



by Ken Dyer

Historical Stud Farm Series - "Wonbobbie"

It is more than seventy five years since John Arthur Buckland (b1858 - d1931) died at age seventy three years and yet even after such a passage of time his name still evokes fond memories of a fine gentleman sportsman who spent a lifetime in trotting as a breeder/studmaster/owner who trained and drove his own horses. Nearing the end of his life he still modestly classed himself as an amateur driver and claimed driving concessions despite his great success in all facets of trotting.

Born in Sydney his father was Thomas Buckland (1814-1896) an immigrant from Kent, UK who married Marion D Hall in 1849c in Sydney having ten children.

Thomas Buckland arrived in Sydney as a sixteen year old and was employed at the Waterloo Warehouse experiencing work in commerce and the pastoral industry. In the 1840's he was managing the firm's business in New Zealand and after returning to Sydney he was placed in charge of widespread interests of the firm becoming a partner of (later Sir) Daniel Cooper.



A.S. Faithfull (left) partner of Edgar Deane in their early breeding of trotters in the Goulburn district.

His reputation grew and when Cooper resigned from the boards of the Bank of NSW (now Westpac) and the Colonial Sugar Refining Co, Thomas Buckland was elected to succeed Cooper as a Director of both Companies - positions he held until his death in 1896. He became President of the Bank of NSW from 1866 to 1894 and was Chairman of the Board of CSR in 1883 and 1891-93. Thomas Buckland made the founding contribution to the Buckland Fund now called the Westpac Foundation.

The Thomas Buckland father of John Buckland, is not to be confused with his nephew Sir Thomas Buckland (b1848 - d1947) who immigrated from Kent, UK, in 1865. Obtaining a position with his uncle as a starting point Sir Thomas' biography lists him as a goldmine-manager, pastoralist, businessman and philanthropist. Much of his early life was spent on the goldfields in Queensland principally at Charters Towers. He was knighted in 1935.

Growing up in Sydney, John Arthur Buckland was educated at Kings School and graduated at Sydney University during which time he met several of the sons of William Pitt Faithfull's family of the famous merino stud "Springfield", at Goulburn, and thus he mixed with and became a prominent member of the young social and business set in Sydney and in country NSW. As well it is possible that given the social and business status of William Pitt Faithfull and Thomas Buckland that both were known to each other.

A natural horseman as were most young men in the 1880's and 1890's, Buckland in his twenties and with his father's good name found many doors open and with his brothers and sisters at their house "Belvoir" in Sydney they gradually began to interchange visits with the Faithfull family at "Springfield". His eldest sister Emily Rose Buckland (b1850) eventually marrying Henry Faithfull (b1847) at "Springfield", Goulburn in 1874 whilst another sister (Marion b1854) married Dr (Sir) Charles Kinnaird MacKellar a noted physician, horse lover and Parliamentarian.

The MacKellars later became the parents of Dorothea (Isobel Marion) MacKellar OBE (b1885 - d1968) a poet and author well known for her lyric poem "My Country" a famous work known throughout Australia. What Australian schooled child or their parents do not recognize the second stanza which begins " I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains"...

"Springfield", Goulburn, the home of the Faithfull family had been established in 1828 and from its very earliest days became renowned for the quality of its merino wool under the guidance of its first owner William Pitt Faithfull who married English born Mary Deane in 1844.

Also residing at "Springfield" was the surveyor Edgar Reginald Deane the nephew of Mary Deane and from a very young age Buckland became indoctrinated with Deane's views on genetics and breeding of trotters. Deane's advice was remembered by Buckland and much of Buckland's early success was based on Deane's capacity to perceive one of the great early Australian breeding crosses ie Vanclave USA X Ajax USA.

Edgar Deane was a kindred spirit of Lucian Faithfull (b1855) a son of William and Mary Faithfull (nee Deane) and together they purchased the imported Ajax USA in 1880 from William and George Hill of Sydney. Ajax USA stood the seasons of 1880,1881 and 1882 at "Springfield" before being sold to race in Melbourne.

John Buckland



On a trip to "Springfield" John Buckland saw for the first time the imported trotter Ajax USA just recently shipped from California to Sydney. On being invited to trial Ajax USA around the grass track at "Springfield", Buckland a novice at driving trotters sent Ajax USA over a half mile in 1:10.0 which was real speed in those days and Buckland was hooked forever on the sport of trotting.

John Arthur Buckland grew up as a well known and connected son of one of the most powerful and wealthy families in the colony. However, whilst he could have taken any social or business position he desired he was not enamoured of city life and began to spend as much time as possible on his father's huge isolated property "Wonbobbie" north of Warren on the far north eastern plains of NSW and on stations in the Monaro region south of Goulburn spending much agreeable time at "Springfield" on his way through to his father's properties. His father had many other pastoral properties in distant corners of NSW.

In 1883 Edgar Deane and Lucian Faithfull decided to get more involved in the breeding of trotters and having stock by the departed Ajax USA on the property there was a need to bring new blood to "Springfield". Travelling to California that same year Deane purchased from Claus Spreckles of Santa Cruz County, California, the young mares Gracie (F1878) and Josephine (F1877). Both were by Speculation who was an older stallion being foaled in 1862, however, he was by Hambletonian 10 and a three quarter brother to Whipple's Hambletonian the sire of the imported Ajax USA which had stood for a few years at "Springfield".



From left: Four sons of Vanclave USA/Fraulein - Fritz, Frederick, The Heir and Franz





Fritz trails Ribbonwood in the ill conceived match race

Both mares were put in foal in 1884 to Bob Mason (F1879) Tr.2:27 ¼ by Echo (by Hambletonian 10) and shipped to Sydney the same year where they were met by John Buckland. In 1885 Gracie USA produced Burlington B USA (imported in utero) whilst Josephine foaled Oakleaf USA (imported in utero) both to the service by Bob Mason.

Whilst in North America in 1883 Edgar Deane researched the pedigrees of all the imported stallions and mares that had so far arrived in Australia. As a result of his research Deane self published in 1897 "An Introduction to an Australian Trotting Register". This slim volume was later used by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW as the basis for Volume One of the Australian Stud Book for Trotters first published in 1904.

In 1885 John Buckland at age twenty seven married Esther Bird at Redfern and his father placed him in charge of the "Wonbobbie" station. Buckland was later to inherit this property on the death of his father. "Wonbobbie" was a huge black soil plains property extending it is said for seventy five miles along the nearby Macquarie River and which at times boasted around 100,000 sheep/cattle and hundreds of horses in the home paddocks of various breed descriptions much of this horse stock being part thoroughbred. The property employed upwards of 100 employees.

