



## ~ HISTORY LESSON ~

# THE BRUNK DYNASTY, PART V: *Thomas T. Brunk*

**Y**et another chapter of the fabled Brunk Bynasty may be found in the remarkable story of Thomas T. Brunk, known as "Tobby." With 40 years of his own philosophy of breeding Brunk

By Brenda L. Tippin

Morgans, Tobby built his program around his mares, using many, many

different stallions. It would be impossible within the scope of this article to cover all the horses he used, or recognize all the accomplishments of their descendants, but here we look at some background, and some examples of the horses making up the backbone of Tobby's branch of Brunk breeding.

### THOMAS TALBOT BRUNK

Thomas Talbot Brunk was the youngest of seven children born to Joseph Chase Brunk and Minnie Alice Husband Brunk. Born in 1902, "Tobby," as he was known, lived to be 75 years of age, passing away in 1977.

The oldest two Brunk children, Frank born in 1890, and Emily, born in 1891, had died in infancy when just a few months old, leaving five surviving children who grew up with Morgan horses. All three of the Brunk brothers, Tobby, along with John who was five years older, and Roy who was nine years older, had been instilled with their father's astute ability to size up a horse, and they firmly believed a Morgan should not only excel as a fine carriage horse, but be ready and willing when asked to carry out any farm work that needed to be done.

After J. C.'s death in 1935, the Brunk land was divided among his three sons and two daughters. As the oldest, Roy took over the homestead at Cotton Hill, while John handled the south acreage, and Tobby farmed the west section. Helen and her husband Loy Greenwalt were just down the road from Roy, while Grace inherited the nearby Toronto Farm of 150 acres, which had been the family

farm of her mother, Minnie Alice Husband. Not long after, Grace moved east with her husband John Woods. Tobby then sold his land, and bought the Toronto farm from her, and carried forward the tradition of the old Husband family farm. The horses were also divided, with each of the Brunks having their own ideas about breeding. Tobby already had a head start, having registered his first foal in the spring of that year, before his father's death. Helen had started early as well, having registered the first foal in her own name in 1934. John's first was in 1936, Roy's in 1937, and Grace didn't get started till 1940. John had bred only a few of his own before his death in February 1940, outliving his father by less than five years.

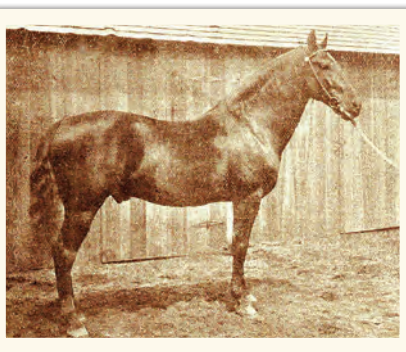
Tobby married Edna Barbara Smith, who was born in 1912, the daughter of Edward Peter Smith and Emma Johana Sonderhausen Smith. Edna died in 2001 at the age of 88, outliving Tobby by 26 years. Edna served on the Morgan Committee for the Illinois Morgan Horse Breeders' Futurity. Tobby was a lifetime member of the American Morgan Horse Association. Tobby, Edna and both their sons actively participated in showing their Morgans, especially at the Illinois State Fair according to the Brunk family tradition. Their son Bob often helped train and show the horses, as well as

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Thomas Talbot Brunk; Edna, Thomas T., and sons Joseph E. and Robert T. Brunk; Thomas and Edna Brunk (photos courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD).

often riding or showing horses they had bred and sold. Sadly, their other son Joseph died in 1956 at only 23 or 24 years of age. Edna continued to own and be involved with Morgans after Toby's death in 1977. Robert and his wife Barbara also continued to own Morgans for many years, and their daughter Laura carried on breeding Morgans from her grandfather's bloodlines into the 1990s.

Although Toby was busy with farm work, he put a lot of thought and study into breeding his Morgans and understanding the bloodlines behind the crosses he chose. Each horse used in his breeding program was selected with great care, and for a specific purpose. The farms of Roy, Helen, and Toby were all in proximity, and sometimes they swapped breedings. All three continued the tradition of exhibiting their horses, particularly the young stock, at the Illinois State Fair, engaging in friendly sibling rivalry for top honors. For the most part, Toby remained in the shadows of Roy and Helen, and was content to let them take the lead in representing the Brunk name. In the minds of most Morgan owners "Brunk-bred" horses were a single entity and they did not really distinguish between the breeding programs of the younger Brunks. Visitors in those days were frequent, but they usually sought out the farms of Roy or Helen first. Then, whoever was the lucky host for the day, would take the eager visitors around to the other Brunk farms, including Toby's, and often cousin George Brunk's as well. At shows Toby would sometimes surprise, with one of his colts beating Roy's and Helen's to take the top prize. One example was when Thomas T. Brunk and sons won the Two-Year-Old Stallion Championship, and the Illinois Morgan Two-Year-Old Futurity at the 1947 Illinois State Fair with Danny De Jarnette. Beyond the general show ring, Toby's greatest interest lay in breeding Morgans who excelled in competitive sports. George Goebel, one of the most memorable roadsters in the history of the Morgan breed, was an example of Toby's breeding intuition.

