



≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

General Gates, CORNERSTONE OF THE US GOVERNMENT FARM

Many old timers who recalled Black Hawk Morgan, believed General Gates resembled him to a remarkable degree. The founders of the US Government Morgan Horse farm saw in the black stallion both the ideal type of Justin Morgan, as well as a horse they believed had the prepotency to transmit the valued Morgan qualities to future generations, to restore a breed on the verge of extinction, and preserve its remarkable legacy.

By Brenda L. Tippin

BACKGROUND — LORD CLINTON

The story of General Gates actually begins with his full brother, a gelding, foaled in 1885, nine years earlier. Bred by J. E. Biscoe of Little Rock, Arkansas, Lord Clinton was a small compactly made gelding, described as mouse black in color, marked with a small star and right hind white foot. He was gelded early in life and at first used exclusively under saddle where he developed a reputation as a fast quarter

horse, winning a number of races at this distance. Lord Clinton was also ridden to hounds and the heavy curb left lacerations on his tongue that later bothered him throughout his life as a trotter.

He was never trained for harness until the age of five, after which his owner brought him north from Arkansas that summer, and offered him for sale at a price of \$7,000, claiming he could trot in 2:16. Hamilton Busbey, author of *The Trotting and Pacing Horse in America*, recalled seeing Lord Clinton in his first race at

ABOVE: General Gates (Denning Allen x Fanny Scott) pulling a buggy at the US Government Farm (photo from AMHA archives).



ABOVE: General Gates (photos from AMHA archives and courtesy of *Country Life in America*).

the Alabama State Fair, where he beat 2:20 easily. Busbey predicted a glowing future for the gelding, who went on to beat many noted racehorses of the day.

Toward fall he began to improve rapidly, and showed up at Birmingham, Alabama, that October, where he beat the highly-regarded horse N.T.H., driven by the famous reinsman “Pop” Geers in a time of 2:21½ over a new track. Geers was starting Fred S. Wilkes later in the week, a horse always faster than 2:20 on a good track, and thought he would beat Lord Clinton easily. The tough little gelding won again in three heats of 2:21, 2:17, and 2:18¼. At that time, it was the best mile and best three heats ever stepped by a trotter in the state of Alabama, and since the Birmingham track was not fast, horsemen of the day rated Lord Clinton’s time as equivalent to 2:14.

By the close of 1892, Lord Clinton had won 20 of 27 races in which he competed, and his record at this time included winning 60 heats with a time of 2:30 or better. Lord Clinton’s time of 2:10¼ was a world record for time made in a race by a gelding, and was not beaten by any gelding or stallion through the close of the year. This record was made with a bicycle sulky at Independence, Iowa, on September 1, 1892, and hailed by witnesses as a remarkable performance. He was matched in this race against the stallion Lobasco and a chestnut gelding, Little Albert, who were considered the favorites. Lord Clinton was third in the first heat with Lobasco and Little Albert fighting neck and neck to a photo finish, which was originally awarded to Lobasco although the photo later showed Little Albert’s white nose in front. During the second heat, Lord Clinton was held back until the turn and then took aim on the leaders who were too absorbed in watching each other to see him coming until he was abreast of them and going at a 2:08 clip. Lobasco gave up and Little Albert fought his best, but Lord Clinton

won by a length in 2:10¼, and won the remaining two heats easily.

At the famous Columbia World’s Fair Exposition held in Chicago during 1893, he took part in the \$15,000 trotting stake, winning the 5th heat and part of the purse in a hotly contested nine heat race. Though the race was won by the great mare Alix who had every advantage of the best trainers and handling Lord Clinton lacked, it was he who pushed her to break the race record with a winning time of 2:07¾. Although beaten, he finished but half a length behind her, timed separately in 2:08. He lowered his official record to 2:09 in a race at Detroit, Michigan, in July, 1894, where he had his revenge and defeated Alix. In August of the same year, Lord Clinton made his best official record of 2:08¾ in a \$1000 free for all, beating Jack, Belle Vara, Magnolia, and Lee’s Pilot in three straight heats, with the second in 2:12¼ and third in 2:09¾. Later that month, Lord Clinton trotted the fastest mile on a half mile track ever made by a gelding in a time of 2:12 at Dayton, Ohio, August 31, 1894.

HOW GENERAL GATES WAS BRED

It was not surprising that Lord Clinton came to the attention of Joseph Battell on one of his many pedigree hunting trips he made in search of compiling the records for the first volume of the *Morgan Horse Register*. S.W. Parlin, editor of the *American Horse Breeder*, noted “Lord Clinton 2:08¾ is one of the very few 2:10 trotters that is not related nearly or remotely to either Hambletonian, Mambrino Chief, or Henry Clay, and if we remember correctly he is the only one whose extended pedigree does not show the names of either of these three founders of trotting families.”

Battell was always on the lookout for Morgans with unusual trotting speed as he felt it was a mark of the tremendous performance ability passed down from Justin Morgan. While



LEFT TO RIGHT: Denning Allen (Honest Allen x Rena by Wards Flying Cloud), sire of General Gates; Lord Clinton, full brother to General Gates
(photos from AMHA archives).

the plain and rugged Hambletonian was dominating the sireline among the fastest trotters and pacers of the day, nearly all of them carried Morgan blood through the dams. The speed, however, was invariably credited to Hambletonian or Messenger blood. For the few remaining standard trotters with a Morgan sireline, the dam's pedigree was thoroughly sifted and if any remote cross could be found to Hambletonian or Messenger blood, it was generally assumed to be responsible for the speed. Lord Clinton was an anomaly in the elite class of Morgans of that era who were able to trot a mile in 2:10 or better. A great-grandson of Ethan Allen, his sire and grandsire were both inbred Morgans, with an additional close Morgan cross on his dam's side. No cross to any blood of Hambletonian, Messenger, or even the Clay family could be found.

In Volume I of the *American Stallion Register*, Battell recalled, "I was in Kentucky and was told that he could be bought for \$3,000. He was then owned by a lumber dealer in Memphis, Tennessee. Thinking I might buy him I went to Memphis; the horse was at the time in training, and after examining him and being much pleased with him, I called upon his owner, whom I found at his office, and introducing myself said: 'I have understood you wished to sell Lord Clinton at three thousand dollars, and I have called to say, if so, I will take him.' He took from his pocket several letters, and handing me one said, 'read that,' and added, 'if it was not for that letter you would get the horse, which I took on a debt, for I do not want any race horse; but I think now I will get more for him.'"

"The letter was from Budd Doble stating that he had a party who wished to buy Lord Clinton and asking price. Seeing that the horse would probably be sold, I made inquiries about his sire and learned that he together with dam of Lord Clinton was owned at Little Rock, Arkansas. I immediately took the train for that point, saw the horses and bought them. The mare was quite old but the

stallion looked exceedingly well, being well shaped, of good size, and in good condition. They were shipped at once to Vermont, where the mare was bred to Denning Allen and the next year foaled Gen. Gates, a very promising colt when he came, in all respects, and especially so in his trotting action; but he has never been given any chance whatever to show what he could do in that line." *American Stallion Register, Volume I.*

It was perhaps fortunate that Battell was not aware at the time of the many unsuccessful attempts which had already been made to breed Lord Clinton's dam again to his sire, Denning Allen. Lord Clinton's breeder stated he had purchased Fanny Scott in the fall of 1878. He bred her to another Morgan horse called Ballie and she produced a colt in 1882 which never showed any speed, although his sire could trot in about 2:30. Lord Clinton, from Denning Allen, was her next foal, born in 1885. Afterwards, he tried numerous times to breed her again to Denning Allen but without success. He finally bred her to one of his young stallions and got two more colts from her but both were delicate and died. He tried again several times with Denning Allen and with another stallion, but was never able to get any more foals from her.

