

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

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Athens, Texas

**HOWDY HERALD**

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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*

## William Harrison “Howdy” Martin

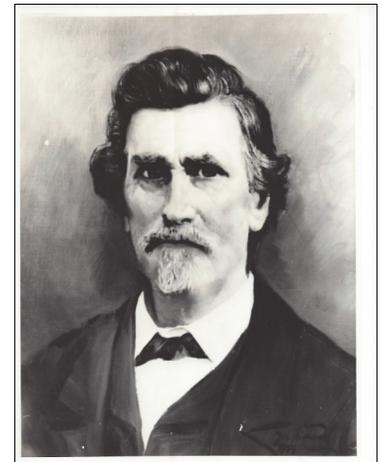
**1823-1898**

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 January 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 32 guests and members present to enjoy our dinner menu of a variety of soups, crackers, cornbread and wonderful desserts.

3. Quartermaster elect **Dale Sifford** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.

4. Cmdr **Abney** introduced our guest speaker, Chaplain **Richard Montgomery** of the Stonewall Jackson Camp #901 in Denton. He is a most engaging speaker and everyone enjoyed a brief review of his book [Another Look at Six Myths in The Lost Cause](#). He came prepared with audio/visual slides and copies of his book. Everyone felt grateful to have a chance to meet him and enjoyed being able to visit during the meeting.

5. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from December and gave us a respectful financial report. Our camp now has 50 members, 1 cadet and 1 friend of the SCV.

6. Cmdr **Abney** announced our first order of new business was to swear in 2015 Officers. He introduced each new officer and asked them to line up for the ceremony. 8th Brigade Cmdr **Marc Robinson** officiated as he has done the last three years. Eleven of our twelve officers were present.

7. Compatriot **Ryan Tarrant** was given his SCV Membership Certificate and pin by Cmdr **Abney**.

8. The annual January Gun Show is Jan 10-11 at the Cain Center. Cmdr **Abney** called for volunteers to set up our recruiting table. A quick show of hands committed to being there with SCV materials including applications to hand out.

9. A reminder was made inviting everyone to attend the Sam Davis Youth Ball at 6pm on January 19th in Palestine at the East Texas Culture Museum. Cmdr **Robinson** said all proceeds go to the Youth Camp and as in the past two years it is hosted by the John H Reagan Camp. He said a very nice Silent Auction, a Live Band, refreshments are all part of the Ball including the Dance. Period formal dress is encouraged but not required. Our own Compatriot **David "Stringbean" Lowry** will be the auctioneer.

10. Cmdr **Abney** next discussed a subject that was brought up in the officer's meeting. Several members have asked that we change our regular meeting date due to conflicts with the first Thursday of each month. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted for the **2nd Monday of each month**.



Cmdr Abney presents Compatriot **Ryan Tarrant** his SCV Membership Certificate and Pin.

11. **Cmdr Robinson** announced that on January 17th the John H. Reagan Camp in Palestine will host a Confederate Hero Ceremony at 10:30am at the Confederate Veteran's Plaza. The keynote speaker is the Past Trans-Mississippi **Chaplain David Franklin**. He is currently the 2nd Lt Cmdr of the Central Texas Brigade. It was noted that this date is two days before Robert E. Lee's birthday. Major Howdy Martin Camp members are invited to participate in uniform or just attend in support of the Reagan Camp.
12. As a camp fundraiser, 1st Lt Cmdr **Joey Ables** drew a ticket for a vest patch donated by Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn**, MD. The winning ticket belonged to Quartermaster **Dale Sifford**.



Quartermaster **Dale Sifford** (center) is given a very nice vest patch. With him are Camp Cmdr **Abney** and 1st Lt Cmdr **Ables**.

13. Cmdr **Abney** asked for names for our camp prayer list. It was shared that **Pete Edison** still suffers from health problems. Also a friend of **Ray Brown** and **Stringbean** need healing prayers for cancer. 2nd Lt Cmdr **Ron Freeman's** son is getting married January 26th. Also cancer patients Chaplain **Jim Day**, and his friend Guy Smith.

