



≈ SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES ≈

LIPPITT FOUNDATION SIRES, PART 1 CROYDON PRINCE AND DONALD

By Brenda L. Tippin

The Lippitt Club, dedicated to the preservation of the old Vermont Morgan horse, was founded as a formal club in 1973. Morgans designated as Lippitt Morgans have no 20th century outcrosses. Eight stallions were chosen by the club as Lippitt Foundation Sires, based on their quality, rare old Morgan bloodlines, and contribution as sires. All of these stallions have made significant impacts, not only to the Lippitts, but to the Morgan breed as a whole. In this article, we will take a look at two of these eight stallions, Croydon Prince and Donald, as the first in a series reviewing the Lippitt Foundation Sires. Sealect has already had a comprehensive article featured in the September 2013 issue of this magazine. The remaining five stallions, to be profiled at a later time, are Rob Roy, Bob B, Welcome, Sir Ethan Allen, and Bilirubin.

ABOVE: Croydon Prince (left) and Donald (right) (AMHA Archives).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Croydon Prince oil on canvas by A. Fullerton Phillips (National Museum of the Morgan Horse); Sweet Briar with new owner J.A. Wigmore, New Mexico Ranch (courtesy of Dave Ladd); Croydon Mary in center with Green Mountain Twilight, left, and Lippitt Trixie, right; Lippitt Ethan Georgia had five close crosses to Croydon Prince (Bebe Redwing); Ashbrook (NMMH); Lippitt Sally Ash (*The Morgan Horse*).

CROYDON PRINCE 5325 BACKGROUND AND BREEDING

A son of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d, Croydon Prince was bred by JC Crocker in Grantham, New Hampshire, and foaled in 1890 out of an unregistered chestnut mare named Doll by Morgan Hunter 2d. He also was later chosen as a Lippitt Foundation Sire. His second dam was a daughter of old Ethan Allen 50, making him a double great-grandson of the famous trotter, while his 3d dam was a daughter of Morgan One Eye by Bulrush Morgan. Croydon Prince was a dark chestnut in color, standing 14 ¼ hands tall and weighing 960 pounds. Although he was a small horse, Croydon Prince had a strong, well-crested upright neck rising out of a powerful shoulder which gave him a lofty appearance, and made him seem much taller. In many respects, he reminded one of the Godolphin Arabian.

Croydon Prince was sold to Orin Howard of Croydon, New Hampshire, and later to A. Fullerton Phillips, of Windsor, Vermont, who registered him. Phillips did not acquire him until he was an old horse and in poor condition. At that time, he appeared a little higher in the hindquarters than in front, and not as deep in the body, which, especially as he grew older, made him seem at times a little hollow-backed and not as short-legged as many of the old style Morgans, but this was due more to his condition than his true form. He was an imposing horse with a beautiful head and remarkable action, and managed to win a red ribbon at the 1912 Vermont State Fair despite his age and condition. Phillips held him in high regard and believed he was much like old Gifford, and would be a remarkable example of old Morgan type if he could be brought back into good flesh. Phillips suggested that Croydon Prince would

bear a strong resemblance in form to the woodcut of the Carrier Horse (Gifford x mare by Cock Of The Rock by Sherman) if he were in good condition. He passed on a strong genetic package of pure old Morgan blood, and was laid to rest at 30 years of age. Croydon Prince sired 18 registered offspring, three of which bred on. Another promising son, Sweet Briar (x Hippolyta) was sold to JA Wigmore for ranch use in New Mexico. He left five registered offspring, but none of these had any registered progeny.

AGATHA

A chestnut mare bred by A. Fullerton Phillips and foaled in 1913 out of Artemisia (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Lady Laura), Agatha was sold with her mother to William B Sanders, and went on to produce nine foals. She was used by several breeders including Charles A. Stone, CC Stillman, and the US Government Morgan Horse Farm. Most surviving descendants from this line come either through her son Benign (x Bennington) or her daughter Althea (x Allen H.)

