

POLLED HOLSTEIN HISTORY

Polled (naturally hornless) cattle make up only a small portion of the millions of dairy cows in the United States. The polled condition transmits as a dominant trait, much as black coat color in Holsteins is dominant to red. Both parents must transmit the recessive gene for horns to an offspring in order for their calf to be horned. Why then, do nearly all of our dairy cattle have horns? The primary reason is that few breeders ever selected for the polled trait and/or did not select against the horned condition. Oddly enough, the history books tell us that the ancestors of our modern-day cattle did not have horns and that mutations must have occurred that gave rise to horns. Horned cattle proliferated, and it is thought that the occurrence of polled animals in modern times is the result of another mutation from horns back to the hornless condition. Before cattle were domesticated, horns were important to the survival of the species. Now, with dairy herds largely confined to barns or fenced-in enclosures such as pastures or corrals, horns are of little value and can be a detriment to good herd management. Nearly all dairymen in this country remove horns at an early age using electric dehorning or some other method. However, the job of removing horns from cattle of any age is a distasteful one and would not be missed if there were an easier solution. This report traces the migration of the polled condition in registered Holsteins in the United States back to the time of the earliest reporting of the trait.

Until recently, the Holstein breed did not identify polled animals in their herd book. The earliest American-recorded polled Holstein that was located was the bull, *Lophelias Prince*, born on April 22, 1889. He was bred and owned by T. P. Root of Barre, Massachusetts. His sire was *Jelqui's King*, and his dam was *Lophelia*. This information was found in an ad printed in *The Holstein-Friesian Register* shortly after the birth of the animal. Little additional parentage could be found when the pedigree was traced. The ancestry for many of the first animals imported from Holland was often incomplete as there were no conventional herd books in Holland before the 1870s. The only records of parentage were those kept by the owner of the herd for his own use.

Pioneer polled breeder, George E. Stevenson received a letter, dated May 1, 1914 from the secretary of the Netherland Herd Book indicating that hornless Black and White cattle were exhibited at the Amsterdam show in 1886. There were "only a few of them," and they were required to be exhibited as a separate breed. The letter mentioned that a polled bull had been in service in the district of Wognum in 1884.

Over the past 25 years, the author visited many of the herds that had a history of breeding for the polled trait. When it was possible to verify what events took place in the breeding of polled animals, the writer has reported the history of what occurred. A small number of people have promoted the breeding of polled cattle in the Holstein breed. The following paragraphs describe some of these people and how they became involved in breeding polled Holsteins.

There is a growing awareness of the polled trait in North America, but we are not nearly as advanced as our European counterparts in realizing its usefulness.

Portions of this history have appeared in early issues of *The Polled Holstein Newsletter* produced by Frank Bouic of Ostrander, Ohio, in the late 1990s.

CHAPTER 1

George E. Stevenson of Clarks Summit, a town in northeastern Pennsylvania, was the first breeder in the United States to develop a herd of polled Holsteins. He bred grade Holsteins that were polled during the period from 1884 to 1912, starting with “muleys” (native cattle without horns) bred to registered Holstein sires. In 1912 Stevenson sold his grades and began to build a herd of registered polled Holsteins. That year, he bought thirty or more head of polled Holsteins from breeders in Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin and added additional animals over the next few years. His efforts were successful, and he placed polled bulls in herds both in and out of state.

Stevenson’s friends nicknamed him “Hornless George” because of his passion for the polled trait. His farm was known as Origin Farm, so named because it was the original home of naturally polled Holsteins. He first used the “Napol” prefix, but it appears that it was only for the polled animals that he bred. Napol is likely an abbreviation for “naturally polled.” He began using the “Origin” prefix in 1922. Much of the information about Stevenson and his herd is recorded in the files of the *Holstein Breeder and Dairyman*. This publication recorded the activities of the Holstein-Friesian Registry Association, Inc. (commonly known as the “Harrisburg Association”), which organized on August 1, 1925, after it broke away from the older National Holstein-Friesian Association located in Brattleboro, Vermont. The *Holstein Breeder and Dairyman* was published from 1922 to 1937. Most of the issues are in bound volumes and available in the Penn State University library.

On November 8, 1922, Stevenson had a successful sale that featured 20 daughters of his polled sire, *Napol Sir Keystone Beauty*, and 20 daughters of *Napol General Keystone Plum*, a polled son of “Keystone Beauty.” Stevenson rebuilt his herd after the sale, but his opposition to the state’s Brucellosis and T. B. testing programs hampered his efforts. His herd books reveal that a number of animals were lost due to those diseases. They also show that the gene for red coat color was present, but red and white calves born in the herd were discarded.

Stevenson had a second sale on November 1, 1927, that was not as successful as the first. A third and final sale was held on November 12, 1930. Joe Miller of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, gave me Stevenson’s original herd books. Joe was a descendent of the Miller family that had a well-known Holstein herd during the years that Stevenson bred polled cattle. On occasion, the Millers exchanged breeding stock with Stevenson and did breed a limited number of polled animals.

Foundation Animals:

Stevenson purchased two polled daughters of the polled cow *Cornucopia Plum Johanna*, from C. A. Pratt of LeRaysville, Pennsylvania, in 1912. Two years later, he acquired the dam and two more polled daughters from A. C. Slifer. Although sired by horned bulls, all four daughters were polled. One animal did have small loosely attached “scurs.”

Sir Johanna Rue DeKol was the sire of *Cornucopia Plum Johanna* and is suspected of transmitting the polled trait. W. J. Gillett, a prominent breeder from Rosendale, Wisconsin, who developed the “Johanna” family told Stevenson that some members of the Johanna family had loose or dwarf

horns. *Sir Johanna Rue DeKol* also sired another polled cow, *Johanna Abbekerk DeKol Rue*, bought by Stevenson from the Lyons herd of Wyalusing, Pennsylvania.

Cornucopia Plum Johanna was born on May 11, 1906, and was bred by W. A. Bennett of Silvara, Pennsylvania. She was both polled and a “red carrier.” She moved to the C. A. Pratt herd where she had three calves and was then sold while pregnant to Judson Murphy of LeRaysville, Pennsylvania, who in turn sold her and her calf to A. C. Slifer. In 1914, Slifer sold her to the Stevenson herd where she had five additional calves. The first was a red and white heifer with no other information available. The next was a horned female sired by the polled *Napol Prince*. Two polled heifers followed in 1917 and 1919 along with a horned bull in 1920. “Plum Johanna” died while calving in 1922. Her best-known daughter was *Keystone Beauty Plum Johanna*, who set the world’s record for butterfat as a four-year-old. “Plum Johanna” was the dam of Stevenson’s well-known sire, *Napol Sir Keystone Beauty*. The sire of “Keystone Beauty” was *Pietje Ormsby Segis Burke*, a polled bull (also red factor) purchased by Stevenson at a J. W. Prentiss and Son sale in 1912. His sire was the horned bull *Pietje Ormsby Burke*, and his dam was the polled cow *Ormsby Segis Beets*. Stevenson was able to buy the dam in 1915, and she produced two polled sons and a horned daughter while in the Stevenson herd.

Stevenson bought a number of polled animals from Wisconsin in 1912. He obtained four polled cows from J. W. Hutchinson (Bonnie Meade Farm) of Randolph, Wisconsin. *Korndyke Hengerveld Gerben DeKol* was their sire. A fifth animal was a polled daughter of one of the cows, but sired by another bull. At the same time he bought five polled cows and a polled bull from John Bradley, also of Randolph. These were also the progeny of *Korndyke Hengerveld Gerben DeKol*. He obtained another polled daughter of the same bull from James Barstow of Randolph, strong evidence that the bull carried the polled trait. Born in 1906, he was bred by the Wisconsin Livestock Association of Appleton, Wisconsin. His sire was *Korndyke Hengerveld Sir Paul DeKol*, and his dam was *DeKol Gerben Pauline 2d’s DeKol*. Which parent had the polled trait is unknown.

Stevenson bought the polled cow *Pet Imperial DeKol* and her two polled daughters, *Imperial Hengerveld* and *Royal Burke Pet*, from R. E. Coe of Kirksville, New York. The dam of *Pet Imperial DeKol* was *Imperial Maid DeKol* who was also the dam of two other polled daughters: *Maple Lane Maid DeKol* and *Imperial Maid DeKol 2nd*. Both of the latter were purchased from L. N. Shults of Avoca, New York. *Maple Lane Maid DeKol* also had two polled daughters: *Maple Lane Maid DeKol 2nd* and *Maple Lane Maid DeKol 3rd*. Stevenson bought them from Shults in 1912. *Imperial Maid DeKol* is likely the source of the polled trait in this family of related animals. The remaining foundation females purchased by Stevenson did not have a common thread of ancestry and were not bred by any single individual or breeder group.

Early sales

Shortly after establishing his herd, Stevenson sold bulls to herds in Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, and Indiana. He sold *Napol Sir Ormsby* to S. L. Dunlap of Irwin, Iowa, who reported that the bull sired 20 calves, none with horns. This is early evidence of a bull being homozygous for the trait. In 1913 Stevenson sold a polled bull to C. W. Curtis of Sedalia, Colorado, and later sold one of his foundation cows and a polled bull to August Quade of Foley, Minnesota.

His biggest transaction was the sale of *Napol Sir Keystone Beauty* to Peter Small of Chesterland, Ohio, to head Small's Meadow Holm herd. Small developed the Ona family, starting with the famous horned foundation cow, *Ona Clothilde DeKol*. Plans were in progress to combine Small's herd with the Iowana herd of Davenport, Iowa, with Small in charge. However, Small died before his cattle were shipped, and soon afterwards the Ona Company bought his herd of some 90 head. It was relocated to facilities at Chardon, Ohio. The new owners originally intended to use *Napol Sir Keystone Beauty* on the members of the "Ona" family. This was done for a short period of time, but an ad in the July 29, 1922, issue of *Holstein-Friesian World* reported that *King Ona Pontiac* (horned) had been purchased for use in the Ona Company herd.

Stevenson worked with several well-known Pennsylvania breeders of that time. Chief among them were Miller Brothers of Clarks Summit (*Mapleway* prefix), J. J. Jermyn of Scranton (*Dennington* prefix), Arthur Downton of Starrucca (*Downton* prefix), and A. Conrad Slifer of Lewisburg.

Miller Brothers of Clarks Summit was an important registered herd in northeastern Pennsylvania for many years. John Miller started the herd in 1880, and with fellow breeders Edward Carpenter and John Stone, formed the Lackawanna Breeders Association, which imported cattle from Holland. Miller's sons, Arthur J. and Harry B., operated the Miller herd and worked with Stevenson. The *Mapleway* herd mated a number of cows to polled sires, and thus added some outcross genetics to the polled population. The most important polled animal contributed by the Millers was *Mapleway Queen Johanna Beauty*. She topped Stevenson's 1930 sale and was purchased by A. C. Slifer.

