

Ferrara Sword

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE NEWARK MUSEUM

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This is a cavalry sword, used by a soldier who fought on horseback. It has a 'basket hilt' to protect the hand of the person who carried it into battle. The words 'Andrea Ferrara' are engraved on the blade.

Andrea Ferrara was a famous, master sword-maker. We know very little about him, but he may have trained in Italy and then travelled to Scotland. Lots of the best Scottish sword blades have this name on them. These blades are sharp and very flexible, and there were rumours that Mr Ferrara wore a hat with a sword blade curled up inside it!

The blades of these swords were very strong, even though they could bend. They rarely broke, even when used to slash at all angles in heavy fighting. No one knows how they were made to be so strong, but some people think they were made of layers of iron and steel. Like many swords, they had a groove down the centre, called a 'fuller'. This made the sword as light as possible without losing any strength.

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