



History of the Friesian Horse

DON JUAN VAN OOSTENRIJK'S OF
AUSTRIA'S FRIESIAN STALLION.

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SINCE 1989.

NEFHC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Netherlands



Provinces of the Netherlands.

The Friesian horse comes from the northern province, Friesland.

The entire country is called the Netherlands. Holland is only two provinces in the Netherlands. South Holland and North Holland.

Romantic History of the Friesian Horse

- ▶ The Friesian horse initially was not what we see today. During the age of Eocene, the age of the horse, Eohippus came into being. 6,000 years ago wild horses were domesticated and this included the horses in Friesland.
- ▶ 1500-1600 Arabian blood was introduced through the Andalusian horses to Equus Robustus.
- ▶ In the middle ages, Friesian horses were used by knights. The horses could carry the weight of armored knights weighing up to 250kg.
- ▶ William the Conqueror rode a Friesian in his winning effort at The Battle of Hastings which occurred in 1066.
- ▶ Evidence the Roman army had Friesian riders 37 AD-68 AD during the time of Emperor Nero.



The Friesch Paarden Stamboek was founded in 1879 to save, preserve the history and organize the Friesian breed. It was called The Friesian Studbook and was the first Dutch studbook. This was the effort by Friesian farmers and landowners. Book A for purebred Friesians and Book B for crossbreds.



Thirteen stallions judged in the 1879 studbook and 10 mares. One mare entered into the B book.

The preservation of the breed was paramount to the Friesian Studbook.

De Oorsprong...The Origin

- ▶ In 1885 the studfarm De Oorsprong was established. It was located in Huisterheide, Netherlands. Jhr. Mr. C. van Eysinga and his partner stood the stallion Graaf Adolf 21. The Friesian stallion Alva 113 was born at De Oorsprong in 1899. The oldest mare stam, number 1 started at De Oorsprong with Jeanne 6B.



The saviors of the Friesian Horse that helped save them from extinction was the Royal Stable in Borculo and the De Oosprong breeding farm.

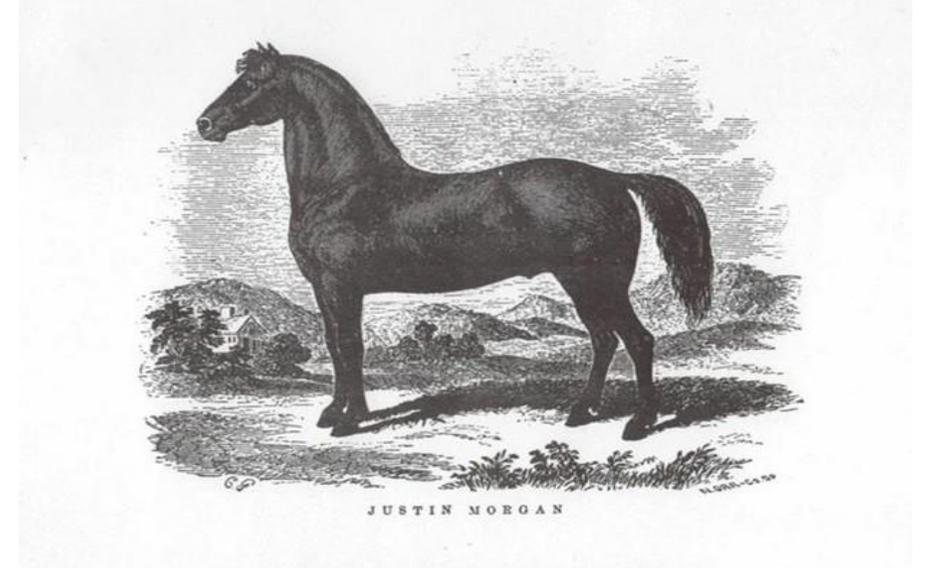
We Almost Lost Our Beloved Friesians.

- ▶ Prins 109P, Alva 113P and Friso 117P were the 3 purebred Friesian stallions in 1913. In desperation to save the breed, the “Het Friesche Paard” was developed at the Oranje Hotel in Leuwarden, Friesland. (This hotel stands open today!). The Het Friesche Paard Society convinced the Studbook to put the separation of purebred A book and the crossbred B book to be reenacted. The Friesian horses fabulous personality, black coats and strength were to be saved. They were bred at this time for farming, hence they were heavier.

1664 The English forced the Dutch to leave New Amsterdam in what is now, New York.

The pure bred Friesian Horse was lost to crossbreeding in North America.

- ▶ 1795-1796 Ads in New York City newspapers speak of trotters of “Dutch” descent.
- ▶ Margaret Henry’s reference to “Little Dutch” in the development of the Morgan horse. (Henry, M., (1945), “Justin Morgan Had a Horse”, Simon and Schuster.



Berentje fan Jirnsum
Kroon



Paulus 121 went on to be the patriarch of all current Friesian Stallions.



