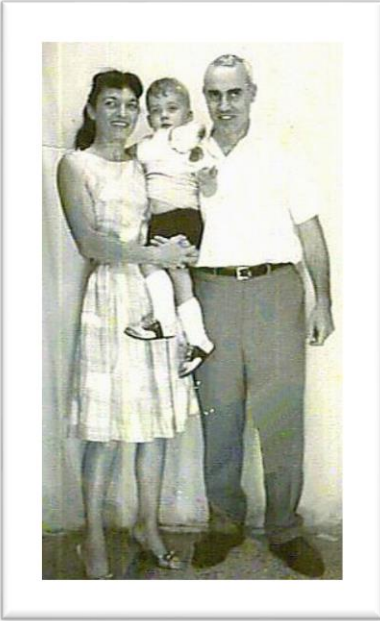


## Benefactor of the Breed

### *Lonny Hitchen*

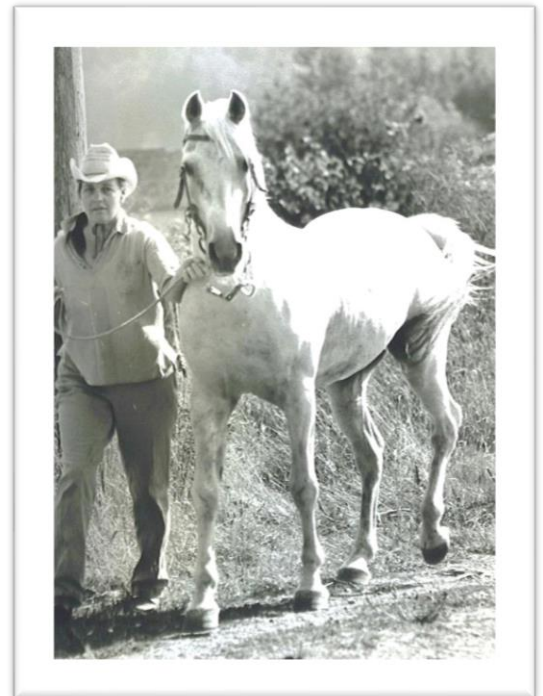


*Veria, Bill and Lonny*

As a young boy, my only source of information on Arabian horse breeding came from my grandmother, Veria Frasure. Like many early Arabian horse breeders, she based her breeding program on the beautiful Polish/Crabbet Arabian stallion Skowronek (Ibrahim x Jaskolka) and, the most abundant source of Skowronek blood in Grandma's herd was through her Skowronek grandson Kubriya (\*Raffles x Selfra). Kubriya was unique among the \*Raffles sons as his dam Selfra (\*Selmian x \*Rose of France) has three lines to Skowronek through: Naseem (Skowronek x Nasra), \*Raswan (Skowronek x Rim) and Jalila (Skowronek x \*Rasima). Kubriya is 56.25% Skowronek with five different Skowronek sources and he is one of the few \*Raffles sons over 50% Skowronek blood. Grandma had always admired Alice Payne's intense Skowronek breeding program, so she carefully collected \*Raffles (Skowronek x \*Rifala) and \*Raseyn (Skowronek x Rayya) granddaughters to breed to Kubriya and/or to her

Kubriya sons. The majority of her mares came from the breeding programs of: Walt and Carol Clark (owners of Sotep (\*Raffles x Zareyna)), Eugene and Eleanor McColley (owners of Tut Ankh Amen (\*Raffles x \*Roda)) and Kubriya's long time owners, Jimmie and Kathleen Wrench.

Skowronek was so genetically strong that I started putting together a photo album of all the Crabbet and Davenport horses in Grandma's pedigrees, showing the evolution of type from past to present. I started scouring the internet, looking for pictures and/or email addresses of people who could help me. Grandma had mentioned Michael Bowling, Buzz Moore and Charles and Jeanne Craver when discussing horses and their email addresses were easily found through their websites. I found a phone number for Carol Clark (JB Arabians) and she and her daughter Susan helped me with a few pictures of the Clark horses. Carol and I talked on the phone a couple of times a month for years, until she passed in 2016. I also found a phone number for the Pettitt's, who reside at the old McColley farm, and their son Andy sent me a box of McColley pictures and videos that they had stored outside in a shed. Andy confessed, for years he had thought about throwing that box on the burn pile every time he took out the trash. Eleanor's collection not only contained pictures and videos of her horses but, pictures and videos of several famous Arabian horses from the various farms she had visited.



