

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

Athens, Texas

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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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

*A LOOK BACK AT THE EARLY YEARS.....*

## William Harrison “Howdy” Martin

**1823-1898**

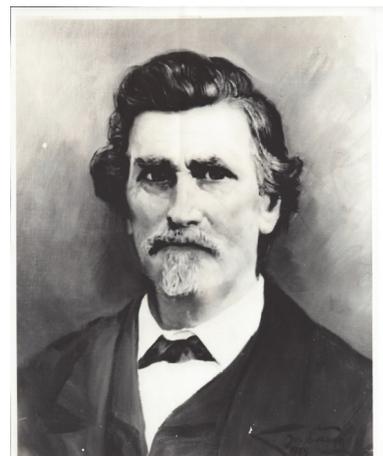
In 1861 during the War Between the States, William Harrison Martin enlisted in the Confederate Army and served in Company K of the 4th Texas Infantry that was assigned to Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Martin gained his nickname because of his refusal to salute superior officers. Instead, he would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



**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 January 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.
3. Quartermaster **Ray Brown** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
4. Cmdr Abney introduced 8th Brigade Commander **Marc Robinson** and asked him to swear in our 2014 Howdy Martin Camp Officers. All ten officers were present and dressed in uniforms for the ceremony. Their picture has been submitted to the [Confederate Veterans Magazine](#).
5. For our program, Chaplain Jim Day shared with us his slide show entitled "**Why Join the SCV?**" that he had prepared for the Athens Rotary Club. Everyone enjoyed the pictures and information about the numerous events our camp has participated in across East Texas the past 18 months.
6. **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from December and then later gave the camp's financial report.
7. Cmdr Abney reminded us of the upcoming **SCV Leadership Training Class** in Tyler on January 25th, from 9:00 to 3:00 at the First Assembly of God Church, Hwy 110. There is a \$10 fee and lunch is provided. We will meet at the church at 7:30am and carpool to Tyler. We had a show of hands for 9 members to attend.
8. A tentative date for the camp to clean up the **ARMS Cemetery** is on Saturday, March 29th. Cmdr Abney said he would contact Mr. Dale Sifford to confirm this date.



Cmdr Abney welcomes Cmdr Robinson

Below: Camp members enjoy our pot-luck dinner at our January meeting.



9. **1st Lt Joey Ables** conducted the 4th raffle for one of Bro. Len's donated books from his personal library. All money received for each raffle goes to our camp fund.
10. 8th Brigade Texas Division Cmdr Marc Robinson extended an invitation to the **Sam Davis New Year's Ball**. This formal event will be held at the Museum for East Texas Culture, 400 S. Micheaux Ave in Palestine on January 4th at 6:00pm. There will be live music by the 3rd Texas String Symphony, a silent auction and refreshments. A suggested donation at the door is only \$10.
11. Cmdr Abney recommended that we all fly the colors on January 19th in honor of **Confederate Hero Day**.
12. Cmdr Marc Robinson invited all of us to attend the regular meeting of the SCV John H Reagan Camp #2156 on February 18th at 6:30 at the First Christian Church, 113 East Crawford Street in Palestine. **Donnie Kennedy** will be their guest speaker. He is a renown historical author and will present a very interesting program. In addition, he will be signing any of his books.



Above: Jim Day won the Bro Len book raffle. As last month, the winning ticket was again drawn by the winner's family!



**Jimmy Abney**

## From the Commander

Greetings,

As another year begins, I would like to thank everyone for your support of me this past year as your commander. I promise to work harder this year to deserve your support. Our goal this year is to be the best camp in the 8th brigade. It will take hard work and dedication to accomplish this goal. This camp will only be as good as you make it. My email is [big2349@embarqmail.com](mailto:big2349@embarqmail.com) and my home phone is 903-675-5051 and my cell is 903-681-1999. Contact me with any idea you may have for our camp.

A lot of activities are ahead of us as a camp this year. We need volunteers for a color guard, help with the ARMS Cemetery clean up, and to maintain the Civil War window at the Henderson County Historical Museum. Any Civil War

items that you have and would like to put on loan to the museum will be appreciated.

There will be a training seminar for officers in Tyler on January 25th. This is for officers but any one can attend. I hope you will make plans to be there. Our SCV State Reunion will be held in Dallas this year. We also need a good attendance there to represent our camp for this event.

Remember, we meet each month to carry on The Charge, study our Southern history and to honor our brave ancestors who gave so much for the cause for Southern Freedom. **KEEP THE FLAG FLYING!**

Your Commander,

Jimmy Abney



**8th Brigade Commander Marc Robinson officiated the swearing in ceremony of the 2014 Major W H Howdy Martin Camp Officers**



**Back row L/R: 1st Lt Commander Joey Ables — Commander Jimmy Abney — Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD — 3rd Lt Commander R. David Lowry — Historian/Aide de Camp Jesse Giles — Quartermaster Phil Albright — Texas Division 8th Brigade Commander Marc Robinson  
Front row L/R: Chaplain Jim Day — Webmaster Michael Burton — Sgt at Arms/ Colorguard Sgt Terry Teems — 2nd Lt Commander Colby Albright**

## 1st Lt. Commander Joseph Ables

This month we had Chaplain Jim Day show us the SCV Howdy Martin Camp Activities Program that he had presented to the Athens Rotary Club at their noon meeting in November. It was very informative and well delivered.

