

~ HISTORY LESSON ~

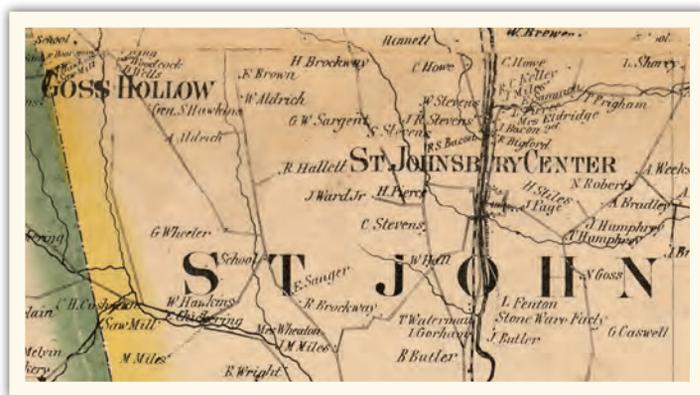
THE DAUGHTERS OF *Justin Morgan*

By Brenda L. Tippin

A shadowy part of Morgan history revolves around the daughters of Justin Morgan. While the little bay stallion who could out-walk, out-trot, out-run, and out-pull any horse that was ever matched against him, as has been related by many eyewitness accounts, and while his value as a breeding stallion began to be recognized even during his lifetime, it was many years before any effort was made to trace and document his offspring. Altogether more than a hundred years would pass before a registry was begun, there were men and women living who still remembered those early Morgans, who remembered even Justin Morgan himself, but a great deal of information was lost. Mares certainly had names, even in those days, but few were ever written down, and if these mares

were recorded at all, they often were vaguely referred to by the name of an owner, or as the daughter of such and such a sire. Records of the Morgan breed focused primarily on the sons of Justin Morgan, and even then, primarily on Sherman, Bulrush, and Woodbury, as they were the most well-known. The daughters were simply forgotten. Nevertheless, the daughters did exist, and were an important part of shaping the breed. Some of their history may be found quietly hidden in the pedigrees of other registered Morgans. No known portrait of any daughter of Justin Morgan exists, so we shall have to rely on portraits of their offspring and close descendants for illustrations. Here we shall attempt to discover some of Justin Morgan's daughters, and their lasting impacts on the breed.

ABOVE: Woodcut of the Justin Morgan, said to be a true representation from many who knew the horse in life (AMHA Volume I, taken from Linsley's *Morgan Horses*).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Home of David Goss, St Johnsbury, Vermont (NMMH); David Goss barn, St Johnsbury, Vermont; St Johnsbury map, 1856, showing Goss Hollow (upper left), and the nearby farm of A. Aldrich in relation to St Johnsbury Center; St Johnsbury, birdseye view.

BACKGROUND — ST. JOHNSBURY, VERMONT, EARLY HISTORY

Originally part of the New Hampshire land grants made in 1760 by Benning Wentworth, colonial governor of the New Hampshire Province. St Johnsbury was first chartered by King George in 1770 under the name of Bessborough, and is located at the confluence of the Passumpsic, Moose, and Sleeper's Rivers. The name St. Johnsbury was given when the town was officially organized in 1790, and it became the shire town, or county seat of Caledonia County. The population grew steadily from about 663 in 1800 to more than 7,000 in 1900. David Goss, the son of Captain Phillip Goss and Hannah Ball, was born at Winchester, New Hampshire, in 1770 and, as a young man, became one of the first settlers of St. Johnsbury in 1792. He married Cynthia Britt and built a log cabin as their first home. While he was building the cabin, he and his wife slept under the trees, in a shelter of hemlock bark. In 1793, he built the first sawmill in the area, located on Sleeper's River near his residence, which was the first of several mills he built. By 1794, he expanded his home to include a larger, comfortable two-story house and barn which stood for more than a hundred years. His place grew to a small hamlet known as Goss Hollow, and included a starch factory, a tannery, a cloth and wool dressing mill, a blacksmith shop, harness shop, and a grist mill.

David Goss kept the Justin Morgan horse at his farm in Goss Hollow for seven years, from 1805 through 1811. This was while the horse was in his prime, and finally beginning to be appreciated for the value of his colts. Justin Morgan spent more of his life here than at any other single place, and it was probably here he felt most at home. The Morgan blood was so highly regarded in St. Johnsbury that in Volume I alone of the *Morgan Register*, it is possible to find more than 40 stallions who were kept for stud in this vicinity for at least a part of their lives.

SIGNIFICANCE OF JUSTIN MORGAN DAUGHTERS

Although no daughters of Justin Morgan were ever registered, many of them can nevertheless be found within the pages of the early registry volumes, within the pedigrees of other horses. More than 25 distinct daughters can be clearly identified, with many more "said to be" who were very likely also genuine daughters of Justin Morgan. The daughters of Justin Morgan are important for several reasons. Historically, in most American and European breeds, the primary credit has been given to the sire. However, many breeders increasingly believe that the mare has at least as much influence as the stallion, with some expert breeders estimating the mare contributes 60 to 75 percent of the foal's temperament, attitude,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Flying Star (Cossitt Horse x Kitty Stark) foaled in 1899 had at least 28 crosses to daughters of Justin Morgan including tracing to the mare Black Gin by Justin Morgan and Thomas Thompson mare by Justin Morgan; Perkins' Young Morrill (Morrill x Seneca Ladd mare). Sire of dam and sire of 2d dam both out of daughters of Justin Morgan.

intelligence, and physical performance ability. Scientific research in recent years has also confirmed that certain factors are inherited on the X chromosome, including those that influence conformation, endurance, and temperament, as well as the unique large heart gene, often referred to as “the X factor.” This is of particular importance in considering Justin Morgan’s daughters, because since the mare has two X chromosomes, she must receive one from her sire. The stallion therefore always passes his X chromosome to his daughters, and cannot pass it to his sons. Stallions can only receive the X chromosome from their mothers. It is interesting that, while most other breeds focus on sires, the Arabian, which is one of the oldest breeds dating back more than 4,500 years and which contributed to most light breeds of horses including Morgans, was always traced by the female families rather than the sires.

