



GENERAL STUART'S MOUNTS

by Robert J. Trout

Over the course of a year, the Trust receives many inquiries from the public regarding General Stuart. Many of the inquiries originate from school children who want to know the names and history of the horses the General rode during his life. Following is a list of the names and the information we know about the horse that he owned and rode. Perhaps this list could be clipped out and saved to some advantage.

Virginia

A bay mare from Maryland. Stuart rode this horse throughout the Gettysburg Campaign - at times up to 50 hours at a stretch. It was on this horse that Stuart made his famous jump of a ditch at Hanover to escape capture. She died of glanders during the winter at the camp near Orange Courthouse.

Skylark

A stallion. He was given to Stuart by the son of Col. Josiah W. Ware, Charles Alexander Ware, while Stuart was at Harpers Ferry in mid-1861. The horse was lost during the Chambersburg Raid by Stuart's servant Bob. Col. Ware imported five champion stallions, one of which was named "Skylark." The horse given Stuart was named after his grandsire because they looked so much alike.

My Maryland

A bay called "Maryland" for short. This horse was given to Stuart by his Maryland troops. One source states that it was a gift of a patriotic citizen of Maryland. It was the only mount gentle enough for Flora to ride.

Lily (Lilly) of the Valley

A black thoroughbred mare. She was a gift from Major James Thomas Watt Hairston, one of Stuart's relatives who served on his staff, who reputedly paid \$800 in gold for the horse. She was named Lily/Lilly after Miss Lilly Dandridge of the Bower. It was sold to Lt. Theodore S. Garnett, ADC, during the winter of 1863-64 in a camp near Orange CH for \$1,500 because the horse was too light for Stuart.

Lady Margrave

A mare. Stuart had this horse by November 24, 1861, as he mentions her in a letter to Flora on that date. This was the other horse that Stuart lost during the Chambersburg Raid.

Chancellor

A bay. Chancellor was mortally wounded in action during the battle of Chancellorsville and died at the home of Alexander H. H. Stuart (J.E.B.'s cousin) in November or early December 1864. This horse was shot early in the fighting and was not the horse that Stuart was riding when he jumped over the breast works at Hazel Grove. That was a borrowed horse, the name of which has been lost to history.

Highfly

(Highflyer) A bay. This horse is reputed by at least one write to have been Stuart's favorite mount. Stuart supposedly jumped this horse over the back fence of the house in Verdierville on August 18, 1862 to escape the Yanks. Highfly was shot at Jack's Shop on September 22, 1863, according to a letter by Stuart in October, but the horse's ultimate fate is unknown. Note: In a letter to Flora dated September 11, 1863, Stuart calls the horse "Highflyer" and this may have been its full name, later condensed to "Highfly" as "My Maryland" was condensed to "Maryland." In this letter Stuart also states that Highflyer was a new horse. As a result, if Highfly and Highflyer are the same animal, then Stuart could not have been riding this horse at Verdierville in August of 1862.

Mazeppa

A gray. Mrs. Stuart did not like this horse, so Stuart gave it to Major Norman R. Fitzhugh of his staff. The horse is mentioned in a letter to Flora dated October 26, 1862.

George

One of Stuart's first horses during the war, it was a gift from Peter W. Hairston, the Volunteer Aide-de-Camp. Stuart kept the horse for about six months, then feeling it could not stand the strain of service, sold it.

General

An iron gray. This horse was sold to Stuart by Sgt. Benjamin F. Weller of the 1st Virginia Cavalry and was a courier at cavalry headquarters during the winter of 1863-64 after the deaths of Stuart's other mounts. Stuart was riding this horse when he received his fatal wound at Yellow Tavern. He gave the horse to Major A. R. Venable.

Unknown Horse

Theodore Garnett recorded in his memoirs that Stuart was given a young horse, which Stuart called his "pony," by a man from Louisa County. With this horse and "General" he began the campaign of 1864. That Stuart had a second horse on his ride to Yellow Tavern is confirmed in a memoir written by Cyrus McCormick, who acted as a courier for Stuart on May 11. McCormick stated that when Stuart first arrived at Yellow Tavern he was riding a bay; this would be the horse that was given to H. B. McClellan.

In a letter that Stuart wrote to Flora on December 18, 1863, he mentions having four horses shot from under him, of which Chancellor was the best. One of the others would be Highfly (Highflyer). The names of the other two are, unfortunately, not given. In a letter dated July 13, 1863, he states he had a horse shot from under him on July 10, but does not name it - but, in an August 26, 1863 letter he states it was a captured horse.

