

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

ATHENS, TEXAS

HOWDY HERALD

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William Harrison “Howdy” Martin

1823-1898

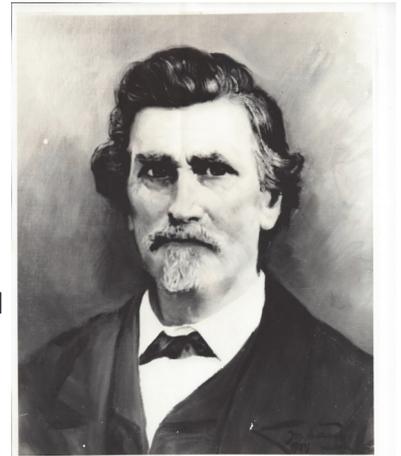
In 1861 during the War Between the States, William Harrison Martin enlisted in the Confederate Army and served in Company K of the 4th Texas Infantry that was assigned to Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Martin gained his nickname because of his refusal to salute superior officers. Instead, he would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



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

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

www.martincamp.org



Happy Birthday Commander Abney

Spotlight on Our Camp

1. The February 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, Chaplain **Jim Day** led us in prayer prior to our meal. He also asked the camp to join him in singing happy birthday to **Commander Abney**. A surprise birthday cake and a Kunstler Civil War Calendar signed by all members present were given to him.
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 guests and asked them to stand. Cmdr **Dennis Brand** and his wife, Rita, from the SCV Capt James P Douglas Camp #124, Tyler were introduced. Other visitors included parents, grandparents, and several new members.
5. 1st Lt **Joey Ables** introduced **Cassie Keys** as our program speaker. She shared with us her love of being an educator in a local private school that allows her to teach without being graded by standardized testing. Her presentation was both informative and very interesting.
6. **Jim Ogburn** read the minutes from January and gave the camp's financial report.
7. The first order of new business was the presentation of new members by Cmdr **Abney**. Following the recommendations of **Day, Ogburn** and **Ables**, those present voted to accept four new members to our camp. We had 37 in attendance!
8. Cmdr **Abney** reported that the **SCV Leadership Training Class** in Tyler on January 25th provided updated information from other camp leaders and was well attended. **Jim Ogburn** and **Abney** represented our camp.
9. Chaplain **Jim Day** paid tribute to Quartermaster **Phillip Albright's** wife, Lou, for her recent publication in the Athens magazine *Fly the Flag*.
10. Comdr **Abney** brought to a vote to name our camp newsletter. He was given the suggestion "**Howdy Herald.**" Members approved by a show of hands.
11. A tentative date for the camp to clean up the **ARMS Cemetery** is still on Saturday, March 29th at 10:00am.
12. Cmdr **Abney** shared his concern about the legal ownership of the Hwy 19 property known as "Confederate Park." After contacting the proper authorities, he proposed we complete the original plans to add sidewalks and a flag.



Camp members enjoyed our monthly pot luck dinner.

13. Adjutant **Jim Ogburn** shared that April is *Confederate and Heritage Month*. He proposed that he would meet with the proper officials to declare this recognition in Henderson County.

14. 1st Lt **Joey Ables** conducted the raffle drawing for another of Bro Len Patterson's Civil War books. This month's winning ticket was purchased by our birthday commander, **Jimmy Abney**.

15. Cmdr **Abney** reminded us about the regular meeting of the SCV John H Reagan Camp #2156 on February 18th at 6:30 at the First Christian Church, 113 East Crawford Street in Palestine. **Donnie Kennedy** will be their guest speaker. He is a renowned historical author and will present a very interesting program. In addition, he will be signing any of his books. Everyone is invited.

16. Members were advised that they may add additional ancestors to their SCV membership and receive a certificate for \$10.00 each.



Cmdr Abney, Speaker Cassie Keyes, 1st Lt Ables



SCV Leadership Training, Tyler January 25th
Photo by Larry Martin



Jimmy Abney

Greetings,

I would like to start out by saying thank you for making this one of the best birthdays I can remember. You really surprised me and I feel so honored to be a member of this camp full of friends.

If you missed the meeting you missed the best meeting we have ever had. Voting for four new members put the icing on the cake. We discussed several events that are coming up and I look forward to working with you.

We got a very good look at the education system in one local private school with some comparison to our public schools. It is easy to see how quickly we are losing this generation. It is up to our generation to see that the real truth is told to our children and grandchildren so they

From the Commander

will know where they come from and how they got here. If we don't do our job, I am afraid our nation will be lost and the freedoms we enjoy will not survive. Our freedom is being challenged every day and we lose more freedom with every law that is passed because most are not needed. If we would only learn to live by the laws that God set forth, the manmade laws would not be needed. To quote Thomas Jefferson "*Hold to the truth, speak with boldness, and walk without fear.*" May God always look over you,

Your Commander,
Jimmy Abney

KEEP THE FLAG FLYING!

