



The Celtic Times

Official publication of the
Celtic Warmblood Registry

Issue No. Winter 2007

Light The Lantern - Editorials and information

Cynthia Lurix - Editor

HORSE TRADING

Crowndale Farm began twenty-seven years ago with one tailless Half Arabian mare. She had been on her way to the slaughterhouse having lost her tail from an injury. Akeia was just six months old and we had just received our tax refund from Uncle Sam. I snatched up the check and used all of it to save Akeia's life. My husband was furious. We had no money and three sons to raise. "How are you going to make any money with her", he ranted. I felt terribly uncomfortable about it but not guilty. "I'll start a horse breeding business. Akeia will be my first brood mare. Arabian horses can sell for up to seventy thousand dollars." I love a good story and I know that was one. Especially as the facts would back me up. What I didn't add was the fact that I have absolutely NO selling ability.

I named my farm Crowndale after my grandparent's farm in New Jersey. I raised and started Akeia under saddle. I felt from the start that all breeding animals should be trained to ride just in case their breeding animal potential couldn't assure them a home were I no longer able to keep them. She bore us several foals before she died as a result of a pasture accident. She sustained a severely shattered elbow from a kick from her pasture mate. Akeia was a lovely mare despite the absence of a tail. She was fiery but gentle. She had the conformation and movement to be competitive in many disciplines. She taught me all I know about breeding horses. Her first foal was delivered at three in the afternoon in front of our entire family. Almost as if she had waited until we were all gathered there to start foaling. These are some of the things Akeia taught me.

1. Horses are not potato chips. Not everyone wants one.
2. Foals are a lot of work and responsibility.
3. The people willing to buy foals are usually extremely experienced or are terrifyingly ignorant.
4. Everyone in between wants a well-trained horse they can get on and ride.
5. Unless you can back and train a horse be prepared to spend a lot of money getting your foals trained.
6. The market for horse buyers has been and will always be extremely competitive.

The most successful breeding farms know all of these things and develop a marketing plan. Good horsemen don't necessarily make good salesmen. Finding an acceptable home for your foal is not

as simple as finding a home for your used car unless of course you're not a horseman at all and look at life in terms of dollars and cents. Horsemen tend to look at life in terms of horses. They believe it is a great privilege to have these animals in their lives and often make great sacrifices to sustain that lifestyle.

If you find yourself with a barn full of horses that aren't bringing in the income you had expected here is what you should do.

Go out to your barn and listen to the sounds they make munching their hay. Breathe in the sweet smell of horses, hay, leather and wood. Look into their eyes and wonder at their acceptance of you then ask yourself if you wouldn't rather be at the mall shopping.



Crowndale Farm's 2006 Fillies

celtic warmblood featured farm

Crowndale Farm

By Cynthia Lurix

It took us most of 2006 to move Crowndale Farm twenty miles west to Sealy TX. With all of the animals it has been an exhausting year. The new farm is on fifty-four acres in lovely rolling countryside close to the small town of Cat Spring. I discovered the true nature of that name when I spotted a mountain lion on our front lawn having first mistaken it for a lost dog. The new house looks almost identical to the home my grandparents built in Mendham New Jersey on the original Crowndale farm. The estate had born that name for over two hundred years. Now the Mendham 'Crowndale 'is subdivided into small lots, the home demolished and the name long forgotten. I feel as though I have discovered my childhood home in Texas.

We are now up to fifteen horses. The three new fillies arrived last February. With the birth of each one, my husband, Paul asked me. "How much do we ask for her??" "She's not for sale", I growled. Maggie's filly I had waited eight years for. Hallie's filly is by Debbie Fullilove's stallion, Braveheart and will be put into our breeding program. Collette's filly, well she had been sold in-utero to a friend who backed out to be able to make car payments. Frankly I hate selling foals. I've had enough of a bad experience with it to know that only true horsemen should buy foals and I can't count on them finding mine. It is simple to sell a trained mature animal who will willingly carry a rider and obey his or her commands so I train all of my foals in case they will one day need a new home.

Mickey Finn has been gelded as life as a stallion was miserable for him. He didn't have the 'presence' to market stallion services and his libido was ruling his life. Mickey is a very social guy naturally but all he could think of were the mares. He ran himself to skin and bones and was beside himself. We put him in training for driving with Tom O'Carroll, as he was too much for me to start. Tom is my idea of a born horseman. Mickey made progress immediately even before we gelded him. Now Paul has decided that he is not for sale as Mickey will be Paul's driving horse. Mickey is putting on weight. He is calm and happy and he loves his job of pulling a carriage. I plan to back him myself this week, as he is no longer the challenge he was.

