

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2017



**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

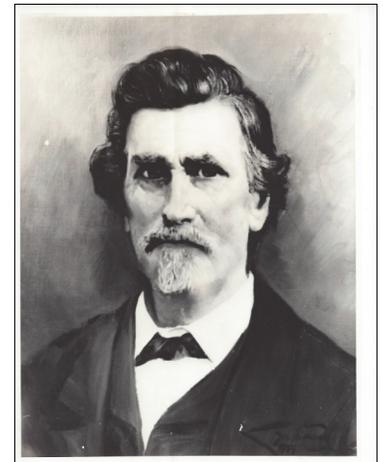
1823-1898

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 later admitted to the Bar. In 1850 he moved to Athens, Texas, and started a law practice in Henderson County. He proudly represented Freestone, Limestone, Henderson, and Navarro counties from 1853 to 1858 in the Texas Senate. Answering the call to defend his beloved South, 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*



Compatriot **Ray Brown** presents newly installed **Commander Terry Teems** a hand-forged knife that he made.

Spotlight on Our Camp

1. Our January 9, 2017 SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with **Commander Jimmy Abney** presiding.
2. **Adjutant/Treasure Don Bentley** gave the invocation and blessing for the food. We had 20 members and guests present to enjoy our potluck dinner of soups, salads, and desserts.
3. Meeting called to order by **Commander Abney**.
4. **Quartermaster David Miller** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
5. Installation of new officers conducted by **8th Brigade, 2nd Lt. Cmdr., Texas Division, Marc Robinson**.
6. **8th Brigade, 2nd Lt. Cmdr., Texas Division, Marc Robinson** presented the historical program, "On to Brazil", about the Confederate emigration after the War for Southern Independence, 1861- 1865, There were approximately 9,000 Confederate emigrants. Some of these were his Confederate ancestors.
7. Short break.
8. Meeting called back to order by **Commander Terry Teems**.
9. **Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley** read the minutes of the December meeting as well as the financial report. Minutes and financial report were approved as presented by the membership present.
10. **Cmdr. Teems** announced that the acquisition for fence material for the Arms Cemetery has been taken care of by new property owner, **Steve Sifers**.
11. The "Moonlight and Magnolia" event to be held on January 21st at the Navarro College Pierce Museum. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. Billy Ford, 903-654-0131, for additional information.
12. Prayer List:
Day family.
All police department, military personnel, first responders, elected officials and our country's President-elect.. Annette's friend losing her infant.
13. Meeting closed with benediction lead by **Chaplain Jimmy Abney**. **Cmdr Teems** led the camp in singing of "**Dixie**".

Howdy Martin Camp Caught on Camera



Left: Martin Camp set up a recruiting table at the Athens Cain Center Gun Show.



Above Right: 8th Brigade 2nd Lieutenant Commander of the Texas Division **Marc Robinson** swears in the 2017 Officers of the Howdy Camp at the January meeting.



Major W H Howdy Martin Camp 1241, Athens 2017 Officers

Left: Surgeon S Sifers, Color Sgt B Sifers, 1st Lt Cmdr R Freeman, 3rd Lt Cmdr L Freeman, Aide de Camp D Lowery, Quartermaster D Miller, Camp Commander Terry Teems, Adjutant/Treasurer D Bentley, Chaplain J Abney.



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 a second term as your Adjutant/Treasurer. Secondly, I would like to remind everyone of the reason we are 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 camps mission of correcting the "spirit of the age". Can our camp count on you?



Standing up for Dixie,

Don R. Bentley
Adjutant/Treasurer

The Confederate Creed

By Judge Walter B. Jones

WITH unflinching trust in the God of my fathers, I believe, as a Confederate, in obedience to Him; that it is my duty to respect the laws and ancient ways of my people, and to stand up for the right of my State to determine what is good for its people in all local affairs.

I believe that I should love my fellow man with all my heart, give devotion to truth and justice, and do with the patience and courage of Davis and Lee the duties which God puts before me each day.

