



~ THE SPORT HORSE ISSUE ~

## SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES

# The Statesman Line:

*The Statesman, Chief Of State,  
Statesmans Silhouette and Statesmans Signature*

*It had turned from a very hot July day to a big thunderstorm with lightning and hail, as two-year-old The Statesman drove us home from a picnic drive. As we drove home we came to a slab bridge over a deep gully and stream. The water was high and covered the bridge, and we could not see if the bridge was even still there. I gave "Mandy" his head and asked him if it was safe. He stopped and studied the situation and then trotted quickly over it, and the next day the bridge was gone. —Lynne Shpak*

**T**he Statesman horses are a great-minded group that helped to forge the way for Morgans to compete successfully in the open competition sport horse world. People noticed this and called them "The Statesman horses." Their conformation creates a long, low, floating trot and uphill, balanced, rhythmical, slow three-beat canter. This quality of gait allowed them to continually pin high in sport horse competition, as well as open competition.

### THE BEGINNING: THE STATESMAN AND CHIEF OF STATE

Lynne Shpak of Statesman Farm is the original breeder and owner of what has become known as the Statesman line of Morgans. Lynne's significant sires are her foundation stallion, The Statesman,

**By Marthe Reynolds, Lyn Skillington  
and Lynne Shpak**

and his brilliant son, Chief Of State, two sires who stamped their indelible imprints on the Morgan sport horse type. The consistency with The Statesman line stamps their offspring in temperament, build, gaits, and ability—from Statesmans Silhouette through Statesmans Signature—put the Statesman line at the crossroads in Morgan sport horse breeding. The Statesman Morgan excelled at combined driving and pleasure driving; dressage; eventing; as well as hunters over fences; hunter pleasure and English pleasure classes. The last two disciplines, hunter pleasure and English pleasure, are now populated and nearly exclusive to the newer type of Morgan being bred today at some farms. Statesman Morgans competed and won at all of the disciplines, however.

Lynne first met The Statesman (Lippitt Mandate x Major's Lass), "Mandy," in 1968 while competing in The Green Mountain

*The Statesman and Lynne Shpak; Chief Of State and Elizabeth Westbank; Statesmans Silhouette and Lori Shoemake; Statesmans Signature and Marthe Reynolds.*

## FOUNDATION SIRES

# *The Statesman & Chief Of State*

Top to bottom: *The Statesman and Andy Shpak; The Statesman and Chief Of State; Chief Of State*



100-Mile Competitive Trail Ride. She went with a friend to visit Harolyn Hill Farm, the home of Lippitt Mandate and Marilyn and Harold Childs. There she met Mandy, a yearling stud colt, and the rest is Morgan sport horse history. Lynne has always expressed gratitude toward Marilyn and Harold for breeding Mandy, a horse she loved and respected for so many wonderful years.

The Statesman and his progeny are very special horses. They are special because they are highly intelligent with a wonderful work ethic. They wish to please and just about teach themselves whatever it is we wish to teach them. There is a willingness to partner that is hard to replicate in other lines, and they make their humans look good. Lynne's nearly exclusive breedings to the Old Government, Old Lippitt, Working Western and Brunk lines insured that she would get a Morgan of The Statesman body type as describe below. This body type is what most clearly defines a Statesman Morgan.

Statesman horses have excellent conformation, the conformation necessary for exceptional sport horse movement. They have large equilateral triangles in their hindquarters that place their stifles directly under their hips, giving them balanced forward gaits. They have a natural ability to carry weight from behind, giving their gaits reach and suspension. This movement is consistent in nearly all of The Statesman's offspring, producing three very good gaits; energetic walks that overtrack, trots with suspension and reach, and uphill canters that come through from behind with three equal beats.

The Statesman's offspring also have a body that is easily divided into three equal parts, the hindquarters being of equal size to the shoulder, and to the length of back. The shoulder has a right angle formed from the point of the wither to the point of the shoulder to the point of the elbow; this makes for a freedom of movement that easily reaches to the front and to the side. Their necks are of good length and come high out of the chest helping with balance and flexibility.

