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LIPPITT FOUNDATION SIREs, PART II

WELCOME, THROUGH HIS SONS MORO AND VIGILANT

By Brenda L. Tippin

Welcome carried a broad influence on the Morgan breed with many strong branches through his two primary sons, Moro and Vigilant. This family has been of great importance for pure Lippitt lines, as well as numerous classic show families, Working Western families, and sport Morgans, and has produced many world champions, several who won or performed well in Vermont's famous 100-mile ride. Here we will mention just a few examples as the outstanding achievers are too numerous to cover within the scope of this short article.

WELCOME—BACKGROUND AND BREEDING

Bred by Joseph Murray of West Burke, Vermont, and foaled in 1907, Welcome was a bay horse marked with a star, strip, and snip. He was a son of Morgan Dan (Ethan Allen 3d x Laura by Morgan Tiger) and out of Dolly Burke (McGinnis' Comet by Peter's Morgan x Nellie C by Village Boy). Morgan Dan was closely related to the famous mare Artemisia (Ethan Allen 3d x Lady Laura), being by the same sire and out of Artemisia's second dam. His female line traced through the prized Milkingstool mare, a daughter of Billy Root, and back to a daughter of Justin Morgan. Laura's sire,

Morgan Tiger (Black Morgan x mare by Wood's Comet [Billy Root x Crane Mare by Royal Morgan]) traced to a daughter of Justin Morgan through his tail female line in six generations.

Through his sire Welcome was a great-grandson of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d, cornerstone of the Lippitts. His dam, Dolly Burke, was a daughter of McGinnis' Comet by Peter's Morgan, the sire of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d, and her dam was the richly bred Nellie C (Village Boy x Willard mare by Mascoma Chief), who carried two crosses to Justin Morgan himself in five generations through her second dam.

ABOVE: Welcome (1–3); his great grandsire, Peter's Ethan Allen 2nd (4); and the two sons who carried the Welcome line forward, Moro (5) and Vigilant (6).

This article is part of an ongoing series on the eight Lippitt foundation stallions. Croydon Prince and Donald were profiled in the October 2019 issue.



THE MORO FAMILY

The influence of Moro (Welcome x Polly Rogers) (1) extended through several family lines.

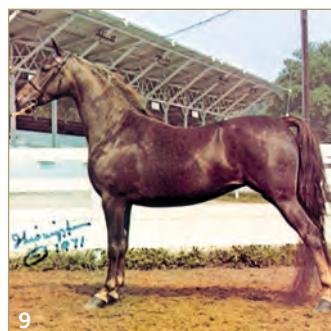
DAUGHTER Lippitt Kate Moro (x Croydon Mary) (2), dam of Lippitt Morman (3) and Lippitt Mandate (4) (both by Mansfield), and the full siblings Lippitt Ethan, Lippitt Dusky Kate, and Lippitt Duplicate (by Lippitt Ethan Ash) (5).

Welcome sired seven offspring, just two of whom bred on. These were his sons Moro and Vigilant. Moro (x Polly Rogers), an elegant bay horse with a star, was bred by Henry Steele Wardner, the very first president of the Morgan Horse Club. Wardner owned the exceptionally well-bred mare Polly Rogers, a daughter of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d and out of Annie Florette by Peters' Morgan. Hoping for one more foal from the aged mare, he bred her to A. Fullerton Phillip's stallion, Welcome, and, at the age of 21, she presented him with a small bay colt. Wardner expected great things from the cross, and originally called the colt Eureka. However, the colt was small, and given only pasture grass for feed he matured slowly. Wardner was deeply disappointed and felt the cross was a failure. When the colt was a yearling, Wardner expressed his dissatisfaction to his friends over a card game one evening and announced his intention to have the colt laid away the next day. Phillips, who owned the sire, happened to be present and recognizing the value of the colt's bloodlines offered on the spot to buy the colt for \$25 and save him from this dreadful fate. He renamed the colt Moro and was

rewarded for his faith, watching him turn into a handsome and typey stallion. Moro sired 13 offspring with numerous descendants and direct sireline surviving to the present day.