J. J. Jermyn of Scranton bought about 20 head of cattle at Stevenson's 1922 sale. The next year, he bought the bull, *Onaco Sir Lucille Jolie Beauty*, from the Ona Company of Chardon, Ohio. This animal was the result of mating Stevenson's *Napol Sir Keystone Beauty* to the famous horned cow, *Lucille Jolie Pontiac*. No mention is made of the bull being polled, but we can't assume that he was not. Moreover, his picture shows a typical "polled" head. Jermyn used him on a number of the animals bought at the Stevenson sale. One mating produced the polled sire *Dennington Onaco Sir Beauty*, who was later used in the Stevenson herd. Jermyn moved away from the polled trait by purchasing the young bull *Dutchland Creamelle Denver King* (horned and from famous parentage), at the Dutchland Farms dispersal in 1924 for the unheard of price of \$4,200. Jermyn's herd was active for only a short time, but it did contribute several key individuals that supported Stevenson's efforts. Jermyn died suddenly on December 9, 1928, and the herd was dispersed the following month.

A. W. Downton of Starrucca purchased the polled bull, *Origin Sir Napol Cornucopia*, from Stevenson in 1922. He bred the bull to his favorite horned cow and produced the polled bull, *Sir Napol Cornucopia Origin*, who became Downton's senior herd sire. Downton was so pleased with the results from the two hornless sires that he bought another young polled sire, *Origin Sir Onaco Cornucopia*, at Stevenson's 1927 sale. Stevenson had started to rebuild his herd for a second time and bought 13 polled calves from Downton that were sired by the Downton-bred bull. Most of them were sold in Stevenson's 1930 sale.

Downton also sold a number of polled sires to out-of-state breeders. In 1929 he sold to Joseph Caspari of Rayville, Louisiana, and to C. J. Skattebo of Wallingford, Iowa. That same year, he sold a polled bull calf to James Holthaus of Kimball, Minnesota. In the spring of 1930, Downton sold

six polled heifer calves to J. W. Blair of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Dr. J. L. Lenker of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, bought the polled bull, *Downton Origin Onaco Cornucopia* that same year. Downton also sold the polled bull *Sir Napol Mercedes Segis*, to G. G. Sumner of LeRaysville, Pennsylvania. Downton retired after advertising his herd for sale in 1930. After that date, the only records found with the “Downton” prefix were those registered by Harry Downton of Starrucca in the “Brattleboro” herd book as late as 1945.

A. Conrad Slifer met Stevenson while doing Advanced Registry (A.R.) testing work for the Pennsylvania State College. Records show that Stevenson bought the *Cornucopia Plum Johanna* cow and two of her daughters from Slifer in 1914. How Slifer was able to acquire the cow and her daughters before Stevenson could get them is a mystery. *Cornucopia Plum Johanna* produced a polled son sired by a horned bull for Slifer. This son was *King Plum Johanna*, and he went on to sire some of Slifer’s best cows. Slifer bought several Jermyn-bred females as well as three females in Stevenson’s 1927 sale. Slifer did not have a specific prefix. He was the pedigree man at Stevenson’s final sale in 1930 and purchased *Mapleway Queen Johanna Beauty* for \$230. The sale catalog noted that she was polled.

Slifer’s herd was an important link between Stevenson’s herd and others breeding polled animals in central Pennsylvania. Union County had the herds of William S. Erdley, Ralph F. Erdley, J. S. Zeigler, and R. E. Musser and son Leon, all near Lewisburg. Woodward Stephens of Mooresburg had a Montour County herd, while Murray Miller had a Northumberland County address. Paul Dougal (P. D.) Swabb farmed near Spring Mills in Centre County. A descendent of Swabb’s recalled that, at one time, all of Swabb’s cattle were polled. J. W. Blair purchased *Napol Sir Violet* from Stevenson in 1920, a bull that was also used in the A. C. Hartle herd. Both men farmed near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, and purchased breeding stock from Slifer and Miller. Other Centre County herds with polled animals were O. W. Orndorf of Woodward, Robert. C. Hettinger of Centre Hall, C. H. Pressler of Millheim, and Andrew C. Rockey of Howard.

Slifer died in December 1944, and his herd was dispersed that same month. No catalogue or records of that sale have been found. With Slifer’s death, promotion of the polled trait in Pennsylvania seemed to decline, and only the Leon Musser herd made newsworthy sales over the next 20 years. After working off-farm for four years, Leon Musser returned home in 1940 upon the death of his father. He developed a breeding herd with strong ties to Slifer’s legacy. Musser used *King Ona Jolie Alcartra*, a polled bull bred by Slifer, and the sire of Musser’s polled cow, *Susie Homestead Ona Alcartra*. Leon remarked that “Susie” was one of his favorites and that she was polled, whereas her dam was horned. Susie was the dam of a bull sold to George Kensinger of Roaring Springs, Pennsylvania, that sired several polled heifers purchased in 1944 by Wilson Koontz of New Enterprise, Pennsylvania. In 1943, Musser began to use the “Lochiel” prefix and sold bulls that were important in disseminating the polled trait. The polled bull *Dick Lakefield Ona Homestead* was sold to First Pennsylvania ABC of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1942. In addition to the Kensinger sale, Musser sold bulls to Pennsylvania breeders Elmer and James Dolin of Mifflintown, Joseph Carpenter of Clarks Summit, and Nancy Tinklepaugh of Thompson. A polled bull was also sold to Waldo Smith of Milaca, Minnesota.

Herds with ties to Stevenson breeding

Herds in Pennsylvania and surrounding states that trace their polled origins to Stevenson-bred cattle are listed below. Additional information on these herds is found in Appendix A.

Name	Prefix	Address
Joe and Margaret Carpenter	Sunrise Farm	Clarks Summit, PA
G. G. Sumner	Sumner	LeRaysville, PA
Nancy Tinklepaugh	Nantin	Thompson, PA
J. L. and W. D. Lenker	Lenkerbrook	Harrisburg, PA
Elmer and Jim Dolan	Nehalem	Mifflintown, PA
Roger Humphrey	Humphreyholm	Springwater, NY
H. W. Cook	Diamond-Hill	Elkton, MD
M. J. and T. J. Shepherd	Shadybrook	Nokesville, VA
Ralph G. Roop	Roop	New Windsor, MD

Harrisburg Registry Association and Polled Holsteins

Few people in today's Holstein industry remember, or even know about, the "Harrisburg Registry Association." Started by Dr. Howard C. Reynolds in 1925, the association was a low-budget enterprise and offered a low-cost registry system for breeders of Holstein cattle. It did not disclose its membership list or its finances. The association issued registration certificates that were accepted by the state for T. B indemnities, but it had trouble being accepted as a bona fide registry organization by other agencies. As the name indicates, its headquarters were located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Breeders who opposed the policies of the older "Holstein-Friesian Association of America" organized this new association. Their main objections targeted the spending policies of the "Brattleboro" Association, including its proposal to develop an Extension service and the large salaries it paid to its officers. It is not surprising that the Holstein-Friesian Association of America did not support efforts by Stevenson and others to promote the polled trait. Even 30 years later, U. S. Holstein delegates at their 1952 convention rejected a suggestion that polled animals be identified on the registration certificate, citing the difficulty of being sure of the presence of the polled character when registering young calves.

Organizers of the Harrisburg Association started a semi-monthly publication in order to express their views. It was called the *Holstein Breeder and Dairyman*, and Reynolds was the editor as well as manager of the new organization. The first issue appeared in January 1922. It was published on a regular basis until the early 1930s and then somewhat sporadically for the next several years. The last known issue was published in April 1937.

Dr. Reynolds died in 1942, but the registry work continued under the direction of longtime secretary, Ruth B. Watkins, who had at one time worked at the Brattleboro office. In 1966 declining business volume led to an agreement in which the national association took over the records and finances of the Harrisburg association. At that time it was estimated that there were about 300 members, all of whom were given the opportunity to sign up as members of the national association and to reregister their animals and the pertinent ancestry in the Holstein-

Friesian herd book. Herd books from the early 1960s reveal that a number of breeders had already returned to the national association. After 41 years, the Harrisburg Association quietly left the scene. By July 1967, the Holstein-Friesian Association reported that 154 memberships and 12,668 animals (4,850 living) had been added to the files. Many more registrations were lost because of this rift, which did not heal for more than four decades.

How does this information relate to polled Holsteins? One of the backers of the Harrisburg Association was George E. Stevenson, the major breeder of polled Holsteins at the time and a huge promoter of the trait. Even though Stevenson was at one time Vice-President of the National Association, he did not hesitate to criticize the national office and used the Harrisburg paper to publicize his polled interests and to express his viewpoint on many issues. The *Harrisburg Breeder and Dairyman* carried many articles on the value of polled Holsteins, and much of its advertising revenue came from breeders of the polled trait. At one point, the directors of the new association decided to issue a registration form just for polled animals. Stevenson paid for the design and production of the new certificate, which indicated in bold letters that the animal was polled. A dairyman friend of mine found one of these certificates some 40 years after it had been issued, and it motivated me to find out more about the registry association that had produced it.

CHAPTER 2

Walter Schultz of Nicollet, Minnesota, became the leading promoter of polled Holsteins in the United States in the late 1940s. At this time, the center of interest in breeding for the polled trait shifted from Pennsylvania to Minnesota. In the late 1940s Schultz purchased polled animals from Minnesota and Wisconsin, including four head from the St. Croix County Institutional herd (St. Croixco) of New Richmond, Wisconsin. He also made trips to New Mexico, Iowa, Idaho, and Pennsylvania to purchase polled stock. Schultz organized a group of Minnesota breeders interested in the polled trait and ultimately expanded his operation to include herds in seven midwestern states.

Schultz established the “Shur-Poll” prefix, and his attempts to breed for the polled trait began in 1946 with the use of several Tilney Farm bulls. He then obtained *Intermountain Progressor Lad* (Idaho-bred) and two Lillywhite Ranch bulls from Aztec, New Mexico. These were *Lillywhite Peerless Sir Mat* and *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne*. The latter bull was used extensively in the early 1950s and had calves registered to him as late as 1961. The bull, *St. Croixco DeKol Echo*, born on January 24, 1954, was in service from 1956 to 1970 in the Schultz program. His polled dam was by *Pabst Jess* (horned) and out of *St. Croixco Rachel Ormsby Echo*. She in turn was out of *St. Croixco Queen Ormsby Echo*, a polled animal that Schultz purchased in 1948 who was a daughter of the polled cow *Queen Alexina Echo*. Another prominent bull, *Gray View Sky Satin*, was used heavily from 1963 to 1970. Schultz made one trip to Pennsylvania in 1948 and purchased several polled calves. One was the bull, *Ben Jolie Piebe Plum*, who saw service in Schultz’s herd and in the herd of Edwin Wegenast of Henderson, Minnesota.