Statesman horses also have slightly longer backs which gives them a longer stride and more flexibility. They use their backs and come easily through. Lynne had judges tell her they could tell a Statesman horse by their silhouette while trotting or cantering against a hillside and because of their movement.

Statesman horses, no matter to whom they are bred, bring their offspring back to the correct breed type. You can look at a Statesman horse and you never wonder what breed they are, you know they are a Morgan.

An additional Statesman trait is their "look of eagles," a self-confidence and brightness in their eye, a look of great kindness and intelligence. They say, "I own the world, but will happily share the world with you!"

It is amazing that The Statesman and Chief Of State (The Statesman x Fleur de Lis) have consistently passed on these traits to their offspring. The Statesman line is so clearly developed that four or five generations later you can see The Statesman alive and well before you.

Chief Of State has added a great component to the mix; he has produced real size. Most of his babies are 15.1 to 16hh and if they had prominent withers they would measure two inches taller.

The Statesman was known to do a fifty mile competitive trail ride one weekend, then go a dressage show, and then an open

## OFFSPRING OF *Chief Of State*

Left: *Chief Of State*.

Below (top to bottom, left to right):

*Statesmans Bold Mandate;*

*Statesmans Audacious with Wendy Shougel;*

*Statesmans Treasure; Statesmans Seqoia;*

*Statesman Sky Hawk;*

*Chief Of State and Atavista Statesman.*

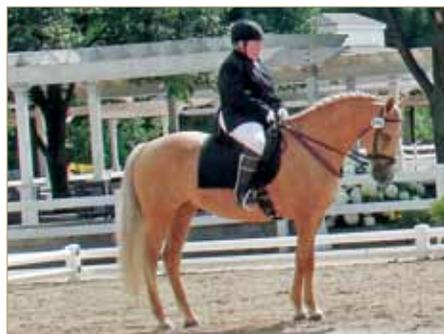
pleasure show the third weekend and win championships at all three events. He was unbeaten at carriage pleasure shows in the tri-state area from the late sixties until the early eighties. He showed and won through fourth level dressage with scores in the seventies. He won the Mid-A Morgan Pleasure Horse Championship and many other championships at both Morgan and open shows, back when a horse with a small foot and regular shoes could show and win in English Pleasure. Mandy hunted with the Howard County Hounds, and was used extensively with handicapped children and adults alike.

Chief Of State, Chevy, has carried on The Statesman's winning ways, winning national championships in open competition, and working with handicapped adults and children. He won the Mid-A Morgan Sport Horse Award four times and has done very well in Morgan shows in the sport horse, hunters, dressage, and carriage classes.

In 1990, Bill Lower was looking for a team to compete in the Combined Driving Championships at Gladstone. Chevy was six, and Atavista Statesman, "Express," was four; they are half-brothers. Chevy was doing first level dressage, Express training level. Lynne invited Bill to come see them drive, and he did as he was worried about two stallions being a pair. She didn't have the equipment to drive them as a pair so she hooked them with chains to a piece of heavy plywood, and tied them together with baling twine. Lynne brought out Chevy first, and hooked him to the plywood and told him to stay put. Then she got Express, and hooked him up next. Lynne stepped on the plywood, said "walk" and then "trot," and those two stallions did. By this time Bill, who had been speechless, yelled it was enough, he was convinced they could drive as a pair! Bill took them to Gladstone and Chevy and Express won the Combined Driving event, the National Championship.

