

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS **Athens, Texas**

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2016



**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

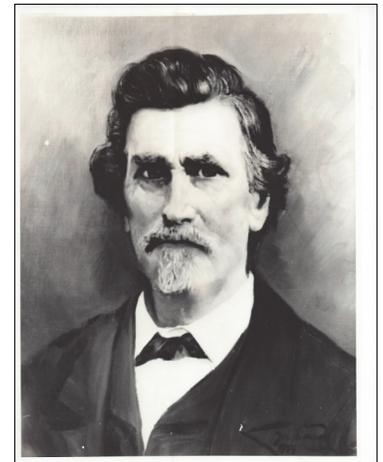
1823-1898

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 January 11, 2016 SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with Commander Jimmy **Abney** presiding.
2. Quartermaster Elect **David Miller** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
3. Chaplain Jim **Day** gave the invocation and blessing for the food. We had 28 guests and members present to enjoy our pot luck menu of chili, dumplings or several different soups with seasoned crackers, salad and desserts. It was all delicious and plenty for everyone .
4. Cmdr **Abney** introduced our guest speaker **8th Brigade 2nd Lt Cmdr Marc Robinson** of the John H. Reagan Camp 2156 in Palestine. He shared the memories of the making and dedication of the Confederate Memorial Plaza in Palestine. We all enjoyed watching a DVD that was directed and produced by David Moore entitled "Guardians of Heritage — Banners of Honor." It documented all phases of this beautiful plaza.
- 5, First order of business was to call upon Marc Robinson to conduct the installation of our new 2016 Howdy Camp Officers. They proudly wore uniforms for this annual event as they have for the past years. Pictures were made to be submitted to the Confederate Veteran Magazine.
6. Adjutant/Treasurer Jim **Ogburn** read the minutes of our December meeting as well as the financial report which were both approved by the membership present.
7. Commander **Abney** opened a discussion about buying four jointed flag poles with metal star toppers from our Canton supplier I Am Erica's Flags. The membership approved his suggestion to buy the poles in addition to 5 metal star toppers.
8. In other business, Commander Abney noted several dates of events that we need to seriously consider attending not only to represent our Howdy Camp but to show support for all SCV Camps.

January 17th — Beaumont Monument Dedication needs support of the SCV in the attack of some groups wanting to remove it.

January 19th — Confederate Hero Day. All SCV Members are encouraged to **"Fly Your Flag!"**

April 2nd— Camp Ford Reenactment, Tyler

April 16-17th — Mexia Battle Grounds Reenactment

April 26th — Confederate Memorial Day. Our Camp proudly places Battle Flags on Henderson County Graves

June 3-5 — SCV State Convention Kerrville, TX. We have 5 votes and need members to plan now to attend. Visit their website for more information www.scvtexas.org

July 13-17th — 121st National SCV Reunion in Richardson, TX. The Captain James Douglas Camp 124, Tyler is co-host. www.scv2016.org or contact Dennis Brand in Tyler at 903-360-7090



Left: Past Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** honors newly sworn in Adjutant/Treasurer **Don Bentley** with a handshake and medal.

9. Cmdr **Abney** called on Marc **Robinson** to give us a report from the DEC meeting he attended. He gave us an update on a newly formed license plate contest aimed at selecting another "flag picture" to represent our Texas SCV License Plate. He also shared the news from State Represent White's most recent action to co-sponsor legislation to save our Texas Southern Historical Monuments. Thirdly, he talked about the upcoming Ft Worth Stock Show Parade. This is the world's largest non-motorized parade and the UCV and the SCV has participated in it since the early 1900's. This year the Battle Flag has been banned. Therefore, SCV members that are in the parade are asked to carry their flag poles with only one black streamer. Other SCV members are needed to pass out "Stick Battle Flags to citizens all along the entire parade route." The DEC voted to spend \$1600 on these flags. Cmdr **Abney** has an email address if you need more information.



Above: Cmdr **Abney** presents membership certificates to **Raymond Magee** to his immediate left and to **Michael Magee**.

