

# In the Winner's Circle



BY CATHY MOSER



Image: Jacob Lowney

“Winners’ Circle” is funded through a Humanities Montana research grant

# Montana's Earliest Thoroughbreds: Billy Bay and Regent



- Billy Bay, a Kentucky-bred stallion, is one of the first to appear in the written record, brought to Montana Territory pre-1864 by the Blackfoot Indians. In inter-tribal races, money, furs and other valuables were commonly staked on the horse acquired near Salt Lake City
- Regent, another stallion, probably Ohio-bred, arrived in Deer Lodge in the late 1860s. He was imported by frontiersman John Bielenberg of Grant-Kohrs Ranch fame
- Frontiersmen called Thoroughbreds “blooded horses”

# Standardbreds: Belmont Stock Farm



*Belmont Stock Farm*



# Horserace at Lewistown, Montana



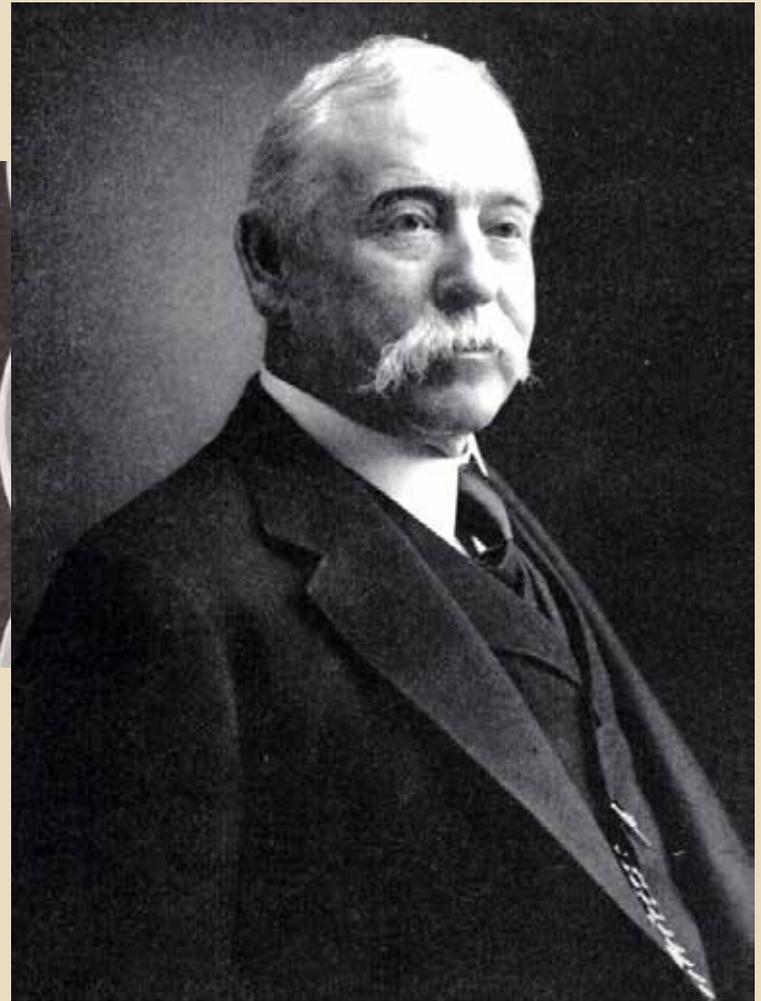
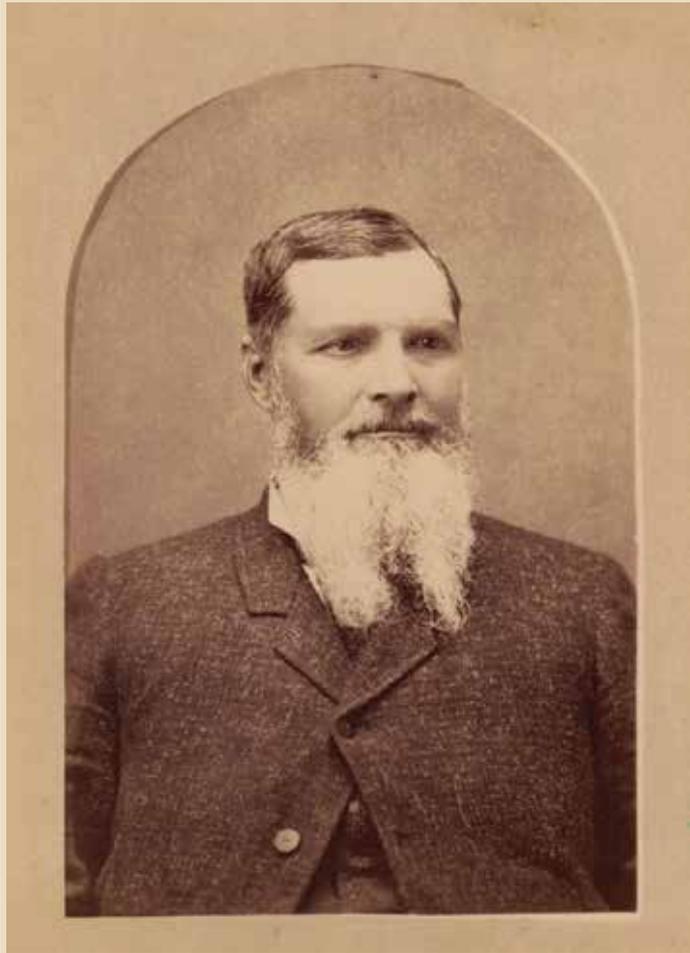
# Anaconda Racetrack



