



~ HISTORY LESSON ~

THE ORCUTT FAMILY MORGAN LEGACY

Part 2 — Frank Orcutt

An unassuming Vermont farmer, Frank Orcutt bred both Artemisia and Vigilda Burkland, leaving an indelible influence on the Morgan breed for generations.

By Brenda L. Tippin

The role of Frank Orcutt in the Orcutt family's Morgan breeding legacy is truly remarkable. Frank was gifted in that he could simply look at a horse and almost immediately understand its individual temperament and the best way to train it. However, his true passion was breeding, and he firmly believed in the genetic strength of pure, old-blooded mares, as close to the original blood of Justin Morgan as he could get. In an era when the Morgan breed had been seriously diluted by outcrosses to satisfy

the speed craze, the old Vermont Morgan was hard to find, but Frank was one of a handful of breeders who kept this gene pool alive. His widespread influence on the breed is profound.

FRANK ORCUTT'S EARLY LIFE

Franklin Harrison Orcutt, known simply as "Frank," was born June 30, 1872, in Sutton, Vermont to Samuel Harrison and Paolina (Kenerson) Orcutt. His earliest memories were of Morgan horses

ABOVE: Vigilda Burkland with Frank and Dr. Robert Orcutt, 1956 (photo © Freudy, provided by the family of Dr. Robert Orcutt).



ABOVE: Frank and Myrtie Orcutt with son Samuel Robert (Dr. Bob), and Bob's cousin Raymond, infant, at the family homestead in Burke, Vermont (from the collection of the Noble family).

and Frank literally grew up surrounded by the purest original strains in the breed. His life also spanned a unique era in that he was old enough to recall firsthand memories of many of the early Morgans who made up the very roots of the Morgan breed passed down to the present day, and he lived long enough to pass his knowledge on to those who still remember him. He married Myrtie Laura Coe in Sutton on March 28, 1895. Myrtie was the daughter of Mortimer Delville Coe and Ellen Jeanette Gilfillan Coe and the granddaughter of Allen and Betsy Coe of Burke, Vermont.

Quiet and unassuming, Frank Orcutt was 69 by the time *The Morgan Horse* magazine was first published in 1941. His brother, Dr. Wallace Lyman Orcutt, who was 10 years younger than Frank, served as president of the Morgan Horse Club from 1931 to 1947, while Frank continued farming in Burke, Vermont, as he had always done. A few old timers who knew Frank and his father before him appreciated his breeding knowledge and expertise, but not many, even of those close friends who knew him well, ever realized just how far-reaching Frank's influence on the Morgan breed would be.

Many knew and respected Frank. He never advertised his farm or breeding program as he had no need to, word of mouth brought him all the business he needed. While his brother, Wallace, and later his nephew Lyman and son S. Robert (Dr. Bob) were mentioned often in the pages of the magazine, mention of Frank was seldom made. He was known to many as "the brother of Dr. W. L., the uncle of Lyman, or the father of Dr. Bob," but he never seemed to mind this. Ironically, the majority of the Morgans his brother, nephew, and son had—certainly the ones that became the backbone of their breeding programs—could all be traced to Frank. The same

might be said for most of us today. Few owners of contemporary, registered Morgans have a horse in their barn or pasture that does not trace to the breeding of Frank Orcutt, regardless of what part of the nation they live in, or what their horses are used for.

Respected breeders who knew Frank and bought horses from him at one time or another included Elmer Darling, Edwin H. Hoffman, Spencer Borden, A. Fullerton Phillips, Dana Wingate Kelly, Robert Lippitt Knight, Townshend Farms, Roland Hill, the U. S. Government Morgan Horse Farm, and, of course, his brother, Dr. W. L. Orcutt. Major breeders who owned foundation horses carrying multiple crosses to horses bred by Frank Orcutt include Brunk (Senator Graham, Congo), L. U. Sheep Ranch, Jackson Ranch, Roland Hill, Beckridge, Aranaway, Shawalla, Ida-Ho, Prima Kosta Rancho, Kellstrom, Devan, Funquest, Townshend, Orcland, Kohler, Whippoorwill, East of Equinox, Kennebec, Royalton and many other Lippitt lines, Lambert, Broadwall, MaryMels, Windcrest (Upwey Ben Don), Waseeka (Waseeka's Nocturne), Hearst, and the U. S. Government Farm.

