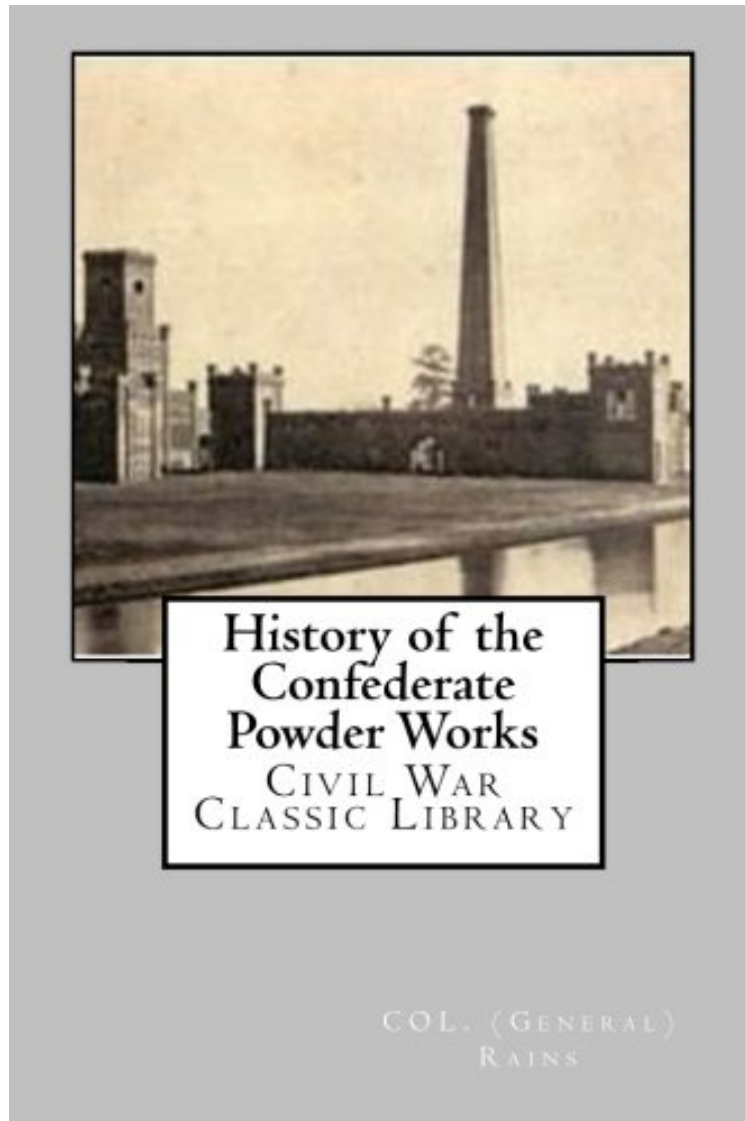


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History of the Confederate Powder Works: Civil War Classic Library

COL. (General) Rains

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COL. (General) Rains : History of the Confederate Powder Works: Civil War Classic Library before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of the Confederate Powder Works: Civil War Classic Library:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating story of vision and innovation as well as of gunpowder. By John Henry This book tells the story of a most innovative and visionary man and gives a good deal of

insight into the business of powder making during Mr. Lincoln's War of Northern Aggression. It also opens a window on a world that looked to building with grace and charm the edifices of gunpowder manufacture. Such is evidence of the character of Col. Rains and of the world that supported his vision.² of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Stunning Southern Accomplishment of the Civil War
By C. Poole
Fascinating story of how the Confederate States went from zero powder manufacturing capacity at the start of the war to one of, if not THE, best powder manufacturing operations in the world in a just a few short years. The text includes ample details of the manufacturing process and the innovations they came up with to cope with the South's limitations of skilled labor and resources. It appears that this text was originally an address given by the author. As such, it is fairly brief and to the point without a whole lot of illustrations or the anecdotal information that could have really brought the story to life. Given that, I'm only giving 4 stars.[...] At the beginning of the Civil War gunpowder supplies for the Confederate armies were insufficient. In 1861 Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, charged Colonel George Washington Rains with solving this issue by creating a local supply of gunpowder. Rains chose the flat lands by the Augusta Canal as the most suitable site for making the much needed gunpowder. He named Major Charles Shaler Smith as architect to design the Confederate Powder Works. Work on the plant commenced in 1862 with materials gathered from the southern states including Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. When completed, the powder works lined the banks of the Augusta Canal for two miles. The plant was organized for manufacturing efficiency. Raw materials entered at the first of 26 buildings and exited as gunpowder at the last. The most prominent of the buildings was the refinery, which resembled the British House of Parliament. Constructed directly in front of it was a tall smokestack in the shape of an obelisk, the only structure remaining today from the powder works. The Confederate Powder Works, the only permanent edifice constructed by the Confederate States of America, was in operation until April 1865. During its lifetime, the facility produced approximately 7,000 pounds of gunpowder per day for a final total of 2,750,000 pounds. The Augusta Powder Works produced enough gunpowder to fully meet the needs of the Confederate armies and still retained a surplus of 70,000 pounds at the end of the war.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. The author goes into a lot of detail but without any diagrams it is so easy to get lost
By Thomas W. Klose
This is not a history but more of a description from an engineer's perspective. The author goes into a lot of detail but without any diagrams it is so easy to get lost. Had this book provided sketches of buildings, tooling, the area around Augusta and the canal it would be so much easier to read. As is, it is like plowing through molasses.

In the history of a war we find, generally, but little reference to the manufactories engaged in the preparation of material; they had been previously established, and were in active operation before its commencement, their products being immediately available for active operations. An instance can scarcely be found in modern warfare where previous preparations had not been made, and where the necessary manufacturing works did not already exist. The late war was entered upon unexpectedly. Throughout the Southern country it was supposed that the North would not seriously oppose a secession of the States from the Federal compact, hence no previous provision had been made for such contingency, and no material of war gathered.