- Nineteenth century horseracing journalists, or turf writers, referred to racehorses as “flyers”



# Montana's most prominent breeders: Noah Armstrong, Samuel Larabie, Marcus Daly



Jacoby Lowney; W.K. Kohrs Memorial Library, Deer Lodge, MT; Daly Mansion

# Silver-Mining Magnate Noah Armstrong



- Arrived in Idaho Territory in 1863 via Ontario, Canada, Wisconsin, and Minnesota
- Founded the Helca Consolidated Mining Company in 1875
- Constructed a racetrack in Glendale, his company town

# Doncaster Round Barn - 1889



- Doncaster Ranch in the Jefferson Valley spread across four-thousand acres
- The three-story circular barn housed a 20-foot wide circular track for exercising and training the horses

# Doncaster Barn - Today



# Spokane: Triple Crown Winner of the Era



- Illinois-bred, foaled in the Doncaster Barn in 1886
- In the language of the Spokane Indian tribe, Spokane means “Children of the Sun”
- Early racehorse training from cowboys

# Kentucky Derby – May 9, 1889



- Jockeyed by Thomas Kiley



- **Spokane:** Painted by Henry Stull, one of the premier nineteenth-century painters of Thoroughbred racehorses in America.

# Triple Crown of the Era



- Only Montana Horse to win Kentucky Derby
- 1889 – Won the Clark Stakes
- 1889 – Won the American Derby
- Ascended to folk hero status



*Spokane winning the American Derby. Front page news in the Chicago Sunday Tribune, June 23, 1889*

# Noah Armstrong & Spokane: Final Years



## Noah Armstrong

- Noah retired Spokane at the end of the 1890 racing season, a decision that coincided with the end of his own eastern horseracing accomplishments
- Sold Doncaster Ranch in 1900 and moved to Seattle
- Died April 21, 1907, at the age of 84

