



Lady Wentworth with Skowronek, 1927

With permission from the Lytton Estate

By Janet de Acevedo Macdonald

Domestic-Bred Arabians

Some ABCs for CMK

Part 1 of a year long series focusing on different Arabian strains



W.B. Brown



W.K. Kellogg

CMK stands for “Crabbet-Maynesboro-Kellogg” and recognizes three programs still central in today’s North American Arabian horse breeding tradition. The “C” for the Crabbet Arabian Stud was established in 1878 by Sir Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt at their estate in Sussex, England, not long after the couple traveled to “Arabia,” present day Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, in the late 1800s. The Crabbet breeding program was continued by Lady Anne’s daughter Lady Judith Wentworth, who added the Polish outcross Skowronek. After Lady Wentworth’s death in 1957, Cecil G. Covey continued the program until the farm closed in the early 1970s. “CMK” is a registered U.S. trademark.

The “M” in CMK represents the Maynesboro Stud founded in 1912 by William Robinson Brown in New Berlin, N.H. As the program expanded,

he later added farms in Decorah, Iowa, and Cody, Wyo. Brown was a corporate officer for his family’s pulp and papermaking business, Brown Company. He imported horses from the Crabbet Arabian Stud and farms in France and Egypt. At its peak, Maynesboro was the largest Arabian horse breeding operation in the United States.

In 1925, 65-year-old cereal magnate Will Keith Kellogg of Battle Creek, Mich., the “K” in CMK, began a breeding program at his winter home in Pomona, Calif. Today’s W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center was established to fulfill his childhood dream of owning an Arabian horse ranch. Seeking the finest Arabian bloodlines of the day, Kellogg acquired horses from within the United States and abroad, including several horses from Lady Wentworth’s Crabbet Arabian Stud.

The Chicago World’s Fair

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ first voyage to the New World, the United States held the World’s Columbian Exposition, more popularly known as The Chicago World’s Fair, from May 1, to October 30, 1893. The previous 1889 World Fair’s in Paris had an exposition area of 200 acres and had introduced the phonograph and the Eiffel Tower. The American planners sought to outdo France.

The first of its kind to be held in the Midwest, the Chicago World’s Fair was on a 690 acre fairground with 200 buildings exhibiting art, food, technological advances and entertainment for its 26 million visitors. Like a phoenix from the ashes, the Fair showcased the city that had survived the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. Many innovations were introduced to the public, among them: the Ferris Wheel, Wrigley’s Juicy Fruit chewing gum, the candy-coated popcorn Cracker Jack, pressed commemorative pennies,

new telephones, an electric railway, neon lights, and the dishwasher. Undoubtedly, horse lovers of every stripe strolling the Fair’s vast Midway Plaisance lingered to marvel at the 45 Arabian horses imported by the Hamidie Hippodrome Society as part of the Ottoman Empire’s exhibition. Its likely Chicagoans only interaction with a horse were the draft horses that pulled the streetcars. Still stateside in 1894, these World’s Fair Arabians were auctioned as collateral to pay a debt related to the exhibition. Yet, these desert-bred horses served as inspiration to individuals who would seek out other desert-bred Arabians, learn from the meticulous, closely-held breeding programs in the Middle East, and launch the legendary breeding farms of today’s American Domestic-bred Arabians.

Will Keith Kellogg 1860-1951 The Kellogg Ranch

In 1925, the cereal king from Battle

Creek, Mich., Will Keith Kellogg, generally referred to as W.K. Kellogg, purchased 377 acres in Pomona, Calif. and established the Kellogg Ranch. Kellogg had a life-long interest in horses, particularly Arabian horses. To bring the finest as foundation stock, Kellogg started with horses from Homer Davenport and W.R. Brown’s Maynesboro Stud. He then imported horses from Crabbet Park, most notably *Raseyn, whose line includes son Ferseyn, who sired Ferneyn, who sired, Ferzon, the most important stallion in the Gainey Arabians program in Minnesota, Arizona and, finally, Santa Ynez, Calif. Ferzeyn sired Khemosabi++++//, and U.S. National Champion Racehorse Kontiki, a member of the Arabian Jockey Club’s Racing Hall of Fame, an honorary program that recognized great Arabian racehorses.

It’s safe to say, Kellogg was one of the finest ambassadors for the Arabian horse. Early on, he established weekly Sunday afternoon exhibitions at the

ranch that were as famous as they were well attended. The horses jumped, did tricks, showed off beautiful gaits at collection and extension, plus they were exquisite and friendly. For many, it was love at first sight.

