

RUNNING WATERS WELSH PONY STUD

Leighton Hall at Leighton near Telford, Shropshire, was home to the Kynnersley family until Thomas Frederick Kynnersley died in 1927. He bequeathed the Estate to a cousin Wiston John Jennett-Browne born in 1879, the grand-son of Frances Blennerhassett (the grand-daughter of the ‘Great Colonel John’ Blennerhassett of Ireland), and the Rev Jennett-Browne. On his acceptance of this inheritance, Wiston John then changed his name by deed poll to Kynnersley-Browne, and moved into the manor house. In 1946 he became the High Sheriff of Shropshire. He married Rose Smitheman who was born on 14 January, 1899. In 1957 Leighton Hall was sold and Sothebys held a sale of the furniture, the family documents being deposited at the Shropshire Record Office. Leighton Hall is still in private ownership and is today primarily used as a conference centre and a wedding reception venue.



Wiston John and Rose Kynnersley-Browne (pictured here) bought the farm ‘Running Waters’ at Kiepersol, Eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga – *where the sun rises*) close to the Forsight farm of the Foresyte Stud of Ida Illingworth. The Running Waters Stud was started in 1962 with two half-bred Valiant fillies, neither of which were transferred, and a collection of small Basuto type mares which she was lucky enough to find in Natal; Coffee, Dusty, Topsy, Dolly, Pixie, Misty and Cloud. When Nell Pennel visited the stud in 1966, she was very interested in the sturdy small Basuto type mares which had been acquired as foundation stock.

Ida allowed her to use the Section B stallion Valiant, who had been imported some 5 years earlier (*see the article on Valiant on page 148*). Topsy was covered by Valiant and in 1963 the colt Running Waters Valiant Taffy was foaled, the first foal of the new stud. She used Valiant on a further 5 occasions and they produced: in 1964, Running Waters Valiant Heath Mynd out of Heatherbell (TB), in 1965 RW Valiant’s Dauntless out of Dolly, in 1966 RW Valiant Victoria out of Misty and RW Valiant Glamour Boy out of Inyaminga, and in 1967, RW Valiant Vanguard out of Pixie. Five colts and one filly!



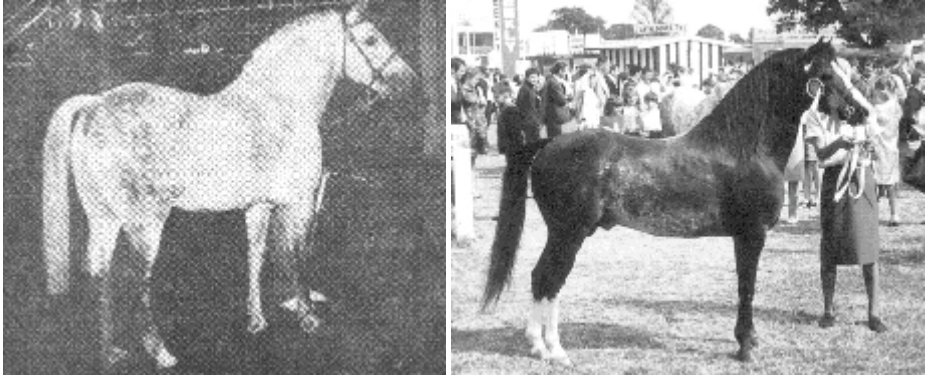
She now also had Foresyte Valiant Cocktail, a Welsh/Thoroughbred colt by Valiant out of the Polo pony Barmaid, leased from Mrs J Boswell running with them and also Miss Illingworth's young Jamani Blue Kerrid colt, Foresyte Kerrid's Prudent Pilot out of Foresyte Valiant Prudence, the 1965 Rand Easter Show Champion. Mrs K-B had great difficulty in breeding from her little mares in the conventional way, and had only been able to get results through running the stallions out with the mares. However, she had some very promising young ponies and hoped that the next generation, having been handled from the word go, would be more amenable to the artificial methods. Cocktail had succeeded in getting four very nice foals from the four Basuto type mares while Foresyte Valiant Silver Matuka had a filly foal by Foresyte Valiant Cocktail and had visited Jamani Blue Kerrid this time. Foresyte Valiant Silver Matuka was also on lease from Mrs Boswell.

