



~ FOCUS ON NEW ENGLAND ~

# *The Vermont State Fair:* EARLY NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS AND MORGANS

*Long before there was a “National” or a “Grand National,” a single agricultural event was designated to, virtually, save and preserve the old Vermont Morgan. This is a history of that event and the Morgans exhibited there.*

By Brenda L. Tippin

New England, and especially Vermont, had been the heart of breeding to preserve the type and bloodlines of the original Justin Morgan since the old horse first began to be recognized for his remarkable feats and prepotency as a sire. As the Morgan breed moved into the 1900s, several of these breeders felt a growing concern that the Morgan Registry established by Joseph Battell, and the newly formed U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm, would not be sufficient to preserve the breed. They feared the true old Vermont Morgan was

being lost to infusions of Saddlebred and Standardbred blood. The Morgan Horse Club was first established at the Vermont State Fair, White River Junction, in 1909. The strong influence of Maxwell Evarts and several other key breeders, exhibitors, and their horses who participated in the Vermont State Fair over the next few years can still be seen today.

## MAXWELL EVARTS

Maxwell Evarts, born in 1862, had been acquainted with fine old

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1912 Vermont State Fair ad; Stillman Cup, awarded for broodmare and foal conforming most nearly to ancient Morgan type; Vermont State Fair, Montpelier 1853.



### MAXWELL EVARTS

LEFT TO RIGHT: Maxwell Evarts; Theodore N. Vail, President of American Telephone and Western Union companies, and Maxwell Evarts at the 1911 fair; Sue Evarts and Donaldson (Donald x Lilla by Billy Roberts) (AMHA photo archive).

Vermont Morgans from his earliest boyhood. He was the youngest of 12 children of the Honorable William Maxwell Evarts, who was a U.S. Senator from New York and who had served as Secretary of State under Rutherford B. Hayes. William Maxwell Evarts was also known for serving as counsel to President Andrew Johnson during his impeachment trial in 1868, when Johnson came within a single vote of being removed from office. Immediately afterward, William Maxwell Evarts became U.S. Attorney General.

Maxwell Evarts, as well as his father and grandfather before him, was a graduate of Yale University. Additionally, after graduating from Yale in 1884, he studied two years at the Harvard Law School, and subsequently was actively involved as legal counsel for various railroads, including the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Harriman system, and Oregon Short Line. He resided in the old home of the family in Windsor, Vermont, and became very involved in the business, political, and agricultural interests of Vermont. Evarts was president of the State National Bank of Windsor, vice-president of the Windsor Machine Company and half-owner of the Amsden, Vermont Lime Company. He served as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives in 1906, and was president of the Vermont Fish and Game League, as well as president of the Vermont State Fair. It was Evarts who began to talk to other breeders and owners of the Morgan horse, and invested \$5000 to revitalize the Vermont State Fair in 1907, encouraging breeders of the old Vermont Morgan to exhibit their horses. A few old-style Morgans began to appear. Dandy Lambert (Aristos x mare by Woodburn Pilot) owned by J. W. Davis, Fairlee, Vermont, was a blue ribbon winner in 1907. Billy Root 2<sup>nd</sup>, a son of Young General Gifford owned by F. S. Whitcher of Barton, Vermont, also won first prizes in 1907 and 1908. Young General Gifford won the Get of Sire class in 1908 and his son, Willoughby Morgan, owned by Charles Morse, won first prize for four-year-olds in 1908. Evarts

and his daughter, Miss Sue Evarts, continued to actively compete with their horses at the Vermont State Fair for the next several years.

### HENRY STEELE WARDNER

A first cousin of Maxwell Evarts, Henry Steele Wardner, was the son of Henry Wardner (brother of Evarts' mother) and Caroline Steele Payne Wardner. He was born in Windsor, Vermont in 1867, graduated from Harvard Law School and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1892, serving ten years as U.S. Attorney for New York's southern district while maintaining his home in Windsor. He married Lillian Millard Durrah, but had no children. Wardner, who was also an able historical writer and an avid breeder of old style Morgan horses, was chosen as the first President of the Morgan Horse Club at the 1909 meeting, an office he held through 1915. He was generous in offering prizes to encourage Morgan owners to exhibit their horses, including the coveted Morgan trophy for the horse most nearly resembling ancient Morgan type. It was also Wardner who had the famous weathervanes of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan made for the fifteen original governors of the club. Among his historical writings was also a well-researched article on the history of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan. He purchased the colt Donlyn (Donald x Chestnut by Bob Morgan) from C. C. Stillman, who went on to win many ribbons for him during the next several years of Vermont State Fair competition.

