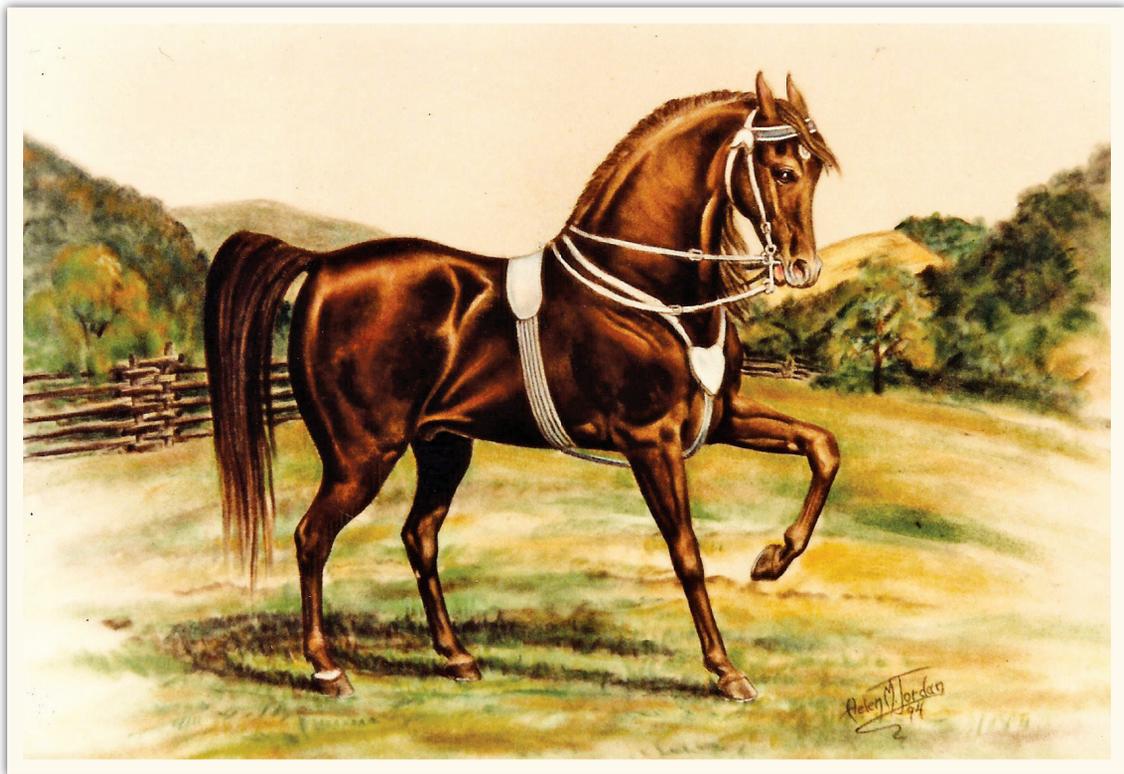


Billy Root, FORGOTTEN SON OF SHERMAN MORGAN

Some of the most vital elements in Morgan pedigrees are often overlooked. One such example is Billy Root, a prepotent son of Sherman Morgan who contributed a strong influence to the Morgan breed, though he is often overlooked and receives little credit.

By Brenda L. Tippin

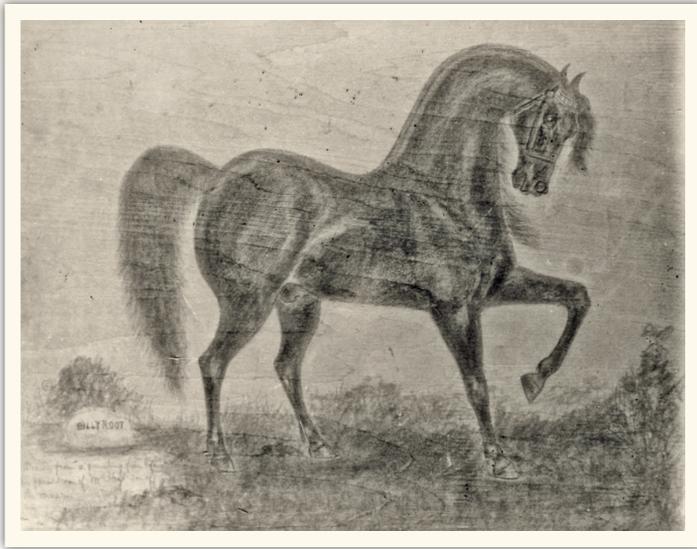


EARLY HISTORY — ST JOHNSBURY

In 1786, Governor Thomas Chittenden of Vermont granted a tract of land in Orange County to Jonathan Arnold and his associates, which was the Township of St. Johnsbury. Arnold built the first frame house in the town, which was formally organized and given its name in 1790. The town was named after the French American farmer and writer Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur, who became well known for his book which was

published in Europe, *Letters From an American Farmer*, describing life on the American frontier. He suggested the name St. Johnsbury, to distinguish it from the many towns already bearing the name St. John. In 1792, Orange County was divided, and St. Johnsbury became the shire town of Caledonia County, which was formally organized in 1796. Covering an area of nearly 37 square miles, the town included the unincorporated villages of St. Johnsbury, East St. Johnsbury, St. Johnsbury Center, and Goss Hollow, and was situated

ABOVE: 1995 painting of Billy Root by Helen Jordan, done from A. Fullerton Phillips' drawing (courtesy of Lyle F. Horton Memorial Ancient Morgan Archive).



LEFT TO RIGHT: Drawing of Billy Root done from a painting, made by A. Fullerton Phillips on a wooden placemat while staying at his hotel in Windsor, Vermont. The original painting was done in 1847, and the wording states that it was done from life while Billy was owned by Mr. Hoyt (courtesy of Lyle F. Horton Memorial Ancient Morgan Archive); Full brothers Billy King, left, and Billy Root (Wildair by Putnam Morgan x Nelly Morgan by Arabian Morgan son of Billy Root) (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol I).

at the confluence of the Passumpsic, Moose, and Sleepers Rivers.

For many years the home of old Justin Morgan himself, much of the early Morgan blood was concentrated in the St. Johnsbury region. David Goss, who kept Justin Morgan between 1804 – 1811, first settled in St. Johnsbury in 1792, camping under the trees while he built his home. He built the first sawmill in a little hamlet which became known as Goss Hollow, and soon there was added a grist mill, starch factory, a cloth dressing and wool carding mill, a tannery, and the blacksmith shop where old Justin was brought to be trimmed when he made his first appearance in St. Johnsbury, in 1804. The land was still thickly forested, and Goss kept the old horse hard at work for most of the year clearing and farming. His stock soon proved valuable. Justin's sons, old Sherman Morgan, Weasel, Rover, Chanticleer, and the Hawkins horse, all stood in St. Johnsbury, and he left many daughters there, as well. In fact, in Volume I of *The Morgan Horse and Register* alone, there are more than 40 stallions registered who were kept at least a part of their life in the vicinity of St. Johnsbury. Most of these were either sons or inbred grandsons and great-grandsons, so that by the time Billy Root was bred, the Morgan blood was by far the predominant strain.

