

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE GREATEST SIRES

Since Wallace began registration of sires some one hundred and thirty years ago about two hundred thousand sires have stood in America. Of these, far less than one percent has warranted mention in the preceding chapters on the evolution of sire lines. To narrow these sires down to the greatest ten of all time is therefore a task fraught with problems.

To attempt this, two main criteria have been considered. Firstly, which stallions dominated all others during their careers and secondly, which sired progeny that dominated the track then bred on to establish leading branches of their sire line.

This second criteria eliminated outstanding sires such as Mambrino Chief, Nutwood, McKinney, Bingen, Hoot Mon, Albatross and Tar Heel, all of whom had achieved the greatest heights but failed to establish siring dynasties.

A third criteria involves the opportunities for success. Peter the Great and Speedy Crown had such large foal numbers that it gave them an enormous advantage over sires such as George Wilkes, Adios and Valley Victory all of whom dominated with remarkably small crops. Table 7.1 attempts to show a more balanced perspective by establishing ratios of classic progeny to foals, but in the final analysis is only one of many factors that are considered.

A difficulty in using ratios is that the figures for some of the earlier sires are only estimates due to a lack of accuracy with stud record keeping. There is also some doubt regarding the honesty of some practices in the days before DNA sampling was introduced to confirm breeding. For example, conjecture still surrounds the verification of some foals attributed to Peter the Great who commanded the highest stud fee of his day, had a number of lesser companion stallions and whose celebrity status was certainly exploited to the full by his colourful owner.

Classic progeny

As in the previous chapters, classic progeny is considered the best indicator of contribution to the breed and therefore of siring performance. Table 7.1 indicates success compared with the number of foals sired by each stallion. These ratios clearly show how significant were the performances of Adios and Volomite in particular. It must be noted that Speedy Crown, although suffering in comparison due to the large number of his progeny, is still the greatest sire of classic progeny in the history of the breed. Likewise, Peter the Great suffers in the ratios due to the enormity of his produce yet his enduring influence is undeniable. Finally, Hambletonian 10 suffers from the paucity of classic races during his lifetime, yet his position in this elite group is unquestionable.

TABLE 7.1 SIRES: CLASSIC PROGENY- FOAL RATIO

Sire	Foals	Progeny	Ratio
Adios	589	290	.492
Volomite	695	318	.458
Guy Axworthy	566	235	.415
Peter Volo	593	234	.395
Valley Victory	475	167	.352
Star's Pride	916	322	.350
George Wilkes	400	134	.335
Meadow Skipper	1267	404	.319
Speedy Crown	2203	651	.296
Hambletonian 10	1331	216	.162
Peter the Great	2100	293	.140

Classic winners

Table 7.2 ranks the stallions according to ratio of their classic winning progeny to foals. As before, anomalies through comparison across differing time periods need to be taken into consideration. While the nineteenth century sires that are omitted because of the lack of classic races, it needs to be noted that others were disadvantaged. Careers often suffered due to world wars and economic depression when both stake earnings and racing opportunities impacted upon siring opportunities.

TABLE 7.2 SIRES: CLASSIC WINNERS- FOAL RATIO

Sire	Foals	CW	Ratio
Valley Victory	475	97	.204
Adios	589	83	.141
Volomite	695	79	.114
Speedy Crown	2203	242	.110
Star's Pride	916	93	.102
Meadow Skipper	1267	111	.088
Peter Volo	593	49	.083
Guy Axworthy	566	42	.074
Peter the Great	2100	51	.024

In Table 7.2 the performances of Valley Victory and Adios are once again outstanding while the lack of classic races during their careers accounts somewhat for the lesser ratios attributed to the lower five.

Broodmare sire performances

TABLE 7.3 BROODMARE SIRES: CW- FOAL RATIO

Broodmare Sire	Foals	CW	Ratio
Valley Victory	475	88	.185
Adios	589	108	.184
Speedy Crown	2203	377	.171
Guy Axworthy	566	78	.138
Meadow Skipper	1267	162	.128
Volomite	695	72	.104
Peter Volo	593	50	.084
Star's Pride	916	94	.103
Peter the Great	2100	103	.049

Similarly, due to the limitations discussed, the broodmare contribution displayed in Table 7.3 is not as accurate as would be desired. In addition, it must also be recognized that the leading sires of their day had the advantage of the best quality mares. If it is accepted that success can be attributed equally to maternal input, then these sires had a distinct advantage. The performance of Hambletonian 10, George Wilkes and Adios is especially significant given the inferior matrons they received.

Awards

For comparative purposes, little significance can be attributed to speed or earnings over the time period of almost two hundred years since records have been kept. Likewise leading sire awards have been kept for more than one hundred and twenty years based upon

Standard Performers but those based on other criteria have been kept for limited periods. However, awards do provide an insight into the dominance of particular sires and sire lines.

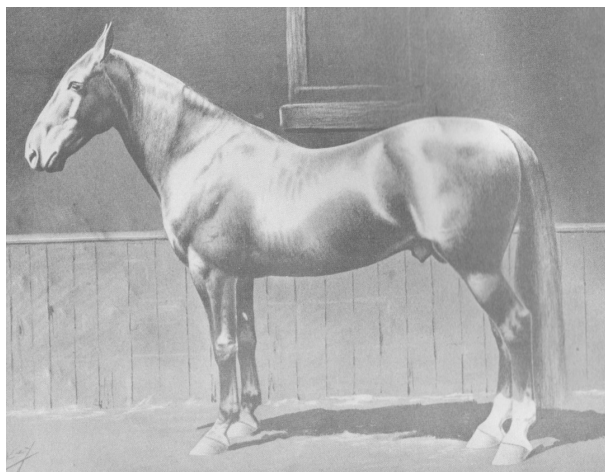
The award for leading earner of the year shows that only three sires can claim more than three credits each during the New Century Era, with Peter the Great, Guy Axworthy and Volomite having four each. The pacing list for the same period has Volomite alone with three. In the Modern Era, Star's Pride has seven and Speedy Crown four among the trotting sires while Adios leads the pacing sires with six followed by Meadow Skipper with five.

Given the difficulties of comparison across time periods, the greatest sires will be discussed in chronological order within the three historical eras. There can be little argument that, on every measure that can be used, Hambletonian 10 and his son George Wilkes were far superior to any other sires in the Foundation Era. Likewise the New Century Era has four standouts in the wonderful sire to grandsire trio of Peter the Great, Peter Volo and Volomite along with Guy Axworthy. The Modern Era has five sires that performed well above the remainder in performance and their ability to establish enduring lines. They are listed in Table 7.4 and the career of each is treated below.

