

# Cottrell Family Collection

Cottrell Family Collection

c. 1916-1922



## Title Statement

Cottrell Family CollectionCottrell Family Collection, c. 1916-1922 Textile.1994.001

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Textile.1994.001

### Unit Date

c. 1916-1922

### Language

The materials in this collection are in English.

## Abstract

This collection consists of a cape, sabre, and pipe. The cape is made of wool/wool felt and is navy blue with a red lining. Across the chest there are black cord frogs that connect on the exterior. At the collar there are two metal hooks. Each side has what appears to be a pocket, only after looking closer do you realize the "pockets" are holes to the inside of the cape. One label reads "Mr. [Cottrell G. (?)], Date \_\_\_\_\_, 40-39-[14 1/2]." The second label reads "Virginia Polytechnic Institute Uniform Department, VB Kelsey Supt." The cape is in poor condition, with holes in lining and exterior material, some have been sewn up, and the lining is deteriorating in places. The sabre is made of a silver toned metal, with a metal sheath, and a brown leather strap. The handle of the sabre is made of metal with a black plastic grip and a gold cord hanging off it. The sabre has the name "Ben Cottrell" engraved on it, as well as additional patterns surrounding it. The condition is good, some signs of wear on the leather strap and minor imperfections on the metal. The pipe is made of black plastic, metal, and wood. On the front of the wooden part of the pipe it reads "VPI 22." On the metal part of the pipe it reads "MADE IN USA" on one side and "STERLING SILVER" on the other. On the side of the wooden part it also reads "DERBY" with a triangle above it. The pipe is in fair condition, residue on the mouth piece and inside the pipe is present. There is a crack in the wood on side of pipe. The pipe belonged to Jim D. Cottrell, who graduated from VPI in 1922.

## Extent

3.1 Cubic Feet 1 box

## Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Condition Governing Access

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## Source of Acquisition

The collection was acquired by Special Collection and University Archives in December 1986.

## Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Cottrell Family Collection was completed in June 2025. Preliminary description was completed in 2016.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Cottrell Family Collection, c. 1916-1922, Textile-1994-001, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Jim D. Cottrell graduated from Virginia Tech in 1922 with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering. He worked at Cottrell Engineering Corporation, founded in 1928, and later renamed Cottrell Contracting Corporation.

His brother Benjamin Cottrell graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1916 with a bachelors in Civil Engineering. He spent most of his life working in railroad and highway development in South America. He was a member of the VPI Alumni Century Club. Cottrell died in 1972.

# Scope and Content

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## Keywords

University Archives

University History

Memorabilia

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Cottrell, Benjamin, d.1972

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute. Corps of Cadets (1896-1944)

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## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Jim Cottrell VPI Cape**

**Unit Date** c. 1916-1922

**box** 1

### **Jim Cottrell VPI Pipe**

**Unit Date** 1922

**box** 1

### **Ben Cottrell Sabre**

**Unit Date** c. 1916-1922

**box** 1