Perhaps his most significant achievement in breeding was one in which he thought he had failed. Breeding his exceptional mare Polly Rogers (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Annie Florette by Peter's Morgan) to A. Fullerton Phillips's stallion Welcome (Morgan Dan x Dolly Burke by McGinnis' Comet), the result was a small colt he named Eureka, foaled in 1917. Though he had high hopes for this cross, the colt matured so slowly, Wardner believed his quality was hopelessly poor

and determined to put him down. Phillips intervened, purchasing the colt for \$25 and renaming him Moro, and he became one of the foundation stallions of the Lippitt Morgans with noted descendants too numerous to mention. A few notable ones include Moro's daughter, Lippitt Kate Moro (x Croydon Mary), who was the dam of Marilyn Childs's famous stallion Lippitt Mandate (by Mansfield), who in turn sired The Statesman, foundation sire for Lynn Shpak's outstanding sport horse line. Another daughter, Lippitt Polly Moro (x Croydon Mary), was dam of Golden River Dona (by Patrick Geddes), who in turn was dam of the excellent producers Little Miss Pepper and Donna Mae Pepper (both by Brown Pepper). Lippitt Moro, another full sibling of the cross with Croydon Mary, sired several good ones including Lippitt Moro Ash, sire of Patrick Geddes (x Rosilee) sire of Golden River Dona. Lippitt Moro was also the sire of the famous endurance mare Lippitt Miss Nekomia (x Ne Komia), Grand Champion Mare of the 1947 National Morgan Show at Windsor, Vermont. She competed six times in the 100-mile Vermont ride heavyweight division, winning in 1942, second in 1944, and third in 1946, raising a foal each year of her competition, and producing a total of seven colts and seven fillies. Additionally, Moro was also the sire of John A. Darling who also sired several excellent horses including the full sisters Townshend Lass and Sadwin (x Gladwin). Townshend Lass, dam of Jubilee's Courage, is important in Lambert pedigrees, while Sadwin was another great endurance mare winning the 100 mile Vermont ride light weight division in 1941 and winning several of the 80 mile rides in Maine.

### C. C. STILLMAN

Charles Chauncey Stillman was the son of James Stillman and Sarah Elizabeth Rumrill, born in 1877 at Irvington-On-Hudson, New York. He graduated cum laude from Harvard in 1892, worked for the Union Pacific Railroad from 1902 to 1918, retiring as vice-president. He was first introduced to Morgan horses in 1908 by Colonel Spencer Borden who that year took him to the Vermont State Fair at White River Junction. He immediately purchased some Morgans and began his own breeding operation, and was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the newly formed Morgan Horse Club in 1909, remaining in office until his unexpected death in 1926.

Stillman's contribution was far-reaching in many ways. He purchased the stallion Donald (Bob Morgan x Fanny), his all-time favorite Morgan, and some mares in 1908. He then competed at the 1909 fair with Donald and the mare Chestnut with her colt Donlyn, his first attempt at breeding. Stillman bred more than 65 Morgans during his relatively brief 18-year breeding program; it was also his habit to find, purchase, and register, many Morgans which might otherwise have been forgotten. Donald sired a total of 71 Morgans, and Stillman's careful breeding still survives today especially through Donald's daughters Cornwall Lass and Donbelle. Cornwall Lass (x Bonnie Jean by Peter's Ethan Allen 2d) became the dam of the great sire Cornwallis, best-known son of the famous Sealect (Sealect, also bred by Stillman was the subject of an article in *The Morgan Horse*, September 2013). Donbelle (x Belle C. Graves by Billy Roberts), dam of 15 foals, including several daughters, was especially important in Western and sport pedigrees. Among these were Viola Linsley (by

