

Personal Recollections of

Hambletonian 10



under the careful management of his new owner, rapidly improved, and was shown the same fall at the fair of the Orange County Agricultural Society at Goshen.

At this exhibition he was led by the side of a horse, and was equipped with a white bridle, martingals, and girth, a fact often spoken of by men who were boys at that time. This brought the colt into some little notoriety, which arose, perhaps, more from the style of his equipment than anything else, as it was something novel in those days to see one so young exhibited in that style and manner. This was in the fall of eighteen hundred and forty-nine, and he was again shown in the fall of eighteen hundred and fifty at the same place, and under circumstances equally as well calculated to attract attention.

In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-one we saw him again, at the residence of his owner, and so greatly had he improved, and so rapid had been his growth, that although he was but two years old, he resembled in almost every particular a fully-developed horse.

Mr. Rysdyk, during this season, allowed him to cover four mares, as appears by Mr. R.'s books, which we have been kindly permitted to inspect, and to which we are indebted for much of the information hereinafter contained.

He got three colts from these mares (two horses and one mare), and no price is charged for the services upon the book, an omission, however, which never thereafter occurs. One of these colts soon thereafter came into the hands of Major J. Seeley Edsall, of Goshen, and under his careful handling soon proved himself a superior horse.

The Major kept him for mares four years at Goshen, and then sold him to Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky; he, however, had in the meantime become the father of the filly now so widely known throughout this country as Goldsmith's Maid. We might mention many other "good ones" from him, but for the present must trace the history of his sire.

In speaking of this—Hambletonian's first season—it is a fact worthy of remark, that a very large percentage of his



progeny thus far in his prolific career have been males, and that while large numbers of *them* have from time to time covered themselves with glory in their contests upon the turf, the reputation of the old horse as a father of trotters would scarcely arise above mediocrity were it entirely dependent upon the exploits of his daughters.

In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-two he was offered for service to a limited number of mares at twenty-five dollars to insure a colt. While we cannot assert that the practice of limiting the number of mares to be served during the season was inaugurated by Mr. Rysdyk at this time, yet it is a fact which cannot be gainsayed, that his example has been rigidly followed ever since by the owners of stallions in their advertisements at least. During this season he served seventeen mares, and got thirteen colts. In the fall he was taken to the Island to be trained as a trotter, and after going through a term of three months of this kind of education, he returned to Chester, without having made any public record of his performance upon the turf. Notwithstanding the assertion of the renowned Hiram Woodruff, that the Abdallahs could endure more early training than almost any other breed of horses, we are credibly informed that this son of Abdallah was retired from the turf thus early in consequence of his inability to withstand its severe exactions.

In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-three he was advertised for service. His full pedigree was given, and twenty-five dollars was again asked to insure a colt.

The breeders of Orange County, at this early day in the history of the horse, began to appreciate his fine qualities, and to extend to him a liberal patronage, as he covered during this season one hundred-and-one mares, and got seventy-eight colts. His success as a stock horse was now fully assured, and without any brilliant performance upon the turf, or any of that puffing and blowing so frequently used both to create and perpetuate the reputation of stallions, he entered upon a career never equalled in the annals of horse-breeding. In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-four



eighteen hundred and sixty-five the price was raised to three hundred dollars to insure, one hundred dollars to be paid at time of service. During this season one hundred and ninety-three mares were served, and one hundred and twenty-eight colts got. The following season, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, at five hundred dollars, one hundred of which was required to be paid down, he served one hundred and five mares and got seventy-five colts. In eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, he served seventy-seven mares and got forty-one colts.