I believe in respect and honor for womanhood, in love of home, devotion to my church and loyalty to my school.

I see in the Stars and Bars, the glorious banner of the Confederacy as it waves in the Southern breeze, a symbol of freedom and devotion to constitutional rights, an emblem of honor and character.

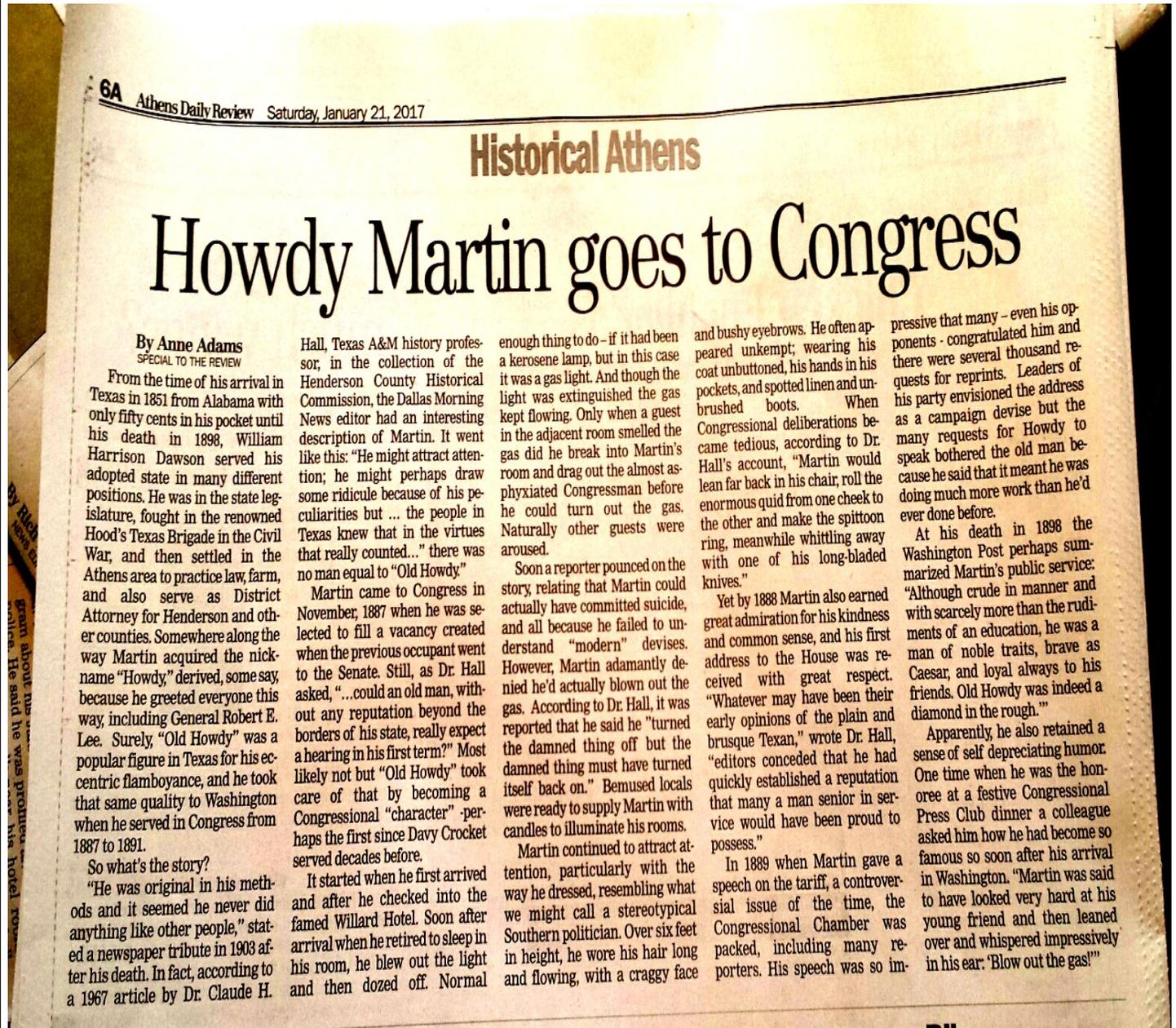
I believe that veneration for the ideals held sacred by the Confederacy will make us a better people and a stronger State.

