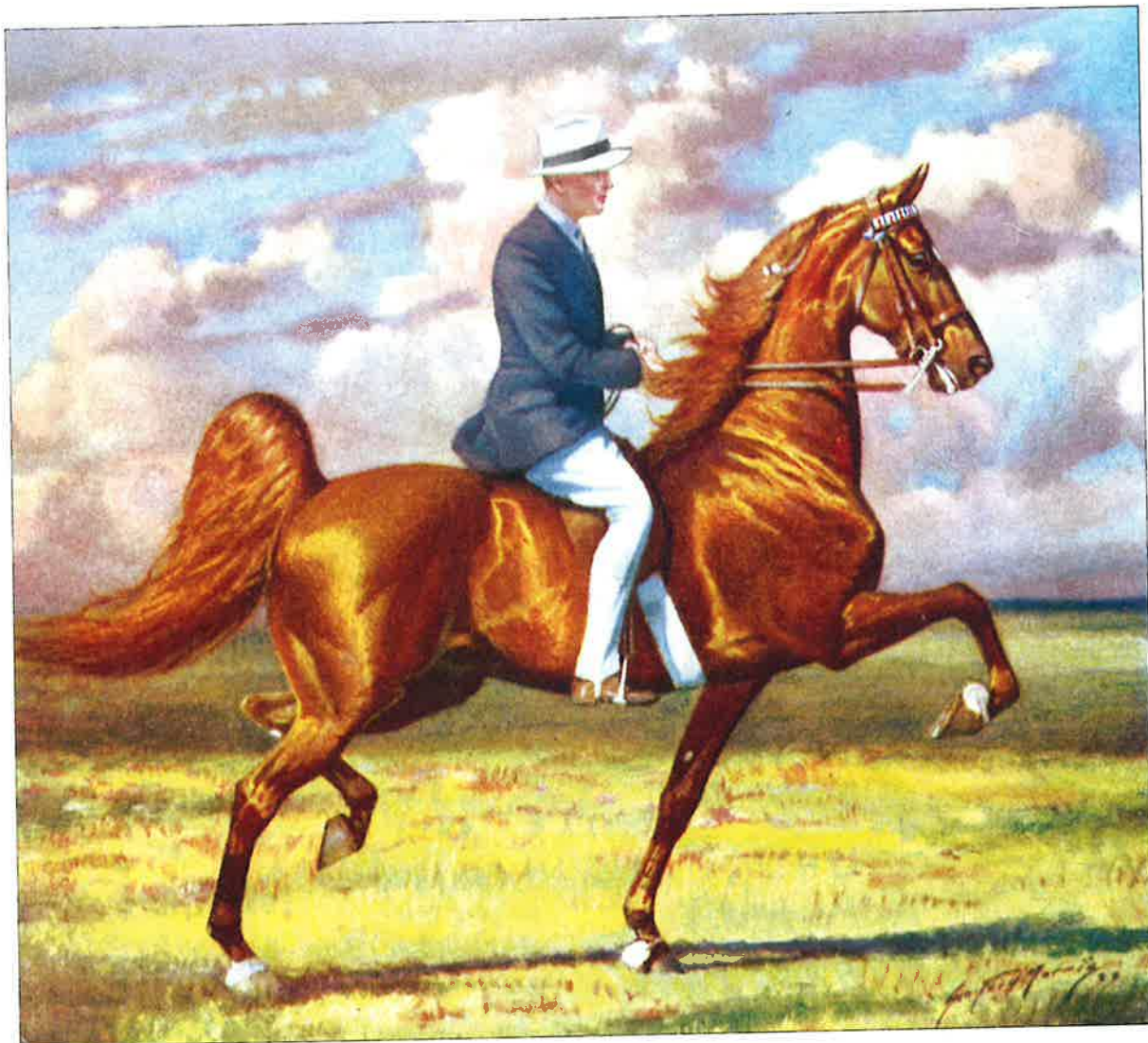


King's Genius 9500



King's Genius with Chester Caldwell up. This painting by George Ford Morris was widely used and considered an excellent depiction of the horse.

A Look At The Influential Stallion Whose Name Is Prominent In Most Saddlebred Pedigrees Today

By Lynn Weatherman

KING'S Genius is the stallion which perhaps has most influenced the breed in modern times. He was much admired during his lifetime, but it is doubtful anyone could foresee the great contribution he would make.

Bourbon King

When King's Genius was foaled in

1924, his sire, Bourbon King, was widely recognized as a great stallion. He had already sired such notables as Astral King, Richlieu King, Easter Star, Edna May's King, Leila Lee, In Demand and Emily McCready.