## Spokane

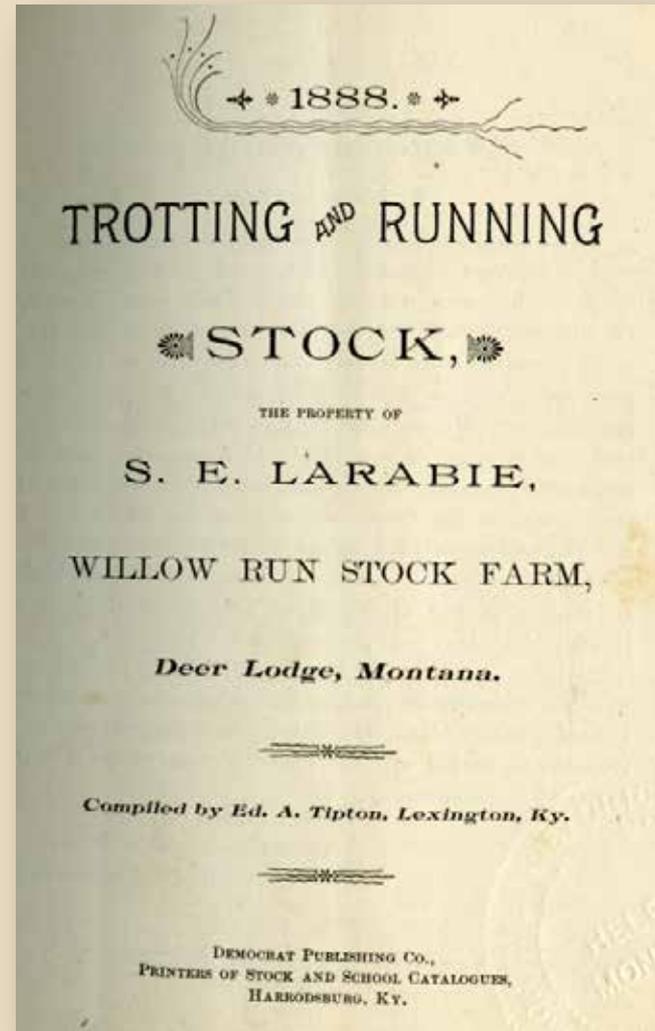
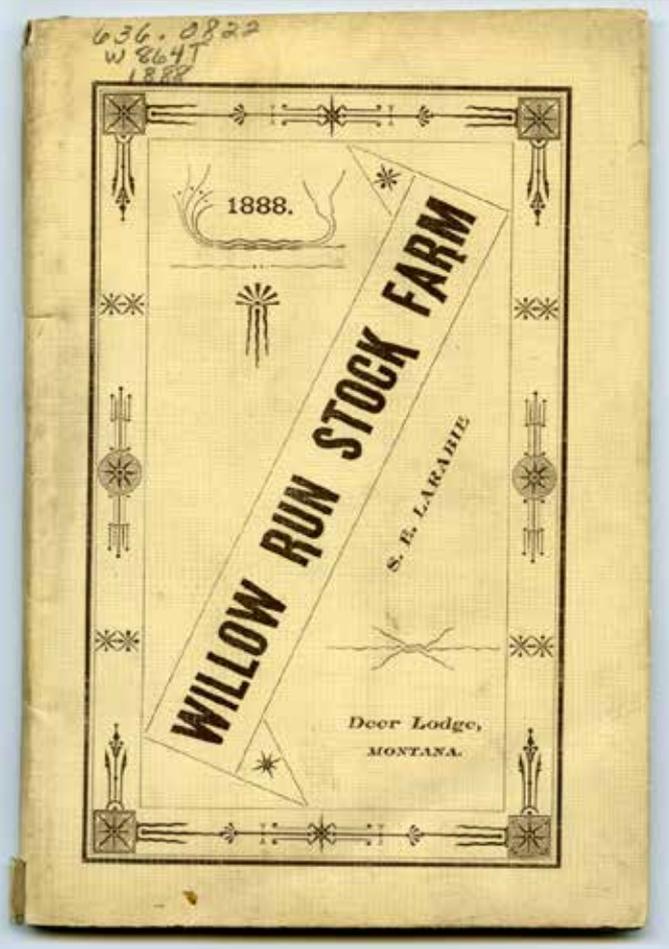
- Mysterious Circumstances
  - He died in 1891 shortly after returning to Doncaster
  - He injured himself in 1897 en route to Doncaster from Kentucky and was destroyed near Miles City
  - He lived out his years on an Ennis ranch until the ripe age of 30
- 2008 Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center Inductee