TABLE 7.4 GREATEST NORTH AMERICAN SIRES

Hambletonian 10
George Wilkes
Peter the Great
Guy Axworthy
Peter Volo
Volomite
Adios
Star's Pride
Meadow Skipper
Speedy Crown
Valley Victory

Hambletonian 10



Abdallah 1 1823 - U916	Morris' Mambrino (thor) 1807 -	Messenger (thor) 1780 -
		Dam of Mambrino (thor) 179- -
	Amazonia 1810 - U916	Son of Messenger (thor) 18-- - U916 2123 - U916
Charles Kent Mare 1834 - U900	Jarys Bellfounder (Norfolk Tro 1816 -	Stevens Bellfounder (NT) 1797 -
		Jarys Velocity (thor) 17-- -
	One Eye (thor) 1815 - U900	Bishops Hambletonian (thor) 1804 - Silvertail (thor) 1802 - U900

There can be little argument against ranking Hambletonian 10 as the greatest sire of the Foundation Era. Not only did he reign supreme among his peers but, of all the stallions of the nineteenth century, he alone created a sire line that has continued unabated through to the Modern Era.

While he does not stand out on the Standard Performers list of the era, there are two factors to take into consideration. Firstly, the majority of his foals were used as road horses rather than being sent to the track. Secondly, this was the beginning of the new performance standard. The first 2:30 performance was achieved just four years before his foaling.

In 1853, the first ten Standard Performers included four with untraced pedigrees. By Hambletonian's demise, his twenty five Standard Performers was far in excess of any other stallion. His son Volunteer was second on the list with just fourteen. Indeed, the world record at this time was just T2:14¾. It is also worthy to note that of the first eight horses on the 2:25 list, Hambletonian 10 was the only stallion to have sired two.

However, Hambletonian 10 was unique among his contemporaries in his ability to transmit speed to his sons, with one hundred and fifty of them going on to sire Standard Performers and totally dominating the siring ranks of the new breed. No less than six of his sons sired world champions and he was the first sire to have three Standard Performers from the one mare. Of the first ten trotters in 2:15 all but two were from his sons and of the first ten in 2:10 all but one were claimed by them.

He sired the first of his great sons, Abdallah 15, when he was just two years of age and the last, Egbert, at twenty five. Egbert became the leading sire of America in 1889 with a record twenty three new Standard Performers for that year.

Breeding

The pedigree of Hambletonian 10 reflects the power of Messenger, with three infusions from different sources. His sire Abdallah 1 is bred 3x4 to Messenger through both his sire and dam.

Bishops Hambletonian (thor) 1804 -	Messenger (thor) 1780 -	Mambrino (thor) 1768 -
		Dam of Messenger (thor) 17-- -
	Pheasant (thor) 1790 -	Shark (thor) 1771 - Dam of Pheasant (thor) 17-- -
Silvertail (thor) 1802 - U900	Messenger (thor) 1780 -	Mambrino (thor) 1768 - Dam of Messenger (thor) 17-- -
	Black Jin 179- - U900	Untraced sire (USA) 18*** - U900 2133 - U900

ONE EYE- THE GRAND DAM OF HAMBLETONIAN 10

Hambletonian's thoroughbred grand dam, One Eye, was inbred 2x2 to Messenger and was reputed to be a speedy trotter. His dam, the Charles Kent mare, was sired by an imported Norfolk trotter that left no other trotting progeny of note. His maternal family was short lived and produced only one other trotter of repute, Bashaw 50.

Siring career

Hambletonian 10 stood at stud for twenty four seasons and produced one thousand three hundred and thirty one foals with two hundred and sixteen classic progeny. One hundred and fifty of his sons sired

Standard Performers and six of them sired world champion trotters. It was his male descendents ability to consistently transmit speed that was a major factor in ensuring his domination.

Of his ten greatest sons, all were by different broodmare sires. This enabled his blood to be crossed extensively. Hambletonian 10 himself sired only eight mares to make the standard list and much of his early success came with poorly bred mares. Champions George Wilkes and Dexter, for example, were from crippled road mares of nondescript breeding.

He was the grand sire of two world champions, Goldsmith Maid and St Julien, foaled by the time he was five years of age. In terms of his career, however, their feats were still some time away. His dominance was not fully appreciated until after his death when the prepotency of his sons and grandsons saw them take total domination of the breed.

The sons of Hambletonian 10 having the most immediate impact are listed in Table 7.5 with their year of foaling and number of classic progeny. Only five continued their sire lines beyond the New Century Era.

TABLE 7.5 BEST SONS OF HAMBLETONIAN 10

	Classic progeny
George Wilkes 519 (1856)	134
Electioneer 125 (1868)	100
Abdallah 15 (1852)	69
Volunteer 55 (1854)	66
Strathmore 408 (1866)	63
Dictator 113 (1863)	61
Harold 413 (1864)	59
Happy Medium 400 (1863)	50

George Wilkes

In 1862 New York, when fears of defeat in the Civil War were at their peak, a match race took place between the famous Morgan horse Ethan Allen and a relatively unknown son of Hambletonian 10. Against all expectations, the former world record holder was defeated in all three heats by the youngster, George Wilkes, who in the process set the third fastest time in the history of trotting (T2:23¾) and became the first 2:30 performer of his illustrious sire.

George Wilkes went on to better the 2:30 mark on fifty eight occasions over a twelve year racing career. In his later years, George Wilkes was over raced and badly treated, often resulting in him refusing to perform. His reputation suffered and he began his stud career as a seventeen year old with few admirers.



Hambletonian 10 1849 - U900	Abdallah 1 1823 - U916	Morris' Mambrino (thor) 1807 -
		Amazonia 1810 - U916
	Charles Kent Mare 1834 - U900	Jarys Bellfounder (Norfolk Tro 1816 -
Dolly Spanker 1847 - U901		One Eye (thor) 1815 - U900
	Untraced sire (USA) 18** -	-
	U901 2138 - U901	-

Breeding

Although a son of Hambletonian 10, there is very little in the relatively obscure pedigree of George Wilkes to recommend him. He was just one of a multitude of available sons of Hambletonian 10. At that time, Almont, Belmont and Harold led the way and there was little demand for his services.

Siring career

Although he sired less than four hundred progeny, George Wilkes went on to become the foremost and most popular sire in America. Following the appearance of his first crop on the racetrack things changed and by the time he died in 1882 he had become the leading sire of America.

When the New Century Era came to a close almost a century after his birth, only ninety eight stallions had sired in excess of one hundred Standard Performers. Of these more than a quarter were directly descended from George Wilkes. A high proportion of these were from Mambrino Chief sire line mares.