Bourbon King was foaled in 1900, a son of Bourbon Chief and Annie C. by King (Wilson's). Allie G. Jones, North Middletown, Kentucky, brought him as

a weanling and owned him the rest of his life.

Princess Eugenia

Dam of King's Genius

King's Genius was the result of the classic cross of Bourbon King and Rex Peavine. In addition to his sire, King's Genius was deep in show ring winners

on the dam's side of his pedigree.

His dam, Princess Eugenia (ASHA Broodmare Hall of Fame, May/June 1988), was a grey mare sired by Chester Peavine by Rex Peavine. The dam of Chester Peavine was Miss Madison (ASHA Broodmare Hall of Fame, May/June 1989). Miss Madison also produced Fair Acres Vanity Fair the dam of Beau Peavine, and both the sire and dam of Ware's Sensation (ASHA Broodmare Hall of Fame, March/April 1989).

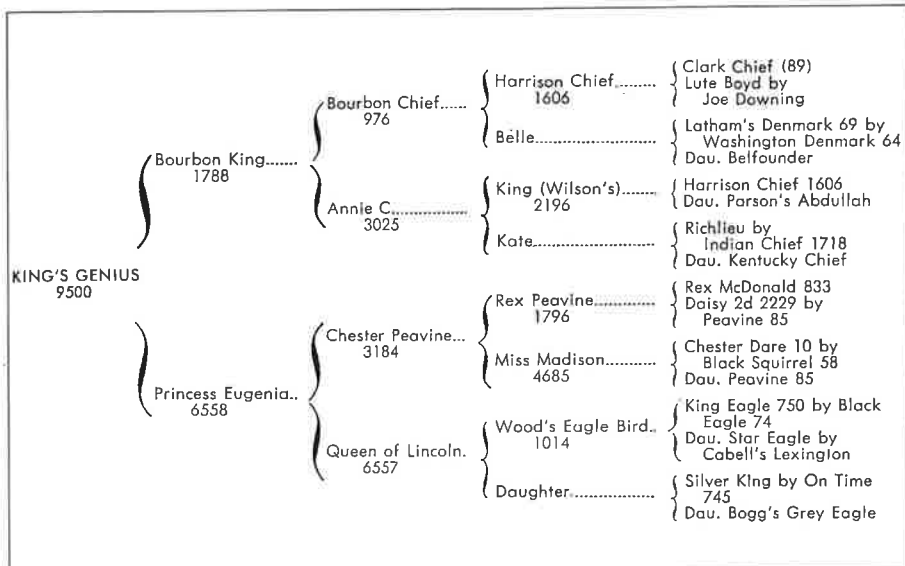
Chester Peavine was sold in 1909 to Charles Holland, Springfield, Missouri, for the big price of \$2,000. Holland placed him with trainer Tom Bass, Mexico, Missouri, and Bass showed him for a number of years with good success.

When Kentucky breeders realized that Chester Peavine was a good sire, they went to Missouri to try to buy him. It was reported that he was found as a gelding pulling a milk wagon, but this was apparently a case of mistaken identity. Chester Peavine had been sold to Waite Phillips, a wealthy oilman who had started raising Saddlebreds at his Highland Ranch, Littleton, Colorado. Phillips later owned Maid's Rex and he bred Rex Lee Lewis, the sire of Conowingo, at Philmont Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico.

Dick Scudder's grey mare Queen of Lincoln, who had been bred to Chester Peavine before he left Kentucky, had been a top show ring performer for Charlie Sandidge. She was the winner of the very first \$500 five gaited stake offered at Lexington, but her career was shortened by "bad" feet. Wood's Eagle Bird, the sire of Queen of Lincoln, also won the five gaited stake at Lexington in 1893, defeating Pat Washington and Highland Denmark.

In 1909 Queen of Lincoln produced a beautiful grey filly. The new arrival was named Princess Eugenia in honor of Mrs. Scudder, Eugenia Ware Scudder. Princess Eugenia as offered for sale at Tattersalls as a yearling but failed to bring her reserve. She was returned to Tattersalls the next year and sold to Col. Bruce G. Eaton of Eaton, Colorado, (located near Greeley) for \$835. John T. Hook, Mexico, Missouri, had the next to last bid on the mare.

Ironically, Eaton owned a Saddlebred operation also located at Mexico, Missouri, Eaton Farm, under the management of Ed D. Moore. Princess Eugenia was a sensational show mare and in 1912 won 18 blue ribbons and the coveted American Saddle Horse Breeder's Association trophy at the Missouri



State Fair for best Saddle Horse shown to halter.