10. A total of three new members were presented their certificates by Cmdr **Abney**. **Raymond Magee**, **Michael Magee** and **Jeff Thompson** were given a big welcome!

11. 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 Chaplain **Jim Day**, Compatriots **Bob Lynch** and **Pete Edison**, **TornadoVictims** in Texas and surrounding states and our **Nation** and our **military**.



Above Cmdr **Abney** presents **Jeff Thompson** his membership certificate.

12. Before adjourning, Chaplain **Jim Day** gave the benediction and all sang "**Dixie**"



Above: Information to purchase a paver to honor your ancestor at the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza in Palestine may be found at www.ReaganSCVCamp.org

January 14, 2016 Meeting



Howdy Camp Meetings always include fellowship, hearty meals, interesting historical programs, and most importantly members take care of business in answering The Charge! **Our next regularly scheduled meeting is February 8th!**

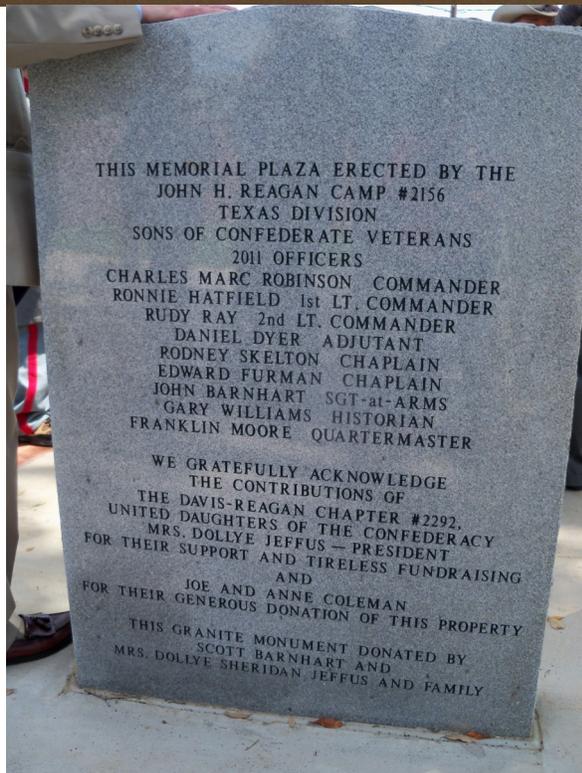
The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza John H. Reagan SCV Camp 2156, Plaestine

January's Historical Program was presented by 8th Brigade 2nd Lt Cmdr Marc Robinson. The actual construction by the Reagan Camp of this beautiful plaza has been documented in a professionally made DVD of both pictures and videos entitled:

Produced and Directed
by David Moore.



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza
"in honor of the memory and service
of Confederate Soldiers who served during the
War for Southern Independence."
This is the story of that day in photos and video.



Dedication Photos by T. Day

From the Commander

Greetings,

A new year has started. I hope you had a great Christmas and a happy start to 2016. With this New Year we are still faced with the unrelenting attacks on our Southern History and the good name of our ancestors. Northern liberals and Southern scallywags will not slow down on their attacks on our Southern history. They are coming at us from all sides. There is an attempt to remove statues from parks in Beaumont. A dedication is scheduled on January 17th to protest the action from the Beaumont city government on this act. Since 1896 the SCV has participated in the Ft Worth Stock Show Parade with our floats, flags and mounted cavalry. This year the governing body of the Stock Show is not allowing the battle flag to be carried in the parade. The SCV will still have a part in the parade even though we can't fly the battle flag. Marchers will be carrying flagpoles with black ribbons attached as a protest to the City of Ft Worth for their attempt to remove a major part of our history. Stick Battle Flags will be passed out on the sidewalk by members of the SCV and explain how the City of Ft Worth doesn't honor the true history of the Southern people. This is to continue all through the Stock Show. As you can see from these acts against our history and brave ancestors that reconstruction is still very much alive in the South. It has been 151 years since the surrender of the Southern Army and the North is still trying to ruin our way of life and our past. Let our voices never go unheard and our faith never falter and our honor never be destroyed. A call goes out to all true Southerners to stand strong together and fight for our rights. As I have said in the past, **"I will fight them until hell freezes over and then I will fight them on the ice!"**

