The Six American Stallions of Adelaide Hill Stud

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Introduction

In the early part of the 20th century, Bendigo businessman Robert Matchett and his stud manager, the experienced owner, trainer, driver Bob Crowe, spent considerable money on American stallions that they purchased and imported. Following the establishment in 1903 of the Adelaide Hill Stud at Huntly, eight kilometres north of Bendigo, Crowe travelled by ship to the USA at least three times to research and buy horses on Matchett's behalf, and then ship them to Australia to populate the breeding operation at the 200-acre property adjacent to the Bendigo Creek.

Shipping horses at that time was extremely difficult, as this letter from Bob Crowe illustrates:
Robert Crowe wrote:

"The passage from San Francisco was one of the worst ever experienced by officers and men on board the ship. All Style [left] 2:10 and the mare Vera Pointer being thrown repeatedly as the vessel dipped in the heavy seas. All Style battled bravely and came out unscathed, but the mare was unable to stand when Sydney was reached."

It was later reported that Vera Pointer recovered rapidly, and Mr Crowe being offered a fair price for her, accepted it. Did the six stallions that Crowe and Matchett import early in the 20th century have any impact? Was the money and effort that Matchett outlaid well spent?

Alan Leavitt, the famous American owner of Lana Lobell and Walnut Hall farms and breeder of countless champions including Jate Lobell, Garland Lobell and his three remarkable siring sons Angus Hall, Andover Hall and Conway Hall and the trotter Mack Lobell ($2.7 million), has strong beliefs about the ancestors of modern day Standardbreds. Leavitt wrote in the May 2021 article, 'The Art of Breeding' (*Harness Racing Update*), "When you evaluate a family, you should go right back to the foundation. Even though a mare eight generations back can have no direct influence on her descendants far down the generational line, for me it is essential that the original spring produced plenty of good water."

With the help of the Classic Families website, *The Trotting Annals of Bendigo and Environs* by John Peck, the Harness Racing Australia website, the book *Stallions* by Nick Hooper, *The Australian Trotting Stud Book - Sires Index 1860-1960* ,and the NLA's Trove, it is possible to establish that the Matchett and Crowe selections did produce "plenty of good water".

The stallions of Adelaide Hill and their sons and daughters bred on to become the ancestors of many of Australasia's best pacers and trotters.

They include:

- Five Inter Dominion champions: Evicus, Single Direct, Tennessee Sky, Gentleman John [below, left] and Minuteman
- The champion mare of the 1920s, Direct Home, winner of the Sydney £10,00, and the Richmond £500
- The 1917 New Zealand Cup winner and Australasian mile record holder, Adelaide Direct
- 1928 Richmond Thousand winner, Percy Direct
- Star NSW race-mare Maffra, granddam of Inter Dominion runner-up, Master Dixie
- Otahuhu Cup, Dunedin Cup and 13 times Richmond winner, Glideaway
- A La Mode, winner of ten at Richmond and the 1915 Fleet Cup
- AG Hunter Cup winners and Hall of Famers, Gentleman John and Minuteman
- Australian 2YO Trotter of the Year, Banglez
- The current Australian and Australasian 3YO trotting record holder, On Advice (1:54.5TR)
- The dual Oaks winner, Lynmont
- Miracle Mile winner, Victorian Hall of Famer and USA export, Adaptor [below, right]
- Miracle Mile winner, Friendly Footman, winner of 18 at Harold Park
- Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton, Geelong and Kilmore Cup winners, Derby and Oaks winners, recent juvenile race winners, Horses of the Year and Australian record holders

In The Beginning

When the Adelaide Hill Stud was established at the turn of the century, the Standardbred in Australia was very much in its infancy. It had been only fifty years since Hambletonian 10, the foundation sire of the modern Standardbred as we know it was born in 1849, with his first progeny sired in 1851.

The standard for which the breed is named was not set up until 1879 when the Standardbred Breed Registry was established by the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders in the USA. The "standard" required of breeding stock was to be able to trot or pace a mile in two minutes and 30 seconds or better.

The very first American importations arrived in 1862, 17 years before this standard had been established and the breed named, into what was then the Colony of Victoria at the time of the gold rush and property boom. None of them had any Hambletonian blood. These stallions were from the Morgan and Messenger (Thoroughbred) sire lines.

The early trotting horse importations were a real mix. In the 1976 prefix to the *Sires Index (1860-1960)*, Ken Dyer noted that early importations consisted of Thoroughbreds, Norfolk, Lincoln, Welsh and Yorkshire horses combined with Cleveland Bays which originated in Yorkshire and were imported from Britain primarily for the fast-developing coaching businesses.

The Early Stallion Importations

Vermont Boy was imported in 1862. A descendent of the Morgan sire line, he was the first North American bred trotting stallion to be imported into Australia. He died shortly after in 1863 and was of no account.

Cambridge Chief, another Morgan, was imported in 1865 from the USA via England. He stood at Bundoora and sired the dam of Dolly, foundation of the A58 family. The family includes the high-class trotters Atlantic Star (Dullard Cup winner), Victorian Trotters Derby winner Make Mine Lilys, NSW Trotters Derby winner Make Mine Glory and the Victorian Trotters Oaks winner So So Classy. The most recent descendent of the Dolly family is the 2021 Melton winner, Classy Spirit.

Flying Morgan was also imported in 1865. He was a son of Cambridge Chief (possibly imported at the same time as his sire) who spent five years in Australia before being sent to New Zealand. He sired just three winners.

Daniel Boon was imported from the USA in 1869 and stood at Wangaratta. He sired 16 winners. One of his daughters left the mare Gill, the founder of family A76. From this family came Dixie Fox, Our Walla, the classy pacer and sire Royal Dollar, Grand Set, the Charlton Cup winner Jilliby Magic and the most recent winner, trotter Gatesys Alley.

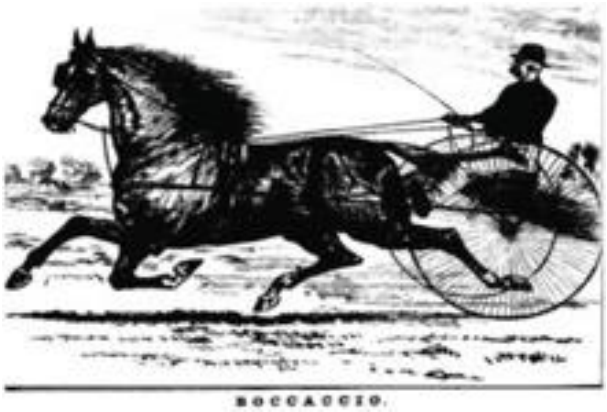
Von Moltke Junior, another with no Hambletonian blood, came from the USA in 1879. He won five races in Melbourne (three at Boccaccio Park and two at Elsternwick) and set an Australian Trotting Stallion Mile record of 2:57.8. He stood at Fitzroy, siring 16 trotters. Von Moltke Junior sired three fillies that left their mark as foundation brood-mares: Kitty, Creamy, and Our Nell.

> **Kitty** A69 (188-) was the grand-dam of Jeff Mauritius, foaled in the 1890s who won 13 metropolitan races at the Richmond track in Melbourne. The line appears to have died out in 2001 with the last winner being the 12-time winning Tasmanian horse Hillbilly Halo, 2:01.0.
>
> **Creamy** A44 (189-) This family includes Our Noble (1959 Victoria Trotters Derby), Top Command (1969 NSW Trotters Derby) and Intangible Command (won 17 trotter's races at Harold Park for Stan Joshua).
>
> [For historic video of Intangible Command and Stan Joshua at Harold Park, view here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QlBjSg3W7Q].

Others were Nobles Report, Sporting Star (seven races at the Melbourne Showgrounds, Wedderburn and Ararat Cups), the star trotter Bold Apepa who won ten Melbourne Metropolitan races, and Miss Universe 20 wins. The most recent winner is the 2019 Globe Derby Park winner Nevada Yankee.

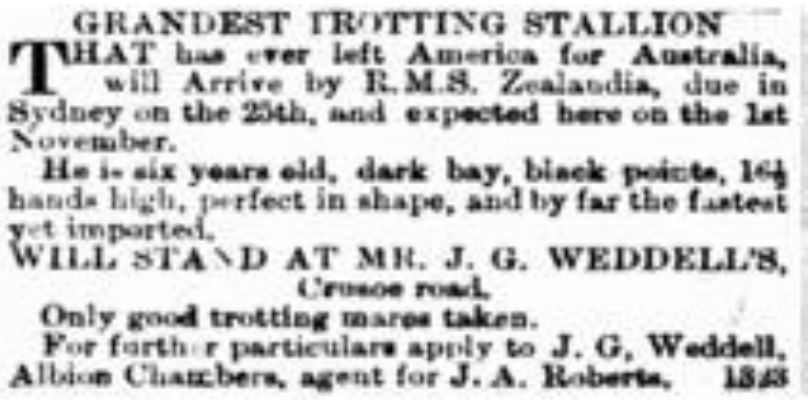
Our Nell A12 (1881) started a family that currently has 163 Classic Race winners. These include the Ballarat champion and Hall of Fame member Happy Voyage, the Horsham, Charlton and 1930 Bendigo Cup winner Princess Mauritius, the Australian 2YO record holder Dons Ayr, Teeny Reena, Jikk Adios, three-time Inter Dominion and Miracle Mile champion Our Sir Vancelot [left], Bonavista Bay and Vegas Bound 1:52.5.

