

## FROM THE REGISTERS

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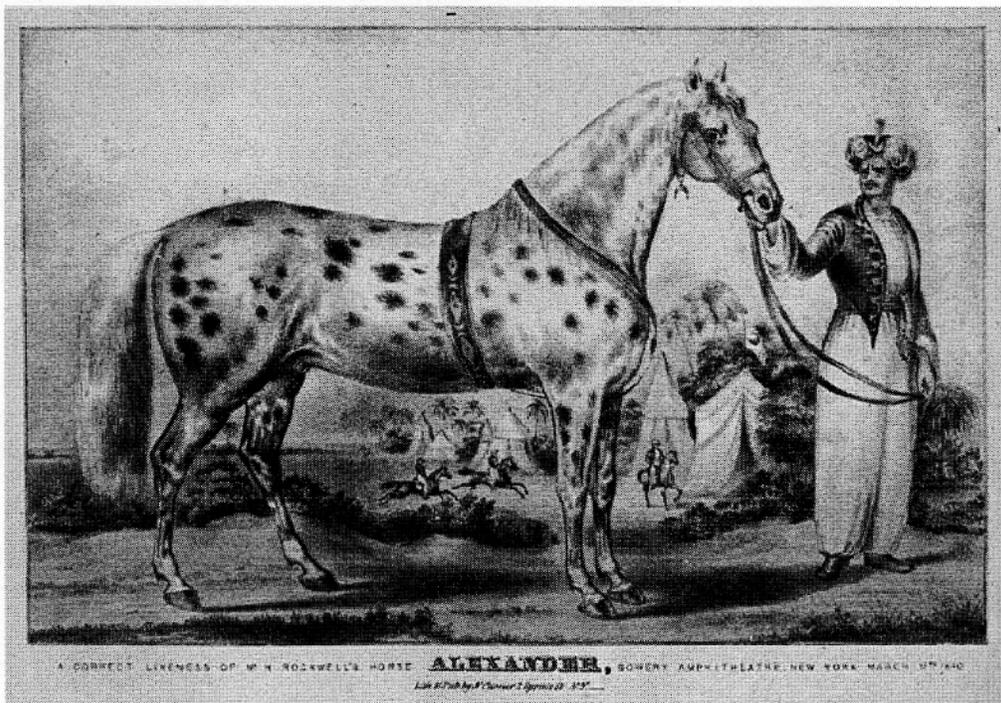
Have you ever noticed a dark spot in a Lippitt Morgan's coat and wondered why it was there? I am a very curious person by nature, and have asked a number of people where the dark mark came from, but always got an "I don't know- some just have them." for an answer. Having found genetics to be one of my favorite science subjects, I knew that there had to be a source of this "dark secret."

Jane and Ken Currier were kind enough to loan me their copies of the first three volumes of the Morgan registers, telling me to keep them as long as I wanted to. I must confess, I sure would have loved to keep them- they are such a wonderful source of the early history of the breed, but I sent them back after a couple of years (sigh). In these volumes I discovered the actual source of the dark spots.

Ashbrook 7079 was Mr. Phillips' favorite horse; he compared him with the Godolphin Arabian. He sired 34 Lippitt foals, and I don't think that there is a Lippitt alive who doesn't trace to Ashbrook (I haven't actually checked this out- so if anybody is really ambitious, maybe they could let me know for sure). His dam was the Lippitt foundation mare, Nancy 03553, and she was out of Dew of June 0528 (Pete Morgan 5411 x Flossie [unreg.]). Dew of June 0528 traces through both her sire and dam to Benedict Morrill 252, whose grandam's sire was the actual source of the spots.

Since the Bulrush family of Morgans does not have any direct male-tail line any more, some people think that we have totally lost them. If your Morgan has a dark spot or two, chances are that you have a few of the genes of Bulrush Morgan 6 in your Lippitt. For those new to Lippitts or even Morgans, here are some descriptions and a little history of the founder of this family line, and the mares that were bred to them.

Bulrush Morgan 6, AKA Belknap Horse, was dark bay with a few white hairs in his forehead, 14h, and 1,000 lb.; foaled 1812; bred by Moses Belknap, Randolph, Vt. His



dams' breeding is unknown. Linsley says of her: "She was a dark bay,.... low and compact, had heavy limbs, with large joints, neck rather long, a good head, but did not carry it up very well; she was a sharp trotter, but was not a very spirited driver; she was said to be, and had the appearance of being part French." Mr. Belknap had obtained her from a Mr. Boutwell, a teamster, from Montpelier, Vt., who thought that she was too small for the job, even though she was described as "very rugged, hardy and enduring". She was sold to Ziba Gifford while in foal, and Mr. Gifford returned the foal to Mr. Belknap, because he didn't want to pay the extra \$13 to keep him.

