

CHAPTER THREE

FOUNDATION ERA SIRE LINES

The earliest foundation sire lines were discussed in the previous chapter where it was noted that most were extinct by the end of the nineteenth century, leaving only the sire line of Hambletonian 10 to carry the breed forward. It is to the contribution of his sons that we turn in this chapter.

The one hundred and fifty siring sons of Hambletonian 10 can be divided into four groups. The first had little impact beyond their local community and quickly died away while the second group produced star performers but failed to breed on. The third group vied for supremacy throughout the Foundation Era but could not breed on beyond the first decade of the New Century Era. The final group became the cornerstone of the new breed. Not only did they outperform all others, but their sire lines continued well into the New Century Era with two of them continuing to the present day.

Sires from the first two groups do not warrant further attention and this chapter describes the rise and fall of branches from the latter two groups. Their impact will be traced for the fifty years up to the close of the nineteenth century.

This Foundation Era belongs substantially to two great sires from the fourth group, Hambletonian 10 himself and his son George Wilkes 519. Each dominated the breed during their lifetime before passing the baton to their sons and grandsons. In addition there were another six sons of Hambletonian 10 that belonged in the third group. Some left enduring legacies on the maternal side of the breed while two had to wait until the New Century Era to establish their dominance.

When the Hall of Fame Immortals list was first established in 1953, Hambletonian 10 was the foundation entrant. Although he raced only one lifetime heat, defeating rival Abdallah Chief in T3:03, he later time trialed in T2:48½. This was regarded as more than respectable for a three year old at that time. However, it was his reputation as a phenomenal progenitor of speed that assured his immortality. Within only three decades he had eliminated all rival sire lines and within five decades all sire lines but his were extinct.

More details on the breeding and siring performance of both Hambletonian 10 and George Wilkes 519 is undertaken in chapter seven. We now turn our attention to the measures used to compare the performances of these Foundation Era sires.

Classic Progeny

The most reliable measure for comparing the contribution of each stallion to the breed is the number of Classic Progeny they have sired. As noted in the first chapter, Classic Progeny are those horses that have either won Classic Races or set speed records, together with those horses that were present in the pedigrees of these performers. The leading sires of Classic Progeny during the Foundation Era are set out in Table 3.1.

TABLE 3.1 LEADING FOUNDATION SIRES

	Classic Progeny
Hambletonian 10	231
Nutwood	154
George Wilkes	143
Almont	134
Mambrino Patchen	134
Mambrino Chief	119
Onward	119
Red Wilkes	113
Electioneer	107

This table reinforces just how enormous the impact of Hambletonian 10 was to the breed. The siring abilities of Mambrino Patchen and his son Mambrino Chief are also placed into perspective, before their lines faded out under the domination of George Wilkes and his sons. Similarly, the Abdallah 15 line remained strong through Almont and Nutwood until the end of the Foundation Era.

Standard Performers

At the close of the nineteenth century the times required to be registered as a Standard Performer remained at T2:30 for a trotter and 2:25 for the pacing gait. While the use of Standard Performers as a measure remains in use today, it has become almost meaningless. What it now really measures is the number of progeny that reach the racetrack but in the Foundation Era it was a significant measure of siring ability.

TABLE 3.2 STANDARD PERFORMERS (1900)

Total Standard Performers	
Nutwood	174
Onward *	152
Red Wilkes *	150
Alcantara *	142
Pilot Medium	112
Simmons *	97
Gambetta Wilkes *	95
Wilton *	93
Baron Wilkes *	90

The leading sires of Standard Performers at the close of the Foundation Era are set out in Table 3.2. while those for each individual year appear in Table 3.4. The sons and grandsons of George Wilkes are annotated with an asterix to highlight how significant his domination had become.

Many of these sires bred on into the first decade of the twentieth century and Table 3.3 shows the final

credits of Standard Performers for sires foaled in the nineteenth century. This table illustrates the impact of McKinney, Gambetta, Onward, Electioneer, and Alcantara into the first decade of the New Century Era.

TABLE 3.3 STANDARD PERFORMERS (1925)

Total Standard Performers	
Gambetta Wilkes	235
McKinney	225
Onward	200
Electioneer	187
Red Wilkes	178
Prodigal	177
Alcantara	175
Ashland Wilkes	175
Nutwood	174

On the other hand, Hambletonian 10 with forty Standard Performers, George Wilkes with ninety eight and Abdallah 15 with just five, belonged to the period when the Standard Performer was like the 1:50 pacer or 1:53 trotter of today. Consequently their figures are almost irrelevant in the context of this measure.

