

Whippoorwill Osiris (1978 – 2009)

Bred by Mary Jean Vasiloff of Whippoorwill Morgans in Old Lyme, CT, Whippoorwill Osiris was foaled in May 1978. By Bald Mount Black Cloud out of Whippoorwill Isis, the young Osiris was bought by Janet Ditcham as a yearling and came to the UK in 1979.

[See Osiris' pedigree at www.allbreedpedigree.com/whippoorwill+osiris]

Registered BMHS [British Morgan Horse Society] No. 40, his pedigree is mainly Government/ Lippitt and his lithe barely 14.2hh frame, clad in what can only be described a velvet coat, couldn't help but put any visitors in mind of Justin Morgan himself. With the temperament and disposition of a real gentleman, Osiris was a powerhouse in a small package. Correct in conformation, athletic and willing, he rode and drove and had a go at just about every discipline there has been to try. He gave bold riders like Jeanne Herrick the ride of her life over Cleve Hill yet carried small children and nervous riders for lessons. Always adapting to the ability of his rider, Osiris toned it down or pulled it out of the bag on demand. Who can forget his winning 4 ft Chase Me Charlie class at Arena UK where, let's face it, it would have been easier for him to go underneath the pole than jump it!



A true non-fading jet black, he was himself by a black sire out of a chestnut mare and through his dilute buckskin son, Bluestone Olympus, was partly responsible for a multi-coloured dynasty! Working on the basis that the horses have been registered as the correct colour, Osiris himself had 25 bays, 19 chestnuts, 10 blacks, 3 duns, 2 buckskins, 2 browns, 2 greys, a roan and a palomino.

Osiris and Tarryall Gene Thiery (Maestro) take joint number one spot in the BMHS sire list in terms of quantity. Both having sired 65 registered offspring, only 4 of Maestro's were part breds whereas 29 of Osiris' were out of non-Morgan or part-Morgan mares.

Some of Osiris' more interesting part breds were $\frac{3}{4}$ Morgan Bluestone Isis out of part bred endurance mare Ophelia (by Pennington Othello out of a mare by Osiris); lovely Morgan x Fjords Stockton Oriole, Stockton Osprey and Stockton Merlin - all of which made excellent driving horses; and diminutive coloured part bred Teeny Weeny out of a coloured pony mare.

Osiris' offspring have their fair share of performance records. Gill Eyre's Arab/TB former endurance mare Triella has all three of her Osiris offspring with top flight Endurance GB records. Marches Trillium has 1586 points, Marches Triandra has 2222 points and Marches Trinity has a whopping Grade 1 Elite 5674 points. Part bred pony Bluestone Speedwell by Osiris (out of a Welsh Section A) is a Grade C showjumper and pure bred Candleford Wotastar (out of Eaglhead Carillon) has 30 British Dressage points which (as far as I can find) is the Morgan with the highest number of BD points in the UK).



Of all his “wives,” Glebe April Dawn and the incomparable Funquest Pazona were the favoured ones! Both had six foals to Osiris - Dawn had Bluestone prefixed Orietta, Odette, Orlando, Osric, Odin and Miss Otis. Pazona has Kernewek Orion and Jem and Bluestone Oonagh, Opal, Oddity and Oswald.

Some of the Morgan personalities we all know are by Osiris. Out of the beautiful Monnington Aria, Osiris sired stalwart show winner Pennington Drummer, still going strong at the age of 22. Owned by Pam Leah and (mostly) ridden by Chloe Macleod, Drummer is a regular winner in the hunter and dressage divisions. Sylvia Orton's Bluestone Orlando, 19 this year, has been a big presence both in the show ring and at youth clinics. But Osiris' greatest legacy is arguably the striking buckskin, Bluestone Olympus (out of Dunoir Montana). Eighteen years young this year and having a new lease on life with his new owners in the West Midlands, doing endurance rides and being turned out with a group of geldings, Olympus has 35 registered offspring of his own (to 2008). Of these, Bluestone Jaffa (out of a KWPN mare) has 25 British Dressage points and is registered with British Eventing as was the talented Bluestone Euphrates (out of Hever Utopia) before his sad death in 2009.

A legend in his own lifetime, sound and well until the very end and the sire of some of the most sensible, useable and adaptable Morgans seen in the UK, let's raise a glass at our next BMHS event to the true gentleman that was Whippoorwill Osiris.

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