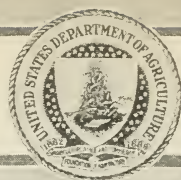


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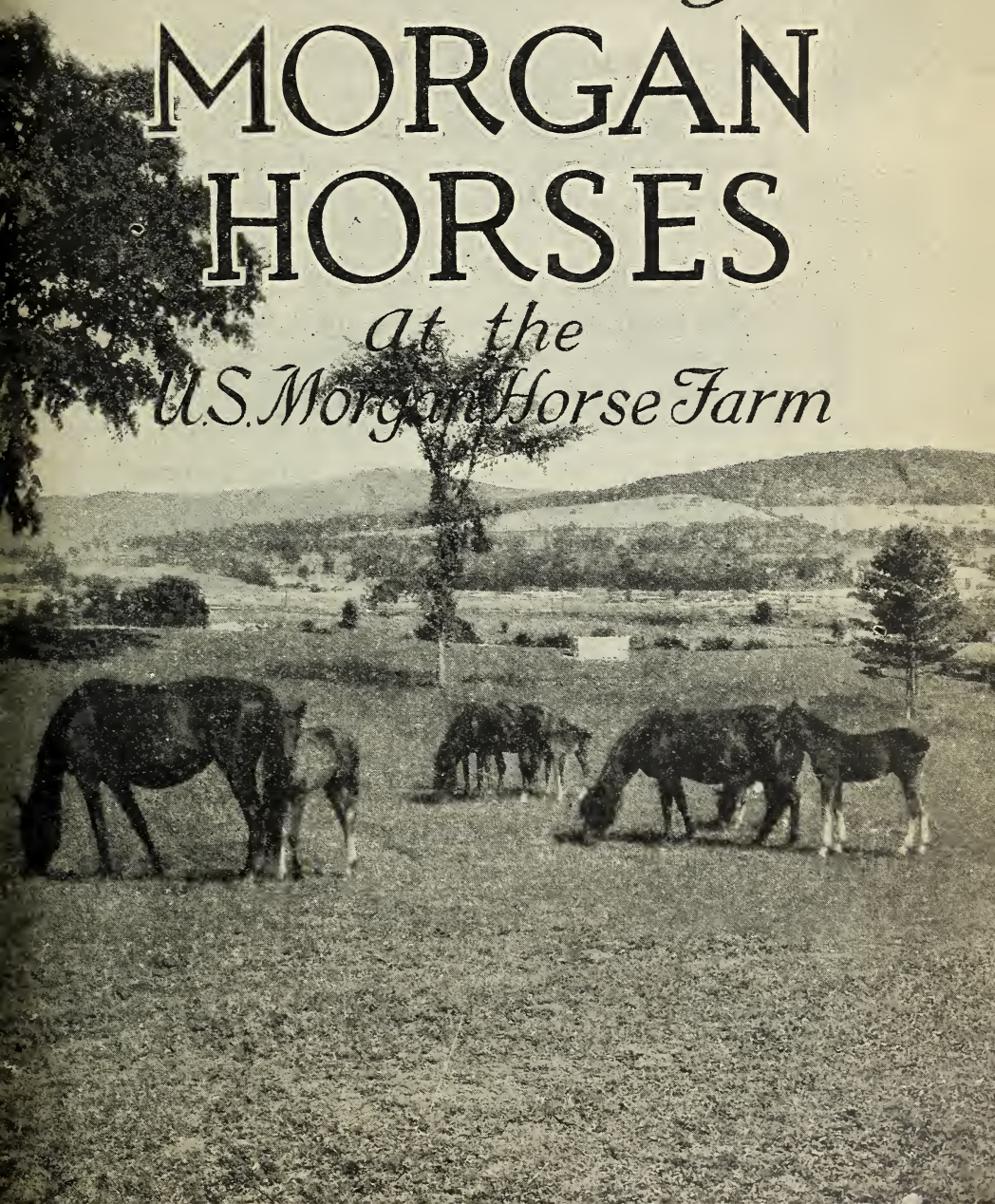


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Breeding
**MORGAN
HORSES**

*at the
U.S. Morgan Horse Farm*



MORGAN HORSES are generally bay, chestnut, brown, or black, and extensive white marks are not common. A little under 15 hands is the average height, with the average weight about 1,000 pounds; but, as in all breeds, considerable variation is to be found, some very attractive individuals weighing somewhat more than 1,200 pounds.

This breed has always been noted for smooth lines, good style, easy keeping qualities, endurance, and docility—the last, however, not being obtained at a sacrifice of ambition or courage.

Small ears, full eyes with great width between them, crested necks, well-sprung ribs with the last one close to the point of the hip, deep barrels, fairly level croups, full quarters, and enduring legs and feet are the qualities that have made Morgan horses famous for a century.

