



Piedmont Driving Club Newsletter

Dedicated to the sport of carriage driving in Northern Virginia

December 2007



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Advertising, articles, show reports, and information relating to driving and carriages are welcome for inclusion in the newsletter free of charge. Please use e-mail contact below and on the PDC website on the "Newsletter" webpage to send information. Photographs of members are welcome.

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Events Schedule

23-26 January, 2008

Symposium on Carriage Making "The Art & Craft of Carriage Making: Old World Roots & New Frontiers"

at Colonial Williamsburg

Presented by The Carriage Association of America and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

See the CAA's brochure at

[www.caaonline.com/pdfs/CAA Symposium brochure for web.pdf](http://www.caaonline.com/pdfs/CAA_Symposium_brochure_for_web.pdf)

Sometime in March, 2008

Membership meeting. More information to follow.

20 April, 2008

Obviously, we're all looking forward to the spring. Lee Heuer has put out the word that they are planning a drive at Morven Park for the 20th of April, 2008 and wondered if anyone knew of another big show or event that would conflict with that. More information to follow.

If you know of anything else your fellow drivers might be interested in, please let me know at lppence@wildblue.net.



Bits and Pieces



~ **Natural wood Village Cart \$1400.00.** Custom made. Fits a 14.2 to 15 hand horse. It was used on a Fjord horse. This cart was lightly used for picnic drives only and only for one season. It is in excellent condition. It was probably used only 20 or so times. The wood is Poplar and the seat is vinyl. All the iron work was custom made to remembre an antique cart of this style. It has a very comfortable ride due to the two different kinds of suspension. It has eliptical springs and also "J" shaped springs. The shafts are 74 inches long and the wheels are 44 inches in diameter. The seat is adjustable back or forth about 8 inches. I am selling it due to the fact that my horse is no longer sound and neither am I. I will be selling the harness too. Please email me for pictures of it on and off a horse. Kitty Newman 540-955-3265 — kitty@visuallink.com

~ **Black Pleasure Harness with nickel hdwe.** Breastplate style. Comes with bridle bit and lines and hold backs. Bridle has bendable wire stays and comes with a 5 1/4 inch Liverpool bit. Has a cut back crown to use without side checks but comes with an additional crown to use with sidechecks. Side checks included. Traces are attached to breastcollar. This is just like the Smuckers Harness # 215 on their site except for the color of hardware. The harness is in good condition and the saddle and girth are new and used about twice. It has been stored inside and lovingly taken care of when not in use. It retails for \$900 new. I am asking \$550. Please email me for pictures. Kitty Newman 540-955-3265 — kitty@visuallink.com

~ **Smaller barn means no room for this stuff! Call Maryalice @ 540-270-6157.**

1. Single Meadowbrook. Used, 14.2—15.2 h size. \$850.00 Firm.
 2. Beautiful, but old with some repairs, quite useable brown single harness. Horse-size, English made, sliding tugs. \$750.00.
 3. 5 y.o. green-broke Cleveland Bay X TB mare. 15.2, gorgeous, serviceably sound for trail or breeding. \$4500.00 OBO. Must sell.
 4. Yearling Cleveland X TB filly. Gorgeous! White stripe; huge, kind eye; beautiful mover; gentle temperament. Took 2nd on line @ Upperville in part-bred class. \$8500.00 firm.
 5. Three proven TB broodmares in foal to Penrhyn Bayswater (Cleveland Bay). All good movers, 16 hh average, 2 greys & 1 bay. Wholesale @\$2500.00 each! UTD on all health matters. Foals due April / May.
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~ **Wanted!!! Two-wheel cart for 10.1 hand small pony.** Does not have to be show condition but must be well balanced with wooden wheels. I would also be interested in information on local craftsman to make a custom cart for this gelding. He is too big to be a miniature and too small to fit any small pony things I have found. **PLEASE HELP, I WANT TO DO THE PICNIC DRIVES.** Reply to: cottongrassfarms@cox.net



More Bits and Pieces



~ **Small, local carriage company looking for drivers** and grooms for occasional carriage events. Knowledge and experience with horses a must. Driving experience is preferred, but not critical — we will train. We always drive a pair of Haflingers. Most events are scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday in the Rte. 66 corridor from Middleburg to

Washington, D.C. It's a great way to kick your team driving skills up a notch or learn how to drive in multiple environments. Please contact Art or Linda Winder, (540) 635-7745. Visit us at www.shenandoahcarriage.com.



