

## The Preservation of the Colonial Spanish Horse

By Gretchen Patterson

The Colonial Spanish Horses of today descended from the first horses brought to the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1493, followed by Spanish conquistadors including Ponce de Leon, Diego Velásquez de Cuéllar, and Hernán Cortés. The Spanish horses were an important influence in the settlement and development of North America from the Outer Banks of North Carolina, across the United States to California and into Canada.<sup>1</sup> Their history runs parallel to the expansion of the United States, and they remain today as a living example of American equine history, worthy of preservation for future generations of horsemen and women. In 1889, frontier artist and writer, Frederic Remington remarked, “Of all the monuments which the Spaniard has left to glorify his reign in America, there will be none more worthy than his horse.”<sup>2</sup> The descendants of the original Spanish horses did not become a monument of yesteryear because Robert E. Brislawn decided that he would save the last remnants of these hardy equines. Starting in 1925, Brislawn bought and traded for Spanish type horses throughout the United States. With the assistance of Dr. Lawrence P. Richards, he incorporated the Spanish Mustang Registry in 1957 to preserve this unique American horse breed whose ancestors crossed the Atlantic Ocean so that their masters could ride instead of walk as they explored and conquered the New World.

“During the earliest years of exploration, horses were sent in every ship leaving Spain. Each of the conquerors was bound to take a certain quota of stallions and mares.”<sup>3</sup> Authorized by

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<sup>1</sup> Glenn Vernam, *Man on Horseback* (New York: Harper & Row, 1964), 188-89.

<sup>2</sup> Frederic Remington, “Horses of the Plains,” New York: *The Century*, 3 (January 1889), 336.

<sup>3</sup> Robert M. Denhardt, *The Horse of the Americas* (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1975), 35.

the Spanish crown to increase the numbers of horses available for further expansion into Mexico and the North American continent, Spanish stockmen set up breeding farms on the Caribbean islands in 1498 to support the conquest. The breeding programs proved to be very successful and expeditions relied on a ready supply of horses rather than the expensive and dangerous importations by sea. In 1595, Don Juan de Oñate was ordered by King [Philip II](#) to colonize the northern frontier of New Spain and establish a ranching center for the crown as well as a Catholic mission. On April 30, 1598, de Oñate brought the first Spanish horses across the Rio Grande River, and claimed all the land beyond the Rio Grande for Spain. In that same year, and traveling further north into present day New Mexico, he established Mission Santa Fe de Nuevo México. His expeditionary force included livestock, both horses and cattle. The Spaniards enslaved the indigenous people to guard the herds, however, the native herdsmen were not permitted to ride. “Juan de Oñate’s colonists...recognized the fact that most of their strength lay in exclusive possession of the [horses].”<sup>4</sup> However, with a shortage of manpower, this proved to be a problem for the Spaniards, and in 1621, the Spanish viceroy of New Spain, Diego Fernández de Córdoba reversed the ‘no ride’ mandate. Unlike the Aztecs and Mayans who feared the horses, the Acoma Pueblo people of Nuevo México soon learned the art of equitation, passing this knowledge to other native tribes. By 1671, the Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Cheyenne, Crow, Shoshone, and Sioux had acquired Spanish horses, most often by theft through raids on the Spanish settlements.

From the time when de Oñate settled in Santa Fe, Spanish horses were prized by Indian raiders as a means of transportation and as a food source. Horses, both stallions and mares, also escaped into the wild, roaming across the plains to water holes and abundant grasslands. Without

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<sup>4</sup> Glenn Vernam, *Man on Horseback* (New York: Harper & Row, 1964), 210.