Hambletonian Blood Arrives Down Under


BOCCACCIO.

Boccaccio US , foaled in Kentucky, appears to be one of the first imports with any Hambletonian blood. His dam Rising Star was by Logan, an 1854 son of Hambletonian 10. Boccaccio was imported in 1880 by the wealthy businessman JA Roberts, who established Boccaccio Park in Hampton as a racecourse. Boccaccio [right] was the sire of 14, and importantly sired the stallion King of Bronte who stood near Boort in northern Victoria. His son Bronte left the famous Hando's Bronte mare. Her descendants include Peak Hill, Lucky Western, Flash Adios, Crystal Glenmar, and the most recent classic winner I'm Bruce Almighty (1:52.0).

Boccaccio was brought to Sandhurst (now Bendigo) when he first arrived in Victoria in 1880.



GRANDEST TROTTING STALLION
THAT has ever left America for Australia, will Arrive by R.M.S. Zealandia, due in Sydney on the 25th, and expected here on the 1st November.
He is six years old, dark bay, black points, 16¼ hands high, perfect in shape, and by far the fastest yet imported.
WILL STAND AT MR. J. G. WEDDELL'S, Crusoe road.
Only good trotting mares taken.
For further particulars apply to J. G. Weddell, Albion Chambers, agent for J. A. Roberts. 1843

These are the headlines from the *Bendigo Advertiser* of the day:

1 December 1880
The celebrated American trotting horse, 'Boccaccio', arrived in Sandhurst yesterday, and after being shown through the city driven in a sulky, was exhibited at the racecourse. The splendid points of this fine animal were the cause of general admiration. As a representative of the American trotting horse, it may safely be asserted that scarcely a better could be brought to this country. He has size, breeding, style and speed, and in remarkably quiet and docile. It appears that the horse was purchased in San Francisco by Mr HP Gregory, for Mr James A Roberts, of Melbourne for stud purposes, and previous to the purchase, a trial of his speed was given, when he trotted a mile in 2 minutes 28 seconds, though not under training at the time. Boccaccio is a very dark brown with black points, and stands 16.5 hands high. He will be exhibited at Pall Mall today about eleven o'clock.

These pioneer stallions led the way for an ever-increasing number of sires, with the quantity and quality quickly improving. Those imported shortly after Boccaccio included:

Startle (1882) – Won five races in Melbourne at Elsternwick and set an Australian Stallion Trotters' Mile Record (1882 - 2:38.5). He was the sire of nine including Picaninny who in turn sired 46 winners. Picaninny gave the famous Riddle family (Walter Riddle and his five sons), originally from Creswick, then Kaarimba north of Shepparton, their start in trotting and later thoroughbred racing. Peter Riddle, one of the five sons, after a very successful career as a harness racing trainer-driver, trained Shannon the champion galloper in Australia and USA.

Len Rose (1882) – Imported from the famous Palo Alto stud of Governor Leland Stamford in San Francisco. Len Rose had won races in California and went on to win a further six races in Melbourne at Elsternwick, and then at stud sired six winners.

Premier (1878), imported into NSW, left only one winner, but sired a daughter from an Arab mare, the taproot founder of Classic Family A209, whose members include Roselawn and her sons the brilliant Lawn Derby, his brother Van Derby, Rotarian, Level Advice and Finucane.

Ajax, a 16YO was next to arrive in 1880. He was a great-grandson of Hambletonian 10. His number of winners is insignificant, only leaving five winners, but he sired thirteen daughters who were responsible for families that produced the likes of Free Hall, Yankee Loch, Robert Derby and Imatoff.

Childe Harold, by Harold, an 11YO son of Hambletonian 10, arrived from Scotland in 1882, and standing in NSW went on to sire 61 Australian winners. His 1889 son Rothschild, when taken to New Zealand, became the outstanding sire of the time, leaving 318 Australasian winners.

Honesty, a third generation descendent of Hambletonian 10 was imported in 1882 and stood stud at Scoresby, Richmond (NSW), Oaklands Junction, Mornington, Maribyrnong, Marcus Hill and finally Wangaratta.

Honesty sired 94 winners, including:

- Truth, the winner of seven races in Melbourne (six at Richmond; one at Fitzroy)
- Wriggles, the winner of ten races in Melbourne (six at Richmond; two at Fitzroy; one at Epsom; one at Ascot)
- Mona, whose dam was a thoroughbred mare is said to have won 30 races including shows
- The champion Mystery, who won 18 races in Melbourne (12 at Moonee Valley grass; four at Elsternwick; two at Richmond). Set NSW Pacers Mile Record (1893, 2:29.5). Set Victorian Pacers Mile record (1895, TT2:25.0)

Honesty mares established several families that bred on. The most significant three being:

- **Towns Minnie** A5 with descendants including Sheffield Globe, Bold Alabar, Frosty Monarch, King Frost, and the most recent classic winner of the family Vultan Tin, winner of 21 races at Gloucester Park.
- **Princess** A6 The family has produced 104 distinct Classic members with 294 race wins or awards. These include three NSW Trotters Derby winners, Kingstar (1:50.4US) winner of 21 races at Harold Park, the half-sisters Shes An Image and Gentle Image, the millionaire Avonova, Chariot King, Replaced Eye and the most recent Classic race winner Bailey's Knight NZ
- **Fanny** A25 whose descendants were mostly Tasmanian. They included Dainty Design and her son Joseph Scott, and daughter Valencia Bay, Zyuganof Leis, and most recently the classy Riverina performer Carla Clare.

By the turn of the century, trotting races in Melbourne had been conducted at Elsternwick Park track (opened 1882 and closed in 1891, Boccacio Park in Hampton (1881), Kensington (1874-1883), Moonee Valley (grass track 1883), Fitzroy's Croxton Park (1881- 1919), Maribyrnong (1881-1919), and the short lived straight track Albert Park Speedway (1903). The track off Bridge Road in Richmond had been in operation since 1892.

Sires of the Victorian Goldfields

Commercial breeding on a large scale had commenced in the Bendigo district with the Hunters of Burnewang Park at Elmore, north of Bendigo. Robert Hunter and his son Alex (AG Hunter) stood the locally bred Honest Harry [right] who sired his first winners in the late 1880s, and then imported Willie Whips from the USA in 1900.

Honest Harry, a son of Honesty US, was a trotting winner foaled in 1885. In addition to

siring the champion pacer Harry Alto, Honest Harry mares were responsible for a string of top class pacers including Honest Kate, a top-class race mare and dam of the champion sire Robert Derby.

TL Hambling at Oakhill Farm, Bridgewater-On-Loddon, stood a grandson of Hambletonian in Hambletonian Bell Boy which arrived in Victoria as a 3YO in 1889. Hambletonian Bell Boy sired just 23 winners, but most importantly, sired Prince Imperial from the visiting New Zealand mare Princess. When taken to New Zealand, Prince Imperial won races and then sired 130 winners. He made his mark as the sire of mares that became the foundation of significant New Zealand families.

The New Zealand Cup winners Haughty, Bronze Eagle, Mobile Globe, Gold Bar, Integrity and Lord Module all trace back to Prince Imperial mares. In Australia, the champion New Derby was bred by AG Hunter from New Zealand Greta, one of the family founded by a Prince Imperial mare. Gold Bar 1:59.6TT, the first New Zealand two-minute pacer, was from the N8 family of Imperial Polly, and the Inter Dominion winners Blacks A Fake, Smooth Satin, Jodies Babe, Rondel, Delft and Scotch Notch all trace to Prince Imperial mares.

Other stallions active in the Bendigo area at that time included Young Osterley, sired in 1898, bred at Carrum, but stood at Charlton and for a season at least at Bagshot for Robert Matchett just prior to the establishment of the Adelaide Hill Stud [stables, above]. He sired just six winners. Another, Von Atoms by Von Moltke Junior, was the sire of two pacers.

TO Stand this Season at Queen's Head Hotel, Lockwood; at M'Cartin's Hotel, Shelbourne; and Woods' Hotel, Marong. To serve a limited number of Mares.

BAY HORSE,

VON ATOMS,

Four years old, by Von Moltke, junr., dam Miss Raynor, by Prince William, and bred by Dr. Lemprier, of Melbourne. He is a beautiful bright bay, stands 15 hands 3 inches, with black points, and legs like bars of steel; he has a magnificent temper, combined with immense strength and activity, and is really a splendid specimen of the Trotting Stallion.

TERMS—£5 5s. single mare; two mares or more, £4 10s. each. Any mares not proving in foal served for half-price next season. Good paddock with plenty of water and good grass 2s. 6d. per week, but no responsibility for accidents or escapes.

