

Golddust

RARE LINE OF THE GIFFORD FAMILY

Few of the old Morgan families evoke the imagery of the Golddust line. The thread is rare, yet interwoven through many Morgan families of all disciplines, and still prized by many breeders today. The Golddust story offers a fascinating look at some unique early history of the breed and contribution and dedication of the Dorsey and Hornsby families in building up a pure strain of the Golddust line for many decades.

By Brenda L. Tippin



GOLDDUST—BREEDING AND BACKGROUND

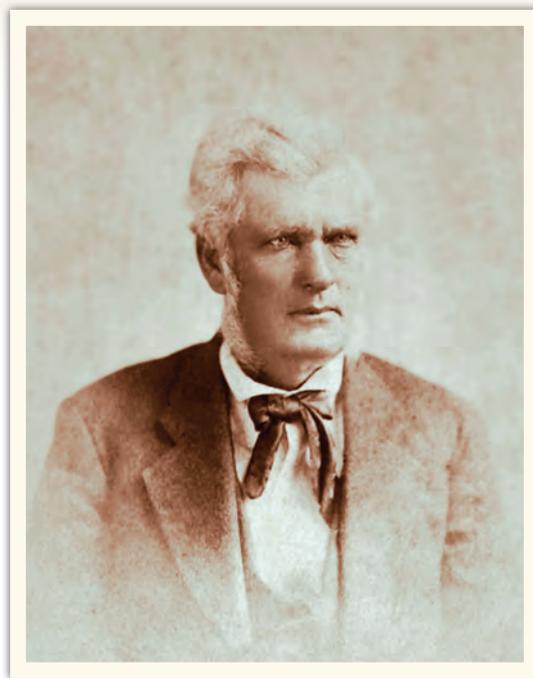
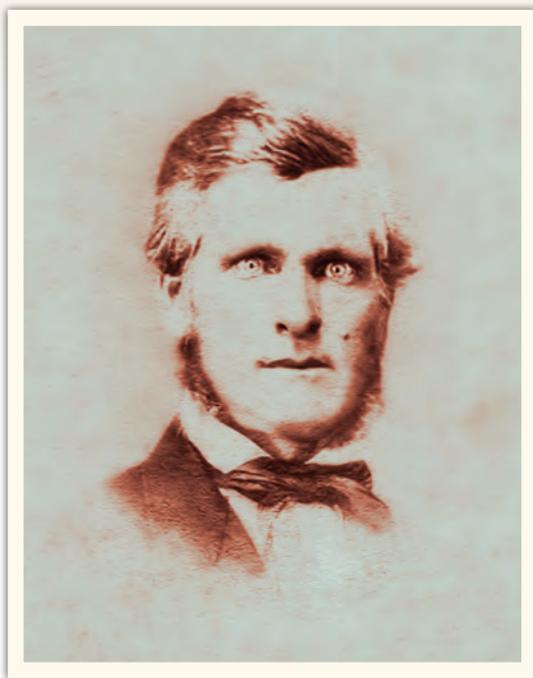
Foaled in 1855 at the famous Eden Stock Farm in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, Golddust was something of a legend in his time. One of the three original counties of Kentucky, Jefferson County was formed in 1780 and named in honor of Thomas Jefferson who was then governor of the state. It is bordered by the Ohio River on the west side, as well as half of the north side. Louisville, situated at the Falls of the Ohio River, and where the waters of Beargrass Creek flow in, was incorporated as a town in 1780, and as a city in 1828.

Golddust's sire was the bay, Vermont Morgan, a son of Barnard Morgan by old Gifford. Barnard Morgan was a handsome dark dapple bay with heavy mane and tail and known as a very fast walker. He was out of a daughter of Bonaparte, son of the Hawkins horse by Justin Morgan. He was shown together with

his son Vermont Morgan at the Windsor County Fair in Vermont in 1848 where he won first premium for mature stallions, and Vermont Morgan won first premium for two-year-old stallions. Barnard Morgan also won first premium at the Madison County Fair, Illinois in 1855; and the St. Louis Missouri Fair of 1857, shown with 26 of his offspring. The dam of Vermont Morgan was a bay mare foaled in 1835, who was a full sister of old Black Hawk, uniting the lines of Sherman Morgan and Woodbury Morgan, the two most famous sons of Justin Morgan, with the rare line through the Hawkins Horse.

In 1854, L. L. Dorsey Jr purchased Vermont Morgan, and also purchased a chestnut mare from Andrew Hoke, who had bred her to Vermont Morgan. The Hoke mare was a daughter of the Arabian stallion Zilcaadi and was out of a Thoroughbred mare. The resulting foal, described as pure gold in color, was named

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Golddust, portrait from life at 16 years old, by R. Vandusen, (public domain, courtesy of The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA); Eden Stock Farm, home of Golddust, painting by J. W. Owings, 1848 (public domain).



ABOVE: L. L. Dorsey Jr., at two stages in life (public domain, findagrave.com).

Golddust, and Dorsey paid \$100 to Hoke for the privilege of keeping him.

ANDREW HOKE

Born in the Jefferson precinct of Kentucky in 1801, Andrew Hoke was one of the most respected farmers and citizens of the region. He was named after his grandfather, Andrew Hoke I, a Revolutionary War veteran who had participated in the battle of Trenton. Andrew Hoke I settled in the area in 1790 and purchased 400 acres from Colonel Frederick Geiger. The Hoke family lived first in a log house on the old dirt road leading from Louisville to Jeffersontown, later building a stone house which stood for more than 100 years. The first Andrew died in 1800, leaving the property to his sons Jacob and Peter, and Jacob's son Andrew built the Andrew Hoke House in 1828, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Andrew eventually owned about 200 acres, calling his farm Wheatland. The two-story house of white painted brick was typical of the style known as "federal style I House," which was common in Jefferson County during the early 1800s. Andrew married four times, raising eleven children on this farm. He traded for the dam of Golddust, when she ran away from her original owner, Joseph Johnson, the owner of Zilcaadi. Mr. Johnson lived in Louisiana but was accustomed to spending part of his time in the Louisville area, and it was he who bred the mare. Her dam was a daughter of the Thoroughbred stallion Barefoot, and out of the Thoroughbred mare Ethilinda.

