

OLD MORRILL

Progenitor of the Bulrush Line

Having profiled Justin Morgan (TMH, January 2015), then accounted for the sons (both famous and lesser known), our resident historian now accounts for other descendants as she chronicles the early history of the breed.

By Brenda L. Tippin

As families descending from the old Justin Morgan horse began to grow and spread across the country, certain ones, such as the Morrill branch, developed their own distinctive character. Some suggested the Morrills were different and should not be called Morgans, although Morrill was a great-grandson in direct sireline of the original Morgan horse. He had more size, and perhaps less of what came to be called “type.” However, he possessed many other coveted Morgan traits in a large degree, and he gave back to the breed valuable Morgan genes passed down through his line which might otherwise have been lost. When Battell established the Morgan Horse Register in 1894, the rules for admission were simple:

1. Any meritorious stallion or mare that traces in direct male line to the original Justin Morgan Horse, and has at least one sixty-fourth of his blood.
2. The produce of a sire and dam both registered in The American Morgan Horse Register.

Morrill was a great-grandson, tracing his sireline directly to Justin Morgan in four generations. His unique story is one with which readers perhaps may be least familiar, yet his positive influence on the breed has been tremendous.

THE FAMILY OF FRENCH MORRILL, OWNER OF THE OLD MORRILL HORSE

The Morrill family was a large and influential family, tracing to Abraham Morrill born in Hatfield, England in 1605, who was among the first settlers of Massachusetts. He married Sarah Clement and had nine children. His son Isaac, born in 1645, was the third great-grandfather of French Morrill, and the fourth great-grandfather of the famous Vermont Senator, Justin Smith Morrill, born in 1810. Just five years older than his distant cousin French Morrill, Justin was one of the founders of the Republican party, serving in Congress a total of 43 years—first in the House from 1855–67, and then as Senator from 1867 until his death in 1898. He was best known for sponsoring The Morrill Act, also known as the Land Grant College Act, which proposed to establish at least one college in every state. Many “Morrill Halls” were established at colleges across the country as a result of this act.

French Morrill, born at Danville, Vermont on November 20, 1815 was a son of Joseph Morrill and Mary Dole. Joseph Morrill was born in 1775 in Brentwood, New Hampshire, the son of Abel Morrill and Hannah French. He came to Danville at the age of 21 in 1796, and was a Captain in the war of 1812. He was elected to the State legislature in 1822 and served as a county court judge in 1822 and 1823, and was county treasurer for many years. His occupation was cabinet maker, and he was married in 1805 to Mary Dole of New Hampshire at Danville. They had five children, four girls, and one son, French Morrill, who bore his grandmother’s family

surname, the French family being an old and respected one, also among the original settlers of Massachusetts. Abel Morrill was a Revolutionary soldier, a Minute Man, and in the early 1800s ran a tavern just north of the cemetery at Danville Green where governor and council met in 1805. They chose Montpelier for the capitol of Vermont and voted for an amendment to the Constitution to end the slave trade which passed but unfortunately was not ratified by three-fourths of the states as required.

In 1837 French Morrill married his first cousin Susanna Morrill, daughter of his uncle, James Manning Morrill. James Manning Morrill came to Danville with his father about 1800 and was one of the principal business men of the town. He was a blacksmith and carriage builder, also owned a lumber business and grist mill. He and his brother Ebenezer operated a stage line from Haverhill, New Hampshire to Stanford, Province of Quebec. This grueling route covered over 170 miles and they used around 40 horses in this business, most of which were Morgans.

Altogether, the Morrill family was well-respected and had very good connections. French Morrill himself owned a valuable and prosperous farm, and was also a stove-maker. He and Susanna had three children, including one son, Calvin Colby Morrill, born the same year as the old Morrill horse.

OLD MORRILL

Though he appears in the Morgan register simply as “Morrill,” #55, the horse was known locally in Danville, Vermont and vicinity

where he spent most of his life, as “Old Morrill,” and since many of the old accounts refer to him this way, we will also refer to him here as “Old Morrill.” In size and appearance, Old Morrill was somewhat of a departure from the old Morgan type preferred by many of the old Vermont farmers. Yet, much of the Morgan character could still be seen in him, and his stock was in great demand among those familiar with him. Altogether he was a magnificent animal, and in kindness, willingness, soundness, endurance, and sheer strength, he was unsurpassed. He was about 15¾ to 16 hands tall, and weighed about 1,225 pounds. In color, he was probably seal brown but appeared nearly jet black with orange muzzle and flanks. His strength was legendary, with tremendous muscular development and the quality of his feet and legs were exemplary. Morrill’s chest was deep, allowing plenty of room for heart and lungs. His barrel was long with well-sprung ribs, no hollowness in the back, powerful loins and superb hindquarters. His neck was of good length with a clean throatlatch, head at first seeming a trifle plain but with a glance of his flashing eye, there was still something of the Morgan look with altogether a noble and intelligent expression. Like most of the early Morgans, his life was spent in hard work, and he was willing and equal to any task given him.

In a letter dated 1866, Moses Cheney wrote of Old Morrill, “I knew him well; his coat was soft as silk. His mane and tail, like the English, not heavy haired. The angles and flexures from his withers to his fore feet, and from his hips to his hind feet were those of the fast horse, and at the same time his quarters had the weight and his legs the hairiness of the Flanders horse. In no other horse was ever seen such combined strength and speed. I have no doubt he could have turned the Old Cambridge track in four minutes carrying a ton’s weight.” (*The Morgan Horse* magazine, December 1949)

BREEDING

Old Morrill was bred by James Heath of Walden, Vermont and foaled in 1843. The sire of Morrill was known as The Jennison Colt and, for his service, Mr. Heath paid Abijah Jennison a pound of tea.

Abijah Jennison, owned a large dark bay or brown pacing mare, with orange colored muzzle and flanks, weighing over 1,200 pounds. She had a thin rat tail and ears that lopped, but beautiful clear hazel eyes and was a powerful draft mare. He purchased her from the Farringtons of Walden, and it was said she was an English mare and had been driven in a four-horse team to Boston. He bred this mare to the Randolph Horse, who was a son of old Bulrush and out of a mare many believed to be a daughter of Justin Morgan. He was variously known as Little Randolph, Young Morgan Bulrush, or Little Bulrush.

The Jennison Colt was a handsome dark blood bay with black points and a long flowing mane and tail which was heavy and wavy. He was said to resemble his sire in every way, except in size and the color of his eyes which he took from his mother. A. F. Putnam, the brother-in-law of Abijah Jennison, purchased the colt as a two-year old in 1842 for \$125, as he had gotten to be too much for old Abijah to handle. Putnam led the spirited colt eleven miles to his home and had him weighed, and though he was still growing, he tipped the scale at 1,224 pounds. After keeping him two seasons to train him, Putnam sold the colt back to his brother-in-law for the same price and some change to square accounts.

Morrill’s dam was called the Heath mare, a clouded gray in color with nearly white mane and tail, 15¼ hands tall and weighing 950 pounds. She was said to have been got by the Farrington Horse, an iron gray about 15½ hands and 1,000 pounds. He was a son of the Vance Horse, a beautiful and showy gray stallion sired by Bold Phoenix, bred by Lemuel Cobb of Hardwick, Vermont and foaled about 1818. The dam of the Farrington Horse was called the Steele mare, foaled about 1808. She weighed about 1,000 pounds and had the reputation of being a fast saddle mare, once sold for \$200, a remarkable price for a mare in those days. The Steele mare was said to have been ridden from Hardwick to Burlington, Vermont in just a few hours at the time of the Battle of Plattsburgh, which was in 1814, when she was six or seven years old. Some accounts suggest she was an imported English mare, though given the time frame and locality, she may well have been Morgan.

Bold Phoenix was said to have been foaled around 1800 in Haverhill, New Hampshire. He was advertised in 1815 in the *Danville North Star* as follows:

“Haverhill, N. H., May 23, 1815.

We, the undersigned, being well acquainted with the stock of the noted horse Phoenix, recommend it to exceed any in the State of New Hampshire for strength, speed and beauty.

[Signed] Rev. Mr. Morrill, and seven others.”

No information is given of his breeding or pedigree, but Haverhill is about 40 miles from Montpelier, Vermont, where the Justin Morgan horse last stood in 1797 before his exact whereabouts were lost track of until 1801. Certainly, the possibility exists that Bold Phoenix could have been one of his sons. Battell, in Volume I of the *Morgan Register*, mentions a horse of this name being brought to Walpole, New Hampshire by Josiah Bellows 2nd, one of the earliest breeders of Morgan horses, which lends further strength to this theory.

