

Curly Horse History (/)

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Barn at Tonkin Springs NV. Former Damele Ranch.

Evan Hansen
RFD Box 15
Beryl, Utah 84714

Jan. 5, 1984

Dear Mrs. Martin

I've been corresponding with Orville Hope for the last few months. We both are members of the Epigraphic Society, and serious researchers into the true history of America. Orville included information about curly horses in his book, "6000 Years of Seafaring." I told him some bits of information I've picked up in my studies, and he asked that I pass these on to you.

During 1966-67, I worked at Arizona State University, training VISTA volunteers for work on Indian Reservations. Our staff was 60% Indians, and we visited most of the Reservations in the west. In this work, I became quite close to many of the Indian people, and when I came back to Utah, I made friends with some of the Navaho families who worked on nearby farms. One man in particular, named Calvin Sellers, used to come over frequently just to talk. We often sat up half the night in our discussions.

One night our conversation drifted to the degree of material culture that existed before English dominion over America. I told him of some of the things I had found during my VISTA work, including such things as both the Hohokam and Anasazi having such things as iron, cement, and writing. I found it astonishingly easy to find evidences of this level of culture. Virtually every ruin I visited had some evidence of a culture far higher than present "experts" (?) admit. As just one example, every ruin that had an associated museum, would have a picture supposedly showing the people in everyday activity. In all such paintings, the people are shown as naked savages, dirty, uncombed hair, etc. And yet, in every case, the very next display would include beautifully woven cloth that had been found in the ruins.

In the course of laughing at such obvious contradictions, the subject of horses came up. I asked if he knew of any traditions of horses before the ones brought by the Spanish. He said yes, his father told him that horses are known as far back as memory can carry. But they are a different breed than those the Spanish brought, and while they did interbreed with escaped horses of both the Spanish and English, losing their identity in the process, there were still a few of this old breed running wild in isolated places such as the Grand Canyon. I asked if he had personally seen these. No, he hadn't, but his father had seen them on numerous occasions. His description was identical to how Orville says the Bashkir look. He said they were much smaller than modern horses, but of almost miraculous strength and stamina. He said their hair was curly, and this carried over to a halfbreed colt. He said they could be tamed, especially if caught as a colt, but an adult was so wild that it wasn't worth the effort. As a result, they simply hunted them for meat, like any other wild animal, if they bothered with them at all. But even a kill for meat was more a matter of chance than deliberate hunting.

Unfortunately, most modern Indians have been educated in the schools, and as a result, all tradition has been lost. Calvin was fortunate in having a father who never went to school. All he knew was tradition. I encouraged Calvin to get as much of this old tradition as possible, but his father is dead now, and he no longer works nearby. So I'm afraid all this old knowledge is gone. I know a couple of younger Navaho men, but they know less of the old traditions than I do.

The Navaho language still has many Celtic words. Most experts, including the Hopi, agree the Navaho are recent arrivals from Mongolia, probably less than 1000 years ago. The most logical guess is that they are refugees from Genghis Kahn.

This being the case, they couldn't pick up Celtic words in Mongolia. They had to have picked up Celtic words by intermarriage with Celts who were already here. In Orville's book, he says these horses could have been brought either by the Celt-Norse explorers, or by Asians. Both groups had them. I have no clue about this aspect, so nothing is to be gained by trying to guess their source. All I know for sure is that Celts did reach Utah, and other researchers find Asian evidences, so either source is possible. The important thing is that they were known to be here long before 1492.

I also have a sister-in-law who works for the BLM. She said last summer, in the annual horse roundup, they caught one of this breed. She gave it this same description, and when I showed her the pictures in Orville's book, she agreed it was this breed. The wrangler called it a Spanish Barb, but he evidently didn't know the real name. She said it was only about half the size of the other horses but that it was so strong, and vicious, that it had all the other stallions over in the far corner. Whenever it approached other horses, they ran in fear. It was so wild that they feared no one would want it, but they had no choice other than to send it off for adoption along with the rest. She didn't know what became of it. So evidently, there are still a few of these out running wild. Amazing how 500 years of exposure to other breeds hasn't absorbed their identity. It may be that their disposition is so wild that other breeds avoid them. Or maybe they simply choose to breed only with their own kind.

