

≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

The Sons of Justin Morgan

PART II: WOODBURY MORGAN

By Brenda L. Tippin

In the January 2015 issue of *The Morgan Horse*, historian Brenda Tippin contributed “Justin Morgan: Fact And Fiction,” a remarkable analysis of the genesis of our breed. With this article she continues a three-part series on the major sons of Justin Morgan. Brenda states: “Each of the sons of the original Justin Morgan horse was unique, bringing special qualities that helped to forge the Morgan breed into what it is today. Woodbury Morgan was no exception, and ranks closely behind Sherman Morgan in dominant influence upon the breed.”

WOODBURY MORGAN: BREEDING AND BACKGROUND

Foaled in late May 1816, and bred by Lyman Wight of Tunbridge, Vermont, Woodbury Morgan left his own powerful influence upon the Morgan breed. The Justin Morgan horse was kept by Joel Goss in the vicinity of Randolph, Vermont, the season that Woodbury was got. Woodbury was the last born of the sons of old Justin Morgan about which much is known. He was 27 the year Woodbury was foaled, and was used that year by William Langmaid in a six horse

team, hauling freight from Windsor to Chelsea, 45 miles each way. Lyman Wight was a young man, about 18 years of age at this time, and his father had loaned him a mare from which to raise a foal, so he took her and bred her to the old Justin Morgan horse. According to F. A. Weir, Woodbury, Gifford, and Bulrush were all foaled on the Ziba Gifford farm in Tunbridge (*American Stallion Register*, Volume II).

Apparently, Mr. Wight’s interest in breeding the colt was to sell, and having heard of the reputation of old Justin as a sire, supposed

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Woodbury Morgan by H. McCormick (*Spirit Of The Turf*, October 1888, courtesy of Bruce Orser); Main Street, looking south, Bethel, Vermont, where Woodbury Morgan spent most of his early life (Fred Cox, *Bethel Illustrated*); Christ Episcopal Church, Bethel, Vermont, was built in 1823 during the time Woodbury Morgan was kept in Bethel (Fred Cox, *Bethel Illustrated*).

such a colt would be valuable. Sarah Woodbury, daughter of David Woodbury of Bethel, Vermont, recalled that her father bought Woodbury Morgan from Lyman Wight when the colt was about two years old, trading a sleigh for him that was valued at fifty dollars.

“My parents were married in 1822,” Sarah Woodbury noted. “I heard my mother say that not long after their marriage, father took her to see a sick brother and drove Woodbury Morgan. Father broke him and sold him to Uncle John Woodbury.” (*American Morgan Horse Register*, Vol I)

Woodbury was a dark chestnut in color, almost brown. This shade was, in fact, so common among many early Morgans of New England that it was often referred to as “Morgan brown,” and many Morgans of chocolate or black chestnut color have lines back to Woodbury. Woodbury was marked with a white strip in the face, filling the space between his nostrils and covering his upper lip, and tapering to a point just below the eyes. His off hind leg was white halfway to the hock.

Larger than either Sherman or Bulrush, being just under 15 hands and weighing nearly 1,100 pounds, Woodbury was the most perfectly proportioned and balanced of these three sons. His breastbone was not as prominent as Sherman’s, though his chest was very good, and he was better than Sherman through the flanks and quarters. His back was short and strong with a fine sloping shoulder, muscular neck of medium length, he was cleanly cut through the jowls, and his head, which he carried well up, was finely chiseled and of great beauty. His forehead was broad and his large luminous eyes were of a dark hazel color and showed a kind and pleasant disposition. The muzzle was small and fine with firm lips, flaring nostrils, ears sharp and quick though some felt they were set a little too wide apart for perfection.

Woodbury had excellent bone, and his legs were well-corded, larger than those of Sherman, but not as large as those of Bulrush. His coat, which was exceptionally soft and fine, had almost a metallic sheen and gleamed over the powerful, rippling muscles. Though his mane and tail were not as heavy as those of Sherman or Bulrush,

they were very full, with hair inclined to be curly. Woodbury’s tail, which he carried high, was docked in the fashion of the day at about ten inches.

To each of his offspring, Justin Morgan imparted a particular concentration of certain traits, though all carried a strong proponent of his best qualities in general. The Woodbury family was known for the great degree of nervous energy, the wonderfully bold, fearless, and showy style of old Justin—the tendency to be in constant, elegant motion, yet biddable and tractable. It is primarily the Woodbury line which accounts for that inimitable quality of the Morgan breed, which, when simply riding your horse down the street with no particular intention to impress anyone, causes people to come out of their houses to see you ride by and exclaim, “Oh, what a beautiful horse!” This natural element of style and action made Woodbury much in demand as a mount for parades, musters, and military officers.

DAM OF WOODBURY MORGAN

Little is known of the dam of Woodbury Morgan, where she came from or what blood she carried, though it is evident she was a well-bred animal, probably largely, if not wholly, of Thoroughbred ancestry. She was said to be an English mare. The mare was owned by William Wight,

Lyman’s father, who purchased her from Major John Moulton, who had brought her into Bethel. The mare was five years old when Woodbury, likely her first colt, was foaled, and it is not known whether she had any others. A good-sized mare, she weighed eleven hundred pounds and stood well over 15.2 hands tall. She was a deep rich bay in color, with black legs, as well as black mane and tail which were full and very beautiful. She had no white markings save for a small white spot on her forehead. Her build was unlike the Morgans, being rather flat-ribbed and not very compactly made, nevertheless, she had a capital chest, fine hips and shoulders, and her limbs were excellent. Her head, which she carried well up, was lean and fine with a beautiful lustrous eye, noble in appearance and showing good breeding. The mare was inclined to start out with a pacing gait which she exchanged for a trot as she gathered speed, and was very fast. Her showy style, majestic carriage, and handsome appearance in harness attracted much attention.