The dam of the Vance Horse was a white mare, said to be a good roadster, bred by Lemuel Cobb’s father, and thought to have been a daughter of Hyder Ally, gray son of Lindsay’s Arabian which stood in the area at that time. Lemuel Cobb bred several foals from this mare.

Morrill’s second dam was a daughter of the Kittredge horse, a son of Quicksilver, by the imported Arabian, Dey of Algiers, and out of a Morgan mare, possibly a daughter or granddaughter of Justin Morgan. The Kittredge horse was a bay standing about 15 hands and weighing 1,000 pounds. Foaled about 1820 near Danville, Vermont, his stock very much resembled that of Sherman and Woodbury, as did that of his sire. Quicksilver, foaled in 1802 although a son of Dey of Algiers, resembled the Morgans strongly, and was called Morgan in both Vermont and New Hampshire. This tradition also indicates he likely came from a Morgan dam, most probably a daughter of Justin Morgan.

Although there was evidently a strain of draft blood behind the dam of the Jennison colt, sire of Morrill, which gave some added size, he received at least some additional Morgan crosses from her, and several well-bred strains similar to the early Morgan blood.

Leonard Tucker, who owned Draco, one of the best grandsons of Morrill wrote of old Morrill,

“He was not what would be called a rangy horse; neither was he blocky, but medium. He had an excellent head, muzzle rather

fine, nostrils large, eyes the very best, of a clear hazel color, large and well set out and wide apart, brain large, the frontal bone straight, ears well shaped and pointed and when thrown forward he had a fine, expressive look, but when thrown backward they were inclined to lop considerably.... Neck good length and well crested, full, deep enough for beauty, but not out of proportion. His shoulders were very strong and well thrown back...; breast very full, making him look low in front; forearm immense and long, knee-pan broad and flat, with a knee-joint pinned together to stay; The back sinews stood out clear and distinct, and were very large; pasterns rather short and immensely strong. His chest was deep and round, middle-piece good and loins that never were and never will be surpassed. Although not ribbed very close, his long, well-set hips were so beautifully rounded, and so even with the swell of his ribs, that he was a very smoothly-turned animal. His tail was set on a trifle too low, and was thin of hair for four or five inches from his body, but further down it was handsome. His stifles were thick, hind-quarters well let down, muscles of the thigh wonderfully strong, hocks could not be bettered, legs superb below the hocks...." (*American Morgan Horse Register, Vol. I*)

THE DANIEL DANA HORSE THEORY

As with many horses who became celebrated or in demand for service in those days, tales were often circulated disputing their pedigrees, and Morrill was no exception. When he was about ten years old, and so much in demand for breeding services that French Morrill was obliged to retire him from farm work, a story began circulating that his sire, the Jennison Colt, was not a son of the Morgan horse Little Randolph by Bulrush Morgan, but was sired instead by the Daniel Dana horse, also known as the Swansey or Swazey horse. The Daniel Dana horse was called The Traveler, and owned jointly by Daniel Dana and his brother Putnam, who operated a store in Danville. They had apparently purchased him from Mr. Swazey, and advertised him in the Danville North Star in 1833 and 1834, after which the horse was sold and taken to Illinois. The Dana horse was by the Ayres colt, supposed to be of Quicksilver stock, and it was claimed that Morrill resembled him. It was said that Mr. Swazey had a colt from the Ayres horse, a gray by Quicksilver, and from this colt he bred the Dana horse.

Like Morrill, the Dana horse was black, he was said to be "of good size," and mane and tail not so thick as many of the Bulrush and other Morgan families had. No mention is made that he had orange shading on the flanks and muzzle, or the exceptional strength and musculature which Morrill was known for, or even the speed. But, to the logic of many a farmer, the story seemed reasonable, now that it was mentioned, the Dan Dana horse seemed to resemble Morrill more than Little Randolph and that must be the reason for Morrill's distinctive type.

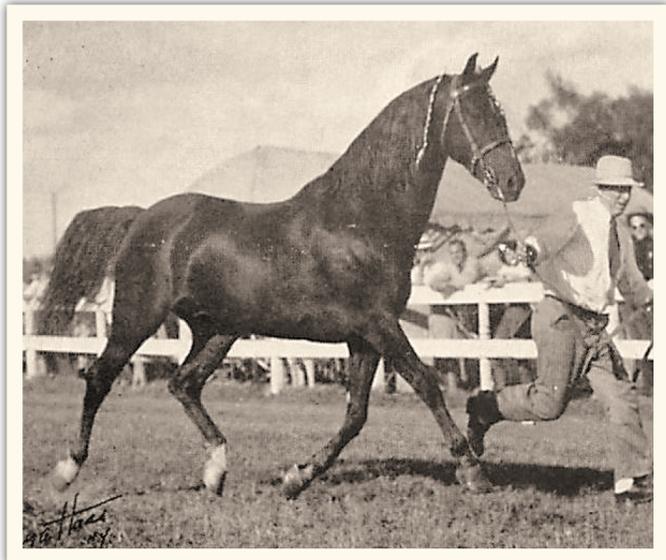
These farmers, leaning back in their chairs, thumbs tucked in the bibs of their overalls while puffing on their pipes, reasoned it all out. Abijah Jennison, who was responsible for breeding the Jennison Colt, they claimed had told the farrier that his mare didn't settle after breeding her to Little Randolph and so took her to the Dana horse. And that, they declared, must be the source

of Morrill's, strength and speed and power to transmit himself, rather than it being due to any Morgan blood. These conveniently contrived pedigrees naturally traced the Dana horse to Messenger, and incorporated several more crosses to Messenger on the side of Morrill's dam, all the while suggesting that it was Abijah Jennison doing the fabricating in wanting to give his horse a Morgan pedigree. And while they discussed their profound theories on how the Jennison colt was bred, these farmers completely forgot that his dam was very similar to Old Morrill in size and color, even to the orange shading and hazel eyes, and it was she who passed her size to the Jennison colt and was the source of these traits. In every other particular, the Jennison colt resembled his sire, Little Randolph, and this would certainly not have been the case had his sire been the Dana horse.

Abijah Jennison hotly denied the story and insisted he never said any such thing. Jennison recalled:

"I raised the colt that sired the old Morrill. I bought his dam of Nathaniel Farrington of this town. Farrington had her of a Mr. Bradley Webber of Hardwick, Vermont. I bought her in the fall of the year for \$45, and was to let Farrington have her three or four trips to Boston in a six-horse team, a distance of 180 miles; she was a pacer and when she got to going she could pace fast. She was a wonderful stout mare, rather dull to drive, but a powerful draft horse. She was black with brown nose and flanks and had but little tail. I should think she would have weighed near 1,300 pounds. The season that she bred the colt (the Jennison Horse), no one had any charge of her but myself. I had been to Peacham with her, some twenty miles, and on my return home noticed her to be in heat so I stopped at the village (our village) and made a trade with Harvey Babcock for the service of Young Morgan Bulrush, or as he was sometimes or more frequently called, the Randolph Horse. I unhitched the mare myself and attended to holding her and put her back in the shafts and drove directly home. I had no occasion of trying her again that season. This coupling with the stallion was on the 15th day of July and on the 10th day of June following she foaled the sire of Morrill. I never knew any such horse as the Daniel Dana or Swazey Horse. I have had occasion to look up the date of the service of the stallion and found the charge on Mr. Babcock's book to be July 15. I did this I should think twelve or fifteen years ago. I am sure as I am of anything that the Young Morgan Bulrush got that colt. I never heard a hint at anything else till about eight years ago, and I don't know how that story started. I always thought everything of the little Bulrush.

"Oh! he was the springiest thing I ever saw and could trot like the wind; and he was a beauty, too. When the Jennison Horse was foaled, well, the best description I can give of him is that he was perfect, and he grew perfect. He weighed over 1,200 pounds, and was a bright bay, no white on him but a little star in the forehead; and he had the same little short, sharp, quick ears of the little Morgan. His mother had pretty long ears and they lopped some; and he had a wide forehead and his eyes were large and stood out, and he had just such a foretop, mane and tail as the little Morgan. Oh, he was the little Randolph all over except his size; that he took from his mother. I had the



TOP TO BOTTOM: Ellen, foundation mare for U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm (American Morgan Horse Register, Vol II); Mentor (© Ira Haas); Trophy at age 25 in 1974 (© Hal Hoover).

colt when he was two years old and that was the season that he got Old Morrill. I remember the time he covered the Heath Mare, the dam of Old Morrill, the rascal got away from me.” (American Stallion Register, Vol. III)

A little further research discloses the fact that the Dana horse was taken west in 1835 while the Jennison colt was not foaled until 1840. Therefore, it was not even possible for the Dana horse to have been the sire of the Jennison colt. Abijah Jennison was known as an honest and truthful man, and his account of the breeding is certainly correct. The Jennison colt was gelded when four or five years old, and so Morrill was the only one to carry on this line.