Compliments of
Major Howdy Martin Brigade - S. C. V.

Above: Copied from the archives of the original Major Howdy Martin Brigade, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Howdy Martin goes to Congress...

Athens Review January 21, 2017



6A Athens Daily Review Saturday, January 21, 2017

Historical Athens

Howdy Martin goes to Congress

By Anne Adams
SPECIAL TO THE REVIEW

From the time of his arrival in Texas in 1851 from Alabama with only fifty cents in his pocket until his death in 1898, William Harrison Dawson served his adopted state in many different positions. He was in the state legislature, fought in the renowned Hood's Texas Brigade in the Civil War, and then settled in the Athens area to practice law, farm, and also serve as District Attorney for Henderson and other counties. Somewhere along the way Martin acquired the nickname "Howdy," derived, some say, because he greeted everyone this way, including General Robert E. Lee. Surely, "Old Howdy" was a popular figure in Texas for his eccentric flamboyance, and he took that same quality to Washington when he served in Congress from 1887 to 1891.

So what's the story?

"He was original in his methods and it seemed he never did anything like other people," stated a newspaper tribute in 1903 after his death. In fact, according to a 1967 article by Dr. Claude H.

Hall, Texas A&M history professor, in the collection of the Henderson County Historical Commission, the Dallas Morning News editor had an interesting description of Martin. It went like this: "He might attract attention; he might perhaps draw some ridicule because of his peculiarities but ... the people in Texas knew that in the virtues that really counted..." there was no man equal to "Old Howdy."

Martin came to Congress in November, 1887 when he was selected to fill a vacancy created when the previous occupant went to the Senate. Still, as Dr. Hall asked, "...could an old man, without any reputation beyond the borders of his state, really expect a hearing in his first term?" Most likely not but "Old Howdy" took care of that by becoming a Congressional "character" - perhaps the first since Davy Crockett served decades before.

It started when he first arrived and after he checked into the famed Willard Hotel. Soon after arrival when he retired to sleep in his room, he blew out the light and then dozed off. Normal

enough thing to do - if it had been a kerosene lamp, but in this case it was a gas light. And though the light was extinguished the gas kept flowing. Only when a guest in the adjacent room smelled the gas did he break into Martin's room and drag out the almost asphyxiated Congressman before he could turn out the gas. Naturally other guests were aroused.

Soon a reporter pounced on the story, relating that Martin could actually have committed suicide, and all because he failed to understand "modern" devices. However, Martin adamantly denied he'd actually blown out the gas. According to Dr. Hall, it was reported that he said he "turned the damned thing off but the damned thing must have turned itself back on." Bemused locals were ready to supply Martin with candles to illuminate his rooms.

Martin continued to attract attention, particularly with the way he dressed, resembling what we might call a stereotypical Southern politician. Over six feet in height, he wore his hair long and flowing, with a craggy face

and bushy eyebrows. He often appeared unkempt; wearing his coat unbuttoned, his hands in his pockets, and spotted linen and unbrushed boots. When Congressional deliberations became tedious, according to Dr. Hall's account, "Martin would lean far back in his chair, roll the enormous quid from one cheek to the other and make the spittoon ring, meanwhile whittling away with one of his long-bladed knives."

Yet by 1888 Martin also earned great admiration for his kindness and common sense, and his first address to the House was received with great respect. "Whatever may have been their early opinions of the plain and brusque Texan," wrote Dr. Hall, "editors conceded that he had quickly established a reputation that many a man senior in service would have been proud to possess."

In 1889 when Martin gave a speech on the tariff, a controversial issue of the time, the Congressional Chamber was packed, including many reporters. His speech was so im-

pressive that many - even his opponents - congratulated him and there were several thousand requests for reprints. Leaders of his party envisioned the address as a campaign device but the many requests for Howdy to speak bothered the old man because he said that it meant he was doing much more work than he'd ever done before.