BREEDING MORGAN HORSES AT THE U. S. MORGAN HORSE FARM

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Animal Industry*

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FOUNDATION OF THE BREED

THE Morgan breed of horses was established by a single stallion whose potency was so great that he left many descendants that looked and acted like him even after his blood had been much diluted. This stallion was Justin Morgan. During his early life he was the property of a school-teacher by that name, who lived near Randolph, Vt. Justin Morgan was foaled about 1793 and died in 1821.

According to the meager records available, Justin Morgan was a small but powerful and quick horse, standing considerably under 15 hands. It is said that he could outwalk, outrun, or outpull any of the horses in his section of the country. Very little is definitely known of his ancestry. One investigator collected evidence showing that he was sired by the thoroughbred stallion True Briton, also called Beautiful Bay, a horse that traced in direct male line to the Byerly Turk, and had many other traces of Arabian blood. Another investigator contends that he was sired by a Dutch horse, which in turn came from Arabian stock. Which of these theories is correct is not important to-day. The presence of only five lumbar vertebræ in many Morgans (discussed later) supports both theories of Arabian foundation.

EARLY PROGENITORS

Practically all the present-day Morgans trace to three of Justin Morgan's sons, namely, Sherman Morgan 5,¹ Woodbury Morgan 7, and Bulrush Morgan 6. Sherman Morgan became especially known through his son, Black Hawk 20. The Billy Root 9 strain, as well as other good families, also comes from him. Woodbury Morgan is best known through Green Mountain Morgan 42, or, as he was called, Hale's Green Mountain Morgan. This stallion won the highest premiums at the State fairs of Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky in

¹ Numbers appearing after names of horses are their registration numbers in the American Morgan Horse Register.

1853, and the first premium at the Vermont State Fair in 1854, as well as many other premiums. The Bulrush blood is probably best known to-day through the maternal line of Peters Morgan 405, in which there are two traces. Ethan Allen 2d 406, the son of Peters Morgan, is discussed later.

DIFFUSION OF MORGAN BLOOD

For many years the breed flourished. Morgans were used practically to the exclusion of other horses in the New England States until a craze for trotting speed struck the country, and much of the best Morgan stock was then mixed with trotting blood. This resulted, in many cases, in the loss of the beautiful form and quality

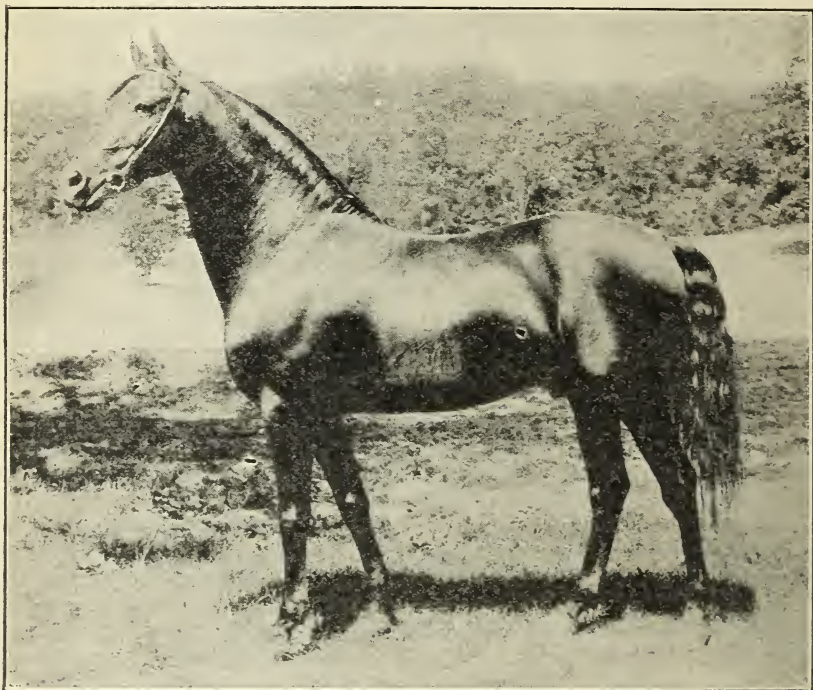


FIG. 1.—General Gates 666. Morgan stallion for many years at head of stud at U. S. Morgan Horse Farm

of the Morgan and did not give the breed the reputation for producing trotting speed that was due it. Prominent writers have contended that the Morgan added stamina to certain trotting-horse families, for which the Morgan breed deserves considerable credit.

In the early days many high-class Morgan stallions and mares were purchased at attractive prices and taken to other sections of the country, and, while a few scattering studs were bred pure in their new locations, many of them were absorbed by the Standardbred and the Kentucky saddle-horse breeds. The identity of others was lost, not because of a lack of ability to improve the stock in their new surroundings, but because definite breeding records were not kept, and repeated transfers of ownership occurred.

