

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

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MAY 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

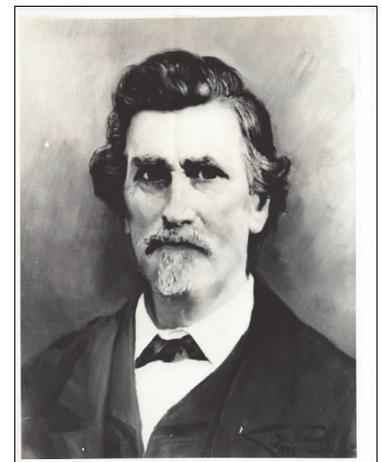
1823-1898

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 May 8, 2017 SCV Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with **Commander Terry Teems** presiding.

2. **Commander Teems** led the pledges and salutes to the flags. **Marc Robinson** read the Charge to the SCV.

3. **Chaplain Jim Abney** gave the invocation and blessing for the food. We had 13 members and guests present. Everyone enjoyed light refreshments.



Commander Jack Dyess of the Texas Society of the Military Order of Stars & Bars (second from left) was our May Howdy Camp Speaker. Camp members gathered to express to him their appreciation for his informative and interesting "Battle of Sabine Pass"

4. **Cmdr. Teems** called meeting to order and introduced our speaker, **Cmdr Jack Dyess** of The Texas Society of the Military Order of Stars and Bars, and curator of the Civil War Museum in Ft. Worth. He gave a historical lesson on the Texas Confederates battle of Sabine Pass and Galveston.

5. **Adjutant/Treasurer Don Bentley** read the minutes of our April meeting as well as the financial report. Both approved by the membership present. He also reported that the \$100.00 donation to the Confederate Museum Project was sent. In addition, he also reported the form for the delegates to the state convention was sent to **State Division Adjutant, Cooper Goodson**.

6. **Cmdr. Teems** also noted some of the following dates for us to remember:

June, 2-4 - 2017 Texas Division Reunion in Ft. Worth.

July, 18-23 – National Reunion in Memphis, TN at the Cook Convention Center.

7. A Camp Flag Memory Ribbon for **Compatriot Charles Sanders** will be ordered for our flag. Last Roll form sent in to proper officers by **Adjutant/ Treasurer Don Bentley**. There was no other new or old business discussed.

8. Prayer Requests:

Charles Sanders family

Jan Giles loss of her mother

Tornado victims in Canton, Eustace, Fruitvale and Emory

Nations leaders, first responders and our military

9. Before adjourning, **Chaplain Abney** gave the benediction and **Cmdr. Teems** lead all in singing of "**Dixie**".

Adjutant/Treasurer Don R. Bentley



I received this e-mail from our Texas Division Commander Gary Bray, and thought the message needed to be read by all members of our camp. I know some of you are not really e-mail savvy so I'm reproducing Commander Bray's message as follows:

Gentlemen of the Texas Division,

I have sent many messages out to you as your Commander but today I come to you not only as your Commander but your brother and Compatriot. I, gentlemen, am very upset even mad at receiving news that grown men, SCV members are calling for a boycott of our Texas Division Reunion. I have had reports that members have been receiving calls to stay away and not support this Convention. If you have received one of these calls please send me any and all information that pertains to this attack on our division and the SCV by these"Members".....

The call to "boycott" while it may seem like some sort of "protest" or childish twelve year old school kid revenge action against another member is causing great financial harm to our Division. This call to "boycott" means we will not be able to meet the agreements to the contract signed with the hotel.

Stupid yes! Stupid actions like this can bankrupt a Division. You "so called members" I am sorry to say are guilty of theft from the organization that I and the other 3000 real Texas Division members love and support.

Your "boycott" may cost the SCV Texas Division \$7000.00 to \$8000.00 dollars. Where do you want me to send the bill???

I ask the real men in this Division to step up and show up. The only way to stop this disaster is to sell more rooms at the hotel. The rooms not sold will have to be paid for. Reunions are not FREE! They have to be paid for.

Gentlemen, part of our charge says: The emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. How does this "boycott" fit this part of our charge?

I am sick of the infighting by members in this Division. A handful of men out of thousands keep this Division from being a solid unified brotherhood and family.

Compatriots, we are all we have, each other. The man next to you is your brother so why would attack your brother? Why would you harm your family? We do not have the time to deal with hate on the inside, we have enough on the outside to go around.

