



≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

THE ORCUTT FAMILY MORGAN LEGACY

Part I—Early Ancestors

By Brenda L. Tippin

The involvement of the Orcutt family with Morgan horses is a fascinating story reaching to the very roots of the breed. The Orcutts are among the oldest—if not the oldest—family to continually operate in the Morgan breed through multiple generations, with influences upon every discipline of the Morgan breed today.

EARLY ORCUTT FAMILY HISTORY

The Orcutts were an old family, tracing to the Urquhart Clan of Scotland, from which the name is derived. The present ruin of

Urquhart Castle, one of Scotland's most popular tourist sites, dates to the period between the 13th and 16th century, although medieval fortifications existed there as early as the 6th century. Located in the Scottish Highlands, it overlooks 23-mile-long Loch Ness, the deepest and largest lake by volume in the United Kingdom, containing more fresh water than all the lakes in England and Wales combined, and which is famously home to the fabled Loch Ness Monster.

Of the Orcutt line in our story, William Orcutt, born in Warwickshire, England, in 1592, was the first to come to America,

Editor's Note: Part I of this series references horse's names from the earliest days of the Morgan breed. The author consistently follows the listings in hard copy registry volumes which may differ from the online database, as many were called by different names during their lifetime. For example, Wood's Comet #682 appears in the Morgan Register, Volume I as Comet (Wood's) and was sometimes called Flint Horse. In the online database he is listed simply as Comet A. Registry numbers will be the key to knowing which horse is being referenced.

ABOVE: Vigilda Burkland & Frank Orcutt; Gay Cavalier & Dr. Bob Orcutt; Ulendon & Lyman Orcutt (photos © Freudy).

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RIGHT TO LEFT: Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness, Inverness, Scotland (Photo by Giuseppe Milo, Dublin, Ireland, Wikimedia Commons, CC by 2.0); Map of Caledonia County, Vermont, 1858, H. F. Wallings Map Establishment (Library of Congress).



joining the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1623 or 1624. He lived to be 101 years old and died at the Bridgewater settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1693.

The Orcutt family continued to live in this area for several generations. Samuel Orcutt II, a son of Samuel Orcutt and Susanna Bates, was born in Cohasset, a second precinct in the Massachusetts Bay Colony settlement of Hingham, Norfolk County, on March 7, 1756. He was a blacksmith by occupation and became one of the pioneers of Sutton, where he became the first town clerk, settling on a farm on the South Ridge of Sutton, later occupied by Sylvester S. Doud. Eventually he moved back to Boston and worked in the arsenal there. He married Elsey Brown and first enlisted in Connecticut in 1777 as a soldier during the Revolutionary War, where he was a fifer and later 2nd Corporal for New Hampshire. Samuel and Elsey had eight children, all born between 1775 and 1792 in either Sandwich, New Hampshire, or the vicinity of Sutton, where the family lived for many years.

Interestingly, other lines of the Orcutt family tracing back to the first William branched out into other areas but also became involved with Morgan horses. For example, one line settled in Stafford, Connecticut, where later Joseph Battell interviewed Willard Orcutt (born in 1804), who provided valuable information on the origins of the old black pacer Pilot from Canada who traced to the Justin Morgan son Tom Hal and the famous broodmare Jeanne D'Arc.

Another example tracing back to William was Royal Evander

Orcutt, born in Randolph, Vermont, in 1818 to Perley Orcutt and Abigail "Nabby" Nye. Nabby was a daughter of old Nathan Nye, the same man Battell quoted in *The Morgan Horse and Register, Volume I* as relating several eyewitness accounts of the Justin Morgan Horse. It was Mr. Nye, the grandfather of Royal Orcutt, who told the popular story of Justin Morgan pulling the huge log the big draft horses had been unable to move, with the added weight of three men piled on top. Royal was only three years old when the Justin Morgan Horse died, but undoubtedly heard many wonderful stories about him from his grandfather. He went on to breed Morgans as well, including Riford's Young Gifford by Billy Rix Morgan (Gifford x mare by Sherman Morgan), out of a daughter of Woodbury he had bred, registered in *Volume I*. Yet another branch descending from William Orcutt went to Iowa, where Sanford Orcutt owned Morgans in Plainfield, Iowa, during the early 1900s.

The town of Burke, Vermont, contained the villages of East and West Burke, Burke Hollow, Sutton, East Haven, Lyndon, St. Johnsbury, and Barnet, all within a few miles of where the original Justin Morgan Horse was most frequently kept and were among the areas where his blood was most strongly prized and perpetuated. The Orcutt family established roots in the area at about the same time. Samuel died in 1815 at the age of 59. His second child and first son, Ephraim, was born in Sutton on March 20, 1778. Ephraim married Christiana Willey, whose father also served in the Revolution. They settled on the ridge of land south

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of his father's farm and had nine children. Among these were the brothers Bela, born in 1804, and Samuel, born in 1814. Evidence indicates that Morgan horses were used and very likely were being bred by the Orcutts by the time these boys were born, as both went on to be well-known breeders of Morgans.

