

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

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Athens, Texas

**HOWDY HERALD**

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 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

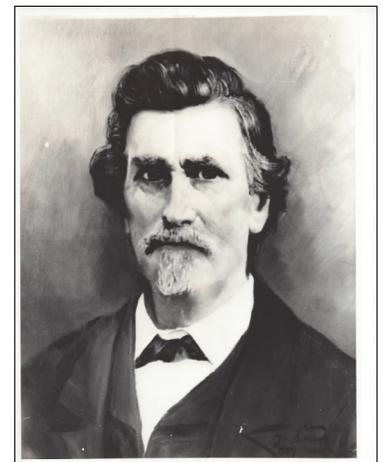
1823-1898

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](http://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 February 9th SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with Commander **Jimmy Abney** presiding.
2. Following Cmdr **Abney's** welcome, he introduced several guests including **Texas Division Commander Johnnie Holley** and wife, **Norma** as well as past commander of the James P Douglas Camp 124 of Tyler **Dennis Brand** and his wife, **Reta**. New member **Aaron Freeman** and his new bride, **Samatha**, and his uncle were also recognized. Compatriot **Freeman** was presented his membership certificate. Cmdr **Abney** was then surprised with a birthday card from all of those present and a special **"Happy Birthday Commander"** decorated cookie. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to him before Chaplain **Jim Day** offered the blessing for our meal. We had 32 guests and members present to enjoy our dinner menu of taco salad with all the trimmings and numerous desserts that was kindly suggested by **Jan Giles**.
3. Quartermaster **Dale Sifford** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
4. Cmdr **Abney** introduced one of our own to present our historical program, **Adjutant/Treasurer Dr. Jim Ogburn**. He has previously shared his notes on his on-going project of documenting all Henderson County Confederate Graves. However, he held everyone's attention as he engaged the camp with specifics including handouts and his research. It was a very enlightening program and a big thank you to Dr. Jim for his dedication to this remarkable project.
5. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from December and gave us another sound financial report. Our camp now has 50 members, 1 cadet and 1 friend of the SCV.



Commander **Abney** reads his birthday card as Compatriot **Lowry** poses with surprise cake.



Mrs. **Norma Holley** speaks for the OCR.

6. Cmdr **Abney** invited **Mrs. Norma Holley** to share news from the Texas Society of the Order of the Confederate Rose. This summer at the June 7th State Reunion in Temple, TX the OCR will host a silent auction. Donations of items of a southern theme are being accepted now and all SCV camps are encouraged to contribute to guarantee a successful auction. Monetary donations are also needed.



Cmdr **Abney** welcomes our new member Compatriot **Aaron Freeman**

7. Cmdr **Abney** shared another very positive report from the annual January Cain Center Gun Show. A number of good contacts were made as well as camp brochures and applications were handed out. Ancestor research is being done now on at least two of these applications. In addition to **Abney**, 2nd Lt **Ron Freeman** and wife **Bunny**, and Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** manned our recruitment table.



Our recruitment table at the January Cain Center Gun Show was very visible.

8. 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc **Robinson** invited our camp to hear a very special guest speaker at the next Palestine Camp meeting. **Mr. Norris White**, a Friend of the SCV, historian and educator will share his own research of the men of color who served in the Texas Confederacy. The John H. Reagan Camp 2156 meeting is on Tuesday, February 17th at the First Christian Church at 6:30 on East Crawford Street.

9. Cmdr **Robinson** gladly reported his news of another very successful Sam Davis Youth Ball. He thanked our members Compatriot **David "Stringbean" Lowry** for doing an excellent job as auctioneer and **Jan Giles** for helping with decorations and serving the refreshments.



Aide de Camp **Jesse Giles** and mom **Jan** in Palestine at the Sam Davis Youth Camp's New Year's Ball

10. Cmdr **Abney** reported that our camp has been asked to host a cemetery dedication at the Wreay Cemetery. He introduced a family representative, Mrs. **Delores Herrington**, who spoke to us about their annual family gathering at the cemetery each September. Cmdr **Abney** proposed that on September 19th we will host the dedication and the camp voted their approval. Mrs. Herrington is a relative of Quartermaster **Dale Sifford** and attended the Arms Cemetery Dedication. She put together the photo album of that memorial service and gave it to our camp. Cmdr **Abney** asked for a round of applause for her kindness and assured her the album will be proudly displayed at camp meetings.



