

From Andrea Wolfe
President SC Society OCR

*I am honored to announce the recipient of the award winning essay for the
2010 Sam Davis Youth Camp Scholarship Award*

*Ms. Kristine Stonehill, Rosebud
of the Mary A. Hunt Chapter OCR of Richland County*

*Kristine researched the essay topic thoroughly and presented an essay that
is informative, meets all criteria required, and a joy to read! This young
lady is definitely an asset to the South Carolina Society Order of
Confederate Rose and all its members; to all the young people in South
Carolina; and to everyone who has interest in history, preservation,
ancestry, and education.*

*On behalf of the SC Society Order of Confederate Rose and all of its
members, I congratulate you, Kristine. Job well done! Enjoy your time at
the Youth Camp and we look forward to hearing of all you have learned and
new adventures!*

*Yours in history.....
Andrea*

Changed Forever

As with all wars, the War Between the States had tremendous impacts on our Confederate soldiers. But the overlooked and less obvious repercussions of the war were those that the Southern ladies had to attend to.

In the Antebellum South, women were expected to be wives and mothers. There were few job opportunities other than seamstress, cook, and laundresses. But this would soon change as their fathers, husbands, and sons left home for the battlefields. Women realized that they now had to perform tasks that before then were just male jobs. Soon after the men left to help with the war, there was a massive decrease in manpower. Therefore, Southern ladies stepped over the boundaries of gender as well as class to become teachers, nurses, and plantation managers. Women were now expected to attend to their children as well as their crops, to cook and provide for the family. These ladies did what they had to do, not simply for themselves but for their families' well being. With the shortages in food, cloth, wagons, horses, and everything in between, they had to make do with what they had. There were many cases where women even made coffee out of potato skins and tea from wheat. Countless numbers of women starved themselves almost to the brink of death, so their families could have a little more to eat. Clothing was a status symbol in the Antebellum South, but there was shortage in cloth, as well as dresses from the North and England. The song "The Homespun Dress," is a famous example of how women had to make their own clothing and cloth. "The homespun dress is plain, I know, my hat's palmetto, too; But then it shows what Southern girls, For Southern

rights will do.” This section of the song proves it all, they are fighting for Southern rights too, just as their husbands, sons, and fathers are on the battlefield. The ladies are doing everything they can to help with the war in their own way. The Southern ladies opened their doors up to wounded soldiers and many even had mini hospitals in their homes as well. Nursing became popular among women because they felt like they needed to do more to help the wounded and mangled soldiers. Charity events were very common among Southern women. The fee to get into dances, dinners, and parties was often food and necessities that could be sent to the soldiers on the front lines. Although the events were not as grand as they were before the war they were for a worthy cause. The ladies did it not for themselves but for the families, the soldiers, and the South.

“After the Civil War, many Southern women did not step back into their former restrictive way of life. For some it was no longer an option, for others it was a choice.” The ladies provided for their families and had jobs that before the war would have been deemed unacceptable for a lady. Southern ladies accomplished so many things at home while supporting the soldiers at the same time. Without the help of these remarkable Southern ladies, the South would have crumbled to pieces while the men were away. The lives of Southern women were changed forever, but if you were able to ask them why they did it, I’m sure the answer was because it had to be done. And if they were asked to do it again, they would have done so with no complaints, just like the first time. We should model our lives around these of the Southern ladies who paid just as much of a price as the soldiers who fought. They went way beyond their call of duty as a mother and wife and became a critical part of society.