

THE GLADIUM COLLECTION IS THE  
FINEST AND MOST HISTORICALLY  
IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR  
COLLECTION IN EXISTENCE

# GLADIUM III COLLECTION III

BY GARY HENDERSHOTT





**The Confederate Secret Service in France in 1864  
Unique Confederate Uniform of Lieutenant  
Colonel Richard Snowden Andrews**

Made in France by the same tailor for Napoleon III, one of only two Confederate Officers Uniforms with French flat braid gold sleeve quatrefoil, the other being General Robert E. Lee's

Founder of the Maryland Light Artillery, disemboweled at the Battle of Cedar Mountain when he was shot through the stomach while leading his men, this being his new Confederate uniform he had made while on Confederate Secret Service duty to buy artillery for the Confederacy

This is the only Confederate Secret Service Officer's Uniform in Existence – it is Magnificent

It was worn by him in France, Prussia, England, Havana, Cuba and with Maximilian in Mexico



Richard Snowden Andrews was an illustrious officer in the Confederate Army, making his name known in many circles before, during and after the War. Born in 1830 Richard (Snowden) Andrews grew up in Washington, DC until his father moved the family to Baltimore when Richard was nineteen. Andrews trained as an architect and enjoyed much success in the pre-war years, designing the largest building made of hand cut stone, the Weston State Hospital in West Virginia, then the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis and an addition to the US Treasury Building in Washington, DC.

A memoir of Andrew's life as well as battle reports and recollections of Andrews' fellow soldiers provide much detail of his fascinating life on and off the battlefield. In Richard Snowden Andrews: Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the First Maryland, a vivid portrait of Andrews emerges. While in the midst of his successful career as an architect in 1861, Andrews realized that war was eminent and sought to rally prominent politicians in Maryland to side with the Confederacy. After failed attempts to garner support in raising troops and securing the money needed to supply them, he travelled to Richmond and met with Governor John Letcher



receiving a commission as a captain of artillery. Andrews had secretly stolen the plans for twelve-pounder Napoleon cannon and personally supervised the manufacture of the first Confederate cannon to be made at the Tredegar Works at Richmond. Even the famous Washington Artillery of New Orleans was provided with two of the cannon he produced as Andrews noted in his memoir. His training as an architect and vigor in supporting the Confederacy led to a Captain's commission of what would become the First Maryland Artillery composed of men who had flocked to Richmond from Maryland, as eager as Andrews to join Lee's Army the fight for a Southern Confederacy.

Andrews was the premier artillery commander of the Army of Northern



Virginia, readily praised by General Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson in military dispatches. It was at the Battle of Cedar Mountain while fighting under General Charles Sidney Winder and Stonewall Jackson that Andrews was to be remembered for surviving the most gruesome wound seen by soldiers of the Civil War. General Winder had just been mortally wounded by a Union artillery shell, indeed General Winder died in Andrews' arms. Andrews remounted his horse and was immediately hit by shrapnel through his stomach from another Union artillery round exploding next to him. Almost completely disemboweled, he slid from his horse and to the side of a road where he was taken by ambulance to a farmhouse, subsequently becoming a Union prisoner.



Given no hope of survival by the first doctor who examined him while on the battlefield and then by other doctors who left him to die, Andrews survived with the help of his wife who traveled from Baltimore with their infant child and nanny to nurse him back to health. In fact, a country doctor named Dr. Amos told him that there was no chance for him to live. Andrews asked if there might be even a "chance in ten, twenty or even a hundred?" Since Andrews was so persistent, the doctor agreed to treat him, thus saving his life.

General Stonewall Jackson had high praise for Andrews declaring, "Especial credit is due to Major Andrews for the success and gallantry with which his guns were directed until he was wounded and taken from the field". But Andrews did recuperate from his horrible wounds being fitted with a silver plate over his stomach to hold his body together, after being exchanged and he saw action again at the Battle of Winchester. Again he was severely wounded in his right arm, but Andrews' fighting days were over. Instead he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was ordered into the Confederate Secret Service to purchase the newly developed Armstrong rifled breech loading cannon and other artillery for the Confederate Army in Europe as appointed by President Jefferson Davis and sent to Europe along with Colonel Thomas S. Rhett. They successfully ran the blockade from Wilmington through Nassau and spent one year procuring artillery travelling extensively throughout England, France and Germany. In letters sent back to the Confederacy they proudly announced that Andrews had been successful in obtaining two forty-pounder cannon to send back to the Confederacy.

Lt. Colonel Andrews and Colonel Thomas Rhett met on May 1, 1864 with Sir William Armstrong at his armament factory in England. He had just invented the big bore breech loading rifled cannon which would help turn the tide of battle for the Confederate Army.



They were in possession of letters of introduction as well, one to Prince Radziwill of Prussia. They would be observing the weaponry and tactics of foreign armies including those of the famous Prussian Army, the most advanced in Europe. This is where Andrews became somewhat of a celebrity due to his heroic war exploits – and survival of his wounds. In an effort to secure a permit to observe troop movements, Andrews was called upon to show his combat wounds to Prussian officers eager to hear of his exploits. He pulled up his shirt and showed his massive scar from the battle at Cedar Mountain prompting the Prussian surgeon to remark 'Lieber Gott!' (Good God!). The commanding general of the Prussian Army, General von Moltke was summoned to see the miracle wound whereupon Colonel Andrews and Rhett were warmly received by the entire Prussia Army and allowed to study their weapons and tactics.



