



Golddust 70

The Research of Marsha Valance, 2013



Foaled May 1, 1855

Registered Morgan progeny: 43 colts, 2 fillies

Left to right: Golddust 70, Red Correll 8299, Winterset 7403

Golddust is very much a mystery horse—even his golden color has come down in history as bay, chestnut, and/or palomino.

Mabel Owen, in her book *Names In Morgan Pedigrees*, described Golddust thusly: “one of the very greatest sires of all time”. She went on to say that although he was “born under a dark star during Kentucky’s Civil War period, [he] surmounted every handicap to rise to a meteoric peak as sire of a still well-remembered family.” By Vermont Morgan 69 (by Barnard Morgan 68 by Gifford Morgan 30 by Woodbury Morgan 7 by Justin Morgan), he carried three close crosses to Justin Morgan and better than 13 percent of his blood. Said to be out of a mare sired by the imported Arabian stallion Zilcaadi, Golddust, according to Ms. Owen, “was always considered the most beautiful horse ever foaled in Kentucky. He was a clear, bright, golden chestnut, without a dark hair anywhere on his body. He had such a fine coat that he shone like burnished metal, even in winter. Fully grown, he was just barely under 16 hands and weighed 1,275 pounds, yet he was such a beautifully made horse that he never gave the appearance of being big or heavy. Hitched to a light cart, he unfailingly drew applause wherever he went, for his trot was variously described as ‘poetry in motion’ and ‘a fluid perfection of gait.’”

Golddust’s offspring wound up in the Morgan Register, the Standardbred Registry, and the American Saddlebred Registry. To quote Mabel Owen once again, “although he lived but 16 years, and got 302 foals in all, he sired two great trotters, Lucille

Golddust and Fleety Golddust, both having records within 2:30... In all he sired 38 winners of 131 races, was grandsire of 34 more, and great-grandsire of 13.”

In her article on the Golddust family in her book *My Morgan Horse Articles: A Compendium*, Ina Ish tells how the blood of Golddust comes to the present day primarily through one mare, Gold Floss 03150. To quote Ina, “Gold Floss was by Golddust Abdallah, a great-grandson of Golddust on his dam’s side, out of Flora by Goldsheen. Flora traces back to Golddust on both the top and bottom sides of her pedigree. The heavy Golddust concentration behind Gold Floss explains why she was able to pass on the extreme Golddust speed to her son Jack Sprat [who] had lots of daughters who bred on.” Two daughters were Poppit 04934, who when bred to the Romanesque son James RM 7946 produced Homerayr 8426; and Angelayr 05235, who bred to Homerayr produced Lucyayr 06343, dam of Luccia 07700, dam of Linn’s Black Beauty 09779, who carried 10 crosses to Golddust through the Ayr horses. Her descendents are found in many of today’s working Western Morgans.

A source of Golddust blood in many of today’s Morgans is Winterset 7403, a black stallion bred by T. P. Royce of Napierville, Illinois in 1922, whose sire’s dam is Nick Morgan, by Golden Forest to Golddust. Sire of 20 registered Morgans, Winterset’s blood comes down to us mainly through Red Correll 8299, who goes to Winterset twice on his sire’s side, but also through the Black Ayr, WAR and Waer breeding. ■