



## Atlantic Dynamite Company payroll books 2706

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Manuscripts and Archives

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Wilmington, Delaware 19807

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Manuscripts and Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Atlantic Dynamite Company
<b>Title:</b>	Atlantic Dynamite Company payroll books
<b>ID:</b>	2706
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1872-1898
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 volume(s)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Atlantic Dynamite Company was one of the largest manufacturers of dynamite in the United States between 1882 and 1904. These are four volumes containing entries listing employees, hours worked, and wages paid at a dynamite plant at Kenvil, New Jersey.

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## Historical Note

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The Atlantic Dynamite Company was one of the largest manufacturers of dynamite in the United States between 1882 and 1904. The company was organized in California on November 2, 1870 and was named the Atlantic Giant Powder Company. Formal incorporation papers were filed on June 12, 1876. It was designed to be the eastern affiliate of the Giant Powder Company of San Francisco, a major manufacturer of dynamite, and in 1871 constructed a plant at McCainsville (Kenvil), New Jersey, southwest of Dover and near a major iron-mining area. About ten Chinese immigrant workers had to be sent from San Francisco to get the plant up and running, the last staying until 1879. On April 15, 1874, the Giant Powder Company transferred to the Atlantic Giant Powder Company all the rights to the Nobel dynamite patents for the territory roughly lying east of the Rocky Mountains.

Rival companies viewed the subsidiary at Kenvil as a growing concern for business in the area and began purchasing stock. By 1882, a major competitor, the Laflin & Rand Powder Company (L&R), and two dynamite industry executives, cousins, Lamot du Pont (1831-1884) and William du Pont (1855-1928) had acquired a one-third interest in the Atlantic Giant Powder Company at Kenvil. It was enough ownership control to be able to reorganize and rename the company, the Atlantic Dynamite Company.

The E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (DuPont Company) was a black powder and explosives manufacturing company; and a major competitor of the Laflin & Rand Powder Company at the time.

Lammot du Pont and William du Pont were both affiliated with the DuPont Company among other leading gunpowder and explosives companies, such as the Repauno Chemical Company. A separate New Jersey holding company, the Atlantic Dynamite Company of New Jersey, was incorporated on June 29, 1895. Also in 1895, the Eastern Dynamite Company was formed to hold the stocks of the Repauno Chemical Company and other dynamite producers. The DuPont Company purchased the Laflin & Rand Powder Company in 1902. The Kenvil Works passed into the hands of the Eastern Dynamite Company in June 1904 and thus was under the complete control of the du Pont family and DuPont Company interests. The DuPont Company had been found to be in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, and was court-ordered to breakup ownership of its explosives manufacturing businesses in 1911 to 1912, the ownership of the Kenvil Plant passed to the newly formed Hercules Powder Company.

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## Scope and Content

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The volumes are monthly payroll registers in which the number of hours worked and wages paid are entered. In the first volume, workers signed their names or made their marks by the pay entry. The first volume also contains the names of the first Chinese workers. In the later volumes, the workers time is entered as a total and then broken down by department.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

[askhagley@hagley.org](mailto:askhagley@hagley.org)

URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

### Access Restrictions

No restrictions. The collection is open for research.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Atlantic Giant Powder Company and Atlantic Dynamite Company corporate records (Accession 500, Series II, Part 1), Manuscripts and Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Wages
- Explosives industry
- Weapons industry -- Employees
- Chinese American laborers
- Immigrant laborers
- Dynamite

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
1872 October-1881 March	volume 1
1882 October-1889 May	volume 2
1889 June-1894 February	volume 3
1894 March-1898 September	volume 4