In 1932, Kellogg donated the ranch, now near doubled in size to 750 acres, to the University of California. In 1933, during the Great Depression, the ranch obtained some of the horses sold in the dispersal of Brown's Maynesboro Stud.

During World War II, the U.S. Army used the ranch as the Pomona Quartermaster Depot Remount, where war horses were bred. The Polish Arabians arrived in April, 1946.

While Kellogg had a successful and growing horse operation, Pomona was always his winter home. Ever the native Michigander, Kellogg donated some of his property near Battle Creek, Mich., to yet another thriving Arabian horse education, breeding and show program. Michigan State University in Lansing is the third oldest Arabian horse breeding program on the continent behind Al-Marah Arabians and the Kellogg program in Pomona. In 1932, Kellogg donated the Purebred Arabian stallion Amidore as a foundation to its breeding program. A Michigan native, Kellogg had been supporting research and education at Michigan State for several years. Amidore was joined by two Purebred Arabian mares in 1942, creating the core of the Arabian breeding program at the university. In the 1960s, MSU imported the Egyptian stallion *Ghalii and the Crabbet mare, *Silfretta, the 1956 Champion Yearling of England, further setting the standard for the breeding program that continues today.

After the Army ceased using the ranch, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which controlled it briefly, sold it to the W.K. Kellogg



*Raseyn

Foundation in 1949 for \$1. Two years later, the foundation signed over the now 813 acre ranch and its horses to the California State University system with the requirements that it be used for education, that the Arabian horse herd be maintained, and the Sunday horse shows continue. Today, the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center continues to meet those requirements with an award-winning breeding program and a well-respected university that holds the traditional Sunday horse shows for the public.

William Robinson Brown

1875-1955

The Maynesboro Stud

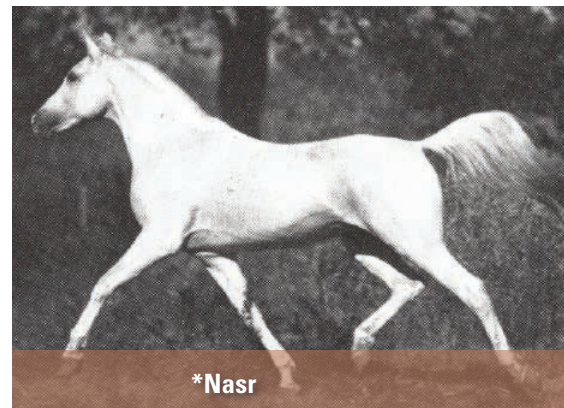
In 1912, William Robinson Brown established the Maynesboro Stud in New Berlin, N.H. As founder and owner, he later added farms in Decorah, Iowa, and Cody, Wyo. In addition to serving as a corporate officer for his family's pulp and papermaking business, Brown Company, W.R. Brown served as President of the Arabian Horse Club of America, now part of the Arabian Horse Association, from 1918 until 1939. He is credited as the breeder of 194 horses and became known as one of the most knowledgeable breeders and authorities on Arabians.

Brown also served on the board of the U.S. Army Remount Service, a part of the Quartermaster Corps that provided horses as remounts to

U.S. Army units. Brown was keen to prove that Arabian horses, because of their endurance and durability, were the breed best suited for the Remount Service. Horse cavalry started to be phased out after World War I in favor of tank warfare, though a few cavalry units were still used into World War II, mainly as scouts. At the beginning of the 20th century before the conversion to tanks, many countries, including the United States, several in Western Europe, and Russia, were working to breed a better war horse. To have evidence to support his theory, Brown actively encouraged the participation of Arabians in competitive Endurance races. Most Maynesboro horses were trained to ride and drive, many were used in Endurance races, and others shown.

While traveling to Europe with the U.S. Army Remount Service in 1921, Brown visited many of the major European studs in Austria, France, and Hungary. He met Lady Wentworth at Crabbet Stud in England on the way home, but did not buy any horses from her ladyship. Later that year and again in 1922, Brown imported mares from France.

