

Major W.H. “Howdy” Martin Camp #1241

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS Athens, Texas

HOWDY HERALD

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OCTOBER 2015



**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

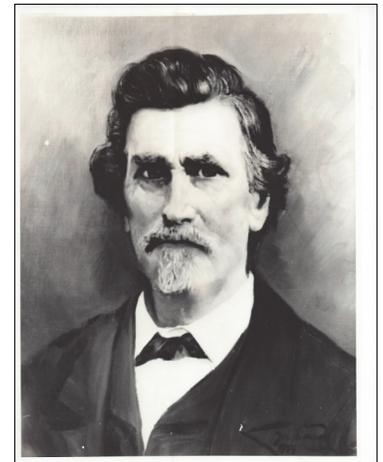
1823-1898

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

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 October 12th SCV 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** offered the blessing for our meal. We had 25 guests and members present to enjoy our fried chicken dinner with sides and desserts.
3. Quartermaster **Dale Sifford** led the pledges and salutes to the flags and reading of the Charge to the SCV.
4. Cmdr **Abney** introduced our guest speaker Past Texas Division Commander **Johnnie Holley** and wife Norma and later 8th Brigade Commander **Dennis Brand** and wife, Rita Brand.
5. Adjutant/Treasurer **Jim Ogburn** was absent, so Chaplain **Jim Day** read the minutes from September. They were approved with one correction from **Bunny Freeman**. Her DAR committee is cleaning historical markers and not cemetery markers as read. **Day** also shared a sound financial report provided by **Ogburn**. He reminded us that everyone needs to pay their dues asap. We have 24 members who have not paid as of this meeting.
6. Cmdr **Abney** asked for us to all observe a minute of silence in honor and observance of the death of General Robert E Lee on this date.
7. Cmdr **Abney** announced that the upcoming 8th Brigade Meeting will be held at the Athens Jalapeno Tree Mexican Restaurant..
8. Cmdr **Abney** asked if we wanted to move our camp meetings to the Jalapeno Tree. Without charge, we could use their meeting room with space for 45 people. Members could order and pay for a meal but would not be obligated to do so. Also, we would not be required to tip the waiters. A discussion followed including having our Christmas Party/December meeting at the Jalapeno Tree.
9. December 5th is the annual Athens Lighted Christmas parade. Chaplain **Jim Day** offered to go pick up the required \$20 application .
10. **Bunny Freeman** shared the upcoming Can't Stop Dixie Rally Ride in beginning at the Gun Barrell City Pavillion at 301 Municipal Drive on October 17 at 2:00 and at October 18 at 3:00. The parade route will travel from GBC to Tool to Trinidad to Malakoff to Payne Springs and back to GBC.
11. Chaplain **Day** invited all members to attend his annual SandHill Rendezvous October 23-25. He passed out flyers with directions.



Right: Cmdr **Abney** welcomes Past Texas Division Cmdr **Johnnie Holley** and 8th Brigade Cmdr **Dennis Brand**

12. On November 8th Tyler's Captain John P Douglas SCV 124 Camp will host a memorial service for the 130 CSA veterans at the Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler.
13. To encourage compatriots to think about officer nominations at our next meeting, Chaplain **Day** passed out to everyone a copy of the duties of each camp officer. He also asked for those interested to speak up if they would like to serve as a camp officer. Elections will be held in December.
14. Quartermaster Dale **Sifford** presented to the camp a photo album of the September 19th Wreay Cemetery dedication. He also brought extra pictures to give away to all members.
13. Chaplain **Day** shared news from the East Texas State Fair in Tyler. In the 12 and under photography contest, the third place winner is of a CSA grave in Henderson County that is proudly flying a Confederate Flag held in place by a Howdy Martin Camp flag pipe!
18. Cmdr **Abney** asked for prayer requests:
Rain for our dry community, Chaplain **Day's** treatments in Houston, 4-month old baby **RaeLee Freeman** continues to have digestion problems,
19. Before adjourning, Chaplain **Day** shared with a prayer and everyone sang "**Dixie.**"



Above: Howdy Compatriots and Guests enjoy good food and great fellowship at October's meeting.

