



## A Strange Engine of War: The "Winans" Steam Gun and the Civil War in Maryland

By Lamb, John W.

Chesapeake Book Co. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. In the spring of 1861, with Southern states seceding and Baltimore occupied by nervous Union troops, rumors emerged that Southern sympathizers in the city possessed a terrible weapon of mass destruction, capable of firing 300 rounds per minute and destroying anything in its path. But not everyone was impressed. "A very amiable machine, indeed, for killing friend and foe," said *Scientific American*. "We suppose that the inventor intended to use it for the purpose of committing suicide." A scholar of the Civil War and 19th-century technology, John Lamb gives us the full story of the so-called Winans Steam Gun, from its inception to its test firings, and the story of Ross Winans, the colorful, pro-South Baltimore industrialist to whom the gun was mistakenly attributed, and who was seized and briefly imprisoned after its capture. 86.

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