

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

MARCH 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

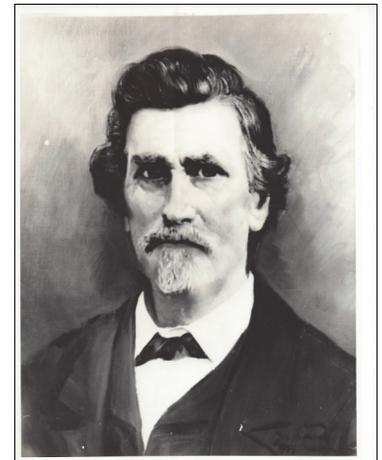
1823-1898

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*

Spotlight on Our Camp

1. Our March 13, 2017 SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with **Commander Terry Teems** presiding.
 2. **Quartermaster David Miller** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
 3. **Chaplain Jim Abney** gave the invocation and blessing for the food. We had 16 guests and members present to enjoy our pot luck menu of Mexican dishes and desserts.
 4. **Cmdr. Teems** called meeting back to order and introduced our guest speaker **1st Lt. Cmdr. John Hitt, of the General John Gregg Camp in Longview**. He displayed and described his collection of firearms, swords and various types of ammo used by the Confederacy. He has travelled to every state involved in the War of Northern Aggression and obtained metal detecting leases in some of those states.
 5. **Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley** read the minutes of our February meeting as well as the financial report. Both approved by the membership present.
 6. **Cmdr. Teems** also noted some of the following dates for us to remember:
 - April 1 Living History at Camp Ford in Tyler, TX. Temporarily on hold.
 - April 7-9 Activities at Pleasant Hill, LA.
 - April 28-30 Mexia Re-enactment and living history day.
 - May 5 Civil War Living History-Day of Learning at the Diamond Don RV Park.
 7. April 26th is Confederate Memorial Day. The camp voted to place flags on Confederate graves in the Athens Cemetery on Saturday April 8th at 10:00AM.
 8. **Camp Surgeon Steve Sifers** took flags for the Arms Cemetery.
 9. **Cmdr. Teems** presented a proposal made by the Executive Committee concerning the potluck dinner. Three suggestions were made:
 - Find a location that allows us to meet and hold our meetings
 - Continue as usual
 - Start meetings at 7:00PM at church gym with no potluck and light refreshments
- A motion was made and seconded then approved by majority to **start meetings at 7:00PM** at church gym with no potluck and **serve only light refreshments**.
10. Under new business we discussed the **Texas Division Reunion, June 2-4 2017** at the Radisson Hotel in Ft. Worth. Application on web site. Delegates are Jim Abney, David Miller, Ron Freeman with Terry Teems as alternate. The **National Reunion will be held July 18-23 2017** at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, TN. SCV magazine has complete details if interested.
- Prayer Requests:
- Bunny Freeman's** sister's tumor surgery was benign. Praise report.
 - Bunny's** friend from Athens living in Alaska diagnosed with terminal cancer.
 - Aide de Camp David Lowry** family in loss of his mother, Mrs. Louise Lowry
 - Nation's leaders, our country, military and all first responders
11. Before adjourning, **Chaplain Abney** gave the benediction and **Cmdr. Teems** lead all in singing of **"Dixie"**.



Adjutant/Treasurer Don R. Bentley

Perhaps if you have fought in war as some of us have, you can relate to one of the Confederate soldiers favorite songs.

He, as we, fought for what was right and left wives, children and home fires to do so. They, in one sense, are what got us through the very difficult times of war as it did our ancestors.

The following lyrics to the song entitled "The South Shall Rise Up Free" written by John Hill Hewitt (1801-1890) shows that to be true.

Hewitt was born in Maiden Lane in New York City on July 11, 1801, and migrated to Augusta, Georgia, at the age of 23 to teach music. He quickly fell under the spell of the South and spent the remainder of his days there (with the exception of a brief sojourn in Boston). Hewitt, who became the Confederacy's leading composer, died in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 7, 1890.