14. Before adjourning, Chaplain **Day** shared with a prayer and everyone sang "**Dixie.**"

"(I Wish I Was In) Dixie's Land" (1859)

Lyrics by: Daniel Decatur Emmett

I wish I was in the land of cotton,  
 Old times dar am not forgotten,  
 Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.  
 In Dixie Land whar' I was born in,  
 Early on one frosty mornin',  
 Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

CHORUS:

Den I wish I was in Dixie, Hoo-ray! Hoo-ray!  
 In Dixie land, I'll take my stand to live and die in Dixie;  
 Away, away, away down south in Dixie,  
 Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

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

- January 8 John Mitchell**  
**9 Jesse Giles**  
**12 Jeff Trnavsky**  
**19 GENERAL ROBERT E LEE**  
**31 Brent Rains**





## From the Commander

*Greetings,*

Another year has begun. Last year was a very busy year for our camp and we had great camp participation in all of our events. I would like to thank everyone who took the time from their busy lives to represent our camp in each opportunity to meet and recruit prospects.

Our first Christmas parade in our hometown was a great success. We were received very well by all that attended the lighted parade with cheers and waves from the crowd. A very big thanks goes out to Bro Jim Day and Teresa for the use of their trailer and truck and the hard work they did in decorating the float. Also, thanks to those who came early to help finish decorating and to many camp members and their families who donated materials for the float and bags of candy. We handed out lots of candy! It was a wonderful night for our camp. The twenty-two who rode on the camp float or walked behind it will never forget this first Athens Lighted Christmas Parade.

2015 looks like another full year for us. There will be many events that we can be a part of so that we can keep the history of the South alive. It is our duty to let everyone know who we are and why we are committed to answering The Charge. Your help is needed for these events. Our camp is now three years old and growing. The Martin Camp is very well respected in the Texas 8th Brigade of the SCV. I hope this year will be a good year for you and you will be able to continue taking time out of your busy schedule to help us. Our camp's success depends on the planning and executing of the events that we will undertake this year. Many thanks to all who attend our meetings and participate in as many of the activities as possible. I predict that we will need to have many copies of our camp brochure and SCV applications available to hand out each time our camp sets up.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and good health throughout this year.

Your Commander,

*Jimmy Abney*

**"Keep the Flag Flying!"**

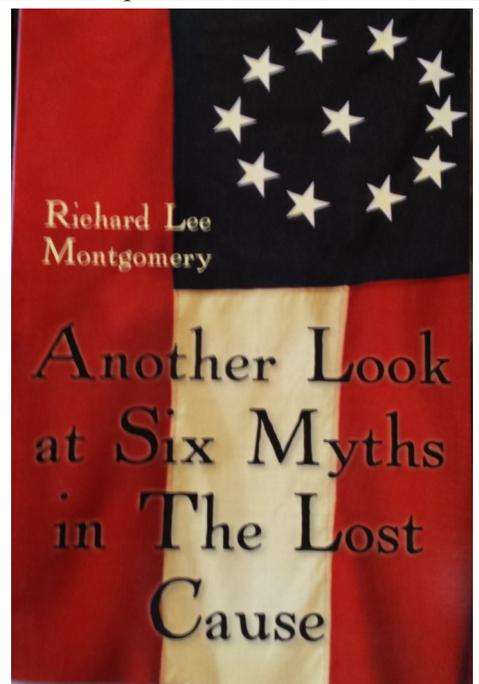


**"Howdy's Flag"** is framed and is proudly displayed at the Henderson County Historical Museum located at 217 North Prairieville Street in Athens. At the August Camp meeting, members voted their approval to special order a reproduction of the flag for use at various Howdy Martin Camp events.

# *Richard Montgomery Guest Speaker at January Meeting*



**Above:** 8th Brigade Comdr **Marc Robinson** and Howdy Martin Camp Commander **Jimmy Abney** welcome (center) Author, Pastor, SCV Stonewall Jackson Camp Chaplain **Richard Montgomery**. **Below:** He reviewed his book using a video presentation & had copies on hand for our members.



