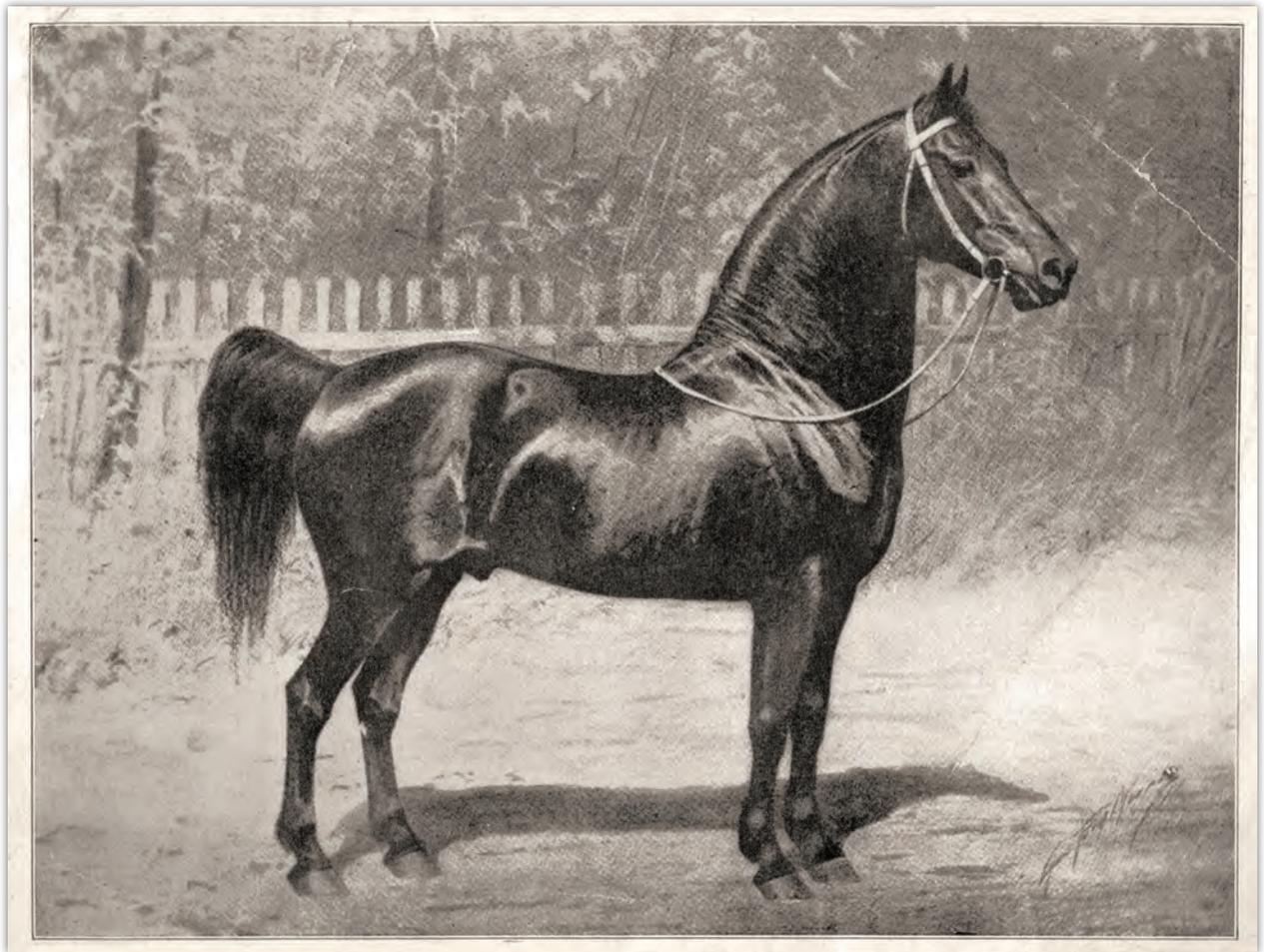


≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

# Hale's GREEN MOUNTAIN MORGAN

By Brenda L. Tippin



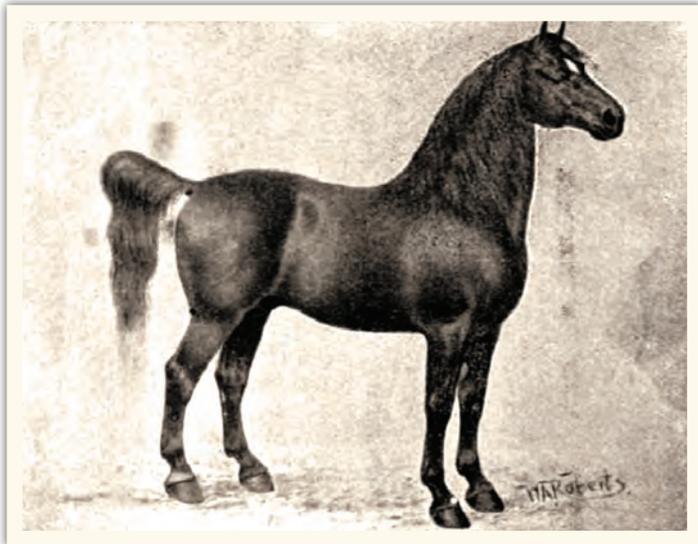
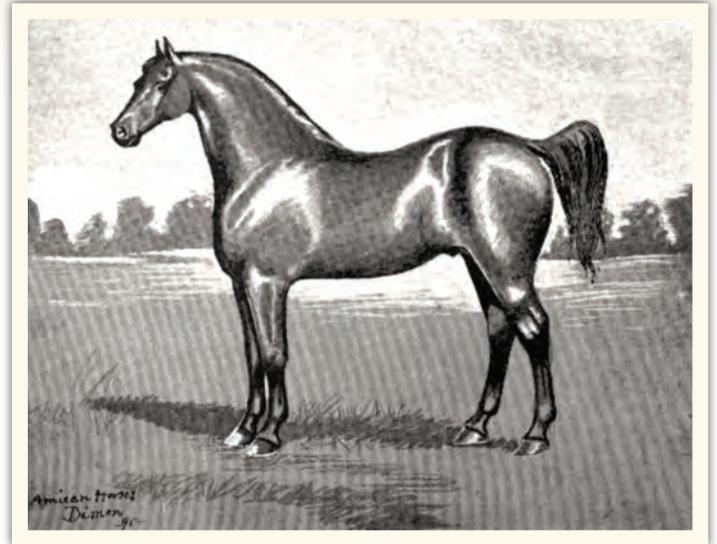
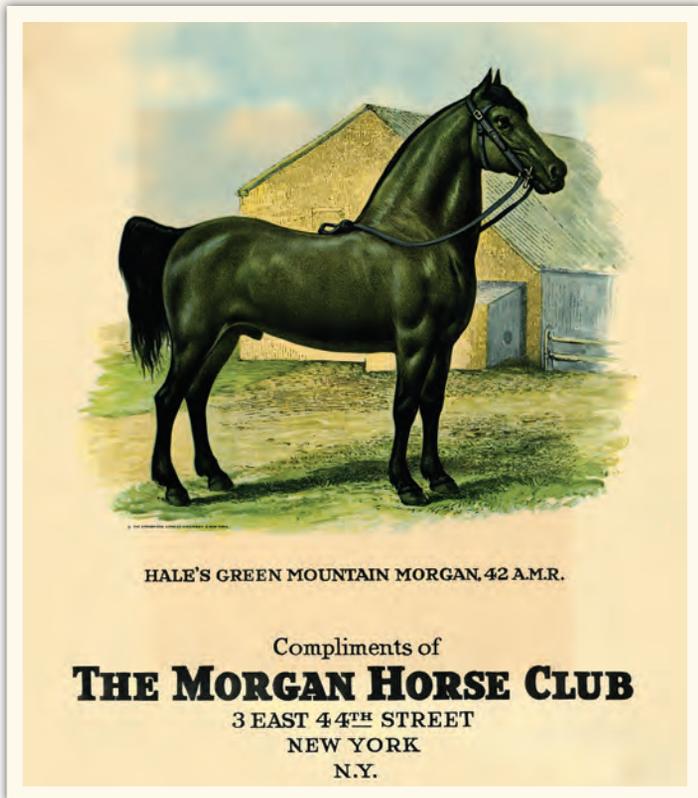
**A**mong the most highly regarded of the early Morgans, Hale's Green Mountain came to symbolize the ideal of the breed. His bold and fearless style of action under saddle, combined with fire, spirit, and perfection of form, made him, at once, the center of attention anytime he was ridden onto the grounds at countless fairs and military musters. When original Morgan type was nearly absorbed by outcrosses to Standardbred, Saddlebred, and Thoroughbred, it was invariably the influence of Green Mountain Morgan which contributed most toward restoring those values.

## BACKGROUND

Sired by the old Gifford Morgan, Green Mountain Morgan (#42) was foaled about 1832-34\* at Bethel, Vermont, on the farm of George Bundy in May of that year. (\*Battell gives the date as 1832 in Volume I of the *American Morgan Horse Register*, however, Linsley places it at 1834, which is the year most often given by Silas Hale in referencing the horse's age.)

Bethel, chartered in 1778, was the first town in Windsor County, in the fertile White River Valley where three branches of the White River join, leading to a natural route over the Green

**ABOVE:** A black and white print of a painting of Hale's Green Mountain 42 by George Ford Morris.



**The Green Mountain - Morgan,**  
**OR ROYALSTON HORSE,** will  
 be at the stable of J. Taggart in  
 Townshend, Vt., all the time from  
 May 10th, till July 10th; then will be  
 taken to Mr G. F. Whitney's stable in Wood-  
 stock, Vt., and remain there till Sept. 1st.  
 TERMS, \$10 and warrant, payable at the time  
 of service. **SILAS HALE.**  
 South Royalston, May 1st, 1850, 3w80

Mountains to the west. It consists of just over 29,000 acres in the northwestern portion of the county, and near the center of the state of Vermont. A massive deposit of pure white granite consisting of quartz monzonite lies north of town on Quarry Hill. Discovered in the 1800s, the legendary Bethel white granite has been used all

over the world, including such buildings as Union Station in Washington D.C., the Western Union Building in New York City, the Wisconsin State Capitol Building, several Mormon temples, and recently, the Grande Arche de la Défense in Paris.

Set among steep hills, Bethel was covered by rich virgin decid-

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Hale's Green Mountain poster (NMMH Archives); A painting of Green Mountain Morgan by Dimon (*American Horses and Horse Breeding*); Green Mountain Morgan's blanket or stable sheet (courtesy Lyle F. Horton Memoria Archive); Green Mountain Morgan ad from *Brattleboro Eagle*, 1850. The ad states: "The Green Mountain Morgan, or Royalston Horse, will be at the stable of J. Taggart in Townshend, VT, all the time from May 10th till July 10th; then will be taken to Mr. G. F. Whitney's stable in Woodstock, VT, and remain there till Sept. 1st. Terms, \$10 and warrant, payable at the time of service. SILAS HALE. South Royalston, May 1st, 1850"; Another painting of Green Mountain Morgan, this one from the *Minnesota Farmer's Institute Annual* no. 8, 1895. Although shown with a star, this image was said to be a faithful likeness of Green Mountain Morgan.