Apply—F. LENNON, Queen's Head Hotel, Lockwood.

Walter Scott US, stood at Sandhurst in 1882. He broke a leg, but recovered to stand further seasons, siring nine winners.

TO STAND THIS SEASON,
At
CRUSOE, KANGAROO-FLAT, SANDHURST,
WALTER SCOTT,

The American Trotting Stallion, imported by Dr. Weir.
Terms—£10 10s.

Foaled July, 1878; is a sorrel stallion, over 16 hands, bred by J. D. Carr, Esq., Monterey Co., California; sire Carr's Mambrino.

Dam by Owen Dale, he by Belmont; Owen Dale's dam Maria Downing, by American Eclipse, and she tracing to imported Trumpetta; Belmont (thoroughbred), br h, by American Boy; g dam Prunella, by Comus; g g dam by Partisan; g g g dam by Trumpeter; g g g g dam Prunella, by Highflyer; g g g g g dam Promise, by Snap.

Carr's Mambrino by Mambrino.

Patchen full brother to Lady Thorne (record 2.18½), he by Mambrino Chief; g dam by Mambrino Chief; g g dam by imported Jordan; g g g dam by Bertram; g g g g dam by Cherokee.

Mambrino Patchen by Mambrino Chief; dam by Gano, son of American Eclipse; g g dam by a son of Sir William, he by Sir Archy.

Mambrino Patchen is the sire of—

Kate Middleton, ch m, record	–	..	2.23
Mambrino Kate, gr m, record	..	..	2.24
Jewess, b m, record ..	..	..	2.26
Mambrino Boy, blk horse ..	–	..	2.26½
Lady Stout, ch m, at 3 years..	..	..	2.29
Carr's Mambrino is sire of Lady Ellen, b m, record at 4 years old ..	..	–	2.28

See "Australasian," as follows:—
"Augur" speaking of Trotting Horses, Oct. 29, 1881.
Same writer describing National Society's Show, November 5, 1881, also August 19, 1882.

Every care will be taken of mares, but no responsibility incurred. Service fee must be paid before delivery. Mares to be removed within one week after notice of stinting has been served, after which a charge of 3s. per week will be made for grazing.

Special arrangements can be made by persons desirous of sending two or more mares with the undersigned.

J. G. WEDDELL, agent, Albion-chambers, Sandhurst

The formation in 1882 of the Sandhurst Trotting Club no doubt fuelled the demand for better quality Standardbred horses in the area.

Bendigo Advertiser, 9 September 1882

A Trotting Club Formed
A meeting of those desirous of forming a trotting club in Sandhurst was held last evening at the Beehive Exchange. There were present – Messrs JG Weddell (in the chair), Aked, Featherstone, Starr, McDevitt, McCanley, Harcourt, Featherstone Jnr, Burridge, Clifford, Hoffmeyer and Pickles.

The new club was not content to race on the grass tracks of the Bendigo Jockey Club at their Epsom course, so built the first purpose built trotting track in country Australia, a one-mile track on the inside of the steeplechase course.

Bendigo Advertiser, 10 November 1882

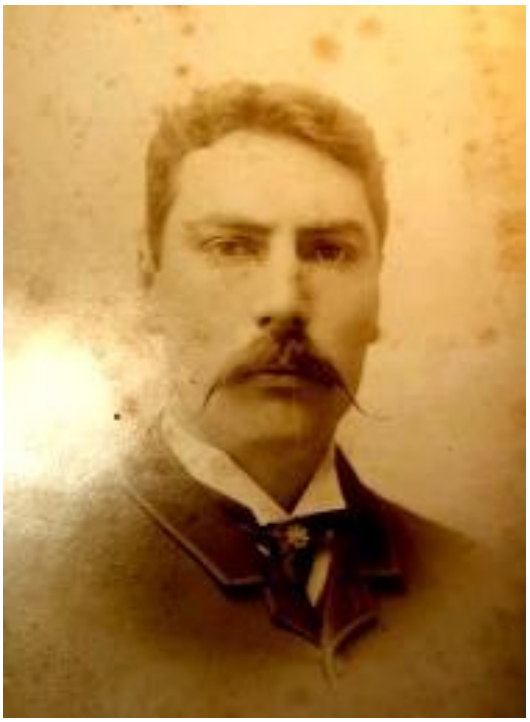
Yesterday afternoon a number of members of the Sandhurst Trotting Club and Bendigo Jockey Club visited the Epsom Racecourse [below] to inspect a new trotting track lately formed. The work of laying out the track was left in the hands of Mr. William J "George" Starr, a recent arrival from America, and who has for the past few months been in Sandhurst. A look at the track yesterday fully convinced the members of the Club that they were fortunate in securing Mr. Starr's services and experience. The track has been formed between the Steeplechase and Jockey Club's training tracks. It is 56 feet wide, and a mile in length, and is formed on the American principle. There is a quarter of a mile straight in front of the grand stand, and a quarter mile back stretch. At each end are ovals of a quarter of a mile, and the turnings have been so formed as to be easy for horses.

Demand for Harness Racing Horses Increases

In the decade from 1890 to 1900, the demand for harness horses was driven by the increasing number of races that were being programmed in the Central Victorian area. Harness races were conducted on two Bendigo suburban tracks. The main one was the track at the Epsom racecourse of the Bendigo Jockey Club. The other was a 700-yard track which opened in August 1891 at South Atlas (Jubilee Park) behind the South Atlas Hotel on McIvor Road in Junortoun, adjacent to where Bendigo's Lord's Raceway is now situated. Racecourses at Marong, Axedale, Sebastian, Elmore, Goornong and Myers Flat programmed harness races on their cards.

Harness races were also included at mixed sports meetings at Runnymede, Knowsley, Strathfieldsaye, Woodstock, Shelbourne and Kamarooka and at the annual Bendigo Agricultural Show. Non-betting races and time tests (time trials) at district Agricultural Shows were well patronized, and often had substantial trophies and cash prizes for place-getters. There were racecourses at Boort, Carisbrook and Kyneton where Bendigo district horses travelled to race. The metropolitan track at Richmond was accessible by train for horse and trainer-driver and many district horses regularly competed there. The opportunities to race had multiplied significantly.

Robert Matchett Saw a Business Opportunity



Bendigo grocer, produce dealer and businessman Robert Matchett [right], after inheriting his father John Matchett's grocery business and two farms, one at Huntly and the other further along the Bendigo Creek at Kamarooka, was obviously keen to tap into the growing market for breeding trotters and pacers. Matchett set up a stud farm on what had been his father's Huntly property rising up from the Bendigo Creek flats and named it Adelaide Hill Stud.

Bendigo Advertiser, 25 November 1903
The will and codicil of the late Mr John Matchett, of View street, have been lodged for probate by the executors, William John and Robert Matchett. After a legacy of £50 is given to the Forest street Methodist Church and annuities to relatives, the estate goes to the widow and children of the deceased. The estate is sworn at £34,883 3/1, and consists of £19,746 3/8 realty and £15,136 14/5 personal assets. The estate includes land at Kamarooka and a farm at Huntly, known as Adelaide Hill. There are also valuable city properties in View and Mitchell streets and elsewhere. The solicitors were Messrs. Quick**, Hyett, and Rymer.*

*£34,883 in 1903 is the equivalent in 2021 of over $6 million!

**Quick, one the solicitors was, Sir John Quick, Bendigo parliamentarian and one of the authors of the Australian Constitution.

Matchett's First Stallion

Young Osterley, bay entire 1894 (or 1898) by Osterley from Pansy had stood at several locations before being acquired by Matchett.

Bendigo Advertiser, 5 August 1899:

Young Osterley, the well-known trotting stallion, will stand this season at Adelaide Hill stud farm, situated seven miles from Bendigo. Young Osterley is by Osterley, out of Pansy, by Young Montrose, out of Polly (dam of Mystery), who has trotted her mile in 2.25. The terms are five guineas, and all particulars can be obtained from Mr R Matchett, Hargreaves-street.

Young Osterley sired just six winners. One of his daughters, the unnamed dam of River Voyage established a modest family with the 1:57.0 Queensland trotter Northern Muscle winner of 25 races, nine generations on from the taproot mare, being by far the best.

YOUNG OSTERLEY,
TO STAND AT GLENBURNIE PARK, BAGSHOT.

IS a beautiful dark chestnut Horse, three years old, over 16 hands, showing great quality, a beautiful mover, with plenty of bone and substance, and is by

OSTERLEY out of PANSY.

Osterley, the champion trotting stallion, is by Childe Harold 414 (imp.). out of Kentucky Maid (late Belle Briggs), and has the following records:—1 mile, 2 min. 25 sec.; 2 miles, 5 min. 2¾ sec.; 3 miles, 7 min. 30¾ sec.; and is also the winner of the Time Tests at Royal Agricultural Shows of 1893 and 1894, trotting the distance in 2 min. 20½ sec.

Pansy s by Young Montrose (imp.), out of Pony, g dam of the celebrated mare Mystery the champion pacer of Australia, whose records are For half-mile, 1 min. 8¼ sec.; 1 mile, 2 min. 25 sec.

