

Record Group 19
Hamilton Rifle Company
1900-2002
1 and ½ manuscript boxes

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI
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Creator: Hamilton Rifle Company
Acquisition: The Hamilton Rifle Company records were deposited in the archives on different dates from 1996 to 2002.
Language: Materials in English
Access: Records are open for research
Use: Refer to Archives Reading Room Guidelines
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Abstract

In 1888, Clarence Hamilton partnered with a friend, Cyrus A. Pinckney, to create an all-metal air rifle under the company named "Plymouth Air Rifle." Clarence later sold his part of the company to start his own company called Hamilton Rifle Company. When Clarence died, his son Coello took over the business. The most well-known Hamilton rifle was the "Model 27," which was made from 1907-1930.

Scope and Content

The Hamilton Rifle Company record group consists of records covering the day to day business of the company and articles written about the company. The records include profit and loss statements, balance sheets, patents, and licenses. The collection has a few photographs (found in a scrapbook) of both the air rifle product and the factory. The previous stated records are largely dated from the time the company operated. The articles in the collection written about the company span a time frame from the early days of the company until recent times.

Important Subjects

Air Rifles – 20th century
Local Companies – Plymouth, MI

Entries

[Entry 1:](#) Company documents
[Entry 2:](#) Pictures and Photographs
[Entry 3:](#) Product drawings and patents
[Entry 4:](#) Hamilton Rifle Ads
[Entry 5:](#) Newspaper and magazine articles

[Entry 6](#): Miscellaneous informational list of Museum's Hamilton collection

[Entry 7](#): Photographs of Hamilton Air Rifles from Jim Perkins' collection of photographs

Entry 1: Company documents

Box 1

Postcard from United States Coal Co.

Company Articles.

Copy of Profit and Loss Statement for fiscal year ending June 30, 1945

Copy of Balance Sheet for June 30, 1945

Copy of partnership agreement between Clarence and Coello Hamilton on April 24, 1907

Copies of Federal licenses for the manufacture of firearms for 1940, 1941, 1942

Price list of parts for Hamilton Rifles

List of rifles sales in 1900

List of parts for Hamilton Rifle No. 51

Copy of the articles of Agreement in 1897

Copy of letter from C. j. Hamilton to Coello Hamilton, 1896

Entry 2: Pictures and Photographs

Boy with Hamilton rifle

Hamilton rifle taken March 1996

Pencil sketch of factory

Copy of photo of factory in 1905

Copy of photo of boy on horse with gun

Copy of factory photo

Hamilton factory in 1972

Hamilton factory ca. 1905

Hamilton factory, interior of machine shop, ca. 1905

Negative, Hamilton factory interior of machine shop, ca.1905

Negative, Hamilton factory, construction of addition, 1915

Hamilton Rifle Co., facing Depot Street, 1905

Hamilton Rifle Co., press room, 1905

Negative, Hamilton Rifle Co., press room, 1905

Hamilton Rifle Co. press room, 1905

Negative, Hamilton Rifle Co. press room, 1905

Interior of factory

Interior

See photos in Scrapbook #10

Entry 3: Product drawing and patents

Drawing and patent for air gun on July 14, 1891

Drawing and patent for rifle on Nov. 20, 1900

Patent for firearm on Sept. 22, 1903

Rifle patent on Sept. 11, 1906

Patent for Rifle Construction on August 13, 1907

Drawing for rifle patented on August 13, 1907

Application and drawing for patent, C. Hamilton rifle, patented August 9, 1910
C.J. and C. Hamilton rifle, drawing, patented Nov. 20, 1900

Entry 4: Hamilton Rifle ads

“I got him with my Hamilton 22 caliber rifle”, model 27 and 027
Hamilton model 11
“Our \$2.00 rifle....”
Hamilton 027H and Hamilton 35H
Japanese 027
Two ads for \$2.85 rifle
Also many copies of ads done on copy machine
Boys in your town want Hamilton rifles, 3x5
3 ads Hamilton rifles, 8x6

