

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

OCT. 5-11, 1862

While many men gave their limbs and lives during the Civil War, women often did their part by supplying troops with food, clothing and cash.

One such woman was Sarah Young, the daughter of Union Capt. John Valley Young, who commanded a detachment of Union soldiers during the 1862 Kanawha Valley Campaign.

In an Oct. 6, 1862, letter to her father, Sarah talked about feeding two rebels, including a man named Holderby, who was captured the year before at what is now known as St. Albans.

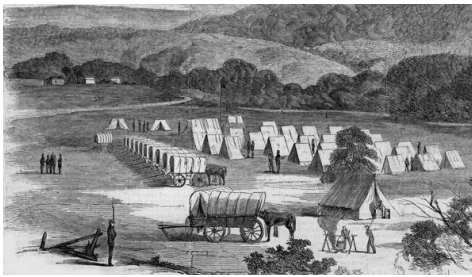
Sarah said Holderby was “quite a gentleman,” unlike some soldiers she had met before.

“Some of them are very kind to us and treat us as gentlemen should but some are perfect nobodies.

They have not one gentlemanly principle about them.”

Women’s contributions to the Civil War included organizing ladies’ aid societies that baked, canned, and grew fruits and vegetables for the troops as well as sewing, mending, knitting and laundering clothes and bedding. They also organized fundraising campaigns and events to raise money for medical supplies and other things.

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.



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