



**THE RYSDYK STOCK FARM.**

BY A. C., JR.  
(For the Sporting Times.)

There is no industry in Canada that has developed so rapidly as the production of stock. It is only a few years ago since the breeder's attention was first directed to the advantage of importing good trotting mares and dams, and now we have one of the best stock farms in America, located at Prescott, Ontario. The following sketch of an enterprising proprietor, and the principal reasons why it will not be without its value to your readers:

John Philip Wiser was born in Trenton, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1825. His genealogical tree shows a direct descent on both paternal and maternal side a hardy ancestry.

From his early training on the farm he acquired not only a perfect physical development, but a taste for agricultural pursuits, which in the first years of his life enabled him to accumulate a fortune. His first financial success was achieved at the age of twenty, when he closed his first year's engagement with A. S. Egert & Co., of Gouverneur, N. Y., with a balance of \$1,190 in pocket, and with the possession of a sense of responsibility, and never was money more conscientiously squandered. I am quite sure that he has never since enjoyed such perfect consciousness of wealth.

It is safe to assume that Mr. Wiser's reputation and manhood was established in this school in 1848, for at the end of six years or in 1857, he was admitted into partnership with the firm of Hart and Everill, who then owned the distillery at Prescott. At that time its capacity was scarcely equal to 200 bushels per day, but with steady diligence and bold but prudent ventures, his undertakings were crowned with success, and the business prospered.

In 1863 he purchased the whole interest of his partners, and became the sole proprietor of the establishment. In 1864 the entire works were consumed by fire, and although the loss sustained was great they were re-built, since when its business has steadily increased to its present proportions. Its capacity at this writing is equal to about 900 bushels daily. The refuse from the distillery is utilized to fatten 1,000 head of cattle, annually, which find a ready market upon being shipped to England.

The magnitude of the business may be better comprehended when it is understood that the taxes paid to the Government daily, average over \$2,200 in gold.

The excitement from one thousand oxen being sufficient to fertilize and improve large tracts of land annually, and as rich grazing lots were essential for the cattle shipped to him from abroad before going into their stalls, Mr. Wiser decided upon the purchase of his first farm, which, with subsequent additions, led to the final consummation in 1873 of his long cherished

unsoundness, their size, form and trotting capability, and then analyse the blood that produced them, then repair to the spacious stall occupied by "the Monarch of all he surveys."

**"RYSDYK"**

and they will not only find a "worthy son of a noble sire," but a Hambletonian possessed of all the desirable family characteristics, improved in quality, form and finish through the blood of his royally bred dam.

Unlike the visionary breeder who experiments until his resources are exhausted, Mr. Wiser has profited by the experience of others in the selection of the nucleus of his stud.

In common with all careful observers he had discovered that all great sires of trotters were strong in the blood of thoroughbred ancestry. The fact that hundreds of stallions, possessed of the instinct to trot, failed to sire trotters on account of their low breeding, had not escaped his notice.

The history of Jackson, a stallion once negotiated for by Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky, and formerly owned in Northern N. Y., one of the fastest and most perfect trotters for sixty rods the world ever produced, substantiates these views—his action was simply perfect; his progeny inherited with great uniformity his marvelous qualities. They all possessed the action and instinct to trot, but having descended from a low origin they did not possess the nerve, courage and endurance so essential, and yet unattainable except through the race horse to train on or trot out the mile.

The family of Bluchers bred hereabouts are distant descendants from Duroc, and are somewhat noted as roadsters, and in a few instances Blucher blood has nicked kindly with that of the trotter, as in the case of Ripon Boy, but Mr. Blucher was never known to sire a trotter until quite recently, when an obscure stallion as the Hinsdell Horse, standing at \$10, and covering not to exceed a half a dozen mares annually, suddenly jumps into notoriety through his sons Deck Wright, (2:28), McAllister colt, (2:30), and more recently the green one brought out at Watertown, that has shown a mile in 2:21.

This Hinsdell Horse was a grandson of Wait's Blucher, and his dam was by imported Emigrant. It is not to be presumed that he acquired the trotting knack from the Emigrant mare. The action and instinct to trot comes unquestionably from Blucher, but the will and stamina to train on, which his get seem to possess, is certainly attributable to the thoroughbred blood of his dam.

Upon further examination it will be seen that the Morgans, with an abundance of action and unquestionable trotting instinct, would hardly have maintained their reputation as a trotting family had it not been for the noted Vt. Black Hawk, Goldust and Magna Charta.