St. Johnsbury was a prosperous community and the population had more or less doubled to nearly 1,600 from the days of Justin Morgan to the time Billy Root was foaled. In 1815, Joseph Fairbanks and his sons Erastus and Thaddeus set up a grist and saw mill at St. Johnsbury, and established a foundry and wheelwright business, manufacturing stoves, cast-iron plows, hoes, and pitchforks. They also made carriages and wagons. Thaddeus was an inventor and obtained many patents. It was he who developed the early refrigerator, and St. Johnsbury became known for his invention, in 1830, of the platform scales. These were originally used for weighing hemp, and allowed accurate weighing of wagon loads. Hemp was an important crop in those days, due to the strength of its fibers which were used to make clothing, rope, and

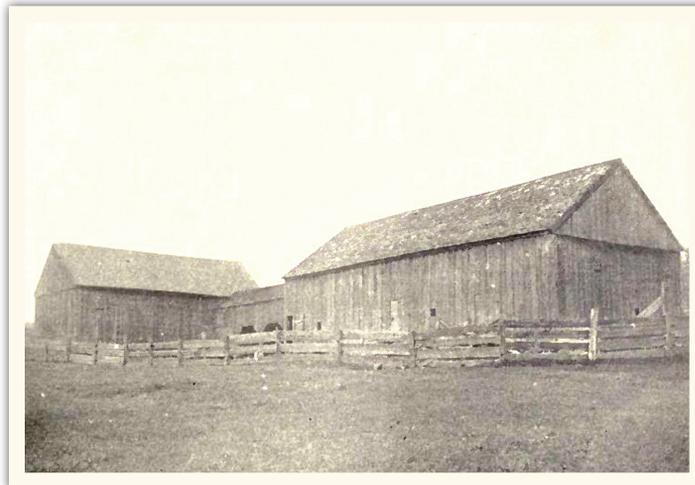
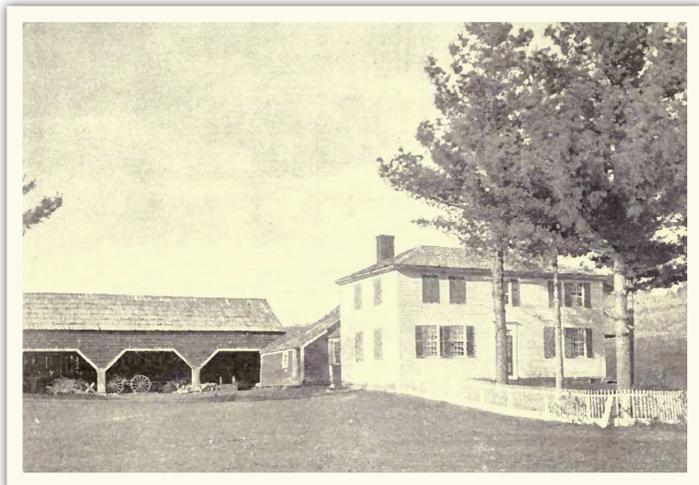
more. The Fairbanks Scales company is still in operation today. The Fairbanks family also established the St. Johnsbury Academy, a private boarding school, in 1842, which is also still in operation.

HEZEKIAH MARTIN

Hezekiah Martin was a descendant of John Martin, who was born in England in 1633 and was one of the early settlers of Bristol, Massachusetts. Hezekiah's father, Isaac Martin, a great-grandson of John Martin, was born in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in 1756, and served as a Revolutionary soldier. In 1781, Isaac married Mehitable Peck, and after the birth of their third of eleven children, they moved to Cumberland, Rhode Island, where Hezekiah, the fourth child, was born in 1787. The family moved to Vermont in a covered wagon in 1796 when Hezekiah was nine years old, and at which time they had eight children. The wagon was drawn by a fiery pair of young horses and going down a long and steep hill, the whiffletree became detached, falling on the heels of the team and causing them to spook and begin running full speed down the hill. While Isaac had his hands full trying to manage the team, his wife managed to secure the whiffletree and tied it in place with her garter.

The family settled first in Waterford, where the ninth child was born, and then about 1800, when Hezekiah was 13, they moved to St. Johnsbury, where the last two children were born. Later, the family moved to East Burke, but Hezekiah remained in St. Johnsbury. He was captain of a company of militia during the war of 1812, and in September of 1814, led his company to assist in the Battle of Plattsburgh, but it was finished before his troops arrived.

In 1819, he was married to Roxalana Sheldon of Herkimer County, New York, and they had five children. Hezekiah served as the Worshipful Master of the Passumpsic Freemason Lodge in St. Johnsbury; was a deacon in the North Congregational Church, and a leading citizen of the town.



TOP: St. Johnsbury, Vermont, in 1915, still the Morgan center (Library of Congress); **BOTTOM:** The residence and barn of David Goss in Goss Hollow, St. Johnsbury, where old Justin Morgan was kept 1805 – 1811. The house was built 1793 – 1794 and was a familiar sight to Billy Root as well (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol I).

BENJAMIN HIBBARD

Benjamin Hibbard was a descendant of the immigrant Robert Hibbard, born in Salisbury, England, in 1613, and who came to Salem, Massachusetts, about 1635. His son Robert, a twin, was very involved in the church in Wenham, Massachusetts, grandson Joseph built the first bridge across the Shetucket, and great-grandson Joseph born in 1703 was a highly regarded physician. He was the father of Augustine, a minister and chaplain during the Revolutionary war. Augustine's son Pliny V., the father of Benjamin, was born in Rutland, Vermont, in 1790. He married first Sybil Nelson, who died in 1823, and then having seven young children to care for, soon married Hannah Larrabee of the same town. Benjamin, born in Sherbrooke, Canada, August 30, 1825, was the second child of this union. Pliny was an evangelist for the Canadian Board of Protestant Missions, and also sold Bibles for the Montreal Bible Society and the French-Canadian Missionary Society.

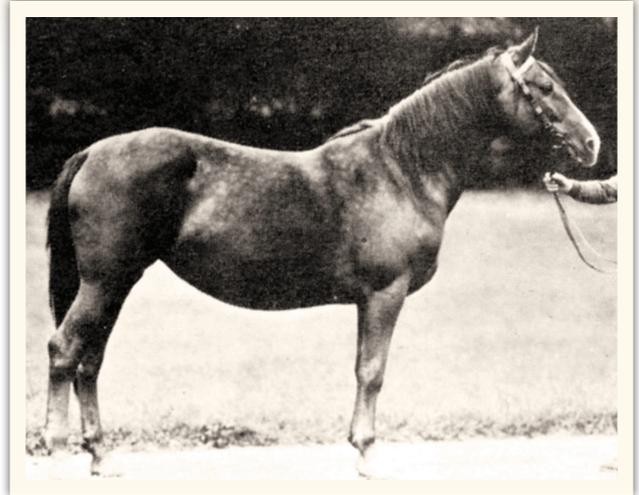
According to Benjamin, his father also kept a tavern there, as well as at Stanstead on the Vermont-Canada line, where they moved when he was less than a year old. In today's world, the idea of an evangelist keeping a tavern might seem incongruous, but in those days, keeping a tavern held special cultural and social significance. The tavern served a variety of functions, and in some respects, were more like inns, providing a place for travelers to obtain directions, get a meal, or spend the night. Taverns were also important to the community as places for local gatherings, dances, meetings, and other events. Local farmers and merchants

would also gather there to discuss crops, politics, and other news. Sessions of court and religious meetings were also held in taverns. Early Americans considered alcohol a safer beverage than water, even for children, and it did not begin to be a moral issue until after 1830 when consumption peaked and slowly began to taper off. Benjamin's father was well acquainted with the early Morgans, including Sherman Morgan, and taught him to appreciate their strength, endurance, and willingness for all tasks.

