

The Foundation Source of Modern Clydesdale Blood.

In the early days of Clydesdales in Scotland there were many notable horses that have left their imprint upon the modern draft animal which emanates from the hills and valleys of that country, so famous for the excellency of the types of live stock it has given to the world. With all breeds, as in our own lineage, often it does not pay to go beyond certain branches of the family tree. Certain progenitors there are whose conduct has not been unimpeachable, or their claims to blood relationship beyond suspicion. Every pure breed of live stock has undergone a period of creation, so to speak, in which time certain desirable qualities have been welded together into a product of the breeders' art, while the undesirable characters have been cast out and rejected. The source, to a certain extent, is incidental or only secondary in importance to the results achieved. It is said that both grandams of Prince of Wales were Shirés, and that certain Flemish stallions were used on Scotch mares, along the river Clyde, in the very early days. Be that as it may, the fact remains that the Clydesdale is now one of the best draft breeds of horses the world knows, and capable of transmitting those characters which are good and which are essentially Clydesdale characters, and nothing else. It is not even necessary to go as far back as the first good sires and dams, which made early history for the breed, when we desire to study the forebears of the modern horse. The breeders in those days were few, and through the process of mating and breeding there were evolved two horses, Darnley and Prince of Wales, representing two distinct types which later became blended into what is now known as the modern Clydesdale. Perhaps it would not be out of place, however, to mention only a few of the breed-making sires and dams before reverting to these two horses which have impregnated modern pedigrees with their own blood and characteristics to such a marked degree.

History has it that a stallion named Blaze, purchased in Ayrshire about 1780 and taken to Lanark for service, was mated to "The Lampits Mare" and produced the first Clydesdale stallion of note, namely, Glancer (335), alias "Thompson's Black Horse." The Stud Book records this horse as foaled in 1810 and bought as a yearling by Alexander Kerr, of Gallowberry. Following him came Broomfield's Champion (98), which sired a number of good brood mares, but his chief claims to distinction are based on the fact that he sired Clyde, alias Glancer (153). This latter animal was dark brown in color, and on account of being ruptured was known as "The ruptured horse." Though not a show horse, his get were prominent in the show-ring from 1844 to 1850, when they were the leading winners at the Scotch exhibitions. Seven of his sons and one daughter are recorded in the first volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book, and his blood, through his get, did much to improve the breed. Another individual that might be mentioned here was Lochfergus Champion, which traces back to Broomfield's Champion. He was the grandsire of Darnley, and figures in the pedigree of Hiawatha, through the latter's dam, Old Darling.

Two Famous Horses.

The lover of pedigrees will view the names of Prince of Wales and Darnley with a feeling of intimate acquaintance, for they have both given particular characteristics to the modern Clydesdale, and have infused into the lineage of the breed both the draft character and action for which it is famous at the present time. If one were to ascribe to each, credit for some outstanding trait, possibly Prince of Wales would be called the sire of the flash and action peculiar to this Scottish breed of horses, and Darnley would be remembered as the progenitor of the draft character and those indescribable attributes which we term breeding and quality.

About 1864 a Scotsman, James Nicol Fleming by name, began the breeding of Clydesdales in the Carrick District of Ayrshire. He purchased some notable animals from the Merryton Stud, and in 1866 made a hit by breeding the Prince of Wales, which later was purchased by Robert Drew for £1,500 (and a penny for luck), and given to his brother, Lawrence Drew, the tenant of Merryton. Here the horse remained until Drew's death in 1884, and in this stud became world-famed as the Merryton Prince of Wales (673). In April, 1884, the horse was sold by auction for 900 guineas, when eighteen years old, passing again into the possession of David Riddell, a one-time former owner, in whose stud he died at the close of the season of 1888.

Prince of Wales was sired by General (322), the sire of which was Sir Walter Scott (797). His dam was a mare named Darling, of unknown breeding beyond one generation. He was a dark brown horse with a white stripe on his face and some white on each of three legs.

In a series of reminiscences of the history of early, and less early individual Clydesdale breeders and horses, written by Thomas Dykes, of Edinburgh, and published in a volume of transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, we find the following comment on Prince of Wales when nine years old: "I had an opportunity of looking at the horse, Prince of Wales, the other day when he was drawn up alongside the big chestnut mare (Mary) and their produce, the big chestnut colt, which was placed first at Glasgow. A more valuable trio I never saw before. 'The Prince' was looking as well as ever; his grand contour round and sound, well-tapered feet and pasterns, and characteristic head at once captivating the eye. His hocks are certainly straight, but his thighs are unusually powerful. The fullness above the hock joints on the inside was visible, but a well-skilled veterinary surgeon, who has a great knowledge of the breed, at once declared it to be muscle,

