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HORSES.

## The Suffolk Horse.

There is probably no other breed of draft horses that can justly claim so much purity of breeding and uniformity of type and color as the Suffolk. Little attempt appears to have been made to complete a history of the breed previous to the founding of the Suffolk Horse Studbook in or about the year 1879.

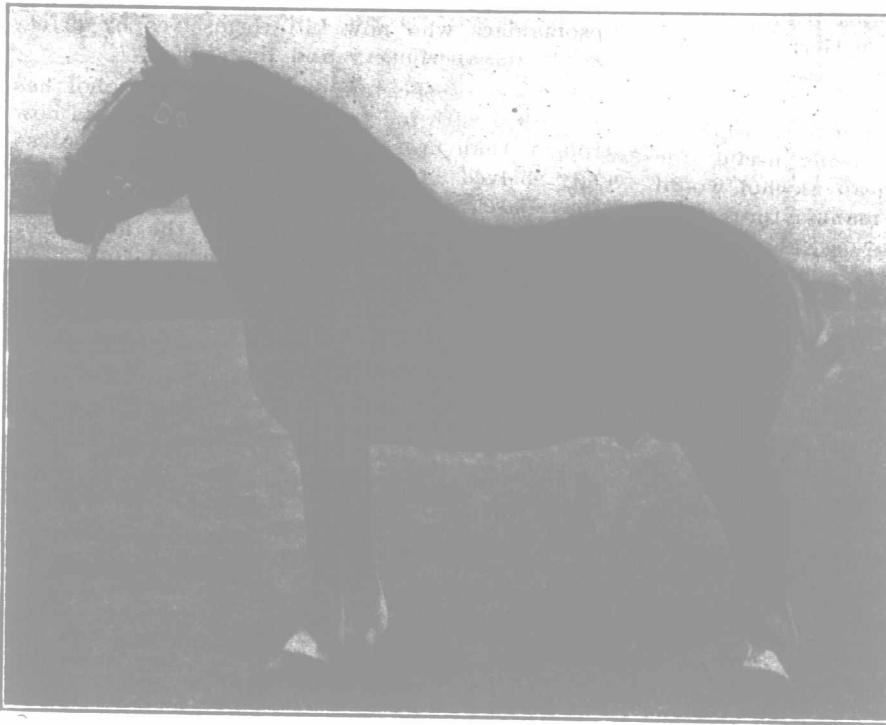
That ample material for such a history existed, the Studbook Committee proved, as in the first volume is recorded, in consecutive form, an account of the breed for about 170 years, with verified quotations, carrying the history as far back as the early part of the eighteenth century. Limited in the district of its origin, and local in its early development, there was little difficulty in getting at the historical facts which were in existence. In compiling the first volume of the Studbook, the Committee was greatly aided by the proprietor of the Ipswich Journal, who had an uninterrupted file of his paper from the year 1720, which he placed at the disposal of the editor of the Studbook. Frequent mention of the Suffolk horse appeared in this organ. In the compilation of the history, recourse was had to advertising cards, sale announcements, records of auctions, catalogues of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the verbal accounts and descriptions from the oldest grooms and horsemen in the country. So far as the origin of the breed is concerned, little can be said. The Suffolk horse appears to have been present in Suffolk at a very early date. Care and selection in breeding have modified his character, but as regards his marked characteristics, few if any breeds have so tenaciously reproduced their chief features of identification. There is reliable evidence of the fact that many of the most decided points which distinguished them more than two hundred years ago are rarely absent in the Suffolk horse of to-day. The short legs, roomy middle, chestnut color, longevity, docility, and willingness to draw, are still strikingly characteristic of the breed. As far back as the middle of the eighteenth century allusion is made to the existence of the breed, advertisements of studbooks, and the sale of three generations and more of the breed, and that into

was "the truest-bred cart-horse in Suffolk," being frequently met with. Modern writers claim that there was an element of Flemish blood in the forefathers of the present race of Suffolk horses. Beyond the fact that a breeder had a couple of Flemish horses, no record of any such introduction seems to be known, and the only authority for even this fact is that there are portraits of two such animals in the family collection. If these horses were used on the estate, it could have had simply a local effect.

No observer can fail to notice the uniformity of type and character of the Suffolk horse. There is something in the color, type, style and outline varied, of course, but never obliterated, which speaks of a common origin. Whatever fault we may find with the breed, we cannot fail to observe the marked type of outward appearance and color that is always present in a marked degree. That there have been infusions of extraneous blood cannot be denied, neither can it be denied that these influences have failed to overcome the prepotency of the breed or alter either type or color. The produce of these crosses stood for some years, but sooner or later they died out, and, at the present time there is not a Suffolk horse which is not descended from the old breed.

It is claimed that there is not a single specimen of the breed in existence which is not descended from one single source of ancestry—a certain horse of the "old breed," a nameless sire, foaled in 1768, and advertised as the property of one Mr. Crisp, of Ufford. This is not a mere assertion, or the result of a fair conclusion from reliable data; it is a proved fact, which the pedigree chart of the Studbook proved beyond doubt.