When a boy, Benjamin went to St. Johnsbury to work for Captain Hezekiah Martin and learn a trade, and there had charge of Billy Root when the colt was coming four years old. Years later, Hibbard recalled,

"I could ride or drive him anywhere, no matter what was in the way for he was afraid of nothing under heaven. But I could never lead him, for he always led me. He had so many admirable qualities that he filled me so full of love for the Morgan horse I have never gotten over it. I used to take him out in the field and exercise him by the bridle, but he generally, exercised me more than I did him, for he was so full of life and energy, and had so much endurance, that he always tired me out, except when I was riding or driving him, then I never saw him show a sign of having had enough...."

"He was a perfect beauty. His head was always up and his eyes flashing, and he was all the time anxious to go ahead. He had so much endurance that I do not believe he could have been driven so far in one day but that he could have come



LEFT TO RIGHT: Billy Roberts (Chase's Mountaineer by Streeter Horse x Roberta by Billy Folsom, son of Streeter Horse) (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol III); Ruth (Reynard x Laura Jay by Borden's Ethan Allen 3d) (AMHA archives).

home the next. There was so much of what I call nervous energy in his composition that the hardest punishment you could give him was to deprive him of the privilege of taking his exercise." (*Massachusetts Ploughman and New England Journal of Agriculture*, December 29, 1900)

Later, Hibbard also recalled that both Billy and his dam were completely fearless, and could be ridden or driven into a crowd if asked without swerving right or left, and compel them to scatter. On one occasion, he was riding down the street and a group of men were talking with no inclination to get out of the way. He pointed Billy straight for them and they were forced to move. A Mr. Jewett told him indignantly that he would not be able to do that again, so he went back and started down the street. This time, Mr. Jewett, confident that he could turn the horse aside opened his umbrella into Billy's face. Not phased in the least, Billy kept coming and Mr. Jewett was obliged to get out of the way. (*Middlebury Register*, January 11, 1889)

THE BREEDING OF BILLY ROOT

Billy Root was foaled in 1829, the property of Hezekiah Martin, of St. Johnsbury, and his dam was always said to be a daughter of Justin Morgan. Battell later changed the pedigree based on a certificate from Hezekiah Martin stating:

"This is to certify that the Root horse was raised by me, and was sired by the Sherman Morgan horse; and the Sherman horse and the grandmother of the Root horse were sired by the old Morgan horse. HEZEKIAH MARTIN.

St. Johnsbury, July 27th, 1885."

Linsley does not give Hezekiah Martin as the breeder, but states that Billy Root "was foaled the property of Hezekiah Martin," suggesting that he bought the dam in foal. The certificate above, given by Battell, was evidently copied from a later source, as Captain Martin died in 1859. Linsley states the dam was half French, and Battell suggests she was sired by a horse Matthew Allen brought from

Montreal. Linsley does not mention Matthew Allen in connection with the dam of Billy Root, however he was an old timer who had known the original Justin Morgan horse from the time Justin Morgan the schoolmaster first began offering him for service in Lebanon, in 1793. Matthew Allen came with James Sherman to St. Johnsbury in 1799, and was present when he acquired the dam of Sherman Morgan for the express purpose of breeding her to Justin Morgan. Matthew Allen himself was among the earliest breeders of Morgans and inbred strains, so if he did own or breed the dam, she probably was a daughter of Justin Morgan as many of the early sources indicate.

According to Benjamin Hibbard, Captain Martin always stated that while he did not positively know the sire of the dam (indicating he had not bred her himself), he always believed she was a daughter of the Justin Morgan horse, a tradition that was widely held by others who knew the mare at the time, and was also borne out by her style and character. It may be possible that her dam was a daughter of Justin Morgan as well, making her three-fourths of his blood.

DAM OF BILLY ROOT

The dam of Billy Root was a small brown mare, which Linsley gives as weighing 1,000 pounds. Benjamin Hibbard believed her size was closer to 850 or 900 pounds when he knew her as a young boy. Accounts at the time give her sire as Justin Morgan and her dam as a "half French" mare, who may also have had Morgan blood. Benjamin Hibbard described this little mare as the greatest roadster he ever saw. When in harness and asked to go, she would be trotting at her top speed in an instant and, if not held, would break and run, requiring a constant strong pull to keep her from doing so. She would hold this gait all day, uphill and down, without showing the least sign of fatigue, and it took so much strength to hold her, it was some time before Captain Martin would allow Benjamin, still just a young boy, to drive her. Boy-like, he continued to pester the captain for a chance to drive her just the same, and one day, Captain Martin told him he could drive her if he wanted



LEFT TO RIGHT: Tony Arana on Sonfield (Mansfield x Quietude), 24 years old, June 1959 (courtesy of Linda Beckley McBride); Troubadour of Willowmoor (Troubadour x Fanny 2d by Bob Morgan) (*USDA Circular* Vol 199); Quietude (Troubadour of Willowmoor x Ruth by Reynard) (AMHA archives).

but if the mare ran away with him, he would get a horse-whipping. Benjamin agreed to take her on that condition, and finding that soon his shoulders and fingers would ache with the exhaustion of trying to hold her, he knotted the reins around himself and sat down on them and drove her home that way. Captain Martin, greatly amused, said he would do and thereafter he was allowed to drive her. On three occasions, Captain Martin drove the mare from Portland, Maine, to St. Johnsbury, a distance of 120 miles, in a single day and the next morning she was as fresh as ever and ready to go again.

BILLY ROOT

Also known as Comet or Red Bird, Billy Root was a small, compact and powerful son of Sherman Morgan. He was a beautiful shade of dark chestnut in color, marked with a small star, and a little white on his off-hind heel. The hair on his body was said to be a little long, but extraordinarily soft and silky, with few long hairs about his fetlocks and his legs and feet were solid as iron and of excellent quality. His countenance was unusually bright and cheerful with a playful nature and tireless, restless energy which always made him ready for any task.

Captain Martin sold Billy Root to Eldad Root in 1833. At that time, he weighed about 947 pounds. Mr. Root kept Billy for about ten years, standing him in a number of places. He was kept for a time in New York, near Genesee Flats, a remarkably fertile alluvial plain lying along the banks of the Genesee River where the grass was said to grow over ten feet tall for a stretch of 20 miles. Then, he was kept for several years in Lyndon, Vermont, just north of St. Johnsbury, and then for four years in the vicinity of Highgate and Franklin, Vermont, near the Canadian border and across the line to Bedford in the Province of Quebec. Benjamin Hibbard recalled that one winter, Mr. Root had Billy in Burke, a few miles north of Lyndon, and he drove some distance out of his way to see him. Mr. Root had gone to Portland, Maine, and left orders for Billy not to be taken out of the stable, but the horse fairly danced for joy at the sight of his old friend. Billy was kept all winter in the stable without

exercise and suffered greatly for the lack. Mr. Root then sold him to Captain Stevens of St. Johnsbury, and Billy had a hard year at the hands of Stevens' sons who, according to Hibbard, abused the old horse shamefully, driving him for long distances at the top of his speed on winter nights, and then leaving him to stand hitched for hours, shivering in the cold while they enjoyed dances and other gatherings.