Nevertheless, Battell was set in his purpose and, having carefully traced the parents of Lord Clinton, was determined to have another colt from this cross and wasted no time in breeding Fanny Scott to Denning Allen again as soon as he got them back to Vermont. For whatever reason, Fanny Scott obliged, and dropped a healthy and handsome black colt, General Gates, on May 6, 1894, by which time she was at least 24 years old.

DENNING ALLEN

A grandson of the immortal trotter Ethan Allen, Denning Allen was one of the most strongly inbred Morgans of his day. Dark bay



LEFT TO RIGHT: Autumn (General Gates x Belle Of Middlebury by Firefly son of Daniel Lambert) at two years old, bred by Joseph Battell, sold to Phillipines for improvement of native stock. Foaled in 1899, Autumn was the second General Gates foal to be born, and the first son; Red Oak (General Gates x Marguerite). Rare sireline. Some descendants of Red Oak survive today in the Quarter Horse and Paint breeds (photo from AMHA archives).

in color, he was marked by a star and small snip with two white hind ankles, one white forefoot, and just a little white on the other. He was bred by Major Luxton, then of Lexington, Kentucky, and foaled the property of J. B. Bowman, also of Lexington, in 1874. He was got by Honest Allen, son of Ethan Allen and out of a mare by Brooks horse, son of Sherman Morgan; second dam by Cock Of The Rock (Sherman Morgan x Aldrich mare by Justin Morgan). Rena, the dam of Denning Allen was brown or black in color and marked with four white feet. She was regarded as a mare of exceptional quality and a fine roadster. Foaled in 1866, Rena was a daughter of Ward's Flying Cloud, a son of Black Hawk whose dam was by the Hackett Horse (Gifford by Woodbury x mare by Woodbury).

Denning Allen was sold in 1878 to General D. P. Upham of Little Rock, Arkansas, and in 1882, by his administrator to Dr. E.S. Rice, a veterinary surgeon of Little Rock, who used him as a driving horse. Denning Allen sired about 100 foals while in Arkansas, among them the exceptional trotting gelding Lord Clinton. He was said to very much resemble his famous grandsire, except that he was darker in color, slightly taller, and his mane and tail were not quite so thick. Denning Allen stood a full 15½ hands and weighed 1,050 pounds. Battell exhibited him at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, where he won the first premium for Morgan stallions five years and over, and the sweepstakes for Morgan stallions of any age. He was also one of eight horses selected by Max Landsberg, a highly-regarded sculptor sent by the German government to take models of American horses at the World's Fair which would be useful for study at the German agricultural schools. Denning Allen was also registered in the *US Trotting Horse Register* as a standard sire #28240.

FANNY SCOTT (SALLY SCOTT)

Fanny Scott was bred by E. W. Hughes of Todd, Logan County, Kentucky. She was believed to have been foaled about 1870, and was sired by the thoroughbred horse Brown's Revenue Jr., and out of a mare named Puss who was by a son of old Copperbottom, he by Justin Morgan. The Hughes family was originally from Powhatan, Virginia, where Mr. Hughes was born in 1812. He came to Kentucky as a young man in 1835, where he married Mary Browder in 1840. Revenue Jr. was bred and raised by General William C. Scott of Powhatan, and on his death, his nephew, John Brown, purchased the horse from his uncle's estate for \$2,600 and brought him to Logan County, Kentucky, around the same time as Hughes arrived. Hughes leased the stallion from Brown and stood him two seasons.

Revenue Jr. was a registered thoroughbred son of Revenue by imported Trustee. He was a handsome red bay, about 15½ hands tall, and weighed 1,100 pounds. These were all old lines which traced back to the same ancestors as Justin Morgan, and the dams of both Revenue Jr. and his sire Revenue traced their sireline back to the Byerley Turk, which was also the sireline of Justin Morgan. Pauline, the dam of Revenue Jr., was a daughter of imported Glencoe, winner of the prestigious 2000 Guineas Stakes and the Ascot Gold Cup. Glencoe was one of the earliest thoroughbreds imported to the United States and was known as an excellent broodmare sire, believed to pass the large heart gene to his daughters who were all outstanding producers. Pauline was shown at one of the state fairs in Virginia before the Civil War, and took the premium as the most well bred mare exhibited.

The dam of Fanny Scott was a handsome bay mare with a star called Puss, sired by a son of old Copperbottom by Justin Morgan, and out of a daughter of Stump The Dealer, a descendant of Sir



LEFT TO RIGHT: Viola (General Gates x Marguerite) full sister to Red Oak (photo from AMHA archives); Jetmore (Red Oak x Puwanish Maid by Troubadour).

Archy. She was described as a fine saddle mare, long-bodied with a deep round barrel, well-muscled, and a fast pacer. Puss was owned in the Hughes family for at least a dozen years and they raised nine or ten foals from her, all sold for \$100 or more. Fanny Scott was the last foal raised from this mare. Hughes bought Puss from George Nick Moore of Allensville, Kentucky, around 1860, at which time she was believed to be four or five years old. Moore had purchased her from a Mr. Crab, of Elkton, Kentucky, who was said to have obtained her in Indiana. The Stump The Dealer referred to was undoubtedly Adam's Stump The Dealer, a son of the thoroughbred Stump The Dealer by Timoleon, son of Sir Archy. He was known as both a race horse and fast pacer, and his colts were popular as saddle horses. Adam's Stump The Dealer was also the sire of the mare Julia Johnson, dam of Tom Hal Jr. (Gibson's), sire of the famous Brown Hal who traced to Tom Hal, son of Justin Morgan through both his sire and dam. The dam of Adam's Stump The Dealer was never definitely traced, but considering his tendency to pace, strong resemblance to the Morgans, and coming from a region where both Copperbottom and Tom Hal stood for service during the time frame his dam would have been foaled, it is likely she may have traced to this blood.

Fanny Scott was described as a scant 15 hands tall, brown with star, very round, deep in the chest, and stout built. She was smoothly turned and unusually well-muscled like the Morgans. Her body was long and legs short, free from extra hair, with a beautiful head carried well up on an elegant neck of good length. Fanny Scott was very stylish, a square, free trotter, said to be quick as lightning, and an excellent road horse with all day energy. Her eye was large and kind, full and prominent, and she was always gentle and playful but very spirited. She was brought to Arkansas with a drove of mules from Galloway County, Missouri, by Bigbee

and Christian when four or five years old. There she was sold to Dr. Brachacher for \$225, who drove her about six months and then sold her to Dr. Adams who was purchasing her for Mr. Biscoe. L. C. Balch, the proprietor of Lake Side Stock Farm, then bought her and drove her about six months before selling her back to Biscoe and Hangar for \$140. Mr. Biscoe kept Fanny Scott until 1891, and was unsuccessful in breeding her again to Denning Allen, though he tried a number of times. After Lord Clinton made his mark, Biscoe sold Fanny Scott to C. M. Simons for \$300, who then sold her to Battell, also without having produced any more foals from her.