man's intervention, these feral horses bred and multiplied on the open range. In 1798, the wild horse numbers were estimated to be 100,000 or more, and by 1821, Texas was home for the largest population of wild Spanish *mesteños* or mustangs.<sup>5</sup> When caught, tamed, and broken to ride, mustangs were tough, steady mounts, able to travel long distances, and remain sound day after day. Mr. W. Y. Allen, a traveling Presbyterian chaplain in the Houston, Texas area, described one particular horseback journey during his sojourn in Texas. In 1838, Allen was asked to officiate at a wedding some eighty miles north of Houston, and had to borrow a horse for the trip. "The time was August. I made Capt. Bingham's, twenty-five miles the first day, on Clark Owen's mustang. We started at 2 a.m., next morning, and made twenty-five miles [before] breakfast."<sup>6</sup> After a brief stop for the morning meal, Allen and his comrades traveled the remaining thirty miles, arriving at his destination in the early afternoon, in time for the wedding ceremony. The next morning, Allen rode the mustang back to Houston. From 1845 to 1861, the increased demand for riding horses sent parties of *vaqueros* (cowboys) into the wild, open Texas plains to capture, break, train, and sell as many horses as possible.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Texans joined the Confederacy, leaving the bands of wild horses and cattle to manage on their own. Civil War survivors returning to Texas found that the untended livestock had enjoyed a huge population explosion due to plentiful grazing lands, access to water, and mild winters. The post-Civil War population required a cheap and abundant beef source for the eastern and mid-west markets which in turn initiated the late nineteenth-

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas E. Speir, "Mustangs," *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association, (2002). <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/tcm02> (accessed November 08, 2013).

<sup>6</sup> W. Y. Allen, "Reminiscences of Texas, 1838-1842," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 17, (July 1913 - April, 1914): 296. ed. William S. Red, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101061/> (accessed December 07, 2013).

century Texas cattle drives. Cattlemen gathered large herds of the free-roaming longhorn cattle, sending them up trails through Missouri and Oklahoma to the mid-west railroad shipping depots. Trailing the cattle to the stockyards and railroad connections required *vaqueros* and a *remuda*<sup>7</sup> that could manage all types of rough country and inclement weather. Mustangs were gathered along with the cattle, often wearing a saddle for the first time, and trained to ride by the time the herd reached its rail destination. The horses were usually sold so that the trail crew could catch a train back to Texas where they would start another drive with more cattle and horses. With the arrival of railroad shipping yards in Texas in 1885, cattlemen discontinued the long drives and the demand for large *remudas* of horses diminished. The wild horse population had already begun to disappear, especially in Texas. The progressive move by homesteaders to settle and farm the open land also contributed to the decline of the feral Spanish horses.

Starting in 1812, the federal government encouraged the public to claim, settle and farm federal lands which continued the territorial expansion of the United States. The Pre-Emption Act of 1841 allowed claimants to keep government land as long as they were heads of households, widowed, single, and over twenty-one years of age. Furthermore, if the claimants were United States citizens, or intended to become naturalized citizens, living there for at least fourteen months, they were able to purchase sixty-five hectares (160 acres) at minimum [price] of \$1.25 per acre or \$ 3.09 per hectare.<sup>8</sup> This legislation led to the passage of the 1862 Federal [Homestead Act](#) that made the preemption provisos part of the accepted United States land policy. Additional requirements for holding the land included a small filing fee, an extended residency

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<sup>7</sup> The *remuda* consisted of a small band of horses used by *vaqueros* (cowboys) when gathering or driving cattle. When one horse tired, the *vaquero* would saddle another horse and continue working. Edward S. Barnard, "Cowboys and Cattle Kings," in *The Great American West*, ed. Edward S. Barnard, (Pleasantville, NY: The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1977), 286.

<sup>8</sup> John R. Van Atta, "A Lawless Rabble: Henry Clay and the Cultural Politics of Squatters' Rights, 1832-1841," *Journal of the Early Republic* 28, no. 3 (Fall, 2008): 371-73.

period of five years before receiving title to the land, and the continued option of purchasing the land from the government for \$1.25 per acre. The Homestead Act encouraged people to migrate from the war-weary, ravaged Union and Confederate states. With the promise of affordable land, there was a concentrated push to set up farms, build new towns, and seek a better life away from the destruction of the Civil War. Farmers and ranchers brought their eastern bred livestock along with their taller, domestic riding horses including Thoroughbreds, Morgans, and Saddlebreds. For heavy pulling and plowing, the Percheron, Belgian and Clydesdale draft breeds were the most popular as well as mules, and farmers had little use or regard for the smaller, stocky mustang horses. The invention of barbwire in 1874 gave the big ranchers a cost efficient way to “keep [their] herds from straying...it enabled them to control vital waterholes...and to keep farmers and sheepmen off the lands that [they] claimed as their own by right of possession, if not of law.”<sup>9</sup> This new innovation was quickly adopted by farmers and land holdings were soon defined by miles and miles of fence posts and barbwire. The days of the open range and free roaming horses were numbered.

