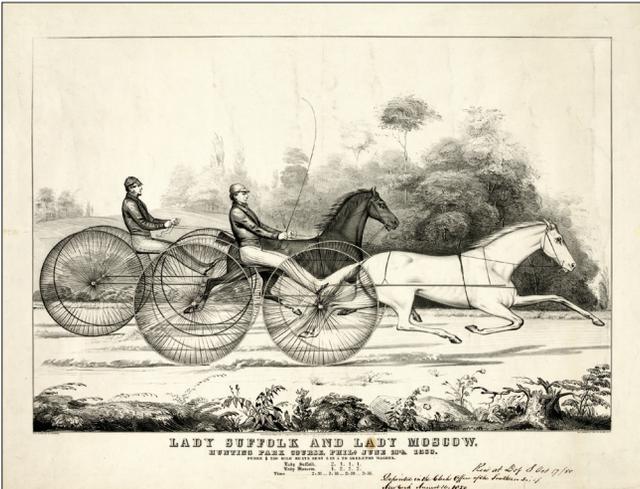


# Lady Suffolk

The Research of Marsha Valance, 2018



**ABOVE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):** Some of the many lithographs and paintings of Lady Suffolk: Lady Suffolk winning against Lady Moscow, 1850, by Currier & Ives (Library of Congress); Black Hawk and Lady Suffolk, both age 21, painted in 1854 when they were stabled together at Bridport, Vermont. Painting by Theodore Marsden; Lady Suffolk painting by B. C. Clark and engraved by Capewell and Kimmell; Lady Suffolk at the Centreville Course, Long Island, August 30, 1849.

**Lady Suffolk** (Engineer 2nd x General Floyd's Jenny [Don Quixote x Rainbow Mare]) • Gray, 15.2 hands, 950 lbs • **Bred by:** Richard Blaydenburg and/or Leonard W. Lawrence • **Foaled:** 1833, Smithtown, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York • **Died:** March 17, 1855, Bridport, Vermont • Three crosses each to Imported Messenger and True Briton; 21 crosses to the Godolphin Arabian, 8.2 percent of his blood • **Eight Generation Coefficient of Inbreeding:** 4.22592163085938 percent

Lady Suffolk may or may not have been a Morgan; her grandsire Engineer has been cited by different authorities as sired by Justin Morgan and/or Messenger. Her foals would have been Morgans. Retired from racing in 1853, she was purchased as a broodmare for Black Hawk 20. She trotted 2:26 1/2 (2:26 to saddle) for her record.

“She made her first appearance on the trotting turf in 1838, and for several years, owing to bad management, she could not be said to be successful; but gradually she rose to the highest point of fame and favoritism. She was on the turf nearly 16 years, trotting 161 races, winning 88 of them, and \$35,011. Beat Rossiter in 1851. She was bought by David Hill, of Vermont, to breed to his famous Black Hawk. She slipped a foal in 1854, and died, 1855, without produce.” (*Wallace’s American Stud-Book*, 1867, Vol. I, p. 979).

Lady Suffolk was a beautiful gray, with an Arab neck. Her skin was prepared and mounted by a taxidermist. After Black Hawk died, David Hill, Jr. had him mounted as well, and toured the New England fair circuit exhibiting them. Lady Suffolk’s stuffed body served as a display dummy in an off-Broadway harness store, Kauffman’s Saddlery, until the 1970s. (Breed historian Joanne Curtis remembers seeing her mannequin demonstrating a harness as a child.) Until her death in 1855 at Bridport, Vermont, Lady Suffolk was referred to as “Queen of the Turf.” Having been a sentimental choice of the populace, she was to become forever remembered in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century popular song “The Old Grey Mare.”

Lady Suffolk was the subject of many lithographs, as well as a painting by George Ford Morris. ■