Unfortunately, her husband Wiston John died on 8 May, 1966, at the age of 87 and was buried on the farm Running Waters. His old horse was at his funeral and as they lowered the coffin into the grave, the horse screamed which was quite eerie.

10 foals were born late 1966 and one early in 1967. They were mostly by Foresyte Valiant Cocktail, who had since been gelded, and looked like making some nice children's riding ponies. Only RW Tippler was, however, recorded. Some would be retained for breeding stock. She was unfortunate enough to lose a mare and a foal to Horse Sickness. Three very young foals came down with it as well, but recovered. It had been a bad season for Horse Sickness in the Lowveld as elsewhere. Foresyte Valiant Silver Matuka had a nice colt by Jamani Blue Kerrid, also not recorded.

In October, 1964, Brockwell Will o' th' Wisp, a 12.2h, dark grey yearling colt by Brockwell Cobweb (a roan with a patch of hair on his flank that looked a bit like a cobweb) out of Berwyn Beauty was bought from a Mr G Wyatt through the auctioneers Russell, Baldwin and Bright, at the Fayre Oaks sale in Wales, for Mr and Mrs Paul of Pinetown, Natal. The Section B colt had been a great winner in the UK including a first in his class at the Ponies of Britain Stallion show at Ascot. In 1970, Mrs K-B bought this stallion with the intention of putting him onto the Cocktail fillies of the Basuto mares. In total he only produced 20 foals 5 of which were registered purebred foals; one out of Coed Coch Pala, three out of Gredington Siriol and one out of Bryniau Starlet. There are 15 partbred foals recorded. Some of his progeny are shown

in Logix under the stud name ‘Brookwell’. Unfortunately, Willo died young when he ate an avocado and choked on the pip.



Brockwell Will o' th' Wisp and his sire Brockwell Cobweb

Undoubtedly the most outstanding news from Mrs Kynnersley-Browne in February 1969 was the safe arrival of her three importations from Wales bought at the Hay-on-Wye sale and consisting of:- The three year old grey Section B mare, Bryniau Starlet and her colt foal Ty Isha Flashlight bought from Mr Dick Richards of Breconshire. Starlet, by Criban Recorder, goes back to the brown section B stallion Owen Glyndwr who was foaled in 1904 and whose number is 166 in the WPCS Studbook. Starlet was about 13hh. Her colt foal was by Ty Isha Stripe. Export certificates issued in August 1969.

She also imported a riding pony colt Cusop Vivien from Mrs Llewellyn Richards. Vivien was by the famous Bwlch Valentino who stood 3rd the



Ty Isha Flashlight

previous year at the Ponies of Britain Stallion Progeny Awards in the Merit (cross-bred) section. Valentino was beaten by his son Bwlch Zephyr and his grandson Bwlch Hill Wind. Valentino is the sire of that lovely mare Cusop Quickstep which had been imported

into the country by Mr Sydney Press and his colt Gulf Stream was by Hill Wind. Valentino was the fountain head and it was good to have more of his blood in the country.

In 1970 Mrs K-B also had a Section B filly, Running Waters Willo's Shropshire Lass, by Brockwell Will o' th' Wisp out of Gredington Siriol, a Section B mare, who was imported to Rhodesia by Mrs Sheila Goode and sold to Mrs K-B at the 1969 National Championships held in Bloemfontein. It was the name of this pony (Shropshire Lass) and that of Running Waters Gilbert's Goosander (*ed. not recorded*) which led to the Studbook laying down a stipulation that the name of the pony, including the stud name, may not exceed 32 digits. (*see also p74*)