THE COPPERBOTTOM CONNECTION

There remained some critics who did not approve of the thoroughbred cross Fanny Scott had through her sire, or the trotting speed shown by Lord Clinton. Few of the old New England farmers at that time understood or recognized the importance of the close cross through Copperbottom, as he was not known to them as a son of Justin Morgan. Sired when Justin Morgan stood in Danville, Vermont, during the season of 1808, and foaled in 1809, Copperbottom was taken into Canada as a yearling by his breeder, David Blunt, and later brought to Kentucky in 1816. A powerful, muscular horse with an exceptionally deep chest, he was chestnut or sorrel in color, and stood 15½ hands tall. Battell traveled to Quebec in 1906 and traced his origin as an authentic son of Justin Morgan indisputably. Copperbottom was a fast pacer, owned by Captain Jowitt, and later others, and was the first founder of the pacing families that spread through Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, and neighboring states. Fanny Scott's dam was known to be a granddaughter of Copperbottom, making her at least a great-granddaughter of Justin Morgan, even without the likely possibility she had inherited similar Morgan blood through her



LEFT TO RIGHT: Bennington (General Gates x Mrs Culvers); and great-grandget Katrilan Prince (Katrilan x Princess Allen) (left)
(photos from AMHA archives and courtesy of allbreedpedigree.com).

dam. This additional strong Morgan cross General Gates carried through Fanny Scott, united with the different interwoven Morgan strains on Denning Allen's side, added considerably to the genetic prepotency and breeding strength of General Gates.

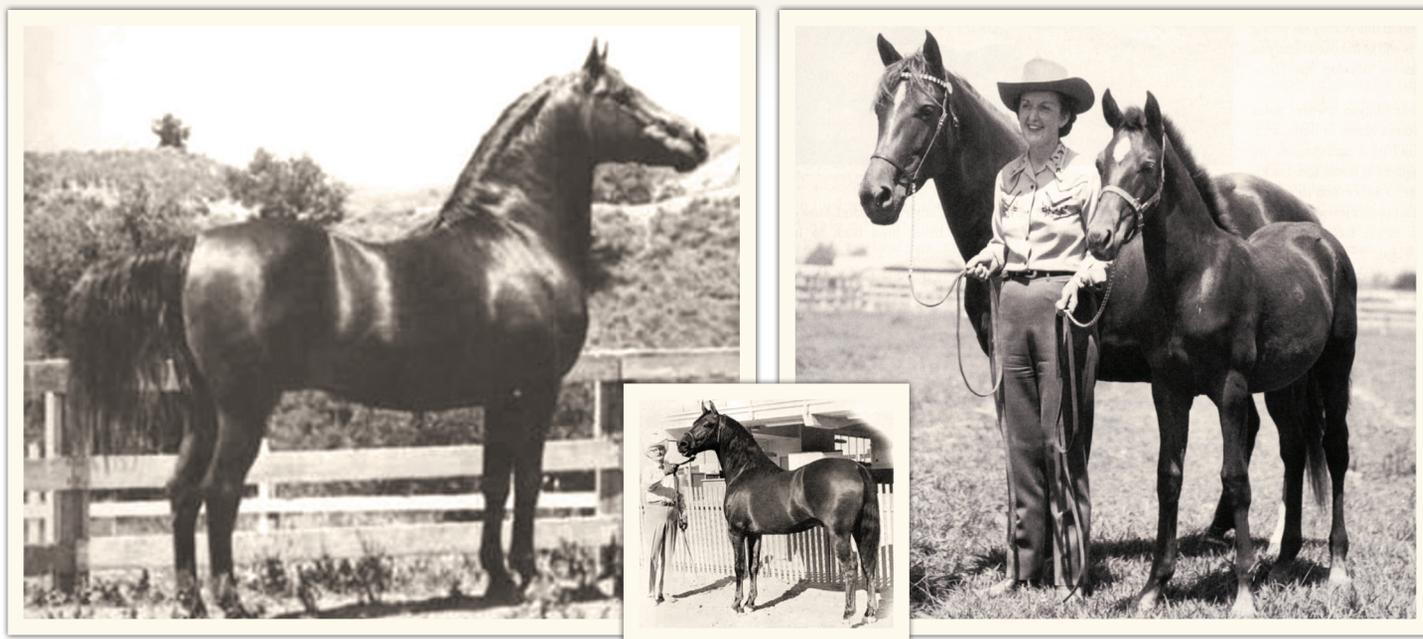
LIFE OF GENERAL GATES

General Gates was foaled in May 1894 at Battell's Breadloaf Stock Farm near Middlebury, Vermont, and just missed being included in the massive first volume of the *Morgan Horse Register* published that year. He was included in Volume II of the *Morgan Horse Register*, which Battell intended as covering the rest of the horses designated as foundation stock which he did not have room for in the first volume. He was black in color, standing about 15 hands tall, and weighing 1,000 pounds.

Although Joseph Battell had gone to such lengths to duplicate the breeding of Lord Clinton, whose trotting record he extolled at every opportunity, no effort was made to train General Gates for speed or to give him a standard record. He was used for driving and as a road horse, attracting a great deal of attention far and wide for his exceptional beauty, style, and action. There were many old timers living who remembered Black Hawk and who declared that General Gates was the very image of the noted grandson of Justin Morgan. Battell exhibited General Gates at a number of fairs and began using him for stud, his first foals appearing in 1899. His first foal was the bay mare Heloise, bred by Aurelia Robinson of Breadloaf, Vermont, out of an untraced mare of roadster type. Battell tracked this mare down, purchased, and then registered her, but none of her descendants bred on. Autumn, a colt bred by Battell out of Belle Of Middlebury by Firefly, son of Daniel Lambert, and also foaled in 1899, was sold to the Philippines for improvement of the native stock there, and left no registered descendants.

General Gates began to gain some recognition as a sire when his two-year-old filly Carrie Gates (x Caroline by Daniel Lambert) won the championship for Morgan mares two years old and over at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, and Shakespeare, her yearling full brother, swept up the grand champion title for stallions of any age at the same show. By that time General Gates was ten years old and had produced just 17 foals. That same year, Congress passed appropriation for cooperative breeding and feeding experiments, and Senator Redfield Proctor from Vermont presented a convincing plan for the government to establish a Morgan horse breeding program. Work was begun at the same time to establish a new breed of horses of carriage type at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado, by combining strains of Standardbred, Morgan, and Saddlebred. This program was headed by Carmon, a Standardbred stallion who carried several crosses to Ethan Allen, and had been formerly shown at Madison Square Garden as part of Mr. Thomas Lawson's undefeated park coach four under the name of Glorious Thunderbird. Several of the foundation mares for this program included Diamond Ranch mares bred by George Rainsford of Wyoming, which he had bred from a herd of Ethan Allen Morgans brought from Vermont.