PREPARED BY L. R. BURLEIGH, TROY, N. Y.

DIFFERENT SECTIONS.

THE BURLEIGH LITH. ESTABLISHMENT, TROY, N. Y.

75-69620

- 1. White River Dining Parlor.
- 2. Congregational Church.
- 3. Episcopal Church.
- 4. Episcopal Church.
- 5. Episcopal Church.
- 6. Episcopal Church.
- 7. Episcopal Church.
- 8. Episcopal Church.
- 9. Episcopal Church.
- 10. Episcopal Church.

## BETHEL, VT.

1886.

- 11. National White River Park.
- 12. Episcopal Church. Memorial Hall.
- 13. H. A. Morgan & Co. General Store.
- 14. Draper & Martin, Hardware.
- 15. Morgan & Whitcomb, General Store.
- 16. Morgan & Whitcomb, General Store.
- 17. Morgan & Whitcomb, General Store.
- 18. Morgan & Whitcomb, General Store.
- 19. Morgan & Whitcomb, General Store.
- 20. Morgan & Whitcomb, General Store.

63784  
200A2  
1886  
B2

**ABOVE:** Bethel, Vermont, near where Green Mountain Morgan spent his early years, was chartered in 1778, and the first town in Windsor County. Its location in the White River Valley, where three branches of the White River join, leads to a natural route over the Green Mountains to the west. It consists of just over 29,000 acres near the center of the state of Vermont. Lithograph, 1886, published by L. R. Burleigh, Troy, New York (Library of Congress).

uous/conifer forests of sugar and red maple, beech, yellow birch, red oak, and white and red pine, red spruce, eastern hemlock, and balsam fir and more; and divided by the narrow valleys of the White River and its tributaries. Land was cleared for a few hundred farms and, by 1830, the population was just under 1,700, and has changed little over the last 200 years, registering at just over 2,000 in 2014. During the early years, several small rural localities grew within the Bethel area such as Locust Creek, Lympus, Lillieville, Gilead, Camp Brook, and Christian Hill.

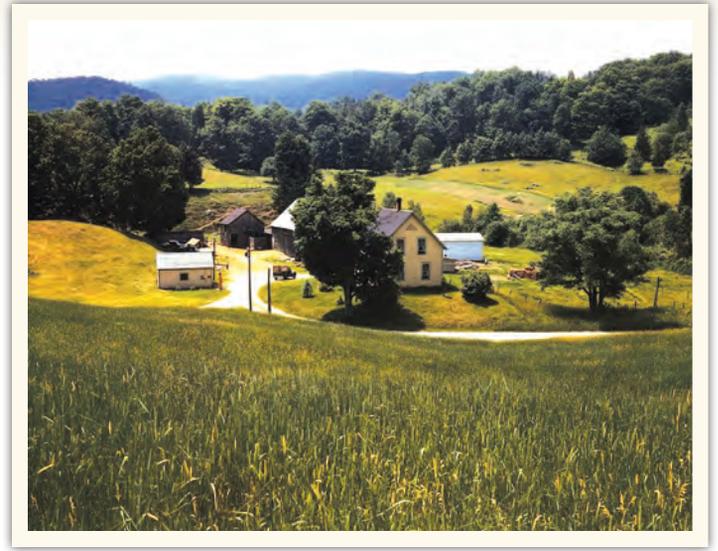
Bethel was part of the famous Royalton Raid which occurred on August 9, 1780 when a band of 21 Native Americans captured several men from the area, including David Stone of Bethel, and took them to Canada. Stone eventually escaped and returned to Bethel, bringing with him seeds from an apple he tasted at a cider mill along the way. He found his land had been sold for taxes, but was able to redeem it with apples grown from this seed.

The original tree he planted is said to still exist along the banks of the White River, just outside of Bethel, and the fruit of this tree

became known as the Bethel Apple. This was an apple of the Blue Pearmain family, exceptionally cold hardy, yielding large crisp and juicy fruit which was excellent for cider making. Cider was an important staple in the early American diet, and up until about 1840, hard cider was consumed more frequently than water and was even given to children at meals. It was, in fact, a form of currency, often used to pay wages, bills, and traded for cash.

### THE WHITCOMBS

The Whitcomb brothers, James and Nathaniel, were descendants of Robert Whitcomb, born in England in 1630, and one of the early settlers of Scituate, Massachusetts. Robert first married Mary Cudworth, daughter of General James Cudworth. However, the marriage was first performed in Rhode Island by a Quaker preacher, without the consent of the parents, (never mind that Robert was, at the time 30 years old, and Mary 23) so they were fined ten pounds and imprisoned, and then made to have the ceremony redone by a Puritan preacher on March 9, 1660. General James Cudworth was



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Wright and Cushing Mill, Bethel, Vermont (*The History of the Town of Royalston, Massachusetts*); *A Farm, Bethel, VT* by John Collier, 1939, is typical of the area where Green Mountain was born and raised (Library of Congress).

Assistant to the Government of Plymouth Colony, Commissioner to England for the Colonies, and Commander-in-Chief of all the forces in the United Colonies engaged in King Phillips War. Mary and Robert had five children, the line continuing through their second son, James, born in Scituate in 1668.

James was a cooper. He married Mary Parker, and had six children, the line continuing with their first surviving son, Nathaniel, born in Hardwick, Massachusetts, about 1697. Nathaniel was also a cooper, and married Rosilla Coombs who bore him seven children, and died in 1737. The next year, he married Phoebe Blackman, who bore two more, including a son, Lot, in 1739. Nathaniel moved his family to Rochester, Massachusetts, about 1742. Lot was married to Lydia Nye in 1672, and moved to Barnard, Vermont, but was obliged to flee from the Native Americans and moved back to Hardwick. Later he returned to Barnard, and then to Stockbridge, Vermont. He had ten children, and both Nathaniel (1771–1852) and James (1781–1844), who were the breeders of Green Mountain Morgan, were born in Stockbridge. For a time, Nathaniel and James worked on the canal at Nashua, New Hampshire, and it was there they acquired the mare who became the dam of Green Mountain.

### DAM OF GREEN MOUNTAIN MORGAN

According to *Volume I of the Morgan Register*, Bundy purchased the dam in foal from J. Kendall, who had traded for her with Nathaniel Whitcomb of Stockbridge, Vermont. Another historian of the era, Allen W. Thomson, claimed that Bundy purchased her from a Thomas Brooks for \$5, so she may have changed hands multiple times. At any rate, she was originally acquired by the Whitcomb brothers, Nathaniel and James, in Nashua, New Hampshire, where she had been used to work on the canal. They called her Old Kate and, knowing she was a daughter of Woodbury from a Morgan dam, they bred the mare to Gifford, and then traded her.

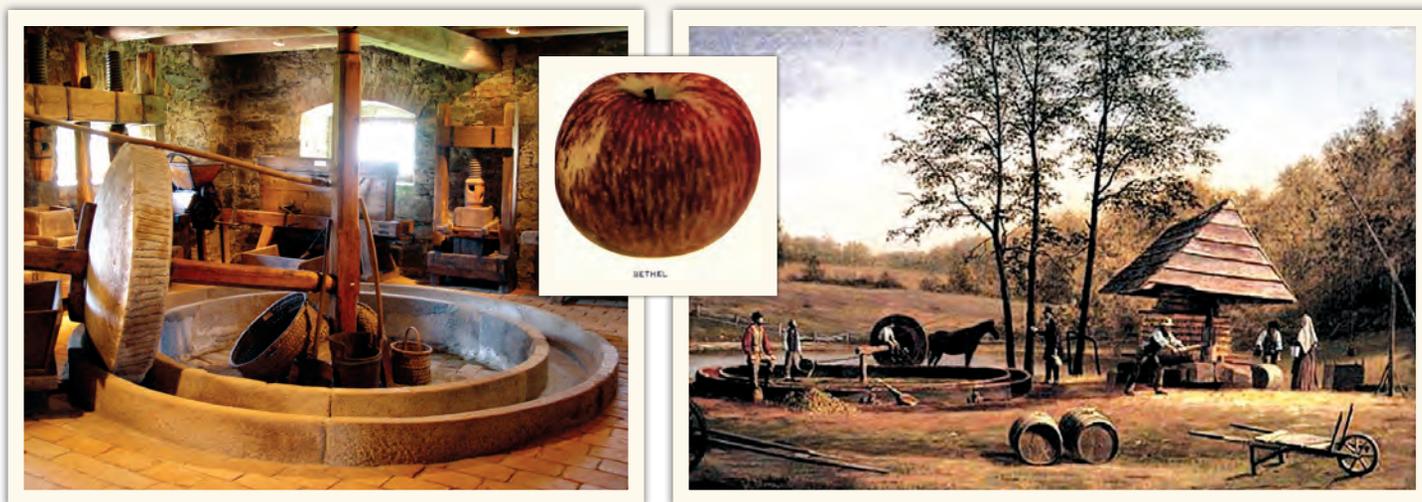
This mare was one of the first foals of Woodbury Morgan. Foaled about 1819 or 1820, she was said to have been raised near

Barnard, Vermont. Her dam was a deep-bodied, strongly made mare understood to be Morgan. According to some accounts, she was thought to be a daughter of old Bulrush, while others identified her as a daughter of Justin Morgan.

Henry Wardner, the first president of the Morgan Horse Club, and known for his historical writings, conducted extensive research on the subject, and published an article on Hale's Green Mountain Morgan in *The Vermonter* of 1911. It was his opinion that the evidence pointed strongly to Green Mountain's second dam being a daughter of Justin Morgan. In retrospect, this seems much more likely, as the Bulrush stock were less high-headed and tended to be somewhat longer gaited and with less action. Green Mountain exhibited none of the traits more typically found in the Bulrush family, but in type, character, style, and action, resembled the original Justin Morgan to a remarkable degree. He was believed to carry the highest percentage of the blood of Justin Morgan of any horse then living, and to this day is considered to be the beau ideal of excellence in original Morgan type.

When Bundy owned the dam of Green Mountain, she was often called "Cider" or "the cider mill mare," as he used her to grind apples in a cider mill near his farm, where most likely the prized Bethel apples were often used. This type of mill typically consisted of a circular stone trough, with a large wheel of stone or wood to which a horse would be harnessed. Apples were poured in the trough, and as the horse walked around pulling the wheel, the apples would be ground and crushed.

