

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

NEWSLETTER



Swinging J's Medicine Jewel
SSMA-998

The Indian Pony: 146 Year History of the Swinging "J" Horses

By Jewel G. Whitmire

Edits by Gretchen Patterson; Sarah Holland

This is the history of a Native American family's horses with the same bloodline of Cherokee Indian Ponies living on the same range and carrying the same brand for 146 years. Mr. Whitmire's ancestors were among the first to arrive in Oklahoma Territory, coming from Echota, Georgia and the *Trail of Tears* in 1835.

Editor's Note: *Trail of Tears*, in U.S. history, was the forced relocation during the 1830s of Eastern Woodlands Indians of the Southeast region of the United States including Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Muscogee, and Seminole Peoples. They were settled in northwest Arkansas and southeast Oklahoma in an area known as Indian Territory (IT).

We have one of the oldest Indian Pony bloodlines we've read or heard about. Our Cherokee family kept the foundation bloodline on the mare's side. But, occasionally bred some of the special mares to good, outstanding stallions (ones that fit to our type of ponies). After I became old enough to ride and use horses, I suggested to my dad, "If I found a good stud, we should always check him and his offspring out before breeding to him."

My dad always kept a good band of broodmares. His ancestors were good horsemen and passed the same tough, little ponies on down to him and his older brothers.

My grandmother, Annie Corntassell-Whitmire's people kept good ponies and brought them from the Carolinas to Indian Territory. We have records and word of mouth of her granddad, Chief Old Tassell, having lots of ponies dating back to 1775. The Whitmire side kept lots of horses dating back to 1803. I'm sure some of their ponies got here, too. Stephen Whitmire, my dad's great-granddad, lived in Echota, Georgia (Jackson County Georgia) and was mixed half breed Cherokee. He paid taxes in Captain Joseph McConnell's District in the year 1803, Tax Digest Jackson County, Georgia, listed on the census card as having a lot of livestock and "well-to-do" (*Hale County Estate Records, Wills, Book A, Drawer 152, Box 71*). The will was recorded in Gainesville, Georgia, Probate Judge Zip 30501. Stephen's father, Michael Whitmire's will came from Anderson, South Carolina (*Vol. 1 Sect. c Page 35*). He was listed on the census card as having lots of livestock). I seem to have inherited a love for horses—the reason I still keep a band of mares.

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President's Column Andrea Mulnix

As we head into summer many of us tend to get “busy”. During these times the days and months seem to fly by, and before we know it it’s the end of summer and often we might feel we did not accomplish everything we wanted to. This especially holds true for those of us that live in states with harsh winters and only a few months of good weather.

It’s very easy to get caught up in the day to day. I am challenging those involved in the Colonial Spanish Horse world to make some goals this summer. They don’t have to be large goals – just some small simple things such as making a post online about our horses, or sharing photos of them. Sharing educational posts, history, etc. While we love it when people take their horses to venues and shows – I realize not everyone is able to do this. You don’t have to be out there winning world championships to help and support the future of the Colonial Spanish Horse.

Vice-President's Column Amy Speissegger

In a time, as many before, there is much turmoil in the world. This is something not new to the Colonial Spanish Horse (CSH). Now more than ever does America need a role model of courage determination, guts, and glory but more than any of those, a common American thread to hold on to. That is the CSH.

Not just a horse breed or strain, but one of the most useful, practical, universal pieces of God given equipment with way more than physical nuts and bolts for common labor. The CSH is an asset with unlimited courage, knowledge, understanding, and drive to do the best it can do for the one who is asking, if it understands the task. More than that, there is trust, bond, companionship, love, honesty, and so much more these horses give us than a tractor with less toxic omissions and environmental destruction.