Interestingly, Ethilinda traced back to the famous stallion Whistlejacket, foaled in 1749. Whistlejacket was a grandson of the Godolphin Arabian and shared many of the same close ancestors as Justin Morgan, including the Byerley Turk, D'Arcy's Yellow Turk, Hautboy, and more. He was a striking dark gold in color with white mane and tail, believed by many to be palomino.

The cremello dilution gene is not present in the Arabian, but is present in the Thoroughbred breed, through two rare lines. Just how the dilution gene was passed down in these lines is not clear, but as with Whistlejacket, is believed to have come from the D'Arcy Yellow Turk, or a few other early thoroughbred ancestors thought to have been dilutes. In any case, the Golddust family bears a clear line through Whistlejacket, who may well have been the source of the color.

Owned by the Marquis of Rockingham, Whistlejacket was a successful racehorse, and the Marquis commissioned George Stubbs to do a life-size portrait of him. He ordered the background to be left blank when he heard that Whistlejacket became enraged when he saw the unfinished painting, thinking it was a rival stallion.

ZILCAADI

The Arabian stallion Zilcaadi was an exceptionally handsome, sorrel horse with four white feet foaled in 1825. He was originally one of four Arabian stallions presented to Charles S. Rhind, US Consul to Constantinople, by Sultan Mohmond, and then imported by Rhind to the United States. However, the government would not allow Mr. Rhind to retain this gift, and he was required to sell the horses at auction, where Zilcaadi was sold to the Honorable Joseph Johnson.

A letter from Mr. Rhind was published in the July 1832 *Sporting Magazine*:

"New York, May 16, 1832.

You request me to give you some account of the Arabian horse Zilcaadi, which you purchased at public sale on the 14th inst. This is one of the horses sent me by Sultan Mahmond, a few days before I left Constantinople. I took him from thence to Smyrna, where I embarked for this port. He was pronounced by the best judges, both at Constantinople and Smyrna, to be a genuine and very fine Arab. His colour is sorrel with four



LEFT TO RIGHT: Andrew Hoke (public domain, findagrave.com); Whistlejacket (Mogul by Godolphin Arabian x mare by Bolton Sweepstakes, tracing to D’Arcy Yellow Turk), probable source of Golddust color, many shared ancestors with Justin Morgan, circa 1762 by George Stubbs; P. H. Dorsey, brother of L. L. Dorsey, also bred Gold-dust Morgans (public domain, findagrave.com); Benjamin Lawrence Dorsey, younger brother of L. L. Dorsey Jr, also bred Golddust Morgans (public domain, findagrave.com).

white feet—he is of the tribe raised on the borders of Syria; was six years old last grass. The Arab horse is seldom above 14 hands high, and those I brought were unusually tall—the stallions of this race are considered good for covering until they are twenty-five years old; I am persuaded the colts of this horse will prove the high intrinsic value of the animal. Zilcaadi is of the breed most preferred by the Sultan.

Very respectfully yours,
Charles Rhind.”

THE DORSEY FAMILY

The Dorsey family was an old and respected family of Maryland, tracing its roots to the early settlers of Anne Arundel County. The immigrant ancestor of this branch of the Dorsey family was known as Edward Dorsey Boatright, of Irish ancestry, who came to Norfolk, Virginia, about 1635, and moved his family to Anne Arundel County in Maryland about 1650. There he acquired 400 acres of land, which was inherited by his three sons when he drowned in 1659. Colonel Edward Dorsey, the oldest son, and his brothers, Joshua and John, patented the survey of their father’s land in 1664, naming the estate Hockley-in-the-Hole. The land was the home of the Dorsey family for more than 300 years and bears a marker from the Maryland historical society.

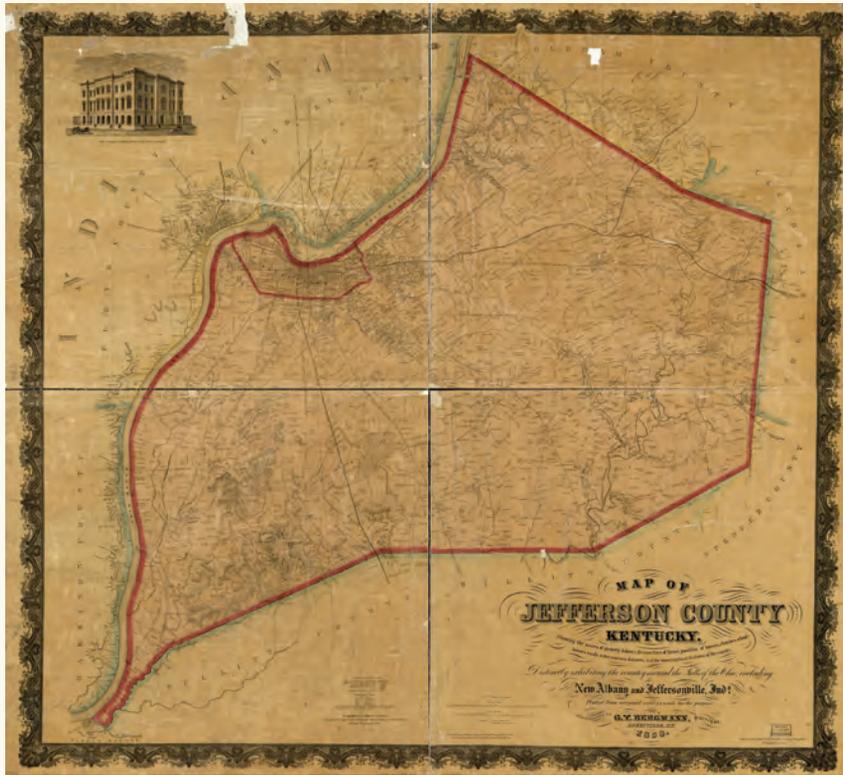
Colonel Edward Dorsey became a lawyer and was appointed Justice of the Peace of Anne Arundel County, and also Gentleman Justice of the Quorum, rising to prominence in both state and military affairs. In 1685, he built the Edward Dorsey home which still stands on Prince George Street in Annapolis, Maryland, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first session of the Legislature of Annapolis was held in the Dorsey house in 1694, and the Assembly was regularly held there for the next ten years until the state house was completed. It was also chosen as the residence for Governor Francis Nicholson. Meanwhile, Edward Dorsey was promoted from Captain to Major of the Horse Brigade and moved to another of his properties known as Major’s Choice. He had numerous holdings which comprised most of the town of Annapolis and was promoted to Colonel in 1702.