Of the ten leading sires of Standard Performers at the close of the nineteenth century, eight were by George Wilkes. On the equivalent broodmare list George Wilkes accounted for half of the twenty five leading sires. No other sire came close to matching this record.

George Wilkes was also dual gaited and could move from one gait to the other without resort to hopples. He transmitted this trait to his progeny, with three of his sons actually entering both the pacing and trotting 2:30 lists and all three racing free legged. His best siring sons of Standard Performers are listed in Table 7.6.

TABLE 7.6 GEORGE WILKES SONS: STANDARD PERFORMERS

Standard Performers	
1. GEORGE WILKES	98
2. Alcantara	175
2. Baron Wilkes	149
2. Gambetta Wilkes	235
2. Jay Bird	148
2. Onward	200
2. Red Wilkes	178
2. Simmons	136
2. Wilkes Boy	107
2. Wilton	138

Table 7.7 lists his leading siring progeny up to the beginning of the new century, along with the number of classic progeny they produced. Over a century after his birth, there were just one hundred trotters in the two minute list. Of these, all but the very first carries the blood of George Wilkes, a remarkable example of the endurance and dominance of his sire line.

His most famous son was Harry Wilkes (T2:13½) a natural pacer that was converted to trotting. He became the Grand Circuit champion of his time and won one hundred and sixty nine races including the 1894 Charter Oak. Another son Jay Bird won the Lexington Trot as a two year old while Kentucky Wilkes, from a

largely thoroughbred mare won the Kentucky Trot as a three year old.

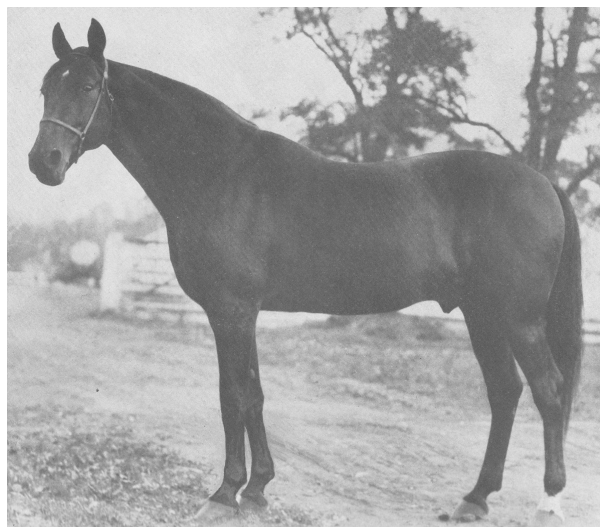
TABLE 7.7 GEORGE WILKES SONS: CLASSIC PROGENY

Classic Progeny	
1. GEORGE WILKES	134
2. Alcantara	48
2. Alcyone	36
2. Baron Wilkes	86
2. Gambetta Wilkes	46
2. Jay Bird	40
2. Onward	103
2. Red Wilkes	99
2. Simmons	41
2. Wilkes Boy	36

The greatest siring sons of George Wilkes in the nineteenth century were Onward, Red Wilkes and Baron Wilkes. As the new century opened, another son in Gambetta Wilkes was four times leading sire of America while grandsons Ashland Wilkes and Moko also headed the leading sires list.

George Wilkes and his progeny totally dominated the siring ranks of America for the last two decades of the nineteenth century and for more than a decade into the twentieth century until the arrival of Peter the Great. Following Hambletonian 10, George Wilkes was the next great sire to arrive on the scene and forever change the breed.

Peter the Great



Pilot Medium 1597 1879 - U279	Happy Medium 400 1863 - U911	Hambletonian 10 1849 - U900
		Princess 1846 - U911
Santos 1887 - U212	Tackey 1859 - U279	Pilot Jr 12 1844 - U909
		Jenny Lind 185* - U279
	Grand Sentinel 865 1873 - U1031	Sentinel 280 1863 - U148
		Maid Of Lexington 1865 - U1031
	Shadow 1870 - U212	Octoroon Jr 186- - U1299
		Dixie (NS) 1866 - U212

Peter the Great was foaled almost fifty years after Hambletonian 10 but there are many that argue that his siring record surpasses that of the great progenitor. Indeed his one hundred and eighty nine registered siring sons outnumbered those of Hambletonian 10, as did his total of six hundred and sixty one Standard Performers. In turn, his daughters produced one thousand one hundred and twenty five Standard Performers, providing an enormous base for his genes to dominate the breed. And dominate they did.

Breeding

As a two year old the humbly bred Peter the Great finished second in the Kentucky Futurity to the filly Janie T (T2:14), the fastest two year old trotter of that year. While well beaten, the filly ran a world record in defeating him. The following year, however, he won the three year old Kentucky Futurity by a massive twenty lengths in race record time of T2:07¼.

Siring career

After a short stint at stud Peter the Great returned unsuccessfully to racing but a daughter of his first crop ensured his return to stud. This undefeated three year old daughter, Sadie Mac (T2:06¼), was the fastest trotter of the year and won the Kentucky Futurity.

More daughters added to his siring success with Czarevna (T2:07¼) winning a Kentucky Futurity at two, Volga E winning both the two and three year old versions of that race, The Miss Stokes (T2:08¾) being the fastest of her year and Mabel Trask winning eight classic races.

When it appeared as though he would be restricted to only champion daughters along came a host of champion colts. The Great Volo (T2:02½), The Senator

(T2:03½), and Daystar (T2:05) won four classics each, Peter the Brewer (T2:02½) five, McGregor the Great (T2:03¼) six and Peter Coley (T2:04¾) eight. As is often the case, success leads to further success for in his twenty three years at stud he commanded the best mares in the country. His golden cross with the mares of Axworthy became legendary.

Peter the Great was the leading sire of America for nine successive years with his son Peter Volo following him seven times while grandson Volomite headed the list on thirteen occasions. The daughters of Peter the Great produced one hundred and three classic winners with such champions as 'trotter of the century', Greyhound, another five Hambletonian winners in Josola's Worthy, Lord Jim, McLin Hanover, Spencer and Yankee Maid. They also produced European champion Hazelton, who had eleven classic wins, and Great Bingen who won the Australasian Championship.

His fifty two classic winners included eleven Kentucky Futurity winners and a host of standout daughters. Sadie Mac was the fastest three year old trotter in America and took the Kentucky Futurity in that year. Volga E (T2:04½) won the Kentucky Futurity at two and three and was the fastest trotter of her age in both years. Mabel Trask came to the fore as an older mare, taking eight classics and being the wealthiest and fastest trotter in the land as a five year old. Ethelinda was a world champion trotter while Miss Harris M was a world champion pacing mare.



VOLGA E

His standout trotting colts were his wealthiest, Peter Scott and Peter Volo, and his fastest Peter Volo (T2:02) and Peter the Brewer (T2:02½).