The CSH not only built the America we have today, but



It’s been said that “many hands make for light work”. The more we can do as a community – the more information that gets out there about our wonderful horses. Even small things, done daily to weekly can add up and make a larger impact. I am challenging you all to find one thing you could do at least weekly to help people learn about the breed. A post, a comment, a conversation with a neighbor. It takes a village. Without it, everyone drowns on their own.



they are also a symbol of unity among classes, race, as such, because the CSH had a purpose for everyone. Today we need to learn from a horse that was used on both sides of multi-wars. They were used to rebuild after the destruction. CSH were used for everyday tasks such as taking children to school, carrying the elderly and so much more.

This is the year of the horse and the 250th Anniversary of Independence. Let's take this time to re-unite our unique individual qualities and knowledge back into The United States of America and the Horse of the Americas.

As VP I am looking forward to the possibilities that lay before us. If we all put disgruntled differences aside, tell our stories, share the history, and work together, we can keep the CSH alive and become a role model for the United States of America to do the same.

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Share upcoming events. If you're doing something we should know about, please share. Just pay attention to the calendar below to make sure you get it submitted on time.

Make an announcement. I want to highlight riding and horse breeding successes, especially among our younger riders.

Sell us something-advertise. Please consider placing an in the next newsletter.

HOA Newsletter Publication Schedule.

Spring Issue Content deadline February 28

Spring Issue out by March 15

Summer Issue Content deadline May 31

Summer Issue out by June 15

Fall Issue Content deadline August 31

Fall Issue out by September 15

Winter Issue Content deadline November 30

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Editorial

To Whom It May Concern,

Colonial Spanish Horses are a unique and historically significant group descended from the original Spanish stock that arrived in what is now the United States through Florida and Mexico in the early 1500s. Over centuries, these horses became geographically isolated across the continental United States. Shaped by diverse environments, uses, and cultural influences, each strain/breed developed distinct characteristics and qualities. Despite these differences, all remain part of the Colonial Spanish Horse heritage.

Today, some strains/breeds have become so small that inbreeding and associated health concerns pose serious risks. Thoughtful crossbreeding between distinct Colonial Spanish Horse strains/breeds—many of which are distant relatives—can help strengthen genetic diversity. Across the country, there are exemplary breeding programs that successfully maintain and strengthen Colonial Spanish Horse lines through careful crossbreeding, dedication, and knowledge who continue to work diligently to preserve these important horses. The resulting offspring often exhibit the best qualities of each lineage and are equal to or even surpass their parent lines. Historically, however, there was no unified registry to document these horses until the establishment of the Horse of the Americas registry by Bob Brislawn and Jeff Edwards in 1972. This registry plays a vital role in ensuring these horses are recognized and preserved.

The mission of the Horse of the Americas is to collaborate with all who share a passion for Colonial Spanish Horses. We collect and preserve stories, historical records, photographs, documents, breeders, owners, organizations, registries, and associations. In addition, we host online shows and are working to expand in-person events including festivals, meetings, and educational programs throughout the country to foster knowledge-sharing and community engagement.

By helping bridge gaps between Colonial Spanish Horse strains, Horse of the Americas seeks to unify preservation efforts and safeguard an important part of American history. We are committed to building strong, cooperative relationships with other Colonial Spanish breed registries and organizations, and we look forward to working together to promote all groups whose horses fall under the Colonial Spanish umbrella. We welcome your ideas for collaboration and joint promotion. To start a conversation on how we can cooperate between registries and organizations call or email Andrea Mulnix, Amy Speissegger, and/or Mickey Hauber.

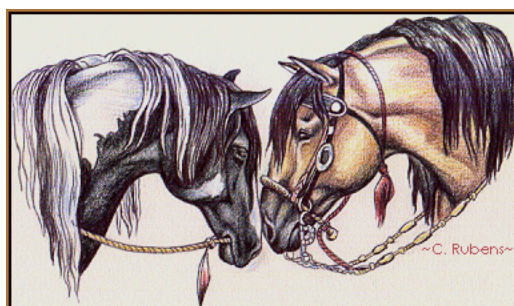
Sincerely,

The Horse of the Americas Executive Committee

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The Indian Pony by Jewel Whitmire



