

# 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.”

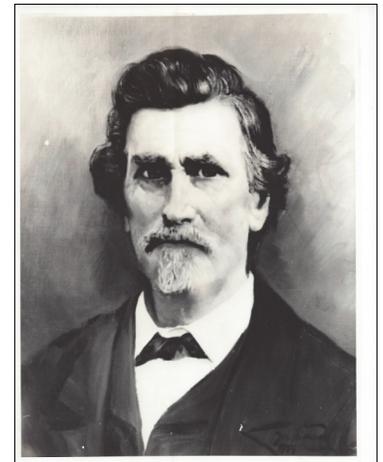
According to the Texas Historical Commission, Howdy Martin fought in the Eastern theater of operations in all of the fighting. After the signing of the surrender terms at Appomattox, Major Martin and Captain W. T. Hill led the remaining members of Hood’s Texas Brigade back to the Lone Star State.

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 March 9th SCV Howdy Martin Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with Commander **Jimmy Abney** presiding. He opened the meeting with a prayer before our pot luck dinner.
2. Quartermaster **Dale Sifford** led the pledges to the flags and the reading of the Charge. We had 24 guests and members present.
3. Cmdr **Abney** introduced **Lt Rick Williams** of the Walter P Lane SCV Camp of Longview. His presentation was on the Siege of Fort Hudson. It included a very impressive slide-show.

On May 27, 1863 the Yankees settled into the siege that lasted 48 days.

The Confederates dug "rat holes to live in." They had a locomotive engine at the fort. They put the engine on blocks to grind corn so they ate well.

**Lt Williams** Confederate ancestor is **Rufus Williams** who fought in this battle. On July 9, 1863 after the fall of Vicksburg, the Confederates surrendered. They were required to sign a pardon to agree they would not bear arms against Yankees for a period of at least six months. After this short time, Compatriot **Williams** did indeed join another company of the CSA.

He is buried at the Holley Springs Cemetery, Dallas County Arkansas.

5. Chaplain **Jim Day** read the minutes from the February meeting which were approved. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** gave the camp a very satisfactory financial report.
6. Cmdr **Abney** reminded us of the Confederate Veterans Plaza Dedication on March 14th in Palestine. The 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc Robinson has previously invited our camp members to come dressed to participate or just to observe the ceremony.
7. April 17-19th is the annual reenactment at the **Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia**. There will be numerous sutlers and those dressed could volunteer to participate in the battle on Saturday or Sunday. If you need directions or have questions, you may contact Chaplain **Jim Day** or Compatriot **David Stringbean Lowry** as both of them as well as some other camp members have attended each year. It is a close event that is always worth the drive.
8. Cmdr **Abney** reminded us of our camp project as caretakers of the Arms Cemetery. Please mark the date for this spring's cleanup as March 21st at 9:00. Please bring your tools to mow, cut trees and burn an existing brush pile as well as other needed work.



**Lt Rick Williams** of the Walter P Lane SCV Longview Camp

9. **Camp Ford Reenactment in Tyler** is March 28th 8:00 to 4:00. The public is welcome to bring only Confederate or Texas flags to the annual and very proper flag retirement ceremony.
10. The SCV State Reunion in Temple is June 5-7. The Howdy Camp has earned five delegates to vote.
11. The SCV National Reunion in Richmond, VA is July 16-21st. We need at least one delegate from our camp to attend in order for us to maintain our Four Star Camp status.
12. **Advisor Bunny Freeman** shared that her research had found a total of 250 Confederate graves in Henderson County. **Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn** and all members were very pleased with this news and thanked her for helping on this camp project.
13. We voted in 3 new camp members. Applications were approved for **Hody Porterfield**, David Miller, and **Don Bentley**.
14. Prayer requests were asked for **Texas Commander Johnnie Holley**. Also **Tubly Kyle**, **Kathy Youngblood**, and the **Guy Smith** family in Athens.
15. Chaplain **Jim Day** led the benediction and everyone sang **Dixie**.



**Commander Abney** welcomes new Howdy Camp members **Don Bentley**, **David Miller**, and **Hody Porterfield**.

## February—2015 SCV Camp Activities



From left: 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc Robinson, Howdy Martin Camp Chaplain Jim Day, Past Comdr Reagan Camp Rudy Ray and Reagan's February Camp Meeting guest speaker Author, Historian, Educator Norris White.

Chaplain Jim Day and wife traveled down the road to Palestine on February 12th to attend the February meeting of the John H. Reagan Camp Meeting. 8th Brigade Cmdr Marc Robinson extended an invitation to the Howdy Martin Camp at our meeting that same week when he announced their special guest speaker would be Mr. Norris White.

Earning degrees from the University of Texas at Tyler and then a Master's at Stephen F Austin, Mr. White is gifted at commanding the attention of his audience. He preferred to label his presentation not as a speech but "I am here to discuss where my path of research as led me."

He shared that "a few years ago I made the statement that I believed there were black Texans who served in the CSA. I am proud to say that I can stand on my beliefs."

As he began his initial research he found that his search was too broad. He concluded that not

all Confederate States fought as one with one objective, but they fought independently to protect their Texas. When a Texan enlisted he did so to serve not his State but his Country. These men felt pride and honor to defend and protect their Country.

He also shared why the Trans Mississippi Army sought to enlist Black men to serve and which conflicts demanded a larger Confederate force to fight the Union invasion.