According to the late Lon Cox, "Col. Eaton would never allow a tail to be nicked and he abhorred a tail set. Ed Moore used the sets at shows and when Col. Eaton wasn't around. Somehow or other, one of the grooms got the breast strap on the set too tight and it blistered the mare's chest. The new hair came in white and nobody ever had nerve enough to tell Col. Eaton how Princess Eugenia acquired the white stripe across her chest."

As a four-year-old she won the junior

five gaited state at Columbia, Missouri, beating Maurine Fisher and Katherine Grigsby and was tied behind My Major Dare in the championship. At Mexico she was again second to My Major Dare, being shown for Longview Farm by John Hook, and it was said to have been one of the most unpopular decisions of the 1913 show season in Missouri.

Princess Eugenia was first bred in 1917 after having had a show career in which she had been favorably compared to Edna May and Hazel Dawn. It was a son of Edna May to which she was bred,

(Continued on next page)



King's Genius was an often-photographed stallion. One of the best standing shots is this photo taken in Columbus, Ohio, by McCormick.



Bourbon Genius won the fine harness championship at the Kentucky State Fair as a four-year-old in 1937 with Frank Bradshaw driving. Although he died at the early age of thirteen, Bourbon Genius is today the most prominent of King's Genius' many good breeding sons. The Supreme Sultan line comes directly from Bourbon Genius through his son Genius Bourbon King and grandson Valley View Supreme. McClasky photo.



Reverie's Desdemona produced two great horses which in turn are the foundation of two of today's top families. She was the dam of Oman's Desdemona Denmark, perhaps the best son of Anacacho Denmark, and also his full sister WC Kate Shriver, dam of CH Will Shriver. Photo by Edward Boehm.

KING'S GENIUS

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Edna May's Choice by Kentucky Choice, Bruce Eaton had purchased him two years previously.

Princess Eugenia produced two fillies, and Eaton then sold his horses to Earnest R. Woolley, Salt Lake City, Utah, owner of the Woolley Land and Livestock Company. In 1920 she had a colt, Governor Spry, which was sold to a high official of the Mormon Church in Hawaii. Governor Spry eventually sired a colt named Governor Rick who was sold to Japan for use by the emperor.

Return to Kentucky

Princess Eugenia had two more fillies and then in 1923 was sold to W. L. Petrikin, owner of the Great Western Sugar Company, Denver, Colorado. Petrikin was very involved with Saddlebred show horses, and he sent the mare to Kentucky to be bred to Bourbon King.

King's Genius was foaled at the Allie

G. Jones farm, North Middletown, Kentucky, in 1924. He was such a nice colt that Jones immediately bought him and Princess Eugenia from W. L. Petrikin. Cockleroi was foaled in 1925 and was Princess Eugenia's last foal. She died in the spring of 1926 after having lost her foal.

Joe Jones gave King's Genius his early lessons and gaited him as a three-year-old. He was not a big, robust colt and was not pushed to show in this three-year-old year.

With Charlie Dunn

Charlie Dunn was training for J. E. Kuhns, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and in the spring of 1928 they visited the Jones farm in search of show prospects. Dunn and his owner were highly impressed with King's Genius and Kuhns purchased the young stallion. King's Genius made his first show ring appearance at Derby, New York, in 1928, winning the five gaited championship.