Jewel Whitmire & *Swinging J's Pearly*; SSMA-462

Our Cherokee Ponies have a good past. I'm sure they will have a good future. They have stood the test of time for several generations. We have read of Eastern Ponies and Western Ponies, Mustangs or any name they may carry, and how they got here. But, my Cherokee ancestors have always kept a good line of Indian Ponies as far back as we have family records.¹ The Corntassells and Whitmires married in Indian Territory and their ponies were mixed as this was all open free range. The stallions were boss and always kept their band of mares together and ran the others away. But, man helped inbreed any that were inbred. As soon as they arrived in IT, which was 1835, they cleared fields and started crops such as corn, pumpkins, and tobacco. Oxen were used to some extent. Horses were the main way of transportation. The ponies were all colors and different sizes depending on time foaled and amount of feed they could get for themselves. Most of them were 12 to 14 hands, occasionally 15 hands. They were very tough and could carry their rider to his destination at a speed the horseman today wouldn't believe. Let him graze a little while and he was ready for another long journey. Most of them went without shoes. The horses today seem to have the stamina bred out, except a few breeders still have some bands of extra good ponies. The original may not meet the judge's approval who thinks that every horse should be judged by Quarter

¹<https://archive.org/details/the-indian-pony/mode/2up>

~Continued from Page 1~

Horse conformation.

We appreciate the few breeders for forming our association to register and preserve these horses as they are. They are called Indian Ponies, Squaw Ponies, Mustangs, Broomtails, and a lot more names. During my 60 years, I've heard it said many times, "We know they are Indian Ponies because we are Cherokee Indians and we own them." If they have the Swinging J on their right shoulder, "They are as good as the best and better than the rest."



Our ponies come in all colors: Solids, bay, brown, buckskin, palomino, apps, and pinto. We have them with irregular markings on the forehead, such as a star, crooked streaks down the face, little pin ears that touch at the tip. Some have extra-long whiskers. We also have some gaited ones crop out, regardless of what we breed to.

We've always been very careful of the new blood we bring into our ponies. The open range was voted out in the late 50's. People complained of stock on the road in this fast car time. Now we keep a closer record of which stud sired which colt (or filly.) Our ponies have always been good at any task laid on them. They are good for a wagon or any type of horse-drawn vehicle, good on trail rides, parades, and they work cattle with very little

training. We've had several horses that would fight or buck anyone off, other than its one and only master.

Our ponies don't mature as fast as some who are kept in small pens and fed grain. Ours run out in the hills and eat native natural grass and can look



Wishbone, SSMA-446 with Whitmire grand-children aboard.

out for themselves. Four years is a good age to break them for whatever use they are intended for. By the time he is six years old, he is usually a seasoned horse. They have strong legs, extra stamina and will be 20 years or older under normal use. They usually have extra hard hooves. Some can go a lifetime without shoes. When shoes are needed, most of them will wear 00 behind and 0 in front. Along with good bones and feet, they seem to have a spring in their pastern with a natural gait. They can carry their rider in a comfortable manner in which he will enjoy his time in the saddle. If they are going to be natural gaited, they will show signs of it as soon as the foal hits the ground.

²Renamed *Swinging J's Spotted Eagle* (SMR-494, SSMA-178 & AIHR O-530) by *Kiowa Chief* and out of *Mousey*. Bred by Gilbert Jones of Medicine Spring Ranch; Finley, Oklahoma.

We have pony blood from Western Oklahoma that has been here since the late 1800's. A stud was bought from some Comanche Indians and brought to the Cherokee Nation. The older people who had interest in the ponies could tell which ones carried the Comanche blood. Most of them show app (appaloosa) breeding; some have rat tails, some have long tails which are most common in the Cherokee blood.