Our six Great Pyrenees keep the ever-present predators at bay here. I have a small Angora goat herd whose job is only to entertain the horses and me. Unfortunately they are a great draw for Coyotes and wild cats. Our fearless Great Pyrs keep them safe. They also keep crack heads who steal our tack away! We had a number of those near the old farm in Brookshire.

Life is good. Twenty-seven years of running my farm is a full and interesting life. My loved ones finally accept that you can work very hard without being interested in making a profit and not be crazy.



Original Crowndale Farm



Crowndale Farm

In The News

The Celtic Warmblood registry has three new stallions to introduce –

Shaugraun, dark bay (No photo at this printing)

Owned by Meg Fletcher, Standing at Siaset Farm in Audbry, TX. iaornalggl@yahoo.com

Seamus Coille Mor (RID)

Owned by James McKenna of Boston and Santa Fe, NM. Contact Tim Beckmon at Tbeckmon@SkiesRBlue.com

Yes Master

Owned by Deborah Burksfield. Standing at Airborne Stables in Yakima, WA
(509) 966-5773



Yes Master



Seamus Coille Mor (RID)

Finally a board of Directors is being appointed with the hope of evolving into a voted board. Current board members include-

President	Paul Lurix
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Cheryl Skigin
Treasurer	Radka Fibingerova
Registration Officer	Cynthia Lurix
Southwest Representative	Rhoda McGuire
East Coast Representative	Open
West Coast Representative	Open
Canadian Representative	Evelyn Gillen

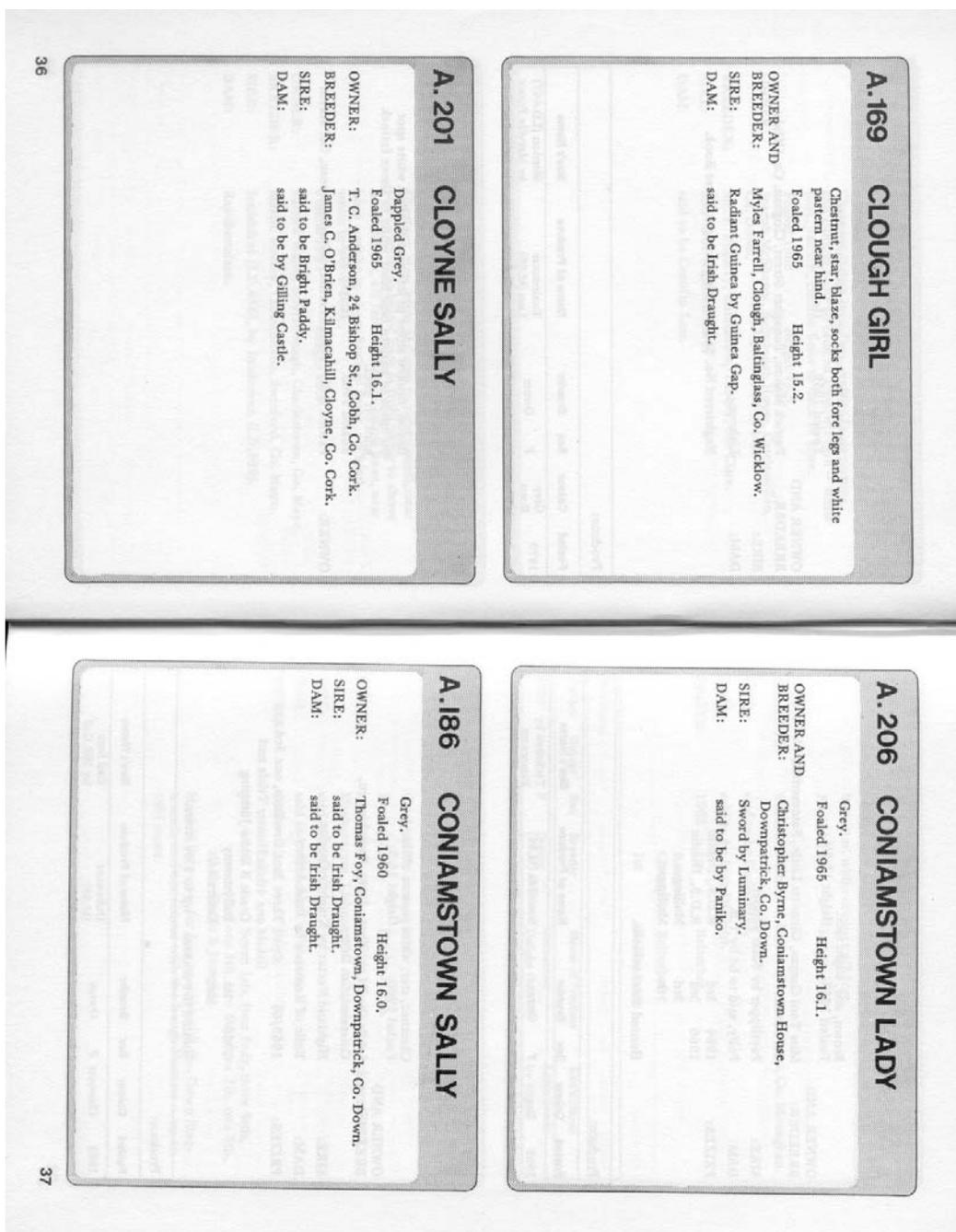
Please contact us if you think you may have an interest on any of the open positions.