WOODBURY MORGAN THE HORSE

Much of the early life of Woodbury Morgan was spent in Bethel, Vermont, a small town in Windsor County. Named after the Biblical

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L-R: WAR Sawlog's Pride, 2013 black mare, NFS; WAR Red Baron (Sweet's Bayberry X WAR Prairie Wind) 2013 stallion, inquires invited; WAR Adajia (front) and WAR Talassy, 2013 bay mares, for sale.

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HISTORY LESSON *≈ Woodbury Morgan*

village of Bethel, it was the first town created by the Independent Republic of Vermont in 1779, following the Revolution. Bethel lies in the center of the White River Watershed, with the main stream of the White River running East-West, joining the North-South third branch of the White River near the center of Bethel Village. The entire Bethel Village Historic District is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The first ten years of Woodbury's life were somewhat similar to his brothers and sire. He was put to work farming and clearing land, but mostly used as a family horse for driving and saddle, as well as for stud. Due to Woodbury's bold and elegant style, he was regularly wanted for parades and military reviews. He was perhaps more kindly treated and better appreciated, and was not put to such severe labor.

In Volume I of the *American Stallion Register*, Joseph Battell noted, "It has been said, by those best able to judge, that more noted horses descended from the Woodbury brands than any other; from the fact that greater pains were made to sustain the blood in its purity."

Mr. Jonathan Bliss of Royalton, Vermont, born in 1814, wrote, "The Woodbury Morgan was considered the best horse that they had about here, and the Morgan blood was considered the best blood there was in this section." *American Stallion Register*, Volume I.

Woodbury was kept by David Woodbury until he was about four years of age, when he was sold to Ebenezer Parkhurst and, when he was seven, Mr. Parkhurst sold him to David's brother, John Woodbury. During this time, Woodbury was kept in the vicinity of Bethel, Vermont, until 1826 when he was sold to Simon Smith and William Walker of Hartland, Vermont, for \$500. In fact, Smith and Walker acquired both Bulrush and Woodbury Morgan in the same month, in March 1826. That partnership soon dissolved in 1829, with Smith taking Bulrush and Walker taking Woodbury. Mr. Walker, having a passion for fine horses and much taken with Woodbury's style and beauty, kept him in the vicinity of Hartland until early 1830, during which time he was known as the Walker Horse. In 1829, Mr. Walker advertised under the name of Young Morgan in a Woodstock, Vermont, paper to stand at Hartford, Quechee, and White River, saying:

"The subscriber thinks it not necessary to give a long description of this noted horse, as he is well known to be the best horse in this section of the country. Terms four to five dollars."

William Walker
Hartland, April 24, 1829

Mr. Walker did much to bring the horse into notice, but lacked the means to make the horse business pay, and was forced to let Woodbury go for \$400, which he felt was a great sacrifice.

Woodbury's service was next offered in an advertisement dated May 10, 1830, Woodbury was offered by one Abel Denney to stand in the areas of Woodstock, Bethel, and Barnard, Vermont:

"The celebrated horse, Morgan, formerly owned by E. Parkhurst and John Woodbury, and afterwards by William Walker and Smith of Hartland. Terms: ten dollars and no deviation."

Peter Burbank, a lawyer from Newbury, Vermont, had seen Woodbury one time in Keene, New Hampshire, and professed to have fallen in love with him. Known for solving the toughest and most difficult cases, Burbank had first opened his law office in Wells River, Vermont, in 1814 at the age of 33. He never married, and later moved to Newbury, where he served as town representative from 1829-1831.

Burbank was not a horseman, however, and when Woodbury Morgan was offered for sale, not daring to trust his own judgment in the matter, consulted Jesse Johnson of Bradford, Vermont, who had the reputation of being an expert judge of a fine horse, and one able to pinpoint minor defects which might not be apparent to those less experienced. Johnson was also impressed with Woodbury's quality and advised Burbank to purchase the horse, which he did in May of 1830, and for the next six years, Woodbury was kept at Jesse Johnson's stables in Bradford during the latter part of summer, autumn, and winter, each year, and a couple of years he stayed there year round.

Woodbury made the season of 1832 at Keene, New Hampshire, and in 1833 was kept at Burlington, Vermont. He stood in Newbury and vicinity during 1834 and in 1835 and 1836 in the area of Bradford. Woodbury's fee for service was \$10 during this time, and though not so great as his older brother Sherman, whose fee reached \$15, doubtless it would have equaled or surpassed that had he remained in the area. The typical fee for a high quality stallion at that time was usually no more than two or three dollars at best, which shows the high esteem in which the Morgan blood was held.