1949 Queen
Julian became
patroness of the
FPS.



1954 The Studbook celebrated it's 75 Birthday in Joure and received the "Royal" title in the presence of H.R.H. Princess Beatrix

H.R.H. QUEEN BEATRIX WITH NORBERT 444 AT THE HENGSTENKEURING

1967 Mark 232 lead the week long Friesian Parade through the Province of Friesland.

▶ Cees Faber, of The Oosprong breeding farm, served as the leader of this effort. He was also an inspector for The Studbook. He promoted the need to breed versatility while keeping the breed characteristics.

▶ In the 17th century, the Marquis De Newcastle mentioned Friesian Horses as being very qualified for dressage and high school riding.

▶ Versatility!



The Three Branches of The Stallion Book.

- ▶ Ritske 202 (top)
- ▶ Age 168 (right)
- ▶ Tetman 205 (bottom)
- ▶ The Tetman line being the largest. It is divided into the Jarich 226 & Mark 232P lines.



Elias 496 Sport-Elite (Age 196 line) top left.
Bene 476 Sport (Ritske 202P line) bottom left.

Matthys 504 Sport-Elite (Tetman 205 line through Mark 232P) top right.

Tiede 501 Sport (Tetman 205 line through Jarich 226) bottom right.



The inspections done by the KFPS occur all over the world. Where there are KFPS Friesians, there are inspections. It takes years of study and work with senior, established, inspectors to become a KFPS inspector. Yearly there are the foal, mare, gelding and stallion inspections.

In January is the Hengstenkeuring in Leuwarden, Netherlands. The stallion show. It is quite something to see!





1978 The
Studbook
closed to
horses of
partly known
descent.

▶ All Friesian Stallions underwent testing on the quality of their offspring from their first 4 breeding seasons. This started with the stallion Dagho 247

1980 The young stallions Oepke 266, Oege 267 and Peke 268 were the first to graduate the newly instituted 50 day test held in Ermelo, Netherlands.

▶ Julius 486 Sport-Elite

▶ Photo by Cally Matherly

▶ The 70 day tests of today consist of dressage under saddle, carriage driving and show driving.



In 1974 Thomas Hannon of
Canton Ohio purchased Friesian
Horses to be transported via ship
across the Atlantic. Purebred
KFPS Horses in North America!

Frank Leyendekker had the airline, KLM, design and build crates for the horses to travel in. Laes 278 from the Ritske line arrived in this first shipment.

- ▶ 1977 Bouwe 242 sold to Tom Hannon and imported to USA.
- ▶ Laes 278 (photo) imported in the first KLM shipment in 1977.





In 1982 Frank Leyendekker of Visalia, California, traveled to Friesland to speak with secretary L.E. Huijning about the possibility of having the FPS Judge Friesian horses in North America.

Geldings and the Studbook.

The geldings are considered the backbone of the breed. They have their own book in the studbook. It is called the Gelding Book (Ruinboek). Geldings receive premie status and can achieve STER and SPORT titles, just as the stallions and mares. These titles are very important for the Friesian breed. The points assigned to the accomplishments reflect back to their sires and dams. This in turn can improve not only the worth of the gelding for their achievements, but the status of their sires and dams.



The Studbook for the Friesian Horse is The Royal Society “ Het Koninklijk Friesch Paarden-Stamboek” (KFPS, <https://www.kfps.com>) The oldest studbook in the Netherlands. Information available in English on the KFPS website.

Establishing the breeding goal and the necessary policy.

Keeping Studbook registers and inspecting and assessing for acceptance in the Studbook.

Applying scientific knowledge relating to equine breeding.

Stimulating the use of the Friesian horse in sports and recreation.

Koninklijke Friesch Paarden-Stamboek Presents: The Friesian Horse, available for purchase through the KFPS.



The Friesian Horse Association of North America (FHANA) is the counterpart of the KFPS in the Netherlands.

<https://www.fhana.com>

FHANA has chapters across North America.

Please feel free to access the FHANA website for further information.

The Friesian Horse has survived and flourished due to the passion and pride of the Friesian people. Their Friesian horse is a national treasure and is celebrated as such. <https://www.kfps.com>

The tradition of the Friesian horse is cherished around the world.

- ▶ From the knights chargers, to a phenomenal dressage mount, to a gorgeous trotter in front of the carriage, to a farm and family horse, to a sport horse extraordinaire. The Friesian horse was bred to adapt and improve in a closed studbook.



Matthys 504 Sport-Elite
Photo: Ingrid Truijens

Northeast Friesian Horse Club Chapter of the FHANA.

- ▶ Courtesy of the NEFHC education committee.
- ▶ Susan Gear-Porter
- ▶ Kendra Lyman-Hood.
- ▶ Please visit us on Facebook and on our website at <https://www.NEFHC> . We are happy to have new members and are proud of our Chapter of the Year Award for 2019 bestowed to us by FHANA.

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