



DOCTOR SYNTAX

HOTEL

and so the story goes...

Welcome to the Doctor Syntax Hotel, named after a famous British thoroughbred racehorse born in 1811. Doctor Syntax was a bay or brown horse standing 15 hands high. Named after a character created by the British writer [William Combe](#) in a series of satirical poems, he was bred by William Knapton at Huntington in Yorkshire, and owned during his racing career by Ralf Riddell. He was not a physically impressive individual, but had an alert, intelligent expression. With a temperament that did not respond to the whip or spur, his jockeys had to coax him into producing his best efforts.

Trained in Yorkshire, and racing exclusively in the North of England, Doctor Syntax was noted for his consistency and durability, winning at least thirty-six races from 1814-1823. He won the Preston Gold Cup on a record seven consecutive occasions, as well as five Lancaster Gold Cups and five Richmond Gold Cups. Retired to stud in 1824, he proved a successful sire of winners, despite limited opportunities.

The veteran's last race was the Richmond Gold Cup on 30 September 1821. He started favourite and won from four opponents but fell after passing the post. He escaped without serious injury, though the incident reportedly created great anxiety among the racing public who were concerned about the welfare of "The Good Old Doctor".

Sadly, Doctor Syntax was euthanized at Newmarket on the 28th August 1838.



Painting by John Frederick Herring, Sr.