The introduction of the Studbook speaks of the old Ufford horse: "The first notice we got of a



**A Typical Suffolk Stallion. First at the Royal and Other Shows.**

horse of the old breed, of whose undisturbed identity there is a printed record, belonged to a Mr. Crisp, of Ufford. The advertisement appeared in 1773. The following year he is described as a fine, bright chestnut, full 15½ hands high, with the additional notice that his owner has no occasion to say anything more in his praise, as he is so noted a horse for getting fine colts; and, moreover, those who were unsuccessful with the said horse last year, can have the use of him this year for 5 shillings." His route appears to have been in the district of Woodbridge, with excursions to Saxmundham and Framlingham, "so to continue the season, God willing."

The Studbook gives details of various introductions of outside blood, probably the most important being that of a Lincolnshire trotting horse, belonging to a Mr. Blake, and known as Blake's Farmer, and another Lincolnshire horse known as Might's Farmer's Glory, or the Attleboro horse. The influence of these and other outside crosses were more or less marked for a few generations, but it became extinct from no assignable cause. It was the same old tale, the fresh introduction striving in vain against the power of the parent stock, proving that the power of assertion, the extent, the tenacity of retention of its characteristics is in proportion to the antiquity and the purity of the origin.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUFFOLK HORSE.

Head.—The head is rather small ; ears small and pointed ; forehead broad and flat ; eye full, prominent and mild ; nostrils large ; muzzle fine, lips firm and compact ; branches of lower jaw wide apart at their angles.

Neck.—Rather short, neatly attached to head, and carried well up; crest well developed and well arched, but not sufficiently heavy to turn to

either side; the whole neck heavily muscled, especially where it joins the body.

Withers and back.—Withers in line with the posterior part of the upper border of the neck, of medium height, and not falling too abruptly into the back; back short and strong; loins broad and heavily muscled.

Croup.—Not too drooping, of medium length, heavily muscled, with dock coming out rather high up, well clothed with straight and moderately fine hair, and well carried.

Chest.—Ribs long, deep and well sprung; false ribs long; body deep and close to the ground; deep through girth; breast wide and prominently muscled.

Shoulder.—Moderately oblique, and heavily muscled.

Forearm.—Not so long as in other draft breeds, muscles large, and extending well down the limb.  
Knee.—Straight, large and strong in all directions.

Knee to Foot.—Cannon bone short, broad, flat and clean; ligament and tendons prominent, and not too much tied in below the knee, an absence of beefiness and long hair on the posterior border, a small tuft of long hair at back of fetlock pad not objectionable; fetlock joint large and strong; pasterns rather short, and of medium obliquity.

Foot.—Rather large, round, with strong wall; sole slightly concave; frog well developed; heels broad, strong, and not too deep; feet must be of equal size, and toes must not turn either inwards or outwards when standing. An absence of hardening or thickening of the lateral cartilages.

Haunch or Upper Thigh.—Strong and well muscled, thick through ham, hind quarters broad and strong.

Stifle.—Large, strong and compact.

Gaskin or Lower Thigh.—Shorter than in other draft breeds; muscles prominent, and extremely well down the limb; hamstring prominent and strong.

Hock. — Large and strong in all directions, clean, an absence of puffiness, point prominent, and posterior border straight.

Hock to Foot.—The same general characteristics as the fore leg from knee to foot.

Foot.—Not so round, and sole more concave than fore foot, wall strong, frog well developed, heels broad and strong. Feet to be of equal size.

In general conformation, he must be very blocky, a large, deep body upon short legs, which, on account of the absence of feathering, may appear to be deficient in bone, but if the bone be of good quality, there usually is sufficient.

Color.—The different shades of chestnut, a bright chestnut (often called a sorrel) preferable; a white coronet or two, or a few white hairs on forehead, not very objectionable, but a solid color is usually preferred.

Temperament.—Docile, energetic, not nervous.

**Style and Action.**—General appearance attractive, good walker, must not roll or paddle with fore feet, nor go wide behind, but must not go close enough to interfere; should lift all feet fairly well from the ground, showing the soles plainly. When trotting, must have free and easy action.

Weight.—Say, 1,600 to 2,000 pounds.  
Height.—Say, 153 to 164 inches.

The characteristics of the Suffolk mare or gelding are the same as those of the stallion, except that there is not such development of crest, nor the general masculine appearance particularly expressed in the head and neck; the withers are more clearly defined, and not so broad; the weight is usually not so great nor the action so heavy, and there is less impetuosity noticed.

"WHIP."

## Use Brains with Feed.

There is a great difference in the amount of grain required by different men to keep a given horse in condition. Some teamsters seem to think that if they are shovelling into each manger half a bushel or three pecks of oats a day, and a little hay, they are feeding well, and cannot understand why the beast does not keep fat. Others feed scarcely any grain, and not a few farm horses get little of anything but grass all summer, yet always keep in good flesh. The usual comment is that such a horse must be an easy keeper. Often the credit belongs to the man, rather than the horse. We believe in feeding horses well, for