



WALTHAM

THE TIMELINE
1850 - 2021

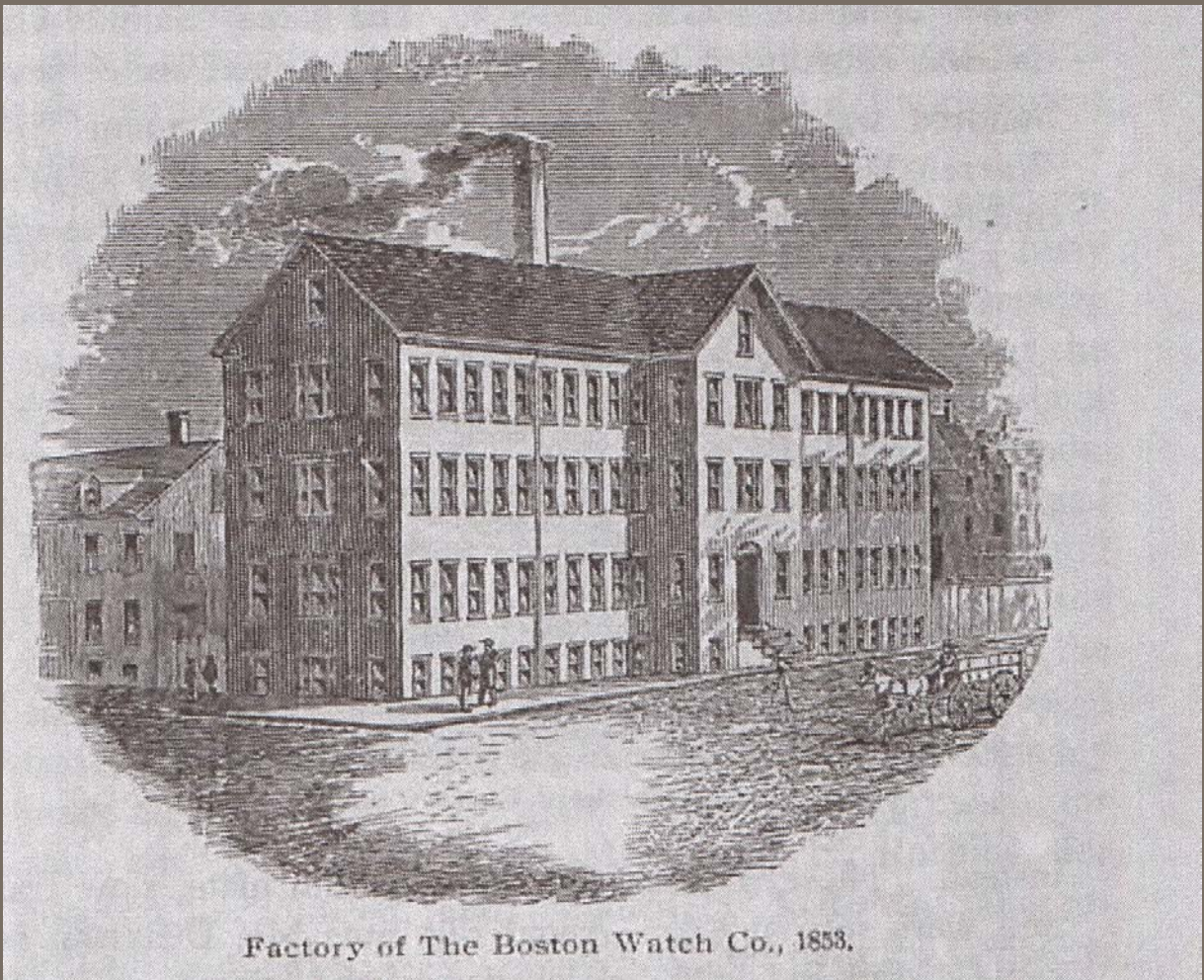
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WATCH  ANGELS