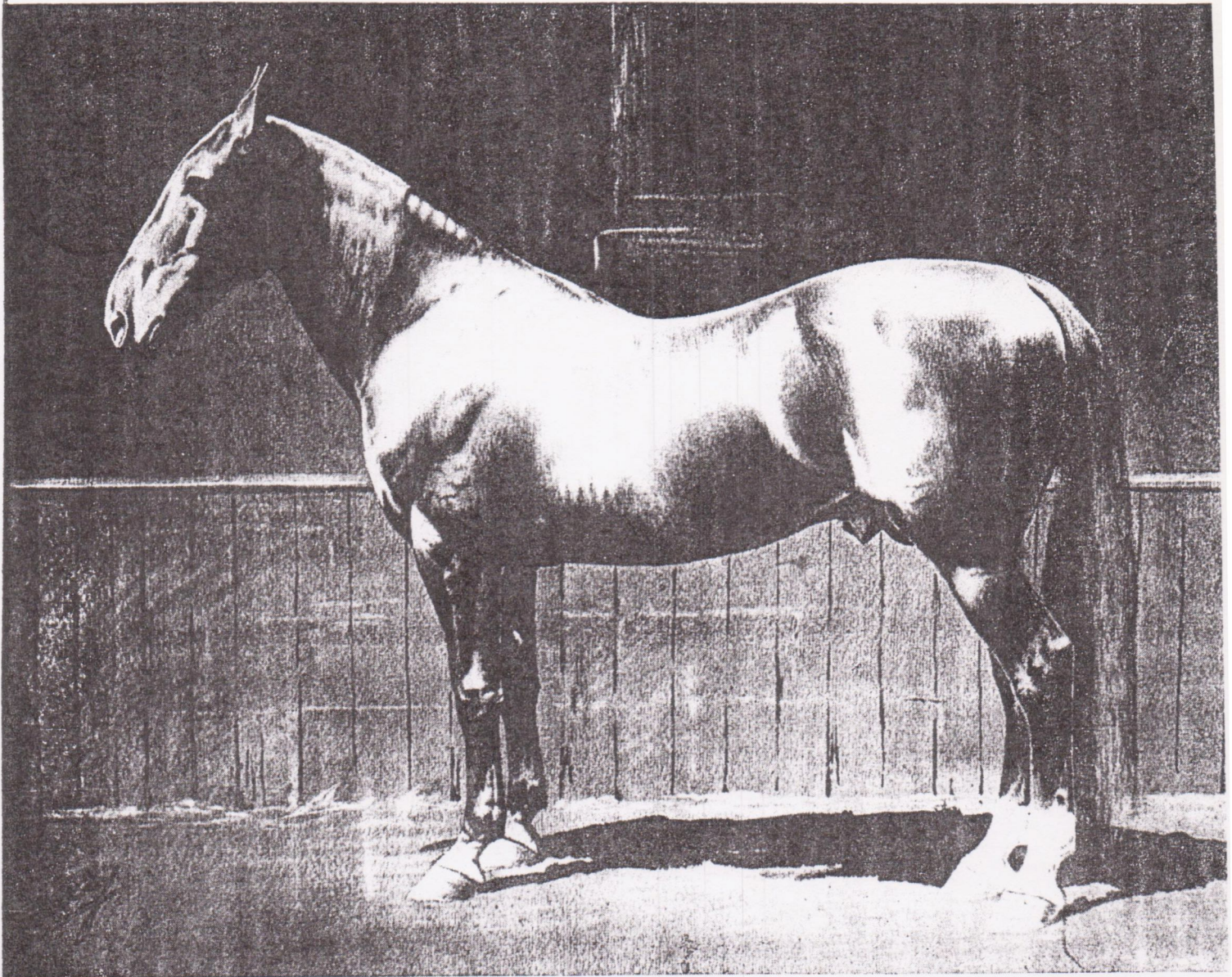
As might reasonably have been expected, from the polygamous course of life to which the old horse had for years been subjected, his physical powers became weakened, and during the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight he was retired from the stud, and covered no mares. Notwithstanding, however, the prognostications of many that he was "played out," a season's rest had a highly beneficial effect upon him, and during the following season he served twenty-one mares and got fourteen colts. In eighteen hundred and seventy he served twenty-two mares and got thirteen colts. In eighteen hundred and seventy-one he was limited to thirty mares, which he served, and from which he got twenty colts, having left some seventy applicants unserved in consequence of this limitation. We have been informed by Mr. Geo. Andrews, under whose management and direction Hambletonian now is, that for the coming season of eighteen hundred and seventy-two over one hundred applications have been received, from which number, however, but thirty will be accepted. Upon a recent visit to Chester, the old horse was shown to us by his very gentlemanly manager. Although exhibiting many of the indications of old age, as a matter of course, yet his eye appeared bright and undimmed by years, while his coat was glossy; and those peculiar points which long since have led him to be pronounced the "King of Horses," still stand out in bold relief. While standing in his majestic presence, and remembering the fact that he was the sire of twelve hundred and fifty standing



colts, that they or their progeny were represented in almost every state and county throughout the United States, and in almost every country in the civilized world, and that upon their successful contests upon the turf, fortunes have been won again and again, we could not but respect and venerate him. Although, in the natural course of events, the days of the old horse will soon be numbered, yet upon the undeniable maxim that "like begets like" we shall continue to produce trotters in Orange County for years to come which will maintain our proud and pre-eminent position upon the turf.

The sons and grandsons of the princely old horse are yearly begetting colts superior to themselves, and with our present knowledge of breeding judiciously applied, we have no hesitation in asserting that the speed of trotting horses will still be vastly increased, and that the future Kings and Queens of the turf will hail from Orange County.





Personal Recollections of

Hambletonian 10



under the careful management of his new owner, rapidly improved, and was shown the same fall at the fair of the Orange County Agricultural Society at Goshen.

At this exhibition he was led by the side of a horse, and was equipped with a white bridle, martingals, and girth, a fact often spoken of by men who were boys at that time. This brought the colt into some little notoriety, which arose, perhaps, more from the style of his equipment than anything else, as it was something novel in those days to see one so young exhibited in that style and manner. This was in the fall of eighteen hundred and forty-nine, and he was again shown in the fall of eighteen hundred and fifty at the same place, and under circumstances equally as well calculated to attract attention.

