

DEFENDERS

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**A CONFEDERATE
HISTORY OF
HENDERSON COUNTY,
TEXAS**

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The flag was raised in a central spot in the little town, amid cheers and martial music. A fife and drum - home made - sounded the call that was answered by hundreds of men throughout the months that followed.

It is told us that Captain Martin stood on a "goodsbox" which had been placed in the shade of a big hickorynut tree for a platform, and spoke to the throngs in "an impassioned voice of thunder". (5)

In later years, Hugh Carter related some of his sentiments spoken that day: "We'll only be out for a breakfast spell! but," he continued, "we are all in a mighty bit hurry to get on the front lines and whip them d-Yankees, one young man can whip a dozen Yankees with his hands tied!" Carter said of Captain Martin, "when he talked you could see he was mad enough to lick a hundred Yankees with one hand!". (6)

The Martin Company drilled in Henderson County, before leaving, on land now known as the Bill Caldwell Nursery-farm, a large wooded tract at that time about three miles north of the town of Athens. (A number of pieces of equipment have been found in late years on the farm; among them is a bayonet, which no doubt had been placed in a bush by one of the young men as he drilled. When found it was in the center of a very large oak tree - the tree having grown up, enclosing it in its body.)

Other men of the county in the various (eight) precincts began immediately to organize their men and get them in readiness for the call that was expected momentarily.



CHAPTER FOUR

Henderson County C.S.A.

Captain Martin's company left Athens July 21, 1861, for Houston, Texas. They were called to serve with Hood's Texas Brigade, being reorganized into Company "K", Fourth Texas Infantry Regiment, and became attached to Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

From the Microfilm record Number 586 in the Texas State Archives in Austin, the "Muster Roll of a company raised in Henderson County under requisition of the Confederate States of America for five thousand troops", we find the following officers and men listed:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Wm. H. Martin, Captain | 7. John R. McGill, 3rd Sgt. |
| 2. John F. Wilson, 1st Lt. | 8. R. W. Jordan, 4th Sgt. |
| 3. John K. Richardson, 2nd Lt. | 9. Jessie Fain, 1st Cpl. |
| 4. D. M. Mabry, 3rd Lt. | 10. D. M. Rushing, 2nd Cpl. |
| 5. L. B. Thomas, 1st Sgt. | 11. John Bethel, 3rd Cpl. |
| 6. Samuel F. Owen, 2nd Lt. | 12. Henry Martin, 4th Cpl. |

Private Soldiers:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tandy Howeth | 27. James Swindel | 53. John E. Beall |
| 2. E. J. Thompson | 28. Kay Richardson | 54. Joseph Loop |
| 3. Rufus S. Dunn | 29. W. J. Murchison | 55. Joseph Green |
| 4. Thm. B. Greenwood | 30. W. H. Sullivan | 56. Jethro Campbell |
| 5. David Bellows | 31. S. T. Owen | 57. H.M. Morrison |

6. H. LaRue	32. John T. Burriss	58. Robert Martin
7. J. J. Parker	33. John Adams	59. A. Coleman
8. M. C. Clanahan	34. James E. Beall	60. Wm. J. Morrison
9. James M. Bass	35. F. J. Smith	61. W. K. Matthews
10. K. M. Ratcliff	36. J. F. Matthews	62. M. Mills
11. W. C. Holland	37. T. M. Banks	63. Matt Walker
12. W. K. Payne	38. Andy Campbell	64. M.J. O'Neal
13. Hugh Carter	39. L. J. Guthrie	65. J. W. Franks
14. John McDonald	40. J. D. Heard	66. W. H. Gee
15. James Green	41. John H. Murdock	67. J. D. Owen
16. R. A. Bethel	42. John Lisco	68. James T. Sloan
17. T. M. Webb	43. D. A. Carriffee	69. Robert B. Paul
18. W. Dalton	44. John Carroll	70. John Rounsavall
19. J. K. LaRue	45. William Spears	71. T. Y. McManus
20. Lewis M. Moore	46. Anderson Campbell	72. G. W. Nichols
21. F. Hobgood	47. James F. Matthews	73. W. G. Middleton
22. W. B. Owens	48. Andy Mitchell	74. Isaac C. Mills
23. W. S. Dalton	49. Saul Rogers	75. A. B. Mills
24. John Clark	50. Joseph Rhodes	76. Lewis Netherland
25. Geo. W. Boman	51. Crib Choat	77. J. Collins
26. W. M. Tucker	52. Wm. Richardson	78. Jessie Palmer