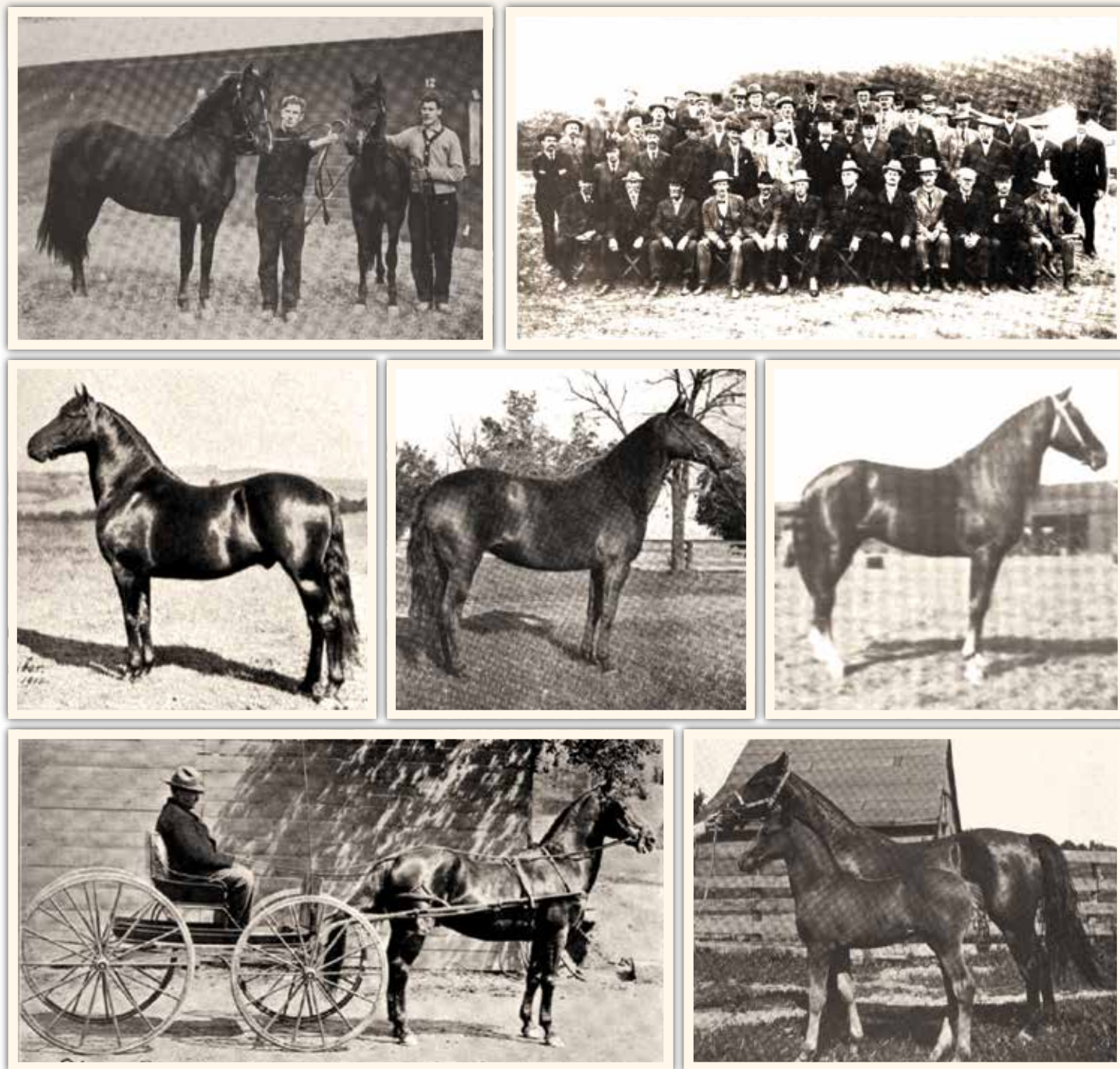
Linsley), dam of El Cortez (by Romanesque); Lulu Belle R. M., dam of Model (by Chocolate) and Yellow Gold (by Morgan Gold); and Sparbelle (by Sparhawk), dam of Linspar and Sparbeau, both by Linsley. Linspar, in particular, was, along with Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette) one of the original sires of the LU Sheep Ranch and appears regularly in Western, sport, and show pedigrees alike (see Mares of the LU Sheep Ranch, *The Morgan Horse*, February 2012).