CROYDON MARY

Bred by Faith Ingraham of West Claremont, New Hampshire, Croydon Mary was a bay mare with no markings, foaled in 1917. Her dam was Kate, a daughter of the Radway Horse by Sir Henry, tracing to Woodbury Morgan. Her second dam was a granddaughter of old Black Hawk; third dam a granddaughter of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan; 4th dam by Stanton Horse, who was inbred to Sherman Morgan; 5th dam by Billy Root, and 6th dam, a daughter of Sherman Morgan. Croydon Mary was named as one of 17 Lippitt Foundation Mares, and was the dam of eight foals. Her son Lippitt



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Lippitt Sally Moro & foal; Lippitt Victory, tracing closely to Croydon Prince through both sire and dam, was owned by the late Warren Patriquin. Victory would stand like a rock while Warren stood on top of the saddle to get the best view for his camera; Ne Komia (TMH); Lippitt Miss Nekomia with Dr. C. D. Park & his wife, competed many times in the Green Mountain Horse Association 100-Mile Ride (Warren Patriquin); Heritage Ethan (Johnny Johnston).

Ethan Don (x Lippitt Ethan Ash) sired 18 foals, and perhaps was best known for his lovely daughter Lippitt Ethan Georgia (x Lippitt Georgia) dam of 14 foals. Croydon Mary also produced six full siblings by Moro (Welcome x Polly Rogers) several of whom are important in many Lippitt pedigrees, as well as show, sport, and Western working lines. These include Lippitt Polly Moro, Lippitt Kate Moro, and Lippitt Moro.

ASHBROOK

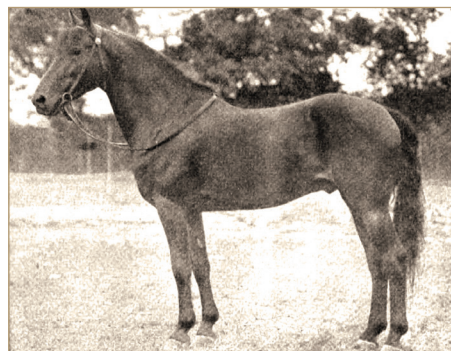
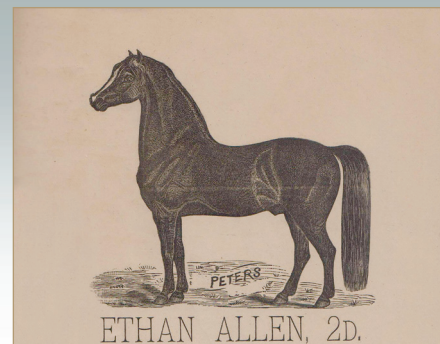
Foaled in 1916, Ashbrook was out of Nancy, a daughter of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d, and was one of his best-bred mares. A. Fullerton Phillips believed Ashbrook to his crowning achievement in breeding ideal Morgan type. He was a perfect representation of the ancient Woodbury type, and carried more of the blood of old Gifford Morgan than any horse living at the time. Most of all, Phillips admired Ashbrook's unquenchable exuberance of spirit; he was never still a moment when shown to bridle, yet was so gentle, anyone could handle him.

Nancy was one of several Morgans Phillips lost when they were tragically struck by lightning during a storm in 1922. This was a blow from which Phillips could not recover, and he passed away a few years later in 1927. Many of his remaining horses, including Ashbrook, went on to become foundation stock for Robert Lippitt Knight.

Ashbrook sired a total of 34 offspring, and left a strong influence

on not only Lippitts, but Morgans of all disciplines. One daughter, Lippitt Sally Ash (x Lippitt Sallie), was the dam of nine foals. These included Lippitt Moro Ash (x Lippitt Moro), a well-known Michigan sire used by Dr. Alexander Ruthven, and his full sister Lippitt Sally Moro, dam of 14, who was owned by Marilyn Childs. They also traced to Croydon Prince through their sire's dam, Croydon Mary. Lippitt Sallie Ash was also the dam of Warren Patriquin's well-remembered stallion Lippitt Victory, by Lippitt Searchlight (Lippitt Sam x Green Mountain Twilight), a grandson of Ashbrook.