Buckland had kept in touch with Edgar Deane at "Springfield" and had indicated he would start a trotting stud at "Wonbobbie" if the right opportunity presented. Deane had said earlier he would advise Buckland if ever he thought there was an imported stallion of the right lineage available, however, Deane also asked Buckland to remember his advice to purchase well bred trotting mares particularly those by Ajax USA.

Deane's advice was twofold. Firstly, Buckland needed mares with trotting pedigrees and trotting conformation and secondly, he needed a sire that would meld with those trotting bloodlines. At first there were no sires available of which Deane approved but this changed in 1886 when Vanclave USA came on the market as a result of the death of his New Zealand owner Robert Wilkin.

Vanclave USA had a chequered career. Foaled in 1881 Vanclave USA was purchased by Wilkin on a trip to North America from Alexander's Woodburn Farm in Kentucky at the age of one month and as a yearling was shipped to New Zealand. Wilkin had in mind that as Vanclave USA was by Harold he would be a good outcross for mares by his earlier importations the stallions Berlin USA and Blackwood Abdallah USA. The eventual culmination of these views was to produce the greatest trotter seen to that time in Australia and New Zealand but Wilkin died before his vision came true and in any event it occurred far away in Australia on the black soil plains at "Wonbobbie".

On arrival in Christchurch Vanclave USA was still a yearling and therefore not useful around the stud farm. Nor was he at this particular stage of any

commanding appearance as were the older Berlin USA and Blackwood Abdallah USA. Vanclave USA was left to grow and did not serve any mares in New Zealand.

Wilkin noted that Childe Harold USA was proving a quick success in NSW for Andrew Town at Hobartville and there would be room for Vanclave USA as an alternative sire. And so Vanclave was shipped to New South Wales leased to Town for the seasons of 1885 and 1886.

But if Wilkin had high hopes for Vanclave USA in NSW he had no idea that Andrew Town would, so it was then thought, neglect Vanclave USA for his own stallions Childe Harold USA and Honesty USA. In hindsight Andrew Town's failure to make use of Vanclave USA was an uncharacteristic and fundamental error of perception given the success the success of Vanclave USA when given his chance by John Buckland at "Wonbobbie" some years later.

So far as can be established Vanclave USA sired only one foal during his sojourn at Hobartville that being a bay filly foaled 1886 from the thoroughbred mare Eugenia.

Whilst the apparent bias by Town against Vanclave USA seemed very strange his pedigree was every bit as good as Childe Harold USA and other stallions then available at Hobartville. The fact that he was unraced, was said to have no speed and a man-eater probably entered the equation, however, as we shall see, John Buckland found the last two of these rumours were untrue but he did discover a surprising behavioural problem of Vanclave USA which may have accounted for that stallions lack of use at Hobartville.

Vanclave USA was by Harold an inbred son of Hambletonian 10 and Bellfounder UK bloodlines, from the mare Vassar (F1870) by Alexander's Belmont 64 (by Alexander's Abdallah 15) from Alexander's Venus (F1865) by Seely's American Star 14 from a mare of thoroughbred origins. Vassar was a three quarter sister to Vara from whom sixteen generations later the 1.50 pacers Cammibest P.7,1:50 and Noble Ability P.5,1:49.2 descend.

In hindsight Vassar was not a notable producer of winners producing from ten foals only one winner plus Vanclave USA in Australia. Notwithstanding the dearth of winners Vassar was the dam of five successful sires in North America. One of them was Vasco, a brother to Vancelve, who sired Ed Rosewater who established a new world mile 2YO record of 2:20 3/4 in 1888.

Attending a trotting meeting at the Sydney Driving Park at Moore Park in 1886 Buckland met up with Edgar Deane once more who informed Buckland that the imported Vanclave USA had been put up for auction that same morning by the Estate of the late Robert Wilkin and had been passed in with adverse rumours against him. There had been no bid for the stallion.

Edgar Deane was sure that the rumours were unfounded and the stallion

could be had for a reasonable price. Deane convinced Buckland that the pedigree of Vanclave USA was strong being by Harold the sire of Childe Harold USA whose early stock were showing great speed.

Purchasing Vanclave USA privately the next day for fifty five guineas, Buckland put the stallion into a trap and drove him into Sydney's CBD to show the stallion to his father. According to reports Vanclave USA showed no signs of erratic behaviour on his short trip through the city traffic and Buckland wondered at the origin of the rumours that in this case had proved false.

John Arthur Buckland was just twenty nine years of age when he started his grand dream of owning the best trotters in the land - a dream that was to stretch south to Melbourne and over the Tasman Sea to New Zealand and to immortality in Australian/New Zealand racing and breeding history.

Now six years of age, Vanclave USA had never been tried at the races and Buckland although a good horseman he was largely inexperienced at this stage in the training and driving of trotters and he had a problem on his hands. Buckland wanted to race his imported trotter but found Vanclave USA at this stage to be unreliable in his gait although the stallion could show brilliant speed for a half mile.

Not perservering with Vanclave USA in 1887, Vanclave USA was put to work in the breeding barn in the Spring of that year to produce the first Buckland foal crop in 1888. Heeding Deane's advice Buckland began to purchase mares by imported Ajax USA, However, in his first years at stud Vanclave USA received mostly Buckland's station mares of half thoroughbred mares.

To complete his fledgling trotting complex, Buckland built three training tracks overall at "Wonbobbie" and he began to build up his band of broodmares. Starting at Goulburn and surrounding areas he purchased all the Ajax USA mares he could find and eventually he also came across the mare Fraulein NZ by Berlin USA. Fraulein NZ of imported parentage had been bred by Robert Wilkin in New Zealand and had been sold to an Australian owner for racing purposes. Raced firstly in Melbourne and then in Sydney, Fraulein was not successful and her owner sold her to Buckland for breeding purposes with Vanclave USA and thus the stage was set for the fruition of Wilkin's dream of using Vanclave USA with his Berlin USA mares.

At this time Buckland also purchased mares from the Estate of Andrew Town and continuing his purchases over the next few years bought the mares Darrerea, Gracie USA, Madge Wildfire, Moonbeam, Swallow NZ, Swift, Violetta USA, and Whisper from Lucian Faithfull and Edgar Deane both of "Springfield" Farm, Goulburn. Earlier he had purchased from "Springfield" the colts St. Louis and Burlington Junior both by Burlington B USA (imported in utero).

In the meantime there was trouble in the breeding barn as Vanclave USA would not be led to serve his mares. In hindsight this was probably why the stallion was not used at Andrew Town's stud at Hobartville. It took time to discover that the stallion was in fact shy and would not serve mares in the presence of many people but the problem was accidentally discovered and rectified one day when only his handler was present.