Donlyn, after winning several ribbons for Henry Wardner, was sold to the US Government Farm and used for the Army horse breeding program. While there, he sired the stallion Navarre (x Fanny P by Julian Morgan), who was exported to El Salvador. In 1920, Donlyn himself was sold to Dr. Issa Tanimura, Tokyo, Japan for the then remarkable price of \$5,000. Stillman also took over the Morgan register after the death of Joseph Battell in 1915, and formed a corporation, the American Morgan Horse Register, as well as providing offices for the Morgan Horse Club. Additionally, it was Stillman who commissioned the famous German sculptor Frederick Roth to create a bronze statue of Justin Morgan at a cost of \$18,000. Stillman paid for this himself and presented the statue to the U.S. Government Farm on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Justin Morgan's death in 1921, where it still stands today, now owned by the University of Vermont.

### ELMER A. DARLING

Elmer Darling was the son of Henry G. Darling and Mehitabel Whitcomb, born in 1848. He was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he studied architecture. He went to work in the hotel business, becoming part owner with his uncle of the elegant Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City. At age 35 he began to acquire farm properties, building his famous Mountain View Farm as a gentleman's working farm in 1883. He continued to add to his holdings until he was said to own the largest farm in the state of Vermont, more than 11,000 acres at the time of his death in 1931. For years, the Mountain View Farm supplied meat and dairy products for his New York hotel. By the turn of the century, most of the men in East Burke, Vermont worked on Darling's farm. In 1905 he began building his colonial style mansion, Burklyn Hall, completed in 1908, which had 23 bedrooms and five caretakers. He also supplied the village of East Burke with electricity.

Darling had also purchased Burke Mountain in 1904 and, following a forest fire in 1907, saw the need for fire detection. He built a carriage road to the top of Burke Mountain and constructed a 64 foot fire lookout tower for the government's use as a fire detection station. Mountain View Farm has been completely restored by its present owners and is now the site of The Inn at Mountain View Farm, a beautiful vacation rental, as well as a nonprofit animal sanctuary. The historic Hale's Green Mountain weathervane, supplied by Henry Wardner, still sits on top of the cupola of the Morgan horse barn which housed all of Darling's champions. These included the stallions Billy Roberts, widely respected as one of the "Old Guard"; his son Lyndon (x Topsy by Billy Bodette), Bob B. (Bob Morgan x Doll by Kirby Boy), and Sir Ethan Allen (Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup> x Walter Russell mare by Corbett), sire of Sealect. Lyndon was especially important through his daughter Lucinne, dam of the well-known mares Vigilda Burkland and Ethanelda. Vigilda Burkland (by Vigilant) was the dam of ten foals including the two great stallions Orcland Vigildon and



### THE 1909 VERMONT STATE FAIR

**LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:** Agiatis (Bob Morgan x Eudora by Billy Roberts), owned by A. Fullerton Phillips; The newly formed Morgan Horse Club; Bob B (Bob Morgan x mare by Kirby Boy) (AMHA Vol III); Carrie (Billy x A.E. Hall mare by Ethan Allen 3rd), owned by E. A. Darling; Star Lambert (Lambert B x A. Skinner mare by Goldfinder), owned by Maxwell Evarts (AMHA Vol III); Billy Roberts (Chase's Mountaineer x Roberta by Billy Folsom), one of the "Old Guard" (AMHA Vol III); Senata (Senator x Daisy) and colt Sangamo by Dr. Strawn.

Orcland Leader (both by Ulendon). Ethanelda (by Sir Ethan Allen) was the dam of the highly regarded Lippitt sire Ethan Eldon. Darling bred more than 40 registered Morgans altogether and, for the years of 1909 to 1912 combined, his horses won more ribbons and prizes at the Vermont State Fair than any other exhibitor. Darling followed Henry Wardner as President of the Morgan Horse Club, and held that office from 1915 until his death in 1931.

### THE 1909 VERMONT STATE FAIR

Although Maxell Evarts' efforts to attract more old-style Morgans to the Vermont State Fair in 1907 and 1908 had gotten good results, he wanted more. He called for a meeting at the 1909 Vermont State Fair of all who were interested in forming a club to perpetuate the breed. Evarts presided over the meeting which was held on September 23, and the primary purpose established was, "To perpetuate the



### THE 1910 VERMONT STATE FAIR

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bob Morgan; Lyndon and Bob B; Sampson (Knox Morgan x Pearl by Harry Cobden) (AMHA Vol III).