Stand with your Division not against it,

Gary D. Bray
Commander
Texas Division SCV



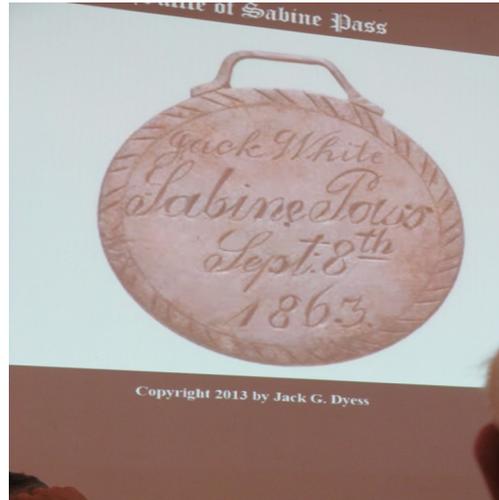
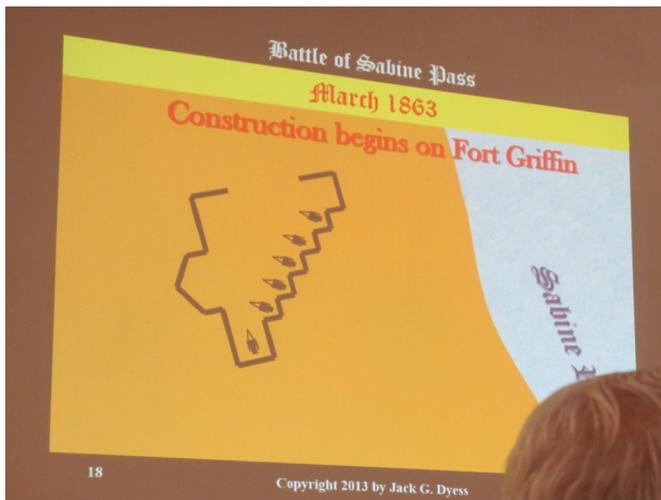
Standing up for Dixie,

Don R. Bentley

Adjutant/Treasurer

Caught on Camera....

Howdy Martin Camp Members and Guests at May Meeting



Above: Slides from **Commander Jack Dyess'** slide show entitled: Battle of Sabine Pass Salem, Massachusetts. Only five of the 1863 Medal are known left. "Forty-seven Southern men with six little cannons received one for whipping 6,000 Union solders with six warships." Thank you Cmdr Dyess for a very informative presentation.



Jesse Giles was born on October 23, 1998, at Hillcrest Hospital in Waco, Texas. We lived in Dawson at the time. Jesse's sister evidently had a little pull with the Lord, as we had no intention of having another baby as we already had three girls. Lizzy had been praying for a blonde haired, blue eyed little boy for a brother. And Surprise, that's just what we got. Jesse is the youngest child of Lloyd and Jan Giles. He has gone to school for his entire life at Athens Independent School District.

When in daycare, my little "gentleman" was in trouble daily for biting. This mother had to go to daycare everyday for a week to have Jesse come out to my van, pull the blinds, and then get a spanking and go back to school for biting. In his defense, it only took the one week to "cure" him of that.

Things went on pretty well for awhile, and when my oldest daughter found the boyfriend who is now her husband, we went to a civil war reenactment in Mansfield and then Pleasant Hill, LA (all the same day). Jesse loved this new activity, so we asked how to get started, and some Confederate soldier instructed us to look for our local SCV. Athens had none at that time, so we attended Palestine's SCV meeting and assisted with some dedications. Ever since then, Jesse was hooked. He has decided that God has to be a Southerner, since I (a Yankee) won a musket that he could use. I never win anything. He also met his girlfriend, Sarah at reenactments.

Jesse has since taken some ag classes in high school and enjoys welding. So he is planning to go to TVCC to earn his certification and degree in Welding.

Major W H Howdy Martin Camp #1241
 Congratulates Two Camp Members
 2017 Graduates

Jesse Giles

Athens High School
 and

Bryan Sifers

Cross Roads High School

We are Proud of You Both!



**Above Left: Bryan Dale and Steve Sifers
 Trinidad Cemetery 2014.**



**Left: Jan and Jesse Giles
 Tyler Camp Ford 2014.**

*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

Charles Sanders family

Jan Giles loss of her mother

Tornado victims in Canton, Eustace, Fruitvale and Emory

Nations leaders, first responders and our military

**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.

They Prayed!