## Spotlight on Major Howdy Martin Camp Members...

### We proudly share news from our Compatriot **2nd Lt. J. Taylor Johnson**



J. Taylor Johnson, a graduate of Texas A&M and a member of the Major W H Howdy Martin Camp 1241 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, is currently an active Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He is assigned to the 33rd Flying Training Squadron at Vance AFB, OK for Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT). Johnson is currently flying the T-6A Texan II. He will start the advanced phase of pilot training in April in which he will be flying either the T-38C Talon or the T-1A Jayhawk. He will graduate UPT in October, 2015.

Taylor and his wife, Erika, were recently home for the holidays. His Athens family includes Hollis & Kelly Driskell, Jeff & Debbie Johnson and grandparents, Larry & Paula Jaques. He is a graduate of Cross Roads High School.



# Major W H Howdy Martin JANUARY CAMP MEETING

# 2015



**2015** Pictured left are the Officers and combatants of the Howdy Martin Camp who attended our first regular meeting of the new year. It is a camp tradition for those who choose to do so to wear coats or uniforms to the January meeting and a picture is sent to the Confederate Veteran Magazine.



Members and Guests enjoyed our pot luck dinner menu of soups, cornbread/crackers and ample desserts.



## January 2015 Camp Officers *Sworn In by 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc Robinson*



**Left Front Row:** 3rd Lt Cmdr Terence Tisdale, Aide de Camp Jesse Giles, Webmaster Michael Burton, 1st Lt Cmdr Joey Ables **Left Back Row:** 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc Robinson, Quartermaster Dale Sifford, 2nd Lt Cmdr Gaylon Patterson, Sgt at Arms Ron Freeman, Historian Luke Freeman, Chaplain Jim Day, Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD and Major W H Howdy Martin Camp Commander Jimmy Abney.



**Jim Ogburn, MD**

**Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD**

*A big Howdy Welcome to everyone!*

Our pot luck dinner at our first meeting of the 2015 was truly wonderful. I really enjoyed the fellowship with camp members and guests. The last count I was given was 32 and beating that number next month and every month this year is definitely going to be a challenge.

May I officially extend a camp welcome to our new camp member **Ryan Tarrant**. I am definitely proud of the way we have all embraced having young men join our camp. My wish for Compatriot Tarrant is that through the support of this camp you will grow in your resolve to answer The SCV Charge in honor of your ancestors for many, many years to come. I also hope that you will be able to recruit new prospects from the college level that many of us might not reach.

My wish is for everyone have a happy and healthy new year and for our camp to grow and be successful in all of our endeavors. I hope to see you at our next meeting which is the **Second Monday** of February, 2015.

Keep up the good work!

Jim Ogburn, MD  
*Deo Vindice!*



***Prayer Requests***

Health issues:

- \* **Jim Day, Mike Mitchell, Pete Edison**
- \* **Compatriot Aaron Freeman** is getting married January 26th.
- \* **Cmdr Abney**—Christians in the USA for standing up for God & what is right!
- \* Our next meeting the **Second Monday** in February which is a change.
- \* All upcoming camp activities.



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

## Upcoming Events

**January 17 — Confederate Hero Ceremony** hosted by John H Reagan Camp 2156 in Palestine 10:30am at Confederate Veteran's Plaza

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

**February 10 — Camp Meeting @6:30** Our own Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Dr. Jim Ogburn will share with us his research of Confederate graves in Henderson County. He has worked over a year on this exciting on-going project.

### Why Eat Black Eyed Peas on New Year's Day

The story of The Black Eyed Pea being considered good luck relates directly back to Sherman's Bloody March to the Sea in late 1864. Called The Savannah Campaign, it began on November 15, 1864 when Sherman's troops marched from the captured city of Atlanta, Georgia. The march ended at the port of Savannah on December 22, 1864.