Arrangements to begin breeding Morgans were made in cooperation with the Vermont Experiment Station on their farm near Burlington in the fall of 1905 with an appropriation from Congress of \$15,000. The first mares were purchased in June 1906. Joseph Battell became very interested in the plan, and to help the work along, donated 400 acres of farmland with stables. The selection board chose General Gates to head the government stud based on his individuality and prepotency as a sire. Some of the mares had been bred to General Gates after the first mares were purchased, and the government farm being very pleased with the



LEFT TO RIGHT: Bennington descendant Rex's Major Monte (Monte L. by Major R.M. x Lana by Goldfield) full grown and as a foal with dam Lana (Goldfield x Fawn) and Frieda Waer (photos from AMHA archives). **INSET:** Waer's Don Juan (Rex's Major Monte x Belle Romanesque) with Frank Waer (photo courtesy of allbreedpedigreee.com).

foals produced, he was purchased from Battell on July 1, 1907, for \$3,500. Some other young stock Battell had bred from him were also purchased at this time including the yearling colt Red Oak (x Marguerite). His first foal crop at the government farm produced 15 foals for the 1908 season, and included Bennington (x Mrs. Culvers by Harrison Chief), felt by the board to be an exceptional colt. In the fall of 1909, seven daughters of Carmon were sent from the Colorado station to be bred to General Gates the next spring for improvement of the carriage horse breeding work. All of the horses were required to work on the farm and the government implemented rigorous testing and ruthless culling practices. General Gates proved to be a very prepotent sire, and a program of linebreeding was implemented. Many of his sons and daughters served as carriage horses for the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Army Remount program was established in 1912, and put into operation with the breeding season of 1913. The work was assigned to the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the War Department. Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds, Saddlebreds, and Morgans were placed in the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia when the program started. From 1913 – 1949, more than 50 Morgan stallions were used, with his sons Bennington, Castor, and Red Oak among the first. Of all the Remount stallions, 75 percent of these were descendants of General Gates, including half a dozen sons, and numerous grandsons, great-grandsons, and great-great grandsons, several with crosses through both the sire and dam. Many of the stallions used in this work were kept at stations too remote for frequent inspections and as a result some were neglected and died or were destroyed. Nevertheless, many hundreds of colts were bred from these Morgan stallions, the vast majority tracing to General Gates.

Another stringent performance measure used was the 300-mile endurance ride for Army horses, held from 1919 – 1925, and it was a mark of distinction for any horse who was even able to finish this strenuous test. Two sons of General Gates, Castor (x Babe by Bob Morgan) and Gladstone (x Minnehaha by Troubadour Of Willowmoor) successfully completed and placed in this race. Castor was the only horse of any breed to complete this ride three times in three consecutive years, 1919-1921, finishing with the second fastest time in 1919, although placed sixth due to a fall. He finished seventh the next year and was not placed, and was fourth in his final effort. Gladstone placed second in 1922, and finished but was unplaced in 1923. Eudora, a full sister of Castor, finished the race in 1925 but was unplaced. Castor's son Major S., out of an unregistered mare, placed fifth in 1923 and 1924. Dolly, a daughter of Dewey (full brother of Bennington) out of Nelly (x Tommy) was sixth in 1920. Jane Grey, another daughter of Dewey, out of an unregistered dam, finished the race in 1922 and, although unplaced, was one of only nine horses to finish out of 21 starters that year. Another General Gates granddaughter, Jessie (Scotland x Ellen by Rocky Mountain) was sixth in the 1925 ride. Gurney C. Gue, Secretary of the New York Horse Fair Association, a noted horseman and judge of that era, declared General Gates the outstanding sire in cavalry tests.

In 1918, a committee of the Morgan Horse Club, inspecting the horses at the US Government farm and studying the pedigrees, recommended to Dr. J. R. Mohler, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, that use of General Gates be discontinued and a majority of his descendants culled, save for a few of the best. They were still unhappy with the thoroughbred cross through General Gates' dam and felt that the government should use some of the stallions with more concentrated Morgan bloodlines owned by club members,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Gay Mac (Mansfield x Dewdrop by General Gates) was a great-grandson of General Gates through his sire, and grandson through his dam, and said to strongly resemble him (photo from AMHA archives); Dapper Dan (Trilson x Bess Gates), grand-get of Gay Mac. As a two and three-year-old, Dapper Dan won at 20 of 21 shows (photo © Henley).

who offered their services gratuitously. They also objected strenuously to the blood of Red Oak's dam, Marguerite, although she was an exceptionally well-bred mare with four crosses to Gifford and four crosses to Black Hawk in five generations and no outcrosses. Dr. Mohler was puzzled and wondered if perhaps they had confused Bennington with Red Oak.

Major Benton, one of the committee members, did admit to Bennington having some good qualities, however. Use of General Gates had already tapered off, as Linsley was his last registered colt, foaled in 1918, inspected by the committee as a weanling. Having failed to impress them, Linsley was transferred to the War Department as a three-year-old and shipped to Kansas for the Remount program. Through the genius of Elmer Brown, he went on to sire 53 registered foals, having a profound impact on the breed in all disciplines. General Gates was not used again except for breeding to a few mares for the Remount in 1918 and 1919. Scotland, who was purchased in 1916, and had only produced six Government foals, had already covered two mares for the 1918 breeding season prior to the committee's visit, was used only twice more before being transferred to the Remount where he was neglected and ultimately destroyed to prevent suffering.

Jetmore, a son of Red Oak, was gelded and transferred to the New York police department, where he proved to be an exemplary police mount, performing duty in Central Park. He went on to win first prize for mounted police horses at both the Brooklyn and New York spring horse shows in 1922. Red Oak was sold to Richard Sellman for use on his Texas ranch, and went on to be a profound influence, siring a total of 104 registered Morgans.

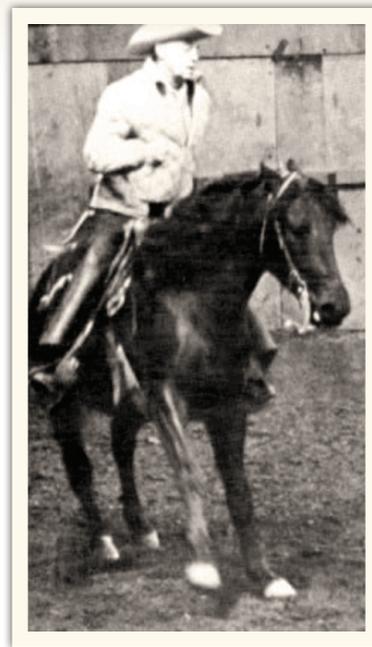
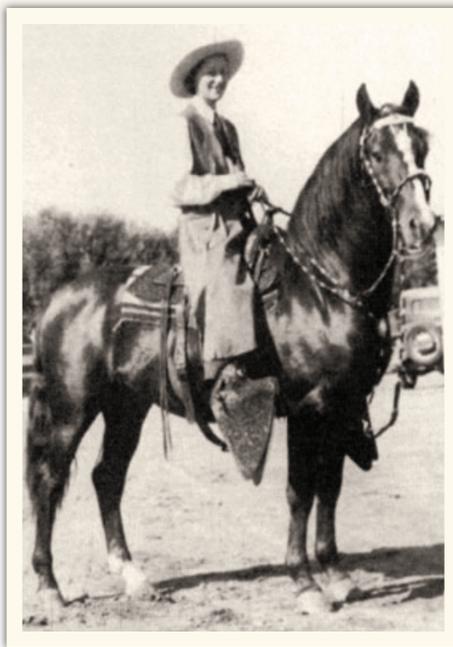
General Gates died on December 13, 1920, having sired 118 foals. Later, his skeleton was examined and found to have only five lumbar vertebrae, a trait many Morgans share with horses of

Arabian ancestry, and doubtless one of the reasons his descendants proved to have such outstanding performance ability, the short strong back being key to the endurance tests. Bennington was placed at the head of the stud, and his son Mansfield, acquired as a gift from C. C. Stillman was next in line. The criticism was ultimately forgotten as government bred descendants of General Gates continued to excel.

