

Fall & Winter 2024

American Indian Horse Registry



Nightlight's Blackjack, Marsh Tacky Gelding
The Livestock Conservancy MT-574; HOA-2410

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Horse of the Americas & Center for America's First Horse

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A FOREVER HOME FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS

1965 - 2024



Home of the
American Indian Horse Registry
Since 1979



ANIMAL ANGELS

*They come to us on loan,
These animal angels.
They love us unconditionally,
These animal angels.
They come in all shapes,
Dogs, cats, horses, donkeys,
Raccoons, Opossums,
These animal angels.
They are with us through
Good times and bad,
These animal angels.
God bless and keep them all,
These animal angels*



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Hardihood Acres and Marsh Tacky Horses

Amy Speissegger

At Hardihood Acres, we raise a unique strain of Colonial Spanish Horses called the Marsh Tacky, registered with the AIHR, HOA, TLC, and approved by the Wassamasaw of Varnertown Indians Tribal Elders. My name is Amy Speissegger and my passion for these horses started when I read articles about the Marsh Tacky horses in the early 2000's. As a mother and artist living in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, I became fascinated with the Colonial Spanish horses of my state and started a series of equine paintings.



Painting by Amy Dalton (Speissegger)

In 2019, I attended the Johns Island Steeple Chase to display my art. At this event my 11-year-old daughter decided to hang out with the Marsh Tacky horses and their owners. She instantly became a "Horse girl". At the end of the event, I realized one of the "Marsh Tacky" people she had spent the day with, was an ex-paramedic who was an old friend of my mother, an ER nurse.

My marriage to my children's father, owner of a successful business in Mt. Pleasant, one of the most desirable communities in the state, fell apart and he filed for divorce. As a survivor and adaptable like the horses, my passion for the Marsh Tacky horses grew. I started spending more time with the horses under the guidance of my mom's old friend, John, and his father, a Wassamasaw Tribal Elder. In 2020, I bought my first Marsh Tacky horse, and my daughter earned her first Marsh Tacky horse. In 2021, I bought and moved onto a Loblolly tree farm in Aiken County, SC.



Tribal Elder John Speissegger, Sr. with
Barrier Island Nightlight
AIHR O-5144, HOA-1934, TLC MT-288

In 2022, I married John Speissegger who had guided me on my journey with the Marsh Tacky horses. The Speissegger family are members of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. Their true ancestry dates to the first German immigrants into Charleston and Orangeburg County who married into indigenous families of various Native American groups including the Edisto, Etiwan, Cherokee, and Catawba. Over the years, they have persevered through challenges, maintaining their traditions and identity. Based along the Wassamasaw Swamp in Berkeley County, SC, about 30 miles from Charleston, most members of the community lived as free persons of color, owned small 50 – 200 acres farms, and many worked as overseers on large plantations. Over the years, they have persevered through challenges, maintaining their traditions and identity.

A particularly intriguing element of the Wassamasaw Tribe's legacy is their bond with the swamp horses called Marsh Tacky horses. Renowned for their hardiness and adaptability, these horses have been integral to the tribe's narrative. The Marsh Tacky, a scarce breed indigenous to South Carolina, was traditionally utilized for transport, agriculture, and warfare. These horses have been a part of the tribe since contact with the Spanish, and tribal members continue to breed and train these horses today.

John spent many years helping his father preserve the Wassamasaw swamp horses and retaining traditional training methods. By slowly adding



Madeline Broadway riding
Barrier Island Nightlight



carefully selected Livestock Conservancy registered Marsh Tacky horses to their herd, they eventually created our herd. Today at Hardihood Acres, we raise a type of horse the Wassamasaw people captured from South Carolina swamps and kept or sold to large plantations. Although the feral horses of the South Carolina swamps no longer roam free, we proudly preserve and promote the true South Carolina swamp horses.

All our horses are bred to the standards of the Wassamasaw Tribe Elders. We currently have six acres, with plans to expand the pasture to 20 acres, where our horses roam freely eating native grasses supplemented by local hay and daily feedings under Carolina pines. We average one stallion, triple registered, and four breeding mares. Along with a few geldings, stud colts, and my father-in-law's geldings he keeps on his farm about 10 miles away.



Madeline Broadway & Tammy Leach,
Wassamasaw Tribal Representative
Nightlight's Ace of Spades, HOA-2408

As supporters of the Wassamasaw Tribe, we volunteer our horses for educational purposes. Our horses were featured at the 2023 Wassamasaw Tribe Powwow. This event not only highlighted the Marsh Tacky's historical significance but also emphasized its enduring role in the tribe's cultural practices.

Attendees were treated to a display of the breed's unique characteristics and its historical use in the tribe's traditions.

