome to everyone and Merry Christmas!

Our catered Christmas Dinner was sumptuous and for the final meeting of 2014 I really enjoyed the fellowship with camp members. The December meeting may have lacked our usual historical program, however, it was a very special meeting for all. It was my honor and great pleasure to be a part of the presentation of membership certificates to three new compatriots: Dale Sifford, Terence Tisdale and Steve Sifers. Also, we are blessed to welcome our camp's first Friend of the SCV Paul Morelli. May I officially extend a camp welcome to these four new members. My wish for each of you is that through the support of this camp you will grow in your resolve to answer the SCV Charge in honor of your ancestors.

Again, Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for us all to have a very Happy New Year. Enjoy your holidays and see you at our next meeting January 8, 2015.

Keep up the good work!

Jim Ogburn, MD
Deo Vindice!



Prayer Requests

Jim Day, Mike Mitchell

Guy Smith (Day's friend cancer) Praise recent fishing trip to Mexico!

Athens, Eustace Families in loss of their homes

Cmdr Abney—Christians in the USA for standing up for God & what is right!

All upcoming camp activities.



Our Camp 1241 Flag is proudly displayed at all camp meetings!

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2015 — Camp Meeting

January 10th — Sam Davis New Year's Ball

at the Museum of East Texas Culture, Palestine

(See John H Reagan Camp 2156 Website for more information)

January 19, 1807 — Robert E. Lee's birthday #208 years old

A Year in Review

- January 2014** Officers sworn in by 8th Brigade Texas Division Commander Marc Robinson
Recruiting table set up at the Athens Gun Show at the Cain Center
- February** Website for all Henderson County Confederate Graves is in design stages
- March** Arms Cemetery Clean-up Project Launched by Adjutant/Treasurer Ogburn
Cmdr Abney and Chaplain Day marched in Palestine's Dogwood Parade. They also attended Tyler's Camp Ford Re-enactment the same day along with Aide de Camp Giles and 3rd Lt Cmdr Lowry.
- April** Flags and Camp flag pipes were placed at local Confederate Veterans Graves on April 26th
Camp members camped at the Mexia Confederate Reunion Grounds Battle Re-enactment
- May** Ms. Martha Hartzog, Howdy Martin's Great Granddaughter guest speaker at our camp meeting
- June** 4 delegates attended State Reunion in Houston
- July** 4 delegates attended National Convention in North Charleston, South Carolina
Received 4 STAR CAMP AWARD & Bro Len Patterson award the "Lifetime Achievement Award"
Chaplain Day spoke to Athens Kiwanis Club
Jan Giles and Aide de Camp Jesse Giles attend 150th Mansfield Battle
Aide de Camp Jesse Giles attends Sam Davis Youth Camp
- August** Participated in the Lightfoot-Miller Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication
Chaplain Day attended 8th Brigade Texas Division Meeting in Lufkin and was presented the Dixie Award by Texas Commander Johnnie Holley
- September** Howdy Martin's 191st Birthday was celebrated with a party including a birthday cake and pictures were posted on Facebook and in the Athens Review Newspaper
- October** Grave dedication at Arms Cemetery for Confederate Pvt George W. Grayson
Participated in the Trinidad City Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication
Cmdr Abney marched in Palestine's Hot Pepper Parade
- November** Cmdr Abney and Chaplain Day marched in Lufkin's Veteran's Day Parade
Camp membership totals 50, 1 cadet, and 1 Friend of the SCV
- December** Camp has first float in the Athens Lighted Christmas Parade with 22 members & family marching

Howdy Martin Camp meetings are on the First Thursday 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 DailyReview Newspaper in their Community Calendar section.

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

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
7751 CR 3713, Athens TX 75752
IBSandHill@aol.com
903-681-5313

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.

What is Christmas?

I feel confident I can say this without concern of being stoned, beaten, imprisoned, or exiled to Patmos. I really don't believe there can be any debate or argument. So, here it is:

Christmas is a Christian holiday!

