



≈ MORGAN AMERICANA ≈

THE BREEDING PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF *A. Fullerton Phillips*

In seeking out the bloodlines that delivered his ideal type, Phillips laid the foundation for the Morgans recognized by The Lippitt Club today.

By Elizabeth A. Curler

When Kitty Thurber 01298 (Ethan Allen 2nd 406 x Wiggins mare by Green Mountain 493) dropped a chestnut colt in 1908, sired by Lyndon 5080 (Billy Roberts 4550 x Topsy 02504), he was named Alexander The Great. His breeder E. H. Hoffman gave him the name in honor of his client and protégé, Alexander Fullerton

Phillips, who had dedicated himself to preserving and breeding the old type Morgan horse. Phillips, a wealthy Pennsylvanian, would be one of the Morgan breeders of the early twentieth century to play a pivotal role in the survival of the Morgan breed. He had his initial introduction to Morgan horses while a student at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, circa 1860.

The Morgan Register of old has many horses with the same name. There are pages of Ethan Allens for instance. So, many Morgan historians use a naming device to make a distinction. They'll write "Peters' Ethan Allen 2nd" for instance, denoting the Ethan Allen bred by J. H. Peters. A limitation of this is that researchers who want to use the AMHA database to further examine pedigrees alluded to in this article will not find a "Peters' Ethan Allen 2nd" in

the electronic database. They will, however, find "Ethan Allen 2nd 406." So, for the purpose of this article we will attempt to give the registry numbers of significant horses. Thus we'll have "Vermont 403," not "Peters' Vermont"; or "Morgan 405," not "Peters' Morgan." To accommodate pedigree buffs, every effort has been made in this article to keep nomenclature as close to the contemporary Registry database as possible.

ABOVE: The barn where A. Fullerton Phillips kept his horses in Windsor, Vermont (courtesy of Windsor Vermont Historical Society); A. Fullerton Phillips and H. R. C. Watson (photo © L. Stanger).



ABOVE: Billy Root: (left) a painting by Helen Jordan that was commissioned in 1995, taken from a woodcut; and (right) a photograph of a drawing of Billy Root done after a painting from life (artist unknown) (courtesy of Lyle F. Horton Memorial Ancient Morgan Archive).

The nearby Eagle Hotel possessed a stable of Morgan horses descended from the Bailey Horse 36 (by Woodbury Morgan 7) and would become the standard by which Phillips would measure all other Morgans. The type of these horses influenced Phillips' ideas of the Morgan breed. At the time, the Eagle Hotel was managed by Ezekiel Sawyer of Newbury, Vermont. Sawyer was a farmer and hotel keeper, and had owned a stage line until railroads became established. Sawyer oversaw the construction of a new stable at the back of the Eagle Hotel that could house a large number of horses. By the time Sawyer was forced to retire in 1862 due to poor health, the Eagle Hotel was considered the best hotel in New England. Phillips observed that, "Such a stable of horses is not to be found today anywhere."

Phillips started breeding Morgans because he discovered the type of horse for which he searched was difficult to find. Phillips' undertaking to breed old type Morgans was inspired after a fishing trip to Maine, circa 1902. While on the trip, he searched for a pair of Morgans to purchase for driving purposes; he was seeking the type of Morgan with which he had become familiar while a student at St. Paul's School. To his dismay, he was unable to find any Morgans in Maine, or even many people who had heard of a Morgan horse. His search continued into New Hampshire and eventually to western Vermont. Phillips initially settled in Pittsford and was presumably the "Philadelphia man" that was reported to have purchased a pair of chestnut driving horses for \$800 in September 1902.

After settling in Vermont, Phillips began a systematic search for old type Morgans in Vermont, plus a study of the pedigrees and history of the breed. Unable to find what he was seeking in the Champlain Valley of western Vermont, he crossed over the Green Mountains through Brandon Gap to Rochester. There he found a few Morgans that reflected what he was seeking. He continued his search to other areas of the state. In Bradford, the Peters family of Morgans predominated. Phillips' search led him to the northeastern towns of St. Johnsbury, Burke, East Haven,

Lyndon, Newark, Sutton, and their immediate vicinity, an area he would refer to as the "Morgan Horse Zone." There he found a higher concentration of stallions and mares that had the type and characteristics he sought.