Martin Camp's David "**Stringbean**" Lowry is a well-known blacksmith at re-enactments and at Canton's First Monday Trade's Day and is an auctioneer as seen above at the Sam Davis Youth Camp's New Year's Ball.

11. Discussion was held about an upcoming needed Arms Cemetery clean up. Cmdr **Abney** would like for us to mow, replace flags and burn fallen limbs before April. Chaplain **Day** reported that he visited Arms two weeks ago and the flowers from October looked very nice, but our burn pile is getting large. After a discussion it was decided to talk about a work day at our next meeting.



Fourth from left Martin Camp's **Ryan Tarrant** in Palestine.

12. On March 14th at the Palestine Confederate Plaza, the Texas Confederates Monument donated by the Children of the Confederacy will be dedicated. Texas 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc **Robinson** said he hopes at least one member from each camp in the East Texas Division will attend. Those in uniforms may be a part of the Honor Guard. The ceremony begins at 11:00 am at the Plaza located at 600 West Oak Street in Palestine.

13. 8th Brigade Cmdr **Robinson** wanted to thank Compatriot **Ryan Tarrant** for participating in the Color-guard at the Palestine Confederate Plaza on January 19th for the Confederate Hero's Day Service.

14. Texas Commander **Johnnie Holley** invited all to participate in the upcoming annual Camp Ford Living History Reenactment in Tyler held on March 28th.

Cmdr **Abney**, Chaplain **Day**, and Aide de Camp Jesse **Giles** and **Jan Giles** attended last year and they encourage everyone to go whether or not you have a uniform. Compatriot **Lowry** will set up his blacksmith forge again. TX Cmdr **Holley** asked that everyone bring flags needing to be retired in the camp's annual ceremony and to stay for the evening meal that is provided for all participants.

15. Texas Commander **Johnnie Holley** shared with us news of a Texas Division Project near Jefferson, Tx on the river on land owned by the historic preservation group. A bid has been received and donations and materials are earmarked as well as permits are awaiting approval. This ongoing project aims to stabilize the badly deteriorating river wall on this Confederate site. It will be presented at the March DEC meeting for early spring approval.

16. **Bunny Freeman** suggested that we all bring canned food to our March meeting. We could then make a group picture with our collection and send it to the newspaper. Our efforts would not only be giving to a great cause but also a reminder to the public that our camp participates in community service. Adjutant/ Treasurer Jim **Ogburn** also proposed that if members would like to give money, he can write out a check to the Food Pantry.

17. Cmdr **Abney** asked for names for our camp prayer list. **Jan Giles** asked for prayer for her Mom and Dad. **Norma Holley** asked us to remember Esther Sims, past UCD President who has lung cancer. It was shared that **Pete Edison** still suffers from health problems. Other cancer patients Chaplain **Jim Day**, and his friend Guy Smith.



Above:  
TX Commander **Johnnie Holley**

18. Before adjourning, Chaplain **Day** spoke a prayer and everyone sang "**Dixie.**"



## From the Commander

*Greetings,*

We are a busy, active Camp as noted by all the items on our regular February meeting's agenda. It is good to have discussions when we gather and to be able to share ideas. Therefore, it is important that each member attend whenever possible. We recently changed our meeting date to the Second Monday in hopes of making it easier for everyone to be able to "save the date." We need your input to stay strong in answering The Charge.

In addition to our March 9th meeting, there are numerous events taking place over the next few months. I encourage you to attend the Camp Ford Living History Reenactment in Tyler on March 28th. I went last year and was blessed and amazed to be surrounded by so many area SCV Camps. Some simply set up recruiting tables while others participated in the battle and others were posted at educational demonstrations. You will enjoy their flag retirement ceremony and will get to visit with our own Stringbean working at his blacksmith shop.

April 18-19th is another reenactment at the Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia, Texas. Several of you have been before and I hope to go as I am told there are many Sutlers set up and there is a battle on both days and it is great to watch.

Like I said in the meeting, I want to encourage each member to seriously consider attending the Texas SCV Reunion in Temple on June 5-7. It is important that each camp is there to take care of our State SCV business and we have proudly earned 5 votes. Also, it isn't too early to make plans for the 120th National Reunion of the SCV in Richmond, Virginia. The dates are July 14-19 and more information can be found in your January/February Confederate Magazine.

The SCV needs you to contact your Congressman to tell him or her to vote NO on changing our Confederate Hero Month and I know there are other issues you will want to discuss with him. Also, please take this opportunity to tell him "It was NOT a Civil War but a War of Northern Aggression!"

