

Major W.H. "Howdy" Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2015



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

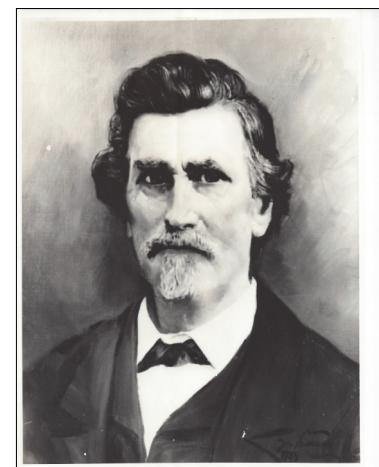
1823-1898

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

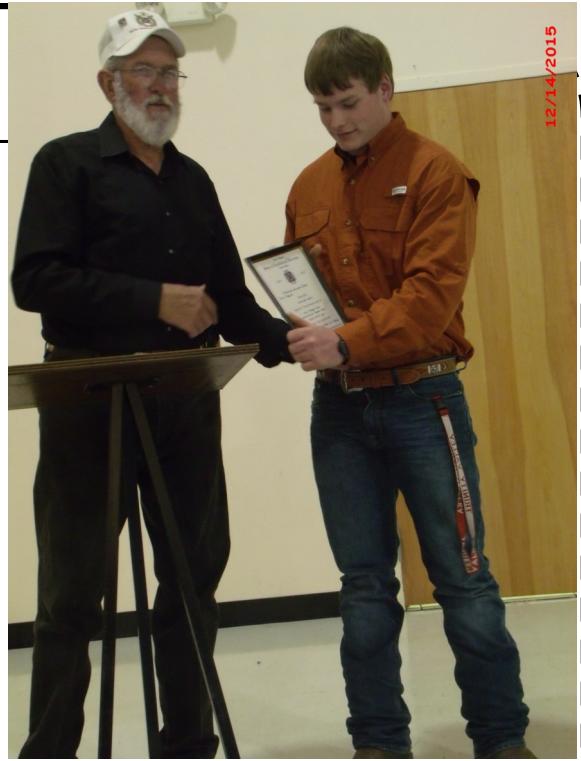
Spotlight on Our Camp

1. Our December 14, 2015 SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with Commander Jimmy **Abney** presiding.
2. Quartermaster Dale **Sifford** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
3. Compatriot Don **Bentley** gave the invocation and blessing for the food. We had 30 guests and members present to enjoy our traditional Christmas party catered by Mrs. Brenda Abney. We enjoyed chicken and dressing, salad, sweet potatoes, rolls and a scrumptious dessert. It was all delicious and plenty for everyone to have seconds and some did!
4. Cmdr **Abney** introduced our guest speaker **Chaplain Don Majors** of the Captain James P Douglas Tyler Camp 124 who presented a musical program of our Confederate heritage. Some of the songs he sang were, "Battle of New Orleans", "Shall We Gather at the River" and a very beautiful rendition of "**Dixie**." The group joined him in singing a variety of hymns and Christmas carols ending his presentation with "Christmas in Dixie" and "Silent Night."
5. Adjutant/Treasurer Jim **Ogburn** read the financial report which was approved by the membership. Compatriot Don **Bentley** read the minutes of our last meeting which were approved as corrected (Texas, Arkansas and Corsicana which replaced Freestone and various Arkansas counties.)
6. Commander **Abney** presented **Compatriot Bryan Sifers** his framed camp membership certificate.
7. Commander **Abney** opened floor for the election for camp officers for 2016. The slate of nominees was read by Compatriot Don **Bentley**. Nominations were as follows:

Commander	-	Jimmy Abney and Buster Horn (Horn declined)
1st Lt Commander	-	Ron Freeman
2nd Lt Commander	-	Jim Ogburn
3rd Lt Commander	-	Lucas Freeman
Adjutant/Treasurer	-	Don Bentley
Chaplain	-	Jim Day
Color Sgt.	-	Terry Teems
Quartermaster	-	David Miller
Sergeant of Arms	-	Gaylon Patterson
Webmaster	-	Mike Burton
Historian	-	Lucas Freeman
Aide de Camp	-	Jesse Giles
Surgeon	-	Aaron Freeman

There were no other nominations. Adjutant/Treasurer Jim **Ogburn** made a motion to accept the slate of candidates by acclamation. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

8. In other business, Commander Abney gave a report on the Christmas parade, discussed the need for delegates to the State Convention in the Hill country and the National Convention in Dallas.



