

**Record Group 20**  
**Plymouth Air Rifle Company**  
1887-1998 (predominately 1887-1894)  
1 manuscript box

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI  
Finding Aid Written by *Lena Packer, 18 January 2006*  
Updated by Jennifer Meekhof 21 Sept 2011

**Creator:** Plymouth Air Rifle Company  
**Acquisition:** The Plymouth Air Rifle Company records were deposited in the archives on multiple dates from 1975 through 2002  
**Language:** Materials in English  
**Access:** Records are open for research  
**Use:** Refer to Archives Reading Room Guidelines  
**Notes:** Citation Style: "Plymouth Air Rifle Company," Record Group 20, Archives, Plymouth Historical Museum

**Abstract**

The Plymouth Air Rifle Company was started by Clarence Hamilton and Cyrus A. Pinckney. They purchased the E.W. Beam carriage shop in March 1888, to use as a factory to produce their rifles. Hamilton left the company in 1889, after which the company added an addition to the factory. Sunday, October 14, 1894, the factory burned to the ground. Efforts were made to rebuild, but ultimately failed, thus ending the Plymouth Air Rifle Company.

**Scope and Content**

The Plymouth Air Rifle Company record group consists mostly of articles and photographs about the company. There are original photographs and documents (such as a post card) that give the researcher a general idea of the air rifle product produced by Plymouth Air Rifle Company. The collection also holds articles written about the company that come from newspaper, magazine and catalogue sources.

**Entries**

[Entry 1:](#) Plymouth Air Rifle Company Notebook  
[Entry 2:](#) Photographs  
[Entry 3:](#) Articles  
[Entry 4:](#) Original Documents

**Important Subjects**

Air Rifles – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Local Companies – Plymouth, MI

**Box 1, Shelf 54**

*Entry 1: Plymouth Air Rifle Company Notebook*

Notebook on Plymouth Air Rifle Company, includes newspaper clippings from 1887-1894, magazine articles, catalogues, photographs, compiled by Wes Powers.

***Entry 2: Photographs***

Boy in uniform with rifle (Acc. #2002.116.016)

Boy in uniform with rifle (Acc.; #2002.116.015)

Clarence Bennett (Acc. #2002.116.034)

Clarence Bennett and others (Acc. #2002.116.033)

Rifle display (Acc. #2002.116.019)

Rifle display (Acc. #2002.116.020)

Rifle display (Acc. #2002.116.018)

Rifle display (Acc. #2002.116.017)

Rifle display (Acc. #2002.116.021)

Rifle display (Acc. #2002.116.022)

Employee picture (Acc. #2002.116.036)

Employees in front of company building, 1890-3 (75.100.1) (2 copies)

***Entry 3: Articles***

“The Plymouth Air Rifle Company,” *American Rifleman*, February 1998

“The Plymouth Air Rifle Company,” a Wilcox Scholarship essay

***Entry 4: Original Documents***

Postcard to Plymouth Savings Bank from German-American Bank regarding Plymouth Air Rifle Co., 1893