This list is far from all inclusive. We are not talking about one long ago cross either. Nearly all these programs were founded with horses that carried this blood, so the crosses were repeated and woven many times throughout the pedigree. Few other individual breeders could make such a claim. Perhaps the U. S. Government Farm might, but that still hardly compares with one Vermont farmer working alone on a small farm, breeding only a few colts each year and never advertising a stallion. Moreover, every Government-bred horse in the above-mentioned programs also carried crosses to Frank Orcutt breeding. This fact alone is astounding, as are the statistics



ABOVE: Frank and his family relied on multiple hitches of their Morgan horses for farming, transportation, and rolling roads after winter snowstorms (from the collection of the Dr. Robert Orcutt family).

found on the AMHA website. The website lists results that include “National Champions” (dating back to the 1960s when shows like New England, Circle J, Gold Cup, and others had national standing) and the pinning of In-Hand World Champions from 1973 to 2012. Every stallion and mare on these lists carry multiple crosses to Frank Orcutt’s breeding (except one which carried crosses to horses bred by his father). In addition, all Broodmare Hall of Fame inductees and the 22 original AMHA Show Horse Hall of Famers all trace to horses he bred. When you consider that Frank died in 1960, his ongoing influence is even more remarkable.

In 1942, there were 15 Morgan stallions in the US Remount. Of these, nine trace to Frank Orcutt:

- Two grandsons of Ethan Woodbury (Artemisa’s full brother) through his daughter Carolyn: Rockwood and Swanton
- One son of Artemisia: Ulysses
- Five grandsons of Artemisia (through Ulysses, Mansfield and Querido): Revere, Cranford, Mascot Glory, Tehachapi Allan, and Delmont
- One double great-grandson of Artemisia who was also a grandson of Lady Lyndon, bred by Harrison Orcutt: Haven

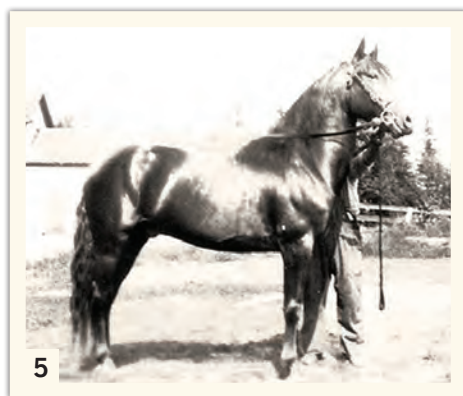
How is this possible? Born in 1872, Frank lived his entire 88 years with Morgans. In an interview with Russell E. Smith, DVM (the handwritten notes are preserved in the albums kept by Frank’s granddaughter, Helen Noble, and her family), Frank stated that the old farm was deeded to his grandfather, Samuel, and his father, Harrison, in 1865 by sisters of his grandfather’s wife. Frank chose to follow in his father’s footsteps, farming, and breeding Morgans not far from his father’s place, and like his father, believed firmly in the old Vermont bloodlines. Frank was content with the simple life of farming and used the horses for most of these years. He did keep a couple pairs of draft horses as well, but believed his “little creatures,” as he liked to call them, could do as much—or more—work as the

big horses, and they would work tirelessly all day, rain, or shine.

In talking with Dr. Smith, Frank recalled his first mare was Laura, an unregistered daughter of Morgan Tiger #816 out of a daughter of the Dr. Abel Brown Horse #3473, whom his father bred. She was a chestnut mare, foaled when he was about eight years old, so he literally grew up with her, and she became his foundation mare. “Lady Laura was the Laura’s first colt,” Frank remembered. “Bob Morgan was sire of Lady Laura. He was in Burke, owned by Elmer Coe, my wife’s cousin. Next was Artemisia. Her dam was Lady Laura, and she was by Borden’s Ethan Allen 3d. He was quite a horse, wasn’t he?”

Frank left home at the age of 18 and worked as a farmer, later working on bridges for the Boston and Maine Railroad, trying to save money for his own farm. When he was 23 in 1895, he married Myrtie Coe, also of Burke, Vermont. The Coe family were also long-time breeders of Morgans in the area. As an interesting side note, Myrtie’s cousin, Elmer H. Coe, bred the mare Allenda #04393, as well as Allenda’s sire, Captain Morgan #6906 (Borden’s Ethan Allen 3d #3987 x Bess #0205). Allenda became the dam of Ulendon #7839, who will be covered more in later chapters. Frank and Myrtie raised a family of five children, two girls and three boys: Raymond Coe, 1896–1914; Elsie Jannette, 1898–1958; Reginald Franklin, 1904–1994; Edith Clarissa, 1909–1991; and Samuel Robert, 1912–2007, later known as “Dr. Bob.” Dr. Bob, the youngest, was the only one to go into the horse business. He became a veterinarian and a talented trainer of Morgan horses. His chapter will follow later in this series.