TABLE 3.4 LEADING SIRE OF THE YEAR

New Standard Performers	
1887 Happy Medium	9
1888 Electioneer	13
1889 Egbert	23
1890 Nutwood *	18
1891 Electioneer	39
1892 Nutwood *	25
1893 Onward (GW)	18
1894 Saint Bel (E)	20
1895 Red Wilkes (GW)	22
1896 Allerton(GW)	15
1897 Electrite (E)	22
1898 Allerton (GW)	15
1899 Baron Wilkes (GW)	15

Speed performances

The first two minute horse arrived just as the Foundation Era came to a close. At the time there were only six trotters that had beaten T2:07 and ten pacers that had beaten 2:05 and all were by different sires. Even the 2:10 list was sparsely populated with the leading sire being Onward with six performers. The 2:15 list was then the speed measure of most significance and Table 3.5 ranks the leading sires of these performers.

TABLE 3.5 PROGENY IN THE 2:15 LIST

	Performers
Alcantara *	26
Baron Wilkes *	22
Red Wilkes *	21
Onward *	20
Guy Wilkes *	18
Robert McGregor	18
Simmons *	16
Sidney	16
Gambetta Wilkes *	15
Brown Hal	15
Wilton *	14
Nutwood	13
Electioneer	12
Wilkes Boy *	12
NB. Sons of George Wilkes (*)	

The enormous impact of George Wilkes is again evident with nine of his sons among the fourteen sires listed, including the leading five rankings.

Broodmare sire performances

It is commonly stated that the great sires of today become the great broodmares sires of tomorrow but the statistics indicate that there are vagaries in this premise as the following tables indicate.

Table 3.6 lists the leading twenty five broodmare sires of Standard Performers, comprising all those

with more than one hundred and fifty final credits.

The only non-Hambletonian sires to make the list are his greatest rival, Blue Bull, and two sons of another rival in Mambrino Chief. Each of these three sires is annotated with an asterix.

TABLE 3.6 BROODMARE SIRE CREDITS

	Standard Performers (Final)
Nutwood	407
Moko	397
Baron Wilkes	367
Bingen	344
Red Wilkes	343
Onward	337
Robert McGregor	334
Walnut Hall	312
Strathmore	252
Prodigal	230
Mambrino King *	224
McKinney	213
Alcantara	212
Gambetta Wilkes	212
George Wilkes	210
Chimes	208
Allerton	188
Jay Bird	188
Electioneer 125	187
Axtell	185
Blue Bull *	182
Arion	181
Mambrino Patchen *	166
Happy Medium	165
Belmont	152

The position of Electioneer, in particular, is impressive given that he sired only five hundred and eighty eight progeny, less than half the get of Hambletonian 10. Given the disparity in years and the rapid increase in Standard Performers toward the end of the period, the performance of Hambletonian 10, with one hundred and seventeen

credits is impressive yet is overwhelmed by that of Blue Bull.

The broodmare sires of 2:15 performers up to 1899 are set out in Table 3.7. The earlier sires naturally have an advantage as their daughters were more prevalent than those by sires later in the era.

TABLE 3.7 BROODMARE SIRE 2:15 CREDITS

	Performers
Nutwood	31
George Wilkes	24
Blue Bull	20
Mambrino Patchen	18
Red Wilkes	15
Strathmore	14
Almont	13
Dictator	13
Jay Gould	13
Mambrino King	11
Onward	11

George Wilkes and Mambrino Chief, together with his son Mambrino Patchen, feature strongly while Blue Bull again performs creditably. Abdallah 15 is well represented through his son Almont and his grandson Nutwood who heads the rankings.

Subjective measures

There are other factors that need to be addressed in both choosing and ranking the greatest sires of this era. The most important of these is the performance of their sons and grandsons in increasing the number of Classic Winners and speed performers for their sire line. Even the George Wilkes sire line needed to skip a generation before again dominating, through Axworthy and particularly his son Guy Axworthy.

This sire line has continued well into the Modern Era but in other instances prominent sire lines became extinct. For example, McKinney reigned

supreme in America for many years but his line came to an end following the demise of his son Belwin. Thus, it is necessary, to consider whether sires produced progeny that exceeded their speed, earnings and stud success.

Table 3.8 ranks the eight most successful sons of Hambletonian 10. The eight branches will be discussed in order of foaling dates. In the accompanying tables descendants with more than thirty Classic Progeny are included to enable comparisons.