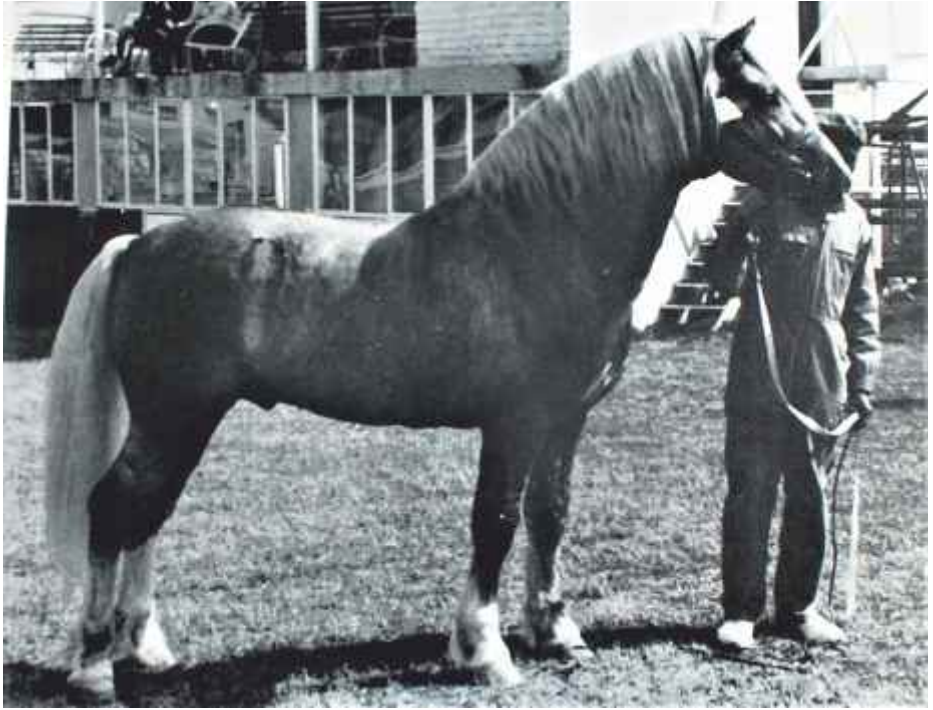
Shropshire Lass

Penelope through his dam Inyaminga who was out of Penelope by the TB stallion Elgar.

1st April, 1971, the export certificate was issued for Sinton Gilbert from Mrs P W Houghton to Mrs K-B. In March, 1983, Mrs K-B wrote the following on Sinton Gilbert - 'I have always been an admirer of Welsh Ponies and Cobs and Part-Breds and wanted to breed the cob as a larger mount for children and juniors when I came out to South Africa. So, on a visit back to the UK in 1970, I went to see a stud of a friend, Mrs Houghton, Sinton Green, Worcs, where I was introduced to a sturdy little cream coloured fellow of a few days

Mrs K-B had five part-bred colts (only 4 recorded: RW Willo's Leominster, RW Willo's Nimbus, RW Willo's William and RW Willo's Workman) and one filly, RW Willo's Whisper, by her stud sire Brockwell Will o' th' Wisp and one filly, RW Glamour Daybreak, by her cream part-bred colt Foresyte Valiant Glamour Boy. Glamour Boy by Valiant traces back to the Basuto mare

old. I fell for him at once, seeing him in my mind's eye galloping about at "Running Waters". Much conversation took place, and so in one year's time, the now well grown yearling, arrived out to the Eastern Transvaal.



Sinton Gilbert

'He was fully registered with the WPCS in the UK and RSA and was accepted into the British Palomino Society as a foal. His mother, Faelog Flora is a grand type of family pony, hunting, eventing and gymkhana-ing and doing all that family horses are expected to do, and, of course, having a foal when time allows.

'Mrs Houghton breeds Cobs and Section B Welsh Ponies. Gilbert has been shown a little at Johannesburg and Lowveld Shows often, and has been ridden a little but never shown under saddle (owing to lack of a rider) so far, he has been used mainly for part-bred breeding and clicks well with TB mares, producing useful junior and children's mounts that are easily handled and broken. He is by Gelert ap Briant by Llanarth Briant, out of Faelof Flora by Caradog Llaryd.'

Recently Pat Moore recollected that – 'We visited there on an occasion when we were visiting Ida. Derek and I were delighted with tiny Mrs Kynnersley-

Browne who had a small herd of Brahman cattle that used to come into stalls in a huge barn overnight, and get fed a treat by the hand of the little lady as they lumbered into their beds in the evening. The temperaments were thus treasured and the connections maintained as she saw them tucked into bed each night. She loved the farm, having come from the beautiful county of Shropshire in England on the border of Wales; she could walk on the Transvaal slopes.