Schultz was instrumental in organizing the National Polled Dairy Cattle Club in February 1949 in Fargo, North Dakota. At its peak, there were 11 breeds represented from 40 states and several foreign countries. The club was open to all breeds, but sufficient resources were not available to sustain the organization for more than a few years.

Walter’s son Douglas used the Do-Pol prefix, and much of the information about the Walter Schultz operation was obtained from Douglas and his wife Judy who have operated the home farm since Walter Schultz’s death in 1974. They provided unlimited access to the Shur-Poll and Do-Pol herd record books. I appreciate the Schultzs’ many contributions to this history.

Douglas Schultz started registering polled Holsteins in his name in 1960 and continued until 1995, when he sold the dairy herd. He carried on the program and put many polled sires in herds in Minnesota and the surrounding states. He used *Burket-Falls* bulls, as well as *Shur-Poll* and *Do-Pol* sires, and he mated many of his best females to prominent AI sires in order to get outcross genetics into the polled population.

Both Walter and Douglas Schultz were farmer breeders and cattle dealers who over a period of almost fifty years sold or leased more than 3,000 polled bulls, bred by them and others, to herds in Minnesota and elsewhere. Many of the herds that used Schultz’s sires kept only grade cows, and records of parentage were not available. However, Schultz did work with a number of dairymen who had registered cattle and who sold polled stock to other herds. What is known about the involvement of these herds is presented in Appendix B. A list of herds with registered cattle that were important to Schultz’s plan for increasing the number of polled cattle follows:

Herd owner	Prefix	Location
C. E. Crossman	Polled	Princeton, MN
Edwin Wegenast	Wegenast	Winnebago, MN
Merle Kolander	none	Heron Lake, MN
Melvin Kullhem	Melku	Buffalo Lake, MN
Raymond Compart & Sons	Pride Pold	Nicollet, MN
Hamilton Nelson & Son	Tru-Pol	St Peter, MN
Kenneth & Leroy Donnay	Sunkist	Glencoe, MN
Ernst Duesterhoeft	E & A Acres	Hutchinson, MN
Walter Miller	Alfalfa Acres	Lake Crystal, MN
Walton Miller	Walton Miller	Lake Crystal, MN
Russell Thompson	Lane Ridge	Nicollet, MN
Nottleman Bros	Supreme	Ivanhoe, MN
Herbert Struss	Struss	Stillwater, MN
John Scott	none	Foley, MN
Robert Zoubek	Zoubek	Montgomery, MN
Gerald Wise	none	Nicollet, MN
Strobel Bros	Strobel	Henderson, MN
James D. Poll	Polls	Granada, MN
Ralph Bindle	Bindle	Reedsburg, WI
Oscar E. Koenig	Dominion	Tampico, IL
O. E. Pritchard	Four-Pines	Maple Park, IL
Anton J. Pottlebaum	none	Alton, IA
Elmer Becker	E. Becker	Watkins, IA
Harold J. Miller	Southshore	Hazen, ND
Lorry Madsen	Swan Villa	Wheatland, ND
John & Delmar Schade	Dakota	Bowman, SD
Marvin Morlock	Mar-Mor	Eureka, SD

Other Minnesota herds that participated in breeding polled Holsteins were those of Alfred Anacker, Stan Fredin, Melvin Hahn, William Henschen, Ed Johnson, William Lacey, John Rohe, and Charles Sunderman. Most provided one or more sires for Schultz's program.

Much of the information on Minnesota herds was made possible with the help of Ms. Pauline Bratt, Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Holstein Association for many years. Her assistance in locating herds and providing addresses and telephone numbers was of considerable benefit to this project.

Other Midwestern herds:

Tilney Farms: This Lewisville, Minnesota, operation was started in 1885 by John S. Tilney, a New York City investor who bought a considerable amount of land from the railroad and established a number of farms operated in partnership with individual farmers. Early farm operations were mostly beef and hogs. Dairying began in about 1915, and registered cattle were introduced in the 1930s. A production-testing program started in 1943. AI service was developed in the late 1940s and was also offered to herds outside the Tilney Farms operation. A Tilney Farms brochure from that time reported that there were 18 dairy units with a total of 5,600 acres. The average farm operation was made up of 320 acres of land, plus 20 or more milking animals, and with 200 to 300 head of hogs raised and sold each year. The herds were dispersed over a period of years, and dairy operations ceased in the 1970s. Corn and soybeans then became the principal enterprises.

I met with Mr. Edgar Urevig in the fall of 1997, and he provided me with much of the information about Tilney Farms. Mr. Urevig became general manager of Tilney Farms in 1943 and witnessed first-hand the farm operations over the next 50 years. At the time of my visit, he was 82 years of age, and, although no longer involved in the management of Tilney Farms, he was active and maintained an office in the Tilney Farm building in Lewisville.

The Tilney farms dairy herds used the “Tilfa” prefix and bred several bulls used by Walter Schultz and others interested in the polled trait. These herds were made up of both registered and grade cattle. Starting in the late 1930s, the purebred cattle were registered in partnerships between Tilney Farms and the individuals who operated the farm units. Those most often mentioned were Charles Hiatt, Carl Tetzloff, Ray Davis, Ed Sanders, Maurice Van Norman, and Roy Phipps and Sons.

Tilney Farm #16, operated by Charles Hiatt, was the most prominent of the registered herds. It was the home of *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* and most of her offspring. She and other females with the Gill Hill prefix were purchased from the Frank Gillis (Gill Hill) herd of Glenwood City, Wisconsin. The group of young cows, with *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* as the key contributor, introduced the polled gene into the Tilney Farms dairy herd. She was the hub of the breeding plan that produced a number of polled animals. The Charles Hiatt dairy unit was dispersed on November 12, 1949. The sale included *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes*, two daughters, and one son; all were polled.

Gill Hill Jane Mercedes was born on November 22, 1938, and was purchased as a young animal by Tilney Farms. Her sire, *Mercedes Ormsby Supreme*, had been used in the Gill Hill herd from 1936 to 1938. There were at least 23 progeny of the bull with a Gill Hill prefix, but only *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* is identified as a polled animal. Her sire, *Mercedes Ormsby Supreme* was a polled son of *Sir Alexina Supreme*, a polled bull bought from Hargrove and Arnold by St. Croixco in 1932 and found in the pedigrees of the St. Croixco females bought by Walter Schultz.

Notes from the Tilney Farms #16 herd dispersal, held on November 12, 1949, show that *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* was sold to Krueger Brothers of Truman, Minnesota. The October 20, 1950 issue of *Holstein World* had a joint ad between Tilney Farm and Krueger Brothers that pictured her. One polled daughter, *Tilfa King Belmont Jane*, was sold to Smith Brothers of Milaca, Minnesota. Her oldest daughter *Tilfa Belmont Jane* was purchased by Lawrence Prom of Harvey, North Dakota.

“Jane Mercedes” had a polled son, *Tilfa Admiral Jane Best*, who went to Melvin Kullhem of Buffalo Lake, Minnesota. This bull had several progeny born in 1951 and next appeared as a sire in the Hamilton Nelson herd in 1954, where he produced several sons that were put into Schultz’s program.

Four additional polled sons of *Gill Jane Mercedes* were *Tilfa King Belmont Mercedes*, *Tilfa King Belmont Lad*, *Tilfa Pietje B Mercedes*, and *Tilfa Pietje B Grand*. The *Tilfa King Belmont Mercedes* bull was one of the first sires that Schultz used when he started his polled program.

The first known son of “Jane Mercedes” was *Tilfa Colantha Jane Supreme*, born January 1, 1942. His sire was *Tilfa Colantha Mercedes* (horned). The breeder is listed as Roy F. Crowley who was general manager of Tilney Farms at that time. The bull was sold to Lorence Graplar of Granada, Minnesota, and it sired three sons registered by Graplar. There is no mention of the bull being polled, and nothing else is known about him.

One other son, *Tilfa Jane Supreme*, sired by the polled bull, *DeJonCo Admiral Ormsby Emperor*, was born July 16, 1950. An inquiry to the Holstein Association revealed that he had 48 progeny recorded from four different herds with birth dates from late 1952 up until 1960. The bull has a Canadian registration number and was used in the herd of John Graham of Embro, Ontario. Frank Butcher of Holly Hill and later Sumter, South Carolina, acquired a number of the Canadian-bred progeny and registered them in the U. S. herd book. There is no mention of the bull being polled.

According to the ages at calving, given on her lifetime performance certificate, *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* should have calved in 1941; however, no record of registered progeny has been found of her calving that year.

Polled Holstein breeder Tom Howat wrote in a March 1953 letter to Joseph Carpenter that “Jane Mercedes” had calved with a bull calf by the horned bull, *Pabst Regal*. It was born February 8, 1952, and was registered as *Tilfa Pabst Regal*. The breeder is listed as Tilney Farms and Krueger Brothers. It is not known if the animal was polled, but he did have 23 registered progeny. Most of them were in the Howard-Home herd of Whitewater, Wisconsin. Howat’s letter also said that all of “Jane Mercedes’ ” offspring, two females and eight males, were polled. There is evidence that both daughters and five of her sons were polled, but no proof has been located on the other three males. It is unlikely that *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* ever calved again. At thirteen years of age, she had a lifetime butterfat total of over 6,000 pounds. No other Holstein female matches her contribution to the early history of the polled trait.

St. Croixco, an institutional herd located near New Richmond, Wisconsin, had polled animals that played a major role in the breeding plans of Walter Schultz. The St. Croixco herd was founded in 1917 and became one of the well-known breeding establishments in the country, although not because of their involvement with the polled trait. St. Croixco bought the yearling bull *Sir Alexina Supreme* at the Hargrove and Arnold dispersal in Norwalk, Iowa, in 1932. This bull seems to be the origin of the polled trait in the St. Croixco herd. Evidence to date indicates that both of his parents were horned. This presents a problem in tracing the trait back into the Hargrove and Arnold pedigrees.

Schultz bought several animals from the St. Croixco herd in 1948 and 1949. Two were daughters of the polled cow *Queen Alexina Echo*, and a third animal was a granddaughter; all were polled. *Queen Alexina Echo* was sired by *Sir Alexina Supreme* although no mention of his being polled has been found. *St. Croixco DeKol Echo* was an important sire for Walter Schultz from 1955 to 1970. His dam was *St. Croixco P J Echo*, a polled granddaughter of *Queen Alexina Echo*.

Queen Alexina Echo had a polled son, *St. Croixco Admiral Ollie Emperor*, who was sold to DeJong Brothers of Orange City, Iowa. Sons of the “Ollie Emperor” bull were used by Tilney Farms, Walter Schultz, and the Gardner herd. Schultz purchased the polled daughter, *Dejonco Admiral Ollie Madge* in 1948 as a foundation animal. A polled son of the “Ollie Emperor” bull, *Dejonco Admiral Ormsby Emperor*, was used by Tilney Farms and was the sire of *Tilfa Admiral Janes Best*, a polled son of *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes*.