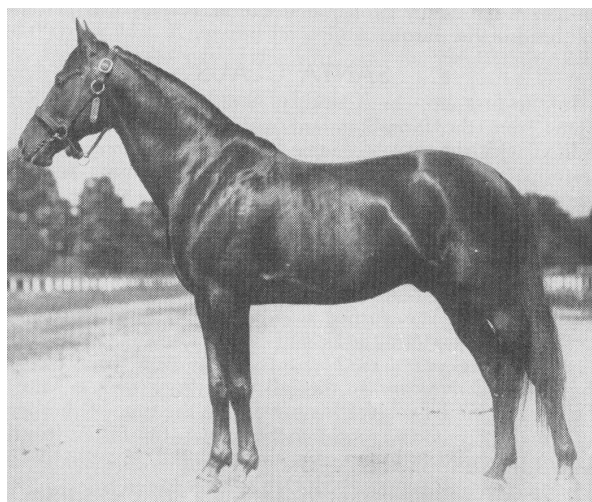
Peter Scott won all but the first of his eighteen races on the Grand Circuit before retiring with the highest single

season earnings ever won to that time by a standardbred. His greatest legacy as a sire was the trio of siblings in Highland Scott, Rose Scott and Scotland. Peter the Brewer also distinguished himself as the broodmare sire of Knight Dream, Titan Hanover and Worthy Boy.

The fastest pacing sons of Peter the Great were the dual gaited Peter Henley (2:02¼ and T2:06¾) and Peter Nash (2:01½). Neither of these two bred on.

Peter the Great finished with one hundred and eighty eight registered siring sons of whom thirteen produced in excess of one hundred Standard Performers each. This record far outweighs that of any other sire.

Guy Axworthy



Axworthy 24845 1892 - U146	Axtell 5183 1886 - U57	William L 4244 1882 - U45
		Lou 1880 - U57
	Marguerite 1876 - U146	Kentucky Prince 2470 1870 - U917
Lillian Wilkes 1886 - U338		Young Daisy 1870 - U146
	Guy Wilkes 2867 1879 - U45	George Wilkes 519 1856 - U901
		Lady Bunker 1873 - U45
	Flora 1869 - U338	Langford (thor) 1855 - U1326
		Pet 1860 - U338

There is little doubt that, along with Peter the Great, Axworthy was the second great New Century Era progenitor foaled in the nineteenth century. His record has already been discussed in chapter four. It was his son Guy Axworthy that finished with an even better record and rivaled that of Peter the Great.

Breeding

Besides a cross of George Wilkes his mainly thoroughbred pedigree had little to recommend it. An interesting note is his close inbreeding. His grandsire William L and his broodmare sire Guy Wilkes were full brothers.

His maternal family, however, is extremely short featuring mares of thoroughbred and dubious breeding. It has produced only one other classic performer in over a century, that being Roy Wilkes, the fastest pacer of 1890 in America. The family survives in a modest way in Australia and Europe.

As a race horse Guy Axworthy (T2:08¾) won no classic races. At stud, however, he was clearly the greatest son of Axworthy, finishing second to Peter the Great on the Standard Trotters list for the New Century era.

Siring career

Guy Axworthy was on six occasions the Leading Sire of America, his reign sitting between that of Peter the Great and his son Peter Volo. He also finished second to Peter the Great as the all time leading sire and broodmare sire of trotting Standard Performers.

This imposing record followed a slow start to his stud career during which he failed to impress. It was the arrival of son Lee Axworthy as the fastest two year old trotter of 1916 that ignited his career and by 1923 he had reached second position behind Peter the Great as sire of new Standard Performers.

It was as the pioneer sire of extreme speed that he made his greatest contribution. Lee Axworthy (1:58¼TT), became the first two minute trotting stallion, a record that remained for twenty five years before being lowered by Spencer Scott in 1941.

Guy Axworthy also sired the first two minute four year old trotter in Arion Guy and the first two minute three year old trotter in Mr McElwyn. In addition, Calumet Evelyn was the first performer to beat two minutes at both gaits and his grandson Titan Hanover the first two minute two year old of either gait.

Another son, Guy McKinney, won the first Hambletonian and the progeny of Guy Axworthy continued to dominate the early runnings of this event.

Along with Peter Volo, he was the most successful pre war Hambletonian sire with three winners.

The siring career of Guy Axworthy preceded the two minute list being regarded as a measure of siring success, yet he still managed four credits. His presence was strongly felt on the broodmare side of pedigrees. Among the first hundred trotters on the two minute list, Guy Axworthy was the leading broodmare sire with twelve credits. He was also leading broodmare sire on the pacers list with six credits.

Of his sons, one hundred and two were registered as stallions with five continuing his sire line. Of these, only one remains and that is in a rather tenuous state. His most famous descendant is his grandson Greyhound.

As a broodmare sire Guy Axworthy was again only bettered by Peter the Great with his daughters producing seventy nine classic winners. It is worthy of note that six of them were by Volomite and they alone accounted for fifty five classic race wins. Like Peter the Great he featured strongly as a sire of both trotters and pacers.

His best daughter, Aileen Guy (T2:03¼) was the fastest two year old trotter of her year and won seven classics. She was later the dam of Hambletonian winner Mary Reynolds. His fastest pacer, Frank Worthy, was exported to New Zealand where he featured as the broodmare sire of two of the nation's great champions in Caduceus and Highland Fling.

Peter Volo



Peter The Great 28955 1895 - U212	Pilot Medium 1597 1879 - U279	Happy Medium 400 1863 - U911
		Tackey 1859 - U279
Nervolo Belle 1906 - U3	Santos 1887 - U212	Grand Sentinel 865 1873 - U1031
		Shadow 1870 - U212
	Nervolo 1896 - U803	Colbert 9958 1888 - U1229
	Josephine Knight 1894 - U3	Nelly D 1886 - U803
		Betterton 8022 1880 - U676
		Mambrino Beauty 1881 - U3

In many respects, Peter Volo took up where his sire left off, becoming the leading sire in the land. In addition to his Kentucky Futurity wins at two and three, Peter Volo (T2:02) was a world record holder in both years. In total he won ten classic races in these two years with earnings of \$44,536 prior to starting his stud career.

Breeding

His breeding is fortuitous in that his dam was bred by accident. His grand dam Josephine Knight, was intended to be put to Jay McGregor but finished with a foal by the poorly performed sire Nervolo instead. This foal, Nervolo Belle, was not only the dam of Peter Volo but also of full sister Volga E, the fastest two and three year old trotter of her year. She went on to win six classic races including the Kentucky Futurity at both two and three.