YOUNG OSTERLEY t ok first prize at the Bendigo Agricultural Show f two-year-old trotting stallions.

Terms—Five Guineas.

For further particulars apply R. Matchett-Hargreaves-street, Bendigo, or J. Hayhurst, Bagshot.

The First Adelaide Hill Import

Rex Derby US, a bay entire p,2,2:16, Exh. Foaled in California in 1898, by Charles Derby from Essie Farley. Imported as a 2YO in July 1900.

Robert Matchett took the advice of well-known and successful Bendigo trainer-driver Bob Crowe and decided to look to the United States for his next venture into the breeding of trotters. With the assistance of Crowe's extensive international connections, they acquired Rex Derby a 2YO son of the Californian sire Charles Derby. Crowe [below] was then appointed Adelaide Hill stud manager, and held the position for over 25 years.

Bendigo Advertiser, 20 July 1901
Rex Derby, the stallion Mr R Matchett recently imported from America, showed marvellous speed in an exhibition of trotting at Richmond track in Melbourne last Thursday. He covered a mile in 2 minutes 16 seconds., and after warming up was going at a gait of 2 minutes 8 seconds. Rex Derby, when thoroughly trained, should smash up all records in Australia.

He did. Rex Derby held the Australian 2YO trot mile record for forty years, through to 1941. The record, set in the exhibition at Richmond when driven by his owner Robert Matchett, remains unofficial as Matchett unfortunately did not weigh in. (There was a minimum weight for drivers). Rex Derby was a disappointment, siring just eight winners, all of them pacers. In 1905 he was sold to AJ Hill, New Zealand for 160 guineas. There is no record of him racing or at stud in New Zealand.

However, one of his daughters Princess Derby was the ancestress of eight Classic race winners, the most recent being the Gloucester Park winner Left Pride (1:57.7, $151,043), by Fake Left. Two of the best descendants of Princess Derby were her grandsons, the prolific 1930s Perth star Willowcliffe [left] and his full brother Wilfred. Willowcliffe, by Alfred Donald won 23 metropolitan races in Perth (13 at WACA; four at Gloucester Park; three at Brennan Park; two at Perth course), including the 1929 WA Derby and a heat of the first Inter Dominion in 1936.

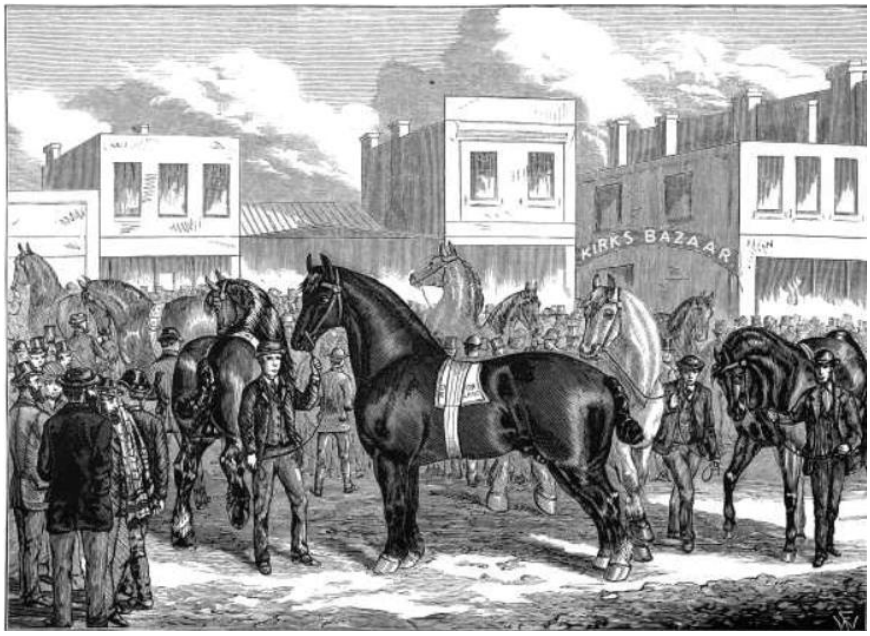
Wilfred, his full brother by Alfred Donald, recorded 13 Perth metropolitan wins including the 1930 WA Derby the year after his older brother Willowcliffe. Another descendent Rare Son, won ten metropolitan races in Perth (Six at Gloucester Park; four at Richmond Raceway).

The Second Import

Victor McKinney US, a bay entire. Foaled 1901 and imported in the early 20th century, by McKinney from Firewood by Fayette Wilkes. Next to be purchased by Crowe for Matchett and shipped from the USA was Victor McKinney, a son of the future US Hall of Fame Immortal, McKinney. Another sire by McKinney to be imported to Australia at the time was Clarke McKinney, sire of a young George Gath's great trotter Paddy McKinney. Victor McKinney was un-raced, but there were obviously high hopes held for him, as the *Bendigo Advertiser* reported:

6 May 1911

When a pretty high fee is asked for a fashionable stallion, some owners of good mares stand aloof. It is not a bad policy to pay a fair fee for the service of a stallion. Last week at Kirk's Bazaar a three-year old bay colt by Mr Matchett's imported horse, Victor McKinney, out of Chloe, by Honesty, was sold to a gentleman in Kaniva for 200 guineas. A good return for a service of five guineas.*



*For a hundred years, horse bazaars were a colourful and vital part of the Australian scene. In Melbourne, the most famous of these was Kirk's Bazaar [above], situated on the north side of the Bourke Street hill between Elizabeth Street and Queen Street, in the area now occupied by Hardware Street.

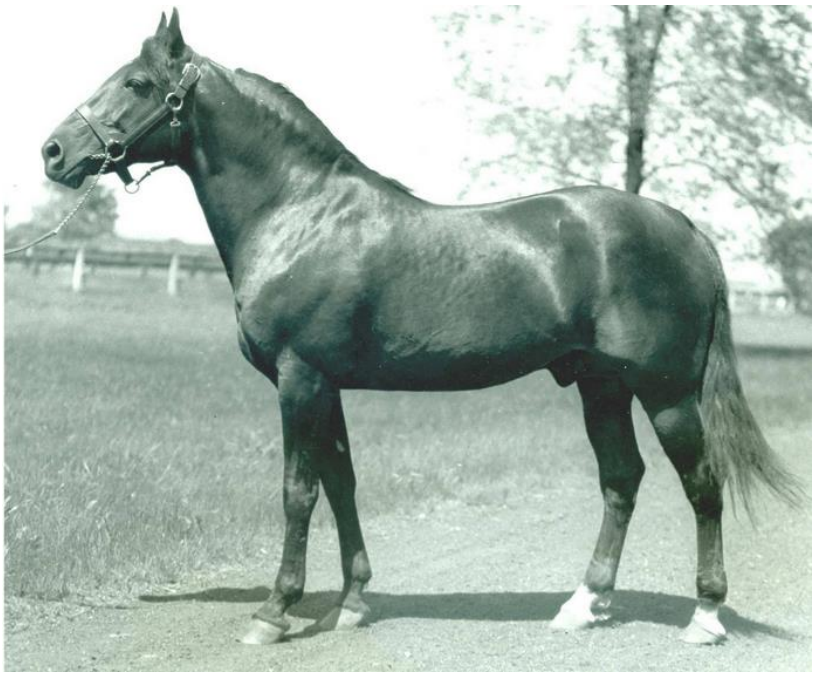
Victor McKinney was a disappointment, siring just seven winners. He was the damsire of eight. His 1908 daughter Lady McKinney, from the New Zealand bred Rothschild mare Miss Berlinda, was the source of a branch of the N186 family with two useful winners. First Initial won 12 races at Wayville, and Sir Gondola won 17 trotting races and over $141,000 in stakes. The last of Lady McKinney's family appears to have been the 1980 Tarport Low gelding Comedy Prince, a 12-time winner for Serpentine's Bill Rothacker and his son Gordon.

Third Time Lucky: Matchett Strikes Gold

Directway US, a bay entire, foaled 1901 and imported 1903 he was by Direct from Electway, by Steinway. Sire of 193 in total – 12 trotters, 181 pacers. Four years after the importation of Victor McKinney, Crowe returned to California, and selected a 2YO colt by Direct from Electway for Matchett. The sire Direct 2:05.5 (US), a great-grandson of Hambletonian, and a future USA Hall of Fame Immortal was the fastest American pacer of the year in 1891.

He was responsible for the sire line that produced:

- The champion US sire, Billy Direct [below[, and his son Tar Heel
- The New Zealand-based import, Garrison Hanover by Billy Direct, (leading NZ sire 1967, 1968 and 1969)
- Smokey Hanover, a son of Billy Direct that sired 174 winners in both NZ and Australia
- The Australian sires Gary Rowan NZ and his son Classic Garry (the first Australian based pacer to better 1:55.0)
- Kentucky, a son of Tar Heel, the leading Australian sire by winners in 1987 and 1989
- Armbro Del, another son of Tar Heel, sire of 186 winners while standing at stud in New Zealand.