# Banker Samuel E. Larabie



- Arrived in Virginia City, Montana, in July, 1864 via Portville, New York, and Wisconsin
- Dabbled in mining, Became a grocer
- Made his fortune as a banker in Deer Lodge and Butte

# Willow Run Stock Farm



# Montana Regent, High Tariff, Poet Scout, Kinley Mack bred at Willow Run



- Montana Regent, son of Regent, first horse to bring fame to Willow Run Stock Farm and the Eastin & Larabie Stable. Won the Hindoo Stakes (1886), Falsetto Stakes (1886), Springbok Stakes (1886) and Louisville Cup (1887)
- Poet Scout was named for a Seventh Cavalry Indian scout who was reputedly “a very fine poet.” Won the Maiden Stakes (1891), Hickory Stakes (1891), Sheridan Stakes (1891), Hackensack Handicap (1891), Shrewsbury Handicap (1892), Freehold Stakes (1892) and Queen City Handicap (1893)
- Kinley Mack was named for the slain president, William McKinley. The colt won Grand Union Hotel Stakes (1898), U.S. Hotel Stakes (1899), Suburban Handicap (1900) and Brooklyn Handicap (1900)

# Ben Holladay: The Juggernaut

## *Era of the Iron Horse*



- Bred and trained at Willow Run
- Named for the flamboyant stagecoach king Ben Holladay
- Won the prestigious Municipal Handicap in 1897, 1898, and 1899. In 1899, he won the race lugging a 130 pound handicap and conceded as much as 43 pounds to his rivals

# The End of a Partnership

- Eastin & Larabie get out of the national racing game in 1901 – sold to James Ben Ali Haggin



- Samuel died on April 21, 1914 at age 68 while working at Larabie Brothers Bank

SALE OF KINLEY MACK - Famous Race Horse Purchased by Millionaire J. B. Haggin - View Article - NYTimes.com 3/24/12 11:45 AM

*March 21, 1901*

## SALE OF KINLEY MACK

Famous Race Horse Purchased by  
Millionaire J. B. Haggin.

ALL OF STABLE IN THE DEAL

Price Said to be \$150,000 for All of  
Eastin & Larabie's Breeding and  
Racing Stock.

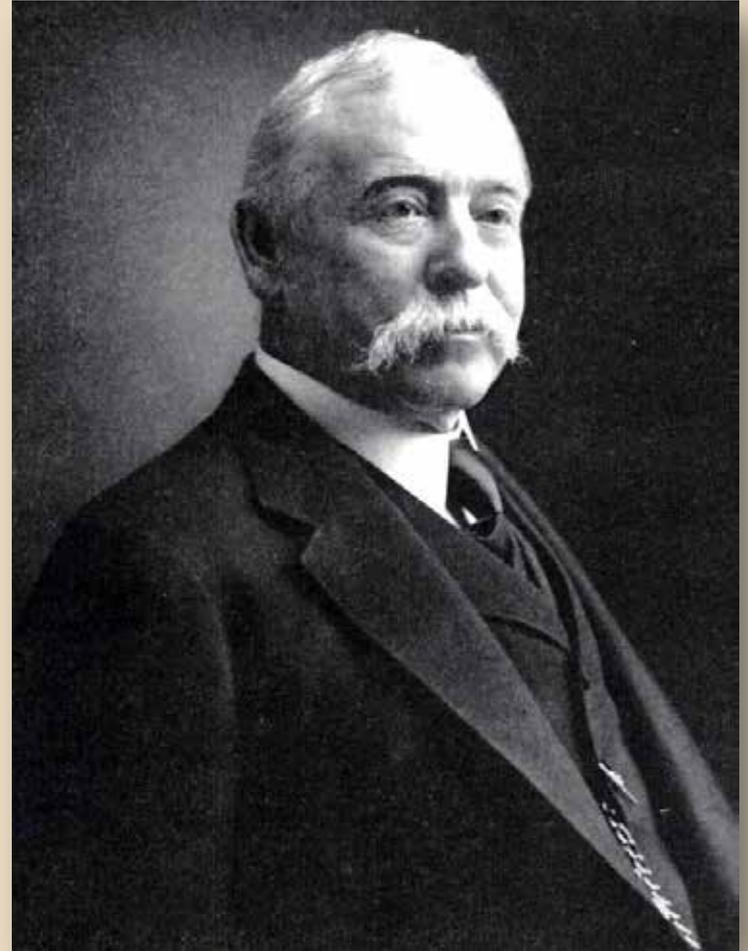
The formal transfer of the ownership of the famous race horse Kinley Mack, top weight for all the great Spring handicaps, from the well-known racing firm Eastin & Larabie, to the ownership of J. B. Haggin, the millionaire turfman and breeder of Kentucky and California, was filed yesterday with the Secretary of the Jockey Club and with the Secretaries of the several

