

The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry Script

*****Insert disc entitled "Spanish Eyes - Intro"*****

The Lippitt Morgan Horse

Have most of you read the book or seen the Walt Disney's "Justin Morgan Had a Horse?" This movie was Hollywood's version of the origin of the Morgan Horse. It was not intended to be a documentary as it omitted some facts, for instance, Figure, also known as Justin Morgan, was not taken to settle a debt. One horse that represented Justin Morgan in the movie was a Lippitt Morgan horse named Heritage Ethan.

Justin Morgan, was the creator of his own race and was born in 1789, the same year that George Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States of America. The Morgan Horse is the oldest registered breed of horse in America. Wanting to preserve, perpetuate and promote this breed of horse, purist breeders were careful to line breed and inbreed back to the founder, Justin Morgan, to set the "type" or characteristics which Figure was noted for. These characteristics were:

The Morgan should have a fine, expressive head; well crested neck, coming out of the top of the shoulders, blending smoothly through the withers into the well sprung, deep body, with round rear quarter, which balances the front quarters.

The whole structure should be heavily muscled and round, giving the impression of great substance and refinement, combined with strength and agility, grace and beauty. The neck should be of medium length, never long.... (it) should be heavily crested; the stallion having a heavy rounded crest and the mare a fine knife-like

crest. The throttle should be comparatively deep but clean cut. The withers should not be high and narrow....The crest and withers should blend together, with no depression on the topline in front of the withers. The croup should be long, wide and slightly sloping."

And Lastly:

The Morgan is a small, compact horse. The height should range between 14.1 and 15.1 hands the ideal is 14.3 hands and 1000 pounds.

The Lippitt Morgan became defined as a distinct family within the Morgan breed in the early 1970's by a group of people who realized that the gene pool and type of this wonderful horse were dwindling and becoming meshed into a newer, "improved," different type of Morgan horse by those that wanted "something else." Today's Lippitt Morgan has nearly as much of Figure's original blood as would one of his own grandchildren. The Lippitt Morgan is the only family of Morgans that can lay claim to that much of the blood. Type and characteristics of the original Justin Morgan show through in all Lippitts today. All Lippitt Morgan horses are defined as descending from 25 Foundation Morgans, selected on their bloodlines and closeness to Figure. The Founding Stock comprised of 8 stallions and 17 mares. All Lippitts go back to these Morgans and no others on every line of their pedigree. Lippitts do not have to trace to all 25 but they cannot trace to any Morgan not listed in the 25 Foundation Stock. This insures the ongoing purity of the Lippitt Morgan today as being as close to Figure in blood and type as is available.

Today this horse is critically endangered and has been declining in numbers for several years, as is the case with many heritage farm breeds in America. The best

estimate is that there may be 1300 Lippitt Morgans in the US and Canada, fewer than 400 mares are of a breedable age, and probably 70 stallions. Other Lippitt Morgans are aged, gelded, or lost.

The Lippitt Morgan is listed with Equus Survival Trust as Critically Endangered, and The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry, Inc. is an affiliate of The Livestock Conservancy formerly the ALBC (American Livestock Breeds Conservancy).

The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry, Inc. was formed 5 years ago and is a nonprofit, DNA based, registry for purebred Lippitt Morgans. Our prime directive is to protect, preserve, and promote this family of the true Morgan blood. Losing Lippitts through not being registered was identified as another large problem, besides not breeding many in the first place. Some recent years have shown us to have fewer than 30 foals born in one year

TLMHR maintains an active web presence and provides information to help better educate the public about the ancestral Morgan horse known as the Lippitt Morgan Horse.

Please stop by The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry booth located at the entrance to the coliseum. Performing for you today is the Lippitt Morgan stallion Mint Jacob.

*****Turn volume down and remove disc.*****

Wait for me to put the saddle on Mint Jacob and enter ring.

*****Insert disc labeled "Un-Amor" and turn up volume*****