The dam of Black Hawk was a half-bred English mare. Goldust's dam was by the Arab Zilcade, while Magna Charta's dam was by the renowned race horse Gray Eagle; with the assistance of this thoroughbred blood through the dams of these distinguished sires, the Morgan family can boast of its Ethan Allen, its Lucille

otherwise of the blood of the best thoroughbred. A stallion thus bred could be crossed on mares descended from the same or other trotting families, not only with impunity, but with more than ordinary certainty that the progeny will excel the average speed of its parents.

The stallion Rysdyk answers most perfectly to this description, and his success in the stud the theory accepted by Mr. Wiser at the outset.

Rysdyk's breeding, considered in connection with that of the brood mares, selected especially to cross with him, must be a most satisfactory index for purchasers to the value of the progeny resulting therefrom.

It is particularly gratifying to Mr. Wiser to be able to state that thus far not even one colt by Rysdyk out of these selections has developed unsoundness, and with one exception the entire get of Rysdyk are in color a rich bay.

Rysdyk was bred by A. Welch, Esq., of Chestnut Hill, near Philadelphia, foaled in 1866, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, by Abdallah, by Mambrino, by Messenger; dam Lady Duke, by Lexington, by Boston, by Timoleon, thereby combining the blood of the best trotting sire and race-horse sire ever produced on this continent. From his dam Rysdyk requires much of the coveted Messenger blood through the renowned Sir Archey and the great American Eclipse, son of Duroc, and grand-son of Miller's Damsel, by imp. Messenger.

Sired by the great progenitor of trotters (the old Hero of Chester) and possessed of a rich inheritance of the true trotting blood, derived from the fountain head through Lexington, the best known thoroughbred source, is it not possible that Rysdyk may yet be recognized as the Shakespeare of the equine race.

This horse stands 15.3 in height, and weighs 1,200 lbs. He is a rich bay with black points, except the two white pasterns behind. His head is straight, lean, bony and free from coarseness, wide between the eyes and at the jaws; ears blood like and active, and eyes prominent but soft and gazelle like in expression. His neck is of moderate length and well joined to oblique shoulders; withers rather low, loin broad and powerful; barrel round, hips level and oval, with the characteristic Bellfounder quarters. His legs and feet are sound and smooth, and stand under him most perfectly. His stifles and hocks closely resemble those of his illustrious sire. Viewed from any point Rysdyk is an animal of power.

Although untrained as a trotter, Rysdyk was given a trial at Hartford in 2:36, for Mr. Wiser's benefit, while in stud condition, and at the time of purchase, which, considered in connection with his perfect and frictionless way of going, was satisfactory evidence that he had inherited his full share of natural speed. His action is square, bold and fearless, with an immense stride, while his hock movement is not inferior to that of his half-brother, Jay Gould.

While in the hands of Mr. Welch, up to and including his eight year old form, Rysdyk had access to but twenty-four mares, among which was the noble old Flora Temple. From these covers Mr. Bonner owns the fleet colt out of Flora Temple, already quoted to 2:22 1/4 mile.

which led Mr. Wiser to conceive that his breeding establishment was incomplete until it contained a sire whose record (2:26 1/4) combined with that of his son Commonwealth (2:22) and daughter Adelaide (2:21 1/4) unequalled by any stallion on earth, either living or dead, will be appreciated.

Add to this the important fact that Phil Sheridan was also the sire of Hiram Woodruff (2:25), Tom Maloy (2:27), Ed. Chapin (2:32), Valley Chief, Robert D. and a score of other fast ones, and the wisdom of his selection will be conceded.

Bred and owned in an obscure corner of the State, and having access to the ordinary farm mares of the country only, his success as a sire is indeed remarkable, with such a string of real clinkers to his credit, produced amidst such surroundings, who will venture the assertion that Phil Sheridan would not have been the greatest sire of trotters on the globe, could he have but enjoyed the opportunities afforded at Backman's or Alexander's.

Phil Sheridan was foaled in 1862, the property of Robt Dalzell of Wadsworth, N. Y., in whose hands he acquired his reputation as a trotter and sire of trotters. He was got by Young Columbus, and his dam was a well bred mare by a son of Tippecanoe. He stands sixteen hands high and is about one inch higher at the withers than he is in the rump. This conformation so peculiar to the family should be termed the Sheridan Pitch to distinguish it from the Hambletonian Pitch of which we read. He is a horse of much determination, and has a will of his own, and yet he is so intelligent and level-headed that nothing short of absolute abuse will provoke him to retaliation. He stands on remarkably sound legs and feet, his hocks are not as well let down as many would desire, but the muscular development at the stifle and through the quarters is indeed wonderful.