The Marsh Tacky, known for its adaptability and resilience, played a crucial role in the daily lives of the community all the way through the 1970s. As one of the oldest and most adaptable horse breeds, it has been integral to agricultural work, transportation, and ceremonial practices. The breed's endurance and versatility make it a symbol of the tribe's enduring connection to their heritage. Hardihood Acres is looking forward to presenting at the 2024 Wassamasaw Tribe annual Powwow in October. To learn more please visit **Hardihood Acres** and **The Wassamasaw Tribe** pages on Facebook.

Tribal Elder John Speissegger with
MT Laney, TLC MT-343, HOA-2308



More Marsh Tacky Horses from Hardihood Acres



Nightlight's Joker's Wild; HOA-2411



Nightlight's Blackjack; HOA-2410



Barrier Island Nightlight, HOA-1934; AIHR O-5144 & John Speissegger

AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE ASSOCIATES



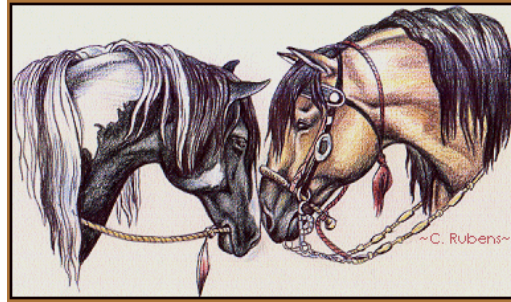
SPIRIT HORSE

Long ago, a man or woman painted their horse with colors and designs that would help them physically or spiritually. A person could paint their horse many different colors. A spirit horse could protect its rider from bad spirits in travel and from enemy warriors in battle. Many warriors had medicine songs for their spirit horse.

My horse is swift in flight
Even like a bird;
My horse be swift in flight;
Bear me now in safety
And you shall be rewarded
With streamers and ribbons red.
~Lakota Warrior's Song~



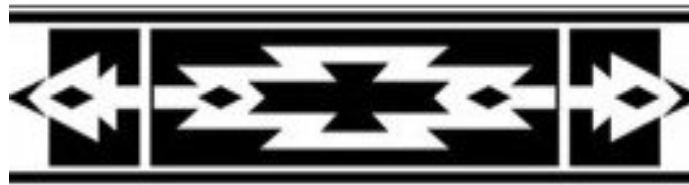
Horse of the Americas



The REAL Horse of the Old West is still here. From the Banker Islands to the desert Southwest, less than 3,000 are left today including all the Colonial Spanish Horse strains. The Horse of the America Registry records horses from every strain recognized by The Livestock Conservancy (formerly ALBC). HOA registration papers include photographs of the recorded horse, a five-generation pedigree with accomplishments in red type, and a strain analysis of the percentage of each strain in the horse's pedigree. HOA recognizes and records all "O" (Original American Indian Horses.) Contact: President Vickie Ives; 903-407-0298 or Registrar Gretchen Patterson; 903-407-3260.

<https://horseoftheamericas.com>

Help us preserve them--Join HOA!



Buy from HOA and/or AIHR "O" breeders.

The Center for America's First Horse

Founded in 2010, the Center opened near Johnson, Vermont. The stated mission of the Center is to enrich the lives of people through the spirit of the Colonial Spanish Horse. The Center is home to the most diverse group of Colonial Spanish Horses in the eastern United States. The Center depends upon private donations, sponsorship grants, fundraising and revenue from its programs to meet operating expenses. 100% of all revenue goes directly to our programs and expenses.

There are no government programs to save these horses, only individual organizations.

For information on how you can help:

<https://www.centerforamericasfirsthorse.org>



American Indian Tribal Names

Abnaki	Cheyenne	Goshute
Absentee-Shawnee	Chickahominy	Gros Ventre
Acoma	Chickasaw	Haida
Adawa	Chinook	Haliwa
Aqua Caliente	Chippewa	Havasupai
Aleut	Chitimacha	Hopi
Algonkin	Chumash	Houma
Anishinaabe	Clallam	Hualapai
Apache	Cocopah	Iowa
Arapaho	Cochiti	Iroquois
Ankara	Coeur d'Alene	Isleta
Assiniboine	Comanche	Jemez
Atakapa	Coos	Kalispel
Athabascan	Coushatta	Karok
Bannock	Covelo	Kaw
Blackfoot	Cowlitz	Kickapoo
Cabazon	Cree	Kiowa
Caddo	Crow	Klamath
Cahto	Dakota	Lasuna
Catawba	Delaware	Lakota
Cayuga	Duwamish	Maidu
Cayuse	Entiat	Makah
Chehalis	Erie	Mandan
Chemehuevi	Etakmur	Maricopa
Cherokee	Eskimo	
Choctaw	Flathead	
Creek	Fox	