Historically, the primary focus of the typical American livestock breeder was the sire and the contribution of the female was generally ignored or minimized. It has always been taken for granted that this was also the case with Vermont Morgan horse breeders. In a letter to Joseph Battell in 1900, however, I. M. Thayer reveals that this may not have been the methodology of all Vermont Morgan breeders. The reason the horses existed was because certain Morgan breeders shunned the typical breeding methods of that era. In the Morgan Horse Zone of northeastern Vermont, breeding Morgan horses dated from the time Justin Morgan was alive and relied on conservation of both dam and sire's contribution to the offspring. Prior to the Civil War, breeders were encouraged to choose individuals with quality and strong breed characteristics. Linsley brought to the attention of breeders that "If the breed is [to be] perpetuated, it is evident it can never be by the use of Morgan stallions alone." Using mares sired by Morgan stallions was thus encouraged. And, "the more crosses to Morgan blood in the dam the better." This philosophy stood in opposition to the practices of the typical Morgan horse breeder whose focus was the sire and not the dam.

Phillips developed criteria for the ideal Morgan. E. H. Hoffman of Lyndon became Phillips' primary resource to locate old Morgan breeders of long standing in the northeast region. Phillips continued his extensive in depth study of Morgan horse history and bloodlines. As a result of the time he spent interviewing various breeders and studying old type Morgans, Phillips developed and evolved the criteria and standards of the type and blood that he would preserve.

Phillips' first requisite was to create a mental image of the ideal Morgan he wished to produce. From his interviews of those familiar with the old type Morgans, he was able to formulate



ETHAN ALLEN, 2D.

This Morgan Horse is no doubt the Purest Bred Morgan now Living. Pedigree as follows:

He was sired by Peters Morgan; by Peters Old Vermont; by Wood Horse; by Hale's Old Green Mountain; by Old Gifford; by Woodbury; by Justin Morgan.

Dam of Ethan Allen, 2d, was raised by Stephen Dow of Woburn, Mass., and sired by Old Ethan Allen, out of his famous Morgan mare Jennie; she was sired by Hale's Old Green Mountain Morgan; her dam was owned by Dr. J. L. Wood of Boston, and was called Old Phebe. She was sired by Tom Morgan (or Perkins H.). Phebe's dam was sired by a Horse S. T. B. Nondescript.

PEDIGREE OF PETERS' MORGAN.

He was by Old Vermont; by Wood Horse; by Hale's Old Green Mountain; by Old Gifford; by Woodbury; by Justin Morgan. Dam of Peters' Morgan was by Hunter, Jr. owned by Frank Goldthwait of Newport, N. H.; he by F. A. Weirs' Morgan Hunter of Walpole, N. H. Weirs' Hunter was by Old Gifford; by Woodbury; by Justin Morgan. Dam of Weirs' Hunter was by Old Gifford Morgan. Dam of Morgan Hunter, Jr. was sired by the Old Bean Horse, and he by old Sherman Morgan; by Justin Morgan. Grand Dam of Peters' Morgan was sired by Old General Hibbard; by Old Woodbury; by Justin Morgan. Great Grand Dam of Peters' Morgan was sired by Old Bullrush; by Justin Morgan. Dam and Grand Dam of Peters' Morgan were raised by Welcome Partridge of Croyden, N. H. Peters' Old Vermont was sired by Wood Horse; by Green Mountain by Gifford; by Woodbury; by Justin Morgan. Dam of Old Vermont was sired by Hale's old Green Mountain; by Old Gifford; by Woodbury; by Justin Morgan. The Dam of Old Vermont and the Grand Dam of Ethan Allen, 2d was one and the same mare.

For terms, enquire of
A. W. PETERS,
BRADFORD, VT.

September 25, 1893.

“his idea of what should be selected to preserve the breed as formerly known.” Phillips’ vision of the ideal Morgan was to 1) determine the *ideal* type and 2) seek to maximize the amount of Justin Morgan blood. Billy Root 9 (Sherman Morgan x mare by Justin Morgan) embodied Phillips’ vision to create the ideal Morgan and this stallion served as his personal breed standard. As descendants of Billy Root had long predominated and were much admired in the northeastern region of Vermont, his blood was a favorite element of breeding programs in that region.