http://query.nytimes.com/meta/archive-free/pdf?res=F00612FC38591872800A8099408405818CF3D3 Page 1 of 1

# Copper King Marcus Daly



- Arrived in New York from County Cavan, Ireland in 1856 at age 15
- Tried his luck in the California gold fields. Went on to Silver Mining Region, Virginia City, Nevada, and then Butte, Montana
- Purchased the Anaconda Mine in 1876
- Constructed a racetrack in Hamilton, his company town
- President of the Montana Jockey Club



# Bitter Root Stock Farm Horse Hospital



- Bitter Root Stock Farm grew to 26,000 acres
- Employed more than 500 people
- Marcus spent more than \$1 million on Thoroughbred and Standardbred blooded stock

# Tammany, Daly's Favorite



- Tennessee-bred, gorgeous, “disarmingly affectionate”
- Likely named in memory of the years Daly labored on the NYC docks
- Won the Great Eclipse Stakes(1891), Criterion Stakes (1891), Withers Stakes (1892), Lorillard Stakes (1892), Jerome Stakes (1892), Lawrence Realization Stakes (1892)
- Voted Horse of the Year in 1892
- Rewarded with a castle

# The Great \$10,000 Match Race Against Lamplighter by Artist Henry Stull



# Tammany Castle



# Montana: Triumph of a Dark Horse

- California-bred, had a peculiar stride, described as “ugly”
- Bit and kicked his handlers, stomped rats to death, picked fights with his stable mates
- Won the prestigious 1892 Suburban Handicap at 40 to 1
- Won the Comparative Stakes (1892) and Labor Day Stakes (1892)



SUBURBAN DAY - MARCUS DALY'S GREAT FOUR-YEAR OLD MONTANA, WINNER OF THE SUBURBAN HANDICAP.

# Scottish Chieftain

## Marcus's Belmont Stakes Winner

**Description** *Scottish Chieftain*  
*Bay w Brown Coll, Foaled Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 1894*  
*Stains Star.*

**Bred. by**




*Scottish Chieftain*

*Inverness (Imp)*

*Cymbal*

*Bees of Scotland*

*Larchin (Imp)*

*Miss Larchin*

*Miss Clay*

*Stette Brown*

*Kelly Hill*

*Blair Archel*

*Theresa*

*The Peer (Imp)*

*Lurline*

*Hindoo*

*Palmer, Punymed*

- Bred and born at Bitter Root Stock Farm
- Won the Spring Stakes (1896), June Stakes (1896), Kenner Stakes (1897)
- Montana's only winner of the Belmont Stakes (1897)
- 2015 Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee

# Marcus Daly, Montana's Famous Turf Man

- Died November 12, 1900 in New York City at age 56
- In 1901, Bitter Root stock sold at a series of auctions in San Francisco and Madison Square Garden, grossing more than \$700,000, the richest horseracing stock sale in America at the time
- James Ben Ali Haggin was the principal buyer

NYT 1/3/01  
**WHITNEY BUYS HAMBURG**

Millionaire Turfman Paid \$60,000  
for Famous Race Horse.

**J. B. HAGGIN HIS OPPONENT**

A Crowd of 7,000 People in Attendance  
at Marcus Daly Estate Sale in  
Madison Square Garden.