Compatriot Bryan Sifers is presented his camp membership certificate by Commander Abney.

- 9.. Cmdr **Abney** led the discussion on purchasing four flag pole accessories from a Canton vendor, I Am Erica Flags, who has previously sold our camp various Confederate merchandise. Adjutant/Treasurer Jim **Ogburn** made a motion to purchase them. Motion was seconded and approved. Also, he reminded the camp of our commitment to maintain the Arms Cemetery. He recommended putting out flags there for Easter.
10. **Marc Robinson** the John H. Reagan Camp 2156 in Palestine announced and invited all present to the upcoming Sam Davis New Year's Ball and Silent Auction fundraiser. Details can be found on the Palestine Camp website.
11. It was announced that the Captain James P. Douglas Camp 124 in Tyler will have their traditional Christmas Party on December 17th at the Potpourri House in Tyler. Check their website for more information or directions.
12. Bradley Ford's wife, **Stephanie Ford**, from the Corsicana Captain J. L. Halbert SCV Camp 359 presented her artwork in the newly published book entitled "**Confederate Night Before Christmas**."
13. Cmdr **Abney** presented each member a CD of "The Truth Concerning the Confederate Battle Flag" as a Christmas gift on behalf of the Howdy Martin Camp.
14. Cmdr **Abney** called for names for our camp Prayer List and several requests were added as well as praise for answered prayer. Prayer was requested for **Pete Edison**, Chaplain **Jim Day**, Compatriot **Bob Lynch** and past Texas Division Commander **Johnnie Holley**.
15. Before adjourning, Compatriot Don **Bentley** led the benediction and all sang "**Dixie**" led by **Chaplain Don Majors**.



Adjutant/Treasurer **Ogburn** reads for approval the monthly financial report.



Chaplain **Don Majors** of Tyler's Captain James P Douglas Camp 124 presented an entertaining musical program of our Confederate heritage.



Cmdr **Abney** presented each member present the above CD "The Truth Concerning the Confederate Battle Flag" as a Christmas gift on behalf of the Howdy Martin Camp.

**Major Howdy Martin Camp
Christmas Party**
December 14, 2015



Howdy Camp members enjoyed an extra special festive meeting including entertainment, good fellowship, and a fine meal.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Photos by Luke Freeman

Major Howdy Martin Camp
Athens Lighted Christmas Parade
December 4, 2015



*A big THANK YOU to all who helped decorate the camp float and proudly represented the Howdy Martin SCV Camp 1241 in the parade.
Photos by Luke Freeman*

From the Commander

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

Greetings to all fellow compatriots. Without hesitation and with determination I sincerely expect our Howdy Martin Camp to have a great 2016. Our membership is starting out with lower numbers than this time last year, however, our camp still has the same objective as the day we took the oath to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We each pledged to answer The Charge given to us as delivered by Lt General Stephen Dill Lee in April, 1906. The last part of The Charge says,

Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

As our camp looks forward to celebrating our fifth year this coming fall, I would like to thank everyone for your support of me these past years as your commander. I have a vision of every member working hard and together shoulder to shoulder in every effort we vote to undertake to continue to be a leader in the 8th brigade. Let's not focus on people who are not aware or unwilling to hear the truth of the "War of Northern Aggression." Instead let's stand proud for our Confederate heritage and promote our devotion to pay honor and respect to each of our ancestors. I have enjoyed the cemetery dedications that we have done and look forward to many more this year. They have all been respectful and shown deep love and sincerity for Southern heroes. These dedications gave us an opportunity to meet families that we might have never known. Parades are another favorite event. My heart swells to hear citizens shout out "Thank you" and "Salute the South" and other words of encouragement along a parade route. You are missing a blessing if you haven't had the chance to participate in either of these two events. And finally, make plans to attend both the State and National Conventions in 2016. Online registration is available for both and you will come home proud and energized to do your part in making 2016 the best year ever for your Howdy Martin Camp! See you January 11th at our camp meeting and officer installation!