Woodbury's last appearance in Vermont was at the muster day parade at Newbury in 1836. Joseph Battell records a letter from Moses Cheney, for years a prominent citizen of Barnard, Vermont, who recalled, "Colonel Jacob Kent rode the old Woodbury on muster day at Newbury, Vermont, then owned at Wells River. To all appearance that horse would as soon tread a man under as not, that did not stand aloof. Soon after the Newbury muster, Woodbury went to the State of Alabama." (*American Morgan Horse Register*, Volume I)

Linsley described Woodbury as follows, "Martial music only roused him, the firing of guns in no way disturbed him, waving flags and gay uniforms seemed hardly able to attract from him a single glance, and he moved about as if he was himself the principal object of attraction and the cause of all the attending excitement and display." (*Morgan Horses*)

WOODBURY IN ALABAMA

Meanwhile, Peter Burbank had suddenly died on January 16, 1836 at the age of 55, and was buried in the Wells River Cemetery. As his estate was being settled, Woodbury Morgan, then 20, was once again for sale. An advertisement was placed in the *Vermont Courier*:

"Morgan horse at auction. The well-known Morgan stallion, called the Walker horse, and lately the property of P. Burbank, will be sold at auction at Wells River Village in Newbury, the 5th of May next."

J. Kent Jr, Auctioneer
Wells River, April 1836.

According to Volume I of the *Morgan Horse Register*, he was purchased by a Norman Baglee and taken to Gainesville, Alabama. However, in more recent years, the research of Leslie Tate revealed the name of the gentleman who purchased Woodbury at auction was in fact Norman Bugbee, formerly of Bradford, Vermont. Woodbury had been stabled at Bradford for at least part of each year from 1830-1836, so undoubtedly Mr. Bugbee had often seen the horse and was quite familiar with his stock.

Alabama became a state in 1819, just three years after Woodbury was foaled. Gainesville, incorporated in 1835, was a booming and prosperous town, built on land originally owned by the Choctaw Indians on the high bank of the Tombigbee River. John Coleman, who married a Choctaw bride, acquired 640 acres of this land which he sold to Colonel Moses Lewis, a native of New England, in 1831. Lewis began dividing the town into lots and rapid settlement began, including many families moving down from New England. The town which soon grew to the third largest in Alabama, had originally been called Eaton after John Eaton, Secretary of War under President Andrew Jackson. However, due to a scandal surrounding Eaton's wife, Mayor John Whitsett had the name changed to Gainesville in honor of Colonel George Strother Gaines, an agent to the Indians who helped negotiate the Treaty of Dancing Rabbitt Creek.

Norman Bugbee purchased a lot along the main business route to Gainesville at Market Square and State Street in February of 1836, one month after the death of Peter Burbank, who then owned Woodbury Morgan. Bugbee built a store in partnership with his cousin Orrin, known as the O & N Bugbee store.

Interestingly, another of the early settlers of Gainesville was Jonathan Bliss, formerly of Randolph, Vermont, who was well-acquainted with both Woodbury and the original Justin Morgan horse. Doubtless these men were acquainted and may well have discussed the possibilities that could develop from bringing such a horse as Woodbury Morgan to the vicinity. Gainesville was a major port, shipping over 6,000 bales of cotton a year by steamboat on the Tombigbee River, and this trade seemed only likely to increase. Wealthy owners of large plantations wanted and needed stylish horses, and Bugbee felt that although the price for the 20-year-old stallion was high, and he had to arrange two loans totaling \$3,328 to cover the cost, he soon would recover his investment.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. Woodbury was taken to Boston in September of 1836 to meet Bugbee and boarded a sailing ship bound for Mobile, Alabama. However, the quality of feed provided on the ship was extremely poor and Woodbury rapidly lost condition. At Mobile they transferred to a smaller vessel, traveling up the Tombigbee River and arriving at Gainesville in mid-October. Woodbury had suffered greatly during this journey, and was injured in unloading, some accounts saying his leg was broken. He remained with Bugbee in Alabama for two years after that however, so must have recovered at least somewhat, but apparently not sufficiently to stand for stud service. No records have been found indicating Woodbury ever sired any foals in Alabama, and he died in 1838.

WOODBURY MORGAN — EARLY INFLUENCE

The blood of Woodbury was the cornerstone of old New England breeding, and greater effort was spent early on to keep these lines pure. However, one topic of debate that continued from the very beginning of the breed was that of size. Some argued that the Morgan horse was too small and more size was wanted, while others insisted small size was necessary to retain authentic Morgan type. A second debate involved trotting speed, with some asserting the Morgans were really not fast trotters except where outside trotting speed was introduced. Neither of these arguments was exactly accurate, especially concerning the family of Woodbury Morgan, even though many believed this family to be the purest of old Morgan type.