LIFE OF OLD MORRILL

On the day Morrill was foaled, it was cold and raining in the pasture, and Mr. Heath, with some help, went and got the colt and carried him into the barn, fearing he otherwise might not survive. As a weanling, he was sold to Eben Perkins of South Walden, Vermont for \$25.00. When Morrill was three, Mr. Perkins traded him to French Morrill of Danville, Vermont.

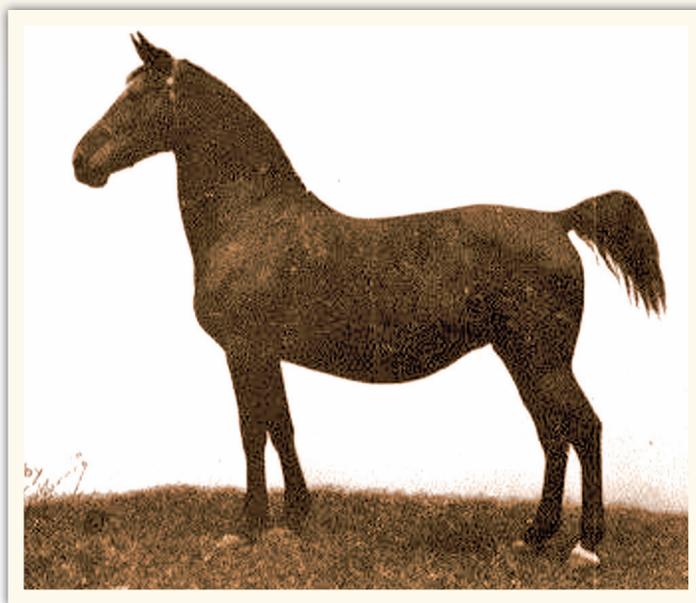
Morrill founded a strong family as unique in its individuality as that of Black Hawk—perhaps even more so—still recognizably Morgan but clearly his own stamp—and it was through the Morrill family alone that the sireline of Bulrush was to continue for as long as it did. He enjoyed tremendous popularity as a sire during his fairly short life, and was said to have got hundreds of colts, many of which brought great prices. Yet only 32 of his offspring found their way into the registry, and his career was cut short by a profoundly sad and tragic end to his life.

Morrill’s early years were filled with hard work as Mr. Morrill used him as the sole team for all the work upon his 110-acre farm. The horse was so strong, he had to have a heavy truck harness fashioned especially for him, and the shafts of his cart were made of small trees, the narrow end being fully four inches across. Mr. Morrill also had special wheel rims made that were seven and a half inches wide and two inches thick, as his land was so moist a common wheel rim would cut in badly. Mr. Morrill had another body for the cart to haul hay, and when it was rigged this way, it was supposed to weigh 1,000 pounds.

With Old Morrill he would often haul a cord of green wood from his wood lot to his place at Danville Green, a distance of three miles. On one of these occasions, he came upon some men with two yoke of oxen hitched to a sled load of wood, hopelessly stuck in the mire and the oxen unable to draw it out. The men asked him to hitch Old Morrill on forward of the oxen to help pull the load. Instead, Mr. Morrill asked them to remove the oxen, and hitching Old Morrill to the sled, the horse easily pulled out the load by himself.

It was said that he could do more work and draw a bigger load than any horse in Danville, and could also show quite a bit of speed when called upon.

Mr. Morrill sold the horse when he was about seven or eight years old to a James Clark in Massachusetts for \$1,500, to be paid in installments with \$300 down. However, Clark was unable to pay, so Mr. Morrill went and got the horse back. He then advertised him in the *Danville North Star* as follows:



LEFT TO RIGHT: Donaldson & Sue Evarts (AMHA Archives); Bonnie Jean (Allbreedpedigree.com).

“The Morrill Horse. This justly celebrated horse is eight years old, of a handsome jet black color, weighs 1,260 pounds, is lofty in carriage, and is not excelled by any horse for speed and strength of constitution. The horse is of the Morgan blood, sired by a colt of the old Weston or Randolph horse, so-called, formerly owned by John Buckminster, late of Danville.

Kept every day, excepting Thursdays, at the stable of the subscriber; Thursdays at St. Johnsbury, near the depot.

FRENCH MORRILL
Danville, May 22, 1852”

The demand for his stud services was so great by this time that Old Morrill was retired from farm work and used primarily for stud. It was found he had quite a bit of speed and was siring some fast trotters. He was shown at the Vermont State Fair in Brattleboro in 1854, winning First Premium for best Bulrush Morgan stallion. He was also shown at the New England Horse Show at Brattleboro that fall, taking second premium only to the incomparable Hale’s Green Mountain Morgan. He was trotted in a match at the United States Fair at Boston in 1855 against his son Young Morrill (Perkins’), but broke badly and Young Morrill won the match in 2:42½.

French Morrill took him to the National Horse Show at Springfield, Massachusetts in 1857 and had him ridden by a young boy where he attracted a great deal of attention. He then took him to the Connecticut River Valley Fair which was held that year in Bradford, Vermont, and to the same fair in 1860 when it was held at Charlestown, New Hampshire. Under the effects of liquor, Mr. Morrill abused the old horse severely at this fair.

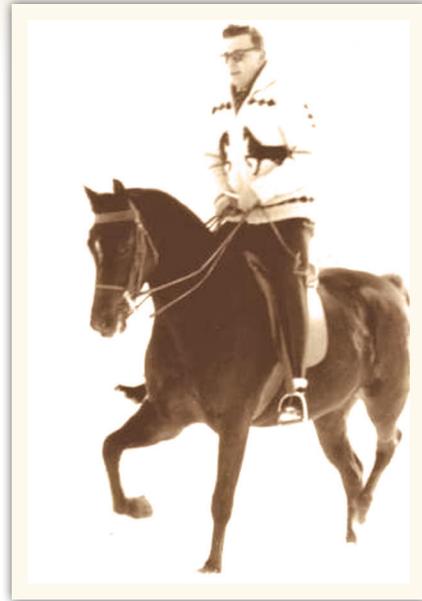
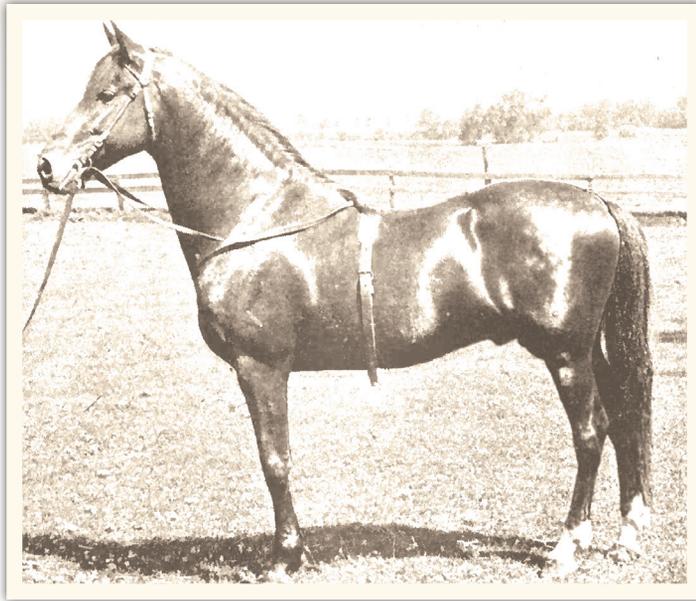
In the American Stock Journal for 1860, it was written, “The old Morrill horse, the parental head of the family, is now owned in Danville, Vermont, and will be seventeen years old next spring. He is 16-hands high, and weighs in good flesh 1,225 pounds. His color is raven black, save a slight orange tinge around the muzzle and flanks. His frame is remarkably strong, and his muscles so strongly

developed that he impresses the observer with the idea of a giant. His limbs, though wide, flat and sinewy, are the heaviest I ever saw upon a horse of his size. It would be difficult to imagine a stronger horse in every particular” *American Stock Journal, Vol II.*

French Morrill had made a wonderful profit from his patient and gentle horse. In 1862, he received an offer of \$5,000 for him, which he refused, but which had he accepted might have made a very different outcome both for himself, for Old Morrill, and for the survival of the Bulrush and Morrill sireline. When sober, Mr. Morrill was an honest and kindly man, but under the influence of alcohol, which he was given to on frequent occasions during these years, he became savage and irrational.