MOVEMENT TO CONSERVE BEST BLOOD

This diluting and scattering of valuable Morgan blood went on for many years with little serious thought given to it. At least no definite collective action was taken until a comparatively few years ago, when several public-spirited men, who knew personally of the many meritorious qualities of the Morgan horse, made an effort to preserve the best specimens of the breed. In 1906 the United States Department of Agriculture and the Vermont State Experiment Station were authorized to assemble a small band of Morgan mares at the station farm near Burlington, which formed the beginning of a permanent project to conserve and perpetuate the best of the breed.



FIG. 2.—Troubadour of Willowmoor 6459. Sire of many young Morgans at U. S. Morgan Horse Farm (Photograph taken at end of breeding season)

ORIGIN OF U. S. MORGAN HORSE FARM

The late Col. Joseph Battell, of Middlebury, Vt., had long been a great admirer of Morgan horses and had raised many high-class horses of this breed at his Breadloaf Stock Farms. Colonel Battell was also the founder of the American Morgan Register, a work which took up the authentic recording of Morgan blood lines at a point where D. C. Linsley, also of Middlebury, left off. The movement to keep together the best Morgan blood appealed to Colonel Battell, and he gave to the United States Department of Agriculture a farm of 400 acres 2 miles north of Middlebury, in the town of Weybridge. The gift put the work on a much more substantial foundation and gave greater opportunity in the way of pasture and equipment for the care of the breeding stock.

The stock from the Burlington station, as well as new purchases, were taken to the Battell farm in Weybridge in 1907, and the breeding work has since been conducted there. The farm, at the donor's request, was officially named "The U. S. Morgan Horse Farm." In 1908 Colonel Battell added by deed to the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm another tract of land, known as the Cotton Farm, which adjoined the original tract and contained about 35 acres, together with a house and two barns. In 1917 about 550 acres adjoining the original tract were purchased, so that the farm now consists of approximately 1,000 acres.

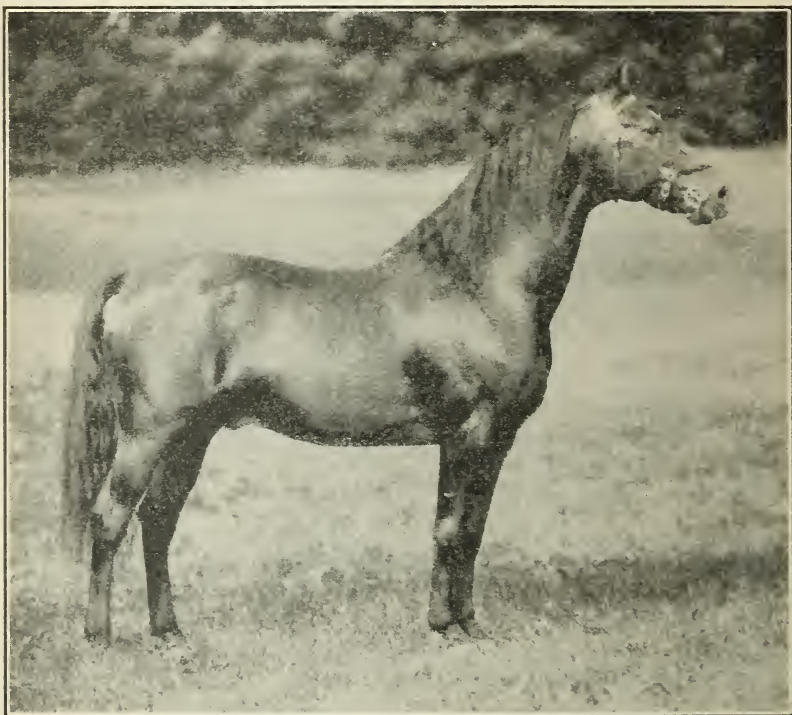


FIG. 3.—Bennington 5693. Morgan stallion bred at the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm. Sire of fine saddle types

BREEDING STOCK PURCHASED

Those in charge of the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm have spared no effort in tracing the descendants of the best of the Morgans sold in the early days and sent from New England to other sections of the country. They have obtained stock in Kentucky, Kansas, Texas, New York, Washington, Iowa, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Illinois, as well as in the native State of Vermont. Private stallions have also been liberally patronized, the whole effort being to get into the Government stud the very best Morgan blood in the country.

NOTED ANCESTORS OF U. S. MORGAN HORSES

Short statements follow of a few of the noted Morgan stallions from which the breeding stock on the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm descended:

Black Hawk 20 was renowned for his speed and great beauty. He often participated in trotting events and history has it that he never was beaten. He was used in the stud mainly after coming to Bridport, Vt. J. H. Sanders, in the *Breeders' Gazette* of April, 1891, said:

We run up against this Black Hawk family in so many unexpected places in combination with other strains * * * that we are compelled to recognize him as a stallion of marked prepotency as a sire and one in whose descendants the capacity and disposition to trot fast exist to a remarkable degree.