BELA ORCUTT

Bela Orcutt was born on July 4, 1804 and was the sixth of nine children born to Ephraim and Christiana at their farm in Sutton. Although he was not in the direct line we are following, he also bred Morgans, including some listed in the pedigrees of horses registered in *Volume I*, bred by his son Lorenzo, who carried on the tradition. Bloodlines used by these two branches of the Orcutt family were interchanged, with descendants surviving to the present day. One mare Bela owned was a buckskin daughter of Blue Morgan #723. His son, Lorenzo, continued to breed from this mare and some of these horses were later owned by Harrison Orcutt, Lorenzo's cousin and the son of Bela's younger brother, Samuel. The Justin Morgan Horse was brought through the area where the Orcutts lived a number of times, and stood there for service, so many—if not most—of the farmers there owned his sons or daughters, which were already being recognized as “Morgan horses” and prized for their working qualities and versatility. Bela very likely saw the Justin Morgan Horse many times and knew him well as he would have been 17 by the time of the horse's death.

Bela married Elvira Gray in 1833, and they had 12 children. Lorenzo's birth was second to last in this large family. He was apparently one of a set of triplets with two sisters, one of which died at birth. Louisa Mae, the other surviving triplet, married the widower Amasa Morse of Burke, Vermont, in 1868. They had six children and later moved to Illinois around the 1890s. Meanwhile,

Bela died in 1874, when Lorenzo was 24 years old. Lorenzo married Catherine Rice and continued with his father's Morgan horse breeding. Among horses he bred were the mare Kitty #01272 (Morgan Tiger #816 x buckskin mare bred by Bela and sired by Dr. Abel Brown Horse #3473), and Billy #4342 (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Kitty). Both were registered in volume I of the *Morgan Register*. Lorenzo died in 1892 at just 42 years of age, and these horses passed to his cousin, Harrison.

SAMUEL ORCUTT

Born in 1814, Samuel was the seventh of nine children born to Ephraim and Christiana. He was 10 years younger than Bela and would have been only seven years old when the Justin Morgan Horse died. He may well have seen the horse, but his first-hand memories were probably less clear. Still, it was evident his father probably used Morgans on his farm as most of the neighbors did, and he was likely also influenced by Bela's admiration for the breed.

Samuel married Clarissa Danforth Burt in Burke, Vermont, in 1836. They farmed in the Burke and Newark area and had four children. The oldest, Samuel Harrison, known simply as Harrison, was the only son, followed by three daughters. Samuel was listed as a breeder of Morgan horses in the *Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties 1764–1887*, and used his Morgans for hauling freight, farming, and breeding. These activities were continued by his son, Harrison.

By the time he was 60, Samuel had moved back to Sutton, which was only five miles from Burke, and purchased property there which would become the Orcutt family home for many years. Harrison took over most of the farming and horse breeding. Samuel's wife, Clarissa, died in 1898, and he passed away in 1906 at the age of 92.

EARLY PEDIGREE CONFUSION

Many early day Morgans were so similar in both breeding and appearance they were often confused. It seems necessary for this story to point out such confusion exists around the stallions Billy #4342 and Morgan Dan #4255. Billy was a two-year-old colt when acquired by Harrison in 1892, after his cousin Lorenzo Orcutt died. He had almost the same pedigree as Morgan Dan, and these two horses were often called by each other's names. Both were sons of Borden's Ethan Allen 3d and out of daughters of Morgan Tiger. Billy, foaled in 1890, was the older of the two. His dam, Kitty, also bred by Lorenzo, was a daughter of Morgan Tiger #816 and her second dam was a daughter of the Dr. Abel Brown Horse. Kitty was foaled in 1879 and Laura, the dam of Morgan Dan, was foaled around 1880. However, Kitty's dam was a buckskin mare bred by Bela Orcutt, while Laura's dam was a chestnut mare bred by Horace Hall, though both were by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse. Laura's second dam was the Fairbanks mare by Billy Root, while Kitty's second dam was a dun-colored Fairbanks mare sired by Blue Morgan, son of Royal Morgan. As to appearance, both Morgan Dan and Billy were chestnut, but Billy was marked with a small star and left hind foot while Morgan Dan had a stripe on the face.

