Charles "Chuck" McMichael, 51, was elected by acclamation July 19 at the heritage society's 113th national reunion in Mount Pleasant, N.C. The group is the nation's largest Confederate heritage organization, with more than 30,000 members throughout the United States and some foreign countries. His term of office is two years. "I am honored and gratified by the trust that my compatriots have put in me," said McMichael, a 20-year veteran high school history and civics teacher in Caddo Parish schools.

As the group's commander, McMichael will lead efforts to commemorate and memorialize the sesquicentennial, or 150th anniversary, of the Civil War, also called the War Between the States. "The 150th anniversary of South Carolina's secession from the Union will occur in December 2010, not long after McMichael has stepped down from the position," a release from the group states. "For the next four years, the nation will remember the numerous events, figures and battles from the bloody struggle that lasted from 1861 to 1865."

One of SCV's overall goals for the next several years will be to ensure the Southern perspective is included in the anniversary events and the information presented to the public, McMichael said. The work for that must begin now, he said. "One overall goal will be working to prepare for the sesquicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence to make sure the true history is presented to the people. And in all instances and everywhere uphold the honor of our Confederate heritage."

McMichael has held numerous offices in SCV since joining the organization in 1994. Before becoming its commander, he was a councilman with the Army of Trans-Mississippi, a section of SCV covering the states west of the Mississippi River, and commander of SCV's Louisiana Division, which covers this state.

Married and father of one son, he has been active in assisting people research their Civil War heritage without regard to national origin or color, and was instrumental in placing monuments and markers on the graves of Civil War veterans, including Union Army Capt. and former Louisiana Lt. Gov. C.C. Antoine.

Sons of Confederate Veterans is the successor of United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Va., in 1896, it serves as a historical, patriotic and nonpolitical organization and has its headquarters in Columbia, Tenn.
My Fellow Compatriots,

I feel it is of the utmost importance that each Camp within the Kansas Division works together in serving and educating the State of Kansas in our cause and purpose. For this reason you may notice I have been doing some changes to the Newsletter to better inform our Camps of the individual Camp activities and information.

I will do my best to have the Newsletter published each month oppose to bi-monthly as in the past, I only wish we could postmark each and every edition mailing them to each members home giving that personal touch. However with the cost of postage and the number of members within the Kansas Division this would be a great expense. I do ask that each camp take the initiative of mailing the newsletter to any member within their camp that does not have electronic mailing capabilities.

The Division Newsletter is designed to inform our members of information and special events within the Division that might not otherwise be known or distributed within the camps. I feel it is also important to recognize the important events within our member’s lives. The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organizations for male descendants of confederate Soldiers still in existence today. I consider that to be a family. As a family, it is important that we treat each member as a family member and share in the proud moments of their lives. If you know of a special event such as a special birthday, Wedding Anniversary, Graduation, Military deployment, or other notification of a personal nature you wish to have noted. Please Contact me and I will do my best to have it placed in the newsletter.

In the past year, I have tried to visit each camp at least one time within the year. I will again try to make that same proposal, and with any luck I may visit more than once. This not only gives me an idea of how well the camps are doing but in the same since giving me different ideas for the Colonels Lewis & Harrison Camp and its programs and recruitment. I am asking each Individual Camp to join me in setting aside one special meeting a year with an open invitation to all camps to attend. With this invitation I ask each Camp to attend those meetings in the interest of finding new ideas and building our brotherhood. I also hope in doing so that those members with the unique talent of presenting will offer their service to other camps.

The Kansas Division has several talented members with the knowledge and gift of speaking on subjects related to Lincoln’s war.

I have asked the members of the Division Executive Committee to meet early in the month of December to discus items of importance that may have arisen within the 6-month span since last coming together and to prepare for the next Division Election and my successor. I feel it is important that the men who have been trusted to oversee the Division come together more than once a year, to not only relate on important issues but to spend time together in order to understand each others thoughts, feelings and receive concerns from the individual Camps concerning the Division.

I hope you will join me in making this next year one of the Kansas Division best years ever in all areas of recruitment, public notoriety, and working together. We can’t depend on just a few men accomplishing this task. We must all join together in calling those members who have not been seen at meetings and invite them to come share in the organization they joined. Volunteer to pick them up and bring them if need be. Make ourselves available for recruiting events and other Camp activities. The time for action in NOW!

Y.O.S.