Linsley described him in this manner: Bulrush's "mane and tail very heavy, his mane coming down nearly to his knees, and his forelock came to his nose. His tail had been docked, at about 9 inches; his legs were large and had some hair; were close-jointed, broad, flat, and exhibited a more striking development of muscle than either Woodbury's or Sherman's; his back was not so short as either of the others, but it was very broad, and he was free from any indication of sway-back than any of his brothers, though towards the close of his life, he indeed fell away in his loins as is

always the case in old stallions. His hips were very good, but not so long as Sherman's, and he was not so well quartered as Woodbury, but he was deeper in the chest than either of them; his shoulders were thicker and not so well placed, and his head and neck were not so well set up. He was not so proud, bold and lofty in his carriage as Woodbury, and he didn't have Sherman's short, nervous step, and tractable but high spirited temper; but he was a sharp, quick driver, and a faster trotter than either of them. He was a little inclined to be cross, but was not fierce or in any respect unmanageable; on the contrary, he was very kind in harness, always working pleasantly wherever put. His most remarkable characteristic was his power of endurance. For this, we think it is generally admitted, he had no rival; and his extra ordinary lastingness has become proverbial where he was known. His stock bear a strong resemblance to him, and are very numerous; they are mostly dark bay without marks, never sorrel or light chestnut; occasionally a dark gray from a white mare may be found."

Mr. Belknap kept Bulrush in Tunbridge and vicinity until 1819, when he sold him to Abel Densmore of Chelsea, Vt.; Darius Sprague of Randolph, Vt. was his next

owner, sold March 8, 1826 to Messers. Simon Smith and William Walker of Hartland, Vt., for \$350. In 1829 the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Smith took Bulrush to Maidstone, Vt. He stood at Chelsea, Vt. for one year then two years in the state of Maine, and in 1833 sold him to Jesse Johnson & Bros. of Bradford, Vt., where he stood as well as in Bath, N. H. In 1834 he stood at Keene, N. H.; in 1835, at Lyme, N. H. and Bradford, Vt. During the winter of 1836-7, he was sold to Messers. Blake and Foss of Chelsea, Vt., who kept him there until 1842, when they sold him to Lewis Jenkins of Fairlea, Vt., who kept him there until he was sold to F. A. Weir of Walpole, N. H., who kept him until he died at the age of 36 in 1848.

Bulrush Morgan 6 sired only 28 sons that were registered. One was chestnut, one black, two gray, three brown and the rest were bay. There were no daughters registered, but there were some daughters recorded in pedigrees. Linsley records that a jockey was heard to remark that a boy could wear out a wrought-iron rocking horse before a man could break down the constitution of a Bulrush horse.

Randolph Horse 25, AKA Randolph Morgan, Morgan Bulrush, Young Morgan Bulrush, Edson Horse, Weston Horse, Goss Horse and Buckminster Horse was a dark bay, with small star, heavy mane and tail, 14.2h, 950 lb.; foaled about 1820; bred by Mr. Weston, of Randolph, Vt. His dam was untraced.

He was first sold to John Goss, of Danville, Vt. about 1825, and taken there; John Buckminster of Danville was his second owner, H. C. Babcock, of Danville, was his next owner, and he advertised him in the "North Star" as follows: "Morgan Bulrush. H. C. Babcock, would inform the public that he has the celebrated Morgan horse, called the Morgan Bulrush, or better known by the name of Randolph Horse. His stock is too well known by all in the vicinity to need any recommendation. Will stand at Bliss' Inn, Cabot; Farrington's Walden, and Warner's Hardwick. Danville, May 29, 1839." Babcock advertised him again in 1840. Five years later, he was purchased by Andrew McFarlane, then of Barton, but now of Coventry, Vt., and he died his property about 1846. He was a popular horse, and was said to be able to "trot like the wind",

and he was very strong. He sired only one registered colt- the Jennison Colt 54.

Jennison Colt 54 AKA Jennison Horse was described as a bright cherry bay with a star and a full very handsome flowing mane & tail. He had hazel eyes, and was nearly 16h, 1,224lb.; foaled 1841; bred by Abijah Jennison, Walden, Vt., got by Randolph Horse 25. His dam was brown, 16h, 1,300 lb. lazy and dull, but a fast pacer, and very powerful. It was said that she would break logging chains when working. She was owned by Prentice Carr; Bradley Webber, Hardwick, Vt.; Nathaniel Farrington, Walden; then Jennison, and was of unknown breeding, but said to be of Canadian stock. Mr. Jennison got her from Nathaniel Farrington in the fall for forty-five dollars and the promise to let Mr. Farrington have her for three or four trips to Boston as a part of a six-horse team.

