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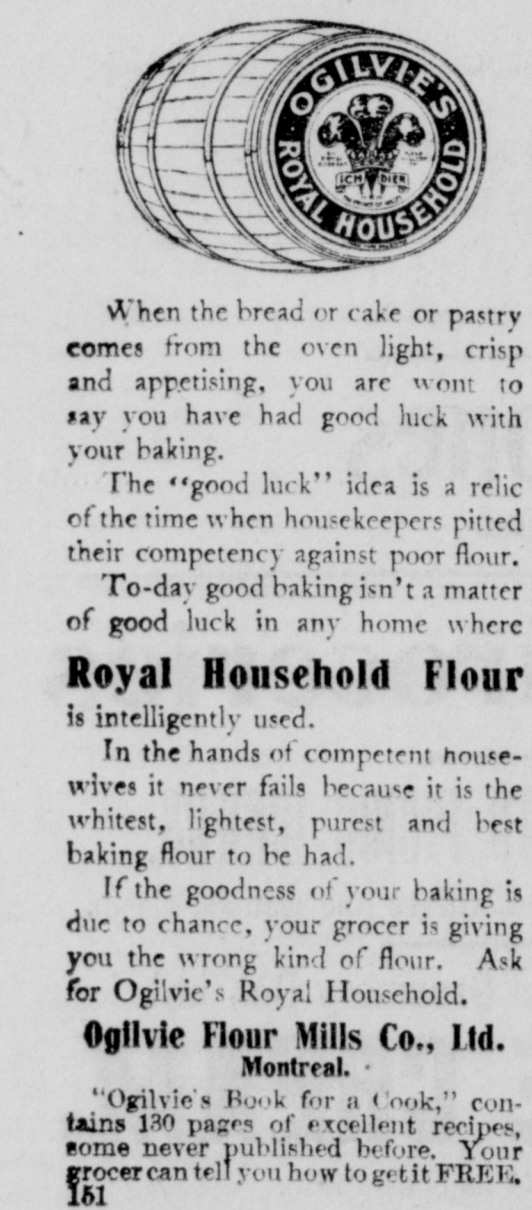
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THE JOHNSON FARM.

This farm nestles at the foot of the Blue Hills of Massachusetts. A visitor can get to it, or rather near to it, by tramcar from Boston; but the way the writer went was by railway to Readville, thence by wagon to the farm. The farm, on account of its associations, is one of the most interesting in New England it being the celebrated Forbes' farm and thither the late Mr Forbes took Arion 2.10, to high wheel sulky at two years old, paying for him the extra ordinary price of \$125,000. The colt afterwards reduced his record to 2.07. Mr Forbes paid the same year \$15,000 for Starlight then two years old. As a four year old Starlight was given a record of 2.13, also to high wheel sulky. She was then retired to the brood mare ranks and Achille 2.13 is one of the few one living of her foals. The mare is high strung and sensitive and was unlucky with her foals and at foaling time was said to be irritable. We do not know what happened to her first foals but she nearly tramped Achille to death, and succeeded in hurting one of his hind legs. Later, when two years old, Achille got kicked on the same leg, the mark of which can yet be seen by an expert, or felt by the hand. Achille had shown wonderful speed with a training as a two year old, but when he got hurt Mr Forbes came to the conclusion that the get of Starlight was hoodooed and sold the colt and thereby sold one of the best begotten at this celebrated farm. We saw Starlight when at the Johnson farm. She is a large, well formed brown mare, larger than her notable son, Achille 2.13. She was then with foal by Bingen 2.06. It is hardly necessary to state that both Arion 2.07, and Starlight 2.13, are by the great son of Rysdyk's Hambletonian and Green Mountain Maid, Electioneer 125, the sire of over 100 in the 2.30 list, very few of whom are pacers. For some time Mr Forbes stood Arion 2.07, at a steady fee of \$2500—a larger fee than any trotting stallion was ever worth, and certainly Arion was not worth it, although he was a fairly good sire and got some fast horses among them, Nico 2.08, Lord Roberts 2.12, Fanella 2.13 (the dam of Sadie Mac 2.06), by Peter the Great 2.07, and the great young sire Todd 2.14, by Bingen 2.06. Later still Mr Forbes bought the great race and brood mare, Nancy Hanks 2.04, and the trotting stallion Bingen 2.06, the latter, when he was a two year old on showing a mile in 2.12 from G. W. Leavitt. During the negotiations for the purchase of Bingen, Mr Forbes asked the colt trainer, how fast the colt could trot a mile. "In 2.17" replied the trainer. Mr Forbes then asked Mr Leavitt the same question. The latter replied in 2.14, or better; "Humph!" gruffly replied the old gentleman and millionaire, "Your trainer said 2.17" This touched Mr Leavitt on the raw and he retorted: "Mr Forbes, you did not ask me for my trainer's opinion, you asked me for mine." However the colt trotted the trial in 2.12; and Mr Forbes took him and at his death Bingen, who in the meantime got a race record of 2.06, was sold for \$32,000 at the dispersal sale, but he is still at the old farm, which was the Forbes farm, but is now called the Johnson farm. We were informed that Mr Johnson wished on the purchase of the farm to still retain the old name, "Forbes' farm," but was restrained by Mrs Forbes who has some sentimental notions regarding the name.