SONS OF GENERAL GATES BENNINGTON

Bennington, bred by the US Government farm, followed his sire as head stallion. He was bay in color marked with a star and snip and both hind coronets, standing 15½ hands tall and weighing 1,060 pounds. He sired 89 registered foals and is widespread in Morgan pedigrees today. In addition to numerous descendants through the golden cross with Artemisia, many more may be found through his sons Uhlan and Swanton and several of his daughters. William Randolph Hearst bred Katrilan (Uhlan x Katrina Q) and his son Katrilan Prince (Katrilan x Princess Allen), resulting in many more Bennington descendants through this branch. California rancher J. Clark Bromily continued the line breeding Trilson (Katrilan Prince x Roseta May), and from him bred the famous stallions Dapper Dan (x Bess Gates) and Muscle Man (x Flika), who were full brothers in blood both being sired by Trilson and out of full sisters sired by Gay Mac (Mansfield x Dewdrop by General Gates) and Bessie Ro (Querido x Roboss by Red Oak). As a two and three-year-old, Dapper Dan won at 20 of 21 shows. These two left many descendants in California, and their blood is prized by Western working and sport horse breeders.

Though seldom shown, Bennington was Grand Champion Stallion at the Eastern States Exposition in 1923 and 1924. He was



LEFT TO RIGHT: Linsley (General Gates x Sunflower Maid); Sparbeau (Linsley x Sparbelle by Sparhawk); and Sparbeau's great-grandget Sparfield (Lee Spar x Kitty Sparfield) (photos from AMHA archives and courtesy of allbreedpedigree.com).

used in the Remount program 1913 – 1917, and his full brother Dewey was used in the Remount program 1921-25. Bennington had several sons in the Remount program including: Ulysses (x Artemisia) used 1940-44; Upwey Ben Scott (x Klyona) used 1941 – 43; Virgil (x Quenelda) used 1931 – 35; Evan (x Lady Sealect) used 1936 – 1940; Rockwood (x Carolyn) used 1925 – 1942, and his full brother Swanton used 1926 – 1949. His daughter Folly (x Polly B.) was the dam of three Remount stallions, Oakwood (x Troubadour Of Willowmoor) used 1925 – 1931, Revere (x Mansfield) used 1927 – 1939, and Magistrate (x Sealskin) used 1921 -1932.

RED OAK

Bred by Joseph Battell and out of the mare Marguerite (White River Morgan x Marsh mare by Crocker Horse), Red Oak was a bay marked with small star and white hind socks, foaled in 1906. He was shown at the 1907 County Fair in Middlebury in competition with 20 other yearlings and won first premium. The US Government farm purchased him not long after this, and he was kept at the farm at Weybridge until 1911, and then was sent to the State Agricultural College at Amherst, Massachusetts, to be used for breeding there. From 1913 – 1920 he was used in the Remount program, and so were several of his sons including: Oak Ridge (x Roxana) used 1923 – 1936; Robbia Della (x Bonnie B) used 1925 until 1935 when he was killed by lightning; Roband (x Birdie K) used 1925 – 1931; Robespierre (x Bessie C.) used 1925 – 1934; Romance (x Minnie K) used 1925 – 1927; Rosin (x Sunset Morgan) used 1923 – 1943; and Romanesque (x Mariah K) 1924 – 1942, sire of 318 known Remount foals.

Red Oak was then sold to Texas rancher Richard Sellman for use on his huge Mountain Vale Ranch at Rochelle, Texas. At the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, Fort Worth, Texas,

in March, 1922, Red Oak won the grand championship for aged stallions, and the judge stated, “The grand champion Morgan horse, Red Oak, is the finest animal I have had my eyes on in twenty years of judging. He would win first prize at any horse show in the world.”

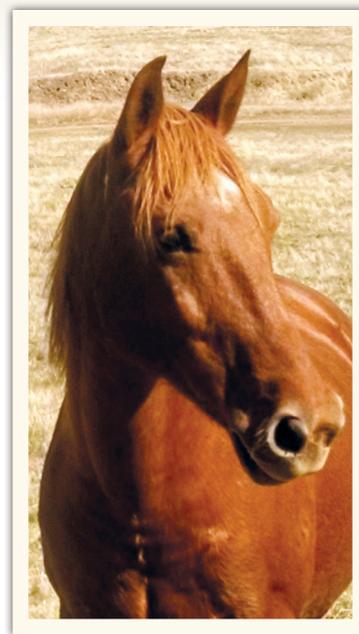
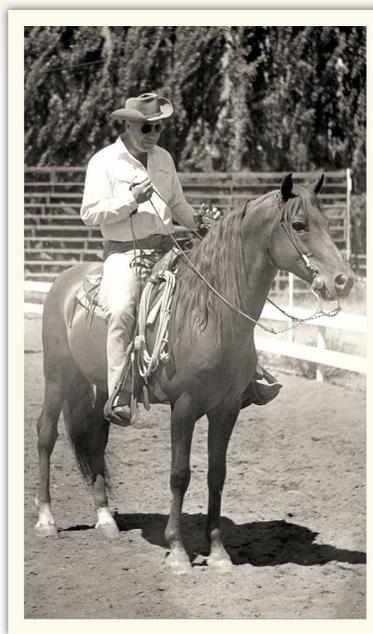
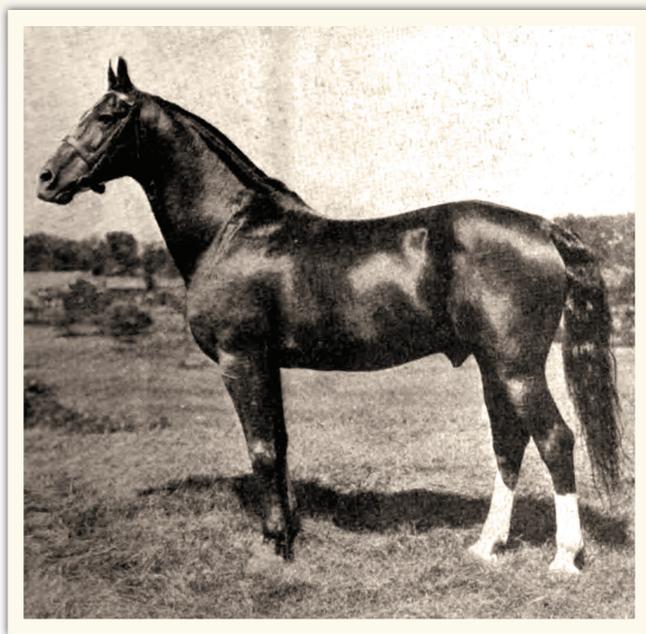
LINSLEY

Bred by the US Government farm, Linsley was a dark chestnut marked with stripe in face and off fore and both hind socks. In 1921, Elmer Brown, the agent in charge of Linsley for the Remount program, was given permission to exhibit him at the Kansas State Fair. He was awarded the first premium and sweepstakes and the judges stated they considered him the finest horse in America. Linsley was used in the Remount program by Elmer Brown from 1921 – 1931, and by other agents from 1932 until he was destroyed in 1937 due to ringbone. He was the sire of Hawk Jim (x Lady Spar) used in the Remount program 1935 – 1945. His daughter Maggie Linsley (x May Hudson) was the dam of Bob Romanesque (x Romanesque) used in the Remount 1939-45; and daughter Ella Linsley (x Lemax) was the dam of Copper Chief (x Tehachapi Allan) used in the Remount 1947 – 1948.