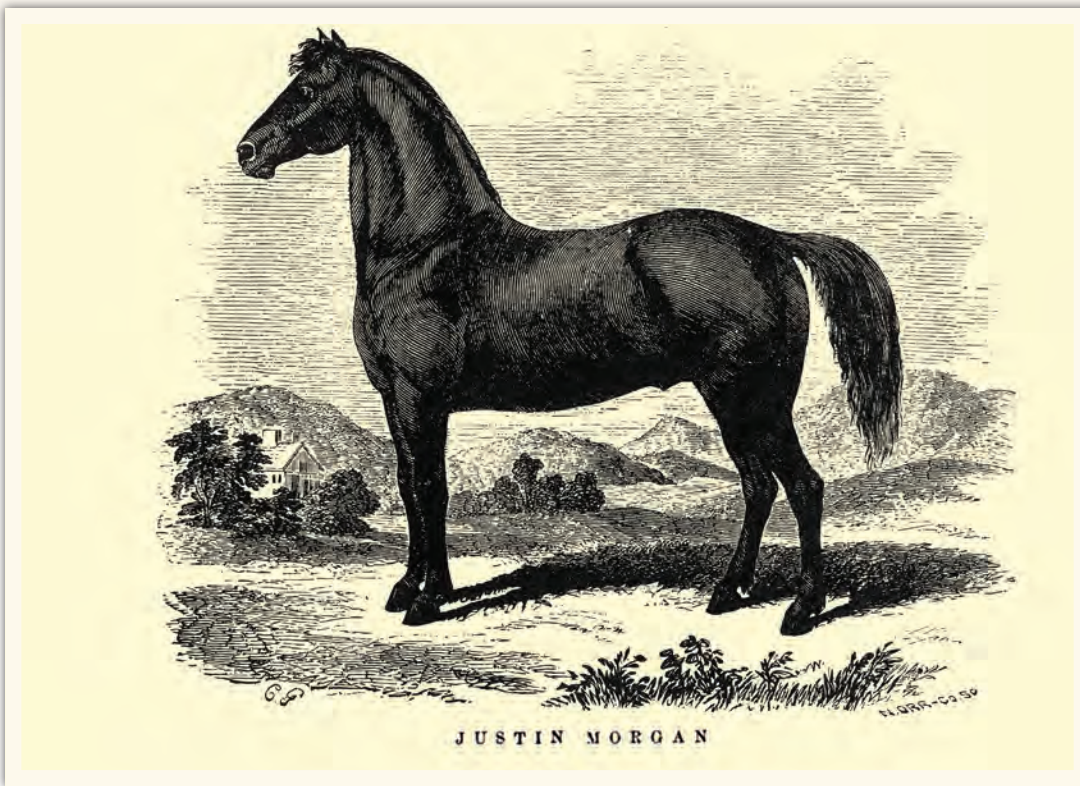
Woodbury was in fact the largest of Justin Morgan's three best known sons, standing 14.3 hands tall. Of eighteen sons of Woodbury Morgan listed in the registry, the height of sixteen are given. Just five of these are recorded as less than 15 hands, and more than half are 15.2 hands or taller, with three at 16 hands.

Similarly, many believed the only real trotting speed among Morgans belonged to the family of Black Hawk, and accordingly rumors were circulated that Black Hawk was not even a Morgan, but instead of being a son of Sherman was sired by some obscure horse named Paddy, whom no one ever heard of before or since. Of course this story was proved false beyond the shadow of a doubt as Paddy never sired any other horse of note, certainly no horse of any speed, and had been sold to Rhode Island two years before Black Hawk was begotten. Early trotting speed was in fact consistently found in all branches of the Morgan family, and the Woodbury line was no exception.

Woodbury was the first horse ever to sire three different sons, each of which got a trotter in the 2:30 list. The stated trotting families of Golddust and Magna Charta trace their lineage through Woodbury, and even today, virtually all racing Standardbreds, including 2015 Hambletonian winner Pinkman, carry numerous crosses to Morgan blood, with many lines to Woodbury among them. Additionally, descendants of Woodbury may be found today in many other breeds besides the Standardbred, such as Morab, Saddlebred, Tennessee Walker, Quarter Horse, Paint, and Appaloosa.

SONS OF WOODBURY MORGAN BAILEY HORSE

One of the last known sons of Woodbury, the Bailey Horse was a handsome dark chestnut horse with one white hind foot, said to be similar in style and appearance to Green Mountain Morgan. He was bred by Abner Bailey of Newbury, Vermont, foaled in 1835, and died about 1860. Mr. Bailey was believed to have owned him all his life. The Bailey horse was powerfully built, standing 15.3 hands, and weighed 1,100 pounds. His dam was a black, thickset mare said to be "Dutch," which was synonymous for Morgan at the time. Some examples of lines today going back to the Bailey Horse include most Western working lines tracing through Hill/Sellman breeding to Red Oak (General Gates x Marguerite), as well as Lippitt breeding tracing through Ashbrook (Croydon Prince x Nancy), and lines of all disciplines tracing through Cornwallis



LEFT: The original Justin Morgan horse (True Briton x mare by Diamond), sire of Woodbury (N. Orr, *American Morgan Horse Register*).

(Sealect x Cornwall Lass).

MORGAN TALLY HO (WALKER HORSE)

Another of Woodbury's last sons, Morgan Tally Ho, was a rich blood bay in color, with black mane and tail, and also foaled in 1835. He was a good-sized horse, standing 16 hands tall and weighing 1300 pounds. Morgan Tally Ho was bred by William Walker of Hartland, who had formerly owned Woodbury during the years 1826-1830 and was obliged to let him go for what he felt was a great sacrifice of \$400. It is clear that Mr. Walker must have held Woodbury in exceptionally high regard, since he evidently kept track of him and sought to breed a mare to him five years later. The dam of Morgan Tally Ho was said to be by the imported stallion Tally Ho. Linsley described Morgan Tally Ho as a strong compact and muscular horse, and noted that his style and action were exceptionally good for one of his size. Some of his get were quite fast and he was awarded first premium at the Windsor County Vermont Fair of 1847. Morgan Tally Ho was gelded in 1864 when he was 29 years old. Many Morgans today carry the blood of Morgan Tally Ho, with some common examples being the descendants of Linsley (General Gates x Sunflower Maid) and Headlight Morgan (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Lady Stratton).