Frank and Myrtie saved enough to buy their farm in the East Burke area in 1900. The main farm was about 135 acres with 70 acres in tillage and the rest in “sugar bush” (the common term for sugar maple groves) and timber. According to the unpublished notes in possession of the Noble family, Frank was quoted as saying “in addition to this [referring to the 135 acres] we had a



Morgan stallions appearing in the pedigrees of Frank Orcutt's earliest breeding include Bob Morgan (1), sire of Frank's first homebred Lady Laura (x Laura); Borden's Ethan Allen 3rd (2), sire of both Artemisa and Ethan Woodbury; Lyndon (3), sire of Lucinne, the dam of Vigilda Burkland; Sir Ethan Allen (4), sire of three out of Lucinne, including the mare Ethanelda; and Vigilant #7352 (Welcome #5702 x Lucille #1547) (5), sire of Vigilda Burkland. His sire was a son of Morgan Dan #4255, bred by Frank's father, Harrison Orcutt (photos from *The Old Farmer, Our Dumb Animals*, AMHA & NMMH archives).

back pasture of about 327 acres. That includes the whole outfit." It was hard work. Vermont was, and still is, famous for three things: Jersey cattle, maple syrup, and Morgan horses.

Frank determined at first to produce all three. He bred his old mare Laura to Bob Morgan #4549, who was owned at the time by Myrtie's cousin, Elmer. She produced a dark chestnut filly, Lady Laura #03341, foaled in 1900, the same year they started farming, and it marked the beginning of 60 years of breeding Morgans for him. The Jerseys, however, proved to be wild and fast. Frank solved this problem, as many other Vermont farmers did, by crossing them with Guernseys to slow them down a bit and make them more manageable, as Guernseys are known for their very docile temperament, as well as excellent milk yield with high fat and protein.

Frank and Myrtie started out by making their own butter, as Vermont was known as the butter capital of the world, winning prizes in international competitions, and the state was producing 35 million pounds of butter at the time they began. Later, when separators became available, they sold cream to the local dairies and saved the skim to use at home for pigs and calves. They made their cash mostly with butter, young cattle, maple syrup, and timber. Eventually the local creameries began accepting fluid milk as well.

To power all this farm work, Frank relied heavily on the Morgans he raised and used them for almost everything. When asked if he used his Morgans for farming, Frank said, "By gorrie, yes! I have used those little Morgans three abreast. On the manure spreader, two and two....There wasn't one in the bunch that would weigh 1,000 pounds....Had Massachusetts visitors come up on the farm one time. Had four horses on the manure spreader and the visitors

were watching. Them little creatures were on the trot. These visitors were two ladies, and they were a laughing to see those horses go. It wasn't new to me. It was a lot of fun to have 'em." He was often asked to show his four-horse hitch at local fairs, which he enjoyed thoroughly, and the crowds loved the spirited Morgans.

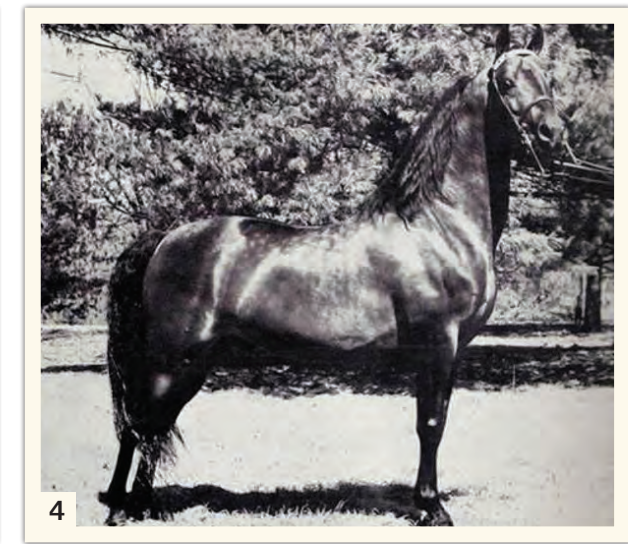
In the early years before snowplows and automobiles, Frank had to use the snow roller after each winter storm to plow out five or six miles of road. This contraption consisted of two wooden drums six feet long and six feet high, with a seat on top. Frank used a six-horse hitch, putting two of the heavy horses on the pole to help with the weight, and four of the little Morgans in front with the colts in the middle. Myrtie would steady them until Frank got the team hooked up, and off they would go. Often the Morgans would be up to their bellies in snow, but they never turned back from the challenge or seemed to mind the bitter cold, and Frank and Myrtie always made it home from these expeditions. Dr. Bob's daughter, Helen Noble, reports her dad drove a pair to school well into his high school years, before his parents purchased their first car.