At his death in 1898 the Washington Post perhaps summarized Martin's public service: "Although crude in manner and with scarcely more than the rudiments of an education, he was a man of noble traits, brave as Caesar, and loyal always to his friends. Old Howdy was indeed a diamond in the rough."

Apparently, he also retained a sense of self depreciating humor. One time when he was the honoree at a festive Congressional Press Club dinner a colleague asked him how he had become so famous so soon after his arrival in Washington. "Martin was said to have looked very hard at his young friend and then leaned over and whispered impressively in his ear: "Blow out the gas!"

Did you notice our camp's namesake on page 6A of the newspaper this week???

The above article by ANNE ADAMS appeared in our hometown newspaper THE ATHENS DAILY REVIEW as noted on January 21st. The "Historical Athens" feature is always interesting reading and our Camp sincerely appreciates every opportunity to share Major Martin's historical public service.

*I salute the
Confederate
Flag...*



*With Affection,
Reverence and
undying
devotion*



*To the Cause
For Which It
Stands.*



Flags - Banners - Accessories

Eric & Erica Rumbo
367 North Trade Days Blvd.
Canton, TX 75103
(214) 957-0385

E-mail:
service@iamericasflags.com

www.iamericasflags.com

Eric in Canton has supplied our Howdy Camp with flags for many years. If you are needing a specialty flag, call him.

Prayer Requests

*Day family

*

*All police departments, military personnel, first responders, elected officials and our country's President-elect..

*Annette's friend losing her infant.

**Just as a reminder, our
Second Monday Camp Meeting
is published in the Athens Daily Review
in its Community Calendar each day for
the week prior to our meeting!**

**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.

T Day, Friend of the Martin Camp SCV
7751 CR 3713, Athens, TX 75752
903-676-8760



*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.*

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.

Our Kind Of People

One of the churches I pastored was the second oldest Baptist Congregation still meeting in it's original location in the state of Texas. It was organized in 1848, and had it's own state historical marker. The cemetery next to the church contained many of the area's earliest settlers, and many of the church members were their direct descendants. Being an avid history buff, I was delighted to have been called to serve this distinctive old church.

I'd been pastoring the church for a year or so, when one Sunday a young couple visited our morning service. They were not very well dressed, but they were clean and presentable, and were probably dressed as best they could. I was told that he was a member of the church but hadn't been there for a while, and had spent a few years in prison. I was also told the girl he was with had been in some trouble.

The next Sunday they returned and took a seat in the back row. At the conclusion of the morning message, I offered the invitation. Then as the congregation stood singing a hymn, this young girl stepped out and came forward. Upon reaching me, she said she had been saved, loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and wanted to be baptized. I couldn't have been more pleased. After all, to a minister and preacher, this is what it's all about. However, as the people were leaving, the deacons came to me and said they were unhappy about this decision. The reason they gave was, "They're not our kind of people." I decided that I wasn't their kind of people either, and didn't stay with the church long after that.

There's the story of the shabby old man sitting in front of a big beautiful church crying. Jesus comes up to him and asks what's wrong. The old man explains that he's sad because they won't let him in the church. To this Jesus replies, **"Don't feel bad, they won't let me in either."** In the Gospel according to John, Jesus says, "All the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37)

Now I think about the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Perhaps we should consider these questions, as we seek to recruit new members. Are we being "selective" as to who we talk to about our Cause? What do we look for in new members for the SCV? Who are "Our kind of people?"

We all know the qualifications for membership in the SCV. But, there's more. Our kind of people have respect for their brave Confederate forefathers and want to see them honored. Our kind of people believe in and love our Southern Cause and heritage and wish to protect it. Our kind of people know the truth about the War for Southern Independence and want every one else to know it. Our kind of people have a deep regard for the Confederate Battle Flag and love to see it wave. Our kind of people are sons of the Confederate South . . . and proud of it!

It's not the clothes they wear, the car they drive, or the money in their wallet that makes someone "our kind of people." It's what's in their heart.