Besides being called mustangs and Indian ponies, many other derogatory names such as nag, bronco, cayuse, and broomtail were used to describe these horses. Mustang stallions were notorious for stealing domestic mares to add to their harems and when caught, mustangs could be very difficult and dangerous to break. Ross Santee describes one of his favorite mounts, “...an’ so old Sontag come in for most of the hard ridin’...For he could do the work of any other six I had. But he never did quit pitching. An’ like as not he’d kick at me when I got off that night.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Edward S. Barnard, “Cowboys and Cattle Kings,” in *The Great American West*, ed. Edward S. Barnard, (Pleasantville, NY: The Reader’s Digest Association, Inc., 1977), 299.

<sup>10</sup> Ross Santee, “The Rough String,” in *The Cowboy Reader*, ed. Lon Tinkle and Allen Maxwell (New York, NY: Longmans, Green and Co., 1959), 289.

While the mustang had its admirers, many army officers, ranchers, and horsemen held a low opinion of the short, rangy, and rough-coated equines; they were considered of little value, and suitable only for dog food. On the disappearance of the wild horses, J. Frank Dobie stated that, “they have gone with the winds of vanished years. They carried away a life and a spirit that no pastoral prosperity could in coming times re-present.”<sup>11</sup> By 1900, horsemen either preferred the larger, predominant Northern European domestic stock or used mustang mares to improve the hardiness of the developing western stock horse. In a 2011 article on the Colonial Spanish Horse, Dr. Phillip Sponenberg notes that “The [CSH] became...generally considered as too small for cavalry...and was slowly supplanted by taller and heavier types from the northeast as an integral part of Anglo expansion in North America.”<sup>12</sup> The horses’ connection with both the Mexican people and Plains Indian cultures also made them undesirable by Anglo horseman.

During the 1700s, the Native American horse culture had spread from New Mexico and Texas, across the Great Plains, and reached into the future states of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and Montana. The tribes were characterized by the tipi, the buffalo, the soldier societies, and the horse. The bow was shortened for horseback riding, and vessels for carrying water were made from skins and tied to a saddle. The dog sled, or travois, a framework designed to carry each family’s tipi and possessions was re-fitted for the horse. With horses, a tribe could break camp and be on the move within thirty minutes as they followed and hunted their main food source, the buffalo.<sup>13</sup> The Plains Indians fiercely resisted the influx of white

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<sup>11</sup>J. Frank Dobie, *The Mustangs* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1934), 112.

<sup>12</sup> D. Phillip Sponenberg, PhD, DVM, “North American Colonial Spanish Horse Update,” (Blacksburg, VA: Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, 2011), <http://www.horseoftheamericas.com/conformation.htm> (accessed November 16, 2013).

<sup>13</sup> William W. Newcomb, “From Foot to Horse,” in *The Indians of Texas: From Prehistoric to Modern Times*,” (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961), 85-101.

settlers, fighting, raiding, and killing in an effort to stop the westward flow of Americans across the hunting grounds and grasslands.

In the early nineteenth century era, the U.S. government began a long, slow campaign to civilize the Plains Indians people. “In slightly less than three centuries, this ... Indian [horse] culture came into existence...blazed brightly, and ...was extinguished...when the buffalo was exterminated and the American frontier overwhelmed it.”<sup>14</sup> The Indian tribes were either moved onto reservations, or killed in battles against the U. S. Army Infantry and Cavalry forces. In his personal memoirs, General Phillip H. Sheridan wrote that after the Battle of Little Big Horn of 1876, he received orders to disarm and dismount the Sioux warriors, sell their ponies, and place them on reservations, which he accomplished with due diligence. In a 2000 interview by Kristy Gray, Emmett Brislawn, president of the Spanish Mustang Registry, states that “Earlier, the United States government during the Indian wars found that if you took away an Indian’s horse, you took away his advantage. When the Indians got took over, the government shot all them horses.”<sup>15</sup> The Plains Indian people gradually lost their horses, buffalo, land, and nomadic way of life.