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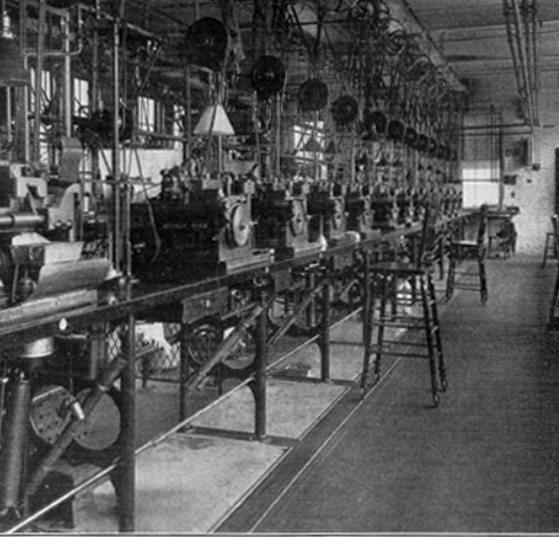


WALTHAM



Factory of The Boston Watch Co., 1853.

1850 - 1900



ONE OF THE "AUTOMATIC ROOMS" SHOWING ROLLER CHAIRS



92. POSITION ADJUSTING ROOM

AMERICAN WALTHAM WATCH FACTORY.
1893.

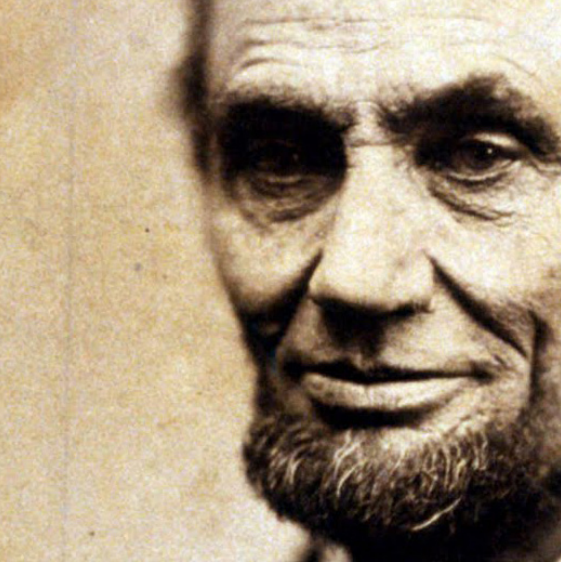


WALTHAM

1850 – Roxbury, Massachusetts, USA, inspired by Aaron Lufkin Dennison, a visionary genius, the first industrial mechanical watch and clock manufacturer in the world is founded. For the first time, clocks and watches were not produced piece-by-piece and later assembled by individual craftsmen but rather, thanks to interchangeable parts and patented automated, precision watchmaking machines, they are produced in series.

1854 – The company moves to Waltham, the town that will give the company its name, and opens a model factory where it employs over 3,000 people at the height of its productivity. From 1850 to 1957, over 40 million timepieces are produced, making the Waltham company the world's leading producer of clocks and watches. The modern American system of watch and clock manufacturing is not the only technique developed in Waltham; it also boasts the forerunner of the "assembly line". Henry Ford, during a visit in early 1900, is inspired to develop the automated production line for the legendary Model T revolutionizing, just as Dennison had for watchmaking, the manufacturing process for automobiles.





WALTHAM



1863 – United States President, Abraham Lincoln, becomes one of the first proud owners of the Waltham model 1857 Serial Number 67613, the first industrialized pocket watch. Currently part of a collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, this watch was presented to the President to celebrate the Gettysburg Address and the historical achievement that no one had been able to accomplish before him: the abolition of slavery.

1870 - The first Waltham Railroad Watches are manufactured under the brand-name Vanguard: high-precision pocket watches that are selected by railroad companies in 52 countries across the five continent. The Vanguard is the first watch to incorporate the «up and down» power reserve indicator on the dial, a Waltham patent that is still used in hand-wound timepieces. During the golden age of railroads, there were more Waltham watches in circulation around the world than all other brands put together.





WALTHAM



At Waltham science and nature have combined to create the Perfect Factory

In the manufacture of delicate instruments of precision, geographical location is a factor of prime importance. Nature has endowed Waltham, on the banks of the River Charles, with a situation singularly adapted to the manufacture of fine instruments.

There is a constantly pure and dustless atmosphere. Open parks are on every side, with abundant sunlight, foliage, and flowers. And in this favorable environment stands the pre-eminent factory in all the world for the manufacture of scientifically exact time instruments.