Elizabeth Westbank has recently rejoined Lynne at Statesman Farm to help continue the training, breeding, and teaching programs. Lynne has known Elizabeth since she graduated from Southern Seminary with a degree in Equine Business Management. Elizabeth came to Statesman Farm as a working

Photo © Howard Schatzberg



## OFFSPRING OF *Statesmans Silhouette*



Left: *Statesmans Silhouette* and *Devon Shoemaker*. Below (top to bottom, left to right): *Spring Hollow Dark Shadow* and *Jacob Arnold*; *Spring Hollow Jocasta*; *GrayBarronMidniteSerenade*; *Spring Hollow Raindancer*; *RMS State Of Mine*; *Spring Hollow Night Magic* and *Devon Shoemaker*; *Spring Hollow Kyros*; *Laughters Lord Wilson* and owner *Beth Sheller*; *Spring Hollow Legend*; *Spring Hollow En Avant*.



student and stayed four years, successfully training and showing many Statesman horses, winning many ribbons and championships especially in hunters and dressage. Elizabeth enjoys showing and she fits in with Lynne's idea of what makes a great Morgan Sport horse and what great training is. Currently Elizabeth is working with several of the Statesman stallions; Lynne feels Elizabeth is the person to carry on the Statesman Farm training methods that have served her so well.

Mandy led Lynne Shpak down the garden path and had her try things she never would have without him. He changed the Morgan breed, and Lynne, forever. He brought many people to the Morgan breed due to his talent, his personality, his winning ways. The conformation, the soundness, the intelligence—these he passed down to his descendants. And he was such a significant sire that Mandy had a Morgan lineage named for him: The Statesman line.

### STATESMANS SILHOUETTE

"We bought Statesmans Silhouette when he was just 5 days old," remembers Lyn Skillington, who with her parents, Jim and Evelyn own Spring Hollow Morgans in Hopewell, Pennsylvania. "Even at that young age he had a presence—a look of eagles—that marked him as a special colt."

Skillington had grown up in Maryland hunt country—fox hunting two to three days a week, participating in Pony Club and competing on the local hunter circuit with Thoroughbreds. Her father, however, had a long-time interest in Morgans based on his experience with the Morgan-type horses he'd ridden at Fort Riley, Kansas, while in the Cavalry prior to the start of World War II. "When my parents retired to our farm in Pennsylvania and I finished college and also moved to the farm, we wanted horses with the mind and toughness to handle our rugged mountain trail riding—but horses that also had the athletic ability of our field hunters," Skillington said. "My father had always liked Morgans, so we set out to find Morgans that had the athleticism and scopey movement we had with our hunters, but who retained the strength, Morgan breed type and great disposition for which the breed is so well known."

Their search throughout the Mid-Atlantic eventually led them to Statesman Farm and the purchase of their first Statesman horse, Statesmans Morita, a Statesman daughter out of the Lippitt mare Ransomvale Morita (Allen's Major x Moro Hills Morita). "Morita was an extraordinary little mare. We purchased her as a weanling, and she owned the farm—and our hearts—the minute she arrived." Morita went on to win multiple carriage pleasure driving championships as well as hunter over fences classes with junior riders and was Jim's trail mount for many years.

"Morita's natural athleticism, beautiful Morgan type and disposition definitely sold us on the line," Skillington said. "When we decided to look for a stallion we told Lynne to keep a look out for a special youngster."

Silhouette, born in April 1990, was the last of four full siblings by Chief Of State out of a big, black Government—Brunk mare, Meadowrock Melanie. "Lynne called me the day after Silhouette was born and said she thought he was 'the one.' I came down that weekend, spent some time with

mother and son and arranged to purchase him that day. At five days old, he had a beautiful, suspended trot and the best canter I've ever seen in a youngster. We thought he had the potential to be a superb sport horse and perhaps a superb sire."

That almost didn't happen.

Late in the summer of his yearling year, "Silly" as he was affectionately nicknamed, slipped his right hind leg into the corner brace wire of a fence. "He came in for evening feeding with a clean cut half-way through his right hock, Skillington remembered. "It was as if a sword had tried to cut off his leg. The wound was horrendous." The vet was cautious that he could recover, let alone ever be sound. "The good thing was that he could put weight on the leg and walked sound," Skillington said. "But the wire had cut through the front of the hock—through ligaments, tendons and into the joint capsule itself and he had a greenstick fracture of the canon bone."