Morgan breed of horses by preserving the original blood and type rather than by effort to bring about improvement or change in size, speed or other features." In support of this, the club endeavored to have classes for Morgans at agricultural fairs and horse shows with competent judges knowledgeable in Morgan history; to develop a breed standard and offer prizes to encourage breeding and registering of Morgans. Henry Steele Wardner was elected president, and C. C. Stillman, was elected secretary-treasurer. Fifteen governors and five vice presidents were also chosen for the board.

Evarts had also put out the call for Morgan owners to bring their horses to the fair and prove there was yet enough blood of the old type to carry the breed forward. In addition to Evarts, Wardner, and Stillman, other notable Vermont breeders present who were key participants and founding members of the Morgan Horse Club included E. H. Hoffman, Lyndonville, Vermont; A. Fullerton Phillips, Barton, Vermont; F. G. Chandler, West Danville, Vermont; H. R. C. Watson, Brandon, Vermont; F. H. Orcutt, East Burke, Vermont; C. G. Chaffee, Rochester, Vermont; Charles I. Morse, Barton, Vermont. Other important members included A. R. Van Tassel of Du Bois, Pennsylvania; Colonel Spencer Borden, Fall River, Massachusetts; and J. C. Brunk, Rochester, Illinois, who had traveled the farthest to participate. A full one hundred head of Morgans were present, more than had been seen together at any fair or show in 50 years, filling nearly every regular and special class with horses of traditional old type, tracing to Justin Morgan through both sire and dam and scarcely any outcrosses in their pedigrees. Evarts brought his own stallion, Star Lambert (Lambert B. x mare by Goldfinder 1479 by John Lambert), and his daughter, Miss Sue Evarts, competed with her Lambert bred mare Dotty Dimple (Old Tom x Tiny by Dandy Boy), whose sire had won the Morgan Trophy in 1908. The fair was attended by some 25,000 people that year, and considered by all a huge success.

For the 1909 stallion class, several old veteran stallions were upon the grounds including Bob Morgan (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Topsey by Green Mountain 493) foaled in 1888 and owned by A. R. Van Tassel, Du Bois, Pennsylvania; Billy Roberts (Chase's Mountaineer x Roberta by Billy Folsom) foaled in 1889 and owned by C. V. Kent, Montpelier, Vermont; Pete Morgan (Peter's Morgan x mare by V.M. Hubbard Horse) foaled in 1890 and owned by Charles

G. Chaffee, Rochester, Vermont; and Young General Gifford (Billy Bodette x mare by Green Mountain 493) foaled in 1890 and owned by Charles I. Morse, Barton, Vermont. These four stallions, together with Ethan Allen 3d, who was not present, but enjoying retirement on E. H. Hoffman's farm, were called "The Old Guard" by Morgan breeders dedicated to bringing back the ancient type Morgan, and all these lines figured prominently in the competition.

Of 25 stallions shown, first prize went to Willoughby Morgan, second to Bob B. owned by Elmer Darling and third to Donald owned by C. C. Stillman. A special prize was offered by Mr. Wardner "for the stallion, mare or gelding, three years old or over, foaled in Vermont, conforming most truly to the ancient Morgan type." This class had 34 entries, shown in harness and judged by Mr. J. B. Farnsworth of Windsor, then 84 years old. Mr. Farnsworth had been well acquainted with such famous horses as Hale's Green Mountain Morgan and old Gifford, and was recognized as one of the most competent judges of Morgan conformation of any horseman then living. First went to Elmer Darling's Bob B. (Bob Morgan x Doll by Kirby Boy), and second to the mare Agiatis (Bob Morgan x mare by Mountaineer) owned by A. Fullerton Phillips. Third went to the old matron Kitty Thurber (Cushing's Green Mountain x mare by Black Morgan 2<sup>nd</sup>), dam of Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the harness class for mares and geldings four & over, first went to Elmer Darling's Carrie (Billy x A.E. Hall mare by Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup>), described as one of the most charming horses on the grounds, very near to old Morgan type and a frequent winner. Second went to J. C. Brunk's Jenny C. (Chetco x Jennie Lind by Chase's Mountaineer). Elmer Darling purchased Jenny C. from Brunk for his Mountain View Farm. Brunk's Senata and her ten-week-old colt Sangamo won the Mare with 1909 Foal class.