De Jong Brothers (DeJonCo) of Orange City, Iowa, was an important link in the early distribution of the polled trait in the midwest. They purchased the young polled bull, *St. Croixco Admiral Ollie Emperor*, in the mid-1940s. They also bought a dozen or more females from the St. Croixco herd, which were used as mates and produced most of the polled calves born from 1946 to 1950 in the DeJonCo herd. Tom Howat, polled Holstein enthusiast, wrote in the May 16, 1953, issue of *Holstein-Friesian World* that many polled animals were sold at the De Jong’s dispersal. No sale catalog has been located, but the sale would have taken place within a year or so before the publication date.

Earl De Jong is a son of Peter De Jong, one of the brothers who ran this herd. Earl took over when his father died and operated the herd until 1990. He told me in a phone conversation that only one polled sire was ever used, the bull obtained from St. Croixco. However, the polled offspring of that sire were important. His sons were used as herd sires by Walter Schultz, Tilney Farms, Robert Gardner, C. E. Crossman, and other breeders of polled Holsteins.

The Hargrove and Arnold herd of Norwalk, Iowa, was established as a partnership in 1917. Arnold, who had worked with Hargrove for several years, took over supervision of the operation and put the dairy herd on official test. The herd quickly grew to 125 head and received much attention due to its high milk production records and its many show ring awards.

Ralph Wayne’s *A Century of Minnesota Dairying and Registered Holsteins* details that the well-known sire *King Pietertje Ormsby Piebe* (KPOP) was born in the E. C. Schroeder herd of Moorhead, Minnesota. His picture shows that KPOP was horned. The bull was sold to Elliot Brothers of Iowa at six months of age and later repurchased by Schroeder, who then sold him to Hargrove and Arnold in 1918. He sired many famous animals, among them the bull *Marathon Bess Burke*, who was bred and used in the E. C. Schroeder herd. Hargrove and Arnold bred many sons of KPOP. Two of the best were *King Piebe* and *Triune Ormsby Piebe*. Both were horned and used heavily by other herds.

The Hargrove and Arnold herd was dispersed in 1932, well before Walter Schultz began looking for polled cattle. There was never any mention of the polled trait in the extensive advertising program carried on by the herd. Except for the *Sir Alexina Supreme* sire purchased by St. Croixco, no other evidence was found that the Hargrove and Arnold herd had the polled gene or passed it to other herds.

Gray View Farms, Union Grove, Wisconsin Walter Schultz used the polled bull *Gray View Sky Satin*, a son of *Gray View Skyliner* (horned) and *Gray View Satin Crissey*, who was polled with scurs. “Satin Crissey” was a daughter of the polled cow *Gray View B D Sanette* and a granddaughter of the polled cow *Gray View Pansy Sandra*. The latter was the dam of *Gray View Burke Sandstone*, a bull that had “large scurs,” according to Robert Gardner of Solon Mills, Illinois. “Pansy Sandra” was the daughter of *Sylvia Patriot Piebe*, who was purchased by Harvey Nelson in 1942 as a mature animal and appears to be the source of the polled trait in the Gray View herd.

The Honorable Mention All-American heifer calf for 1962 was polled, according to Marlowe Nelson who knew the Gray View herd intimately. *Gray View San X* was a daughter of *Gray View Crisscross* (horned) and out of *Gray View Sanella Skyline*, a daughter of the polled cow *Gray View B D Sanette*,

Robert W. Gardner (Gardner Farms) of Solon Mills, Illinois, was not directly involved with Walter Schultz’s breeding plans, but Gardner got started with polled cattle in the late 1940s when he purchased a polled bull from DeJong Brothers of Orange City, Iowa. *DeJonCo Admiral Ollie Dean* was a son of *St. Croixco Admiral Ollie Emperor*, which the DeJong’s obtained from St. Croixco. Gardner bought several head at the Tilney-Hiatt dispersal in November 1949 and purchased a foundation female at the Greentop Farms dispersal that same year. Gardner promoted polled Holsteins and sold a substantial number of polled sires and females over a period of several decades. He bred the polled cow *Gardner Promis Tidy* and sold her to Eldon DeWall. DeWall later sold her to Dave Burket.

A visit with Mr. Gardner in 1983 provided me with several important leads about the startup of the National Polled Cattle Club and the herds that were involved with polled cattle in the 1940s. He gave me a picture of three Carnation-bred cows that were polled. They were *Carnation Hazelwood Prospect Lass* and two of her daughters, *Carnation Fancy Prospect* and *Carnation Homestead Prospect Lass*. *Carnation Hazelwood Prospect Lass* was a daughter of the polled cow *Carnation Ormsby Prospect Bessie*. These animals are discussed in more detail in the section that outlines the pedigrees of the polled family at Carnation Farms. Gardner was most gracious in answering my questions and providing verification about specific events. I am grateful to him and his family for the materials and information they provided towards this effort.

Eldon DeWall (De-Red-Polled) of Baileyville, Illinois, began breeding for red coat color and for the polled trait in the early 1970s. He purchased three polled females, sired by *Shur-Poll Burke Double*, from the Egan family of Cuba City, Wisconsin. He also bought a Schultz-bred bull, *Shur-Poll Trophy Master*. Much of his herd descended from these animals and from *Gardner Promis Tidy*, who had been consigned to a 1972 Wisconsin sale by Robert Gardner. DeWall also used Burket-Falls bulls and others of his own breeding. The first red and polled sire purchased by Larry Moore was *De-Red-Polled Comet Rich-Red*. This bull was heavily advertised by Moore and advanced the cause of those breeding hornless Red and Whites.

Larry Moore (Larry-Moore) of Suamico, Wisconsin, was noted for his ability to breed mink with exotic coat colors before he accepted the challenge of breeding a Red and White herd. Starting with a young Holstein bull given to him by the owner of Winterthur Farms, Moore assembled a herd of Red and Whites, mostly of Canadian parentage, well before most American

breeders became interested in the trait. He then turned his efforts towards breeding for the polled trait and bought the DeWall bull mentioned earlier.

Moore did not live long enough to have a major impact on the polled scene, but he did offer a number of polled sires to the industry sired by *De-Red-Polled Comet Rich-Red* and by Burket-Falls sires. His best-known polled sire was *Larry Moore Crosby B Poll-Red*. This bull was advertised as homozygous for the polled trait, and, consequently, all of his calves should be polled. Those who distributed semen on the bull recall that no one ever challenged that.

CHAPTER 3

Polled Families in Western Herds

Several prominent herds had the polled trait even though they did not breed for it and did not promote it. Walter Schultz took advantage of the reputations of such herds and acquired some of the best stock that he could afford and made it available to others. The best-known herds in the western part of the United States were Carnation Farms near Seattle, Washington; Intermountain Institute of Weiser, Idaho; and Lillywhite Ranch of Aztec, New Mexico.

Carnation Farms had a family of polled animals that contributed to the Schultz breeding program. Schultz used the polled bull, *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne*, heavily. This bull was bred by Lillywhite Ranch of Aztec, New Mexico, and his parents were both polled. *Carnation Peerless Sir Bessie* was both the paternal and maternal grandsire of *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne*. *Carnation Peerless Sir Bessie* was out of the polled cow *Carnation Ormsby Prospect Bessie*. “Sir Bessie” had a polled full sister, *Carnation Hazelwood Prospect Lass*, who had a polled son, *Carnation Greentop Governor*, who sired a number of polled animals for Greentop Farms of Genoa, Illinois. Offspring were purchased by the Gardner family of Solon Mills, Illinois, and by Lillywhite Ranch at the 1949 Greentop dispersal. The bull had been consigned to a Wisconsin sale a few months earlier and was purchased by the East Central Breeders Cooperative AI unit. He sired a home-bred bull in the Rodney Blochwitz herd of Pardeeville, Wisconsin, who in turn sired the dam of *Princess Fayne Houwtje*, the foundation female of the polled line in the Burket-Falls herd.

Carnation Ormsby Prospect Bessie's dam was *Carnation Prospect Bessie* who was polled and out of the polled cow, *Tillamook Bessie Netherland DeKol*. The Tillamook cow bred by Arthur L. Mapes of Tillamook, Oregon, was born in 1917. Little information was located about Mapes, although the family name is a part of the pioneer history for the area. Carnation bought much of the F. R. Beal's herd in 1922 and the transaction included several Mapes-bred animals. “Tillamook Bessie” was one of them. Beals was a prominent Holstein breeder and judge who was a pioneer in the development of the Tillamook area. How Beals obtained the cow and several of her paternal sisters that were included in the sale is not known.

The December 14, 1957, issue of *Holstein-Friesian World* featured the Carnation herd. This herd was established in 1910, although their breeding program really began in 1915 with the purchase of the George V. Leighton herd from Boise, Idaho. This herd consisted of 85 head descended from the purchase of females from the A. A. Hartshorn herd of New York. The horned bull *King Segis 10th* (badly crippled at the time) was thrown in with the deal. He had been purchased as a calf from the H. A. Moyer herd of Syracuse, New York. The bull, *Matador Segis Walker*, a son of *King Segis 10th*, was also part of the purchase from Leighton. This bull and his full brother, *Segis Walker Matador* (purchased later), were important sires in the Carnation herd. Photos show that both had a fine set of horns.

Leighton purchased several heifers from John L. Smith of Hazelwood Farms. One of these, *Hazelwood Ormsby Korndyke DeKol*, was considered the hub of Carnation's breeding program. Her picture shows that she had been dehorned. Another cow of Hazelwood breeding, *Hazelwood Heilo Ormsby Mercedes*, was the dam of *Matador Segis Ormsby* and was also horned.

The December 1957 *Holstein-Friesian World* article featured the cow, *Tillamook Daisy Butter King Dekol*, who was All-American Aged cow for Carnation in 1922 and 1923. However, her polled sister *Tillamook Bessie Netherland Dekol* is the one of interest to us. *Sir Bessie Fayne DeKol Fobes* (horned) was sire to both. The animals were two of six registered by Arthur L. Mapes of Tillamook, Oregon, in volume 38 of the *Holstein-Friesian Herd Book*. The female side traces to the F. P. Lansing herd of Copenhagen, New York. This herd was located in the same area of upstate New York where George Stevenson purchased some of his foundation stock. Most of the animals imported in the 1880s and 1890s passed through New York State on the way to their final destination. Thus, one might expect to find that the ancestry of the polled populations on both coasts had a common source.