American Indian Tribal Names

Mescalero	Metis	Miami
Miwok	Pueblo	Tonkawa
Modoc	Quapaw	Tunica
Mohegan	Quechan	Umatilla
Mohave	Rappahannock	Ute
Montauk	Sakonnet	Waccamaw
Muskogee	Salish	Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown
Nambe	Sandia	Waco
Narragansett	Santee	Walla Walla
Natchez	San Felipe	Wasco
Navajo	San Ildefonso	Washoe
Nez Perce	San Luiseno	Wichita
Nicola	Santa Ana	Winnebago
Ojibwa	Santa Clara	Wintu
Omaha	Santa Rosa	Yakima
Oneida	Santa Ynez	Yaqui
Osage	Santo Domingo	Yuma
Otoe	Saskatchewan	Zia
Ottawa	Sauk	Zuni
Paiute	Seminole	
Papago	Shawnee	
Pawnee	Shoshone	
Pequot	Skokomish	
Pima	Spokane	
Pomo	Supai	
Ponca	Susquehanna	
Powhatan	Taos Tesuque	



Timeline for the Spanish Horse in the Americas, Part II

This will be an ongoing educational piece provided by Beverley Davis, Irving, Texas. Mrs. Davis is an equine history researcher and writer. Additional editing/graphics by Gretchen Patterson, Historian.

1151: Muslim Ottomans finally drive the Christian knights out of Tripoli in North Africa.

1554: Philip II of Spain married Mary Tudor, Queen of England; this was a political marriage that permitted some Spanish/Catholic influence in English politics. Her mother, Catherine of Aragon was Philip's first cousin.

1556: King Carlos I abdicated his throne; Philip II of Spain ascended to the Spanish throne and empire.

1557: Garcia Hurtado de Mendoza, new governor of Chile, arrived with forty-two well-bred horses from Spain.

1558: Elizabeth I became Queen of England and dedicated herself to fighting the Spanish; she began a boycott of Spanish horses.

1559: Tristan de Luna Arellano settled in the Pensacola Bay area of Florida; a hurricane convinced him to abandon the settlement, leaving behind his horses and cattle.



King Philip II of Spain



August Pedro Menéndez de Avilés

1565: August Pedro Menéndez de Avilés along with six hundred soldiers and settlers founded St. Augustine on the site of a Timucuan Indian village. He had some horses and cattle but trade with Cuba brought additional livestock.

1567-1570: Philip II waged war against the Moriscoes-Muslims still living in Spain.

1566-1576: August Pedro Menéndez de Avilés set up a Spanish colony at Santa Elena (in present day South Carolina) and found Spanish horses previously abandoned by Ayllon thriving on the mainland.

1567: Philip II of Spain decided to breed the perfect Spanish horse and 1,200 mares were selected for this project.

1568: Additional Spanish farmers and artisans along with horses and cattle arrive at Santa Elena.

1571: Spanish recapture Tripoli and became synonymous with piracy. The English began importing horses from this region.

1580: 1) Population of Santa Elena settlers numbered four hundred. Gutierre de Miranda had a sizable estate in the area that included well-bred horses and cattle.

2) King Sebastian of Portugal dies after the Battle of the Three Kings in his failed attempt to overthrow the Sultan of Morocco at Qasr-al-Kabir. This placed a large Iberian cavalry in Morocco. With Sebastian's defeat, many Lusitano and Sorraia horses were left with the Moroccans.

3) Philip II became the ruler of Portugal; Buenos Aires founded in Argentina.

4) Cueta in North Africa fell to the Spanish/Portuguese empire and remains in Spanish hands today.

1583: Archduke Charles of Austria exported select Andalusians to Lipizza.

1586: English privateer, Francis Drake attacked and destroyed St. Augustine which allowed the surviving horses and cattle to go feral. Santa Elena is abandoned with all personnel and supplies sent to St. Augustine, which is then salvaged and reinforced.

1590-1610: Spanish induced plague wiped out seventy to ninety percent of indigenous Native American population in the southeast portion of the eastern coast (present day United States.)

1593: Beginning with Privateer Hawkins during Elizabeth I's reign, Buenos Aires was attacked by the Dutch, French, and British. Many horses escaped into the wild.

1609-1614: Spanish Moriscoes arrive in Algeria and Tunisia bringing their horses with them. Thus, the steady arrival of well-bred Spanish horses greatly improved the Barb horse. The region also became a good way to ship horses into France and England without upsetting the English boycott.

1607: Jamestown founded in the Virginia colony. Quarter-horse racing was begun by the early settlers in Virginia shortly after Jamestown was established.