Finally but not lastly, I want to thank our Texas Commander Johnnie Holley and Norma and also from the Tyler Douglas Camp Dennis Brand and Reta for their attendance and input at our last meeting. It is always good to hear from them about local and statewide SCV news.

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. In 2014 members voted their approval to special order a reproduction of the flag for use at various Howdy Martin Camp events.

## *Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD CSA Henderson County Graves*



Above: Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD

Our special February meeting speaker was our own **Adjutant/Treasurer Dr. Jim Ogburn**. He has previously shared his notes on his on-going project of documenting all Henderson County Confederate Graves. However, he held everyone's attention as he engaged the camp with specifics including handouts. He has found there are over 200 known CSA graves in our county. He passed out copies of his marked Henderson County map showing cemeteries and the number of Confederate graves in each one. He has a goal for our camp to place a Confederate flag at every known CSA grave by the end of 2015.

He passed out literature including member applications as he shared specifics of the National Guardian Program. All SCV members may participate in this two-year program to become a Full Guardian. Some men choose to complete an application for their own ancestor if their grave is local. However, Dr Ogburn pointed out that others decide to care for all CSA graves in that

same cemetery. He suggested that members apply to be the guardian of 5 graves.

The first step is to take a picture before and after you clean the grave site. There are specific guidelines to properly clean a grave marker that can be found in the literature.

**Dr. Ogburn** suggested that our camp project could be maintaining all of the Confederate graves in the Athens City Cemetery. Several members did place flags there last year in observance of the April 26th Confederate Memorial Day. There is a list available of heroes buried there but it was very hard to find all of the graves. Hopefully we can all work together to find and mark all of the CSA graves in this cemetery.

After you have documented the required two years of care-giving, you are named a Full Guardian. At that time you can order a distinguished medal. **Texas Commander Johnnie Holley** described his own medal and explained that it is an honor to receive it. He offered to email us a picture of it.

Several members took Guardian Applications and gave Dr. Ogburn their cemetery requests. He has flags for graves as well as metal Howdy Martin pipe stands donated by Chaplain **Jim Day**. It was a very educational and entertaining program and a big thank you to Dr. Jim in his diligence for this most worthy project.



Above: Adjutant/Treasurer Dr. Jim Ogburn gave members Henderson County maps marked with Cemeteries and the number of Confederate graves in each one.

# Major W H Howdy Martin FEBRUARY CAMP MEETING

# 2015



Members and Guests enjoyed our pot luck dinner menu of taco salad & trimmings with ample desserts.

## Happy Birthday

to you from the Howdy Martin Camp1241....

- February 3     **Commander Jimmy Abney**
- March        3     **Mark Chancellor**
- 14    **Pete Edison**
- 15    **Bob Lynch**





**Jim Ogburn, MD**

## Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD

*A big Howdy Welcome to everyone!*

Thank you to everyone who asked really important questions about my Cemetery Project during my presentation. I do have on hand flags and pipe supports if you need to contact me before the next meeting. Your support motivates me to work hard on this project that is obviously very close to my heart.

Our February meeting was a great success in many ways. Introducing a new members is always a plus. Hearing from our Texas Commander Johnnie Holley and past Douglas Camp Commander Dennis Brand and their wives was special as well. We had numerous items to discuss and share and that is usually a good sign of members wanting to be informed Compatriots! Let us all remain steadfast and ready to answer the Charge!

See you in March or before! Keep up the good work!

Jim Ogburn, MD

*Deo Vindice!*



***Prayer Requests***

Health issues:

- \* **Jim Day, Mike Mitchell, Pete Edison**
- \* **Ron Freeman's mom**
- \* **Esther Sims** past UCD President
- \* **Jan Giles mom and dad**
- \* **Cmdr Abney**—Christians in the USA for standing up for God & what is right!
- \* All upcoming camp activities

Camp Ford, March 28

Mexia Reunion Grounds April 18-19



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

## Upcoming Events

**March 9—Howdy Camp Meeting**

**March 14—Palestine Confederate Plaza Ceremony**

**March 28—Camp Ford, Tyler**

**April 18-19—Confederate Reunion Grounds, Mexia**

**June 5-7—Texas SCV Reunion, Temple**

**July 15-19—120th Nat'l Reunion SCV, Richmond, Virginia**



Visitors pose for a picture before our meal at our February Martin Camp meeting.  
L/R: Dennis Brand, Marc Robinson, Johnnie Holley and Martin Camp Cmdr Jimmy Abney

**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  
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 2nd Monday 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.