Don't forget our meeting each month. Your attendance is important and needed. Come help us to be the best camp in the Texas Division and in our nation as well. Make plans to attend the State Reunion June 3-5th in Kerrville and the National Reunion July 13-17th and fly your flag January 19th for Confederate Hero Day.



Commander Jimmy Abney

Your Commander,
Jimmy Abney

Keep Your 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.





Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Don R. Bentley

First, I would like to thank all my compatriots of the W. H. "Howdy" Martin Camp for allowing me to serve you as your new Adjutant/Treasurer. Secondly, I would like to thank Dr. Jim Ogburn for his willingness and commitment to serve in that position for so many years. He has left me some mighty big shoes to fill. Thirdly, I would like to remind everyone of the reason we are a members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. As members we are privileged to commemorate and honor our Confederate ancestors, their symbols and monuments, and the cause for which they fought and died.

As you well know, it is the "spirit of the age" for progressive activists to destroy our ancestor's memory, the symbols that represented them and the cause for which they fought. The catalyst for their actions is a false understanding of the cause for which they fought. I am reminded of the comment G. Campbell Morgan made when a friend told him that the preacher must catch the "spirit of the age". Immediately this great preacher answered, "God forgive the preacher who does that. The preacher's business is to correct the "spirit of the age." We as compatriots must endeavor to thoroughly understand the "spirit of the age" without conforming to it in order to correct it. How can we do that?

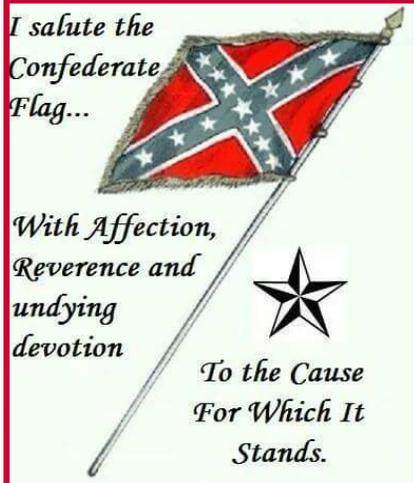
There are three actions we can resolve to undertake as we begin a new year.

1. Commit ourselves to attending every meeting of our camp and actively participating in as many actives of the camp as possible.
2. Educate ourselves on the correct reasons for the Northern aggression against the Southern Confederacy.
3. Recruit at least one new member into our camp this year.

If every compatriot of our camp committed himself to these three resolutions, we would be taking a huge step toward correcting the "spirit of the age". That spirit is an evil spirit that is attempting to destroy the heritage for which we stand. Edmund Burke, who in the twentieth century, became widely regarded as the philosophical founder of modern conservatism, made it clear what our mission is as Sons of Confederate Veterans. He said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We are obligated as members of the W. H. "Howdy" Martin Camp not to be just a good member. We must be good members committed to and actively involved in the camp's mission of correcting the "spirit of the age". Can our camp count on you?

Don R. Bentley



Prayer Requests

Health issues:

- * Jim Day
- * Pete Edison
- * Bob Lynch
- * Tornado Victims

Local Needs and our Nation:

- * Our next meeting February 8th
- * 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.