"The South Shall Rise Up Free" by John Hill Hewitt (1801-1890)

The bugle sounds upon the plain,
Our men are gath'ring fast;
You would not have your friend re-main,
And be among the last.
Cheer up, cheer up, my Southern flow'r,
There's joy for you and me--
While Right is strong and God has pow'r,
The South shall rise up free!
While Right is strong and God has pow'r,
The South shall rise up free!

When by the campfire's fitful light,
Beneath the starlit sky,
I picture scenes of young delight,
Your form shall hover nigh.
Your smile will cheer the lonely hour,
Your eye my lodestar be,
For well I know while God has pow'r,
The South shall rise up free!
For well I know while God has pow'r,
The South shall rise up free!

When to the field of fight I rush,
And raise my battle shout,
A soldier's pride each doubt will hush,
Though bullets fly about.
I'll boldly face the leaden shower,
And trust to Destiny;
For Right is strong and God has power--
The South shall rise up Free!
For Right is strong and God has power--
The South shall rise up Free!

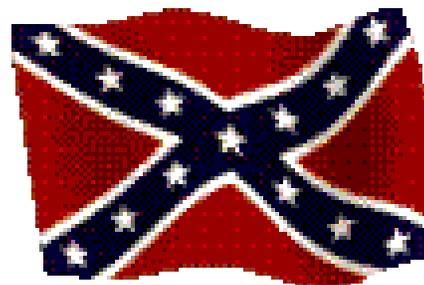
Our Starry Cross flaunts in the air,
And guides each soldier on;
Where'er it shines our braves are there,
Unflinching, every one.
Then cheer up, cheer up!--Southern flower,
There's joy for you and me;
For Right is strong and God has power--
The South shall rise up Free!
For Right is strong and God has power--
The South shall rise up Free!

If you would like to listen to the song being sung, here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/jX6sbxnaLSo>

Standing up for Dixie,

Don R. Bentley
Adjutant/Treasurer



By Anne Adams Special to the Review

March 18, 2017

Howdy Martin made headlines again in our Athens Review Newspaper!**6A Athens Daily Review** Saturday, March 18, 2017

Historical Athens

Howdy Martin – Taking it to the top

By Anne Adams

Battlefield heroes. How do you feel about them? Usually we regard them with respect or admiration, especially when they are our neighbors. After all, they struggled and survived fighting for their community, their nation and for a cause they believed in.

Yet while situations and beliefs change over the years, it is still possible to admire and respect the heroes' courageous struggles on the battlefield and off. Especially, when they survived the war, and returned to live in and contribute to their communities.

Many Henderson County men fought in the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy, and many died. Yet there were also many who survived, and after the war they returned to the Athens area, and began

with Hood's Texas Brigade, serving in Virginia as part of the Army of Northern Virginia, under the command of both Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. James Longstreet. Promoted to major in 1864, he retained the rank the rest of his life, a popular practice of his time.

Then in the last months of the war, he was called to challenge his superiors at what he believed was unfair treatment of his comrades.

Our story comes from a 1913 Athens Review article, reprinting a Dallas News article by J. Farley under the headline, "Texan Bravery is Appreciated."

Here, the reporter quoted various sources as he told the story of how Martin confronted, not only Gen. Robert E. Lee, but also Confederate President Jeff Davis.

In the waning days of the

once belonged to a Union soldier. The tail had been cut off, so as to make a round about (or short cut), it was split in the back, and his old slouch hat had a hole in it..."

The Dallas News article related that when Martin entered the office of the Confederate Secretary of War to make his appeal, he found both Gen. Lee and President Davis were already there, and as it turned out, they already knew Martin from press accounts of his exploits.

After relating the cause of his visit, Martin made his statement. According to the Waco newspaper, Martin told Davis: "Mr. President, I have been selected by the Texas soldiers to protest against the order ... to consolidate the Texas regiments. The fulfilment of the order would break the hearts of our men. They have been

*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

Bunny Freeman's sister's tumor surgery was benign.
Praise report.

Bunny's friend from Athens living in Alaska diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Aide de Camp David Lowry family in loss of his mother,
Mrs. Louise Lowry
Nation's leaders, our country, military and all first responders

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 7:00pm with refreshments furnished by camp 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.

God Needs You!