Bundy's farm was near the small area of Lympus, just south and west of Bethel, along the Lillieville Brook. Here, Cider was allowed to run in the streets with her playful colt running after her. Giving her the name of Cider in an era when cider was understood to be as valuable as cash, might indicate she was considered a high-quality animal. As she was allowed the freedom to run about as she pleased, she must also have been something of a pet, very gentle and easy to catch.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Horse driven cider mill (US public domain); The Bethel Apple was most likely the type of apple ground by "Cider," the dam of Green Mountain Morgan (Apples of New York); *Cider Making on Long Island*, by William Moore Davis, 1870, is an excellent portrayal of how the dam of Green Mountain Morgan was used to grind apples in a cidar mill (US public domain).

Interestingly, the certified statement of George Bundy, given in *Volume I of the Morgan Register*, states that he owned the mare and was the one who bred her to Gifford, though in fact she was apparently still owned by the Whitcomb brothers at that time, and they were the ones who had her bred. However, Bundy's farm in the Lympus area of Bethel was only some four miles from Stockbridge where the Whitcombs had the mare. It is quite possible that breeding her to Gifford was part of the agreement Bundy made in purchasing the mare, and/or also possible that he was present or participated in handling the mare when she was bred.

Cider was described as dark bay in color, low and thickset, of the typical old Morgan pattern, and weighing about 1,000 pounds. One account given in Volume I of *The Morgan Horse and Register* by an A. W. Whitcomb of Bethel, stated "She was not valuable nor good-looking; light mouse color, yellowish about the belly, and darker on the back; such a mare as a poor man could own. She was well along in years when she produced Green Mountain Morgan, had a ringbone and was valued at very little." (Note, this was a different Mr. Whitcomb than the brothers who sold the mare to Bundy. While it is possible he may have been related to these men in some way, it appears his only knowledge of the mare was based on having seen her in the town at some point.)

Based on this account, Battell wrote in Volume 2 of the *American Stallion Register* that based on her color she must be related to the Casol horses (described in the introduction of that volume) which were of a cream color with black list down the back. However, there seems little else to support this theory, and other descriptions of the mare, including that of John Woodbury, a reliable horseman, describe her as a dark bay, of great beauty and action. One wonders if perhaps Bundy had more than one mare and Mr. Whitcomb confused her with another horse, or if it was indeed Cider that he referred to, possibly he was recalling her when she was very old or in poor condition. At any rate, the truth of her Morgan breeding is indicated by the strong type fixed in Green Mountain which he passed to his own offspring.

## EARLY YEARS

Green Mountain was born a bright chestnut color, shedding out to a dark, nearly black shade when he lost his baby hair. Bundy initially called him Young Woodbury, and when the colt was four months old, sold him for \$25 to a neighbor, Daniel Gay, who at that time also lived in the Lympus area. Bundy later sold Cider for the same price.

Mr. Gay kept Green Mountain for four years and, for a time, he was known as the Lympus Morgan, or Bethel Morgan. He was a playful colt, and it seems had little handling or training in early life. In a letter written by Moses Cheney to the *Middlebury Register*, October 24, 1890, he said that when Green Mountain was a yearling in the Lillieville area, he would play ball, and would even catch the ball.

By the time he was three however, he was described as in poor condition, as it seemed Mr. Gay did not understand his spirited temperament and perhaps the horse had gotten a bit spoiled by lack of proper handling, and grown contrary from abuse. He sold the horse as a four-year-old to Hiram Twitchell for \$75. Mr. Twitchell found him too spirited to use for harrowing and sold him the same season to John Woodbury, also for \$75. Woodbury had no luck in breaking him that season and tried again to use him for harrowing the next spring. The horse got away and ran to the river where the harrow trapped and held him standing in the cold water while he was lathered, causing him to founder. Although he recovered from the founder, the experience likely ruined him for harness, as he was used primarily under saddle afterwards.

In a certificate quoted in Volume I of *The Morgan Horse and Register*, John Woodbury, owner of Woodbury Morgan, wrote:

"I owned the Green Mountain Morgan, and kept him for the use of mares four years, during which time he sired a large number of colts, which proved of very superior quality for speed and bottom, and sold for higher prices than any other horses ever raised in this country.

[Signed] JOHN WOODBURY  
Rochester, Vermont, 1853"



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Royalston, Massachusetts, where the Hale family lived. When Silas Hale, Sr. died in 1832, Silas Jr. was given the old Hale homestead in South Royalston and brought Green Mountain Morgan there when he purchased him ten years later. Pictured here are Morgan horses in front of the Old Chair shop of George Whitney and the Whitney Stone Woollen Mill, which burned in 1892 (Both from *The History of the Town of Royalston, Massachusetts*).

During part of the seasons of 1840–41 he was kept for a time in charge of Daniel Cushing in Springfield, Vermont, and kept with his sire, Gifford, in the basement of the Springfield Hotel those seasons. He was known as Young Woodbury during those years and, by this time, he had filled out handsomely, with a long body so deep and well-muscled, it gave the appearance of his legs being almost disproportionately short. Yet, he moved with incredible lightness and, like his sire, Old Gifford, the sound of the bands stirred him to dance to the music, his fire and proud bearing never failing to instill the utmost admiration in all who saw him.

On the whole, his proportions were nearly perfect, his powerful musculature so tremendous that when combined with his naturally bold and proud bearing he instantly attracted the attention of military officers far and wide. His chestnut coat was of such a dark shade it was sometimes mistaken for black or brown. From different accounts, it seems he was darkest when first shedding out in the spring and by late summer into fall, his color was probably more nearly brown than black. He had some white on one coronet, and a few white hairs mixed in his mane and tail which were exceptionally thick, heavy, and wavy. His tail had been docked, but it was a long dock, and he carried it high. The familiar image of Green Mountain is known to be traditionally shown in the reverse, as his mane was in fact, on the right side, which is also supported by other images of him.

Green Mountain was described as standing about 14½ hands tall, or not more than just under 15 hands at the most, and weighing 1,100 pounds in good condition. So much had he improved from his rather poor four-year-old appearance, which had twice brought a sale price of only \$75, that now Silas Hale, of Royalston, Massachusetts, having seen him at Walpole, New Hampshire, and having examined a number of his colts, was willing to pay \$700 for him. It was Hale who changed his name to Green Mountain Morgan, after the famous Green Mountain range of Vermont which runs north to south through the state. During the remainder of his life, Green Mountain was exhibited so widely

throughout New England that he dominated fairs and military reviews wherever he went.

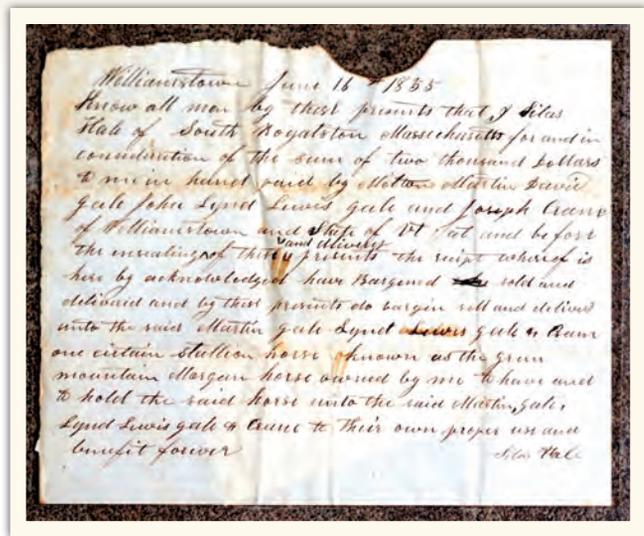
### ROYALSTON

Founded in 1765 by Isaac Royall, Royalston is a small rural community in the northwestern corner of Worcester County in central Massachusetts. It lies in the Miller's River watershed, and covers an area of nearly 42.5 square miles, or just over 27,000 acres of rolling hills, brooks, waterfalls, swamps, and marshlands shaped by glacial activity. The soil was stony and difficult to farm.

### SILAS HALE

Silas Hale Jr., the owner of Green Mountain Morgan, was born to Silas and Hopa Rich Hale. His father, Silas Hale, born at Stow, Massachusetts, in 1748, was five generations from the original immigrant ancestor John Heald, which was the early spelling of the name. The first Silas Hale was also a Revolutionary soldier. He married Lydia Stow in 1778, and his first son, Stephen Hale, was born in 1779 in Stow, and then a daughter, Lydia. They settled in the south village at the corner of Templeton and Phillipston roads. This was known as the old Hale farm in what was then the town of Gerry, named after Elbridge Gerry, the fifth Vice President of the United States, serving under James Madison, and ninth governor of Massachusetts. The political term "gerrymandering," the practice of redrawing district boundaries to aid a particular party, was also named after him. The area was first settled in 1751 and incorporated as Gerry in 1786 after separating from Templeton. The town's name was changed to Phillipston in 1814, and Hale's homestead place was brought into South Royalston when the boundary between Phillipston and Royalston was changed in 1837.

When Stephen Hale was 11 years old in 1790, he planted an elm tree on the Hale place which grew into a magnificent tree and was recognized as a local landmark. Silas Hale's first wife, Lydia, died in 1800, and he married Hopa Rich in 1801, and Silas Jr. was born in 1802, the same year his older brother Stephen was married.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** The old elm planted by Silas Jr.'s older brother, Stephen, when he was 11 years old in 1790, at the Hale's homestead on Athol Road, South Royalston, Massachusetts (*The History of the Town of Royalston, Massachusetts*); Bill of sale by Silas Hale selling Green Mountain Morgan to a stock company in Williamstown, Vermont. It reads: "Williamstown June 16 1855. Know all men by these presents that I Silas Hale of South Royalston Massachusetts for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars to me in hand paid by Milton Martin David Gale John Lynd Lewis Gale and Joseph Crane of Williamstown and State of Vt at and before the insealing and delivery of those presents the receipt whereof is here by acknowledged have bargained sold and delivered and by these presents do bargain sell and deliver unto the said Martin Gale Lynd Lewis Gale & Crane one certain stallion horse known as the Green Mountain Morgan horse owned by me to have and to hold the said horse unto the said Martin Gale Lynd Lewis Gale & Crane to their own proper use and benefit forever. [signed] Silas Hale" (courtesy Lyle F. Horton Memorial Archive)

Silas Jr. married Betsey Brown Bachellor of Royalston on October 7, 1820. Three daughters were born, two of which survived to adulthood. Silas was very influential in the community, and any enterprise he backed or took part in was generally successful. He was also known for raising Merino sheep and was a partner in the Royalston Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company. He and his wife were active in the Second Congregational Church of South Royalston, organized in 1837 with 24 members, and they sang in the choir for many years. Silas mortgaged his large farm for \$2,000 to help pay for the new building. It was destroyed by fire in 1904, but rebuilt by the members, and included a beautiful memorial window dedicated to the memory of Silas Hale, Jr.

