



Williams Rapid Fire One Pound Gun, 1862



Responding to a general request from the Confederate War Department for new weapon designs, R. S. Williams of Covington, Kentucky, submitted plans for this unusual piece. His proposal seemed promising, and Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond, Virginia, built a prototype. The weapon performed so well during the battle of Seven Pines in May 1862 that the Confederacy immediately ordered forty-two more. The gun required a crew of three to operate. A well-trained crew could fire the weapon sixty times in one minute. Although used throughout the war, poorly trained crews and overheating limited its effectiveness.

Donated by John A. Arnett, 1977.81.01

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."