Since the early fourth century, Christmas has been a day set aside by Christians to commemorate and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. That is what it is, and that is all it is. If Christ and the Nativity are taken away from Christmas, then there is no Christmas. Of course, as we all know, there are those who would like to do just that. But, without Christ what would Christmas be a celebration of, and what would it be called?

Some malcontents who claim to be offended by a nativity scene might say, Why don't we eliminate Christ and Christianity and just have a holiday season to celebrate joy, peace, and love? We could have a **holiday tree** with **holiday gifts**, send out **holiday cards** and wish each other **"Happy Holidays."** This all may seem to make sense to some, but it really doesn't. You see, without Christ, there is no joy, peace or love.

Jesus said, in John 15:11, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."* Then in John 16:33, He said, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* And in John 13:34, *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."* The Apostle John writes, *"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."* (1 John 4:12) True joy, peace and love comes from knowing Jesus Christ and in our relationship with Him.

Perhaps it would be better if we eliminated all the hoopla and secular nonsense that has been attached to Christmas, and continue to celebrate the birth of Christ and the joy, peace and love He ushered into the world. After all, that is what the Christmas holiday has been all about since it was first celebrated by Christians, almost seventeen hundred years ago.

To all those who are not Christians, we invite you to join with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hopefully, in sharing our holiday with us you'll be blessed. To those who want to feel offended, or wish to cause trouble or in some way create a hostile atmosphere during our time of remembrance, we have only this to say: Go away and stay away,

Christmas is a Christian Holiday!

Bro Len speaks at the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication
in Palestine on April 13, 2013



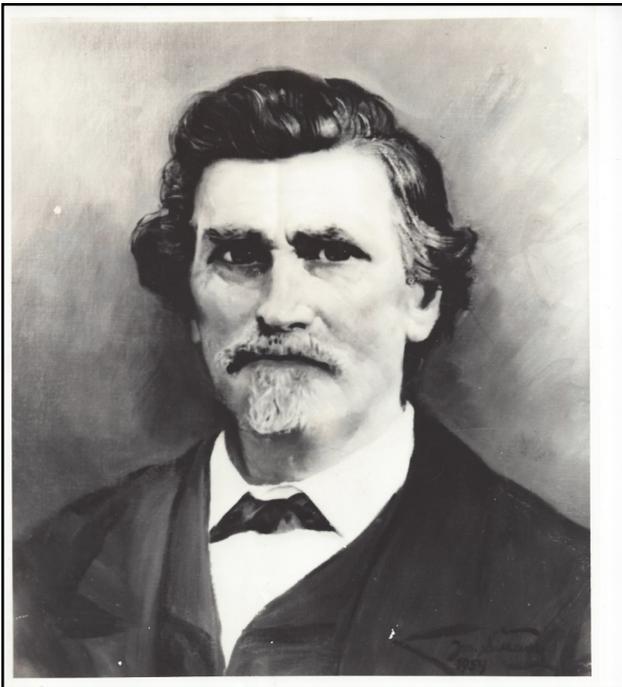
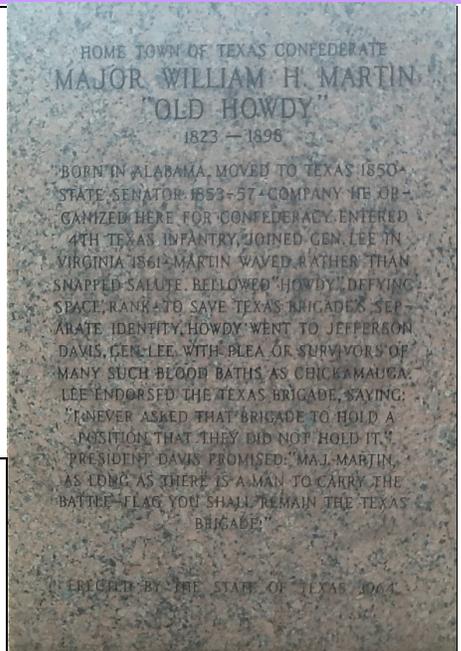
William Harrison Martin
 "Old Howdy"

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



Left: Major W. H. Howdy Martin

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.