SCOTLAND

Bred by Joseph Battell out of Highland Mary (Lambert Chief x Jessie Benson by Highland Gray), Scotland was a handsome chestnut marked with a stripe in face and white hind stockings, and was foaled in 1906. He was a muscular, deep-bodied horse of elegant proportions and pure trotting action, and was Grand Champion Stallion at a number of Vermont State and County Fairs. Both his dam and second dam were foundation stock registered in Volume I of *The Morgan Register*.

Bred to his half-sister Beauty (General Gates x Coming



LEFT TO RIGHT: Scotland (General Gates x Highland Mary) Grand Champion Stallion at the 1911 Vermont State Fair; Montey Vermont (Keystone x Ginger Vermont) (shown here with Al Erickson) traces to Scotland in five generations (photo courtesy of Linda Beckley McBride); Colors Of The Sunrise (Rocking M Morgangold x Snake River Dawn), 2001 gelding bred and owned by Brenda Tippin, whose great-great-grandsire is Montey Vermont (photo by Brenda Tippin).

Trotter), he sired McMahan Morgan General, Grand Champion Stallion at the Vermont State Fair in 1920. Viola (General Gates x Marguerite) was bred to McMahan Morgan General to produce Escort, foaled in 1920 and carrying 50 percent of the blood of General Gates. Escort's son Pomulus (x Oroloma by Troubadour Of Willowmoor) produced Keystone (x Redlass by Redman) who was the sire of Montey Vermont (x Ginger Vermont by Red Vermont) who traces to Scotland in five generations. The first foal born at Beckridge Farm, Montey Vermont, was an outstanding Western horse and was Washington State Horsemen's High Point Western Morgan for 11 straight years. He sired 50 registered foals. In addition to a surviving sireline that continues through Montey Vermont, Scotland was the sire of 34 offspring.

Colors Of The Sunrise, (Rocking M Morgangold x Snake River Dawn) a 2001 gelding bred by the author, bears a strong resemblance to his great-great-grandsire, Montey Vermont. Although these bloodlines are increasingly rare, "Sunny"'s pedigree is a good example of the General Gates sireline through Scotland, and is typical of many old working Western lines with a strong influence of General Gates blood. He carries more than 100 crosses to General Gates through at least 11 different lines including sons Bennington, Red Oak, Linsley, and Scotland; and daughters Gertrude, Beauty, Calve, Carrie Gates, Helen Gates, Dewdrop, and Eleanor Gates.

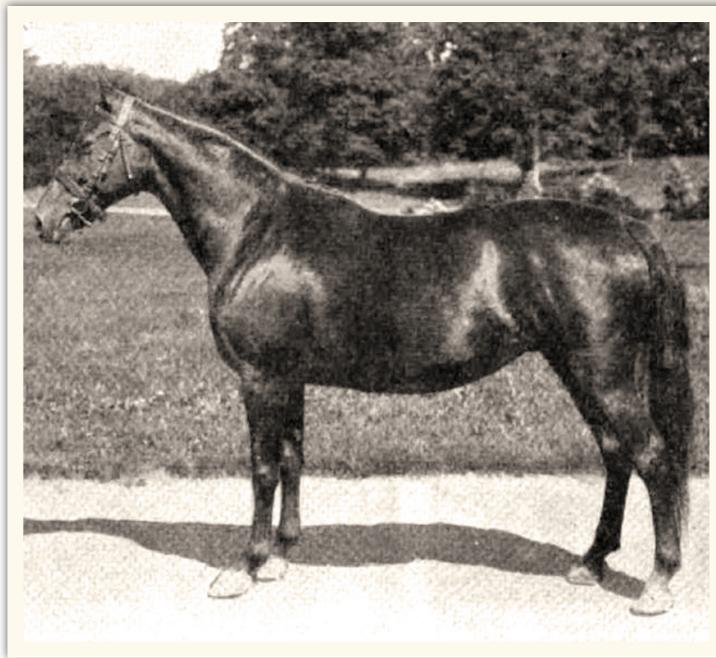
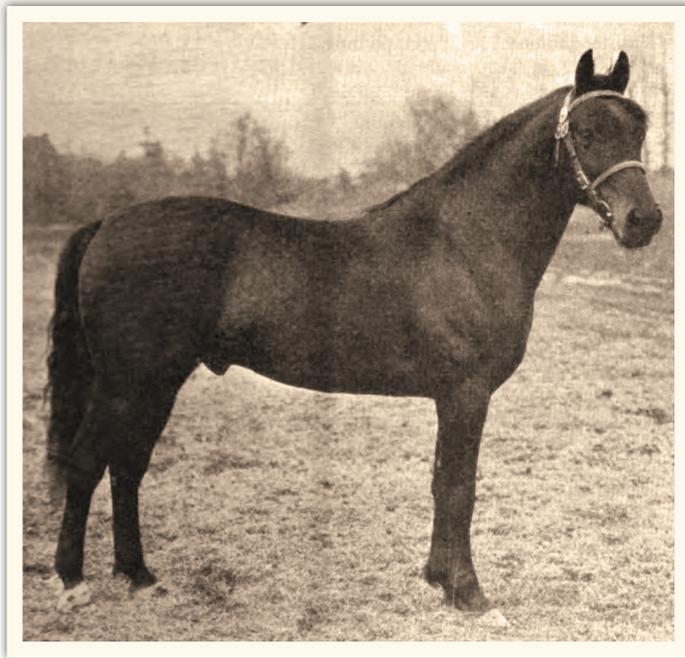
Among Scotland's most notable daughters was the good producer Scottana (x Roxanna), dam of eight foals. Her daughter Upwey Anna (x Bennington) produced 12 foals, among them Bald Mt Black Queen (x Black Sambo [Magellan x Ambition by Bennington]). Bald Mt Black Queen, who had seven crosses to General Gates in six generations, was owned and used by the National Park Service, United States Park Police (USPP) Mounted

Division in Washington D.C. Scottana's son Manscot Glory (x Mansfield) was used in the Remount program 1934–1943. Scottana was also the dam of the stallion Monterey, sire of 83 registered offspring. Among these were the mare Annadale (x Florette by Allen King), who produced the two grand broodmares Belldale and Conniedale, sired by Lippitt Croydon Ethan and owned by Mabel Owen. Belldale produced 17 foals, and Conniedale, who was also the dam of Easter Twilight (x Lippitt Sam Twilight), produced 19 foals. Manscott Lullaby, a full sister to Monterey, also appears in the pedigree of Bay Mar Twilight (Easter Twilight x Miller's Bay Harmony). Thought to be extinct, this rare line may prove to have living descendants when the DNA testing of the lost Easter Twilight herd, found by Morgan Safenet, is completed.

