

In light of the Heritage Stock Horse system instigated by the ASHS, I began to think about the heritage dilute lines that some of our horses today carry. These are lines of Australian born cream dilutes that can be traced right back in an unbroken line through to the late 1890's, early 1900's. I myself am extremely fortunate to have a number of horses that carry several of these lines and are also Heritage Stock Horses by virtue of the rest of their pedigrees. That makes them both 'heritage' dilutes as well as Heritage Stock Horses. The best known continuously documented Australian born dilute lines that seem to survive today, and which can be traced through our own studbooks, are those that come down through Silver Lyn (Pearlyn x Creamy).

One of the earliest documented accounts of a dilute in this country can be found in the archives of the Australian Stock Horse Society:

In the early 1870's, an Englishman named Captain Beardmore drove a creamy pony stallion from Port Macquarie to Dungog in a dog-cart. This stallion, called Saladin was thought to be imported, but there are conflicting stories about this. In any case, Captain Beardmore soon moved on to Canada, leaving this stallion with Mr JK Mackay at his property, Cangon near Dungog. A chestnut mare by Eclipse and owned by a Mr Alison was put to Saladin. The resultant foal out of Mr Alison's chestnut mare was a creamy filly, who at three years was bred to her sire, producing a creamy or palomino colt foal. This foal was to make a name for himself as the famous Saladin.

In due course, Saladin was bought by Mr JK Mackay to breed stock horses. He was sent to Giro Station about thirty miles north west of Gloucester, which was partly owned by Mackay and a Mr Cobb, possibly of Cobb & Co fame. Later he was transferred to another Mackay property, Cooplacurripa which was about twenty miles north east of Giro.

By this time Saladin was a mature horse and the management wanted to see how he would go under saddle. Dick Hinton was selected as the rider for the job but Saladin had other ideas about being ridden, showing one of his abilities, bucking. He was put up for sale and bought by Duncan McPherson, who owned Kirriki, the property adjoining the southern end of Cooplacurripa. After leading Saladin the forty miles home, he saddled him up and rode him. Later he described him as a wonderful downhill horse, but a bit old to teach much. Saladin's stock though proved to be excellent stock horses and became well known for their appearance, surefootedness, cow sense, durability and smooth riding downhill.

Longevity seems to be characteristic of Saladin stock. There have been a number of mares of Saladin blood recorded as living well into their thirties and still producing foals when thirty or more. It is not recorded exactly when Saladin was foaled or died, but it is thought that he was foaled before 1875 and died about 1900 or soon after.

Around 1900 a bay Arab stallion (whether or not he was a purebred is unknown as he was never registered or at least not here in Australia) by the name of Helios was imported from India. He had a performance record in that country second to none, having won many jumping and steeplechasing races and he was apparently also shown with some success in Australia as well. Helios stood at JJ Bowden's property 'Auburn Vale' in Victoria where he was the primary sire. One of his daughters, a mare named Pearl 2nd (out of a mare called Pearl according to the APSB studbook), was bred to Lord Rosslyn, an imported NZ thoroughbred by St Clair out of Lady Emma. The resulting foal was a chestnut colt called Pearlyn. Most of Pearlyn's progeny were apparently sold back to India but a few of his offspring did remain in Australia.

JJ Bowden's son Fred continued the family's horse breeding business. Their property adjoined that of another breeder, Mr O'Rourke. Not much is known about Mr O'Rourke or his horses, possibly because they weren't shown or used excessively at public stud. He did however have a number of creamy mares whose origins are now not known and he also had a stallion about whom there are several different theories. One version is that he was a creamy part arab stallion and was the sire of most of the 'creamies' on the property. Whether or not this was the case will probably always remain unknown. What is known is that Fred Bowden purchased several of these creamy mares from Mr O'Rourke and bred them to **Pearlyn** and a couple of the resulting creamy colts became the foundation sires for some of Australia's oldest, traceable lines of cream dilutes.

The best known, and probably the most influential of the progeny in Australia, was **Silver Lyn**. Typically, there are several versions of Silver Lyn's pedigree on record. According to the Australian Pony Stud Book records he was by Pearlyn out of a mare called Creamy who was by Norfolk Swell (imp). Another version has him being by Pearlyn out of *one of O'Rourke's creamy mares*. If we go with the APSB records, which predate other versions of the pedigree, then his dam was most likely the very well campaigned and very successful jumping and performance mare of the day called Creamy. (I believe Creamy may in fact have been the "Mrs F Bird's creamy mare" that appears in some versions of the pedigree and that Mrs F Bird was probably part of the Bowden family as she is listed as the breeder of some of the horses associated with Fred Bowden and Silver Lyn). It is also possible that Creamy was indeed one of the O'Rourke creamy mares purchased by the Bowdens). Likewise her sire, the imported stallion Norfolk Swell, may or may not have been the stallion referred to above as Mr O'Rourke's creamy part arab stallion. Norfolk Swell (imp) appears in the pedigrees of a number of ponies subsequently registered in the early years of the Australian Pony Stud Book but nothing much appears to be known about him. There is also a Norfolk Swell 2nd and a 3rd in some pedigrees – one assumes that they were

possibly descendants of the original imported Norfolk Swell.