TABLE 3.8 SIRING SONS OF HAMBLETONIAN 10

	Standard Performers
George Wilkes (1856)	134
Electioneer (1868)	100
Abdallah (1852)	69
Volunteer (1854)	66
Dictator (1863)	61
Strathmore (1866)	60
Harold (1864)	58
Happy Medium (1863)	50

Greatest Foundation Era stallions

Using each of the measures outlined above, the ten greatest sires of the Foundation Era are ranked in the table below.

TABLE 3.9 GREATEST FOUNDATION ERA STALLIONS.

1. Hambletonian 10
2. George Wilkes
3. Electioneer
4. Abdallah 15
5. Mambrino Chief 11
6. McKinney
7. Onward
8. Direct
9. Baron Wilkes
10. Red Wilkes

Mambrino Chief, the only non Hambletonian line sire, has already been discussed in the previous chapter. The siring careers of the remaining nine are found within the discussion on each of the branches that follows.

Abdallah 15

The first born of the siring sons was conceived when Hambletonian 10 was just two years of age. Katy Darling, the dam of Abdallah 15, was a crippled trotting mare of thoroughbred origin with a fourth generation infusion of Messenger through her dam. Abdallah 15 lived just thirteen years before perishing during a Civil War raid. Yet, in this short time, he rose to become one of the great sires of the nineteenth century.



TABLE 3.10 THE ABDALLAH 15 BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Abdallah 15 (1852)	69
2. Almont 33 (1864)	114
2. Belmont 64 (1864)	91
3. Nutwood 600 (1870)	136
4. Chitwood (1885)	2
5. Hedgewood Boy (1902)	25
2. Major Edsall (1859)	4
3. Robert McGregor (1871)	68
4. Cresceus (1894)	6

The greatest racing progeny of Abdallah 15 was champion mare Goldsmith Maid (T2:14) conceived when he was just three years of age. Others were Rosalind (T2:21¾) plus siring sons Thorndale 305 (T2:22¼) and Belmont 64 (T2:28½).

Nutwood (T2:18¼), his most successful grandson, became the leading sire of America in both 1890 and 1892. Nutwood had forty six registered siring sons and was fifth on the all time Standard Performers sire list as well as tenth on the all time broodmares sire list at the conclusion of the New Century Era.

Robert McGregor (T2:17½), a grandson of Abdallah 15, won fifty three heats in standard time, produced one hundred and eight Standard Performers and was ninth on the all time broodmare list at the end of the New Century Era. His son Cresceus (T2:02) was a world record holder but proved shy at stud.

As the New Century Era closed, Nutwood's grandson Hedgewood Boy was the third greatest sire of Standard Performer pacers with one hundred and seventy three. Despite this, the descendants of Abdallah 15 failed to breed on and his line was extinct by 1930.

Analysing the first one hundred trotters and pacers to enter the two minute list shows the strong maternal influence of Abdallah 15. He appears in the maternal pedigrees of forty two of the first fifty trotters and seventy six of the first hundred pacers.

Volunteer 55

In addition to being second to his famous sire on the Standard Performers list at the end of the Foundation Era, Volunteer 55 was the first sire in America to have five progeny in the 2:20 list.

His pedigree confirms the ability of Hambletonian 10 to produce outstanding trotting sires from lowly bred thoroughbred mares.



TABLE 3.11 VOLUNTEER BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Volunteer 55	66
2. Hamlet 160	23

The fastest son of Volunteer was the gelded world record holder and Hall of Fame Immortal, St Julien (T2:11¼). Volunteer also sired five 2:20 sons who won one hundred and forty races between them while another twenty one sired Classic Horses. His most successful siring son, Hamlet, contributed just twenty three Classic Horses. None of the sons of Volunteer could produce early speed so they fell out of favor. His branch of the sire line was extinct by the end of the nineteenth century.

Sentinel 280, the full brother to Volunteer 55, also failed to create a sire line but claimed a place in standardbred history. He was the foundation sire for one of the three branches of the Sally Sovereign (U5) maternal family and the grandsire of the dam of Peter the Great.

George Wilkes 509



In his later years, George Wilkes was over raced and badly treated, often resulting in him refusing to perform at his best on the track. Labeled a quitter, his reputation suffered and when he began his stud career as a seventeen year old he had few admirers. After all, he was but one of a host of sons by Hambletonian 10 that were available at stud. Following the appearance of his first crop on the racetrack however, things changed dramatically and by the time he died in 1882 he had become the leading sire of America.