It seems likely the confusion between these two horses was never entirely cleared up. Billy #4342 is credited with eight registered offspring, but an odd pattern exists. His first foal, Lady Rogers, foaled in 1895, was bred in Ft. Dodge, Iowa. In 1901, he had Mary Rogers bred in West Burke, Vermont, listed as by Billy (Morgan Dan) 4342, and in 1903, he had Lucy listed as by Morgan Dan (Billy) 4342 bred in West Burke, Vermont. In 1904, he is credited with Nancy Belle, listed simply as by Billy 4342, bred in Mankato, Minnesota; and in 1907, he had Fern, also listed as by Billy 4342, bred by the same breeder in Mankato, Minnesota. In 1908, he is credited with Mayflower, listed as by Morgan Dan (Billy) 4342, bred in Newark, Vermont. In 1909, he had Morgan Dan Jr listed as by Morgan Dan (Billy) 4342 in West Burke, Vermont. Finally, in 1911, he is credited with Thoughtful, listed simply as by Billy 4342, bred by the same breeder in Mankato, Minnesota, a distance of 1,450 miles from West Burke. It seems likely that the real Billy was sold early on to Iowa, then Minnesota, while Morgan Dan remained in Vermont and the Vermont foals were probably by Morgan Dan #4255. However, none of the lines credited to Billy #4342 have descendants surviving today. ■



SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT: Parents Paolina Ann and Samuel Harrison Orcutt celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with their sons, Franklin Harrison Orcutt (father of Dr. Bob Orcutt of Burkland Farm); and **STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT:** John Murray, Wallace Lyman (“W. L.,” father of Lyman Orcutt of Orland Farm), Irvin Elhanan, and Elbert Ellery. The men in the Orcutt family were frequently known by their middle names.

HARRISON ORCUTT

Samuel Harrison Orcutt was born on December 5th, 1840, on the Sherman Howland Farm in Burke, Vermont. By this time, most of the farmers in Caledonia County owned Morgans of the purest and most intensely inbred lines in the country. Many had started by breeding to old Justin Morgan and keeping one of his daughters, continuing to breed back to his sons and grandsons. The careful breeding of the Orcutt family for generations was largely responsible for ensuring some of the richest lines in the breed were preserved and have been passed down to the present day.

Harrison married Paolina Ann Kenerson on January 15, 1870. They had five children, all boys: Irvin Elhanan, born August 23, 1870; Franklin Harrison, born June 30, 1872; Elbert Ellery, born April 7, 1880; Wallace Lyman, born April 1, 1883; and John Murray, born September 12, 1888. All the Orcutt boys were raised with Morgan horses. Volume I of the *Morgan Horse Register* was not published until 1894, and though it was a few years before Harrison began to register any of his horses, at least four of the boys are mentioned in the pages of the *Morgan Horse Registry* volumes.

Irvin, the oldest, married Mary Jane Ryther in Burke in 1894. They moved to Orleans County, about 25 miles away, and began farming with Morgan horses in the small village of Coventry. They had one child, Hazel Pearl, born in 1896. Irvin owned the Morgan stallion Pete #4471, used by his father for breeding. Irvin and his

wife later retired to Windsor, Vermont, and he died there in 1957.