Like all the Brunks, Toby was passionate about promoting the Morgan breed. Black Bub, bred by Toby, was among several Morgans shipped to China in 1947. In 1950, he participated in the educational film, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" produced by Kling Studios and featuring



### FOUNDATION BLOODLINES

**TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Jubilee King 7570; Daisette (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD); Daisy De Jarnette (AMHA Archives); Jubilee De Jarnette (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD); Lady De Jarnette (*The Morgan Horse*, February 1951); Senator Knox (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD); Senator Graham (*The Morgan Horse*, April 1954).



State Representative William Horseley as Abe Lincoln. The film was to be shown to school children all over the United States and in foreign countries. Toby provided the horses used in the film, and appeared as the driver for Abe Lincoln, and scenes involving the horses were shot on his farm. A still shot from the film was obtained and appeared on the April 1950 cover of *The Morgan Horse* featuring Toby in period costume driving Abe Lincoln (portrayed by Mr. Horseley) with Stareda. The carriage in the background was driven by Kenwood Sudduth of Springfield, with Toby's mare Dennette, and the stallion Doctor Sutter from whom Toby bred a couple of foals.

## THE TORONTO FARM

Minnie Alice Husband was the daughter of Ann Elizabeth Barrows and John Quincy Adams Husband. John Quincy Adams Husband was born in Sangamo, Illinois, in 1828 the son of Harmon Husband and Sarah Pyles. Harmon was born in North Carolina in 1791 and as a child taken by his parents to Christian County, Kentucky, following his mother's parents, who moved there in 1795. Sarah and Harmon then moved to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1820 and began to farm there. John Quincy Adams Husband was born in 1828 and married Ann Elizabeth Barrow in 1864. Minnie was the second child, and her family's farm was not far from Cotton Hill. She married Joseph Chase Brunk in 1889.

## FOUNDATION BLOODLINES

Toby's foundation lines were centered around the blood of Jubilee King. His foundation mare was old Daisette, who was Jubilee King's dam. Daisette was a daughter of Senator Knox and out of the beautiful mare Daisy De Jarnette by Jubilee De Jarnette out of old Ben's Daisy (Ben Franklin x Daisy).

Jubilee De Jarnette, foaled in 1883, was a son of Jubilee Lambert (Daniel Lambert x Harvey mare by Taft Horse) and out of the great Lady De Jarnette (Indian Chief x Belle), acclaimed as the most brilliant and beautiful show mare in history. He was often a winner shown in harness pairs with his mother and, on his own, was twice a winner at the famed Madison Square Garden Show. Like many horses after they have grown older, he fell upon hard times. Sometime around the turn of the century, J. C. and his young son Roy, boarded a train for Indianapolis, hoping to find this horse. They found him in a barn near the small neighboring village of Knightstown, standing in manure up to his knees, and with a bad case of thrush. Thankfully they were able to rescue him. J. C. immediately bought him for \$250 and shipped him back to Illinois, where he quickly regained his health. J. C. bred just one crop of 11 foals which arrived in 1903, before reluctantly selling him to C. X. Larrabee's Brook Nook Stock Ranch in Montana. Two mares from this 1903 crop would be especially important to Toby's breeding program—Daisy De Jarnette, and the mare Ruby, out of Bess Franklin by Chetco, which we will discuss further.

Senator Knox (Knox Morgan x Senata), bred by J. C. Brunk and foaled in 1916, is best remembered as the sire of Senator Graham, foaled in 1940 after Helen Brunk Greenwalt painstakingly tracked him down for the sole purpose of accomplishing that breeding. In fact, J. C. had shown him as a two-year-old in 1918 to Grand

Champion Morgan Stallion titles at both the Minnesota and Iowa State Fairs. He then had bred just eight foals from him before selling him to the U. S. War Department for Remount Service in 1923, the year Daisette was foaled. His final two foals bred by J. C. were born the next spring, and he had no more registered foals until Helen rediscovered him for the 1940 crop which proved to be his last.

## McALLISTER

Bred by J. C. Brunk and foaled in 1934, McAllister was a striking dark chestnut color marked with a stripe in the face and pure white mane and tail. His conformation was well-balanced with excellent feet and legs, beautiful trotting action, and a fine, expressive head set upon a long, elegant neck. Of all Jubilee King's sons and daughters, McAllister had the most crosses to Daniel Lambert. He had one cross in seven generations, five crosses in six generations, one in five, one in four, and another to Daniel Lambert's full brother, Woodward's Ethan Allen, in six generations. The stallion's dam was the fine mare Mrs Lewis, a daughter of the great Charles Reade. Toby used him as his foundation sire for several years, and ultimately bred 14 foals by McAllister (who would go on to sire a lifetime total of 21), Toby kept a son, King Mick, and a grandson, Danny De Jarnette, for breeding purposes, meaning McAllister had more influence on his program than any other stallion.