Fortunately Silhouette proved to be a model patient and tolerated months in a cast, months of stall rest and years

of subsequent therapies—and ongoing maintenance—that went into first making, and then keeping him sound. "We had several vets tell us he'd never be sound—a respected lameness specialist said he'd never canter a 10-meter circle. Fortunately Silhouette didn't listen. The work ethic and never quit attitude that you see in the Statesman horses definitely came through in him and he proved the naysayers wrong," Skillington said.

As a 3-year-old Silhouette found his lifelong partner. Lori Shoemake had been training at Statesman Farm for several years and Silhouette was sent to her to be started and competed. "Lori was the ideal trainer for him," Skillington said. "She had a breadth of knowledge and talent for not only riding and training, but also in equine bio-mechanics. If not for Lori's talent as a rider and her dedicated care for him, Silhouette would not have had a competition career. Lori is definitely Silhouette's person—we're incredibly fortunate to have found her for him."

The pair went on to win dozens of high-score and year-end championships in dressage through third level with scores in the mid-70's, including AMHA Open Competition, United States Dressage Federation All-Breeds and United States Equestrian Federation National and Region awards and was undefeated in Morgan Sport Horse Suitability classes.

"He has so much natural athletic talent—including beautiful extended gaits and the ability to drive off the hindquarters—and a tremendous desire to perform and work—that he's game to try almost anything," Skillington said.

That try-anything attitude came through in 2003 when Silhouette unexpectedly competed for the Mid-Atlantic Morgan Horse Show Sport Horse Award. Shoemake's daughter, Devon, had planned to compete her horse, but he had a mild colic the first morning of the show. With Devon horseless, Shoemake offered her daughter the opportunity to substitute Silhouette in her working hunter classes. "I was a little concerned, because Devon had never ridden him and was only 13. Silhouette had never competed over fences—and hadn't jumped anything more than a log on the trail with a rider

## *Statesmans Eclipse*

POWERFUL • GRACEFUL • ELEGANT



2009 END OF THE YEAR AWARD  
 USEF Region Horse of the Year  
 USEF Reserve Champion, 3rd Level  
 AMHA Open Competition  
 AMHA Reserve Champion, 3rd Level  
 Bronze Medallion Winner, 3rd Level

*The Statesman lines are known internationally for their dressage capabilities. Of all the horses, ONLY Statesmans Eclipse has reached FEI Levels! His 2011 Prix St. George & 4th level scores are from 59-65%. He has proven himself against some of the best warmbloods in the country. His longevity of career (he started competing when he was 10, he's now 15) attests to his soundness (he competes barefoot), enthusiasm and love of the sport. What an honor it has been to be his owner and have him take us to places we had never dared dream of going.*

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## SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES *The Statesman Line*

on his back,” Skillington said. “But Lori knew and trusted both Silhouette and her daughter, and the pair had a ball—ending up with the Reserve Open Working Hunter Championship. Coupled with his wins with Lori in third-level dressage and in Sport Horse Suitability, he easily earned the show’s coveted Sport Horse Award.”

Unfortunately, Silhouette’s early injury came back to shorten his competition career. “By the time Silhouette was in his mid-teens Lori had moved her family and training facility, Evonly Equestrian Center, to property adjacent to our farm and brought Silhouette home to continue his training. They were working on canter pirouettes and solidifying his changes, but his left leg would periodically fall out from under him,” Skillington remembered. “It was heart-breaking—he would try so hard, and just couldn’t do it.” An ultra-sound and x-rays found that the stress of compensating for his early injury had led to arthritic changes in his left stifle. “He wasn’t lame and the arthritis wasn’t severe—except if you were trying to work a horse in upper level dressage where so much weight must be carried on individual hind legs,” Skillington said. “We elected not to do surgery—which had perhaps a 50-50 chance of helping—and semi-retired him from competition instead. The surgeon agreed with our decision, telling us, ‘If you look at the x-rays on his injured right hock, he should never have been able to compete at all. He’s done more than anyone could have ever expected—more than the next 100 horses with his injury could have done. He’s an amazing animal.’”