*Kubriya & Carol Clark*

My project really took off after contacting Nyla Eshelman and Gary James, both had Skowronek based breeding programs in the Pacific Northwest. Calling Nyla was like hitting the lottery. She is kind, knowledgeable and has an extremely large collection of Arabian horse pictures stored on an external hard drive. Gary started with Wrench horses and had published an interview with Jimmie

Wrench along with some pictures of his horses. Between the two of them, they had almost every picture I was trying to find. The three of us quickly became friends, and it wasn't long before we combined our picture collections. Adding pictures to Nyla's external hard drive became my new obsession and, I continued searching for people with Skowronek based breeding programs who might be interested in sharing their pictures.

Gary and I spent hours on the phone discussing Skowronek, his sons and grandsons, much like I do today with Buzz Moore. One of my favorite stories of Gary's is a conversation he had with Eleanor McColley. They were discussing the pros and cons of the Polish horses one night on the phone. Eleanor didn't want to add Polish blood to her herd imported after the World Wars and Gary liked what the Polish imports were doing in the show ring and how well they crossed with Domestic stock. After going back and forth for hours, Gary said, "You know, Skowronek is Polish," to which Eleanor replied, "Are you saying there is something wrong with Skowronek?" It was late and Gary had to work the next day, so he told Eleanor he had to go to bed. The next morning, at 6 AM, Gary started down the stairs to have breakfast and was surprised by the smell of coffee. As he walked through the living room he could see Eleanor sitting at the kitchen table. "Good morning," he said in a puzzled tone as Eleanor looked up and said, "Now, where were we?" It was stories like this that started me putting together slide shows and short movies, of dedicated Skowronek breeders, to help educate people on what Skowronek has done to improve type.



For months, Gary was adamant I contact his friend Carolyn Hasbrook of Twin Brook Arabians in Ames, Iowa. Nyla also encouraged me to contact Carolyn because she and her husband Dick are well-known Azraff/Ferzon breeders and we did not have a folder for them on Nyla's external hard drive. Nyla and I discussed me calling Carolyn often, "What if she's not nice?" I would ask. Nyla always replied, "I'm sure she's very nice." Recently, Nyla confessed, after we hung up the phone she would say to herself, "Please let Carolyn be nice." After weeks of short Hasbrook breeding tutorials from both Gary and Nyla, I built up enough courage to call Carolyn.

Guess what... Carolyn is nice. She is also personable and fun to talk with on the phone. She was interested in our picture project and was willing to add her pictures to a Twin Brook folder on Nyla's external hard drive. Carolyn also had years of VHS tapes she had taken at every Arabian horse farm she and her husband Dick had visited. This was exciting to me because, up to that point, I had several ideas for short movies but, no content. I started making movies and mailing copies to everyone for feedback until I got smart and started uploading everything to YouTube. That allowed me to quickly make changes and upload the revised versions, until I had a final version. With Nyla's external hard drive and Carolyn's videos, I was able to make short movies about: Skowronek, Naseem, \*Raffles, \*Raseyn and a CMK slide show narrated by Michael Bowling. Thanks to Pat Bobb's constructive feedback, I taught myself how to make and add pedigrees so the movies were easier to follow. Contacting Carolyn really ramped up all our projects. Nyla was surprised that everything was snowballing at a point when she thought everything was coming to an end.