Analysis of the tables in this chapter show just how dominant George Wilkes became. As a sire of speed his sons held the leading five positions in the 2:15 performers of Table 3.5. As a broodmare sire he was fifteenth on the Standard Performer list at the close of the century, despite the huge advantage in foaling dates of those ahead of him. He also had four sons ahead of him on this list with three being in the top six positions. As a broodmare sire of speed he was second in the 2:15 list of Table 3.7 and had two sons among the top ten. The achievements of George Wilkes are expanded upon in greater detail in chapter seven.

The interesting fact is that all but two of his best sons, Gambetta Wilkes and Wilton, are from

Mambrino Chief sire line mares, in particular Mambrino Patchen. It would seem irrefutable that the George Wilkes sire line owed a significant part of its success to this greatest of non-Hambletonian blood.

In all, George Wilkes sired less than four hundred foals yet over one hundred became registered stallions. Eleven of these established successful sire lines, but only one survived beyond the New Century Era. The twelve most successful sons of George Wilkes are listed in Table 3.12. The three progeny annotated with a double asterix had their greatest impact in the twentieth century and their branches are discussed in the following chapter.

TABLE 3.12 THE GEORGE WILKES BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. GEORGE WILKES	143
2. Alcantara	52
2. Alcyone	42
3. McKinney **	86
2. Baron Wilkes	96
3. Moko (1893)	115
2. Gambetta Wilkes (1881)	51
2. Guy Wilkes (1879)	45
2. Jay Bird (1878)	52
3. Allerton (1886)	51
2. Onward (1875)	119
3. Anderson Wilkes (1884) **	10
2. Red Wilkes (1874)	113
2. Simmons (1879)	44
2. Wilkes Boy (1880)	43
3. Grattan (1887)	22
2. William L	12
3. Axtell	52
4. Axworthy **	117
2. Wilton (1880)	46
Sires with ** are discussed in following chapter	

Alcantara and Alcyone

In his day, Alcantara (T2:23) was the leading three year old trotter in Kentucky. At stud he produced one hundred and seventy five foals that went on to race. He had eighty four registered siring sons of whom twelve sired Classic Progeny. As can be seen in Table 3.5, he was the leading sire of 2:15 performers in the Foundation Era.

Alcantara is also represented in the maternal pedigree of Greyhound along with his full brother Alcyone, but his branch of the sire line did not progress far into the twentieth century. Although Alcantara outperformed his full brother at stud, it was the latter that established a more enduring branch of the sire line.

Alcyone (T2:27) was in many ways ill fated. Injured early in his race career, he then died young leaving only fifty nine in the 2:30 list. These included; Martha Wilkes (T2:08) the first trotter to win in under 2:10, Harrieta (T2:09¾), winner of the Charter Oak and Transylvania, Alcyron (T2:15) also a Charter Oak winner and finally, his greatest son, Hall of Fame Immortal McKinney (T2:11¼). His story is taken up in the following chapter.

Baron Wilkes

Baron Wilkes was from the last full crop of George Wilkes and became the leading sire of America in the final year of the century. At the close of the New Century Era, he was number forty nine on the all time sires list, with one hundred and forty nine Standard Performers.

It has already been noted that the best progeny of George Wilkes were from daughters of the Mambrino Chief sire line. Belle Patchen, the dam of Baron Wilkes, was strongly inbred 2x3 to Mambrino Chief. She had been a top class race mare taking out the second running of the Lexington Stakes.

Baron Wilkes was noted for his purity of gait and recognised as passing this to his progeny. His greatest daughter was the dual gaited Extasy (2:10½ -T2:11½) winner of the Kentucky Futurity as a two year old pacer and the Kentucky Stakes as a three year old trotter. She went on to found a significant maternal family.

The fastest of his trotting sons, Oakland Baron (T2:09¼), was the fastest two year old of his year then became the nation's leading stake earner and Kentucky Futurity winner at three. He failed to breed on. Another speedy son, Baron Rogers (T2:09¾), was exported to Russia where he became a leading sire. His gelded son Bumps (2:03¼) was the leading pacer on the Grand Circuit in the closing years of the century.

Moko

The only successful sire among the seventy nine Classic Progeny of Baron Wilkes was Moko, who was unraced due to injury. Moko sired three outstanding mares; Fereno (T2:05½), the first horse to win the Kentucky Futurity at both two and three, Native Belle (T2:06½), the first two year old trotter on the 2:10 list, and The Real Lady (T2:03), world record holder at two and three years of age.

The breeding of Moko shows close crosses of Hambletonian 10 through three different sons; George Wilkes, Strathmore and Volunteer. As the tables above show, Moko sired one hundred and seventy eight Standard Performers and one hundred and fifteen Classic Progeny, to outperform his sire during his career.