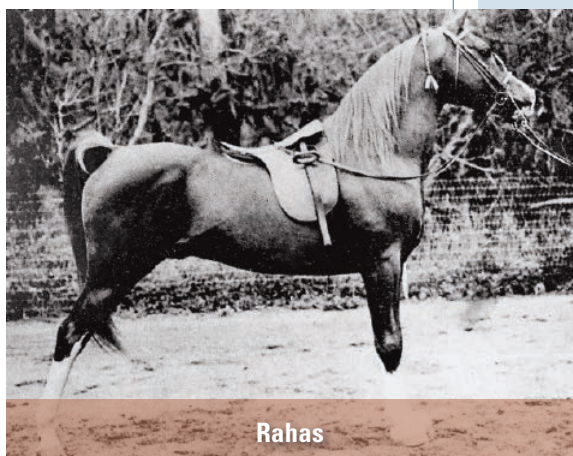
In late 1929, Brown wrote, "The Horse of the Desert," touted as one of the best researched books of its kind. Its chapters included: Habitat; Origin and History; Anatomical, Physical and Mental Qualities; Bloodlines; and Closely Related Breeds. Illustrated with approximately 180 black-and-white photographs, it also contained



*Nasr



William Randolph Hearst III



Rahas

an account of Brown's early 1929 overland journey to Egypt and Syria with Charles Raswan.

In 1932, Brown sent his Maynesboro Stud manager, Jack Humphrey, to Egypt, where he bought two stallions and four mares from Prince Mohammed Ali Tewfik. The Prince was known for his published two-volume thesis on the breeding of Arabian horses. Two of the mares and one of the stallions (*Zarife) Humphrey purchased on Brown's behalf were out of Mahroussa, epitomized as one of the most beautiful mares of her time. *Nasr, who had a very good career in Egypt as a racehorse, was the other stallion.

In 1933 during the Great Depression, in an effort to keep Brown Company

1863-1951

William Randolph Hearst & San Simeon Arabians

During the early 20th century, newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst owned one of the largest herds of Arabians in the country at his San Simeon estate positioned along California State Route 1, approximately halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In the 1930s, Hearst purchased his starting stock from Maynesboro Stud founder, William Robinson Brown, who also served as president of the Arabian Horse Club at that time. Brown had acquired most of his stock from the Crabbet Park Stud in England, and from farms in France and Egypt. Hearst imported these horses to California, and through additional purchases with help from another president of the Arabian Horse Club, Albert Harris, owner of Kemah Arabian Farm, San Simeon's Arabian horse breeding program began to grow.

In 1947, deciding he needed fresh Arabian bloodlines, Hearst sent his breeding program manager, Preston Dyer, Jr., who had worked as a horse manager for U.S. Army General George Patton, on another quest of Arabian breeding farms in England, France, and Egypt. W.K. Kellogg's grandson, John Williamson was the mission's official photographer, and George Randolph Hearst, Sr., the eldest son of William Randolph Hearst, represented the family interests. Finally, after almost a year on the road, Dyer traveled to Beirut, where he met the former French foreign minister to Lebanon, Henri Philippe Pharaoun. Dyer chose six stallions and eight mares; a mix from Pharaoun's horses and others from nearby desert tribes. These 14 horses, ranging in age from two- to 11-years-old, all Syrian desert-bred, were shipped by sea, train and truck some 7,400 miles back to the San Simeon estate. All arrived in good health, which was attributed by some to their desert-bred hardiness.

The 1947 Hearst horses from Syria and Lebanon blended beautifully with the Kellogg and Maynesboro stock already at San Simeon. Sadly, William Randolph Hearst died in 1951, not living long enough to see the outcomes from these breeding purchases. After his father's death, William Randolph Hearst, Jr. and his wife, Austine McDonnell Hearst, continued the high standards of breeding.

That level of quality continues today under their sons, William Randolph Hearst III and Austin Hearst.

San Simeon Arabians is still a working ranch today. To see the descendants of the Arabian horse program William Randolph Hearst began in the 1930s, schedule an appointment for a visit. www.sansimeonarabians.com or call (805) 972-4522 ■



San Simeon stallions left to right - Joon, Rahas, Sabab, Gulastra, Kasar, Ghazi

April 22, 1946

The Polish Arabians Come to California

In **"The Romance of the Kellogg Ranch,"** author Mary Jane Parkinson explains that in April 1945, Dr. Rudolph Lessing, a German veterinarian and Adjutant to the Chief of Military Studs, contacted 1st Lt. William D. Quinlivan's 42nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Group, then stationed near the German-Czechoslovakian border. He requested that the Americans capture horses the Germans had in Hostau, Czechoslovakia, to prevent them falling into Russian hands. The Germans had captured horses from various countries in Europe and assembled a stud at Hostau. The Americans subsequently took possession of these horses, which made them prizes of war. The horses were then "caravanned" to Mosbach, Germany, the site of another German state stud, by then under control of General Patton's Third Army.