MORGAN CHIEF (LATHAM HORSE, ELDRIDGE HORSE)

Foaled in 1832, Morgan Chief was a chestnut horse, standing 15 hands and weighing about 1,000 pounds. He was bred by the lawyer Peter Burbank, and his dam was a mare called Empress, sired by Justin Morgan. Morgan Chief passed through the hands of several owners, and is also known by the names of two of them, as the Latham Horse, and the Eldridge Horse. Lines to Morgan Chief

are commonly found among descendants of Ashbrook. Some sources also list Morgan Chief as sire of the dam of Mambrino Chief (by Mambrino Paymaster), who appears many times in the early pedigrees of both Morgans and Standardbreds.

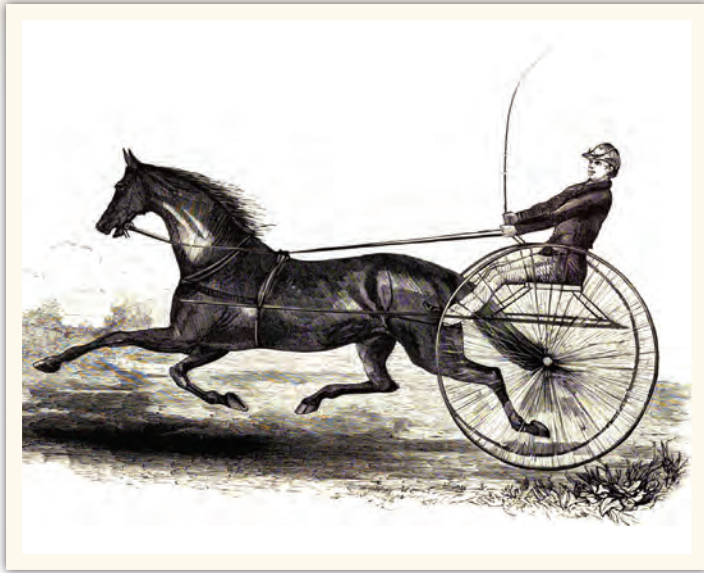
BABBITT HORSE

The Babbitt Horse was chestnut with a small star. He stood 15.1 hands tall and weighed about 1,000 pounds. He was bred by Simeon Gates, Barnard, Vermont, and foaled in 1830. He was sold in 1832 as a two-year-old colt to David Woodbury of Bethel, Vermont, who had bought Woodbury Morgan as a colt and broke and trained him. He kept this son of Woodbury for six years, and then sold him to S. A. Babbitt, also of Bethel, after which the horse became known as the Babbitt Horse. Mr. Babbitt kept the horse for two years and sold him to J. McKinstry of Willimantic, Connecticut, where he died in 1844 at 14 years of age. The Babbitt Horse has many surviving descendants among Western working and sport Morgans tracing through Red Correll (Will Rogers x Kate), and many of show, Western working, and sport stock going back through Cornwallis.

PUTNAM MORGAN

(PUTNAM HORSE, BURBANK MORGAN JR)

Putnam Morgan was a dark chestnut with a few white hairs between eyes. He was one of Woodbury's smaller sons, standing 14.2 hands tall and weighing 1,000 pounds. He was foaled in 1829 and bred by Lemuel Hitchcock of Weathersfield, Vermont. His dam was Nancy, bred by Colonel Ray of Fort Ann, New York. Her sire was Chanticleer, who Joseph Battell later confirmed to be a son of Justin Morgan, foaled as early as 1794. Battell admitted Chanticleer into the registry as foundation stock. (*American Stallion Register*,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mac (Morgan Caesar by Woodbury x mare by Bush Messenger); Lady Sutton (Morgan Eagle by Woodbury x mare of Morgan descent) (Currier & Ives).

Volume I). Putnam Morgan was considered one of the best of Woodbury's sons, and said to very closely resemble him in style and appearance. Descendants of Putnam Morgan are also widespread in the Morgan breed. Major Gordon (by Octoroon Jr), foundation sire for Richard Sellman's Mountain Vale Ranch in Texas, traced his sireline to Putnam Morgan in five generations, and the majority of Sellman's foundation mares were daughters of Octoroon #302 (Goff's Comet x mare by Brinker's Drennon), tracing their sireline to Putnam Morgan in four generations. Others include descendants of Billy Roberts (Chase's Mountaineer x Roberta), for example the two great sires Orcland Leader (AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame) and his full brother Orcland Vigildon (Ulendon x Vigilda Burkland), trace through this line.

All descendants of Senator Graham (Senator Knox x Fanita) also trace to Putnam Morgan through Knox Morgan (Mountaineer Morgan x mare by Sagad hoc), including the famous show stallion Waseeka's Nocturne (Starfire x Wanda). Through Knox Morgan, all descendants of Jubilee King, including all the Lambert family tracing to the Quietude Stud, also descend from Putnam Morgan, as well as all descendants of Flyhawk. Additionally, Quietude (Troubadour Of Willowmoor x Ruth), dam of the great show stallion Upwey Ben Don (Upwey King Benn x Quietude) and his full sister Upwey Benn Quietude, as well as the unrivaled Western Working sire Sonfield (Mansfield x Quietude), all trace to Putnam Morgan through both her dam and third dam. These crosses, although far back, are repeated countless times in the descendants, offering more of an influence than one might at first think.