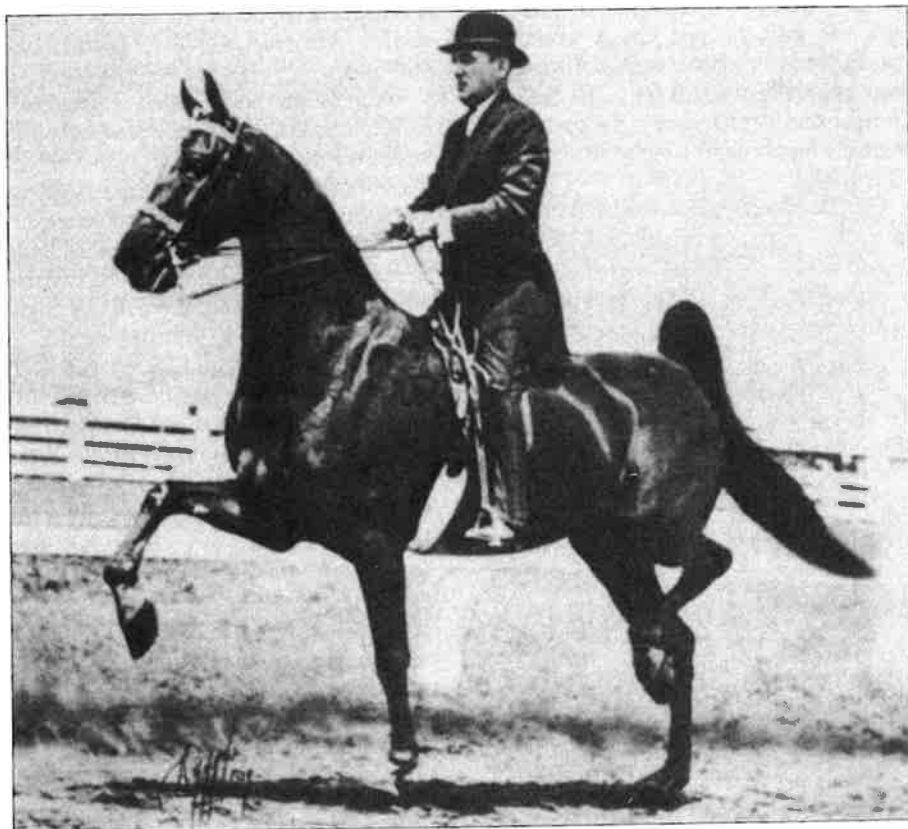
After several shows in the Northeast,

his first major contest was at the Ohio State Fair where he won the junior five gaited stake and the stallion/gelding class. At the Kentucky State Fair he was reunited with Joe Jones, making an outstanding show to win the junior stake over Tea Caddy and Laird of Longview.

Charles T. Fisher of Detroit, Michigan, who had purchased Dixiana Farm, Lexington, Kentucky, hired T. Ross Long as manager, with instructions to make the farm an outstanding establishment. Long hired Charlie Dunn as Saddle Horse trainer. That fall Fisher bought King's Genius from Kuhn.

The Dixiana Farm show string started the 1929 season at Davon where King's Genius won the stallion class but was fourth in the stake. Dixiana Farm did not show at the Kentucky State Fair that year. At the American Royal, King's Genius was second in the stallion stake to Carnation Chief. He won the grand championship at the Chicago International.

King's Genius was first used at stud in 1930, bred to six mares including



Flirtation Walk was the dam of WGC Wing Commander. Charlie Dunn who first showed King's Genius, is up in this Lester Round's picture. The amalgamation of the blood of Bourbon Genius, Reverie's Desdemona and Flirtation Walk has produced an inordinate number of today's show stars.

Nancy Thurman (ASHA Broodmare Hall of Fame, January/February 1987). He made nine shows that year and at the Kentucky State Fair was fourth in the stallion stake. Chief of Longview was the winner, followed by Edna May's King, with third going to Rex Lee Bourbon. Charlie Dunn rode Beau Wolf to win the World's Grand Championship, Ross Long showed King's Genius in the championship to seventh behind his younger full brother Cockleroi, shown by Quinn Davis.

At the American Royal, King's Genius was second to Sweetheart On Parade in the championship and he went on to Chicago to again win the five gaited championship. In 1931, King's Genius served at least 20 mares, and consequently his schedule was cut back to five horse shows. He won the stallion stake at Louisville and was third in the championship which was won by Sweetheart On Parade, King's Genius ended the season by winning at the Chicago International for the third consecutive year.

Fourteen King's Genius foals arrived in 1931. They were promising, but none went on to fame and glory.

On To Oklahoma

The Saddlebred world was surprised in June, 1932 when it was announced that King's Genius had been sold by Dixiana Farm to Mary Gwyn Fiers, Oklahoma City, where he joined Roxie Highland in the show string. He was shown at San Mateo, California, by Mary Fiers's trainer H. C. "Slimmy" Bryant, where he was second to Sweetheart On Parade.

From the 1932 foal crop came Front Page Lady, the first bonafide King's Genius performance champion, winner of the junior stake at Louisville in 1936.

King's Genius ended the 1932 season at Chicago, winning the stallion stake for the fourth year in a row, but in the championship he pulled a shoe and had to leave the ring.

The show season of 1933 began early for King's Genius, Mary Fiers showed him herself to win the five gaited stake

at the Denver National Western in January. He also won at Fort Worth, Texas, and then headed for warm weather, winning at Miami, Florida.

Ohio Ownership

The horse show world was electrified by the sale of King's Genius, this time in May, 1933. He was purchased by Roger Selby, a wealthy show manufacturer from Portsmouth, Ohio. The price was reportedly \$12,000, the most money paid for an American Saddlebred horse up to that time, Selby placed the horse in training with Chester Caldwell who was operating a public stable, Colonial Acres, at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus.