Commander Jimmy Abney

Your Commander,

**Jimmy Abney
"Keep the Flag Flying!"**



"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.

Howdy Martin Camp, Family & Community

Proudly Salute J. Taylor Johnson

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 Athens Daily Review 3A

Johnson assigned to Vance AFB as pilot instructor



Grad of Cross Roads High School and Texas A&M has done flight training for qualified U.S. military officers

Special to the Review

J. Taylor Johnson, 2nd Lt, USAF, has been assigned to Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma as pilot instructor for the next three years. Vance AFB is the home of the 71st Flying Training Wing, one of only three Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training schools in the United States Air Force. The 71st conducts joint specialized pilot training for qualified United States military officers, and also international officers.

Johnson is a graduate of Cross Roads High School and Texas A&M. He did his flight training, and earned his wings at Vance. He began his career in the Air Force as a reservist while he was a student at Trinity Valley Community College.

Johnson is married to the former Erika Kelley of Payne Springs, also an A&M grad. His parents are Jeff and Debbie Johnson and Kelly and Hollis Driskell, all of Athens.

The Athens Review announced the recent new assignment of

2nd Lt. USAF J. Taylor Johnson
in this article copied from the Review as it appeared in the December 9th publication.
We join Compatriot Johnson's family and friends in congratulating him on his continued success in the United States Air Force.

We are all so very proud of you!



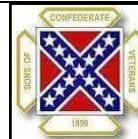
Jim Ogburn, MD

Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD

A big Howdy Welcome to you and Happy New Year !

My family enjoyed an especially nice Christmas and I hope you can say the same. We are blessed to live in a free nation where we are allowed to celebrate each and every holiday as we wish.

I am very excited and look forward to working with our new camp officers. It has been a pleasure serving as your past camp adjutant/treasurer. Compatriot Bentley will do an excellent job taking this position. I pledge to do my best as your new 2nd Lt Commander. Your efforts to work hard beside each other is the key to a successful new year. As always I am available to answer questions and pledge to support all of our camp activities. Let's all jump forward into the new year with both feet and make us the proud and honorable camp that we have always been. See you at the next meeting and how about bringing a friend or even two friends?



*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.*

Above: Bro Day shared this taken from the East Texas Sons of Confederate Veterans Facebook page.

Jim Ogburn, MD

Deo Vindice!



Prayer Requests

Health issues:

- * Jim Day
- * Pete Edison
- * Bob Lynch
- * Johnnie Holley

Local Needs and our Nation:

- * Our next meeting January 11th
- * Pray for the South
- * Pray for all upcoming elections
- * Pray for those serving in the military

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 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 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.

**Jim Day, Editor
7751 County Road 3713, Athens, TX 75752**

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.

That's Life!

10-02-2011

In the midst of a fiery sermon, a preacher asked the congregation, "Who wants to go to heaven?" Of course everyone raised their hand . . . except for one young man near the back. The preacher noticed and repeated the question. The young man still did not raise his hand. So, the preacher looked at the young man and asked, "Son, don't you want to go to heaven when you die?" "Oh, yes!" The young man quickly replied. "When I die. But, I thought you were getting up a load to go now."

I suppose it's true what a comedian once said during his monologue, "Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die" Certainly, life is our most precious asset. Our life and the lives of those we love and care about is the one thing we most value. It therefore seems strange that so many ignore that which gives and preserves life.