U.S. Army Remount

There, Col. Fred Hamilton, Chief of the U.S. Remount, and other American officers, selected 18 Purebred Arabians, 16 grade Arabians, 63 Thoroughbreds, nine Lipizzaners, and 37 Half-Breds to come to the United States. Two trainloads of horses were sent to Bremerhaven, where they were placed on a Liberty ship and crossed the Atlantic, arriving in Virginia. Eventually, the Arabs, grade Arabs, and Lipizzaners were sent to the Kellogg Ranch in Pomona, Calif. where the first of them arrived April 22, 1946.

In her 2016 book, *"The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless*

Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis," Elizabeth Letts reveals that in the closing days of the Second World War, the Allies uncovered Adolf Hitler's shocking secret plan to breed a master race... of horses. Hers is a compelling account for animal lovers and World War II buffs alike.

Among the group of horses that walked 200 miles were the stallions *Witez II and *Lotnik. Among the mares were Chloe, a foundation mare in the U.S.; *Iwonka III, the grandam of *Bask, one of the most influential Arabians in the U.S.; and *Wierna, the grandam of Sheila Varian's Bay-Abi++. 1st Lt. Quinlivan and a companion rode *Lotnik and *Wierna, side-by-side, bareback from Hostau to Mosbach. ■

solvent, his Maynesboro herd was dispersed amongst four fellow Arabian breeders: W.K. Kellogg; Roger Selby, who established the Selby Stud in Portsmouth, Ohio with 20 horses imported from Lady Wentworth's Crabbet Stud between 1928 and 1933, including the 13.3hh grey stallion, *Raffles; newspaper publisher, William Randolph Hearst of San Simeon Stables in Calif., who later imported 14 Syrian desert-bred horses from Lebanon in 1947; and General Jacob McGavock Dickinson, Jr., of Travelers Rest in Franklin, Tenn.

Carl Reinhard [Schmidt] Raswan 1893-1966

Carl Raswan was born Carl Schmidt in Dresden, Germany. He grew up around horses, starting out with his beloved pony, Philie, a gift from his father. His studies focused on classical languages and school holidays were spent riding. An enthusiastic pupil of anything to do with horses — be it paintings, sculptures or books, Raswan came across Lady Anne Blunt's "A Pilgrimage to Nejd," tales of her exotic journeys to Arabia in 1875. At age 18, at the invitation of a cousin who lived and worked

in Egypt, Raswan made his first trip to the Middle East. He spent the next four years traveling throughout the region meeting horse-breeding Bedouin tribes and learning their customs and family life. These excursions help to further educate Raswan in his ongoing search for the "dream horse."

While Raswan would know many Arabian horses in his life, two were in the dream horse category. The first, Ghazal, he wrote about in his book, "Drinkers of the Wind." Ghazal, which translates to "gazelle" in English, was a gift from the young Bedouin Prince Fawaz as-Shaalan, with whom he had a close, life-long relationship.

The second dream horse would come to him after Raswan, who fought for his country in WWI, emigrated to the Oakland, Calif. in 1921. It's no surprise with his knowledge and passion for the Arabian horse that Raswan soon became acquainted with W.K. Kellogg and began working at the Kellogg Ranch. In 1925, Kellogg asked Raswan to travel to the Crabbet Arabian Stud to obtain breeding stock. Those animals arrived in February 1926, the finest among them was the five-year-old stallion, *Raswan, sired by Lady Wentworth's Polish outcross, Skowronek. Lady Wentworth gifted that stallion to Raswan.

The stallion *Raswan stood at stud at the Kellogg Ranch, but was killed in a tragic accident. When Carl Raswan learned of the stallion's death, he was inconsolable. In a heart-felt gesture for the stallion to live on, it was at that time he changed his name from Carl Schmidt to Carl Raswan, enshrining his second 'dream horse' in everything he did from that day forward.

When Hollywood filmmakers needed horses, especially beautiful ones, they came calling at the Kellogg Ranch. Silent film star Rudolph Valentino was shooting a comeback film, "The Son of the Sheik," in the spring of 1926. The Kellogg-owned stallion Jadaan was ridden by Raswan

as stunt double for shots requiring fast or dangerous riding.