### THE 1910 VERMONT STATE FAIR

The 1910 fair exceeded in numbers and quality the impressive display of 1909. Altogether, five silver cups and \$1078 in prizes were offered with Elmer Darling's Mountain View Farm earning nine blue ribbons and \$240 in winnings. A. R. Van Tassel, owner of Bob Morgan, captured six blue ribbons and \$180 in winnings, while C. C. Stillman won two blue and \$120, and Joseph Battell



### THE 1911 VERMONT STATE FAIR

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Prince Charlie, won the blue ribbon in the Four & Over Stallions class; Ara Gates won the Three & Over Mare and Gelding Harness class; Borden's Ethan Allen 3rd made his first and only appearance at the 1911 Vermont State Fair, winning blue for sire with three 1911 foals (*Our Dumb Animals*).

won three blues and \$65. Of the five silver cups offered, Elmer Darling won three, and Van Tassel and Battell won one each. A leading exhibitor was said to remark that he placed more value on six blue ribbons won in Morgan classes at the 1910 fair than a dozen won in 1909. The show of Morgans was thought to be the best since the days of Black Hawk with 47 different owners exhibiting 146 Morgans. A total of 68 ribbons were awarded with offspring of 24 sires represented. It is interesting to note that Bob Morgan himself, his get, and his grandget, won 20 of these ribbons and 17 ribbons were won by Billy Roberts, his get and grandget.

Twenty-three entries were brought out for the stallion class, among them the four Old Guard stallions, Bob Morgan, Pete Morgan, Billy Roberts, and Young General Gifford. Willoughby Morgan, winner of the 1909 prize was present, and his full brother Prince Charlie, owned by Allen M. Fletcher. New entries included Sampson (Knox Morgan x Pearl by Harry Cobden) owned by H.R.C. Watson's Edge View Farm, and Scotland (General Gates x Highland Mary by Lambert Chief), owned by Colonel Joseph Battell. Donald took the blue with Bob Morgan and Billy Roberts placing second and third respectively. Sampson, interestingly, went on to win the blue against all Morgan stallions at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden later that November. A. Fullerton Phillips' Welcome (Morgan Dan x Dolly Burke by Comet) won the Three-Year-Old Stallion class, while Doctor, a full brother of Sampson owned by E. C. Cline won the two-year-old class, and Donlyn (Donald x Chestnut by Billy Roberts) owned by Henry Wardner won the yearling class.

For Mares 4 & Over, Bell Marea (Knox Morgan x Underwood mare by Ned Norton) owned by H. R. C. Watson took the prize. Bob Morgan and Welcome took first and second for Ancient Morgan Type, and Battell won the Harness Pairs with his mares Maggie Gates (General Gates x Hyacinth by Daniel Lambert) and Beauty (General Gates x Coming Trotter by Motion). Scotland, shown by Battell and under the judging of Mr. J. B. Farnsworth, now 85, was awarded the Manchester Cup for the Morgan descending through

the Black Hawk line and conforming most nearly to the type of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan. Bob Morgan also won the prize for Ancient Morgan Type in Harness with his sons Donald and Bob B. placing second and third. Bob Morgan won the most of any single horse, winning one cup and \$155 in prizes, and his son Donald was next with \$110. Elmer Darling's mare Hazel (John x Locklin mare by Black Morgan 3<sup>rd</sup>) led the mares with two cups and \$105 in earnings.