Of the two Kentucky Futurity winning sons that he sired, Manrico B failed to breed on and Silko was exported to Europe. As a result, the Baron Wilkes branch did not see out the New Century Era.

Gambetta Wilkes

Although he only had ninety five credits at the close of the century, Gambetta Wilkes dominated the siring list for the opening years of the new century. Table 3.3 shows that Gambetta Wilkes finished with two hundred and thirty five Standard Performers, more than any son of George Wilkes. His two best performers were pacers; Grand Circuit mare Eyelet (2:06½) and Homer Baughman (2:12¼) winner of all three Classic Races as a three year old. His best trotting son, George Gano (T2:02TT) won four Classic Races but did not breed on. While Gambetta Wilkes finished with fifty one Classic Progeny, none of his sons could extend his line and his branch of the line was extinct by 1930.

Jay Bird

Jay Bird was another of the successful sons of George Wilkes from a Mambrino Chief line mare. His dam also contributed an extra infusion of Abdallah 1 blood through her grand dam.

The most outstanding son of Jay Bird was Lexington and Kentucky winner Eagle Bird (T2:21), but he failed to achieve as a sire. His fastest daughter Hawthorne (T2:06¼) also won a Kentucky but her only daughter was exported to Denmark. It was his son Allerton (T2:09¼TT) that kept his branch alive.

Allerton, who held the world record for a four year old stallion, became four times leading sire of Standard Performers. He finished tenth on the all time list with two hundred and seventy one but also failed to extend this branch of the sire line.

Onward

Another of the successful George Wilkes sons from a Mambrino Chief mare, his dam also produced two other speedier sires in Director and Thorndale.

In 1893, Onward (T2:25¼) became the first son of George Wilkes to claim the mantle of leading sire of Standard Performers. In total he sired two hundred with another three hundred and thirty seven as a broodmare sire. This placed him in third and fourth positions respectively on the list of nineteenth century sires.

Onward was also a successful sire of winners on the newly created Grand Circuit. His fastest son, Onward Silver (T2:05¼), won the Transylvania and was later exported to Italy and became the broodmare sire of two winners of the Danish Derby. An earlier son, Beauzetta (T2:06¾), won the Kentucky Futurity and was the richest trotter of that year. He did not produce at stud.

As a broodmare sire, the credits of Onward include three daughters who won a Kentucky Futurity and colt Fred Leyburn, who was exported to Germany where he won the Trotting Championship of Europe.

A third and little known son, Anderson Wilkes, bred on into the twentieth century and his story is taken up in the following chapter.

Red Wilkes

Red Wilkes was the second of the George Wilkes clan to be a leading sire of Standard Performers. He commanded the highest stud fee of his day but of his one hundred and thirteen Classic Progeny, only three won Classic Races. His final tally of Standard Performers was one hundred and seventy eight while thirty six of his sons sired Classic Winners.

His fastest siring son was Allie Wilkes (T2:15), but no son could establish an enduring sire line. He was yet another of the famous siring sons of George Wilkes to come from a Mambrino Chief mare and his greatest contribution came through his maternal progeny.

Wilkes Boy

Among the ten sons of Wilkes Boy that sired Classic Winners, only one was to establish a siring line of any repute. His fastest pacing son Grattan produced gelding Baron Grattan (2:03¼) and Canadian Hall of Fame stallion Grattan Royal (2:06¼). The latter sired three American Pacing Derby winners during the twenties but his only surviving line was through his son Grattan Loyal, who was exported to New Zealand.

The pedigree of Wilkes Boy is worthy of note with his dam Betty Brown being inbred 2x2 to Mambrino Chief. This is the same family that later produced Dean Hanover.

William L

A full brother to the better performed Guy Wilkes, William L did not race due to a deformed leg. Neither was he popular at stud, but from limited opportunities sired Axtell (T2:12TT) who won every race of his two and three year old career, setting world records in the process.

Despite being bred 3x3 to Mambrino Patchen, his dam was short bred and failed to produce another winner. Axtell himself was the first Classic Winner from the family. Over a century later this Bird Mitchell maternal family has a further seventy two Classic Winners with the vast majority coming in the last twenty years. Almost all are pacers, with two millionaires and eleven on the 1:50 list.

Retired through injury, Axtell sired just three Classic Winners and four sires of any note. This was despite commanding the highest stud fee and best mares of his day. His one enduring feat was to sire Axworthy, a colt that was to extend the Wilkes line for another century. His career is taken up in the following chapter.

