

A CAVARCADE OF SPRINGERS

HISTORY

by F. Oughtred Till

If we were to board a helicopter into the not-too-distant future, and then, in the nineteen sixties, look back, would we sigh wistfully for the English Springer of the early nineteen fifties?

As a first step, it would perhaps be of interest for us to enjoy together a cavalcade of our breed. This will, of course, be incomplete, and I invite readers to examine their old records and supply me with information to help fill in the gaps.

Like other Spaniels, the English Springer descended from a Spaniel somewhat akin to a Field Spaniel of to-day. It took some time to settle the various types, and a good many mixed makings took place.

The breed proper began with F.T. Ch. Rinnington Sam, which was by a Springer called Spot out of a Cocker called Rinnington Riband. At about the same time we find Ch. Tissington Fact and Ch. Bush, whose progeny included Bushman of Ware. The Breachgroves were also prominent, and from them we can trace a male line to Springbook of Ware, Int. Ch. Jambok of Ware and Beauchief Nicholas.

I fear I have little information of the Horsfords. I wonder if they started in the village of Horsford, now Horsforth, where the Studley Springers live? Mention must be made, however, of Dual Ch. Horsford Hehman and his son, Dual Ch. Thoughtful of Harting. From here there is the line of Honest of Harting and Jonguill of Harting, a bitch which, mated to Ch. Beauchief Benefactor, produced Ch. Beauchief Beaucoupe.

Ch. Beauchief Benefactor is, of course, one of the main links between the past and the present. It is Ch. North Hill Dignity, his grand sire Ch. Banchoy Train, who gave his great-grandfather the renowned Ch. Little Brand.

There were some great dogs in what one might term the "pre-war" era. Int. Ch. Paulin Record is a corner stone in the history of the breed here, but soon, in America, most of the leading American dogs and in particular those in the Mellicotus Kennel, are his progeny.

The investors, too, spring to mind. Two of the greatest, perhaps, were Ch. Inveresk Coronation and Int. Ch. Inveresk Chancellor. Ch. Standard, too, figures prominently, but I have no details of his forebears or his progeny.

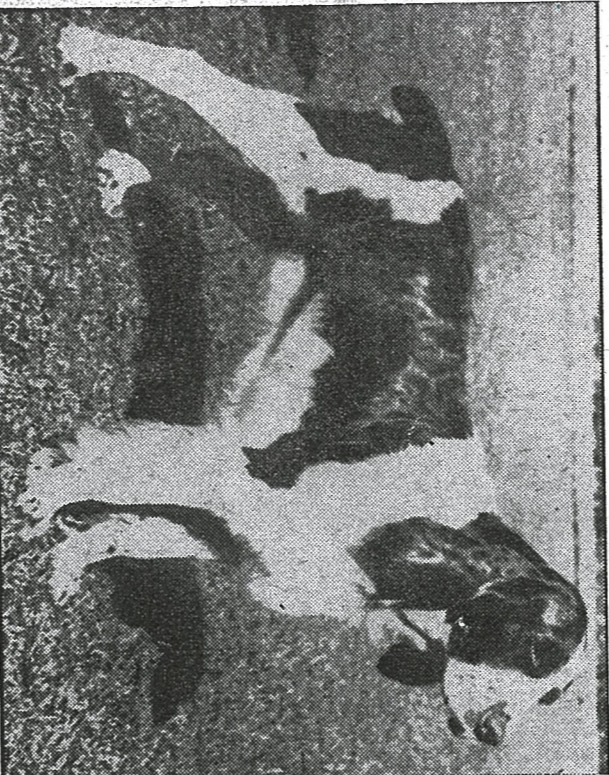


CH. CLINTONHOUSE GEORGE

which was bred that miracle in prepotency, Boxer of Bramhope, bred going through the war was Mrs. Howard and her Chastleton, a sister of the highest breeding. This daughter of Ch. Dry Toast, when mated to Peter of Shotton.