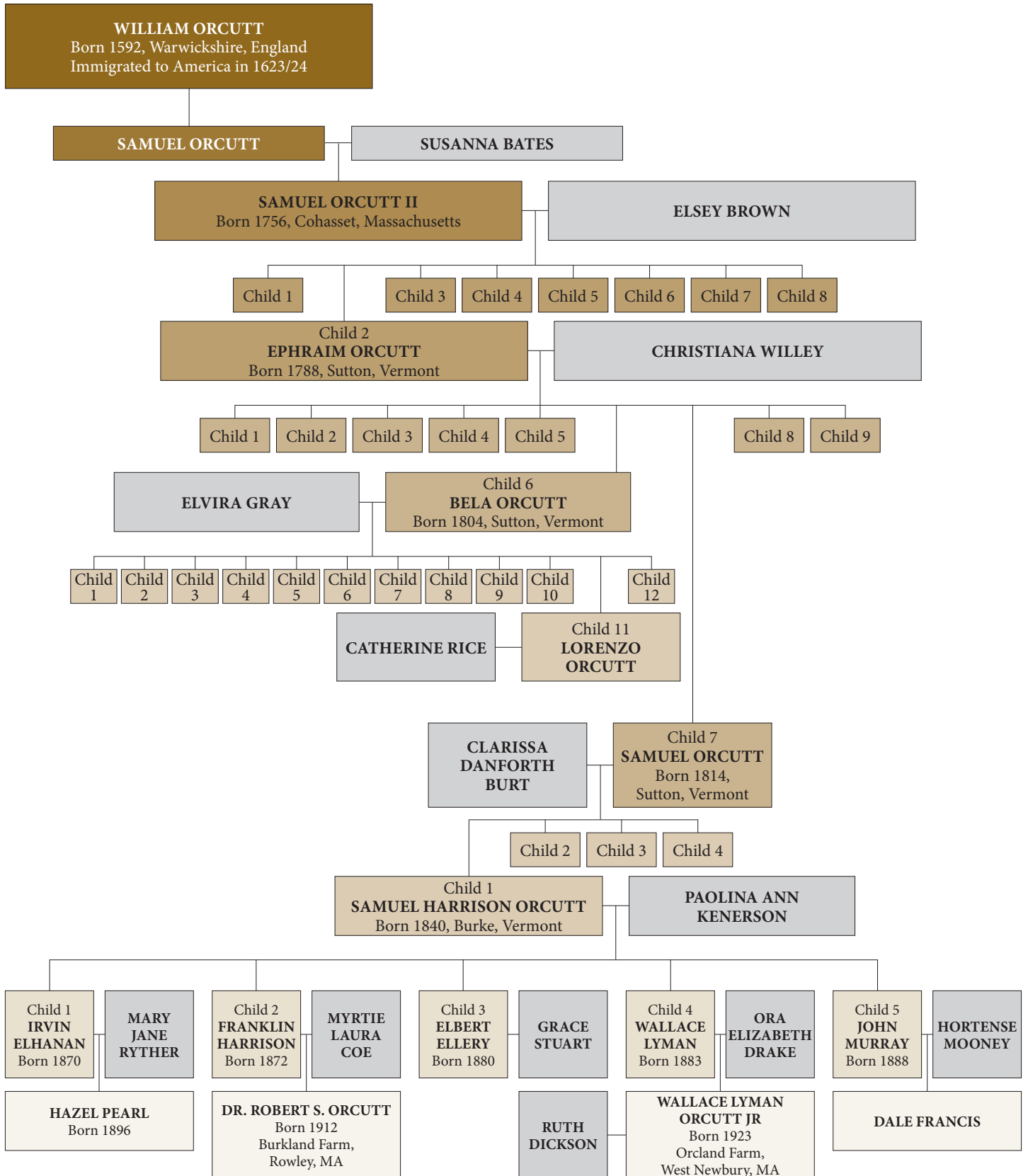
Franklin Harrison Orcutt, the second son, was born in 1872. He spent a lifetime breeding Morgans, including such influential horses as the well-known mare Artemisia, and his story will be visited in more detail in his own chapter of this series. Frank was the father of veterinarian Dr. Robert S. Orcutt. The Burkland prefix belongs to their side of the family, who continue to breed Morgans today.

The third son was Elbert Ellery Orcutt, born April 7, 1880. Elbert married Grace Stuart in 1901 and was a 1907 graduate of Yale. He spent most of his life as a high school professor in New Hampshire, and later Connecticut. He died at his home in New London, Connecticut, in 1969, and was buried in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

Wallace Lyman Orcutt, the fourth son, was born on April 1, 1883, and became a medical doctor. Like his brother Frank, he also spent a lifetime breeding Morgans, such as the 1933 stallion Ulendon (Ulysses x Allenda) and many others. His son, also named Wallace Lyman Orcutt, with his wife Ruth (Dickson) continued the Orland prefix belonging to this side of the family.

The fifth and youngest son, John Murray Orcutt, was born September 12, 1888. While he did not go on to become a lifelong breeder of Morgan horses, he is listed in the pages of the *Morgan Horse Register, Volume III* as submitting the registration for Orcutt's Morgan #5335, bred by his father. John went to work for the railroad as a traveling auditor. In 1910, he married Hortense Mooney, and

ORCUTT FAMILY TREE





MORGAN DAN & WELCOME

LEFT TO RIGHT: Morgan Dan (Borden's Ethan Allen 3d x Laura) (Allbreedpedigree.com); Welcome in 1917 at 10 years old (AMHA archives, contributed by Dave Ladd).

they had one son, Dale Francis, born in Sutton, Vermont. When the boy was small, they moved to Newport, Vermont, and later to Woodsville, New Hampshire. Sadly, Dale was killed in a tragic skiing accident just a few days before his 12th birthday. John and his wife later moved to Concord, New Hampshire, and he passed away in 1982 at the age of 94.

Harrison continued to live in the Orcutt family home in Sutton purchased by his father, and by his late 70s, his health had begun to fail. He was mostly bedridden for the last five years of his life, cared for tenderly by his wife and son, Frank, who lived nearest, and died in 1923 in his home at the age of 82. He was remembered for his wonderful story-telling ability and his keen appreciation for good horses.

MORGANS BRED BY HARRISON ORCUTT

Doubtless, Harrison bred many more Morgans than listed here, and his father and grandfather had bred Morgans as well, but their names and stories are lost to history. There would be no Morgan registry for many years yet, and while many of the farmers, particularly in Caledonia County where the Orcutts lived, had come to realize they wanted to perpetuate the Morgan blood, few kept written records or pedigrees of the horses they bred. Neighbors often bred to one another's horses, and many of the horses were known simply by the name of the owner, which was often difficult to trace if the horse changed hands.