We suppose that we will not be criticised for recording the opinion that Bingen 2.06, was the best trotting stallion ever purchased by the late Mr Forbes. We have in a previous issue described Bingen, so there is no necessity in going over it again, and soon debarring accidents his son Achille 2.13 (the record made in his first race, he was only in four, three of which he won and one of them on his first and only year on the track and fresh from the stud at that) will soon be in New Glasgow where any one can see just what kind of a horse Bingen 2.06 is, for no son more closely resembled his sire than does Achille. At the Johnson farm, Bingen 2.06 out of the great trotting mare, Nancy Hanks 2.04. In his catalogue for 1905, Mr Johnson writes as follows about the incomparable Nancy.

"Nancy Hanks was before the public for a little more than four racing seasons, and it is safe to assert that no other trotting queen has had as many admirers as the beautiful daughter of Happy Medium. Mr Ben Kenny, who developed her, took her through the Kentucky circuit in 1889, started her in six races and won all of them, losing but a single heat, and ending the season with a record of 2.24. In 1890 she again started in six races and won all of them in straight heats, closing the season with a record of 2.14. Her performance that year made her the most talked-of trotter in the world, and it was freely predicted that with age she would become the world's champion. The next season, in the hands of the veteran Doble, she made a truly sensational campaign. She defeated Belle Hamlin in the dash of a mile at Buffalo; defeated Margaret S at Chicago, trotting the third heat in 2.12. At Independence, in a stake for five-year-old trotters, she defeated Allerton and Margaret S, trotting the three heats in 2.12, 2.12, 2.12. That was her last race. That fall, at Cambridge City, she trotted a mile in 2.09 in an effort to beat 2.12, and a week later, at Richmond, Ind., she further reduced her record to 2.08. All the performances referred to above were to high wheel sulky.

In 1892, during the early part of the season, the high-wheel sulky was still in use, and it happened that Nancy came to her form about the time that the bicycle sulky proved its superiority, and, beginning at Grand Rapids, she was driven to the new style of vehicle. Trotting there in 2.08, she set the world's record at 2.07 the next week over the Chicago track, reduced it again to 2.05 at Independence, and, on September 28th, at Terre Haute, placed the figures at 2.04. During that eventful year, Nancy trotted thirteen public miles, the slowest in 2.11 (to high wheels), the fastest 2.04, and the average of the thirteen was 2.07. In 1893 Nancy trotted six exhibition miles in 2.04 to 2.08, and was then retired to the brood mare ranks, where she has come fully up to all expectations.