MORO

Moro's daughters included the three full sisters Lippitt Kate Moro, Lippitt Mary Moro, and Lippitt Polly Moro, all bred by Robert Lippitt Knight and out of Croydon Mary (Croydon Prince x Kate by Radway Horse). Lippitt Mary Moro, foaled in 1929, was the dam of four foals and her descendants come mainly through her daughter Griselda Morgan (x Ethan Eldon), dam of ten foals. Lippitt Kate Moro, foaled in 1932, was regarded as one of Mr. Knight's finest mares and produced eight foals. As part of a sharing agreement with the U. S. Government Farm Mr. Knight bred her to Mansfield and she produced the full brothers Lippitt Morman in 1939 and Lippitt Mandate in 1940. Lippitt Morman placed second in the 1945 100-mile Vermont ride Heavyweight Division, carrying more than 175 pounds, and went on to win the event in



THE MORO FAMILY, CONTINUED

SON Lippitt Moro (x Croydon Mary) (not pictured), extended the line through two offspring:

His Son Lippitt Moro Ash (x Lippitt Sally Ash) (1), sire of Ruthven's Nancy Ann (2) who is the dam of Trophy's Jade (3) and Trophy's Emerald (4), the latter producing Saddleback Supreme (5). (photos © Hal Hoover, Bob Moseder)

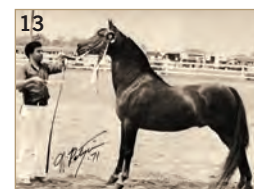
His Daughter Lippitt Gladys Moro (x Ne Komia) (6) continued the line through her granddaughter Lippitt Ethan Georgia (7), who produced tail female descendants Rapidan Apollo (8) and Hanover Super Lady (9), the latter dam of Rapidan Georgian (10). (photos © Howard Schatzberg)

1946. Lippitt Mandate, owned by Marilyn Childs, became a poster horse for Morgan versatility, trying almost everything and winning every time he tried. He competed in nine states in Western, English, jumping, and in-hand; won championships for five successive years at leading shows; and was New England Grand Champion Morgan in 1945. Lippitt Kate Moro was also dam of Lippitt Dusky Kate (by Lippitt Ethan Ash), Grand Champion Mare of the 1952 National Morgan Show, and her full sister, Lippitt Duplicate, Senior Champion Mare at the 1954 National Morgan Show.

Lippitt Polly Moro was the dam of 11 foals, among whom were another pair of influential full siblings, Hy-Crest's Tommy and

Golden River Dona (by Patrick Geddes [Lippitt Moro Ash x Rosilee by Jubilee King]) bred by Golden River Ranch in Cheboygan, Michigan. They also traced to Moro in four generations through their sireline, being of three-fourths Lippitt foundation bloodlines and one-fourth Brunk.

Another daughter of Moro was Ping Pong (x Ne Komia), owned by Ruth Dickson Orcutt. Ping Pong won the Lightweight Division of the Vermont 100-mile ride in 1941 and placed third in 1945 and was also a fine show mare. Her only foal, Townshend Lady Sensation (by Cornwallis), was third in the 1952 100-mile ride, and judged second as Best Trail Horse for the entire event. She was



THE MORO FAMILY, CONTINUED

SON John A Darling (x Bridget) (1) extended the Moro bloodline through:

His Daughter Anna Darling (x Royalton Bobbin Morgan) (2) produced three offspring by Ulendon: Orcland Donlendon (3) (photo courtesy www.allbreedpedigree.com), Orcland Donanna (4), and Orcland Dondarling (5), the latter the sire of the great broodmare Westwold Dona Resa (6).

His Daughter Townshend Lass (x Gladwin) (7) produced Katy Bennfield (8) and Jubilee's Courage (by Jubilee King) (9) who both carried Moro's line into the future through their offspring. Katy Bennfield is the dam of World Champion Mare Special Kay (10). Jubilee's Courage sired full siblings Criterion (11) and Cathy Serenity (12), the latter dam of the first World Champion Stallion, Bennfield's Ace (13).

(photos © Warren Patriquin & Susan Hanley, & courtesy of Marcie Spreen)

also the first mare to ever win a Justin Morgan Performance class, defeating many stallions for the honor. Townshend Lady Sensation continues Ping Pong's line, with many descendants today.

Lippitt Bridget (x Ne Komia) is the dam of three, including Westfall Becky (by Lippitt Billy Ash), dam of 18 including many with either the Twilight or Meredith prefix. Her full sister, Westfall Blythe, was dam of 11; her son Dyberry Royalton, owned by the

Hanleys of Quietude, was sire of 25 Lippitts and Lamberts with numerous descendants today in both categories. Lippitt Bridget was also the dam of Westfall Bonnie Brook, by Brookside, an unregistered son of Ashbrook, out of an unregistered Morgan mare. Bonnie Brook was dam of seven registered Morgans, including Westfall Bold Beauty (by Lippitt George). This mare was owned by Orcland Farms, helping to rebuild their program after a tragic



THE MORO FAMILY, CONTINUED

OTHER DESCENDANTS

Ping Pong (by Moro) (1) (driven by Ruth Dickson); The legendary endurance mares Lippitt Miss Nekomia (by Lippitt Moro) (2) and Sadwin (by John A Darling) (3) (pictured with Nancy Caisse); Orcland Bold Fox (out of Westfall Bold Beauty) (4); and Lippitt Selassie (by Lippitt Moro Last) (5).