When the smoke cleared, the Southerners who had survived the onslaught came out of hiding finding that the aggressors had looted and stolen everything of value. Thieves took all of their food, including their livestock. While in hiding, few had enough to eat and now faced starvation.

The only thing the Northern army had not taken were the silos of feed for their livestock.....which were full of Black Eyed Peas.

The Southerners awoke to face a new year in this devastation with nothing to eat except for these peas. They were very lucky that the troops considered the silos to be filled with nothing of value, particularly since they had took or killed all of their livestock. Thus, their good luck was associated with the black eyed pea.

From New Year's Day 1865 forward, the tradition grew for true Southerners to eat black eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck.

#### 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.

## Rekindle That Old Flame!

Occasionally we hear of a couple, after many years of marriage, renewing their wedding vows, or taking a second honeymoon. Of course they love each other as much as ever, and probably more. But, as they say, the thrill is gone. The excitement they once felt at just being together has faded, and they want to rekindle that old flame.

We see a similar thing happen in church. Some members have been Christians and tireless workers for a long time. They have taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, visited the sick, helped the needy, and been a faithful witness to the lost. But it has all become routine, and the fire that once burned in their heart has lost its heat. This, by the way, is a major pitfall to many ministers. They continue to fulfill their responsibilities, but their preaching has lost its sense of urgency. It's time for them to rekindle that old flame.

In Matthew 24:12, Jesus warns, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." When the flame is not rekindled, the fire goes out and the ashes turn cold. We call it being "burnt out." That's when marriages fail, church members fall, and ministers return to secular work or build mega-churches where everyone has fun and leave unconvinced, unconverted, and unrepentant, but feeling good about their condition. People often lose interest in their jobs, hobbies, activities, and even relationships. Things they once found exciting become dull, boring, and a chore to continue doing. Then they look for something else, someone else, or some place else to peak their interest. Of course, they'll soon burn out on that and move on to whatever is next. They have failed to rekindle that old flame.

The same thing happens within the ranks of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Every year we have members who don't renew their membership, and I don't believe the reason is financial. Certainly our brave Confederate forefathers are worthy of the small amount of our membership dues, even if it requires some sacrifice.

So, why do marriages fail, Christians fall, and SCV members not renew? Jesus answers this question in Revelation 2:4, where He says, "Because thou hast left thy first love." Simply, people lose interest in their jobs, Christianity, marriages, or the SCV because they have forgotten what it was that interested them in the first place. They need to rekindle that old flame. We are married because we met someone whom we loved and wanted to share our life with. We are Christians because we have a relationship with Jesus Christ who died that we might live. And, we are members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans because we wish to honor our brave Confederate forefathers, defend their worthy Cause, and preserve our noble Southern heritage.

In Revelation 2:5, Jesus continued by saying, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen." That's how we rekindle that old flame.

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



# Happy Birthday to Robert E. Lee

January 19, 1807

Robert E. Lee was Commander of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War (1861–1865). He was born in Stratford, Virginia, on January 19, 1807. His father was known as "Light Horse Harry Lee", a Revolutionary War hero Lee graduated second in his class at West Point, in 1829.

Robert E. Lee's first military action after graduation from West Point was in 1845, in the War with Mexico. His reputation increased in recognition and respectability and in 1852, he was appointed superintendent of West Point. For a year beginning in

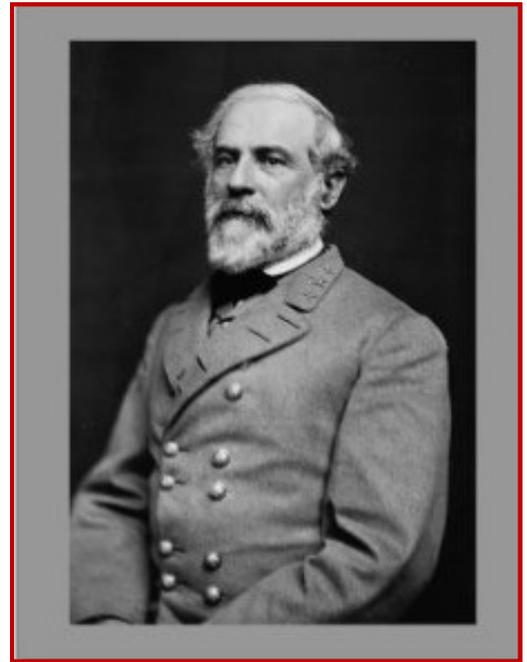
February 1860, he commanded the Department of Texas which