Another representative of the Direct sire line was Louis Direct (1:58.5 TTUS) the world's fastest pacer when imported in 1929 by the famous NSW breeder Robert Simpson. He stood at stud for some years for Eric Cochran at Ballarat. In New Zealand, Jack Potts, a great-grandson of Direct, imported as a 2YO in 1923, won seven races in addition to being runner-up in two NZ Trotting Cups. Jack Potts went on to an outstanding stud career that saw him leading the NZ sires list for nine consecutive seasons, and leave 275 individual winners.

Electway, the dam of Directway, was a full-sister by Steinway to Charles Derby, the sire of Matchett's first import Rex Derby. Charles Derby, even though he never left the USA, was to have an enormous influence on Australasian breeding through his son Owyhee, the sire of Mambrino Derby who sired of the legendary racehorse and sire Globe Derby (sire of 315 winners).

Charles Derby also had a significant impact through daughters that were imported Down Under. They included:

- **Lottie Derby US**, the ancestress of Hunter Cup winners New Oro, Payload and Gammalite; Alphalte, The Rogue, the star trotters Quick Whip, Skyvalley, Chiolas Lass, What's Under My Kilt and Allegro Agitato.
- **Norice US**, a member of the Dairy Maid U30 family who was a wonderful race mare. She was exported to NZ in 1903 and then taken to Australia in 1908 to race. She returned to NZ in 1909 and won five of her first seven races as a 6YO in 1903-04; followed by a further two wins (1904-05) and second to Monte Carlo in the inaugural 1904 NZ Cup before a final two NZ wins in 1905-06 season. Norice was a leading performer of her time, ancestress of the millionaires Iraklis, Monkey King, Karloo Mick, Sokyola and Holmes DG.
- **Sihamba US**, a member of the vast American Minnehaha U2 family won six races in Melbourne (four at Richmond; two at Ascot) and was the dam of the successful sire Siam. She is the ancestress of the star juvenile pacers Major Moth (2020 2YO Breeders Crown and Australian 2YO male pacer of the year), Flying Moth and Mystic Moth.
- **Christobel US**, the grand- dam of Amazing Don who won 19 metropolitan races in Sydney (12 at Harold Park; seven at Victoria Park) during the period 1930-37.

Directway was educated and raced by well-known Bendigonian, returned Gallipoli veteran, and school teacher George Daniel. Directway won four of seven outings, including a double at Boort. He won a Richmond Handicap at John Wren's Bridge Road track on March of 1909 as an 8YO.

Directway succeeded immediately as a stallion while mixing racing and stud duties. From his first crop in 1904 from mares of diverse breeding, some thoroughbred or part thoroughbred, roadsters and a minority of standardbred mares came Correctway, winner of several races, including a Kyneton Open handicap.

The second crop of 1905 included Bonnie Direct (2:17.0), winner of the 1923 Bendigo Jockey Club Open (aged 18YO!) and Larry Direct who won consecutive Ballarat Trotting Club Flying Handicaps in 1914 and 1915. Directway's third crop produced two champion mares; the 1917 New Zealand Cup winner, Australasian and Australian record holder Adelaide Direct 2:06.4TT and Maffra 2:14.5, the holder of the Australian mile record for 11 years until overtaken by another of Directway's daughters, a champion of West Australia, Coora Direct (2:12.0TT).

Bendigo Advertiser, 7 June 1913:

Adelaide Direct, by Directway, again showed what a rattling mare she is by covering the nine furlongs at 2.19.5 gait at Richmond on Thursday. This eclipses her previous best record. She came out again in the last event. She was penalised 150 yards behind, and just failed to overhaul the leaders. She is a splendid advertisement for M. Matchett's horse Directway and the best of her has not been seen yet.

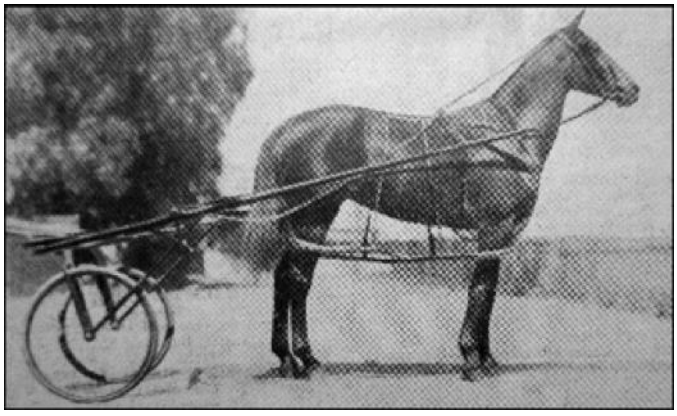
Directway continued to mix stud work with occasional racing. As a 12YO, he competed at the Bendigo Agricultural Show against two of his daughters, Adelaide Direct and Marie Direct.

Bendigo Show (Non-betting)
14 October 1913
Trot, Time Trial (Best Average), four laps (one mile)
£45 gold watch

SJ Lewis	Adelaide Direct (ridden)	2:20.5
R Matchett	Directway	2:22.5
Belmont Stud	Billy Mac	2:23
R Matchett	Marie Direct	2:35.5

Directway [above, right] proved himself one of the greatest sires in Australia up until the advent of Globe Derby, siring a total of 193 winners. He was responsible for siring seven Bendigo Jockey Club Open winners between 1919 and 1933: Alice Bell, Vimy Direct, Landstar, Bonnie Direct, Enice Direct and Gaby Direct. He sired the 1928 Richmond Thousand winner Percy Direct, Adelaide Direct 2:06.4, a champion of West Australia, Coora Direct 2:12, and Maffra 2:14.5, a New South Wales star.

Maffra, as well as winning metropolitan races at Epping (Harold Park) and Victoria Park in Sydney left a daughter Maffra's Way by Chicago. She was the dam of Master Dixie (p,TT2:2.5) by Phoenix Dixie who excelled on the racetrack. In addition to his 16 wins, 13 of them in Sydney, Master Dixie finished a close second to Grand Mogul in the 1940 Inter Dominion in Perth. After retiring from racing, at stud in NSW he sired 107 winners, including the 1948 Victoria Derby winner General Dixie. Twelve of his sons sired winners.



In addition, Directway sired the local Bendigo champion Glideaway [left], the winner of 23 including 13 metropolitan races at Richmond for butcher Alf Petherick. While racing in New Zealand in 1928-29 in the care of expatriate Rochester trainer-driver Bill Tomkinson, she won four: The Premier Handicap of £500, Auckland's Otahuhu Cup of £1,000, the Dominion Handicap of £1,000 and the Dunedin Cup of £725.

Victorian Hall of Fame trainer-driver Bill McKay launched his career with the top class Boort pacing mare Direct Home, a daughter of Directway. Direct Home won nine races in Melbourne (seven at Richmond; two at Ascot), as well as a heat and the rich final of the 1929 Sydney £1,000 at Victoria Park. Directway sired mares that bred on, and his name appears in the pedigree of five Inter Dominion winners including the first winner on points Evicus. Milky Way, a 1911 Directway daughter left five winners when taken to Tasmania. They were Suevic, Emilius Way, Viceus, Icevus and Evicus [below].

One of them, the iron mare Evicus, 2:13.4 by Globe Derby raced an astounding 364 times for 34 wins, 50 seconds and 42 thirds. She won in Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, Western Australia and New Zealand. [To see the complete performance record of Evicus by Bendigo historian Stephen Spark in Victorian Collections, click here: https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/60af21b94d50a3e331f9bf0f].

The Adelaide 1949 Inter Dominion winner Single Direct, the Bridgewater great Gentleman John (Sydney, 1956) and South Australian sensation Minuteman, (Melbourne, 1966) all trace to mares by Directway.

[For video of Minuteman's Inter Dominion click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n28WCrvlzZA]

Directway stood for most of his career for ten guineas, (current equivalent of approx $700). He sired over 1,000 foals so it was possible that his income was in excess of $700,000.

Twenty-Four of Directway's Sons Sired Winners

The majority of his siring sons left less than five winners:
Bonnie Direct 3
Correctway 1
Dannie Direct 1
Decorator 5 and sire of the sire Decorum 4,
Diamond Direct 4 and sire of Message Direct 1
Direct Alto 2
Direct Harry 5
Director sired 1 foal, the New Zealand sire Despot and was then gelded
Direct Pell Mell 1
Directum 1
Dodger Direct 1
Harold Direct 7
Direct B 7
Jimmy Direct 1
Kinlough 1
Leeway 1
MacDirect 2
Stealaway 5

However, others were more successful – Bendigo Direct [below] sired 20 winners when standing in Tasmania. His mares are the ancestors of two cup-class Tasmanian winners in Intersection and Dunlaw Boy.

Celtic, bred from Matchett's imported mare Marie McKinney, was a good Victoria Park winner in Sydney but had limited patronage in NSW, siring only six winners. One of them was the very good Harold Park performer Vychan, foaled in 1921, who won ten metropolitan races.