About the time this transaction was taking place, the 1933 crop of King's Genius foals was arriving, and two of these youngsters would make their sire immortal in the Saddlebred world. Kate Haines, owned by Robert G. Jones, North Middletown, Kentucky, the brother of Allie Jones, produced a colt, Bourbon Genius. At the farm of S. J. Thompson, Hodgenville, Kentucky, Spelling Bee had a filly who was named Flirtation Walk.

According to Charles E. Huston, Libertyville, Illinois, who worked for Chester Caldwell, King's Genius served over 100 mares in 1933 and 1934, and "most of them were bad. Times were so tough during the Depression, but King's Genius was really popular. Selby stood him for \$200 when other good stallions were standing at \$50. Everybody thought King's Genius would be their salvation. He sired foals better than their dams, but many of them were just horses, and he got a reputation as a poor sire."

When King's Genius hit the ring in 1933 with Chester Caldwell aboard, he seemed to be a new horse. Despite the heavy season at stud, he had been allowed to freshen up, and Caldwell raised his head. At the Ohio State Fair, where he had been so successful in the past, he made an outstanding show to defeat Belle Le Rose.

Although he was not a big horse, about 15.2, King's Genius was an extremely beautiful stallion. His neck was exceptionally long; when George Ford Morris had painted him in a standing pose for Charles Fisher, Dixiana Farm, Fisher complained that his neck had been exaggerated, but Morris showed him a photograph in which King's Genius's neck was even longer.

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KING'S GENIUS

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King's Genius was correct in all respects. He was a golden chestnut in color with a star and a white right hind coronet. Charlie Huston said he was a good thinking stallion and gentle to be around but would fight if he thought he was being abused. He had excellent front action and for a five gaited horse, was sensational off his hocks.

The Greatest Class

After the Ohio State Fair Horse Show of 1933, Chester Caldwell went to the Charles Henry horse sale at Devon,

Pennsylvania. One night in the hotel, after the sale, he got into a wrestling match, just horseplay, with Bill Mallen, who ironically trained for J. E. Kuhns, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, the man who originally had bought King's Genius from Allie Jones.

Charlie Huston described Bill Mallen as a "big man, strong as a bull." He picked Chester Caldwell up over his head to demonstrate his airplane spin slam and when Chester got off the floor, his right arm was cracked.

In the stallion stake at the Kentucky State Fair of 1933, King's Genius made a wonderful show, but Chester Caldwell was not in the saddle, his first trainer Joe Jones, showed King's Genius for the

second time, to defeat the much heralded son of Chief of Longview, Totokonoolah.

Old timers still recall the grand championship, which may have been the best ever held. Sweetheart On Parade, with her tail said to be flowing out behind like a silken grey shawl, hit the ring with the master Lonnie Haydon aboard; Belle Le Rose and Carl Pedigo seemed to "rise off the ground and fly around the ring," and when King's Genius came in churning tanbark with Chester Caldwell on his back, riding with one hand, his right arm in a sling, those jamming the old coliseum went wild. Belle Le Rose made the show of her life to be crowned World's Grand Champion. Second went

Some Famous Sons And Daughters Of King's Genius

Colts	Fillies	Colts	Fillies
1932		1940	
Pepper Martin	Front Page Lady	Blazing Genius of	Blanchita Genius
Pirate Gold	Sunday Swing	Happy Hollow	Candy Genius
Beau Genius	Dolphie Martin	King of the South	Helogia's Genius
	Golden Thoughts	Leatherwood Genius	Ky. Cardinal Belle
	Laetus	Spirit of Genius	Maryland's Leading Lady
			Polly Genius
1933			Princess May Blossom
Bourbon Genius	Flirtation Walk		Sheer Genius
Young King's Genius	Belle De Luxe		Suzette Genius
Edgemorr's Beau Genius	Glorious Star	1941	
1934		Crescent Genius	Claire Genius
Genius Masterpiece	A Star Is Born	Genius Stepper	Genius Nola
Golden Genius	Flash of Genius	Pinelake's Genius	Helen Highwater
Genius Reality	In Person		Odessa Mae
King's Royal Genius	May Genius		Takodah's Answer
1935		1942	
Genius of Kentucky		Admiration of the Nation	Benita Genius
1936		Genius of Sunnyslope	Bright Wine
The Genius		Ridgefields Genius	Flaming Dawn's Genius
Ridgeview's Peavine Genius			In Society
1937			Queen's Genius of Belemar
Wild Genius	Rose Genius		Reverie's Desdemona
King of Rhythm	The Genius, Queen		Sheer Glamour
Fair Acres Genius			Song of the Stars
1938			Starlight Genius
Thames Golden Genius	Majestic Genius	1943	
Genius of Stonyridge	Charlene's Dream	Genius' Firefly	Margie Louise Genius
Jack Dare's King	Genius Pluma	Mooers King's Genius	The King's Princess
Dawn's Genius			Maid of Orleans
1939		1944	
Leatherwood King	Miss Highbrow	Gay Defender	Graceful Genius
	Princess Delight	King's Farewell	Genius Charm
	Stepping Genius		
	Wild Eugenia		
		453 Total Get	207 Colts
			246 Fillies

to the great former champion Sweetheart On Parade, with third to King's Genius, leaving in their wake such stars as Joanna Jones with Joe Jones up, Cheerful Dawn and Bob Moreland, Steppin Fetchit shown by Ray Harney and King's Genius' brother Cockleroi, shown by Earl Teater.