That's about all I know about these horses, but perhaps you may be interested in what I recently discovered about Celts in Utah. I don't know how much you know of the Epigraphic Society, so briefly let me say it has been in research for almost a decade. Different members have found evidence of readable scripts on petroglyphs, all over America. Every nation with ships has put people here, and most left inscriptions to prove it. One of the largest groups of settlers was the Celts. They used a script known as Ogam, and their language was ancestral to Irish. It was recognition of Ogam writing in New England, that provoked Barry Fell into starting the Epigraphic Society. In brief, our goal is to reconstruct American history, by reading these inscriptions.

In 1980, shortly after I joined, I found a petroglyph in Snow Canyon State Park, just north of St. George, Utah. I sent photos to Barry Fell, and he confirmed it was Ogam, but apart from a couple of easy words, he declined to risk reading it. He said that he feared it was a copy made incorrectly, by some later illiterate tribe. He had been fooled by these in the past, and suggested I search for the original, rather than waste time on this. It had incorrect Ogam marks, plus a lot of marks that had no meaning whatever.

I had my own reasons for thinking this is the original, so since I had nothing to lose by making mistakes, I memorised the Ogam alphabet, gave English sounds to the marks, and by comparing it to word lists published from other sites, I tried my own reading. Very little progress was made until the spring of 1983, when I realised it actually was a map. The unreadable marks are map symbols, and the "incorrect" Ogam is actually a deliberate code, intended to hide the meaning from strangers. The reason for the code is because it's a map to several mines! No need for details here, but let me say that once I had their mapping code worked out, we tried searching for the first mine. My brother and I walked right to it on the first try, as easily as if we had used a modern map.

It turned out to be a natural cave, formed by water erupting under a lava flow. I think they mined gems here. The stone I found is a fragment broken from a larger stone, making it impossible to identify by crystal structure. It still is big enough to check for hardness, which is equal to topaz. I assume it's a beryl, because gem beryls have been found in this vicinity. The stone is clear as glass, so would have no value to us as a gem, but to the Celts, all clear stones had a religious use. In Orville's book, page 139, it shows a slate that has the

Ogam alphabet carved on it. This carries Arabic translation. So both Celts and Arabs reached South Africa. Credo Mutwa had an article published in the last Epigraphic Society publication, in which he said they mined not only diamonds, but other clear stones. These were called "sunstones" and had some religious use. Even quartz is a sunstone. So if they went all the way to South Africa for sunstones, certainly they would mine any they found in Utah, or elsewhere.

A few months later, a friend wanted to see it. We took in a machete to cut away the brush, so we could get better photos. With the brush gone, we could see a line of boulders had been laid across the stream bed to form a dam. This had raised the bed by about 5 feet, putting water into the cave. It was obvious that they had made this dam intentionally, in order to fill the mouth of the cave with flood debris. This would be a very effective way to block access to intruders. Although we can't enter, a narrow gap is still open, and cold air blows out. This is proof a huge cavern lies in back of the blockage, and that it's large enough to respond to changes in air pressure. This would be ideal geology for gem stone to form.

Further study of the petroglyph finally located their word for gold. This had been deliberately coded by placing the R inside the OI diphthong, then adding map symbols to form a rebus shaped roughly like a man. The Celtic word for gold is OR, which is the root for Spanish ORO, as well as English ORE. Once I recognised this rebus included Ogam marks, it was easy to guess the meaning. I already had their mapping code cracked, but it still took several more weeks to work out the location of the gold mine, and locate modern maps of the right area to confirm the reading. By then, the winter weather had blocked all travel off the highways. So I used the winter to identify the location as close as possible.

It was March before we decided to risk looking for it, but surprisingly, this was even easier to find than the first one. It turned out to be only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from a freeway, and a dirt road goes within yards of it. We found this one without even leaving the car. Exactly at the location marked on the petroglyph, there is a huge pit cut from solid rock. It has no natural cause, which means men had to dig it. Wind erosion has cut cavities over 5 feet deep, which means it has been millenia since this was abandoned, rather than only centuries. If this was dug before explosives were known, it had to be just pounded out by simple hand tools. The Spanish had gunpowder, and they couldn't be here even 500 years ago. Older peoples had no explosives of any kind. So this had to be dug by stone hammers, or at best, simply picks of bronze or iron. For men to do such brutal work, they had to be getting something to justify it. The only thing in rock that would justify so much work is gold or silver. The petroglyph says gold, and this pit is located exactly where marked, so if not a gold mine, then what did make it?