### THE 1911 VERMONT STATE FAIR

Just as the 1910 fair had surpassed the one of 1909, the exhibit of 1911 was said to be even better still with a total of 137 Morgan entries listed in the catalog. George M. Rommel, Chief of the Animal Husbandry Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, judged the Four & Over Stallions class which had twenty-one entries. Allen M. Fletcher's Prince Charlie (Young General Gifford x Charles Morse mare by Dave Cushing) made a strong impression in winning the blue and was pronounced by Dr. C.A. Gale, who remembered old Hale's Green Mountain, to be a near image of him. C. C. Stillman's Donald placed second and third went to Elmer Darling's Bob B. For the three-year-old stallions there were just six entries, the blue going to the handsome black chestnut Cecil I (Young General Gifford x Black Bess by General Fisk) owned by W. J. Smith. Second was awarded to A. R. Van Tassel's Henderson (Bob Morgan x Blanche Allen by Ashley's Ethan Allen), and third to Little Justin (Lyndon x Hazel by John) owned by Elmer Darling. The Two-Year-Old Stallion class had several good entries and was won by Elmer Darling's Morgan Whitefoot (Bob B x Bessie by Asa Hunter Horse), with Henry Wardner's Donlyn second and H. R. C. Watson's Morgan Lyndon third. The yearling class had only two entries and was won by Donnox (Donald x My Lady Knox by Knox Morgan) exhibited by A. W. and J. E. Peters over Elmer Darling's Bell Boy (Lyndon x Bell Morgan by Bob Morgan).

The Four & Over Mare and Gelding Harness class was won for the second year in a row by H. R. C. Watson's Bell Marea, who was later best known as the dam of Sealect by Sir Ethan



### THE 1912 VERMONT STATE FAIR

**LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:** Bell Marea won the Four & Over Mare & Gelding Harness class in 1910 and 1911 and helped her sire win blue in the 1912 stallion class; Donald, C. C. Stillman's all-time favorite Morgan, sired a total of 71 Morgans (AMHA Vol III); Donlyn was the winner of the 1912 Vermont State Fair stallion in-hand, saddle and harness classes (Dept Circular 199); A scene from The 1912 Vermont State Fair (*The Vermonter*, Vol 17, October 1912); My Lady Knox and colt Donnox (x Donald). My Lady Knox won the blue in the class of 20 broodmares with foals (*Our Dumb Animals*).

Allen. Mr. Watson also won the three-year-old class with Ara Gates (General Gates x Swanhild by Hilbert's Black Hawk) and the two-year-old class with Evelyn (Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup> x Nellie by Goldfinder). Altogether Watson brought 15 horses and won 22 ribbons. F. G. Chandler won the yearling class with Lady Princess (Knox Morgan x Princess C by Knox Morgan). The foal class had 21 entries with first going to W. J. Smith's Allen H. (Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup> x Black Bess by Governor Fisk), and Mr. Van Tassel's Snip (Hollister Horse x Bess by Charles Willis Horse) won the broodmare class out of 15 entries.

Among several other classes, a highlight of the fair was the first and only appearance of the 26-year-old stallion Borden's Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup> (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Kitty Thurber by Cushing's Green Mountain Morgan), then recognized as the head of the old Vermont Morgans. This class called for stallions with three of their 1911 foals. Dr. A. W. Hinman of Dundee, Illinois, who had purchased two carloads of the best Vermont Morgans then available and taken them west in 1891, was invited to judge this and several other important remaining classes. Ethan easily won this class, appearing with three foals, Allen H. (x Black Bess), Gladwin (x Delight), and a colt from A. R. Tatum's mare. It is interesting

to note that of the 32 lines on Ethan's five generation pedigree, one represented Tom Morgan (True Briton, sire of Justin Morgan x daughter of Justin Morgan) and one a daughter of Tom Morgan. Of all the rest, only one other line does not go back through Morgan blood, but goes straight back to the Godolphin Arabian in 13 generations. There are five crosses to Justin Morgan in nine generations; seven in eight generations; seven in seven generations and ten in six generations.

In a special class for all Morgans under three years of age, Judge Dr. Hinman awarded the blue to Henry Wardner's Donlyn. The coveted Morgan Trophy, for the horse conforming most nearly to ancient Morgan type was awarded for the second year to A. R. Van Tassel, winning with his mare Bell Fellows (Brown Harry x Rose by Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup>). In total, \$1223 and five silver cups were awarded for the 1911 fair. Elmer Darling's Mountain View Farm led the winnings with 17 ribbons and \$348 in prizes. H. R. C. Watson was close behind with 14 ribbons, two cups and \$168 in earnings, while A. R. Van Tassel had ten ribbons, one cup, and \$150 in earnings.

