

LECTURE Series

Friday, June 18, 2027

7 pm Eastern / 4 pm Pacific

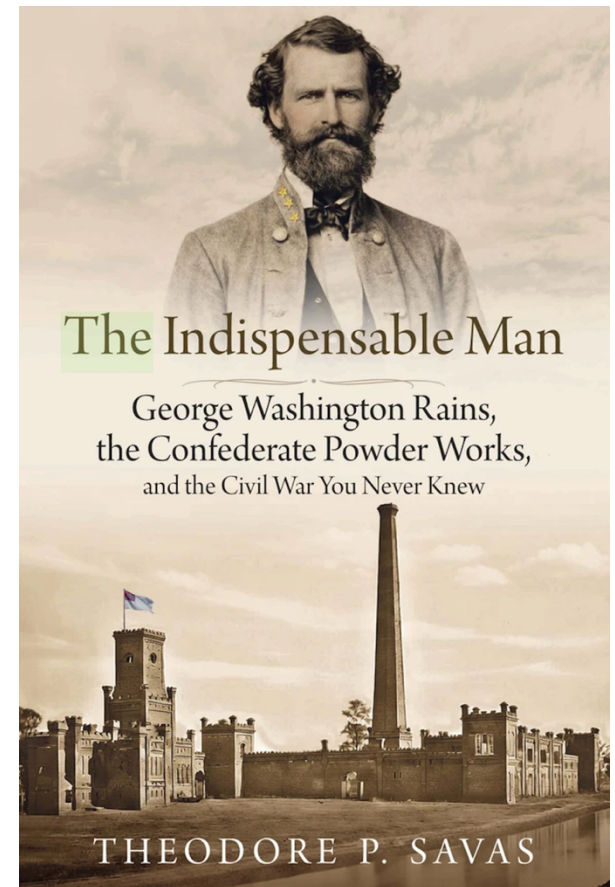
With TED SAVAS

THE INDISPENSABLE MAN:

George Washington Rains, the Confederate Powder Works, & the Civil War You Never Knew

George Washington Rains, a West Point graduate, engineer, combat staff officer, inventor, and entrepreneur, accepted an extraordinary assignment with the new Confederacy in 1861. In a private meeting with President Jefferson Davis, he learned a shocking truth: Confederate gunpowder reserves were “scarcely sufficient for one month of active operations, and not a pound was being made throughout its limits.” Many forts and important positions had no ammunition at all and there was nothing to send.

If pressed, the Confederacy would collapse for want of powder. Davis tapped Rains to create from scratch a massive powder works “of sufficient magnitude to supply the armies in the field and the artillery of the forts and defenses. Savas discusses the Augusta Powder Works, Rains' innovations and dedicated service. A story you'll not soon forget.



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