Although the first *Registry* was published in 1894, it was not yet habit to register Morgans. Because farmers were used to being frugal, many were often reluctant or didn't feel it was worthwhile to spend the money for the registration fee, especially for mares or geldings. Others meant to, but busy with other work, simply never got around to it. Many would never have been documented at all had it not been for the persistence of Joseph Battell in tracking

pedigrees, but for every one he recorded, there were dozens of others he had no time to pursue.

Thus, the success of the registry, and survival of the bloodlines we have today, depended upon the farmers who took the time to register their horses. The Orcutts were among a handful of early breeders who began to adopt the practice of registering their Morgans during the late 1800s and early 1900s. These Morgans bred by Harrison, along with the mare Kitty and her son Billy, which he acquired after his cousin Lorenzo's death, are the first Morgans we have specific records of for the Orcutt family.

LAURA

Although she was not registered, Laura is mentioned in the pedigrees of several Morgans who were. Among the earliest Morgans recorded as bred by Harrison, Laura was a sorrel daughter of Morgan Tiger #816 and foaled about 1880. Her dam was a chestnut mare bred by Horace Hall, sired by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse, and out of a mare bred by Warren Fairbanks and sired by old Billy Root. Both the Halls and the Fairbankses were old families of Caledonia County who had been breeding Morgans for generations. The Fairbanks mare was another highly-regarded mare, foaled around the same time as the famous Milkingstool mare (also of Caledonia County). Laura was the dam of at least three foals that are known, all bred by Harrison. All three of the lines tracing to her are still strongly influential today.

MORGAN DAN #4255

Foaled in 1892, Morgan Dan was bred by Harrison Orcutt in West Burke, Vermont, and the first foal of Laura that is mentioned. Sired by Borden's Ethan Allen 3d #2987 and out of Laura, he was a chestnut horse marked with a stripe on the face, standing 14½

hands tall and weighing 900 pounds, and is registered in *Volume IV*. He died in June of 1908.

Morgan Dan #4255 is credited with two registered offspring, Welcome #5702 and Maud Root #01703, both of which bred on. He is best known for his son Welcome, one of eight Lippitt Foundation Sires. For more on Welcome see “Lippitt Foundation Sires, Part II, Welcome, Through His Sons Moro and Vigilant,” *The Morgan Horse*, January 2022.

ORCUTT’S MORGAN #5335

Another horse bred by Harrison, Orcutt’s Morgan #5335, was also sometimes confused with Morgan Dan, though not to the same degree. He was also foaled in 1892, and was chestnut, slightly larger than Morgan Dan. He stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 950 pounds. Orcutt’s Morgan had nearly an identical pedigree, being sired by Ethan Allen 3d 4136 and out of another sorrel mare whose name is not given, bred by Harrison Orcutt and sired by Morgan Tiger #816. The second dam of Orcutt’s Morgan was a sorrel mare bred by Luther Hall, of Newark, Vermont, and sired by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse #3473. The dam of Orcutt’s Morgan was thus closely related to Laura, perhaps a full sister or full sister in blood. Laura’s dam was bred by Horace Hall and sired by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse, while this mare’s dam was bred by Horace’s father, Luther Hall, and also sired by the Dr. Abel Brown Horse. Her pedigree is not extended further. Orcutt’s Morgan was registered by John Murray Orcutt, West Burke, Vermont, the youngest son of Harrison. Orcutt’s Morgan was the sire of one registered foal, Morgan Prince, who did not breed on.

BLACK BEAUTY

Foaled 1895, Black Beauty was another unregistered mare bred by Harrison, and out of his foundation mare Laura. She is listed as sired by Peet Cobden, who was in fact the stallion Pete #4471, sired by Cobden #1515, and owned by Harrison’s oldest son, Irvin. She had one known foal, the mare Brown Beauty #02854, sired by Bob Morgan A.

BEAUTY #0118

Foaled in 1898, Beauty was a dark chestnut mare standing 15 hands tall and weighing 950 pounds. She was bred by Harrison Orcutt in Sutton, Vermont, and was the only registered offspring of Pete Morgan #4471. Her dam was an unnamed mare bred by Harrison Orcutt, sired by Charley Watson #813 (full brother of Morgan Tiger #816). Beauty’s 2d dam was a chestnut mare sired by Dr. Abel Brown Horse #3473, and her 3d dam was by Billy Root #9. Beauty was the dam of one registered Morgan foal, Bethada. This line continued in the Orcutt family for a few generations but did not breed on after 1933.