In the early 1900s, a U.S. government surveyor, Robert E. Brislawn, discovered that his two Blackfeet Indian ponies were better suited to do the work needed to survey and map a route from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. He developed a deep admiration for the Indian ponies in his string of pack horses. By 1916, as he rode throughout the western states,

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<sup>14</sup> William W. Newcomb, Jr., “From Foot to Horse,” in *The Indians of Texas: From Prehistoric to Modern Times*,” (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961), 85-101.

<sup>15</sup> Kristy Gray, “Mustangs are Part of the Family,” (Denver, CO: The Denver Post, 2000), <http://www.lexisnexis.com.steenproxy.sfasu.edu:2048/hottopics/Inacademic/?verb=sr&csi=144565&sr=HLEAD%28For%20Wyoming%20clan.%20mustangs%20are%20part%20of%20the%20family%20Three%20generations%20d%20evote%20their%20energy%20to%20bringing%20ponies%20back%20from%20brink%29%20and%20date%20is%202000> (accessed November 4, 2013).

Brislawn determined that these horses were quickly disappearing from the American landscape, and began the acquisition of horses that matched his definition of a Spanish type horse. In a letter written in 1968, Brislawn states, “Like the buffalo, the prairie dogs...and the coyote, the Spanish Mustang should be saved if only for one reason, TRADITION.”<sup>16</sup> He officially embarked upon his preservation project in 1925, purchased land in Oshoto, Wyoming, established the Cayuse Ranch, and started his herd with two stallions and twenty mares. By 1939, the Brislawn family was traveling from east to west, and north to south collecting mustang horses. Robert Brislawn, Robert’s brother, Ferdinand, and Dr. Lawrence P. Richards incorporated the Spanish Mustang Registry (SMR) in 1957 as the first organization to recognize the importance of saving these horses. Other like-minded individuals joined the Brislawn family in their effort to save the Spanish horses. In a 2009 article, authors Callie Heacock and Ernesto Valdés pay tribute to Brislawn’s accomplishments:

Bob gained national recognition as a preservationist, and in so doing, gave respectability to a wonderful breed that had suffered every brutal consequence of its many gifts to mankind. In 1972, the United States Department of Agriculture recognized Bob Brislawn and his extraordinary life and research. Brislawn, “Mr. Mustang,” died in 1979, and is buried near Oshoto, Wyoming. He was a giant among horsemen, breaking trail for all who continue to conserve his beloved breed which was made possible one horse at a time, by a man with no fortune, but great heart, and great wisdom garnered from years of devotion.<sup>17</sup>

However, two influential, free-spirited, and strong-willed individuals took exception to SMR’s strict guidelines for accepting horses into the registry, and incorporated their own registries to perpetuate the mustang and Indian pony bloodlines. Gilbert Jones formed the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association in 1977 (SSMA) of Finley, Oklahoma, and Robert

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<sup>16</sup>Robert E. Brislawn, Sr, “Proof of Authenticity and Purity,” (Unpublished letter, 1968).

<sup>17</sup> Callie Heacock and Ernesto Valdés, “The Spanish Mustang and the Long Way Home,” *Houston History Magazine* 7, no. 1 (Fall, 2009) <http://houstonhistorymagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Mustangs-Heacock-Valdes.pdf> (accessed January 24, 2014).

Painter started the International Barb Horse Association in 1978 (IBHA) of Midvale, Idaho. The SSMA registry is still active today, and registers mainly horses of Choctaw and Cherokee bloodlines. In 2010, Painter dispersed his herd and dissolved his tiny registry due to age and poor health. The dissension also evolved into a long-standing feud between the Brislawn family members when some of Robert Brislawn's equine acquisitions were not considered acceptable for registration by other SMR inspectors. He moved to Porterville, California in 1970, taking the best stallions and mares of his herd, and leaving the others with his son, Emmett. In 1975, Brislawn and fellow horseman, Jeff Edwards, incorporated the Horse of the Americas Registry, (HOA). Unfortunately, Brislawn died four years later, leaving the registry and his horses to Edwards. Without Brislawn's charismatic personality, and his own battle with leukemia, Edwards closed the registry, but managed to keep the Brislawn horses fed and pastured on his California property. W. O. "Buddy" and Wanda Ice of Odessa, Texas purchased the surviving stallions, mares, and foals in 1992, and in 2000, the HOA registry was re-incorporated in Texas and continues to operate as an umbrella organization for Colonial Spanish Horses.