The forearm is of immense length and is muscled like that of the thoroughbred.

The varied turf experience of Phil Sheridan would cover more space than I have a right to ask. His life has been one of activity in the stud and on the course, often without any special preparation for either duty.

His position and record in the great stallion race of 1875, at Mystic Park, won by Smuggler, secured for him hosts of new admirers, who had scarcely heard of him prior to that time.

**CHESTNUT HILL,**

by Rysdyk, dam the Miller mare, by Bally King, son of Geo. M. Patchen, granddam believed to be by Duroc and out of a mare of Messenger descent, is a trotter of the first water.

Although but five years old he has acquitted himself handsomely on the turf, acquiring a record of 2:37, which is not the measure of his ability, however, as he has showed trials in 2:30. This horse is a blood bay, 15 1/2 hands high, commanding in appearance, and his unmistakable evidence of the blood of the two distinguished families from which he derives his wonderful turf record.

Wiser expects to beat the great Hannis with him next season.

Barbara Patchen won fourth money in colt race at Buffalo, and was well up in a heat trotted in 2:35. The number of young things that can beat three minutes are too numerous to mention.

**BROOD MARES.**

Flora, b m, foaled 1863, bred by Dr. Kingsley, Rome, N. Y., by Benedict's Pathfinder (son of Hill's Black Hawk) and the dam of Bacon's Ethan Allen, dam Lady Messenger, by Bridenbaker's Messenger Highlander, son of Ash's Messenger Highlander, by Col. Watt's Chestnut Hunter, great granddam by Magnum Bonum.

Budo, b m, foaled 1864, known as the Healy mare, bred at Port Jervis, N. J., by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, dam by C. M. Clay, Jr., a trotter and the dam of trotters.

Lady Patchen, b m, foaled 1863, bred by Mr. J. Ives, Meriden, Conn., by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Long Island Maid, by Montauk, son of C. M. Clay. A no lo mare, could trot in 2:30, and half interest in her once sold to Mr. Humphrey, owner of Judge Fullerton, for \$1,800.

Lady Moxley, b m, foaled 1867, bred by D. O. Dreott, Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., by Giny Moxley, son of Lexington, dam by Richmond Duroc, a grandson of Busta's Messenger, grand dam by Vt. Morgan.

Mary B., b m, foaled 1866, by Iron Duke, son of Rysdyk's Hambletonian, dam by Diver boy, son of Mambrino Paymaster, trotted in 2:30 while young.

Minnie Patchen, b m, foaled 1869, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam not traced, record to wagon of 2:36, a third heat.

Nellie Clark, b m, foaled 1861, bred by George Cook, Morrisburg, Ont., by old Gray Eagle, (trotter), dam by Josie Fowler, by Gamblers.

Minnie Gray, c m, foaled 1869, bred by David Clark, Hartford, Conn., by Green's Hambletonian, (full brother to Volunteer), dam Katy, the dam of Orient.

Jeannie Rysdyk, b m, foaled 1869, bred by F. E. Smith, Philadelphia, by Rysdyk's dam 1 colt by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, a speedy mare and formerly owned by Robert Sisco, in heat to the Sheridan.

Jessie, b m, foaled 1860, bred in Southern Ohio, by the pacing stallion Lookout, dam not traced, paced a heat in 2:29 over Dexter Park, Chicago.

Rachel, b m, foaled 1872, bred by F. E. Fountain, Philadelphia, by Pennsylvania, son of Mambrino Trot, dam Minnie Patchen, by Geo. M. Patchen, who is a trotter.

Lady Fashion, b m, foaled 1864, bred by E. M. Hubbs Hartum, by Long Island Black Hawk, dam not traced. Her son, Walter Jones, in 2 years old, has trotted a mile in 2:22.

Kate, b m, foaled 1863, pacing mare, paced in 2:12, is the dam of Orient 2:24, and a great brood mare, and a descendant of the very best.

Nelly, b m, foaled 1867, pacing mare, Maggie, b m, foaled 1869, pacing mare, Fannie, b m, foaled 1865, pacing mare, Queen, b m, foaled 1870, bred at New York, by the Sager Horse, dam not traced.