MORGAN CAESAR

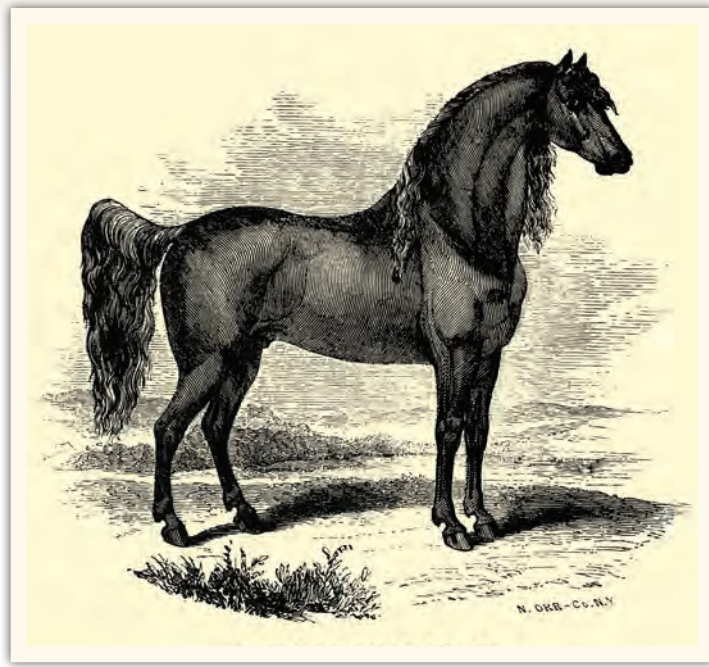
Morgan Caesar, foaled in 1828, was bred by Simon Smith of Hartland, Vermont. He was a substantially made brown horse, 15.2 hands tall and weighing 1,150 pounds. His dam, also bred by Simon Smith, was got by Quicksilver, son of the Arabian horse, Dey Of Algiers. Morgan Caesar was the sire of Mac, a brown gelding who was one of the most famous of the early trotters, trotting 2:25 1/2 in

two consecutive heats in 1853. Mac was bred by Thomas Record of Canton, Maine, and foaled in 1843. He was considered the greatest trotter of his day, facing the famous trotting mare Lady Suffolk ten times, and beating her in seven of these races. It was said the only times she was able to beat Mac was when he was lame. His dam was a bay mare, untraced, but a good road mare of Morgan type, foaled about 1827. As a ten-year-old, in 1853, Mac was sold for \$8,000, a considerable price for a horse in those days. He sired about 15 foals before he was gelded, but his last known descendant was a gray stallion called Garibaldi #2484 (Gen. Knox x John M Cook mare by Flying Mac), foaled in 1870, who left no registered offspring.

However, lines to Morgan Caesar are found in most Morgans today through several sources. Some of the most common include descendants of Goldfield (Mansfield x Juno), tracing through U.S. Government foundation mare Ellen (Rocky Mountain by Motion x mare by Young Benedict Morrill). The second dam of Motion by Daniel Lambert was a daughter of Morgan Caesar. Senator Graham (Senator Knox x Fanita), Waseeka's Nocturne (Starfire x Upwey Benn Quietude), Captor (Mansfield x Narissa) are other names often found in Morgan pedigrees, all tracing to the mare Ellen who traces back to Morgan Caesar.

GENERAL HIBBARD

General Hibbard, bred by General Lovell Hibbard of Royalton, Vermont, was foaled in 1826. He was a powerfully built blood bay with heavy, wavy mane and tail, 16 hands tall and weighing 1,200 pounds. His dam was a bay mare said to have been by Young Bulrock, son of the English horse, Bulrock. General Hibbard was considered a very valuable sire, with beautiful style and action faithfully passed to his offspring, as well as being an excellent roadster. He died in 1854 at 28 years of age, on the property of his last owner, Uriah Hall of Williamstown, Vermont. General Hibbard appears in the pedigrees of most Morgans today. Lines to this excellent son of Woodbury may especially be found through the noted mare Artemesia (Ethan Allen 3rd x Lady Laura), one of



LEFT TO RIGHT: Gifford Morgan by Woodbury, taken from a daguerreotype when very old. Gifford was a striking dark chocolate chestnut in color, with flaxen mane and tail, and clear hazel eyes. The only surviving sireline to Woodbury traces through Gifford (*American Stallion Register*, Vol. 2); Munson's Gifford Morgan Jr, considered one of the most beautiful grandsons of Woodbury, black, 15.1 hands tall, 1,100 pounds (N. Orr).

the top producers for the U.S. Government Farm; as well as the Lambert family, all Morgans of Lippitt breeding, and a majority of Western working-bred Morgans tracing to the breeding of Roland Hill and Richard Sellman through Headlight Morgan. All of these lines trace back through Peters' Ethan Allen 2d. Other well remembered names tracing to these lines include the wonderful mare Fairytrop (Delmont x Topaz) dam of Mentor by Goldfield, who in turn sired the great Tutor (x Kona by Goldfield); Kingston (Upwey Ben Don x Junefield); and Chasley Superman (Orcland Leader x Rena), one of the original horses inducted into the AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame, to mention just a few. All of these have multiple crosses tracing back to General Hibbard.