Old Morrill had often suffered abuse before when his owner had such spells, and Mr. Morrill believed the horse was so strong it didn’t really matter. Old Morrill’s temperament was so kind he always worked just as willingly the next day and never seemed to hold a grudge about that sort of thing, nor became frightened or difficult to handle. It happened one day, not long after Mr. Morrill had refused the offer of \$5,000 for the horse. A man by the name of Francis Drew brought his mare to be served. (Note: This was the same Francis Drew who bred Vermont Ranger, or Drew Horse (Morrill x mare by Vermont Morgan Champion), which may be found in descendants of the great inbred Bulrush line mare Morrill Queen (Winnebago Chief x Olive). Crosses to Morrill Queen can be found in much of Sellman breeding through her son The Admiral (by Jubilee De Jarnette) as well as through descendants of Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette).)

Mr. Morrill brought the horse out, and he carelessly left the double reins loose so the mare accidentally stepped backward and caught her hind leg in the loop of the reins when the stallion dismounted. A brief flurry of excitement ensued as the startled mare tried to extricate herself, but no damage was done. This was in no way the fault of Old Morrill. But Mr. Morrill, having had probably several too many drinks, flew into a rage. Seizing up two



LEFT TO RIGHT: Colby's Young Green Mountain; Jubilee's Aurora (Allbreedpedigree.com).

large stones he threw them, hitting the horse in the small of the back, and then beat him unmercifully across the head and back with a large piece of timber. He drove him onto a pile of logs, very nearly succeeding in breaking his legs.

Old Morrill did not die immediately from this terrible incident, but suffered intensely for about six weeks before finally dying of inflammation of the kidneys. He was opened up afterward and it was found that one of his kidneys was nearly completely gone. Whether French Morrill felt any remorse afterwards for what he had done is not mentioned, though it seems perhaps he did. He wished the horse's grave to be enclosed by an iron fence, although apparently this was never done. Old Morrill was buried beside a stonewall, some twenty rods from his stable, free at last from a life of hard work and frequent and unpredictable cruel treatment.

SONS OF MORRILL

It would be impossible to trace all the sons of Morrill which have descendants in Morgan pedigrees today, but here we will take a look at just a few examples of some names often found when pedigrees are extended.

BENEDICT MORRILL

Benedict Morrill was bred by Eliphalet Coleman of Williamstown, Vermont. Mr. Coleman had also bred both his dam, a daughter of the Chet Clark Horse by Bulrush Morgan, and second dam, a daughter of a famous circus horse known as Alexander. Both mares, like Alexander, were spotted black and white. Alexander, foaled about 1822, and had been owned by Page's circus who had purchased him somewhere in the West, and sold him for \$1,000 to a company at Middlebury, Vermont in 1831. He was called a Spanish horse, generally handsome, intelligent, and a good roadster, though his true breeding was not known, and his stock were usually slow to mature. He was a large horse, 15¾ hands tall, and 1,200 pounds. Benedict Morrill was more of a medium built horse of 15½ hands

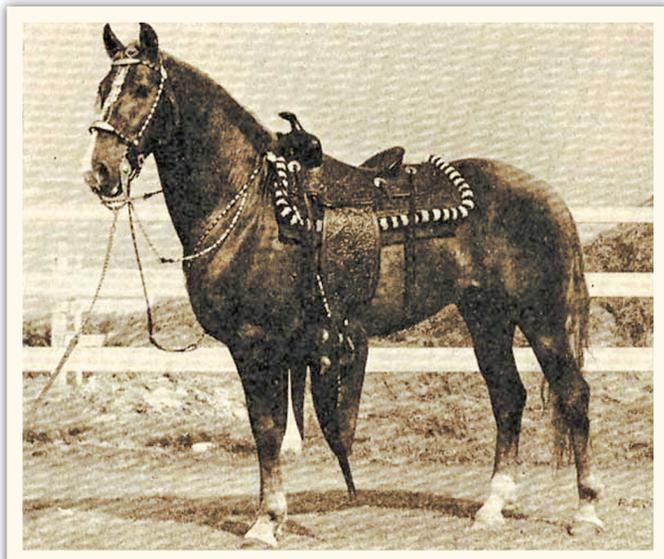
and weighing about 1,050 pounds, but solid and well-proportioned. He was brown or black in color like many of the Morrill family. He had a very good head, neck and body with excellent feet and legs, and full flowing mane and tail; a fair amount of speed, but was lacking in style and fire. However, he got good colts and was highly regarded as a sire.

It has been thought by some that dark spots occasionally appearing in the coats of certain Lippitt Morgans were being passed down through Ashbrook, whose dam traced back to Benedict Morrill. These spots, which are roundish but irregularly shaped and sized dark or black spots, randomly appear most often in chestnut colored horses, as well as palomino and more rarely in other colors. They occur in various Morgan lines and different breeds as well and are actually called Bend Or spots, after a Thoroughbred stallion foaled in 1877 who had them, though he wasn't the first. The exact cause of such spots is unknown and believed to be genetically unrelated to other types of spotting, so Benedict Morrill may not be a particular source although his descendants are widespread in the Morgan breed, coming through other sources besides Ashbrook. Curiously enough, however, both Bend Or and Justin Morgan trace back to the famous Arabian sire called Bloody Buttocks and his daughter, Bay Bloody Buttocks.

In addition to Ashbrook, descendants of Benedict Morrill are widespread in the Morgan breed through U.S. Government farm foundation mare Ellen (Rocky Mountain x Lamb mare by Young Benedict Morrill, son of Benedict Morrill). Famous names such as Goldfield (Mansfield x Juno); Mentor (Goldfield x Fairytop); Trophy (Mentor x Norma); Tutor (Mentor x Kona); Vigilmarch (Orcland Vigildon x Mayphil); Senator Graham (Senator Knox x Fanita) and Waseeka's Nocturne (Starfire x Upwey Benn Quietude) all trace to Benedict Morrill through Ellen, as well as carrying other crosses to Morrill.

VERMONT RANGER (DREW HORSE)

Also known as the Drew Horse, Vermont Ranger was bred by



TOP TO BOTTOM: Raven Chief (Photo courtesy of David Ladd, Sellman Morgan History Project, and Nancie Shelden, great granddaughter of Richard Sellman); Sun Down Morgan and Merle Little (© Karl C'oart); Chief Of Chestnut (Allbreedpedigree.com).

Francis Drew of North Danville, Vermont, and foaled in 1856. He was black, marked with a star and white hind feet, was 16 hands tall and weighed 1,250 pounds. His dam was a bay mare by Vermont Morgan Champion, son of Sherman Morgan, and second dam bay, both of which were also bred by Mr. Drew. Although he was never trained he easily trotted a mile in 2:45 on the St. Johnsbury track. Crosses to Vermont Ranger may be found in Morgans today among descendants of Bob B, Lippitt Foundation stallion; Hannah (Donaldson x Maggie Morgan), Lippitt foundation mare who also traces to Woodstock by Perkins Young Morrill; and Lippitt foundation mare Lippitt Sallie (Billy Hoffman x Mary Allen).

GENERAL LYON

General Lyon was another black, 15 hands tall and weighing 1050 pounds. He was marked with his near fore foot and both hind feet white. Bred by George Dean of Danbury, New Hampshire, he was foaled in 1859 out of a gray daughter of Royal Morgan (Sherman Morgan x Aldrich mare by Justin Morgan), second dam Aldrich mare, a full sister of Royal Morgan. In 1869, he won a race at the New Hampshire State Fair where he made his record of 2:36¼. Crosses to Morrill through General Lyon may be found among descendants of Lippitt Foundation mare Bonnie Jean (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Bessie by Phelps Horse, son of General Lyon).

OREGON PATHFINDER

Oregon Pathfinder, a brown stallion, was foaled in 1855 and bred by Alanson Aldrich of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. He stood 16 hands tall and weighed 1,200 pounds. His dam was a sorrel mare, said to be by Goldpin, son of Vermont Morgan Champion. He was sold in 1857 to D.F. Tilotson of Orford, New Hampshire for \$1,000, and was often known as Tilotson's Pathfinder at that time. Later, he was sold to Putnam Smith who took him to Portland, Oregon, where he acquired the name Oregon Pathfinder. He was an excellent sire, especially known for producing hard-working horses with good feet and legs, and also got some fast colts, one of which was said to have trotted a trial in 2:18. He died in Oregon from the effects of a kick. Descendants of Lippitt Foundation mare Bonnie Jean (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Bessie by Phelps Horse, son of General Lyon) also trace to Oregon Pathfinder.