Siring career

At stud, his fifty classic winning progeny included fifteen Kentucky Futurity wins. His two fastest daughters, Hanover's Bertha (T1:59½) and The Marchioness (T1:59¼) won the 1930 and 1932 Hambletonian respectively, while Peter Astra took out a third victory in 1939. Between them, these three stars won thirty two classic races.

Two offspring of Peter Volo, daughter Twilight Song (T2:01¾) and son Long Key (T2:00) each won seven classic races, while pacer Fearless Peter (2:00) won eight. Protector (T1:59¼), the fastest two and three year old trotter of his year, won five classic races including a Kentucky Futurity, and a had a world record to his credit. At stud he sired champion free for all mare Proximity (T1:59.3) among his eleven classic winners but could not find a son to extend the line.

Peter Volo's fastest pacer, the dual gaited Raider (1:59½ and T2:01½) was exported to Australia after his Kentucky Futurity win and became the leading sire in that country for eight successive years.

Grandson Bill Gallon (T1:59½) was the fastest two and three year old trotter of his year and won the Kentucky Futurity and Hambletonian in 1941. At stud he sired the great race mare Stenographer (T1:59.1) and Trotter of the Year, Galophone (T1:58.1TT) who left a siring son in BF Coaltown (T2:00.1). He failed to extend the sire line further.

The most outstanding son of Peter Volo, however, was two year old Kentucky Futurity winner and fastest three year old trotter of his year, Volomite (T2:03¼). He was to become one of the greatest sires of all time, for both trotting and pacing.

Volomite



Peter Volo 1911 - U3	Peter The Great 28955 1895 - U212	Pilot Medium 1597 1879 - U279 Santos 1887 - U212
	Nervolo Belle 1906 - U3	Nervolo 1896 - U803 Josephine Knight 1894 - U3
Cita Frisco 1921 - U11	San Francisco 49173 1903 - U701	Zombro 28029 1892 - U559 Oniska 1898 - U701
	Mendocita 1899 - U11	Mendocino 22607 1889 - U1121 Esther 1877 - U11

An outstanding racehorse, but with a limited racing career over two seasons, Volomite won only three classic races. He took the Kentucky Futurity at two while the highlight of his three year old season was his defeat of the aged trotters in the Charter Oak. This was the first time that a three year old had defeated

free for all trotters in a classic race. His T2:03¼ gave him the honour of being the fastest three year old trotter of his year.

Breeding

While both his sire and broodmare sire were two of the greatest of the New Century Era his grand dam was also famous, being the foundation thoroughbred mare Esther. It seems that she may also have provided his ability to produce pacers through her infusion of Electioneer blood.

Prior to Volomite the descendants of Esther already included; Atlantic Express, the sire of world champion Nedda (T1:58¼TT) and broodmare sire of Dean Hanover, classic winner Selka (T2:05½) and Kentucky Futurity winner Mary Putney. Yet Volomite was to be unquestionably the greatest of her descendants.

Siring career

His first crop included Tara (T2:00), the only mare to defeat Greyhound, as well as Kentucky Futurity winner Princess Peg. The stud career that followed placed him in the company of his sire and grandsire. Like them he set standards that could not be matched by his contemporaries. He sired both trotters and pacers, finishing seventh on the all time siring lists for both combined Standard Performers and for Standard Pacers.

While Peter the Great was the leading sire of Standard Performers in America on nine occasions and Peter Volo on six, Volomite won the title on thirteen occasions. He also sired three hundred and nineteen classic progeny, more than either the two hundred and ninety five by Peter the Great or the two hundred and thirty nine by Peter Volo. This suggests that his ongoing contribution to classic winners was better than both of them. Together this trio comprises the only example of three stallions from successive generations that have dominated the breed during their lifetime.

Volomite was the first stallion to sire one hundred performers in the combined 2:10 list of trotters and pacers. His siring career coincided with the commencement of the two minute list as a measure of siring success, yet at one time Volomite became the

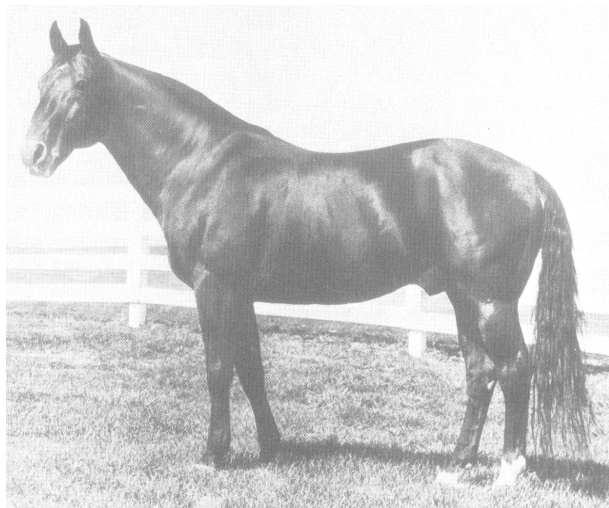
leading sire on both the trotters and pacers two minute list.

Of all sires on the first hundred two minute trotters list, Volomite was second with eleven while Peter Volo had seven. Broodmare siring credits saw Volomite again in second place with seven, while Peter the Great had five and Peter Volo four. Volomite sired the fastest ever trotting stallion and mare as well as the world record holder for pacing stallions.

Volomite was the first sire to have one hundred progeny on the 2:10 list, again with both trotters and pacers. He was later the first to have one hundred progeny in the 2:05 list. Of the first hundred pacers on the two minute list, Volomite led the way with seven. He was also the leading sire of combined two minute pacing and trotting performers. In addition he was the only sire to have a 1:58 credit for both a pacer and trotter. When records were commenced for Leading Sire of Stake Earners in 1952, the career of Volomite had concluded yet he was the top sire for the first two years.

As discussed in chapter four, the trotting sire line from Volomite has continued for a further seven generations, resting now with SJ's Caviar and the grandsons of Garland Lobell. The pacing line is a little more tenuous but has continued for six generations and is now in the hands of the sensational Somebeachsomewhere.

Adios



Hal Dale 1926 - U296	Abbedale 1917 - U702	The Abbe 33486 1903 - U437 Daisydale D 1908 - U702
	Margaret Hal 1914 - U296	Argot Hal 1903 - U719 Margaret Polk 1906 - U296
Adioo Volo 1930 - U41	Adioo Guy 1910 - U108	Guy Dillon 1902 - U108 Adioo 1895 - U108
	Sigrid Volo 1921 - U41	Peter Volo 1911 - U3 Polly Parrot 1904 - U41

Adios was a multiple world champion during his racing career. In five seasons on the track he raced eighty seven times for forty three wins, ten of them being classic races and was unplaced only four times.