1610: Santa Fe, New Mexico founded and became an important trading center for Spanish horses up from Mexico. Canadian Blackfoot People traveled as far as Santa Fe for horses. (El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro ran 1,590 miles from Mexico City to San Juan Pueblo, just outside of Santa Fe.)

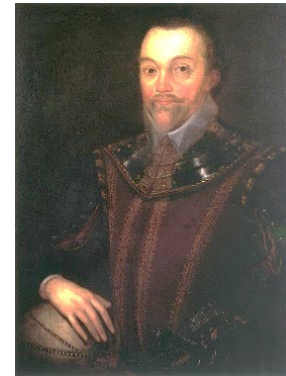
1616-1619: A smallpox epidemic in New England wipes out between 30,000 and 300,000 Native Americans.



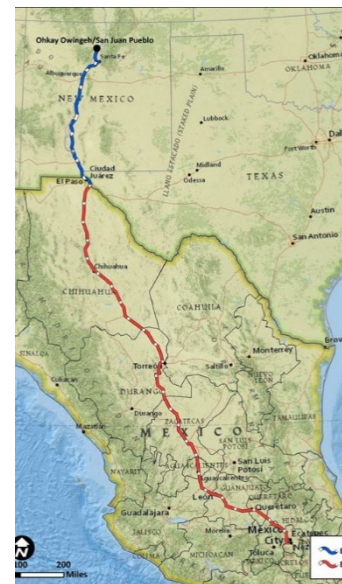
1640: Spanish and Portuguese unity ends. Ultimately, this will save the Lusitano as a pure and more colorful type than the normally gray Andalusian.

1) Rise of Great Plains Native American horse culture. Pictured: **Comanche Chieftain Quannah Parker**

Virginia Colony. He brought with him twenty-one Irish horses that traced back to the Andalusians bred by his grandfather, Sir Francis Bryan. These horses are purported to be the ancestors of the Quarter Mile Racing Horses.



Sir Francis Drake

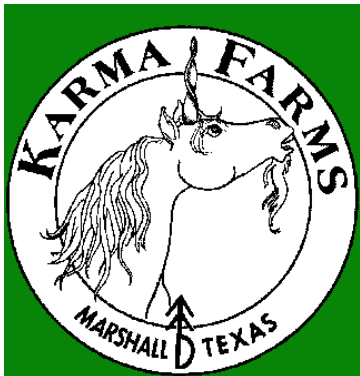


Part III of the Timeline will continue in the next AIHR Newsletter.

The Wild Horses

the wild horses are here again
grazing on the grasses of my land
always distant
and untouchable
they run free after
roaming the mountains
resting on cliffs
breathing the air of freedom
to my envy.

RIC BASTASA



KARMA FARMS

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Marshall TX 75670
903-407-0298

karmafarms@yahoo.com

Trailriding—Riding Lessons—Horses for Sale





Copper Head Ranch



A Princess Awakens (Leia)

Bay Filly Foaled 5-4-2022

Dam: My Wonder Woman

Sire: Northern Song

\$1,500.00



Come Along Willy

Champagne Gelding foaled 2015

Dam My Wonder Woman

Sire Torchwood

Green broke but needs the miles

\$2,250.00

Blue's Heather Breeze

Blue corn roan mare foaled 2017

Dam Misty Blue Moon Rising

Sire Riggy's Something Special

Started under saddle but will need miles



Gringo Pistolero

Red dun gelding Foaled 2017

Dam Rose's Nion'ba Hon'ci

Sire Northern Song

Has been saddled but not ridden

Contact Curtis George or Patricia Leopold

CopperHeadCSM@yahoo.com Copper Head Ranch on Facebook



Copper Head Ranch



Color Me America (Merica)

Red Roan Stallion

Sire Riggy's Something Special

Dam Washita River



HOA and AIHR registered. Two foals born this year. Located near Chandler, TX

Misty Blue Moon Rising with colt CHR
Copper Head Road foaled 3/29/24

Sombra Del Sol with filly Pocket Full
of Sunshine foaled May 1, 2024



CopperHeadCSM@yahoo.com Copper Head Ranch on Facebook

copperheadcsh.com



Join AIHR and Enjoy These Benefits:

Registration & Membership

Membership is open to any owner of an American Indian Horse or to any person interested in the American Indian Horse. You do not have to own a horse to be a member. Members receive the American Indian Horse News which is issued quarterly.

Members qualify for lower registration rates.

Members are eligible for the various awards programs sponsored by AIHR.

Membership fees consist of \$20.00 a year in the U.S. & \$30.00 a year outside the U.S.

Please do not hesitate to write, call, or email with questions.

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