The term “X factor” was actually coined by late journalist Marianna Haun, who spent hours and hours of pedigree research attempting to trace the origins of the large heart of famous Triple Crown winner Secretariat. After autopsy, veterinarians were stunned at the size of Secretariat’s huge heart which they estimated to weigh 22 pounds (as compared to 8.5 pounds for the average size Thoroughbred heart). This tremendous heart immediately explained Secretariat’s incredible performance ability, including his 31½ length victory in the Belmont Stakes. Australian breeders had long believed in the existence of the large heart in some horses, and believed it was somehow sex-linked, but did not know where it came from, nor did they identify a specific gene for it.

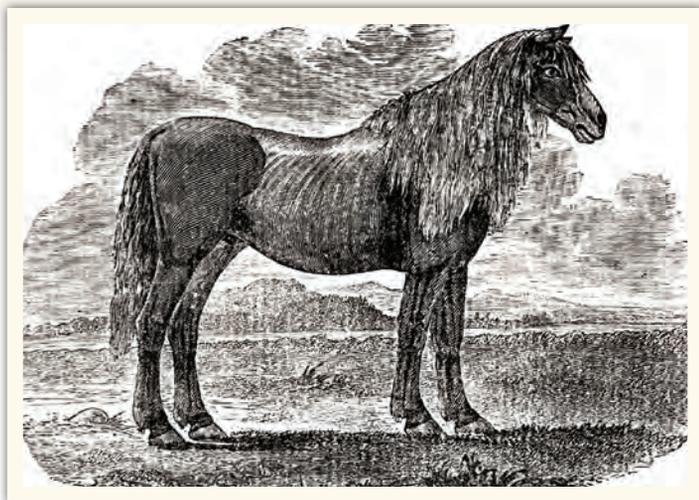
Marianna traced the large heart back to Eclipse, the famous racer foaled in 1764 whose owner offered a bet that he could predict the entire order of finish of the race. Eclipse won of course, and crossed the finish line while the rest of the horses were still on the backstretch. They found his owner had written on a slip of paper, “Eclipse first, the rest nowhere.” He won his bet. Marianna theorized that Eclipse’s large heart was passed down through the

mare lines, and she got scientists at the University of Kentucky on board to help her with an actual study. Her theories about how the large heart was passed down on the X chromosome proved correct, and that in fact it was possible to determine a heart score by use of ECG (electrocardiogram) tests and confirm the presence of the large heart in living horses. The presence of the large heart was consistently found to be inherited on the X chromosome, and to trace back as far as Hautboy, one of the Oriental stallions found among the original ancestors of the Thoroughbred, as well as in the pedigree of Justin Morgan. The large heart gene has also been recognized in Quarter Horses and Standardbreds which can be traced back through these same lines.

While not all Justin Morgan daughters with known descendants today can be traced on the X chromosome for passing on the large heart, all of them did pass on many other Morgan traits and played a key role in ensuring their sire’s legacy would survive as an established breed.

SOME KNOWN JUSTIN MORGAN DAUGHTERS OLD GIN

One forgotten daughter of Justin Morgan whose descendants are widespread today was Old Gin (sometimes spelled Old Jin). Bred by Levi Goss, the brother of David Goss, she was foaled in St. Johnsbury in 1810. She was a chestnut mare of remarkably muscular build, though not large. She was deep bodied with smooth and handsome conformation, a beautiful head carried well up, large nostrils, brilliant eyes, and a great deal of fire and animation. Old Gin raised several foals, and her offspring were known for their stout build and exceptional strength and power. Two of them were used in eight horse teams. Old Gin’s line comes down in the Morgan breed today through her son, the Lock Goss Horse, a dark bay with star and heavy mane and tail sired by Chanticleer, one of the lesser known sons of Justin Morgan. Lock Goss was a son of



LEFT TO RIGHT: Royal Morgan (Sherman Morgan x Aldrich mare by Justin Morgan at 37 years old; The Admiral (Jubilee de Jarnette x Morrill Queen) foaled in 1903 had at least 22 close crosses through daughters of Justin Morgan. 19 of them were through his dam who also appears in all descendants of Flyhawk.

Levi Goss, and nephew of David Goss, and the Lock Goss Horse was thus a double grandson of Justin Morgan, carrying 50 percent of his blood. This line appears in all descendants of Perkins' Young Morrill #59 (Morrill x mare by Lock Goss Horse) and the noted mare Morrill Queen (Winnebago Chief x Olive by Monogram). Through her son Hero Of Manilla (x Herod) the line passes to all descendants of Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette), and through her son The Admiral (x Jubilee De Jarnette) the line is also widespread through Sellman and Hill breeding.