Stevens then sold the horse to Mr. Filer of Burke, Vermont, who traded him to Eleazer Smith of Haverhill, New Hampshire, and a few months later bought him back. Filer then took him to Springfield, Massachusetts, for a time and he was later sold to a man in Warehouse Point, East Windsor, Connecticut, and then to Sharon, Connecticut. Meanwhile, his stock had proved so good that in 1847, Mr. Bemis and Mr. Hoyt brought him back to Lyndon, and he was kept for the next several seasons at Hoyt's stable. By popular demand, he was taken back to Highgate for one more season in 1850, and then returned to Lyndon. He died very suddenly in the spring of 1852 of a ruptured blood vessel. Mr. Hoyt recalled, "I tended Billy Root for six years and in that time bred him to 600 mares, three-quarters of which he got in foal. I never saw so handsome a horse as he; never saw him make a false step." (*The Morgan Horse and Register, Volume I*)

OFFSPRING AND DESCENDANTS OF BILLY ROOT

Only 34 offspring of Billy Root are recorded in the Morgan registry, and all but one of these are stallions. It would be impossible to cover even all of those that are registered, but Billy Root had hundreds more progeny than ever found their way into the registry volumes. A few of these, particularly the daughters, may be traced in the pedigrees of other horses, and it is safe to say that while Billy Root has been given less recognition than some others, he was nevertheless one of the founding pillars of the breed, and multiple crosses to him may be found in virtually all families and disciplines of the breed today.

STREETER HORSE

Bred by James Greeley of Lyndon, Vermont, and foaled in 1844,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Upwey Ben Don (Upwey King Benn x Quietude), at 21 years, driven by Patty Davis Ferguson bringing Vermont Governor Hoff into a show ring (photo © Warren Patriquin); Reynard (Billy Roberts x Topsy by Billy Bodette) (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol III).

the Streeter Horse was a chestnut marked with a white stripe in the face, and one white hind foot. Out of a daughter of the Batchelder Horse by Sherman Morgan, he was 14 hands tall and weighed 875 pounds. He was eventually sold to William Streeter of East Burke, Vermont, and kept mostly in that area. Also known as the Greeley Horse, the Streeter Horse is widespread in Morgan pedigrees today, and without a doubt one of the most important sons of Billy Root, tracing through many lines to Brunk, Lippitt, and Midwest breeding.

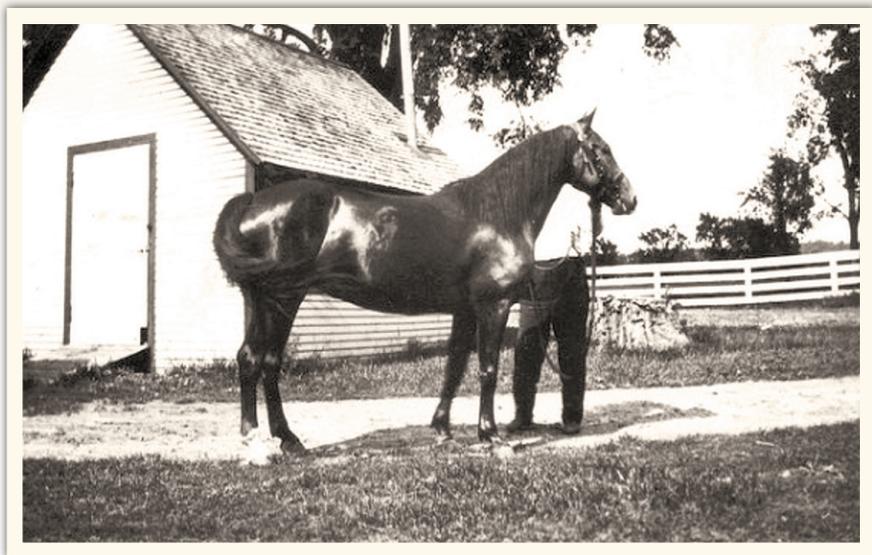
The Streeter Horse left only four registered offspring, but was nevertheless one of the best sons of Billy Root and left a solid influence on the breed. Most of this comes through two sons, Billy Folsom and Chase's Mountaineer. Chase's Mountaineer was bred by Walter Chase of Sheffield, Vermont, and foaled in 1873. He was dark chestnut with a stripe in the face, and white on the inside of his hind feet. He stood 15 hands tall and weighed, 1,000 pounds. Mountaineer's dam was a daughter of Sprague's Ethan Allen 2d, a son of the Putnam Horse by Woodbury, and second dam by the Dr. Richmond colt a son of Royal Morgan.

Old Mountaineer was owned throughout his life by his breeder, and kept primarily in Sheffield, but also stood in Sutton, East Burke, Wheelock, and Lyndon among other places. He was used largely for farm and team work, and his stock was considered valuable. One of his daughters, Bessie, was registered in Volume I and became a foundation mare for Frank McGavock. Bessie was a dark chestnut marked with a stripe in the face, bred by Joseph Barber of Sheffield and foaled in 1885. Her dam was sired by a son of Royal Morgan (Sherman Morgan x Aldrich mare by Justin Morgan) and her second dam was a daughter of Billy Folsom by the Streeter Horse. Five of her offspring were registered, but she is found in Morgan pedigrees today primarily through her daughters Ventura (x Venture) and Bess Franklin (x Chetco).

Ventura was the dam of Dr. Strawn (x Strawn Reade), who in turn sired Sangamo out of J. C. Brunk's famous mare Senata (Senator x Daisy). Sangamo's daughter Florence produced the

stallion Found-At-Last, used by the Jackson Ranch. This line can be found in many Western working pedigrees. Better known still was Bessie's daughter Bess Franklin, bred by J. C. Brunk. Bess Franklin won first and second premiums at the Illinois State Fairs, as well as sweepstakes every time she was shown against all breeds at Nashua, Iowa. Her descendants include C. J. O' Neill's famous stallion Archie O (Archy Hudson x Byrrh), Sparhawk (Dart x Lucy L), Linspar (Linsley x Sparbelle) and many other lines tracing to Brunk breeding, all reinforced with multiple crosses to Billy Root. Bessie herself passed through several owners and was eventually sold to Gilroy, California, though Bess Franklin was her last registered foal.

Billy Roberts (Chase's Mountaineer x Roberta) was considered one of the "Old Guard" by early New England breeders. Billy Roberts had three crosses to the Streeter Horse within three generations and four crosses to Billy Root in five generations. His dam, Roberta, was a daughter of Billy Folsom by the Streeter Horse, and her second dam was a daughter of the Streeter Horse. Roberta's fourth dam was the Clark mare, a daughter of Billy Root. Billy Roberts was the sire of Billy Hoffman (x mare by Billy Folsom), who in turn sired the mare, Lippitt Sallie, who appears in many Lippitt pedigrees, as well as descendants of Easter Twilight (Lippitt Sam Twilight x Conniedale) and the recently rediscovered Easter Twilight herd in New York. Billy Roberts also sired Billy Rosebrooks (x Daisy Bodette), which line can be found among descendants of Lippitt Ethan Ash (Ashbrook x Trilby); Lyndon (x Topsy by Billy Bodette), maternal grandsire of the great show mare and producer Vigilda Burkland; and Result (x mare by Ben Franklin), the maternal grandsire of Anna Ela's remarkable little foundation mare Gladwin (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Delight). Gladwin produced three remarkable full siblings by John A. Darling (Moro x Bridget). These were Gladloss, foaled in 1930, dam of 12 outstanding foals for Townshend Farm; Sadwin, foaled in 1930, who was Anna's wonderful endurance mare; and the lovely mare



LEFT TO RIGHT: Full sisters Hippolyta and Emily (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Maggie W by Brown Harry) (AMHA archives).