‘Sinton Gilbert was a delightful animal, with a heart of gold. It must have been the Palomino colour which attracted Mrs Kynnersley-Brown when she went to the UK. He was the perfect gentleman, but had presence and was surely the sort of family animal who made the Welsh Cob a treasure for the Welsh farmers. One of the first cobs to come to South Africa for breeding purposes, and the one who came to Natal for our first ALL SECTIONS show. Natal folk were fairly far away from the old Transvaal Welsh pony situation. However, I am very proud to be able to say that it was us in Natal who were able to give classes for every section of the Welsh pony and cob stud book for the first time in South Africa, and to have all sections on display! We can thank Horse Festival for that, though we got absolutely NO SUPPORT from the South African Society Not even a rosette for the top Champion. But Mrs Kynnersley-Browne sent dear Sinton Gilbert (Section D) all the way over to swell the crowd and support our effort! So, it is forever with joy that I recall the lovely fellow wowing the other horse competitors when he exercised with plastic shopping bags fluttering from his feet as he proudly stepped out through the damp grass keeping his white socks clean! Other horses might boggle at the flapping plastic, but he lifted his hooves with pride, and showed the Natal lot how a Welsh Cob carried himself - Strong, proud and like a gentleman!

‘Filkins Kernel, who we first saw as a foal in Devonshire, came for the Section C, and did his best too but sadly the cobs were never thick on the ground, being more of a working animal than a show pony type; you have to know one to appreciate one and not just see them from the ringside. They need and wish to be part of the family.

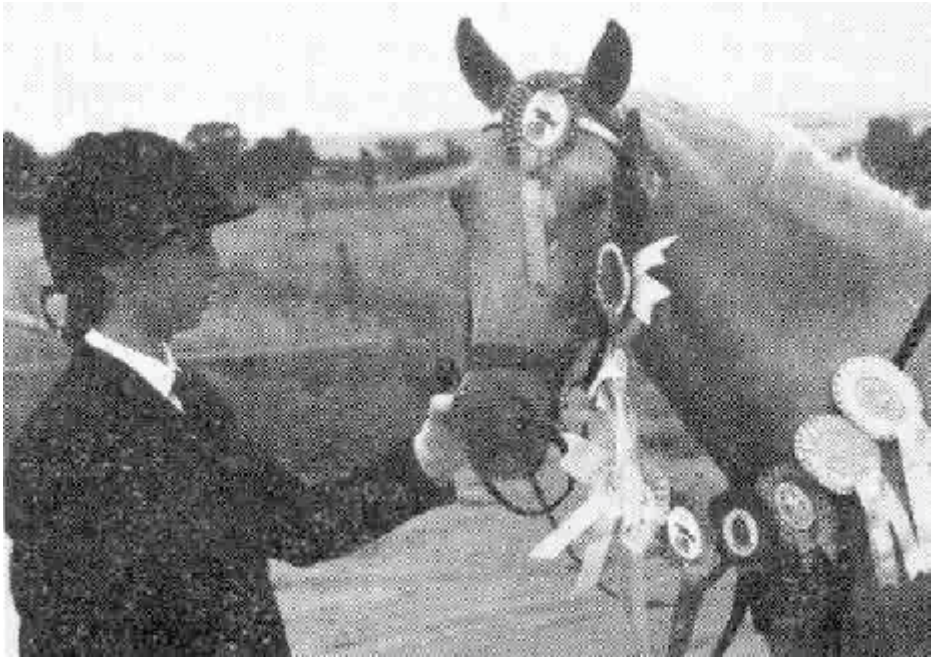
‘After the show we Welshies had a little celebration party at the grand stand bar. Little Mrs Kynnersley-Browne couldn’t find a seat so somebody popped her onto a table. We all chatted and celebrated for a while before gathering to leave, and it was then that we discovered Mrs K-B stuck on her table! Somebody kindly lifted her down! Running Waters Gilbert’s Good Hope is the only name I can recall as a prize winner from Gilbert, but I am sure there were others.’



Running Waters Flashe's Springtide



Running Waters Gilbert's Good Hope



Running Waters Glamour Boy



Sinton Gilbert

Another recollection was that she drove a Studebaker Lark, an enormous car and she used to look through the top of the steering wheel to see out.

Mrs R Kynnersley-Browne was a sponsor of the First International Equine Conference in South Africa held at Pretoriuskop, Kruger National Park, from 5 to 10 August, 1974.

In 1987 Ty Isha Flashlight was sold to Lorna Ramsden of the Willowbrook Stud (*J2011 p56*) where he sired six foals before finally being bought by Mrs Helen Gilfillan of the Wayfillan Stud.

On a recent helicopter trip over the farm, all traces of the farm manager's cottage and other improvements were gone, only the large shed, manor house and farm dams remaining, as the farm is now completely covered in banana trees.



Sinton Gilbert ridden by Gavin Frost