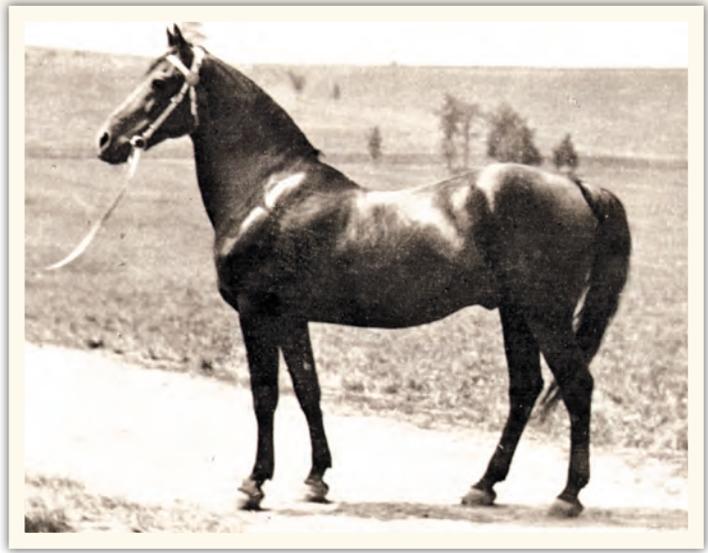
The second criteria Phillips considered in his breeding program was the concentration of Justin Morgan 1 blood present in an individual horse’s pedigree. The importance of this he iterated repeatedly. In a note he wrote to H. S. Wardner in 1909, Phillips stated: “There is only [one] way to keep the breed: Blood first, last, and all the time. It is not only necessary to have blood but the best sort of an individual with it.” Phillips’ reasoning for this viewpoint was that without sufficient blood of the original horse, Justin Morgan, present in breeding stock, then breed type and characteristics would not reproduce consistently, or would become lost. And, he predicted, once those characteristics were lost, they would be gone forever. Possessing a high percentage alone, however, was not enough: the pedigree must also include high quality individuals. Phillips recommended selecting a “pedigree containing your ideal and breed into another [pedigree] containing as many individuals with the same type and characteristics.”

The personal standards Phillips set for his breeding program were high. Type, good conformation, and smoothness of finish were part of his exacting standards. However, endurance and “absolute soundness” were also factors of equal or greater influence. Other characteristics of importance to Phillips were exuberance of spirit, an unequalled cheerful disposition, courage, and an “iron constitution combined with great nerve force that was easily controlled.”

In order to obtain his ideal, Phillips suggested inbreeding as had been traditionally practiced. To ensure more predictable results, this could be accomplished by purchasing a stallion and closely related mares. This method would ensure more predictable results. Phillips also noted that not using inbreeding was a fine way to do things “if you had lots of dollars to waste.” Having said that, Phillips then cautions; “Inbreeding only accentuates any fault on either side, so be very careful in your selection [of breeding stock].” He also cautioned that breeders should not succumb to fashion trends or market demands as they are “what someone else wants.” Phillips argued that “if one attempts to breed what someone who does not understand the Morgan horse demands, he will find in the end that he has lost the type and characteristics of the original.” One then needed to continue selection until the type and characteristics one desired predominated and became fixed.

Many of the breeders from whom Phillips purchased his horses represented families that had been breeding Morgans for multiple generations: Peters, Streeter, Walter, Bundy, Bemis, Cushing, and Orcutt were some of those families. J. H. and A. W. Peters were successful breeders in the Connecticut River Valley

TOP TO BOTTOM: Ethan Allen 2nd (Peters): photograph and flier.



ABOVE: Bob Morgan.

town of Bradford. Phillips felt that, as breeders, they had no equals within the breed and Phillips' stock was inbred to that family. The beauty, speed, constitution, and finish of their stock exceeded all others, plus they were strong in blood and possessed a fixed family type. In addition, they were known for their "movement, the trot, the 'snort,' and for constant motion from pawing in the snow to running for fun." They were not typically as large as other branches of the Woodbury family, but J. H. Peters was often heard to say that "they are big enough."

The earliest known stallion that J. H. Peters owned was Morgan One Eye 24, a son of Bulrush Morgan 6. A stallion they owned for many years was Vermont 403 (David Wood Horse 402 x Jennie by Green Mountain 42), a chestnut of "perfect Gifford type," who produced "type and beauty of finish." Charles Howland described him as having "always had his corsets on." He was the first of three generations of stallions used by the Peters. At 14.2 hands, Vermont was also the smallest. His son Morgan 405 (x mare by Morgan Hunter 2nd) was 15.2 hands and grandson Ethan Allen 2nd 406 (x Dow mare by Ethan Allen 50) was 15.0 hands. All three were known for their speed and action at the trot. As sires, they produced "type and beauty of finish," which were among the qualities Phillips desired.

Ethan Allen 2nd would become the predominating sire line of the Phillips breeding program. He was the "handsomest horse" E. H. Hoffman ever saw and "he was always on parade." He had the type and appearance of the Green Mountain 42 family. He was foaled during the "speed craze" of the post-Civil War era and, although he possessed speed, the demand for extreme track speed limited his use as a sire. Hoffman later claimed that he had more speed than many of the Standardbreds brought into Vermont.