MORGAN EAGLE

Morgan Eagle was a beautiful dapple bay with black points, standing 15.2 hands and weighing 1,100 pounds. Along with Gifford, he was one of the earliest sons of Woodbury, who have descendants surviving today in the Morgan breed. Morgan Eagle was bred by a Mr. Cheney of Royalton, Vermont, and foaled about 1824. His dam was the noted Cheney mare, a daughter of Bulrush. Morgan Eagle was sire of the great trotting mare Lady Sutton, 2:30, and of Sorrel Ned, a noted trotter with a record 2:38 and winner of 17 out of 28 races, and also was grandsire of Magna Charta (Morgan Eagle Jr. x Giles Scroggins mare), who founded a great trotting family in Michigan.

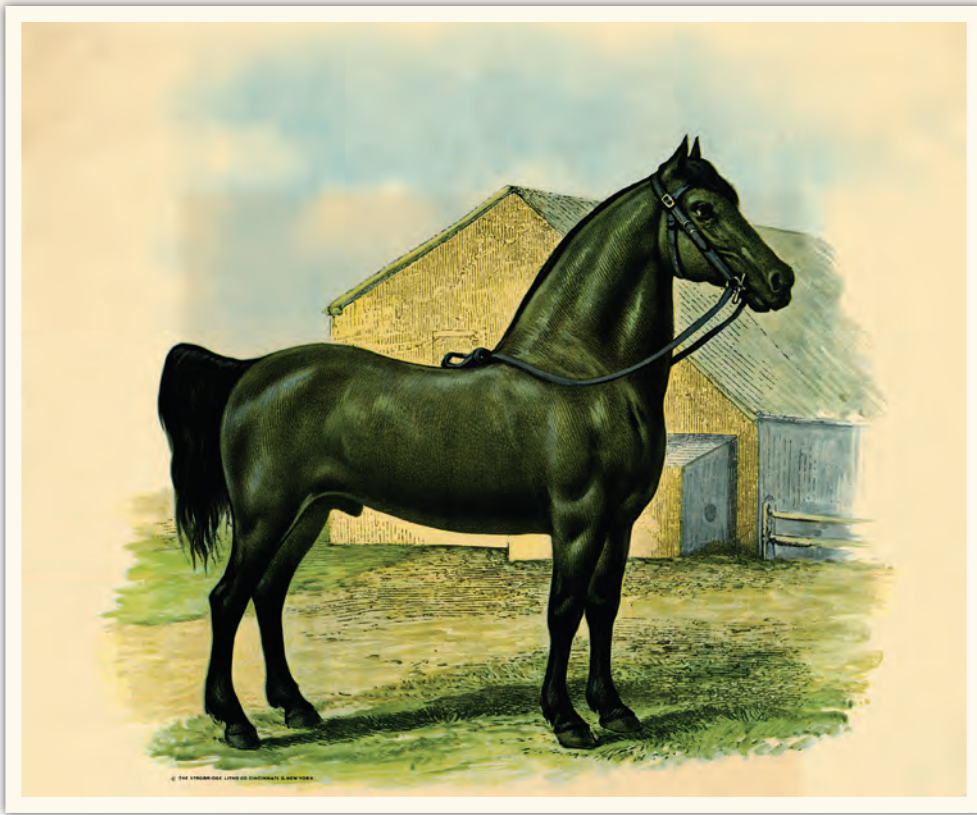
The brown mare Lady Sutton, whose dam was also of Morgan descent, was foaled in 1839 and was a contemporary of the great Lady Suffolk, daughter of Engineer 2d, grandson of Justin Morgan. In 1847, a \$500 bet was made on the outcome of a race between these two mares, which resulted in a noted court case argued in the Superior Court of New York.

On June 7, 1848 at the Centreville Course, Lady Sutton trotted two mile heats to wagon against Lady Suffolk and Americus. Lady Suffolk won the first heat with the second and third heats a dead heat between the mares in 5:13 and 5:17 respectively, and Americus was ruled out for not having won or made a dead heat in the first three heats. After a desperate struggle, Lady Suffolk finally won the fourth heat in 5:22. Lady Sutton did beat Lady Suffolk once that year, and also Black Hawk as well as losing to Black Hawk in a race of the best three in five mile heats to 250 pound wagon, although she won the second heat in that race in a time of 2:43.

Her record of 2:30 was made in a memorable seven heat contest with Lady Suffolk in August of 1849. Lady Suffolk won the first two heats of this race with Lady Sutton winning the third in 2:30 and the fourth in 2:31 ½, with a dead heat between the two mares in the fifth and sixth heats. Although Lady Suffolk won the seventh heat and the race, and most of the contests with her rival, Lady Sutton did beat her twice.

Magna Charta, a bay grandson of Morgan Eagle standing 15 hands was foaled in 1855. In 1859 at four years old, he made a race record of 2:33 ½, becoming Champion Four-Year-Old Trotter of the World, and breaking the record for that category set by Ethan Allen (Black Hawk x Poll) six years before. He was said to be the most handsome horse in harness, both for beauty and speed, ever seen. Magna Charta's best record was 2:28 ½ won in a race against Cooley at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1867. He was winner of ten out of 18 races, and sire of 26 race winners, five of whom were in the 2:30 list.

Morgan Eagle died in 1840 at 16 years of age, and was said to have been poisoned. There are many descendants of Morgan Eagle in all disciplines of the Morgan breed. Two of the most common lines tracing to Morgan Eagle include descendants of Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette) and Red Correll.