FRANK ORCUTT'S MORGANS

Frank kept a few stallions on a small scale, but he preferred to focus on breeding the best mares with the richest old Vermont pedigrees that he could. Many of these he would sell or share with his brother, Wallace, who was busy building Orcland Farm. Wallace, in turn, preferred to keep a lot of stallions and was more involved in showing. He relied on Frank for the mares and Frank, in turn, often used his brother's stallions. This worked out very well for both of them.

LADY LAURA #03341 was a dark chestnut mare foaled in 1900

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ABOVE: Carolyn, sired by Woodbury Ethan, is the second dam of Upwey King Benn (Upwey King Peavine x Audrey [Bennington x Carolyn]) (1). Thus Frank Orcutt's breeding is present in all of the descendants of Upwey Ben Don (2), Upwey Benn Quietude (3), and the entire Waseeka's Nocturne (4) family.



LEFT: Ethan Eldon #8447 (Vigilant #7352 x Ethanelda #04967), foundation stallion for Dana Wingate Kelly's Royalton Morgans. Bred by Frank Orcutt, as were his 1st, 2d, and 3d dams; 4th dam Laura bred by Frank's father, was also the dam of his great-grand-sire Morgan Dan #4255, bred by Frank's father. Appears in many Lippitt pedigrees and most Lambert pedigrees. Dana raised him from a weanling and taught him 19 tricks.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mehlady Woodbury, daughter of Ethan Woodbury; Frank Orcutt driving her son, the gelding Terry Watson (by Vigilant)
(from the collection of the Dr. Robert Orcutt family).

out of Frank's old foundation mare Laura (by Morgan Tiger #816) and sired by Bob Morgan #4549. Laura was then about 20 years old. She stood 14 ½ hands tall and weighed 900 pounds. She produced three registered foals (the online database only credits her with two, but there were in fact three). All were highly influential.

ARTEMISIA #02731 was the first of Lady Laura's registered foals. Frank had sent Lady Laura to Edwin Hoffman to be bred to Borden's Ethan Allen 3d #3987 (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d #406 x Kitty Thurber [by Cushing's Green Mountain #493]). Frank could not have been more pleased with the resultant foal. Artemisia, foaled in 1909, was a lovely dark chestnut filly marked with a large star, small snip, and near hind foot white. The influence Artemisia would have as a broodmare is extensive and so central to the legacy of Frank Orcutt as a Morgan breeder that it is included as its own sidebar in the pages of this article. See page 108.

ETHAN WOODBURY #6823 was a chestnut stallion marked with a small star and snip. Born in 1910 and sired by Borden's Ethan Allen 3d #3987, he was the second foal Frank bred from Lady Laura, and a full brother to Artemisia. Frank kept him as a stallion and he sired 11 offspring for both Frank and several other old-time breeders in the area. Of these old-time breeders, Elmer Darling bred two mares who would become the most influential. Significant highlights of Ethan Woodbury's record as a sire include:

- **Carolyn** (x Carrie #0389), a bay filly bred by Elmer Darling and born in 1916, would become the second dam of Upwey King Benn #8246 (Upwey King Peavine X-8074 x Audrey #04670), sire of the legendary Upwey Ben Don #8843 and his full sister, Upwey Benn Quietude #06391, dam of Waseeka's Nocturne #11181. Thus Ethan Woodbury, and the breeding of Frank Orcutt, were woven inextricably into two of the largest and most important show families in the breed's recent history.

- **Jenny Woodbury #03258** (x Jennie C # 01108), foaled 1917, was a chestnut mare with a star and small white spot on her nose who was bred by Elmer Darling and chosen as one of 17 Lippitt foundation mares. She was the dam of 10 foals and a key influence in the pedigrees of many horses bred by Robert Lippitt Knight. Among her descendants, Lippitt Sandy #10032 (Lippitt Sam #7857 x Bethal #05416), a great-grandson who was bred by Mr. Knight, was the first Morgan owned by well-known equestrian Denny Emerson, bought for his 15th birthday. She was crossed to other lines as well, many of which bred on. She appears, for example, in the pedigree of CW's Sterling Silver #120887 (Todita #69250 x Hy Crest Satina # 019396), one of the main sources of the gray gene in Morgans today.
- **Mehlady Woodbury # 04338**, bred by Frank, was out of his father's mare, Brown Beauty #04338, and foaled in 1917; she was a bay mare marked with a small star, strip, and snip, whom Frank sent to his brother, Wallace. She was a loved family mare and the dam of eight foals, including Terry Watson, a little gelding used for driving and local fairs. She does have some descendants today, but the line is less common.

LUCINNE #04542 a chestnut mare marked with a snip and foaled in 1918, she was the final foal Frank bred from Lady Laura. She was sired by Elmer Darling's stallion Lyndon #5080 (Billy Roberts #4550 x Topsy #02504). Frank kept her and bred five foals from her.