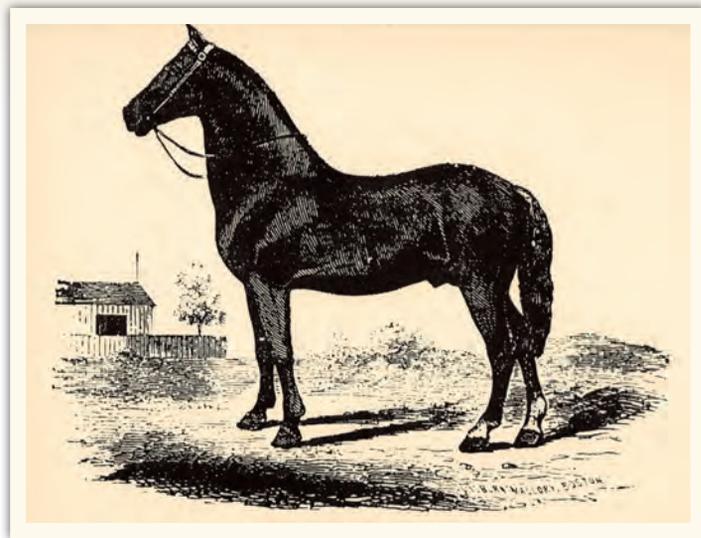
THE ALDRICH MARE

One of the most influential daughters of Justin Morgan was a dark bay mare known simply as "The Aldrich Mare," owned by a Mr. Aldrich of St. Johnsbury. She was described by DC Linsley, author of the well-known 1857 work *Morgan Horses*, as being remarkably compact in form and having great powers of endurance. The Aldrich mare also raised several foals, and was said to have produced and nursed a foal the summer after she was 29 years old. The Aldrich mare was the dam of Royal Morgan, by Sherman Morgan. Royal Morgan was thus yet another double grandson of Justin Morgan, and held in the highest regard by old Vermont breeders. As a young horse, he was taken to Maine for several years until 1829, and contributed much to the trotting families of Maine. About 1829 he became the property of Reuben Crane of Derby Center, Derby, Vermont, near the Canadian border. Mr. Crane became much attached to the horse, and owned him until his own death, requesting a likeness of the horse to be carved upon his tombstone. Royal Morgan was then purchased from Mr. Crane's estate by Solomon Steele who also knew the original Justin Morgan horse well. Steele, who owned him until 1853, considered him very nearly a copy of old Justin in all particulars, most notably in his muscular development, great beauty, and ability to perform unusual feats of strength, speed, and endurance. During his final years Royal Morgan was owned by John Gregory and was exhibited at the Vermont State Fair in Burlington in 1858 when 37 years of

age, still very active and vigorous. The day before he died, he was said to have jumped a stone wall three feet high to get in with other horses. He died from being cast in his stall later in his 37th year. He covered two mares his final year, at least one of which produced a foal after his death. This line may be found multiple times in virtually all Morgans living today, tracing through Brunk breeding and JC Brunk's old foundation mares Daisy and Lucy by Billy Bodette (Black Morgan 2d x mare by Wood's Comet); through government breeding and descendants of the great broodmare Artemisia (Ethan Allen 3d x Lady Laura); through descendants of Upwey Ben Don (Upwey King Benn x Quietude); through descendants of Ashbrook (Croydon Prince x Nancy); Donald (Bob Morgan x Fanny), and many more.

MATTHEW ALLEN MARE

This notable mare was owned by Captain Hezekiah Martin and became the dam of Billy Root by Sherman Morgan. Billy Root, another famous double grandson of Justin Morgan, was her only foal. According to Benjamin Hibbard who worked for Captain Martin, and had the care of Billy Root and his mother, this mare was small, weighing only about 850 pounds, but full of such fire, strength, and speed it was nearly impossible to hold her while driving. She had a beautiful head with straight face, fine muzzle, and a full and prominent eye. Her back was very short with a long barrel and the most muscular hindquarters Hibbard had ever seen. As a lad, he pestered Captain Martin to be allowed to drive her. The Captain thought he was too young to be able to hold her, but finally gave in, warning the boy he would get a whipping if the mare ran away with him. Benjamin solved this problem by wrapping the reins around his body and then sitting on them, and thus succeeded in holding the mare in and keeping her from running away, much to Captain Martin's amusement. After this he was allowed to drive her as much as he wanted. He later noted that this mare was driven 120 miles from Portland, Maine, to St. Johnsbury in a single day on three different occasions.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ashbrook (Croydon Prince x Nancy) foaled in 1916 traced his tail female line directly through a daughter of Justin Morgan and in all carried more than 50 crosses through daughters of Justin Morgan. 19 of these were through his third dam, Flossie; Kilburn's Sherman Morgan (Sherman x Mare by Justin Morgan) last colt of Sherman.

CHAMBERLAIN MARE

Owned by a Mr. Chamberlain of Danville, Vermont, little is known about this bay mare. She was bred to Sherman Morgan, and produced a bay colt with four white stockings known as Morgan Robin. Morgan Robin was foaled in 1827 and sold young to Matthew Allen, and was kept in St. Johnsbury and other nearby small Vermont towns, as well as Walpole, New Hampshire, and vicinity. He was described by Linsley as having a great deal of bone and muscle, very stylish, an excellent roadster, and perfectly kind and gentle. This line appears in all descendants of Knox Morgan (Mountaineer Morgan x mare by Sagadhoc), including the noted Brunk stallions Jubilee King (Penrod x Daisette), Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette), and Senator Graham (Senator Knox x Fanita).