As a sire, however, there’s been no holding back.

“We went into owning a stallion with the idea that if we didn’t like his get we’d geld him,” Skillington said. “We didn’t need to own a stallion—it was to be a fun hobby.” But his first foals came in 1995 and any thoughts of gelding Silhouette were quickly put aside. Of his six 1995 foals, four went on to successful competition careers:

Spring Hollow Dark Shadow (Statesmans Silhouette x Caduceus Jocasta) and her 18-year-old driver, Jacob Arnold, have been featured this year in multiple driving publications as the pair have won Combined Driving Events, including the FEI Single Horse Advanced Championship at the 2011 Little Everglades CAI-B. “Shadow is honest, brave, always gives me 110 percent and has lots of heart and go,” Arnold said in the American Driving Society publication, *The Whip*, as part of its May 2011 cover story about the pair’s rise in the sport. Arnold hopes to represent the United States in a future World Championship.

Laughters Lord Wilson (Statesmans Silhouette x Otterbein May Mary) has also risen to the FEI level in his sport—dressage. With his then owner and trainer, Cathy Echternach, Wilson competed through Intermediare with scores in the 60’s. He also won Morgan Sport Horse Suitability in-hand and multiple high-score and year-end championships in dressage as he moved up the levels. Currently owned by Beth Sheller of Tennessee, Beth and Wilson are now working at fourth level/Prix St. George. “Wilson is grand. We laugh about his name, Lord Wilson, because he definitely thinks he is aristocracy!”

<p><b>THE FOUNDATION</b>  <b>GREENTREE EVER REDDI</b>          Sire: Greentree Bonnie John          Dam: Reddy Ann Eager</p>	<p><b>THE STAR</b>  <b>GRAYBARRONMIDNITESERENADE</b>          Sire: Statesmans Silhouette          Dam: Greentree Ever Reddi</p>	<p><b>THE FUTURE</b>  <b>GBR DEVINE DECADENCE</b>          Sire: Santa Fe Renegade          Dam: Greentree Ever Reddi</p>
		
<p>Champion Intermediate I, USDF All-Breeds          Champion Prix St. Georges, USDF All-Breeds          Champion Musical Freestyle 4th level,          USDF All-Breeds</p> <p><b>GRAY BARRON RANCH</b>          Home of World Class Dressage Morgans  <a href="http://www.graybarronranch.com">www.graybarronranch.com</a></p>	<p><b>2011 PERFORMANCE AWARDS</b>          USDF Musical Freestyle, Second level open 15/42          USDF All-Breeds, Second level 4th          USDF All-Breeds, Second level Musical Freestyle Champion          USDF open Second level Musical Freestyle Challenge 11/22          DASC (Dressage Assoc. So. California) Champion Musical Freestyle Series with 71.667%          Morgan Medallion Classic High Point Champion Second level and above          Performance Certificate 2nd level</p>	<p>“Diva” is a 2010 filly and is already showing the wonderful disposition and elegant, athletic movement of her mother and sister.</p> <p>Reserve Champion Dressage Suitability Class          Morgan Medallion Classic</p>

Spring Hollow Destrier (Statesmans Silhouette x Nodaway Tilli) won consistently through Second Level with multiple high-score championships for both his owner Gail Bowden and her trainer, Pam Thompson. He also won USEF Region and National Awards, has been ranked in the top five for Amateur riders nationally through USDF, as well earning awards through the Morgan Dressage Association, USDF and AMHA and championships in Morgan Sport Horse Suitability divisions. "Destrier is one of my favorite Silhouette offspring," Skillington said. "He has such a fun personality and so much potential, that selling him as a 4-year-old was bittersweet—we hated to see him go, but knew Gail would do great things with him and have a wonderful partnership."

Spring Hollow Beaujolais (Statesmans Silhouette x Statesmans Morita) was competed by both of Lori's daughters—Devon and Emily—and won Junior High Score Dressage awards as well as the Mid-Atlantic Junior Exhibitor Sport Horse Award. "Beau was our first attempt at line-breeding and we weren't disappointed. He is super smart and extremely athletic. He can jump anything and has a huge trot. Of all of the horses we've bred, he's the most like The Statesman."