Under the guidance of Emmett Brislawn, the SMR continued to prosper as individual horses were added through the inspection process, and interested horsemen and women joined the registry, purchased breeding stock, and continued to preserve and promote this distinctive type of horse. SMR today has an online presence with a website as well as social media links, a published quarterly newsletter, and an annual yearbook. There is an awards program for riders of all ages who ride, compete, and promote the breed to the general public. SMR has attracted international interest with owners located in Great Britain, France, Germany, and Australia.

By 2001, there were 3,100 registered Colonial Spanish Horses (CSH) in the United States, and in 2002, the American Livestock Breed Conservancy (ALBC) officially recognized

this breed of horse. Due to the small population of registered horses, ALBC (as of 2013, the organization changed the name to Livestock Breed Conservancy) considers the breed as a critical but viable equine family. LBC conducts an annual census in conjunction with the various registries to record data on stallions, mares, geldings, and annual foaling reports. Alongside LBC and the various registries, there are other groups that actively participate in the conservation of the CSH. The Corolla Wild Horse Fund, Inc., and the Foundation for the Shackleford Banks Horses are two organizations based in the Currituck Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Both the Corolla and Shackleford islands are home to Spanish horses that survived an early colonization attempt in 1521 of the Outer Bank islands by a Spaniard named Lucas Vasquez de Allyon. His charter from the Spanish king gave him the right to explore and colonize much of the eastern seaboard. When the indigenous tribe of Coree Indians revolted against the Spaniards and their harsh treatment of the natives, de Allyon and his men deserted the island and their horses. In 1982, the Spanish Mustang Registry inspected the Banker Horses, in particular the Corolla strain, and stated that these horses “are as lineally pure to the 16th century Spanish importations as can be found in North America today, and that they compare closely to the selectively bred South American Spanish derivative stock.”<sup>18</sup> The Corolla Wild Horse Fund and the Shackleford Foundation support and manage these two strains of Spanish horses which are designated as state cultural treasures, and in May of 2010, the Colonial Spanish Horse was honored as the official State Horse of North Carolina.

Other groups involved in the preservation effort include the Sunshine Sanctuary for Kids, the Return To Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary, and the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary. Conservators Christina and Troy Nooner of Los Molinos, California manage the small band of

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<sup>18</sup> Dale Burrus, “History of the Corolla Horse,” (Hatteras Island, NC: NP,1982), <http://www.corollawildhorses.com/facts-and-history/> (accessed December 6, 2013).

Santa Cruz Island horses that were removed in 1998 from the California coastal island of Santa Cruz. Originally brought to the island by Spanish land owners in the 1830s, the horses were pure Spanish and never mixed with other breeds. When the ranching operation stopped in 1980, the horses were left to fend for themselves. However, the island was sold in 1997 to the federal government and designated as a National Park. The Park Service decided that any animals not indigenous to the island had to be removed, so the horses, sheep, and goats were shipped back to the mainland, and eventually the horses found a home with the Sunshine Sanctuary for Kids in Los Molinos. In a 2009 article about the Santa Cruz horses, Jeanette Beranger, the LBC Technical Program Manager, describes the steps taken to preserve the Santa Cruz strain, “ALBC’s Technical Advisor, Dr. Phil Sponenberg recognized the significance of the herd and began to formulate a conservation breeding strategy...by analyzing the pedigrees of the horses. The analysis produced a long-term breeding strategy that is now being used to manage the herd at the Sunshine Sanctuary.”<sup>19</sup> Under the guidance of the LBC, the Sanctuary maintains a breeding program as well as using the horses in their youth horsemanship curriculum.