OLIVER BOWERS MARE

A handsome, well-muscled bay mare with a bob tail, weighing 1,200 pounds, this daughter of Justin Morgan was foaled about 1810 and owned by Oliver Bowers of Danville, Vermont. Mr. Bowers was a soldier of the Revolutionary War and had fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He bred the mare to Sherman Morgan, producing the beautiful and highly regarded stallion Cock Of The Rock, foaled in 1822 or 1823. Cock Of The Rock was a striking light golden sorrel with a brilliant metallic sheen to his coat, white or silver mane and tail, one or two white feet, and face white below the eyes. He stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. Many descendants of this line can be found in the Morgan breed today through his son Morgan DeForest (x Hartwell mare, imported) who appears in the pedigrees of all descendants of Jubilee King and Flyhawk. Morgan DeForest was very similar to his sire, a light golden sorrel with silver mane and tail, white face, and one or more white feet. This line also appears through two other sons of Cock Of The Rock, whose dams were also daughters of Justin Morgan.

JUDGE SUMNER MARE

A handsome, powerful little gray mare with a broad chest, long deep barrel, muscular hindquarters, and great style and beauty, this daughter of Justin Morgan was the dam of Coburn's American Star. Cock Of The Rock, along with his son, Coburn's American Star, was owned for several years by Captain Ira Coburn of New York. Coburn's American Star was also light golden sorrel with silver mane and tail and marked with a large, beautiful star. These two stallions attracted a great deal of attention when owned by Captain Coburn, and people would come from great distances just to see them. They were often used in military reviews and parades. Coburn's American Star was best known for his son Seely's American Star, who also resembled his sire. He became famous as a broodmare sire of trotters, and was held in such high regard that his daughters were recognized as largely responsible for the success of Rysdyk's Hambletonian and his sons. This line also appears in numerous Morgan pedigrees, particularly through Sir Ethan Allen (Ethan Allen 3d x mare by Corbett) and his son Sealect (x Bell Marea), both Lippitt Foundation sires.

DAM OF BARDEN MORGAN

Little is known of this mare, except that she was a daughter of Justin Morgan, and was bred to Cock Of The Rock (Sherman Morgan x mare by Justin Morgan) to produce Barden Morgan in 1826. This was only five years after the death of old Justin Morgan, but represented yet another painstaking effort of carefully breeding back to his blood, such that this great-grandson, like Coburn's American Star, still carried a remarkable 50 percent of the old Justin Morgan horse, through two daughters and one son. Barden Morgan was golden chestnut in color, marked with a star, snip, and three white feet. He stood 14½ hands tall and weighed 1,000 pounds, with a long wavy mane hanging to his knees, and long wavy tail hanging to the ground. It was said that in style and action,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Billy Root (Sherman Morgan x Matthew Allen mare by Justin Morgan) – drawing by A. Fullerton Phillips on wooden placemat; Ethan Allen by Black Hawk, 3d dam by Justin Morgan (*Harpers Weekly*).

he surpassed both Hale's Green Mountain and old Gifford, which is the highest compliment that could be given in those days. He was a square trotter, but also could pace rapidly. In Vermont, he trotted on ice in less than 2:40. This line appears through descendants of his grandson St. Clair (Young Morgan x Canadian mare), one of the first known Morgans taken west to California in 1849. Another line traces through descendants of Julian Morgan (Winnebago Chief x Lady Gipse), who carried the last surviving sireline of the Bulrush family into the 1990s; as well as descendant's of Linsley (General Gates x Fanny P by Julian Morgan).

EMPRESS

Owned by Peter Burbank of Well's River, Vermont, this daughter of Justin Morgan was bred to Woodbury, and in 1832 produced a chestnut stallion known as Morgan Chief, also called the Latham or Eldridge horse. This line can be found in many Morgan pedigrees, including all descendants of Ashbrook (Croydon Prince x Nancy).

DAM OF PERKINS MARE AND TOM MORGAN

This daughter of Justin Morgan, according to notes from A. Fullerton Phillips, was bred to True Briton, sire of Justin Morgan, producing two important offspring, full siblings, which appear in many Morgan pedigrees. The Perkins Mare became the dam of Lady Surrey by Revenge, son of Justin Morgan. Lady Surrey was described as a pretty little pony-built mare, nice and smooth, bay with a star. She was bred by Mark Perkins in Surrey, New Hampshire, foaled about 1818, and was a fast trotter who never paced. She was later owned in Canada. Lady Surrey trotted against Cato under saddle on the Centerville track in 1832 or 1833. She went on to become the dam of the famous trotter Henry Clay #53 (x Andrew Jackson), who can be found in numerous Morgan pedigrees today, including descendants of Meteor 2d (Meteor x Lady Alice), such as Night Tide (Tiffany x Glenalla), who is behind the colorful mares of the LU Sheep Ranch, as well as the great

government bred stallion Goldfield (Mansfield x Juno).

Crosses to Tom Morgan are also widespread in Morgan pedigrees today as he sired the mare Phoebe, who was the second dam of Peter's Vermont (Gifford x Jennie) as well as the third dam of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d (Peter's Morgan by Peter's Vermont x Stephen Dow mare out of Jennie), cornerstone of the Lippitt Morgans.