Charles Reade, a handsome, smooth-made chestnut horse 15½ hands tall, with both speed and brilliant action, was named after the famous English novelist, Charles Reade, best known for his work, *The Cloister and the Hearth*. Hailed as the greatest sire of show horses in the Midwest, Charles Reade was bred by Thomas Lafon of Columbia, Missouri, and foaled in 1886, registered in volume I of the *Morgan Horse Register*, #3953. He was sired by the little-known full brother of Daniel Lambert, Woodward's Ethan Allen, and out of the Daniel Lambert daughter Princess Dagmar, and his second dam was a daughter of old Ethan Allen 50. This gave him three close crosses to Ethan Allen, as well as doubling the cross which had produced Daniel Lambert. Mr. Lafon was a great admirer of old Daniel Lambert, but during the 1880s, his colts went for such high prices it was nearly impossible to obtain one. A very beautiful golden flaxen chestnut daughter of the old horse, Princess Dagmar, was owned by Benjamin Bates who had bred her from a daughter of Ethan Allen, who was also the sire of Daniel Lambert, making her a double granddaughter of the legendary trotter. Mr. Lafon had seen Princess Dagmar trot and believed her to be one of the most spectacular performers he had ever seen, but unfortunately for him, she was not for sale. He did, however, persuade Mr. Bates to allow him to lease the mare for a one-time fee of \$500, plus her board, keep, stud fee, and other related expenses for the privilege of raising a foal from her. He chose to send her to the court of Woodward's Ethan Allen. At that time, such close breeding was seldom practiced and not expected to yield good results, but Mr. Lafon turned that theory upside down when Charles Reade was foaled.

When shown in harness, Charles Reade quickly became impossible to beat, and he rapidly gained fame for his fluid, high-stepping trot that was pure poetry to watch. Believing a speed record would add to his value, he was put in training and hastily driven to a mark of 2:24¼, which was probably not even close to



**TOP TO BOTTOM:** McAllister (AMHA Archives); Charles Reade (*The Morgan Horse* Nov 1945); Charles Reade in 1912, age 26, shortly before he died, with Will Thompson (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD).

the record he could have achieved had proper care been taken. Rushing did not pay and Charles Reade was foundered and nearly ruined. Those who knew the horse insisted he could have easily trotted in 2:10 had the training been done right. However, he was given a registry number in the American Trotting Book, and years later, he was entered in the American Saddle Horse Register as well, making him one of very few, perhaps the only stallion, to be triple registered. Unfortunately, it came too late and the records of many of his offspring were lost as they were sold to eastern markets and pedigrees forgotten.

Charles Reade's greatest fame was as a sire of elegant roadsters for the show ring, both singles and matched pairs. Even President McKinley drove a fancy pair of matched geldings by Charles Reade. The famous full brothers, the matched geldings Sometimes and Always were unbeatable when shown in harness pairs at speed and had won 16 blues in 16 shows. When exhibited at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, they were named the World's Champion Roadster Pair in what was proclaimed to be the finest class of the show. Sired by Charles Reade, their dam was a granddaughter of Charles Reade as well, and they had other Morgan lines. After this, Mr. Lafon sold Sometimes to Mexico City, keeping Always, since there was nothing left for the pair to win. He was making a handsome profit from the sales of Charles Reade colts, given they were selling on average \$1,000 for single and \$2,000 for a pair, with many going much higher, and he sired more than 700. Of these, only 58 were entered into the Morgan registry. J. C. Brunk was one breeder who recognized the value of this strain and sent several boxcars loaded with mares to be bred to Charles Reade. He also purchased the Charles Reade daughter Mrs Lewis, who was out of one of his own mares, Bess Franklin. Mrs Lewis was one of two well-bred Morgan daughters of Charles Reade who would play key roles in the pedigrees of the horses Toby was carefully assembling for the foundation stock of his breeding program.

Registered in Volume IV of the *Morgan Horse Register*, Mrs Lewis was a beautiful chestnut filly marked with an unusual oblong star, bred by A. W. McAlester of Columbia, Missouri, and foaled in 1911. Her dam was Bess Franklin, bred by J. C. Brunk, and was a daughter of Chetco, a grandson of Daniel Lambert sired by Ben Franklin (Daniel Lambert x Black Kate) and out of Nelly B (Harry Allen Jr by Daniel Lambert x a daughter of Streeter Horse by Billy Root, she out of a daughter of Royal Morgan). Bess Franklin's dam was Bessie, registered in Volume I of the *Morgan Horse Register*, and a daughter of Chase's Mountaineer by Streeter Horse, and by a son of Royal Morgan and out of a daughter of the Folsom Horse by Streeter Horse, solid old Vermont breeding all the way back. A deep-bodied, well-muscled mare with a powerful reaching trot, J. C. Brunk acquired Mrs Lewis and bred eight foals from her.

McAllister sired 21 registered offspring, of which 12 were bred by Toby. Later, he sold McAllister to Dr. Ina Richter in California, but kept a son of McAllister and eventually a grandson for breeding.