In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-one we saw him again, at the residence of his owner, and so greatly had he improved, and so rapid had been his growth, that although he was but two years old, he resembled in almost every particular a fully-developed horse.

Mr. Rysdyk, during this season, allowed him to cover four mares, as appears by Mr. R.'s books, which we have been kindly permitted to inspect, and to which we are indebted for much of the information hereinafter contained.

He got three colts from these mares (two horses and one mare), and no price is charged for the services upon the book, an omission, however, which never thereafter occurs. One of these colts soon thereafter came into the hands of Major J. Seeley Edsall, of Goshen, and under his careful handling soon proved himself a superior horse.

The Major kept him for mares four years at Goshen, and then sold him to Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky; he, however, had in the meantime become the father of the filly now so widely known throughout this country as Goldsmith's Maid. We might mention many other "good ones" from him, but for the present must trace the history of his sire.

In speaking of this—Hambletonian's first season—it is a fact worthy of remark, that a very large percentage of his



progeny thus far in his prolific career have been males, and that while large numbers of *them* have from time to time covered themselves with glory in their contests upon the turf, the reputation of the old horse as a father of trotters would scarcely arise above mediocrity were it entirely dependent upon the exploits of his daughters.

In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-two he was offered for service to a limited number of mares at twenty-five dollars to insure a colt. While we cannot assert that the practice of limiting the number of mares to be served during the season was inaugurated by Mr. Rysdyk at this time, yet it is a fact which cannot be gainsayed, that his example has been rigidly followed ever since by the owners of stallions in their advertisements at least. During this season he served seventeen mares, and got thirteen colts. In the fall he was taken to the Island to be trained as a trotter, and after going through a term of three months of this kind of education, he returned to Chester, without having made any public record of his performance upon the turf. Notwithstanding the assertion of the renowned Hiram Woodruff, that the Abdallahs could endure more early training than almost any other breed of horses, we are credibly informed that this son of Abdallah was retired from the turf thus early in consequence of his inability to withstand its severe exactions.

In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-three he was advertised for service. His full pedigree was given, and twenty-five dollars was again asked to insure a colt.

The breeders of Orange County, at this early day in the history of the horse, began to appreciate his fine qualities, and to extend to him a liberal patronage, as he covered during this season one hundred-and-one mares, and got seventy-eight colts. His success as a stock horse was now fully assured, and without any brilliant performance upon the turf, or any of that puffing and blowing so frequently used both to create and perpetuate the reputation of stallions, he entered upon a career never equalled in the annals of horse-breeding. In the spring of eighteen hundred and fifty-four



eighteen hundred and sixty-five the price was raised to three hundred dollars to insure, one hundred dollars to be paid at time of service. During this season one hundred and ninety-three mares were served, and one hundred and twenty-eight colts got. The following season, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, at five hundred dollars, one hundred of which was required to be paid down, he served one hundred and five mares and got seventy-five colts. In eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, he served seventy-seven mares and got forty-one colts.

As might reasonably have been expected, from the polygamous course of life to which the old horse had for years been subjected, his physical powers became weakened, and during the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight he was retired from the stud, and covered no mares. Notwithstanding, however, the prognostications of many that he was "played out," a season's rest had a highly beneficial effect upon him, and during the following season he served twenty-one mares and got fourteen colts. In eighteen hundred and seventy he served twenty-two mares and got thirteen colts. In eighteen hundred and seventy-one he was limited to thirty mares, which he served, and from which he got twenty colts, having left some seventy applicants unserved in consequence of this limitation.. We have been informed by Mr. Geo. Andrews, under whose management and direction Hambletonian now is, that for the coming season of eighteen hundred and seventy-two over one hundred applications have been received, from which number, however, but thirty will be accepted. Upon a recent visit to Chester, the old horse was shown to us by his very gentlemanly manager. Although exhibiting many of the indications of old age, as a matter of course, yet his eye appeared bright and undimmed by years, while his coat was glossy; and those peculiar points which long since have led him to be pronounced the "King of Horses," still stand out in bold relief. While standing in his majestic presence, and remembering the fact that he was the sire of twelve hundred and fifty standing



colts, that they or their progeny were represented in almost every state and county throughout the United States, and in almost every country in the civilized world, and that upon their successful contests upon the turf, fortunes have been won again and again, we could not but respect and venerate him. Although, in the natural course of events, the days of the old horse will soon be numbered, yet upon the undeniable maxim that "like begets like" we shall continue to produce trotters in Orange County for years to come which will maintain our proud and pre-eminent position upon the turf.

The sons and grandsons of the princely old horse are yearly begetting colts superior to themselves, and with our present knowledge of breeding judiciously applied, we have no hesitation in asserting that the speed of trotting horses will still be vastly increased, and that the future Kings and Queens of the turf will hail from Orange County.