Logically there come from such a factory timepieces which strictly conform with nature's laws. In their qualities of undeviating accuracy

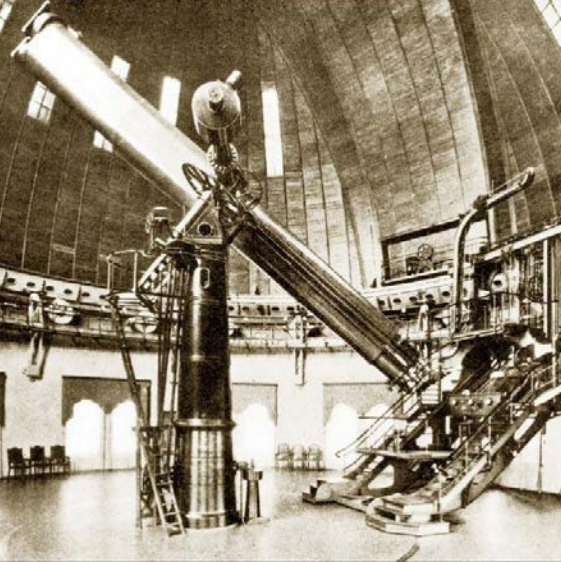
and dependable service to man, Waltham Watches and Chronometers are as faithful as the very sun and stars.

For more than a half a century Waltham has been celebrated the world over for the watches it has made. It is the oldest watch plant in America—the largest in all the world. And there are today nearly twenty million Waltham Watch owners to testify to its unquestioned merit.

If there is anything you would like to know about Waltham Watches or Chronometers, please write to the Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Mass. We will gladly give you information about any kind of Waltham timepiece you may desire.

Waltham Watches

1900 - 1913



WALTHAM

THE INDEPENDENT

box

Waltham Watches At The North Pole

"WHERE ACCURATE TIME WAS THE ESSENTIAL FEATURE"



On Board the Albatross and the Sled Which Reached the Pole

HAMPTON'S MAGAZINE
66 WEST 35TH ST.
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS
HAMPTON



1900 - The new century begins and Waltham is in search of the highest possible precision for its clocks and watches. Manufacturers at that time had to turn to astronomical observatories in order to verify and certify the precision of their clockwork. Waltham – one of the first manufacturers in the world - decides to build its own astronomical observatory to ensure the quality of its vast industrial production.

1909 - Waltham timepieces and precision instruments become faithful companions in exploration expeditions and courageous, ambitious endeavors. In January, the Anglo-Irish Explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton treks towards the center of the South Pole, pushing himself further south than anyone had gone before.

1909 - The American explorer Robert Peary's expedition was the first to reach the geographic North Pole. Waltham accompanied them on their journey: the only pocket watches that could withstand such extreme conditions while maintaining excellent performance.

1911 – The Marine Chronometers, Waltham Model 1910, featuring an 8-day power reserve, are chosen by the United States, Canadian and British governments for all military and civilian ships. No other factory is equipped to manufacture such high-performance chronometers in such large quantities.

1912 - British case manufacturer Aaron Lufkin Dennison (one of the three original founders of Waltham) installs Waltham Watch Company movements into his first wristwatch cases made for men.

1913 - Waltham Watch Company movements are installed into American Watch Case Company (Toronto Division) cases for use by all branches of the Canadian military.





WALTHAM



1914 - 1930



WALTHAM



1914 - Military wristwatch cases from the Philadelphia Watch Case Company featuring Waltham Watch Company movements make their American market debut.

1915 - After testing several American made movements watch case manufacturer Charles Depollier announces that Waltham Watch Company movements will be exclusively used in his military watch cases.

1915 – With the onset of the First World War, Waltham manufactures one of the first wristwatches for the American armed forces: more practical in the trenches than pocket watches, they are made even more resistant by the addition of a shrapnel guard to protect the dial crystal. But the war is also an opportunity for Waltham, and the military to experiment with flight: the rudimentary military aircraft used in WWI were fitted with a Waltham XA Type 37 Model aeronautical clock.



1916 - The term «trench watch» is coined in an advertisement published in a British magazine called the «Sketch» featuring a Dennison trench watch case and a Waltham movement.