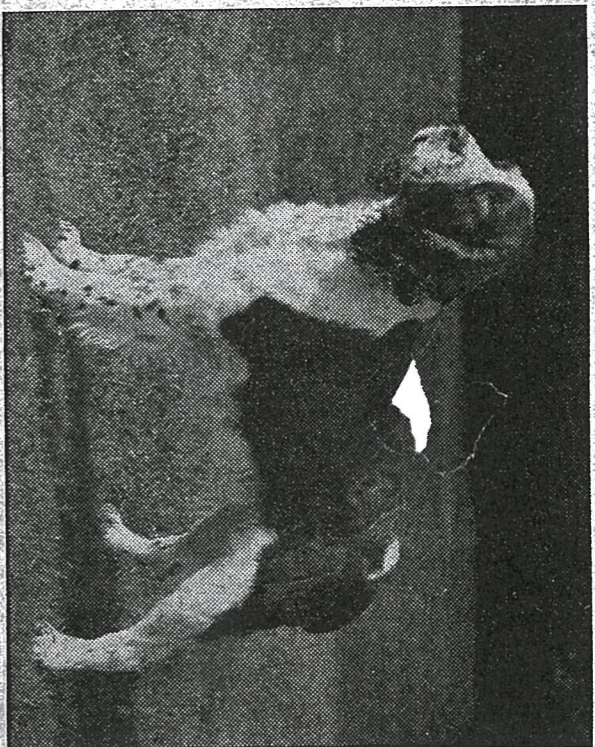
We must include Dual Ch. Flint of Avoidale the sire of Ch. Laverstoke Pepper which in turn was the dam of Ch. Marnion of Marnion. Last, but not least, there is Int. Ch. Showman of Shotton.

One of these days I must wailay Mr. Nalsby and glean details of Ch. Phaeasant Peter, which presumably became a champion about the time of Munich. It is this dog and his son, Peter's Bellefactor, which provided those fine bridges to span the war period and from



CH. PETER OF LORTON FELL

"Never were there three such dogs . . ."



CH. ALEXANDER OF STUBHAM

produced Boxer's granddame Tim of Chastleton.

Our gratitude must also be voiced to the Whaddon Chase Kennel which also kept the breed going through the war years. Ch. Whaddon Chase Bonny Tom won the C.C. at what was, I think, the first post-war championship show at Peterborough in May, 1947. Bitch C.C.'s in this year were also won by Whaddon Chase Titbit, Melody, Snipe and Harmony.

The Sandvland strain made its presence felt with Shot, Showgirl, Sherry and Shrubby, only to be decimated in a catastrophic fire.

Nineteen forty-seven and forty-eight were noteworthy for the successes of Ch. Invader of Ide and Grand Lodge. These two retired eventually with 25 and 11 tickets respectively. And Grand Lodge was the prophet to herald the truly remarkable success of Boxer's progeny.

We have had some good bitches too with Mr. A. B. Nicholson's Whintonhill Tessa, Ch. Light of Ashleigh Deanna of Glenervie and Woldburn Wallower. The Carmelids had a good run with Ch. C. Advic Legation, C. Chrysabelle, Ch. C. Florrie and Ch. C. Chick.

We have had many gorgeous bitches since the war. There was Gavelin Maid, with six tickets. Ch. Jess of Monkley, with six; Ch. Nina Today, with 14; Ch. Cornaris Cornesse, with 11; and Ch. Belarosa of Bramhope, with ten.

In dogs, the Stoketys deserve a page to themselves with Ch. S. Bonny Boy, Ch. S. Gay Boy and Ch. S. Luck.

The Studley kennel is a recent vintage to be reckoned with. They have already bred Ch. Studley Major, Ann, Ch. S. Hercules, Italian Ch. S. Barrister of Bramhope, and S. Brave Buccaneer (five C.C.s).

You may well ask, "Where is all this taking us?" and my answer is to the "Three Musketeers"—Ch. Clintonhouse George, Ch. Peter of Lorton Fell and Ch. Alexander of Stubham, all by Boxer but out of different bitches (Clintonhouse Hazelong Judith, Alexander Faluhil Maid and Susan, Ch. Stubham respectively). The progeny of George and I must do this on another occasion and to-day I am concentrating on George, Peter and Alex. and never, in my view, have there been three such dogs at one time—and I refer not only to Springers, but to all breeds. Between them they hold 51 C.C.s, and many was the occasion when the other two were second and third. It is no exaggeration to say that they have dominated the open shows. They hold over 50 best-in-show awards and over 100 awards for best Gundogs.

I have mentioned, at any rate, most of our leading dogs since the breed was established, but it will be difficult to persuade me that any three of one

period could vanquish this trio of 1953-4. Is this period the peak in the breed's excellence? Every breed has its ups and downs, and often it is necessary to come down a bit before a further rise. I agree that a peak has been reached, but there are quite a few of us with some "tools to pickle" and we will certainly continue to give exhibitors of other breeds more than a little apprehension when we walk into the ring with our English Springers.