Minor George Wilkes sires

Three sires with limited impact also deserve mention. Guy Wilkes, the full brother to William L outlined above boasted American Star as well as Mambrino Patchen on his maternal side. He produced only three Classic Winners but ten registered sires. His legacy continues through the famous Thompson sisters, so important in extending the Minnehaha (U2) family.

Likewise, Simmons sired ten sires of Classic Progeny but no Classic Winners himself. He was also from a Mambrino Patchen mare. His legacy is left on the maternal pedigree of the immortal Greyhound.

The third of the group, Wilton, sired five Classic Winners and was broodmare sire of nine others, the most famous being Lexington and Kentucky Futurity winner Siliko. His greatest contribution was through his son Wilburn M, exported to Europe where he sired the winner of the Austrian Derby.

The breeding of [Wilton](#) is unusual, being the only sire with any success that was inbred 2x2 to Hambletonian 10. The branches through each of these three minor sires became extinct early in the New Century Era.

[Dictator 113](#)

This branch of the Hambletonian sire line has always had a tenuous hold on survival, with only one son from each generation extending the line.

The contribution of each, however, has been remarkable. As his pedigree shows, Dictator was bred on the golden cross of Hambletonian 10 over an American Star mare. Although his full brother, the gelding Dexter, was World Champion, Dictator had limited stud opportunities.

This changed when his gelded son Jay Eye See became the first horse to trot in T2:10. His reputation was further enhanced by Phallas (T2:13¾) but it was Dictator (T2:17), the fastest stallion of his day, that carried the line forward. On his death, Dictator was the only stallion to have a sired a World Champion, Jay Eye See and the dam of another in Nancy Hanks.

TABLE 3.13 THE DICTATOR BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Dictator (1863)	71
2. Director (1877)	35
3. Direct (1885)	29
4. Direct Hal (1896)	19
5. Walter Direct (1900)	35

[Director](#)



The dam of Director was from a mainly thoroughbred mare but her sire was Mambrino Chief. Director won the 1880 Kentucky but at stud produced only two sons of note, the pacer Direct (2:05½) and the trotter Directum (T2:05¼), who like his sire also won the Kentucky.

Winner of twelve from fifteen starts on the Grand Circuit as a six year old including the Charter Oak, Director lowered his colors only to World Champion Jay-Eye-See. Director was later to become the first stallion to sire a World Champion trotter in Directum

(T2:05¼) and World Champion pacer in Direct (2:05½). Both shared the unique distinction of being the first World Champions from a sire and dam who competed against each other on the track.

Directum went on to sire another Transylvania winner in Ethels Pride (T2:06¾), but none of his progeny bred on. Direct was a different story.

Direct



SKETCH OF DIRECT 1886

Echora, the dam of Direct, was a quality race mare that had defeated his sire Director in his first race. She was from a mainly thoroughbred dam but her sire Echo was a son of Hambletonian 10 from a grand daughter of American Star.

His sire Director was also royally bred having the golden cross of a son of Hambletonian 10 to a Mambrino Chief mare. This mare in fact produced three other siring sons, one of them being Onward, already discussed in this chapter. As the pedigree illustrates, this also gave Direct a 3x3 cross to Hambletonian 10 and a 4x5 cross to American Star.

Direct was a small horse and did not race until the age of three, winning four of his six starts and becoming the first of the Direct line to enter the Standard Performer list. At four he won six of eight starts and ran a second to World Champion stallion Palo Alto. Unraced at five due to injury he returned

at six and ran a series of match races against the gelding, who at that time held the world record at 2:09¾. Direct won, setting a new world mark of 2:09¼ but in a rematch was well beaten by his rival. Direct finished his career with a world record 2:05½TT to become the World Champion stallion only to have Hal Pointer lower the world pacing mark to 2:04¼TT.

Direct began his stud record by siring Directly who lowered the world record for two year old pacers by more than three seconds. The following crop included Directum Kelly, undefeated on the Grand Circuit as a four year old prior to being exported to Europe.

Direct Hal

Following an amazing trend, only one son, Direct Hal, bred on. Again just one of his sons in Walter Direct continued the sire line. Here things improved slightly. Walter Direct was more prolific, finishing ninth on the all time standard pacers sire list and leaving two successful siring sons. One of them, Jack Potts, was exported to New Zealand as a three year old where he became the leading sire of the country for nine successive years. The second, Napoleon Direct (1:59¾TT) was the fastest American pacer of 1916 and finished second to Abbedale on the all time Standard Performer pacers sire list. His greatest achievement was that of siring the champion race horse and progenitor Billy Direct. His story is taken up in the next chapter.

