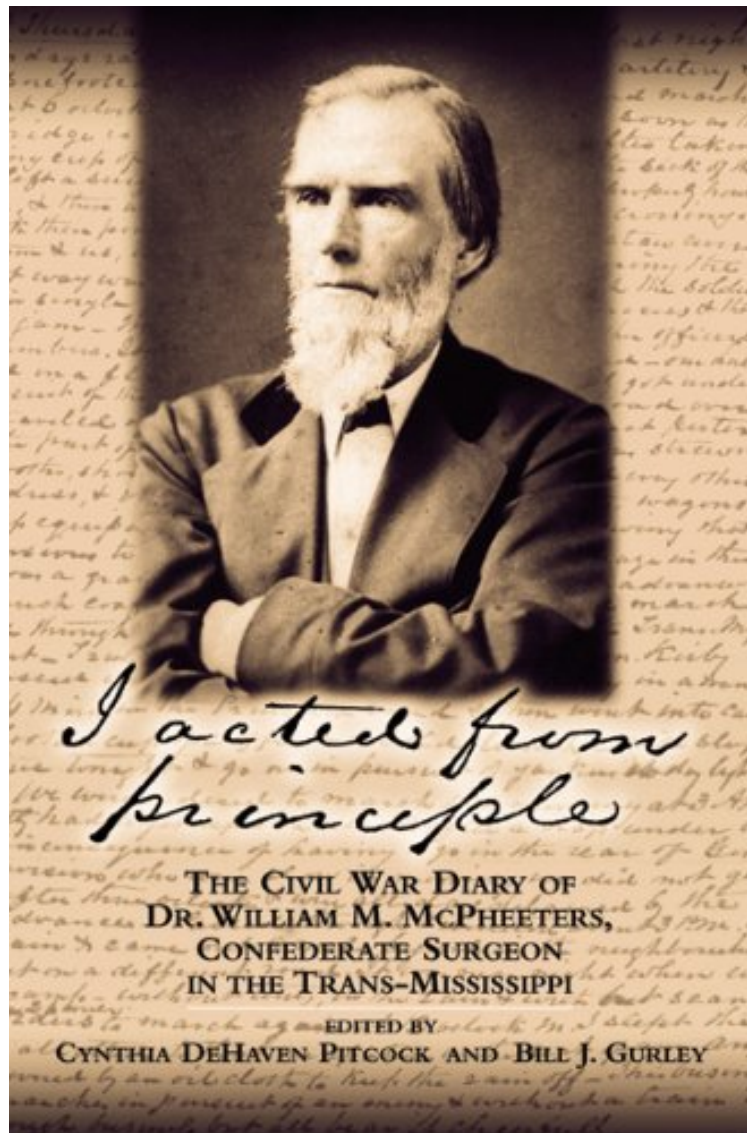


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I Acted from Principle: The Civil War Diary of Dr. William M. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi (The Civil War in the West)

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Would make a great movie!By BigLeftyMany students of the war are not too keen on reading diaries as they are often dry and provide few details surrounding historical events. Not so with "I Acted from Principle." Dr. McPheeters is never at a loss for words, not shy about giving his opinion, nor does he skimp on historical detail. What happens to the doctor and his family during the course of the war is almost hard to believe and would make a great movie. In addition, the diary provides one of the best day-by-day accounts of Sterling Price's 1864 Missouri Raid. This is one of the best personal accounts of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy jeani cantrellAn excellent read

At the start of the Civil War, Dr. William McPheeters was a distinguished physician in St. Louis, conducting unprecedented public-health research, forging new medical standards, and organizing the state's first professional associations. But Missouri was a volatile border state. Under martial law, Union authorities kept close watch on known Confederate sympathizers. McPheeters was followed, arrested, threatened, and finally, in 1862, given an ultimatum: sign an oath of allegiance to the Union or go to federal prison. McPheeters "acted from principle" instead, fleeing by night to Confederate territory. He served as a surgeon under Gen. Sterling Price and his Missouri forces west of the Mississippi River, treating soldiers' diseases, malnutrition, and terrible battle wounds. From almost the moment of his departure, the doctor kept a diary. It was a pocket-size notebook which he made by folding sheets of pale blue writing paper in half and in which he wrote in miniature with his steel pen. It is the first known daily account by a Confederate medical officer in the Trans-Mississippi Department. It also tells his wife's story, which included harassment by Federal military officials, imprisonment in St. Louis, and banishment from Missouri with the couple's two small children. The journal appears here in its complete and original form, exactly as the doctor first wrote it, with the addition of the editors' full annotation and vivid introductions to each section.

"Richly rewarding." —North Carolina Historical