The dam of Ethan Allen 2nd, known as the Dow mare, was a daughter of Ethan Allen 50 and resembled her sire. From her dam, a daughter of Green Mountain 42, she possessed more bone and substance than was typical of the Ethan Allen family. Although she was primarily used as a road horse, never "tracked," she had a lot of speed. The dam of Vermont and the second dam of Ethan Allen

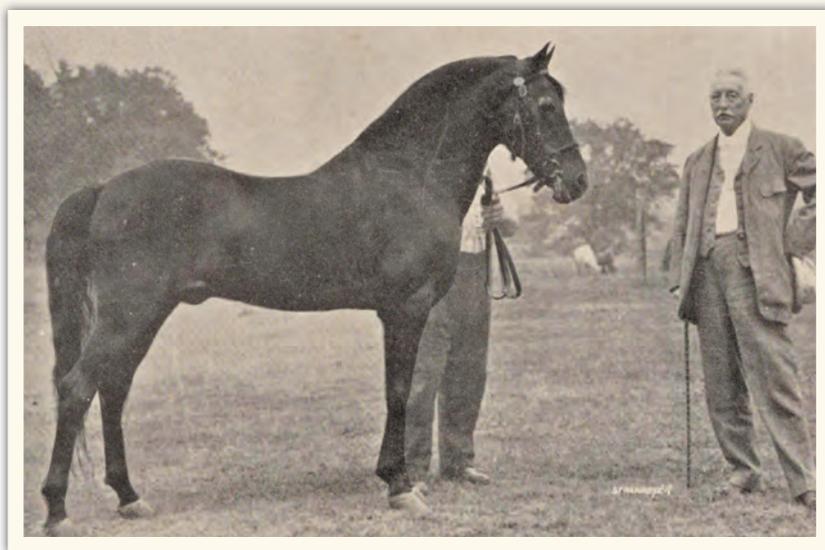
2nd, known as Old Jennie, was the same mare. Thus, Ethan Allen 2nd was linebred on the bottom side of his pedigree. This was, as a general rule, an unusual circumstance for the time, but provides a prime example of how Vermont Morgan breeders bred their horses. Old Jennie was known for her endurance, and was "one of the greatest individuals of her time."

Phillips obtained several daughters of Bob Morgan 4549, a son of Ethan Allen 2nd 406. Bob Morgan was typical of the Peters family, a successful sire, and widely patronized by breeders. His daughters were known to reproduce the Peters family type consistently even when bred to a stallion of other breeding. The dam of Bob Morgan was Topsy by Green Mountain 493 out of Dinah (x Black Morgan).

Further to the north, in the area Phillips labeled the Morgan Horse Zone, Billy Root had been a popular sire. In part, this was due to his being by Sherman Morgan, but also his own attributes as an individual and as a sire. Billy Root was "handsome" with "elegance" and "poetry of mien." His fearlessness, type, upheadedness, "symmetry of form," and high finish also contributed to the attraction. He was also sound as were his offspring. In an era that was dependent on horses to provide transportation and draft, this was an imperative trait.

The Billy Root family was known for its strong constitution, soundness, and fearlessness. The Bob Morgan daughters Bridget and Rose Of Sutton were inbred to Billy Root through their dams, as was Brown Harry 4795 (Billy Folsom x Black Betsey). Sons of Billy Root of which Phillips sought descendants included the Streeter Horse 674 (x mare by Batchelder Horse 17) and Comet 682 (x Crane mare said to be by Sherman Morgan). (Note: Sources other than the *Morgan Horse Register* give Royal Morgan as the sire of the Crane mare.) Billy Root did not sire any track performers of distinction, but he was well known for "producing many plucky and stylish drivers."

Comet 682 was bred by Jonas Flint of St. Johnsbury and was variously known as the Flint Horse or Comet Jr. He was considered by many to be the best son of Billy Root and strongly resembled his



ABOVE: Croydon Prince: (left) black and white photo postcard of Croydon Prince with A. Fullerton Phillips; (right) pictured by himself (photo © Strohmayer, donated by the Peters Family; courtesy of Lippitt Club Archives).

sire. He was a very showy horse that won numerous fair premiums. His offspring were “fine, spirited drivers,” but tended to be “pullers.” Those few of his daughters retained in Vermont for breeding were highly regarded broodmares.

The Streeter Horse also sired “many stylish and enduring roadsters” plus his descendants were known to produce Morgans of the same stamp. He had a very deep shoulder and would have needed a large collar. This created the look that led to his being known as “Morgan Lion.” Many of his descendants were sold for use as cavalry horses during the Civil War. In the post-war period, when businesses were being reestablished, a further demand was created for his offspring, which resulted in more of them being sold “down country”—outside of the state. Few of his offspring were left to reproduce in Vermont.

Billy Folsom 677 (x mare by Shedd Horse 789) was the sire of Brown Harry (x Black Betsey by Charley Watson). Brown Harry was very inbred to Billy Root. He was known for producing horses that were exceptionally sound. Unfortunately, his breeder died when he was young and he was sold out of Vermont to the Morgan Horse Company of Illinois. Although he left few offspring in Vermont, his daughter Maggie W. 03425 (x mare by Streeter Horse 674) was particularly favored by Phillips.