Happy Medium 400

In *The American Trotter*, Hervey recounts the unusual beginnings of three famous sire lines. Katy Darling, the broken down dam of Abdallah 15, he writes, was traded for a gelding valued at fifty dollars, Dolly Spanker the dam of George Wilkes was traded on a remote roadway for seventy five

dollars and Princess, the dam of Happy Medium, for a wagon and twenty dollars in a small country town.

Following a ten year career as a road horse, Princess was tried successfully in match races of up to ten miles in California. Eventually she was shipped to New York where she defeated World Champion Flora. The victory was not repeated on subsequent rematches but Flora had to trot a world record in order to defeat Princess. Put to Hambletonian, Princess produced her only foal, Happy Medium.



Raced only twice, Happy Medium took his record of T2:32½ as a six year old before commencing stud duties. His reputation relied mainly on the feats of his dam and the mares he received were of poor quality. Despite this he became the leading sire of America in 1887. His greatest success came through his daughter Nancy Hanks (T2:04TT), the first trotter to better 2:05 and his son Maxie Cobb (T2:13¼), who lowered the world record for stallions.

Little is known of Tackey (T2:26), the dam of Pilot Medium, except that she was by Pilot Jr., was raced widely, and took her mark as an old mare. She produced four very good race horses from her six foals and it was her one entire son that saved the

Happy Medium line from extinction. The only reason he had been kept entire was that he was crippled and of no use other than stud work.

At stud, Pilot Medium was only able to attract non standard mares. From this unlikely band of local mares, he produced thirty four winners from his first thirty nine foals. The first crop included the gelding Jack (T2:11½), whose host of wins included the Transylvania, yet his broodmare band remained unfashionably bred.

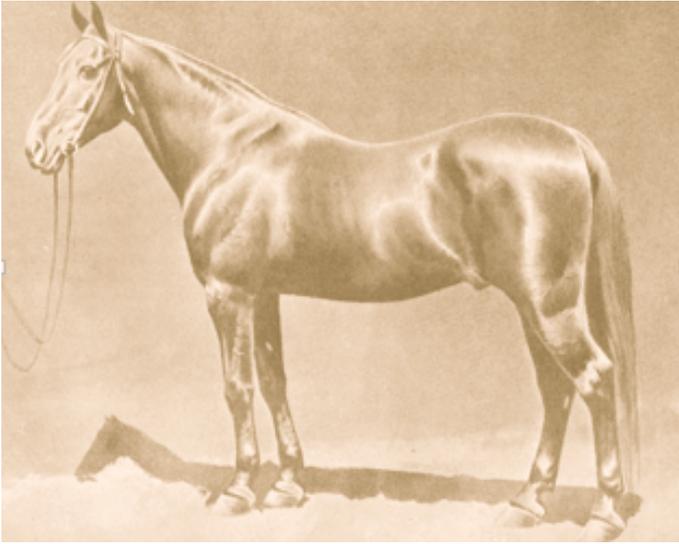
TABLE 3.14 THE HAPPY MEDIUM BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Happy Medium 400	61
2. Pilot Medium	30
3. Peter the Great - SEE CHAPTER FOUR	

In total Pilot Medium sired thirty Classic Progeny from his limited opportunities. While another son, BBP (T2:09¾) was his second Classic Winner, it was his third, foaled the year prior to his death that set his name permanently in the history of trotting. This son was Peter the Great and his story also belongs in the next chapter.

Again, fate played a favorable hand. Santos, the dam of Peter the Great, never made it to the track. She was also from the final crop of an obscure sire Grand Sentinel who was killed in an accident. Neither he, nor his own sire Sentinel, were highly regarded as sires yet they have a place in the pedigrees of two of the greatest trotters of all time; Greyhound and Peter the Great. At stud Santos produced nine foals with six becoming Classic Progeny. Her final foal was J Malcolm Forbes, sire of forty four Classic Progeny including the outstanding Favonian (T2:01¾).

Harold 413



Closely inbred 2x2 to Abdallah 1, Harold was far better as a sire of mares, his most famous being World Champion Maud S, discussed in the previous chapter.

TABLE 3.15 THE HAROLD BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Harold 413	68
2. Childe Harold (A)	116
2. Vancleve (A)	122

The Harold sire line virtually died out with him, although two of his sons, Childe Harold and Vancleve, were exported to Australia where they had a substantial siring impact. These two are discussed more fully later, but even this branch of the sire line was extinct within fifty years.

As an example of Harold's impact on the maternal side of the pedigree, his daughter Noontide (T2:20¼) created a branch of the Midnight family that has produced some two hundred and one Classic Winners, seven 1:50 pacers, three 1:53 trotters, three million dollar earners and two leading trotting sires in Classic Photo and Pine Chip.