Intermountain Institute of Weiser, Idaho: *Intermountain Progressor Lad* was a polled sire purchased and used by Walter Schultz. As a young calf, he was shipped by rail from Weiser, Idaho, to Schultz's farm in Nicollet, Minnesota. The bull had progeny recorded over an eight-year period in Schultz's herd. He was the result of mating *Hallrose Hazel Oliver* (horned) and *Intermountain Sylvia Triune Patty*, who was polled. The Institute herd provided a second polled sire, *Polled Promoter Pride*. Schultz bought him from Dudley G. Tucker of Ellensburg, Washington, although both parents were Institute bred. The bull saw service in the Merle Kolander herd of Heron Lake, Minnesota. A letter from herd manager E. R. Evans to Walter Schultz in 1948 implied that there were other polled animals in the Intermountain herd, but there is not enough information available to identify them.

The maternal granddam of *Intermountain Progressor Lad* was *Intermountain Winona Piebe*, who was sired by *King Triune Bess*, a bull bred by Hargrove and Arnold of Norwalk, Iowa. The next bull back in this line is *Triune Bess Burke*, who was sired by *Triune Ormsby Piebe* (first registered as *King Pietertje Ormsby Piebe 15th*). This pedigree line has a close resemblance to the Hargrove- and Arnold-bred animals that are ancestors of the St. Croixco and Tilney Farms polled animals.

The Intermountain Institute herd was established in 1916 with Mr. E. R. Evans in charge and was first listed in the herd books as "Intermountain Institute," but the Institute was forced to close in 1933 when the depression of the 1930s dried up its funding. The school was turned over to the "Weiser Independent School District No. 1" and was operated as a vocational training center for a number of years. The dairy herd continued to operate during this time, and an attempt was made to return the facilities to the Institute. However, after a prolonged legal battle, the Institute lost, and the board of trustees liquidated most of the school's assets, including the dairy herd, which was dispersed on November 6, 1950.

I visited the site of the Institute in June 1998, and, with the assistance of Patricia Hamilton of the Weiser Library and Carol Odoms of the Weiser Museum, I was able to learn about the school. It was originally founded to offer education to the underprivileged youth of rural Idaho. It was a noble effort undertaken by a few who had limited resources and who had to depend on charitable contributions. It is unfortunate that the Institute suffered major setbacks over the course of its history and that the facilities had declined in value at the time of my visit, with only the local museum utilizing one of the buildings.

Lillywhite Ranch of Aztec, New Mexico: In addition to breeding *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne*, this herd bred the polled bulls *Lillywhite Peerless Sir Fayne* and *Lillywhite Count Sir Rue-T*. Both were

out of the polled cow, *Stratton Fayne Rue Spofford*, who was a daughter of the polled cow *Stratton Fayne Rue Bessie*. The latter was the dam of *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne* and was sired by *Carnation Peerless Sir Bessie*, a bull that Carnation sold in the late 1930s to the Myron Stratton Home (Stratton prefix) of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Lillywhite Ranch bought the “Sir Bessie” bull and registered his progeny from 1947 through the early 1950s.

The mating that produced *Lillywhite Peerless Sir Fayne* was a case of using the “Sir Bessie” bull on one of his granddaughters. This bull was leased to the New Mexico Agricultural College for a time. The sire of *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne* was *B & B Ranch Peerless Supreme*, polled and sired by “Sir Bessie.” The B & B Ranch prefix belonged to Bruce P. Brimhall of Farmington, New Mexico, which was located near the Lillywhite Ranch. Brimhall had also used the *Carnation Peerless Sir Bessie* sire.

Lillywhite Count Sir Rue-T was one of the most popular sires that Walter Schultz obtained from the New Mexico herd. He was a son of *Carnation Count* (horned), who after service at Lillywhite Ranch went to a Nebraska herd and then, at thirteen years of age, was purchased by the Kansas (KABSU) AI unit. The Lillywhite herd was one of the early registered Holstein herds in New Mexico. It was dispersed in December 1973.

A visit with Dr. Lloyd Lillywhite VMD, of Farmington, New Mexico, in 1997 did not yield any first-hand information on the animals in the sale, but he gave me a copy of the sale catalogue. A study of the catalogue showed that popular bulls of the day had sired nearly all of the Lillywhite cattle in the three-generation pedigrees. *Lillywhite Peerless Sir Fayne* was the sire of several of the oldest females that appeared in a few of the pedigrees. These animals were born in the early 1950s. There is no mention made in the catalogue concerning the polled trait.

CHAPTER 4

Pennsylvania and Ohio Breeders

Pennsylvania returned as the focal point of polled Holstein genetics in the 1960s when Dave Burket (Burket-Falls) became interested in the trait after his purchase of the Wisconsin-bred dam of the polled cow *Princess Fayne Houwtje*. The latter made headlines with her outstanding production in the Burket herd. Burket-Falls bred the majority of the first 30 or so polled sires that entered North American AI programs. The first was *Burket-Falls ABC*, who was a son of *Glenafton Rag Apple Charmer* and out of *Princess Fayne Houwtje*. “Princess” also had two polled daughters that contributed to the polled line. A number of well-known bulls were bred to Burket's polled females over the years. Possibly the best known cow to emerge from Burket's early breeding program was *Burket-Falls Elevation Sophia*, a great-granddaughter of “Princess,” and the dam of several polled sires that entered AI service. The family of polled females that descended from Sophia made a big contribution to breed improvement. *Burket-Falls BS Savina* was a third-generation female in that line and, along with her dam and granddam, provided good genetics to the AI industry. Some of the present-day members of Sophia's extended family are red and white and/or carry both the red gene and the polled trait.

T. Edwin Johnson (Hickorymea) started breeding for the polled trait in 1969 when he purchased semen from Burket-Falls. The first polled calf was born in March 1970. He used a number of Burket-Falls' bulls and points to *Burket-Falls Houdini* as making an early contribution to his herd's breeding program. Johnson advertised for other sources of polled bull semen early on and was able to locate it on a number of sires, including *Oregon Original King*, *Lillywhite Original Sensation*, *De-Red-Polled King Jasper-Red*, and *Dominion Fond Jet*.

On the female side, the polled trait was obtained from three bred heifers purchased in 1976 from Humphreyholm Farm of Springwater, New York. Their sire was *Shur-Poll Trophy Rossette Lad*, a bull bred by Walter Schultz. The result was a number of polled offspring for Johnson. One was the polled bull *Humphreyholm Moon Lad P*, whom Johnson believes was homozygous for the polled trait. A second bull from this breeding used in Johnsons' herd was *Hickorymea Warhawk P*. Johnson also purchased three polled females from the John Williams Jr. (Green-Velvet) herd in Union Bridge, Maryland, in the mid-1980s. These polled animals from horned sires trace back on the female side of the pedigree to T. J. Sheperd's Shadybrook herd of Nokesville, Virginia. The bull *Hickorymea Saul P* was purchased by 21st Century Genetics in the early 1990s, and AI units have continued to sample bulls from the Hickorymea herd.

Fred Fouse (Breezy-Hollow) of James Creek bought several polled females from Dave Burket in the early 1970s and used semen from Burket-bred polled bulls. When registering polled animals, Fouse put the letter “P” in their name. Such a procedure makes it easier to follow the trait as the herd continues to grow. Fouse used AI sires on his herd, but worked in the use of homebred sires that were both polled and carried the red factor. In recent years, about a third of the “Breezy Hollow” herd has been polled.

Clair & Alan Koontz of Loysburg in Bedford County bred a sizable number of polled animals. The trait was introduced when Clair's father, Wilson Koontz, bought several polled heifer calves sired by *Sam Lakefield Homestead* in 1944 from a neighbor. "Sam" was a polled bull from the Leon Musser herd. When I visited the herd in the mid-1980s, the Koontz family was using young polled bulls out of their best polled cows on their breeding-age heifers, while breeding the milking herd to AI bulls.

Thomas-Crest was a herd located near Troy, Pennsylvania, that had an interest in polled cattle. The Thomas-Crest herd (established by Richard Thomas) used the polled bull *Burket Falls Grand Dan*. He sired at least a dozen polled females born in 1979–80. Roy and Cathy Thomas operated the herd and used polled sires until its recent dispersal in 2007.

Conrad and Rebecca Carlsen's (Frith-Jof) herd at LeRaysville, Pennsylvania, used Thomas-Crest bulls as well as polled sires from other Pennsylvania herds. The herd consists of about 60 milking animals, and most of them are red and white or carry the red trait. A good percentage of the animals are polled.

Robert Feldwisch (Aggravation) of New Knoxville, Ohio, started breeding polled Holsteins in the 1980s, using Larry Moore bulls and the bull *Neu-View-Acres Chief Pete Poll*. On my visit to the herd in September 2003, Mr. Feldwisch remarked that he became interested in the red trait while still in high school. When he took over the home herd of grade cattle, he replaced them with registered stock and thought it would be challenging to breed for the polled trait along with the red coat color. His herd was about one-third polled with a number of them being red or red-carriers. Feldwisch favors a balanced approach while selecting for both production and type. He has established several good families and has sold young sires to AI units for progeny testing programs.

Frank Bouic of Ostrander, Ohio, has a herd of polled Holsteins and has been the primary spokesperson for incorporating the polled trait with good production genetics into the Holstein population. He worked with the Holstein Association to get the trait included in their data base on individual animals and to allow owners to have the option to report polled animals on the registry application. In addition, he maintains numerous files related to polled Holsteins, edits a newsletter, and provides several listings each year that rank polled animals on their genetic merit.

CHAPTER 5

Polled bulls in AI

The First Pennsylvania Artificial Breeding Cooperative, established in 1942 and located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, possibly had the first polled bull in AI service. This was a bull bred by Leon Musser and named *Dick Lakefield Ona Homestead*. His dam was the polled cow, *Rachel Reliance Ona Homestead*, who was sired by *King Ona Jolie Alcartra*, a polled bull bred by A. C. Slifer. “Dick Lakefield” was the sire of another polled Musser cow, *Josephine Lakefield Aaggie*, who was the dam of several breeding bulls, including *Lochiel Autocrat Joe*, a polled sire used by Joe Carpenter.

Tilney Farms offered several polled sires in the late 1940s and early 1950s through their AI service. *DeJonCo Admiral Ormsby Emperor* and *Tilfa King Belmont Lad* both saw service in the Tilney operation and were then offered to the public. The young sire, *Tilfa Pietje B Duke Pietertje*, a grandson of *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes*, was also available, according to a brochure published in the late 1940s by the Tilney organization.

East Central Breeders Association, located in Waupun, Wisconsin, purchased the polled sire, *Carnation Greentop Governor*, at a consignment sale in 1949. He had been in service at Greentop Farm in Genoa, Illinois. This bull was a son of the polled cow *Carnation Hazelwood Prospect Lass*, a member of the polled family in the Carnation herd. Two maternal sisters of the bull were also polled.