1-29-2012

For nearly forty years I have stood before dozens of congregations, as either a pastor, evangelist, or visiting minister, and preached thousands of sermons. However, of all the messages I've delivered, there are no more than six or so that I have preached more than once. One such message is titled, "An Old Man and a Stick." During this message, I recount various Bible stories of how greatly God used simple, small, and seemingly weak people to accomplish monumental tasks. Then after each account, I would remind the congregation of how God used an old man and a stick.

The old man and a stick is, of course, Moses. God used Moses to confound the most powerful man on earth, and defeat the greatest empire in the world. Moses then led a nation of millions in a desert wilderness for forty years. It was Moses who received God's Law, and wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. When God called Moses and sent him to Egypt to begin this great work, he was just an eighty-year-old man with a walking stick.

Under the inspiration of God's Spirit, the Apostle Paul writes, "**But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought the things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence.**" (1 Cor. 1:27-29)

These verses tell us that since God uses foolish things, weak things, base things, things which are despised, and things which are not, He can use you and me. God doesn't need our money, our strength, our youth, or even our courage. He just needs us. He needs us to be faithful and committed to Him, and the work He has called us to do. I believe that our Lord has a plan and a purpose for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and that plan includes those who are faithful and true to our Cause.

Simply, **God needs you!**

But, **we also need God.** Moses would not have succeeded, or even attempted the work that God called him to do, **without God's help.**

My prayer for each member of our honorable Confederation is that we seek God's will and guidance in the work committed to us by General Stephen Dill Lee, which is as it should be.....our defining characteristic.



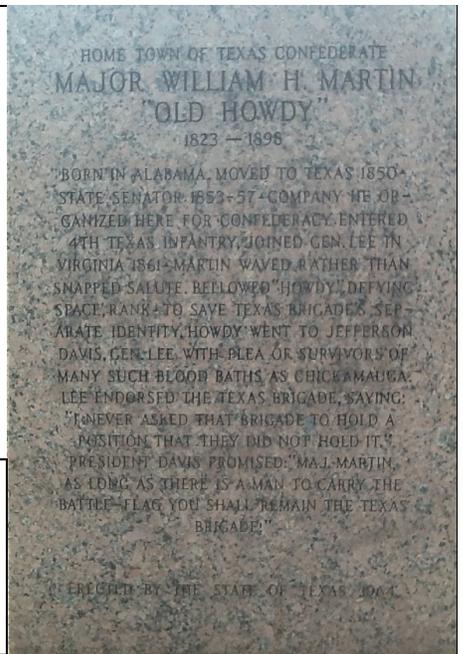
Bro Len speaks at the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication

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

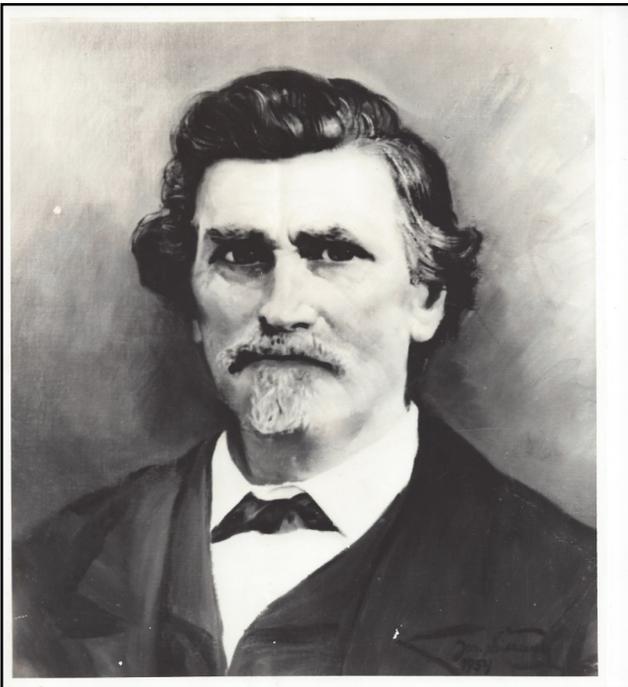


Above: Howdy's Grave, Hillsboro City Cemetery, Hillsboro, TX.
 Right: Howdy's Marker is located in Athens on Hwy 19 South in the Confederate Park.



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.