Serving less than twenty mares owned by Buckland in his first season, Buckland was nevertheless pleased with his progress in trotting. He had a trotting stallion that showed glimpses of real speed and in the following year he would have a dozen or so foals to eventually break in and race.

After the stud season of 1888, Buckland put Vanclave USA back into work but it was to be many months until Spring (1889) came around before Vanclave USA was ready to race. During late August and early September of that year Vanclave USA began to put together miles of consistent dazzling speed. One such trial over a mile at "Wonbobbie" when Edgar Deane was present was clocked by him and others in 2:16.0 a performance much better than the Australasian record of that time.

Vanclave USA was finally taken to Canterbury Racecourse (NSW) on 25th September of 1889 where he was engaged in three races. However, Vanclave USA exhibited another facet of his complicated life when he was upset by the large crowd and became unsettled and galloped in all three events. In his first encounter with other racehorses Vanclave USA galloped wildly but came home powerfully in a field of eleven to finish second to the experienced Decamera over a mile. In his second race for the day Vanclave USA again

broke but won the race from the afterwards champion trotter Viking - only to be disqualified.

In the last event and what proved to be his last race in Sydney, Vanclave USA was placed off twenty seconds behind scratch and galloping again during running finished unplaced to the very experienced Tommy who was the winner of many races and who in this event raced from thirty two seconds behind.

After this inglorious display, John Buckland took the Vanclave USA home to "Wonbobbie" vowing never again to race the stallion and wondering whether racing trotters was as good as he had previously thought it to be.

It is here we must examine the transportation of John Buckland's horses to race not only in the western districts of NSW but down to Sydney. The isolation of "Wonbobbie" meant that horses had to be driven to the nearest railhead that in this case was Nyngan a township established in 1883 when the rail line reached the area. Alternatively, Buckland could drive his horses through Warren to Nevertire. From Nyngan or Nevertire to Sydney was nearly a two day trip.

In his time at "Wonbobbie" Buckland also had to contend with "bushrangers" making incursions into or across his property and travelling on the roads was a dangerous proposition for all. However, the isolation of the property and on roads not frequently used probably insulated Buckland and "Wonbobbie" from any real danger. It was put about by earlier writers that the legendary "Starlight" a notorious bushranger had frequented the Warren area, however, this cannot be true as "Starlight" was a fictional character invented by author Rolf Boldrewood for his book "Robbery Under Arms". The character "Starlight" was a composite bushranger based on true life of the many bushrangers that frequented the western districts goldfields of the period.

Visitors to the property were few as were outside mares initially whose owners had some difficulty in transporting their mares to "Wonbobbie". Edgar Deane was a frequent visitor and a well documented case tells of the visit of John Munro of Yeoval to the property in 1890.

In 1890 Buckland placed Vanclave USA back in work and Vanclave's first yearlings were being handled and broken in. Realising that Vanclave USA stock would be competing against each other Buckland started a search for a trainer/driver he could trust to race his horses competitively even against him in races which were few and far between in the Western Districts of NSW at that time.

After searching randomly for about two years around 1892 Buckland met up with the well known Piper family and was introduced to Claude Herbert Piper (b1872) a young man in his twenties who had served his time as what we would call now an apprentice jockey with Joe Burton a Bathurst thoroughbred trainer. Claude was a son in the family of twelve of Alexander S Piper (b1824) of Stoney Creek Farm on a tributary of the Macquarie River near Bathurst and was brother to Hilton Piper (b1867) a horse trainer of the same town and to James Piper (b1855) who succeeded to the Stoney Creek property on the death of his father in 1909.

Stoney Creek Farm was close enough to the Bathurst goldfields to be pestered by ruffians and bushrangers. Family folklore reveals that Johnnie Gilbert a notorious and violent bushranger frequently swam the creeks and the Macquarie River near the farm to visit Stoney Creek to demand food and at times a horse. The Piper family not wanting any trouble generally acceded to his demands but it was a relief to them when Gilbert was shot in 1865. Claude Piper born in 1872 escaped these troubles but the family memories of Gilbert's visits to Stoney Creek stayed with him for life.

Alexander Septimus Piper was a son of Captain John Piper (b1773 - d1851) who owned property and the mansion "Henrietta Villa" at what is now called Point Piper as well as other properties at Rose Bay, Darling Point, Vaucluse, Neutral Bay and at Botany. Captain Piper also owned land at Bathurst at Alloway Bank and at Westbourne to which he removed on his retirement from Sydney in 1829.

Claude Piper was a promising jockey in his very young days and was associated with the early successes of Normanby, Kathleen, Kaboola, Liberty and others. Taking to the training of thoroughbreds at a young age he had success with Cracksman and Marksman for Mr J Muggridge a prominent Sydney journalist. Nevertheless, Piper accepted the position with John



Buckland and became the second driver for the stable and trained Buckland's thoroughbreds.

The association between Buckland and Claude Piper became fact when the first produce of Vanclave USA began to race as two and three year olds and quite frequently in these early days the pair cleared the board at country race meetings and shows with many races being a "quinella" by the combination who gave no quarter to each other.

However, Buckland's return to the racetrack was on the three-year-old filly Sunbeam (Childe Harold USA-Gracie USA) on whom he ran second at two meetings of the Sydney Driving Park in April 1892. Later that year Harry Knight with Torrent won at Lillie Bridge (now Harold Park). A three year old colt by Vanclave USA from Madge Wildfire and bred by JA Buckland in 1889, Torrent was the first winner sired by Vanclave USA and under the guidance of Knight went on to win nine races as a young horse on the city tracks of those days.

On the 4/1/93 Buckland took the three-year-old Cling (F1889) to Dubbo to win. Cling was by Vanclave USA from Ivy by Ajax USA and thus Edgar Deane's predictions started to come true.

The season of 1893/94, however, was probably the start of the glory years for Vanclave's stock. Starting with two wins by Murmur a three-year-old filly by Vanclave USA from Secret by Ajax USA and driven both times by Claude Piper at Kensington a Sydney racetrack, Buckland had greater successes to follow.

On 25/10/93 Buckland drove his three-year-old Fritz (Vanclave USA - Fraulein NZ by Berlin USA) to a first start win at Kensington beating the afterwards champion trotter Prince Harold by six lengths. Later the same day Fritz followed this win with another this time beating the afterwards record holding pacer Rita by twenty lengths. Buckland also drove Murmur to another win and so the Buckland stable had four wins for the day on horses by Vanclave USA.

Coming back to Kensington on 13/12/93 Fritz was strangely beaten but in this race as well as in other following races the handicappers virtually put him out of his races as he was handicapped from forty and more seconds

behind. As recompense Buckland won with three-year-old Wonbobbie by Vanclave USA from Whisper by Ajax USA.