BROWN BEAUTY #02854

Foaled in 1902, Brown Beauty was a lovely brown mare with black points standing 14½ hands tall and weighing 900 pounds. She was bred by Harrison Orcutt and sired by Bob



TOPAZ FAMILY THROUGH FAIRYTOP

ROW 1: Topaz (Mansfield x Lady Lyndon); **ROW 2:** Mentor (Goldfield x Fairytop); Nubia (Hudson x Fairytop [Delmont x Topaz]); **ROW 3:** Rena (Magellan x Nubia); **ROW 4:** Chasley Superman (Orcland Leader x Rena); Westwold Dona Resa (Orcland Dondarling x Rena) (photos from AMHA archives).

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TOPAZ FAMILY THROUGH INEZ

LEFT TO RIGHT: Inez (Delmont x Topaz); Symphonee (Panfield x Inez); UVM Kathy (Orcland Vigildon x Symphonee) (photos from AMHA archives, Warren Patriquin).



TOPAZ FAMILY THROUGH MAGELLAN

LEFT TO RIGHT: Magellan (Goldfield x Topaz); Mayphil (Magellan x Phillipa), Vigilmay and Vigilmarch, both by Orcland Vigildon and out of Mayphil; Rena (Magellan x Nubia), who descends from Topaz through both her sire and dam (photos from AMHA archives).

Morgan #4549. Her dam was the unregistered mare Black Beauty mentioned above, bred by Harrison Orcutt, sired by Pete #4471 and out of Laura by Morgan Tiger #816. Brown Beauty had three registered foals. These were Morgan Dan Jr #6835, Lady Lyndon #03342, and Mehlady Woodbury #04338. Both her daughters bred on and have numerous descendants today.

MORGAN DAN JR. #6835

Morgan Dan Jr. was a bay stallion with black points, bred by Harrison Orcutt in West Burke, Vermont, and foaled in 1909. He is listed as sired by Morgan Dan (Billy) #4342 and credited to Billy #4342. As explained in the accompanying sidebar, and especially as he was given the name Morgan Dan Jr., it seems more likely he was sired by Morgan Dan #4255 rather than by Billy #4342, unless Billy was somehow traveling back and forth over 1,450 miles between Minnesota and Vermont in alternating years, which would have been very unusual for that era. His dam was Brown Beauty #02854 by Bob Morgan #4549, mentioned above. It was Harrison who submitted the registration and evident he intended to list the sire as Morgan Dan. However, it was not clear whether the confusion of the two horses was in the registration number, possibly accidentally being assigned to both in the beginning, or just how it came about. While this anomaly presents some confusion in researching

pedigrees, no present day Morgans are affected as Morgan Dan Jr. sired no registered offspring.

LADY LYNDON #03342

Foaled in 1910, Lady Lyndon was the last mare listed as bred by Harrison Orcutt. A bay mare with black points, she was sired by Lyndon #5080 and out of Brown Beauty #02854 by Bob Morgan #4549. Lady Lyndon was sold to the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm and went on to produce nine foals. She is best known as the dam of Topaz #04442 by Mansfield #7255 (Bennington x Artemisia). Topaz, also used by the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm, was the dam of eight foals, including the mares Fairytop #04960 (dam of 15 foals) and Inez #05291 (both by Delmont #7936 (Ulysses x Ladelle)) and the stallion Magellan #8625 by Goldfield #7991 (Mansfield x Juno). All of these have numerous descendants today and are exceptionally influential. For example, the legendary stallion Vigilmarch #12044 by Orcland Vigildon #10095 (Ulendon x Vigilda Burkland) was out of Mayphil, a daughter of Magellan. Inez was the granddam of UVM Kathy #012431 by Orcland Vigildon, through her daughter Symphonee (by Panfield #9206), a legendary producer for the University of Vermont with 15 foals, as well as a wonderful show mare with many champion titles.

Fairytop's offspring included the mare Nubia #06100 (x



Tombstone of S. Harrison Orcutt and his wife, Paolina A. Kenerson.

Hudson #8401), whose produce included the famous mare Rena #07229, known for regularly appearing in columns in *The Morgan Horse* during the 1960s through 1971, when author William Brown Melony told stories from Rena's viewpoint. Rena's sire was also Magellan, giving her a double cross to Lady Lyndon.

Remarkably, Rena produced ten foals, three of which were among the original 22 horses initially inducted into the AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame. Perhaps even more remarkable, these three horses were all by different sires. They were the gelding Windcrest Fireball #11695 (by Upwey Ben Don); the stallion Chasley Superman #12194 (by Orland Leader); and the Broodmare Hall of Fame mare Westwold Dona Resa #012310 (by Orland Dondarling). Rena was also the granddam of five world champion mares and one world champion stallion. They are Hanover Super Lady, 1973; Van Lu Love Story, 1980; Special Kay, 1979, 1981; Van Lu Jolie, 1985; Suzy's Suzette, 1983; and Van Lu Starbuck, 1984, respectively.