When Silas Hale, Sr. died in 1832, Stephen was given the old Hale farm on Prospect Hill above Royalston, which had been in the Hale family for more than a hundred years, and daughter Lydia was given another farm her father had purchased. Silas Jr., the youngest, was given the old Hale homestead in South Royalston. Wanting to improve the stock of horses in South Royalston, Silas Jr. acquired Green Mountain Morgan in 1842 and brought him to this farm, which for the next 14 years became known as the home of the famous Hale's Green Mountain Morgan. At one time, Silas Jr. had at least 30 horses and built a new barn which was then said to be the finest in Worcester County.

Silas Jr.'s wife passed away in 1858, and his mother died the same year. Silas's health continued to be excellent, however. According to the History of Royalston, when he was 80 years old, he mowed an acre in four and a half hours, and spread the hay. He then walked half a mile to dinner and back, and soon had the hay raked into tumbles. He was also said to be the oldest man to ever climb

the two hundred feet of stairs in the Bunker Hill monument, which he did at 89 years of age, much to the incredulity of the caretaker. When 94, Silas went to the polls and voted in the presidential election of 1896. He died on March 28, 1897, at the ripe old age of 95.

### GREEN MOUNTAIN MORGAN —AS A STOCK HORSE

Only 98 offspring of Green Mountain Morgan were ever registered, 97 stallions and one gelding. There were of course a great many more, and Battell interviewed Silas Hale in 1888, but unfortunately his records had been lost by fire and many details to verify those lost pedigrees he was unable to remember. The tragic loss of these valuable records was no doubt largely responsible for the fact that so many more offspring of Black Hawk were recorded than were recorded for Green Mountain.

Green Mountain's first known offspring were foaled in 1836, which suggests that his year of foaling may have been 1833, the same as Black Hawk, rather than 1832 as suggested by Battell, or 1834 as given by Linsley. The latter year was what Silas Hale generally went by in giving the horse's age, but he claimed to have sold him to a stock company the year and month he was 22 years old, and the bill of sale was dated June 1855, which, if correct, would make his year of birth 1833.

In his interview with Battell, Silas Hale stated, "The season Green Mountain Morgan was at Rutland he was bred to 180 mares and got 123 colts; the next year to 154 mares with 133 colts. Price, twenty dollars." (*American Morgan Horse Register*, Volume 1)

Given that Hale owned him 14 years, and he continued to be heavily patronized while owned by the stock company, it is highly

likely he sired at least as many foals as Black Hawk did and quite possibly more. Despite the lost records, the influence of Green Mountain Morgan still left a strong impact.

### OFFSPRING

Time and space will only permit mention of a few examples of Green Mountain offspring. The direct sireline through Green Mountain is nearly gone as evidence strongly supports Peters' Vermont (403) being a son of old Gifford as originally stated by Linsley, rather than being sired by the David Wood Horse as recorded in Volume I of *The Morgan Horse and Register*. (See "Gifford Morgan," *The Morgan Horse*, August 2016)

One other Green Mountain sireline survived through Spring Hills Finnlee (King High x Nicolette) foaled in 1978, whose last foals appeared in 2006. However, most of the remaining handful from this line have either been gelded or have not been bred, although it is possible that someone might still have a stallion of breedable age from this line, or may have saved some frozen semen before gelding. This line cannot be traced through the online database even though it is a direct line with no outcrosses, as it passes through unregistered horses. However, it is recorded in the registry volumes, and traces through the Green Mountain son, Turner's Sir William (#467).

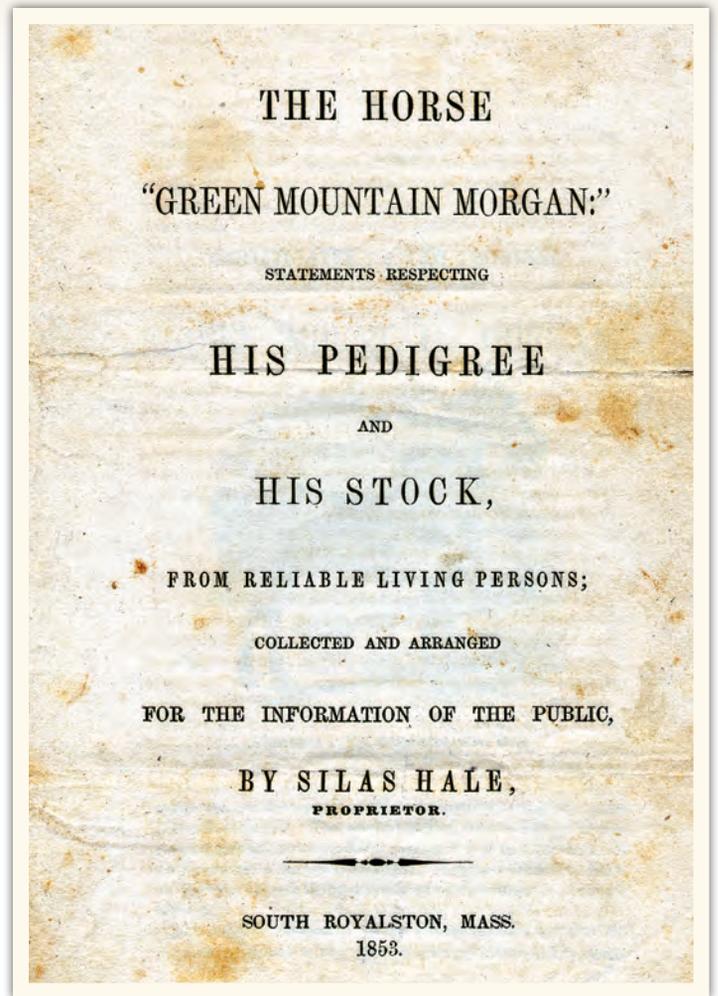
Finnlee's sire King High was a son of Martin's King (Cealo x Jewel M.) and out of High-Lo (Highland Glen x Ehanbla). Cealo was a son of Martin's Justin Morgan 4737 registered in Volume III and out of Lady Kate 04534 registered in Volume V, sired by Captain Morg #4304 out of an unregistered mare, Morgan Queen by Martin's Green Mountain Morgan, an unregistered son of Black Hawk Warrior #1991, and said to be out of a daughter of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan. Both Captain Morg and Martin's Justin Morgan were sired by Charlemagne (unregistered), a son of Guy Chase (unregistered) by Turner's Sir William #467.

### MASSACHUSETTS MORGAN (#388)

Massachusetts Morgan, foaled in 1843, was 14½ hands tall. He was bred by C & L Wheelock of Sutton, Massachusetts, out of a daughter of Howard Morgan by old Sherman Morgan.

"Massachusetts Morgan... grew to be one of the finest-styled and fastest horses of his day, weighing 1,000 pounds. He, like his sire, was a noted parade horse, always being in great demand at musters. He was of a beautiful chestnut color and a typical Morgan in build. His disposition was perfect. He was used on the plow before cattle and as a horse for general farm work, and at the same time for stud service. As a sire, he was a success. His colts were highly valued as driving animals, one of them selling for \$1,625 in 1855. His best colt, known as Jim, trotted the half-mile track in Worcester, when 20 years old, in 2:38, and drew his owner from Worcester to Sutton, seven miles, in 20 minutes." (*American Morgan Horse Register*, Volume I)

Massachusetts Morgan appears in the pedigrees of some horses tracing to Hearst breeding and Western working lines, particularly descendants of Sparfield (Lee Spar x Kitty Spar Field) and Classy's Pride (Classy Boy x Chuckanut Hacienda) both of whom were well-known cutting horses during the 1960s–1970s. The line

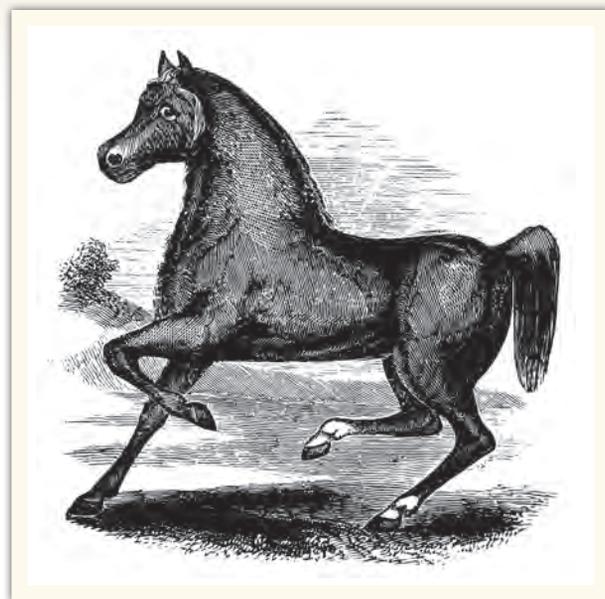
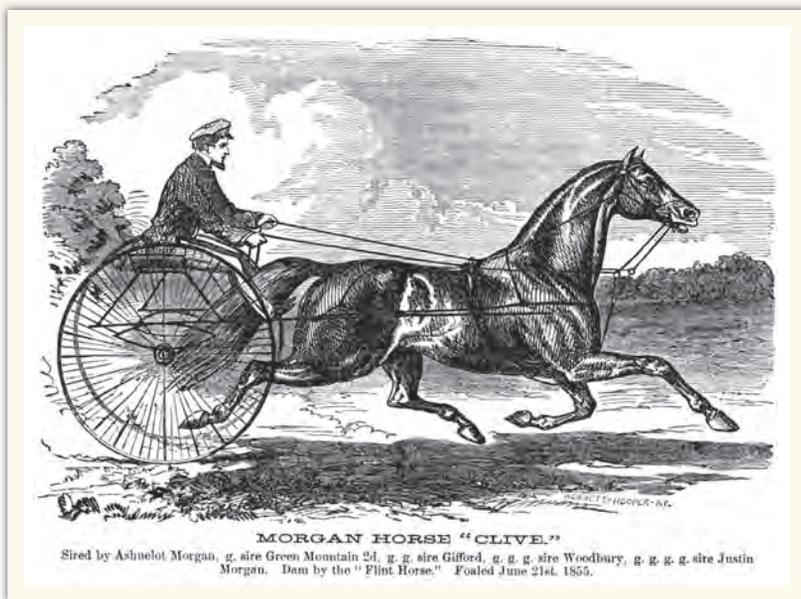


ABOVE: The cover of an eight-page pamphlet on Green Mountain Morgan by Silas Hale (courtesy National Museum of the Morgan Horse). Included were testimonials by those who knew Green Mountain Morgan or owned his offspring.

comes through the Sellman mare Kitty C (Sunny South [The Admiral x Jewess] x Kitty B). Sunny South's dam was a daughter of Smiley's Ethan Allen 3d #4406 (Peters' Ethan Allen 2d x Thankful), whose second dam was a daughter of Massachusetts Morgan.