George Ford Morris in his book *Portraits of Horses* wrote that he and many others felt King's Genius could just as well have been the Five Gaited World's Grand Champion in either 1933 or 1934.

His Early Foals

People began to take notice of the get of King's Genius in 1933. He was the sire of Belle De Luxe, champion weanling at the Kentucky State Fair, Young King's Genius was weanling champion at Illinois, and Pepper Martin topped the yearling class at the Missouri State Fair.

King's Genius went on from Louisville to win at the Chicago World's Fair, defeating Belle Le Rose, the New York National where he beat My Golden Dawn and once again, the Chicago International.

The 1934 breeding season was shared between Columbus and the Selby Farm near Portsmouth. Roger Selby's first equine interest was Arabians, and he had imported some good ones, including Raffles and Mirage, from Crabbet Stud in England. He bred King's Genius to a number of Arab mares.

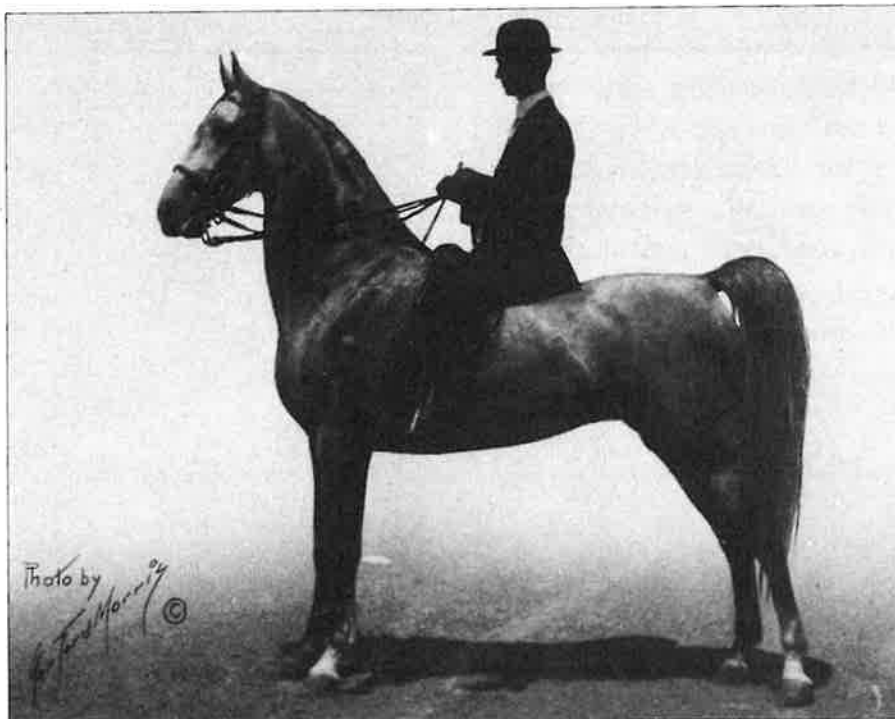
King's Genius went to one more horse show, the Kentucky State Fair of 1934, where he won the stallion stake for the third time. He was third in the finale behind Belle Le Rose and Night Flower and beat Beau Peavine, Cockleroi and Dickery Dare.

After having been shown in the highest competition for seven years, he was retired without ceremony. He had traveled an estimated 32,000 miles and performed in 13 states. King's Genius had defeated every horse he ever showed against with the exception of Chief of Longview and Sweetheart On Parade. He had won 59 blue ribbons, 10 seconds, 4 thirds and 2 fourths. Over the years he was shown by six different riders: Joe Jones, Charlie Dunn, Ross Long, Slimmy Bryant, Mary Gwyn Fiers and Chester Caldwell.