Due to the fact that Gus Cothran has transferred to Texas A&M, The Celtic Warmblood Registry will follow him there transferring our DNA testing to the Genetics Lab in Texas. Anyone familiar with Gus Cothran's Genetic history will appreciate this decision.

The value of inspections is being questioned once again in light of the rapid loss of bone and Irish Draught type. Ireland had produced a unique horse in their Irish Draughts. Their open and exuberant efforts to compete for the European warmblood market may have spelt disaster for the future of the Irish Draught Horse. Hopefully there are enough of us independent breeders who pay no attention to the popular market and simply breed horses we love will insure the survival of the Irish Draught horse at its best.

IRISH DRAUGHT HISTORY

This is an interesting sample page from Irish Horse Breeders' Society Brood Mare Stud Book - Volume One (1971)



The Story of Henry VIII

By Jean Taylor



photosbyalice.com

My tried and true foxhunter had gotten along in years, so I decided to look for an understudy. My mind was set on a Cleveland Bay, and my friend wanted me to look at an Irish Draught filly she had seen online. Road trip!!

I drove to a Cleveland Bay breeding farm and found an incredibly handsome dark bay two-year-old purebred gelding. In order to take a closer look, the breeder put a halter on him and brought him out of his field and onto an adjoining lot away from his buddies. At that moment, a speeding car on a nearby road went airborne over a bump in the road, the driver lost control and the car came spinning toward us, churning up rocks and chunks of earth in its unpredictable path. We all froze, not knowing which way to run. The car barely missed us but the young gelding was not so fortunate. The car hit him shattering one of his hind legs. He had to be put down.

I was too shaken to look further, and headed home, stopping at Oak Hill farm for a look at the Irish Draught filly. In one of Oak Hill's fields there was an Irish sport horse gelding, which I thought, looked small- perhaps a handy size for a field hunter. Still trying to shake horrific images from my mind, I agreed to hack him out. He went over the river and through the woods like a champ! At that point I decided to take him to a nearby racetrack for vetting and if all went well it would be a deal. Henry came home with me! Once in MY fields I realized he was small only by comparison to the huge Irish Draughts!

How he had gotten to Oak Hill is a story in itself. Oak Hill has top quality Irish Draught broodmares and young stock and stands a successful RID stallion. In an effort to meet demands of their clients, they expanded into the import of geldings under saddle, which they felt met, their criteria of pedigree, conformation, way of going and temperament. Their first Imports from Ireland flew out the door, and they knew they were onto something.

They planned a second trip, hoping to find two more. One of them was Henry VIII.

The folks at Oak found Henry at a “livery yard” or sales barn as we call it. The barn manager beat the horses there in the head while riding and hit them in the face each trip he made through the barn. Every horse in the barn ran to the back of the stall when the man walked by - except Henry. Henry had been at the sales barn for only a day or so. He belonged to a wealthy businessman from Dublin who hunted a few times each season with the Kildare Hunt. The Kildare “Killers’ hunt in a similar fashion to foxhunters in Virginia, not in gangbuster style typical of the rest of Ireland.

The barn manager rode Henry, taking him out cold and running him into a HUGE pile of brush to jump. Henry hesitated, clearly not understanding what was being asked of him. And then popped the jump. The manager then proceeded to beat Henry. Oak Hill told the manager that if he wanted them to seriously consider the purchase of this animal to get off the horse immediately. They rode Henry themselves, warming him up and he jumped beautifully. Although they were told Henry had papers, the manager couldn’t produce them. Even in this situation, Henry had exhibited a kind temperament and it was obvious he had some talent. Oak Hill decided they could not in good conscience leave such a nice horse behind in Ireland for lack of papers- so they brought him over. With what Oak Hill knew of his lineage he could be registered as a Celtic Warmblood!