Edward Dorsey, a great-grandson of Colonel Edward Dorsey born in Anne Arundel in 1762, went by the nickname of Fizzy Head Ned. He married Susannah Lawrence, daughter of Benjamin Lawrence, a Revolutionary War veteran. Around 1800, Fizzy Head Ned, his wife, six surviving children, and his father-in-law all moved to Jefferson County, Kentucky. Two more children were born to the Dorseys in 1802, and 1804, the last three months after her father died at the age of 42. Meanwhile, Benjamin Lawrence established the huge Vale of Eden plantation and estate in 1800, and some of these lands were inherited by his grandsons when he passed away in 1814.

Elias Dorsey, the son of Fizzy Head Ned and Susannah Lawrence Dorsey was born June 7, 1796, in Maryland and was only a small boy of four when his parents and maternal grandparents moved to Kentucky. His brother Levin Lawrence Dorsey who was named after his uncles—(both Fizzy Head Ned and Susannah had brothers named Levin) was just an infant at this time. Elias was eight years old when his father died. He served in the war of 1812 under Colonel Richard Booker who was to become his father-in-law, and at the age of eighteen, he married the Colonel’s daughter, Martha Booker. Elias then built the Eden Stock Farm on a tract of about eight hundred acres inherited from his grandfather, Benjamin Lawrence. Elias and Martha had 13 children, 12 of which survived to maturity. Martha died in 1836, a year after the birth of the last child, and two years later, Elias married Sarah Mayo. His brother, who became known as L. L. Dorsey Sr., married Susan O’ Bannon and established the large Dorsey estate adjacent to the Eden Stock Farm.

L. L. Dorsey Jr., son of Elias who was named Levin Lawrence for his uncle, became widely known for founding the Golddust family of Morgans. However, the breeding of Morgan horses was something of a family affair with the Dorseys. Elias bred Morgans at the Eden Stock Farm himself for many years, which he exhibited at fairs across the country and entered in trotting races, and there is evidence that L. L. Dorsey Sr. owned Morgans as well.

One of the main stallions owned by Elias was Green Mountain Black Hawk (Sherman Black Hawk x Paris Fletcher mare by Gifford)



Fine Morgan and Black Hawk Stock FOR SALE.

The subscriber having determined to retire from the Stock Breeding business, offers for sale his entire stock of HORSES, forty in number. They have been bred with great care as to size, style, speed and beauty, as their success at the fairs of Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri and Illinois, abundantly prove, particularly in speed rings, where they have been almost universally successful, having never lost but one speed ring. They have been bred from extra mares, and are by Vermont Morgan and Green Mountain Black Hawk. They consist of Stallions, Geldings and Mares, from one to six years old—with several very fast and fine harness horses and mares, and excellent brood mares. Also some good Jacks and Jennets.

The stock can be seen at my farm, at Eden, nine miles east of Louisville, on the Lexington Railroad or Pike.— Letters addressed to me, Louisville, Ky., will be attended to. 3-2t ELIAS DORSEY.

Zilcaadi Golddust 4400,

STANDARD MORGAN STALLION,

WILL MAKE THE REASON OF 1887 AT

THE HIGHLANDS FARM,

Middletown, Jefferson Co., Ky.

Young Colts and Fillies, the get of Zilcaadi, for sale; all fast and good lookers. For particulars address L. L. DORSEY, Middletown, Ky.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Bergman 1858 map of Jefferson County, Kentucky (Library of Congress); Elias Dorsey Sale ad, *American Stock Journal*, August 1860; L. L. Dorsey III ad, *Breeder's Gazette*, April 1887.

who appears in the pedigrees of many Morgans today. He is found in all descendants of Denning Allen (Honest Allen x Rena), sire of government foundation stallion General Gates (x Fanny Scott), for example. Several other Dorsey family members bred or owned Morgans of the Golddust and Green Mountain Black Hawk lines, including L. L. Dorsey Jr.'s younger brothers Benjamin Lawrence Dorsey and Plutarch Hynes Dorsey, who continued breeding these lines in Illinois. Green Mountain Black Hawk was the winner of many prizes, including the three-year-old purse at Addison County Vermont Fair in 1853, sweepstakes premium at the Michigan State Fair in 1854, 1855, and 1856; first premium for trotting stallions at the United States Agricultural Fair in Louisville, Kentucky, 1857; speed ring premium at New Albany, Indiana, and at Nelson County Fair in Kentucky on a one-third mile track in 1859; \$250 premium for best roadster stallion at Louisville in 1860; and \$500 premium for fastest trotting stallion at the World's Horse Fair in Chicago 1860, as well as numerous other prizes.

Elias sold his stock in 1860, intending to retire as his second wife's health was failing. After her death in 1861, he purchased a property of 20,000 acres in Illinois and lived there until his death in 1872. He was returned to Louisville for burial. At the time of his death, Elias left eight surviving children, 51 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. All of his children and many of his grandchildren were present at his death.

L. L. Dorsey Jr. was born on February 7, 1819. He and his brother Elias Jr. were given shares of the Eden Stock Farm and in 1845, he married Lydia S. Phillips. He later bought his brother out

and continued to expand the property. Following the purchase of Vermont Morgan in 1854, and the Hoke mare, who had already been bred to Vermont Morgan, resulting in the birth of Golddust at Eden Stock Farm in 1855. L. L. Dorsey Jr. devoted more than 25 years exclusively developing this singular family. During this time, he showed his Golddust Morgans around the country, as well as entering them in trotting races and various matches. It is noteworthy that in breeding the Golddust bloodlines, Mr. Dorsey stayed very closely with Morgan blood and occasional crosses back to the blood of the Arabian, Zilcaadi, along with some of the early Thoroughbred strains from which Golddust was bred. He seemed purposely to avoid crossing with the popular Hambletonian blood and instead focused on establishing the purity of the Golddust family.