Coming in February, Cassie Keys will be giving her program on the Texas Public Educational System and what it lacks.

I hope to see everyone there.

*Joseph Ables  
Dio Vindici*



## Camp Adjutant Jim Ogburn, MD



I personally believe our December camp meeting was one of the best of 2013. However, our January meeting was perhaps even better and that is a great way to start off the new year. As reported, we have 36 members including one cadet. With the help of our collection jar, the book raffle and an anonymous donation this month, our financial report is strong even after our recent expenditures.

The upcoming leadership training conference will be the next time we will be together. I hope to see you there and may we go with high expectations to learn new strategies to guide our camp in growth and in answering The Charge.

*Jim Ogburn, MD*

## Next camp meeting February 6th

**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:

**January 25th @9am** in Tyler (meet 7:30am to carpool)  
"SCV Leadership Training"

**February 18th @6:30pm** in Palestine. Hear author Donnie Kennedy speak at Reagan Camp meeting

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

# Robert E. Lee



**Robert E. Lee was born January 19, 1807** at "Stratford" in Westmoreland County. Continuing in the military tradition of his father, Lee entered West Point in 1825 and graduated second in his class in 1829. Serving various military duties in Georgia, Virginia, New York, Texas, and Mexico over the next 23 years, Lee's reputation increased in recognition and respectability, and in 1852 he was named Superintendent of West Point. From February of 1860 until February of 1861, Lee commanded the Department of Texas -- the largest number of troops he had ever commanded. It was during this time that the secession movement began, and Lee had to evaluate his position as a Whig devoted to the Union and as a Virginian. At this point, he did not agree with the political and economic arguments for Southern independence. Though, unfortunate as the choice was, if pressed to choose between fighting for Virginia or for the Union, Lee realized the decision would be simple. Lee's loyalties proved to be on the side of the South because of his family tradition in and association with the state of Virginia.

On April 18, 1861 Lee was offered field command of the United States Army. On the following day, he received word that Virginia had succeeded from the Union; he submitted his letter of resignation from the United States Army on April 20. Three days later, Lee accepted the position of commander of Virginia forces. From this point onward, Lee's identity became intrinsically linked to the Confederate cause. At the age of 55, on May 31, 1862, Robert E. Lee was assigned to command the troops which he named "The Army of Northern Virginia". During the Civil War he worked closely with [Jefferson Davis](#), [J.E.B. Stuart](#). He is best known for his victories in the Battle of second Manassas (second Bull Run), and the Battle of Chancellorsville. Named General-In-Chief of all Confederate Armies on February 6, 1865, his tenure in this position was cut short by his surrender to General Grant at the Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, thus ending the Civil War.

After the war, Lee returned to Richmond. During the last five years of his life, he served as President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, and he was indicted for treason though never brought to trial. Lee was stricken on September 28, 1870 in Lexington and died a few weeks later on October 12. Robert E. Lee was buried in Lexington and remembered as an educator, a soldier, and a Christian gentleman who lived his life with dignity. Lee has been compared to General George Washington in terms of the respect which he earned from his soldiers, his region, and the nation.

sources: [Dictionary of American Biography](#)

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

### An Honor!

It is an honor and privilege to be members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. (This can also be said of our Sisters with the United Daughters of the Confederacy.) It is an honor to uphold and defend the brave Confederates who stood against the invaders of our country with courage, faith, and determination. It is a privilege they bestowed upon us, their descendants. They entrusted us with their story, their history, their memory, and their sacred honor, and we must not fail them. Against all oppressors and obstacles, we must stand together united in that purpose.

And, how is that to be done? Consider the story of Gideon as told in book of Judges, chapters six through eight. The land of Israel was being oppressed by great hordes of Midianites and Amalekites. Under God's direction, Gideon sent out a call to arms throughout Israel, but only 32,000 responded. God told Gideon that it was too many, and the number was reduced to 10,000. Again, God said it was too many and ultimately reduced Gideon's force to a mere 300 men. Gideon and his small band were victorious, and the vast army of the oppressors were totally destroyed.

The point is, that without God 32,000 Israelite soldiers would not have been nearly enough. But with God, 300 was plenty. In his first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul writes, "God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." (1 Cor. 1: 27b) God wants us to know that, "with God all things are possible." (Mk. 10:27b)

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans face many challenges. We are challenged to recruit and retain members. This is something that should be a priority to each of us. We are challenged to carry out the Charge delivered to us by General S.D. Lee over a hundred years ago, which should be our defining characteristic. And this we will do. But like Gideon, we are confronted by great hordes of oppressors.

There are many who would tarnish the memory of our brave and noble Confederate fathers and deny them their honor, and who would reduce our proud Southern heritage to a legacy of shame. And perhaps as Gideon, we may wonder how we can be successful against the determined forces that beset us. But, we can succeed if we put our faith and trust in God, and seek His guidance and direction. However, we must be ever mindful of our dependency on God and His direction and power. Then in the midst of victory, we can say as Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13

**"I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me."**

***BRO. LEN PATTERSON, TH.D. 1941-2013***



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 this Newsletter are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the SCV Howdy Martin Camp #1241. 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.