Great as she was on the turf, it is not claiming too much to say that she will be far more renowned as a brood mare. She has produced eight foals. Two of them were not trained, but were put to breeding as soon as they reached the proper age. Of the remaining six Admiral Dewey took a three-year-old record, in a winning race of 2.14, and trotted quarters in 30 seconds, while the three-year-old Lord Roberts was timed in his races in 2.13 to 2.15. Markala was very fast at two, and great things are expected of her. The others, of course, have not had enough education to show whether they are speedy, but they act like natural trotters. It will not surprise those who knew them best, if, by the close of the racing season of 1905, Nancy Hanks has four sons and daughters in the list of 2.15 trotters and two in the 2.10 list, the oldest a four-year old. If she does that she will have beaten any other brood mare that ever lived.

No better preserved mare, of her age, has ever been seen than is Nancy Hanks at the present time. In every respect she is as well kept and rugged as in her younger days. She is an ideal brood mare and her colts are tractable, splendidly gaited and have all the substance required for race horses.

The following is a list of the foals of Nancy Hanks, and their produce, in the order of their foaling, and the prices they have brought at auction":

1896—Narbon, b. m., by Arion 2.07	\$1,300
Dam of (a) Vice Commodore, b. c., by Bingen 2.06	6,200
(b) Albia, b. f., by Bingen 2.06	3,300
1897—Barren.	
1898—2 Admiral Dewey, b. h., by Bingen 2.06	6,200
1899—3 Princess of Monaco, b. m., by Imp. Modler	825
Dam of (a) Col Stevenson, b. c., by Bingen 2.06	510
(b) Vauitza, b. f., by Peter the Great 2.07	350
1900—4 Lord Roberts, b. h., by Arion 2.07	4,000
1901—5 Markala, b. f., by Peter the Great 2.07	3,800
1902—6 Ondawa, b. f., by Bingen 2.06 (not sold)	
1903—7 Palena, b. f., by Bingen 2.06	2,000
1904—8 Malcolm Forbes, b. c., by Bingen 2.06 (not sold)	\$2,185

The ten members of the Nancy Hanks family, that have been sold at auction, have averaged \$2,918.50.

1904, bred.....to Bingen 2.06.

Last season Nancy Hanks was bred to John A McKerron and this year goes to visit Peter the Great 2.07 seeking another Fanella.

At the dispersal sale of the late Mr Forbes, Nancy Hanks was purchased by Hon J M Johnson, Mayor of Calais, Maine, who later purchased, as is stated above, the beautiful farm which nestles at the foot of the Blue Hills, and where the greatest number of his horses now are.

Mr Johnson is not unknown in New Glasgow for he was three months here at one time as an agent for his firm at St John. The St John firm with which he was connected was not successful and he moved to Calais where he entered the wool and tanning business at which he has made money and has earned the confidence in a marked degree of his fellow citizens. Nearly every man has a hobby and so has Mr Johnson, whose hobby is trotting horses and he takes pleasure in driving in races and is an expert in the sulky. On meeting him he frankly said, "I know the kind of a horse you want; I have nothing to sell you," and after that we got on very well, indeed. He took pleasure in being kind and hospitable and it is not too much to state that a finer or more agreeable gentleman one would not wish to meet. We think of a Yankee as a loud talker and as a rather boastful individual; but we doubt if after one meets a number of them in

their own country he can sustain the criticism. Anyway, it is not true of Mr J M Johnson. He is rather quiet, but frank and talkative if one wants to talk, otherwise, he is rather like Tennyson or Carlyle when after sitting a whole evening smoking tobacco out of clay pipes without exchanging a word declared that they had passed a very pleasant evening. One evening the writer passed in Mr Johnson's company at the theatre and during the time there was not a dozen words exchanged, and both were pleased with the show and with each other. There is no necessity of imagining we were imitating the poet and the historian, for they were far from our thoughts; this is introduced for the purpose of showing the manner of man Mr Johnson is.

We have written and quoted so much about Nancy Hanks that we can barely notice Mr Johnson's other horses. His stallions are Lord Roberts 2.12, and Directum Miller 2.05. The former is one of Nancy Hanks' colts. He is not a large horse—a little over 15 hands, a beautiful bay with two minute speed. His sire is Arion 2.07. Directum Miller is a dark bay or brown horse by Directum 2.05; as we remember without turning up the records, Directum is the fourth fastest trotting stallion in the world, being only exceeded by Crescens 2.02, John A McKerron 2.04 and Admiral Dewey 2.04.