Subsequent years' foals continued the winning tradition. Silhouette offspring have won dozens of high score dressage championships; have multiple titles in carriage pleasure driving and CDE's and have excelled in the Working Hunter ring. Among just a few of the notables are:

Spring Hollow Jocasta, (Statesmans Silhouette x Cadceus Jocasta), who, after winning multiple carriage driving awards at this year's Massachusetts Morgan Horse Show—including winning all four cones classes—capped off the year winning two of her four classes at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show®, including the Carriage Obstacle Driving Single Horse World Championship. When not going all out in an obstacle course with her owner/driver, Theron Simons, Shadow is a regular mount for a therapeutic driving program. "She can be revved up for me in a cones course and an hour later take great care of the kids in our therapeutic program. She's a once-in-a-lifetime horse."

GrayBarronMidniteSerenade (Statesmans Silhouette x Greentree Ever Reddi) is quickly moving up the levels in dressage. Bred and owned by Wendy Gray-Bizzaro of Gray Barron Ranch, "Sera" has won numerous high score and year-end titles through second level. In 2011 she ended the year ranking in the top 15 in Open Musical Freestyle for all horses competing nationally in USDF and won championships at second level with the Dressage Association of Southern California and at the Morgan Medallion Classic. Sera's rider, Tracy Young, works with former Olympic rider and internationally known clinician and judge, Hilda Gurney, who said of the young horse: "Sera shows natural talent for the Piaffe and Passage and has great elasticity. I'm very optimistic on her future in the sport." The filly takes after her talented mother, who has won championships and year-end awards in dressage through Intermediare.

Spring Hollow Night Magic (Statesmans Silhouette x Bethesda Sorceress) was started as a 4-year-old by Lori Shoemake, but within months she turned him over to her then 12-year-old daughter, Devon, who has done all of his training since then. The pair have won Open and Junior Exhibitor Dressage Championships through first level and competed successfully through Novice in Eventing. Most notably, Devon earned her C3 rating in Pony Club with Magic

and competed in the Pony Club Nationals in Dressage. Now 21 and graduating from college, Devon plans to return to competition with her partner in 2012 and focus on moving up the levels in dressage while continuing jumping. "He likes to do a variety of things. It keeps him fresh," Devon said.

RMS State Of Mine (Statesmans Silhouette x Fantasia's Figurine), has won multiple awards in combined driving in the Pacific Northwest. "I love him more than life itself," said his owner/driver, Heather Toland. "I hope that Silly continues to produce get in Spider's likeness for years to come because he's the epitome of the Morgan horse."

Spring Hollow Kyros (Statesmans Silhouette x Fox Ridge Destiny) as a 3-year-old won the first Morgan Individual Breed Class at the prestigious Dressage at Devon competition with a score of 73.5 percent—among the top 5 percent of all scores in the show that year—and went on to high score championships in lower level dressage before being retired as a pleasure horse due to injury.

Spring Hollow Raindancer (Statesmans Silhouette x Statesmans Miracle) has won Morgan Sport Horse Suitability Championships with scores in the high 70's and high-score dressage championships with his amateur owner, Rebecca Douglass, through first level with scores in the mid-



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Photo by Cathrin Cammett

## OFFSPRING OF *Statesmans Signature*

Above: *Statesmans Signature*. Below: *Suzy Stafford* and *PVF Peace Of Mind* win the Single Horse Championship and High-Point Morgan at the Brandywine Carriage Driving Show in June 2011; *Middlecreek Signature*; *Lead With Courage* at three months with her dam, *Katy*.



70's. After taking several years off to concentrate on training, Rebecca plans to begin competing again in 2012 at fourth level/Prix St. George.