SIRENO #7606 (Sir Ethan Allen #6537 x Lucinne #04542) was a chestnut stallion marked with a broad strip and right hind ankle. Frank kept him all his life for work on the farm and to show at local fairs as a matched pair with his sister, Sirenelle.

SIRENELLE #04662 (Sir Ethan Allen #6537 x Lucinne #04542) was a chestnut mare marked with a narrow strip and left hind



LEFT TO RIGHT: Vigil Day (Vigilant x Sirenelle), a stallion Frank Orcutt bred and used at stud. He sired the siblings Orcutt Allen Day and Orcutt Fannie Allen (x Ethanelda), shown as a matched pair by Dr. Bob Orcutt (photos from AMHA & NMMH archives).

pastern, foaled in 1926. She produced two foals, Vigella 06039 and Vigil Day #9037, both by Vigilant #7352 (Welcome #5702 x Lucille #1547). Along with her full brother Sireno, Frank kept her all her life. The crowds never tired of seeing the beautiful, animated pair either, and Frank always had numerous requests to bring them out.

VIGIL DAY #9037 (Vigilant #7352 x Sirenelle #04662), a chestnut stallion marked with a star and strip who was foaled in 1935, Frank kept and bred several from him. Two of these, Conejo #10036 and Ethan Vigil #9674, both out of his good mare Ethanelda, he sold to Roland Hill. Another full sibling, Hilltop Prince #9194, went to Ted Davis' Windcrest Farm. Frank kept Orcutt Fannie Allen #08303, the only daughter of his Ethanelda. Fannie Allen went on to produce nine foals. Yet another full sibling, Orcutt Allen Day #10754, was a matched pair with Fannie Allen. Allen Day was later sold to Ellsworth Reed but remained in training with Frank's son, Dr. Bob Orcutt, and the two won the Pair Driving Class at the 1954 National Morgan show.

VIGELLA #06039 (Vigilant #7352 x Sirenelle #04662) was a chestnut mare with a broad star and narrow connecting strip with broad snip and white underlip, and both hind ankles, who was foaled in 1938. Vigella was sold to Frank's brother, Wallace, along with Vigilda Burkland. Vigella produced three foals for Wallace, including the good show mare Orcland Gleam #06393 by Ulendon #7831. Later she was sold to Roland Hill who bred two foals, Son Ella #07927 and Son Vigilant #10651, by Sonfield #7952. Eventually Vigella was sold to Captain Louise Bates of Skagit Morgans, Red Top Farm in Arlington, Washington, and produced several for her with a lifetime total of 11 foals.

ETHANELDA #04967 (Sir Ethan Allen #6537 x Lucinne #04542), a chestnut full sibling of Sireno and Sirenelle who was foaled in 1929 and was dam of ten foals, was perhaps Frank's most prized mare that he kept. Among her offspring, Ethan Eldon #8447 (x Vigilant #7352), a light chestnut marked with a large star prolonged

into a strip and left hind fetlock, became foundation sire for Dana Wingate Kelly's Royalton Morgans and was the sire of 61 offspring.

VIGILDA BURKLAND #06040 (Vigilant #7352 x Lucinne #04542) was a chestnut mare with a very narrow connecting strip and snip and left hind ankle white who was foaled in 1935. Frank broke Vigella and Vigilda Burkland together, as they were three-quarter siblings and closely matched, and sold them to his brother, Wallace, as a pair in 1943. Frank considered these some of the best mares he ever bred, and Vigilda Burkland proved to have a lasting and far-reaching influence on the breed. She produced ten offspring. Among them, one son, Orcland Leader #9038 (x Ulendon #7831), as well as two grandsons and one granddaughter, was among the original inductees to the AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame. These were Chasley Superman #12194 (Orcland Leader #9038 x Rena #07229), Gladgay's Pride #11594 (Orcland Leader #9038 x Gladly #05020), and Townshend Debadonna #012609 (Orcland Vigildon #10095 x Windcrest's Debutante #07622). Moreover, Orcland Leader and his son, Gladgay's Pride, both won Grand Champion Stallion titles twice at "The National," and her granddaughter Townshend Debadonna won Grand Champion Mare at the show twice. Vigilda Burkland's son, Orcland Vigildon #10095 (x Ulendon #7831) was also sire of the elegant stallion Vigilmarch #12044 (x Mayphil 07192), foundation sire for Herbert V. Kohler. One of the rare photos of Frank shows him holding Vigilda Burkland at her retirement ceremony at the National Morgan Show in 1956 when she was 21 and he was 84. More of Vigilda Burkland and her talented descendants will be covered in later chapters.