Mr. Dorsey decided to retire from the horse breeding business in 1879 and sold about 1,500 acres of Eden Stock Farm and advertised several large sales to disperse all of his breeding stock. By this time, there were a number of other large farms breeding pure Golddust Morgans, and it was believed they would endure for many years. A large portion of the Eden Stock Farm was sold to a Dr. Standiford, and the remaining horses, including the beautiful Zilcaadi Golddust and other prime breeding stock were dispersed at four large sales. Mr. Dorsey and his wife retired to another farm on Bardstown Road in 1880, where they lived until his death in 1888, and Lydia remained there until her death in 1914.

However, several Dorsey family members continued breeding Golddust Morgan horses, including L. L. Dorsey Jr.'s daughter Rosa Johanna. Rosa married her first cousin L. L. Dorsey—the son of her



LEFT TO RIGHT: Willow Brook Farm, home of Richard Marot Booker, Shelby, Kentucky; Morgan Driver by Lexington Golddust (*Morgan Horse Register*, Vol I).

father's older brother Richard Edward Dorsey—who was named Levin Lawrence after her father, just as her father had been named after his uncle, L. L. Dorsey Sr. Rosa and her husband took over breeding and showing Golddust Morgan horses on their portion of the adjoining land known as The Highlands Farm, in partnership with Rosa's brother Clark Irvin Dorsey. Clark died in 1917, but the operation continued until L. L. Dorsey III died in 1937. The home was torn down in the 1950s. Much of the Eden Stock Farm became part of what is now the campus of the University of Louisville, Shelby, and is also adjacent to the A. B. Sawyer Park, which includes some of the property of other Dorsey family members as well.

J. W. HORNSBY AND BOOKER BROOK STOCK FARM

The Hornsbys traced their roots to England and were also related to the Dorsey family by marriage. Joseph Hornsby was born in England in 1740, and when 17 years old, immigrated to America to join his uncle, Thomas Hornsby, in the settlements of Williamsburg, Virginia. Thomas was a prominent citizen, and upon his death left substantial property to his nephew. At the age of 29, he married Martha Walker, daughter of Dr. Thomas Walker, an associate of Daniel Boone. Dr. Walker was also the explorer who named Cumberland Gap. After Martha's death, Joseph and his children moved to Kentucky. Their son Joseph married Cynthia Allen, and grandson John Allen Hornsby married Julia Ann Booker in 1838. Julia was a daughter of Colonel Richard Marot Booker of Willow Brook Farm, and she was a sister of Martha Booker, wife of Elias Dorsey and mother of L. L. Dorsey Jr.

John and Julia purchased some land in Shelby County from her father and named their farm the Booker Brook Farm, where they built a handsome brick estate and began breeding Morgan horses, as well as sheep and cattle. This farm was later inherited by their oldest son Joseph Walker Hornsby, who was the first cousin of L. L. Dorsey Jr. J. W. Hornsby, born in 1838, and his brother built up one of the largest studs of Golddust Morgans in Kentucky and continued breeding the pure Golddust strain for many years. They also bred shorthorn cattle and Southdown

and Cotswold sheep along with the Golddust Morgans until J. W. passed away in 1918. The first registered Hereford cattle in Kentucky were also introduced at Booker Brook Farm. Many of the Hornsby Morgan horses are registered in Volumes I and II of the Morgan Horse Register.

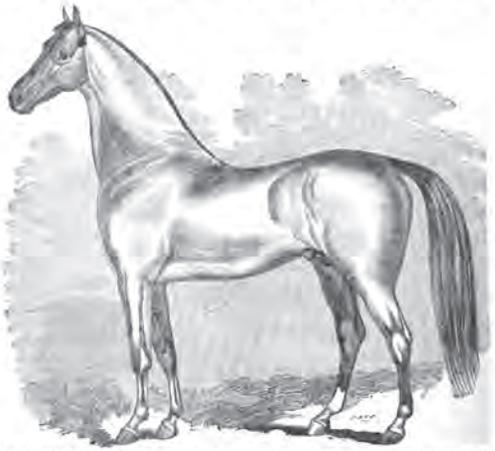
Among the main studs used by the Hornsbys were Lexington Golddust, described below, and Eclipse Golddust, a rich bay who stood 16½ hands tall and weighed 1,250 pounds. His dam, a daughter of Vermont Morgan, as well as his second and third dam, were bred by J. W.'s father, John Allen Hornsby. The Hornsbys also had many of the best Golddust daughters in their stud, and the Golddust Morgans of Booker Brook Farm were held in high esteem throughout the country. Booker Brook Farm was passed down through the generations of the Hornsby family and is currently owned by a great-great-grandson of John and Julia. The historic estate has been well cared for and is a popular venue for weddings, concerts, and other events.

GOLDDUST—RACE AND STUD CAREER

Golddust matured into a stallion of unusual beauty, standing 16 hands tall, and weighing 1,200 pounds. Despite his size, his form strongly adhered to the Morgan pattern, with a strong short back, long deep body with well-sprung ribs, full muscular hindquarters, deep chest with long sloping shoulders giving rise to a well-set upright elegant neck, refined and blood-like head with large full eyes, and short sharp ears. His coat was a striking deep gold color, with a brilliant metallic sheen, and his off-hind ankle was white. He was foaled during the early years of the rivalry between Ethan Allen and Rysdyk's Hambletonian for recognition of trotting speed, when Ethan reigned supreme as the Champion Trotting Stallion of the World—a title Hambletonian never attained.

