

Major W.H. "Howdy" Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

ATHENS, TEXAS

HOWDY HERALD

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4
APRIL 2014



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

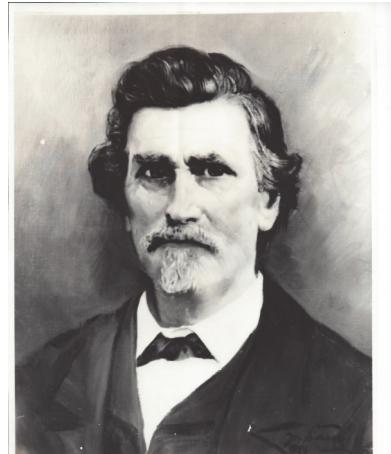
In 1861 during the War Between the States, William Harrison Martin enlisted in the Confederate Army and served in Company K of the 4th Texas Infantry that was assigned to Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Martin gained his nickname because of his refusal to salute superior officers. Instead, he would 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 major battles until the end 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.

Sources: *Handbook of Texas Online*, *Athens Review 1998-2-11 and 2012-1-20*



Read more about Howdy Martin's life, family and career on our camp website.

www.martincamp.org

Spotlight on Our Camp

1. The April Camp Meeting was held at the Calvary Baptist Church Gym with Commander **Jimmy Abney** presiding.
2. Following Cmdr Abney's welcome and introduction of guests, **Jim Day** led us in prayer prior to our meal.
3. Quartermaster **Phillip Albright** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
4. Cmdr **Abney** recognized our guest, Mr. **Dale Cates** who is a member of Spring SCV.
5. He then introduced **Phillip Davis** who is Chairman of the SCV Texas Guardian Committee. Mr. Davis is a member of the Upshur County SCV in Gilmer. Everyone was given a handout outlining the rules and guidelines of the guardian program. He explained that this program began in 1998 in South Carolina and its purpose is to encourage all compatriots to personally care for Confederate soldiers' graves. His handout included a Guardian Application. Everyone enjoyed his presentation.
6. **The Morris Family** sang for us various Civil War tunes. The Texas Division Chaplain, **Don Majors** introduced the members including their lead singer and Don's brother, **Steve Majors**. After their lively mini-concert, they had several CD's available for us to purchase. We appreciated their hard work in setting up their professional sound system and traveling from their home SCV Camp in Longview.
7. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from March and gave the camp's financial report. He also suggested that the camp order Battleflags to be used at cemeteries. Before the close of our meeting, Chaplain Jim Day gave Dr Ogburn the phone number of a flag supplier in Canton. After contacting Canton it was decided that Day would pick up the camp flag order.
8. In new business, Cmdr **Abney** shared that new Texas History Textbooks are being adopted soon. The public can review them at our local library online. He encouraged members to see if the books are accurately portraying the truth about the War Between the States.
9. Cmdr **Abney** shared with us that the Kaufman County Historical Com. contacted 1st Lt Cmdr **Joey Ables** about our camp presenting a mock battle re-enactment April 25th for their local middle school. Members discussed that our camp alone could not portray a battle. However, Chaplain Jim Day offered to share his power point slide show with them. Ables will contact them again. (After the meeting, information was shared that all programs are needed to be re-enacted in the morning and again after lunch downtown.)
10. In other new business, Cmdr **Abney** relayed from 1st Lt Cmdr **Ables** that he has ordered 100 CD's that tell the story of the Battleflag that can be handed out at our camp recruiting activities.
11. Another recruiting possibility of member tee shirts was discussed. **Ables** and **Jan Patterson** will bring prices and samples to an upcoming meeting.
12. Our camp will have a formal dedication at the Arms Cemetery on May 17th at 10:00am to honor our **Confederate Veteran George Grayson**. We will extend an invitation to his family to attend. Cmdr Abney expressed gratitude to the eight camp members who were on hand and brought their tools and equipment for our camp cleanup project March 29th. Camp member **Pete Edison** has almost completed the new fence and chain gates, mowed the grass and burned the brush piles. On the workday several neighbors in that community waved at us and expressed their appreciation for our work.

13. Dr Ogburn received the thank you card below from Sue Stover, wife of our past member Mike Stover who lost his long battle with cancer. She wanted us all to know how Mike was so proud to be a member of his SCV Camp.



Phillip Davis, Chairman of the Texas Division
Guardian Committee, which encourages personal
preservation of Confederate Graves

Thank you so much
for the honor bestowed
to Mike. He was so
proud to be a member
of the camp. He had
written his Obit Column
several years ago - before
he became a member, so
I apologize for not
listing the Camp as one
of his accomplishment &
membership. We appreciate
the honor in his
memory. Thank again,
Sue, Brad & Angie



The Majors Family

Texas Division Chaplain,
Don Majors
2nd Lt 5th Brigade **George Linton**
Steve Majors, Kris Carlson,
Stacey Majors Hendrix, and
Celeste Majors

*Thank You for a great
concert of tunes from the
South!*



Jimmy Abney

Greetings,

Attendance was off at this month's meeting. We had a good program about the Guardian Program of the SCV. We heard the history of the Guardians and when it started from Mr. Phillip Davis from the Upshur County SCV Camp in Gilmer. He shared with us about what it takes to become a Guardian. We have some applications if you would like one. Also, we enjoyed a musical program performed by the Majors Family with Don Majors who is a Texas Division Chaplain and also the Chaplain of the Douglas Camp in Tyler.

