

# Charlie & Johnny Reb

## Ricky Skaggs

Looking back at a page in time  
The year was 1859  
We ran deep in the souther pines  
'Neath that Alabama Clay  
Charlie and Johnny were brothers in blood  
Nothing stronger than family love  
The cotton was short and times were tough  
So they went through separate ways  
Charlie moved north to work in corn  
But Johnny he stayed south  
And after being apart a couple of years  
Civil war broke out  
Well both of the brothers they were volunteers  
After fighting each other for all those years  
But if it came to fighting they had no fears  
They had seen their share of fists  
Then they got the news how it would be  
The brothers had agreed to disagree  
Is like taking an axe to the family tree  
Never dreamed it would come to this  
Charlie put on the union blue  
And Johnny the rebel grey  
But each one pray his brother'd live  
The fight another day  
As dawn was breaking on the battle field  
Through the canon smoke and the foggy hills  
A shot rang out from the cold blue steele  
Charlie held in his shakin' hands  
And after the fight while countin' the cost  
There was more that day than a battle lost  
When under a tree line in the moss  
Charlie came upon a young man  
And as he wiped the mud and blood away  
It took more than his breath  
'Cause the soldier in his sights that day  
Was his brother Johnny Reb

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