DAM OF JEANNE D' ARC

A black mare, who both paced and trotted, believed to have been foaled around 1800 – 1802, this daughter of Justin Morgan was traded for by Louis Dansereau at Montreal in 1814, when she was said to be 12 or 14 years old. At that time, it was a common practice for the Canadian farmers to trade for the horses they referred to as Dutch or Morgan from the area of northern Vermont near the Canadian border. It is also interesting to note that between 1797 – 1801, the exact whereabouts of the Justin Morgan horse was unknown, and he was believed to have been taken into Canada, or perhaps standing for service on both sides of the border. The Canadians wanted daughters of the Dutch horse (Justin Morgan), or mares that had been bred to him, to improve their own stock. Dansereau bred the black mare to a neighbor's stallion whose dam had similarly been brought from Vermont in foal to the Dutch horse. She produced a black filly, who became the famous broodmare Jeanne D' Arc, an outstanding producer of unusual beauty, speed, and stamina.

He made a practice of breeding Jeanne D' Arc's sons and grandsons back to her to concentrate this blood. She became the dam of Old Pacing Pilot and Davy Crockett, as well as the dam of their sire, Papillon, who was by Dansereau's first stallion Carillon, a son of Tom Hal by Justin Morgan. Pilot and Davy Crockett were full brothers bred by Dansereau, later brought to Kentucky where they had a profound influence not only on the Morgan breed, but the Standardbred, Saddlebred, and Tennessee Walking Horse.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Seely's American Star by Coburn's American Star son of Cock of the Rock by Sherman. Dams of sire and grandsire were daughters of Justin Morgan (www.allbreedpedigree.com); Henry Clay #53 Morgan Register Volume 2, by Andrew Jackson x Lady Surrey by Revenge, son of Justin Morgan. According to notes of A. Fullerton Phillips, the dam of Lady Surrey was the Perkins mare by True Briton, sire of Justin Morgan, and out of a daughter of Justin Morgan. Found in descendants of Meteor 2d.

Descendants of this line are widespread in the Morgan breed today, in all disciplines. Lady De Jarnette (Indian Chief x Belle), the most famous Morgan show mare in history and dam of the great Jubilee De Jarnette, traced to Davy Crockett through her dam. All descendants of Flyhawk trace to Jeanne D' Arc through Columbus, another Dansereau bred Morgan, as well as through Davy Crockett. Descendants of this line through Pilot may be found through CX Larrabee breeding in descendants of the stallion Quintessence (Jubilee De Jarnette x Allegory), the government bred stallion Mentor (Goldfield x Fairytop), including his highly regarded sons Tutor (x Kona) and the full brothers Trophy and Fleetfield (x Norma), and many more.

CALEB FORD MARE

Little is known of this daughter of Justin Morgan, but she represented the first of several generations of Morgans bred by the Ford family. Her descendants are widespread in the Morgan breed as she appears in the direct tail female line of Ashbrook (Croydon Prince x Nancy) as his seventh dam.

CHARLEY WATSON MARE

This daughter of Justin Morgan was bred and owned by Charles Watson of West Burke, Vermont, and appears as the 3rd dam of Billy Bodette (Black Morgan 2d x mare by Wood's Comet). His sire also traced his female line to this mare. Widespread throughout the Morgan breed, this line appears in virtually all horses tracing to Brunk breeding, Lippitt breeding through foundation sire Donald (Bob Morgan x Fanny); and to government breeding through Artemisia (Ethan Allen 3d x Lady Laura) and Troubadour Of Willowmoor who also traced his tail female line through this mare. Troubadour Of Willowmoor likely received the large heart from this source and passed it on to his daughters, including Quietude

(x Ruth), who produced the great show sire Upwey Ben Don and his full sister Upwey Benn Quietude (dam of Waseeka's Nocturne), as well as the great Western working sire Sonfield. These are only a few examples of the influence of this mare, and evidence strongly suggests that she did indeed pass the large heart to many of her descendants through these lines.

2D DAM OF HALE'S GREEN MOUNTAIN MORGAN (Gifford x Old Kate by Woodbury)

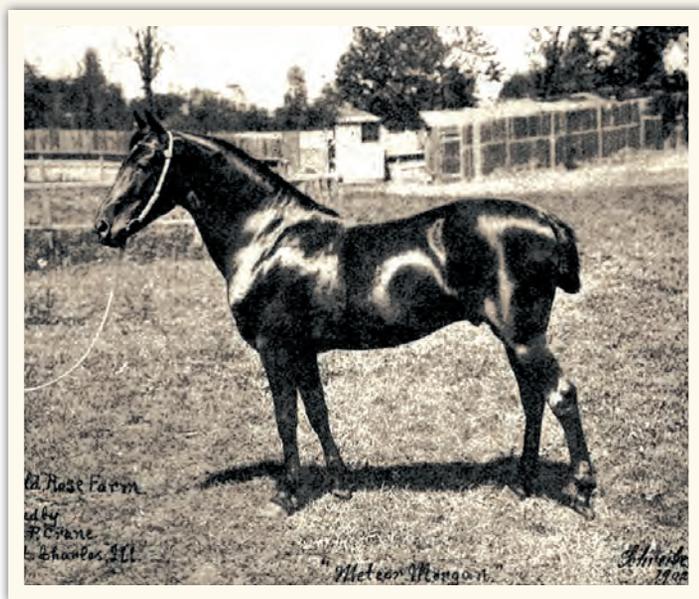
According to *The Vermonter*, Volume 16, Silas Hale had published advertisements of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan at the time of his greatest popularity stating that his dam was by Woodbury and second dam by Justin Morgan. At the time, this was never disputed. This line is found in most Morgans today.