Things happen what you least expect them to. Once he was at my farm, Henry turned out to be playful yet kind. Powerful, yet sane, mannerly and obedient. And soooo handsome! As time went on, I saw how much natural suspension he possessed. Not being a dressage rider myself. I called a prominent trainer and asked her to evaluate his suitability for dressage. She noticed his huge overreaching stride, how powerfully he drove off of his hocks and his wonderful frame. She told me without a doubt, this naturally talented horse could dance!

The trainer recommended one of her students to ride him, getting him fit and properly muscled for dressage. Michelle worked diligently all summer and by October she felt he was ready for a show. To the best of my knowledge this was Henry’s first show ever and we had no idea what to expect. Although he had been working at training level we decided to show him in intro A and B. Michelle’s work paid off- he was unflappable. He scored in the 70’s in both tests and was the high point scorer of his division. The judge even sent a runner to the show office to see if he might be for sale!

Henry and Michelle are magic together and she is teaching me dressage basics on him. It is obvious by his presence that he loves to perform and this is a niche he truly seems to enjoy. My goal is for me to learn dressage and for him to be able to do a musical freestyle. We’ll still trail ride and enjoy hunter paces – just for our heads! Already this is one of the most incredible and rewarding partnerships of my life!

Reprinted from *Animal News*, a publication of the Morris Animal Foundation—Volume 6 Number 2.

The Celtic Warmblood Registry is donating 10% of every registration fee to the Morris Animal Foundation, established in 1948. This foundation funds humane health studies of companion animals and wildlife and disseminates information from these studies. For information about the Morris Animal Foundation call (800) 243 2345 or visit their website at www.morrisanimalfoundation.org.

Equine health consortium gallops ahead



Horses suffer from many health problems, including lameness, respiratory diseases and a multitude of gastrointestinal disorders. Unfortunately, the number of equine researchers who study these issues is declining due to lack of funding sources. Last spring, Morris Animal Foundation took the first steps toward solving this problem. After gathering feedback from leading equine scientists, industry and government representatives, attorneys, livestock insurers and trade associations, the Foundation established the Equine Health Consortium.

Through this initiative, we plan to fund equine consortium grants of up to \$500,000 per year for five years. Designed to encourage collaboration between scientists and institutions, these grants will bring together the best minds and laboratories to focus on and potentially cure specific health issues that affect horses.

So far, the response from the equine community has been encouraging and enthusiastic. Twenty-seven groups — more than double our expectations — submitted pre-proposals in February. These groups include researchers from around the world. Lameness and respiratory diseases garnered the most pre-proposals. Finalist pre-proposals will be reviewed by a panel of equine scientists, Foundation representatives and industry experts. We expect to approve the final consortium project this summer and will then seek funding support.

LEARN MORE. For updates on the Equine Health Consortium, go to www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

Celtic Warmblood Registry
Membership Application



Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address : _____

City : _____

State / Region: _____ Postal Code : _____ Country : _____

Email Address: _____

Comments : _____

Please complete and submit the application along with \$ 25.00 annual membership fees made payable to Celtic Warmblood Registry. Please do not enclose cash. Payment may be made via check, money order, Visa or Master Card.

Credit Card Information : ___ Visa ___ Master Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp Date (MM/YY) ___/___

Please complete information above if payment is by credit card.

Mail to: Celtic Warmblood Registry
C/O Registrar
PO Box 148
Fulshear, TX 77441

**Celtic Warmblood Registry
Registration Application**



Date: _____ Membership #: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address : _____

City : _____

State / Region: _____ Postal Code : _____ Country : _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Horse(s) submitted for registration: _____

Registration Fees (\$ 75.00 per horse) : \$ 75.00

Total Enclosed/Charged: _____

Please complete this form once and complete the horse application form for each horse to be registered. Submit the application(s) along with \$ 75.00 registration fees per horse made payable to Celtic Warmblood Registry. Please do not enclose cash. Payment may be made via check, money order, Visa or Master Card. If a horse is deemed not eligible to the requirements of being at least 25% Irish Draught, the appropriate fees will be refunded.

Credit Card Information : ___ Visa ___ Master Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp Date (MM/YY) ___/___

Please complete information above if payment is by credit card.