John Buckland had a policy of selling any of his stock if a good enough offer was made. One of his earlier sales was the colt Torrent to Harry Knight of Sydney whilst another sale occurred this time of Wonbobbie to EO Newlands of Dubbo. During the 1893/94 season Buckland sold Murmur to Mr J Mellon of Victoria who subsequently changed her name to Katie M under which name the mare won nearly forty races in country and city Victoria, Sydney, and in New Zealand.

In the New Year of 1894 Buckland won with Fritz and St Louis. The season finished with Vanclave USA stock having seven individual winners of sixteen races which was sensational for those years. The only better efforts were that of Childe Harold USA and Huon USA both of whom had started stud duties much earlier.

It has to be said that on looking at the records it is obvious that Buckland took a set against racing his team at the Kensington and other proprietary racetracks for after this season Buckland was carefully selective of the tracks and their owners at which he raced. There is no doubt that Buckland was offended by the acts of the handicappers in handicapping Fritz and his other horses so far behind that it was impossible to win. Fritz was now restricted to FFA's, time trials and exhibitions but Buckland was too much of a gentleman to complain and did the next best thing by not nominating his horses. This has a bearing on the following years multiple trips to New Zealand where he raced his best horses many of whom were never seen racing in Sydney.

During this time Buckland was not very happy. He had the best trotter in Australia in Fritz but Buckland refused to race the gelding in handicap events and there were no FFA's. As a result Fritz did not race at all as a four year old and it wasn't until 4/3/1896 that a race was put on for horses of his ability and others of his kind but it was far away in Melbourne.

Sam Cox proprietor of the Moonee Valley Racecourse in 1896 had leased his racetrack to the newly formed Australian Trotting Association for a time and the Association seeking to promote trotting hit upon an idea to invite the

best horses to compete in the Inter Colonial FFA a three heat race.

Fritz was invited as were the Melbourne champions Osterley (Dugald Taylor), Calista (Will Whitbourn), and Mystery (Frank Batt). Also invited was Buckland's second string St. Louis to be driven by Claude Piper.

The race succeeded in attracting a great crowd to Moonee Valley as there was great interest in the performance of Fritz. Much was made of the fact that Fritz had not raced for eighteen months because of its owner's aversion to the handicapping of his gelding by Sydney officials.

On the day Fritz won the three heats distancing two of his competitors (St Louis & Mystery) in the first heat and distancing the remaining two (Osterley & Calista) in the third heat. The times for the heats were 2:19.0; 2:16.4; 2:14.8. After this event no owner could be found to start against Fritz anywhere and as a six-year-old he did not race for the season, however, the gelding time trialed at Richmond, Victoria, on 20/9/97 but was nowhere near his best form. On the same day St Louis won the FFA.

Eventually Buckland realized the situation would not change in Sydney and hearing good reports of trotting in New Zealand and of good prizemoney he decided to take a team to race at Christchurch in the early months of 1898. His team comprised Fritz, Viva, What, Vasco, St George, Reply, Booby, St, Louis and Sunshine - undoubtedly the finest collection of speed merchants that ever left Australia and nearly all of them won. Fritz created the greatest impression winning the FFA from Monte Carlo - New Zealand's best horse of that time and the future winner of the first New Zealand Cup.

Returning home Buckland acceded to a request from the Dubbo Trotting Club to time trial at their meeting at Kensington on 20/7/1898 recording 2:15 1/4 whilst at Brighton on 25/7/1898 he went a mile in 2:14.0.

Returning again to New Zealand in December 1898 with another team that included Fritz, What, Val, Sunshine, and Booby, Fritz was now eight years old but put up his life time record of 2.13 on this trip - the rest of the team doing well again.

In 1899 Buckland was again in New Zealand taking Val and Valiant but leaving Fritz at home. Piper won the first Juvenile Stakes with Valiant and was getting enamoured with life in New Zealand. In 1900 on a fourth trip to

New Zealand Buckland took Fritz, The Heir, Viva, Sunshine, Secrecy, The Orphan, Valour, Valiant, What, Veto and Daybreak. Nearly all the team did well with The Heir crediting Buckland with his second Juvenile Stakes.

Returning to Australia, Buckland left without Claude Piper who had decided to settle in Canterbury at the Lonsdale Lodge where Piper continued to train and drive a good sized team of "Wonbobbie" bred pacers and trotters with such success as to frequently place him at the head of the winning list.

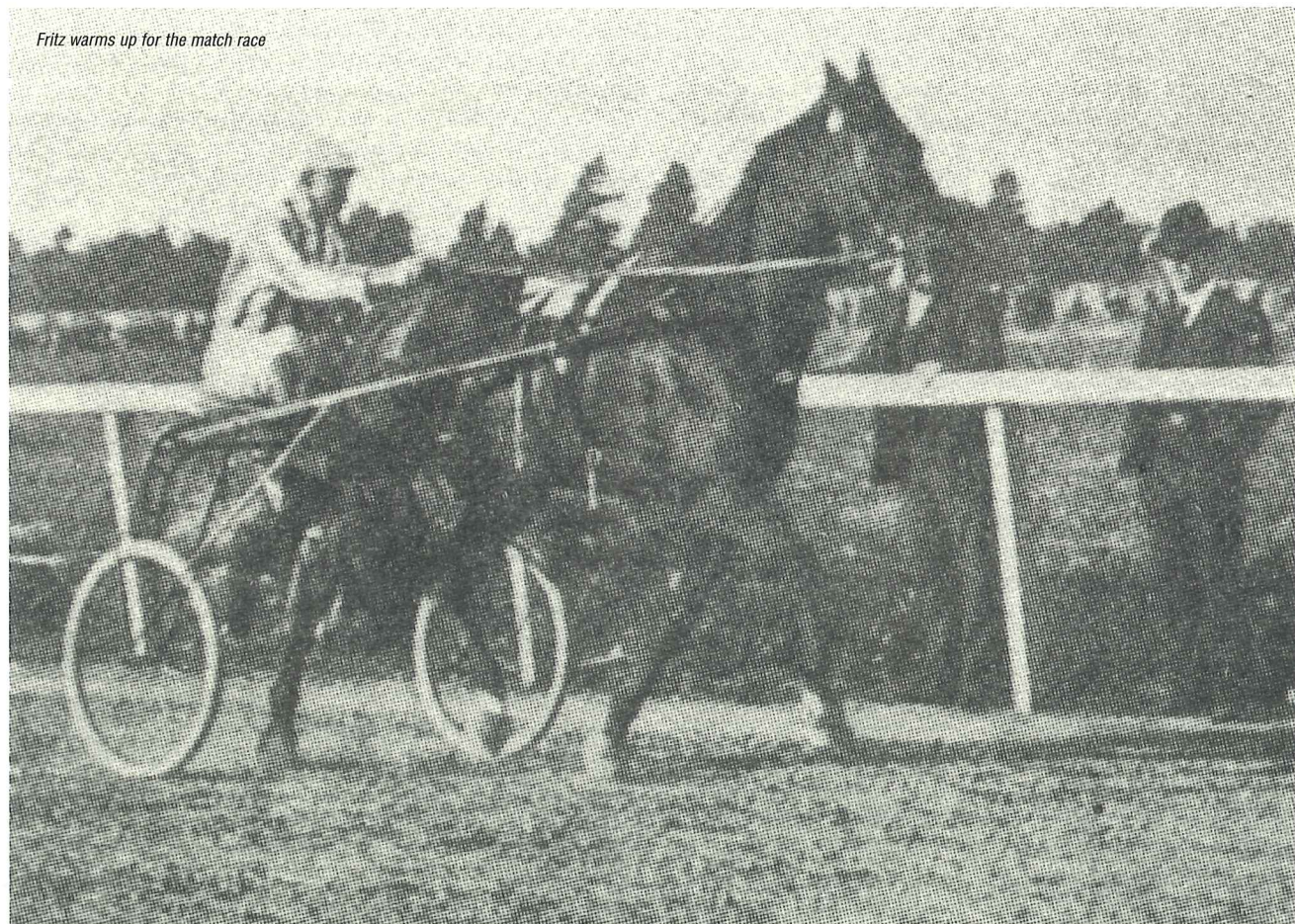
With many of his stable horses being sold or raced in New Zealand Buckland had a reduced team to train or drive in Australia but this did not seem to worry him as he was making plans to move his operations and to seek a replacement stallion for Vanclave USA who was visibly aging.