MY ANCESTOR

Camp members share their ancestor's story to honor their service to the CSA

Private Willis Richard Bonner 1834-1930 Great Great Grandfather of Michael David Burton

Willis Richard Bonner enlisted as a private of Captain S. C. Cooper's Company D of the 46th Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteers on November 29, 1861 in Paris, TN. He is listed as "Present" on the Muster Roll this date in Paris, TN. My great, great grandfather was a farmer, single and in his twenties when he joined the Army of the CSA.

A Roll of Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas, Illinois, on August 1, 1862 includes Grandpa Willis Richard Bonner. It is also stated that he was captured on Island 10 on April 8, 1862. Where he was held as a POW immediately after he was captured, and how he was transferred from Mississippi in April to Illinois in August is unknown. His POW Muster Roll indicates he was held in a U.S.A. Prison Hospital near Chicago, IL from August 7th to August 12th, 1862. A physician's report of Dr. J. T. Mathis, a surgeon, recommended that he is "unfit to do the duties of a soldier" because of a hernia and he should be discharged.

After Private Bonner was captured in April, he was sent to Illinois in August, then sent to Mississippi for a September 8, 1862 prisoner exchange.

W. R. Bonner was born March 1, 1834 in Lincoln County, TN. His father, A. Bonner, and mother left Tennessee on a wagon train and fell sick with cholera. Both died leaving their two sons Willis and his red haired brother to be split with two different families. None of the family ever heard of Willis' brother again. After he was honorably discharged for medical reasons, he did return to TN because it was there he married Sarah Tom Moody on March 10, 1859. They both joined a Baptist church together in 1876 and the couple raised a family of twelve children. The first six were born in Tennessee and the next six were born in Texas. It is assumed that they moved to Texas looking for work. Their 9th child is my great grandmother, Susan Ellen Bonner Burton.

At 95 years old, Grandpa Willis died on December 12, 1930, at his daughter's home (my great grandmother Susan Ellen Burton) in Purdon, Texas. Private Bonner was buried at Hamilton Beamon Cemetery in Retreat, Navarro County, Texas. The Corley Funeral Home in Corsicana has his records noting his funeral charges were \$40 for his casket and service and an additional \$12.50 for his clothes. In 1985 our family made grave markers for five family members in that cemetery. With the help of the cemetery caretaker, we were able to find his grave and properly mark it.



MY ANCESTOR continued

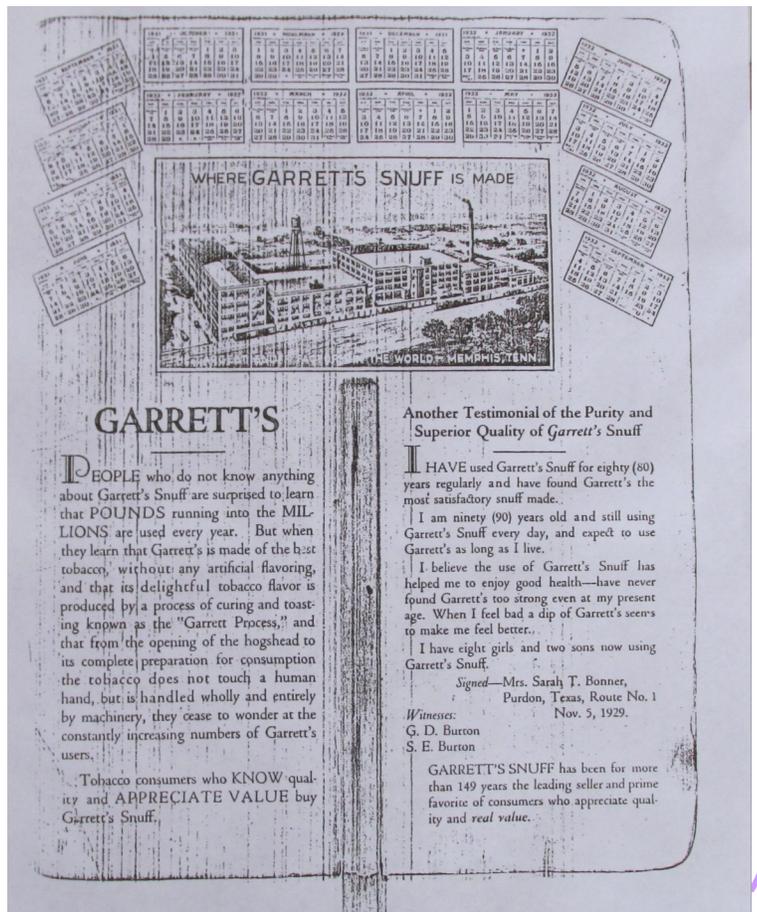
Willis' wife, Sarah, was probably 20 years old when he returned to Tennessee after his discharge and they were married. One interesting story about her can be found on the back of a Garrett's Snuff paper church fan. It is dated November 5, 1929, and my great grandparents, Gilbert and Susan Burton in Purdon, Texas, declared they are her witnesses. As seen on the fan below, she gave her testimony of the "Purity and Superior Quality of Garrett's Snuff" made in Memphis, Tennessee. She was given six bottles of snuff for her kind words. Also, from reading her testimony it appears that she began dipping Garrett's at the age of ten years old!