This report from the *Lithgow Mercury*, 4 September 1930:

VYCHAN'S EASY WIN
Vychan started at 2-to-1 on for the second division of the Trotters' Handicap at Harold Park, and duly won, but it must be confessed, the opposition was not very serious, and it was expected the stewards might have been busy after the event over the showing of some of the performers. Time, 4.53 2-5. Vychan is an aged gelding by Celtic; a horse that should have had better patronage from owners of mares. Of very fine conformation he is by Directway (imp) from Marie McKinney (imp) and one would have to go a long way to find a better bred one. Arthur Reynolds stood him years back at Richmond.

Direction was owned by R Redwood of Bridgewater and sired only 2 winners, but was the dam-sire of Lady Llewellyn. Lady Llewellyn was the dam of Scottish Pride, 1952 Victoria Oaks and 1952 NSW Ladyship (Harold Park) winner for Dave and Malcolm Shaw of Stanhope. Earl Direct sired only two winners. One was Woodside Jack from a Thoroughbred mare. Woodside Jack p,2.17, foaled in 1935, left only six winners. However, one of them was the mare Miss Edna (2.23.75). Miss Edna started a strong family around the Charlton and Wedderburn districts from which came Edna Scott (2:12.2) and her Floodlight-sired son of 1969 WA James Brennan Cup winner Vice Master. Another was Ally Luvzit (17 wins, $162,340) and her daughter the brilliant Jedi Mind (1:52.2 $260,542).

Straight Away (2:28.8), a Directway foal of 1913, bred and raced by Tom Allen Snr from Glenloth north of Charlton, sired 25 winners. One of his daughters Tearaway was the dam of the brilliant Main Derby by New Derby, winner of 11 races at Ascot, and three Inter Dominion heats (one at Elphin 1939, two at Gloucester Park 1940) for Northcote trainer-driver Alf Butcher. Tearaway also left Northway, the ancestress of Simpsonic (1:59.4), with the 1971 Victorian Sapling and Sires Produce Stakes among his 15 Melbourne Showgrounds wins. A 1932 daughter, Golden Way, was the dam of the 15-times Perth winner Scott's Way, bred at Woodend, who sired Dainty's Daughter (1:58.8) [above], a star in Western Australia winning 33 metropolitan races.

Otterway, another daughter of Straight Away, was the ancestress of the 1990 NSW Derby winner, and 1991 Freemantle Cup winner, Charlton's Imprimatur (1:59.0, $278,740). Auburn Lad (TT2:02.4), a gelding by Globe Derby from a WW Estill daughter named Velocity, from an unnamed Directway mare was a star. He won eight races in Melbourne (five at Richmond; three at Ascot). He set an Australian Pacers Gelding Mile Record (1933, TT2:09.25). He won 1929 and 1930 Bendigo Jockey Club Opens, and when taken to NZ, won the 1934 President's Handicap at Addington In Christchurch.

Directway's Descendants Continue to Excel

A new Australasian mile record for three-year-old trotters was established by the Sebastian K gelding On Advice of 1:54.5 when he won NSW Foundation Series Final at Menangle in June 2021. On Advice also won the Foundation Series as a two-year-old.

[Watch On Advice here: https://www.harness.org.au/racing/fields/race-fields/?mc=PC190621#PCM19062102]

On Advice is the first foal of Sunny Imperial, a sister to the NSW Foundation 2YO and Bathurst Gold Coronet winner Pegasus Elegance (1:54.6, $128,060), by Pegasus Spur from a Group-winning trotter in Sunny Elegant (1:57.2, $102,330), by Sundon from the champion NZ trotting mare Merinai.

Merinai, seven generations on from the Directway mare Rarebell Direct, won 19 of her 27 starts and $244,155 in stakes including the Dominion Handicap, Rowe Cup and NZ National Trot, and was named as NZ Horse of the Year in 1998. At the stud Merinai left Miss Pegasus (nine wins, $86,391), Madam Spur 2:00.9 (five wins), Wingsonahai (seven wins) and the Armbro Invasion mare Classic Armbro, dam of Sertorius (1:58.6, ten wins and $138,723) and the NZ 2YO Trotting Filly of the Year Tailored Elegance (1:58.7, $96,226).

On Advice, is a member of the A18 Johnstone's Rebel Childe Mare family. The Directway mare, bred at Leichardt 20km west of Bendigo, Rarebell Direct founded a successful branch of this family in 1918. When taken to New Zealand after winning in Tasmania, she became the dam of the Timaru and Greymouth Cups winner Isabel Derby and the Grattan Loyal mare Loyal Direct (2:11.4), the dam of the 1949 Inter Dominion champion Single Direct [right]. From Directway's daughter Rarebell Direct to On Advice is ten generations down the generational line.

An unnamed Directway mare, the dam of the Vin Direct mare Lady Venture founded the A63 family that has produced a number of Australia's best trotters. Lady Venture's descendent by Entrepreneur, Fionas Flare (six generations on) has been responsible for a remarkable clan. These include: Banglez, (Majestic Son x Gypsy Flair) who was 2020 Australian filly 2YO trotter of the year, while the mare Araignee Flair by Yankee Spider won the 2021 HRNSW 4YO & 5YO Trot NSW Final.

[Watch the race here: https://www.harness.org.au/racing/fields/race-fields/?mc=PC100721#PCM10072106]

Down Under Muscles, Mighty Maori and A Son Of Flair each won in excess of $200,000, while A Touch of Flair [right] (T1:52.3US $569,197) was also successful in the USA and Scandinavia. Others in this family include the dual Oaks winner Lynmont, Lindsay Scott, Power Of Carome (SA Derby) and Oscar Le Vant ($213,240, 2000 3YO Breeders Crown). Directway did as Alan Leavitt wrote, "It is essential that the original spring produced plenty of good water".

Then Came All Style

All Style US (TR.2:10) brown entire. Foaled 1906 and imported 1913. By Stam B from Zaya by Bay Bird. Crowe went back to America and returned with All Style, who was the first 2:10 trotter imported into Australia. All Style sired 70 winners, 48 of them pacers.

[For an American article with details of All Style's US career, click here: https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article226783359.txt].

The *Bendigo Advertiser* wrote on 25 August 1913:
All Style, the great American trotting stallion, imported from America by Mr. R. Matchett, the proprietor of the Adelaide Hill Stud Farm arrived in Bendigo on Saturday in charge of Mr R P Crowe, who went to America specially to select a stallion on Mr Matchett's behalf. All Style was accompanied by a thoroughbred American trotting mare. Both arrived in excellent condition. The voyage across was very rough, but the horses stood it well. All Style evoked high praise when on view at Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne, Mr Glasscock, the well-known Indian horse trader, being quite enthusiastic over the horse's appearance.

All Style is a beautifully proportioned horse and America's loss should be Bendigo's gain. All Style is a dark brown horse, beautifully built and standing about 15.3 hands high. All Style, who had a winning record of 2.10, held the Californian trotting record for three one-mile heats on a half mile track. He has no difficulty in bringing a fee of 10 guineas. As it took several thousand pounds to land him in Australia, this can be easily understood.*

* The 2021 approximate equivalent of £7,000 is $98,000

Among All Style's 70 winners were the metropolitan winners A la Mode (2.22), Fashion Plate and First Fashion, which raced in New Zealand. Smart Set (2.28), Jack Style, Celmar Style and Dux Star were among the others that had fast (for that era) records. All Style was the sire or grandsire of class horses including:

- A La Mode, 2.14 [right] (Richmond Fleet Cup £500)

- Marion Style, 2.18 (two Melbourne Trotters' Cups)
- Grand Style, (Melbourne Trotter's Cup £500)
- Hushyle (Sydney £500)
- First Fashion (four £500 races in New Zealand)
- The Ape (Tasmanian Derby)

All Style's daughter Victoria, from the Owyhee mare Alice Taylor, from an imported daughter of Charles Derby in Sihamba, started a productive branch of the huge American U2 Minnehaha family.

Classic Families records Victoria's descendants:

Victoria 1914 (F U2) by All Style
- Fitchs Tennessee Direct Mare 192* (F U2) by Tennessee Direct
- Raywood Derby 1946 (F U2) by Great Derby - 2:13.4
- Joyce Avian 1959 (F U2 by Avian Again - 2:11.6
  - Gay Emma 1969 (F U2) by Kudos
    - Dame Edna 1976 (F U2) by Scottish Bret - 2:06.2 $7,188
      - **Count Beckaman 1990 (G U2) by Butler BG - 2:04.1 $24,530**
    - Passing Shot 1984 (F U2) by Shadow Star
      - **Grimster 1989 (G U2) by Young Dancer - 2:02.9 $23,927**
  - Moon Moth 1970 (F U2) by Kudos - 2:07.1 $8,367
  - Mystic Moth 1977 (F U2) by Jerry Adios
  - Majestic Moth 1993 (F U2) by Riverlea Jack - 2:01.9 $30,825
    - Macy Lila 2005 (F U2) by Presidential Ball - 1:58.6 $38,675
      - **Major Moth 2017 (M U2) by Art Major - 1:55.4 $203,565**
  - Moody Moth 1994 (F U2) by Classic Garry
    - **Flying Moth 2013 (F U2) by Art Major - 1:53.1 $123,355**
    - **Lively Moth 2007 (F U2) by Live Or Die - 1:53.1 $232,585**

The most recent winning descendent of All Style is the 2020 Victorian 2YO male Horse of The Year Major Moth [left] (1:55.4), by Art Major, winner of a heat, semi-final and final of the 2020 2YO Colts and Geldings Breeders Crown. From only nine starts he has already won $203,565.

