

‘HANDS-UP’ (?)

While researching other ponies in the Welsh Stud Book, the following entry was found in Vol VIII of 1909:-

2333 I AM COMING

Miss Eurgain Lort,
Belle Vue, Bangor, N. Wales.

Brown. Foaled, 1898. Height, 13-0.

Breeder, JOHN JONES & SON, Dinarth Hall Pony Stud, Colwyn Bay.

Sire, JULIUS CÆSAR II. (5666 H.S.B.), chestnut, 14-0.

Dam (1322 H.S.B.), LADY BLACK.

PRIZES.

First, London Hackney Show.

Third, Royal Show.

Prod. in	Colour and Markings.	Sex.	Breeder.	Name of Produce.	Sire's Name and Breeding.
1906	Bay.	c.	J. Jones and Son,	—	Julius Cæsar II.

Produce sold to Mr. FORBES, South Africa, for 125 guineas.

The dam, I Am Coming, by Julius Cæsar II (WPCS 132, HSB 5666) out of Lady Black (HSB 1322) was put back to her sire Julius Cæsar II. The unnamed Section B colt, which foaled in 1906, was not registered and the Mr Forbes not identified. However, with the price paid, it could only possibly have been Dave Forbes of the famous Forbes family of Athole Estate in the Ermelo district. His father, David Forbes, born in 1828, emigrated from Perth in Scotland in 1850, started working as a labourer at the Durban docks, married Catherine Ann ‘Kate’ Purcocks in 1860 and built up a successful farming, prospecting and mining operation in Southern and East Africa. He died in 1905.

Dave Forbes was born in 1863, was educated privately, never married and further developed the family’s business interests, especially in Swaziland where he became General Manager and Director of the Swazi Coal Mines Ltd, and also a Member of the first Swaziland Government. He also had significant farming interests. The Athole Estate was particularly known for breeding quality horses and stock in addition to growing crops.

During the Anglo-Boer War he was commissioned and as Captain Forbes, established and commanded the Lebombo Intelligence Scouts, which, through

its highly successful activities, and, in recognition of these services, led to him being created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). He died in 1941. He travelled widely.

The history of the family has been documented through the thousands of letters written by the family members. In one of these letters which Dave wrote to his mother Kate on 10 February, 1912, he envisages a change in direction by disposing of some of the farms, the money going to Kate and his sisters, and the remainder to be run, together with his brother Jim, by changing its focus to horse-breeding and stock-raising. In this letter he writes ‘You must kindly remember to send for the three mares at Mbabane and also send down the horse “Hands-Up” for Matthew to come out on ...’ This is the only animal mentioned by name in these letters and was obviously special. Could this possibly be the colt which was imported in 1908?

GK 2022

References

The Welsh Stud Book: Volume VIII of 1909

Captain David Forbes: My life in South Africa (London 1938)

Huw M Jones: The Lebombo Intelligence Scouts – Military History Journal Vol 12 No 6 2003

Liz Starling: The History of the Family – Settler Colonisation and Migrant letters to the Forbes Family (2016)

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Home is where your horse is

I'd rather be in the stall than the mall

The path to my heart is paved with hoofprints

*“It was nice of you to spend so much time grooming me,
I think it helped to get the mud to stick to me better”*

An expert in anything was once a beginner ~ Helen Hayes

*Teach your child to love a horse,
And they will never have money to buy drugs*

You have two friends you can count on; your horse and your dog