Many sons of Black Hawk sold at high prices. Wherever they went they were appreciated, and from them sprang families of sur-

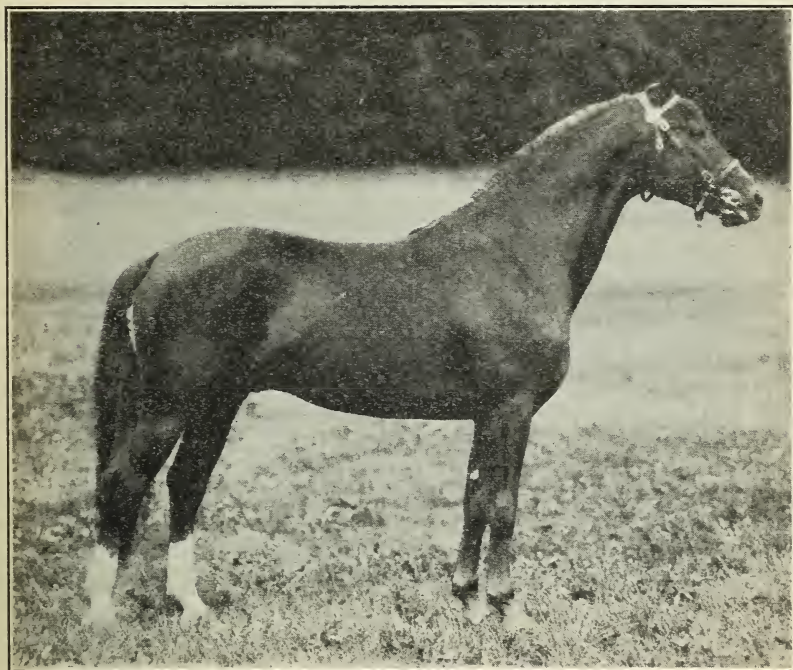


FIG. 4.—Mansfield 7255. Sire, Bennington 5693; dam, Artemisia 02731

passing excellence and the highest adaptability for the general purposes of business and social life. Black Hawk was the grandsire of Indian Chief 538, a noted show horse and sire of show horses, prominent among which was Lady de Jarnette. Indian Chief blood is conspicuous in many saddle-horse pedigrees.

Ethan Allen 50, a son of Black Hawk, was a bay horse with white marks, with a harness record of 2.25½ and with running mate to pole of 2.15. The following statement by Mr. Wallace, in *Wallace's Monthly*, is quoted from Volume I of "The Morgan Horse and Register," by Battell:

Of all the horses that have been favorites with the American people, no one has ever approximated the popularity of Ethan Allen. His remarkable beauty, his wonderful speed, his perfect action, and above all his kind and gentle disposition made him the admiration and pet of everybody.

He has left a large number of descendants that had extreme speed, but he is best remembered to-day in Morgan pedigrees as the sire of Daniel Lambert 62 and as the sire of the dam of Ethan Allen 2d 406.

Daniel Lambert 62, probably the greatest progenitor of speed in the Morgan breed, was foaled in 1858 and died in 1889 at Weybridge, Vt., on what is now the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm. According to Col. Joseph Battell, who owned Daniel Lambert at the time of his death:

His race record was 2.42, made when 3 years old, his only season on the turf, and was at that time the stallion record for that age. He has to his credit 38 trotters and 1 pacer in the 2.30 list and is the sire of 36 sires of 122 trotters and 30 pacers, and is also the sire of dams of 107 performers, including some of the fastest, in the same list, to the close of the season of 1904.



Fig. 5.—Meredith 7230. Morgan stallion foaled in 1909 and bred by U. S. Morgan Horse Farm

Daniel Lambert was thus described by S. W. Parlin, Esq., of Boston:

No horse could be found that excelled him in beauty of form, ease and elasticity of action, elegance of style, and grandeur of pose, whether at rest or in motion. Few horses have ever lived that possessed greater power of stamping their offspring with the above characteristics and imparting the ability to perpetuate them through succeeding generations.

Denning Allen 74 was bred by Major Luxton, of Lexington, Ky., but was foaled the property of J. B. Bowman, of Lexington, and purchased by Colonel Battell, of Middlebury, Vt., on April 1, 1893. Mr. Bowman stated in his sale catalogue of 1878:

His dam, Rena, is a premium animal and has trotted inside of 3 minutes. Denning Allen is a horse of great promise, can trot in 2.45 without any special training, and has sired many splendid colts.

Denning Allen was awarded first premium for Morgan stallions 5 years old and over, and sweepstakes for Morgan stallions of any age,