



The Confederate States of America. (Library of Congress)

Young Heroes — of the — CONFEDERACY

By Debra West Smith



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*To my husband,
Chef Curtis,
for his patient support
and wonderful meals*

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Introduction

Why write another book about the Civil War? A library could be filled with volumes about this tragic chapter in America's history, which is still debated and called by many names. To debate it again is not my purpose.

It's been said that "life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it." Young people of the 1860s were swept up in trouble not of their making. How they responded to it was the ultimate test of character. No Southerner was spared hardship, and patriotism and a sense of adventure drew countless boys and young men into the conflict. Honor and defense of homeland kept them there, despite suffering and the unexpected horrors of war.

The girls and young women who were left behind dealt with hunger, home invasion, and heartache as they waited for loved ones to return. Some recorded their experiences in diaries and letters. In addition to hard work and nursing the wounded, they found creative ways to support their soldiers. They were heroes as well.

The choice of whose stories to tell has been difficult! Most will be unknown to you. Their backgrounds vary, as do the contributions they made. I hope you will find inspiration in the courage and resiliency of these young heroes.

Young Heroes
— *of the* —
CONFEDERACY