In 1861, Golddust trotted a match against Iron Duke for \$10,000 a side, over the Woodlawn track in Kentucky, for best three in five of one-mile heats. Iron Duke won the first heat in 2:48¼, and Golddust won the next three heats in times of 2:47½, 2:43, and 2:47½. According to a report received by Mr. Dorsey, the first half of the third heat was trotted at the rate of three minutes to the mile, which meant the last

Bookerbrook Stock Farm.



WE BREED and have for sale fine trotting, harness and saddle horses; we have ONE HUNDRED HEAD of such, including a number of choice and valuable young stallions and fillies; also brood mares of the most approved trotting and thoroughbred crosses. In short our stock comprises stock of all ages, and our prices accord with the times and are reasonable; for we breed to sell.

The **GOLDDUST FAMILY** of trotters is with us a specialty. For a combination of size, style, speed, action and blood-like appearance we claim that the Golddusts are superior to any other family of trotters in America. They were produced by a cross of a beautifully-formed, stylish and speedy inbred Vermont Morgan stallion, on a large thoroughbred mare by Harlow, an imported English horse; and dam by Zileadie, an imported Arabian horse. By this cross we claim to have improved greatly the size and style of such families—to have retained the gentle disposition and great capacity as roadsters of the Morgan. And as regards speed, the records of Lucille (2:16 1/4), Fleety (2:20 at 6 years of age) and Rella Golddust (2:21) are conclusive, and will compare favorably with the other leading trotting families, even though all the other leading families have had greatly the advantage over the Golddusts in handling.

At the head of our stud we have **LXINGTON GOLDUST**, A SON OF THE "ORIGINAL" GOLDUST—a son that resembles "THE OLD HORSE" more than any other of his produce. In a number of respects Lexington is an improvement on Old Golddust. Lexington Golddust is of a beautiful golden color; he stands 16 1/2 hands high and weighs 1,300 pounds; he was finished part of a season, and could trot with ease better than 2:40; his dam was sired by the renowned racehorse Lexington; and dam Atilla, by Rufin; 3rd dam Duchess of Marlboro, by Sir Archibald, 4th dam by Lewisburg; 5th dam by Stockholder; 6th dam by Cagle's celebrated mare, by Gen. Jackson's Piculet, by imported Citizen.

We breed and have for sale **SHORTHORN CATTLE**—we have a herd of about 40 head of these; included are cows, heifers and yearling heifers, thoroughbreds and high grades. We have also to hand of **COTSWOLD SHEEP**, which have been bred purely for 30 years; these sheep combine with large size splendid fleeces. Some superior yearling and two-year-old rams by an imported sire form part of the flock.

Our farm is in Shelby County, within a few miles of Eminence. For further particulars call on us or address
J. W. HORNSBY & BROTHER, Eminence, Kentucky.



FLEETY GOLDDUST.
 Sired by Old Golddust, Dam a Morgan Mare.
 THOROPE OF THE YEAR (1884) \$1,000; 1885 \$1,000; 1886 \$1,000; 1887 \$1,000; 1888 \$1,000; 1889 \$1,000; 1890 \$1,000; 1891 \$1,000; 1892 \$1,000; 1893 \$1,000; 1894 \$1,000; 1895 \$1,000; 1896 \$1,000; 1897 \$1,000; 1898 \$1,000; 1899 \$1,000; 1900 \$1,000; 1901 \$1,000; 1902 \$1,000; 1903 \$1,000; 1904 \$1,000; 1905 \$1,000; 1906 \$1,000; 1907 \$1,000; 1908 \$1,000; 1909 \$1,000; 1910 \$1,000; 1911 \$1,000; 1912 \$1,000; 1913 \$1,000; 1914 \$1,000; 1915 \$1,000; 1916 \$1,000; 1917 \$1,000; 1918 \$1,000; 1919 \$1,000; 1920 \$1,000; 1921 \$1,000; 1922 \$1,000; 1923 \$1,000; 1924 \$1,000; 1925 \$1,000; 1926 \$1,000; 1927 \$1,000; 1928 \$1,000; 1929 \$1,000; 1930 \$1,000; 1931 \$1,000; 1932 \$1,000; 1933 \$1,000; 1934 \$1,000; 1935 \$1,000; 1936 \$1,000; 1937 \$1,000; 1938 \$1,000; 1939 \$1,000; 1940 \$1,000; 1941 \$1,000; 1942 \$1,000; 1943 \$1,000; 1944 \$1,000; 1945 \$1,000; 1946 \$1,000; 1947 \$1,000; 1948 \$1,000; 1949 \$1,000; 1950 \$1,000; 1951 \$1,000; 1952 \$1,000; 1953 \$1,000; 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accepted. This proposition open until the 1st of May 1866.”

L. L. Dorsey Jr., *Spirit of the Times*, March 31, 1866

Golddust's career was cut short as he died in 1871 and lived only 16 years, but some of his most outstanding offspring were sired in his later years.

GOLDDUST—NOTABLE OFFSPRING AND DESCENDANTS

Only 45 of Golddust's offspring are listed in the Morgan register, but the family was held in the highest regard for several decades for the finest quality in show, trotting speed, and the ultimate stylish road horse. It would not be possible to mention all the outstanding sons and daughters of Golddust but listed here are a few examples.

ARABIAN GOLDDUST

Foaled in 1872, Arabian Golddust was one of the last foals of old Golddust. He was a chestnut horse bred by the Hornsby brothers of Eminence, Kentucky, with his dam tracing to Thoroughbred and Morgan, and third dam a daughter of Zilcaadi, the Arabian. Arabian Golddust has many Morgan descendants today, particularly in Western working lines such as Camas Mist Morgans, and descendants of Powerful (Chocolate x Gold Pilot) blended with several crosses through Zilcaadi Golddust.

BILLY GOLDDUST

A handsome chestnut marked with a star and one white foot, Billy Golddust stood 16 hands tall and weighed 1,200 pounds. He was bred by L. L. Dorsey Jr. and foaled at the Eden Stock Farm in about 1863. His dam was a bay mare sired by the Thoroughbred Red Tiger. Lines to Billy Golddust may be found through C. X. Larrabee breeding, among descendants of Sea Quail (Quintessence x Seawan), and through Jackson Ranch breeding among descendants of Black Magic (Watch Charm x Mady) and his daughter Princess Jet (x Princess F) both bred by J. C. Jackson.