2D DAM OF MORGAN BULRUSH, OR CLARKE HORSE (Bulrush x mare by Fortune)

This daughter of Justin Morgan was bred to a stallion called Fortune, by Quicksilver, who appears in many Morgan pedigrees. She produced a filly, who was in turn bred to Bulrush. The resulting colt, Morgan Bulrush, was bred by Dudley Cabot of Chelsea, Vermont, and foaled in 1840. He was said to be the first Morgan taken to Ohio for stock purposes, and his colts were very much prized there. This line appears in all descendants of Benedict Morrill (Morrill x Coleman mare by Morgan Bulrush), including Ashbrook, and is widespread throughout the breed today.

2D DAM OF COLBY'S YOUNG MORRILL (Morrill x mare by Hale's Green Mountain)

This daughter of Justin Morgan was out of the imported Hazelton mare, and was owned by Dr. John Morse of Danville, Vermont. Mr. Morse bred her to Hale's Green Mountain Morgan, and she



LEFT TO RIGHT: Meteor 2d (Meteor x mare by Winnebago Chief) foaled in 1895 had at least 14 close crosses through daughters of Justin Morgan; Columbus, foaled about 1835, inbred to a daughter of Justin Morgan through Jeanne D' Arc (*American Stallion Register*).

produced a dark bay mare, 15½ hands tall. The Morse mare was sold to Percy Newell of Danville, who bred her to Morrill. She dropped a colt known as Young Morrill later owned by Mr. Colby who said he refused \$3,000 for him when he was 15 years old. This line appears in all descendants of Morgan Chief (Chief Morgan x Maude Morgan) foaled in 1912. This line was the last of the Bulrush sireline and was very popular for many decades, especially in California. Though the Bulrush sireline became extinct during the 1990s, the line to Justin Morgan's daughter continues to be passed on through the mares and still has numerous descendants.

2D DAM OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY MORGAN (Putnam Morgan #33 x mare by Bulrush)

This daughter of Justin Morgan was owned by Charles Hubbell of eastern Vermont, and was bred to Bulrush, producing a beautiful, deep-bodied dark bay mare of 1,100 pounds, with an exceptionally lovely and refined head. She in turn was bred to Putnam Morgan, a son of Woodbury, and produced Chittenden County Morgan, whose only registered offspring was Goff's Comet #297, out of a daughter of Putnam Morgan #33 (also known as Burbank Morgan Jr). This line has many descendants through Hill and Sellman breeding.

2D DAM OF GIFFORD MORGAN JR (Gifford x Ribbon Back)

This daughter of Justin Morgan was brought from Vermont to Connecticut in 1825, and bred to Young Black Hawk, son of Black Hawk by Sherman Morgan. The resulting filly known as Ribbon Back was bred to Gifford Morgan and produced the beautiful black stallion, Gifford Morgan Jr. This line is uncommon, but does have a number of descendants, among them the colorful chestnut sabino stallion High White Revolution (High Water Running Star x Bellemount's Magic Moment).

CHANDLER MARE

3d dam of Ethan Allen 50, brought from Tunbridge, Vermont, to Springfield, Vermont, by Dr. Chandler. Ethan Allen held Trotting Champion Stallion of the world title for six years, and in 1873 attained \$500 stud fee. His record of 2:28 was the first in the 2:30 list by a stallion. Rysdyk's Hambletonian, born the same year, had a best record of 2:48 ½. With running mate Ethan had a record of 2:15 and was timed for a quarter mile in 28.5 seconds, or a 1:54 gait. This was accomplished when he was 18 years old.

OTHER INFLUENTIAL DAUGHTERS

Not all known daughters of Justin Morgan have descendants still surviving today, but even though few records were preserved, many were prized during their lifetimes for their strength and endurance, beauty, speed, and the colts they produced.

CUTTER MARE

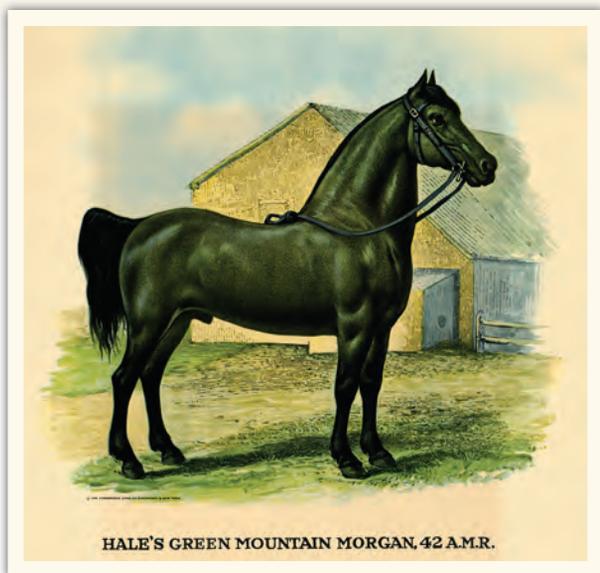
A small gray mare, 14¼ hands tall and weighing 850 pounds, this daughter of Justin Morgan was bred by Charles Cutter of Royalton, Vermont, and was the most noted roadster in the vicinity during her day. She was the dam of Weasel, a gray son of Woodbury Morgan, bred by John Bliss, also of Royalton. Weasel was a good roadster as well.

