



2020 NATIONAL INVENTORS  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

**Born:** July 9, 1872  
**Died:** May 31, 1928

**Primary Connection:**

- Cameron Iron Works (now a subsidiary of Schlumberger): Co-founder

**Education:**

- Christian Brothers University (formerly Christian Brothers College): Architectural and mechanical engineering

## 10 Things You Need to Know About

# Harry Cameron

## Inventor of the Blowout Preventer (BOP)

U.S. PATENT NO. 1,569,247

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1. Cameron was born in 1872 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
2. He attended the public schools of Washington, D.C., and attended college in Memphis, Tennessee.
3. He served an apprenticeship at Bierce Hydraulic Compress Co. in Little Rock, Arkansas.
4. A skilled machinist, Cameron was regraded in the oil fields as someone who could fix equipment, and make any piece needed for the rig floor.
5. He was a machinist and partner in Humble Iron Works in Humble, Texas.
6. The company he and James Abercrombie founded, Cameron Iron Works, was acquired by Cooper Industries. Cooper Cameron Corp. was spun off as a separate stand-alone company in 1995 and was renamed Cameron International Corp. In 2016, Cameron International was acquired by Schlumberger for \$14.8 billion.
7. Cameron bought a house near the Cameron Iron Works in Houston. He lived in the house for the rest of his life.
8. The Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation was founded in 1966. It was created to promote compassionate giving that serves the needs of the Houston community — including religious, charitable, educational, scientific, literary and the arts.
9. In 2003, Cameron and Abercrombie's first ram-type BOP was recognized with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark honor.
10. Cameron held five U.S. patents.