BRILLIANT GOLDDUST

Foaled in 1865, Brilliant Golddust was chestnut with a star, standing nearly 15¾ hands tall and weighing 1,100 pounds. He was bred by L. L. Dorsey Jr. and foaled at the Eden Stock Farm. His dam, a daughter of Green Mountain Black Hawk, and second dam by Vermont Morgan, both also bred by L. L. Dorsey Jr. and foaled at Eden Stock Farm. Brilliant Golddust was a remarkable show horse and the only horse who was ever a true competitor of Blood Chief in the show ring. When he was 11 years old, he won a race at Decatur on a half-mile track, trotting the third heat in 2:28. Although the line is rare, Brilliant Golddust does have a number of Morgan descendants today through scattered bloodlines in all

disciplines, as well as Standardbred descendants.

Fleety Golddust was an attractive gray mare, bred by Lewis S. Ellis and Mr. Dorsey on shares, and foaled about 1868. Mr. Ellis, who worked for Mr. Dorsey at the time, had two mares which he bred to Golddust on shares, with the agreement that Mr. Dorsey would have a half interest in the foals. The dam of Fleety was a gray Morgan mare by Jehu Morgan (Sherman Black Hawk x mare by Gifford Morgan). Mr. Dorsey bought Ellis' interest in the foals and brought Fleety to Eden Farm to train. She was broken to saddle in the fall she was two and won her first race at Louisville as a three-year-old in 2:47.

Fleety's six-year-old campaign was a brilliant one, with her best record made at Buffalo in a field of ten starters which took everyone by surprise. Kansas Chief was made the favorite, and Fleety drew seventh place with eight false starts being made before the word was given to go. Fleety took the lead at once, winning by four lengths in a time of 2:23. In the second heat, no one believed the mare could match this time again, so the Chief was once more made the favorite at heavy odds. Fleety led once more, and the Chief was sent flying after her, only to have her let out another notch of speed every time he tried to overhaul her. They entered the stretch at a furious pace with only one other horse four lengths behind them and the rest of the field far in the distance. The Chief could not keep his feet at that rate and Fleety crossed the line a length in front with a remarkable time of 2:20½. Still, the crowd was even more certain the mare would not have the endurance to go another heat and so they backed the Chief once more. Fleety again led the way and was pulled up an easy winner by two lengths in a time of 2:22¼. She made her best record the following month in the second heat at Mystic Park with a time of 2:20 but lost the race.

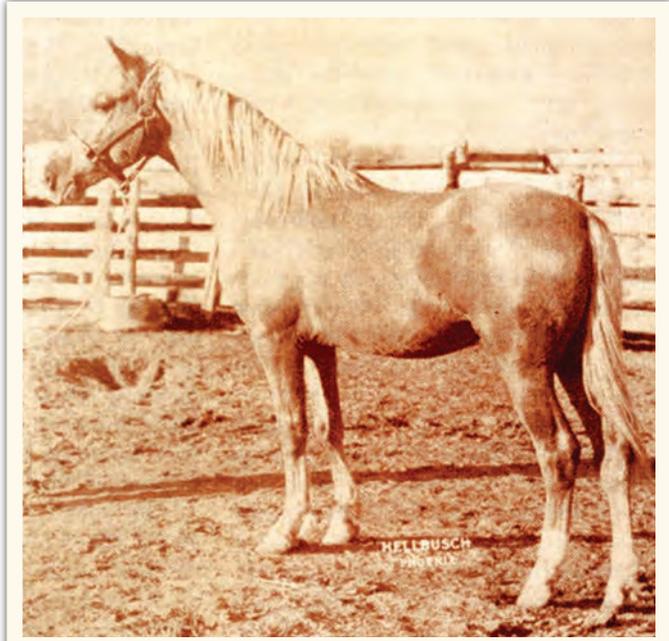
Fleety won twelve heats with times of less than 2:30 that year and was later sold to Indian Hill Stock Farm where she died foaling prematurely and left no registered Morgan offspring.

FORREST GOLDDUST

Bred by L. L. Dorsey Jr. and foaled at the Eden Stock Farm in 1872, Forrest Golddust was from the final crop of old Golddust. He was a chestnut, 16 hands tall and weighed 1,250 pounds. His dam was a daughter of Edwin Forrest by Young Bay Kentucky Hunter, a son of One-Eyed Kentucky Hunter (Cock Of The Rock by Sherman x mare by Justin Morgan). In a letter to Joseph Battell, J. W. Hornsby wrote, "Forrest Golddust trotted over the Lexington (KY) track privately, in 2:22½. He was one of the grandest show horses of his day." Forrest Golddust has a number of Morgan descendants today through Just Ann's Hornet (Wood Hornet x Just Ann), and Monty Vermont (Red Vermont x Glenna), which are intertwined with descendants of Lexington Golddust described below.

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TOP TO BOTTOM: DJJJ Ebony Gold (Prince Cobra x Rosena Bird), many crosses to Golddust (AMHA Archives); Valley View King (Upwey King Peavine x Upwey Emerald Goldy, 4th dam by Lexington Golddust), one of the last Morgans to carry the palomino color from Golddust; Upwey Emerald Goldy (Emerald King x Canary Bird, 3d dam by Lexington Golddust) and her colt Valley View Pal by Upwey King Benn, palomino from the Golddust line.

