

Abraham Lincoln Owned Morgans

“When President Lincoln became a resident of the White House there was purchased for him in central New York a pair of very stylish black carriage horses, the, reputed price being \$3000. Mr. Lincoln did not possess the proverbial Southern love for good horses, and was an indifferent judge of them. The black team was of the tough Morgan breed, and lasted him as long as he lived. He seldom rode on horseback during the term of his administration, although he was used to the saddle. He was an awkward looking equestrian, on account of his long limbs and bowed posture.”

So says an article in the June 6, 1891 issue of the American Horse Breeder, a weekly paper published in Boston. This quotation comes from an article entitled “White House Horses,” apparently a reprint, for it is credited to “Macfarland, in N. Y. Sun.”

Other presidential Morgan owners, according to the article, were Franklin Pierce and Benjamin Harrison. Of Pierce it says, “that popular son of New England, Franklin Pierce, not only loved a good horse, but he bred several good ones. His ménage while President was stocked with some of the best descendants of the Justin Morgan and Bishop’s Hamiltonians that could be procured in New England.” Benjamin Harrison, then President, owned several horses of Hamiltonian breeding, as well as Morgans. After discussing these, the article goes on to say, “The President, desiring a light driving team for his rather heavy mail phaeton, Secretary of War Proctor, who is a Vermonter, and who thinks the Morgans of that State the greatest breed of horses on earth, selected for the, President a short time since a medium-sized span of roadsters of that famous breed. They are a very fine and even-stepping pair of animals. It has been said that a boy can wear out an iron rocking horse as easy as a man can wear out a Morgan horse, and this team would by appearance seem to warrant this statement.”