

Cattle Nomenclature and Genealogy

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THAT CATTLE HAVE genealogical records more comprehensive than humans is attested by the old herd books and by precise records of the top three beef breeds in this country, the Herefords, the Aberdeen-Angus, and the Shorthorns. While the useful life of pedigreed bull does not last more than ten years, cattle can pile up more genealogy in a short span of years than we humans can accumulate in many generations.

Of these breeds, the Herefords, topping the list in numbers, are the only cattle occupying a "heaven" which is known as "Hereford Heaven," located on a strip of nutritious grass between Ada and Ardmore, Oklahoma. The second breed in numbers is the Angus, the only one of the three being entirely polled, without horns, and passing family records by females entirely—and having the brass sometimes to be bred in "Hereford Heaven," where the breeder facetiously calls them "Angus angels in Hereford Heaven." The third breed, the Shorthorns, "Mr. Shorthorn U.S.A.," is the oldest breed in point of entrance into the United States.

To register an animal in any of these breeds, an application for registry forms must be made to the secretary of the breed's association headquarters. The American Hereford Association is located in Kansas City; the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association and the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association have headquarters at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago.

Each association has important corresponding requirements, such as an age limit for the animal to be registered as well as the age of the dam and sire, though the breeds differ as to the minimum age of the parents. Each association requires the name of the calf, the tattoo number and which ear it is placed, date of birth and sex, name and number of sire and dam, name of breeder and name of the owner. All these associations discourage frivolity in names,

freak or unbalanced names, which would spoil the sale of the animal since family or blood lines are very important to breeders and are best discerned when incorporated in the animal's name.

All associations demand that masculine names be selected for bulls and feminine names for cows. A breeder may not use the woman's prerogative of changing his mind about his animal's name, for the Shorthorn Association will not re-record a name if the animal has had progeny recorded, while the other two breeds may re-record a name for a stiff fee, discouraging such procedure. People new in the business had tried to change their cattle's names to foreign or trick ones.

Each association differs in many specific rules for naming. A registered Hereford's name may not be longer than twenty spaces, including the number which may be in the name, such as Prince Domino Rex 33, exactly twenty spaces. In the example given, the final number denotes that there are other bulls of the same name, having the same sire, the number suffix alone designating the different animals. Such a number is never used as a prefix. The secretary of the Hereford Association, Jack Turner, writes that a name suggesting a family line is so much more comprehensive than names of movie stars, which leave you hanging in midair when they are on the last line shown in the pedigree. He says, "Names like Woolly Boy, Wild Bill or Big Frank lack sales appeal and bloodline identification." The name should be similar to those represented in the pedigree.

Most of the present Herefords go back to Anxiety 4 and have come from this bull down through Don Carlos, Beau Brummel, Publican, Domino, Prince Domino, and so forth. The name follows a pattern. The names using Domino are many and varied. Examples of some of them are: Major Domino, Prince Domino, Larry Domino, Prince Domino Return, and Double Domino. The name of a state is used in one descendant, Colorado Domino. One Domino, HC Larry Domino 12th, has a better documented genealogy than most people, since he can trace back eighteen generations to Dinedor, an English bull. Other variations are Onward Domino and Prince Domino Mixer.

The Mixers show up in different lines of Anxiety 4's descendants: Mischief Mixer, Hoosier Mixer, a state's nickname, American Mixer, BR Domestic Mixer by BR Proud Mixer, Proud Princeps

Mixer 3d by S. Proud Mixer 3d. The Mixers finally produce a mix-master in the bull NHF Mixmaster whose sire was HG Proud Mixer A.

The Anxiety line also runs through various other descendants, a prominent ancestor being Beau Brummel, whose line runs through Beau Donald, a bull siring a line of Ruperts, beginning with Prince Rupert and containing variations such as Sir Rupert, Zato Rupert and others. An Oklahoma breeder by the name of Robert Hazlett has named many of his cattle Hazford, the first syllable being the first syllable of his own name. Hazford Rupert was of his breeding. Hazford Rupert 81st, another bull bred by Hazlett and owned by the Turner Ranch, became very famous.