Strathmore 408



The leading pacing son of Hambletonian 10, Strathmore was afforded limited opportunities due to the lack of favour for the pacing gait at the time. His largely thoroughbred maternal line included a pacing mare while Hambletonian 2, his broodmare grand sire, was inbred 2x2 to Messenger.

Strathmore also sired trotters, and his reputation was established by the outstanding Santa Claus (T2:17½) and Steinway (T2:25¾) but it was his pacing grandsons and the progeny of his daughters that were to earn him his place in history.

TABLE 3.16 THE STRATHMORE BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Strathmore 408 (1866)	72
2. Santa Claus (1874)	5
3. Sidney (1881)	26
4. Sidney Dillon (1892)	29
2. Steinway (1876)	18
3. Charles Derby (1885)	25

Despite his stud success however, the Strathmore sire line did not survive in America and the only sons to breed on were two exports. Harold Dillon became the leading sire of New Zealand on six occasions and trotting son Owyhee was exported to Australia where he became the grand sire of pacing legend Globe Derby. This grandson dominated the Australasian breeding scene for decades.

It was three maternal descendants of Strathmore that left a lasting legacy in America. Cricket was the first mare to pace a mile in 2:10 and Klatawah reduced the world three year old pacing record for mares by four seconds to 2:05½. Lou Dillon was immortalized when she became the first horse to trot in under two minutes.



LOU DILLON-THE FIRST TWO MINUTE TROTTER

The maternal breeding of Lou Dillon is interesting with the broodmare sire, Milton Medium being inbred 2x3 to Hambletonian 10 and the second broodmare sire, Black Flying Cloud, being incestuously inbred 1x2 to Black Hawk 5.

Electioneer 125



The greatest son of Hambletonian 10 in terms of siring extreme early speed, Electioneer never made the racetrack. Yet the performance of his siblings suggest that he did possess the speed that he is rumored to have displayed.

Unlike the cast off dams of other foundation sires, the dam of Electioneer stood at a leading New York stud farm. She was the first mare to have five progeny in the 2:30 list and finished with a total of nine. One of her foals, Elaine (T2:20), a half sister to Electioneer, set a world trotting record of T2:28 in 1877.

Taken to stud in California, Electioneer sired only three hundred and eighty eight foals during his fourteen year career but with siring ratios superior to most others.

Electioneer was the first standardbred sire to produce one hundred progeny in the 2:30 list and was ranked second only to George Wilkes among the Foundation Era sires of Standard Performers. His final tally of one hundred and eighty seven placed him fourth of the foundation sires on the all time Standard Performers sires list. His one hundred and seven Classic Progeny placed him second only to George Wilkes.

TABLE 3.17 THE ELECTIONEER BRANCH

	Classic Progeny
1. Electioneer	107
2. Bow Bells (1887)	28
2. Chimes (1884)	53
2. Conductor (1887)	5
3. Walnut Hall (1898)	52
2. May King (1886)	6
3. Bingen (1893)	104

His reputation was earned as a sire of early speed and at the close of the nineteenth century

Electioneer had sired more 2:20 horses and record breakers than any other sire. His thirty nine new Standard Performers in 1891 was far more in a single year than any other leading sire of the nineteenth century and was not matched until the forty eight achieved by Peter the Great in 1914.

His success began with his first crop when Fred Crocker lowered the world record for two year olds by almost a full second to T2:25¼TT. His list of World Champions included, Bell Bird with a world record T2:26¼ for yearling trotters, Arion with both two and three year old world records and daughter Sunol who became the first horse to hold the world record for two, three and four year olds in successive years. Sunol later took the all aged world record for mares with T2:08¼TT and his son Palo Alto the all aged stallion record with T2:08¾. No other sire of the nineteenth century came close to his extreme speed record.

The foals of Electioneer were noted for their pureness of gait and this was transmitted, even to foals from half bred and thoroughbred mares. His champions were all trotters but his sons failed to breed on except for Chimes who, ironically, established the breed's greatest pacing sire line. The contributions of his son Chimes and grandson Bingen are discussed in the next chapter.

As Hambletonian 10 had obliterated his rivals to totally dominate the sire lines of the standardbred, so too did his sons enter a similar quest for domination. Of the eight that reigned supreme at the close of the century only four were to survive into the twentieth century.

Two more have since been lost, or their survival is so tenuous that any chance of survival is remote. The two that remain will be more fully analysed in the next chapter.