INDICATOR

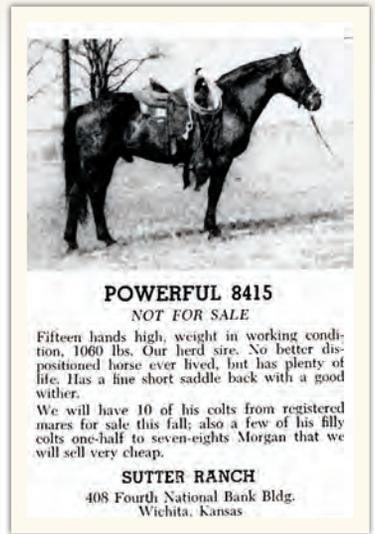
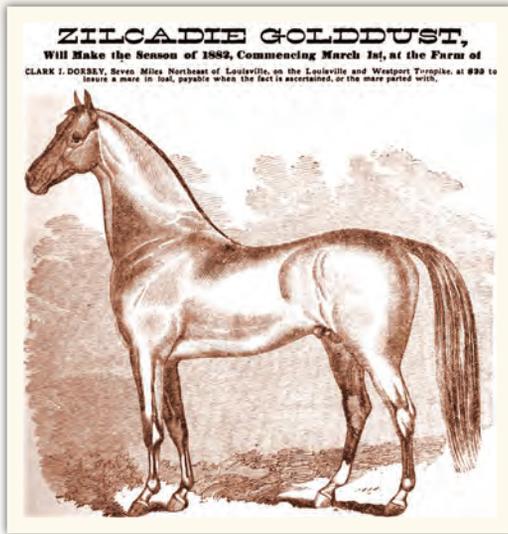
Described as golden or golden sorrel, Indicator was apparently the beautiful pure gold color which the Golddust family came to be known for. Indicator was marked with a stripe in the face and white hind stockings. He was 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,050 pounds and was bred by William Tarleton of Goshen, Kentucky. His dam was a well-bred Thoroughbred mare, and through her sire, dam, and second dam traced to the Byerley Turk, the same line Justin Morgan came from, as well as having close crosses to the Godolphin Arabian, Darley Arabian, and other shared ancestors. He was later owned by L. L. Dorsey Jr., the Hornsby Brothers, and several others. This is the most common line to Golddust found in Morgan pedigrees today and appears among all descendants of Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette), Winterset (Captain Jack x Judea), and Red Correll (Will Rogers x Kate Smith).

Lines to Golddust through Indicator appear through virtually all Western working, sport, and show disciplines. A great example is the well-known black sport sire DJJJ Ebony Gold (Prince Cobra x Rosena Bird) who carried numerous lines back to Golddust through Powerful, Flyhawk, Red Correll, Winterset, and more. Bred by Ernest Gerst, and foaled at Burlington, Iowa, in 1985, he was an AMHA Sport Horse Award winner, and took 4th place in the 1991 100-day stallion test. He was also a nationally ranked USCTA Three Day Event stallion.

LEXINGTON GOLDDUST

Foaled in 1870, Lexington Golddust was another of the last foals sired by old Golddust. Bred by L. L. Dorsey Jr. and foaled at the Eden Stock Farm, 16 hands tall and 1,200 pounds. He was called chestnut, but other descriptions indicate that in fact he also bore the rich gold color of his sire. His dam was Eugenia, a daughter of the great thoroughbred sire Lexington, who came to be known as “The Blind Hero of Woodburn.” Still considered one of the greatest Thoroughbred sires in history, Lexington led the sire list 16 times, 14 of which were consecutive. Like Justin Morgan, he traced his sireline directly to the Byerley Turk, and shared many of the same ancestors. Lexington Golddust was sold to L. L. Dorsey Jr.’s younger brother Plutarch Hines Dorsey in Illinois, and finally to the Hornsby brothers in Eminence, Kentucky.

Although the line is uncommon, Lexington Golddust has a number of surviving Morgan descendants today that may be traced through Just Ann’s Hornet and Monty Vermont. Interestingly, these lines go back through a couple of mares bred by Texas rancher Richard Sellman, out of a mare named Mary Gibbons who he liked well enough to bring in a rare outcross to his mare line. Mary Gibbons was not registered, but she was well-bred. She was a daughter of Indicator 5440 (Bengold x mare by Anderson’s Morgan, grandson of Vermont Morgan, sire of Golddust), foaled in 1902 and owned and registered by L. L. Dorsey. (This was L. L. Dorsey III, who was the nephew of L. L. Dorsey Jr. and was married to his daughter Rosa.) The dam of Mary Gibbons was a daughter of Patsy K (Abdallah Kellams x Kit K), a great-grandson of Royal Morgan in direct sireline. He traced to Justin Morgan twice in five generations, and five more



LEFT TO RIGHT: Clark I. Dorsey advertisement for Zilcadie Golddust (spelled in the *AMHA Registry* as Zilcaadi Golddust), March 1882 *Farmer's Magazine*; Windcrest Playboy (Upwey Ben Don x Liz Taylor, many crosses to Golddust); Powerful (Chocolate x Gold Pilot) ad from August 1948 *The Morgan Horse*.

times in six generations. Sellman bred two daughters from Mary Gibbons. Mary K (x Headlight Morgan) produced five foals and became the second dam of Monty Vermont. Blondie, described as sorrel with flaxen mane and tail, became the dam of twelve foals. At least one of these lines was absorbed into the Quarter Horse breed, and the line of Just Ann's Hornet traces through this mare.

It is remotely possible that Gold Bug, the unregistered buckskin daughter of Redolent (Red Oak x Minnie K) who was dam of the palomino Golden Jubilee (x Jubilee King) may have traced to these lines, as she was bred by Tom Burnett who used a lot of Sellman stock.

Valley View King (Upwey King Peavine x Upwey Emerald Goldy), another from this line, is believed to be the last known Morgan tracing his palomino color to Golddust. The color was derived through his dam, Upwey Emerald Goldy whose 3d dam was a daughter of Lexington Golddust. This rare line can be found in many horses tracing to the Tetonia breeding of Myrtle Neeley, and Dia H breeding of Bill and Lea Heib.

LUCILLE GOLDDUST

A bay mare with white hind feet bred by L. L. Dorsey Jr. foaled at the Eden Stock Farm in 1866, Lucille Golddust was one of the most remarkable trotting mares of her day. Her dam was a bald-faced roan mare with white feet, a daughter of Bald Hornet. This Bald Hornet is believed to be the one sired by old Tom Hal, a strawberry roan son of Justin Morgan brought from Canada to Kentucky about 1824 and kept there until his death in 1843. Some accounts estimate he was foaled as early as 1802 and was 41 when he died, but Battell believed he was more likely foaled around 1810. The dam of Lucille was named by Elias Dorsey and known as Bull Hornet or Bald Hornet, and her dam was the famous chestnut pacing mare Pocahontas by Irons' Cadmus marked with white face and feet, whose second dam was a daughter of old Copperbottom by Justin Morgan. This was the same Pocahontas that was bred to Ethan Allen, producing a

daughter named Pocahontas who was bay with white face and feet, and was purchased by the famous horseman Robert Bonner for \$40,000 after setting a trotting record of 2:18.