Some famous cattle pick up nicknames other than their registered title. Thus did Hazford Rupert 81st become respectfully known as "Old 81st." In nine years his progeny on the Turner Ranch numbered 497. All told Old 81st's descendants were valued at well over a million dollars, giving the well-known Hereford the second nickname of the "Million Dollar Baby." Only one of his children, T. Royal Rupert 99th, a son, ever shamed his father. He (T. Royal Rupert 99th) was sold for a record breaking sum but was dubbed "Reluctant Rupert" when he had shown he had absolutely no interest in cows. The owner, Roy J. Turner, returned the money paid for him. Old 81st was not just an animal, he was a personage, earning a bronze tablet and epitaph over his grave.

Beau President, another descendant of Beau Brummel's, sired the line of Mischiefs, Mixers, Beau Blanchards and Superior, such as Superior Mischief, Superior Anxiety, Super Superior. Printer, a third outstanding ancestor of Beau Brummel, sired Caldo, Bocaldo, Hazford Tone, Beau Zento Tone and so forth.

The Garfield Line, another distinct line of Hereford cattle, produced bulls with the name of Perfection and Woodford, among others.

The Hereford breed may be polled or horned. Since May 1952, the American Hereford Association issues two types of registration certificates: the regular certificate which indicates the animal is horned, and the P type certificate carrying a "P" prefix to the registration number which indicates the animal is polled.

Since farm names and breeders' names become the trademark of their cattle, all associations consider it very important that breeders

use these in their names. Farm names, or membership names as they are called, are registered with their associations. This name is limited to thirty-nine spaces with the Hereford Association, forty-one spaces with the Aberdeen-Angus Association. The Shorthorn Association registers herd names for the lifetime use of a herd. These are necessarily short but with no stipulation as to length in the Shorthorn Registry Manual. "Hedgewood" is an example of a Shorthorn herd name.

In applying farm names or breeders' surnames to cattle names, a short herd or farm name may be used in full, though initials are commonly used and become so well-known that cattlemen know at a glance what farm has bred the animal. In the Hereford breed, MW before an animal's name means Milky Way Ranch in Texas. MW Larry Domino was one of their famous sires. T stands for the celebrated Turner Ranch in the very heart of Hereford Heaven. EER is the Double E Ranch of Senatobia, Mississippi, DB is Dudley Brothers of Comanche, Texas, WHR is the famous Wyoming Hereford Ranch, and so on.

The very masculine name of WHR Flashy Monogram is the only name among the Hereford Register of Merit, names on the honor roll of Hereford cattledom, which could refer to a race horse. And, at least once, a breeder dipped into a comic book and came up with Popeye who sired children with prosaic names such as EER Victor Tone, a son, and EER Vivtor Duchess, a daughter. The Hereford, Grand Champion of the 48th Annual National Western Stock Show at Denver, was "Means Everything," bred by a man whose name was Means.

To register an Aberdeen-Angus, the name must not exceed 28 spaces or contain punctuation. Lynndale Blackcap Bessie 150 is an example of the maximum length. Ordinals may be used only at the end of the name. The IBM tabulating machines of both the Angus and Hereford Associations control the name length. If the name is in use, is claimed, or makes use of an incorrect family name, the Secretary will select a name. If that name is unsatisfactory, the certificate is returned by the owner accompanied by a list of names in the order of his preference. The calf must be black and have no scurs, portions of horny tissue attached to the hornsets of polled animals. If scurs develop after the animal has been registered, the registration certificate must be returned to the association for cancellation.

The distinguishing characteristic of the Aberdeen-Angus is that the family records are passed only by females. They indicate the earliest recorded ancestral blood lines, and are determined by tracing pedigrees back through the maternal ancestry only, never through the sire's line. Family names are numerous. Some of the more widely known being Barbara, Blackbird, Blackcap, Erica, Georgina, Miss Burgess, Pride of Aberdeen, Queen Mother and Lady Ida. There are many variations of these foundation names such as Barbarosa, the Barbara family, and Idessa, a branch of the Lady Ida family. A new line cannot be started without obtaining permission from the Angus Association. An example of a new line is Annunity, an appropriate name.