### DAISETTE

A pretty, well-proportioned chestnut mare with a star and an exceptionally sweet disposition, Daisette was a powerhouse





**TOP TO BOTTOM:** Stareda on the April 1950 cover with Thomas Brunk at the reins, William Horsley, Illinois State Rep as Able Lincoln (*The Morgan Horse*); George Gobel, winner of Half-Mile and One-Mile Harness Races and Roadster Championship at National Morgan Show (photo by Warren Patriquin, *The Morgan Horse* Sep 1958); Sonny Akers winning 1st in Single Roadster at Western National Morgan Show, Estes Park, 1961 (photo by Alexander, *The Morgan Horse* Dec 1961).

of genetic potential. When bred to Senator Knox, Daisy De Jarnette produced the exceptional mare Daisette, foaled in 1923, who would become a tremendous producer in her own right. By the time J. C. died in August of 1935, Daisette had already produced five foals. These included Jubilee King and his full sister Sentola by Penrod for whom she is best remembered; Gosette by Go Hawk; Dennette by Tiffany, who would also become one of Toby's foundation mares; and Red Top by the Jubilee King son Raragraph (x Nella). Red Top, foaled that spring, was in fact the first foal bred and registered by Toby himself.

Daisette went on to produce an additional five foals for Toby, for a total of 10 offspring. Remarkably, these were from nine different sires, most of whom bred on. She had 157 grandchildren, and her daughters, regardless of which sire they were from, proved to be formidable producers. Of her seven daughters, all by seven different sires, all but one not only bred on but established unbroken tail female lines surviving to the present. Very few broodmares can boast such an accomplishment. Undoubtedly Daisette possessed the large heart gene and passed it on to both her sons and daughters.

## DENNETTE

A dark chestnut mare by Tiffany (Mansfield x Klyona) out of Daisette and bred by J. C. Brunk, Dennette was marked with a medium star and foaled in 1931. She was four years old at the time of J. C.'s death and was among the remaining mares Toby chose to found his breeding program. Dennette was a beautiful, compact, smoothly made filly with a deep body and perfect proportions, wonderful action, and a powerful speedy trot. She was the dam of seven foals by three different sires.

## JEANNE

Bred by J. C. Brunk and foaled in 1921, Jeanne was a beautiful chestnut daughter of Knox Read and Jean Ann. Marked with a right hind foot and light mane and tail, she was described as a fine stepper both in harness and under saddle, and very much of the Sherman Morgan type. Her sire, Knox Reade was a son of Knox Morgan and Mrs Lewis, and she carried another line to Charles Reade through her dam as well. She had already produced five foals when Toby acquired her from his father's estate, and he bred five more from her, for a total of ten offspring. Three of these foals were by McAllister. Toby sold the first two of this cross and kept the third which was King Mick.

## STAREDA

Bred by J. C. Brunk and foaled in 1933, Stareda was a pretty chestnut mare marked with a strip and snip. She was a daughter of Herodon (Go Hawk x Galva) and out of Mr. Lewis (Charles Reade x Bess Franklin). She was the dam of ten foals, all bred by Toby. Helen had purchased the stallion Fillmore (Mansfield x Narissa) in the fall of 1945, and Toby sent Stareda to him the next spring, resulting in a dark chestnut colt with no markings, Ricardo, foaled in 1947, who was the only other stallion he kept several years for breeding. Ricardo went on to sire 23 foals, eight of whom were bred by Toby.

Stareda then competed in the Iowa 100-mile ride in 1948, placing second in the Lightweight Division, ridden by Eloise Smith. In 1950, Toby bred her to Danny De Jarnette, and Stareda was carrying a foal when she was used for the filming of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." The filly Patty Lewis, a beautiful flaxen chestnut marked with a star, was foaled in

1951. Bred to Ricardo, Patty Lewis produced the famous roadster George Gobel, a handsome dark chestnut with striking light mane and tail, foaled in 1955. George Gobel was sold to the Bartons of Big Bend Farms in Rockfield, Illinois, and began to make his mark as a two-year-old under the guidance of trainer Harry Andre, who was also an expert reinsman. At the 1957 National Morgan Show held in July, he easily won the Half-Mile Harness Race, the One Mile Harness Race, and the Roadster Harness Class.

George Gobel repeated this triple win at the Morgan National Show in 1958 and 1959. In 1960, the Bartons decided to withdraw George Gobel from the harness races, purportedly to give others a chance.

However, aided and abetted by Toby, they had another surprise ready. Toby had bred Patty Lewis to King Mick, resulting in the 1958 flaxen chestnut colt named Sonny Akers, marked with a blaze, and with seven close crosses to Charles Reade. Harry Andre had him ready and the two-year-old colt was entered in the Half Mile and One Mile Harness races at the 1960 National in place of George Gobel, winning easily. The Bartons were not quite ready to retire George Gobel either. He still won the Roadster Harness class, as well as Roadster Under Saddle and the Half Mile Under Saddle race, giving him another triple win. Both Sonny Akers and George Gobel repeated the same wins at the 1961 National, which resulted in Towne-Ayr Echo (Lippitt Rob Roy x Lantz' Beauty) who placed second in both harness races and the harness roadster class, being featured in the National Pictorial in *The Morgan Horse* instead of either George or Sonny. Sonny then won the Single Roadster in Harness Championship at the Western National in Estes Park later that year, while George Gobel put on an exhibition. They did not compete in 1962. Both Sonny and George were gelded, but Sonny did stand at stud for a while and sired a few foals, but none bred on.

Toby kept Stareda the rest of her life, and she produced 10 foals. Her daughter, Patty Lewis, that Toby also kept all her life, produced 13 foals including the last foal he bred, Star Baron (x Aldebaron), foaled in 1975.