Mr. Jennison described him as being "born perfect and he grew perfect" and commented on him having the "small short, sharp quick ear of the little Morgan", in contrast to his dam's ears which were long, and somewhat lopped. He was said to have resembled Randolph Morgan in every way except that he got his size from his dam. He sired only 2 registered colts; Morrill 55 and Black Hawk 146.

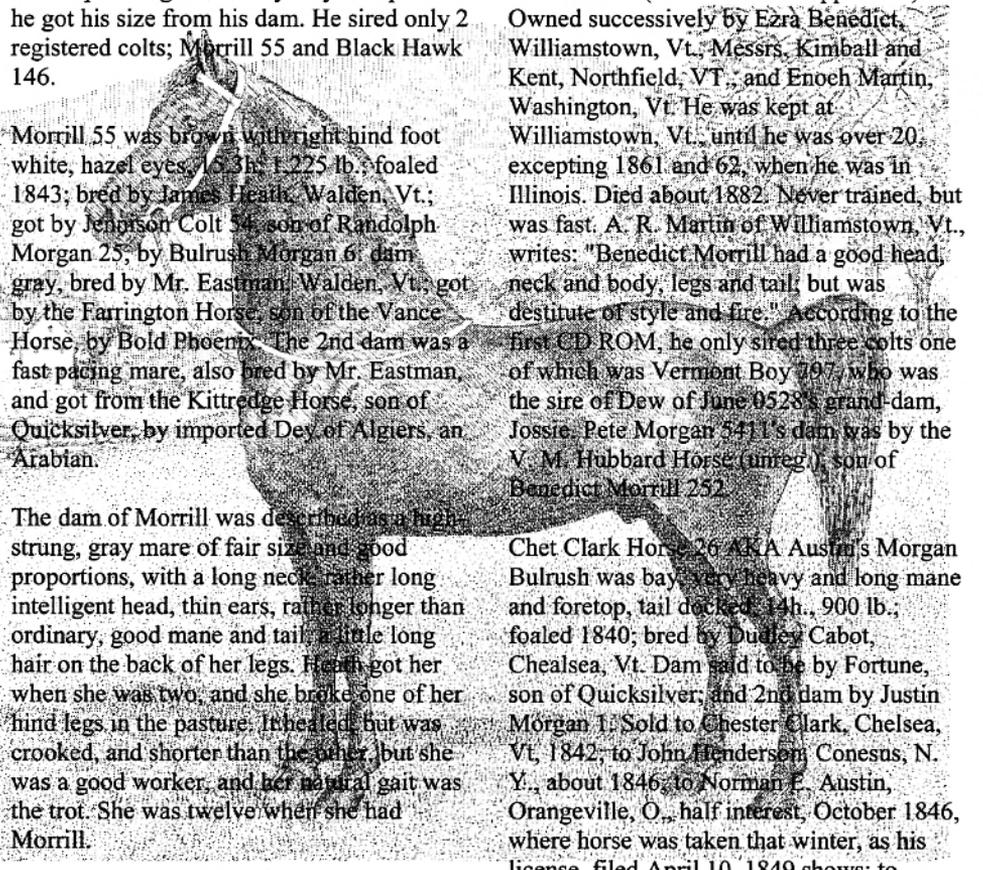
Morrill 55 was brown with right hind foot white, hazel eyes, 15.3h, 1,225 lb.; foaled 1843; bred by James Heath, Walden, Vt.; got by Jennison Colt 54, son of Randolph Morgan 25; by Bulrush Morgan 6; dam gray, bred by Mr. Eastman, Walden, Vt.; got by the Farrington Horse, son of the Vance Horse, by Bold Phoenix. The 2nd dam was a fast pacing mare, also bred by Mr. Eastman, and got from the Kittredge Horse, son of Quicksilver, by imported Dey of Algiers, an Arabian.

The dam of Morrill was described as a high-strung, gray mare of fair size and good proportions, with a long neck, rather long intelligent head, thin ears, rather longer than ordinary, good mane and tail, a little long hair on the back of her legs. Heath got her when she was two, and she broke one of her hind legs in the pasture. It healed, but was crooked, and shorter than the other, but she was a good worker, and her natural gait was the trot. She was twelve when she had Morrill.