Mountaineer 676 (x Partridge mare by Ethan Allen 2nd 2391) was a heavy-boned horse. He was the sire of Billy Roberts who was highly inbred to Billy Root. Although Billy Roberts was criticized for his appearance, it was recognized that he “bred true to Morgan type because [he was] so closely inbred himself to horses of [the] right type and strong in Morgan blood.”

Streeter Horse Jr. and Young Billy Root 3624 were both black and appear to have been siblings, but it is not known if they were. No birthdate was given for Young Billy Root. He died when twelve years old soon after being acquired by a syndicate in West Burke. He was claimed to be the Streeter’s “most noted son” possessing “singular beauty.” Hoffman further noted that he had a long neck with a graceful arch, a clean jowl with a very wide

throatle, and the “smallest ear ever seen on a Morgan,” with the exception of Billy Root. Although just 14 hands, he reproduced larger than himself. He resembled Billy Root strongly and was a prepotent sire. His stock sold at remunerative prices and his loss was keenly lamented.

Royal Morgan 11, three-quarter brother to Billy Root, predominated in the Derby (Vermont)-Stanstead (Quebec) area. Like Billy Root, he was short in stature. However, he weighed a hefty one thousand pounds and his musculature was much admired. Both were sired by Sherman Morgan and out of a daughter of Justin Morgan. The offspring of Royal Morgan were generally larger than those of Billy Root due to larger mares being available for breeding purposes. He became a noted sire of roadsters and his daughters were in demand as producers of roadsters.

Black Morgan 810 (Bachop Horse 16 x mare by Levi Wilder colt by Batchelder Horse 17) was also known for producing horses that were exceptionally sound, enduring, and “good feeders.” They were in high demand as they were excellent all-purpose using horses and roadsters. Sold by the carload to New York City market, as gentleman’s driving pairs they brought \$2,000 and as single drivers went for \$500 and up. Many were also sold for cavalry use during the Civil War. Although Black Morgan himself did not display any exuberance of spirit, his offspring did so. A characteristic unique to the family was the habit of constant pawing if forced to stop on the road and wait. Hoffman noted that their temperaments also differed from that of other Morgans. When the whip was applied, the Black Morgans were the only Morgan family not “ruined” by its application. They resented its use and would fight back, “teeth and heels,” but were not ruined by it. The typical Morgan, if struck by a whip, would be “hurt and grieved” and thus ruined.

The brothers, Charley Watson 813 and Morgan Tiger 816, were by Black Morgan and out of the Charles Watson mare (x Comet 682) and bred by Charles Watson of West Burke. This mare had great substance and was reputed to be an excellent road



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rob Roy (courtesy of Lippitt Club Archives); Rose Of Sutton.

mare. Although never shown, she was esteemed by all who saw her. Hoffman relays that she was considered to be the “best Morgan horse ever produced.” Her sons, particularly Charley Watson, appear in pedigrees as broodmare sires.

The descendants of Woodbury Morgan were not as popular in northeastern Vermont as were those of Sherman Morgan and fewer of them were to be found in that region. Reverend Charles W. Cushing, who was born in Burke, bred his mare by Billy Root (full sister to Comet 682) to Hale’s Green Mountain 42. The resulting foal was the stallion Green Mountain 493. He proved to cross well with mares of Streeter or Ide breeding. Cushing’s Green Mountain 493 had depth of barrel, a clean head, and was “nice.” The family that this stallion produced was known for “necks put on right side up” with “good strong shoulders.” They were “classy, always up, and dressed” and “alive from end to end all the time.” According to Hoffman, this family had a tendency to be timid so had to be handled with care. If they were beaten or whipped, they could become fractious and mean.

Building on the foundation of Billy Root, Black Morgan, and Royal Morgan bred mares, Phillips then continued to introduce additional Peters’ breeding). Phillips also utilized other sons of Ethan Allen 2nd: Ethan Allen 3rd 3987 (x Wiggins mare), Croydon Prince 5325 (x Doll by Morgan Hunter 342), and Rob Roy 4483 (x mare by Starlight), and 2) other sons of Morgan 405: Comet 3992 (x mare by Green Mountain 493) and Pete Morgan 5411 (x mare by V.M. Hubbard Horse). The latter two horses were worked hard on the farm and in the woods and stayed sound over many years of use. Comet 3992 was known for producing offspring that were exceptionally sound.