### MADONNA

Bred by J. C. Brunk and foaled in 1929, Madonna was a black mare with no markings, sired by Go Hawk (Sunny Hawk x Bombo) and out of Red Ruby (Red Ethan x Ruby by Jubilee De Jarnette). She was the dam of eight foals. Her daughter McDonna (x McAllister) also produced eight foals, including the mares Dina Vermont and Redonna Vermont, both by Red Vermont (Jubilee King x Daisy Knox), important in Western pedigrees. Redonna Vermont was the dam of the beautiful mare Dapper Dolly (x Dapper Dan) owned by Tay Mattern Whitter in California. In her first year of showing, Dolly won 18 trophies and 85 ribbons competing against all breeds in Open Stock Horse classes at open shows in Southern California. In 1965 she was Pacific Coast Stock Horse Champion. Dina Vermont was the dam of the well-known stallion Jubilee Rhythm (x Jubilee Jazz) owned by Joanne Curtis of La Serena Morgans, as well as Delilah Vermont (x Legend of Caven-Glo), dam of several of the Lambert Morgans of Quietude.

Toby made one outcross, breeding Madonna to Doctor Sutter (Tehachapi Allen x Linsley Belle) to produce the black stallion

Sutterdon. Interestingly, when bred to the Night Tide (Tiffany x Glenalla) daughter Night Bloom (x Costilla), Sutterdon produced two mares registered in Volume VI of the *Morgan Horse Register* as white. These remain a mystery but seem to have received a double dilution through Madonna as well as through Night Tide. Bred to King Mick, Madonna produced Amigo Mick, registered as bay, and sire of the colorful palomino mare Cotton Hill Daisy (x Daisette).

This is further evidence Madonna must have carried a dilution gene as there is no other source for Cotton Hill Daisy's color. Where it came from is still a puzzle. Madonna's dam, Red Ruby, was by Red Ethan by Black Dan (Dan L by Chetco x Black Bess by Jubilee De Jarnette). Red Ethan was out of J. C. Brunk's old foundation mare, Daisy. There is no color behind any of those lines tracing all the way back. The same is true for her second dam, Ruby, a chestnut daughter of Jubilee De Jarnette out of Bess Franklin (Chetco by Ben Franklin x Bessie by Chase's Mountaineer). However, Madonna's sire was the black stallion Go Hawk. Go Hawk's dam Bombo can be traced straight back to the famous palomino Golddust by Vermont Morgan, tracing to old Gifford. Even more likely, Go Hawk's second dam Goldie, not surprisingly, was described as a palomino out of a cream-colored mare named Lil. One wonders why color did not show up in any other Go Hawk offspring, but of 24 registered offspring, Go Hawk had 13 black and six brown, which could have masked the color. Of these, many either did not breed on, or they had mostly black or brown offspring which did not breed on, so it is possible the color line was lost in these other branches before it was ever recognized. At any rate, wherever it came from, the color definitely appeared in Cotton Hill Daisy. Madonna was also the dam of the chestnut mare Question Mark (x King Mick), as well as the bay stallion McBoy (x McAllister).

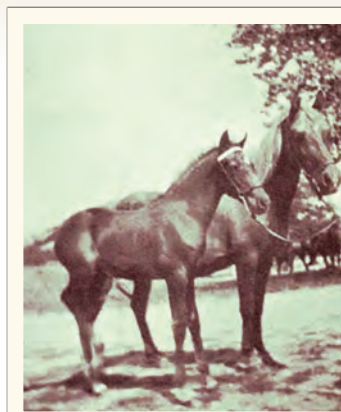
### HATTIE C

A bay mare marked with a star and left hind pastern, Hattie C was bred by Dr. Lester Clark of Rushville, Illinois, and foaled in 1937. Her sire, Sonny Boy (Hal Mercury Jr x Ethel Cowdrey) was a five-gaited chestnut sorrel marked with a strip, both front and right hind stockings and left hind ankle, bred by Charles Cowdrey of Caldwell, Idaho. Her dam was the black Brunk bred mare Rugee, by Go Hawk and out of Red Ruby (Red Ethan x Ruby). Toby purchased Hattie C from Dr. Clark in 1938 as one of his foundation mares, her dam being a full sister to Madonna. She was the dam of seven foals. Although her line is rare, she does have several descendants surviving today.

### COTTON HILL DAISY

Toby bred the grand old mare Daisette to Amigo Mick which resulted in the surprising and strikingly beautiful dappled palomino filly with pure white mane and tail, Cotton Hill Daisy, foaled in 1949. Exactly like her mother, Cotton Hill Daisy produced 10 foals from nine different sires. These included three palominos and a buckskin. Along with Patty Lewis and Question Mark, Toby kept her for the rest of his life, and she continued to produce until nearly the end of his breeding program. Bred to Ricardo, she produced the palomino colt Tweedle De in 1955, who appears in the pedigree of the popular buckskin stallion Sunup Neptune and is the source of