The name Norfolk Swell itself is an interesting one because both Norfolk and Swell are names traditionally associated with the Hackney breed which evolved from the Norfolk Cobs (AKA Norfolk trotters) in the 1800's and Swell is a reasonably common name in that breed. There was a Norfolk Swell, a 14.2 or 14.3 black Norfolk Cob born in the UK in 1874 who was registered in the English Hackney Stud Book but it is improbable because of the generational time frames, although not entirely impossible, that this was the Norfolk Swell imported to Australia. If he was then Creamy's dam, who may well have been one of O'Rourke's creamy mares by his creamy part-arab stallion, was the source of her colour.

Regardless, where the colour originally came from in these O'Rourke creamies will never be known for sure but it is entirely possible that they go back to some of the creamy station-bred horses that were running around on stations where the famous Saladin and various of his creamy sire sons were known to have been standing. Whatever Creamy's story was, the important part for our purposes is that upon retirement she was bred to Pearlyn several times and the cross produced several outstanding palomino offspring, including **Silver Lyn**. Silver Lyn in turn left several palomino sire sons and they were pretty much all without peer in their day when it came to jumping and general all round performance. The most significant in terms of present day dilutes are undoubtedly Goldie and Silver Sails.

Goldie

Goldie was a 14 hh palomino stallion who was registered with the Australian Pony Stud Book (Volume 2, reg # 165). His dam is not recorded by the APSB. There is a version of his pedigree that has him as being by Pearlyn out of Creamy, which would make him a full sibling to Silver Lyn rather than being by him. However, as the APSB records predate other versions of his pedigree and there is no record of his details subsequently being officially corrected in those records, apart from a correction to his height from 12h to 14h (if someone noticed his height was incorrect you presume they would have also noticed an incorrect pedigree!) we have to assume that the APSB version is as close to the correct one as we'll ever know. Goldie was bred by Mrs F Bird, the same Mrs F Bird mentioned above who is recorded elsewhere as having owned a creamy mare that was put to Norfolk Swell to produce Creamy but again that version is unsubstantiated by official documentation. He was purchased by AA Laidlaw as a 3 year old who not only stood him at stud but also turned him into an unparalleled performance pony. Largely undefeated in whatever he was competed in, Goldie went on to sire a number of palominos and several of his sons became successful sires in their own right.

Golden Dawn was a palomino stallion by Goldie out of a mare of now unknown breeding called Mousie. The line of modern day dilutes that trace directly back to him about which much is known predominantly come down through his son **Golden Flash**, a palomino out of a Thoroughbred mare called Flash By (by Passing By out of Abstainer). Golden Flash was the sire of a number of palomino Tb crosses bred by Louis Thring of the famous Waveney Stud in SA. Probably the most notable of these was the mare **Goldbrae**, a palomino mare out of the thoroughbred mare Red Wings who was by *Solto* out of *Gay Wings* (and not to be confused with several other mares of the same name, including one by Star Kingdom and another who was the dam of Claredale Champagne Charlie!!). Goldbrae in turn was bred to Melbourne Cup winner Comic Court several times to produce a couple of palomino offspring and it is primarily through these horses (**Waveney Goldbine** and **Comic Gold**) that the family survives today in horses bred by Westbury Park, Kirby Park, Beaulleigh, Kilmaine, Tintara, Chalani, Davien Park and so on.

Gold Ray was also by Goldie out of a now unknown mare and his major sire son seems to have been Eric Champion's stallion **Golden Ranger** (out of an Arab Tb x mare) who produced another famous SA sire in **Golden Paleface**, owned by Nantambo Stud. Golden Paleface sired a large number of foals for Nantambo Stud, many of which were sold interstate where they founded their own dynasties of dilutes



East Lynn (Goldie x Trixie II)
East Lynn by Pearllyn out of a Arabian mare. He is an Australian Palomino of excellent quality.