Since I've been watching our breeding, I bred to a stallion out of Old Mexico. We liked him for conformation, size and color as he fit into our line of ponies. I bred a good app mare to him as he was a good colored app. His weight was 800 lbs., and he was 13 hands high. He had a very short back—a big saddle could cover all his back. Out of this mare (by) the Old Mexico stud, we raised a good, little app stud called *Wishbone*, SSMA-446. He was black with white on his loins and hips. All of his offspring usually have short backs. They are a very tough breed of little horses. Several of these Old Mexico blood ponies are naturally gaited.

Wishbone & Linda Kay



I have a new stallion now which we are real proud of coming from extra good ponies in the Choctaw Nation. The man I bought him from has one of the best lines of mustangs in existence today. I've read all the literature I could get my hands on about Mustangs/Indian Ponies and have decided that Gilbert Jones of Finley, Oklahoma has the best horses of the kind to blend in with the one we raise. So I let this new pinto stud, *Spotted Eagle*, bought from Mr. Jones, run with a band of mares.² He is a beautiful horse, good conformation, 14-3 hands, weighing 1,020 lbs. (He) has a good disposition and is pasture broke. His first crop of foals got here in 1981. We are well-pleased with them. We are anxiously awaiting the 1982 foals. We plan to keep a band of fillies out of Eagle, then maybe get a new stud for the fillies.

Our 1981 crop sure looks good with good bones, ears, eyes, (and) some have white eyes.* Overall, their conformation is good and some will be natural-gaited. They seem to inherit a smoother way of covering ground.

We never did breed to modernize our ponies to meet certain standards, but bred the best to the best, in our opinion. They inherited a way of covering ground with ease, on rider and horse. Most of them are very alert. Regardless of size, they mature all the way from 12 to 14-2 hands, sometimes 15 hands. They are well-proportioned so the rider is always proud to be seen at any place where horses gather. Seems like our paints always catch the public's eye at rodeos or trail rides.

We've received many inquiries in the past and have read all types of literature about the Indian Ponies. We got in touch with Mr. Jones finally, and spent hours in his library and visiting with him at his ranch. We got five mares from him with his brand on the left shoulder and now the Swinging J on the right shoulder. Our stallion is branded the same way. We are very proud of these ponies. The Choctaws blend real well with ours in color and size. They all have good dispositions, extra hard hooves, and are very hardy. We can tell the Cherokee ponies. The old Mexico blood ponies seem to have shorter backs. Some have irregular white markings on their face. Regardless of size or color, most of them, if handled right, are gentle and make good family horses. They learn fast and will pick up bad habits, same as good ones, but will live a very long, useful life with less feed and pampering than some of our modern breeds. We've been told down through the times, "The Indian Pony can go twice as far on half the feed as their big, fast horse brothers."

**Genetic white/glass eye = blue or light-colored iris, often cosmetic and not harmful unless linked to breed-specific eye disease risks.*

The Cherokee Indian has always had a fond and great respect for his Indian Pony. They set out early to preserve their family's strain of horses in the game of survival of this species. As a result, the Whitmires have a little mare called "Tiny." She is a Cherokee Indian Pony mare, approximately 25 years old, just 13 hands and weighing 750 pounds.

Mr. Whitmire has several of her offspring which are used for trail rides, ranch work, or wagon ponies. All these ponies live on grass only and are not conditioned in any way. A local riding organization, the Stillwell Riding Club of Adair County, has several trail rides each year. The longest and hardest ride being a 60-mile, one-day, cross-country ride from Stillwell to Ft. Smith Arkansas.

Tiny has made 20 of these rides in the past 20 or so years. She missed the 1980 ride because she ran out of the barn while Whitmire's daughter was getting the bridle ready. She's a smart pony and didn't want to make that ride again! So the Whitmire girls waved her by and rode 2 of her sons, Dan and Tiny Tim. They made it with ease. Another of her sons, Ranger has made 8 of these long rides. The 1980 trip was the first Tiny has missed in 20 years. She holds the record for making the ride more times than any other horse. Next year, Mr. Whitmire's 6-year-old grandson says he and Tiny are ready.



