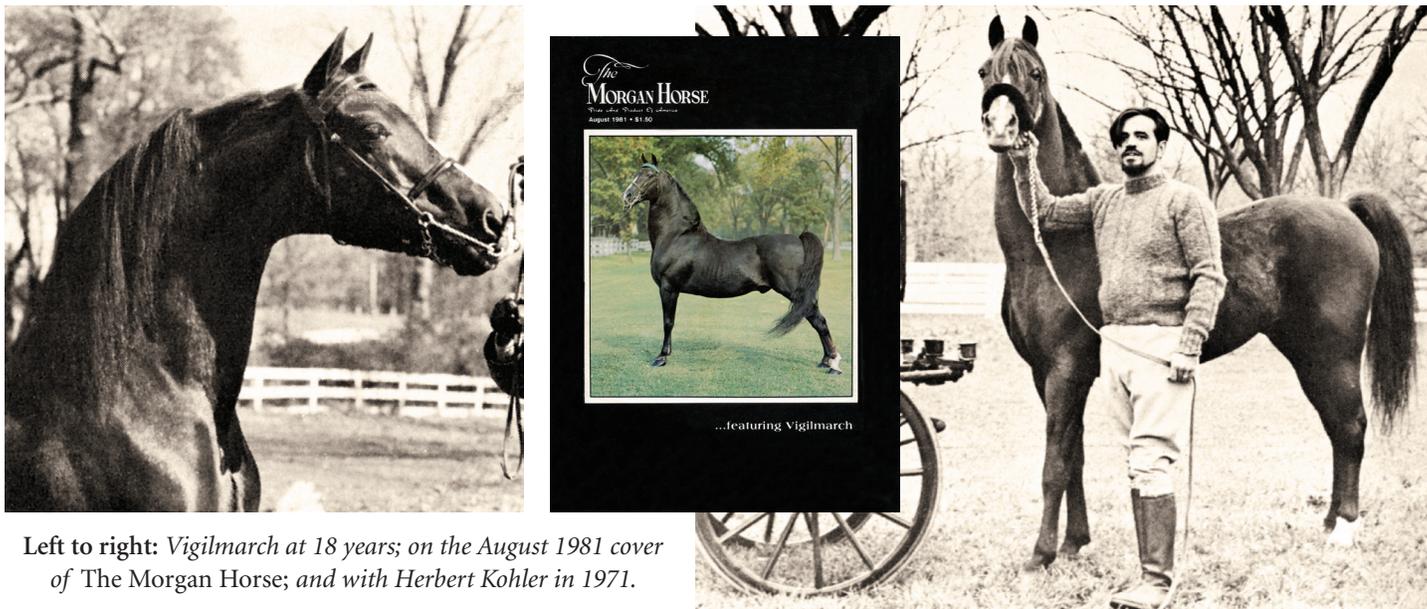




# Vigilmarch

The Research of Marsha Valance, 2013



Left to right: Vigilmarch at 18 years; on the August 1981 cover of *The Morgan Horse*; and with Herbert Kohler in 1971.

**Vigilmarch 12044** (Orland Vigildon 10095 x Mayphil 07192) • Dark chestnut, strip & snip, left hind coronet white (higher in back)

**Foaled:** May 24, 1957, Ipswich, Massachusetts • **Died:** December 30, 1980, Kohler, Wisconsin

**Breeder:** David L. & June Brockett Wright • **Owned by:** A. J. Andreoli; Lowell Fletcher; Herbert V. Kohler Jr.

**Registered Morgan progeny:** 35 colts, 46 fillies • **Eight Generation Coefficient of Inbreeding:** 6.43405914306641 percent

Vigilmarch was a product of the finest bloodlines—three quaters old government and one quater Lippitt. His sire was a full brother to Orland Leader; his dam, a Magellan daughter, was (according to Lisa Nyberg’s article in the February 1998 *The Morgan Horse*) “a fabulous producer...a truly excellent mover, with both speed and action, and with her sire’s long, impressive neck.” She went on to say of Vigilmarch, that he passed on “the characteristics he was known for: a great heart, beauty of body and soul, true athletic ability, strength and soundness. He was thus bred to be a performance horse and a sire of performance horses.”

Under the Wrights, Vigilmarch was 1959 Grand Champion Stallion at Eastern States and Mid-A, and 1959 National Champion Two-Year-Old Park Harness. Then he was purchased by the Andreolis of Reata Farm as their junior sire, to cross on Fleetwing daughters. At Reata’s 1965 dispersal, he was purchased by Lowell and Virginia Fletcher of Val’s Farm. During his five-year sojourn with the Fletchers, he sired such foals as the eight-time World Champion Gelding Val’s Terry. Lisa Nyberg described Terry: “He had the big eye and pretty dished face so frequently seen in the Vigilmarch line and, again, typical of the breeding, had a very balanced trot.”

It was at the Val’s Farm 1970 dispersal that Herbert V. Kohler (who had gone to the sale to purchase saddle horses for his children) bought the magnificent 13-year-old stallion that would cause Kohler Stables to become known as “The Vigilmarch Stud.” The stallion became a family project. On a 1971 visit, Renee Page recalled seeing “the Kohler girls sitting in his stall working on his feet.”

In her article in the March 1981 *The Morgan Horse*, Renee Page described Vigilmarch during his last year: “He exhibited a finesse... result[ing from] confidence, a vitality which time was powerless to extinguish and a soft nuzzle of admiration for the people who cared for him.”

It was in Wisconsin that Vigilmarch sired some of his most famous get: World Champion Pleasure Driving Horse HVK Cimarron, Grand National Three-Year-Old Park Saddle Champion HVK Fieldmarch, Reserve World Champion Park Harness Horse HVK Hotspur, World Champion Stallion HVK Viceroy. National Museum of the Morgan Horse Director Helen Herold, in a March 2013 *The Morgan Horse* article on Vigilmarch’s dam Mayphil, noted: “He produced outstanding show horses and exceptional breeding stock. His daughters and their descendants were, and are, sought after by top breeders across the U.S.” Bred to be a sire of performance horses, Vigilmarch fulfilled his destiny. ■