(photos © Ira Haas, Warren Patriquin, Foucher)

fire in January 1958 destroyed 16 of their finest Morgans. Only the aged stallion Ulendon (Ulysses x Allenda) and two mares, Anna Darling (John A Darling x Royalton Bobbin Morgan) and Orcland Gay-Lass (Ulendon x Gayselba), were saved along with the children's pony. Westfall Bold Beauty was the dam of seven foals, including Orcland Bold Fox (by Ulendon), owned by Robert W. Morgan of Triton Morgans. Bold Fox sired 101 registered offspring while at Mr. Morgan's Red Fox Stables in Gilroy, California, including a few bred by the Point Reyes Morgan Horse Ranch at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Welcome sireline is carried on through three of Moro's sons, John A Darling, Lippitt Moro, and Lippitt Moro Last. John A Darling (x Bridget by Bob Morgan) was the sire of 20 foals and was particularly known for his exceptional daughters, undoubtedly passing on the large heart gene. From Mrs. Brenton Dickson's foundation mare Gladwin (Ethan Allen 3d x Delight by Result) he produced the three full sisters: Gladloss, Sadwin, and Townshend Lass, bred by Mrs. Dickson's daughter, Anna Ela.

Although a small mare measuring barely 14½ hands tall and 930 pounds in training condition, Sadwin's endurance record was unequaled. She successfully competed in the Vermont 100-mile ride for seven years, five of them consecutive, finishing in 1937 and winning Best Trail Horse award; third in 1938 and first Morgan Award; sixth in 1939 and second for Morgan Award; second in 1940, first for Morgan Award; and winning in 1941 with first for Morgan Award. During the same time frame Sadwin won the 80-mile Maine ride for three consecutive years in 1939, 1940, and 1941, retiring the trophy for that event, and was named Morgan Horse of the Year in 1941. She returned to the 100-mile ride in 1944, placing fifth and earning third for the Morgan Award, and later won the ride and placed first for Morgan Award (for a second

time) in 1945. Sadwin continued to compete successfully in a wide range of show ring events well into her 20s and finally retired in 1958 at the age of 27.

Sadwin did not produce any foals, but both her sisters were exceptional producers. Gladloss, retained by Townshend Farm, produced 12 foals, her last at age 21, while Townshend Lass, sold to Francis Bryant, was the dam of 11 foals, her last at 24 years of age. Among Townshend Lass's foals, Jubilee's Courage (x Jubilee King) became the sire of Criterion, the great foundation sire for the Lamberts of Quietude, and his full sister, Cathy Serenity, whose influence on the breed was profound and who was dam of eight foals. Cathy Serenity's 1964 filly, Katy Bennfield, and 1965 colt, Bennfield's Ace (both by Bennfield [Canfield x Wallflower by Bennington]), won the Grand Champion Mare and Stallion titles (respectively) at both the Eastern and Mid-Atlantic National Morgan Shows in 1970, a remarkable feat. Bennfield's Ace won the National Grand Champion Stallion title at the Mid-Atlantic National Morgan Show again in 1972. After the modern Grand National Show was established in 1973 he won the very first World Champion Stallion title. He won it again in 1979 with his niece Special Kay (Chasley Superman x Katy Bennfield), who was also Cathy Serenity's granddaughter, winning World Champion Mare. Bennfield's Ace won World Champion Stallion yet again in 1980. All told Bennfield's Ace won six of the highest titles given at National and Grand National Morgan Shows over the course of a decade, and went on to sire 62 registered offspring. Special Kay, a full sister of the great sire Courage Of Equinox (detailed below under the Vigilant line), won the World Champion Mare title again in 1981.