We have several events this month. We are having a recruitment booth in Malakoff on the 12th and 13th at the Texas State Knife/Hawk Championship. Any help with this is appreciated and desperately needed. On the 25th, the Kaufman Middle School has asked us to be a part of

From the Commander

their program with a musket shoot and a history program. Next month it will be our honor to have Martha Hartzog, the great granddaughter of Major W H Howdy Martin, speak to us at our meeting on May 1st. I hope everyone will make plans to attend to support our camp and hear her. We also need to make plans for our SCV State Reunion in Houston. We need five members plus one alternate to vote on that Saturday. We have three rooms reserved for Friday night. We also need to make plans for our dedication at the Arms Cemetery. We set the date for May 17th starting at 10:00 am. We have flags to place on Confederate graves this month. If you want a flag, contact Jim Day or Dr. Jim Ogburn. I hope to see you in Malakoff and don't forget the prayer list. If you have anyone to place on it, contact Bro. Jim Day.

Make God provide all of your needs.

Your commander,

Jimmy Abney

Keep the flag flying!!

Camp Adjutant Jim Ogburn, MD

Howdy,

Exciting events are scheduled almost every weekend of this month and that is proper for all SCV Camps during Confederate History Month! I am encouraged and excited to report our most recent recruit report for the following camp members: Jim Day—6

Ogburn—2, one pending
Ables—1

Let us all keep up the good work in our answer to The Charge!

Jim Ogburn, MD
Deo Vindice!



Jim Ogburn, MD

Prayer Requests

- **Jimmy Abney** (hurt leg tendon)
- **Joey Ables** (unspoken)
- **Dan Dyer** (heart problems)
- **Jim Day** (Houston test results)
- **B W Ward** (Phil's uncle)
- **Jesse Giles'** grandmother (health issues)
- **Pete Edison** (hurt ankle)



Ms Martha Ann Hartzog, great grand-daughter of Major W H Howdy Martin with SCV Howdy Martin Camp members Jimmy Brown and Jim Day at the Henderson Co Historical Museum, Athens



Above: Ms Hartzog is taking a picture of the Confederate Flag & she enjoys looking at the Howdy Camp window display.

Next camp meeting May 1st

Camp meetings are on the First Thursday of each month.

We meet at the Calvary Baptist Church in Athens on the corner of Hwy 175 East and Crestway Drive.

Meetings begin at 6:30pm with a pot luck dinner furnished by members. Guests are welcome and you may bring your family.

Upcoming dates:

April 12-13 Malakoff H/K

Championship Recruiting Table

Also, Mexia Confederate Reunion
Re-enactment

May 1 Meet Ms Martha Hartzog!

May 17 10:00 am Arms Cemetery Dedication

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 Thursday camp meeting.

Jim Day, Editor
IBSandHill@aol.com
903-681-5313

MARCH 2014 Camp Activities

Dogwood Parade in Palestine March 22nd



Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less.
General Robert E. Lee

MARCH 2014 Camp Activities

Camp Ford Tyler Re-enactment March 22nd



MARCH 2014 Camp Activities

Arms Cemetery Clean-up Project March 29th



Dilsey Ruffin: from Slave to Landowner

By Rob Risko

The Texas landscape is covered with waterways large and small. Often smaller creeks and streams have common names such as Brandy, Indian or even Battle Creek. But some of these names have a special meaning that are known only to the local inhabitants or have been lost to the passing of time. Henderson County has one such uniquely titled tributary.

Dilsey Creek in Athens was named after Dilsey Ruffin, an extraordinary woman who survived years of slavery, war and hardship to become a successful community leader during one of the most turbulent eras in American history.

When the Civil War began, many plantation owners either sold their slaves or moved them to Texas ahead of the Union army. Among those slaves relocated to the Lone Star State was Dilsey Ruffin. Born about 1830 in Virginia, Ruffin arrived in the Athens area around 1863. Her precise origins are unknown, but historical evidence suggests that Nathaniel P. Coleman, the largest slaveholder in Henderson County with 77 slaves, purchased the young slave and her family from either Edmund Ruffin or one of his sons. Ruffin, a well-known antebellum authority regarding agriculture, owned the Madbourne Plantation near Richmond, Virginia, and is considered by many historians to have fired the first shots of the Civil War at Fort Sumter.

The jubilation of emancipation for freed slaves in the summer of 1865 was quickly followed by the sober reality of supporting families in an era when the local white population worked to undermine property ownership, schools and voting rights for freedmen.