Lucille trotted both under saddle and in harness, ultimately setting a record of 2:16¼. In addition to being an exceptional race mare, she was one of very few mares in history whose vitality was so strong that she not only excelled on the track but was consistently able to pass on the same ability to her offspring. Lucille was the dam of Lucille's Baby, 2:20½; Narka, 2:27¼; Sprague Golddust, 2:15 ¼; and Wilkes Golddust, 2:23¼, as well as the fast pacing mare Fanny S 2:11½ produced from being bred back to her son, Wilkes Golddust. Most of her descendants were absorbed into the Standardbred, and the line seems to have been lost to the Morgan breed.

ZILCAADI GOLDDUST

Another of the striking gold color which was a hallmark of the Golddust family, Zilcaadi Golddust was marked with a star, off fore, and both hind feet white. He stood 15½ hand tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. He was bred by L. L. Dorsey, Jr. and foaled at the Eden Stock Farm in 1867. His dam was the royally bred Thoroughbred mare Rosalind, a daughter of imported Scythian, 2d dam Sally Russell by Boston; 3d dam Maria Russell, by Thornton's Rattler; 4th dam Miss Shepperd, by Stockholder; 5th dam Miranda, by Topgallant; and 6th dam by imported Diomed.

Zilcaadi Golddust had a remarkable season as a four-year-old, winning the great colt stakes at Kalamazoo, and also winning at Chicago, and in Kentucky at Louisville and Eminence. When he was five, he trotted publicly at Buffalo, making consecutive heats of 2:25. For two years, Mr. Dorsey offered to match him for either \$2,000 or \$4,000 a side against any stallion in America, and trot him over any good course, or over the track at Lexington, Kentucky, for one and two-mile heats. In an 1886 letter to Thomas B. Long, L. L. Dorsey III wrote: "At one time we refused \$15,000 cash for Zilcaadi Golddust and he was thought to be the



ABOVE: Johnston, famous pacer by Bashaw Golddust (Library of Congress).

fastest stallion in the world, and he did challenge all the stallions for two years. His trial of 2:25 and repeat at five years old was the fastest time ever made by a five-year-old, and afterwards he was driven a quarter in 32 seconds, a 2:08 gait.”

Many Morgans today trace to Zilcaadi Golddust, especially through Jack Sprat (Spotlight x Gold Floss), who was foaled in 1928 and considered a good later example of the Golddust family. Jack Sprat was bred by H. T. Hineman and later owned by Charles Ayer, an eccentric Wall Street lawyer who kept him at his Scenery Gulch Ranch in Colorado, managed by Verne Caldwell. Many of his offspring including descendants of Baacamanto (Blackman x Angela Sprat) can be found in Western working and sport Morgan pedigrees. Some went to Windcrest Farm in Vermont and can be found in many show pedigrees, for example, descendants of Windcrest Playboy (Upwey Ben Don x Liz Taylor). The line through Jack Sprat was also found in the buckskin Los Reyes Veradez (Primavera Valdez x Ran Mar Shadolyn) and his son Los Reyes Don Primero. The well-known Western stallion Powerful (Chocolate x Gold Pilot) had several additional close crosses to Zilcaadi Golddust through his dam.

Zilcaadi Golddust was to be offered at Mr. Dorsey’s final dispersal sale, but instead was taken over by his son Clark Irvin Dorsey, and his nephew and son-in-law, L. L. Dorsey III, and stood at The Highlands Farm until he died in 1892.

OTHER GOLDDUST DESCENDANTS

Other Golddust descendants worthy of mention may not have descendants today but nevertheless impressed many with the quality of the Golddust family, and of the Morgan blood in general.

The famous pacer Johnston, a son of Bashaw Golddust (Brown Dick x mare by Champion Golddust) out of an untraced mare was an excellent example. Champion Golddust was a son of old Golddust out of a daughter of Green Mountain Black Hawk and second dam by Vermont Morgan. Foaled in 1883, the brown gelding Johnston accumulated an impressive record, achieving a remarkable time of 2:06¼ and 91 heats of 2:30 or better by the

age of nine years old, at which time he was still racing.

Hendrix, a chestnut son of Zilcaadi Golddust marked with a blaze and white hind ankles stood 16 hands tall and weighed 1,200 pounds. He was bred by L. L. Dorsey and received 11 first premiums at fairs in Kentucky.

Creator Golddust, a dark brown with white hind feet standing 15½ hands tall, was known for his style and speed. He took first premium for stallions at the Iowa State Fair for two consecutive years in 1872 and 1873.

Ripon Golddust Jr (Ripon Golddust x mare by Black Billy, son of Black Hawk) bore the striking golden color often found in the Golddust family and stood 15¾ hands tall and weighed 1,150 pounds. He was never trained, but at the Ripon fair of 1885, was entered for a 20-mile trot with three competing stallions, which he won with ease in 1 hour, 15 minutes and 40 seconds. He was sent around the course once more trotting the half mile in 1:33.

All of the Golddusts were known for their excellent quality of bone and good size, most often ranging between 15½–16½ hands tall and weighing 1,100–1,200 pounds. They were also known for their exceptional beauty, style, and action as well as speed and endurance. They bore the distinguishing traits of the Morgan, yet during their reign were among the rare, early Morgan families that were focused upon and bred pure as a prized and distinct family within the breed. Many of these were later absorbed into the Saddlebred, Standardbred, Quarter Horse, Tennessee Walker, and other breeds, but scattered lines may still be found throughout the Morgan breed today, and are still prized for their style, spirit, beauty, and unmatched performance ability. ■

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