### ASHUELOT MORGAN (#394)

A large, but strikingly handsome horse, Ashuelot Morgan had a great deal of Morgan type in spite of his size. He was a bright chestnut in color, with white hind feet and a silver mane and tail, standing 16 hands tall and weighing 1,300 pounds. Foaled in 1845, he was bred by Jewell Humphrey of Winchester, New Hampshire, out of a mare by a horse called Eagle. Linsley notes, "Although very large, he is compact, moves in good style, has excellent action for a horse of his size, and is a favorite parade horse. In 1854, he received the 1st premium of the New Hampshire State Agricultural society." Ashuelot Morgan was the sire of Clive (registered in Volume II), out of a daughter of Flint Morgan, son of Sherman Morgan. Bred by Henry T. Davis of East Alstead, New Hampshire, Clive was foaled in 1855. He was a chestnut standing 15½ hands tall and weighing 1,200 pounds. Clive was an exceptional show horse and



LEFT TO RIGHT: Clive, grandson of Green Mountain Morgan (*American Stock Journal*, Volume 2); A woodcut of Prince Albert by Green Mountain Morgan (AMHA archives).

was sold to George H. Waring of Clarkesville, Georgia, who was said to have refused \$4,000 for him.

#### PRINCE ALBERT (#396)

A dark chestnut standing 14½ hands tall and weighing 1,010 pounds, Prince Albert was bred by Joel Hayward of Ashby, Massachusetts, and foaled in 1846. His dam was a bay mare, 14½ hands, 1,000 pounds, of untraced breeding. As a four-year-old, he won 1<sup>st</sup> premium at the New Hampshire State Fair in 1850. He had an excellent reputation as a saddle horse and was frequently rented out for that purpose at a rate of \$25 per day. He is widespread in Morgan pedigrees as sire of the second dam of J. C. Brunk's famous mare, Daisy (Billy Bodette x mare by Billy Folsom), and is found in most horses tracing to Brunk breeding, including both Jubilee King and Flyhawk.

#### VERMONT MORGAN (#407)

Vermont or Vermont Morgan was a handsome dark bay stallion foaled in 1846. He was bred by F. B. Aiken of Hardwick, Massachusetts, and out of a daughter of Sherman Morgan. Vermont stood 16 hands tall and weighed 1,200 pounds, and was said to be an excellent show horse of unsurpassed style and action. He could trot in 2:58 and rack in 3:00. Vermont won first premium at the 1851 Worcester County, Massachusetts Fair, and was owned at one time by Silas Hale, Jr.

#### PARAGON MORGAN (#424)

Bred by Harrison Bacon of Barre, Massachusetts, and foaled in 1848, Paragon Morgan was out of a daughter of Newell's Gray by Sherman Morgan. He was a handsome chestnut with long flowing silver mane and tail, standing 15 hands tall and weighing 1,050 pounds. Paragon Morgan won first premium in a class of harness horses at the Kentucky State Fair. He is widespread in Morgan pedigrees as sire of the third dam of Denning Allen, sire of government foundation stallion General Gates.

#### ROMEO 1ST (#422)

Out of a daughter of Sherman Morgan, Romeo 1<sup>st</sup> was foaled in April of 1848. He was bred by Silas Hale and said to greatly resemble his sire. He was awarded many premiums at different fairs, and eventually sold to go to Dubuque, Iowa, for \$1,500. This line is extremely rare, there are a few Morgans today which can trace their pedigrees to Romeo 1<sup>st</sup>. The line traces through Frank Morgan 2465, whose sire, Morgan General Jr., was a grandson of Billy Root by Sherman Morgan, and whose dam was a daughter of Romeo. Frank Morgan sired the second dam of the mare Belladonna by Jubilee De Jarnette (Jubilee Lambert x Lady de Jarnette) bred by C. X. Larrabee. Belladonna produced one registered son, the stallion Goldendale by Lambert Jr., sired by Lambert Boy, grandson of Daniel Lambert. Lambert Jr.'s dam was a daughter of Billy Root #306 by Wildair out of a daughter of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan, and his second dam was a daughter of Colby's Young Green Mountain by Turner's Sir William, bringing in another Green Mountain cross. Goldendale, foaled in 1920, was bred by the U.S. Trust Company in Portland, Oregon. He left no registered progeny, but an unregistered daughter out of an untraced Morgan mare bred by the Dillon Ranch in Stanfield, Oregon, produced the mare Lo Gentle Lark by Lobo (Jubel x Jumina), bred by J. C. Abbott and foaled in 1947. Lo Gentle Lark became the dam of twelve registered foals, and has a few surviving lines among horses tracing to Pacific Northwest breeding, and some in Canada, including some lines of the Derawnda Morgans Farm program in Ontario.

#### BALTIMORE MORGAN (#440)

Baltimore Morgan was a handsome horse of great size, style, and action, very high-headed, with a beautifully arched neck. His disposition was exceptionally kind and gentle. Foaled in 1850, he was bred by Zenas Graves of Springfield, Vermont, and won first premium at the Vermont State Fair in 1855. He was dapple chestnut in color, and stood 16 hands tall and weighed 1,400 pounds. His dam

was a black mare got by the Roswelle Earle horse, and second dam by Gifford Morgan. Baltimore Morgan appears in many Lippitt and Lambert pedigrees through Croydon Mary (Croydon Prince x Kate by Radway Horse), dam of eight foals including Lippitt Moro (x Moro) sire of the great endurance mare Lippitt Miss Nekomia (x Ne Komia). Lippitt Miss Nekomia was the dam of 14 foals, and competed six times in the 100 mile Vermont endurance ride while pregnant and raising a foal each year.

**CLIFTON (#457)**

Clifton was a small, compact chestnut horse with a big heart, said to greatly resemble his sire. He stood just 14¼ tall, weighing 960 pounds, though his proud and lofty carriage made him appear larger. He was bred by William Bellows of Walpole, New Hampshire, out of a daughter of old Gifford, second dam by Sherman Morgan, and foaled in 1852. He was owned at one time by Silas Hale, then passed through several owners, competing in 1857 in the only walking race then on record, winning a five-mile match against Young Morrill in one hour, two minutes, and forty-six seconds. During the Civil War, he was ridden by Dr. William R. Capehart of North Carolina. Capehart was a medical student in Virginia, and enlisted with the confederate forces as a surgeon, attached to Wade Hampton's Cavalry. Clifton was killed near Cheraw, South Carolina, in 1864 during a cavalry engagement between Wade Hampton and Kilpatrick. Unfortunately, his line was lost to the Morgan breed, but his service left a lasting impression.

**TURNER'S SIR WILLIAM (#467)**

A very dark, nearly black chestnut, standing 14½ hands tall and weighing 900 pounds, Sir William was bred by Benjamin Jones of Stockbridge, Vermont, and foaled in 1853. Both his dam and second dam were daughters of Gifford, while his third dam was a daughter of Sherman Morgan. He was taken to Illinois and stood at several towns in McHenry County. Sir William was said to have both exceptional style and natural speed. Though he was never trained, he trotted two miles to a heavy cart and made the last mile easily in 2:55. His colts were described as excellent roadsters. His blood is widespread in Morgan pedigrees today through his son, Colby's Young Green Mountain, found in the pedigrees of Jubilee King and Flyhawk.

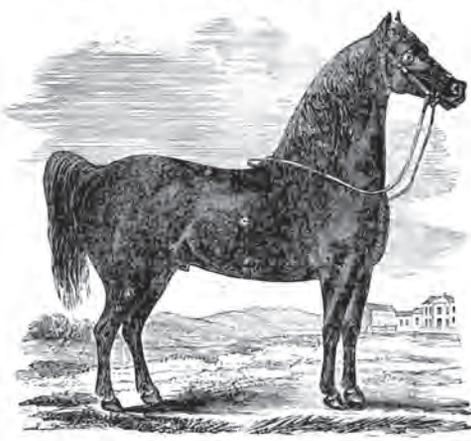
**RUTLAND MORGAN (#479)**

A handsome, chestnut stallion marked with a star and snip, Rutland Morgan was bred by Austin Smith of Addison, Vermont, out of a daughter of Black Hawk Morgan, and foaled in 1855. He stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. He was kept for service in a number of places in Vermont and New York, and was known as a great roadster who sired very stylish driving horses. Rutland Morgan appears in many Western working and sport Morgan pedigrees tracing to Hill/Sellman breeding through Red Oak, through his dam, Marguerite, by White River Morgan, a son of Neshobe by Rutland Morgan.

**MAJOR DOWNING (#478)**

Foaled in 1855, Major Downing was bred by S. F. Whitney of New-

**VERMONT, FOR SALE.**



The subscriber being desirous of reducing his stock, will offer at public sale, on the last day of the Md. State Agricultural Show, if not disposed of earlier, the following property: VERMONT, sired by Green Mountain Morgan, 16 hands high, weighs 1200 lbs.; color, dark bay; 10 years old last Spring, has trotted in 2.53 and racked in 3 minutes, can show as much natural style as any other horse, and has no superior in the State as a stock horse for all the purposes of life.

Also one Brown Mare, of good stock and size, 6 years old this Spring, good for saddle or harness, with a splendid mare colt by her side, sired by VERMONT. One Chestnut Sorrel Mare, 15½ hands high, 7 years old, northern bred, with a superior horse colt by her side, foaled in August.

Also one Bay Mare, 15½ hands high, 8 years old, of good stock, suitable for farm service and a good trotter, together with one very superior Bay Mare, 15½ hands high; high bred, and a very fast trotter, possessing very beautiful form and proportions, and purchased with especial reference to her qualities as a Brood Mare; 7 years old this spring, and can be recommended as a very superior Mare, both bred to VERMONT this season, and supposed to be in foal.

VERMONT will commence a Fall season at the Smedley Hotel Stables, commencing about the middle of September, and ending at the commencement of the Cattle Show. \$25 The season, or \$20 if paid within the season.