1916 – Waltham begins production of clocks and speedometers for automobiles. Precise and reliable even when exposed to strong and continuous vibrations, these instruments were supplied to Ford, Lincoln, Renault, Cadillac, and even Rolls Royce. In the forefront of this sector too, Waltham and world-renowned scientist Nikola Tesla patent the first Air Friction speedometer, creating the most precise automobile instrument capable of measuring speed, distance, and time.





1917 - Charles Depollier files the patent for the «double clinched bezel» featured on the Waltham Depollier «KHAKI» & «D-D Utility» Trench Watches. This technology, that is still used today, made the bezel of wrist watches waterproof.

1918 - Charles Depollier files the patent for the «screw down crown» featured on the Waltham Depollier «Field & Marine» Waterproof Trench Watches. All modern dive watches can be traced back to the technology patented by Depollier for this watch. His patent is still sighted today for modern dive and waterproof case designs.

1918 - The first-generation Waltham Depollier «Field & Marine» Waterproof Trench Watch makes its debut.

1918 - The second-generation Waltham Depollier Waterproof Trench Watch makes its debut. Made in 14k solid gold & sterling silver, known as the Waltham Depollier «THERMO» Wristwatch. It was designed and intended to be used by aviators as a Pilot Watch.

1919 - Daredevil pilot Roland Rohlfs sets a new flight altitude world record of 34,610 feet while wearing a Waltham Depollier Field & Marine Waterproof Wristwatch. After his flight he wrote a letter to Depollier raving about the accuracy of the movement in the extreme high-altitude cold air environment.

1924 – Henry Ford is gifted by Waltham with a grandfather clock that adorned his office until his death in 1947, after which it was donated to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn (Michigan).

1927 – Charles Lindberg, an unknown US Air Mail pilot, has the instrument panel on board his “Spirit of St Louis” modified in order to fit a Waltham XA Type 37 aeronautical clock. Lindbergh boards his plane in New York on May 19 and lands 33 hours later in Paris, marking the first non-stop transatlantic flight.

1928 – Australian aviation pioneer Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, leaves Oakland, California, to land in Brisbane, Australia, completing the first flight across the Pacific Ocean. The aeronautical clock in his tri-motor aircraft, the Southern Cross was a Waltham XA Type 37.





1940 - 2011



WALTHAM



1941 – During the Second World War, Waltham's experience in the aviation sector brings it on board the most emblematic aircraft of the time. These include the F6F Hellcat, with over 12,000 units built from 1943 to 1945 and fitted with the CDIA Model; the B24 Liberator bomber, the most widely produced military aircraft in history; and the legendary P-51 Mustang fighter plane, used until the 1980s.

1942 – Waltham manufactures the Type A11 Navigational Watch. This wristwatch is the first to become standard military issue for all the American armed forces: in a waterproof version for the navy, and a dustproof version for all the other services.





WALTHAM



1950 - In response to military requirements and in collaboration with the armed forces, in the 1950s Waltham develops the Type A17 Pilot Watch and the wrist compass, standard issue equipment for the US Air Force and Navy.

1954 – After more than 100 years in the United States, Waltham establishes Waltham SA in Switzerland, the new pulsing center of global watchmaking, where the Swiss Made brand begins production.

1967 – The F4 Phantoms are legends of the US Navy even before they enter into service, setting new records in altitude and speed. They are therefore chosen by the equally legendary Top Gun Fighter Weapons School to train the best pilots in the US Air Force. Produced by Waltham Precision Instruments, their control panels boasted a Waltham Type A-13A, the official aeronautical clock of the US Department of Defense during the Cold War, that was fitted on board all American military aircraft ranging from U-2s to the C-130 Hercules.



1981 - After entering the Asian market at the end of the 1970s with the Vacuum Model, the innovative mechanical wristwatch that works in the absence of atmosphere, Waltham is purchased by the Japanese company, Heiwado & Co. and quickly becomes the most popular brand in Japan.

2000 – The success on the Asian market is celebrated with the incredible Radiant 2000, a model decorated with over 150 carats of diamonds and considered the most expensive wristwatch of the time.

2011 - The majority shares of Waltham International SA are purchased by Italian-American entrepreneur Antonio DiBenedetto





1850 - 1930





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