OLD POPPET

Old Poppet was the dam of the Pope horse. Purchased by Joseph Pope from Isaac Stanton of Danville, Vermont, for \$150.

FLORA

A brown daughter of Justin Morgan weighing 1,200 pounds, this mare was owned by H. Bemis, a clock peddler, who drove her from Vermont to Ohio, and later sold her to Deacon Timothy Rose, of



LEFT TO RIGHT: Hale's Green Mountain Morgan (Gifford x Cider mare by Woodbury; 2d dam by Justin Morgan); Ripton by Sherman, 2d dam by Justin Morgan (N. Currier, Library of Congress).

Granville, Ohio. She was the 2d dam of Put (Putnam Morgan x mare by Prince Hal).

REUBEN SMITH MARE, DAM OF HALSEY HOUSE HORSE

A brown mare bred by Reuben Smith of Tunbridge, Vermont, this mare was remarkable in that she was over 30 years old when House colt was foaled, and still raising foals at age 35.

In a letter to Joseph Battell, DW Cowdery, of South Royalton, Vermont, wrote:

“Reuben Smith is dead and all of his family that I ever knew. The old mare was owned by Josiah S. Burett at the time the House Colt was foaled, and had been for years before, a near neighbor of mine in Tunbridge, Vt. I owned colts from the old mare at different times; the last one was foaled after the old mare was 35 years old, color chestnut, white in face and four white feet, 14½ hands high, less than 900 pounds, very stylish, sharp driver for those days. I sold him when five years old to a horse dealer from Massachusetts for \$225, which was a big price for a horse those times.”

BLACK GIN

This daughter of Justin Morgan was a fast trotting mare brought from New Hampshire to Constable, New York, by Lowell Cleveland. She was the 2d dam of Jack (Gillett Horse x Old Pat), said to be a very stylish parade horse.

THOMAS THOMPSON MARE

Also known as Kenyon, Bill Morgan was bred by Thomas Thompson of Constable, New York, and foaled in 1830 out of a chestnut or sorrel daughter of Justin Morgan Mr. Thompson had brought from Plainfield, New Hampshire. Bill Morgan was described as a chestnut with dark mane and tail, standing 15¼ hands tall and weighing 1,040 pounds. This line survived for about

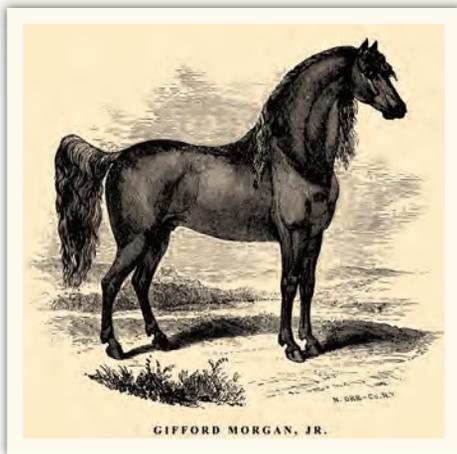
a hundred years but no modern descendants are known.

DAM OF BEPPO

This daughter of Justin Morgan was bred to Gifford Morgan, and produced the famous trotter Beppo, foaled in 1830, who was gelded at a young age, and competed with the noted mare Lady Suffolk and many other trotters of that era. Beppo was about 15 hands tall and, like his sire, a peculiar shade of dark chestnut that appeared brown. He had a short tail, and carried his head high and was described by noted reinsman Hiram Woodruff as having a very gay and gallant style of trotting, and very fast. In 1836 he was ridden by George Youngs in a trial at the Eagle Course in Trenton, New Jersey, two days before a race, and he trotted a half mile in 1:09. His most famous race was under saddle against Lady Suffolk and Independence on the Beacon course in Hoboken, New Jersey, and took place on July 4th, 1843, a day when the weather was exceedingly hot. The purse was \$100.

The first heat was hotly contested between Lady Suffolk and Independence. Neither of them broke, and Lady Suffolk at last won the heat by half a neck in 2:28½. Beppo broke a couple of times in this heat.

In the second heat Lady Suffolk led off at a tremendous pace, and Independence kept up with her all the way to the draw gate, Beppo trailing well behind. At this point Beppo suddenly came up on the inside with a fierce rush, and made a dead heat with the mare in 2:28. The third heat was again a match between the mare and Independence, with Beppo trailing; but this time Lady Suffolk's rider was determined not to let Beppo have room to make his brush on the inside, and hugged the pole all the way. At the draw gate Beppo came again in his rush on the outside, forcing Independence to a break, and after an intense struggle won the heat by twelve inches, time 2:28. The fourth and fifth heats were won by the mare in 2:29-2:32. A week previous to this race a contest had taken place between



LEFT TO RIGHT: Gifford Morgan by Woodbury, 3d dam by Justin Morgan (*The Cultivator*); Munson's Gifford Morgan Jr by Gifford, 2d dam by Justin Morgan; Kitty Black (Cushing's Gifford Morgan Jr x mare by Dimick's Black Hawk, 2d dam by Gifford). Foaled in 1863, this mare is a likely carrier of the large heart gene, possibly even a double copy. Her sire's dam was a daughter of Hale's Green Mountain, whose 2d dam was a daughter of Justin Morgan. Her own 2d dam was by Gifford, whose 3d dam was a daughter of Justin Morgan. Although no known descendants survive to the present, she was a foundation mare registered in Volume I of the Morgan Register, and owned in Illinois where she was very much prized.