In his first race at two, he came from near last to win the Fox Stakes, then the most prestigious race for two year olds in America, and was just half a second outside the world record that had stood for ten years. During this season he set three world records and won more in stake earnings than any other pacer that year.

At three he won the Champion Stallion Stakes then set world records in each of his last three years of racing. One of these was a track record at the Indiana Fair that stood for forty three years. Adios was also involved in one of the greatest two horse rivalries in harness history. He met his rival Kings Counsel in sixty seven of his eighty seven lifetime races, with his nemesis finishing slightly ahead with thirty four wins to thirty three.

Two factors counting against his record were the paucity of stake money during the war years and that Adios had a tendency to ease down once he had beaten his rivals. In some cases this brought about his undoing. His 1:57½ time trial as a five year old broke a world record that had stood for thirty years.

Breeding

His male line of Hal Dale, Abbedale and The Abbe were discussed in chapter four but it should be reinforced that all three raced free legged. Besides the presence of Peter Volo as the second broodmare sire, the maternal family of Adios is not remarkable. His dam Adioo Volo won eleven of twenty two races and set a world record on a half mile track but failed to win a

classic race. His fourth dam Lady Maud C was a full sister to the sire Hedgewood Boy.

Worthy of interest is the sire of his dam, Adioo Guy, who is incestuously inbred 3x2 to the Nutwood mare By By. Adieu, the full sister to Adios is also the grand dam of Harness Horse of the Year Bye Bye Byrd.



ADIOO GUY- ADDED INCESTUOUS INBREEDING

The Maggie Gaines maternal family has fifty four classic winning descendants with five in the 1:50 list. The best, besides Adios, is Little Brown Jug winner and Three Year Old Pacer of the Year, Western Dreamer.

Siring career

Not since Hambletonian 10 had one sire so dominated the standardbred as Adios did in the first decades of the Modern Era. It is perhaps unfortunate for the development of the breed that Adios produced such small numbers at stud.

He was unwanted to begin with and from his first three crops only eleven yearlings found their way to auction. However, his third crop, from moderately performed mares, produced sixteen in the 2:10 list, at that time the greatest ever by a sire in a single season. Seven of these entered the two minute list, including; Adios Betty and Adios Boy, the first two year old pacing filly and colt to better two minutes. By 1966 Adios had seventy five two minute performers, more than double his nearest rival.

Little Brown Jug winner Adios Harry, became the second ever 1:55 pacer, some seventeen years after

Billy Direct. By 1960 only three Modern Era pacers had joined this list and all were sired by Adios.

In 1956 Adios became the first stallion to sire progeny with earnings exceeding one million dollars in a single year. At the time of his death in 1965, his progeny had won in excess of fourteen million dollars and his stud fee had risen from three hundred dollars to fifteen thousand, then the highest in history.

During his career he sired seventy nine in two minutes from thirty two different broodmare sires and forty three in the hundred thousand dollar earners list. These were the benchmark speed and earnings lists of the day. His final statistics show the earnings of his progeny exceeding nineteen million dollars.

TABLE 7.8 SIRES: TWO MINUTE PERFORMERS (1975)

Total	Performers	Foals	Ratio
Adios	79	589	.136
Good Time	75	665	.112
Bret Hanover	54	498	.108
Bye Bye Byrd	54	651	.083
Meadow Skipper	52	425	.122
Race Time	42	457	.090

As shown in the opening tables of this chapter, Adios had by far the best strike rate for classic progeny to foals of any sire before or after him. Like Hambletonian 10, he also had the ability to transmit speed to his progeny, often from unremarkable mares. By 1975 sons of Adios held nine of the top twenty five positions in the two minute siring list and seventeen of the top fifty in the money winning sires list.

In many of the classic races of the fifties, the progeny of Adios often filled all places and were regular winners of the most prestigious races. These included six Fox and Messenger Stakes, seven Goshen Cups and Cane Paces and eight Little Brown Jugs. His daughters won the Ladyship on six occasions. His leading classic winning progeny were Bret Hanover with thirty five classic wins followed by Henry T Adios with nineteen and the mare Bonojour Hanover with eleven. Bullet Hanover and Lehigh Hanover had twelve each.

His wealthiest was Bret Hanover whose lifetime earnings were the highest in pacing history at the time of his retirement. His second richest, Henry T Adios was the leading money earner in America in 1962, the

year that Bret Hanover was foaled. Adios Butler had been the highest stake earning pacer the previous year.

To be the fastest on an Adios list is quite an achievement and again Bret Hanover and Adios Butler make their presence felt. The third placed Adios Harry was the first 1:55 pacer in the history of the sport while six others claimed a faster record than their sire.

After Bret Hanover, it is no easy task ranking the progeny of Adios. The careers of Adios Butler, Henry T Adios and Dancer Hanover have already been discussed while Bret Hanover has his own section in a later chapter.

Another son with blistering speed was Bullet Hanover, who established a world record as a two year old before becoming the fastest of his age group again the following year. He won twelve classic races including the Fox Stakes and Little Brown Jug as well as being voted Pacer of the Year at both two and three.

One of the early champions that earned his sire a reputation for speed, Adios Harry was the first Little Brown Jug winner for Adios. He was even better as a free for all horse winning the Pacer of the Year award as a four year old and establishing a world record. He was yet another son placed at stud with restricted access to quality mares.

Another Adios Three Year Old Pacer of the Year winner, and also fastest of his year, was Little Brown Jug winner Shadow Wave. He finished his career with twenty wins from thirty one starts and six miles in two minutes, all as a three year old. He was the leading sire of 2:05 three year of pacers in 1973 and the sire of twenty classic winners. He made more impact as a broodmare sire with Meadowlands Pace winner Hilarion and three top sires in Big Towner, Falcon Almahurst and Oil Burner.

Bret Hanover lost only six races in his lifetime and four of these were to Adios Vic. He compiled eight classic wins and, had he been born in a different year, history may be quite different. His stud career in America and Australia provided him with twenty eight classic winners but no sons good enough to carry on his line. He did a little better with his daughters with fifty four producing classic progeny.

Prince Adios was the first two minute performer by Adios and retired as one of the sport's first hundred thousand dollar earners. At two he won sixteen of twenty six races and at three lowered a world record set by Single G in 1918. Unfortunately he died before he could forge a stud career.

A world champion at two, when he lowered his sire's record, Adios Boy went on to become the first two minute two year old pacer in history. He defeated Adios Harry in the Yonkers Derby and also for the Three Year Old Pacer of the Year award. In all he had five career victories over Adios Harry and also retired as one of the sport's first hundred thousand dollar earners. None of his sons bred on.