Number Five: Direct Argot

Direct Argot US black entire (p,2:21.5) Foaled 1918 and imported 1921, by Direct's Star from Argot Belle, and sire of 27 pacers. In 1921, Matchett and Crowe imported another Direct sire-line stallion, the pacer Direct Argot. He was unraced, and from a family of little consequence, but was a half-brother to the US FFA horse Directum J (2:01.25), winner of at least five Grand Circuit races, and leading US stake earner of 1918. Again, Matchett was able to draw attention to his import trough the newspapers.

From the *Sporting Globe*, 2 April 1924:

The latest arrival at Adelaide Hill is the five-year-old Imported horse Direct Argot, a beautiful black horse and a natural pacer. He claims to be one of the best- bred pacing stallions ever brought from America, being closely related to many two-minute and better horses. Direct Argot, on his sire's side, is related to Directway —Direct, the sire of Directway, being the grandsire of Direct Argot. None of the stock produced by Direct Argot is yet old enough to race, but located at Adelaide Hill are several yearlings by him who bear the appearance of being fine performers. There are three fillies and one colt, all out of American mares, and are valued at between 150 guineas and 200 guineas each.

Direct Argot spent four seasons at Adelaide Hill, 1929 at Albert Park, and was then sold to Mount Gambier in South Australia where he stood from 1930-1932. He had three sons who sired winners: Direct Mil (two; a son Bright Wyn won seven races at Wayville), Smart Argot (one) and Targot Direct (two). The male line soon finished. Of his daughters, Whimsical a member of the A11 family left four winners, all by General Mavista, a stallion bred at Rockbank by the Cockbill family, that stood at Harvey in WA.

Whimsical's produce were: Lily Girl, winner of 11 Perth metropolitan races; Sergeant Murphy who won the 1945 WA Cummins Cup; Valista who won the 1944 WA Derby and Wise General who won 14 metropolitan races in Perth (13 at Gloucester Park, and one at Richmond). Whimista, a 1936 daughter also by General Mavista left Rulista who won the 1949 Kellerberrin (WA) Cup. Others of note that have descended from Direct Argot mares are:

- From Susie Direct: Gypsy Butler ($112,964),1982 Victorian Navy Cup and the Melbourne Showgrounds winner, Warren John (1:59.3US).
- From Lady Argot: Redwin: Harold Park FFAs. 1961 Inter Dominion heat at Addington, FFA Richmond WA, 1962 Inter Dominion heat at Gloucester Park.
- June Argot, a half-sister to the Matchett product A La Mode is the fourth dam of Even Break (2:02.2), winner of 11 metropolitan races in Perth, Negro Dancer (2:07). 1960 NSW Oaks, and Negro Singer (2:17.0) 1958 SA Breeders Plate.

Finally, Tennessee Direct

Tennessee Direct US, bay entire (p,2:21.5) Foaled 1923 and imported 1925. By Napoleon Direct from Bet Hal by Argot Hal. Matchett and Crowe went back again to the Direct sire line for their sixth import Tennessee Direct. He was by Napoleon Direct, by Walter Direct, by Direct Hal by Direct. Napoleon Direct was sire of the world record pacer and sire Billy Direct (1:55.0USTT).

Tennessee Direct [left] was from the U71 family. A most recent import down-under from this family was the sire Presidential Ball (1:50.0, $3,021,363), sire of 293 in North America and Australasia, and leading sire of 2YOs in Australia in 1994. Tennessee Direct was the last of the stallions imported for Adelaide Hill, and only stayed at the stud for three years due to the death of Robert Matchett in 1928, when the stud ceased as a business.

Tennessee Direct was a 'man-eater'. Reputedly a very difficult horse to manage, he was trained and raced by George Daniel [below] from his stables in White Hills, (now the site of Napier Park Funerals). He recorded at least two wins – a Bendigo Trotting Club Open in 1930 and a Flying Handicap at Boort in 1932.

Bendigo Trotting Club, 12 April 1930
Flying - £35, one mile

Tennessee Direct, scratch	D George
Percy Direct, 48 yards	P Glasheen
Donvin Chimes, scratch	D Hughes

Others: Emmett (12 yards, T Taylor), Dixies Pride (24 yards, C Caldwell), Moyne (24 yards, W Lea), Glideaway (84 yards, A Petherick).
Margins: Two yards by one yard
Time: 2:21.8 (WR: 2:21.8)

A report in *The Age* in 1929 gives some idea of the challenges Tennessee Direct presented to trainers and drivers.

The Age, 16 August 1929:

A SENSATIONAL BOLT: Trotting Sulky Capsized and Driver Dragged Along Ground

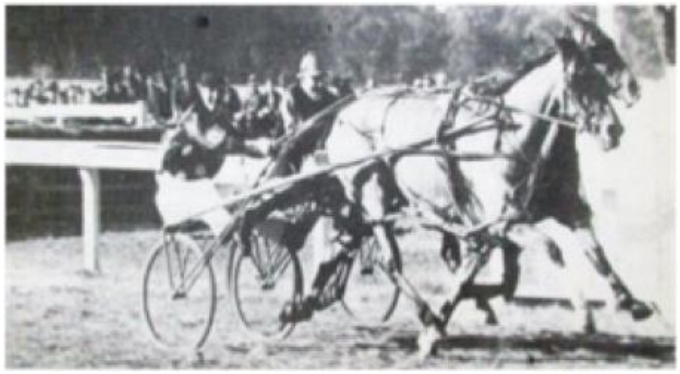
BENDIGO, Thursday. While taking two horses from the stable of 'D.George' (the racing nom de plume *of school teacher George Daniel) to Bendigo Racecourse today, H Storey a well-known trotting driver had a narrow escape from serious injury. Storey was driving Tennessee Direct in a sulky and leading Diana Wood. As he entered the outside enclosure of the course Tennessee Direct swerved suddenly causing the sulky to capsize. Diana Wood immediately broke away and Tennessee Direct bolted. Storey's raincoat having been*

caught in a wheel of the sulky he was dragged helplessly along the ground in a perilous position. Before reaching the main entrance gates the sulky struck several trees.

Galloping through the gates Tennessee Direct careered along the road towards the railway crossing, about a quarter of a mile from the course, where Constable Naughton made a plucky attempt to stop the runaway. He was knocked over and landed in a pool of mud on the roadside. Railway employees who were on duty at the crossing managed to stop Tennessee Direct and to release Storey who was found to be little the worse for his exciting experience. Later in the afternoon Storey drove in the Handicap Trot at the Bendigo Jockey Club's meeting. Both Tennessee Direct and Diana Wood competed in the race.

During the three years in residence at Adelaide Hill Stud, Tennessee Direct sired good winners including:

- Crystal Set (six wins in Melbourne)
- James Direct (five in Melbourne at Ascot)
- Miss Cliveden (1936 Bendigo Jockey Club Open)
- Red Direct (1936 Boort Cup, Bendigo Jockey Club Open, Kerang Turf Club Open and five at Ascot)
- Stylish Tennessee (2:18.4)
- Prince Pirate (seven at Ascot)
- Tennessee Wood (Won ten races at Ascot)
- Cooraminta [below] (1937 Bendigo Jockey Club Open)



Tennessee Direct had the opportunity while at Adelaide Hill to mate with mares by Directway and All Style. From the Directway mare Freda Direct he sired James Direct (five metropolitan wins at Ascot). From the All Style mare Smart Set came Crystal Set and from another All Style daughter Stylish Hazel came Stylish Tennessee. His fast son Tennessee Wood (2:12.8) was from a daughter of Admiral Wood who stood "up the road" from Huntly at Elmore. Regarded as best 3YO of his year but not nominated for any Derby he won ten races at new Ascot (VIC) for Hall of Famer, Bill McKay. Tennessee Direct sired four sons who left winners at stud: Direct Hal (one), Master Tennessee (four), Tennesseem (one) and Stylish Tennessee.

After Robert Matchett died in 1928 and the stud closed, Tennessee Direct was moved to Tennyson, between Bendigo and Lockington, where he stood a season. He then was acquired by Les Martin a storekeeper and farmer at Dalton NSW. Martin achieved fame as the breeder, owner, trainer and driver of the champion son of Globe Derby, Walla Walla [right].

At Dalton, under the ownership of Martin, Tennessee Direct was at stud with Walla Walla who had been mixing racing and stud duties until his retirement from the track in 1934. It was from four daughters of Walla Walla that Tennessee Direct found 'crosses of gold'. The four were The Wasp, Lady Mirth, Norah Tennessee and Lily Direct. The Wasp was the dam of Gay Tennessee (2:12.0) winner of six at Harold Park, a WA Winter Cup and WA Richmond FFA. Lady Mirth was the dam of Miss Mirth, in turn the dam of Mirthful Lass (2:10.8), the dam of Adaptor and Aransas.