### THE 1912 VERMONT STATE FAIR

1912 was the most spectacular fair of all the early years for Morgan

classes with 188 entries. For Stallions Four & Over, all eyes were on Prince Charlie, the 1911 champion since his owner Allen Fletcher was the newly elected Governor of Vermont. However, Knox Champion (Knox Morgan x mare by Mountaineer) owned by C. A. Stone narrowly won the blue over Prince Charlie, with third going to Elmer Darling's Bob B. Henry Wardner's Donlyn easily won the blue for three-year-old stallions, with Hazeldon Boy (Lyndon x Hazel by John), owned by Elmer Darling, earning the two-year-old championship, and H. R. C. Watson's Success (Knox Morgan x mare by Pete Morgan) winning the yearling class. Also Watson's Ara Gates won blue for Mares in Harness Four & Over, just as she had won the three-year-old class the year before. The winner of the 1912 three-year-old mares in harness was a new competitor creating quite a sensation, J. Rich Steers's mare Half Moon (Falcon x Bonnie Jean by Peters' Ethan Allen 2d). Watson's Evelyn was second, and the famous Artemisia (Ethan Allen 3<sup>rd</sup> x Lady Laura by Bob Morgan), shown by A. Fullerton Phillips, was third. C. C. Stillman's Bobolink (Bob B x Frank C. Harvey mare by Bob Morgan) won the two-year-old class and Molly (Star Lambert x Polly by Cobden S. Jr), shown by Miss Sue Evarts, won the very competitive yearling class. Stillman's Donlilly (Donald x My Lady Knox by Knox Morgan) won the foal class which had 25 entries, as well as the Morgan Horse Club's Futurity Stake for 1912 foals. My Lady Knox (Knox Morgan x Pearl by Harry Cobden) won the blue in the class of 20 broodmares with foals. H. R. C. Watson's Ruby (Pete Morgan x Whittaker mare by Gray Columbus) was awarded the Stillman Cup for broodmare and foal conforming most nearly to ancient Morgan type.

In the class for stallions shown with four of their get, F. G. Chandler's old Knox Morgan made his first appearance, winning the blue with his offspring Kenney's Morgan, Excelsior Boy, My Lady Knox, and Bell Marea. C. C. Stillman showed his favorite stallion Donald with four offspring he had bred: Donlyn, Donnox, Donlad, and the yearling Donilo, owned by E. C. Smith, former Governor of Vermont from 1898-1900. For Governor Fletcher's prize for the stallion with four of his get conforming most nearly to ancient Morgan type, it was twenty six-year-old Bob Morgan who won. Bob B. won the stallions in harness class and Donlyn the saddle class for stallions while Colonel Spencer Borden won the saddle class for mares with Cherry Ripe (Bob Morgan x Myron Ham mare by Bemis Horse). For the classes judged on pedigree as well as Morgan type, Bob Morgan won the stallion class and Bell Marea won the mares class. Bell Fellows, winner of the 1911 Morgan Trophy, carried off the blue for Mr. Charles Stone's special combination class in which the horses

were required to first be driven with four wheeled carts, then unharnessed, saddled, and ridden. They were to be judged for quality, action, manners, and conformation to the ancient Morgan type. A. R. Van Tassel's Mollie Rosebrooks (Harry Allen Jr x Topsy by Cushing's Green Mountain) won the Manchester Cup for the Morgan tracing in sireline to Black Hawk but conforming to the type of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan. The Morgan Trophy was awarded to Elmer Darling's Bob B.

For 1912, a total of six cups and \$2,075 in prizes were offered. Forty-six different owners exhibited with 61 of the 187 Morgans shown winning prizes. H. R. C. Watson was the leading exhibitor with 24 ribbons including nine blues; three cups, and \$468.70 in prizes. He won an extra \$100 for being the breeder of the most prize winners. Elmer Darling was next with 17 ribbons, one cup and \$415.60 in prize money, followed by A. R. Van Tassel with eight ribbons, one cup, and \$258 in prizes.

### A LASTING INFLUENCE

By the time of the 1913 fair, Maxwell Evarts, who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to establish a strong Morgan presence at the Vermont State Fair, was suffering a final illness and passed away a short time later on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Henry Wardner, President of the Morgan Horse Club, declared the efforts to renew interest in Morgans of the ancient type had been a great success. There are few Morgans today which do not carry the blood of one or more of the "Old Guard" stallions, passed down to us through the efforts of these dedicated early breeders and exhibitors. Old Vermont bloodlines were preserved which might otherwise have been lost, and the foundation was laid for a variety of competitive Morgan classes, which still persist today. ■

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