8-21-2011

They were men of Prayer. President Jeff Davis, Generals Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. Jackson, Nathan B. Forest, Jeb Stuart and many others. From the greatest generals to the newest recruits, the men in Gray believed in the presence and providence of Almighty God. In Confederate camps there was Bible study and worship services led by Godly chaplains, and sweeping revivals where the lost were saved and the saved grew closer and stronger in their relationship with God. And, they prayed.

They prayed for their homes and families. They prayed for their brothers in arms. They prayed for their leaders. They prayed for the preservation of their country: The Confederate States of America. They prayed faithfully and fervently for God to help them defend the just Cause for which they fought, and preserve the ideals of our founding fathers. And, following the war they prayed. The question is, do we really believe that God answers the prayers of righteous men?

Do you believe that when Davis, Lee, Jackson, Stuart and other Godly men of the Confederacy prayed, God said, I have a better idea? Perhaps He did. The Scripture tells us, **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."** (Isaiah 55:8) Perhaps the great revivals that swept through our Southern armies and continued to influence Southern Christianity during the twelve years of Union occupation and thereafter, was God's better idea. But today, this country is becoming more and more ungodly and moving further and further from the Christian precepts of our founding fathers and Confederate forefathers.

So now we must also be men of prayer. The leadership of our honorable Confederation, like Davis, Lee, Jackson and Stuart, must be men of prayer. We must trust and rely on Him. We must seek and follow His guidance and direction and put our Cause in His hands.

Then when victory is ours and others ask, How?

Let it be said, "They prayed."



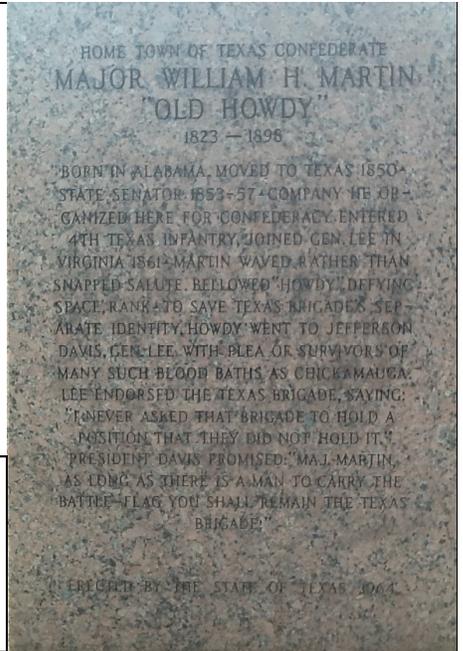
Bro Len speaks at the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication

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

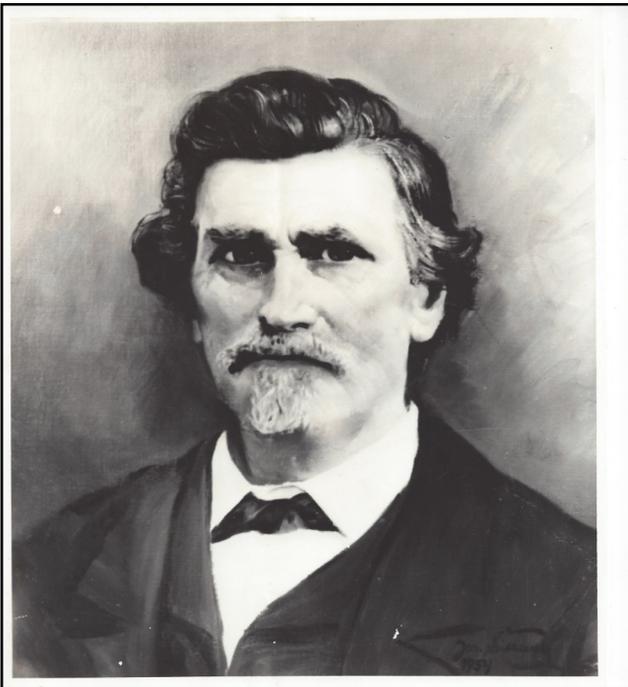


Above: Howdy's Grave, Hillsboro City Cemetery, Hillsboro, TX.
 Right: Howdy's Marker is located in Athens on Hwy 19 South in the Confederate Park.



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.