Scotland was used in the Remount program 1923 – 1925 when he was destroyed to prevent suffering. He was also the sire of Highland Lad (x Marguerite) used in the Remount program 1927 – 1934, and of Melvin (x Sunflower Maid) who was used in the Remount program from 1921 – 1938 when he died of neglect after siring 290 known Remount foals.

CASTOR

A bay stallion with a little white on the right hind coronet, Castor (x Babe by Bob Morgan) was bred by the US Government farm and foaled in 1909. He was used in the Army Remount Program from 1913 -1920. He performed magnificently in the grueling 300-mile endurance rides for the American Mounted Service Cup, completing the full ride in 1919, 1920, and 1921. He was the only horse other than an Arabian ever to successfully complete one of these races. In 1919, he carried 200 pounds finishing in 51 hours and 18 minutes, the second-best time of any horse in the race, although he was not given a prize due to a fall on the last day



LEFT TO RIGHT: Castor (General Gates x Babe by Bob Morgan) was used in the Army Remount Program; Eudora, full sister to Castor, was used for single and double driving and chosen as the second-best broodmare on the US Government farm by the visiting committee.

caused by fatigue of his rider. In 1920, he carried 245 pounds and finished the 300-mile ride in seventh place with a time of 58 hours and 40 minutes. In 1921, he finished fourth and was one of only six out of seven horses to complete the 300 miles although he was the smallest and oldest horse in the race. Castor was later gelded when he was kept at a remote station where a groom failed to care for him properly and he finished the breeding season in poor condition. He was then used for a variety of duties from serving as a Forest Ranger's mount to serving as one of a pair of carriage horses used by the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington D.C. Castor has a few surviving descendants among Morgans registered in Canada through Mickey Eldon (Ethan Eldon x Mixie by Mansfield) but this line is rare.

DAUGHTERS OF GENERAL GATES

BABY GATES

A black mare with star, out of Polly B. (Gillig x Norma by American Star Jr.), Baby Gates was foaled in June 1907 and was the second foal born on the US Government farm. Although she has no descendants remaining in the Morgan breed today, Baby Gates was part of other unusual experiment work conducted by the government. Another aspect of the Government Morgan farm was participating in various experiments that the Department of Agriculture believed would be useful for farmers and the improvement of livestock. For several years, the Department had been attempting to produce a mare-zebra hybrid from the Grevy zebra without success. It was believed that the Grevy-mare hybrid would have distinct commercial possibilities. The Grevy had particularly been chosen as the species of zebra with the most quality and finish and thus capable of producing a finer class of mules than was possible to breed from jacks.

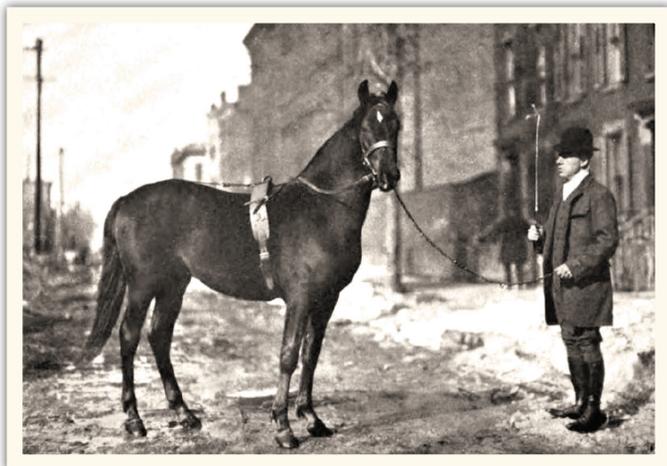
Baby Gates was chosen for this experiment, and was bred to Jerry, a Grevy zebra, finally settling by artificial insemination. The Grevy zebra hybrid filly Juno, foaled in June 1912, who was the first of her kind to survive, proved very tractable, more of the temperament of her dam and easily handled. Baby Gates was then bred back to the Morgan stallion Pat Murphy and produced the registered Morgan filly Georgia, disproving the theory of Telegony (which suggested that a foal would be influenced by characteristics of sires the dam had been previously bred to, such as striping). The experiments were not continued however, due to lack of funding. The Grevy zebra, found only in the Horn of Africa, is currently endangered with a population estimated at less than 2,700 individuals as of 2016.

BEAUTY

A chestnut mare with stripe in face and right front white ankle, Beauty was bred by Joseph Battell and foaled in 1904 out of the mare Coming Trotter (Motion x Fanny Sleight by Ethan Allen). Beauty was also the dam of Exile (x Troubadour Of Willowmoor), used in the Remount program during 1923. She was the dam of seven foals altogether, but is most often found in pedigrees today as the dam of McMahan Morgan General by Scotland. McMahan Morgan General was Grand Champion Stallion at the 1920 Vermont State Fair. Heather, a full sister of McMahan Morgan General, was Grand Champion Mare at the 1916 Vermont State Fair, but left no registered offspring.

CALVE

Calve was a chestnut mare with star out of government foundation mare Ellen (Rocky Mountain x Lamb mare by Young Benedict Morrill), foaled in 1909. She was the dam of four foals, and is



TOP TO BOTTOM: Ben Lomond (General Gates x Highland Mary by Lambert Chief), full brother of Scotland, was the sire of Governor Of Orleans, Remount stallion used by Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder; Shakespeare (General Gates x Caroline by Daniel Lambert) foaled 1903, photo at 2 years old. As a yearling, he won the grand championship for stallions of any age at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Although his blood was lost to the Morgan breed, his full sister, Carrie Gates, who won first prize for 2-year-old fillies at the same show, appears through her son Dundee (x Meteor 2d); One-year-old Helen Gates (General Gates x Caroline by Daniel Lambert) (photos from AMHA archives).

best known as the dam of the mare Klyona by Dundee (Meteor 2d x Carrie Gates by General Gates). Klyona produced the stallion Tiffany by Mansfield. Tiffany appears in numerous Morgan pedigrees today as the sire of Fanita (x Benita), dam of Senator Graham, as well as the sire of Night Tide (x Glenalla) found in many lines tracing to LU Sheep Ranch breeding. Calve along with her full sister Faith were transferred to Washington for use of the Secretary of Agriculture in 1921, and considered the most attractive carriage pair in the city.

CARRIE GATES

A bay mare with star bred by Joseph Battell and foaled in 1902, Carrie Gates won the first premium for two-year-old fillies at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri in 1904. Her yearling full brother Shakespeare was grand champion for stallions of any age at the same show. She was the dam of five foals and appears in Morgan pedigrees primarily through her son Dundee.