From the Commander

Greetings,

Looks like summertime is over and fall is here and it is time for our exciting SCV events to start up. We had a very successful Wreay Cemetery dedication in September and the beautiful photo album our camp received at the meeting tells the whole story. Thank you Ms Herrington and the Wreay Cemetery families for making our Howdy Camp feel so welcome at your annual reunion. I'd like to also express my thanks to everyone who represented our camp and made this as special event for all those families who like us want to honor their CSA ancestors. A special thank you to Compatriot Buster Horn for the use of his cannon, Liberty! You and your cannon crew did an outstanding salute! Liberty will be a great asset for many future Howdy Camp events. Like I have said many times before, it feels so good to be a member of the best SCV camp in the 8th Brigade.

We will have nominations for our next year's officers at our November meeting. If you would like to hold an office, be sure to speak up at the meeting or even call any current officer now. Elections will be held in our December meeting. We will have a special swearing in ceremony for the new officers in our January meeting.

The Christmas parade is coming up on December 5th. We need ideas for our float to be entered in the parade and of course we'll need members to help construct the float and be in the parade. The pictures of last year's parade show honor and pride on the faces of those riding on the float or walking and carrying a battle flag. As you know our Southern Heritage is under attack and may be even more so now than in the years of the 1860's. Even during the reconstruction years, politicians were trying to destroy our Southern Heritage. Today many continue to rewrite the true and honorable history of the South. They continue to tell myths and lies that have been told by northern liberals that look at the south as a section of the country that is full of hate and racism. It is very important for us to keep up the efforts to educate the future generations on the true history of the South and what it means to be a proud Southerner and have Southern pride in remembering our ancestors.

Our nation during the war of Northern aggression was controlled by the politicians that were trying to turn us into a dictatorship with large government control, just like the politicians are trying to do today. It is very important for us to stand together as Americans and Southerners to try and get our government back under control. All of us realize that a people without a past have no future!

Finally, this is the time of the year to pay our dues. I thank you if you have paid. If you know someone who has not paid, please contact them and say again how we need them to stand with us to

answer The Charge and protect our rights which includes flying our flags. Taking care of your camp needs to be a priority for each and every member!

Your Commander,
Jimmy Abney

"Keep the Flag Flying!"



Camp Commander Jimmy Abney



Left: "Howdy's Flag" is framed on display at the Henderson County Historical Museum located at 217 N. Prairieville Street in Athens. In August 2014, our camp voted to have an exact reproduction made for use at our camp events including our monthly meetings.

October Meeting Guest Speaker **Johnnie L. Holley**
 Past SCV Texas Division Commander
 Compatriot of Captain John P Douglas SCV Camp 124, Tyler

Was Secession Illegal??



Above: **Johnnie Holley** shares a historical and very political-ly complicated topic "Was Secession Illegal??"

Past SCV Texas Division Commander Johnnie Holley shared both facts and repercussions of the most widely studied United States Supreme Court Case

Texas vs White 1868

This case was used by President Lincoln to argue that the secession of the South was illegal. It has been debated for years that the number of states needed to vote for secession was never legally obtained. Legal analysts had determined that because of reconstruction, Texas was not recognized as a state and did not have a vote. Furthermore was reconstruction even legal. Many in Congress said "NO!" Sherman in particular wanted all in the South killed.

This same case has been used throughout history and most recently in the 2004 Presidential election when the question surfaced again.

Holley shared other recent SCV State news. The University of Texas Jefferson Davis statue case in Austin will be heard in an appeals court out of Texarkana, TX. The SCV is trying to force the issue of the original contract for the statue between the Littlefield Foundation that

donated the statue and the University of Texas.