FRANK, FINAL YEARS

Frank continued in the dairy business until 1954, when injuries sustained from a young bull forced him to retire at the age of 82. However, Frank and Myrtie continued living at the farm. Myrtie passed away on March 18, 1956. Frank moved to West Burke, Vermont, but continued to be actively involved with his Morgans until the end.



ABOVE: Vigilda Burkland (Vigilant x Lucinne) (shown with Billy Burkland) (1) and three sons, Orland Leader (2), Orland Vigildon (3) (both by Ulendon), and Gay Cavalier (4). Vigildon is shown with Anna Ela of Townshend Farm and Gay Cavalier (by Gay Dancer) is being driven by Darwin Morse of Green Meads Farm (photos from AMHA & NMMH archives).

Frank suffered a heart attack at the age of 88, and was taken to Brightlook Hospital in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, where he passed away three days later, on June 30, 1960. He was buried in Howland Cemetery, not far from his home in West Burke, Vermont, which, according to the late Dana Wingate Kelly, he drove past with his Morgans many times. His tremendous legacy lives on and will continue to be a major influence on the breed for many generations to come. ■

RESOURCES

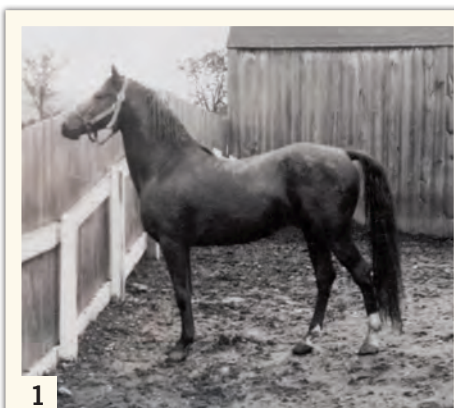
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THE LEGEND AND LEGACY OF ARTEMISIA



Artemisia, sired by Ethan Allen 3d, was the first foal bred from Frank Orcutt's foundation mare, Lady Laura. A. Fullerton Phillips came to see her, and offered Frank \$100 for the filly foal, at a time when \$25 was considered a good price. Frank respected Phillips and knew he would appreciate the filly's breeding, and so agreed to let him have her as soon as she was weaned. Phillips dutifully registered her but could not remember the name of her mother or may not have realized she had a name as so many mares at that time were simply known by their sire, or their owner's name. Frank had not got around to submitting the registration for Lady Laura yet, although she was nine years old. Phillips listed the dam as an unregistered daughter of Bob Morgan, and he listed the pedigree correctly, which appears in Volume IV of the *Morgan Horse Register*, although he gave credit to Harrison Orcutt for breeding the dam when it was actually Frank who bred her.



1



2



3



4



5



6

Hudson (1 & 2) was the product of mating Artemisia's daughter Redfern (3) to the Saddlebred stallion Admiral Denmark. Hudson's daughter, Nubia (4), and her descendants, Rena (5) and Westwold Dona Resa (6) with Pat Tataronis, up (photos via AMHA and National Museum of the Morgan Horse archives).

Phillips bred Artemisia to Croydon Prince #5325 (Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Doll by Morgan Hunter 2d #342) and she produced Agatha #02680 in 1913, who went on to become the dam of nine foals. Phillips then sold Artemisia to Kathaleen Phillips, who in turn sold her to Judge William B. Sanders, who owned Otis Hill Farm in Woodstock, Vermont, where he raised prize Morgans, Berkshire hogs, and Guernsey cattle. Judge Sanders, who also spent part of his time in Cleveland, Ohio, bred Artemisia to Donald #5224 (Bob Morgan #4549 x Fanny #0721 by Ethan Allen 3d #3987), and she delivered a colt, Ajax #5302, in 1914. Ajax sired one registered foal before being sold to the Department of Imperial Household in Tokyo, Japan. Artemisia was bred to Donaldson # 6685 (Donald #5224 x Lilla #01489), and produced Donaldson Jr in 1917, who left no offspring. Finally, Judge Sanders bred Artemisia to Bennington #5693 (General Gates #666 x Mrs. Culvers), then head of the U. S. Government Farm, and she produced Mansfield #7255. Mansfield won Reserve Champion Stallion at the Vermont State Fair, both as a weanling and yearling, for Sanders, as well as Champion Weanling at the 1920 Woodstock, Vermont Fair.

During this time frame the U. S. Government Farm was reeling from a visit from the Morgan Horse Club Committee that resulted in a strongly worded letter scathingly critical of their program and urging them to cull most of their horses and infuse more of the pure, old Morgan blood from local Vermont breeders. While they did not heed all the committee's advice, the U. S. Government Farm did try to acquire a few more key, high percentage horses.

