

# Merry Knox 11334

The Research of Marsha Valance, 2017



**Merry Knox 11334** (Meade x April Showers) Chestnut, 15 hands • **Foaled:** March 25, 1954, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
**Bred by:** Merrylegs Farm • 50 percent Brunk, 50 percent old government breeding • 32 crosses to Ethan Allen 50; 27 crosses to Daniel Lambert 62; 16 crosses to Seely's American Star 75 • Eight Generation Coefficient of Inbreeding: 1.62601470947266 percent  
**Registered Morgan progeny:** 48

**M**erry Knox's story began with his breeder, AMHA Woman of the Year, breeder, author, and breed historian Mabel Owen of Merrylegs Farm. AMHA Man of the Year, trainer, and breeder Robert D. "Bob" Riley once described her: "she knew horses and bloodlines—a very sharp lady. She could say 'if I breed this to this, I'll get this'—and you could believe her."

Mabel Owen described Knox: "Merry Knox is a home-bred stallion who fits, with his great body depth, bone, and quality, our exacting requirements for a sire. He has true Morgan versatility—and can prove it—with a National Morgan Show model blue, numerous championships in open Morgan classes, and a competitive trail ride championship. He has excellent knee action without the benefit of 'show' shoeing and he moves in an absolutely straight line. Our requirements are exacting, but only when they are bred into a horse can he hope to pass them on to his get. Every foal we have raised by Knox has been a grand, straight mover, a credit to their breed." (Merrylegs Farm ad, *The Morgan Horse*, October 1958, p. 34).

A year later, she wrote, "When he looks back o'er the horses he has bred, almost every breeder is, either secretly or wide-openly, proudest of the good stallion he has contributed to his breed, for theirs is always the greatest opportunity to do that breed lasting good. Admittedly, I am proud of mine, especially of Knox because he has been, for many reasons, closest to my heart. He's just under 15 hands, but his heart-girth is 78 inches, and he has a full 9

inches of clean, dense, flat bone. His depth and substance call him Morgan, but his beautiful head and eye, his fineness and quality, and gay, open action call him 'my kind.' He is the only Morgan stallion with blues or tricolors gained in the model division at the National Morgan Show, open Morgan classes, and competitive trail riding. He is a pleasure to handle, ride, or drive. A child is perfectly safe on him or under his feet and for the biggest 'plus' of all, he is siring some of the finest young stock I have ever seen. Proud of him? He is and has given me the best of reasons to be." (Mabel Owen, Merrylegs Farm ad, *The Morgan Horse*, January-February 1959, p. 35).

"A horse of wonderful temperament and conformation. He moved with action on all four corners, not dragging his hind feet as many horses do in the show ring. Owned, handled, and shown his entire life by Mabel Owen, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. One time when I was visiting in Massachusetts, Mabel asked me to ride Knox Western. He had only been ridden English. He was very responsive and neck-reined as good as any Western trained horse I had ever ridden and was a very easy ride. Knox was 15 H. He sired many good foals. Dr. Hughes of North Liberty, Iowa, owns three of his get." (Bob Riley, *Hawkeye Morgan Horse Club Newsletter*).

Today Merry Knox's blood may be found in champion show horses and sport horses in Australia, Canada, Germany, and Great Britain, as well as the United States. ■