The Farrington Horse was iron gray, 15.2h, when two years old weighed about 1,000 lb.; foaled about 1828; bred by Thomas Vincent of Walden; got by the Vance Horse, a showy gray, foaled in 1818, bred by Lemuel Cobb, Hardwick, Vt.; got by Bold Phoenix, a horse of English blood. The dam of the Farrington Horse was the Steele mare, a "fair-sized mare of about 1,000 lb, foaled about 1808", she was a noted mare, of unknown breeding, a good one, who was sold once for \$200, a large sum in those days. Morrill 55 was the most prolific of the Bulrush descendants, siring 31 registered colts and one filly. Five of his registered sons are within the Lippitt family were: Perkins' Young Morrill 59; Benedict Morrill 252; Pathfinder 255; Vermont Ranger 257 and General Lyon 258, but we will only be concerned with Benedict Morrill 252 in this article.

Benedict Morrill 252 was brown or black. 15.2h.; 1,050 lb.; foaled 1854; bred by Eliphalet Coleman, Williamstown, VT.; got by Morrill 55; dam spotted, bred by John Coleman, Williamstown, Vt., got by Chet Clark Horse 26, son of Bulrush Morgan 6; 2nd dam spotted (Appaloosa type markings), bred by John Coleman, got by Alexander, Circus horse (looked like an Appaloosa). Owned successively by Ezra Benedict, Williamstown, Vt., Messrs. Kimball and Kent, Northfield, VT.; and Enoch Martin, Washington, Vt. He was kept at Williamstown, Vt., until he was over 20, excepting 1861 and 62, when he was in Illinois. Died about 1882. Never trained, but was fast. A. R. Martin of Williamstown, Vt., writes: "Benedict Morrill had a good head, neck and body, legs and tail; but was destitute of style and fire." According to the first CD-ROM, he only sired three colts one of which was Vermont Boy 267, who was the sire of Dew of June 0528's grand-dam, Jossie. Pete Morgan 5411's dam was by the V. M. Hubbard Horse (unreg.), son of Benedict Morrill 252.

Chet Clark Horse 26 AKA Austin's Morgan Bulrush was bay, very heavy and long mane and foretop, tail docked, 14h., 900 lb.; foaled 1840; bred by Dudley Cabot, Chelsea, Vt. Dam said to be by Fortune, son of Quicksilver; and 2nd dam by Justin Morgan 1. Sold to Chester Clark, Chelsea, Vt. 1842; to John Henderson, Conesus, N. Y., about 1846; to Norman F. Austin, Orangeville, O., half interest, October 1846, where horse was taken that winter, as his license, filed April 10, 1849 shows; to



Joseph Shepherd, Andover, O., 1852. He is said to have been the first Morgan horse taken to Ohio for breeding purposes. He is of the genuine Morgan pattern, and a very good horse. His stock was highly prized in Ohio and a number of his sons were kept entire. Linsley said: "One of the best acting sons of Bulrush. A fine spirited animal." W. C. Hull, Orangeville, O., writes: "Morgan Bulrush was of low pony build, smooth body and long barrel, good head, fine eye and fine ears pricked forward in traveling gait short but very prompt and easy. He had very clean, hard looking limbs, and his stock generally resembled him in this as well as in having good disposition, dark color, generally brown bays, similar action and nearly always sound. He was very popular here during the time he remained. He

covered 80 mares the first season a good many coming 10, 15 and even 20 miles." This horse was bred the same way as Billy Root 9- tracing to Justin Morgan 1, through his sire, Bulrush Morgan 6, and his dam being a granddaughter of Justin Morgan 1. From the description, he was very much like Justin Morgan 1, himself. Only 4 of his sons were registered, but he sired the dam of Benedict Morrill 252, giving him 3 crosses to Justin Morgan 1, two through Bulrush Morgan 6.

Vermont Boy 797 AKA Marseilles' was bay, with one hind foot white, 15.3h, 1,150 lb.: foaled 1869; bred by Harrison Abbott, Gaysville, Vt.; got by Benedict Morrill 252, son of Morrill 55: dam chestnut, bred by Cassius Joslyn, Waitsfield, Vt., got by

Rocket 203, son of Young Myrick 202, by Sherman Black Hawk 51; 2nd dam chestnut, said to be by Morgan Chief 34 (Eldridge Horse), son of Woodbury Morgan 7. L. R. Joslyn writes of the dam: "This mare was the first colt Rocket ever sired. She was a big roadster. My father Cassius Joslyn drove her to Montpelier, 18 miles in one hour and 15 minutes. "Vermont Boy 797 was sold to Ira Holt, Pittsfield, Vt., when young; to James Martin, Hancock, Vt.; to Fred Marseilles, Middlebury, Vt., about 1878, whose property he died 1893.

Now that I have solved the mystery, I must move on to more discoveries in the Lippitt breed of Morgans.