

Today in Columbus History: On June 27, 1848. There was an ad in *The Columbus Times* for salt. Ellis and Gray were advertising discounted “slightly damaged” salt.

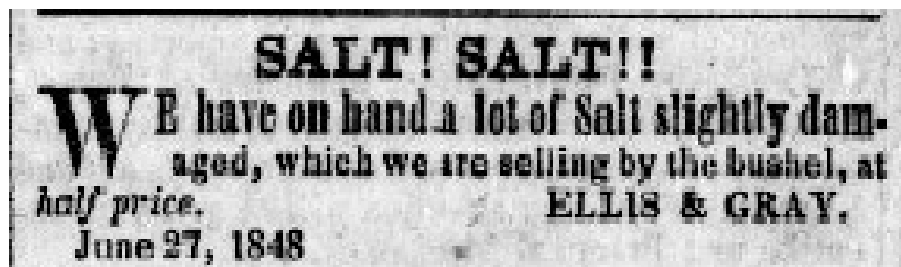
Salt was an important commodity in the South – mainly because of its use in preserving meat. Before the Civil War, there were salt works in upper New York state, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky – and Charleston became the center for the southern salt market. During the war salt was at a premium; Union forces made a concerted effort to destroy southern salt works – including one near Darien, GA (which processed salt water). In Georgia, from 1862 – 1864, the governor declared that salt would be distributed to wives and widows of GA Confederate soldiers. Ken Thomas has written a good article on the Georgia salt lists – including the names of recipients, 1863 and 1864. This is a great tool for Columbus local history and genealogy enthusiasts.

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Our snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

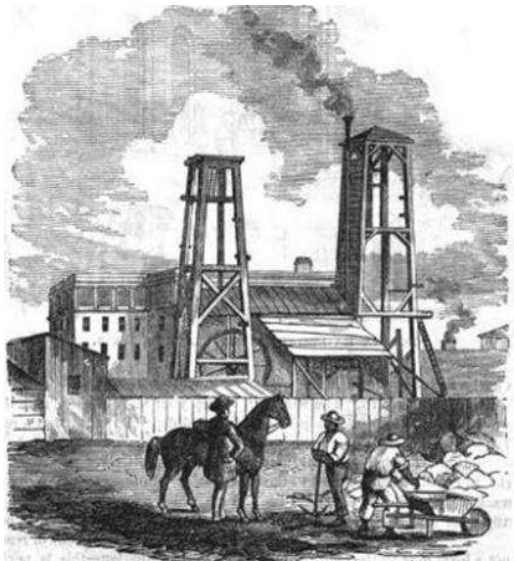
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>



The Salt Distribution List

NAME	YEAR		Category of Eligibility	Location in List page-column-line	
	1863	1864		1863	1864
Abrams, Alice	1863		Widow with son in service	328-1-40	
Acee, [no first name]	1863	1864	Widow with son in service	328-1-38	619-3-16
Acee, Martha J.	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-22	616-3-05
Adams, Caroline	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-16	616-2-50
Adams, Mary	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-12	616-2-46
Aenchbecker, Martha	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-13	616-2-47
Aguerro, Eliza J.	1863	1864	Widow of deceased soldier	325-2-07	616-1-07
Aides, Laura	1863		Wife of soldier in service	325-3-17	
Allen, Clementine / Clementina	1863	1864	Widow with son in service	328-1-35	619-3-15
Allen, Nancy	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-15	616-2-49
Allen, Samantha	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-11	616-2-45
Allen, Sarah	1863	1864	Widow with son in service	328-1-39	619-3-17
Allen, Sarah J.	1863		Wife of soldier in service	325-3-18	
Allums, Isabel	1863		Widow with son in service	328-1-36	
Almand, C.		1864	Wife of soldier in service		616-3-08
Almand, J.F.		1864	Wife of soldier in service		616-3-09
Almond, Emily B.	1863	1864	Wife of soldier in service	325-3-23	616-3-06
Anderson, Ann		1864	Widow with son in service		620-1-20
Andrews, Elizabeth		1864	Widow with son in service		620-3-25

First page from Ken Thomas's list of Muscogee residents on the 1863 and 1864 salt lists. Thomas, Kenneth H. "Distribution of Civil War Salt Rations to Muscogee County Families," *Muscogiana* 24(2) Fall 2013. See list beginning on p.30 at <https://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi...>



CONFEDERATE SALT WORKS, GEORGIA.

One sailor, recounting the story of the raid of Darien, Georgia's salt-works in 1863, wrote, "Salt is a scarce article in the [Confederacy], and the more works destroyed the sooner we shall have peace, for the rebels can't live without their bacon, and to have bacon they must use salt."

From Gastro Obscura, <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/civil-war-salt>

As in other parts of the South during the War years, the need for salt was desperate and was met by using the floor dirt from the smokehouses. In the winters of past years when hogs were killed, the hams, shoulders, and sides were salted and hung from smokehouse rafters to cure. For about three weeks salty grease oozed out of the meat and dripped to the dirt floor, making large spots that through the years became saturated with salt. When families grew desperate for salt during the War, they dug up the dirt from the smokehouse floors and put it into hoppers. Water was poured on and the salt dissolved in the water, which was strained and finally boiled down to salt. It was brown in color, but it served the purpose very well.

Scraping salt off the smokehouse floor was another way people tried to get salt. Here's another story from John Quincy Wolf's "Life in the Leatherwoods" (University of Arkansas, 2000).