## Turning to Fables

3-25-2012

It is something of a mystery to me why so many people, including Southerners, believe the lies they've been told about the War for/against Southern Independence, when the truth is so readily available. Perhaps the answer is found in the words of Russian revolutionary leader, and first premier of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Lenin. He said,

"If a lie is told often enough, it will become accepted as truth."

We know the Union had to perpetrate demonic lies in order to explain its illegal invasion of the sovereign states of the Confederacy. They have demonized our honorable Confederate forefathers, and have made our noble Southern heritage a legacy of shame. And how did they do it? With lies. Lies that have been taught constantly and continually for a hundred and fifty years. And many people have become believers.

In his last letter from a Roman prison, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, the leader of the Ephesian Church. He warned that, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13) Then he tells us, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." (2 Tim. 4:4) This Scriptural Truth is a reality today. Not only in the Church and the world at large, but in this country. We are a people "Turning to Fables."

We must overcome the lies with truth. Just as Jesus commissioned the church to spread the truth to the world, General S.D. Lee commissioned the Sons of Confederate Veterans with the Charge. It is our duty to spread the truth about our forefathers and our heritage. We can boldly tell our friends, neighbors, and relatives: Our Confederate ancestors were not fighting for slavery. They were fighting to defend their country against an invasion. Yes, they failed, and our country was lost at the point of a sword. But, we can and should be proud of them for their service, and honor their sacrifice.

We say that this country is "The land of the free, and home of the brave." But, when the leaders of a state that asked our forefathers to leave their homes and go to war to suffer and die in its defense, refuse to honor their memory for fear of being politically incorrect, that is not "brave." And, when we accept lies as truth, either out of ignorance or indifference, that is not being "free." Just ask Vladimir Lenin.

Jesus said, **"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

My prayer today is for truth. May the Lord grant us the knowledge of truth, and the conviction to speak the truth to others.



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

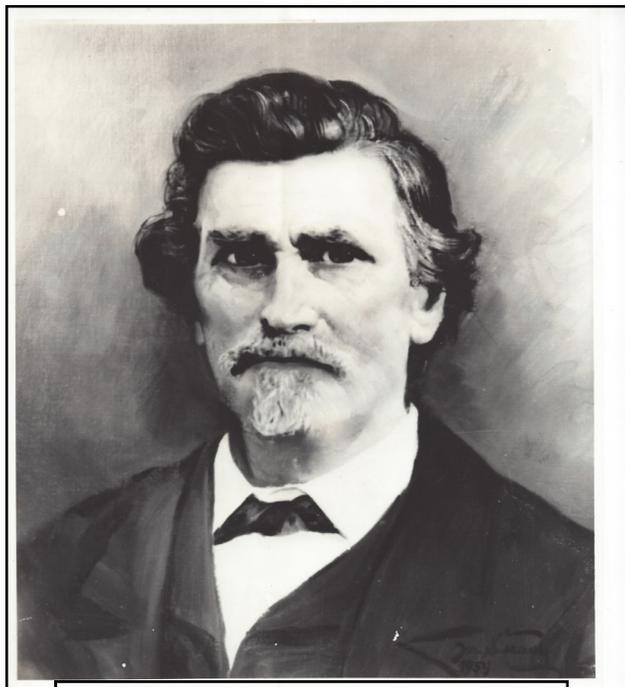
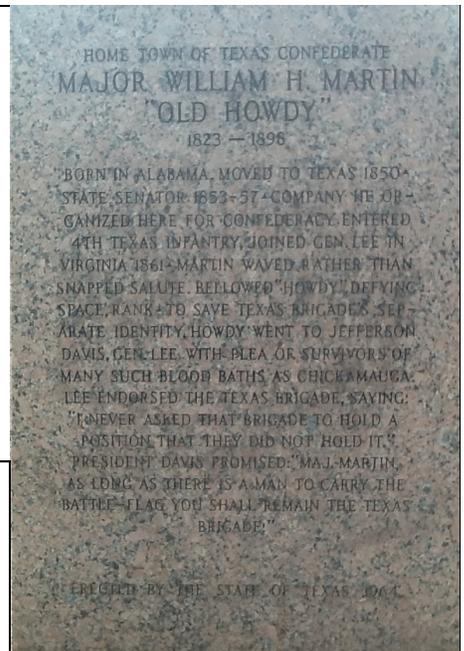
***William Harrison Martin***  
 "Old Howdy"

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



**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.