Swinging J's Tiny; SSMA-454; AIHR O-534

Editor's Note: Mr. Jewel Whitmire died in 1986 and his bloodlines continue through the preservation efforts of Mr. Bryant Rickman and Rickman Spanish Mustangs in Oklahoma. Bryant's goal is to continue breeding and keep as high a percentage of Cherokee blood of the Whitmire horses as possible.

Photo Credits to the Whitmire Family, Francine Locke Bray, and Maila Coleman.

Jewel Whitmire & *Swinging J's Going Snake*, SSMA-556 at Medicine Spring Ranch, Finley, Oklahoma, 1985.



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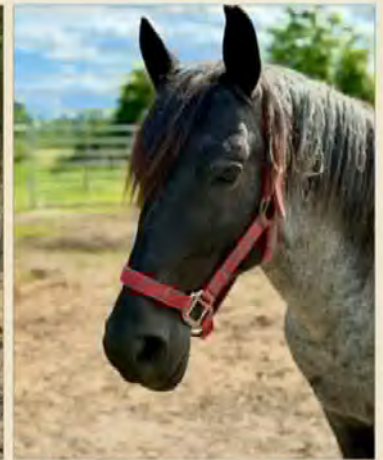
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A Photo Collection of Colonial Spanish Horses



(l) From **Tree of Life Hollow Farm**, Virginia--*Burn The Ships* (Rosa) w/ Mom Samantha and Miss Gwen Shoemaker

(r) From Emma Reed, Doncaster, UK; *Toby Lerone*



From Adam Edwards, Wyoming; Paha Ponies Spanish Mustang Mares



From Kelly Troxel, Nebraska; *Finale's Smoking Gold*



From Kimberlee Jones; California *Valentina de España Antigua*



From Sheri Olson, Wyoming; *SOS Victor E. Calling*



From Heather Buss, Virginia; *Muddy Bird*

HOA Awards & Member Stories

Copper Concha, HOA-2175 **2025 English Performance Award** **by Rebecca Pizmoht**

I never planned to get another horse. At that point I wasn't sure I even wanted to spend much time with horses. I was trying to establish a career as a journalist and had landed my dream job as a reporter 460 miles away. Everything was packed and we were ready to move when our housing fell apart. I tried for several weeks to find another situation, but they were unaffordable or too far to commute. Eventually, I started looking for work in central Virginia and stumbled into a situation working with a large herd of Colonial Spanish horses. Several local professionals had already done a tour of duty and had left, annoyed with the owner's fantasy and 80 feral horses. I told myself it was temporary, the money was good and I would just stay until I found a job writing.

It didn't take long before I fell in love with the horses. The Choctaw and Cherokee horses were incredibly athletic and smart, and it wasn't long before I had several rideable horses and a plan to market them. I stayed at the job until the owner's divorce necessitated a partial dispersal of the herd. I bought one of my favorites and brought her home.

Concha immediately adapted to life with a sweet and not very bright giant Warmblood gelding and a herd of Angus cows. She quickly became boss and protector of 75 mama cows and a big, grey gelding. I rode around the farm and fox hunted some and occasionally taught some lessons on her. By 2019, I was back riding, teaching and showing full time.

If I had time and trailer space, Concha started to come along. At first, no one paid much attention to the small, funny colored pony but as the jumps went up, Concha got more expressive, stylish, and became competitive.



Concha has become something of a local celebrity and quite often people I barely know will ask if I have the wonder pony with me. She is the ultimate ambassador for our horses and nearly everywhere she goes somebody will ask what she is.

Concha has her horse show fan club and plenty of success in the ring but the hunt field is where she truly shines. She can gallop and jump at the front of the pack with the big Thoroughbreds and turn around and take a junior rider out hill topping the next week. She listens for the sound of the huntsman's horn and the cry of the hounds and knows exactly what to do. I have hunted for over 40

years and Concha is the best and most consistent hunter I have ever had the pleasure of riding.