~ **Driving horse available!!!** I have a 15.3 horse that used to be a driving horse. I was told to mention he used to pin very well with Bill Long (judge). I am looking for a good home for him and I prefer someone who does driving. If you know of someone who may be looking for a driving horse could you pass my information on? Philip Layton 703-786-4438 Northern VA.

~ **Trying to move on to pair from single.** I'm looking for a cart for a pair of 12-13 hh Gotland ponies. Also seeking pair harness, cob size or maybe large pony. Email Gunilla Combs at gunillacombs@hughes.net or call 540-937-7945.

Notes and Changes (Flying Lead or Otherwise)

~ Anyone who wants a current membership roster can e-mail Marcia West at mwest@cvillefab.net.

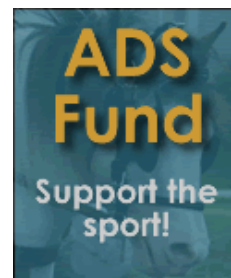
~ ADS has put out their end-of-year funding raising effort. Anyone interested in contributing to that can reach them at:

American Driving Society

1837 Ludden Dr, Ste 120, PO Box 278, Cross Plains, WI 53528

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9-4pm CST

Phone:608-237-7382 Fax: 608-237-6468 e-mail: info@americandrivingsociety.org



Have any information / things to sell / suggestions for the newsletter? Email Peggy at : lpence@wildblue.net



Picnic Drive Season Ends with Two Exceptional Events

(Reviews and photos supplied by Flora Hillman)

The Broadway song “Oh, what a beautiful morning” was the perfect theme for the October day Anne and Bill Watkins chose for their impromptu picnic drive from their lovely Kittery Point Farm.

Somehow the annual driving calendar had accidentally missed October for a planned drive, but Anne stepped in to fill the gap. The Watkins's annual springtime drive along the Shenandoah River is a perennial favorite for the PDC members to enjoy a truly breathtaking meander along the river lined beautiful Virginia bluebells. While the bluebells would not be a feature on an early fall drive, the deep green canopy of leaves from the close trees lining the riverside roads, the gentle flow of the lazy river, and the wide open fields nearby alive with tiny summer insects flitting around the quiet forms of sleepy cattle standing or lying in the shade, is was a scene just meant to be viewed from atop an elegant country carriage.

We arrived at the scheduled time with our Welsh pony pair, and found many other PDC members already gathered and ready to drive. Seen getting ready for the drive was Kitty Newman, Ann Denison and guest, and others. We were delighted to be joined for the picnic and social gathering afterward by Anne's sister, Kicks Presnikoff.

I'm sure I was humming “oh, what a beautiful day” as we set out on the 7-8 mile drive, heading out Kittery Point's driveway, down the paved road until it turned to gravel less than ½ mile later. A right turn took us high up on a knoll with a splendid vista of horses peacefully grazing in endless open pastures, lots of horse farms, and a smiling neighbor with a carload of big puffy bows getting ready for a wedding at their farm. And then...the road turned to the right again and we were on a serene, magical river road inhabited only by our quietly trotting pair and us. The river, teasing us with low water peeks at the little known secrets hiding close to the river floor, at first casually debated with itself whether it wanted to come up to meet us, then decided it would, coming closer and closer until the banks were only inches from our elbows, keeping us company as we meandered at a lazy jog-trot for several miles. The thick copse of trees hugging the river banks kept us shady and cool, and we found ourselves hard-pressed to pay attention to the road, leaving that to the ponies (who were doing a splendid job by themselves, thank you very much) while we spent our time enjoying the beautiful passing scenery. We waved hello to the few neighbors we passed, and exchanged greetings with the other carriages as we passed each other.

All too soon, it seemed, we had to return, but found the scenery that had been behind us when we headed out, now presented in extraordinary beauty as the roads took us home. We arrived back at Kittery Point Farm to join everyone else in carrying our culinary specialties to the floral decorated “pot luck” tent, and plopped ourselves down in the ring of chairs, sharing in the delicious food, happy chatter and laughter under the cool, breezy eves of Anne and Bill's lovely barn. It wasn't until the afternoon had long passed its zenith and the day was heading into early evening, before the last of the trailers headed for home, hands waving out of windows to our gracious hosts.

Many, many thanks to Anne and Bill for their wonderful hospitality in hosting this lovely fall drive. Even minus the Virginia bluebells it was still a special treat, as always.