**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Cotton Hill Daisy with 1963 colt Joe Boyer by Turbo Joe (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD); Daisanna, winner of the Weanling Filly division of the 1956 Illinois Morgan Breeder's Futurity. Bob Brunk, son of Bobby, holding the filly and Miss Illinois presenting the ribbon (photo by Launsbach, *The Morgan Horse* November 1956); Daisanna, Reserve Grand Champion Mare at 1961 Mississippi Valley Show (*The Morgan Horse* August 1961); Tim Tam Cotton (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD); Gay Maverick (courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD); Bold Hawk (Shadow Hawk x Cotton Hill Daisy) (photo by Warren Patriquin, courtesy of Renee Page, from Brunk CD).

his color. Bobby bred Cotton Hill Daisy to Ricardo one more time, and she produced the handsome chestnut mare Daisanna, who was a frequent winner for Bobby and Edna at many shows. As a weanling she won the Illinois Morgan Breeder's Futurity. She was Reserve Grand Champion Mare at the 1961 Mississippi Valley Show and was a daunting competitor in harness, often driven by Edna. Cotton Hill Daisy was also the dam of Tim Tam Cotton, a stunning dark gold dapple palomino with white mane and tail. He was sold to Billy Carpenter of Fort Worth, Texas, where he competed in Palomino shows, since no Morgan breed shows were available in the area yet. In 1959, Cotton Hill Daisy produced yet another gorgeous golden dapple palomino, Gay Maverick (x Gay Cadet), who sired just two offspring before being sold and gelded.

Cotton Hill Daisy produced the exceptionally beautiful black stallion Bold Hawk in 1968, from the Flyhawk son Shadow Hawk. Shadow Hawk was bred by Sam Doak out of the mare Sentimental (Sentiment x Bonnie Blue) who carried two crosses to Charles Reade as well as two lines to the Jubilee De Jarnette daughter Black Bess. After Flyhawk died in 1959, Helen tracked down Shadow Hawk and traveled 3500 miles round trip to Saskatchewan to bring Shadow Hawk back. Bold Hawk resembled his sire but was even more elegant with nearly perfect conformation and a beautiful show ring presence, balanced action with excellent feet and legs, and a big round trot. The

cross with Cotton Hill Daisy gave him five lines to Charles Reade, another line to Black Bess, and added lines to the Jubilee De Jarnette daughters Ruby and Daisy De Jarnette. Bold Hawk went on to sire 30 offspring and has numerous descendants today, many of whom have been successfully shown in a variety of disciplines.

In 1971, Cotton Hill Daisy produced her second to last foal, the buckskin mare Daisy Jo by Funquest Ben Brown (The Brown Falcon by Flyhawk x Funquest Benbell by Upwey King Benn), who traced to Brunk breeding through his grandsire Flyhawk. Daisy Jo was the dam of seven foals for Inglemist Morgans and has many descendants today including a strong color line. Her last foal, in 1973, was Joe Jingles, a chestnut stallion by Jo Brown, who represented several generations of Bobby's breeding. He was a son of Funquest Ben Brown whom Bobby had bred from another of his own mares, Trinajo. Trinajo was a daughter of Gay Star (The Gay Cadet x Patty Lewis) and out Question Mark, both bred by Bobby. Joe Jingles left no offspring, but Cotton Hill Daisy's descendants are numerous with many colorfults.

## QUESTION MARK

Bred by Bobby and foaled in 1950, Question Mark was a chestnut mare sired by King Mick and out of Madonna, making her a full sister of Cotton Hill Daisy's sire. She was the dam of 15 foals,





**TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Turbo Jo (Senator Graham x Question Mark), 1958 Illinois State Fair Reserve Champion Weanling Futurity and winner of the first Weanling Stallion division (photo by Launspach, *The Morgan Horse* September 1958); Silver Princess (*The Morgan Horse* April 1950); Cotton Hill's Choice (*The Morgan Horse* February 1948); Max (Cotton Hill's Choice x L C), winner of the 1952 100-mile Vermont Ride Lightweight Division, Sweepstakes winner, and winner of Best Morgan Award which was being presented by Frank B. Hills, Secretary of the Morgan Horse Club (*The Morgan Horse* October 1952); Junette and King Tiffany, bred by Thomas Brunk, owned and ridden by Mr. and Mrs. Kenwood Sudduth, Springfield, Illinois (*The Morgan Horse* February 1945).

producing more for Toby than any other mare, and in fact, more than any other horse that he kept. Question Mark was one of three mares he kept for the rest of his life, and who continued to produce nearly to the end of his breeding program. Among her foals were the 1957 flaxen chestnut filly Ebby Jane (x Senator Graham), a promising show mare, and her full brother, the 1958 colt Turbo Jo who won the first Weanling Stallion Division and was Reserve Champion of the Weanling Futurity at the 1958 Illinois State Fair. Turbo Jo also won the Yearling Stallion Championship and Yearling Illinois Morgan Breeder's Futurity at the Illinois State Fair in 1959. Her last two foals, both by Applevale Adonis (Sealect of Wind-Crest x Windcrest Nancy C) were Prince Mark Adonis in 1970, sire of two foals, and Super Joe in 1971, sire of nine foals. Question Mark has several descendants today.