Creekvale Copenhagen (Statesmans Silhouette x Fox Ridge Detsiny) competing successfully with his owner/driver Jennifer Jensen in pleasure carriage driving, "Dane" is the cover horse for the October 2011 issue of the *Carriage Journal*, the official publication of the Carriage Association of America.

Spring Hollow Legend (Statesmans Silhouette x Spring Hollow Legacy). Spring Hollow's next competition prospect, Legend has been competed lightly, winning the Morgan Dressage Association year-end Sport Horse Breeding Championship and Mid-A Sport Horse Suitability Championship with a score of 83.5 percent as a 2-year-old. Shoemake plans to bring him out at first/second level in 2012.

With more than 100 offspring throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, there are many more Silhouette get who have distinguished themselves in the sport arena—and as safe, fun pleasure horses.

"When we purchased Silhouette as a foundation sire for our breeding program, we hoped he'd pass on his balanced, correct conformation, his uphill, scoopy movement that comes from an excellent rear-end along with his Morgan heart and intelligence that were also so apparent in his grandsire, The Statesman and his sire, Chief Of State," Skillington said. "He's never disappointed us. Bred to mares from a wide variety of bloodlines—Old Government, Lippitt, Brunk, more modern show lines—time after time he's stamped his offspring in his likeness. We're hoping he can continue to produce future champion sport Morgans for many years to come."

### STATESMANS SIGNATURE

Statesmans Signature, affectionately known at Sigi, was foaled on May 23, 1997 at Lynne Shpak's Statesman Farm. His sire is Chief Of State, and his dam was the buckskin mare Coal Creek Spicyglow. Spicyglow, as a buckskin, threw a wild card into the mix, so Sigi could have been any color. But he came out a perfect bay with no white markings save for some roaning on his hind legs. He tends to throw such perfect bays in regular succession, with a chestnut or chocolate chestnut thrown into the mix.

Lynne Shpak likes to say that the only reason she sold Sigi as a weanling was that she needed a new roof on the house. The lucky purchaser was Rita Hanson of Windward Mark Farm in Glen Rock, PA, who was in the market for a fully grown and broke young Morgan. She came home with Sigi, and never regretted it.

Sigi was purchased by Marthe Reynolds from Rita Hanson in October of 2006; Marthe was looking for her upper level dressage prospect, and just had "a feeling" that she would find it in a Morgan. She saw Sigi's website while online to learn about the breed, never got past a photo of his amazing face, and contacted Rita. After a one month trial Sigi and Marthe began their journey together into dressage and the world of Morgan sport horse breeding.

At first Marthe didn't realize she was now owned by a member of Morgan royalty! Many conversations with Rita Hanson and Lynne Shpak ensued, much advice asked (by Marthe) and given

(by Rita and Lynne). Marthe enthusiastically began planning Sigi's breedings for 2007, and the pair began training with Louisa-Marcelle Eadie of LME Dressage, a young FEI rider and USDF Silver medalist with British Horse Society training. Louisa has since taken them from Training level to Third level dressage, with multiple regional and national championships and placings along the way. The Statesman bloodlines of Mandy and Chevy provided the raw material for Sigi's dressage and breed show success, and training with Eadie made success possible to achieve for this pair.

Sigi gets his correct movement, suspension, kind eye and conformation from the Statesman line, plus his height from his sire Chevy. His stellar work ethic is representative of both his sire and his dam line, as Spicyglow came from Western working stock. Both Mandy and Chevy could perform in multiple disciplines at a show, then come home and cover mares the same day; Sigi can be collected and then go to a dressage show or a dressage and breed show and it doesn't faze him. He maintains his perfect manners, does not vocalize except in the breeding shed, and almost without exception he respects this rule. A calm, 'no talking' reminds him, should he forget.

