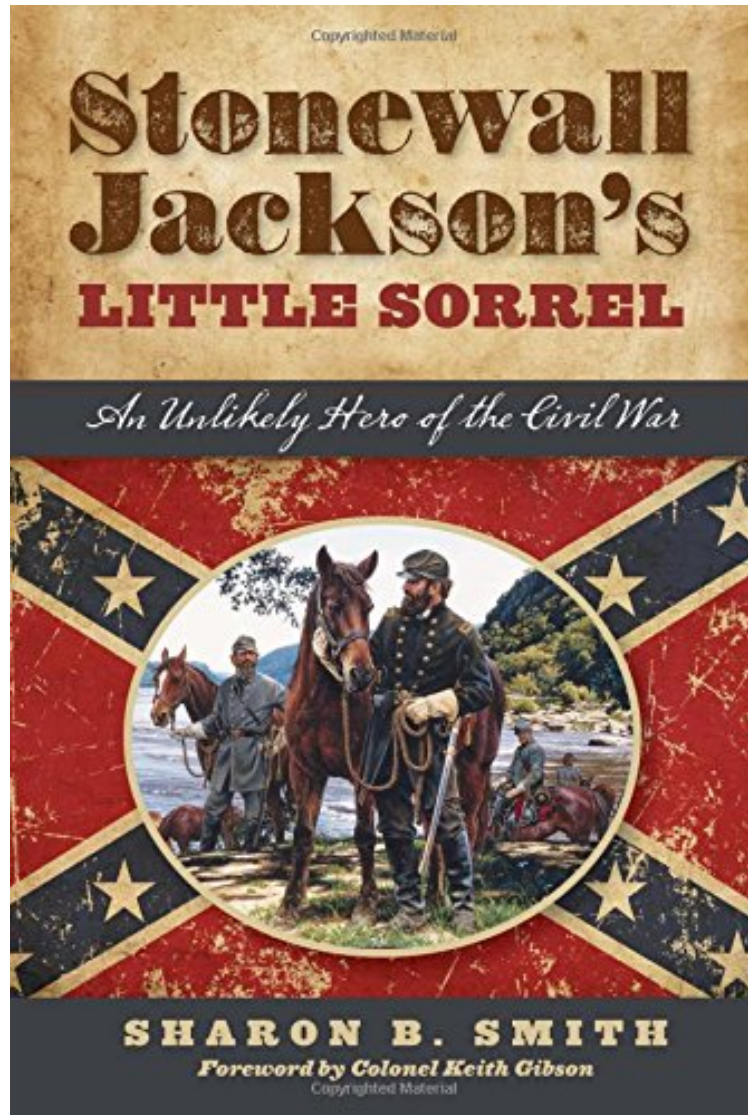


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Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel: An Unlikely Hero of the Civil War

Sharon B. Smith

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Sharon B. Smith : Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel: An Unlikely Hero of the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel: An Unlikely Hero of the Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. General and horse: a mutual understandingBy PapiOutstanding volume with vast insight into the amount of care required to maintain a mount in sustained warfare. The understanding

of the mutual needs of the General and his mount is presented clearly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Story of a great heroBy Kay FisherI ordered this book for my brother who was quite delighted! Great story about a great horse.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Horse and His ManBy Amanda WarrenThis book delves deeply into the story of Little Sorrel and his celebrated rider, but it also speaks for all of the horses that served faithfully--and suffered mightily--during the Civil War. May we not forget these noble animals, especially as voices clamor to remove monuments, many conspicuously featuring a warrior's mount. Before destroying them, let us reflect that never again will we ever erect equestrian statues. Once gone, they will be gone forever.As to Jackson, the author does an excellent service of setting the record straight on all things equine. The oft-repeated depiction of Jackson's deplorable riding posture and manner is so expertly debunked, that the reader is left feeling much like Jackson's subordinate Richard Ewell, who first pronounced his commander "crazy as a March hare," then retracted it upon discovering the method in Jackson's madness! True, Jackson did not ride like others of his era, but we learn that his technique was anything but inept and in fact evolved from his boyhood days at Jackson's Mill and his wartime service in Mexico. Another myth shattered: Little Sorrel did not march in Jackson's funeral procession. The reader will appreciate many more instances of clarifying the record, thanks to the author's meticulous and heartfelt research.The author provides a fascinating theory of Little Sorrel's ancestry, along with eerie coincidences linking his origin with officers who appear from time to time in his Civil War story, particularly at the capture of Harper's Ferry and his gracious return to Jackson's widow after capture during Stoneman's North Carolina raid in April 1865. From this study, we gain a renewed appreciation of Little Sorrel's superlative qualities, including his unique pacing, remarkable endurance, and longevity. During his postwar days, Little Sorrel came to symbolize the scrappiness of the Southern soldier, and would prance animatedly at artillery salutes and martial music, especially "Dixie."This book weaves a wonderful tale of a remarkable animal and his contribution to the Jackson legend. Highly recommended!

During the Civil War and throughout the rest of the nineteenth century there was no star that shone brighter than that of a small red horse who was known as Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel. Robert E. Lee's Traveller eventually became more familiar but he was mostly famous for his looks. Not so with the little sorrel. Early in the war he became known as a horse of great personality and charm, an eccentric animal with an intriguing background. Like Traveller, his enduring fame was due initially to the prominence of his owner and the uncanny similarities between the two of them. The little red horse long survived Jackson and developed a following of his own. In fact, he lived longer than almost all horses who survived the Civil War as well as many thousands of human veterans. His death in 1886 drew attention worthy of a deceased general, his mounted remains have been admired by hundreds of thousands of people since 1887, and the final burial of his bones (after a cross-country, multi-century odyssey) in 1997 was the occasion for an event that could only be described as a funeral, and a well-attended one at that. Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel is the story of that horse.

About the AuthorSharon B. Smith was a reporter, interviewer, and anchor of televised horse sports on ESPN, NBC, and Sportschannel Los Angeles during the 1980s and 1990s. Her broadcasts included harness racing's most prestigious event, the Hambletonian, as well as Kentucky Derby Day, Preakness Day, the Breeders' Cup, harness racing's Breeders' Crown, the Arlington Million, the Santa Anita Derby, and dozens more. She wrote, produced, and anchored ESPN's "Down the Stretch," a weekly half hour racing news program, which won an Eclipse Award, the top honor in the racing industry. She is the author of seven books including, *The Best There Ever Was: Dan Patch and the Dawn of the American Century* (Skyhorse 2012), *Connecticut's Civil War* (Featherfield 2009), *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Betting on Horses* (Alpha/Simon and Schuster 1998), *The Pocket Guide to Betting on Horses* (Alpha/Simon and Schuster 1999), *The Performance Mare* (Howell Book House/Macmillan 1993), *The Affordable Horse* (Howell Book House/Macmillan 1994), and *Retraining* (Howell Book House/Macmillan 1998). She has had dozens of articles published in magazines, including *Hoofbeats*, the official publication of the harness racing industry. She was also published in the *Quarter Horse Journal*, *Morgan Horse*, *Equus*, *Quarter Racing Journal*, and more. She was a contributing editor of *Horse Illustrated* for a number of years. Her websites are www.sharonbsmith.com, www.danpatchbook.com, and www.ctcivilwar.com.