With hindsight we are able to record the Buckland stable of Australian wins up to 1900:- Fritz, Sunbeam, Cling, Murmur, Hush, Wonbobbie, St Louis, Venture, Reply, St George, Viva, Vasco, Hark, What, St. Julian, and Sunshine. This list is not fully comprehensive and does not take into account his New Zealand winners that did not win in Australia. The above list also does not take into account winning horses bred by Buckland and sold and raced outside his stable.

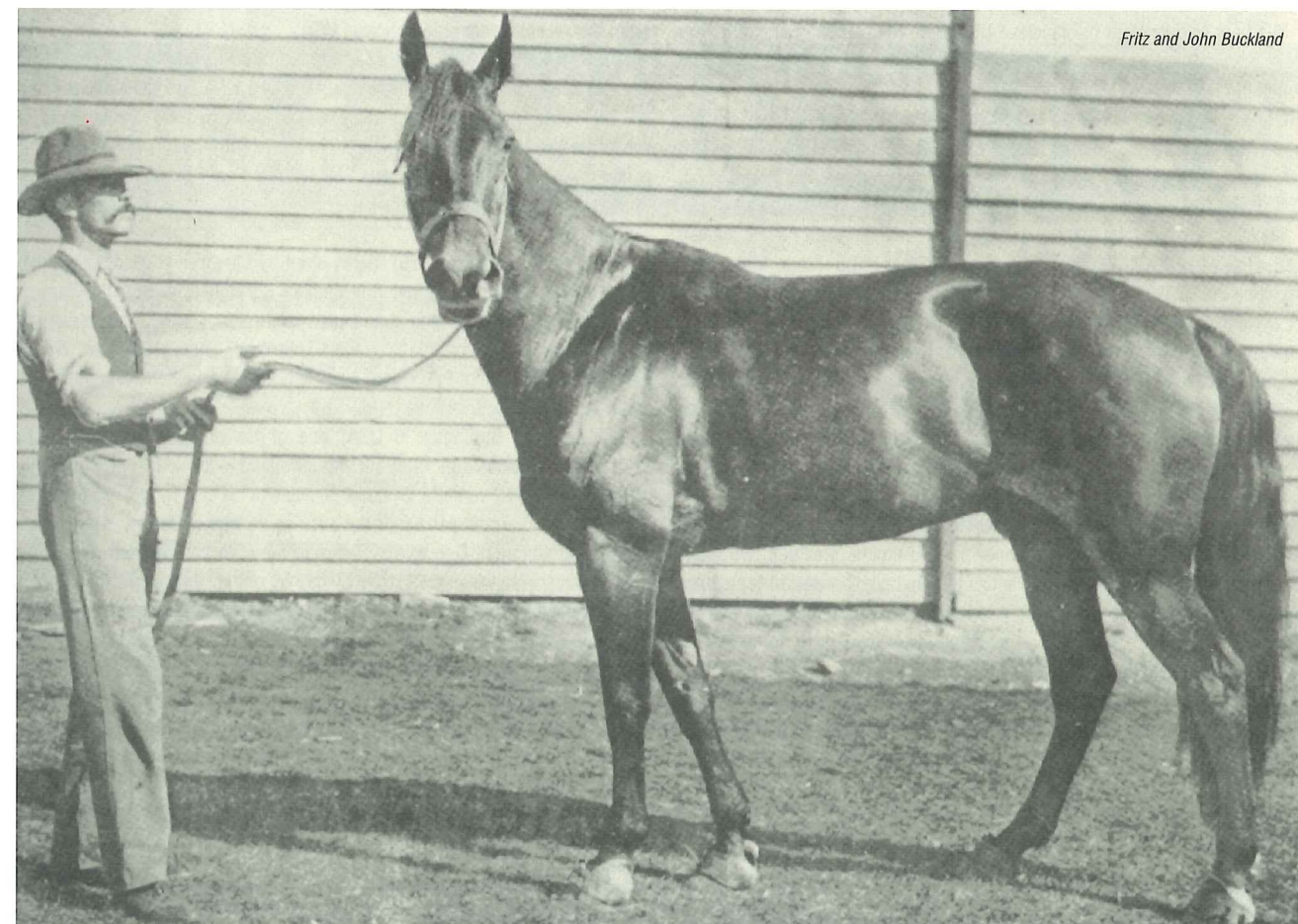
Overall Vanclave USA sired 101 individual winners and sired the successful sires Bay Boy, Don Cleve, Durbah, Franz, Ian Cleve, Quincey, Torrent, Valiant, Velox, Vendetta and Wonbobbie. Most of these winners and sires were bred by Buckland.

Franz, an 1896 full brother to Fritz, won some races in NSW before being exported to Claude Piper's care in New Zealand where he won more races afterwards standing very successfully at the stud in New Zealand. Before leaving NSW for New Zealand Franz had sired Francesca (F1901) P:2:21.0 (ss) who afterwards produced Sheik (F1917) P:2:10 1/4 (ss) a Cups winners in Australia and New Zealand before siring sixty eight individual winners in New Zealand, NSW and Western Australia.