Single names are often used, and in the history of the breed certain animals so named have gained great renown. Eileenmere (a reserved name) is an example of such a single word name. Angus breeders like "mere" in their names, using it with different combinations such as Ellingmere, Jeffersonmere and Georginamere.

Aberdeen-Angus names can be descriptive of the breeders' properties, of landmarks or topography in the vicinity, a combination of euphonious syllables or words, or portions of given and surnames. They can even describe historical events. In Nebraska's cow country, the sandhills are often described as "cattle on the thousand hills." Nebraska's cattle come up with names such as Black Bernice of Thousand Hills, Evergreen of Thousand Hills. In other localities it may be Blackcap of Timberline, Glenside Bell Boy, Ruffland Koma, Queen of Pinehurst, Enchantress' Pershing, Persephone of Wikiup, or Victoria of Kickapoo. Many of the odd names come from the name of the farm. Hillwood Bandolier is the combination of a farm and type name. Angus names are delved from the stage and story: Tetrezzinia of Lone, Dell and Ben Hur of Lone Dell. History repeats itself in Revolution 81st, Blackcap Revolution, and Blackcap Revolution Again. Formerly names such as these could be reserved upon request but this has been discontinued though the use of names already on the Reserved List is limited to those for whom they were originally reserved.

Two other very prominent lines, besides Eileenmere, go back to early breeders. These lines are the Sunbeams and Bandolier, and an outgrowth of the latter, Bardolier. The Sunbeams come from Sunbeam Farms in Miami and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Elmland Jessie

2nd, the foundation of the Sunbeam herd, dropped a calf whose sire was Plowman, a son of Kloman, both with Grand Champion records. The calf Elmland Jessie dropped at Sunbeam Farms was a natural. He had such a lot of pep and go that because of this disposition he was named Playman of Sunbeam. Of Playman of Sunbeam's great daughters one, Pride 17th of Sunbeam, became the dam of the great Black Prince of Sunbeam. All the offspring of Black Prince had names denoting gentility such as Esquire, Knight as well as Prince. The Princes of Sunbeam now number up to 729 of the same name. The greatest son of Prince of Sunbeam 29th was Prince Esquire of Sunbeam, also known as the "Breeders Bull." The reason cattlemen gave for his greatness was that he was out of a great cow as well as being by a great bull. A famous Angus cowman said that "great bulls always have great mothers."

The Angus Association believes that a name should identify a breeder and he has a right to it alone. With over a million and a half registered animals in the breed, they are hard put for names. Instead of using the initials as a prefix, as in the Hereford and Shorthorn naming, the Angus breeders use them as a suffix—like Prince Barb of WF, the Whitham Farm of Lincoln, Nebraska. Barbara is the family line. Black Jestress of RLS—Ralph L. Smith, the owner. Jestress is the family line. In some instances, the home state or state flower is used in the name. For example: the Schwartz Brothers of Kansas use the name Sunflower. Sunflower Blackcap 3d is one of their animals. Some breeders use an abbreviation to denote the family origin. A case of this kind: Bar Marshall, a member of the Barbara family and son of Earl Marshall.

With the shorthorns, the name of a Shorthorn animal is limited to not more than four words and may not contain more than twenty-one letters, not including name numbers as 2d or 3d. The application for registry must designate whether the animal is a Shorthorn or a Polled Shorthorn (born naturally hornless). The registration number of all Polled Shorthorns is preceded by the letter "x." The registry number of a mutant (a naturally hornless calf born from ancestry with no polled breeding) has the letters "sx" preceding the number.

Herd name prefixes or suffixes in well-established usage and reserved by the Association for the exclusive use of any breeder, cannot be used by any other breeder, except by permission of the

registered owner of the name. The physical characteristics of a Shorthorn must be taken into consideration in the naming. In a Shorthorn the colors are more varied than in the other two top beef breeds.