C. C. Stillman, then Secretary of the Morgan Horse Club, played an important role during this time. He felt the Committee had worded their criticism too harshly and sought to soothe the strained relations between the Club and the Government Farm. It was he who arranged for the transfer of Mansfield to the U. S. Government Farm. He got H. H. Reese to persuade Judge Sanders to sell him the colt. Reese then transferred Mansfield to Stillman, who presented him to the U. S. Government Farm on May 26, 1922. Meanwhile, A. Fullerton Phillips and Frank Orcutt were also involved. Frank, hearing the Government Farm was searching for old Vermont blood, thought of Artemisia and was instrumental in making the case for Phillips to get her back and get her into the Government Farm breeding program. Both Frank and Phillips were firm believers in using only the purest Morgan bloodlines, but both could also see the far-reaching influence of the government program and believed the future of the breed would benefit in the long run through helping them obtain some of these horses. Phillips got Artemisia back from Judge Sanders and transferred her to the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm on February 14, 1922, at the same time Mansfield was sold to Reese.

This strategy was two-fold. Frank and the other men involved all believed that since Mansfield was sired by the Government Farm's own current head sire, Bennington, and was already showing great promise at an early age, they would be inclined to use him in the stud. They also hoped that adding Artemisia to the broodmare band would continue to strengthen the Government herd. They were not wrong and the Government saw things exactly the same way. Mansfield went on to become the third head sire at the U. S. Government Farm, succeeding his sire and grandsire, and producing 151 registered foals.

As for Artemisia, Sanders had already bred her back to Bennington and the Government Farm continued to repeat the practice, producing a total of 10 foals from this golden cross which proved to be legendary. Of these 10, four sons and two daughters left a legacy that spread around the world. Altogether, she produced 13 foals. Arguably, Artemisia has had more impact on the breed in the last 100 years than any other mare in the Government program, and there were several good ones. One would be hard pressed to name another mare who has had more influence on the entire Morgan breed over the last 100 years than Artemisia. If Frank Orcutt had bred no other Morgan than Artemisia alone, his legacy would



The highly influential four brothers from the cross of Bennington and Artemisia: Mansfield (1), Ulysses (2), Querido (3), and Canfield (4).

(Photos via AMHA, National Museum of the Morgan Horse, and Tehachapi Heritage League archives.)



Willys (Bennington x Artemisia) (1); her daughter Naiad (a double granddaughter of Artemisia) (2); Naiad's daughter, the champion Riviera (3) (photos via AMHA and National Museum of the Morgan Horse archives).

still have been profound. The fact that he also bred her mother, out of a mare bred by his father, makes the story even more impressive. The accomplishments of Artemisia's descendants over the last 100 years would fill an entire book and it is impossible to detail all of them here, but we will give a brief overview of her Bennington offspring.

1920: MANSFIELD #7255 was a chestnut marked with a star, strip, and both hind legs white. He stood 15¼ hands tall and weighed 1,050 pounds with smooth, balanced proportions and good Morgan type. He became head stallion for the U. S. Government Farm and sired 151 offspring, including Goldfield 7991 (x Juno 03284) who headed the Government stud after him. Goldfield sired just 43 foals during his brief tenure from 1939–44 before his untimely death. He was loaned to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at Connecticut State College where he died of an acute hemorrhage on July 13, 1944.

1922: PALMYRA #04223, a bay mare with a large star, bred by Judge Sanders of Otis Hill Farm and owned by the U. S. Government Farm, left no progeny.

1923: QUERIDO #7370, the first of the Government crosses to Bennington, was a bay with a little white on both hind coronets. He was sold to Roland Hill, Bakersfield, California, when he was eight months old to be herd sire for his extensive cattle operation. He sired 150 foals for Roland Hill, who then sold him to Alfred W. Carter, Trustee for the Parker Ranch in Kamuela, Hawaii, (see Gail Perlee's excellent article "Morgans on Hawaii's Parker Ranch," *The Morgan Horse* September 2017 for more on this remarkable story).

1924: REDFERN #04360 was a pretty, deep-bodied, and well-balanced chestnut mare marked with a strip, much like her mother. She was the dam of 16 including Kona #05586 by Goldfield #7991. Kona in turn was dam of six including Tutor #10198 (x #Mentor 8627). Mentor was another son of Goldfield out of Fairytotop #04960 (Delmont #X-7936 x Topaz #04442). Thus, Tutor had double Goldfield and four close crosses to Artemisia, as well as Mentor's