HEENAN

Little is known about this son of Morrill, but he is believed to have been foaled around 1850. He was not registered but appears in *American Morgan Horse Register, Vol. III* in the pedigree of Bell Marea (Knox Morgan x Underwood Mare by Ned Norton), dam of the great Lippitt foundation sire Sealect (x Sir Ethan Allen). Heenan, by old Morrill #55 is here listed as the sire of the Ed McKay Horse, who in turn sired Nellie, 3rd dam of Bell Marea. This brings in another line to Morrill as well, since Bell Marea's second dam Little Fannie (Black Billy x Nellie) was a granddaughter of Barre Morrill (Perkins' Young Morrill by Morrill x Rowell mare by Bulrush Morgan). Many Morgans today trace to Morrill through these lines.

COLBY'S YOUNG MORRILL

Bred by Percy Newell of Danville, Vermont, Colby's Young Morrill was a bay brown in color, marked with a star and one white foot. He

was 16 hands tall and weighed 1,150 pounds. He was foaled in 1851, out of a dark bay daughter of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan, second dam a daughter of Justin Morgan. He was purchased in Vermont, in 1855, as a four-year-old colt by N.S. Colby of McHenry, Illinois, who kept him until he died in 1879 at 28 years of age. Mr. Colby wrote, "He had no record, but showed better than a 2:40 gait. I refused \$3,000 for him when 15 years old. He was very stylish and active." *American Morgan Horse Register Vol. I.*

Crosses to Colby's Young Morrill may be found in a great many Morgans tracing to Brunk breeding. This includes all descendants of Jubilee King (Penrod x Daisette) and Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette), and many Western working programs carrying these lines such as Cross Ranch, L.U. Sheep Ranch, Jackson Ranch and more—all of these trace through Colby's Young Green Mountain (Turner's Sir William by Hale's Green Mountain Morgan x Dolly) whose dam Dolly was a daughter of Colby's Young Morrill.

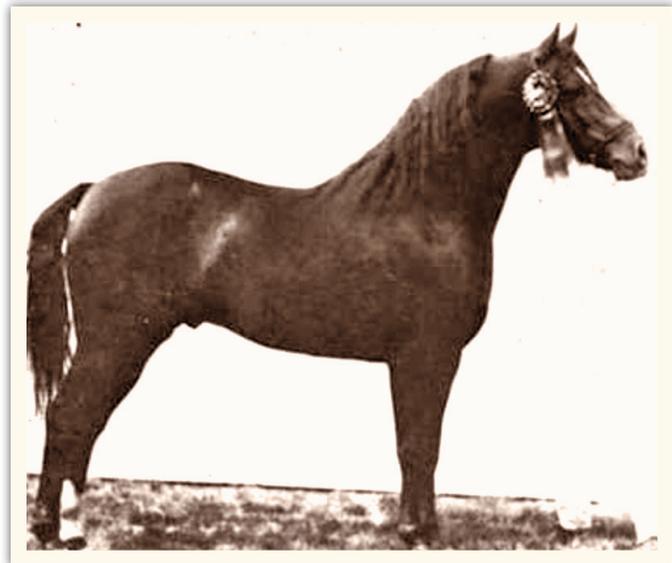
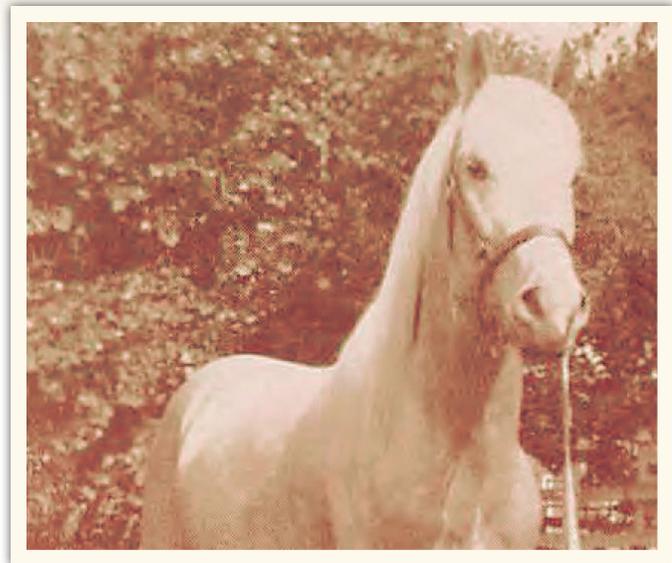
VERMONT REINDEER

Vermont Reindeer was a black horse marked with a snip, 15 hands tall. He was bred by Dr. Blood of Newbury, Vermont, out of a full sister of Blood's Black Hawk (Black Hawk x Old Polly by Sherman Morgan). Unfortunately, his life was very short as he was burned up in his stable at Montpelier, Vermont when he was just five years old. In spite of this, quite a few Morgans today trace to Vermont Reindeer, especially through the lovely mare Jubilee's Aurora (Jubilee's Courage x Springflame) and others, including many in Canada. One example is the gelding Meldon Mansfield (Vigilmar Bravo x Meldony-Me) bred in Canada in 2002 and now owned by Christine and Lawrence Cassenti of Chrislar Farm in Rowley, Massachusetts. Meldon Mansfield has been exhibited at a number of New England shows, with several wins in a variety of Pleasure, Hunter, and Youth classes at the Maine Morgan Horse Show and Granite State Morgan Horse Show during the last few years.

One of the most interesting descendants of Vermont Reindeer was Margaret Gardiner's Kennebec Russel (Kennebec Count x Kennebec Cory). In 1985, Kennebec Russel and his sire Kennebec Count (Kennebec King x Helen May) were the first Morgans ever to win the U.S. National Pairs Championship. They were part of the United States Equestrian Team that year, representing the United States at the World Combined Driving Competition in England. They were first in Dressage, and placed eighth overall among 45 pairs. Kennebec Russel and his sire captured the U.S. National Pairs Championship title twice more, in 1987 and again in 1989. Kennebec Russel traces to Vermont Reindeer through his dam, Kennebec Cory (Bayfield x Royalton Joan Darling). Her sire, Bayfield (Lippitt Scofield x Bay by Billy Morgan) was out of a daughter of Billy Morgan (Billy Roberts x Mary) who traced his dam line back to a daughter of Reindeer by Vermont Reindeer.

MOUNTAIN CHIEF

Mountain Chief, a powerful dark brown stallion bred by Matthew Blair in Goshen Gore, which later became Stannard, Vermont, was foaled in 1859. He stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,250 pounds. His dam was a dark brown, nearly black mare with a very heavy mane and tail, bred by David Macomber of Greensboro, Vermont.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Sun Rex Morgan; Chingadero (Photo courtesy National Museum of the Morgan Horse); Aranafield became the foundation stallion for Phil Morrison's Aranaway Morgans (AMHA Archives).

HISTORY LESSON *≈ Old Morrill*

She was sired by Moore's Champion, a son of Vermont Morgan Champion, and out of a brown daughter of the Shedd Horse, son of Vermont Morgan Champion. Mountain Chief went through several owners, and sold to Cornelius Russell of Rockford, Illinois for \$2,500 in 1868. He was sold a couple more times to owners in Rockford, and finally died in 1880 at 21 years of age. He was said to be a great weight-puller, and able to trot faster than 2:40.

One of his best sons was Winnebago Chief, a powerfully built dark bay bred by A.W. Welden of Rockford, Illinois and foaled in 1871. Winnebago Chief stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,140 pounds. His dam was a daughter of Green Mountain Boy (Hale's Green Mountain Morgan x mare by Gifford), second dam a daughter of Leach's Black Hawk (Black Hawk x mare by Sir Charles) and 3rd dam by Hale's Green Mountain Morgan (Gifford x mare by Woodbury).

This line bears a strong influence on the Morgan breed through the wonderful broodmare Morrill Queen (Winnebago Chief x Olive), bred by Dr. Bowman of Rockford, Illinois and foaled in 1886. Altogether she was the mother of seven stallions, though only five of them produced registered offspring. She has countless descendants through her son Hero Of Manilla (x Herod), who was sire of the mare Goldie (x Lill by Paw Paw Chief). Goldie was the second dam of Go Hawk (Sunny Hawk x Bombo), sire of Flyhawk (x Florette). Morrill Queen also had a tremendous influence through her son The Admiral (x Jubilee De Jarnette), who sired 185 registered offspring, the majority for Richard Sellman's famous Mountain Vale Ranch in Rochelle, Texas. Lines to Morrill through The Admiral can be found in a majority of Western working and sport Morgan pedigrees tracing to Hill and Sellman breeding.

Lady Alice, a daughter of Winnebago Chief, was the dam of Meteor 2d (x Meteor), sire of Forester (x Eleanor Gates, 2nd dam Ellen by Rocky Mountain; 3rd dam Lamb Mare by Young Benedict Morrill, son of Morrill). Forester was bred to Gertrude (General Gates x Caroline by Daniel Lambert; 2nd dam Cleopatra by Gen. Putnam; 3rd dam Hackett Mare by Morrill) to produce Juno, dam of the outstanding Government bred sire Goldfield (x Mansfield).

