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## **Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Hamilton, Thomas F.**

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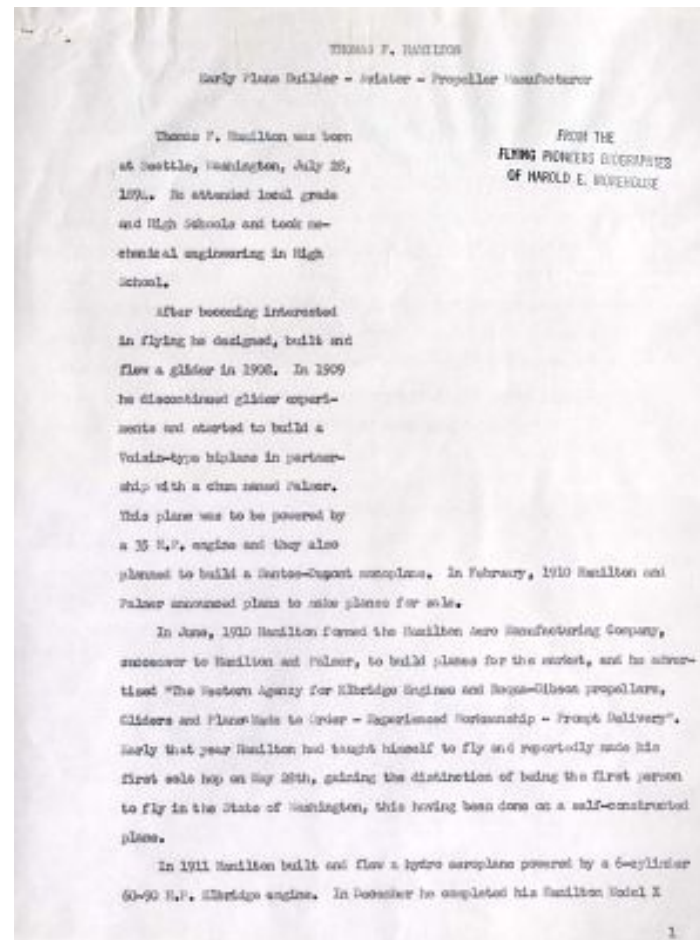
Thomas F. Hamilton  
Early Plane Builder - Aviator - Propeller Manufacturer

Thomas F. Hamilton was born at Seattle, Washington, July 28th, 1894. He attended local grade and High Schools and took mechanical engineering in High School.

After becoming interested flying he designed, built and flew a glider in 1908. In 1909 he discontinued glider experiments and started to build a Voisin-Type biplane in partnership with a chum named Palmer. This plane was to be powered by a 35 H.P. engine and they also planned to build a Santos-Dumont monoplane. In February, 1910 Hamilton and Palmer announced plans to make planes for sale.

In June, 1910 Hamilton formed the Hamilton Aero Manufacturing Company, successor to Hamilton and Palmer, to build planes for the market, and he advertised "The Western Agency for Elbridge Engines and Reque-Gibson propellers, Gliders and Planes Made to Order - Experienced Workmanship - Prompt Delivery". Early that year Hamilton had taught himself to fly and reportedly made his first solo hop in May 28th, gaining the distinction of being the first person to fly in the State of Washington, this having been done on a self-constructed plane.

In 1911 Hamilton built and flew a hydro aeroplane powered by a 6-cylinder 60-90 H.P. Elbridge engine. In December he completed his Hamilton Model X



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