Mr. White spoke from just a few notes as he recalled his years of research. Occasionally he wanted to expand on his points but he knew how to refrain and keep his "discussion" with us in a rather tight list. Lastly, he shared really good news that his book should be published in another year. It is entitled Black Texans in a Trans Mississippi Confederate Army.

I will definitely announce to you at a camp meeting when it hits the shelves.

I didn't get to hear Mr. White when he spoke at a Howdy Camp meeting years ago, so I am definitely glad I got to go to Palestine and will travel again if this invitation is given again. In addition, the meal and the fellowship was wonderful.



Above: Palestine's Reagan Camp Compatriot Sammy Lee Hanks won the decal donated by Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD of the Athens Howdy Martin Camp.



## From the Commander

*Greetings,*

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 with Chaplain Day last year and was blessed and amazed to be surrounded by many area SCV Compatriots. Some were sitting at recruiting tables while others participated in the battle and others were posted at educational demonstrations. You will enjoy their annual flag retirement ceremony so remember to bring your Confederate and Texas flags. You will also get to visit with our own Compatriot Stringbean who should be 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.

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 or contact me.

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.



**Jim Ogburn, MD**

## Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD

*A big Howdy Welcome to everyone!*

Our March meeting was wonderful and a big welcome is extended to our three new members who were approved by all those present. I am so excited to see new recruits join us. Please let me know if I can be of any help between meetings in the way of the necessary paperwork needed to began researching Confederate ancestors.

Again, I would like to remind you that I still have available both Confederate flags and camp flag pipes for any member who would like to use one for your ancestors or those whom you have pledged to be their guardian. I also have information still available for the SCV Guardian Program.

Please be sure to mark the upcoming dates for reenactments, dedications as well as the Arms Cemetery Cleanup.

I hope to see you down the road!

Jim Ogburn, MD

*Deo Vindice!*



### 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  
903-681-5313

### *Prayer Requests*

Health issues:

\* **Jim Day, Mike Mitchell, Pete Edison**

\* **Esther Sims** past UCD President

\* **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

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.

## Who Gets the Credit?

6-17-2012

It has been said and often repeated that, "One man and God is a majority." This is true since God alone is a majority. God has never needed great numbers to accomplish His purpose. 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. The reason for God's reduction of Gideon's army is explained in verse 2 of chapter 7. Simply: God wanted the credit for Gideon's victory.

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) Then in verse 29, he explains why: "That no flesh should glory in His presence." Again, God expects to receive credit for what He does.

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans face many challenges. We are challenged to recruit and retain members which 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, as God gives us strength, direction, and success, we must remember why we succeed. We must remember who gets the credit.

In doing so we will prevail against our enemies, and say, as Paul said to the church in 1 Corinthians 15: 27

"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory..."

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



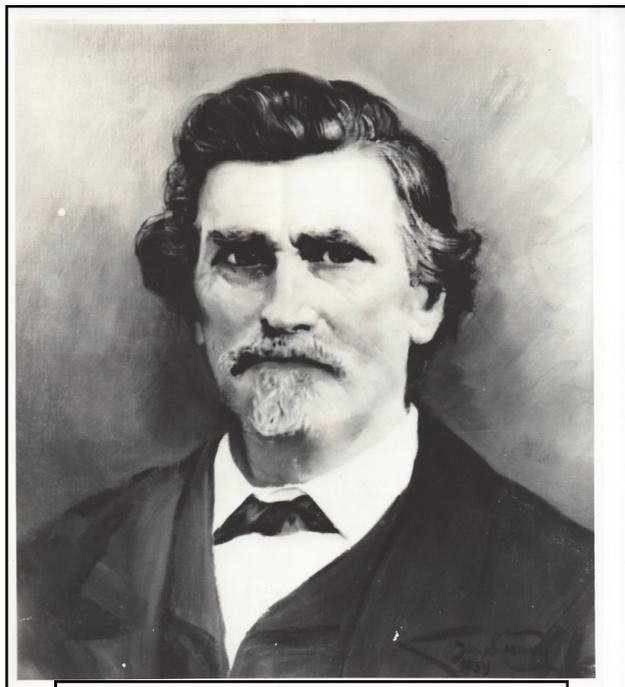
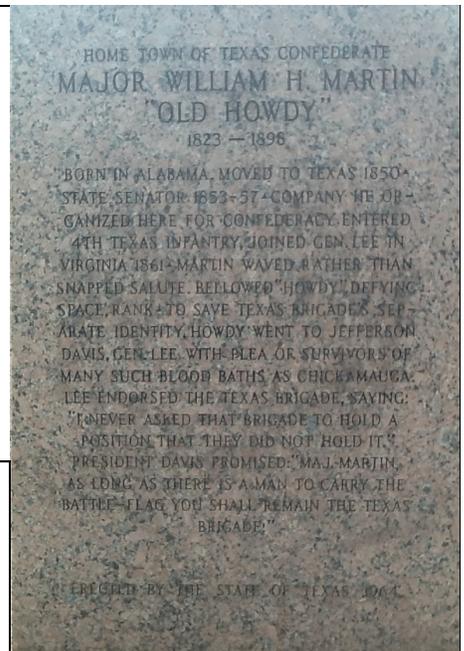
***William Harrison Martin***  
 "Old Howdy"

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.