Mail to: Celtic Warmblood Registry
C/O Registrar
PO Box 148
Fulshear, TX 77441

**Celtic Warmblood Registry
Registration Application**



Horse's Name _____ Date Foaled: _____ Sex : _____

Color : _____ Microchip Number _____ Blood Typed (Y/N) _____

Bred By : _____

Sire _____ Breed _____ Registration # _____

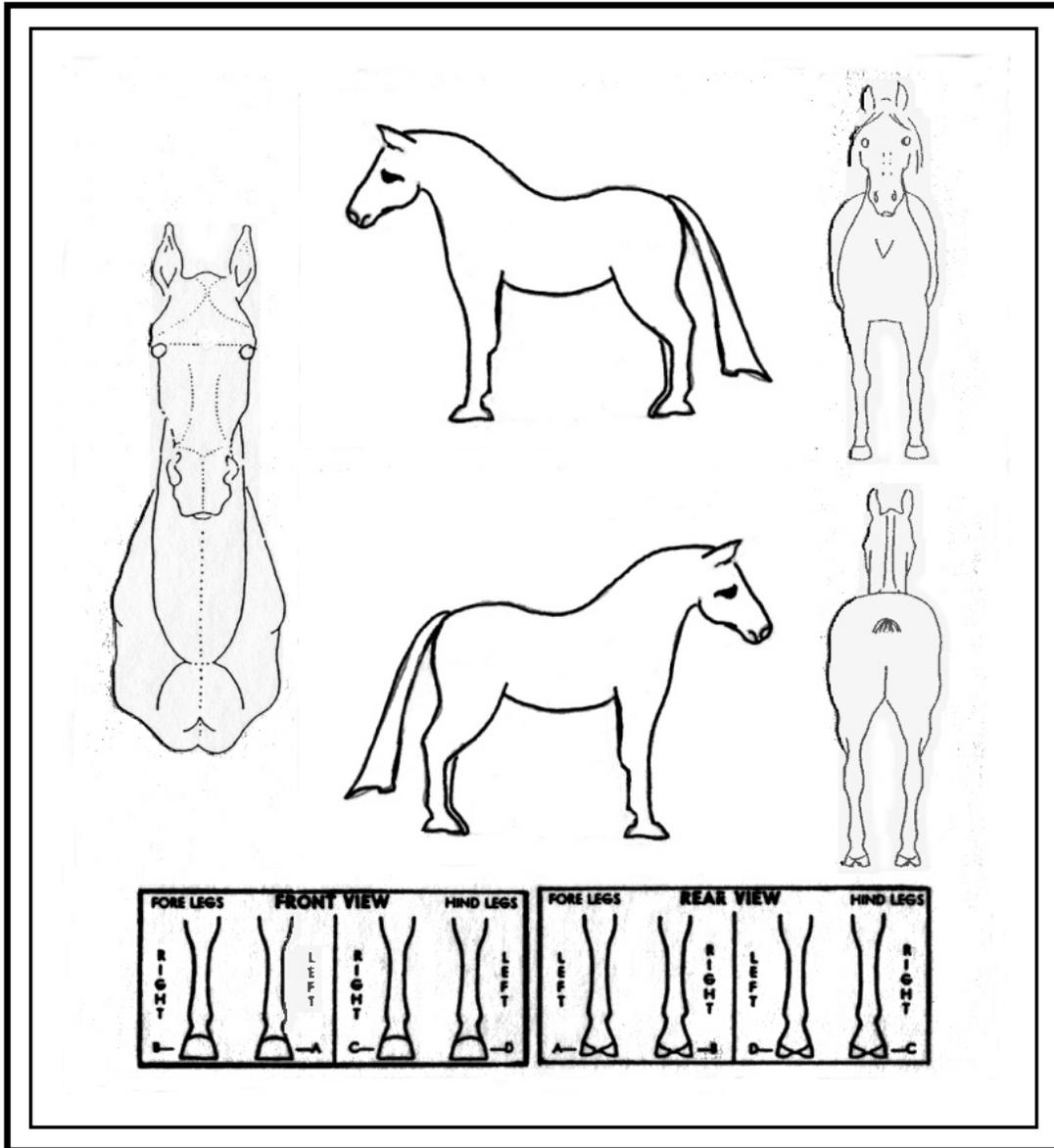
Dam _____ Breed _____ Registration # _____

	Sire	
	Dam	

Please fill in all known information. Include copies of letters, certificates or any other paperwork attesting to parentage. Please include name, breed and registration numbers when possible. If a horse is deemed not eligible to the requirements of being at least 25% Irish Draught, the appropriate fees will be refunded. DNA testing is included with the registration.

By my signature below, I attest that all statements made on this application are true and that I am the current owner of the horse.

_____ Date _____ Membership # _____
 _____ (Name Printed)



Please use the templates above to indicate your horse's markings. Mark all hair whorls with an 'X'. It is a requirement that all horses over the age of two have confirmation photos on file i.e. front, rear, and two side photos. These photos are for identification and verification and will not be published anywhere. Photos will not be returned.