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# **Read the History of Illinois Pocket Watches**

In 1870 the foundation of the Illinois Watch Company was laid by John C Adams, John W. Bunn, John T Stuart, John Williams, George Passfield, George Black, and William B Miller. The Illinois Watch Company was originally christened as the Illinois Springfield Watch Company and by about 1890 the first of the watches called The Stuart was launched - named tongue in cheek after one of the founder members. Even after a century of existence, the Illinois Pocket Watches have not compromised on their style quotient and character.

In the more than seventy years that the company was operational, they produced a variety of watches as well as underwent many name changes, but they were always sure to include 'Illinois' as part of the company's new names. Some of the earliest models of the Illinois Pocket Watches made had a key by which you could wind up the watch, and these are some of the most valued amongst collectors.

Like so many other companies, the Illinois Watch Company too underwent major re organization to shape up to the competition and emerge as a market leader. The sudden financial setback in 1879, led to the new name of Springfield Illinois Watch Company. A repeat of the same sudden bleak situation led to the remodelling of the company in 1885 and the simple name of Illinois Watch Company.

By the late 1920s, independent operation was no longer feasible, and the company was sold to the Hamilton Watch Company. Despite the sale, the Illinois factory continued operation for several more years, until 1932, the year in which the last authentic Illinois Watch was manufactured.

After closing the Illinois factory, the Hamilton Watch Company continued to produce watches under the Illinois name until 1939. Most of these watches that were manufactured were not sold; they were just packaged and stored for a few decades. Despite this, Illinois Pocket Watches continue to be collected and are quite valued by collectors worldwide.

Want to find out more about [Illinois pocket watches](#), then visit Steven S. Melcher's site on how to choose the best [Illinois pocket watches](#) for your needs.

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