The Home Front

The Civil War touched the lives of every American family, North and South.
The Home Front
The Role of Women
The Role of Women

Life must go on.
Women North and South take over men's work
The Role of Women

Some women disguised themselves as men and marched off to war.
The Role of the Family
The Role of the Family
The Role of the Family

Children went to War

Private Johnny Cook was a bugler with Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Antietam when he was only 15 years old.

Just west of the Cornfield with men down in the battery, he acted as cannoneer under severe fire.
Tillie Pierce was a 15 year old teenager on July 1, 1863 when she left Gettysburg with her family to escape the battle. She found herself nursing the wounded at the J. Weikert Farm south of town. Care of wounded soldiers continued upon returning to the family home, and in almost every home and building in Gettysburg for months after the battle. Tillie later wrote about her experiences in an article, “What a Girl Heard and Saw of the Battle.”
The Role of Slaves
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Challenging Times
Challenging Times

Shortages became so severe that in 1863 the women of Richmond marched on the government in a “Bread Riot.”
Civilians in Vicksburg lived through 47 days of Union siege operations against Confederate forces defending the city of Vicksburg. Families lived in caves and trenches to escape the bombardment and many starved in the process.
Challenging Times

Civilians who had homes near battles often had their homes destroyed or taken over for use as field hospitals.

The Chancellor family was trapped between the armies in May 1863 when their home became General Hooker’s Headquarters.
Challenging Times

Those on the home front had to meet the needs of their family as well as support the needs of the army.
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Note: This list includes soldiers from the 54th Regiment who fell during the assault on Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863.
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