Fairytop was also the dam of the great stallion Mentor #8627 (x Goldfield), who was three times Grand Champion Stallion at the National Morgan Horse Show for the U. S. Government Morgan Horse Farm and went on to become herd sire for the University of Connecticut, siring a total of 84 registered offspring.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

It can be seen that even the earliest influence of the Orcutt legacy was far-reaching and spread throughout the breed in many directions far too numerous to mention. Each succeeding generation of Orcutts in their various branches continued to build upon the carefully laid foundation lines established by their ancestors, and as we shall see, the Orcutt story will become huge. Future chapters in the story will include Chapter II: Frank Orcutt; Chapter III: Dr. W. L. Orcutt; Chapter IV: Dr. Bob Orcutt; Chapter V: Lyman Orcutt; and Chapter VI: Orcutt Family Continuing Legacy. ■

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ORCUTT FAMILY FOUNDATION LINES

Several stallions played important roles in the early breeding programs of Orcutt family members. They did not own these stallions but bred to many of them or owned their daughters, and the breeding patterns are repeated consistently in a carefully woven foundation that continued to build for generations.

ROYAL MORGAN #11

Bred by Mr. Aldrich of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, Royal Morgan was a dark bay with a small star, standing 13¾ hands, weighing 1,000 pounds, and said to be foaled about 1821. He was a double grandson of old Justin Morgan, being a son of Sherman and out of the Aldrich mare, a Justin Morgan daughter, known for her beauty and compact form and prized for her remarkable powers of endurance. Royal Morgan was exhibited at the state fair in Burlington, Vermont, in 1858 when he was said to be 37 years old. He was active until his death later that year; he jumped a three-foot fence to get in with other horses the day before he died.

BLUE MORGAN #723

Also known as the Crane or Wilson Horse, Blue Morgan was sired by Royal Morgan (mentioned above), bred by Reuben Crane of Derby, Vermont, and foaled in 1844. He was deep-bodied and well-muscled, standing 15 hands tall, and interestingly was grulla, or mouse gray, in color, with a black stripe down his back and across the shoulders.

BILLY ROOT A #9

Foaled in 1829, Billy Root was bred by Hezekiah Martin of St. Johnsbury, and was another double grandson of Justin Morgan, sired by Sherman and out of a Justin Morgan daughter. He was a dark chestnut with a few white hairs in his forehead and a little white on his off-hind foot, and he weighed 942 pounds. Although small, he had wonderful strength and endurance and was prized for his lively and cheerful personality.

STREETER HORSE #674

One of the best sons of old Billy Root, the Streeter Horse (also known as the "Greeley Horse" in the online registry) was a chestnut marked with a stripe on his face and one white hind foot. Like his sire, he was small but powerfully built, standing 14 hands tall and weighing 875 pounds. Bred by James Greeley of Lyndon,

Vermont, he was foaled in 1844 and out of a bright bay daughter of the Batchelder Horse by Sherman Morgan.

DR. ABEL BROWN HORSE #3473

Bred by Leonard Higgins of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, the Dr. Abel Brown Horse was foaled about 1846. He was a chestnut standing 15 hands tall and weighed about 1,000 pounds. He was kept in the vicinity of Burke, Vermont, and owned by Dr. Abel Brown. He was entered twice in volume II of the *Register*, once as Abel Brown Horse #1729, but this was determined to be the same horse and changed in *Volume IV* to merge the record to Dr. Abel Brown Horse #3473. Some confusion still arises when the older number is referenced in pedigrees. He was highly regarded and especially known for the quality of his daughters.

WOOD'S COMET #682

A chestnut weighing 1,050 pounds, Wood's Comet was bred by Jonas Flint of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and foaled about 1846. He was a son of Billy Root A and out of a daughter of Royal Morgan. Comet was later owned by Irvin Wood of Hancock, New Hampshire, and won a number of premiums, including one at the New Hampshire State Fair and one at the National Fair in Boston, as well as one in his own county.

BILLY ROBERTS #4550

Billy Roberts was a chestnut with a white face, bred by George Roberts of St. Johnsbury Centre, Vermont, and foaled in 1889. He was sired by Chase's Mountaineer and out of a mare by Billy Folsom (Streeter Horse x Folsom mare by Shedd horse). His second dam was a daughter of Streeter Horse; third dam by Stanton Horse, fourth dam by Billy Root and fifth dam a daughter of Sherman Morgan.