"12 officers making 90 men"

"Sir,

You will please send on the Commissions at an early date and by that time you send them to the officers of the Company we will have more than our hundred volunteers.

Very truly

your obedient servant,

Wm. H. Martin

Captain." (7)

With Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, Captain Martin assumed a great share in the many battles. Soon, due to his aggressively wise leadership, he was promoted: first to Major and eventually to Lieutenant Colonel, but he was always known as "Major Howdy Martin".

Major Martin earned his battlefield name as he charged through cannon-fire with men falling wounded and dying against a Yankee battery. "As he stood high on his stirrups", the story was told, "looking for advantage points, he caught sight of his beloved General Lee leading his staff down the hill. In great appreciation of the dangers, his emotions got the best of him. He grabbed his military hat, waving it high and cheerily 'hallowed' in his booming voice, 'Howdy, General, Howdydo, Sir!'" (8)

One Val C. Giles of "old Company 'K'" said of Major Martin when telling of a lonely night's vigil of guard duty before the Gains Mill Battle: "Major Martin soothed my fears when I called out, 'Halt! who comes there? Give the countersign!' (which was 'Our Homes'). Giles said his challenge of the sharp click of the old Enfield-lock brought, "Hold on there Sonny! This is Captain Martin, officer of the day". In telling of the incident Giles said, "glorious old "Howdy" Martin, he was always with us ever cheerful, never chiding but kind in his thoughtfulness of each one of us." (8)

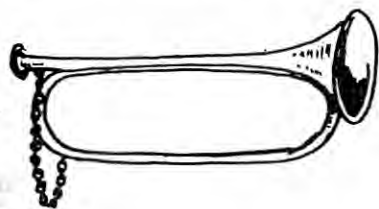
Following the Martin Company the G. P. Pates Company was formed in County Precinct Seven. The Microfilm roll number 528 on file in the Texas State Archives records "A roll of Capt. G. P. Pates' Company, Beat No. 7, Anderson County, Texas, as a reserve company". The names of the men and officers are as follows:

Henderson County, along with the entire state was, of course, placed under this registration clause. The "oath", in part, read: "I do solemnly swear, that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority in hostility to the United states ...etc."

The years, 1867 through 1880 were trying years for the men of the county. It was necessary for each man to register at the County Court house in a Register, declaring their loyalty; with their signature the statement of the state from which they came to Texas.