DEWDROP

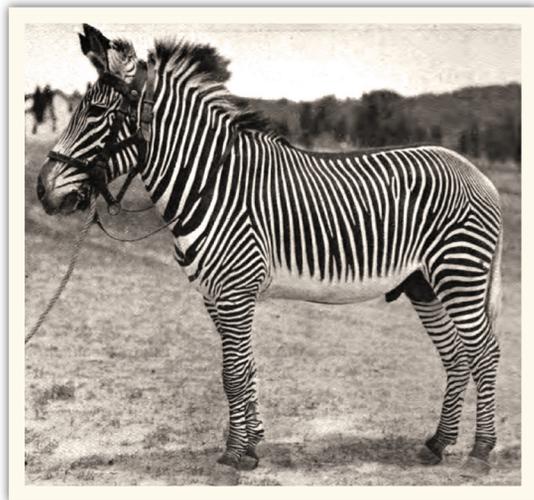
Dewdrop was a black mare with a half-moon star, snip, and white left hind ankle, bred by the US Government farm and foaled in 1910. She was the dam of nine foals but was best known as dam of the great stallion Gay Mac (x Mansfield). Bred by the US Government farm, Gay Mac was Dewdrop's last colt, and foaled in 1936 when she was 26 years old. Gay Mac was a dark bay horse with star and left hind sock, standing 15½ hands tall, and weighed 1,130 pounds. A great-grandson of General Gates through his sire and grandson through his dam, he was known for his strong resemblance to his famous ancestor. He sired 62 registered foals and is found frequently in Western working and sport Morgan pedigrees. Dewdrop was also the dam of two Remount stallions: Mandarin (x Jerome Morgan) who was used in 1921, and Shawnee (x Mansfield) used 1934 – 1938.

ELEANOR

A black mare with star out of Ellen (x Rocky Mountain by Motion), Eleanor was a full sister of Calve, bred by the US Government farm and foaled in 1907. She was the dam of two foals, including Forester, who sired the outstanding producer Juno (x Gertrude [General Gates x Caroline by Daniel Lambert]), best remembered as dam of the great sire Goldfield (x Mansfield).

EUDORA

A chestnut mare bred by the US Government farm out of Babe by Bob Morgan, Eudora was foaled in 1911. A full sister of Castor, she was used at the government farm for driving in single and double harness. Eudora appears in a number of Morgan pedigrees today including descendants of Havolyn Dancer (Ulendon x Gayselba by Gay Mac) and Townshend Gaymeade (Meade x Gayselba). Eudora was chosen by the visiting committee from the Morgan Horse Club in 1920 as the second-best broodmare on the farm, giving precedence only to her dam. Eudora was also the dam of Cransford (x Mansfield) who was used in the Remount program 1937 – 1942, siring 61 known Remount foals; and also of Langley (x Hugo) who was used from 1923 – 1937 when he finally died from years of



TOP TO BOTTOM: Baby Gates (General Gates x Polly B. by Gillig) and hybrid filly Juno (x Jerry, Grevy zebra); Jerry, male Grevy Zebra; Juno. While the idea of a Morgan-zebra hybrid seems quite surprising, it must be remembered that at the time, the primary reason the government was willing to engage in breeding Morgans was that horses were still very much considered a utility animal. Mules were also important utility animals, and the government thought, using a Morgan and a Grevy zebra, they could produce a utility animal superior to the mule.

neglect after siring 211 known Remount foals. She was the second dam of Melbon (Ulysses x Melba) who was used in the Remount program 1936 – 1940. Eudora produced a total of nine foals.

GERTRUDE

A bay mare with a small star, and out of the wonderful producer Caroline (Daniel Lambert x Cleopatra by Gen. Putnam), Gertrude was bred by Joseph Battell and foaled in 1909. Both her dam and second dam were foundation stock registered in Volume I of *The Morgan Register*, which gave her an exceptional pedigree. She was sold to the US Government farm in 1910 and her son Orient (x Troubadour Of Willowmoor) was used in the Remount program 1923 – 1930. Altogether, Gertrude became the dam of eight foals, but most often appears in pedigrees today through her daughter Juno. Best known as the dam of Goldfield, Juno was also the dam of Rosemere (x Bennington), who, when bred to her half-brother Goldfield, produced Karina, dam of 1949 National Champion Stallion Panfield (x Canfield). Bred by the US Government farm and foaled in 1945, Panfield was owned and used by the University of Connecticut until he was 20 years old. He was then sold to Phil Beckley, brother of Leo Beckley, spending the remainder of his life in Oregon where he sired another 43 foals for a total of 138 offspring. Panfield carried five crosses to General Gates within five generations and two more in six. His descendants may be found in all disciplines of the Morgan breed.

Juno's daughter Cyclamen (x Bennington) with three close crosses to General Gates, became the dam of nine foals, including Mar-Lo's Colonel Hamtramck (x Verran's Laddie) who also carried crosses to General Gates on his sire's side tracing through Bennington and Viola. Among his 45 offspring, the beautiful palomino mare Triple S. Golddusty produced 17 foals for Bob and Jan Painter's Triple S Morgans, her last at age 25. Horses tracing to this family include some of the great champion reining horses who have won many national and world champion titles such as Triple S Gold Nugget (Triple S Gold Eagle x Triple S Carmenita) and his son W Nugget's Rebels Are We (x WS Tupelo Honey). W's Honey Nugget Cherrybomb, a full sister of W Nugget's Rebels Are We, produced the 2016 World Champion in Non-Pro Reining, W's Mesquite Ridge (x Painter's Pine Ridge). Montana Harvest (Triple S Red Cedar x Tia Margarita), another outstanding champion reining horse, chosen as the 2001 Breyer Morgan stallion model, also traces through this line.

Many more descendants of Gertrude can be found through Juno's daughter Ulwina (x Bennington) who produced ten foals. Among these were the Mansfield daughters Gleneida and Friendly. Gleneida was owned by Merle D. Evans and produced ten foals including the stallion Nugget (x Captor by Mansfield), sire of 32 offspring. Friendly was the only horse ever to win the Vermont 100-mile ride two years in succession, winning the lightweight division in both 1942 and 1943. Friendly only produced one foal, Tinkerbelle (x Sealect), but she was the dam of 15 foals including Bald Mt Black Cloud and several others by Easter Twilight (Lippitt Sam Twilight x Conniedale). Easter Twilight also carried additional lines to General Gates through Bennington and Scotland, and many of these rare lines are believed to be in the Lost Morgans of

HISTORY LESSON *≈ General Gates*

Twilight herd recently rediscovered in New York and undergoing DNA testing.

HELEN GATES

Out of the Daniel Lambert daughter Caroline, Helen Gates, registered in Volume III, was the dam of 12 foals. Among these, her daughter Pomona by Troubadour Of Willowmoor appears in some Morgan pedigrees today, including the stallion RTF Spin Doctor (Hi Trots Shillelagh x RTF Fair Elana) bred and owned by Richill Morgan Horse Farm in Phelan, California. Spin Doctor has won at many shows, especially in Western pleasure and Justin Morgan Standard classes. This line also appears in the pedigree of Woodrose Katrina (Windswept Imperial x Tacina), outstanding producer for Old Growth Oak Morgans.

VIOLA

Bred by Joseph Battell and foaled in 1908, Viola was out of Marguerite by White River Morgan and was a full sister of the stallion Red Oak. She was a chestnut mare with star and snip. She was the dam of nine foals and has many descendants through her son Escort by McMahan Morgan General (x Beauty [General Gates x Coming Trotter by Motion]) who continued the General Gates sireline through Scotland.

A LASTING INFLUENCE

The value of General Gates' blood has continued to prove itself and remains a strong influence throughout the Morgan breed in all disciplines. Few other Morgan sires can be named who have successfully maintained sirelines through as many as four different sons for more than a hundred years, or to have so many different offspring with numerous descendants of their own. It would be

impossible to cover or do justice to all of them in a single article, but hopefully this will provide some insight into the history of a great Morgan sire who left a remarkable legacy. ■

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