The Michigan Artificial Breeding Cooperative of East Lansing, Michigan, had a polled bull, *Carnation Field Marshall*. This bull was in service in the mid-1950s at Michigan ABC. “Field Marshall” was out of the polled cow *Carnation Ormsby Prospect Bessie*, mentioned earlier. The bull was first used in the John S. Kapral herd of Sheridan, Michigan, then sold to the Weineke Farm of Saginaw, Michigan, and then acquired by Michigan ABC. A polled son and a grandson saw service in the O. E. Pritchard herd of Maple Park, Illinois.

American Breeders Service (ABS) featured the polled bull, *Burket-Falls ABC*, in a full-page ad in the March 1976 issue of the *Holstein World*. A number of other polled bulls were made available by ABS. Of particular interest was a Colorado-bred young sire, *Legendary Potential*, put in sampling in the early 1990s. This bull traced back through six generations of the female line to the bull, *Stratton Sir Renown*, born on March 26, 1952. *Stratton Sir Renown* was sired by a horned bull, but his dam, *Stratton Ormsby Ada Bessie*, was polled. She was sired by *Carnation Peerless Sir Bessie* who had been in service at the “Myron Stratton Home for Boys” before he was sold to Lillywhite Ranch. The sire of “Potential” and all of the sires in the female line were well-known AI bulls, and all were horned. ABS sampled two other polled sons of Potential’s dam (*Legendary Bell Poteet*) that were sired by *Walkway Chief Mark*. One of them, *Legendary Policy*, had semen sold in Canada through the St. Jacobs AI unit.

21st Century Genetics’ first polled sire was *Burket-Falls Houdini* in the late 1970s. He was well received and used by Larry Moore, T. Edward Johnson, Doug Schultz, and others. 21st Century Genetics (now CRI) has continued to progeny test polled sires. One of their successful polled sires was *Burket-Falls Lo-Nox-Red*.

Select Sires sampled the polled bull *Neu-View-Acres Chief Pete Poll* in 1980. He was a *Straight Pine Elevation Pete* son out of *Shur-Poll Arlinda Chief*, a polled *Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief* daughter bred by Walter Schultz. The C. & R. Neumann herd of New Richmond, Wisconsin, was the breeder of “Pete Poll.”

Sire Power progeny tested *Burket-Falls Motivator* in 1983. This polled bull (with scurs) was an *SWD Valiant* son out of *Sophia*.

Sunshower Acres: Over the past several decades, Sunshower Acres has helped with the sampling of several dozen polled sires. Some have been co-sampled with other units or sampled with syndicate participation. Fred Hendricks, a veteran of more than 40 years experience with AI, is CEO of the Sunshower Acres breeding organization.

Taurus Inc: Dick Witter, another veteran of many years in the AI field, is the owner of Taurus and has made a serious effort to bring interest to the trait. Over the past three decades he has successfully merchandised a number of polled sires.

AI units are showing an increased interest in polled genetics and are actively seeking young polled bulls that have good pedigrees for use in their progeny test programs. American Breeders Service, 21st Century Genetics, and Select Sires at one time did a major portion of the early sampling of polled bulls. More recently, Sunshower Acres of Longmont, Colorado, and Taurus of Mehoopany, Pennsylvania, have strongly promoted the polled trait.

CHAPTER 6

Canadian Polled Holsteins

Little information is available on polled animals in Canada. A herd visit was made to the Melamar (Melville and Margaret Greig) herd of Gorrie, Ontario. This herd used polled bulls, although availability was often limited. Sires used were *Burket-Falls Dispatcher*, *Burket-Falls Valier*, *Burket-Falls No-Nox-Red*, and *Legendary Policy*.

Ingholm Farm of Campbellford, Ontario, had a well-known polled cow who was featured in the May 1976 *Holstein-Friesian (Canadian) Journal*. I visited the Ingholm herd in October 2002 and spoke with Harold Ingram. He verified that the cow had made world-class records and that she had been polled. The cow, *Ingholm Rag Apple President*, was sired by *Rockdale President* and out of a *Rosafe Tip-Top* daughter. She had three records of over 1,500 pounds of milkfat. Her 365-day world record production in 1973 was 36,954 pounds of milk with a 5.73% test and 2,098 pounds of milkfat. Her pedigree does not indicate where the polled trait might have come from. She was the dam of a female, *Ingholm President-Red*, and had four sons, including *Ingholm Klondike*, *Ingholm Yukon*, and her final calf, *Ingholm Tondra*. These three bulls saw service in the CIAQ AI unit located at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. The fourth bull was one of her early calves and was used only in the Ingholm herd. There is no evidence that any of her progeny were polled.

One of *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes*' later sons was in service in several herds in Canada, although it is not confirmed that he was polled. Most of the daughters were in the John Graham herd of Embree, Ontario. Some of these were moved to the Sumpter, South Carolina, area, but no information has been found to identify them as polled.

Another reference to the polled trait in Canada is from a former Holstein employee who recalled that he had classified a herd near Winnipeg, Manitoba, some years ago that had some polled animals. In addition, Frank Bouic's newsletter has listed the addresses for two other Canadian herds that indicated an interest in the trait.

Several comments about the polled trait have appeared in the *Canadian Holstein Journal* over the years. The December 1964 issue reported that the question of breeding for the polled trait had been raised at the 1964 Friesian Conference in Amsterdam. Canadian Holstein Secretary George M. Clemons reported that there was no support by those attending to breed polled "Friesians" in view of the many more important traits that breeders were striving to improve.

The April 26, 2005 issue had a brief note by Bonnie Cooper, Editor of *Holstein Journal*, that a resolution submitted by the Peterborough County Holstein Club passed at the 2005 Canadian Holstein Convention read as follows: "Whereas many breeds, particularly beef, have aggressively selected for polled genetics; and whereas animal welfare and stress are growing concerns, therefore be it resolved that Holstein Canada clearly identify Polled Holsteins preferably with the letter 'P', following the name of the animal."

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Notes from the author

This is a work in progress, but it seems best to get the information that has been assembled into print. No one can guarantee its accuracy, but considerable effort has been made to verify the contents.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has additional information about the polled trait in Holsteins and/or who has facts in hand that would correct or add to what I have written.

APPENDIX A

Joe and Margaret Carpenter operated Sunrise Farm, which was located almost next door to the Stevenson farm. Joe worked for Stevenson at one time. The Carpenters bought the polled sire, *Tilfa Pietje B Grand*, from Tilney Farms, Lewisville, Minnesota. This may have been the first case in which the polled gene moved from the midwest back to an eastern herd since Stevenson's original purchases from Wisconsin. Over one-third of the animals in the 1955 Carpenter dispersal were daughters of the Tilfa bull. The oldest cow sold was the polled *Sunrise Farms Joy Johanna Abbekerk*, born on October 10, 1946. This animal traces to the Stevenson herd through her dam that had Stevenson breeding on both sides of her pedigree.

G. G. Sumner of LeRaysville, Pennsylvania, bred cattle from 1924 to 1948. His first polled sire was *Origin Sir Onaco Plum* from the Stevenson herd. Sumner claimed that the bull sired only polled calves, and he used him for five years. Sumner followed with a polled Downton-bred bull, *Sir Napol Mercedes Segis*, and then used several homebred polled sires as well as some Slifer-bred bulls. He sold a polled bull calf, *Ben Jolie Piebe Plum*, to Walter Schultz, who was looking for new sources of the polled trait while on a buying trip to Pennsylvania in 1948.

Nancy L. Tinklepaugh of Thompson, Pennsylvania, worked with A. L. Bowell and his Willow Brook Stock Farm. Bowell bought the bull *Sir Johanna Piebe Plum* from Stevenson and used him for several years. There are conflicting reports as to whether the bull was polled or not. Although bred by Stevenson, he did not have a Napol prefix. Tinklepaugh bred registered cattle from 1932 to 1984. In 1941, she moved some polled stock from her home herd to Bowell's. Their sire was a Bowell-bred bull sired by an A. W. Downton-bred sire. Tinklepaugh remarked that almost all of the 65 animals in her home herd were polled at the time that they were sold to a cattle dealer and were widely dispersed.

In 1953, Tinklepaugh purchased *Lochiel Rag Apple John* from Leon Musser and used the bull for about five years. In the early 1960s, she purchased *Rex-Mar Super Colantha Chief*. This bull traces for four generations on the maternal side to a sire and dam that were both sired by *Sir Napol Cornucopia Origin*, a polled bull bred by Downton. The homebred bull, *Milt Lucinda William*, was a polled son of the "Rex-Mar" bull and was used in the mid-1960s. In 1965 Tinklepaugh began to use the "Nantin" prefix, and by 1970 she had switched to artificial insemination (AI) sires. I talked with her in 1983 at her small farm in Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania, where she still had five head of polled females and kept intact her lifelong interest in the polled trait.

Dr. Jesse L. Lenker and William D. Lenker of Harrisburg were partners in a herd that had both Guernseys and Holsteins. Jesse was a Harrisburg physician, and William was on the farm. Both men used the Lenkerbrook prefix. The polled trait probably started in the herd with Dr. J. L. Lenker's purchase of *Napol Meg Johanna*, a polled cow of Stevenson's breeding. The cow had been consigned to the 1919 Pennsylvania Breeder's Sale. W. D. Lenker purchased the polled sire *Sir Napol Onaco Tritomia* at Stevenson's final dispersal in 1930. The bull was considered to be of outstanding conformation for his time. *Origin Sir Keystone Beauty* headed the Lenker herd in the mid-1920s, followed by *Downton Origin Onaco Cornucopia*, who sired more than 40 daughters that made up the bulk of Lenker's dispersal in 1934.

Elmer Dolin of Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, used the Nehalem prefix and bred cattle from 1917 until 1950. Polled sires did not appear until the 1940s when *Veeman Onaco Plum* was purchased. He was followed by Slifer and Leon Musser bulls. *Veeman Onaco Plum* was sired by *Veeman Center Farm Onaco Plum*. The parents of the latter bull trace to polled ancestry from both the Stevenson and Jermyn herds. *Dennington Onaco Sir Beauty* was polled and used by Stevenson in the mid-1920s. He sired many of the animals in Stevenson's 1927 sale. He was born in 1924 and had an early Harrisburg registry number (1430). This is a clue as to when the "new" association began to record animals. The Harrisburg Association did not publish a herd book or release the names of its membership, which made tracking the polled trait difficult in herds that switched to the new organization.

Jim Dolin gave me his father's pocket herd book when I talked with him in the mid-1980s. It was helpful in identifying some polled animals, but the task was complicated because members of the herd and their parentage had been registered in the Harrisburg Association. Some were reregistered in the Brattleboro herd file as late as 1965, but there is no cross-reference file that links the two registry associations. Dolin sold bulls locally and sold a polled calf to the Sumner herd in Bradford County in 1948. His pocket herd book refers to selling a bull to Walter Schultz in late 1948. Schultz did buy several polled calves on a trip to Pennsylvania that year, but there is no reference to this animal in the file of information that is available on the Schultz herd.