Sigi has forty offspring on the ground at present, with two foals due in 2012. In June 2010 Sigi was chosen to breed to the Morgan mare Courage To Lead (Courage Of Equinox x Hartland Sable), "Katy." The resulting filly, Lead With Courage, "Libby," debuted in July of 2011. She's recently mellowed from bright chestnut to the exact chocolate chestnut of her dam. Her shoulder is enormous and Sigi has provided the size he is known to give. As Libby's hoped-for career will be as a combined driving mare (Katy and her driver Suzy Stafford were Individual Bronze medalists at the World Pony Driving Championships in 2009, and 2009 USEF Horse and Equestrian Of The Year Nominees) this has made a fine cross, and Beverly Leshner, owner of the two mares, could not be happier with the result.

The cross of Sigi x JPR Have Mercy yielded another mare destined for combined driving success in the form of PVF Peace Of Mind, "Hunny," a bay foaled in 2007 and currently being competed by Stafford. Hunny won the reserve championship at the Brandywine Carriage Driving Show, her first recognized show, in July 2011, as well as High Point Morgan. News came at press time for this article that Hunny and Suzy placed 2nd overall at the Katydid CDE in South Carolina in the Preliminary Horse division. They won both dressage sections straight out, and the German judge was moved to compliment Suzy on her new horse. Her work ethic and sense of presence are exact replicas of Sigi's traits. JPR Have Mercy has Waseekas Nocturne in her line, four generations back. This was not a foundation cross, but the success of the match led Reynolds to make a considered decision when breeding for herself this year. Her certainty was reinforced by a Sigi colt foaled in 2008.

Middlecreek Signature, "Stoli," is a 2008 bay gelding by Statesmans Signature and out of CAUM Cameos Ellusive. Owned and bred by Donna Carlson of Middle Creek Farm, Stoli is 15hh of extravagant movement, presence and balance. He took the blue at the Morgan Individual Breed Class at Dressage At Devon in 2009, beating his sire for the top spot. The European judge told Donna that 'this was the first of many wins' for Stoli in the show ring. Stoli's dam has Waseekas Nocturne in her pedigree back five generations. The Waseeka cross has so far produced two exceptional sport horse offspring in Stoli and Hunny.

When Reynolds bred for herself this past summer, she also chose a non-foundation Morgan as a match for Sigi. Sigi was approved to breed to Valerie Radtke's EMR Starfire, the product of the great Grand Prix dressage Morgan Iron Forge Starman and Bennes Christina.

Again, Waseekas Nocturne appears five generations back in Starfire's sire line. The resulting foal will be on the ground in June of 2012. Marthe is excited about this cross and hopes for a super Morgan sporthorse of uncommon ability, conformation and athleticism for dressage.

In addition, Reynolds wants to breed Statesmans Signature to more Morgan foundation mares. Junior rider Maggie "Regan" Powers' mare Battersea Saratoga (Statesmans Signature x Battersea Nica) has won multiple reserve championships and achieved high year-end scores in both Morgan and Open shows at Training and First level. Maggie and "Toga" came in Third in their level at their first appearance at the prestigious Dressage4Kids Festival this summer.

Sigi's accomplishments in the show ring include: 2007 Reserve World Champion Training Level/AA at the Morgan Grand National; 2007 AMHA HOTY/5th Place Training Level; 2007 Mid-A Morgan Training Level Championship AA; 2009 11th place finish nationally for Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB)/Mature Horse Open (against stallions of every breed); All-Breeds DSHB Mature Horse Champion in 2009, 2010 and 2011; All-Breeds Second Level Open Reserve Champion 2010; and numerous AA Championships and Open Reserve Championships from the Morgan Dressage Association at First level; Second level; and the MDA Sport Horse Breeding Championship from the MDA in both 2009 and 2010. They also were the Paddock Saddlery Reserve Champions/First Level AA for the Wellington, FL circuit in 2009.

The biggest gift that Statesmans Signature has given Marthe, besides his companionship and friendship and unconditional love, along with many awards at dressage and breed shows, is the honor of continuing the Statesman line in name as well as in deed. Lynne Shpak has graciously given Reynolds and Sigi the gift of using the Statesman prefix going forward. Marthe and Sigi will proudly carry the Statesman name for generations of Statesman Morgans to come. ■



Photo by Cathrin Cammett