was the largest number of troops he had ever commanded. It was during this time that the secession movement began.

On April 18, 1861, Lee was offered field command of the United States Army, but he submitted his letter of resignation two days later. He would not raise arms against his native state of Virginia. He served as adviser to Confederate leader Jefferson Davis and then at the age of 55, on May 31, 1862, Lee was assigned to command the troops which he named "The Army of Northern Virginia." 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 war. Lee told his comrades, **"Go home and be good Americans"**.

During the last five years of his life, Lee served as President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. He died of a heart attack at the College on October 12, 1870, and is buried near a chapel on the school grounds with his family at his side. The school was later renamed to include Lee's name in his honor.

Robert E. Lee is remembered as an educator, a soldier, and a Christian gentleman who lived his life with dignity. He has been compared to General George Washington in terms of the respect which he earned from his soldiers, this region and the nation.



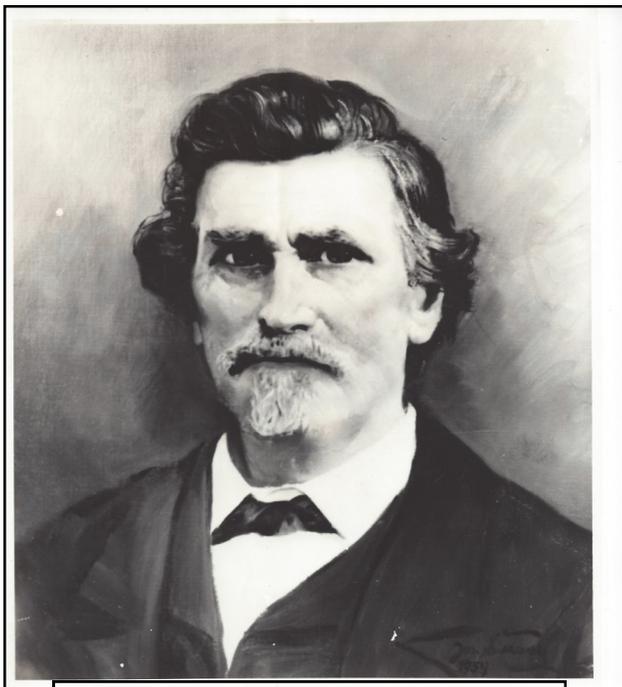
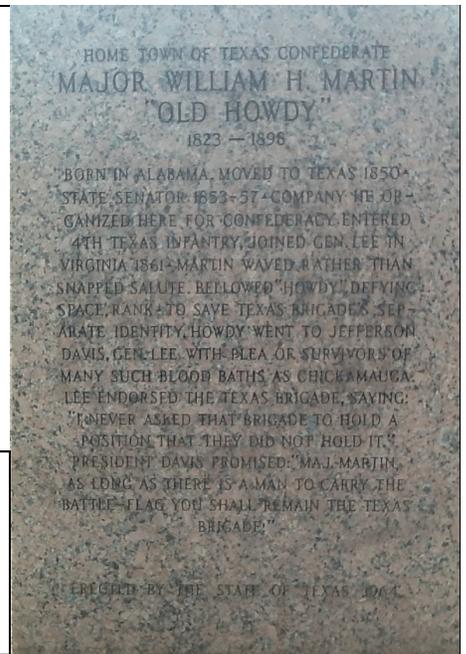
***William Harrison Martin***  
 "Old Howdy"

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.



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.