(Monte L x Lana by Goldfield), bred by the U.S. Government farm and foaled in 1948, was one of the final products of the U.S. Government breeding program. He became foundation stallion for the Waer breeding program, and was believed to be one of the closest likenesses to the original Justin Morgan horse than any other Morgan stallion before or since. He carried countless crosses to Morrill through Colby's Young Morrill, Mountain Chief, Benedict Morrill, and the Hackett Mare by Morrill.

Winnebago Chief was also the sire of Julian Morgan, a bay with no markings bred by the Morgan Horse Company of Carpentersville, Illinois and foaled in 1892. His dam was a daughter of Colby's Young Green Mountain (Turner's Sir William x Mare by Colby's Young Morrill); 2nd and 3rd dam both by Colby's Young Morrill, son of Morrill). Julian Morgan was bred to a daughter of Flying Morrill (Vermont Ranger x mare by Stanton Horse) to produce the mare Fanny P, dam of the great broodmare, Sunflower Maid by Headlight Morgan (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Lady Stratton). Sunflower Maid was the dam of 10 registered foals including the U.S. Government bred Remount stallion Linsley (x

General Gates), used by Elmer Brown.

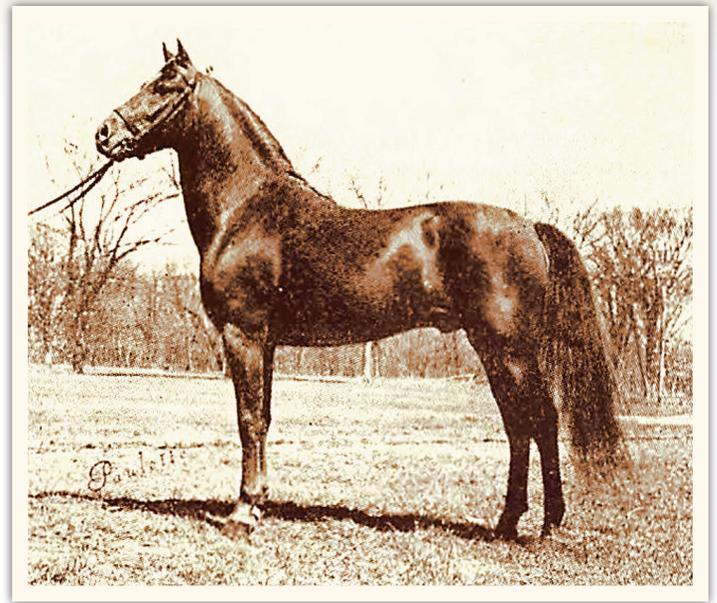
The U.S. Government farm kept a pair of stallions tracing to Morrill through Winnebago Chief, Meteor 2d (Meteor x Lady Alice by Winnebago Chief) and Roy Morgan (Julian Morgan by Winnebago Chief x Nancy by Morgan Chief). Meteor 2d and Roy Morgan won many prizes, exhibited at the Pennsylvania fair and several western fairs. Roy Morgan did not breed on, but Meteor 2d is found in all descendants of Goldfield (Mansfield x Juno), all descendants tracing to L.U. Sheep Ranch breeding through Night Tide (Tiffany x Glenalla); Senator Graham (Senator Knox x Fanita); Waseeka's Nocturne (Starfire x Upwey Benn Quietude), and many more.

Julian Morgan was bred to another daughter of Flying Morrill known as the Parks mare (x mare by Stanton Horse, 2nd dam by Billy Root), producing the black stallion Chief Morgan, bred by John F. Parks, Meade, Kansas and foaled in 1905. Parks then bred Chief Morgan to the mare Maude Morgan (Julian Morgan x Bessie Morgan by Flying Morrill), producing the dark bay or brown stallion Morgan Chief, foaled in 1912.

Richard Sellman purchased Morgan Chief as a two-year old colt along with his dam in 1914, and bred just four registered foals from him, three stallions and one mare, all foaled in 1917. Sellman initially chose two of the stallions for breeding, Dot and Raven Chief, both out of daughters of The Admiral, Dot N (x Dot M by Gold Medal) and Baby Girl (x Lulu A by Major Antoine) respectively. Had Sellman lived longer, the story might have turned out differently, but he passed away in 1925, and by that time the Morrill blood had nearly disappeared in sireline.

Where Morrill stallions were for a time popular and plentiful, many of them were swallowed up into the Standardbred breed, and some into the Saddlebred breed. Morrill alone had been left to carry on the Bulrush line, and few, if any, realized it when the Mountain Chief family became the last to carry on the Morrill line. Foaled in 1921, Douai, a Sellman bred son of Dot out of Daisy K by Headlight Morgan, became the only Remount stallion from the Morrill or Bulrush line. Douai was credited with 250 Remount foals, mostly in North Dakota and Nebraska, but not one of them was registered, and all trace of them disappeared. Raven Chief was sold to F. A. Fickert of Bear Valley Ranch in Tehachapi, California in 1921. However, it was another eight years before the Fickerts began registering their Morgans, recording their first registered foal from Raven Chief in 1929.

The sireline continued through Raven Chief with several notable sons bred by the Fickerts of Bear Valley Ranch in Tehachapi, California. These included Colorado (x Kita K by Headlight Morgan, 2nd dam Polly C by The Admiral); Chestnut Chief (x Alkadaza by Headlight Morgan, 2nd dam Kitty E. by The Admiral); Sun Down Morgan (x Texsky by Texas Allen whose dam traced to Vermont Ranger); and Eagle (x Favonius by Fearless son of Headlight Morgan, 2nd dam Mollie B by The Admiral). Morrill stallions through Raven Chief became very popular as vaquero and parade horses in California during the next several decades. Colorado was the sire of Red Flash (x Louisa by Woodrow Wilson, son of Headlight Morgan, 2nd dam Kitty C by The Admiral), bred by the Bergman Stock Farm. In 1948, Red Flash was Champion Morgan Stallion at three major fairs, the Los Angeles County Fair, the San Fernando Valley Fair and the Santa Barbara Fair. He was also chosen as Horse of the Month for



LEFT TO RIGHT: Draco (Photo © Schreiber); Verran's Laddie (Photo © Paulette).

the September 1949 *Western Livestock Journal*. His son Rhed's Fable (x Falene by Fleetfield) was the sire of Discreet Lee (x Donna Lee by El Don), who was taken to Washington. The Morrill sireline, and last thread of the Bulrush line, ended here when Discreet Lee's last son, WTF Stormy Knight (x Mary Of Dickie by Sanborn's Star) foaled in 1982, was gelded in 1988 with no registered offspring. None of Discreet Lee's six registered foals left any registered offspring.

Chestnut Chief's line ended much sooner with his son Chief Of Chestnut, foaled in 1943. Chief Of Chestnut was a well-trained vaquero horse owned by Dan Nickum of Bellflower, California, used for parades and ranch work, and a locally popular sire, but only produced three registered foals none of which bred on.

Sun Down Morgan was also a fully trained vaquero horse, owned and used for a number of years by Merle H. Little on his El Rancho Poco at Duarte, California. He was Grand Champion Stallion of the Los Angeles County Spring Fair held at Bellflower, California in 1947, competing in a class of 17 Morgan stallions. This show was believed to be the largest exhibition of registered Morgans on the West Coast ever held up to that time. Many descendants continue through this line, especially through his palomino sons Midnight Sun (x Dawnglo) and Sun Rex Morgan (x Carmel Snow). However, the sireline ended in 1968 with the Midnight Sun grandson Golden Peso (El Tesoro x Hels Altona) foaled in 1968, who did not breed on.

The last of the sireline from Eagle was his great-grandson Forever Gusto (Cholame Stepper x Burnt Sugar), bred by Lois Anderson of Bakersfield, California, and foaled in 1980. She recalled with great sadness that he was killed in a trailer accident, though she had ridden him for many years. Unfortunately, he left no registered offspring.