Townshend Lass, used by Francis Bryant, and who was the dam of 11 foals. Sadwin won numerous endurance rides for Anna Ela including the Maine Trail Ride in 1939, 1940, and 1941, retiring the trophy, and the lightweight division of the 100-mile Vermont ride in 1941. She was also chosen as Morgan Horse of the Year in 1941, and actor James Cagney tried to buy her from Mrs. Ela at fabulous price, but she refused to sell her beloved mare.

Billy Roberts was also the sire of Reynard, another colt of the Billy Bodette mare Topsy. Reynard is best remembered as the sire of the grand mare Ruth, who in turn produced the mare Quietude (x Troubadour Of Willowmoor), dam of Roland Hill's famous Western working sire Sonfield (x Mansfield), and also the great show sire Upwey Ben Don (x Upwey King Benn) and his full sister Upwey Benn Quietude, dam of Waseeka's Nocturne.

Billy Folsom, by the Streeter Horse, was a bay, bred by Austin Folsom of Wheelock, Vermont, and foaled in 1874. He was 15 hands tall and weighed about 900 pounds. Billy Folsom only produced three registered offspring, but nevertheless was a strong influence. In addition to the lines already mentioned, Billy Folsom was the sire of the excellent stallion, Brown Harry. Foaled in 1886, Brown Harry was, according to Volume I of *The Morgan Horse and Register*, bred by William Smith of East Haven, Vermont. According to A. Fullerton Phillips, however, Brown Harry was bred by Mrs. Adeline Bundy. Harry was seal brown in color, weighing 1,000 pounds and standing 15 hands tall.

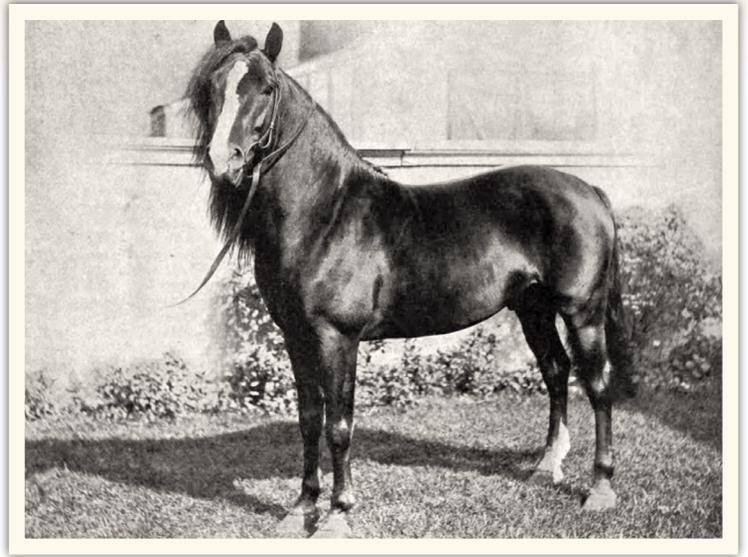
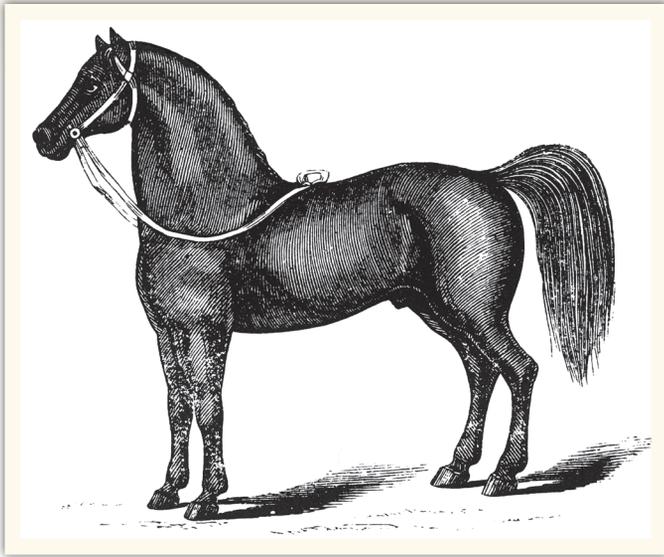
Intensively inbred with old Morgan blood, Brown Harry was considered one of the best bred old type Morgans of his day. He traced his sireline directly to Justin Morgan in five generations, and carried more than 30 crosses to the old horse, which was remarkable as he was foaled a little less than 100 years later. Brown Harry also was intensively inbred to Billy Root, having four crosses in five generations and carrying over 28 percent of his blood. Brown Harry's dam was a daughter of Charley Watson (Black Morgan x mare by Wood's Comet, son of Billy Root). His second dam was a daughter of the Coe Horse by Billy Root, and his third

dam was the famous Milking Stool mare by Billy Root.

Brown Harry sired just six registered foals, including five mares and one stallion. His first registered foal was the bay mare Maggie W. bred by Oscar Walter of East Haven, Vermont, foaled in 1891. Maggie was also inbred to Billy Root, being out of a daughter of the Streeter Horse. She produced three registered foals, a stallion, Hawkeye, and two daughters, Emily and Hippolyta, all by Borden's Ethan Allen 3d. All of these have descendants today, though her influence is especially felt through her daughters. Emily's only registered foal was the mare Green Mountain Twilight (x Rob Roy), dam of seven foals including Lippitt Sam Twilight (x Lippitt Sam), who in turn sired Easter Twilight (x Conniedale). Hippolyta produced five foals, including the mare Hepsibeth (x Ashbrook), fourth dam of Criterion (Jubilee's Courage x Lippitt Robrita), foundation sire for the Lamberts of Quietude.

Brown Harry was sold to the Morgan Horse Company in Carpentersville, Illinois, who bred Harry Morgan, the only son of Brown Harry. Harry Morgan was also inbred to Billy Root through his dam, as his dam was a daughter of the Bodette Horse who had two crosses to Billy Root through his son Wood's Comet; and his third dam was the Milking Stool mare by Billy Root. A bay marked with a star and foaled in 1893, Harry Morgan in turn sired the stallion Kansas Ranger, bred by Charles Shore of Arkalon, Kansas. Kansas Ranger was the sire of the mare Nellie Skinner, whose dam, Lady Skinner, was a daughter of Headlight Morgan, bringing in an extra line to Billy Root. Headlight Morgan's third dam was a daughter of the Dr. Abel Brown horse by Billy Root.

Nellie Skinner, who was registered as a bay mare and bred to the Headlight Morgan son Dan (x Kate B by The Admiral), produced the first Morgans in the breed recognized as carrying the rare silver dapple gene. While Dan is identified as the source of this rare but dominant gene, it is not clear where he got it. It is interesting to note that of Dan's seven registered offspring, three were out of Nellie Skinner, three out of his daughter Betty Skinner produced from Nellie Skinner, and one out of his and Nellie Skinner's



LEFT TO RIGHT: Wood's Comet by Billy Root (AMHA archives); Borden's Ethan Allen 3d (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Kitty Thurber) (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol 1).

granddaughter. Of Nellie Skinner's offspring, all three by Dan were silver. The fourth, by Dixie Dan (Headlight Morgan x Mollie A), a three-fourths brother of Dan, also produced silver when bred back to silver offspring of Dan and Nellie Skinner or Betty Skinner, the daughter of Nellie and Dan who was bred back to her sire. Thus, all known silvers in the breed (currently estimated at less than 100 living) trace to both Dan and Nellie Skinner, and carry multiple crosses to Billy Root. (Note: This is not to say that Billy Root was a source of silver, but that because of this breeding, Morgans which do have silver have many crosses to Billy Root blood.)