Beppo and Independence, to saddle, regular weights, 145 pounds, which Beppo won in five heats, his best time being 2:31.

The following description of Beppo is from NP Willis, in the *New York Spirit of the Times*, 1842: "Beppo, the second-best horse, is the most comical little animal I have ever seen. His color is a shabby brown plush and he looks at the first glance as if he might have been a cab horse or a baker's horse or in some other much abused line, but retaining withal a sort of a cocked pistol expression of eye and limb and a most cat gut tension of muscle. His limbs are like a greyhound and every hair on him seems laid in the most economical way to go, and he does go; there is no outlay of any other purpose. A more mere piece of straight forward work than Beppo's action I could never imagine. Whatever balk there was in starting he was right at the work, and he neither broke nor cantered, but did it all in good honest trotting, coming up on the last quarter stretch like a whipped-up arrow. As he only lost the first heat by a head, he, of course, did his mile as Lady Suffolk did in 2:28, the fastest trotting on record."

These were amazing performances for a little inbred Morgan horse with not a drop of Messenger blood in the early years of trotting contests, and surely evidence of the large heart he must have received from his dam.

JOSEPH HUSE MARE

This black daughter of Justin Morgan appears in the pedigree of Lady Eclipse in Volume III of the *Morgan Register* as her 4th dam. Joseph Huse and his son Joseph Huse Jr. bred Morgans from this line for more than 75 years. No descendants are known today but the female line survived for about 100 years.

SAMUEL JACQUES MARE

The Samuel Jacques Mare was the 2d dam of Bellfounder Morgan. Owned by Samuel Jacques, Ten Hills Farm, 16 miles from Boston. This mare was very fast, and attracted a great deal of attention for

her remarkable style as well as her speed, and Mr. Jacques was said to have purchased her from a baker who used to drive her into Boston and back every day for many years.

2D DAM OF RIPTON

Unique information regarding the famous trotter Ripton was given by well-known horseman John Dimon in his book *American Horses and Horse Breeding* which represented 60 years of his personal experience, life's work and research. Ripton was a son of Sherman Morgan, and his dam was out of a daughter of Justin Morgan. Little is known of this mare, but most assuredly she passed the large heart of Justin Morgan on to her daughter and then to her grandson. Foaled in 1830 in Ripton, Vermont, Ripton was a bay with white face and four white stockings, much like the famous Dexter who later competed against Ethan Allen in the well-known match race. In Ripton's case, the white stocking on one foreleg was higher than the other, creating a bizarre optical illusion which left the impression in the mind of the viewer that he was slapping that foreleg down with extraordinary vim when he trotted.

In truth, he was said to be very much like Ethan Allen in his way of going. Ripton was also handled by the great reinsman Hiram Woodruff, who remarked that his action was nearly as perfect as anything he had ever seen. Though he was a small horse, not above 15 hands, he had uncommon fire, spirit, and determination, and according to Woodruff, went "as level as the flow of a smooth stream that is swift and deep." In 1842, under the charge of Hiram Woodruff, Ripton trotted 14 two-mile heats and five three-mile heats. Of these races he won thirteen, and beat Lady Suffolk four times. Woodruff also noted that Ripton was excellent in both mud and snow, and in fact was the very best sleigh horse he ever drew a rein over, and he drove many of the best. Altogether, Ripton trotted from 1841 – 1850, by which time he was 20 years old. He beat many of the best trotters of the day, besides Lady Suffolk, including Lady Washington, Lady Sutton, Confidence, and Americus.

**INFLUENCE OF JUSTIN MORGAN
DAUGHTERS ON THE BREED TODAY**

The theory that Justin Morgan did have a large heart is certainly borne out by the many stories of his phenomenal performance feats, including the ability to out-pull, outwalk, out-trot, and outrun all other horses matched against him, and there are documented accounts of credible eyewitnesses who saw him do all of these things, not just once, but on multiple occasions. It then follows that if Justin Morgan did have a large heart, he would pass it on to all of his daughters, and some of them, in turn, would pass it on to their sons and daughters. History also bears this out, and invariably many of the most outstanding early Morgans can be definitely traced on the X chromosome to one or more daughters of Justin Morgan.

Though there is relatively little information on individual daughters, the fact that it is possible to identify many more daughters than sons of Justin Morgan during an era when little credit was given to the mares and no effort was made to trace or register any of them, is in itself remarkable. And for those daughters about which any information is given, several consistent patterns emerge: they were long-lived, prized for producing exceptional foals, often at advanced age; and for remarkable feats of strength, speed, and endurance. In many instances, these traits were passed on to their sons and/or daughters. These traits apparently made themselves evident early on in the communities where Justin Morgan stood for stud, as even though no effort was made to document these mares, enough testimony exists to show they were valued by those who owned them, and a concerted effort by many of their owners to breed them back to Morgan sires. All of this presents overwhelming evidence to suggest that the daughters of Justin Morgan played a most vital role in the furthering of the Morgan breed, because without them, Justin Morgan could not have passed on the one trait that made him excel above all other horses, and made people want to perpetuate the Morgan breed in the first place: his great heart. ■

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