3rd dam being Lady Lyndon 03342, bred by Frank's father, Harrison Orcutt. Redfern was also the dam of the controversial Hudson #X-8401 by the Saddlebred Admiral Denmark. Bred by the U. S. Government Farm, Hudson was chestnut marked with an elongated faint half-star and disconnected strip and snip, as well as left hind sock and right hind pastern. Some breeders were upset by the Saddlebred cross but when bred back to good Morgan mares the strong Morgan type dominated. Although Hudson's sire was Saddlebred, he carried numerous crosses to Davy Crockett #2285, Tom Hal #31, Copperbottom #66, Cabell's Lexington #1223 and many other Morgan lines, as well as tracing his tail female line to a daughter of Hale's Green Mountain #42. Although his sireline was Thoroughbred, like Justin Morgan, he went back to the Byerly Turk. Hudson was the sire of Nubia, the dam of Rena. And Rena was the dam of such horses as Chasley Superman (sire of the prolific Courage Of Equinox), Westwold Dona Resa, and Windcrest Fireball. Both Westwold Dona Resa and Westwold Fireball are original inductees to the AMHA Hall of Fame. Also, Hudson sired Naiad, dam of Riviera, another in the Hall of Fame, and winner of multiple National Grand Champion Mare titles.

1925: SLYDELL #04385 was a chestnut mare marked with a strip and snip, sold to J. W. Fuller of Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, as a three-year-old. She left no registered offspring.

1926: TOPSHAM #7514, a chestnut stallion marked with a strip and right hind pastern, sold as a yearling to Nathan D. Potter of Enfield, Massachusetts. He also left no registered offspring.

1927: ULYSSES #7565 was a brown stallion marked with a blaze, right front and both hind feet white. He would become key for the Orland program of Frank's brother, Dr. Wallace Lyman Orcutt, and sired 25 offspring including the important Ulendon. He will be covered more in later chapters.

1929: WILLYS #04622 was a bay mare with a white nose, dam of 13 foals. Bred to Hudson, she produced Naiad #06092 dam of



Canfield (1); his daughter, Norma (x Romance) (2); her son, Trophy (by Mentor) (3)

(photos via AMHA and National Museum of the Morgan Horse archives).

17 including Stellar #10009 and Riviera #07230, both by Mentor #8627. Riviera was twice Grand Champion Saddle Mare at the National Morgan Horse Show, as well as winner of numerous other champion titles and one of the original inductees to the AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame.

1930: ARTIBEN #7702 was a chestnut stallion marked with a star, strip, and snip, and right hind sock. He was sold as a two-year-old to G. Frelinghuysen of Elberon, New Jersey, and left no registered offspring.

1932: CANFIELD #7788, was a handsome dark chestnut stallion marked with a star, strip, and snip. He was the sire of 64 including Bennfield #9940 (x Wallflower #04621) sire of Bennfield's Ace #15971, winner of three World Champion Stallion titles from 1970–1980, 1970 Eastern National, 1970 and 1972 Mid-Atlantic National, and world champion in 1973, 1979, and 1980. Canfield's daughter, Norma #06098, was dam of the beautiful stallion Trophy #10196 (x Mentor #8627), prized for his outstanding daughters. Canfield was also sire of Katy Bennfield 013735, dam of four including 1979 World Champion mare Special Kay #024704 and her full brother Courage Of Equinox 23622 (x Chasley Superman #12194), prolific leading sire of 380 who has continued to produce a few foals after his death through frozen semen. Bennfield's Ace and Katy Bennfield were both out of Cathy Serenity #09518 (Jubilee's Courage #8983 x Lippitt Robrita #07522).

It is also worth noting here that Chasley Superman was sired by Orcland Leader #9038, a son of Ulendon #7831 (Ulysses #7565 x Allenda #04393) and out of Vigilda Burkland #06040 (Vigilant #7352 x Lucinne #04542), another highly influential mare Frank bred, who will be covered a bit later in this article. Rena, the dam of Chasley Superman, carried two crosses to Mansfield through her sire and on her dam's side carried crosses to Redfern, Ulysses, and an additional cross to Mansfield. Thus, Artemisia appears seven times in the immediate pedigree of Courage Of Equinox, with these crosses coming through three different sons and one daughter.

Courage Of Equinox, in addition to being the most prolific sire in the recent history of the breed, established several other records which add even more weight to the influence Frank Orcutt had on the breed. At the time of his death in 2001, Courage's get had won more regional, national, and Morgan World Championships in the United States and Europe—and in more disciplines—than the offspring of any other stallion.

Courage led the way in artificial insemination technology and in 1989 became the first stallion to use that to stand for stud in multiple countries at once (United States, Canada, England, and continental Europe). He sired the first foal conceived by frozen semen in England in 1990, and by 1996 had foals conceived this way literally around the world, in England, Sweden, Germany, and Holland, as well as the United States and Canada. He was one of very few non-Swedish stallions to pass the strict guidelines of the Swedish Government. ■

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