The registrar of Shorthorn cattle, P. K. Groves, says that he does not think Shorthorn breeders lean more to keeping the sires' names in the blood lines than they do the dams' names. "I think the sires' names are usually shown more in the names of male progeny, and the names of the tribe to which a calf belongs are usually shown more often in the names of the females." As examples are Clearview Marksman by Leewood Trademark 2nd, a bull, and Duchess of Gloster 18th, a cow whose tribe name is Duchess of Gloster.

When applying for registry the breeder is required to show only the name and record number of the sire and dam of the calf to be registered. When the Association issues the registry certificate it shows three generations of ancestors.

The breed of beef cattle may be picked when one is familiar with the tribe or family names of the different breeds. There are a great many such names among the Shorthorns and they are derived from the female lines of ancestry. Some of the better known tribe names are Augusta, Averno, Brawith Bud (a Scottish name as Scotch creeps out in many a Shorthorn name, the cattle originating in Scotland), Butterfly, Clara, Duchess of Gloster, Golden Drop, Jealousy, Jilt, Lady Dorothy, Lavender, Marigold, Mayflower, Nonpareil, Orange Blossom, Roan Lady, Rosemary, Rosewood, Victoria, Violet, and many others. Combinations of these names help to sell the get of an outstanding sire.

Examples of such names are: Lavender's Royal Pilot x, a polled bull, Cardigan Lady, possibly a sweater girl, Orange Blossom Cornita 10th by Coronet Max Juggler 18th, Hillview Violet Mist, BoWood Victoria, Cedarwood Rosemary 26th, Koreandale Blossom, Butterfly Sensation. Shorthorn humor does occasionally appear in such names as Beaufort Bulldozer and Sunset Bounce. Scotch brogue is heard in Thistle Ha' Viceroy, Braemor President and Tolquhon President.

"Under modern rules a breeder of the United States would not be permitted to use a herd name in well established usage in Canada or Great Britain." For example: "The Collynie prefix of Albert Hultine and Sons of Saronville, Nebraska, has been used by

them for many years but the origin of the name is from the Collynie herd in Scotland," says P. K. Groves, the Registrar of the Shorthorn Association. The Collynie's of Hultines became so well-known and sale so widespread that any animal with the word Collynie in its name traces back to Hultine's original Collynies. Lord Collynie was the first. Others were Collynie Compact, Collynie Nobleman, Collynie Good News, Collynie Spotlight, Collynie Minstrel, and so on down a long line of Polled Shorthorns.

That "cows" have genealogy more precise than humans is proved by the absolute rule of the American Hereford, the American Aberdeen-Angus, and the American Shorthorn Associations that to register a calf: both the sire and the dam of the animal must have previously been recorded in the Herd Book, and names and numbers must be given exactly as recorded. Thus do cattle show their ancestors generation after generation.

SOURCES

Suggestions of Professor Mamie Meredith: *Time*, Jan. 14, 1946, and July 21, 1945; *Life*, February, 2, 1953; *National Geographic*, Jan., 1952, p. 69.

Interview with Professor Don R. Warner, University of Nebraska, Agriculture College, Animal Husbandry Department.

Interview with Dr. Roy Whitham, Lincoln, Nebr., owner of registered Angus.

Interview with Albert Hultine and Sons, Saronville, Nebr., owners of registered Shorthorns.

The Registry Manual of each breed and their advertising books; magazines of each breed; and a wealth of material from Jack Turner, secretary of the Hereford Association.

A half day in the cattle ring at the Nebraska State Fair in 1953.



The Devil has perhaps a greater number of aliases in our popular speech than in the argot of any other country. The English-speaking person is afraid to call the Devil by his name. He will do his best to beat Beelzebub about the bush. The Englishman especially seems to have revised the Third Commandment to read, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Devil thy Master in vain." When the Frenchman says without hesitation, "*Que diable*," and the German swears unblushingly, "*Was in des Teufels Namen*," the Englishman lowers his eyes and mumbles, "What the deuce" or "What the Dickens." He does not realize that the one as the other are synonyms for Satan.

—Maximilian Rudwin