and, as such, a point to be reckoned in the horse's favor. Nor is his action a whit less free than it used to be, for he steps out before like a trotting stallion and, standing from behind, you can see the soles of his feet clearly every time he lifts them. Indeed, no draft horse we have ever looked at before or since ever carried itself better. Such grand spring and gaiety at the trot, and such steady, well-placed, extensive, regular and even action at the walk. He was a bit tempery and it was risky for a stranger to go into his box, more particularly when feeding." Again, this same writer commenting on the death of Lawrence Drew and the dispersal of his famous stud, penned these words: "The dispersal sale, drew breeders from all parts of Scotland and England. Again was his old stud horse, Prince of Wales, put on the market, and at 900 guineas (a long price for a horse eighteen years old, which had descendants in nearly every Scottish parish and every corner of our colonies) he found his way back into the hands of his owner when a colt, Mr. Riddell, of Blackhall. The old horse dropped down dead in his stall on December 31, 1888, literally going out with the expiring year."

About 1872 in the stud of Sir William Stirling Maxwell, Keir Peggy (187), one of the best breeding mares of her time, dropped an undersized colt by Conqueror (199). The foal was purchased by David Riddell, the owner of Prince of Wales, and developed into the celebrated Darnley (222). The horse had a distinguished career in the Scottish show-ring until he was twelve years of age, and if Prince of Wales was famous as a sire of sires, Darnley was no less famous as a sire of mares. However, the three horses, McGregor (1487); Flashwood (3004), and Top Gallant (1850), were the get of Darnley. These sons became distinguished in Scotland, and their produce, particularly that of McGregor and Top Gallant, won distinction in the show-ring at home, as well as in Canada and the United States. McGregor was considered by some second as a breeder only to his sire and Prince of Wales.

Darnley won all the chief honors in 1876, 1877, and 1878, and in 1884 was declared the supreme champion of the Highland and Agricultural Show at Edinburgh. He was criticized as having a pony head and drooping quarters; some claimed that he dished his feet when at the trot, and all agreed that the fearless action and splendid dash which characterized Prince of Wales were foreign to Darnley. Nevertheless, he had draft conformation, almost a perfect action at the walk, and breeding character and superior quality, which the dominating personalities of the Clydesdale world at that time, Andrew Montgomery and David Riddell, championed as their ideal. With such zealous and influential advocates, type was molded along Darnley lines for two decades, and fashionable Clydesdales of the present time have pedigrees richly infused with Darnley blood.

The Transition Period.

In the early eighties, Darnley horses were very prominent in the show-rings, and were favored with a considerable degree of popularity. McGregor was the property of Andrew Montgomery, while Top Gallant was owned by David Riddell. These were the best in 1880, and in 1881 a third Darnley horse, Sanquhar (2393) entered the arena, being first as an aged horse at the H. & A. Show, at Stirling in that year. Outside of his soft hocks, Top Gallant was a grand individual, while Sanquhar had splendid quarters, feet and legs, but was somewhat low in the back.

With many excellent stallions from Prince of Wales in service, and good Darnley females numerous, it was only natural that the mating of the two strains should be practiced. This compromise marked another epoch in the formation and establishment of the breed, for it gave a well-balanced type, perhaps small, but with good action. In 1884 another mating occurred which improved the situation, for then Top Gallant was bred to a dark brown mare by London Prince, which was by Prince of Wales. The result was Sir Everard (5353). This noted horse had a conformation corresponding with the original Darnley draft type, and he inherited the scale and action of his Prince of Wales' ancestors. Four years elapsed between the advent of Sir Everard and his illustrious son, Baron's Pride (9122), which shows a lineage strong in Darnley blood on both sides, and to admirers of the Clydesdale on this side of the ocean is, perhaps, better known by his get than any other horse of the breed. In the same period, Hiawatha (10067), a grandson of Prince of Wales, through Prince Robert, and having no Darnley blood in his veins, came into existence. He was foaled in April, 1892, from the mare, Old Darling, which traces back on her sire's side to Lochfergus Champion (419). Through a combination of Baron's Pride and Hiawatha breeding the modern Clydesdale was evolved. These horses of the present era may be taller than the original Darnley type, but veteran breeders tell us they are no better ribbed nor do they possess action equal to the Prince of Wales horses and mares of the seventies, eighties and early nineties.

Some Good Breeding Females.