It is still barely possible that an unregistered son of one of these stallions tracing to Morrill and to Bulrush through Raven Chief may yet be living, but so many of the ranches during those years did not register their horses. It is also possible that Raven Chief could have male line descendants in the Lost Morgans of the

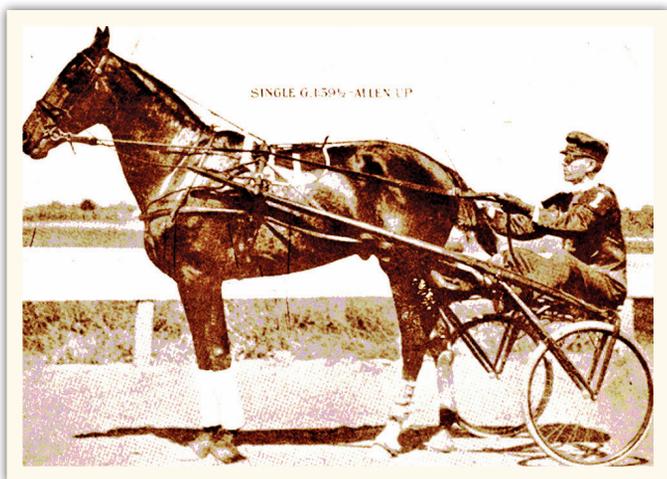
Tehachapi Mountain herd of Oak Creek Canyon, as he was a black stallion and the Fickerts' Bear Valley Ranch was among the early sources of Morgan blood about the time that herd began.

The Morrill sireline endured for nearly a century and a half with little help, which is remarkable enough in itself. Descendants of Morrill, tracing through the Mountain Chief family, are still widespread throughout the breed. Some other examples of this family may be found in Cross Ranch breeding, such as descendants of the well-known Chingadero (Ketchum x Haager) tracing through the stallion Imperial (Admiral George Dewey x Duchess), as well as horses tracing to Aranaway breeding with crosses to Phil Morrison's foundation stallion Aranafield (Sonfield x Lady Margaret).

PERKINS YOUNG MORRILL

Undoubtedly among the most noted sons of Morrill was Young Morrill, a handsome dark bay horse 15¾ hands tall and weighing 1,160 pounds. He was foaled about 1850 and bred by Fred Smith of Walden, Vermont. His dam was an inbred Morgan mare, bred by Seneca Ladd of Danville, and sired by the Lock Goss Horse, son of Chanticleer by Justin Morgan; second dam a daughter of the Little Randolph Horse by Bulrush; and third dam the Boardman mare, a noted road mare brought from Connecticut. The Lock Goss Horse was a dark bay, with star, heavy mane and tail, 15½ hands tall and 1,100 pounds, out of a wonderful mare by the name of Old Jin, who was a daughter of Justin Morgan. This gave Young Morrill at least seven crosses to Justin Morgan, two within four generations, four more in five, and one in six.

Young Morrill passed through several owners during the first few years of his life and was finally purchased as a seven-year-old by S. R. Perkins of Boston, Massachusetts, after which he became known as Perkins' Young Morrill. Mr. Perkins owned him until his death in 1880 at the age of 32. He received first premium at the Vermont State Fair of 1853, and was first among the Bulrush Morgans exhibited at Rutland, Vermont in 1855. During the latter



TOP TO BOTTOM: Cobden S and Cobden S Jr. (*American Morgan Horse Register, Vol 11*); Single G, famous pacer tracing to Draco (*Allbreedpedigree.com*).

part of 1855, he also was shown at the National Exhibition in Boston and won the first premium of \$200 offered in the class for Best Horses for General Use. Although he never made the 2:30 list, he did have quite a bit of speed. His official record was 2:31, but he was timed privately in 2:25 under saddle and 2:30 in harness.

Young Morrill's best sons included the noted black trotting stallion Draco, 2:28½ (x Buswell mare tracing to Woodbury Morgan) and full brother Danville Boy who also raced successfully. Mr. Aaron Smith, who owned Danville Boy, described him as follows:

"Danville Boy was a strongly Morgan-made horse, deep shoulders, broad on back, hips round and heavily muscled, small head, neck and ear, large eye and nostril, but naturally rather low-headed. In disposition he was very kind whilst I owned him, and he was very intelligent. He trotted in Canada in 2:33, but I often heard the remark from outsiders, when he was on the track, about starting to trot, that he could not trot because too thick-set."

Descendants of Danville Boy are also numerous. Some may remember Verran's Laddie (Lippitt Moro Ash x Ruthven's Polly Ann), winner of many championships in the early 1950s. His 6th dam was a daughter of Danville Boy. Among the descendants of Verran's Laddie are many working Western and sport Morgans including many with the Triple S prefix; the Champion Reining Stallion Montana Harvest (Triple S Red Cedar x Tia Margarita), and all the way to the lovely 2015 filly Chrome Swagger (Lisa's Captain Jack x Coachman's Momento) who carries many rare lines in her pedigree.

Draco sired Draco Prince 2:24¼, from the inbred Morgan mare Lady Draco (Captain Lightfoot by Black Hawk x Burbank mare by Rice Horse x mare by General Hibbard, son of Woodbury Morgan). Draco Prince was a powerfully built black stallion, 16 hands tall and weighing 1,100 pounds, and was the winner of 12 races. Descendants of Morrill through Draco are widespread in Morgans today, found in most Lippitts and Lamberts through Lippitt foundation mare Susie (Donaldson x Nellie) and also Lippitt foundation stallion Bilirubin, tracing through Cobden S and Cobden S Jr. Both these lines bring in two crosses to Morrill through Draco, as well as additional lines through Morrill sons Colby's Young Morrill and Vermont Ranger. These lines are also commonly found among Western working and sport Morgans through C. X. Larrabee and Jackson Ranch breeding. Descendants of Draco can also be found in many Standardbreds today, including the famous pacing stallion Single G. Single G's second dam was Maude by Clifton Boy whose dam Nelly Draco was a daughter of Draco. Single G, known as "the horse that time forgot," made his record of 1:58½ in 1923 in a contested race. He won 262 heats with earnings of over \$120,000 and was the first horse ever to win more than \$100,000 in contested races.

Fearnaught (Perkin's Young Morrill x Jenny by Napoleon Morgan), one of the few chestnut horses among the early Morrills, and marked with a white off hind foot, took his color from the sire of his dam. Napoleon Morgan was a son of Flint Morgan and out of a daughter of Cock Of The Rock by Sherman Morgan. Bred by Greenleaf Brown of Stratham, New Hampshire, Fearnaught was foaled in 1859, stood 15½ hands tall, and weighed 1,050 pounds. His dam, Jenny, was described as high-headed mare of great courage and speed, able to pull two men to a heavy wagon faster than a rate of 2:40.

She was a daughter of Napoleon Morgan, son of Flint Morgan, and her dam was got by Vermont Beauty, and 3rd dam, Kate was got by the Piper Horse, thought to be a son or grandson of Justin Morgan.

Fearnaught was a horse of great elegance as well as speed, and sold to Colonel H. S. Russell, proprietor of the Home Farm, Milton, Massachusetts, for the remarkable sum of \$25,000, a tremendous amount for a horse in those days. In 1868, as a nine-year-old, Fearnaught won a race at Buffalo for a purse of \$10,000. He made a record of 2:23¼ in this race, earning the title of Champion Trotting Stallion of the World.

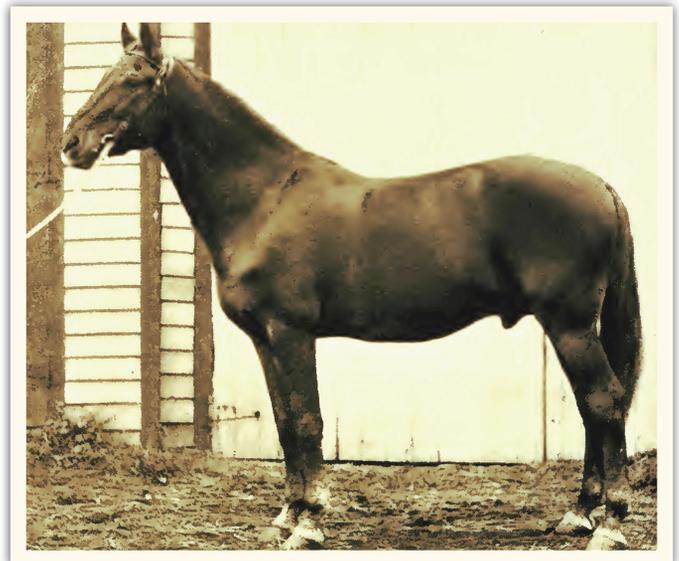
S.W. Parlin, a noted turf writer wrote of Fearnaught:

“His success in trotting, together with his remarkable beauty, elegant style and superior road qualities, gave him very great popularity. In the show ring he was quite as successful as upon the turf. His last victory as a prize-winner was at the New England fair of 1872, when he received the premiums and gold medal offered for the best stock horse. His death occurred at the Home Farm, Milton, in 1873. During the last few years of his life Fearnaught’s service fee was two hundred and fifty dollars”. (*American Morgan Horse Register Vol. I*)

