

## GARN STUD AND GARN BESSIE

During a visit to the South African Stud Book Association, I had the opportunity of studying all 29 printed original Volumes of the South African Stud Books published prior to the Second World War, to find out whether any of the eighteen Welsh ponies and cobs imported into South Africa between the Anglo-Boer War and the First World War (1901 – 1914) had been registered. In Volume 9 I came across the nineteenth import, only one entry as follows:-

### WELSH COBS.

#### Mare.

#### E. S. Pugh.

*Kogelbouts Kop, P.O. Waverley, Queenstown*

1. **GARN BESSIE** (Vol. 12 Welsh Pony and Cob Society's Stud Book). Foaled 1906. Bay, blaze on face. Bred by E.Pugh, The Garn, Bucknell, Salop, England.  
*Sire:* Emlyn Swell, out of Emlyn Lady 11786 H.S.B by St.Simon 7594  
*Dam:* Poll II, by Express IV. 2d. Poll, by Cardigan Comet III

It will be noticed that this entry is No 1 signifying that this is the first Welsh Cob to be recorded in South Africa; it is also the only one entered!

A search of the Welsh Stud Book revealed the following entry in Volume 12 issued in 1913:-

#### 4332 GARN BESSIE

EDWARD PUGH,

The Garn, Bucknell, Salop.

Bay, blaze. Foaled 1906. Height 15-3.

*Breeder, Owner.*

*Sire,* Emlyn Swell.

*Dam,* Poll II, bay, 14-2, by Express IV., 14-2.

*G-dam,* Poll, bay, 14-2, by Cardigan Comet III.

This Mare is exported to South Africa for breeding purposes.

It is unfortunate that no breeder bothered to enter their purebred stock into the SA Studbook and we therefore do not know of any progeny which they produced.

Edward Stephen Pugh, born in 1874, lived with his parents Jonathan and Many Anne Pugh and his brother Pryce, at The Shop Farm in Llanbister in the eastern part of mid-Wales. He moved to the farm 'The Garn' at Bucknell, Salop in England, just across the Welsh border. He joined the British forces and embarked for South Africa on 19 February, 1900, serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment during the Anglo-Boer War.

He never joined as a member of the Mother Society but used the prefix 'Garn' from the farm's name and registered what appears to be the only foal he bred in the UK in 1906, Garn Bessie.

The next information I have of him is that he married Many Ann Temlett, and lived on the family farm Kogelboutskop in the Stormsberg district of Queenstown in the Eastern Cape. They had four sons, Ernest, Pryce, Arthur and Leonard, the last born in 1911 and died in action as a Gunner at El Alamein on 12 September, 1942.

Regrettably, no other information is available on the 'breeding purposes' for which this big Cob mare (15-3hh) was imported. The investigation continues, however, and any update will naturally be recorded in future Journals.

## **GK 2022**

*My appreciation to Herman Labuscagne, Manager: Data- and Technical Services of Logix for allowing me to study all the earlier studbooks leading to the information in this, and other, articles in this Journal*

-----00000000000000000000-----

*Before we can expect our horse to offer the best of themselves, we must first find a way to be able to give the best of ourselves to them ~ Mark Rashid*

*Your horse is only as BRAVE as you are*