Trot to Tea

PDC's closing drive of the 2007 season was celebrated as a 4-star event -- lovely weather, beautiful roads, historic estates to visit, and a delicious afternoon tea at the end of the drive. What could have been more perfect?



An enthusiastic, well dressed crowd of drivers and guests accepted the invitation of long time PDC members Flora Hillman and Owen Snyder to enjoy an Afternoon Tea Drive at their



Auriga Farm near Middleburg. PDC members driving included Ann Denison with guest Pat McCann, Kandi Kline, Amanda Compton & Stacey Debarry, Nancy Solak and guest, Mary Munster and guest, Kitty Newman, Aurelio and Beverly Roca, and Holly Satterfield with Wayne Porter and a guest. (I hope I didn't forget anyone!) Coming to enjoy the tea afterward were Anne and Bill Watkins.



Parking for the trailers was in the wide, flat hayfield of Way Away Farm, right next to Auriga Farm, was by gracious consent of owners Anne and Roy Graham who were out with extended family in tow and cameras in hand, quite excited to see all the carriages assemble. Each driver was given a booklet that included a map of the 7-mile route, plus histories of the area and estates the drive would go through. We are always thrilled when we can offer our neighbors the sight of lovely carriages passing through their properties, and are always so grateful when our requests to "drive through" their estates are met with such enthusiastic welcome. We even had our own photographer extraordinaire, Tim Snyder, who stationed himself at Pelham to take some exceptional photographs of the drive.

Drivers were welcome to go off at their leisure, but most chose to follow Flora's pretty Welsh pony pair throughout the 7-mile drive. We trotted down the quiet gravel roads with stunning



views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, meandered through the woods on wide, perfectly groomed carriage paths carpeted with yellow, red, and russet autumn leaves from the surrounding trees, and proudly paraded up the wide, long driveways of two historic estates – Old Welbourne and Pelham. It was such a treat to hear the echoed “oooo’s” and “ahhhh’s” as we drove up to the elegant manor houses and passed by them in review. The owner of Pelham even came out to ask to take photos of some of our drivers and their guests who graciously stopped and posed for the photo op!



The tea afterward was a special treat, with perfectly appointed tables set on the front lawn with china tea cups and tea plates. Owen Snyder took charge of pouring the several varieties of hot tea and hot cider, as friends and guests added

to their plates scones, tea sandwiches, cakes and assorted yummys which were set up in the nearby tent. Eating and socializing passed away the rest of the afternoon, including copious amounts of chat, laughter and gossip. The sun was starting to set, bathing the mountains and surrounding landscape in golden and orange light before the final participants bade their farewell and headed their trailers out the drive towards home.



Our gracious thanks to all the delighted accolades we received from those that attended. It was so much fun that we look forward to having a repeat drive next season.



Until next year....

News from the Past

Oconto County (Wis) Reporter — 1896

(Edited to show only those items related to horses)

Jan. 3, 1896

Another Big Load

From John Shores' camp comes the news of a two-horse team hauling, over a snow road and landing in the Peshtigo brook, a ten-log load of pine scaling 4,000 feet, where 2,000 feet loads are a scarcity, NEXT!

Feb. 21, 1896

Jacob Ullman will leave for Chicago, Sunday night, to purchase another carload of horses. He has barns in Oconto, Pound and Wausaukee, and two men traveling the country with horses and is doing a flourishing business.

Last Saturday night, the Sturgeon Bay covered stage, with five passengers, went through a large crack in the ice on Green Bay, and the passengers narrowly escaped drowning. The ice on the bay has not been very thick this winter, and many accidents have been reported.

March 6, 1896

A carriage containing five occupants was run over at the railroad crossing of the Peshtigo road near Marinette last Saturday night. The horses were killed and the carriage demolished, but only one person was severely injured.

March 20, 1896

Casualties in Life

Serious Accidents with Narrow Escapes from Fatal Results

Last Friday as Lots Brandiland and Lots Lindberg were driving to their home in the town of Little River they were struck by a C & N W train at the crossing about a mile north of the city and severely injured. The men were thrown a distance of more than twenty feet from the track, both being rendered unconscious. Brandiland received several cuts and bruises that are likely to lay him up for some time. His companion fared better, though considerably hurt. One horse was killed and thrown on the other side of the track from the men, while the other animal escaped injury of any kind. The train came to a halt and taking the men aboard backed down to the city where medical services were secured, and later the same evening they were conveyed in a carriage to their home.

