A Sesquicentennial Moment

Sept. 29 - Oct. 5, 1861

As with all wars, the road to victory often extends far beyond the frontlines and onto the home front.

A story published in the Wheeling Intelligencer in the fall of 1861 details one such effort:

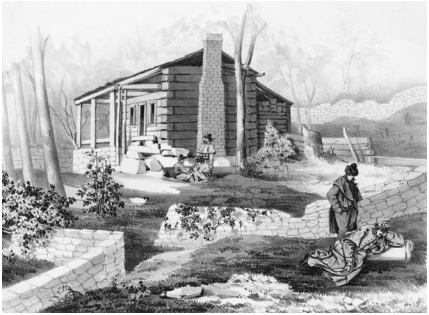

Photo Courtesy of State Archives

"A meeting of the ladies of the Bell District, Ohio county Va., convened, pursuant to notice, at the School house of said District, Oct. 5th, 1861, for the purpose of forming a Knitting Society, to prepare stockings and mittens for the soldiers of Western Virginia, who have gone forth to offer their lives as a sacrifice in defence of our beloved country, our homes, and our lives."

The same volunteering spirit that encouraged many men to join the fight also inspired their family members, friends and neighbors who stayed home to support the war in other ways. Some made donations while others used their talents to make such items as flags and clothing as well as ceremonial and functional swords.

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

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