Brown Harry was later brought back to New Hampshire, and his last two registered foals were the full sisters, Bessie Fellows and Bell Fellows, bred by George Fellows of Lancaster, New Hampshire, out of the mare Rose Of Guildhall (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Nellie by Freeman's Morgan Star). (Note: Bessie was foaled in 1904 and Bell in 1905, and both are registered in Volume III, as is the dam, Rose Of Guildhall. However, in Bell's pedigree, the dam is referred to simply as "Rose" with the identical description and pedigree given without mentioning she was registered as in the pedigree of Bessie. Consequently, the online database lists Bell's dam as "unknown," although it is clear she was full sister of Bessie.) Bessie produced no registered offspring, however Bell was sold to C. C. Stillman and produced nine foals. Most of her descendants today trace through the full sisters Ruthven's Polly Ann and Ruthven's Sally Ann (Rajah x Albena).

WOOD'S COMET

A chestnut horse out of the Crane mare by Royal Morgan, Wood's Comet (#682) was bred by Jonas Flint of St. Johnsbury, and was foaled about 1846. He won many premiums at National and State Fairs, and also is widespread in Morgan pedigrees today and appears in all descendants of Borden's Ethan Allen 3rd (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Kitty Thurber). Wood's Comet left only five registered offspring, none of which bred on, at least so far as registered descendants. It is important to realize, however, that the vast majority of these

horses were never registered. Joseph Battell was criticized for not registering more of them, but it was still half a century before the first volume of the registry was published. Many of the old breeders in this vicinity who had information on some of these pedigrees were not willing to share it as they disapproved of Battell's registry rules, but neither were they willing to put forth the effort to establish a registry with rules more to their liking. Consequently, many of the old inbred strains were lost to the Morgan breed. Nevertheless, some of them can be found through tracing the pedigrees of other horses. Such was the case with Wood's Comet. Charles Watson, born about 1805, was one of the early breeders of Morgans, acquainted with the original Justin Morgan horse, who continued to carefully concentrate the Morgan blood for generations. He bred two daughters of Wood's Comet which were the backbone of many Morgan pedigrees. He bred a bay mare (Wilson Horse by Royal Morgan x bay daughter of Batchelder Horse by Sherman) to Wood's Comet, and produced a chestnut mare which became the dam of Charley Watson (Black Morgan 2d) and his full brother Morgan Tiger (x Black Morgan). This Watson mare was bred to Cushing's Green Mountain (Hale's Green Mountain Morgan x mare by Billy Root) and produced the second dam of Donald (Bob Morgan x Fanny) and the dam of McGennis' Comet (x Peter's Morgan). The line to Billy Root through McGennis' Comet (#3992) can also be traced among the descendants of Vigilda Burkland, as well as many Lambert Morgans, to mention a few examples.

This daughter of Wood's Comet also appears in the pedigrees of all descendants of the famous broodmare Artemisia (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Lady Laura). Kitty Thurber, the dam of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d was a daughter of Cushing's Green Mountain, whose dam was by Billy Root, and his second dam was a daughter of Charley Watson (Black Morgan 2d), who was out of the Watson mare by Wood's Comet. His fourth dam was a daughter of the Dr. Abel Brown Horse by Billy Root, and his fifth dam was the Milking Stool mare by Billy Root. Artemisia's dam, Lady Laura, was a daughter of Bob Morgan, who was out of another daughter



LEFT TO RIGHT: Artemisia (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Lady Laura by Bob Morgan) with Mrs. Oscar Walter (AMHA archives); Billy Bodette (Charley Watson [Black Morgan x mare by Wood's Comet] x mare by Wood's Comet); Vigilda Burkland (Vigilant x Lucinne by Lyndon) and Frank Orcutt (photo © Ira Haas).

of Cushing's Green Mountain, and her second dam, Laura, was a daughter of Morgan Tiger, Charley Watson's full brother. Artemisia's 3d dam was by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse, a son of Billy Root, and her 4th dam was by Billy Root, and according to some sources, was also believed to be the celebrated Milking Stool mare.

Charley Watson was also the sire of Black Betsy (x Betsy Baker [Coe Horse by Billy Root x Milking Stool by Billy Root]), the dam of Brown Harry. Another son of Charley Watson was the Butterfield Horse, who, when bred to the Streeter Horse produced the mare Belle C. Graves by Billy Roberts. C. C. Stillman bred Belle C. Graves to Donald, and sold the resulting filly, Donbelle, to Elmer Brown. Donbelle produced 15 foals, many of which can be found in Morgan pedigrees today. These include Sparbelle by Sparhawk; Viola Linsley, Margett L., Lisabelle, and Linsley Belle all by Linsley (General Gates x Sunflower Maid); and Lulu Belle R.M. (x Romanesque).

Wood's Comet also appears frequently in Morgan pedigrees today through Billy Bodette (Charley Watson x mare by Wood's Comet). This second daughter of Wood's Comet, also bred by Charles Watson, was a three-fourths sister of the dam of Charley Watson, being out of a daughter of Royal Morgan, rather than out of a daughter of his son, the Wilson Horse. Foaled in 1871, Billy Bodette, also known as the Bodette Horse, was bred by David Bodette of Lyndon Corner, Vermont, and was later owned by William Rosebrooks. He was a chestnut marked with a faint star, 15 hands tall and weighing 950 pounds. Only ten of his offspring were registered, but seven of these were mares, which was most unusual for that era, and six of these mares were registered in Volume I. His daughter Daisy (x mare by Billy Folsom) was a mainstay of the Brunk program, producing eleven foals including Ben's Daisy (x Ben Franklin), Senata (x Senator), Allen Franklin (x Jasper Franklin), and Red Ethan (x Black Dan). Lucy (x mare by Streeter Horse) was also important in the Brunk program as the dam of Senator (x Morgan Rupert) and Chista (x Chetco). Topsy was the dam of the stallions Reynard and Lyndon by Billy Roberts, and the mare Delight (x Result by Billy Roberts). Delight was the dam of Anna Ela's little foundation mare Gladwin (x Borden's Ethan Allen

3d). Reynard was the sire of Ruth (x Laura Jay [Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Fanny Jay by Billy Roberts]), who as mentioned, was the dam of the great mare Quietude, who produced both Upwey Ben Don and his full sister Upwey Benn Quietude (x Upwey King Benn, as well as Sonfield (x Mansfield), the great Western working sire, featured on the May/June 1940 cover of *Western Horseman* magazine. Lyndon was the sire of Lucinne (x Lady Laura), the dam of Vigilda Burkland. Lucinne was also a half-sister of Artemisia, both being out of Lady Laura, who carried four crosses to Billy Root in five generations. Another daughter of Lyndon was the mare Lady Lyndon (x Brown Beauty [Bob Morgan x Beauty by Pete Morgan]). Lady Lyndon's third dam was Laura, the dam of Lady Laura, and second dam of both Lucinne and Artemisia. Lady Lyndon produced nine foals including the mare Topaz (x Mansfield). Topaz was the dam of eight foals including Magellan (x Goldfield) and Fairytrop (x Delmont). Magellan in turn sired the great mare Rena (x Nubia), dam of Westwold Dona Resa (x Orcland Dondarling), Chasley's Superman (x Orcland Leader), and others. Fairytrop was also the second dam of Rena, and altogether produced fifteen foals including Mentor, the great son of Goldfield (Mansfield x Juno).