**T. T. NELSON,**  
Towsontown, Baltimore Co., Md.

sept-

**ABOVE:** An advertisement of Vermont (shown at right as well) for sale, *American Farmer*, 1857: "VERMONT, for sale.



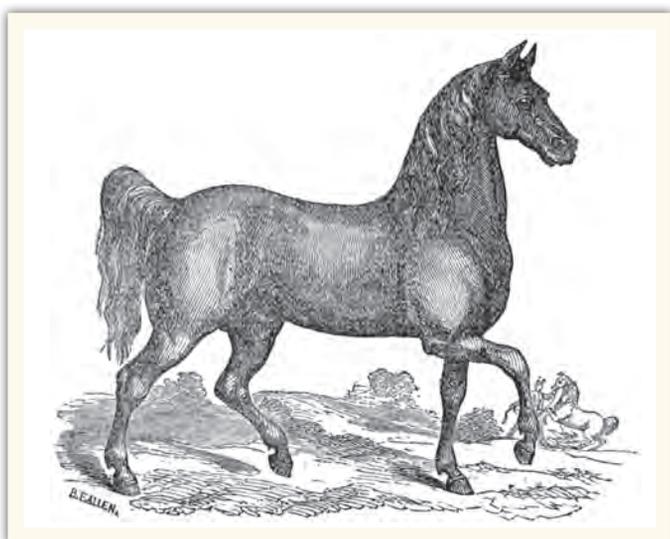
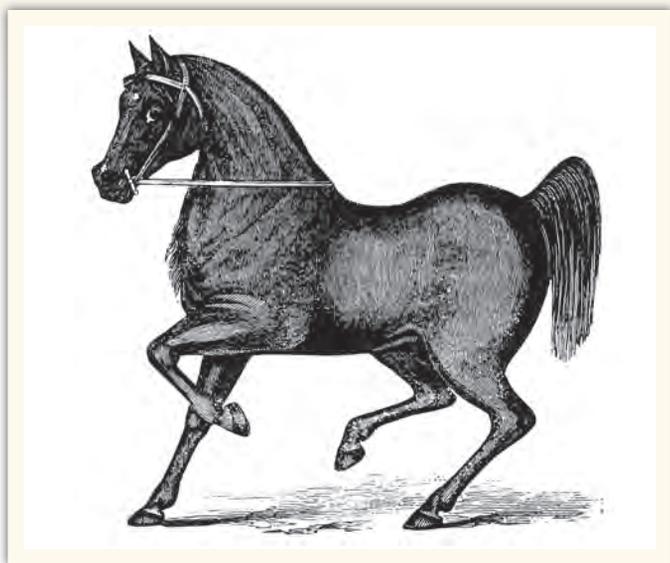
The subscriber being desirous of reducing his stock, will offer at public sale, on the last day of the Md. State Agricultural Show, if not disposed of earlier, the following property: VERMONT, sired by Green Mountain Morgan, 16 hands high, weighs 1200 lbs.; color, dark bay; 10 years old last Spring, has trotted in 2.58 and racked in 3 minutes, can show as much natural style as any other horse, and has no superior in the State as a stock horse for all the purposes of life.

Also one Brown Mare, of good stock and size, 6 years old this Spring, good saddle or harness, with a splendid mare colt by her side, sired by VERMONT. One Chestnut Sorrel Mare, 15 1/4 hands high, 7 years old, northern bred, with a superior horse colt by her side, foaled in August.

Also one Bay Mare, 15 1/2 hands high, 8 years old, of good stock, suitable for farm service and a good trotter, together with one very superior Bay Mare, 15 1/2 hands high; high bred, and a very fast trotter, possessing very beautiful form and proportions, and purchased with especial reference to her qualities as a Brood Mare; 7 years old this spring, and can be recommended as a very superior Mare, both bred to VERMONT this season, and supposed to be in foal.

VERMONT will commence a Fall season at the Smedley Hotel Stables, commencing about the middle of September, and ending at the commencement of the Cattle Show. \$25 The season, or \$20 if paid within the season.

T. T. Nelson, Towsontown, Baltimore Co., Md."



**ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM):** Romeo by Green Mountain Morgan (AMHA archives); Stephen Dow Mare (Ethan Allen x Jennie by Green Mountain Morgan) (Allbreed pedigree); Clifton by Green Mountain Morgan—killed in action, 1864 (*Transactions of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society for the Year 1855*).

fane, Vermont. He was a full brother of Miller's Green Mountain Tiger, and out of a mare by Vermont Morgan, son of Long's Magnum Bonum. Major Downing was a dark bay, 14¾ hands tall, and weighed 986 pounds. He won first premium at the Valley Fair in Charleston, New Hampshire, competing against 30 stallions, and also won at least 17 premiums in Windham County, trotting and as a stock horse. Lines to Major Downing are widespread in Morgan pedigrees today through Croydon Mary.

#### CUSHING'S GREEN MOUNTAIN (#498)

Cushing's Green Mountain was a dark bay bred by Charles W. Cushing of Caledonia County, Vermont, and foaled in 1858. His dam was a daughter of Billy Root by Sherman Morgan, and second dam the Crane mare, said to be by Sherman Morgan. He stood 15 hands tall and weighed 1,050 pounds. Cushing's Green Mountain is widespread in Morgan pedigrees, and appears as the sire of Topsyey, dam of Bob Morgan; sire of Kitty Thurber, dam of Ethan Allen 3d (sire of the famous government foundation mare Artemisia); and sire of the Charley Watson mare, dam of McGennis' Comet, to mention just a few.

#### JENNIE

Although no daughters of Green Mountain were registered, many can be traced in Morgan pedigrees today. The mare Jennie bears an especially strong influence. Dr. J. L. Woods acquired the mare Phoebe, bred by John Muzzy of Hancock, New Hampshire. Phoebe was a daughter of Tom Morgan, who was a son of True Briton, sire of the Justin Morgan horse, and out of a daughter of Justin Morgan. He bred her to Green Mountain to produce Jennie. Dr. Woods bred Jennie to Gifford to produce Peters' Vermont, then sold her to Stephen Dow of Woburn, Massachusetts, and sold Vermont, as a colt, to John Steele of Stoneham, Massachusetts, both these men living but a few miles from his home. Dow bred Jennie to Ethan Allen 50 to produce the Stephen Dow mare, dam of Peters' Ethan Allen 2d, cornerstone stallion of the Lippitt program. Here, Jennie became widespread in all Morgan pedigrees today as she appears twice in the pedigree of Ethan Allen 2d, being both his second dam, as well as dam of his grandsire, Peters' Vermont. Peters' Ethan Allen 2d appears repeatedly in all Lippitt and Lambert pedigrees, as well as working Western and sport Morgan pedigrees. Jennie appears eight times in the pedigree of the great mare Vigilda Burkland (Vigilant x Lucinne), dam of ten foals including the well-known sires Orland Vigildon and Orland Leader, both by Ulen-don (Ulysses x Allenda).

#### FAIRS, MILITARY REVIEWS, AND EXHIBITIONS

Green Mountain appeared regularly and frequently at all sorts of fairs and events throughout the 14 years Silas Jr. owned him, as well as afterwards, and time and space will only permit a brief mention of a very few of these occasions, they were so numerous. The 1844 New York State Fair at Saratoga was described in an article for *Spirit of the Times*:

“Black Hawk, the famous Morgan horse, was there. I did not see him, but there were others of the same variety on the ground, particularly a very dark chestnut, almost black stallion, called,

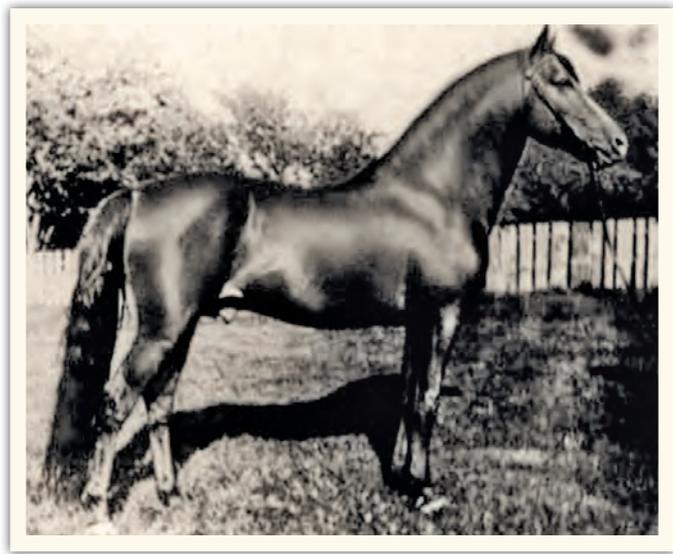
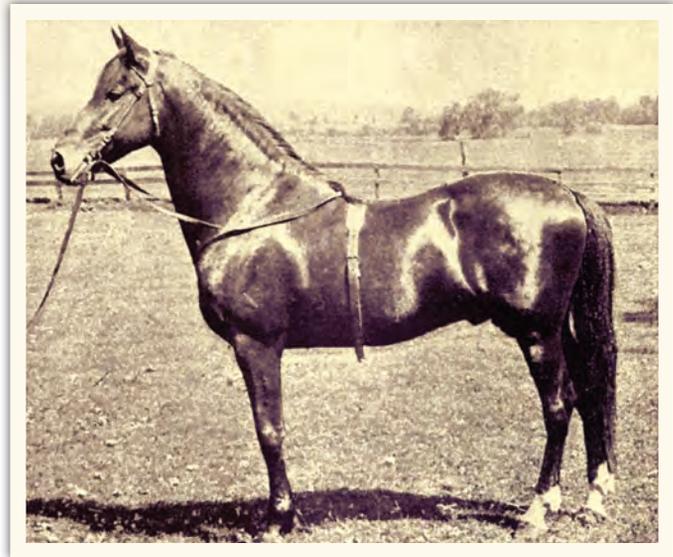
I believe, Green Mountain Morgan. He was 13 years old, got by the old Gifford Morgan, also on the ground. There were also two other stallions exhibited, got by the same. The four bore a close family resemblance both in appearance and action. There is a difference of opinion in relation to these animals, but I willingly plead guilty to a great admiration for them; such promptness and fire, with such perfect docility, I never saw united in any other species. Not one of them was over 15 hands high, scarcely that; but when moving I never saw such majesty embodied in horse flesh as was displayed by Green Mountain Morgan. His arched neck seemed clothed with thunder, and his floating mane, his eye of fire, his red, distended nostrils, his open mouth with the rigid tendons about it, standing out in sharp relief, realized more perfectly to my mind the originals of those fiery, magnificent coursers, the Greek ideals of the war horse, to be found on the Elgin marbles, than I ever saw elsewhere. I called Charles Elliott, the painter, and had Green Mountain Morgan put to his paces for his inspection. Without a word from me, he made precisely the criticism I have already done." (*Spirit of the Times*, Volume 13, 1844)

In an article in *Wallace's Monthly*, entitled "Prepotency of the Morgans," James Ladd wrote:

"When I was a young man, on a visit to Saratoga Springs, I sat one evening on the front verandah of Congress Hall. The time was the week preceding the New York State Agricultural fair, which was to be there that year. Silas Hale rode Green Mountain Morgan through the street of the then village of Saratoga. The moment I saw him I was upon my feet, and with a great crowd was hurrying to get a closer view of that horse and to find out what family he was of, and where he came from. If Jumbo was today driven through that now much more populous street, I question if he would attract more attention than the Green Mountain Morgan then did. And why? Not because of his reputation for speed; he had not trotted very fast, or run very fast, or done anything to greatly distinguish him from hundreds of other horses that were daily seen on that street. It was nothing more or less than his consummate get-up; it was his style, his manner of action." (*Wallace's Monthly*, Volume 8, 1882)

Green Mountain was regularly exhibited at many fairs throughout New England during these years, and became quite well known. In later years, he had won so many prizes, he was often simply exhibited to lend his presence to the occasion. Just a few of his honors in the earlier years when Hale owned him included:

- New York State Fair, 1847, second premium, reserve to Black Hawk
- New York State Fair, 1850, awarded diploma, Best Stallion for All Work
- New York State Fair, 1851, first premium
- Vermont State Fair 1852, when shown with 50 or more of his get and family against Black Hawk followed by a similar number of his progeny, Green Mountain was said to be prancing with pride and restrained ardor. Silas Hale rode Green Mountain and David Hill rode Black Hawk, the two families going



**ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM):** Colby's Young Green Mountain (Turner's Sir William by Green Mountain Morgan x Dolly by Colby's Young Morrill) (AMHA archives); Peters' Ethan Allen 2d (Peters' Morgan x Stephen's Dow Mare) (AMHA archives); Vigilda Burkland (Vigilant x Lucinne) and Frank Orcutt (photo © Ira Haas).