Denver L Erickson
Ks. Div. Commander
**Camp Meeting Agendas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>B.G. Albert Pike Camp # 1439</td>
<td>Sept 13th</td>
<td>Regular Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis A. Armistead Camp # 1847</td>
<td>Sept 13th</td>
<td>Richard Scott Price “Bleeding Kansas” Part Two</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col’s Lewis &amp; Harrison Camp #1854</td>
<td>Sept 16th</td>
<td>Miss Deb Goodrich Varina Davis and Mary Lincoln: Sisters in Sorrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Steele Camp# 1857</td>
<td>Sept 11th</td>
<td>Regular Business Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj. Thomas J. Key Camp # 1920</td>
<td>Sept 04th</td>
<td>Lee Ward “The Funeral of Jefferson Davis”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Kansas Camp # 2064</td>
<td>Sept 11th</td>
<td>Regular Business Meeting</td>
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</tbody>
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**Welcome New Members**

B.G. Albert Pike Camp # 1439

Lewis A. Armistead Camp # 1847  
MARK SUTHERLIN OTEY

Col’s Lewis & Harrison Camp #1854

William Steele Camp# 1857

Maj. Thomas J. Key Camp # 1920  
JOHN MICHAEL CECIL  
JOHN PHILLIP POYNTER  
SHANE ERIC KASTLER

South Kansas Camp # 2064  
DONALD WILLAM JONES

Capt. William C. Quantrill Camp #1814

**Congratulations**

TO:

Chuck McMichael as New  
Commander-In-Chief for 2008-2010

Michael Givens as New  
Lieutenant Commander-In-Chief for 2008-2010

Todd Owens as New  
ATM Commander for 2008-2010

Paul Gramling as New  
ATM Councilman for 2008-2010

Simon ‘Chip’ Buckner as New  
Judge Advocate-In-Chief

**Up coming Events**

**Maj. Thomas J. Key Camp:**

**October 12th**  02:00-03:00  
Color Guard participation for Headstone Dedication at Forest Hills Cemetery  
Hosted by Quantrill Camp

**October 18-19**  
Battle of Westport Visitor Center  
living history/equipment, relic display/ cannon and musket firing demonstration

**October 24-25**  
Wornall House 150th anniversary

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For Information Added To This Page. Please Contact the Division News Letter Editor No Later Than One Week Before Publication at derickson18@cox.net To Assure Printing.
Be a Recruiter and help gain membership in a Confederate organization

Be assured there are numerous benefits to being a member of the SCV. Chief among them is the pride you will feel from being a member of the oldest, most creditable, and best-known confederate hereditary organization in existence.

The sons of confederate Veterans was formed in 1896 back in a time when it was nothing unusual to see confederate veterans in the streets of Americas towns and cities Proudly remembering and celebrating their confederate heritage until that time the 18 veterans of the war came together as members of the United confederate Veterans.

The SCV was formed as a direct Arr0r to the United Confederate Veterans the First Commander in Chief was Jeb Stuart Jr. The Son of Confederate cavalry hero Major General Jeb Stuart. The SCV Exist to preserve the History and legacy of its heroes so future generations can understand the events and circumstances that motivated our ancestors to resist tyranny and fight for Southern independence just as their ancestors did when they fought the British.

The SCV is not affiliated with any other group and rejects any group whose actions tarnish or distorts the image of the Confederate soldier or his reason for fighting.

If you know of someone who may be a descendent of a confederate Veteran, and do not feel you are knowledgeable enough to recruit them properly. Contact The Division Brigade Commanders for Assistance.

The Border Brigade Under the Command of Robert Super (785) 272-6291
The Indian Brigade under the Command of Heath Booth (316) 773-6636

Kansas Division Color/Honor Guard Available

Compatriot Gerald V. Spaur of the BG Albert Pike Camp #1439 is suited and ready for the occasion. Gerald is prepared for the opportunity to be present as a Color Guard for your event, or to take on the responsibility of Honor Guard for the passing of a family member, friend or compatriot where an honor Guard is needed.

Gerald will go anywhere in Kansas and be available for any and all Military services for compatriots, family members, and friends. Feel free to contact Gerald at 2947 Walnut Wichita Kansas 67217-3128 Phone: 316-524-2555

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS

If you have an interesting idea for a trivia or match up, let me know. Several of our very young members and children of members read the newsletter. What better way to educate members especially those of very young years than through trivia and match games or history blurbs. If at any time you have something you would like placed in the news Letter. Contact me at derickson18@cox.net and I will do my best to get you idea printed.

Denver L Erickson
Ks. Div. Commander
For most people, the Civil War is distant history, an event way back in the century before the last, impossible to relate to due to the six generations that divide us from those who have lived through it. But for Dinwiddie County native Lucas L. Meredith Jr., the Civil War has a more personal connection: His father fought for the South. Meredith is one of an estimated dozen people in the nation whose father fought in the Civil War for the Confederates. He is one of only two in Virginia.

Meredith, 84, is part of the dwindling “Sons of the Confederacy.” Even though he was only 3 years old when his father died, Meredith has vivid memories of the man. “Daddy was very young at heart, a well-liked person,” Meredith said. “I was his little darlin’. He was very affectionate to me.” His father—who carried a Confederate battle flag during Pickett’s Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg—was not bitter about the South’s loss. “He was disappointed, but not forever bitter about it,” Meredith said. “He had accepted defeat, and he became a good citizen of the United States. But his heart was with the Confederacy, for the rest of his life.”