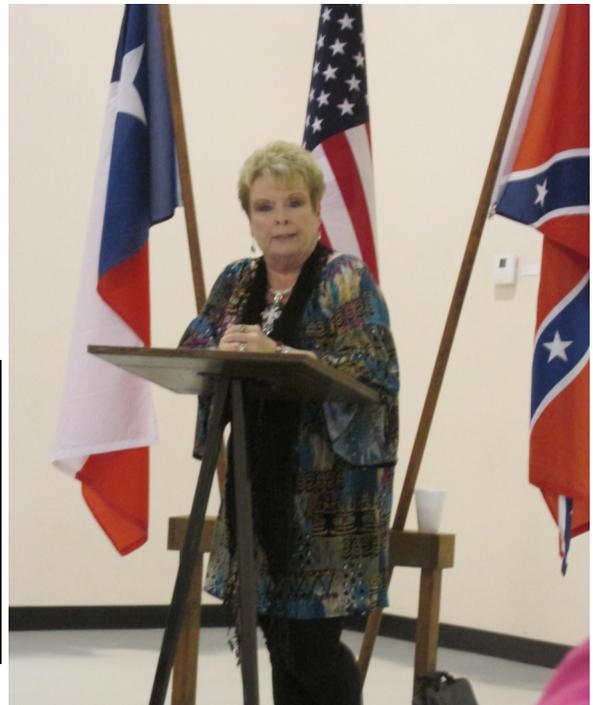
In other SCV news, an alternate design is being sought for a Texas license plate. "Today the owner of the painting for our second choice for a plate design, changed his mind." Appeals are being made for the coming year after the Supreme Court ruled that we can not use the battle flag design. All new designs use the Texas Battle Flag which is what Hood's Brigade carried.

He also reminded us that donations are needed but to send money to the Texas Heritage Defense Fund. Other legal funds are being collected but they are not just for Texas issues.

The first weekend in June, 2016 will be our SCV State Reunion in Kerrville. Also, Holley assured us that plans are on schedule for the Dallas National Reunion. Accommodations are secured and there will be good tours, great speakers and a reunion that will make us all proud.

Assistant Director of the Order of the Confederate Rose **Norma Holley** offered encouragement and explanations of the various Rose Society branches that are designed to show support for the SCV. Anyone, including men, can be a member with or without an CSA ancestor. In addition, she gave a brief summary of the historically strict tradition for ladies in mourning to wear all black clothing for almost two whole years. Everyone present appreciated her very interesting and most enjoyable presentation.

Right: Mrs. Norma Holley



John H. Reagan SCV Camp #2156 Palestine, Texas — October 10, 2015 Annual Birthday Celebration

The John H. Reagan Birthday Celebration was hosted by the Davis-Reagan Chapter 2292 UDC and the John H. Reagan SCV Camp 2156 both of Palestine. There were many members of neighboring UDC Chapters and SCV Camps who assisted in this annual ceremony at the memorial monument at Reagan Park in Palestine.



Happy Birthday
John H. Reagan
10-08-1818 ... 3-06-1905



Jim Ogburn, MD



Camp Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn, MD

A big Howdy Welcome to everyone!

I need to jump right to a very significant matter that effects our camp. Please let me hear from those of you who have not paid your dues for the new year. Our **Four Star Camp Award** is in jeopardy. The glue to hold our camp together is not just a long roster. The glue is the makeup of individuals with different personalities and talents that leads us all to one goal...answering The Charge to honor our CSA ancestor. Our camp has lost members who transferred to another SCV camp, but never before have we lost this many members for lack of paying dues. We are only four years old and should expect to feel growing pains and should be ready to make adjustments to serve the needs of all our members. However, it hurts my heart for our Howdy Martin Camp to take such a large step backwards. Please contact me before **Friday, October 23rd** if there is anything I can do to answer questions or just listen to you as to what you believe constitutes a better camp that would make you more proud and willing to serve.

It is my honor to serve as the Adjutant/Treasurer of the Major W. H. Howdy Martin SCV Camp 1241! I sincerely hope to see you at our November 9th meeting.

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 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.

Jim Day, Editor
7751 County Road 3713, Athens, TX 75752
903-681-5313

Prayer Requests

Health issues:

- * Cmdr of Newton Camp **John Hillman**, heart surgery.
- * **Jim Day** treatments in Houston
- * 4-month old baby **RaeLee Freeman**

Local Needs and our Nation:

- * Rain for our community
- * Our next meeting November 9th
- * Pray for the South

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.

A Great Door

In the first few centuries of the Church, being a Christian could be very dangerous, especially during periods of organized persecution. Thousands were either murdered or executed just for being a Christian including all but one of the Lord's Apostles. If a Christian came to a new town and sought other Christians, he would go to a public place and draw an arc in the dirt, similar to the base of a rocking chair. This mark meant nothing to the enemies of Christ, but to another Christian it was a code of recognition. The other Christian would then draw a reverse arc above the other completing the sign of the Fish. They would then recognize each other as Brothers in Christ.