As a performance horse, she's really unique in that she doesn't live in a fancy facility or even train at one. Concha is a backyard pet, with a pasture full of steers on one side and a donkey on the other. She is one of the first faces I see every morning and one of the last I see before my head hits the pillow every night and I wouldn't want it any other way.

Sawbrow Jigsaw, HOA-2494 & Ginger Hipp

Manzanita Farm in Irwinton, Georgia, is excited to formally introduce our future breeding stallion, *Sawbrow Jigsaw*, HOA-2494. Jigsaw came to us from Sawbrow Farms in South Carolina, owned by Paul and Jodi Shirley, who personally selected this stud colt to complement our mares and future breeding program. At just a year and a half old, Jigsaw is a striking bright blood bay with no white markings and comes from the very rare Starbright bloodline. We are incredibly thankful to have the guidance and mentorship of the Shirleys as we continue learning more about bloodlines, conformation, and preserving the Carolina Marsh Tacky horse.

Over the next few years, we look forward to training and developing Jigsaw, whether that leads him into the show ring, endurance trails, or wherever his talents take him. Once he is mature and proven, he will become the foundation of our breeding program and will also be available to the public for AI breeding services. We are excited for the future and grateful to share this next chapter with our community.



Copper Concha, HOA-2175;
AIHR O-5614 ; SSMA-3096
2024 HOA Caballos de Corazon Award



I Knew You Were Trouble, HOA-2001
2025 Legends & High Point Trail Riding
By Abigail Donnelly/Mill Swamp Indian Horses

I'm Abigail, and I will be 9 years old in a few weeks. I have been riding for almost two years. I like riding because it's fun to trot in the woods. I learned a lot about myself through Mill Swamp Indian Horses and Trouble. I learned that I can do things on my own even though I'm a kid. I can catch a horse, tack up a horse, except I need help with the bit, and I can ride a horse.

Trouble is a Choctaw Colonial Spanish horse. He is a 13-year-old gelding from Texas. He was named after the song "I Knew You Were Trouble." (©Taylor Swift) I like that song and him too! Trouble is super sweet, but he can also be stubborn. I think he is a left-brain introvert because when you catch him, he needs treats and lots of pets to get him to do what I want. Trouble kicks horses behind him sometimes, and I want to train him not to kick. I'd like to own a Choctaw horse like Trouble because he's small and because Choctaws are sweet.

I think Trouble likes to trot a lot, and so do I. I'd like to canter more with him this year so I can see if he likes that and if I do too. My favorite thing about Trouble is that he is fun to ride.





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A Little Pony: *Bella Notte*, HOA-1901 2025 Legends Award

by Tamsyn Cunniff /Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Belle Notte is a crowd favorite when riders arrive at Mill Swamp Indian Horses. A lot of people compliment how pretty she is, or how nice it must be to have a smaller pony for younger riders. Sometimes people suggest that if she had been a little bigger, I could enter her into competitions to win ribbons. But I tell people that there's other things that are more impressive about her. She has carried me at lightning speeds through the woods, faster than many of the larger horses. She won Pleasure Trail Horse of the Year, She has 12.5% Grand Canyon lineage, one of the last of the horses with this DNA. Yes, she's small, but that's never been a hindrance in my eyes.

Bella's height makes me look a lot taller than I actually am. Do she and I end up partially submerged in flooded areas of the trails because of her height? Yes. Is it harder for me to see around the taller horses on rides? Definitely. But do I wish she was taller? No.

This little horse is an athlete. She walks so fast, that leading rides means I have to constantly stop and make sure that the rider behind me could catch up. She can carry weight like it's a feather. And she can recover faster than I can.

She taught me how to gain confidence while riding, especially in the lead position. She reminded me how to be patient when rides don't go as planned. She has carried me on long, tiring rides. Some of them were in the brutal Virginia summers, some were in the

icy cold of winter. And she bounced back like she was made of steel.