Billy Bodette was the sire of Young General Gifford (x Topsy by Cushing's Green Mountain), who was the fourth member of the "Old Guard" stallions at the Vermont State Fair along with Bob Morgan, Billy Roberts, and Pete Morgan. Young General Gifford sired the full brothers Willoughby Morgan and Prince Charlie (x mare by Dan Cushing). Willoughby Morgan won the stallion class in 1909, and Prince Charlie, owned by then Governor Allen Fletcher, won the prize for stallions four and over in 1911. Prince Charlie was declared to be a very near likeness of old Hale's Green Mountain Morgan.

The last daughter of Billy Bodette was Old Jennie (x Minnie by Idol Chief), a brown mare with a white spot on her off side, bred by William Rosebrooks. This mare, later sold to Eugene Shasteny and known as "Shasteny's Old Jennie," became legendary as an example of old Morgan type and winning prizes at fairs. Old Jennie was the third dam of Townshend Donlecto (Sealex x



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dude (Fred x mare by Cub) (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol II); Dude Hudson (Fred Hudson x Velma by Dude), foundation sire for Elmer Brown, was the last of the Billy Root sireline, tracing to Billy Root in five generations (AMHA archives).

Donaldis), who became the favorite riding horse of Ruth Bennett Dickson, the mother of Anna Ela, who continued to ride him until her death at 78.

AMASA BEMIS HORSE

Bred by Amasa Bemis of Lyndon, Vermont, and foaled about 1841, the Amasa Bemis horse was stylish, powerfully built, black, 15 hands tall, and weighing 1,000 pounds. His dam was a black mare sired by the Lougee horse, whose sire was said to be imported from France. He received the third premium at the Vermont State Fair of 1853, and when an old horse was used in the Civil War and believed to have been killed in battle. This line is most often found through the mare Carolyn (Ethan Woodbury x Carrie), whose 4th dam was a daughter of the Amasa Bemis Horse. Carolyn was the dam of ten foals, including eight by Bennington and two by Mansfield.

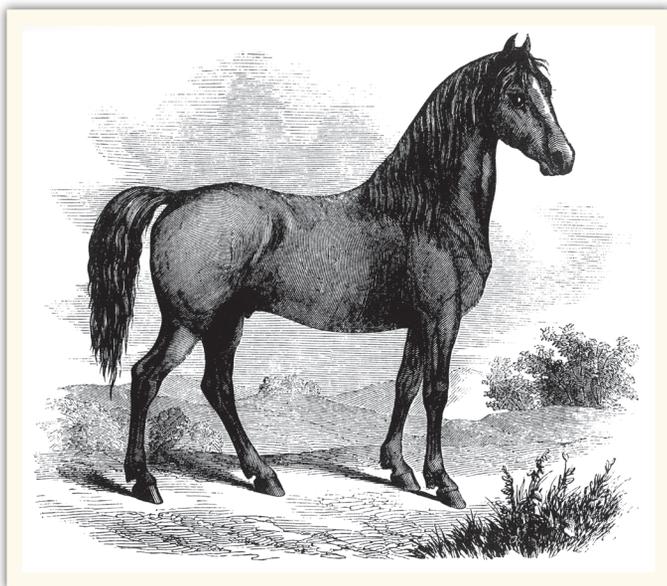
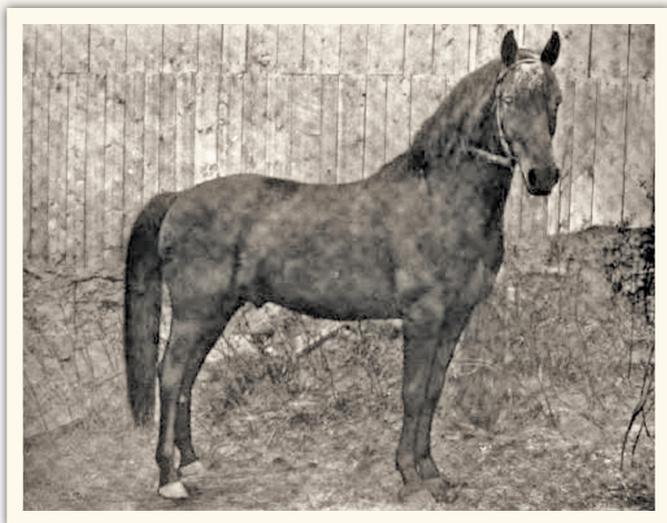
Among these were Audrey, the dam of Upwey King Benn; Rockwood, a Remount stallion used by Elmer Brown; Swanton, a Remount stallion used by the Pine Ridge Indian Agency; and the mare Urnice, all by Bennington. Urnice only produced four foals, but these included the great endurance gelding Angus (x Goldfield), who won the lightweight championship in the 1947 Vermont 100-mile ride for Susan Hanley of Quietude when she was a teenager. Another of Urnice's foals was the mare Ingrid (x Mansfield) who produced fourteen foals, ten of which were full siblings by Upwey Ben Don (Upwey King Benn x Quietude), considered a golden cross in show bloodlines. Two of the best remembered of these were the great stallion Donlyn Of Windcrest, paternal grandsire of Beckridge Patrex (Merry Dexter x Beckridge Patora), one of a mere handful of Morgans ever to compete successfully at Grand Prix level dressage and the lovely AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame mare Windcrest Dona Lee, dam of seven foals. These all carried numerous additional crosses to Billy Root, including another line to the Amasa Bemis Horse through Audrey, dam of Upwey King Benn.

ARABIAN MORGAN

Arabian Morgan was a chestnut bred by Epaphro Seymour of Brattleboro, Vermont, got by Billy Root out of Old Jenny by Sherman Morgan, 2d dam said to be by an Arabian horse. Descendants of Arabian Morgan can be found today among the Standardbred breed, and in the Morgan breed through some rare lines tracing to C. X. Larrabee and T. W. Adams breeding. The line of Arabian Morgan also traced through the full brothers Billy King, foaled 1871, and Billy Root (Wildair by Putnam Morgan x Nelly by Arabian Morgan by Billy Root), foaled 1870, bred by John King of Olean, New York. This interesting line comes down through Owen Moon's Upwey Prince Tarik (Tarik x Fanny), and may be found in descendants of the memorable sire Fairfield Fortune (Saracen x Fairfield Fashion), and Renee Page's stallion, Forevermore (Beamington x Merwin Madonna). The Arabian Morgan line also trace's through King's Billy Root to descendants of Townshend Gaymeade (Meade x Gayselba) used by the LU Sheep Ranch, and his striking, dapple palomino son King Bob (x Fleurette) bred by the Mosher Brothers, to mention a few examples. All of these also had other numerous crosses to Billy Root.

VERMONT BOY

Also known as French Charley, Vermont Boy was a dark chestnut with stripe in face, and light mane and tail, standing 15 hands tall, and weighing about 1,050 pounds. His dam was untraced, and he was said to have been brought into St. Albans, Vermont, from near the Canada line when about four years old and later taken West. He was noted for his endurance and won several trotting races at long distances. Later, his son Reconstruction, bred from an untraced mare by James Torrence, Oskalooska, Iowa, was stabled with him. Reconstruction was the sire of Little Crow, a black stallion standing 15½ hands tall, out of Dolly Wright by Sherman Black Hawk. This line to Billy Root was the last surviving sireline through his son Fred



ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM): Knox Morgan (Mountaineer Morgan x mare by Sagadhoc, son of General Knox) (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol III); Morgan General (Billy Root x dam by Black Prince) is found in Brunk pedigrees tracing to Knox Morgan (AMHA archives); Red Wilkes (George Wilkes x Queen Dido) #3460 (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol II by Schreiber).