Endurance and soundness were of high importance to Phillips. He consistently admired these two traits in the horses he chose to use in his breeding program, particularly in the mares. His criteria for mares required that they possess “character and [be] noted for long distance performance on the road.” Most of these mares were not registered and were not known by a name but by the name of

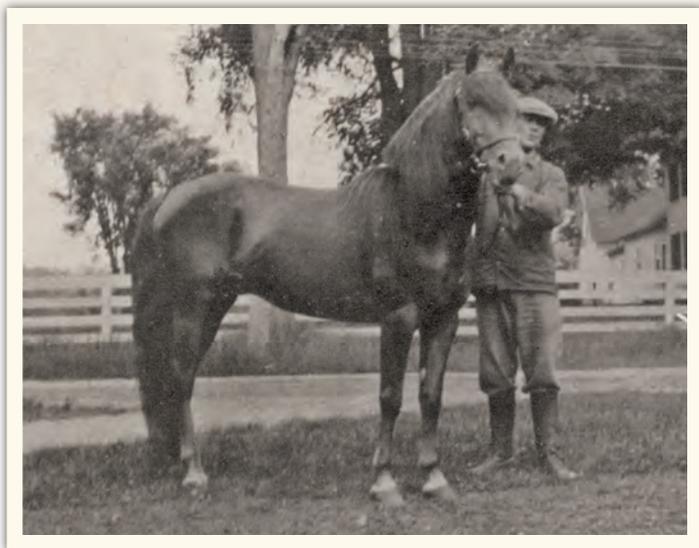
their breeder or an owner. However, they were legends in their own time and, thanks to the diligence of Phillips, we know the story of some of them today.

Phillips chose mares that were inbred to great broodmares and his choice of stallions was governed by their inheritance of the blood of great mares. He felt that patience and adherence to high ideals would lead to the production of more great mares by inbreeding to the best individual in the pedigree of the broodmare. His standards led H. S. Wardner to describe him as the “most fastidious of the breeders of Morgans.” Wardner went on to commend Phillips for doing “as much as any other one modern breeder towards the perpetuation of the Morgan breed.”

The initial breeding strategy of Phillips was using daughters of Bob Morgan that were out of mares inbred and linebred to Billy Root and Royal Morgan. There were mares of other breeding such as Dew Of June (Pete Morgan 5411 x mare by two-year-old son of Neshobe 481), who was a product of breeding in the Rochester-Granville area of central Vermont. Dolly Burke (Comet 3992 x dam by Village Boy 5383) also had a different dam line and Phillips considered her to be one of the best broodmares he had ever known.

From these breedings Phillips hoped that, by combining the particular traits of each, he would be able to reproduce horses similar to their ancestors. For example, by crossing Billy Root stock with that of Green Mountain 42, he could produce the exuberance of spirits both horses had plus “extreme elegance of carriage and poetry of motion” from Billy Root. Both stallions had also produced speed at the trot. Although this was a desirable trait, both Phillips and Linsley cautioned that it was “not to be obtained at the expense of the other essential qualities.”

Phillips identified certain mares whose breeding he wished to perpetuate. Two of them, Bridget and Rose Of Sutton, were mares he purchased and used for driving and breeding. Others were further back in pedigrees, therefore influencing the choices of their descendants that Phillips made for his breeding program. His



TOP TO BOTTOM: Ashbrook by Croydon Prince, an important stallion bred by A. Fullerton Phillips, and a key sire in the development of the Lippitt Morgan; Ethan Allen 3rd (#3987, sometimes known as Borden's Ethan Allen 3rd) is the sire of Ashbrook's dam, Nancy (03553) (*Our Dumb Animals*); Pete Morgan (5411) (on the left in the picture with two of his sons) is the sire of Dew Of June (0528), the dam of Nancy, making him Ashbrook's maternal grandsire (*The Vermonter*, V. 14, 1909. Public Domain, Google-digitized, original from Cornell University).

favored choices were the John Darling mare and her daughter The Milking Stool, the Charles Watson mare, the Barney Cooper mare, Old Leben, the Colby mare, and Maggie W. 03425.

Rose Of Sutton was a chestnut mare foaled in 1904 and one of Phillips's early purchases. Three mares in her pedigree attracted Phillips: the Colby mare, the Captain Humphrey mare, and the Thomas Quimby mare. Her dam was the Captain Humphrey mare by a two-year-old son of Streeter Horse Jr 675. The dam of this two-year-old colt was the Colby Mare by Royal Morgan. When a good price for a horse was \$100, Mr. Colby refused \$1,000 for his mare, circa the 1840s. She would be one of the few Morgans retained in Vermont for breeding purposes in spite of a generous offer. The Captain Humphrey mare attained a reputation for endurance after being driven more than four hundred plus miles of Vermont roads in four days with no sign of fatigue. She had her last foal at 31 years, retaining her "fire" and soundness, and showing little sign of age. This mare died at 33 years. The third and fourth dams of Rose Of Sutton were both bred by Thomas Quimby, but it is not specified which was the one desired or her story.