After some years Franz was returned to Australia (around 1910) where he stood at Leadville for Buckland and then at Inverell in the far inland north of NSW and there he might have been forgotten except that a Queensland owner sent his mare Dorothy Bee to produce St. Lucia Lad (F1914) P:2:13.5



Fritz warms up for the match race



Fritz and John Buckland



(ss) winner of the 1919 Brisbane Thousand at Kedron Park. St Lucia Lad at this stage had his name changed to Frisco but on a trip to Sydney he reverted to St. Lucia Lad. Winning six races for Jerry McDonald St. Lucia Lad did modest stud duties until around 1933 in the Camden district siring nine pacers of metropolitan standard.

Among the winners of St Lucia Lad was St. Lucia's Last (F1933) P.2:12.4 (ss) a very good winner at Harold Park and Victoria Park and who afterwards sired twenty nine individual winners. King Lucius (F1941) P.2:13.6 was perhaps his best pacer winning fifteen races including many at Harold Park and raced on successfully into the night trotting era. Afterwards King Lucius sired twenty five individual winners but did not sire a son capable of carrying on the sire line.

In 1898 Buckland was sad to learn that his great friend Edgar R Deane was returning home to England. In many ways Deane had been his mentor and had put him on the road to success in trotting.

In 1901 Buckland was pleased to learn that moves were afoot to establish a non-proprietary club to race at Forest Lodge (previously the old Lillie Bridge course) and put his support and standing behind it. The NSW Trotting Club was formed in mid 1902 and Buckland was one of its founding members contributing a substantial amount to cover the expenses of the embryo club. Buckland remained a life long member of the Club.

At the Club's first trotting meeting on 19/11/1902 Buckland brought the now eleven year old Fritz out of virtual retirement to time trial but showing the signs of age he could only finish in 2:16.5, however, Buckland won with Vivandiere later in the programme. An interesting runner of Buckland's that day was the mare Veronica by Vanclve USA from a mare by The Barb (thor). Later Veronica was sent to New Zealand where her name was changed to Verity and under this name was a winner in New Zealand and was the leading stakewinning trotter in NZ for the 1904/5 and the 1906/7 seasons. She later became a famous foundation mare whose descendants are still very successful in 2006.

Other winners at Forest Lodge by Buckland sires during those first few seasons included Valour, Van Clare, Vanity, Vanquish, Velvet, Vendetta, Darwin, Fidget, Husheen, Ian Cleve, Joe, Levant, Oaktree, Onward, Peri Huon, Rexie, Sir John, St.Kilda, Shangani, Sunshine, many other progeny foaled at "Wonbobbie" were sold to New Zealand or interstate.

The best horses sired by Vanclve USA were the following and although their best performances would now be considered slow it should be remembered that these times were put up over a hundred years ago: Trotters Fritz 2:13, Verax 2:16, Quincey 4.36 (2m), Vaunt 2:18, Hark 2:18, Answer 2:18, Verity 4.50 (2m), Franz 2:23, Vitella 4.49.5 2m, Vestina 2:22, Vashti 2:22, Katie M (Murmer) 2:20, Sunshine 2:23, The Orphan 2:23, Sir Joe 2:25, Vain Hope 2:25 etc.

Successful pacers by Vanclve USA were Valour (Valor) 2:16, Vanish 2:16, The Heir 2:18, Euchre 4.40 (2m), Durbar 4.36 (2m), Viva 2:20, Frederick 2:22, Vivid 2:25, Val 2:18, Darwin 4.38.8 2m, Valentia 2:25, Vashti 2:22, Hush 2:25, Valiant 2:24, Vanquish 2:25, Colonel, Vanclare 4.49 (2m), Vendetta 2:23, Cling 2:25, Van Dieman 2:25, Vasco 2:24 etc.

The trotter Fritz was by far the best of Vanclve's progeny whilst Valour P.2:16.0 (F1896, Vanclve USA-Whisper by Ajax USA) was a well known free legged pacer and won many races in Tasmania after being purchased from JA Buckland. Later Valour went to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane winning races in each State - the gelding died in Sydney.

We now come to Buckland's ill advised and ill fated trip to Christchurch with Fritz to race against Ribbonwood in 1903. In the previous two years Ribbonwood had become New Zealand's champion pacer and at four years of age his trainer/driver Dave Price was looking for competition and issued an open challenge to New Zealand and Australian owners to compete in a match race against Ribbonwood for 500 pounds a side.

John Buckland on hearing of the challenge decided to take his now rising thirteen year old gelding Fritz to New Zealand to race against Ribbonwood. In early 1903 Fritz had not been trialled or raced since his time trial at Forest Lodge on 19/11/1902 and in fact had been turned out into a paddock with no intention of ever being raced or trialled again. His last trial at Forest Lodge had shown just how far the form of Fritz had slipped.

Nevertheless, Buckland decided to give it a go and with only a few weeks work Fritz was shipped to Christchurch to race at Addington on 11th April,

1903. The match race triggered tremendous interest among New Zealanders who remembered Fritz from his previous successful three trips before the end of the century. But in reality Fritz was not competitively the same horse as the gelding was now twelve years of age and had done very little work for several years. Added to this was a rough trip by sea over the Tasman and even then the weather further conspired against him with torrential rain prohibiting Fritz from being given any fast work.

Claude Piper with whom Buckland and his team were stabled advised Buckland to postpone the match until a more favourable time but Buckland knowing the effort that had been put into the promotion of the match decided to continue but if ever there was a mismatch then this was one of the greatest.

On the day Ribbonwood was razor sharp and disposed of Fritz in three heats of 2:14.2; 2:13.0; 2:10.0. It was a case of a fit young brilliant pacer against a half fit veteran trotter.

Buckland had taken care to ship some of his promising horses to Christchurch to race in lesser races and won with Velox, St Simon and Verity (late Veronica) all driven by himself. This trip marked the end of Buckland's trips to New Zealand although he still continued to send Buckland bred horses to Claude Piper for many years.

Returning to "Wonbobbie" Buckland made plans to move his operations over a hundred miles south east to Leadville near Gulgong a gold mining town in the central west of N.S.W. Leadville, 15 kilometres east from Dunedoo, was established when lead and silver were extracted from the Mount Stewart mine where up to 500 men were employed at one time. Profitable mining had ceased in 1898 before Buckland arrived on his Pine Ridge property in 1904.

