

3754

**Fine Unmarked American Bowie Knife**

*Attributed to Samuel Bell, San Antonio, Texas,  
Mid 1850's*

The 10 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch spear point blade with 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch sharpened false edge and double fullers on either side. Coin silver mounted hilt. Horn grip scales set with silver five pointed stars and with oval escutcheons engraved with unidentified monogram *T.E.W.* Leather scabbard with coin silver throat and German silver tip; the latter mounted with two rings.

*Length overall 15 inches.*

*Condition: Fine overall with mottled patina and minor pitting to blade and some scuff marks to sheath. Sheath tip a period replacement.*

*Note: By tradition, this knife originally belonged to Samuel Cleage, pioneer builder of Athens, Tennessee. Attribution of this knife to Samuel Bell was based by Mr. Williamson on a nearly identical knife in the James Dresslar Collection in the San Antonio Museum which was donated to the museum in 1932 by Samuel Cummings Bell, a descendent of the maker. Records indicate that this knife was made in San Antonio for a Major(?) Brahan in 1853.*

*Note: Illustrated on page 34, The Blade magazine, November/December 1987.*

Estimate 8,000/12,000

Catalog description when sold for  
William Williamson Collection, 1997



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