

Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company

Chartered in 1638 by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, the AHAC is America's oldest military company. During the Rev War, most officers were away fighting and the organization was re-constituted in 1786 with about 80-90 men.

In 1805 the new Faneuil Hall was re-built and the AHAC took an apartment and used a common drill hall. By 1810 there were perhaps 200 men. The role of the organization, which never saw active military service, was to train officers for other militias. About one half of the complement were recruits while the remainder were officers usually attached to other militias. There were 3 elected officers: Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign. After 1812, the poor performance of militias and their officers, indicated the need for strict military training.

The identical sword is on display in the Great Hall with the inventory tag of #177. Examining both swords together demonstrates identical engraving on the pommel and the throat. Even the floral engraving on the guard is nearly identical. The blades are the same size and style but the AHAC's has no finish, but their red leather scabbard is intact.

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A note by Dr. McCauley, the curator, attached to a 1960 inventory indicates that the sword was "probably part of the regular equipment".