It’s almost hard to believe the man sitting in a comfortable chair on the back porch of his summer cottage in Surry County is a living link to the Civil War. There is no thick fuzzy beard, and his home is not decorated with portraits of Lee, Jackson and all the other Confederate heroes. Only a small blanket bearing the colors of the Confederate flag is draped over the living room couch. And the large but gentle dog lying at the old man’s feet answers to the name Dixie.

Behind him, a literal stone’s throw away, are the banks of the James River with Jamestown Island stretching over the horizon. Meredith’s wife Hattie is in the kitchen, cooking crabs that Meredith fished out of the river earlier in the day.

Meredith looks more like a wealthy retiree from Florida with his pink polo shirt, white sailor’s shorts and black loafers than a son of a Confederate soldier. His full white hair is neatly trimmed, and the soft, clean-shaven skin of his face doesn’t reveal his 84 years.

Until three years ago, Meredith was in great shape, but his health hasn’t been the best lately. He talks in a soft, low tone, barely audible, almost like a whisper. One is forced to listen hard to understand him. But he’s comfortable talking about his father, and when he does, a smile comes over his face and his cheeks get a pinkish hue.

Meredith was born in 1924. The Civil War ended 59 years before. Meredith’s father was 81 years old at the birth of his son.

The senior Lucas L. Meredith was born March 15, 1842, in DeWitt, a small community in Dinwiddie County. Being tobacco farmers, his family had acquired enough wealth to afford “a few slaves,” as Meredith Jr. puts it.

Lucas also had a brother, James, who was two years older. A month after the Union surrender of Fort Sumter, S.C., Lucas signed up for duty. He was sworn in at Dinwiddie Courthouse on May 23, 1861, as a private for the 3rd Virginia Infantry, Company C, which was later attached to Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett’s division. His brother James followed on May 29. He took one of the best horses from the family stable and joined the 3rd Virginia Cavalry as a corporal under the command of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart.

The young Meredith served in all the major battles of Virginia, and he carried the Confederate battle flag in Gettysburg, where he survived Pickett’s Charge against federal troops. Both brothers were captured and imprisoned for a short time after the Battle of Five Forks in April 1865. They returned home on foot to DeWitt in late April 1865.

After the war, Meredith worked as a farmer and licensed veterinarian. He married his first wife, Mary Ann, in August 1866. The couple had six children, four girls and two boys. Mary Ann died in 1907.

Shortly after his wife’s death, Lucas met Mary Francis Gregory of Portsmouth, a young and pretty lady in her early 20s. “She was visitin’ and Daddy courted her for a while,” Meredith said. He rejects the idea that she was interested in his father because of his veteran’s pension, which was quite common in those days. “It was love at first sight,” he insists. They were married July 10, 1910. One daughter was born in 1914—Lucas Meredith Jr.’s sister was 10 years older than he. The couple had another daughter, who died when she was only 6 months old.

Looking at a 1910 photo of the veteran, the similarity between father and son is striking. The same soft features and skin, the same eyes. Even the hair is parted in a similar way. Just like his son, the father looked much younger than he really was. If one imagines a thick, black moustache over Meredith Jr.’s thin lips, both men would look almost identical.

Meredith doesn’t remember much of his father. But what he can recall gives a positive impression of the former Confederate private. “We used to play tag in our backyard and laugh a lot. I also remember that we had many apple trees. Daddy used to cut up apples, put ‘em out to dry for a day and make cider. It was good times.”

Meredith does not remember his father ever mentioning the war to him. But his sister, who died in 1974, would later tell him a lot. The senior Meredith loved veterans’ reunions and went to a lot of them, even the 50th anniversary of Gettysburg in 1913, where he was awarded a medal. He went to visit Five Forks, the sight of his last battle and capture, later in life. He enjoyed talking about the war with fellow veterans. Lucas Meredith Sr. died May 31, 1927.

“His pension check came the next day,” Meredith remembered. “We had to send it back, weren’t allowed to keep the money. His death changed our lives.”

Out of economic necessity, Meredith’s mother had to go work. She soon found a job as a telephone operator in Dinwiddie. Later, when the phone system switched to dial, the family moved to Petersburg, where operators were still needed. With the years passing, his Confederate war hero father slowly started to escape Meredith’s memory.
In the early 1940s, Meredith worked as a paperboy for The Progress-Index. In 1943, it was his time to go off to war, serving in the Navy in the Pacific theater. “ Didn’t see much combat,” he admitted. And he didn’t think much about his father, either. Bloody man-to-man fighting in the Civil War and killing time on a World War II Navy vessel somewhere on the Pacific Ocean were two entirely different worlds that Lucas Meredith was not able to connect in his mind.