Another Ashbrook daughter, Ne Komia (x Bridget), was the dam of 15 foals and was considered one of the best producing mares on Robert Lippitt Knight's Green Mountain Stock Farm. Her foals included the grand endurance mare Lippitt Miss Nekomia, who traced again to Croydon Prince through her sire, Lippitt Moro. Lippitt Miss Nekomia competed six times in the 100-mile Vermont Trail Ride, and was first in 1942, second in 1943, and third in 1946. Each time she was in foal, and was raising a foal. She also won both the Mare and Foal class and the Mare In-Hand Class at the 1947 National Morgan Horse Show, and was weeks away from delivering her 15th foal when she died at the age of 22. Her grandson Heritage Ethan (Dyberry Ethan x Lippitt Tilly), who carried six close crosses to Croydon Prince, five of them through Ashbrook, was chosen to star as Figure in the Walt Disney Movie, *Justin Morgan Had A Horse*.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Donald (*AMHA* Vol III); Bob Morgan, 24 years old 1910, one of the Old Guard, was the sire of Donald; Peters' Ethan Allen 2d Stallion Advertisement (*NMMH*); Donlyn was the winner of the 1912 Vermont State Fair Stallion In-Hand, Saddle, and Harness (*Dept Circular 199*); My Lady Knox and colt Donnox (x Donald) (*Our Dumb Animals*).

DONALD 5224 BACKGROUND AND BREEDING

Donald was a bay stallion with no white markings, foaled in 1904 and bred by Jonathan Jenkins of East Burke, Vermont, and later chosen as one of eight Lippitt Foundation Sires. He was sired by Bob Morgan son of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d and out of Fanny by Ethan Allen 3d also by Peter's Ethan Allen 2d. His second dam was Nell, a daughter of Cushing's Green Mountain by Hale's Green Mountain Morgan; 3d dam the Watson mare by Wood's Comet, son of Billy Root; 4th dam Watson mare by Crane Horse, son of Royal Morgan; 5th dam by the Batchelder Horse, son of Sherman Morgan, and 6th dam a daughter of Justin Morgan.

The wealthy CC Stillman was invited by Colonel Spencer Borden to attend the Vermont State Fair in 1908, which was his first introduction to the Morgan horse. He was deeply impressed, as he was already a firm believer in registered bloodstock, and had the money to spend on it. CC owned and showed Suffolk horses, Ayrshire cattle, as well as German Shepherd and Irish Setter dogs, so on meeting Morgan breeders who were passionate about the bloodlines, he was immediately hooked. He employed Edwin H. Hoffman, a knowledgeable Vermont native and Morgan breeder, to locate the best foundation Morgan stock for him, and selected the richly bred, four-year-old stallion Donald to head his new breeding operation.

Stillman began competing with Donald at the Vermont State Fair in 1909, and both he and his offspring were regular winners at the Vermont State Fair each year. In his first try at competition in the 1909 fair, Donald placed third in a class of 25 stallions, beaten by the veterans Willoughby Morgan (Young General Gifford x mare by

Dave Cushing) and Bob B. (Bob Morgan x Doll by Kirby Boy). The next year, at the 1910 Vermont State Fair, 23 stallions competed. He won the blue, beating his own sire, Bob Morgan (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Topsey by Cushing's Green Mountain), who placed second, and Billy Roberts (Chase's Mountaineer x Roberta by Billy Folsom), who placed third. Willoughby Morgan, the previous year's champion, was also in this class. Donald's son Donlyn (x Chestnut by Billy Roberts), who was the first foal of Stillman's breeding, won the yearling class. Also, in 1910, Donald placed second only to his sire in the class for ancient Morgan type, and in total earnings. In 1911, there were 21 entries in the stallion class, and Donald won second to Prince Charlie, a full brother of Willoughby Morgan, while Bob B. placed third. Donnox (x My Lady Knox) another son of Donald, won the yearling class. Meanwhile, Donlyn was sold to Henry Wardner and went on to win many ribbons for him, including Champion Stallion In-Hand, as well as championships for the saddle and harness classes at the 1912 Vermont State Fair. Stillman's Donlilly, a full sister to Donnox, won the foal class of 25 entries, as well as the Morgan Horse Club's Futurity Stake for 1912 foals. Donlyn was later used by the US Remount Service in 1919–1920, and then sold in 1920 for the then high price \$5,000 to Dr. Issa Tanimura of Tokyo, Japan. He left four registered offspring, including one son, Navarre (x Fanny P by Julian Morgan), but none of his lines bred on in the United States.

Altogether, Donald left 73 registered offspring, which Stillman had taken great pains to ensure were out of the finest mares, and many were shown very successfully. His last foal crop was in 1920, and when he died not long after, Stillman had the body dissected, and Donald was found to have only five lumbar vertebrae, a trait many



LEFT TO RIGHT: Cornwallis at C. E. Allen's in New York; Allen's Major had three close crosses to Donald (AMHA Archives); Donaldson & Sue Evarts (AMHA Archives).