From a family member in Corsicana, a story is told about Willis' discharge from the CSA, "Willis was listed as killed, but after the war he walked home a changed man. No one knew him when he walked up in the yard except the family dog." When he had enlisted he had dark hair and he returned with a white beard and long white hair. He seldom spoke about being in battle or captivity so it was never revealed how he suffered his injuries whether in battle or as a prisoner of war.

The Garrett Snuff Church Fan



Mr & Mrs Bonner celebrated their 72nd Anniversary. This article appeared in the local Corsicana newspaper.



1st Lt. Commander Joseph Ables

This month we were honored to have local educator Cassie Keyes as our program speaker. Her many experiences both in her classroom and worldly travels were very informative and well delivered.

Coming in March, our own Jessie Giles who serves as our Aide de Camp and Historian will speak to us about attending the Texas Sam Davis Youth Camp.

I hope to see everyone there.



*Joseph Ables
Dio Vindici*

Camp Adjutant Jim Ogburn, MD

I have already said our December camp meeting was one of the best of 2013. In addition, I thought our January meeting was perhaps even better. However, the February surprise birthday party for Commander Abney and the addition of four new members tops even the best. As reported, we have 40 members including one cadet.



The upcoming months are filled with opportunities to serve and recruit new members. Please check your email for updates and reminders from all members as we strive to make our camp a leader in the Texas 8th Brigade in answering The Charge.

Jim Ogburn, MD

Next camp meeting March 6th

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:

February 18th @6:30pm in Palestine at First Christian Church, 113 E Crawford. Hear author Donnie Kennedy speak at Reagan Camp meeting

March 29th Arms Cemetery Cleanup Day, Murchison

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE HOWDY MARTIN CAMP #1241 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

January 2014 Camp Activities

Cain Center Gun Show Athens January 25 & 26

Left: 1st Lt Joey Ables, Chaplain Jim Day, Jonathan Day, Camp Cadet Jayden Day, Jimmy Brown
Right: 1st Lt Joey Ables and daughter, Commander Jimmy Abney, Chaplain Jim Day



The Pearce Museum, Corsicana

Dr. E. C. Fields as General Ulysses S. Grant
January 9th

This nationally-known re-enactor spoke in first person as Grant on the Battle of Cold Harbor. He is a proud member of his local SCV Camp to honor his own Southern ancestors. A "life-long student of the Civil War," Dr. Fields' Facebook page provides links to his schedule.

Jim Day

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

General Robert E. Lee

The following article appeared in a local publication "Fly the Flag." Mrs. Albright attends our SCV Camp meetings with husband, Camp Quartermaster Phil Albright and son 2nd Lt Cmdr Colby Albright. Thank you for giving us permission to share it.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME

By Donna Farmer

To meet Lou Sanders Albright, one immediately agrees she certainly could be a public school teacher. Mild-mannered? Nice? Kind? Check, check, check. In fact, Albright was a public school teacher for more than 20 years and continues as a part-time employee for Athens Independent School District, where she graduated in 1974.

But long before she attended Texas A&M University Commerce, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree in art, Albright knew art itself is part of who she is. The earliest time she remembers feeling the tug of paint was when her childhood Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Johnson, a pastor's wife and artist, incorporated art into the lessons, which fascinated Albright. Besides that, her dad's doodling occupied her during church services.

Athens High School afforded Albright her first formal art lessons; she remembers her teacher, Mrs. Dewayne Perry, fondly. Then adulthood arrived. While teaching in Mount Pleasant for five years and Athens Middle School for 22 years, Albright painted for herself. A "monkey cycle" began while she was in college and found herself writing a children's story about a carousel horse eventually freed from its fixed perch by a group of monkeys. As she taught full time, she painted commissioned works and other subjects when she had time.

Her husband, Phil, and son, Colby, remain her true north. In fact, it is Colby's passion for history she credits with introducing her to Western and Civil War heritage of the late 1800s and early 1900s. When she, Phil and Colby travel to old forts and battlefields, her "boys" haul their horses to ride as members of "Terry's Texas Rangers," a re-enactment group. Officially retired now and with more time to spend as she sees fit, Albright dons period costumes and goes along, but replaces the horse with a camera. She generally knows when a singular moment is meant to be painted. Then she asks permission to take photographs and gets pertinent information about her subjects. The days and nights spent at historical locations, immersed in different times and places helped Albright find where her art is "meant to be."