In this review of early Clydesdale history we have neglected to mention the females of the breed, which have been no small factor in such a rapid and healthy development. In this connection we can do no better than reproduce here some comments from the pen of Archibald MacNeillage, who for 40 years has been intimately connected with Clydesdale interests in Scotland: "The first show Clydesdale whose appearance I have in lively fixed in memory was a black mare, Alpine, bred by the late Alexander Wilson, Newtonmeads, and got by Prince of Wales (673) out of Jean by Eclipse (268). She was a full sister to the stallions, What Care I (912), Prince Edward (1245) and Royal Prince (1521). Her

name occurs in one Clydesdale pedigree somewhere in an early volume of the Stud Book. This mare was first at the first show I ever attended, the Glasgow Summer Show of 1878. She was a mare of good size and weight, with blue hoofs and clean, hard, flinty bone. Her dam was credited with having a bit of temper, and she may have had the same. In size, weight and general contour she was about the same as the popular type of the present day. The most beautifully molded Clydesdale mare I ever saw was Boquhan Lady Peggie, a Cawdor Cup champion, and so far as I can judge about as near perfection as nature is in the habit of making Clydesdales. I have seen bigger mares, but none truer to Clydesdale type. One of the most handsome mares I ever saw was the black mare, Chester Princess, a daughter of Baron's Pride, a Cawdor Cup winner and dam of two Cawdor Cup winners, Scotland Yet and his own sister, Harviestoun Phyllis. This magnificent mare died of anthrax, a very rare disease in horses. The best type of mare for breeding purposes I can recall was Dunure Ideal, the dam of Dunure Footprint, Dunure Index, Dunure Keynote, Dunure Chosen, a wonderful quartette. This mare was never awarded champion honors, yet judges consistently acknowledged that as a breeding type she could not be excelled. The logic by which, while admitting this, judges managed to convince themselves that she was not fit to be a champion, never appealed to me.

"A much earlier female champion than these was the great Moss Rose (6203). This was the phenomenal mare of her time. She was foaled in 1881, and lived to a great age, securing the Cawdor Cup when an old mare, and producing one great foal, Montrave Maud, which also won the Cawdor Cup. Montrave Maud produced one great foal, Montrave Mac, perhaps the best living sire of brood mares in the breed. He was grandsire of Dunure Ideal, her sire, Auchenflower, being the only outstanding stallion got by him. Old Moss Rose was dam of two stallions, got by the £3,000-horse, Prince of Albion (6178), frankly two of the worst stallions of their time. The Clydesdale mares of to-day are much truer to type and draft character than was Moss Rose."

The Modern Clydesdale.

Dunure Footprint and Bonnie Buchlyvie may well be looked upon as exemplars of the modern Clydesdale. The former was the leading sire of winners in Scotland during the show season of 1916. His progeny exhibited at the seven principal shows numbered 51, and altogether they secured 97 prizes, including 7 champion prizes. Second in order of merit, as a sire of winners, came Dunure Footprint's illustrious parent, Baron of Buchlyvie. Apukwa was third, and Bonnie of Buchlyvie fourth. The first twelve individuals in the 1913 list of sires, arranged in order of merit according to the success of their produce in the show-ring, include the best horses of recent and semi-recent years. They stood in the following order: Baron of Buchlyvie, Apukwa, Dunure Footprint, Baron's Pride, Hiawatha, Revelanta, Scotland Yet, Everlasting, Auchenflower, Oyama, Royal Favorite, Bonnie Buchlyvie. Six of these horses were winners of the Cawdor Cup, while Baron's Pride and Everlasting were H. & A. S. champion horses. Baron of Buchlyvie was a first and also a second-prize aged horse at the Highland Shows. Royal Favorite and Auchenflower have better records as sires than show horses. Apukwa probably reached the acme of his fame in 1915 when his get made such a brilliant record in the show-rings of Scotland. One of his good representatives, which has won in this country, was Elma, champion female at the Canadian National in 1914 as a yearling, and second in a class of eleven three-year-olds at the International last December.

It was fitting and opportune indeed that, while Dunure Footprint's get were winning the leading honors in the Scottish show-rings in 1916, another son, Fairholme Footprint, should be awarded the highest measure of approbation at the International Fat Stock Exposition in Chicago in December last. This American horse was imported in dam when Harviestoun Baroness, the champion mare at the Highland in 1912, was brought over the same year to win the highest honors accorded to Clydesdale females at the Chicago International. Fairholme Footprint was foaled on June 23, 1913, and he inherits, to a considerable degree, the markings and general characteristics of his paternal parent. Another sire in the United States which has achieved a fair measure of success as a breeder, is Golden Knight. Formerly he was in an Ontario stud, but for some time past has been doing service in the State of Pennsylvania. The past season Harviestoun Baroness was sent from her home stables in New Jersey to Golden Knight, the highest compliment that could be paid to any Clydesdale stallion in America.

LIVE STOCK.

The past season was one of the best for the pure-bred live stock industry there has been for some years. Breeders, particularly of cattle, sheep and swine have reported excellent sales, and in some cases not sufficient supply to meet the demand. With horses the rather slow movement of Canadian stock for draft purposes tended to quiet business, but conditions are now such the world over that either in United States or Canada horses should be in greater demand than they have been for some time. In fact the buyers from across the border have been purchasing mares and geldings in Western Ontario and where the animals were in any kind of fit, they took them. The present status of the industry promises to survive, as European stocks are sure to suffer in the turmoil there, and the world shortage must be overcome.