Phillips drove Rose Of Sutton for several years, paired with Bridget, and they traveled at sixteen miles per hour, with no signs of fatigue. Rose Of Sutton possessed exceptional endurance that few other horses could duplicate. She was also successful when shown, in part due to her high action. It was noted that she had "great frame of body." She won the class for ancient type Morgans at the 1916 Vermont State Fair. Her breeding descends through her daughter Adeline Bundy (x Rob Roy).

Bridget was another that, although paired with many other horses for driving, "none could take the evener from her." Even when Phillips had driven her ninety miles in a day, Bridget proved her endurance and strong constitution. Phillips considered her to be of the best old-fashioned type: strong and blocky. Bridget was one of his best mares with depth of body, symmetry, fine head, good hindquarters, and intelligent. Bridget was inbred to Billy Root through her dam and produced exceptional offspring with type, conformation, and symmetry. Her breeding has been carried on by her daughter Ne Komia (x Ashbrook) and her son John A Darling (x Moro).

When Phillips crossed over the Green Mountains to Rochester from Brandon, he found the young mare Dew Of June (Pete Morgan x Flossie by two-year-old son of Neshobe). In this area of central Vermont, Gifford Morgan (x Woodbury Morgan) predominated as a popular sire for many years. The legendary mares in Dew Of June's pedigree included Old Leben (Gifford Morgan x mare by Woodbury) and the Barney Cooper mare (x Gifford Morgan). Old Leben, even in her day, was considered to be "in a class by herself." During the Civil War, at an advanced age, Old Leben was driven almost every day to Bethel from Granville, "some twenty miles." Once the latest war news was learned, the return trip was made. Discussion of the news was made with others that had been on the same errand. Old Leben then moved on toward home, soon out of sight.

The Barney Cooper mare was Pete Morgan's third dam. Pete Morgan was a rugged horse with great substance that remained sound after spending a long life working the farm. The Barney

Cooper mare made numerous trips to Saratoga Springs, New York, to obtain a whiskey barrel full of spring water. The approximately 100-mile trip was made in one day with a heavy Concord wagon and return was the following day. The Barney Cooper mare had “speed and bottom” and was widely known in that region. Phillips considered her to be “one of the greatest Morgan mares in history.”

Flossie, the dam of Dew Of June, was also crossing Rochester Mountain to Bethel, at 31 years. She was said to have done the 35 miles “quickly” and with no fatigue. She produced Dew Of June when 29 years old. Dew Of June’s daughter Nancy 03553(x Ethan Allen 3rd 3987) was one of Phillips’ best mares. Of classic old-fashioned type, she was the dam of the most attractive foals Phillips produced. Her son Ashbrook (x Croydon Prince) resembled the ancient Gifford or Woodbury type. Phillips considered him to be the perfect Morgan as he had “every ideal point of perfection of a Morgan horse” and the ideal toward which he had been working in his breeding program. This breeding is carried down from Ashbrook.

The John Darling mare (Royal Morgan x Jim Clark mare by Sherman Morgan) and her daughter The Milking Stool (x Billy Root) were part of a line of noted mares. These two mares were primary contributors to Phillips’ breeding program. He obtained their breeding through the stallions Billy Roberts, Brown Harry, and Ethan Allen 3rd 3987. Phillips obtained three offspring of Maggie W. (Brown Harry x Oscar Walter mare by Streeter Horse) that were sired by Ethan Allen 3rd: Emily, Hippolyta, and Hawkeye.

The John Darling mare was known for her endurance and speed, as was The Milking Stool. The latter was considered to be “one of greatest individuals of her time.” By the early 20th century, mares capable of the endurance these early mares had were not to be found. This line has been carried down through descendants of Green Mountain Twilight (Rob Roy x Emily) and Hepsibeth (Ashbrook x Hippolyta). Emily was a good “road” mare for Phillips and won consistently at the Vermont State Fair. Among her wins was the Ancient Type trophy. Church noted that Twilight was “absolutely correct” with a “very nice head.”

Hippolyta was a mare of “fine action” and “beautiful.” She resembled Ethan Allen 2nd and Phillips considered her to be an “uncommon type of mare.” Church wanted to own her and A. W. Peters considered her to be the “best broodmare in the United States.” She was a strongly made mare with a fine head, good legs, and short back. Hippolyta and later her daughter Hepsibeth were transferred to Elmer Walter of East Haven. Hepsibeth, soon after, went to E. A. Darling of East Burke. Her daughter Justine Morgan (x Sonny Bob) provides another source for the blood of the John Darling mare and The Milking Stool.