The Return To Freedom Sanctuary in Santa Barbara, California and the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary of South Dakota rescue unwanted Bureau of Land Management wild horses and Colonial Spanish Horses. Both groups also keep a small band of purebred Choctaw horses from Oklahoma as part of the Choctaw Horse Conservancy Plan. Other organizations include the Kiger Mesteño Association in Oregon, the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center in Wyoming, and the American Sulphur Horse Association in Utah. Although each group has its own agenda and preservation itinerary, there is mutual agreement among the various members that Spanish horses were the backbone of colonial and frontier life and worthy of recognition for their

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<sup>19</sup> Jeanette Beranger, “Historic Horses Conserved in California,” in *Horse of the Americas Newsletter*, (Marshall, TX: NP, 2009), <http://www.horseoftheamericas.com/SantaCruz.pdf> (accessed January 24, 2014).

contribution to the settlement of the United States and Canada. With over 6,400 current registrations to date (alive and dead), Robert Brislawn's goal is now realized. The Colonial Spanish Horse as a breed is secured, demonstrating to the world the attributes inherited from its Spanish ancestors and traits developed through natural selection. "Like the buffalo, longhorn, and other symbols of the Old West, the mustang has been saved from oblivion."<sup>20</sup> The Colonial Spanish Horse remains as a living legacy of American equine history.

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<sup>20</sup> Don Worcester, *The Spanish Mustang* (El Paso: University of Texas, 1986), 79.

## Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Allen, W. Y. "Allen's Reminiscences of Texas." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 17, no. 3 (July 1913 - April, 1914). Texas State Historical Association. Edited by William S. Red. <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101061/> (accessed December 07, 2013)

Mr. Allen was a traveling Presbyterian chaplain during the early days of the Texas Republic. This article discusses the various people, towns, and churches he visited. His methods of transport were usually by boat or horseback; he mentions briefly that he would often borrow a mustang.

Brislawn, Sr., Robert E. "Proof of Authenticity and Purity." Unpublished Letter. Oshoto, WY: 1968.

Mr. Brislawn states his reasoning for preserving the Spanish Mustang as well as some factual data about the search and collection of horses throughout the United States.

Gray, Kristy. "Mustangs Are Part of the Family." Denver & The West. Denver, CO: *Denver Post*, June 25, 2000.  
<http://www.lexisnexis.com.steenproxy.sfasu.edu:2048/hottopics/lnacademic/?verb=sr&csi=144565&sr=HLEAD%28For%20Wyoming%20clan,%20mustangs%20are%20part%20of%20the%20family%20Three%20generations%20devote%20their%20energy%20to%200bringing%20ponies%20back%20from%20brink%29%20and%20date%20is%202000>  
(accessed November 4, 2013).

Ms. Gray traveled to the Cayuse Ranch in Oshoto, Wyoming and interviewed Emmett Brislawn. She toured the ranch and took photographs of the stallion bands that roamed the open plains. The article contains some gems of information including how and where Robert Brislawn collected his horses and the people who formed the Spanish Mustang Registry.

James, Will S. *27 Years A Mavrick: Life on a Texas Range*. 1893. Reprint. Austin, TX: Steck-Vaughn Co., 1968.

Mr. James' humorous and colorful stories cover his twenty-seven years as a cowboy on the Texas plains. His purpose was to give the reading public a clear and true picture of the cowboy and reduce the sensationalism of other writers.

Manning, MDVS, J. Russel. *Manning's Illustrated Horse Book*. New Holland, PA: Edgewood Printing Company, 1882.

This is an early equine veterinary manual written for horsemen. The book also contains a brief history of the major breeds of horses, geographical locations, conformation standards, and which breeds are suited for work or riding. There are three sections pertaining to the feral Spanish horses, the Indian pony, and the mustang.

Remington, Frederic S. "Horses of the Plains." *The Century*. 37, no. 3 (January 1889).  
<http://www.discoverseaz.com/History/HorsePlains.html> (accessed November 21, 2013).

Frederic Remington gives his own opinion of the Spanish horses that are owned by the Native Americans with illustrations and prediction for their future.

Sheridan, Brigadier Gen. Michael V. *The Personal Memoirs of Philip Henry Sheridan, 1831-1888*, no. 2 (February 1902): 517. New York, NY: D. Appleton & Co.  
<http://www.hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.321> (accessed December 7, 2013).

Brigadier Gen. Michael V. Sheridan collected and organized his brother's military memoirs that detail all the campaigns and assignment during his distinguished career. Volume Two recalls at length his endeavors to bring the Ogalala Sioux Indians onto reservations and diminish their ability to fight against the U. S. government.