CHARLEY WATSON #813

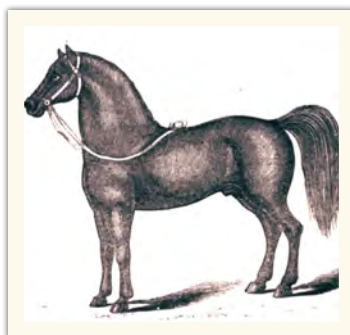
Bred by Charles Watson of West Burke, Vermont, and foaled in



Royal Morgan #11



Billy Root A #9



Wood's Comet #682



Billy Roberts #4550

1866, Charley Watson, also known as Black Morgan 2d, was a well-muscled black horse marked with one white hind foot. He stood 15½ hands tall and weighed 1,150 pounds. His sire was Black Morgan #810, a son of Green Mountain (Bachop Horse) #16 by Sherman Morgan. His dam was the well-known Watson mare, a daughter of Wood's Comet #682, out of a mare by Wilson Horse, son of Royal Morgan.

MORGAN TIGER #816

A full brother of Charley Watson, Morgan Tiger was a handsome dark chestnut marked with a star, also bred by Charles Watson, and foaled in 1868. He stood 15 hands tall and weighed 1,000 pounds. He was later owned by A. W. Thayer of West Burke, Vermont.

BILLY BODETTE #814

Billy Bodette was bred by David Bodette of Lyndon Corner, Vermont, and foaled in 1871. He was a chestnut marked with a faint star, stood 15 hands tall, and weighed 950 pounds. A son of Charley Watson, he was out of another fine daughter of Wood's Comet by Billy Root, and his second dam was a daughter of Royal Morgan. Billy Bodette was especially known for the quality of his daughters, to which he very likely passed on the large heart gene. He was also the sire of Young General Gifford #4551, who was one of five stallions considered to be "The Old Guard" by Vermont breeders.

BORDEN'S ETHAN ALLEN 3D #3987

A beautiful dark chestnut marked with a stripe on the face and one white hind ankle, Ethan Allen 3d was bred by Allen J. Wiggins of Burke, Vermont, and foaled in 1885. He was a son of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d and out of a bay daughter of Cushing's Green Mountain, second dam by Charley Watson, and tracing his tail female line back through the famous Milkingstool mare. He was known for his great beauty, kind and gentle disposition, and remarkably showy action, and was an outstanding sire of both sons and daughters. He was another of the five stallions considered to be "The Old Guard."

BOB MORGAN #4549

Bred by William Rosebrooks of Island Pond, Vermont, Bob Morgan was a strikingly handsome bay with black points who was foaled in 1888. He stood 15 hands tall and weighed 1,000 pounds. He was another son of Peter's Ethan Allen 2d, and his dam, Topsey, was

also a daughter of Cushing's Green Mountain, second dam Dinah by Black Morgan, the sire of Charley Watson, so he was bred very similarly to Ethan Allen 3d. Bob Morgan was also one of the five stallions of "The Old Guard," and an outstanding sire of both sons and daughters.

CUSHING'S GREEN MOUNTAIN #493

A handsome dark bay standing 15 hands tall and weighing 1,050 pounds, Cushing's Green Mountain was bred by Charles W. Cushing of Caledonia County, Vermont, and was a son of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan #42. His dam was a daughter of Billy Root, and second dam by Sherman Morgan. He was owned for a time by C. T. A. Humphrey of Burke, Vermont, and is sometimes referred to as Humphrey's Green Mountain. He was known especially for his daughters and plays an important role in many pedigrees.

PETE #4471

A black stallion marked with star, snip, and right hind foot, bred by O. H. Hawkins of Barton Landing, Vermont, Pete was a son of Cobden 1515 by Daniel Lambert. He was out of a brown mare by Gen. Morrill, 2d dam by Ford's Black Hawk, and 3d dam by Royal Morgan. This horse was sometimes referred to as Peet Cobden, or Pete Morgan, but was in fact a stallion Harrison bred to, owned by his oldest son, Irvin Orcutt. He is registered simply as Pete both in volume I, where he is listed as owned by Irvin Orcutt, and in volume II of the *Morgan Register*. His line survives through his daughter, Black Beauty, and granddaughter, Brown Beauty.

LYNDON #5080

A dark chestnut stallion marked with a white face, Lyndon was bred by E. H. Hoffman of Lyndon, Vermont, and foaled in 1904. He was sired by Billy Roberts #4550, and out of Topsy #02504 by Billy Bodette #814. Topsy, one of the original foundation mares registered in volume I of the *Morgan Register*, was a chestnut marked with a star, 15 hands tall, and weighed 1,000 pounds. She was bred by W. K. Locklin of Lyndon, Vermont, foaled in 1887, and sired by Billy Bodette #814. Her dam was a chestnut mare bred by W. K. Locklin and sired by Black Morgan #810; 2d dam bay, also bred by W. K. Locklin, and sired by Wood's Comet (Flint Horse) #682, son of Billy Root #9; 3d dam bay, bred in Barre, Vermont, and said to be by Hale's Green Mountain Morgan #42. ■



Billy Bodette #814



Borden's Ethan Allen 3d #3987



Bob Morgan #4549



Lyndon #5080