Entry 5: Newspaper and magazine articles

“Show Me the Daisies-Clarence Hamilton’s great-granddaughter ponders Plymouth, new and old,” *The Ledger, May, 2005*
“Plymouth firm celebrates 40 years in business,” *Observer & Eccentric*, August 16, 1998
“Hamilton rifles were Plymouth products,” *Observer & Eccentric*, December 2, 1974
“Windmill Company changed name to ‘Daisy’ in 1895,” *Observer & Eccentric*
“Plymouth was ‘air rifle capital’,” *Observer & Eccentric*
“Hamilton-the boys’ rifle with the 7-inch bayonet,” *Observer & Eccentric*, March 16, 1987
“Plymouth, the Home of the Air-Gun Industry,” *Michigan Manufacturer*, November 18, 1911
Article about Hamilton rifles, *Salem Historical Society*, January, 1995
“The Hamilton Rifle Company,” *The Gun Report*, January, 2002
“Hamilton Rifle,” by Stanton O. Berg
“The Hamilton Rifle Company,” *American Boys “Rifles*, 1976
“Severe Loss to Plymouth,” *Plymouth Mail*, 1902 (Hamilton obituary)
“Bustling little ‘rifle town’ packs immense interest in its history and in its present-day charm” May 1945
“Plymouth,” *Motor News* May 1945
“The gun with the blued barrel”, excerpt from “The story of Plymouth, Michigan,” by Sam Hudson. Plymouth Historical Society, 1976, 84-86.

Entry 6: Miscellaneous informational list of Museum’s Hamilton collection

Packet of pictures of various models of Hamilton products
Pictures and descriptions of various models of Hamilton products from internet
Museum’s collection on Hamilton rifles

Entry 7: Photographs of Hamilton Air Rifles from Jim Perkins’ Collection of Photographs

Hamilton 15—open for loading, showing port
Hamilton 15—Close-up, facing right
Hamilton 15—Facing left close-up, long shot

Hamilton 15—Close-up, facing left
Hamilton 15—Full length
Hamilton 27—Close-up (markings in white)
Hamilton 27—Close-up, open for loading
Hamilton 27—Close-up, open for loading, markings in white
Hamilton 27—Full-length
Hamilton XP—Facing right, close-up
Hamilton XP—Facing right, close-up, open for loading
Hamilton XP—Facing left, close-up
Hamilton XP—Facing left, close-up, loading position
Hamilton XP—Facing left, full-length
Hamilton 35—Close-up, facing right
Hamilton 35—Close-up of barrel markings
Hamilton 35—Full-length
Hamilton 35—Close-up, open for loading
Hamilton 35—Close-up, military model, open for loading
Hamilton 27—Hamilton 27, Japanese copy
Hamilton 11—Close-up of barrel
Hamilton 27—Japanese copy, close-up of barrel
Hamilton 31—Close-up, cocked
Hamilton 39—Close-up
Hamilton 43—Full-length
Hamilton 51—Close-up of trigger
Hamilton 47, 147—Two full-length rifles
Hamilton 55—Full-length
Hamilton—Experimental pump rifle
Hamilton 43—Prototype
Hamilton 23—Prototype
Hamilton 11—Close-up of trigger
Hamilton 47—Close-up of barrel
Hamilton 27 or 027—Full length
Hamilton 31—Full-length
Hamilton, unknown model—Trigger
Hamilton, unknown model—Barrel
Hamilton 027—Trigger
Hamilton 23? —Close-up of barrel
Hamilton 23? —Full-length
Hamilton 28—Barrel
Hamilton 31—Trigger
Hamilton 47—Close-up of number
Hamilton ballistics test, view 1
Hamilton ballistics test, view 2
Hamilton 19—Trigger and barrel
Hamilton 15 and 19—Barrel
Hamilton 15—Trigger and barrel
Hamilton 11—Full-length