



Green Mountain Morgan Superior  
stb a son of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan 42

desirable. Linsley certainly thought so. He said of Black Hawk: "He comes nearer to our beau ideal of a perfect driving horse than any other animal we have ever seen." These road qualities are desired with the conformation of Hale's Green Mountain....

For a detailed description of the ancient Morgan type the quotations from Linsley ... with respect to the Justin Morgan give the important features with one striking exception. This omission may best be supplied by Mr. Linsley's own words in comparing the Morgans of his day with the Justin Morgan. He said: "The neck, rather short, is carried in the same proud and lofty manner that attracted the attention of all who ever saw the Justin Morgan."

Speaking of Morgan horses generally, Mr. Linsley also said: "The most casual observer of a good Morgan horse, is conscious that he sees a peculiar animal. His short, light, rapid step points to the great muscles which give him motion. His prominent, clear, eager eyes, set wide apart, testify to his courage and docility, while his clean, light head, carried high, with short, pointed, sensitive ears, gives grace and elegance to every motion."...

"To conform as closely as possible to modern market requirements" -- there could be nothing more fallacious, misleading or demoralizing than such a note in the programme of any Morgan breeder! ... Are the real Morgan

breeders attempting to restore a breed or are they engaged in the speculation of trying to have on hand a variety of commodities to suit the bargain-counter on every change of fashion? In short, are they breeders or do they think that they are inventors? I believe they are breeders.

For the average American breeder with all his wit, ingenuity and shrewdness, I have only a moderate opinion. The impatience to get results, the fondness for experimenting in cross-breeding, the desire to change hobbies frequently, the nearly constant thirst to make bargains for the profit of the moment without regard to the quality of the subject matter, the absence of a real love of animals, distinguish the average American breeder from those of Europe and especially from our kinsmen in the British Isles. We fail too often to recognize any definiteness to a breed or to grasp firmly a principle of breeding and to stick to it. As environment has much to do with the making of a breed, so environment affects the quality of the breeder. Knowledge of animals and of the distinguishing features of different breeds, as well as a real love of animals, is much more general in Great Britain than in the United States. Then, too, the casual American buyer has more money to spend than the casual Britisher. Lack of discrimination on the part of the buyer in respect to breeds and the buyer's goodly supply of money together help the American breeder financially, but do not tend, to a marked degree, to make him a real breeder. I have no doubt but that if the Morgan horse had been a product of England, Scotland or France it would have known no decline and that we would now be buying Morgan horses "of the ancient type" abroad just as we are now buying abroad the best specimens of other live stock. ... [Some believe] in the "improved Morgan"; but the breeder of real Morgan horses, unless I have wholly misjudged him, is made of sterner, steadier stuff. I believe him to be ready and willing, in spite of what others may say, to stick to his last and that he will win out in the long run just as the horses which he breeds have done for a hundred years in their hard work over the Vermont hills....

The work of breeding for the "ancient Morgan type" is work worthy of any American gentleman whether he be the hard-working farmer who has to count the pennies or the man of leisure and fortune. I venture the prediction that as long as horses are used at all and as long as patriotism, love of beauty, appreciation of utility, and the desire to get "value" out of a purchase remain in this country, there will be a demand, in America, at least, for the Morgan of the "ancient Morgan type."