Humphreyholm Farm of Springwater, New York, became interested in polled Holsteins when W. E. Humphrey saw an exhibit about the polled trait that was set up by Walter Schultz at the 1949 International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago. The first polled animal in the herd was *Sunrise Farm Tilfa Betsy Doll*, purchased in early 1954 from the Joe Carpenter herd. At the same time, Humphrey's father bought the bull, *Sunrise Farm Autocrat Queen Jo*, a polled son of *Lochiel Autocrat Joe*. This bull sired the first polled animals bred on the farm. Shortly afterwards, the polled bull, *Shur-Poll Burke Fayne Jess*, was bought from Walter Schultz. According to W. E. Humphrey, this bull never sired a horned animal. In 1955 Humphrey bought several young polled females at the Sunrise Farm dispersal. The Humphreyholm herd was dispersed in 1966 in order to dissolve a family partnership. Roger Humphrey kept 23 heifers and the polled bull *Humphreyholm Admiral Burke* as the foundation of his new herd. In 1972 semen was purchased on the polled sire, *Shur-Poll Trophy Rosette Lad*, another Schultz-bred bull. Three of his heifers were sold to T. Edwin Johnson of Airville, Pennsylvania, in 1976 and helped establish the polled trait in Johnson's herd. Roger Humphrey still had a dairy herd when I visited him in the spring of 1997. W. E. Humphrey lived nearby and had a keen interest in the herd and in the polled trait. I am indebted to "W. E." for a substantial amount of background information concerning the history of polled Holsteins.

H. W. Cook of Elkton, Maryland, was visited in June 1985. Cook's prefix was Diamond-Hill, and he purchased his first polled animals from Joe Carpenter in 1954. Several more were bought at Carpenter's dispersal. In 1985, the Cook herd of 120 cows was about 40 percent polled, but the figure had been much higher. Cook worked with Ted Shepherd of Nokesville, Virginia, and obtained the bull *Polled Hallrose Pride P* from Shepherd. Cook used *Sunrise Farms Montvic Commando*, who was sired by a Canadian bull and out of *Sunrise Farms Tilfa Lopos P*. Some of the best cows were from the homebred bull, *Diamond-Hill Dutchboy P*, who was sired by *N-Del-Cee Dutchman* (horned) and out of a homebred cow, *Diamond-Hill Kingpin Ulna P*.

Shepherd's herd of Nokesville, Virginia, had registered cattle as early as 1933. M. J. Shepherd used the prefix "Shadybrook" for most of his animals. In 1964, T. J. Shepherd began to use the prefix "Shabrook." First evidence of the polled trait appears in 1957 in a daughter of the C. E. Crossman-bred bull, *Polled Hallrose Pride P*, who was purchased from Walter Schultz. *Diamond-Hill Commando K Geina* was the next polled bull. Shepherd then used two more Schultz-bred bulls and several homebred polled sires. At one time all of the animals in Shepherd's herd were polled.

Shepherd worked with H. W. Cook's Diamond-Hill herd of Elkton, Maryland, and sold sires to Ralph G. Roop of New Windsor, Maryland, in the mid-1960s. One of the females that Shepherd bred was *Shabrook Linda Quepie Tup*, who was sired by *Quepie Husky For Shadybrook P*. She became the foundation female for a polled family developed by John Williams, Jr. of Union Bridge, Maryland. T. Edwin Johnson purchased several key members of the family in the 1980s.

Ralph G. Roop of New Windsor, Maryland, bought the polled cow, *Shur-Poll Count Nell*, and the polled bull, *Shur-Poll Count Burke Lad*, from Walter Schultz in 1961. He also used Shepherd-bred sires, *Paw Nic Shur Shadybrook* and *Shabrook Roop Burke Madcap*, in the mid-1960s. Roop may have obtained some of Elmer Dolin's polled breeding, since several animals with Nehalem as a part of their name were registered late in the 1960s along with a substantial number of Roop-bred animals. This may have been done to "catch up" on registrations in the Roop herd and/or to reregister animals with Nehalem ancestry, which previously had Harrisburg numbers.

APPENDIX B

Minnesota herds

C. E. Crossman of Princeton began breeding polled cattle in 1949, starting with the polled bull, *DeJonCo Admiral Ollie Romeo*. He used the prefix “Polled” and worked for Walter Schultz and acquired a number of polled cattle before he moved to Princeton in 1956 to establish his own herd. He had a dispersal of 42 registered polled Holsteins on October 30, 1965. This may have been the first herd dispersal of polled Holsteins ever held in Minnesota. Locating a catalogue of the sale would be of considerable help in expanding the information about this herd. *Polled Cleo P* was a year old female at the time of the sale. She had seven progeny and established the polled trait in the John Scott herd of Foley, Minnesota.

Edwin Wegenast of Winnebago was one of the earliest cooperators with Schultz. His cattle were registered using his last name as a prefix. His first polled bull was *Ormsby Fobes Echo Lad*, bred by the Robinson Poultry Farm. “Echo Lad” was followed by *Tilfa Duke Belmont Johanna* and then by *Ben Jolie Piebe Plum*. Several Wegenast cows appear in the pedigrees of animals in the Raymond Compart & Sons herd in the early 1950s.

Merle Kolander of Heron Lake bought a half interest in the bull *Polled Promoter Pride* (Intermountain Institute breeding) in August 1949 from Schultz. He also obtained the polled cow *DeJonCo Admiral Ollie Maud*, and she had four progeny in the Kolander herd. Schultz bought two of her sons for his program and purchased two polled daughters of “Promoter Pride” for his own herd. Kolander bred the polled sire, *Ollie Sir Mat*, used in the Anton J. Pottebaum herd of Alton, Iowa.

Melvin G. Kullhem (Melku) of Buffalo Lake paid \$1,000 for *Tilfa Admiral Jane Best*, a polled son of *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes* at the November 12, 1949, dispersal of the Tilney Farms & Charles Hiatt herd. Nothing else has been learned about this herd, although the Melku prefix is in the names of several Tilfa-bred sires. It appears that Kullhem worked for Tilney Farms at one time. A Tilney Farms ad in the January, 1941 issue of *Holstein-Friesian World* mentions that “Mike Kullhem” was the “Tester in Charge.”

Raymond Compart & Sons (Pride Pold) of Nicollet were early cooperators with Schultz’s plan to breed polled Holsteins. Polled animals were in the Compart herd from 1952 until 1968. Several dams bred by Ed Wegenast helped establish the trait in this herd. Early on, they used Lillywhite bulls and several Tru-Pol sires from Hamilton Nelson’s herd. Schultz utilized a number of polled sires bred by Compart as he moved polled sires from one cooperator herd to another. Compart bulls were also sold on consignment by Schultz to other herds in Minnesota and nearby states.

Hamilton Nelson (Tru-Pol) of St. Peter was among the early polled breeders and used some of the first polled bulls that Schultz acquired. Volume 117 of the *Holstein-Friesian Herd Book* shows three females born in 1950 that were sired by *Tilfa Belmont Lad Sunny*. This bull was a polled sire, bred by Tilney Farms, and from a polled son of *Gill Hill Jane Mercedes*. Born in 1946, he was one of the very earliest of Schultz’s sires and was also available from the Tilney Farms AI Breeding Service. Another Tru-Pol sire that saw heavy use early on in Schultz’s program was *Tru-Pol*

Belmont Progressor Lad. Schultz, Crossman, and Nelson used him from 1953 to 1960. *Tru-Pol Marksman* was the last Nelson-bred bull used by Doug Schultz in the early 1980s.

Kenneth & Le Roy Donnay of Glencoe were brothers and registered cattle with the Sunkist prefix that was first used by their father, G. P. Donnay. The Donnay herd had their first polled calf in February 1956, sired by the Hamilton Nelson bull, *Tru-Pol Jen Progressor*. About 20 different bulls were used in the Donnay herd through 1970. The Tru-Pol bull apparently introduced the polled trait. He was followed by *Lillywhite Count Sir Rue* and *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne*. In 1960, the first Schultz-bred polled bull was used, *Shur-Poll Rocket Maid Lad*. A second Schultz-bred bull (*Shur-Poll Hallrose Maid Lad P*) was introduced in 1962, followed by *Gray View Sky Satin*. A third Schultz bull, *Shur-Poll Ester Burke Lad Joe*, was purchased in 1963. The *St. Croixco De Kol Echo* sire had progeny recorded in 1966. From 1966 to 1969, a series of homebred bulls were used, and then the fourth and last Schultz-bred bull went into service in 1969. He was *Shur-Poll Burke Echo Lad P*. All of the bulls named were known to sire the polled trait. In 1970, two homebred bulls from polled sires were used. After that, only progeny of horned AI bulls were registered.

Starting in the early 1960s, Donnays used the letter P in naming their cattle. This was of considerable help in tracing the polled trait. Walter Schultz bought a number of bulls from the Donnay herd and put them in other herds that were a part of his clientele, however most of them went to grade and/or untested herds, and no records are available. I visited the Donnay herd in October 2002. Although John Donnay has taken over the operation from his father LeRoy, However, Leroy was still taking an active interest in the herd at that time and lent me a notebook of information that he kept on his early days of breeding polled cattle.

Ernst Duesterhoeft (E & A Acres) of Hutchinson was active with polled cattle from 1950 until about 1970, during which time he bred a number of polled sires that were used in other herds. He started by using bulls from the Walter Schultz and Hamilton Nelson herds. One of the early bulls in Schultz's program, *Shur-Poll Ormsby King Piebe*, sired *Colantha Bell Dina Ormsby*, who gained considerable local fame for her owner with a string of 14 calvings between August 1954 and November 1968. The first two were bulls; all of the rest were heifers. One of her sons went back into Schultz's program, and several of her daughters had sons that went into other herds working with Schultz. I suspect the cow was polled.

In late 2002, I stopped at the E & A Acres herd, now operated by son Allan. The herd has not bred for the polled trait since the late 1960s. However, *E & A-Acres Airliner Elita*, bought at a Watertown, South Dakota, sale by Gordon Larsen of Litchfield, Minnesota, had a March 2002 heifer calf. This animal, *E & A-Acres Permission Eunice*, was verified as being polled.

Walter and Walton R. Miller (Alfalfa Acres and Wally's Pride) of Lake Crystal are likely the same herd with a gradual change of ownership. Alfalfa Acres used polled sires from 1957 to 1969. In the last two years, several of the calves were from Wally's Pride dams. The latter prefix appeared in 1964 and continued at least through 1969. Virtually all of the 20 or so sires of the polled animals were supplied by Walter Schultz's program. The two prefixes were responsible for nearly 40 bulls that went into herds using polled sires.

