

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

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI  
Finding Aid Written by Lena Packer, 12 January 2006  
Updated by Ashley Engelberg, 13 Jan. 2009  
Updated by Jennifer Meekhof 21 Sept 2011

**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  
**Notes:** Citation Style: "Hamilton Rifle Company," Record Group 19, Archives, Plymouth Historical Museum

**Abstract**

In 1882, Clarence Hamilton partnered with a friend to create an all-metal air rifle under the company called Plymouth Air Rifle. Clarence later sold his part of the company to start his own company called Hamilton Rifle Company. When Clarence passed away, 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 article 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.

**Entries**

[Entry 1:](#) Company documents  
[Entry 2:](#) Pictures  
[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

**Important Subjects**

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

## **Box 1, Shelf 54**

### ***Entry 1: Company documents***

Postcard from United States Coal Co.

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  
(2 copies)

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 (2 copies)

List of parts for Hamilton Rifle No. 51 (2 copies)

Copy of the articles of Agreement in 1897 (Acc. #207.039.04)

Copy of letter from C. j. Hamilton to Coello Hamilton, 1896 (Acc. #2007.039.02)

### ***Entry 2: Pictures***

Boy with Hamilton rifle (Acc. #96.89.2)

Hamilton rifle taken March, 1996 (3 pictures)

Pencil sketch of factory

Copy of photo of factory in 1905

Copy of photo of boy on horse with gun (2 copies)

Copy of factory photo (2 copies)

*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 (2 copies)

Patent for Rifle Construction on August 13, 1907

Drawing for rifle patented on August 13, 1907

### ***Entry 4: Hamilton Rifle ads***

### ***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 (2 copies)*

“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 (2 copies)

Article about Hamilton rifles, *Salem Historical Society*, January, 1995

“The Hamilton Rifle Company,” *The Gun Report*, January, 2002 (Acc. #2002.025.01)

“Hamilton Rifle,” by Stanton O. Berg

“The Hamilton Rifle Company,” *American Boys “Rifles*, 1976 (3 copies)

“Severe Loss to Plymouth,” *Plymouth Mail*, 1902 (Hamilton obituary) (3 copies)

“Bustling little ‘rifle town’ packs immense interest in its history and in its present-day charm” May 1945 (3 copies)

“Plymouth,” *Motor News* May, 1945 (3 copies)

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

Packet of pictures of various models of Hamilton products (2 copies)

Pictures and descriptions of various models of Hamilton products from internet

Museum’s collection on Hamilton rifles