2016 Howdy Camp Officer Installation Ceremony conducted by 8th Brigade 2nd Lt Commander Marc Robinson



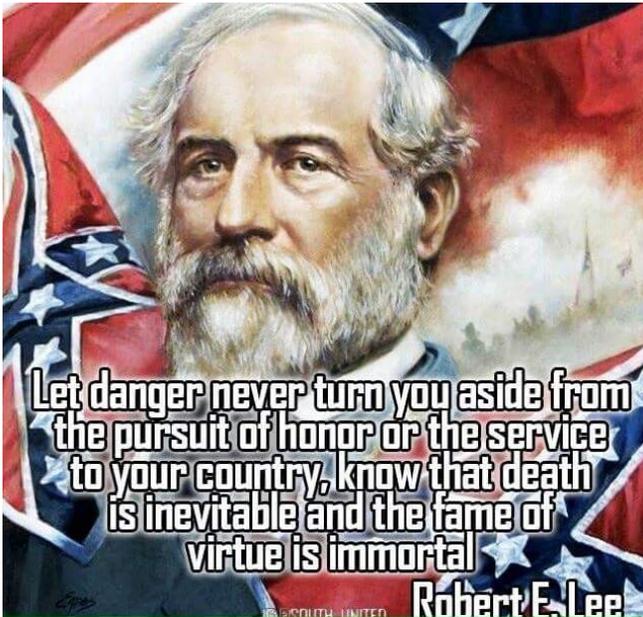
Left: Commander Jimmy Abney, 2nd Lt Cmdr Jim Ogburn, 3rd Lt Cmdr/Historian Luke Freeman, Chaplain Jim Day, 1st Lt Cmdr Ron Freeman, Quartermaster David Miller, and Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley.



Following Howdy Camp Tradition, above left Camp Officers and on the right Camp Compatriots and Advisor dressed in period attire for our January Meeting and Installation Ceremony. We had a total of 28 members and guests present.

Howdy Martin Camp

Remembers.... **Robert E. Lee** on his birthday!



General Robert E. Lee 1807-1870

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 War Between the States, he worked closely with Jefferson Davis and 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 war.

Afterwards 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.

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.

Now!

9-23-2012

Everywhere you look the American people are growing weary of being used and taken for granted by a government that has simply gotten too big. We the people, the majority who have supported this country and continue to do so, are tired of being ignored by a bureaucratic government that promotes its own agenda and caters to the demands of a few malcontents. Americans are becoming more and more dissatisfied, many to the point of anger, and our elected leaders are not listening.

The Bible says, "**The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.**" (Ps. 9: 17) Have you noticed that the further this country moves from the God of our fathers, and His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the worse things get? Our politically correct politicians and other leaders say we're being tolerant. Or, inclusive. Or, diversified. Or, anything but Godly. America is heading for hell because America is forgetting God. The good news is that the time is ripe for evangelism. Remember, for the first several hundred years the Lord's Church grew and prospered under very adverse conditions. However, for us to do so, we would be required to be like those early Christians. We must become something more than smiley faced, sweet talking, Sunday-go-to-meeting, Bible toters. Preachers must be allowed, and have the conviction, to quit worrying about offending Sister Suzie or Brother Joe, and preach the truth of God's Word to a lost world. Churches speak of having a revival, when what they really need is a renewal. What they need is to return to the faith of our fathers.

And, what of the Sons of Confederate Veterans? Does not the circumstances today present an opportunity to reach out with the truth of our Cause? Aren't Americans becoming more aware the country they love has been lost to a centralized government our founding fathers never intended to exist? Isn't this the time for our Confederation to grow in strength and numbers?

Our former president, the Honorable Jefferson Davis, said, "The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form." Question: If it is not up to us, the historic **Sons of Confederate Veterans**. If it is not up to us, the descendants of those who bravely fought to defend our Southern homeland. If it is not up to us who know and understand the truth of the **Confederate Cause**. If it is not up to us to reassert and contend. Then who? And if that time is not now, then when?

Speaking to the Mississippi legislature in 1881, Jefferson Davis also stated, "The contest is not over, the strife is not ended. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena." This was true in 1881, and it's true today. It's not over! Our Southern heritage, homeland, and values are still being attacked by malicious, self serving misfits and it's up to us to stand and firmly contend for the truth and honor of our Confederate Cause. And, the time is now!

