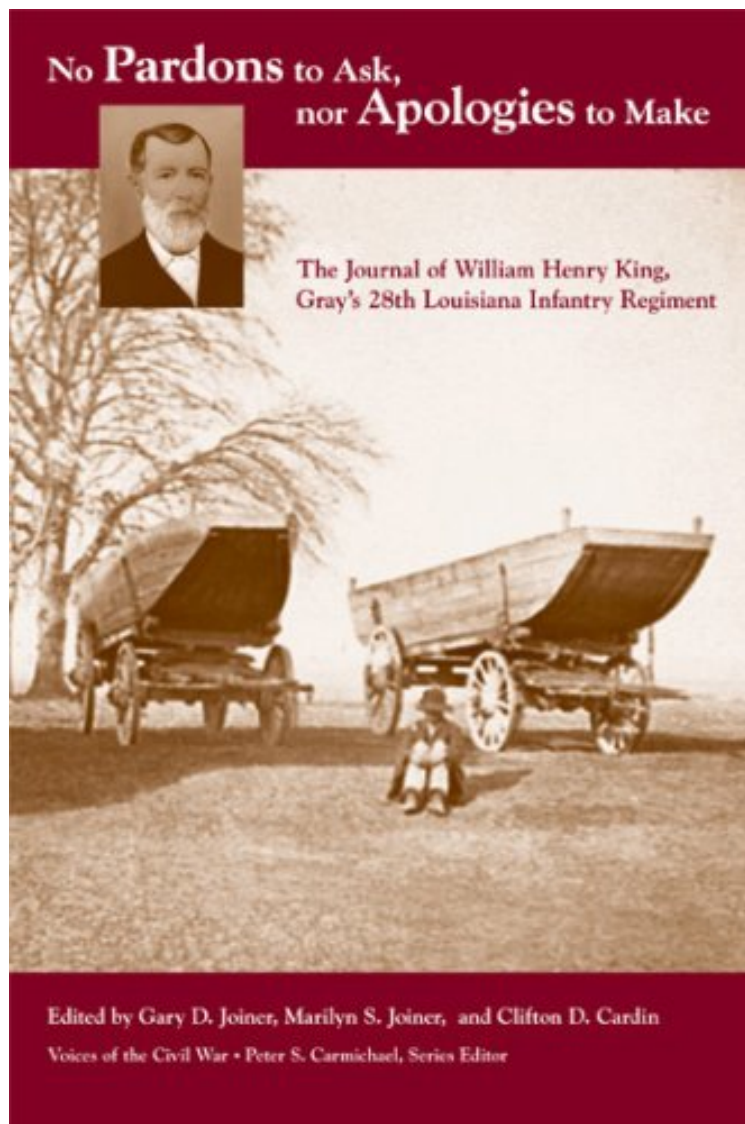


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William Henry King began war service in 1862 in Louisiana and ended it in 1865 in Camden, Arkansas. During this period he chronicled action in the Trans-Mississippi theater, producing a diary that yields one of the most important accounts from a Confederate enlisted man. *No Pardons to Ask, Nor Apologies to Make* is a gritty look into the life of a soldier, with no romantic gloss. While most journals record the mundane day-to-day routine, King's consistently detailed entries—notable for their literary style, King's venomous wit, and his colorful descriptions—cover a wide array of matters pertaining to the Confederate experience in the West. King's observations about his superiors, the Confederacy, contraband, and the underreported Trans-Mississippi campaign are especially striking. Though his long service demonstrates a certain loyalty to the Confederate cause, he writes sharp criticisms of his superiors, of military discipline, and of contemporaneous social and class conditions. His discontent is rooted within a fiery sense of independence that conflicts with centralized authority, whether it takes the form of military, government, or class control. Few published diaries capture the tension and turmoil that existed in the Southern ranks or the class resentment that festered in some quarters of the Confederacy. *No Pardons to Ask, Nor Apologies to Make* makes an important contribution to understanding how class functioned in the Confederate command and also provides a much-needed account of action in the Trans-Mississippi theater, where the primary sources are extremely slim.

About the Author Gary D. Joiner is chief operating officer of Precision Cartographics in Shreveport, Louisiana, and assistant professor of history at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. He is the author of *One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End: The Red River Campaign in 1864*, winner of the 2004 Albert Castel Award and the 2005 A. M. Pate, Jr., Award. A former journalist, Marilyn S. Joiner transcribed the bulk of the King diary. She is a native of Mansfield, Louisiana, the site of the last decisive Confederate victory of the Civil War. Clifton D. Cardin is the official Bossier Parish historian and the production coordinator in the Telecommunications Department of Bossier Parish Community College, Bossier City, Louisiana. He is the author of numerous books, including *Bossier Parish, Proud to Be in Bossier*, and *Bossier Parish History: 1843-1993, The First 150 Years*.