### SILVER PRINCESS

Another daughter of Daisette which Toby bred was Silver

Princess, a gray mare marked with a strip and left hind coronet, foaled in 1942. She was sired by the gray stallion Mountain Silver Sheik (Mountain Sheik x Toy by Troubadour Of Willowmoor). Toy traced through her dam to Nelly, a gray daughter of Aristos by Daniel Lambert. Mountain Silver Sheik was bred by Dr. Frost, Pittsford, Vermont, and foaled May 7, 1938. He was gray with a large star connected with wide strip extending between and touching both nostrils to upper lip, and left hind coronet white. Mountain Silver Sheik was sold by Dr Frost to Grace Brunk Woods May 19, 1940. She in turn sold the horse to Toby on Sept 3, 1940. Toby bred several gray horses from him, but Silver Princess was the only line through which the gray color survives to the present. It is a rare line, separate from the line through CW's Sterling Silver (Todita x Hy Crest Satina) which is the source of most of the gray Morgans in the breed today. Silver Princess only produced two foals, but the line continues through her daughter Frosty Princess whom Toby bred from King Mick.



In 1949, when Tobby's son Bob was 18 years old, he took a trip west, hauling Silver Princess in a horse trailer and picking up jobs along the way to help pay for expenses. They were at a rodeo in Saguache, Colorado, and funds were getting very low. Bob began looking over the purses being offered for the Quarter Horse races and decided to enter Silver Princess in one of them, hoping to replenish the family purse. Silver Princess had absolutely no training or preparation for such a race, but she nevertheless held her own and came in the winner, managing to beat some very fast Quarter Horses. This was a pure demonstration of Morgan heart (and no doubt she was also a carrier of the large heart gene). Bob later told his Aunt Helen, who related the story in the April 1950 issue of *The Morgan Horse*, "I thought she could win. She just had to win, or we both wouldn't eat!"

Although hanging by a thread, an unbroken tail female line of gray mares from Silver Princess to the present survives. This tail female line is also special in that it goes back all the way through Daisette to J. C. Brunk's foundation mare Daisy, and to a daughter of Sherman Morgan, making it one of the oldest documented tail female lines in the breed. Frosty Princess bred to Prince De Jarnette (Larruby King Royale x June De Jarnette) produced the gray mare Frosty's Blue Bonnet. She in turn was the dam of the gray mare Saycrest Frosty Miss by Sherman L (Lippitt Jeep x Rose Bay). Frosty Miss was bred to Tofr Black Wing (Fiddlers Blackriver x Black River Ysabel), producing the gray mare Miss Frosty Shadow. She produced the gray mare Silvershoe Sunfrost by Silvershoe Sundust (Jan Mabie Pace x Silvershoe Shady Lady).

Silvershoe Sunfrost, owned by Ellen Feld, author of numerous Morgan horse books for children, is now 20 years old. She has one gray daughter, Willow Bend Shadow by Double Black Knockout (Century Contender x Black River Maria) foaled in 2005 and owned by Judy Hinman. This mare has produced one foal, the 2012 gray mare Amberfields Beau K by Hagerbrook Beaujangles (Equinox Beaubrook x Baroncrest Sunny Delight), owned by Isaac and Adrienne Dymesich's Sunrise Ranch in Wisconsin. So far, she has produced three foals including one gray gelding, SRR Prince Caspian, from the gray stallion Amberfields Steel Magnum who traces his gray line through CW's Sterling Silver. However, the Dymesichs are aware that Amberfield's Beau K is the last gray mare in this rare line still producing and are committed to preserving it. Silvershoe Sunfrost also produced the 2010 gray mare Willow Bend Clair De Lune by Equinox Beaubrook (Royalton Ashbrook Darling x Equinox Sarah Mia) owned by Ellen Feld, who might be able to carry on the line, but she has not yet produced any registered offspring. Silvershoe Sunfrost's last foal is also gray, the 2017 stallion Willow Bend White Gold by Ancan True Colors (Fiddler's Contender x Aquila's Miss Bee Haven), owned by Katherine Orth, but he has not yet produced any registered offspring.

## COTTON HILL'S CHOICE

A flaxen chestnut marked with a star, strip, and both hind ankles, Cotton Hill's Choice was bred by Tobby and foaled in 1937. As with many of his young horses, Tobby bred a couple of foals from him before selling him as a stallion prospect. A double Jubilee King grandson, he was sired by Juban (Jubilee King x Jeanne) and out of

Junita (Jubilee King x Gildia). Cotton Hill's Choice was an excellent example of the diversity and performance ability Tobby expected from his Morgans. A. E. Swartz, who owned him in 1950, proudly sent in a picture for *The Morgan Horse* pictorial proclaiming of his horse that he "shows in harness and under saddle, will work double on the farm and can run a fast quarter." Cotton Hill's Choice went on to sire a total of 19 foals, among them the endurance gelding Max (x L C), owned by Mrs. Katherine Colon of Athol, Massachusetts. In 1952, Max and Katherine won the Lightweight Division of the 100 Mile Vermont Ride, as well as winning the Sweepstakes, beating Black Corner, a grade Thoroughbred who won the Heavyweight Division, for the title. Max also won the prize for Best Morgan of the event. The descendants of Cotton Hill's Choice have excelled in all disciplines and influenced many breeding programs and may still be found today. This includes many lines tracing through his daughter Junette (x Dennette) bred by Tobby (not to be confused with Junette [McAllister x Junita], also bred by Tobby).