Colonel Richard Snowden Andrews was slipping through the blockade on his way back to the Confederacy with a cargo of English newly-invented breech-loading Armstrong guns and ammunition to Richmond via Havana, Cuba when he learned of General Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865. He vowed never to return to the United States and instead became an advisor to the French army, setting sail for Mexico and seeing service under the regime of Maximilian. But his time in Mexico was cut short as Maximilian's rule collapsed in 1867. With the revolutionaries in control, Andrews returned to the United States and Baltimore. His friends all swore that he never took the oath of allegiance and returned to his profession as an architect and in granite mining used in the construction of federal buildings in Washington, DC. He did serve four governors of Maryland as a Brigadier General and Chief of Artillery of the state militia, in one instance putting down the great Baltimore & Ohio railroad riots with the assistance of some of his old Confederate comrades from his unit including Colonel Thomas Rhett. He also authored Mounted Artillery Drill; Compiled According to the Latest Regulations from Standard Military Authority. He died at his home in Baltimore in 1903.



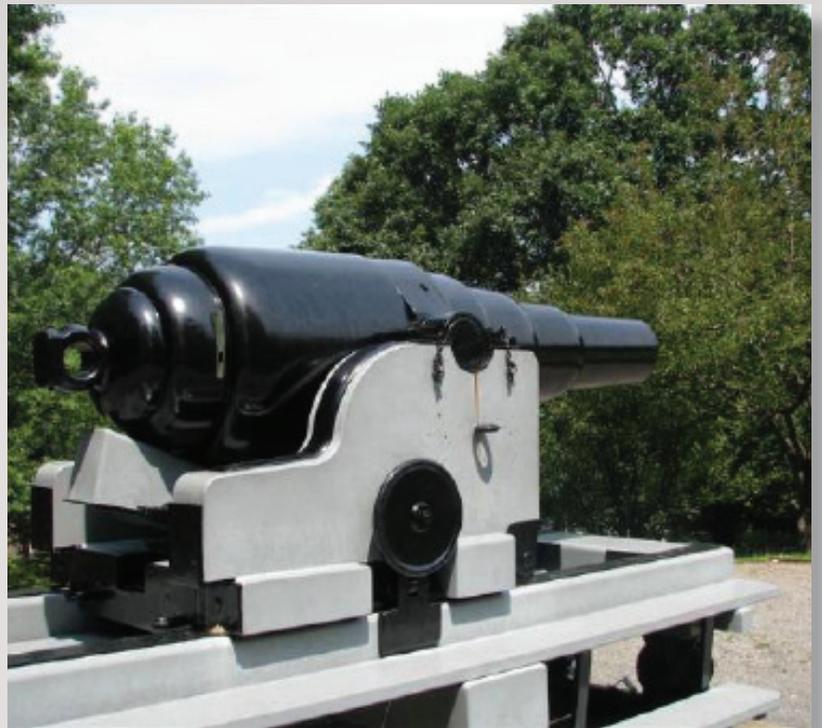


This very important Lieutenant Colonel's frock coat worn by Richard Snowden Andrews is in superb condition. Extremely well-tailored by the tailor to the Emperor of France, the fine quality French cadet gray wool coat is trimmed with the brilliant red artillery piping and has elaborate gold gilt flat braid on the sleeves identical to General Robert E. Lee's uniform, which are the only two uniforms known to exist with the type of French flat braid on each of the sleeves. Two gold gilt stars at each side of his collar are indicative of his lieutenant colonel rank. The double-breasted front has two rows of seven Confederate Artillery 'A' buttons each back-marked 'Superior Quality' and three identical smaller 'A' cuff buttons on each sleeve. This quality coat is fully lined with green silk with the upper lining being quilted. The maker's label in the collar is gold stamped on black silk and reads 'Regiment Des Guides/Paule/Tailleur De S.M. L'Empereur/Et De Sa Maison Militaire', a famous French tailor to Emperor Napoleon III. This is the same tailor that made uniforms for other prominent Confederate officers including Robert E. Lee.

This is a remarkable Confederate lieutenant colonel's coat worn by an important officer and diplomat who survived to tell his story to the world.

This coat is accompanied by his Confederate-made vest with Maryland state cuff buttons, made of Irish black wool, trimmed with red piping, and fancy flap pockets with Maryland state buttons. He would have worn this en route going through the blockade to Europe when he was first commissioned by President Davis into the CSA Secret Service. The coat is also accompanied by his State of Maryland, Brigadier General's uniform, dark blue with general's stars, also with Maryland state buttons and black velvet collar he wore when he put down the Baltimore Riots, along with his Coach Driver fancy blue wool coat with long tails and elaborate brass buttons and his red striped silk vest. This is a unique archive of a Confederate Secret Service uniform made in 1864 while on a secret mission to acquire the cannon that could have saved the Southern Confederacy. **\$125,000**

Provenance:  
 R. Snowden Andrews  
 Charles Lee Andrews  
 Maryland Historical Society  
 Sotheby Park Bernet's sale of Fine Americana, June 20-23, 1979, featuring property from the Maryland Historical Society - Lot 108





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