LEFT: Hale's Green Mountain Morgan (Gifford x mare by Woodbury), long considered an excellent model of ideal Morgan type, foaled about 1832. Described as dark, nearly black chestnut, 14.2 hands (some sources say 15 hands), and of great muscular development, weighing 1,100 pounds (*American Stallion Register*, Vol. 2).

GIFFORD

Gifford Morgan, the most famous son of Woodbury, was bred by Ziba Gifford, of Tunbridge, Vermont, and was foaled on the 13th of June, 1824. Time and space will not permit covering the extensive story of Gifford here, and other than a brief overview, his story must be told at a later time. He was a rich dark chestnut, almost a coffee color, with striking flaxen mane and tail. Gifford stood 14.2 hands tall, and was compact and muscular, beautifully proportioned, weighing about 1,000 pounds. His back was short and strong with powerful hindquarters, a deep chest, and strong sloping shoulders. His finely chiseled head was set cleanly upon a muscular arched neck of medium length which he carried well up; his ears were small, well-shaped, quick and lively, forehead broad, eyes full and prominent with a clear hazel color, muzzle small and firm with large flaring nostrils. Gifford was said to have got more than 1,300 foals, though only 41 are listed in the online database. The dam of Gifford was supposed to have been by the Thoroughbred Henry Dundas, second dam by True Briton (sire of Justin Morgan), and third dam by imported Wildair, who was also a strong influence in the pedigree of Justin Morgan's dam. However, Frederick A. Weir of Walpole, New Hampshire, who later owned Gifford and was one of the experts on early Morgan pedigrees, found more information on the true pedigree of Gifford, indicating both his dam and third dam were sired by sons of Justin Morgan. Gifford was the sire of the great Hale's Green Mountain Morgan (dam by Woodbury), and the famous Golddust family also traces through him. He also is responsible for the only surviving direct sireline to Woodbury in the Morgan breed.

BARKER HORSE (NELSON MORGAN)

The Barker Horse was chestnut with a stripe in the face, standing 15.2 hands and weighing 1,000 pounds. He was bred by Mr. Cobb of Nelson, New Hampshire, and his dam was a bay Thoroughbred mare by Diomed, son of imported Diomed. Numerous descendants of the Barker Horse are living today among Tennessee Walking Horse, Saddlebred, and Quarter Horse breeds. The line is rare in the Morgan breed but a few descendants still survive through Sellman breeding, including some tracing through Just Ann's Hornet (Wood Hornet x Just Ann), a chestnut stallion foaled in 1965 who competed in the Grand National Stock Horse classes in 1978, as well as a few other rare lines. The date of the foaling of the Barker Horse is not given, but he died in 1855.

WOODBURY'S INFLUENCE ON THE MORGAN BREED TODAY

Aside from his older brother Sherman, Woodbury Morgan was the only son of Justin Morgan whose direct sireline has survived to the present day, and seems likely to continue for some time. The Lippitt Club, founded in 1973, included 25 old blooded foundation horses carrying a high percentage of the blood of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d (Peter's Morgan x mare by Ethan Allen), foaled in 1877. Often referred to as the "cornerstone" stallion of the Lippitt Club, he carried 18.75 percent of the blood of Woodbury Morgan. The objective of the Lippitt Club was to maintain a pure gene pool of these old-blooded horses, most of whom have a high concentration of Woodbury blood and/or trace to Woodbury in direct sireline.

The blood of Woodbury was also a strong influence on the

breeding program of Texas rancher Richard Sellman, who began his program with the purchase of the black stallion Major Gordon in 1886, along with several daughters of Octoroon #302, all tracing their sirelines directly to Woodbury through Putnam Morgan. Later he added Headlight Morgan, a son of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d, foaled in 1893. Headlight Morgan carried an even greater concentration of Woodbury blood—19.53 percent. This blood is found in virtually all Morgans of Western working and sport breeding. The U. S. Government Farm used many mares strong in the blood of Woodbury to strengthen and maintain Morgan type. Among these mares were Artemesia (Ethan Allen 3rd x Lady Laura), Marguerite (White River Morgan x mare by Plato), Narissa (Troubadour Of Willowmoor x Ellen), and Quietude (Troubadour Of Willowmoor x Ruth) who have been a strong influence in many Morgan breeding programs and in all disciplines. 2014 World Champion Stallion Merriehill After Hours carries numerous crosses to Woodbury through almost all of the sons mentioned here, as do all twelve of the Morgans who have successfully competed in FEI (Federation Equestre International) Grand Prix Level dressage.

Although no daughters of Woodbury were ever registered, many of them can be traced in the pedigrees of other registered Morgans, and these daughters carried a strong influence as well. A few that are often found in extended pedigrees include the dams of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan, Hackett Horse, and the mare Old Leben, all by Gifford; the Austin and Stuckley Smith mare, who was second dam of both Sherman Black Hawk (Black Hawk x mare by Smith's Liberty) and Rutland Morgan (Hale's Green Mountain Morgan x mare by Black Hawk); the dam of Sprague's Ethan Allen (by Putnam Morgan); and the dam of Searcher (by Barney Henry), to mention just a few. Truly, Woodbury Morgan has left a strong legacy in the tradition of his sire, Justin Morgan, and his style and beauty lives on in his descendants today. ■

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