Russell Thompson (Lane Ridge) of Nicollet was with Shultz's program for at least ten years starting in the mid-1950s. In 1959, he began to use the Lane Ridge prefix and provided eight bulls to Schultz. The best known was *Lane Ridge Choice*, who was a son of *Lilac Hill Curtiss Choice* and out of the polled female, *Lane Ridge Pearl*. Schultz also bought the female *Lane Ridge Zelda*, for his own herd. She produced two female and six male calves. All of the bulls were put into the polled program.

Nottleman's (Supreme) of Ivanhoe used the Supreme prefix beginning in 1955. Cattle were registered in the name of Nottleman Brothers and Sister. No polled animals are mentioned until *Supreme Polled Prince* was born in November 1955. The bull, *Polled Supreme Perfection Prince P* (bred by Crossman), was purchased in 1954 and used for several years. His son, *Supreme Polled Prince*, was also used as a sire in the herd. *Tru-Pol Colantha Jen* was used in 1963, and *E&A-Acres Hail Ormsby Mat* had calves born in 1968. One of them, *Abbekerk Polled Prince*, went to the Herbert E. Struss herd in 1969.

Herbert Struss (Struss) of Stillwater operated a herd from October 1966 to September 1973 with some 30 animals identified as polled. Struss used his own name as a prefix. In the beginning, several cows were from Crossman breeding (probably bought at the Crossman sale in 1966), and a number of others were purchased from Walter Schultz's herd. Struss used a mix of AI sires and homebred bulls until late 1969, when he bought *Abbekerk Polled Prince*, a bull bred by Nottlemans. This bull was the sire of two bulls used by Struss in 1972 and 1973. Several Struss-bred bulls were incorporated into Walter Schultz's circle of herds using polled sires.

John Scott of Foley had a small herd with some polled cows. The trait probably entered the herd with the purchase of the polled heifer, *Polled Cleo P*, at the Crossman dispersal in 1965. Her first calf, born in November 1967, was a bull, *Leo Polled Texal*, by a horned sire. "Cleo P" had at least seven offspring in the Scott herd. Her third calf, *Scott Polled Rocket Belle*, was used in the herd and sired several animals with "polled" in their name. *Polled Cleo P* was sired by *Shur-Poll Rocket Ormsby P* and out of the cow *Polled Shur-Poll Anita P*. Scott sold his herd in the mid-1980s.

Robert Zoubek (Zoubek) of Montgomery bought several polled females from Schultz and Compart. From these, he bred five polled sires that entered the program between 1956 and 1963. Starting in 1959, he used his own name as a prefix.

Gerald Wise of Nicollet worked with Walter Schultz from 1951 to 1957. He supplied six bulls to Schultz during that time. They were nearly all from Schultz-bred females. Wise did not have a specific prefix.

Strobel Brothers of Henderson provided nine bulls to Schultz. They were mostly sons of *Shur-Pol Rocket Maid Lad*. No prefix was used.

James D. Poll (Polls) of Granada may have worked for Tilney Farms at one time. Several animals were registered to Tilney Farms and James D. Poll. He also used the bull *Tilfa Carnation Ruby Inka* in the late 1940s and early 1950s. *Shur-Poll Supreme Rosy Lad* had two daughters registered by Poll in 1955.

Other Minnesota herds that participated in breeding polled Holsteins in the 1950s and 1960s were those of Alfred Anacker, Stan Fredin, Melvin Hahn, William Henschen and Sons, Ed Johnson, William Lacey, John Rohe, and Charles Sunderman. Most provided one or more sires for Schultz's endeavor.

Much of the information on Minnesota herds was made possible with the help of Ms. Pauline Bratt, Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Holstein Association for many years. Her assistance in locating herds and providing addresses and telephone numbers was of considerable benefit to this project.

I have likely missed some breeders, and I apologize for the omission of other registered herds that may have worked with Schultz during the period from 1948 to 1974.

Herds in nearby states

Ralph Bindl of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, supplied a number of bulls for Walter Schultz's program. Bindl bought several polled females and the bull *Shur-Poll Progressor* from Schultz in 1957. Progeny were born from late 1958 through 1962. Bindl's next bull was *Shur-Poll Ester Maiden Lad P*, who was followed by *Shur-Poll Count Rosy Lad*. Schultz placed fourteen sires, bred by Bindl, in service from 1960 to 1965.

O. E. Pritchard (Four-Pines) of Maple Park, Illinois, had animals with this prefix from 1922 to 1977, although the bulk of the polled activity was from 1949 to 1960. The first polled calf was born in 1949 and sired by *Tilfa Pietje B Mercedes*, who was used heavily in the herd for three years. Pritchard also used two polled bulls in the early 1950s from the Wieneke herd in Michigan. They were *Wienekes Kilroy* and *Wienekes Prince Charming*. Both were related to Wieneke's polled herdsire, *Carnation Field Marshall*. Pritchard's next major sire was *Paul Rocket P*, a *Carnation Field Marshall* son bred by Carl Rossman, who was the Weineke herdsman.

Gray View Burke Sandstone, *Polled Hallrose Iva Lad P*, and *Shur-Poll Progressor Belmont* were the last three polled sires used from 1955 to 1960. After that, the majority of the sires were horned bulls from the Curtiss stud. Pritchard cooperated closely with Walter Schultz, with sales back and forth between the two herds in the 1950s. Schultz bought several Pritchard cows for his own herd in 1967. The last Four Pines' bull used by a Schultz cooperator was *Four Pines Star King P*, born on January 13, 1967. He saw service in the herd of John and Delmar Schade of Bowman, North Dakota.

Oscar E. Koenig (Dominion) of Tampico, Illinois, had animals from 1952 to 1986, although none are confirmed as polled after 1974. The polled condition may have started when Koenig bought a Gardner-bred cow, *Gardner Inka Bess 2d*. Her calf, *Gardner Rag Apple Candy*, was polled and had a polled son, *Dominion Regal Cascader*, who was used in the Koenig herd. He sired a polled daughter, *Dominion Cascade Judy*, and she produced *Dominion Blossom Jean*. The "Jean" cow was polled and had two polled sons that were important to Schultz's program. Initially, Schultz bought a half-interest in her polled son, *Dominion Fond Jet* (a Fond Matt son), from Eldon DeWall in 1971. Schultz then bought her second polled son, *Dominion Inspiration Charm*. This bull, sired by the horned *Rocby Ivanhoe Dinah Charm*, was used in the Schultz

home herd from 1973 to 1977. This is another illustration of Walter Schultz outcrossing with the top sires of the day on his population of polled cattle.

Anton J. Pottebaum of Alton, Iowa, did not use a specific prefix. Information located on the Pottebaum herd runs from 1933 to 1958, but animals born before 1950 are not likely to be of polled stock. Early on, he used some Shur-Poll breeding and the bull, *Prince Belmont White Lad*, who was bred by Harry and Harold Wikert of Emmetsburg, Iowa. This bull was likely polled, as he sired a polled daughter in Pottebaum's herd and was himself sired by Wikerts' polled herdsire, *Tilfa DeKol Belmont Lad*. "White Lad" had two paternal sisters (both polled), whom Schultz bought from Wikerts for his own herd.

Elmer Becker (E. Becker) of Watkins, Iowa, used only one polled sire, supplied by Schultz. This bull was *Admiral Shur-Poll Supreme* and was in service in 1955 and 1956. He sired four polled bulls that were utilized by Schultz.

Harold J. Miller (Southshore) of Hazen, North Dakota, started using Schultz's polled sires in 1951. He used four Shur-Poll bulls and two from the Compart herd from that time until the early 1970s. He also used a Donnay-bred polled bull, *Sunkist Johanna Elf R Maple*, who sired daughters in 1973 and 1974. Miller started using the "Southshore" prefix in 1962. He supplied a bull and several females to Marvin Morlock of Eureka, South Dakota, when Morlock started to breed polled cattle in the 1980s. The last registered Miller-bred animal was born in 1989.

Lorry Madsen's (Swan Villa), Wheatland, North Dakota, is about 30 miles west of Fargo. In response to my question about his experiences with polled Holsteins, he said that in 1955 he was encouraged by Walter Schultz to start breeding polled Holsteins. He used a number of polled bulls supplied by Schultz from 1955 to 1976 when he dispersed the milking herd. Madsen had a second and final dispersal in 1980.

The first bull Madsen used was *Shur-Poll Supreme Marie Lad*. His first calf was born on August 18, 1956. A few months later, *Shur-Poll Progressor Peerless* was purchased; his calves began arriving in 1957. Two years later, *Four-Pines Ester Burke P* was used, followed by *Lillywhite Supreme Fayne*, who saw more service in Madsen's herd than any other polled sire. *Gray View Sky Satin* had calves dropped in 1963, and *Pride Pold Femco Boy* in 1964. In 1964 and 1965, a number of calves were born to popular AI bulls. Homebred bulls *Swan Villa Supreme Butter Boy* and *Swan Villa Comre Edward* were used until *St. Croixco De Kol Echo* arrived in 1970. The last two Schultz-bred bulls were *Shur-Poll Burke Echo Lad* and *Shur-Poll Trophy Rossette Lad* in 1970 to 1972. Matings to the early Burket-Falls bulls finished out the breeding to polled bulls in the mid-1970s.

Madsen kept good records and lent many of them to me. They were of considerable help in verifying the polled status of some animals. He sold a number of bulls to local dairymen. At his 1980 sale, Marvin Morlock of Eureka, South Dakota, bought several animals that helped establish a polled herd.

Delmar and John Schade (Dakota) of Bowman, North Dakota, bought a half interest in the bull *Shur-Poll Burke Echo Lad* in 1963. His first polled calf was born in October 1964. This sire was also used in the Donnay and Swan Villa herds. Schades also used the polled bulls, *Swan*

Villa Sky Emory, Four Pines Star King, and three other Shur-Poll sires. The last polled calf was born in May 1975. The Dakota prefix was found on at least a dozen bulls put in other herds by Schultz.

Marvin Morlock (Mar-Mor) of Eureka, South Dakota, lies about 25 miles east of Eureka. When I visited his herd in the fall of year 2000, he was milking about 40 cows, virtually all polled. His first bull and several polled cows came from Harold J. Miller of Hazen, North Dakota. As described earlier, Miller had used polled bulls provided by Walter Schultz since the early 1950s. Morlock also bought animals at Lorry Madsen's 1980 dispersal.

Morlock became interested in the polled trait after a bad experience with maggots among a group of dehorned heifers. The goal of his breeding program was to raise only polled females and breed them to young polled red and white bulls. Douglas Schultz supplied most of the bulls used by Morlock. Most of the herd was made up of animals that were red and white or were "red factor" carriers. Morlock sold his cows in early 2002. Some went to other breeders, but most went to a commercial herd.

It is intended that this account be as accurate and informative as possible. Anyone who has additional information or corrections to the text is encouraged to contact the author.

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