His Ribs Broken

John Carr had a serious experience with his team of broncos on Wednesday afternoon that will confine him to his house for some time. He had driven out to W. P. Cook and Bros' farm, and was returning to the city when the metal loop at one end of the neck yoke broke, letting the pole fall against the legs of one of the ponies. This startled the animals and they dashed off at full speed, soon getting beyond control of the driver. John Herald, who was in the buggy jumped out safely, and in attempting to do the same Mr. Carr tripped on the lap robe and fell between the wheels, and his fur overcoat becoming fastened to the seat of the buggy held him in that position for some time. He finally succeeded in lifting himself back in the buggy when he was immediately thrown over the dashboard onto the ground between the whiffletrees and the heels of the horses. He was unconscious for a time. Herald soon obtained help and brought the injured man home. The sum of his injuries is a severe contusion on the right side of his head and several broken ribs.

May 20, 1896

Run Away Accident

In a runaway at Pensaukee, Monday, Mrs. Meinecke, nearly sixty years of age, was thrown from a carriage, sustaining injuries which may prove fatal. One leg was broken in three places, one shoulder severely bruised and she was injured internally.

May 22, 1896

While Miss Ella Flatley, Mrs. John Flatley and Mrs. Hall of Oconto and two children were returning from visiting with

Mrs. James Farrell at the Oconto Company's farm, the horse became frightened at an Indian and his pony, and ran away, upsetting the buggy and throwing them all out. Injuries not serious.

On The Salty Sea

Oconto People to Visit the Scenes of Their Childhood Days

On the second of June, Mr. and Mrs. Sol. Hirsch and son will leave Oconto for New York city, and on the 9th proximal take passage on the ocean steamer Lahn for Bremen [Germany]— but ten days on the water, should they meet with favorable weather. It has been sixteen years since Mr. Hirsch left the old country, where his father is engaged in the cattle business. While away, Mr. Hirsch will investigate the feasibility of shipping horses over there as a regular business.

June 19, 1896

Underhill

John Ludwig, while returning home on Tuesday evening, in a cart, was kicked in the face by the horse he was driving. His jaw was broken and his throat badly cut. He is in a serious condition as he can eat nothing and can not talk.

June 26, 1896

A.C. Frost of Round Lake met with rather a singular misfortune last week, in which his two horse team and its belongings were cremated. It seems that he, in company of a fishing party from Seymour, started for a point on the Waupee, where angling was good, and left their team and outfit at an old logging camp near by, while they proceeded to the stream on foot. In about an hour they noticed smoke arising in the direction of the place they left their team. Hurrying back with all possible speed, they discovered the camp in flames and their whole equipage destroyed. Having built no fire at the camp, or even lighting a match, their suspicions were naturally aroused. Upon making diligent search for the cause of the calamity they discovered that some one had been at the camp during their absence, on horseback, and either accidentally or maliciously caused the disaster.

July 3, 1896

Briefly Mentioned

Ullman will soon ship horses to Europe.

Oct. 16, 1896

Well Insured

George C. Sheldon, who was recently shot by his coachman at Houghton, Mich., was known in Oconto. He was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1843. He was educated at Ann Arbor and served in a Michigan regiment during the war. Sheldon was one of the principal characters on the range. He had \$34,000 life insurance and \$25,000 accident insurance and leaves a widow and two daughters, Mrs. S. J. Bowling of Detroit and Mrs. B. T. Barry of Houghton. [OK, it didn't have anything to do with horses, but I thought it was entertaining that his coachman shot him.]

In Oconto, lightening struck the O'Keef house, but did little damage. Two horses belonging to Samuel McDowell, in Little River, were killed by the lightening on Wednesday morning. Four horses were standing in separate stalls, side by side. The first and third were killed.

Dec. 4, 1896

A Fatal Runaway

Untimely Death of George Teche of Spruce

*His crop of peas had been marketed and he was homeward bound
with the proceeds when the awful accident occurred*

The tragic death of George Teche, a Bohemian residing in the town of Spruce, Tuesday afternoon, has cast a gloom over the community in which he resided. He had been at Lena with a load of peas – the last of his '96 crop – had received his money for the product and had reached within three miles of his home, when, in turning out to pass a team his horses became unmanageable and ran away, the wagon box overturning upon him, and in this way he was dragged a long distance, sustaining injuries from which he died fifteen minutes later.

The interesting thing is that, in spite of the fact that everyone at the time used horses for transportation and labor, so few accidents and injuries occurred over the course of a year!