One of the forgotten sons of Adios was Baron Hanover, the full brother to Bret Hanover. He was not successful on the track but did produce one hundred and eleven in the two minute list from average broodmares and was the Leading Sire of Pacing Winners on six consecutive occasions.

Adios also produced a number of classy daughters. The careers of Countess Adios and Bret Hanover's full sister Bonjour Hanover are recounted later. Holding the distinction of being the only two minute trotter by Adios, Sara Black won twelve of her fifteen races at three and lowered the world record of Stenographer. Injury forced her retirement to stud where she became the grand dam of another Fox Stakes winner in Slapstick.

Star's Pride



Worthy Boy 1940 - U3	Volomite 1926 - U11	Peter Volo 1911 - U3
		Cita Frisco 1921 - U11
	Warwell Worthy 1932 - U3	Peter The Brewer 1918 - U18
		Alma Lee 1925 - U3
Stardrift 1936 - U53	Mr McElwyn 1921 - U5	Guy Axworthy 37501 1902 - U338
		Widow Maggie 1907 - U5
	Dilcisco 1919 - U53	San Francisco 49173 1903 - U701
		Dilworthy 1916 - U53

Star's Pride won the Lexington at two but performed even better at three taking the Kentucky Futurity among his twelve wins from twenty six starts. He matured further at four and five winning twenty of his forty starts, taking the USTA Four Year Old Trotter of the Year award and finishing with thirty six wins from seventy nine starts, with eleven being classics. He was the fastest trotter of the year at both three and four and bettered Greyhound's world race record that had stood for fifteen years. Other honours include being one of the first hundred trotters in two minutes and the first hundred to earn over one hundred thousand dollars.

Breeding

His sire Worthy Boy was bred 3x3 to Peter the Great and his dam 3x3 to Axworthy. Although his dam and grand dam were both reasonable track performers, none of the nine dams along his maternal line had won a classic race. In fact his maternal family of Roan Fanny has produced just sixty one classic winners in one hundred and fifty years and only half of them have been in North America. The family boasts only one millionaire, the pacer Praised Dignity, while Poker Dice and Laag Text are the only 1:50 performers. The mare Baltic Region (T1:55) is the fastest trotter in the family and Star's Pride is by far the best performer.

Siring career

Retired to stud after his six year old season, he was the leading sire of two year old trotters by his fifth crop and achieved this feat on twelve occasions. He also topped the sires chart for stake earnings thirteen times, a figure matched only by Super Bowl.

As the tables in chapter seven showed, he was the third greatest trotting sire in terms of classic progeny to

foals, seventh on the classic winners table and third as a broodmare sire of classic winners. In 1976, his final year as leading sire, he had sired more hundred thousand dollar earners and more two minute performers than any other trotting sire in the history of the sport. His total of thirty six two minute performers doubled that of his nearest rival. In terms of Triple Crown race winners he is easily the most successful trotting sire with twenty four race wins to his credit, well ahead of the fifteen won by the progeny of Super Bowl. He is also third on the broodmare credits for Triple Crown race wins.

His Kentucky Futurity winning son Savoir is the wealthiest of his progeny with just over one million in earnings while his fastest is world champion Nevele Pride. His most successful race track performers are Nevele Pride with a massive thirty one classic wins followed by Super Bowl with twenty four, the mare Armbro Flight with twenty one and Savoir with seventeen.

Meadow Skipper



Dale Frost 1951 - U47	Hal Dale 1926 - U296	Abbedale 1917 - U702
		Margaret Hal 1914 - U296
	Galloway 1939 - U47	Raider 1929 - U64
		Bethel 1926 - U47
Countess Vivian 1950 - U26	Kings Counsel 1940 - U42	Volomite 1926 - U11
		Margaret Spangler 1918 - U42
	Filly Direct 1941 - U26	Billy Direct 1934 - U298
		Calumet Edna 1931 - U26

Although winning fifteen of twenty seven starts at two, Meadow Skipper was not considered an outstanding racing proposition. At three, he was eclipsed on the track by Overtrick but did win thirteen of his thirty races with five classics. The pinnacle of his success was the Cane Pace in track record time, denying Overtrick the Triple Crown. He finished his career with thirty eight wins from eighty six attempts.

Breeding

Meadow Skipper was sired by the undistinguished Dale Frost, a son of Hal Dale already discussed above. Dale Frost was sire of just six classic horses with the only other recognised performer being Two Year Old Pacer of the Year and winner of seventeen classic races, Fulla Napoleon, who failed at stud.

His dam and grand dam were both classic winners but the maternal family of Aileen had only produced two other classic winners in almost one hundred years. The first was the fifth dam of Meadow Skipper, The Broncho, who had been the fastest pacer of 1906. The second was his sibling Countess Adios. She had shown enormous talent winning ten classic races and defeating the colts in two legs of the Triple Crown.

The family of Aileen has grown in stature in the fifty years following Meadow Skipper and can now claim sixty four classic winners and five in the 1:50 list.

Meadow Skipper is basically an outcross with the only cross in the first four lines being a 4x4 to Peter Volo. Likewise, his dam is 4x4 to Peter the Great, his grand dam 4x4 to Direct Hal while his fifth dam has three fourth generation crosses to Hambletonian 10. His pedigree gave no indication of what was to follow.

Siring career

Like Adios, twenty years before him, Meadow Skipper totally dominated the pacing breed. He became a leading sire and broodmare sire and left sons and grandsons that continued this domination. As the opening tables to this chapter show, he ranks second to Adios in terms of classic horses to foals and second to his own son Albatross with his broodmare ratio.

He was the leading money winning sire on four occasions before being usurped by his sons. He was

the first sire to produce winners of five million dollars in a single season and at his death was the leading sire of two minute speed. He is ranked here as the second greatest pacing sire of the Modern Era due to the lasting dominance and legacy of his descendants.

Meadow Skipper sired more champion sons and daughters than any other sire and, along with Adios, is the only sire to produce two winners of the Triple Crown. Also like Adios, his sons and daughters often filled all places in the classic races of their day.

Again, many of his progeny won the most prestigious classics as shown in the Triple Crown tables. His ten wealthiest progeny include five millionaires among the first twenty to achieve this mark with the richest being Ralph Hanover with almost two million dollars in earnings.

The fastest eight progeny of Meadow Skipper all bettered 1:53 with the best being world champion Trenton and the filly Don't Dally, each with 1:51.3. The fact that none of the world record breakers of Adios could better 1:55 shows just how far speed records were reduced within the space of a decade.