In his 1941 publication, “The Kuhaylat Arabian,” Raswan preserved the story of how the first Arabian horse appeared among the Bedouin Arabians. The following is only part of the sacred origin story of how the Arabian horse — a mare — came to first meet man.

“It is said that Ishamel, son of Abraham, was a great herdsman and hunter. He is even credited with inventing the bow and arrow. It was he who built the Arc of the Desert. ‘The Throne of the Spirit of God,’ made of acacia wood and decorated with black ostrich feathers. It was he to whom Jibrail (the angel Gabriel) was directed by God to give horses. In the poetic language of the Arabians, Gabriel descended while the man of the wilderness was asleep. A ‘wind’ whirled toward him, scoring the red sand with its feet, scattering the dust with the blasts of its nostrils and screaming with ferocity. Gabriel stayed the thundering cloud with his outstretched arm and grasped the fullest of it with his hands. The wild element condensed in his hand and thus the horse was created. This is the gist of the story as told with awe by father to son in the black tents of the desert and is probably why the affectionate

name ‘Drinker of the Wind’ [whose name was Kuhaylah], is bestowed by the superstitious tribesmen on their finest horses.”

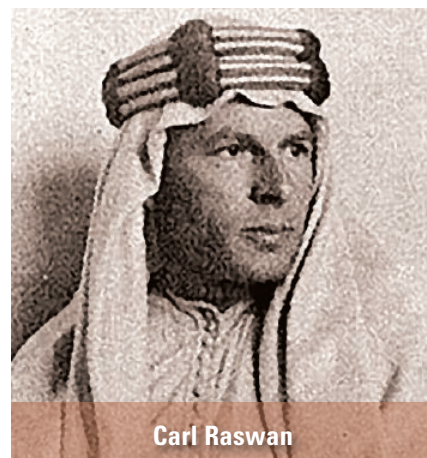
Published posthumously in 1966 by his widow Esperanza Raswan, “The Raswan Index and Handbook for Arabian Breeders,” is an essential reference for Arabian horse owners and breeders. Carl Reinhard Raswan became an expert on the Arabian breed through his lengthy trips to the desert, where he lived with the Bedouins and learned their language and customs. Since the Bedouins kept only oral records of the bloodlines, Raswan’s work was the first time much of this information became widely available.

Learning More About Breed History

There are many valuable resources available for more in-depth learning to this or any portion of the breed’s history. One excellent digital resource is the AHA’s own subscription service, Arabian Horse DataSource®.

RJ Cadranall has owned Arabian and Half-Arabian horses for 40 years, and explains the importance of looking beyond electronic devices for historical information beyond pedigree and progeny.

“The show records entered into DataSource just don’t go back very far.



Carl Raswan

Indraff, for example, was frequently shown. Al-Marah proudly advertised his accomplishments, and his record was written up in the magazines of the time (1940s and into the 1950s). But he has no show record in DataSource.”

Cadranell continues, “The historic Kellogg horses were exhibited at the local county fairs in the 1920s and 1930s, but all-Arabian shows didn’t come into existence until after World War II. The Kellogg horses were trained to do just about everything. Examples include: Jumping (*Raseyn), Liberty Jumping (Ralet), Harness (Roshana), Reining horse (Farana), Liberty Drill Team, and Three-Gaited and even Five-Gaited Performance and circus tricks.”

Thanks

There are so many fascinating stories to be told in the history of the Arabian horse. One can include more, go further in depth, and even make it a life’s work. Sincere thanks are gratefully extended to RJ Cadranell, Jeanne Craver of Craver Farms, Michael Bowling of the New Albion Stud and CMKArabians.com, and Director of the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center, Jeanne Brooks. All of whom patiently took the time to share, clarify, curb and correct. 🐾

As blogger-in-chief for ArabianHorse-Travel.com, Janet de Acevedo MacDonald writes about places to wine and dine, shop, stay and visit in horse show destinations all over the world.

information

For Further Reading:

- **The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis**, by Elizabeth Letts, www.elizabethletts.com/the-perfect-horse/
- **The Romance of the Kellogg Ranch**, by author Mary Jane Parkinson, Celebrating 75 years of Kellogg/Cal Poly Pomona Arabian Horses.
- **The Horses of San Simeon** by Austine McDonnell Hearst, October 2015 ■