"Two Endangered Species," by Lou Sanders Albright

Her paintings offer viewers scenes that are utterly authentic while simultaneously out of time. She paints vivid watercolors of subjects such as a wide-eyed little girl dressed in gingham and leaning across an old-fashioned school desk; a firearms seller in a loose white shirt, scuffed boots and a holstered weapon; buffalo hunters surveying a river crossing. All these and more are the "real people and places" she hopes "convey being there...at that time." Albright describes camp events, sitting around early-morning campfires, cooking breakfast and drinking coffee as part of a time past.

The "30 minutes after dawn and before sunset" are her favorite times of day when a slight haze gauzes over reality. Those "fleeting moments in early morning make you feel like you're really seeing it" – the people and the time period.

Though Albright's medium of choice is watercolors, she pencil sketches, does contemplative work in charcoal and uses oils when she feels the piece calls for it. Each work has its own voice, which her attuned ear listens for. Then her "sensitive realism" captures a moment out of time. Following her heart and dreams, she said, gives her a sense of peace.

A member of Western Associates and American Plains Artists, Albright is represented at Ben Wheeler's Walking Horse art gallery. For more information, visit lousandersalbright.com or call 903-880-6518.



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.

A War the South Won

One of the things that strike people visiting the South from other parts of the country is the number of churches we have in our beloved homeland. It would seem you can not drive more than a few blocks in the city or a mile on a country road without seeing a church. Because of this, we are called a people of "The Book" and the South is referred to as the Bible Belt.

And why is that? Why are there so many more Christian Churches, and I dare say, more Christianity, in the South than in other parts of the country? The Scripture tells us in John 3:26, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* This verse, and many others, assure us that Gods love and saving grace is available to all who call . And yes, there are churches, and I am sure true Christians in other parts of the country. But, why is it so much more prevalent in the South, Why are we called the Bible Belt?

To understand this we must go back to 1861 following the Confederate victory at Manassas. At this time it must be said that spirituality in our Southern Armies was all but non-existent. It was reported at the time there were few chaplains in the Southern armies and many of them were "worthless." Drinking, gambling and profanity were rampant. One faithful chaplain wrote, "But, O brethren, the great trial of being in the army is not its hard bread, its weary marches, its cheerless bivouacs, or even its absence from the loved ones at home. It is the having to see and hear all the time such abounding wickedness." Another chaplain stated that "of 300 men he only found seven who even professed being a Christian." There is much more to be said, but allow this to suffice, "But the general moral picture of the army during the autumn of 1861-62, was dark indeed."

(Both quotes from Christ in the Camp)

But then something began to happen. It began in the mind of God and settled in the hearts of our Southern soldiers. Chaplains, ministers and colporteurs came to the army. They brought Bibles, Testaments, tracts, and other Christian reading material. They preached the gospel of Christ and visited the troops in the fields and hospitals. Souls were saved by the thousands and professing Christians who had become careless in their conviction became devout servants of Christ. Our fine Southern ladies opened the doors in their homes for the sick and wounded and served in hospitals. A revival began in our own Confederate Armies that grew and spread for four years.



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

A War the South Won, continued

Then after the war, hundreds of thousands of men returned to their homes as an army of saints. They filled churches, they built churches, they became ministers, pastors, elders, deacons, and servants of Christ. They were elected to public offices and became leading citizens in their communities. They brought Christ home from the war and the great awakening of spiritual truth continued in our Southern cities, towns, and farms. The great revival that began on the battlefields of war grew during the twelve years of dreadful Union occupation to such an extent that today, a hundred and fifty years later, the South is still known as the Bible Belt.

The South lost the war to overwhelming odds (sad to say), and in so doing lost our county and its bid for independence. But, there was another war raging. A war against the dark powers of hell. A war led not by generals, but by Confederate Chaplains. *And this was A War the South Won.*

Bro Len Patterson

....Dates to Remember

February Birthdays..3rd Commander Abney

We pause to remember....

February 5, 1898 Major W H Howdy Martin passed away at his home in Hillsboro, TX.

February 9, 1861 President Jefferson Davis was elected President of the Confederacy

March Birthday— 15th Bob Lynch

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

March 6 — Next camp meeting 6:30pm. Bring a guest!

March 22 — Camp Ford, Tyler Flag disposal ceremony for all who bring flags. Will be an re-enactment so dress in uniform if you would like to participate

April 4, 5, 6 — Mansfield, LA Battle re-enactment

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

April 26 & 27 — Pleasant Hill, LA 150th anniversary on original battlefield

May 3 — Jefferson Civil War Symposium

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.