In addition to the careful selection of breeding stock, Phillips felt

that providing conscientious care, good quality feed, fresh running water, and sufficient pasture were needed to produce good horses. The Morgan horse had originally developed under frontier conditions in a hilly, mountainous region. Phillips wished to breed and raise his horses in a similar environment. Phillips made an effort to replicate these conditions for his horses. He traveled throughout Vermont seeking a suitable location. He went to Brandon, Middlebury, “and other places,” but did not find what he was seeking. A few years later, he would find what he was looking for in Windsor.

By 1909, Phillips had acquired a respectable group of horses. He wrote a note to the *New England Farmer* early in 1909 to announce that he owned more Morgan horses of “the pure old-fashioned kind than any one man now living.” In the fall of 1909, he had 15 Morgans “of the olden blood and true to type.” Upon his move to Windsor in late 1914, he possessed 21 head, which included eight stallions available for stud service and with foals expected in the spring. In the years since he had begun his project, he had spent \$150,000 on the preservation of Morgan horses. When Phillips moved his horses to Windsor, he expressed the hope that others would be as interested as he in preserving Morgan horses. Unfortunately, the advent of motorized vehicles had eliminated the city market for horses, thus the majority of farmers were no longer interested in breeding horses.

Phillips continued to be involved in the Morgan Horse Club and exhibited his horses at the Vermont State Fair. However, as 1920 approached Phillips became discouraged. Daniel L. Cady, then Vermont’s State Poet, reinvigorated his efforts by composing and publishing verse in *Vermont Morgans*. Phillips was deeply moved by Cady crowning him “Morgan King of Windsor Street” in the lines of the poem.

In 1922, Phillips claimed he owned 44 of an estimated 125 purebred Morgans then existing. However, he feared that the old type Morgan was threatened with extinction. This feeling was exacerbated by the USDA publication of a pamphlet that failed to recognize endeavors made earlier in the 20th century by “public spirited men” to preserve the Morgan horse. Phillips asserted that, “First, one must have pure blood. Then by care, feed, and selection we can obtain size, but we cannot have Morgan characteristics without the blood.” Phillips was critical of the management of the Government breeding program from its choice of breeding stock to its expenditures on the farm, claiming they had been “in a hurry.” He felt that they had also forgotten the original purpose for establishing the breeding program.

Although Phillips claimed that he was not “wedded” to his Morgan horses, their preservation had become a “labor of love.” He considered his efforts to be missionary work as he believed that type of Morgan could never again be produced. The conditions under which they had evolved and the people who had created them were gone. He simply wanted to “breed

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Welcome; Artemisia.

them right.” Phillips continued to breed his Morgans, producing a few each year. Many of the foals were not retained or registered. Croydon Prince was laid down when 30 years old. Rob Roy was acquired at an advanced age and used for a few breeding seasons. In 1923, Phillip unexpectedly lost his widely respected stallion Welcome. Then, in 1924, disaster struck.

Twelve mares and a gelding were struck and killed by lightning while congregated beneath a large tree during a severe storm. Two of his foundation mares, Nancy 03553 and Princess 02122, were among those lost. The mare Lucille, apparently in the field at the time of the strike, had to be put down after ruining her hocks by stall kicking in reaction to loud noises. Phillips lamented that the “key to restoration of the Morgan horse is forever lost.”

After the lightning strike, Phillips began a slow dispersal of what remained of his herd. With some exceptions, many of the Phillips-bred horses were not heard of again. For example, this occurred with those that went to E. N. Walter of East Haven, Vermont, with the exception of Hepsibeth. Some of those acquired or bred by G. L. Church from Phillips’ stock were later obtained for breeding purposes by D. W. Kelley of Royalton Morgans, circa 1950.

The last of Phillips’ horses were purchased by R. L. Knight of Providence, Rhode Island, after Phillips’ death in 1926. Tradition says that Knight learned of the horses’ plight from a feed dealer, after which he moved the horses to the Green Mountain Stock Farm in Randolph in addition to all the accoutrements, vehicles, and tack. Knight supplemented his acquisition of Phillips’ horses with the purchase of additional broodmares and established the Lippitt breeding program at the Green Mountain Stock Farm.

Phillips had set himself the goal of preserving the purest strain of Vermont Morgans, a goal that he attained. Over a 22-year period he spent over \$250,000 in support of this effort. Two of the most successful horses he bred, Artemisia and Ne Komia, continue to have an influence on breeding programs today. Formed in 1971,

The Lippitt Club encourages the continuance of the Phillips bloodline today through the Lippitt family of Morgans. ■

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