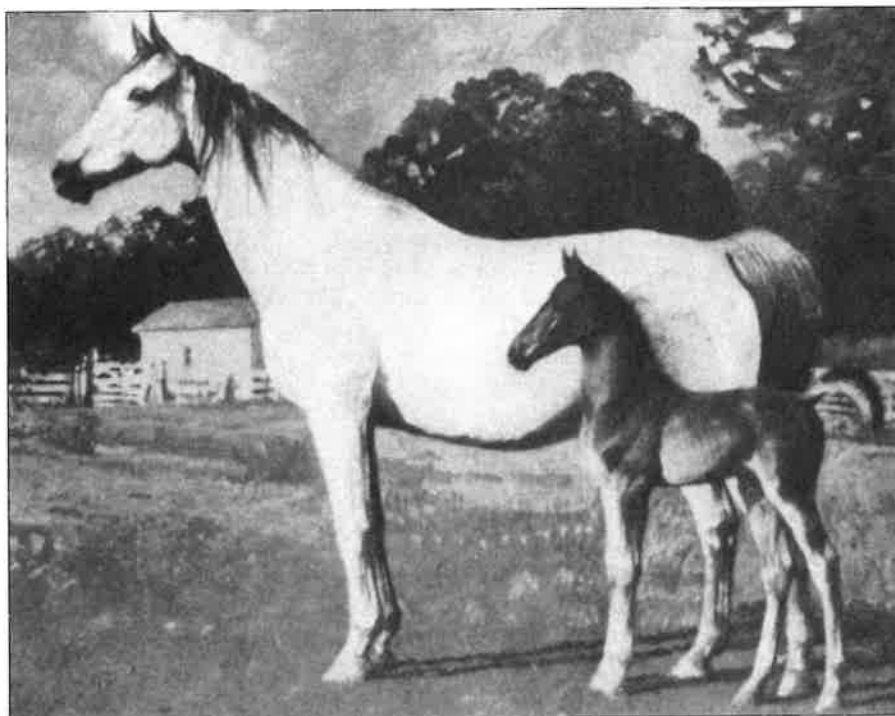
George Gwinn said, "I saw King's Genius show many times and he was the best stud I've ever seen show that did not win the big stake at Louisville.

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***He was a good thinking stallion and gentle to be around
but would fight if he thought he was being abused.
He had excellent front action and for a five gaited horse,
was sensational off his hocks.***



Princess Eugenia with Ed Moore up. This rare photo is from the George Ford Morris portfolio "The Saddle Horse of America and the Morgan Horse."



Princess Eugenia and her foal King's Genius at five days. Many people assumed this was a George Ford Morris painting, but it is an actual photograph Morris took at the Allie G. Jones Farm, North Middletown, Kentucky. Morris heavily retouched the background. The original photo is in the Jeff Harris Collection at the University of Kentucky Library.

KING'S GENIUS

(Continued from previous page)



This action shot of King's Genius with Chester Caldwell aboard is thought to have been snapped by the famous horseman L. S. Dickey, West Baden, Indiana.

He could rack and trot like a freight train running off."

Charlie Huston, who jogged the horse a lot, said, "King's Genius was a misunderstood horse. People said he couldn't rack fast enough. He could rack faster than most anybody's horse, but he could trot faster than he racked, and that was deceiving. He had great hocks and he did his gaits distinctly and outstandingly."

Kentucky Again

King's Genius was sent to Cumberland View Farm owned by Douglas M. Chenault, Richmond, Kentucky, where he stood at stud for the next seven years. Doug Chenault was a highly respected young horseman and a student of bloodlines. King's Genius soon recovered his reputation from the earlier mediocre colt crops, and his book was filled with quality matrons.

Chenault died suddenly in June of 1940 following emergency surgery. He

was 41 years of age. King's Genius stood another season near Richmond under the direction of Mrs. Chenault, and then Roger Selby took the horse back to Portsmouth, Ohio.

Thrice Sold In Five Days

The astute horseman George Gwinn had heard rumblings that King's Genius might be for sale, so he sent the famed auctioneer George Swinebroad of Lancaster, Kentucky, to Portsmouth to get a handle on the situation. He said he felt that if Selby thought he was interested in buying the 17-year-old stallion, the price might be prohibitive. This mission was successful, and on November 10, 1942, King's Genius was transferred to Swinebroad. Then on November 11, 1942, George Gwinn became the official owner of King's Genius.

George Gwinn never let paint dry under his feet. He resold the horse to the Texas Oilman Clifford Mooers on

November 14, 1942. Gwinn said that before the sale had been finalized, Mooers had King's Genius examined by the noted Lexington veterinarian Dr. Proctor who proclaimed, "King's Genius is the healthiest horse of his age I ever examined except for needing to have his teeth floated."

Clifford Mooers also purchased some 30 top mares from Roger Selby.