She meets with veterans recovering from PTSD, kids who are working to overcome trauma, and scared humans who are just trying to find their way in life. She has been the first horse ride for many people who said that they could never ride a horse. And I get to watch those people start to gain confidence, and feel a little bit better about themselves than they did 5 minutes ago.

So many people at the horse lot adore her. The riders, the veterans, the visiting family members who are just there to pick up their kid from a ride. The more they interact with *Bella Notte*, the more they relax, and start to feel better. They learn about her heritage. They learn that she's more than just a show pony. She helps create better people, more confident people. And all of this means more to me than any ribbon or trophy.



Bella Notte & Tamsyn Cunniff

Janie's Got a Gun, HOA-1988 **2025 Sundance Award**

By Steve Edwards/Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Janie came to us from Texas, a gift from Lothlorien Farm. Her breeding traces back through Karma Farms, and before that to the Choctaws and natives of the Grand Canyon region. She has been my most important teacher in that I have learned more from her than any horse with whom I have ever worked.

Perhaps the most important thing that I learned from Janie is to be slow to evaluate your horse and to be fair to your horse when you evaluate her. Only evaluate your horse when both of you are at a very good fitness level both in terms of aerobic fitness and muscle mass. After several years of riding her, I discovered how much versatility Janie has. I love this horse for her comfort and easy lope. She is 6.25% Grand Canyon and has a great deal of Choctaw and Huasteca lineage. My evaluation of her had always been that of a great horse for an afternoon of riding.

I don't say that dismissively. I know that for most people that is as good as one would ever want from a horse. My ideal horse would be that level of comfort coupled with the ability to move on out on a fifty-mile ride as needed. But...Janie did not have a fast enough trot for that. Or so I thought for years. One spring I pushed myself into solid riding

shape. I had been training for endurance riding and exercising with significant intensity for nearly a year. Janie had been living in a pasture with herd mates all of her life here. That gave a good base of fitness to build on. I took six weeks and built on that base. I asked her to trot faster than she ever had. I should not have been surprised, but she found a new gear, simply because I consistently asked for it.

I was shocked at what she could do. That is because I had evaluated her total athleticism without having her in top shape. I will not let another horse down like that again. Every horse deserves the chance to reach its maximum level of fitness.

Bottom line--it feels good to feel good--whether you are a horse or a person.



Janie 's Got A Gun & Tamsyn Cunniff

CWH Sampson, HOA-1774: A Quiet Legend 2025 Legends Award

by Pamela Yohn/Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Sampson is one of those rare horses whose impact cannot be measured only in years or accomplishments, but also in the number of lives he has quietly shaped. To know Sampson is to understand the heart of the Colonial Spanish Horse.

Sampson's story began in 2004, among the wild herds of the Outer Banks. Descended from rare bloodlines that have survived for centuries along the North Carolina coast, his life was defined by freedom until a sudden accident changed everything.

Struck by a vehicle as a foal, Sampson was removed from the wild for rehabilitation. This early hardship could have ended his story before it truly began. For many horses, such trauma could have resulted in fear, distrust, or even the inability to live a quality life. Instead, Sampson became a testament to the resilience and heart that define the Colonial Spanish Horse. Sampson arrived at Mill Swamp Indian Horses in his second year, joining a program dedicated to the



Steve Edwards, *CWH Sampson* & Jae K Davenport



CWH Sampson & Liam Stevenson

preservation and development of Colonial Spanish Horses. This marked the beginning of a life of enduring purpose. He has now been part of the program for twenty years, a lifetime of steady presence in a single place where generations of riders and horse trainers have grown. His training reflects the unique approach of Mill Swamp Indian Horses, where learning is shared through patience, consistency, and partnership between horses and people. Sampson was trained by Rebecca Stevenson and Lydia Johnson under the guidance of Steve Edwards. Sampson's training continued with Jae K Davenport. That foundation helped shape a horse who would go on to become exceptionally reliable with beginners.