LEFT TO RIGHT: *View of the water celebration, on Boston Common October 25th 1848*, Heliotype Printing Co. (Library of Congress); Poet James Russell Lowell wrote a poem for the celebration (US public domain).

around the track side by side, and onlookers described it as one of the greatest sights of the fair. During some part of this exhibition, it seems the horses were shown in harness, which is one of very few accounts of Green Mountain ever being exhibited this way.

- New York State Fair, 1852, first premium, Best Stallion for All Work
- Kentucky State Fair, 1853, first premium
- Ohio State Fair, 1853, first premium
- Michigan State Fair, 1853, first premium
- Vermont State Fair, 1854, first premium
- New England Horse Show, 1854, first premium, \$100 prize, Best Horse for General Use, over Old Morrill who won second premium

Lilley Caswell, author of *The History of Royalston*, published in 1917, recalled interviewing Silas Hale during her research: “Mr. Hale related with great enthusiasm, an account of a tour through the West with his beautiful horse in 1853, and his eyes sparkled as he recalled the tremendous applause and cheering with which Green Mountain was received as he entered the exhibition ring at the State Fair of Kentucky at Louisville. During this trip, he received the first premium at the State Fairs of Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan.”

Silas Jr. also mentioned during this interview that Green Mountain was in great demand to be ridden at musters for 60 to 100 miles around, and was ridden by Chief Marshal Francis Tukey during the great Boston water celebration. This occurred October 25, 1848 when the water of Lake Cochituate was introduced into the city of Boston. A joint committee was appointed, consisting of Mayor Josiah Quincy, Jr. and several other gentlemen, in order to plan a public celebration fitting for this momentous occasion marking the completion of the aqueduct bringing the lake’s water into the city from 20 miles away. The task had cost \$4 million dollars, an enormous sum in those days, and had taken years to com-

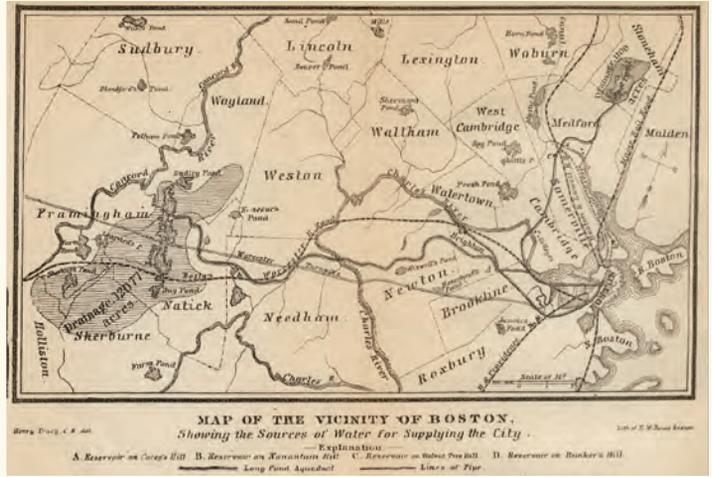
plete. Citizens and dignitaries from all over the state were present and a great cavalcade with military escort was planned to witness the water bursting forth from the Fountain on the Common for the first time. It was said to be one of the greatest events ever to be celebrated on the Boston Common, and many estimates indicated that nearly 100,000 people were gathered, possibly more.

The day opened with beautiful weather after a heavy rain the night before. A salute of 100 guns was given, followed by the ringing of the bells of the city, indicating that the celebration would go forward as planned. The streets began to fill with people attracted by the elaborate decorations which had been prepared. Great arches adorned the gateways to the Common, and upon these and various street corners through which the procession was to pass, were inscribed mottoes set about by wreaths and pyramids of evergreens and flowers. Some examples of the mottoes posted were:

- “Streams Shall Run in our Streets and Play About our Dwellings.”
- “Sweet Waters Shall Flow in Upon Us, and Bitter Waters Be Driven Out.”
- “Praise and Adoration Be Given unto Him who Visiteth the Earth and Watereth It.”

The fountain was built inside the Frog Pond, which had originally been a spring-fed watering hole for cows when the Boston Common was first founded in 1634, making it the oldest city park in the United States. In the heart of the park it is still a popular spot, and is used for ice skating in winter. On this occasion, a great stand was erected in the Frog Pond, adorned with even more flowers, evergreens, and mottoes, and here the various officials gave their speeches in honor of the occasion.

All along the line of the procession, ropes had been stretched across the streets, and from each of these, a white tablet was hung, festooned with more evergreens and an American flag on each side. These tablets bore brief inscriptions describing the events leading



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** The fountain in Frog Pond at Boston Common (Library of Congress); *Map of the Vicinity of Boston Showing the Sources of Water for Supplying the City*, by Henry Tracy for Lithography of E. W. Bouse Boston, 1845 (US public domain).

up to the introduction of water from Lake Cochituate. It was the first major water supply built for the city of Boston, and served for more than 100 years until 1951.

The entire procession was carefully planned and carried out with meticulous order by Francis Tukey, who had been appointed Chief Marshall for the City of Boston four years earlier at the age of 32. Tukey led the grand cavalcade splendidly mounted upon Green Mountain, who knew well how to play his part, and for whose services for the day, Silas Jr. received the sum of \$45. Several generals, colonels, and other officials serving as Aids and Assistant Marshals were also grandly mounted. Following these the Military Escort, consisting of the city's Light Infantry and Rifle Companies, along with others from neighboring cities and towns, about 30 companies altogether, which were commanded by General B. F. Edmands. Next, the Fire Companies of the City dressed in their uniforms, and then the Cavalcade, a large body of horsemen, well mounted on spirited horses, many of which were also Morgans. The Civil Procession followed, with numerous officials, dignitaries and other displays, among which was a carriage drawn by four horses on which were three printing presses being demonstrated and operated by a full corps of pressmen. Numerous other intriguing displays followed. Two of the largest sized water pipes were displayed on a carriage drawn by seven handsome black horses. All along the procession, sidewalks, windows, balconies, and rooftops were lined with admiring spectators, and it took two full hours for the entire procession to pass and take their places on the Common for the ceremonies that followed. Francis Tukey upon Green Mountain attracted a great deal of attention as he rode about directing the many groups to the designated places and seeing that the entire procession maintained its prescribed order throughout. The famous poet, James Russell Lowell, a graduate of Harvard and a professor there, wrote a special poem for the event which was sung by the school children. The first verse of this Ode was as follows:

My name is Water! I have sped  
Through strange dark ways untried before,

By pure desire of friendship led,  
Cochituate's Ambassador;  
He sends four royal gifts by me,  
Long life, health, peace, and purity.

As the speeches were concluded, with the Mayor providing a detailed description of the labor required and the many obstacles encountered by the project, the Chief Engineer opened the fountain gate, and the jet of water, six inches in diameter at its base, shot forth, rising in a compact body and reaching a height of 80 feet, then falling gracefully on all sides. Amazed silence hung on the air for a few moments as the crowds took in the spectacular sight of power and beauty, the glistening drops of cascading water transformed into multi-colored prisms by the last rays of the setting sun. Joyful shouts then rent the air and once more the bells of the city rang out. Cannons were fired and rockets streamed across the sky. As the twilight deepened, different attachments for the fountain were demonstrated, causing the water to play in several different forms. In one of the lulls while the jets were being changed, the Mayor announced there would be no school on the morrow, and the fountain would play all day. This was greeted by the youth with hearty shouts of approval. The festivities were then concluded by displays of fireworks.

General George E. Bryant, a Brigadier General in the Wisconsin Army National Guard and member of the Wisconsin State Senate wrote:

"Green Mountain weighed half a ton, and was the most showy saddler I ever saw; at the head of a regiment he filled the road full. In the war of the rebellion I was a participant in many grand reviews; the brown that the silent hero of battle sat, like the chieftain he was; the bag from which McPherson was shot; the spotted horse that Kilpatrick rode in his raids around Atlanta, cannot be forgotten; but when Col. Zebulon Converse, mounted on Gifford, and Col. William Leberveaux on Green Mountain headed the parade at a New Hampshire muster in



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: *Camp Massachusetts at Concord, September 7-9, 1859* by J. H. Bufford's Lithography (Library of Congress).

“the Forties” it made one think of the description of the horse given by the inspired Job.” (Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society for 1893)

Green Mountain was a dominating presence at the Vermont State Fair of 1851 with eight or ten of his colts, competing with his arch-rival, Black Hawk Morgan. It was said that, “Green Mountain Morgan is a powerful dark chestnut horse with a flag tail; full of fire, and showing in every motion evidence of tremendous muscular power. From his proud bearing and spirit, he is in great demand as a parade horse among some of our generals.” (*Valley Farmer*, December 1851)

According to the Washington County, Ohio, Agricultural Report for 1852, Green Mountain was included with several other stallions in a stock company organized the previous winter, to improve the stock of horses in that state. This was incorrectly listed in Battell's *American Stallion Register*, Volume 2 as Washington County, Vermont, and stated that Silas Hale had sold Green Mountain to this stock company for \$2,200. Evidently, he allocated some breeding shares to the stock company, similar to a syndication agreement, but in fact did not sell the horse until 1855, to a stock company in Williamstown, Vermont, for the sum of \$2,000.

That same year, *The Brattleboro, Vermont Weekly Eagle* for July 12 reported that Green Mountain, insured for \$2,000, had sudden-

ly died of poisoning at the hands of a person or persons unknown. The *Boston Evening Herald* of July 20, 1852, had the same story. However, in the *Springfield Daily Republican*, Hale inserted a notice refuting the poisoning story, and assuring readers that Green Mountain was as well as ever.