Siringo, Charles A. *A Texas Cowboy; Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony*. 1885. Reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966.

Mr. Siringo entertains his readership with tales of his days as a "cowpuncher" and horseman, mostly in Texas; however, he also drove cattle up the Chisholm Trail, was a posse member that chased Billy the Kid in New Mexico, and sailed on the Mississippi River. Along the way, Siringo bought and sold horses, saddles, and other cowboy gear in order to buy a meal or a drink

The Livestock Conservancy. "The Colonial Spanish Horse." *The Livestock Conservancy*. January, 2013.  
<http://www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/colonialspanish>  
(accessed November 16, 2013).

Since 2001, the Conservancy has recognized the Colonial Spanish Horse as an antique breed of the equine population with numbers that place the breed into the 'Critical' but viable category of species. They conduct an annual survey among the main registries in order to track the increase or decrease of the breeding stock as well as overall numbers. This brief article discusses the breed standard and the various bloodlines/strains.

#### Secondary Sources

Barnard, Edward S. "Cowboys and Cattle Kings." In *The Great American West*, edited by Edward S. Barnard, 270-303. Pleasantville, NY: The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1977.

This colorful, well-illustrated book features the settlement of the West through art, photographs, sketches, brief biographies, and detailed maps as well as a concise text relating important facts and figures pertinent to the history of the American frontier.

N.p.: Beranger, Jeanette. "Historic Horses Conserved in California," in the *Horse of the Americas Newsletter*, (2009). <http://www.horseoftheamericas.com/SantaCruz.pdf>  
(accessed January 24, 2014).

Ms. Beranger provides a brief history of the Santa Cruz Island horses that were brought to the island by Spanish ranchers to herd cattle and sheep. After the California coastal island was purchased by the National Park Service, the horses and sheep were removed and placed in conservatorship.

*N.p.*: Burris, Dale. "History of the Corolla Horse." The Corolla Wild Horse Fund, Inc. (1982). <http://www.corollawildhorses.com/facts-and-history/> (accessed December 6, 2013).

Mr. Burrus was a well-known, local historian and writer for the Currituck Outer Banks of North Carolina and the first horseman to recognize the cultural heritage of the island horses. Through his efforts with the Spanish Mustang Registry and the State of North Carolina, the Corolla and Shackleford horses received recognition and permanent sanctuary.

Collins, Michael L. "Statehood, 1845-1860." In *The Texas Heritage*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. edited by Ben Proctor and Archie P. McDonald. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2003.

Two well-known Texas historians trace the development of Texas from the early Spanish settlers to the post World War II era. The chapter titled, "Statehood, 1845-1860," discusses the immigration of more people into Texas, and the move from an independent republic to statehood as part of the United States.

Denhardt, Robert M. *The Horse of the Americas*. 1947. Reprint, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1975.

This book gives a concise description of the Age of Horse Culture in the United States. Mr. Denhardt describes how a blend of Spanish horses and cattle, Spanish ranching on the open plains, and the cowboy influenced the colorful history of the American West.

Dobie, J. Frank. *A Vaquero of the Brush Country*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981.

In 1925, J. Frank Dobie began a series of interviews with Mr. John Young of Alpine, Texas who wanted a book written about his life as a vaquero from the Big Bend to the Pecos River country of southwest Texas. The story begins with Mr. Young's early boyhood memories and concludes with his retirement as a cattleman in 1906. The chapters are paced in chronological order, including incidents with mustangs, trailing cattle up the Chisholm Trail, outlaws, and the harsh conditions of ranch life in southwest Texas.

Dobie, J. Frank. *The Mustangs*. 1934. Reprint, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.

This book describes the spread of the Spanish horse through Mexico and the American continent, including the haciendas and rancheros where large herds of horses and cattle were raised as food and transportation. Mr. Dobie includes some of the more famous mustang legends, the growth of the Texas cattle ranches, and the overland cattle drives.

Heacock, Callie and Ernesto Valdés. "The Spanish Mustang and the Long Way Home." *Houston History Magazine*, Fall, 2009. <http://houstonshistorymagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Mustangs-Heacock-Valdes.pdf> (accessed January 24, 2014).

The authors present a well-written update on the Spanish Mustang Registry as well as presenting a concise, detailed history of Robert Brislawn's methods of researching and collecting horses.