After his return from New Zealand in 1903 Buckland arranged the purchase of a colt foaled 1902 by Mendocino from Sallie Benton from the Palo Alto Stud in California. He subsequently named the colt California and importantly he had a pedigree that represented a complete outcross for his Vanclve USA and St. Louis mares. Arriving in 1904 California USA was broken in to race but it was not until 5/5/1905 that he raced the two-year-old colt at the Bathurst Show. Not impressive at his two starts California USA did not race again and was relegated to the breeding barn to take up stud duties from the recently deceased Vanclve USA.

1904 marked a watershed in the life of John Buckland. In the year he made his move to Leadville his old favorite Vanclve USA had died and so had Valiant in the same year. Buckland used Vendetta in 1904, 1905, 1906 to cover the gap until California matured. In the interim California was used for a few mares in 1905. By this time Buckland had sold most of his Vanclve USA mares who were in great demand following their great success from the earliest days.

Some of the greatest brood mares sired by Vanclve USA include Greta (dam of Lulu Boy etc), Fidget (the dam of Springheel in turn the dam of Globe Derby), Katie M (the grand dam of Robert Derby), Dora (dam of Delavan Girl winner of 1919 Sydney Thousand), Acorn (dam of Wilgabelow), Swing (dam of Peri Huon) and the list goes on extensively but is too large to include here.

St Louis (by Burlington B USA) one of his original purchases from "Springfield" had died in 1900 but was not used extensively and sired only eighteen individual winners. St Louis because of his closely worked pedigree was inclined to erratic behaviour but even so he won in Sydney, Melbourne, and at Christchurch. One of his claims to fame is that he sired Peri Huon from Swing, a Vanclve USA mare owned by one of Buckland's neighbours James Perry at Warren. Peri Huon was a winner in country areas and found his way down to Temora where he entered the nearby stud of JB Ferguson who had on the dispersal of "Springfield's" trotting stud, purchased the mare Wilga. Peri Huon sired 65 individual winners and was the sire of Paul Huon (late Fitz Huon) a successful sire in New Zealand.

Breeding this mare to Peri Huon was guesswork but it succeeded for the union produced Man O'War (F1914) P.2:11.5 winner of a Sydney Thousand and two Auckland Cups in New Zealand. Man O'War became a successful sire in New Zealand siring ninety individual winners including Happy Man P.2:05.1 (ss) and was the sire of the dam of many high class performers including the Australian performers Blue Gamble P.2.06.2 (ss), Court Lady

P.2:09.0 (ss), Petty Officer P.2:07.4 (ss), Victory Globe P.2:06.6 (ss) etc and many others in New Zealand.

Man O'War's maternal family traced to Josephine USA whilst St Louis the sire of Peri Huon also traced to the same mare. Whilst Man O'War's sire and dam were closely bred all the mares that were eventually sent to him in New Zealand were complete outcrosses contributing greatly to his success as a sire and broodmare sire. Wilga the dam of Man O'War also features in the maternal family of Cups winner Fettle P.2:03.6 (ss) winner of thirty three races, seventeen of which were at Harold Park including ten wins in a row. Fettle won a heat of the famous 1960 Inter Dominion Championship at Harold Park and was a close up fourth to Caduceus and Apmat in the Grand Final.

California was used extensively by Buckland at Leadville up to 1919 when the stallion died, however, his tally of individual winners was only thirty most of them being pacers the best of them being Moonstone 2:16.0 (ss). However, whilst the contemporary journalists condemned the produce of California USA as not of much account this is not completely true as many of his stock raced in New Zealand out of sight of Australians.

Through Classic Families the true worth of all the old stallions can be revealed. For example California was the sire of Whisht, winner of the Rowe Cup, Dominion Handicap and was the richest trotter in NZ for the 1919/20 season while Snorter and Waipakarau both won Tasmanian Trotting Cups.

Incredibly some seventy years after he arrived, California's maternal family was in the news worldwide when the pacer Steady Star stunned the world with a 1:52.0 time trial (the seventh dam of Steady Star, Serpolita, was a sister to California).

California USA is still to be found in the foundations of Australian and New Zealand bred pacers and trotters. For example Dayspring P.2:23.0 a descendant of Gracie USA founded a very respected family in New Zealand (including the NZ racemile record holder Scuse Me 1:53.5) on her own account whilst the Buckland bred and raced Cuba Tr.2:22.0 was probably the best and only sire by California USA to breed on with any significance. Cuba in his older days sired the trotting mare Canica (F1923) Tr.2:24.2 who coming into the hands of Roy (CBR) Lawler of Freeman's Reach on the

Hawkesbury River at the dispersal sale of the late JA Buckland in 1934 was bred from in 1938 and 1939 the latter result being the high class pacer Sky Raider P.2:12 (ss) who had the misfortune to race in the war years.

Canica was by Cuba from Marten by Vendetta (by Vanclve USA) from Swift by Honesty USA from Swallow by Berlin USA. Sky Raider was by Raider USA who upon arrival in Sydney from North America was rested at Roy Lawler's establishment and served Canica and two other mares while awaiting transhipment to Tasmania to Edgar Tatlow.

Sky Raider was a high class sire siring 135 individual winners the best including Tennessee Sky (F1946) P.2:06.0 (ss) the winner of the 1954 Inter Dominion Championship at Wayville, Sibelia (F1951) P.2:05.8ss winner 1958 Lord Mayors Cup at Harold Park, the 1960 AG Hunter Cup in Melbourne and was 2nd in the 1958 Inter Dominion Championship in Adelaide, and Sky High (F1951) P.2:06.0 (ss) winner of 1957 Spring Cup and 1960 Lord Mayors Cup both at Harold Park.

Other daughters of California that bred on were Alpha H who is in the pedigree of Australasian Breeders Crown 2YO champion Klaus Koch, Judy(ancestress of Golden Alley), Fredrica (ancestress of the trotter Cool Fortune and Queensland star pacer Henry Luca) and Miss California (dam of WA Easter Cup winner Wilifornia, granddam of WA Derby winner Taxi Boy).

Just after the 1914/18 WW1 Buckland reviewed the situation of his stud and the performance of his stallions and mares and their produce and decided that he needed to move again this time closer in to the city of Sydney. Fortunately George Kiss of the "Clydesdale Trotting Stud" at Marsden Park, Riverstone, had died in 1916 and his property eventually came on the market. Purchasing the property around 1918 Buckland moved the remains of his stud to "Clydesdale". California USA remained on the Leadville property until he too died in 1919. Buckland had purchased the New Zealand stallion Petrograd (F1913) just after the war and although he sired some winners including Maskee 2:14 1/4 (ss) the stallion failed to make any great impact.