Dilsey Ruffin and several other African-American families moved to Athens where work and labor contracts came under the supervision of the Tyler office of the Freedmen's Bureau. The 1870 census for Henderson County lists Ruffin, several of her children

and extended family as living in an area known as "South Town." Located less than a mile from downtown Athens, South Town extended along Robbins Road and south towards the old county hospital.

Remarkably, in 1874 Dilsey Ruffin purchased a 40-acre tract in South Town, on which she and others were living. She paid local attorney T.B. Greenwood \$71.50 in gold and cotton, along with a promissory note. That same year, Ruffin helped establish a Methodist church on her property. She also sold one acre to the trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for \$250. Soon Athenians began to call the springs near her home "Dilcy Spring," (multiple spellings of her name are listed), and the name for the headwaters of Walnut Creek became permanent. Today, Dilsey Creek cuts through the Trinity Valley Community College campus and Kiwanis Park.

During the 1880s, the African-American imprint on the outskirts of Athens enlarged from simple farmsteads to include a school and a cemetery named Fisher Robinson. The burial ground, located just north of Robbins Road, until recently overgrown with trees and brush, was named after a son-in-law of "Aunt Dilsey," as she became known to locals later in life.

Having survived the ravages of slavery, war and the tumultuous years of Reconstruction, the matriarch succumbed to age sometime before 1900. Her property was divided among five heirs who in turn sold it to local land developers. By the onset of the Great Depression, few traces of the old home place and earthly achievements of Ruffin's life remained. What remains to mark the passing of this extraordinary woman is the name of a small, spring-fed stream that flows through the heart of Athens.

Rob Risko is a professor of history at Trinity Valley Community College.



APRIL 2014

11

Camp member Rob Risko's story appeared in the April edition of "Fly the Flag." Thank you Rob for giving us permission to share your article in the Howdy Herald.

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 Bro Len's messages that were written from his heart to share his testimony of salvation through Jesus Christ Our Lord

What Is Truth?

According to John 18: 37, when Jesus was brought before Pilate, He told him that He came into the world to "bear witness unto the truth." Then He said, "Every one that is of the truth hearth my voice. To this Pilate asked. "What is truth?" Then immediately Pilate walked out. He wasn't interested in hearing an answer. (Verse 38)

In the Gospel according to Matthew 24: 4, Jesus states, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Here, in what is known as the "Olivet Discourse," our Lord is warning us to be on guard against deception and deceivers. The Devil is the father of deception, just as God is the author of truth. In fact, the Bible tells us that the devil "is a liar, and the father of it" (Jn. 8: 44), and that God cannot lie. (see Tit. 1: 2 and also Heb. 6: 18) It is amazing to me that so many people will reject the truth and except a lie just because it suits their purposes or interests.

The Scripture also states, "If God be for us, who can be against us." (Rom. 8: 31) So, is God for us? That is, the SCV and our Cause. We need only ask, who are the deceivers? Who has been lying about the War for Southern Independence? Who has been lying about our proud Southern heritage, our honorable forefathers, the Confederate Cause, and yes, even Christ and all things Christian?

In referring to the last days, the Apostle Paul writes, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3: 13) We are certainly in those days. The two things that the liars and deceivers can't stand is the Cross of Christ and our honored Confederate Battle Flag. Why? Because they both represent the one thing they fear and the Devil hates. TRUTH!

All truth is God's Truth. If we stand for the truth, then yes, God is for us, and there are none that can prevail against us. As he continues speaking of the last days, Apostle Paul writes, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." Then he tells us, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Tim. 4: 3&4) So, what is truth? It is absolute truth that the Sons of Confederate Veterans cannot succeed in its mission without the guidance, strength, and blessings of Almighty God. To think otherwise is to turn to fables.

It is also truth that all men are sinners bound for eternal destruction and in desperate need of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. To believe that men can live and die without the saving grace of our Lord is the Devil's biggest lie, and the greatest fable of all.

May God in His love and mercy guide, strengthen, and bless the Sons of Confederate Veterans and each member as they seek to serve Him and our most worthy Confederate Cause.



Bro. Len Patterson, TH.D.
1941-2013
Past Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi



Richard Lee Montgomery

April is Confederate History Month to honor to our Southern Heroes!

....Dates to Remember

April 12, 13 — Mexia Confederate Reunion Grounds Battle re-enactment

— Malakoff Knife/Hawk Competition Recruiting Table

April 26 & 27 — Mansfield, LA Also 150th Anniversary Battle re-enactment

April Birthday— 28 Jim Day

May 1 — Next camp meeting 6:30pm. Special Guest Speaker Martha Hartzog, great grand daughter of Major W H Howdy Martin!

May 3 — Jefferson Civil War Symposium

May 17 — Arms Cemetery Dedication 10:00 am

June 6,7,8— Texas State Reunion Convention in Houston. We need 5 members to vote. You may make reservations at the Hilton or LaQuinta—for discount advise them you are with the SCV

July 17,18,19— National SCV Convention in Charleston, SC

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 this Newsletter are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the SCV Howdy Martin Camp #1241. 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.