Morgans from old foundation bloodlines have since been found to share with Arabians, and attesting to the strong concentration of early Arabian and Oriental blood in the pedigree of Justin Morgan. However, due to Stillman's own early and unexpected death in 1926, the strong breeding program he had begun to establish based on the blood of Donald was scattered and the stock dispersed. Only a handful of Donald's offspring left registered descendants, but those who did had a profound influence. Some of the most far-reaching and most familiar include those tracing through his daughters Donbelle and Cornwall Lass, and his son Donaldson.

DONBELLE

Bred by CC Stillman, Donbelle was a chestnut mare marked with a white face, right front stocking and both hind socks. She was out of Belle C. Graves (Billy Roberts x mare by Butterfield Horse), Donbelle was one of those rare producers able to deliver outstanding offspring from several different stallions, and her daughters were exceptional producers as well. She was the dam of 15 foals, her last at the age of 25. Most of these were bred by Elmer Brown. Her daughter Sparbelle (x Sparhawk) became the dam of Linspar (x Linsley), who was used along with Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette) at the LU Sheep Ranch. Through these early LU mares, Donbelle appears in most show pedigrees through descendants of Waseeka's Nocturne (Starfire x Upwey Benn Quietude), as well as many Western working and sport Morgan pedigrees.

CORNWALL LASS

Bred by Stillman's partner, JR Stears, Cornwall Lass was a bay mare marked with a star, snip, and two white socks behind. She was foaled in 1916 out of Bonnie Jean (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Bessie by Phelps Horse) and was owned by Stillman at the time of his death and was among his stock taken over by Charles A. Stone. Stone bred her to another well-known Stillman bred stallion, Sealect (Sir Ethan Allen x Bell Marea), also later chosen as one of the Lippitt Foundation Sires, producing the influential stallion Cornwallis. Cornwallis sired 46 offspring, including Colonel's Boy (x Gill) sire for the Chillico Indian School and his full sister Ruthven's Beatrice Ann, dam of 17, owned by Dr. Alexander Ruthven; Seneca Sweetheart, owned by Ted Davis and dam of eight foals including Windcrest's Delight and Wind-Crest Donfield (x Upwey Ben Don); Corisor of Upwey

(x Arissa), owned by Martha van Buskirk, and sire of 76; Allen's Major, out of Nubbin, whose sire and dam were both by Donaldson, and who was the sire of 45, influential in many Lippitt pedigrees; Pecos (x Hepatica); Parade (x Mansphyllis) and many more.

DONALDSON

A bay stallion marked with a star, snip, and near hind ankle, Donaldson was bred by CC Stillman and foaled in 1912. His dam was Lilla (x Billy Roberts). Stillman gave him as a weanling colt to Miss Sue Evarts, then 18, who was the daughter of Maxwell Evarts, President of the Vermont State Fair, and one of the original governors of the Morgan Horse Club, responsible for organizing it. Sue and Donaldson were also regular competitors at the Vermont State Fair. Donaldson went on to sire 24 offspring, including Bilirubin (x Mayflower), who was also designated a Lippitt Foundation Sire; Hannah (x Maggie Morgan), and Susie (x Nelly), both chosen as Lippitt Foundation Mares.

These are just a few examples of the valuable influence of ancient Morgan blood tracing through Donald and Croydon Prince, which may be found in every discipline of the Morgan breed. ■

RESOURCES

1. Allbreed Pedigree www.allbreedpedigree.com
2. American Morgan Horse Association, "Online Morgan Registry," <http://services.morganhorse.com/PortalTools/HorseRegistry/Index.cfm>
3. American Morgan Horse Register, Inc. *American Morgan Horse Register*, Vol. IV, New York: Rand McNally & Company, 1921.
4. Ancestry.com www.ancestry.com
5. Battell, Joseph. *American Stallion Register*, Vols. I–III, Middlebury, Vermont: American Publishing Company, 1909–1913.
6. Battell, Joseph. *The Morgan Horse and Register*, Vol. I, Middlebury, Vermont: Register Printing Company, 1894.
7. Battell, Joseph. *The Morgan Horse and Register*, Vols. II–III, Middlebury, Vermont: American Publishing Company, 1905–1915.
8. Family Search www.familysearch.org
9. The Morgan Horse Club, *American Morgan Horse Register*, Vol. V, New York: The Morgan Horse Club, Inc., 1939.