Buckland also decided to employ Bert Brown a successful trainer/driver at Victoria Park Racecourse to train/drive his horses while Buckland would

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sometimes drive them. Buckland was successful on Canica and Reynard a few times whilst his last successful drive was on the mare Quarrion on 16/6/1930 at Victoria Park Racecourse.

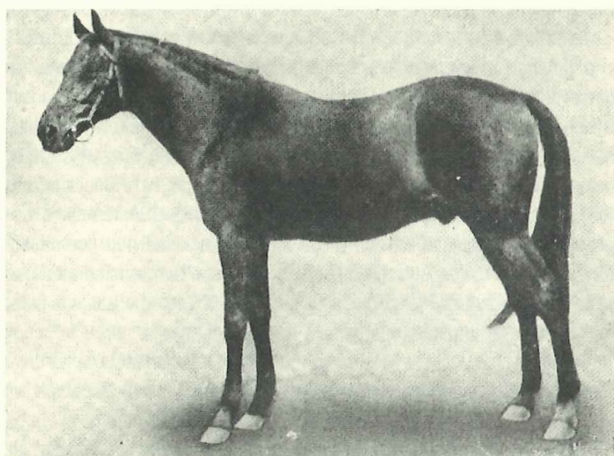
John Buckland in 1930 was seventy years old and at long last he retired from training and driving but he still continued a small breeding operation until he died on 12th July, 1931, mourned by the entire trotting industry in Sydney. In 2007 there are many pacers and trotters racing in Australia and New Zealand that have a trace of the horses he bred. His immense wealth kept him in the sport of trotting from 1886 to his death in 1931 a period of time seldom beaten by others in the sport. He was one of the greatest pioneers in trotting through thick and thin and never once complained even when he had good and just cause.

His daughter Doris L (Doll) Clayton (b1888-1955) continued on with the

families involvement in horse racing. On the death of John Buckland his trainer Bert Brown switched over to thoroughbred racing and was followed over by Dr Henry and Doris (Doll) Clayton who had considerable success. "Doll" Clayton was unlucky later in her life for she had a lease of Rimfire who won several races for her at Randwick and ran third in the Brisbane Cup. On the expiration of her lease in April 1948 she decided not to exercise her option of purchase giving the gelding back to the owner who won the Melbourne Cup in November 1948.

One of Doll Clayton's earlier leased winners was the mare Gazza and when her 1946 yearling colt was auctioned at the Sydney Yearling Sales she became involved in a bidding duel with Adolf Bassler who was forced up 2600 guineas to own the colt which he named Delta (Midstream GB – Gazza by Maggie GB), winner of many WFA races and the 1951 Melbourne Cup. **HRI**

INFLUENCE OF VANCLEVE



AS A SIRE

- DURBAR** – winner New Zealand Cup. Richest pacer in NZ 1908/9.
- EUCHRE** – Winner National Cup Handicap. Richest pacer in NZ 1904/5
- FRITZ** – winner Inter Colonial FFA. Set mile record in NZ and Australia
- QUINCEY** – Winner Dominion Handicap. Richest trotter in NZ 1912/13
- SIR JOE** – winner 1910 Dominion Handicap
- VALIANT** – holder of the NZ 2YO trotters mile record.
- VAN DIEMAN** – winner 1902 Auckland Cup
- VERAX** – winner New Brighton Handicap. Richest trotter in NZ in 1905/6, 1907/8 and 1909/10
- VERITY** – Richest trotter in NZ in 1904/5, 1906/7
- VESTINA** – winner New Brighton Handicap

AS A BROODMARE SIRE

- ASTURIO** – winner Otahuhu Cup
- KETTLEDUM** – winner Brisbane Thousand
- DELAN GIRD** – winner Sydney Thousand
- EDGE LLS PRIDE** – winner WA Cup
- LUCAP** – winner first Victoria Pacers Derby
- LULU BOY** – winner Melbourne Thousand
- WHISHT** – winner Rowe Cup, Dominion handicap. Richest trotter in NZ in 1919/20
- PRINCESS CHIMES** – winner Victoria Pacers Derby
- BELL FASHION** – winner Timaru Cup
- VIRUS** – winner WA Easter Cup

- LUCID** – winner first Victoria Trotters Derby
- SNORTER** – winner Tasmanian Trotting Cup
- PRIDE** – winner WA Cup
- FLORENCE LA BADIE** – winner Taranaki Futurity
- KAWHAKI** – winner NZ Sires Produce (3YOT)
- MARIE NARELLE** – winner New Brighton Handicap
- QUEEN CHIMES** – winner NZ Champion Stakes
- PEARL CHILD** – winner NZ National Cup Handicap

AS A SIRE OF SIRE S

- BAY BOY** – sire of Bobrikoff. Daughters are the ancestress of twenty Classic/feature winners
- CONSEQUENCE** – sired dam of Eureka (sire of Golden Ivy – ancestress of two classic winners)
- DON CLEVE** – sired dam of Blue Mountain King (Auckland Cup). Sire the sires Dan Cleve, Highborn & John Cleve
- DURBAR** – sired granddam of Wilverley (Victoria Pacers Derby)
- FRANZ** – sired Havoc (Auckland Cup), Floranz (Auckland Cup), St Lucia Lad (Brisbane Thousand) and dam of Sheik (NZ Cup). Sired the sires Franzie, Havoc, Mountain King and St Lucia Lad (sire of Theresa Lad & St Lucias Last – sire of King Lucius).

- IAN CLEVE** – sired fourth dam of Black Moth (NSW Spring Trotters Cup)
- QUINCEY** – Daughters are the ancestress of 41 Classic/feature winners in Australasia and USA. Sired the sire Harold Wilkes.
- TORRENT** – daughters are the ancestress of five Classic/feature winners
- VALIANT** – Daughters are the ancestress of five Classic/feature winners. Sired the sire Prinz

- VANQUISH** – daughters are the ancestress of two Classic/feature winners
- WONBOBBIE** – sire of Victoria Bob (WA Easter Cup). Daughters are the ancestress of 54 Classic/feature winners in Australia and USA. Sired the sires Brewongle Bob, Forester, Mummell Bob, Silver Bobbie, Golden Bobbie (sire of Orsova)

AS A FOUNDATION SIRE

- A1** – Verity, A8 – Whisp, A38 – Greta, A48 – Vixen, A62 – Bucklands Dora, A74 – Fidget (out of Madcap), A202 – Pitchdark, A204 – Miss C, A215 – Levant, A226 – Viva (out of Madge Wildfire), A241 – Clevess, A257 – Miss Red Cleve, A416 – Lady, A556 – Cleavage, A767 – Toora Bells, A773 – Cinderella, A803 – Dove, A826 – Kitty, A859 – Lady Vancleve, N132 – Blue Lady.

