

# FRATERNAL MASONIC SWORD AND SHEATH



Templar cross on sword's black enameled grip



Knight's head on sword's pommel



Knight's-head in the center of the sword's cross-guard

This intricately decorated fraternal Masonic sword and accompanying brass sheath belonged to Bertram O. (Bertram Osborne) Drover (d. Oct. 21, 1950). Drover, a floor manager, was a member of several Masonic lodges in Massachusetts, including Mount Olivet, in 1923; Somerville, in 1924; and Cambridge Commandery No. 42, where he was dubbed a "Sir Knight" on November 24, 1925. There is a Bertram Drover mentioned in the 1918 last will and testament of Moses Drover of St. John's, New Foundland, Canada, and it is possible that this is the same individual referred to above. The executors of Moses' estate were Thomas Lorenzo Drover and William Drover, who were Bertram's older brothers.



Cross and crown, on sheath



Cross and crown, and other markings, on sheath



Black-enameled grip, knight's-head on pommel, three-point cross-guard finials, and knight's-head in the center of the cross-guard

The sword, which was manufactured (c.1920) by the Ames Sword Company, contains an etching of Drover's name on the front of the blade and the words "Cambridge Commandery" on the back. Both are etched in gold Old English font. Also etched on the top of the blade in the same style is "Ames Sword Co., Chicopee, MA." In addition, the sword and its sheath contain Knights Templar symbols and other ornate markings. Knights Templar is a Christian-oriented fraternal organization and an integral part of the Masonic Fraternity. Some distinctive Knights Templar features on this sword are the cross on the black-enameled grip, the knight's-head on the pommel, the three-point cross-guard finials, and the knight's-head in the center of the cross-guard. The brass sheath bears a Templar cross and crown, a suit of armor with weaponry, and a Maltese cross.



Ornate tip of sheath



Cross and other markings, on sheath



"Cambridge Commandery" engraved on sword's blade

The Ames Sword Company had its roots in the Ames Manufacturing Company, which was founded in 1829 by Nathan P. Ames. Specializing in military swords and cutlery, the new company quickly reached the top of the American sword making industry by exploring new manufacturing methods and winning key government contracts. The Ames Manufacturing Company operated out of Cabotville, Massachusetts from 1834-1847, at which time their address changed to Chicopee, Massachusetts. About this time, Nathan died and control of the company went to his younger brother James T. Ames. During the Civil War, under James' control, the company was at the height of his glory supplying a staggering number of swords for the Union. With the decline in use for military swords after the Civil War, Ames continued its tradition by creating hundreds of styles for military, fraternal, and society organizations. Numerous Ames swords of that elaborate type represent the heights reached in the sword makers art. Such elegant swords were intended to be worn on special occasions, if at all. In 1893, Frank Henderson acquired the Chicago based western sales division of the Ames Sword Co. and formed the Henderson-Ames Co. Swords made by Henderson-Ames were marked accordingly. Though the Ames family eventually left the business, it continued until it was sold to the largest regalia company in the United States, M.C. Lilley Company, of Columbus, Ohio, in the mid 1930's.



"Bertram O. Drover" engraved on sword's blade



Sword and sheath

**DONOR: ROBERT STORMAN**