This pit is 35 feet wide, and 40 feet long. It has a 5 foot lip in front, and the back is about 15 feet high. A slab has fallen from the NE edge, and fills half the pit. A similar slab lies buried under dirt washed from the hill above. These fell when wind erosion undercut their support. This, combined with erosion of the petroglyph, leads me to date this at a minimum of 2,000 years, but it may be twice that age. Part of the petroglyph may be Tifinag, the script used by the Norse in the Bronze Age. Unfortunately, that part is too badly eroded to even be sure the script is Tifinag, let alone try to read it. But if it is, this indicates some sort of peaceful alliance of Celts with Norse. If I'm reading correctly, there are 5 more mines I haven't found yet. These are marked clear enough that I think the odds of finding them are good. One may already be found by others. At the spot of one mine symbol, my aerial photo shows a road zigzagging up a steep slope. Normally, only a modern mine will use such a road. Three more are so well marked, I think about 50/50 odds of finding them. The 5th mine can't be located closer than 5 miles, and as rough as that country is, it may as well be 50 miles.

There is only one licensed archeologist in this end of the state, and he made it clear he refuses to get involved in anything outside conventional belief. I guess when "everyone knows" that Columbus was the first European to reach America, it must take great courage for a professional to risk his paycheck by involvement with something that says otherwise.

I realised that the full burden of proof was on me. I had to find some kind of tangible evidence before archeologists will get involved. So I decided to open this pit myself. From surface indications, the old shaft must dip down at about a 45° angle. Anything that steep would have any artifacts at the bottom, simply by action of gravity. The only possible material at upper levels will be rubble from the collapsed roof. I figured that long before I reached anything significant, I would uncover evidence of an excavation. Marks of human digging should be persuasive enough to get professionals to take over the final levels.

So we filed a mining claim on the site. The papers were returned, and things seemed to be in order, but before more than preliminary work could be done, the BLM informed us the claim is revoked because it's located in a proposed recreation area. I appealed on grounds that this would enhance any recreation value, rather than diminish it. It has always been my intention to turn this over to the public as a historical site, if it does prove to be a mine. I'd mine the gold only if a second access shaft could be made, at a great enough distance to leave the old workings intact. If I can't mine the gold, no problem. I can easily get back my investment by selling magazine articles about my study. EVERYONE dreams about finding a lost gold mine. If I actually have done it, and this revises our history, you can see how easy it would be to get paid for writing the story.

The BLM stalled all summer, but finally ruled the revocation was proper. They also ruled that the Antiquities Act would protect this, as well as any future sites I may find, even if located on land otherwise open to mining. These other 5 mines are on open land. So why search for them, if I'm blocked from proving them to be mines, if I do find them? The ruling said my only recourse is to apply for an excavation permit, under 43 CFR. When I got a copy of this law, it said, as I feared, that excavation is limited to licensed archeologists.

So here I am back where I started. The classical "catch 22" situation of two opposing requirements, and neither is possible until the other is met first. I can't get professionals to investigate until I find tangible proof my theory is correct. And the only possible proof lies at the bottom of that pit, with no one but professionals allowed to open it. This sure is frustrating to be so near to a major historical discovery, only to be blocked by bureaucratic inertia!

But I'm not licked yet. I'm writing letters to everyone who may help. The National Geographic agreed to examine my evidence and pass it around to those who may be open minded enough to get involved. I may find others if I keep trying. If all else fails, I have a sneaky, but legal, way around the Antiquities Act, but I'm saving this as a last resort.

I guess as soon as winter weather breaks, I better go out searching for those other mines. Even if I find just one more collapsed shaft, it may be enough to prove my theory is correct. And who knows? One may still be open!

Even without this, I already have over 50 marks of the petroglyph correlated to actual topography. This still falls short of proof, but at least it pushes the evidence far beyond mere coincidence! If anyone is interested in more of the details, I can send a detailed report, including photos of the petroglyph, and both aerial photos, and maps, to show how I'm reading it. This alone is forming a very persuasive body of evidence. I'm not quitting!