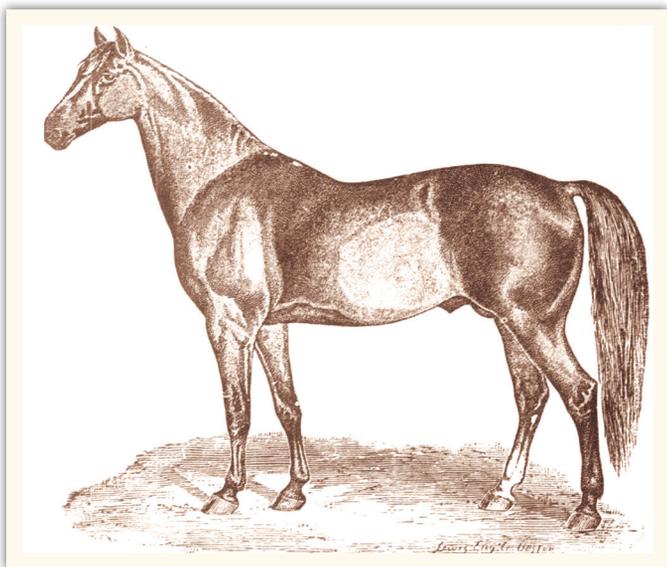
One of his most striking sons, Tornado (x mare by Ericcson) was a black stallion 16 hands tall and weighing 1,050 pounds. He passed through several owners and was taken to Avoca, North Carolina where he was exhibited at the fair with many of his get, and taking many prizes. His blood was lost to the Morgan breed. Fearnaught’s son Monogram (x mare by Vermont Ranger, son of Morrill) was the sire of Olive (x Bob Draper), dam of Morrill Queen. His descendants are widespread in lines tracing to Hill and Sellman breeding, Brunk breeding through Go Hawk and Flyhawk, and also may be found among Quarter Horses, Standardbreds, and Russian Trotters. Fearnaught’s descendants also include four famous full siblings by the legendary pacer Dan Patch, whose sire was the registered Morgan Joe Patchen (Patchen Wilkes x Josephine Young). These were all out of the mare Reneline whose dam, Kate Fearnaught, was a daughter of Royal Fearnaught, (Fearnaught x Lady Smothers by Draco. One of these colts, Dazzle Patch, was said to be Dan Patch’s best son and called the fastest colt in the world, pacing half a mile in 59 seconds when he was just 28 months old.

Morrill Prince (Perkins’ Young Morrill x mare by Flint Morgan), was a handsome dark bay with small star, 15½ hands tall and weighed 925 pounds. He was bred by Zachariah Batchelder of Bridge, New Hampshire, and was sold for \$1,500 to J.M. and M.B. Davis of Maine who kept him at several locations for 20 years. He was very stylish, and his kind and gentle temperament made him popular as a ladies’ driving horse, but he did not breed on.

Winthrop Morrill, another noted son of Perkin’s Young Morrill, was a bright bay with star and off hind ankle, and his mane and tail were full and heavy. He stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,050 pounds, and was bred by Lewis Waterman of Barre, Vermont. His dam was a daughter of the Huckins Horse by Royal Morgan, son of Sherman Morgan, and second dam by Morgan Eagle, son of Woodbury Morgan, and third dam a daughter of Bulrush. The Winthrop Morrills were stylish and beautiful horses as well as fast; at the close of 1877, Winthrop Morrill was fifth among leading sires of



TOP TO BOTTOM: Fearnaught (*American Morgan Horse Register, Vol I*); Tornado and his colt exhibiting at a fair in Avoca, North Carolina (*American Morgan Horse Register, Vol I*); Royal Fearnaught, the fastest son of famous pacer Dan Patch.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Dazzle Patch, who paced half a mile in 59 seconds when he was 28 months old, was called the fastest colt in the world (*International Stock Book*); Morrill Prince (*American Morgan Horse Register, Vol 1*); Winthrop Morrill (*The History of the Walkers and Morrills*).

2:30 performers. One of his best sons was Walker Morrill, a bay with white stripe in face, three white socks and one white ankle, standing 15¾ hands tall, foaled in 1869. He was bred by G. H. Fulson of Winthrop, Maine and out a Morgan mare named Fanny, sired by the Eaton Horse. He passed through several owners, one of which was E. C. Walker, who wrote of him in the *Chicago Horseman*, 1886, "He is a youngster of remarkable power, combined with smoothness and finish all over, and in motion is very attractive, his gait being as square and level as ever was seen...." This blood was lost to the Morgan breed and may only be found today among Saddlebreds, Standardbreds (including many in Denmark and Finland), and French Trotters.

Woodstock (Perkins' Young Morrill x mare by Quicksilver), also called John Morrill, was a brown or black horse, 16 hands tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. Descendants of Woodstock include those tracing through Hind's Ethan Allen (Ashley's Ethan Allen x Nell Collins by Morgan Enterprise). His dam's sire was by Killington, son of Woodstock. The rare line of gray Morgans descending from the mare Saycrest Frosty Miss (Sherman L x Frosty's Blue Bonnet) trace to Woodstock through the gray mare Toy (Troubadour Of Willowmoor x Rachel by Hind's Ethan Allen).

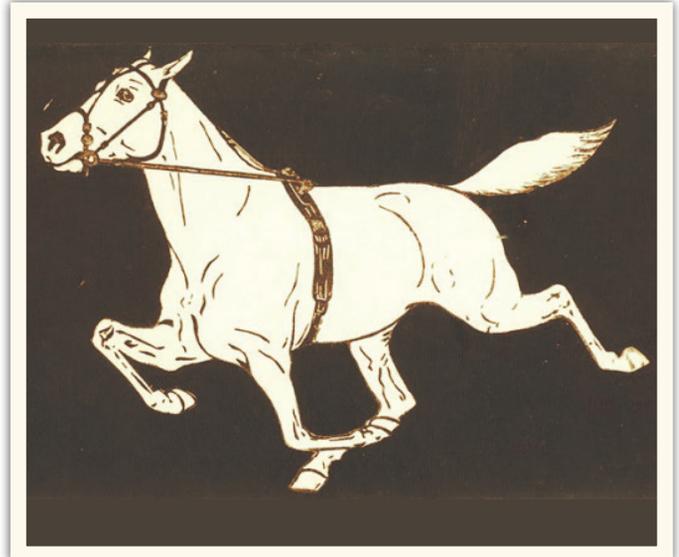
The famous pacing gelding Amos R (Alcryon x the Morgan mare Little Witch by Ben Franklin, son of Daniel Lambert; 2nd dam by Woodstock, son of Perkin's Young Morrill by Morrill) raced from 1891–1896 and held the title of World Champion Pacing Horse with a record of 2:09½. He was also shown in "guideless wonder" fair exhibits, pacing alone wearing no harness or bridle, but simply a garland of roses which contrasted beautifully with his gray coat, and had a record of 1:00½ for the half mile pacing this way.

An excellent example of the Morrill influence and how the lines are interwoven comes through the foundation Lippitt mare Bonnie Jean, with at least 71 crosses to Justin Morgan and believed to carry over 28 percent of his blood by conservative standards. Bonnie Jean was a daughter of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d. Her dam Bessie was by Phelps Horse, a son of General Lyon by Morrill; 2nd dam Lady Chesley by Morrill Champion, son of Vermont Ranger by Morrill; 3rd dam Bay Nellie by Defiance, son of General Lyon by Morrill. Defiance's dam was the Hoyt mare by Litchfield Horse (Kossuth x mare by Morrill) and his 2nd dam was the Heath mare by Draco Prince son of Draco. Bonnie Jean's 4th Dam was Black Bess by Oregon Pathfinder, son of Morrill. Thus she carried altogether five crosses to Morrill, through four different sons and one daughter. Among her foals was the great mare Cornwall Lass (x Donald), dam of Cornwallis (x Sealect). Sealect (Sir Ethan Allen x Bell Marea), sire of Cornwallis, was also one of the Lippitt foundation stallions and brought in yet another line to Morrill through his fourth dam Nellie (Ed McKay Horse x Martin Vance mare) who was a granddaughter of Heenan, son of Morrill. He also traced to Morrill through Barre Morrill, son of Perkins' Young Morrill, and out of a daughter of Bulrush. Sealect's son, Allen's Major (x Nubbin [Bilirubin x Hannah]), brought in several additional lines through Woodstock, Draco, Vermont Ranger, and Colby's Young Morrill.

Numerous lines tracing to Morrill are woven repeatedly in notable Morgans of all disciplines, demonstrating the quiet but powerful influence of Morrill which has played an integral role in preserving important elements of the Morgan breed. ■

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