

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

DEC. 14-20, 1862

With winter bearing down on them, Confederate troops encamped in Mercer County were battling pneumonia and camp fever while relying on the generosity of western Virginians to stay warm.

Correspondence written from Princeton on Dec. 14 and published Dec. 19, 1862, in the Richmond Daily Dispatch said the men had taken advantage of the decent weather of the past four or five days to build comfortable winter quarters. Contributions of clothing also were en route to them from nearby counties, and the Presbyterian congregation in Lewisburg had donated carpeting from their church for the soldiers to use as blankets.

“What we most need now are shoes; and I am sorry to say, the prospect that we will get them in

season is not so flattering as the friend of the destitute, yet patient and heroic soldier, might wish,” said the writer who signed his letter merely as, “A Rebel.”

Thousands of men on both sides of the war died of pneumonia and camp fever, which is transmitted by lice and often reached epidemic proportions in such crowded and unhygienic places as war camps.

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.



*Old Stone Church
Lewisburg*

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