While it is not a crime to be a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, at least not yet, we are still being persecuted by the media, politicians and other groups and persons. They defile our heritage, dishonor our brave Confederate forefathers, and disgrace the just cause for which they fought. Even the states that asked them to serve in their defense, often refuse to remember their sacrifice. And of course, we are thought of as a bunch of ignorant malcontents still fighting the "Civil War." The Apostle Paul wrote in First Corinthians 16:9, **"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."**

We too have "many adversaries." However, just as that small group of despised and persecuted early Christians, within less than three hundred years, captured the entire Roman world for Christ, the Sons of Confederate Veterans also has a great and effectual door of opportunity open to us. The key to open this door begins with faith and trust in God, and recognizing each other as SCV Brothers. The Scriptures tell us the church, from the very beginning, **"were all with one accord."** (Acts 2:1) If we, as the descendants of those who so faithfully served the Confederacy can do the same, then our Cause is not "lost." It has just begun.

A great and effectual door is now open to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. So, let us as one body raise high the banner of truth and boldly face those who oppose us. Let us serve with confidence and conviction the just Cause for which we stand. Let us with one voice say, "I am a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the proud descendant of a brave and honorable Confederate soldier." Let us together faithfully follow the guidance of the Lord our God in the spirit of our noble Confederate forefathers. Let us say with the Apostle Paul, **"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."** Acts 27:25

It is my prayer that we, as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, faithfully and in one accord serve God and our Southern Cause. I pray that we, with confidence, strength and unity of purpose, walk humbly before Him, and proudly before our adversaries. Amen
9-26-2010



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

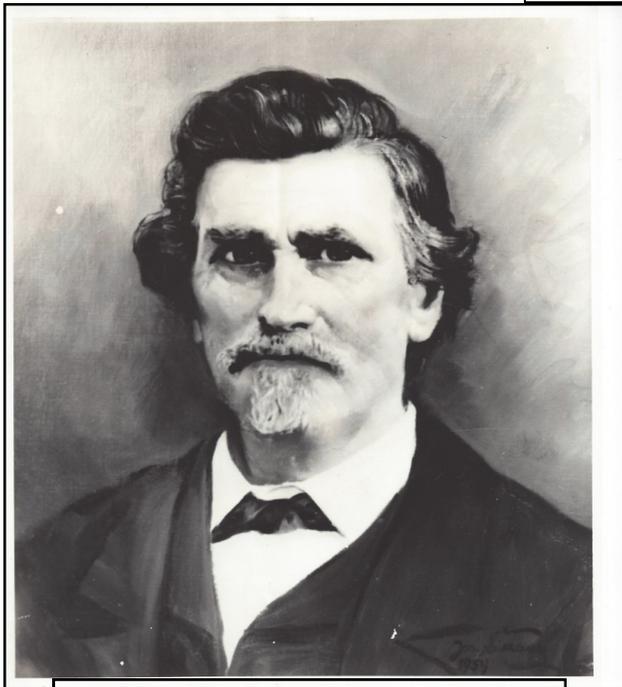
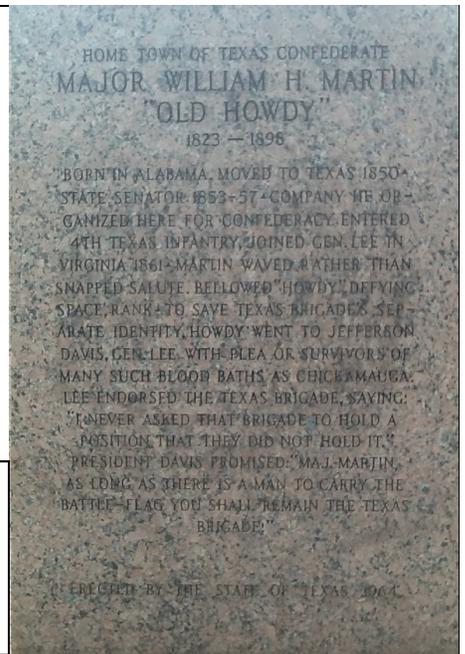
William Harrison Martin
 "Old Howdy"

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 Confederate Park.



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.