Trenton was a world champion and George Allen the fastest three year old pacer in his year, yet both failed to win a classic race. Albatross was by far the greatest race performer by Meadow Skipper winning twenty eight classic races. Governor Skipper was next best with eighteen followed by Ralph Hanover with fifteen and Nero thirteen. French Chef, on the other hand, was one of the greatest two year old pacers of all time. The careers of most of these champions are outlined elsewhere but there are three others that are worthy of mention.

The second most prolific classic winner of his sire, Governor Skipper was the fastest three year old of his year, took two legs of the Triple Crown among seven classic wins and was voted Pacer of the Year on this record. He was one of the first hundred pacers to join the 1:55 list, won the American Pacing Championship at four and retired a millionaire. He failed to match his race record at stud, siring just eighteen classic winners. His best was millionaire daughter Follow My Star with thirteen classic wins.

Ralph Hanover was the second of his sire's Triple Crown winners. A winner of only one classic from fifteen races as a two year old, he won twelve classics from fifteen starts at three. He was voted Three Year Old Pacer of the Year and earned a record \$1.7 million dollars in that one season. His stud career was modest with only fourteen classic winners and none that approached his ability.

Of his other sons, Falcon Almahurst won a Meadowlands Pace and was fastest pacer of the year at three, Scarlet Skipper won five classic races including the Woodrow Wilson, Landslide won an Adios Stakes and Genghis Khan was a world champion and Pacer of the Year at four.

Of his distinguished daughters, Handle with Care was a world champion who won seven classic races including the Jugette. She was voted Filly Pacer of the Year at two, three and four years of age and inducted into both the American and Canadian Hall of Fame. Roses are Red claimed nine classic victories and was voted Filly Pacer of the Year at three, while Naughty But Nice, won seven classic races, was voted Filly Pacer of the Year at three and retired as a millionaire.

Speedy Crown



At two, Speedy Crown won just four of his eight races and gave little indication of what was to follow. At three he dominated his opponents winning fifteen of twenty four starts, with eight being classics including the Hambletonian. He was the fastest trotter of his year and was voted USTA Trotter of the Year. He took another six classics at four and was again voted Trotter

of the Year for his age group. In all he won twenty nine of his fifty races and set two world records

Speedy Scot 1960 - U11	Speedster 1954 - U12	Rodney 1944 - U37
		Mimi Hanover 1945 - U12
Missile Toe 1962 - U48	Scotch Love 1954 - U11	Victory Song 1943 - U17
		Selka Scot 1945 - U11
	Florican 1947 - U33	Spud Hanover 1936 - U501
	Worth A Plenty 1954 - U48	Florimel 1938 - U33
		Darnley 1940 - U5
		Sparkle Plenty 1948 - U48

Breeding

It is worth noting that none of the mares along his maternal line have won a classic race and Speedy Crown is the first from his family to join the two minute list. His third dam, Sparkle a Plenty has all four of her sire lines tracing to Peter the Great and his fourth dam, The Gem, is inbred 2x3 to him.

Siring career

The second of the two sire line branches from Speedy Scot comes through Speedy Crown, whose six hundred and fifty six classic horses is greater than any other stallion in standardbred history.

At stud Speedy Crown has broken all records. His total of two hundred and forty four classic winners surpasses that of any other standardbred in history as does his current three hundred and eighty five as a broodmare sire. Three of his sons have won the Hambletonian and five of his daughters the Hambletonian Oaks. At the time of his death his progeny had won one hundred and six million dollars in stake earnings.

His wealthiest is daughter Moni Maker, the first horse in the history of harness racing to earn more than five million dollars. Embassy Lobell follows with two and a half million in earnings. Speedy Crown is currently the leading sire and broodmare sire of millionaire trotters.

Speedy Crown was the leading sire of 1:55 horses and his fastest is Moni Maker with her T1:52.1. She also holds the world record for trotting under saddle, established in 2000.

As a broodmare sire he has left an even greater legacy leading the 1:53 and 1:55 lists as well as the 1:56 two year old list.

His most successful winning progeny is Moni Maker with thirty two classic wins while he also leads all others as the broodmare sire of Triple Crown race wins.

Valley Victory



Baltic Speed 1981 - U49	Speedy Somolli 1975 - U2	Speedy Crown 1968 - U48
	Sugar Frosting 1972 - U49	Somolli 1970 - U2
Valley Victoria 1981 - U6	Bonefish 1972 - U32	Carlisle 1963 - U8
		Karens Choice 1960 - U49
	Victorious Lou 1972 - U6	Nevele Pride 1965 - U8
		Exciting Speed 1965 - U32
		Noble Victory 1962 - U9
		Lou Sidney 1957 - U6

In an extremely brief racing career, Valley Victory won four of his seven starts as a two year old to be voted USTA Two Year Old Colt Trotter of the Year. The start to his career had been delayed due to intestinal surgery, but his Breeders Crown win in world record time was impressive.

He was then unbeaten in his seven starts as a three year old and favourite for the Hambletonian before being sidelined by a virus. Rather than returning to the track he was syndicated for stud.

Breeding

Valley Victory was the first foal of his dam and from the first crop of Baltic Speed. He is basically an outcross stallion although he does have four crosses to Star's Pride, his closest being a 4x4. Other crosses further back in his pedigree include five to Scotland and seven to Volomite.

He is from the prolific Mamie family but none of his first four dams had achieved much on the track. His fifth dam, Princess Peg, defeated the colts in both the Kentucky Futurity and a heat of the Hambletonian. His dam did produce two other classic progeny but neither approached the ability of Valley Victory.

Siring career

Valley Victory had immediate success at stud, leaving a host of champion performers. His one hundred and sixty nine classic horses and ninety seven classic winners come from just four hundred and seventy five foals giving him a strike rate of classic winners to foals equal to that of Star's Pride.

His most successful cross has been with Speedy Crown mares. Four of his five fastest and half of his millionaires have come from Speedy Crown mares.

His wealthiest offspring are the mares Lookout Victory and Continentalvictory, each with more than one and a half million dollars in earnings while Continentalvictory (T1:52.1) and Muscles Yankee (T1:52.2) are his fastest. Continentalvictory is his most prolific classic winner with twelve wins, followed closely by Lookout Victory and Muscles Yankee on ten each. It was unfortunate for the breed that his fertility resulted in far fewer progeny than the other great sires in this chapter. His only sire award was leading stake earner of two and three year olds in 1994.

As the earlier tables show, Valley Victory has easily the best ratio of classic winners to foals and equals the classic winner ratio of the great Adios as a broodmare sire. Despite having so few progeny, he is still fourth as a sire of Triple Crown race wins and fourth as a sire of millionaire trotters.

His enormous legacy rests with the siring potential of his sons and grandsons. His sons Muscles Yankee and Yankee Glide have sired twenty seven of the 1:53 trotters between them with the next best being Valley Victory himself with six credits.