Over the years, Sampson has become one of the most trusted and beloved horses in the program. He has carried riders through their



Steve Edwards, *CWH Sampson* & Lydia Johnson

uncertainty and into confidence, proving time and again that a horse can be a safe partner, a patient listener, and a steady friend. For many children and adults, he was not just their first riding experience, but the one who quietly showed them they were capable of more than they imagined.

There is something especially meaningful about a horse with Sampson's past becoming such a solid guide for others. Though his early life was marked by hardship, he developed into the kind of horse that gives confidence instead of fear. His calm nature and willingness have made him invaluable in introducing new riders to horsemanship and helping children believe in themselves.

Beyond his role as a remarkable trail horse, Sampson has also participated in endurance rides, demonstrating the strength, soundness, and willingness that reflect his Colonial Spanish heritage. He has served as an ambassador horse at special events, representing not only Mill

Swamp Indian Horses but also the importance of preserving these rare and historic bloodlines. Horses like Sampson help connect people to that history in a deeply personal way. His journey from injured wild foal to ambassador for his breed reflects both the fragility and strength of the Colonial Spanish horse. Recently, Sampson was honored with the **Legend Award from Horse of the Americas**. It is a meaningful recognition of his long career and steady contribution over many years. It is deeply rewarding to see him receive this honor. The award is well deserved for a horse who has quietly given so much.

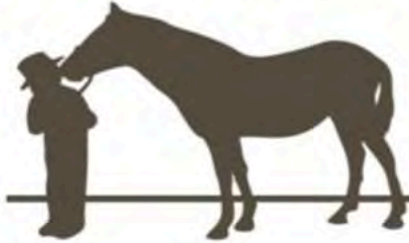
Sampson represents the thread between hardship and healing. For the nervous riders who found their bravery while holding his mane, he is a living reminder that strength is not always loud. Sometimes, the gentlest horses leave the greatest marks on our lives. Certain horses are unforgettable. Sampson is a legend who has made his mark on his breed, his program, and most importantly, on the hearts of those who needed him the most.



Don Demere & Sampson riding at Mill Swamp

HOA ASSOCIATES

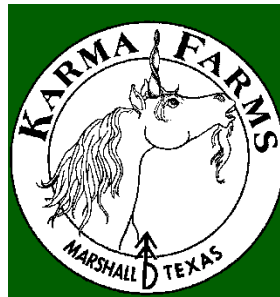
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May The Great Spirit Smile down on you and keep you and yours safe
 May the trail rise up to meet you
 May the wind be always at your back
 May the sunshine warm upon your face
 May the rain fall soft upon your fields
 And until we meet again
 May The Great Spirit hold your hand in the palm of his hand

~Art by Marianne Millar~





Horse of the Americas, Inc.

Annual Membership Form

All Membership fees are due on January 31st of each year.

Name: (please list all members) _____

Farm & Ranch Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email Address: _____ Website: _____

All Membership fees to be paid in U. S. Dollars only, International members please add \$5.00 (postage).

Membership fees are as follows:

Jr. Member Only: \$ 15.00 (Ages 17 & Under)

Individual: \$ 25.00 (1 vote)

Family: \$ 30.00 (2 votes)

Farm & Ranch: \$ 35.00 (2 votes)

****Please include your email address to receive the HOA Newsletter and other updates.**

Family includes all family members: horses may be registered in any family name.

Farm & Ranch includes: 1) owners, horses registered by Farm/Ranch or owner's name.

2) qualify for listing on the HOA website: Breeders Page & Stallion Directory.

3) receive a free, one-page advertisement in the HOA Newsletter.

Horses must be registered with HOA. All award points follow the horse.

See our web site at <https://horseoftheamericas.com>

Look us up on Facebook at: Horse of the Americas Group Page

Print out this form and return to: HOA Treasurer, Heather Buss
698 Moonlight Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430

Payment available through PayPal to glpatterson62@gmail.com or check (payable to HOA), or with a money order. The web site has a PayPal link for membership fees.