Hudson (x Topsey by Panic, son of Ethan Allen #50), sire of Dude Hudson (x Velma by Dude), foundation stallion for Elmer Brown and his brothers. Among other notable offspring, Fred Hudson's daughter Turvey Hudson (x Puss by Fred) produced Archy Hudson (x Archy L), sire of C. J. O' Neill's beloved stallion Archie O (x Byrrh by Handy Allen). Another daughter, Hebrona Morgan (x Hebrona by Herod), can be traced along with Dude Hudson among descendants of Red Correll (Will Rogers x Kate Smith).

MORGAN GENERAL

Bred by John Spencer of East St. Johnsbury, Morgan General was out of a large, black mare by Black Prince and foaled in 1845. He was a chestnut with one white hind foot and stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. He was compactly built and muscular, with excellent feet and legs, a proud bearing, and fine style and action. Crosses to Morgan General may be found in all horses tracing to Brunk breeding through Knox Morgan (Mountaineer Morgan x mare by Sagadhoc), as well as descendants of Dude (Fred x mare by Cub) and a few other lines. Both Knox Morgan and Dude also carry crosses to daughters of Billy Root.

RED JACKET

Red Jacket was a handsome dapple bay son of Billy Root with black points, out of a daughter of Sherman Morgan. He was said to be bred by John Gilman of Lyndon, Vermont, and foaled about 1850. He was 15 hands tall and weighed 950 pounds. Red Jacket was very stylish and was taken to Kentucky where he was used for siring fancy roadsters. Although he left no registered offspring, it is interesting to note that he sired the second dam of the noted trotter Red Wilkes (George Wilkes x Queen Dido), #3460, foaled in 1874, and registered in Volume III of *The Morgan Horse and Register*. He was a bay horse, 16 hands tall, and weighed 1,170 pounds. He was somewhat more ruggedly built, owing to the Messenger blood, but still the Morgan character showed in both his appearance and enduring qualities. Red Wilkes was honored several times as the leading trotter, and by 1906 had to his credit 174 standard performers, and the produce of his sons and daughters totaled more than 1,000 standard performers in just two generations, a remarkable feat. He was sold as a six-year-old to A. Smith McCaan of Lexington, Kentucky, for \$53,000. He changed hands several times and later, after the death of his owner, was sold at the Fasig-Tipton sale in New York in 1903, although he was then 29 years old. He got most of the mares he was bred to in foal that season, but was not bred the next year and died at the age of 30. Through Red Wilkes, numerous crosses to Billy Root through Red Jacket may still be found in the Standardbred breed today, including the pedigree of Walner (Chapter Seven x Random Destiny), who was one of the leading favorites for the 2017 Hambletonian until a recent injury that will keep him from the race.

MILKING STOOL

Although not registered, this daughter of Billy was an important figure in many Morgan pedigrees. She may be found in the pedigrees of several horses in the first three volumes of *The Morgan Horse and Register*. These registrations were apparently sent in to Battell at different times by different people, so there are some

discrepancies in the small details, but by cross-referencing can be sorted out with probable accuracy. Milking Stool (sometimes written as Milkingstool) was a small bay mare marked with a star, most likely bred by Ebenezer Darling, although some pedigrees list the breeder as W. M. Smith. Mr. Smith (variously listed as William M. Smith or Milo Smith) may have owned or used Milking Stool at one time as he bred from her, and Elam Walter did as well. She is identified specifically as the dam of Betsy Baker by the Coe Horse, son of Billy Root, and the dam of Flora by the Ricker Horse, and her dam was a brown daughter of Royal Morgan and second dam the James Clark mare by Sherman Morgan. Milking Stool was well known for her beauty and endurance, and was considered one of the best of the old time Morgan mares.

BILLY ROOT INFLUENCE TODAY

These are just a few examples of the remarkable strength of Billy Root's influence upon the Morgan breed. Although he was given far less attention than Black Hawk, a strong core of the early breeders clearly believed in the blood of Billy Root as one of the mainstays of their breeding programs. Billy Root was tireless and always willing, both under saddle and in harness, and combined all the stylish animation of Hale's Green Mountain and old Gifford with endurance and tractability of the Sherman family. Where he appears, the crosses are repeated again and again, and where outcrosses were made, the blood of Billy Root was called upon to restore balance and type. His blood is found throughout Lippitt and Lambert pedigrees, government, Brunk, mid-Western, Western working, and show. Borden's Ethan Allen 3rd for example, carried four strong crosses to Billy Root through his dam, Kitty Thurber. Her sire, Cushing's Green Mountain, was out of a daughter of Billy Root. His second dam was a daughter of Charley Watson whose dam was a daughter of Wood's Comet by Billy Root. His fourth dam was by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse, son of Billy Root, and his fifth dam was the Milking Stool mare by Billy Root.

Borden's Ethan Allen 3d, in turn, is a major factor in the pedigrees of many others. Upwey Ben Don's sire was Upwey King Benn, whose dam Audrey was out of Carolyn by Ethan Woodbury. Ethan Woodbury was a full brother to Artemisia. Carolyn's second dam was yet another daughter of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d, and her 4th dam was a daughter of the Amasa Bemis Horse, son of Billy Root. Quietude, the dam of Upwey Ben Don, was a daughter of Troubadour Of Willowmoor, whose dam Fanny 2d was daughter of Bob Morgan, by Peter's Ethan Allen 2d. Bob Morgan's dam Topsey was a daughter of Cushing's Green Mountain who was out of a daughter of Billy Root. Fanny, the 2d dam of Troubadour Of Willowmoor was yet another daughter of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d. His 3d dam, Nell, was a daughter of Cushing's Green Mountain, and his 4th dam, a daughter of Wood's Comet by Billy Root.

Ruth, the dam of Quietude, and second dam of Upwey Ben Don and the Western working sire Sonfield was a daughter of Reynard. Reynard was by Billy Roberts, a son of Chase's Mountaineer by the Streeter Horse, and his dam, Roberta, was a daughter of Billy Folsom by the Streeter Horse, and second dam a daughter of the Streeter Horse. Reynard's dam, Topsy, was a daughter of Billy Bodette, a son of Charley Watson whose dam was by Wood's Comet, and

Billy Bodette's dam was also by Wood's Comet. The third dam of Reynard was also by Comet. Upwey Ben Don's third dam, Laura Jay, was another daughter of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d, and her dam, Fanny Jay was by Billy Roberts and out of Rose by Young General Gifford (Billy Bodette x Topsy by Cushing's Green Mountain). The seventh dam of Upwey Ben Don was also by the Streeter Horse.

These same crosses can be found among all descendants of the US Government program which used Artemisia, Troubadour Of Willowmoor, and many others with similar breeding. The influence of Billy Root also appears in the Brunk program with J. C. Brunk's famous mare Senata. Her sire, Senator, was by Morgan Rupert, a son of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d, and out of Nell (Cushing's Green Mountain x mare by Wood's Comet). Senator's dam was Lucy by Billy Bodette, and second dam by the Streeter Horse. Daisy, the dam of Senata, was also by Billy Bodette, and her second dam was by Billy Folsom. The crosses to Billy Root found their way through the Mid-West breeding program of Elmer Brown and his brothers, the Chilocco school, the Jackson Ranch, the Cross Ranch, the L.U. Sheep Ranch, and many more. Billy Root's influence was subtle, but still is a strong and enduring influence today, and has truly been a key part of building and maintaining the Morgan breed. ■

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