## McBOY

A bay colt with no markings, McBoy was a son of McAllister foaled in 1939 which Tobby bred from the Go Hawk daughter Madonna. Tobby bred one foal from him, the filly Cookie (x Jeanne) and sold him as a four-year-old to Mrs. Lois Emrick of Springfield, Illinois, in 1943, advertising the horse as "lady broke." In 1947, Tobby's son Bob, then about 15 years old, rode McBoy for his new owner in the Junior Division of the Iowa 100-mile ride, actually a 109-mile route which started at and returned to Lamoni, Iowa, through some challenging terrain. McBoy and Bob placed second on this ride.

## KING MICK

A handsome flaxen chestnut marked with a wide strip and both hind ankles, King Mick was foaled in 1941. He was a son of McAllister whom Tobby bred from Jeanne and decided to keep for stud. He carried three close crosses to Charles Reade, and Tobby felt he was exactly the kind of breeding stallion he was trying to produce from this particular cross. Tobby sold him in 1957 after breeding him for the 1958 foal crop. King Mick went on to sire a total of 26 offspring, of which 14 were bred by Tobby. Tobby bred from two of King Mick's sons and two of his daughters, and one of these mares, Question Mark, would remain with him for the rest of his life.

At one point, King Mick broke a hind leg, but although the bone knitted a little awkwardly, he recovered and did just fine with his band of mares. Tobby's sister Helen thought highly enough of King Mick and his breeding to send her prized mare Jubilee Joy (Flyhawk x Sentola) to him, the breeding resulting in the beautiful well-known stallion Mickey Finn. As a young horse, Mickey was owned by Don and Joseph Chase of Milan, Ohio, and was never defeated as a weanling or yearling. He later went through several owners, winning consistently in a variety of disciplines, and became a popular sire in Michigan for several years before winding up at the Edward T. Young Cambridge Morgan Ranch in Colorado, siring a total of 69 offspring.

## DANNY DE JARNETTE

A rich dark chestnut with no markings, Danny De Jarnette was bred by Tobby in 1945 out of Daisette. This made him a maternal



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** McBoy and Bob Brunk, son of Thomas, placed 2nd in Iowa 100-mile ride in 1947 (*The Morgan Horse* February 1948); Mickey Finn as a yearling, owned by Joseph and Don Chase, Milan, Ohio. Never defeated as weanling or yearling (*The Morgan Horse* February 1953); Danny De Jarnette (*The Morgan Horse* June 1958).

half-brother of Jubilee King through his dam, and a great-grandson through his sire. As a weanling, he was second in the Morgan Futurity Show at the Logan County Fair in Lincoln, Illinois, the first year it was held, in August 1945. There were ten competitors in the class, and he was beaten only by cousin George Brunk's Melody Hawk (Flyhawk x Polly Forrest). Danny was also reserve champion of the Logan County Fair. Danny De Jarnette went on to produce 18 foals, five of whom were bred by Toby, four from Stareda, and one from Hattie C. Most notably, he was the sire of Patty Lewis, who produced two outstanding roadster champions from different sires, and remained with Toby through the end of his breeding program.

### TOBBY'S LEGACY

Toby had his own unique breeding philosophy, and built his program primarily around his mares, using a variety of stallions. He paid close attention to gathering bloodlines with close crosses to Charles Reade, daughters of Jubilee De Jarnette, and the blend of Daniel Lambert lines with Knox Morgan and the blood of his father's old foundation mare Daisy. Performance ability was especially important to him, and he strove to breed Morgans which would excel in demanding competitive sports such as roadster or endurance, as well as showing and farm work. Several of his horses did remarkably well in endurance contests, and in George Gobel and Sonny Akers, he bred two of the most spectacular roadsters in the history of the breed. He also liked colorful Morgans, and while many of the Brunk Morgans already tended towards striking coloration, Toby managed to produce even more of it, with a whole range of flaxen ranging from golden, to red, to dark chocolate chestnuts contrasting with white manes and tails.

He also managed to produce a completely different line of cream dilution through the palomino mare Cotton Hill Daisy and bred several palominos and a buckskin from her. In addition, he established another rare line of gray Morgans by breeding Daisette to the gray stallion Mountain Silver Sheik to produce Silver Princess in 1942. With an already powerful tail female line tracing all the way back to a daughter of Sherman Morgan, an unbroken line of not just gray color, but gray mares, survives to the present although it is very slim.

Although he did use McAllister, his son King Mick, and grandson Danny De Jarnette for several years each, as well as the stallion Ricardo, Toby always tended to spread his breedings among several stallions. The last foal he bred was born 40 years after the first, and in that time span Toby bred at least 90 registered Morgans from at least 32 different stallions. Of these, 14, not quite half, were stallions he bred himself. Most of the rest were stallions owned, used, or bred by other members of the Brunk family, and a few which at least had one or more lines tracing to Brunk breeding. Only a couple were complete outcrosses. Except for the four stallions mentioned above, most of these stallions Toby bred to on average of one to three times. Since he used so many different stallions, and no particular prefix or naming pattern, it is possible some may have been overlooked, but even so, these are remarkable totals. Toby's Brunk legacy lives on in many ways. ■

### RESOURCES

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