

# Dundee 6479

The Research of Marsha Valance, 2016



**Dundee 6479** (Meteor 2<sup>nd</sup> 4459 x Carrie Gates 0390)

Chestnut, star, left hind coronet white

**Foaled:** 1910, Middlebury, Vermont

**Bred by:** U.S. Morgan Horse Farm; Retained as a breeding stallion; Gelded 1921; Sold to Mr. Smith of Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut, for use in harness and under saddle; 100% Old Government breeding; Nine crosses to Black Hawk; 16 crosses to Sherman Morgan; 38 crosses to Justin Morgan

**Eight Generation Coefficient of Inbreeding:**

2.66044139862061 percent

**Recorded progeny:** two colts, three fillies.

**LEFT:** Among the first generation bred by the government and ranked sixth among the eight early government herdsires, Dundee had a lasting impact on the cavalry breeding program.

**D**undee was from the first generation bred by the government farm. His sire, Meteor 2<sup>nd</sup>, was a Blackhawk-line proven sire of trotters purchased by the Department of Agriculture in the Midwest; his dam, Carrie Gates, also of proven trotting blood, was by General Gates out of the Daniel Lambert daughter Caroline. Dundee was ranked sixth among the eight early government herdsires who impacted the cavalry breeding program—after Monterey, Mansfield, Bennington, Troubadour Of Willowmoor, Red Oak, and General Gates. Of the 74 foals Dundee sired at the Morgan Horse Farm, 50 were culled and sold unregistered; 16 were stillborn; and eight were retained for further consideration. Of those eight, only three were registered—Hippona, Ivan [gelded], and Klyona. His other two recorded foals, Beauty and Dandee, were sired for outside breeders. Only Klyona bred on.

It is hard to say why those in authority at the government farm decided to geld Dundee—possibly because of his high rate of stillbirths—four times that of Bennington, the next highest stallion on the herdsire list. His cull ranking [50] was less than Red Oak's [60], but one-third higher than Scotland [34], whose list ranking was seven, but was left entire. After a century, it's hard to say. Even his remarkable daughter Klyona 3313 was culled as a two-year-old because of her small size, but was reacquired later. What can be said is that from his photos, Dundee himself possessed a "Hugely laid back shoulder, short back, long deep quarters, short strong, flat legs, short cannons [and] stood over a lot of ground. It is a shame he was not appreciated" (Joanne Curtis). Klyona (out of the General Gates daughter Calve) proved one of the outstanding broodmares at the government farm. Dam of nine colts and six fillies, Klyona foaled Abbott, Tiffany, Upwey Ben Scott and Upwey Mont-Ona—four stallions that made significant contributions to the breed.

Abbott and Upwey Ben Scott were both used by the army remount program, as well as siring registered foals in the Northwest and for Owen Moon, respectively. Tiffany was traded to J. C. Brunk of Illinois, where his foals included Fanita (dam of Senator Graham), Night Tide (sire of Barberry), and Tarron (sire of Congo). Upwey Mont-Ona was behind the Earlham College breeding program.

The descendents of both Dundee and his half brother Forester (who also bred on through a single daughter, Juno) were magnificent baroque Morgans, with beautiful arched necksets, clean throatlatches, long croups, and excellent legs. Their sire, Meteor 2<sup>nd</sup> (a.k.a. Meteor Morgan) 4459 was one of the first stallions purchased for the government farm. Bred by D. M. McNair of Cherry Valley, Illinois, Meteor 2<sup>nd</sup> was by Meteor 3840 out of Lady Alice (Winnebago Chief 263 x James Campbell's brown mare by Brown's Senator by Cassius M. Clay 164). The Meteor line, described by the Morgan Horse Register as possessing "great style and action" was highly valued by Texan Richard Sellman, who incorporated it into his breeding program. The line was slow to mature, however, which may have led to their undervaluation by farm staff. Or Mr. Smith of Connecticut may have wanted a gelding, and requested Dundee's castration be done upon purchase. Whatever the reasoning, it was poor decision-making for the Morgan genepool as a whole, when the quality of their offspring's produce is taken into account. ■

#### FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

- Longmaid, Dale. "Government Notebook: A Cavalry Horse, the Mares and Foals, Part X", *The Morgan Horse*, June 1985, p 73-76.
- MacDonell, Michael. "It was the Best of Times, It was the Worst of Times: the Government and the Morgan Horse," *Classic Morgan Admirers*, Vol. 3, Nos. 1-3, 1991.