The Prophet Amos writes, **"For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me and ye shall live."** (Amos 5: 4) Amos is not giving Israel a good idea or suggestion. It is a warning and a requirement from God Himself. He goes on to say in verse 6, **"Seek the Lord, and ye shall live; lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel."**

In the days of Amos and his prophecy, about 750 BC, Israel was wicked and rebellious. As a result of their sinful and Godless conduct, they were bringing death and destruction on themselves and their nation. The same is true of our country today. The further it moves from God and the Christian values of our founding fathers, the faster it accelerates toward disaster and ruin. This also applies to any and all who are living without hope and without God in this world.

The Bible has a lot to say about life. The Gospel according to John alone mentions the words "Life" and "Live" over 50 times. In John 5: 2, Jesus says, **"And they that hear shall live."** In John 11: 26, Jesus tells us, **"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."** And in John 6: 47, Jesus says, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."** Again in John 14:6, we are told by Jesus, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** And the Scriptures go on. The Bible, Old Testament and New, is all about God's promise of life. But, in John 5: 40, Jesus also warns all those who attempt to live without Him, **"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."**

This is our Lord's promise to all . . . and, that's life.



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



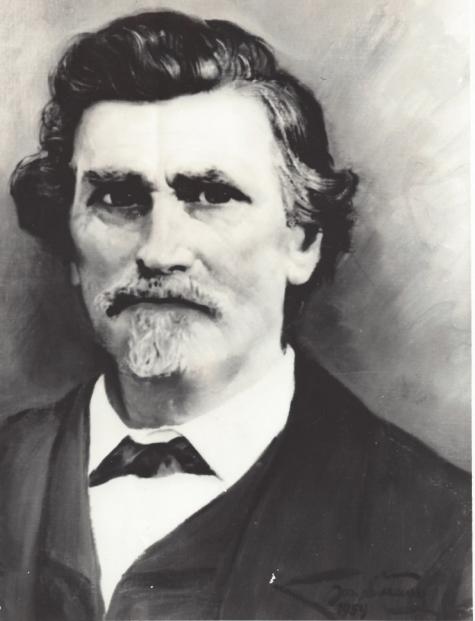
Above: Howdy's Grave, Hillsboro City Cemetery, Hillsboro, TX.

Right: Howdy's Marker is located in Athens on Hwy 19 South in the

HOME TOWN OF TEXAS CONFEDERATE
MAJOR WILLIAM H. MARTIN
"OLD HOWDY"
1823 - 1896

BORN IN ALABAMA, MOVED TO TEXAS 1850.
STATE SENATOR 1853-57. COMPANY M OF
CAMIZED HERE FOR CONFEDERACY. ENTERED
4TH TEXAS INFANTRY, JOINED GEN. LEE IN
VIRGINIA 1861. MARTIN WAVED RATHER THAN
SNAPPED SALUTE, BELLOWED "HOWDY," DEFYING
SPACE, RANK & TO SAVE TEXAS BRIGADES SEPARATE
IDENTITY. HOWDY WENT TO JEFFERSON
DAVIS, GEN. LEE, WITH PLEA OR SURVIVORS OF
MANY SUCH BLOOD BATHS AS CHICKAMAUGA.
LEE ENDORSED THE TEXAS BRIGADE, SAYING:
"I NEVER ASKED THAT BRIGADE TO HOLD A
POSITION THAT THEY DID NOT HOLD IT."
PRESIDENT DAVIS PROMISED: "MAJ. MARTIN,
AS LONG AS THERE IS A MAN TO CARRY THE
BATTLE FLAG YOU SHALL REMAIN THE TEXAS
BRIGADE!"

RECEIVED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS 2004



Above: Major W. H. Howdy Martin

Camp Officers 2015

Commander — Jimmy Abney

1st Lt Commander — Joey Ables

2nd Lt Commander — Ron Freeman

3rd Lt Commander — Terence Tisdale

Adjutant/Treasurer — Jim Ogburn, MD

Chaplain — Jim Day

Color Sgt — Terry Teems

Sgt at Arms — Gaylon Patterson

Quartermaster — Dale Sifford

Webmaster — Michael Burton

Historian — Luke Freeman

Aide de Camp — 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.