Mirthful Lass was a good race-mare in the hands of owner Steve Tuohey and driver Bill Rothacker, and later Ted Zimmer who won six with her. Mirthful Lass was bred by Tuohey to the Adios import Dick Adios and produced the brilliant pacer Adaptor. Trained and driven by Jack Hargreaves at Korong Vale, Adaptor [left] won 25 including the 1966 NSW Sires Produce and heats of the NSW and Victoria Derbies despite being hampered by his reluctance to step away from standing starts. He won the 1969 Bendigo Cup after being slowly away, and then from the mobile barrier easily won the 1969 Miracle Mile in Sydney. He was then sold to the USA for a record price, where he was moderately successful, winning four races and later stood at stud.

[Watch the 1960 Miracle Mile at Harold Park here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj2XaRPn-8w]

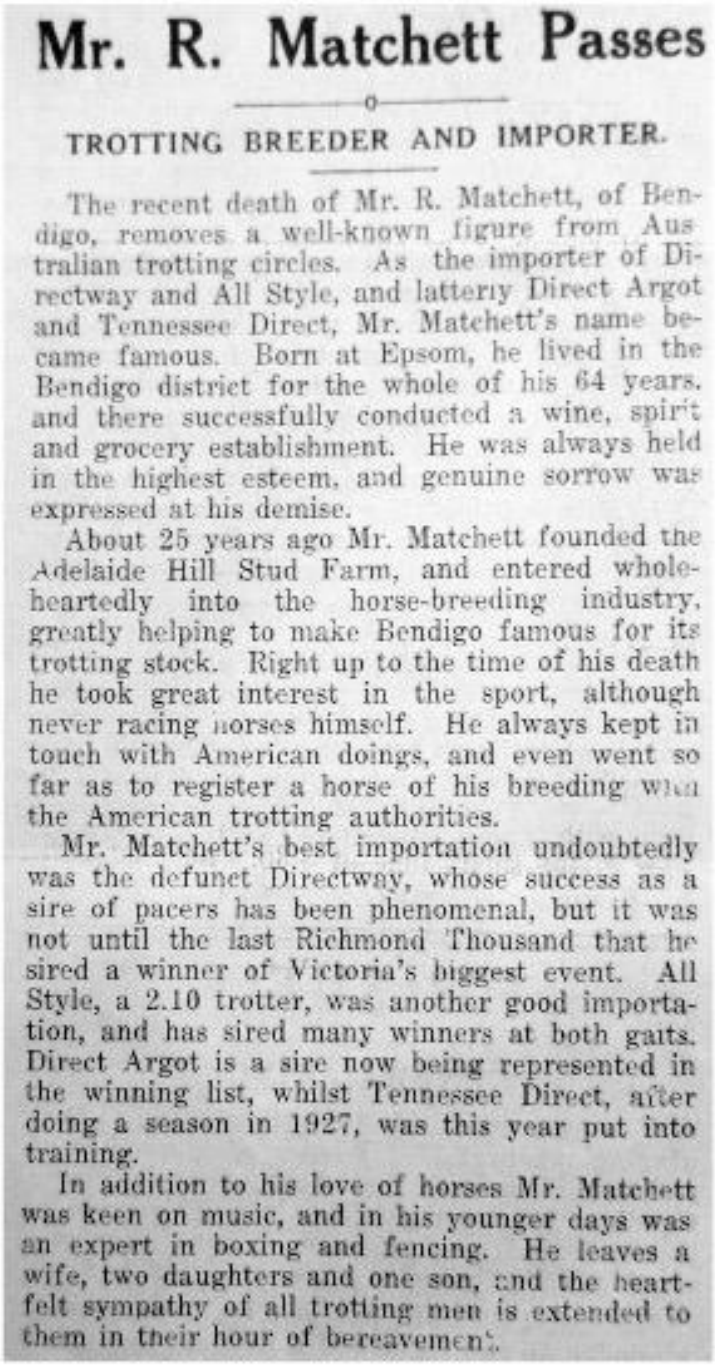
Norah Tennessee was the ancestor of Martins Square, who won eight Adelaide races at Wayville, and Rocket Jason (1:59.2, $210,704), winner of the 1987 NSW Tatlow Stakes and the Bathurst Gold Crown for 2YO colts and NSW Sapling Stakes.

Norah Tennessee 1941 (F U304) by Tennessee Direct
- **Martins Square 1953 (M U304) by Grand Scott - 2:13.1**
- Norahs Maid 1954 (F U304) by Van Ayr
  - Frisco Quake 1964 (F U304) by Frisco Sky
  - Rock N Rumble 1971 (F U304) by Dashing Brucus - Pacer $90
  - Ainslie Glen 1990 (F U304) by Ironstone Fella - Pacer $0
    - **Rocket Jason 1984 (G U304) by JR Skipper - 1:59.2 $210,704**
- Spring Jewel 1950 (F U304) by Springfield Globe - 2:13.0
- **Beatnik Boy 1959 (M U304) by Stanton Hal - 2:09.5**
- Jewellery 1961 (F U304) by James Dillon - 2:13.0
- Lone 1971 (F U304) by Johnnie Vance - Pacer $40
- **Langus Lane 1982 (M U304) by Langus Hanover - 1:59.7 $85,326**

Lily Direct a 1948 daughter of Tennessee Direct from a half-sister to the Inter Dominion winner and champion sire of 355 winners Radiant Robert left Tennessee Sky. He won 12 Perth metropolitan races at Gloucester Park (WA), and ten Sydney races at Harold Park (NSW) including the 1950 NSW Derby. Tennessee Sky won the 1954 Adelaide Inter Dominion for Frank Kersley.

At An End

After Matchett imported Direct Argot and Tennessee Direct, time was running out for both the principal and the enterprise. It was the end of a dream when he died in November 1928 aged 63, and Bob Crowe retired.



Mr. R. Matchett Passes

TROTTING BREEDER AND IMPORTER.

The recent death of Mr. R. Matchett, of Bendigo, removes a well-known figure from Australian trotting circles. As the importer of Directway and All Style, and latterly Direct Argot and Tennessee Direct, Mr. Matchett's name became famous. Born at Epsom, he lived in the Bendigo district for the whole of his 64 years, and there successfully conducted a wine, spirit and grocery establishment. He was always held in the highest esteem, and genuine sorrow was expressed at his demise.

About 25 years ago Mr. Matchett founded the Adelaide Hill Stud Farm, and entered wholeheartedly into the horse-breeding industry, greatly helping to make Bendigo famous for its trotting stock. Right up to the time of his death he took great interest in the sport, although never racing horses himself. He always kept in touch with American doings, and even went so far as to register a horse of his breeding with the American trotting authorities.

Mr. Matchett's best importation undoubtedly was the defunct Directway, whose success as a sire of pacers has been phenomenal, but it was not until the last Richmond Thousand that he sired a winner of Victoria's biggest event. All Style, a 2.10 trotter, was another good importation, and has sired many winners at both gaits. Direct Argot is a sire now being represented in the winning list, whilst Tennessee Direct, after doing a season in 1927, was this year put into training.

In addition to his love of horses Mr. Matchett was keen on music, and in his younger days was an expert in boxing and fencing. He leaves a wife, two daughters and one son, and the heartfelt sympathy of all trotting men is extended to them in their hour of bereavement.

At A Glance

Stallion	Best MR	Foaled	Origin	Import Date	Sire	Winners	Damsire Of
Rex Derby	2:16.0TT	1899	California US	1900	Charles Derby	8	5
Victor McKinney	-	1901	US	Unknown	McKinney	5	8
Directway	2:23.0	1901	California US	1903	Direct	193	132
All Style	T2:10.0	1906	California US	1913	Stam B	70	44
Direct Argot	-	1918	Ohio US	1921	Direct's Star	27	27
Tennessee Direct	2:21.5	1923	Tennessee US	1925	Napoleon Direct	39	22

Appendix – Images in Order of Use

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Gentleman John
Adaptor
Our Sir Vancelot
Boccaccio
Boccaccio advertisement
Honest Harry
Burnewang Park stables
Von Atoms advertisement
Walter Scott advertisement
Epsom Racecourse, aerial photo 1926
Robert Matchett
Adelaide Hill stables
Young Osterley advert
Robert Crowe
Willowcliffe
Kirk's Bazaar, Bourke Street Melbourne
Billy Direct
Directway at the Bendigo Show
Glideaway
Milky Way with progeny Usivec, Viceus, Seuvic, Emilius Way (originally Civeus), Sivecu, Evicus & Creamy Way
Bendigo Direct
Dainty's Daughter
Single Direct with E Kennerley, 1949 Inter Dominion at Wayville
A Touch of Flair
A La Mode with Harry Toomer
Major Moth
Tennessee Direct
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