Back home, Lucas graduated from Richmond Professional Institute (later VCU) where he met Hattie. The couple married in 1952 and had three children. In 1959, he opened his florist business, the Flower Mart, in Petersburg, which he kept for 54 years.

The Civil War seemed far away. But soon it was beckoning. As the 100th anniversary of the bloodiest conflict on American soil approached, Meredith began to realize that his immediate link to the past was something special. “Because of all the memorials in April 1965, I thought that I got something here;” he said.

The anniversary ignited massive interest in the Civil War. Re-enactors began staging the greatest battles, and more Americans started researching their own ancestors’ roles in the war. “Since that time, I get many invitations to various functions, and at some of them I am asked to speak.” Meredith said.

At home in DeWitt, which is a replica of the same house his father was born in, now stands a large collection of books about the war. “People have a hard time believing that he’s the son of an actual Confederate veteran,” said his wife. “I had a hard time believing it myself when I met him, even though he didn’t make a big deal of it then.”

Meredith is often asked if he believes the Confederacy was a lost cause. “It was a noble cause,” he said. “Most people believe that the war was about slavery, but that’s not true. It was about state rights.” When he talks about it, his voice stays calm. But in his eyes lurks excitement. “It was a righteous cause,” he said. At the same time, Meredith is a realist. “The South could never have won. The North had too much money, too many people.”

In his 84 years, the Civil War has been Lucas Meredith’s constant companion, sometimes less, sometimes more. But the older he gets, the more it seems to become a part of his life.

His daughter Nancy, 41, is recognized as the youngest granddaughter of the Confederacy by a group called Granddaughters of the Confederacy. “I was invited to one of their meetings some years ago,” she said. “They told me that I must be at the wrong place because I was so young. Most women there were much older and had white hair.”

Nancy’s son Samuel, 9, is the youngest great-grandson of a Confederate veteran.

The portrait, some post-war medals, a family Bible and the memories of a 3-year-old child are all that Meredith Jr. has from his father. The greatest and most valuable connection might be himself. And he continues to keep the few links in place. He’s friends with the grandson of his father’s company commander from Gettysburg. “He was Daddy’s best man at his first wedding,” he said.

Pleasant Crump, the last verifiable Confederate veteran, died in 1951. For 57 years, Meredith has been one of very few people who can be considered a direct link to the Civil War. Not very many are left. And Meredith hasn’t been too well lately, though he still enjoys wading through the waters of the James River while fishing crabs. “I just take it one day at the time,” he said.

For now, Lucas L. Meredith Jr. keeps his father’s legacy alive simply by living. His business card contains a picture of the ancestral home, a logo of the Sons of a Confederate Veterans with title under his name. It says: “Real Son of the Confederacy.”

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**CAMP MEETINGS**

**GEN. ALBERT PIKE CAMP #1439**
**LOCATION:** Ryan’s Steak House
3323 North Rock Road. Wichita, Kansas
**DATE:** Second (2nd) Saturday each month
**TIME:** 11:30 am fellowship 12:30 Meeting

**MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920**
**LOCATION:** Zarda Bar-B-Q
11931 W 87th St. Lenexa, Kansas.
**DATE:** First (1st) Thursday each month
**TIME:** 6:30 pm. fellowship, 7:00pm. Meeting

**COLONELS LEWIS & HARRISON CAMP #1854**
**LOCATION:** Westside Christian Church,
Lindenwood, Topeka, Kansas.
**DATE:** Third (3rd) Saturday each Month
**TIME:** 10:00 am.

**SOUTH KANSAS CAMP #2064**
**LOCATION:** Rockwell Branch Library Meeting Rm.
5939 E 9th Street, Wichita, Kansas.
**DATE:** Second 2nd Thursday each Month
**TIME:** 6:00 pm.

**GEN. LEWIS A. ARMISTEAD CAMP #1847**
**LOCATION:** Public Library Technical Conference Ctr. Rm.
301 East Elm, Salina, Ks.
**DATE:** Second (2nd) Saturday each Month
**TIME:** 1:00-1:30 fellowship, 1:00-2:30 Meeting

**GEN. WILLIAM STEELE CAMP #1857**
**LOCATION:** Village Square Restaurant.
Leavenworth, Ks.
**DATE:** Second (2nd) Thursday each Month
**TIME:** 6:00 pm. Fellowship 7:00 pm. Meeting

**CAPT. WILLIAM C. QUANTRILL CAMP #1814**
**LOCATION:** Watkins Museum.
Lawrence, Kansas.
**DATE:** August 21st Annually. Electronically all other months
The Kansas Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans
190 NW Hawthorn St.
Topeka, Kansas. 66606