

**Dr. William M. McPheeters**  
**Surgeon – Maj. Genl. Sterling Price’s Army of Arkansas**

Enlisted on July 8, 1862 at age 46 with the rank of Major as a Medical Inspector. Prior to enlistment he was Head Surgeon and Professor at McDowell Medical College, St. Louis, Missouri.

December 4, 1862 appointed Surgeon with Genl. Sterling Price’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Corp. in the Army of Mississippi.

November, 1863 is the Acting Chief Surgeon for the District of Arkansas – Trans Mississippi Department on the staff of Genl. Sterling Price.

December, 1863 at Camp Bragg, Arkansas with the Army of Arkansas.

February, 1864 at Camp Sumter, Arkansas.

May 1, 1864 at the field hospital near Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas: *“Returned to the hospital after getting a snack of cornbread and sheep and then set to work again. Will not attempt to describe the scene there – 200 horribly wounded men at least in the house and out of doors. It was a sight that beggars description. Let those who prate about the glories of war witness such a scene and then talk of glory – this is the sad part of the picture. At 10 A. M. the command moved to Tulip, I remained . . . All day long until late in the evening I was operating, taking off arms and legs . . . I never took off so many in one day before. (I’m) sorry that it was necessary to remove so many.”*

June, 1864 left in charge of hospital of Camp Bragg when the rest of the command moves to Camp Sumter.

November 11, 1864 near the Canadian River in Indian Territory during the retreat after Price’s army was defeated at the Battle of Westport (Missouri): *“Another day’s march of 15 miles in the wilderness, half-starved, wearied, jaded horses. Our men feeding on hickory nuts, acorns, and dead horse flesh. Gov. Polk, Dr. Johnson, and myself hunted up a hickory nut tree and ate heartily off the nuts . . . Wolves were howling around us tonight.”*

Dr. McPheeters took the Oath of Allegiance at Monroe, LA on June 6, 1865.

Traveled by riverboat to New Orleans and then booked passage to St. Louis where he returns home and resumes his duties at McDowell Medical Hospital in St. Louis.

[Compiled Service Records – CSA Staff Officers – United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA.,, Micro Copy 331, Roll 174; *The Civil War Diary of Wm. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi*, Cynthia Pitcock, editor, Fayetteville, 2002, by date]