Anna Darling (John A Darling x Royalton Bobbin Morgan), a chestnut mare foaled in 1951 and bred by Dana Wingate Kelly, was another important mare, a great-granddaughter of Welcome



THE VIGILANT FAMILY

The influence of Vigilant (1) was carried through **HIS DAUGHTER** Vigilda Burkland (x Lucinne) (2) to: **Her First Son**, Orcland Leader (by Ulendon) (3). He sired of Bay State Gallant (4); Bar-T Invader (5); Gladgay's Pride (6); and Chasley Superman (7). The latter furthered the line by siring Courage Of Equinox (8). (photos © A. C. Drowne, Fallaw, B. Stone, Hal Hoover)

through her sireline; her dam also tracing her sireline as a great-granddaughter of Welcome. She produced seven foals, five of whom became national champions. Three of her foals by Ulendon, born after the tragic Orcutt fire, were named to the AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame: Orcland Dondarling, Orcland Donanna, and Orcland Donlendon. Orcland Dondarling was the sire of 124 offspring. His daughter, Westwold Dona Resa (x Rena by Magellan), was also named to the Hall of Fame. Anna Darling was struck and killed by lightning when she was just 15 years of age.

Lippitt Moro was the sire of just eight registered offspring but remained a powerful influence. His sireline continues to the present day through his son Lippitt Moro Ash (x Lippitt Sally Ash), foundation sire for Dr. Alexander Ruthven. Lippitt Moro's daughter, Ruthven's Nancy Ann, produced both Trophy's Jade and Trophy's Emerald after being bred to Trophy, the latter the dam of the

memorable Park Harness World Champion Saddleback Supreme. Lippitt Moro was also sire of yet another great endurance Morgan from the Welcome family, the famous mare Lippitt Miss Nekomia. This remarkable mare, standing just 14½ hands tall, successfully competed six times in the Vermont 100-mile ride Heavyweight Division where she was required to carry 175 or more pounds. Astoundingly, every year she competed she was pregnant while also raising a foal. She won in 1942, placed second in 1944, and placed third in 1946. In 1947 she was Grand Champion Mare at the National Morgan Show and her colt, Dyberry Billy (x Lippitt Billy Ash), won Champion Foal that year. Lippitt Miss Nekomia went on to produce 14 foals and was weeks away from delivering her 15th foal when she died at age 22. Her full sister, Lippitt Gladys Moro, was also a strong producer and was dam of seven foals with descendants such as 1973 World Champion Mare Hanover Super



THE VIGILANT FAMILY, CONTINUED

Vigilant's **DAUGHTER** Vigilda Burkland further spread her sire's line through:

Her Second Son, Orland Vigildon (by Ulendon) (1), who sired Vigilmarch (2), who in turn sired HVK Fieldmarch (3), Val's Terry (4), and Serenity March Time (5). (photos © Howard Schatzberg, Bob Moseder, Jane Lynick)

Lady (Chasley Superman x Lippitt Ethan Georgia) and her full brother, 1975 World Champion Stallion Rapidan Apollo; Lippitt George (Lippitt Ethan Ash x Lippitt Georgia), foundation sire for Dyberry Morgans; and Stillwater Indigo (Moro Hills Adonis x Natick Moro Independence), who was a three time Champion Lippitt Stallion, great-grandson of Lippitt George through his sireline, great-grandson of Lippitt Miss Nekomia, and foundation stallion for Lester Welch.

Lippitt Moro Last, a full brother of Ping Pong, was sire of just two foals but his son Lippitt Selassie (x Lippitt Sally Ash) was one of two horses Mr. Knight bought back very shortly after his first dispersal. Lippitt Selassie sired 26 foals. Among his descendants, Rohan Mighty Mouse (Lippitt Norman x Rohan Athena), a highly regarded Lippitt stallion in Wisconsin owned by Eastbrook Morgans and a grandson of Lippitt Selassie, was twice Grand Champion Stallion at the Vermont Lippitt Country Show.

VIGILANT

Vigilant (Welcome x Lucille by McGinnis' Comet) was a chestnut horse marked with a blaze, right front sock, left front coronet, and left hind pastern. He was bred by A. Fullerton Phillips, foaled in 1918, and became the sire of 19 registered offspring. His dam Lucille's pedigree mirrored that of Welcome. Where Welcome's sire was by Ethan Allen 3d, Lucille's dam was a daughter of Ethan Allen 3d. Welcome's dam was a daughter of McGinnis' Comet, and Lucille's sire was a son of McGinnis' Comet. Lucille's second dam was a daughter of Black Morgan (Bachops Green Mountain [Sherman x mare by Dean Horse of Danville] x mare by Levi Wilder Colt by Batchelder Horse). The second dam of McGinnis' Comet was the dam of Morgan Tiger, so he shared the same tail female line, tracing to a daughter of Justin Morgan. Lucille's tail

female line traced to a daughter of Justin Morgan.