Today, I am still adding videos of Arabian horses to YouTube and have 1,000+ subscribers. I've also started adding pictures of Arabian horses to the free All Breed database and copying and pasting the pedigree link in the description of that horse on YouTube. I'm still discussing Arabian horses and

breeding programs on the phone with Nyla, Carolyn and Buzz, sometime for hours. I also spend time on the phone with new friends Joey Kramer, who has Azraff/Ferzon breeding and Marianne Hirst, who had Jimmie Wrench breeding. Sadly, Gary passed away from cancer nine months after our first phone call. He admitted he was having a lot of fun with Nyla, Carolyn and me, sharing pictures and talking horses. I can only imagine the fun he'd be having today, seeing what Nyla's external hard drive, filled with pictures and videos, has morphed into.



*BVL Psyveria & Lonny*  
*BVL Psyveria is 76.12% Crabbet*

## ***Tributes***

I met Lonny in person at the 2011 ECAHS Crabbet Celebration, but prior to that we had hundreds of hours of conversation on the phone. A mutual friend had connected Lonny, Nyla Eschelman and myself some time in 2008. He soon put together the fact that Nyla had thousands of photos and articles, I had taken a lot of videos, photos and super 8 movies over the past 30+ years and he had contacts with old breeders of Arabians plus getting, never seen before, pictures from them- A 'new' venture was underway. Lonny was already doing small historical clips of horses, but now he had more material to work with from "his new friends". He decided to start with \*Raseyn, because it would be easy, he thought. Every time he thought it was finished, more material would surface and after 24+ attempts, he had a completed video. At that time he was making copies of the videos and mailing to interested friends. Ones he realized, that by putting his work on you tube, he could reach a lot more people, he has continued doing that. By the end of May 2021, he has 1046 subscribers to his account, but anyone can watch by going to 'Lonny Hitchen-you tube' - It's Free, Lonny makes nothing from this - a labor of love!! Just to mention a few of his posts and the number of views : CMK Symposium- 28K, \*Raffles - 9.2K, \*Raseyn/Kellogg - 8.7K, Naseem-10K. These are just a few that Lonny has produced himself. The movies "The Ancient Breed"-386K, and the "Gift from the Desert"-67K are professionally produced and he added to his account so others could enjoy. More recently he has been posting short video clips of individual horses that are receiving a lot of attention as well as some farm videos he has put together. I consider his work to be some of the most important historical material for the Arabian breed.

When you consider the hours of research, hours of redo's, hours of looking up pedigrees and attaching to the horse picture and looking for the best picture, you will understand why Lonny is more than qualified to receive the ECAHS 2021 Benefactor of the Breed award.

Looking forward to seeing what you produce next - Dick and Carolyn Hasbrook

I first became aware of Lonny via the Internet and some phone conversations seemingly a long time ago, but finally met him in 2011 at The ECAHS Crabbet Celebration in Wilmington, Ohio. Lonny has since become a good and valued friend and we still do a good bit of phone and computer correspondence. He has been a very accomplished producer of archival video/film to video/photo to video material on YouTube promoting most often Crabbet and Crabbet related horse information.

In 2016 we had a great adventure where Lonny flew to Virginia to see the FFC horses and those of my neighbors and extended our tour/trek to Bill and Sharon Noonan's in Pennsylvania where Bill joined with us going up to Stoneback's where we joined Randy's caravan and headed West. First down to the southern end of Ohio to see the Lodwicks and the





Haines' and next to the Elliott's in south central Indiana, then on to Dick and Carolyn Hasbrook's Twin Brook Arabians in central Iowa dropping off Lonny while Bill, Randy and I went on to far northwestern Nebraska to Adam Edmund's to see the Shalimar Arabians and then turned around back to the Hasbrooks then to John Dornfeld's Sandarac Arabians in eastern Iowa and ultimately to Lonny's farm in St. Mary's, Ohio. where we saw the BVL Arabians and dropped Lonny off.

Bill, Randy and I continued to Randy's where we caught some Z's and then headed back to Oxford, PA or North Dinwiddie, VA.

Very educational and GREAT FUN FOR FOUR ARABIAN HORSE CRAZY GUYS!!!!

Congratulations from Buzz Moore!



*Kathy Stanz (Lonny's cousin), Lonny & Buzz Moore*