However, for our Cause to be successful we must join together as a band of brothers with a common purpose in faithful support of each other and our SCV leaders,
and turn to God, putting our faith and trust in Christ our Lord.



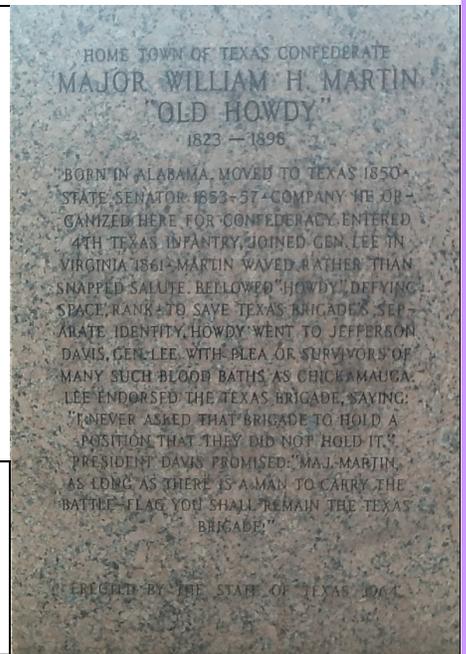
Bro Len speaks at the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication

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



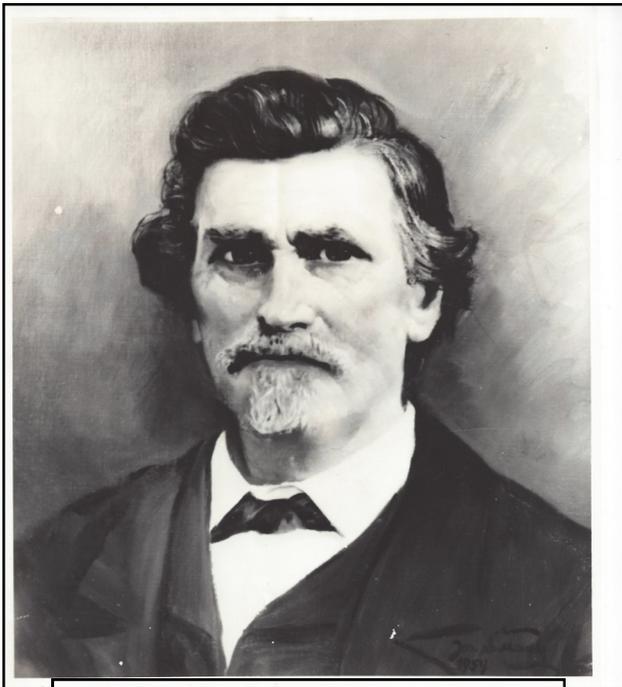
Above: Howdy's Grave, Hillsboro City Cemetery, Hillsboro, TX.
 Right: Howdy's Marker is located in Athens on Hwy 19 South in the Confederate Park.



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 HE ORGANIZED HERE FOR CONFEDERACY ENTERED 4TH TEXAS INFANTRY. JOINED GEN. LEE IN VIRGINIA 1861. MARTIN WAVED RATHER THAN SNAPPED SALUTE. REELED "HOWDY," DEFYING SPACE, RANK, TO SAVE TEXAS BRIGADES SEPARATE IDENTITY. HOWDY WENT TO JEFFERSON DAVIS, GEN. LEE WITH PLEA OF 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."

ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS 1904



Above: Major W. H. Howdy Martin

Camp Officers 2016

- Commander — Jimmy Abney
- 1st Lt Commander — Ron Freeman
- 2nd Lt Commander — Jim Ogburn, MD
- 3rd Lt Commander — Luke Freeman
- Adjutant/Treasurer — Don R. Bentley
- Chaplain — Jim Day
- Color Sgt — Terry Teems
- Sgt at Arms — Gaylon Patterson
- Quartermaster — David Miller
- Webmaster — Michael Burton
- Historian — Luke Freeman
- Aide de Camp — Jesse Giles
- Surgeon — Aaron Freeman

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.