However, with a couple of notable exceptions, most of the descendants of Golden Paleface that we now have knowledge of come from the progeny that were retained by Nantambo Stud as most of these were registered in our studbooks as were their progeny. Even so, many of these lines appear to have died out apart from those going back to the last 3 or 4 horses that were still at the stud just prior to its closure with the death of Ken and then Betty. These include descendants of the progeny of N Gold Shine out of the two mares Nantambo Pale Mist (G Paleface x Lockdale) and Halloshine (Tb) who were bought by various studs like Kirby Park, Westbury Park, Tintara etc where they have been instrumental in maintaining the genes of these very old Australian dilute lines. One other recorded line that still survives today are the Tandara horses in WA that go back to Nantambo Bobby Sox (by Golden Paleface).

East Lynn is another son of Goldie, out of a part-Arab mare, who has known surviving descendants today. One of the most prepotent lines is that via his son **Desert Chief** who is the sire of **Silver Chief**. Silver

Chief is an interesting horse – his dam Silver Dollar was out of a mare called Dolly II whose dam, also called Dolly, was purportedly by Radium (Cecil x Black Bess). Silver Chief notably was the sire of a number of Nilliambi horses whose descendants still survive today through some of the Edlen, Gizmo and Goldmine lines (Oro, Chambron, Orlando Park, Chyandra Park etc) and a couple of Chatswood stallions found in the pedigrees of some Jindalla Park horses. East Lynn was eventually exported to the US which possibly explains why he was never registered as a palomino.

Silver Sails



(Action Studio)
Silver Sails, by Silver Lyn, by Pearl Lyn. A fine Palomino stallion and an excellent jumper.

The other son of Silver Lyn who features prominently in a lot of modern day dilute pedigrees was the very famous **Silver Sails**, a notable performance stallion in the 1940's. Born in 1940, he was out of a mare generally referred to as a "Sugar King mare" but the APSB studbook lists her as 'Brownie' and reportedly by Sugar King out of a Llangaeme mare. Silver Sails, who holds the distinction of carrying registration number S0001, was the first stallion to be registered by the association and was originally owned by Ron Metherall who campaigned him very successfully. His progeny were quite numerous and a fair number of the lines still survive today but the plethora of dilute associations in this country makes it very difficult to find them all so this account is by no means exhaustive. Silver Sails was eventually sold to Ayr Park in NSW, owned by EJ Powell and sadly is reported to have died in the 1955 floods that swept through parts of NSW from Feb 23 - 27 of that year. He was only 15 years old and a sad loss to the industry.

Silver Radium, out of the Master Radium mare Baldy Radium, was probably amongst the most prolific of his sons and is found in a great many pedigrees.

Monsview Golden Jasper by the mighty Souvenir goes back to Silver Sails via Gold Enchant, his dam's sire; he appears in the pedigrees of a number of Monsview horses, some Goldmine & Edlen horses and various other lines which have quite a few representatives around still. It is interesting to note the number of times Australian Ponies such as Texannie, Hickory King, Texas Deen and so on appear in some of these pedigrees. Silver Sails was put to Texannie several times and their progeny also appear in volume one of our studbook. Texannie was also put to various other stallions and she appears quite consistently in some of these very old lines of dilutes, albeit by a number of different spellings of her name. She was a palomino mare by Texas Deen (better known as the sire of the well known stallion Texas Gold) out of Chessie who is another mare that appears regularly in these old pedigrees.

Another strong line that survives today in a number of dilutes comes down through one of his sons **Golden Fire to Felside Flyaway** (ASHS Poldark) and his cremello son **Springdale Solitaire** (Hazy Ponds, Pegasus Lodge, Devils Creek, Nickel Park, Rockville Park, Kaala, Shaylee, Springdale etc are some of the studs that have progeny of this line).

The stallion **Circle Star Murray Gold Jr** carries two crosses back to him, one on either side of his pedigree (a Silver Sails daughter on the sire line and Silver Radium on the dam line) and is primarily represented today in our records by the progeny and descendants of **The Nook Orlando** (bred and owned by Orlando Park).

Suffice to say that the primary lines of dilutes today that can be traced back to Silver Sails are those that carry Edlen, Nilliambi, Monsview and one or two other noted prefixes.

Something To Think About

She got caught up in the metal paddock fence by a clip on her halter early this morning, and had struggled so much that her breathing was cut off and she collapsed. Thankfully this happened just before feeding time, and Vic was able to see her in time to do CPR (!) and bring her back to us. Minutes later she jumped up and ran around and ate her breakfast, no worse for wear. We are feeling very blessed today. No more leaving nylon halters on w/o supervision. Lesson learned, and blessings counted.

I came across the above comment on Facebook recently and it reminded me of a thread on one of the groups about the same issue. There have been way too many deaths and serious injuries to horses caused by halters being left on out in paddocks and whilst horses are not supervised. In fires there is also the risk of them melting onto the horse's head. So, if you are one of those owners who doesn't think twice about turning a horse out unsupervised with an unbreakable halter left on, perhaps you could consider the above comment from someone who had a very lucky escape.