Following are some of the names of men registering during this period of military rule: J. C. Walker, Georgia; Jeff E. Thompson, Alabama; Thomas C. Pelham, Alabama; Joseph M. Stirman, Kentucky; Evan Thompson, Tennessee; Thomas P. McManus, Tenn.; Wm. H. Jordan, Georgia; Thomas C. Dunnington, Virginia; George Lee, Mississippi; Benjamin Anderson, Virginia; Edward Rubers, South Carolina; Ben. Webb, Tenn.; Joseph Cogburn, Georgia; Daniel Smith, Alabama; Henry C. Laurie, Tenn.; Sid Richardson, South Carolina; John Moore, Kentucky; Wm. Corbin, Virginia; Wm. Richardson, South Carolina; Sandy Williams, Alabama; Richmond Davis, Tenn.; Henry Smith, Tenn.; Wm. Leafer, District of Columbia; Lewis Person, Virginia; Ned Stephenson, Va.; James Henson, Virginia; Jeff Thomas, Va.; J. M. Stirman, Virginia; Cordy Johnson, North Carolina; Travis Scott, Tenn.; Hugh Carter, Tenn.; Joseph M. LaRue, Alabama; Isaac Rounsavall, Alabama; Joseph E. Ingram, Maryland; Wm. M. Wofford, Mississippi; John E. Beall, Maryland; Wm. L. Faulk, Va.; Joshua M. Darden, Tenn.; Hassil Chandler, Georgia; James E. Carver, Ala.; Seburn Tindle, Ala.; Holly Page, Ala.; Ole Olson, Norway; Ole Yearnson, Norway; John B. Reeves, Ga.; James Cain, Miss.; Edmund Guthrie, South Carolina; Albert Hall, Louisiana; Morgan Chapman, New York; James K. Darden, Alabama; Robert H. Hodge, Miss.; Moses Gilky, Georgia; John A. Goodgame, Alabama; W. C. Holland, Alabama; John D. Morrison, Ala.; Silas M. Owne, Ala.; Gaston C. Meredith, North Carolina; Lewis H. Townley, Tenn.; Charles M. Ingram, Ala.; Andrew J. LaRue, Tenn.; Isaac LaRue, Louisiana; Samuel T. Owen, Ala.; Winfield B. Stirman, Kentucky; Thomas W. Frizzell, Kentucky; John W. Frizzell, Ken.; John W. Gauntt, South Carolina; Hansford Splawn, South Carolina; Lewis H. Townley, Tenn.; R. D. Scott, Texas; Joel Morton, South Carolina; J. Dewberry, Ala.; T. M. Dewberry and G. W. Dewberry Ala.; R. B. Echols, Miss.; J. D. Reynolds, Georgia; S. M. Splawn, Texas; Samuel Lee, Ala.; John Boles, Ala.; Isaac Boles and J. A. Boles, Ala.; R. J. Martin, South Carolina; S. Oleson, Norway; M. L. Melchiorson, Denmark; D. T. Hambrick, Miss.; James Coltharp, Tenn.; T. M. Scott, Ga.; W. F. Elledge, Tenn.; G. L. Eads, Arkansas; Jermiah Barton, Ala.; John Warren, Texas; B. D. Hobbs, Ala.; A. Everett, Miss.; James Cox, Tenn.; W. D. Lee, Ala.; C. M. Cotton, Ala.; Fred Lewis, Virginia; I. C. Smith, South Carolina; Wm. K. Irvin, Ala.; Burnet Easterling, Ala.; J. A. Mortin, Ala.; George R. Evans, Miss.; A. B. Atwood, Georgia; G. A. Atwood, Ga.; J. E. Hodge, Kentucky; Thomas Trammel, Ga.; W. Y. Carver, Ala.; Wm. Jordan, Miss.; Joseph Coker, Ga.; W. D. Walker, Tenn.; D. E. Hambrick, Miss.; John M. Hatton, Tenn.; Isaac Lamance, Tenn.; Thomas J. Eads, Ark.; W. T. Eustace, Virginia; G. W. Day, Georgia; J. G. Wofford, Miss.; D. M. Anding, Miss.; B. F. Yancy, Ala.; James Yernson, and Y. H. Yernson, Norway; Bradshaw Thomas, Ga.; Arga Rounsavall, Tenn. A great many other names were written in the Voter Register, but many were difficult to read. (28) William Green

CHAPTER THIRTEEN



Tribute

To the eternal credit of the Confederate men of Henderson County they bore very little, if any bitterness. The new generation of the North and South united to face great new problems, new accomplishments and build a great new nation. Henderson County blossomed like a rose under the leadership of the grateful and resolute young sons of their Confederate fathers. Determined to stride into the mainstream of progress and harmonious living with their fellowmen.