Green Mountain appeared at the Vermont State Fair of 1856, attended by 18,000–20,000 persons. Here he was again likened to the ideal picture of a war horse, showing much of his youthful fire despite being past 20 years of age.

At the Vermont State Fair of 1857, he was ridden first by the chief marshal of the day, and claimed to be the finest parade horse in New England. Linsley wrote: “Among the horses were many beautiful animals that needed but to be seen to be admired, but it was very clear that the veteran Old Green Mountain was the acknowledged chief. It is really surprising that age seems to make scarcely a perceptible impression on his iron constitution, and the same bold, haughty carriage, and spirited nervous action which first realized to our boyish eyes our ideal of the war horse of Job, seem to have lost none of their power to attract the attention and elicit the applause of the spectators.” (*The Vermont Stock Journal*, September, 1857)

One of the greater highlights during Green Mountain's later years was Massachusetts Encampment held near Concord in September of 1859. Known simply as Camp Massachusetts, this noto-



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** *Grand Review at Camp Massachusetts near Concord, September 9, 1859*, by Homer Winslow (US public domain); *Review of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia at Concord, September 9, 1859*, by His Excellency (Commander in Chief) Nathaniel P. Banks by J. B. Bachelder for Endicott & Co. Lithography (Library of Congress). This illustration features General John E. Wool and the Massachusetts legislature being escorted by the artillery of Boston.

rious event was organized by General Nathaniel P. Banks, then the 24<sup>th</sup> Governor of Massachusetts, and who later received the brevet of Major-General, serving in the Civil War. Camp Massachusetts, held on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 1859, was the largest military training muster yet held in the state with nearly 6,000 troops on site, and an estimated 50,000 spectators were on the grounds. As his distinguished guest, Banks invited General John E. Wool, then 75 years old and a veteran of both the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American Wars. Wool also was to serve in the Civil War, receiving the brevet of Major General, and was the oldest officer on either side. Governor Banks planned for General Wool to conduct the Grand Review of the troops which was to be held on the third day of the event.

Banks went to considerable effort, sending a special ambassador to secure the services of Green Mountain Morgan to be his mount for the occasion, despite the fact that the horse was then 25 years old. After some negotiation with the owners of the stock company who had him at Williamstown, Green Mountain was brought from his stable and traveled a distance of nearly 175 miles to contend with a number of the most mettlesome young studs in the country which had been chosen for the special mounts of the high-ranking officers gathered. Three days of fatiguing military drills ensued, but this did not seem to faze the old horse in the least. His eye only grew brighter, his step prouder, and it must have seemed to those watching that he understood perfectly what was expected of him, and enjoyed every minute of it.

D. C. Linsley was among those present, and wrote:

“We feared that age must have dimmed the fire of his eye, checked the full and vigorous pulsations of his blood, and tamed the unflinching courage and dauntless bearing which has never yet failed to arouse the enthusiastic applause of all beholders. But it seems we were mistaken. The staunch old veteran was the ‘observed of all observers,’ and it seemed to be the very general feeling that, instead of the horse being honored by bearing in the cavalcade the distinguished Governor of Massa-

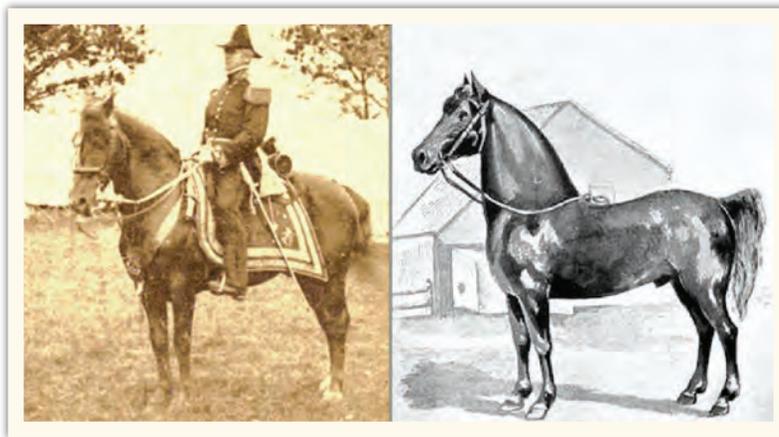
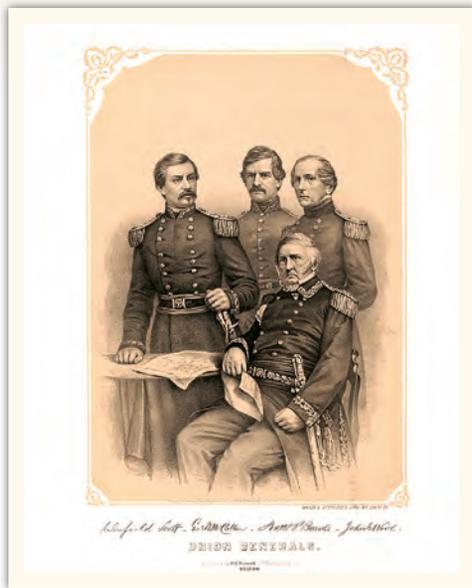
chusetts, His Excellency was rather honored in being allowed to bestride the finest parade horse in this country, which, it is said, Gen. Wool declared him to be.

“No wonder Vermonters are proud of the hero. He seems to us the embodiment of the ideal war horse of Job, that ‘paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength.’ Long may he live, and, when he goes the way of all horse-flesh, may he leave behind him a progeny that may continue to exhibit his distinguishing characteristics for many generations.” (*American Stock Journal*, Volume I, 1859)

When in position for the Grand Review, the soldiers formed three sides of a square, fully half a mile in length. As Governor Banks, General Wool, and other officials galloped onto the field, they were greeted with a salvo of artillery. Governor Banks rode Green Mountain, whose mighty neck was arched, his tail flagged proudly, and his short sharp ears flicked ever so slightly, giving sign that he heard the artillery fire, but was not in the least concerned by it.

Banks had secured a fine chestnut Morgan stallion, likely a son of Green Mountain, for General Wool to ride during the three-day muster, and used Green Mountain for his own mount. However, given that General Wool, on account of his illustrious service record was especially invited for the purpose of conducting the Grand Review, which was the centerpiece and culmination of the entire affair—and given that Wool had already declared Green Mountain to be the finest parade horse in the country, it might be expected that Wool had his turn at riding the horse. Among the old mementos of this affair was a faded photograph, clearly of General Wool, astride a handsome Morgan stallion, which although not identified, bears a striking resemblance to the numerous descriptions and images said to represent Green Mountain. Perhaps it was the horse Banks had secured for Wool for the event, possibly a son of Green Mountain, which might be expected to resemble him. However, the weight of evidence strongly supports the likelihood that this is a rare image of Green Mountain himself. There is little

# HISTORY LESSON ≈ *Hale's Green Mountain Morgan*



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Major General John E. Wool commanding US forces at Fortes Monroe, Virginia (Library of Congress); Union Generals: Scott (seated) with (left to right) McClellan, Banks, Wool (Library of Congress); General Wool, during the Grand Review in 1859, astride a Morgan stallion, which although not identified, bears a striking resemblance to the numerous descriptions and images said to represent Green Mountain Mountain (courtesy Lyle F. Horton Memorial Archive); The print of Green Mountain Morgan reversed for comparison; Prince Charlie (Young General Gifford x mare by Dave Cushing), who won first premium at the 1910 and 1911 Vermont State Fairs, was declared by judges, who remembered old Green Mountain, to resemble him very closely in type and form.

contrast between the shade of Wool's uniform and the horse's coat, indicating both are likely a dark color despite the faded and poor quality of the photo. This horse shows the long-docked tail, mane on the right side, the powerful musculature, superb conformation and strong presence which made Green Mountain legendary.

Green Mountain also appeared at the Connecticut River Valley Fair of 1860, and could not receive a premium as he had already won one that year, however the Committee wrote:

"Your Committee deem it their imperative duty to speak with much emphasis of 'Old Green Mountain Morgan,' a horse which has attained to nearly 30 years of age; that we have witnessed upon our show grounds with so much pleasure and delight, as the veteran and model of the equine race who at every step exhibit those massive and steed like muscles, with that fire, elasticity and gracefulness seldom, if ever, equaled by the colt of six years. Combined with his purity of blood, being the produce of parents sired by the old Woodbury horse and

the immediate sire old Gifford, inbred at that, is an example of the high bred Morgan horse that should not be lost on the horse breeders of this Society, and may make, in fact is now making, this section of the country the Arabia of America. This horse has received our Society's first premium at a previous fair, therefore can give him none now, but in behalf of the Association will tender to his owner our gratitude and thanks for his exhibition at this time." (Eben Bridge, for Committee, *Vermont Journal*, October 13, 1860)

Green Mountain was also shown at the Windsor County Fair and the Town Fair at Randolph, Vermont, that year, where he continued to make a grand impression. These seem to be the last accounts of any public exhibition of the horse. After this, it is not clear whether the stock company relinquished ownership, but about 1860 he passed into the hands of John Martin, whose farm was somewhere between the two small communities of Marshfield and Plainfield,

Vermont, which are about seven miles apart. Green Mountain was advertised for stud the season of 1862 by J. Crane, agent, who was one of the members of the Williamstown stock company.

In June of 1863, Green Mountain was said to be as lively and full of antics as a colt, still able to dance to the fife and the drum. Green Mountain died at the farm of C. B. Martin in Plainfield on October 4, 1863, from a severe case of Epizootic. According to information compiled in *The War Horse of Job*, his grave is said to be behind the old farm buildings on what is now Route 2, running northeast from Plainfield and Montpelier, and located on the north side of the road.

For decades to come, those who remembered having seen Green Mountain in person would never forget. The ideal type of Green Mountain Morgan was a strong influence in the early New England Fairs, and the standard sought when the Morgan Horse Club formed in 1909. Prince Charlie (Young General Gifford x mare by Dave Cushing), who won first premium at the 1910 and 1911 Vermont State Fairs, was declared by judges, who remembered old Green Mountain, to resemble him very closely in type and form.

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Of all the early Morgans, Green Mountain stands alone in capturing the imagination of all who knew him, and all who hear his story, for his compact, powerful, and muscular form; his fire, his spirit, and his commanding presence. He left an unmatched impression upon the breed in both his spirit, incomparable type, and his blood may be found in virtually all Morgans today. ■

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*Author's Note: Every effort has been made to consult primary sources and cross-reference them for accuracy. However, it is possible, especially with such a popular horse as Green Mountain Morgan, that some details may be reported a little differently than a familiar version, omitted, or that inadvertent errors, even from original sources, may occur.*

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