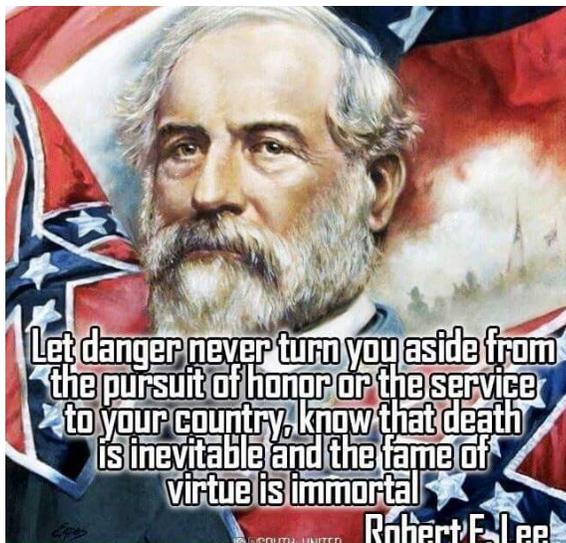
May God bless the SCV and each member as we seek to serve Him and our most worthy Cause.

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



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.

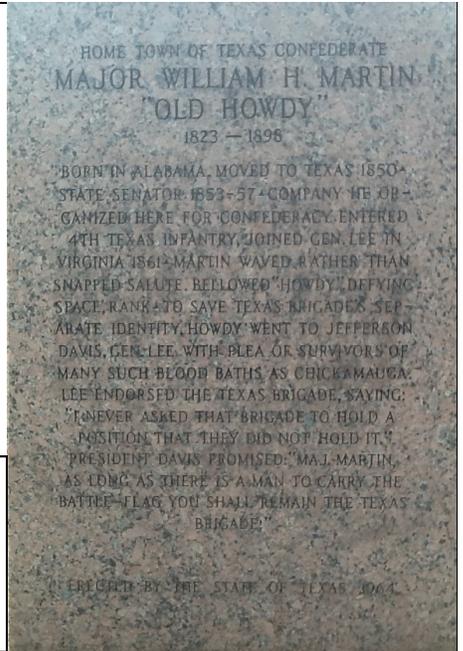
sources: [Dictionary of American Biography](#)

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.



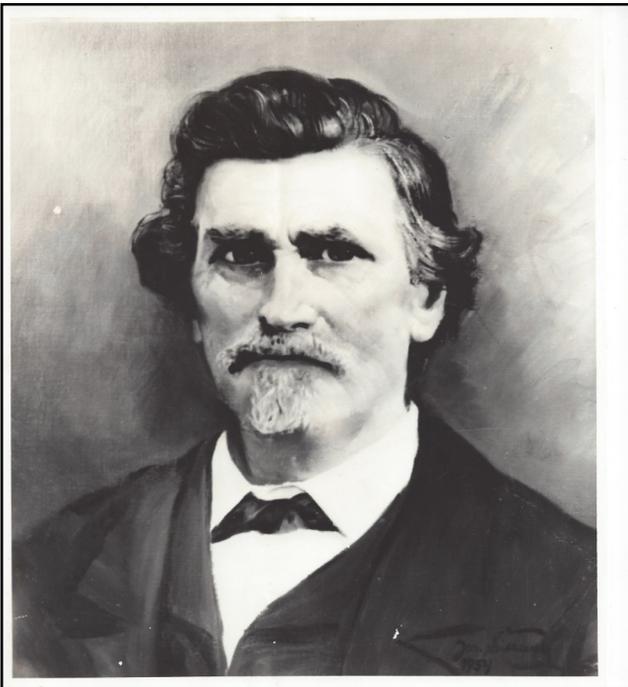
HOME TOWN OF TEXAS CONFEDERATE
 MAJOR WILLIAM H. MARTIN
 "OLD HOWDY"
 1823 — 1896

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. REELOWED "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

Camp Officers 2017

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



Above: Major W. H. Howdy Martin

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.