Evan Hansen

Dear Sunny,

Mar 3, 1987

Dr. Cyclone Covey of Wake Forest University wrote the inclosed article on Chinese seafaring which he took from ancient Chinese documents. I thought you would be interested, especially where it is recorded that Hwui Shan brought horses to America in 458 A.D.

Best regards

Orville

I may have already sent you a copy, but two will do you no harm.

O. L. H.

July 16, 1973

The ABC Registry
Box 453
Ely Nevada 89301

Gentlemen :

Thank you very much for the last letter regarding the curly-coated horses, but I would like to add or ask some more things. I have written to the Nat. Mustang Assoc., which is located at Newcastle Utah, and the person who wrote to me told me that he had discovered that there are, in many Indian tribes, a tradition of horses that extends long beyond the arrival of the Spanish. In others the horses were introduced without question from the Spanish. He also said that in many instances the mustangs are horses that can-

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not be duplicated from now existing domestic stock, which adds fuel to the idea that the horses were "originals" and indeed not introduced.

It is definitely known however that there were horses in both North and South America in prehistoric times, and that it is generally believed that native American horses became extinct something like 8000-10000 years ago. In a book called Points of the Horse, there is mention of a curly-coated horse or pony in South America with a coat like that of a retriever. This breed is now nearly extinct and its origin appears to be unknown. Also I think it is an old breed. It ~~is~~ ^{sounds} similar to the breed out West.

Also, in a book called Wildlife Crisis, on page 202

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to be exact, there is only the brief or casual mention of a horse find dated around 1135 A.D. in Hemlock Park Ontario, Canada. Unless this was a Norse or Viking horse or unless this find was somehow misdated, why should this be the only horse find - if this was really the only horse find - in something like a 7,000-year period? Even if that find were to represent the last native American horse, they had to exist in some numbers to have a last survivor die some thousands of years later.

Could I have a photograph or two of one of these horses or if not, why not? The reason for the last part of this question is that it sounded as though you were not allowed to include pictures rather than that

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you didn't have any.

Please let me ask about a couple of more questions before I close. One is, if the Mongols did bring these horses to America, how come their descendants weren't still using them when the white man came? Is it possible that there could really have been horses here, if the early Spanish explorers such as Coronado and Oñate, in covering territory extending from central Mexico up through Arizona as far as the Grand Canyon and eastward through New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle and then on up as far as central Kansas, did not find 'either hide nor hair' of a single horse? One more question, do you believe that these curly-coated horses could possibly be merely mutations, or generic aberrations, of Spanish horses?

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I would deeply appreciate
hearing from you both in
answering my questions and
in giving comments on the
little bits of information -
and I hope to hear from
you again soon.

Sincerely yours,
Holland Hague
Chesterfield CT, Va.
23832

June 4, 1973

Dear Mr. DAMELE,

I have heard from a book called The Mysterious West that you are breeding a peculiar type of horse with a curly coat or with a fur coat like that of a buffalo. What I would like to know is do you have a few pictures or photographs to spare of one or some of these particular horses? I would deeply appreciate it if you could, and also I would like to ask a few questions about these horses.

How are these horses different from the other horses which grow a winter coat of hair? Do you believe that these curly-coated horses might originally be native to this continent, instead of being descended from imported domestic stock? How does one

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account for the early Spaniards' not seeing or reporting them, such as Coronado and Oñate who travelled up through Mexico, up into Arizona and reaching the Grand Canyon, then east through New Mexico and on through parts of Texas and Oklahoma and then up into central Kansas? Would you, by any chance, have an idea of the range and numbers of these horses both from the standpoint of today and the time of the early Spanish conquistadores?

I certainly don't mean to trouble you, but it is just that I would like to learn some more about the possibility of native American horses and, if there were any, I believe that we Americans should know about that fact.

I would be very grateful to hear word from you, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours

Holland Hague
Chesterfield CH, Va. 23832

P.S. One more question on the back.



How come these peculiar curly-coated horses haven't received more widespread fame or notice? Also, most books even today keep saying that native horses were extinct and that it was the Spaniards who reintroduced them in historic times.

Hagler