Vigilant's offspring included the elegant and influential mare Vigilda Burkland (x Lucinne [Lyndon by Billy Roberts x Lady Laura by Bob Morgan]), a half-sister to Artemisia, bred by Frank Orcutt. Vigilda Burkland in turn produced ten foals, in particular the full brothers Orland Leader and Orland Vigildon (x Ulendon). A striking chestnut marked with a star, strip, snip, and four white fetlocks, Orland Leader, bred by Dr. W. L. Orcutt and foaled in 1944, became the sire of 139 offspring and was among the original inductees of the prestigious AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame. He was the first horse to win two National Morgan Grand Champion titles at the same show, winning both the Saddle Horse title as well as Model Stallion. Among his 139 get were popular show horses like Bay State Gallant, Gladgay's Pride, Bar-T Invader, and many others. His son Chasley Superman (x Rena by Magellan) was also among the original AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame inductees. His 189 registered offspring included the legendary sire Courage Of Equinox, the most prolific sire in recent Morgan history with 380 registered offspring, becoming a leading sire all over the world thanks to frozen semen technology. He was one of only a very few non-Swedish stallions to be approved by the stringent guidelines of the Swedish government. Chasley Superman was sire of the very first World Champion Mare in 1973, Hanover Super Lady (x Lippitt Ethan Georgia), who also traced to Moro through her third dam, Lippitt Gladys Moro; he also sired Special Kay (x Katy Bennfield), World Champion Mare in 1979 and 1981; and Suzy's Suzette (x Pinehaven Suzy-Que), World Champion Mare in 1983.

Orland Vigildon, a flashy show stallion as well as a breeding horse, was a beautiful dark chestnut marked with star and strip, both front pasterns, and both hind ankles white. He was owned by Anna Ela and sired 106 registered offspring. His well-known



THE VIGILANT FAMILY, CONTINUED

Vigilant's line also continued through **HIS SON**, Ethan Eldon (x Ethanelda) (1) (Dana Wingate Kelly riding), who sired Dyberry Billy (2) (photo © Ira Haas).

son Vigilmarsh, foaled in 1957, won the the Two-Year Old Harness Championship at the Eastern National and the \$50 Stake for Junior Morgans in Harness at the Mid-Atlantic National Shows, and Grand Champion Stallion titles at both in 1959. He was the sire of the beautiful and unbeatable dark chestnut flaxen gelding Val's Terry (x Vicky V by Flying Jubilee), who is still remembered by many for winning a remarkable number of world and national champion titles. Val's Terry won the World Champion Gelding title eight times, as well as multiple World Ladies Park Harness and Amateur Park Saddle World Championships. In 1970, Herbert V. Kohler bought 13-year-old Vigilmarsh who would become the cornerstone of his breeding program. Kohler also owned Julie Bennfield, another full sister of Bennfield's Ace and Katy Bennfield, and bred her to Vigilmarsh, producing the great stallion HVK Fieldmarch. He won many championships including Grand National Champion Three-Year-Old Park Harness in 1978 and went on to sire 81 foals.

In addition to the numerous descendants through the lines already mentioned, Welcome's direct sireline continues to the present, surviving through Vigilant's popular son Ethan Eldon (x Ethanelda), bred by Frank Orcutt and foaled in 1938. His dam, the beautiful Ethanelda (Sir Ethan Allen x Lucinne), also bred by Frank Orcutt, produced ten foals. As it happened, Dana Wingate Kelly was searching for a foundation sire for his Royalton line of Morgans in West Burke, Vermont. On a visit to well-known harness maker Harry Davis (a relative of his wife), also of West Burke, he was told the finest and purest Morgan blood in the world was to be found in that area. Dana knew he had found what he was looking for when Frank Orcutt led him by moonlight to climb the mountain pasture and introduced him to Ethanelda and her two-week old colt. Mr. Kelly trained Ethan himself, teaching him

19 tricks, and used him regularly for his personal mount, as well as driving, sleighing, and farm work. Ethan was said to have sired more than 250 foals, though only 61 were registered. Numerous descendants are found today, both through direct sireline and through Ethan Eldon's daughters.

The Welcome family has left a lasting legacy that has been an integral part of the Morgan breed for over 100 years and will continue to be a profound influence for many more generations to come. ■

RESOURCES

- Allbreed Pedigree www.allbreedpedigree.com
- AMHA, "Online Morgan Registry," <http://services.morgan-horse.com/PortalTools/HorseRegistry/Index.cfm>
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