In the brood mare line, besides Nancy Hanks, Mr Johnson owns a number including Fanella 2.13. Regarding Fanella Mr Johnson writes in his catalogue:—"Fanella trotted for Mr J Malcolm Forbes when three years old in 2.24, and a quarter in 33 seconds,—a 2.14 gait. She was bred to Bingen 2.06, and had her first foal at six years, when I bought her. She was stunted that same season to Peter the Great 2.07, and next year produced a bay filly. In 1901 she missed to Bingen, and I gave her a record of 2.22 at Readville. In 1902 she produced Annella, by Bingen, in this catalogue. The following year she was barren and was given a record of 2.13.

Her first foal, Todd, I drove as a yearling at a 2.20 rate of speed on the 4th day of July, and sold him the spring he was two years to George A Leavitt for \$4,000. He made wonderful progress that season, trotting eights in 15 seconds, a quarter in 32 seconds, and a half in 1.06 and a full mile in 2.21. He was handled a little last fall and after closing his stud season and at the Lexington, Ky meeting on a cold, raw day, unfavorable for fast time, made a record of 2.14.

Fanella's second foal, Miss Todd, showed as much speed in her yearling form as her half brother. She took the blue ribbon at the Maine State fair, and was awarded the same distinction at the New England Breeder's Meeting at Readville. The judges, Messrs Wm Russell Allen and David Bonner, said that the class in which she was exhibited was the best lot of yearling fillies they had ever seen together. I sold Miss Todd to Mr Howard S Russell, also for \$4,000. The day he bought her she showed an eighth in 18 seconds. She was renamed Sadie Mac. She won the Hartford Futurity in 1903 and was sold at the Lexington, Ky meeting for \$20,000, where she won the rich Kentucky Futurity for three-year-old trotters taking a record of 2.11. Last season (1904) Sadie Mac was not campaigned, but trotted a mile in a matinee race in 2.05 to wagon, driven by an amateur. She brought \$15,500 under the hammer at the last Old Glory sale on the same day and in the same ring that Major Delmar (1.59) was sold for \$15,000. It is not necessary to write of the sweep this mare made of her races in the early part of 1905, and her tragic death at Hartford.

Fanella has all the qualities of a producer of world's trotters. As a dam of two such remarkable trotters,—by different sires, and each, as youngsters, commanding a cash price of \$4,000 paid by experts in the trotting horse business, Fanella has proven herself to be a brood mare of rare value. Is there another instance on record of an untired brood mare's two first foals bringing their owners \$8,000 at so young an age,—a yearling and a two year old? It shows that breeding does pay if you breed the right kind.

Besides these two Mr Johnson has a number of very fine broodmares, such as Improvidence 2.12, by Prodigal 2.16, dam Queen Wilkes, by William L. Improvidence is the dam of Owaisa 2.17(b) as a four year old, and her foal of 1902, b. c., Catalon as brother Owaisa has the appearance and action of a very fast colt; Kelpa 2.16, by Kemlin 2.07; out Brava 2.14, by Baron Wilkes 2.18; Lady Ethelwynn 2.24; at 3 years on half mile track and who trotted in 2.13 the same year in a field of aged horses; Liger by Arion 2.07; out of Otis K by King Wilkes 2.22; Nellie Eaton 2.20; at four years on a half mile track; May Fern 2.11, dam of Lord Revelstroke 2.12, as a three

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year old, and a lot of other fine and fast brood mares.

We did not see many of the young stock as the greater number were at Mr Johnson's home in Calais; but those of them that were at the Johnson farm were what one would expect to find from such parents. There was one colt led out across the lot and then turned about and allowed to come back across the lot with a groom hanging on to his bridle and withers that showed great form. We have mislaid that part of our notes, but we place the colt as Marshall M by Bingen out of Improvidence 2.13. Mr Johnson, also, owns Malcolm Forbes, foaled 1904, by Bingen 2.06, out of Nancy Hanks 2.04 making the colt a brother of Admiral Dewey 2.04.

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Woodstock, May 9, 1906.

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(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

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