Mooers rode in the horse van from Danville, Kentucky, to Texarkana, Texas, as King's Genius made his way to Pine Lake Farm, near Houston. Mooers enjoyed owning the great stallion very much, and King's Genius had a full season at stud in 1942. Late in May of 1943, King's Genius had an attack of colic, and efforts to save him were to no avail. Ironically, two weeks later, another great son of Bourbon King died in Texas. Edna May's King expired at Anacacho Ranch near Spofford. King's Genius was buried at Pine Lake Farm. In 1944, Clifford Mooers undertook a project under the auspices of the American Saddlebred Horse Association to locate and appropriately mark the graves of great deceased horses. He was

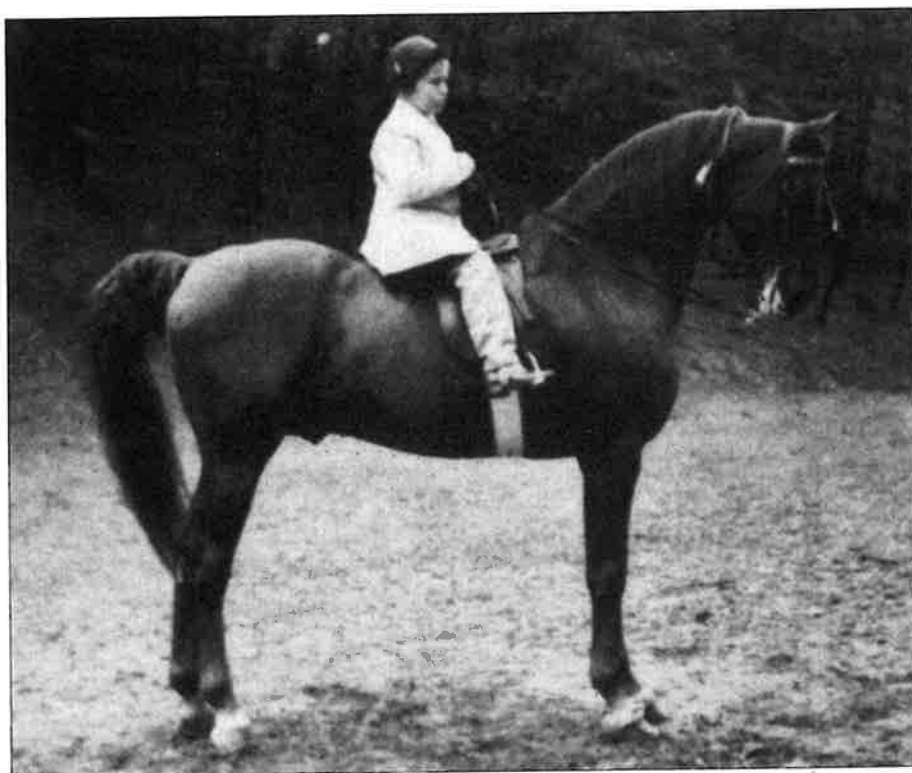


Roger Selby was a shoe manufacturer from Portsmouth, Ohio, and the owner of King's Genius from 1932 until 1942. He was responsible for putting the horse under the training of Chester Caldwell and for sending him to stand at stud under the direction of Doug Chenault, Richmond, Kentucky.



Clifford Mooers was a Texas oilman who owned King's Genius at the time of his death. He also owned such horses as Beau Gallant, Evening Cloud, Princess Firefly and Charming Gypsy. Mooers was instrumental in marking the graves of famous Saddlebreds for ASHA in the 1940s.

His get included an inordinate number of outstanding show horses, breeding stallions, and exceptional broodmares.



After his retirement from competition, King's Genius made exhibition performances at horse shows, with an eight-year-old girl, Cottie O'Keefe, riding the stallion for Roger Selby.

assisted by his trainer R. P. Glenn. The bones of King's Genius were disinterred and moved to his native Kentucky. He was reburied on Mooers' Farm near Lexington and the grave properly marked.

Had King's Genius sired only Bourbon Genius, Flirtation Walk, Reverie's Desdemona and Ky. Cardinal Belle his place in Saddlebred history would have been well secured. However, his 453 registered get, 207 colts and 246 fillies, included an inordinate number of outstanding show horses, breeding stallions and exceptional broodmares.

He is prominent in the pedigree of almost all American Saddlebreds of today through such stallions as Wing Commander, Private Contract, Oman's Desdemona Denmark, CH Yorktown, Genius Bourbon King, Valley View Supreme, Supreme Sultan and Flight Time.

King's Genius added beauty, quality and hock action to the breed, and as George Gwinn said, "He was the best stud I've ever seen show that did not win the Stake at Louisville." □