

The Story of
RED EYE

*The Miracle Horse
of Gettysburg*

by
Robert J. Trout

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Summary: The Story of Red Eye: The Miracle Horse of Gettysburg tells the fictional life story of the only horse believed to have survived Pickett's Charge during the Civil War at the Battle of Gettysburg.

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ABOUT RED EYE

History is the study of people, places, and events from the past, but as has already been noted, this book is historical fiction. That means it has some things in it that are historical – some real people, some real places, some real events – but most of it is fiction.

Red Eye really existed. He is not fictional. However, we know very little about him. We know that he was a black thoroughbred horse, valued at \$1,400.00; that he was owned by Brigadier General Richard Brooke Garnett; that General Garnett rode Red Eye during Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg; and that General Garnett was killed near the Federal line along the stone wall. According to one account, Red Eye last was seen running back toward the Confederate lines with a gash in his right shoulder. After that, nothing more is known about him. He disappears from the pages of history.

Historians know that very few horses took part in Pickett's Charge and of those, only Red Eye is believed to have survived. That makes him the "miracle horse" of Gettysburg. Of course, this causes us to wonder what might have happened to Red Eye afterward. Did he survive his wound? Who took care of him? The questions go on and on. Also, since nothing is

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known of his life before the war, one can be created for him from the time he was foaled until he reached Gettysburg.

This book attempts to “fill in the blanks” of Red Eye’s life. It is fiction within a historical setting. Certain rules cannot be broken when telling this story. It has to fit into the historical framework of the Civil War. Hopefully, I have managed to do that. If I have, then Red Eye’s story will be believable. If I haven’t, then it won’t. Only you, the reader, will be able to judge.

Robert J. Trout

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A teacher and prominent historian for over forty years, Robert J. Trout has dedicated his life to illuminating the history of the Civil War. He is considered one of the leading experts on Southern cavalry. For fourteen years he portrayed Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart in a living history group, which led to the publication of his first book *They Followed the Plume: The Story of J. E. B. Stuart and His Staff*. He has authored seven other books, including the definitive work on Stuart's Horse Artillery, entitled *Gallop Thunder: The Stuart Horse Artillery Battalion*. *The Story of Red Eye: The Miracle Horse of Gettysburg* is his second work of fiction.