Newcomb, William W. "From Foot to Horse." In *The Indians of Texas: From Prehistoric to Modern Times*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961.

This book gives an in-depth look into the various Native American tribes of Texas; in Chapter Four, Mr. Newcomb relates the lifestyle changes that occurred when these people acquired horses.

Santee, Ross. "The Rough String." In *The Cowboy Reader*. Edited by Allen Maxwell and Lon Tinkle. New York, NY: Longmans, Green and Co., 1959.

This collection of short stories, articles, and illustrations details the life of the cowboy, his horses, his gear, and life on the open range. There are several well-known authors including President Theodore Roosevelt, J. Frank Dobie, and Owen Wister as well as the western art of Charles M. Russell, Fredric Remington, and Tom Lea.

Speir, Thomas E. "Mustangs." *Handbook of Texas Online*. Texas State Historical Association, (2002). <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/tcm02> (accessed November 08, 2013).

A brief monograph that relates the origin of the word *mesteño* and the spread of the Spanish horse into Texas and the Southeast regions of the United States. The monograph concludes with a short update on modern registries and numbers of horses available in 2000 A.D.

Sponenberg, PhD, DVM, D. Phillip. "North American Colonial Spanish Horse Update." Blacksburg, VA: Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. (July, 2011). <http://www.horseoftheamericas.com/conformation.htm> (accessed November 16, 2013).

Dr. Sponenberg offers a brief history of the Spanish horse with some detail given to the ancient origins of the different types of horses bred in Spain and brought to the Americas. He offers an updated compilation of the different strains or families of Colonial Spanish Horses now living in the United States, and a brief history of the Brislawn family's collection of Spanish type horses.

Strong, Phillip D. "Ninety Horses with Coats of Mail." In *Horses and Americans*. 1939. Reprint, New York, NY: Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., 1946.

The first chapter of this book relates the history of Don Juan Oñate and the Spanish horses he brought to the territory of New Mexico. Mr. Strong also theorizes about the acquisition of horses by the Native American tribes, and the horse as a major transportation factor during the American frontier period.

Van Atta, John R. "A Lawless Rabble: Henry Clay and the Cultural Politics of Squatters' Rights, 1832-1841." *Journal of the Early Republic* 28, no. 3 (Fall, 2008): 371-73. <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jer/summary/v028/28.3.van-atta.html> (accessed January 24, 2014).

This is an in-depth article covering the congressional debates and legislative acts that involved the westward expansion of the United States, property rights, and claims by the public to acquire land.

Vernam, Glenn R. *Man on Horseback*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1964.

This is an excellent book that begins with the early global evolution and migration of the equine species, continuing with the domestication of the horse for transportation, development of the saddle and other riding gear, the rise of the Mexican vaquero, and the American cattleman.

Worcester, Don. *The Spanish Mustang: From the Plains of Andalusia to the Prairies of Texas*. El Paso: University of Texas Press, 1986.

Mr. Worcester offers a brief history on the origin of the Spanish horses brought to the New World and their spread into Texas and the Great Plains. He discusses their use as buffalo horses for the Native Americans, cowponies for the vaqueros, and concludes with the formation of the Spanish Mustang Registry's efforts to protect and preserve this antique equine breed.

The Spanish Mustang is an American horse breed descended from horses brought from Spain during the early conquest of the Americas. They are classified within the larger grouping of the Colonial Spanish horse, a type that today is rare in Spain. By the early 20th century, most of the once-vast herds of mustangs that had descended from the Spanish horses had been greatly reduced in size. Seeing that these horses were on the brink of extinction, some horseman began making efforts to find and preserve the The first horses were domesticated approximately 8.000 – 7.000 years ago and had an important role throughout history in the development of civilization. Horses were used in battles, in agriculture, forestry and other types of activities. Horses were grown for recreational purposes just since the 18th century. The Canadian horse is a threatened horse breed known for its versatility. It originates from a French stock of horses exported by Louis XIV to Canada. The breed was almost extinguished during the US Civil War, when many Canadian horses were exported and killed during combat. The Canadian horse is quick, strong and resistant to harsh environment conditions. Currently, there are approximately 6,000 registered Canadian horses worldwide. Akhal – Teke horse.