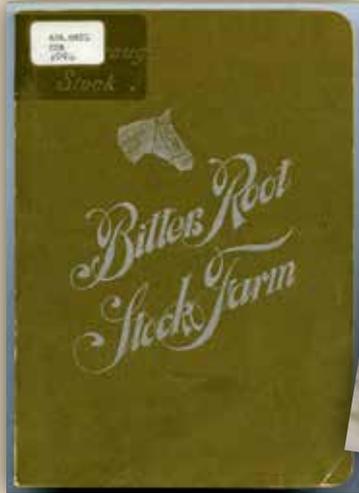
With two Commissioners bidding for him, William C. Whitney, millionaire turfman, kept his only competitor for the ownership of the famous race horse and young stallion, Hamburg, between two fires, and by sharp bidding secured the horse for the remarkable price of \$60,000, to the discomfiture of his opponent, the millionaire breeder of California and Kentucky, J. B. Haggin. Fully 7,000 persons crowded into Madison Square Garden to witness the sale, which was the dispersal of the late Marcus Daly's celebrated nursery of thoroughbred horses, the Bitter Root Stud, Hamilton, Mon., and the most important offering of race horses that has taken place in the United States in the past ten years. The Fasig-Tipton Company, in charge of the sale, anticipated a great crowd and made preparations for it, but there was none too much room at that. It was almost impossible to move about anywhere near the ring, which was placed back near the Madison Avenue end of the Garden, while the seats from the boxes to the gallery just under the roof were filled. The attendance was the most singular that has ever attended a horse sale in New York, and would have done credit to the horse show on a fashionable night. Aside from the men in evening clothes and the handsomely dressed

Isis, by Bend Or; G. E. S  
York.....  
The Pepper, 12 years, br. h.  
Vega, by Wat Dance; S  
Brannon, Ky.....  
BROOD MARE  
Angelure, 4 years, bay m., by  
Twincuse, by Dutch Skater;  
mel, England.....  
Annat Lyte, 5 years, b. m.,  
dine-Little Lady II., by P  
Boden, New York.....  
Acetabulum, 11 years, br. m.,  
Perdition, by Controvers;  
Fischof of France.....  
Ash Leaf, 5 years, ch. m., by  
Ayrshire Rose, by Ayrshi  
Thomas.....  
Ave Marie, 8 years, ch. m.,  
Aurelia, by Algerine; J. B.  
Ayrshire Rose, 9 years, ch. m.,  
shire-Rose of Lancaster, by  
Eugene Fischof.....  
Hahbec II., 11 years, br. m.,  
Equipose, by Enquirer; Wis  
Benuatcher, 10 years, ch.  
Auricoma, by King Ernest;  
cun.....  
Beauty, 13 years, ch. m., by  
Bella, by Fiddlesticks; J. B.  
Bellinda, 14 years, b. m., by  
Bellona, by The Ill-Used; J.  
Belle of Burte, 11 years, b. m.,  
red-La Favorita, by Glen  
Thomas.....  
Benefactress, 9 years, br. m.,  
digo-Flora, by Buccaneer; C  
Morrisburg, Canada.....  
Berriedale, 7 years, b. m.,  
Calthness, by Bend Or; J. B.  
Bettle Blaise, 11 years, blk.  
Blaise-Bette M., (Carrie D  
terer; M. Murphy.....  
Black Cap, 6 years, b. m., by  
ton-Ortole, by Bend Or; Eug  
Boise, 7 years, b. m., by Har  
more, by Doncaster; J. B.  
British Blue Blood, 11 years,  
Bendigo-Pleasance, by Cr  
illy foal by The Pepper; J  
den, Kentucky.....  
Butterfly, 5 years, br. m.,  
Mariposa, by Monarchist; A  
Buttermere, 17 years, b. m.,  
Thorwater, by Thormanby; J  
Caledonia, 11 years, br. m.,  
ter-Pandango, by Wild Out  
Lelgh, England.....  
Candor II., 9 years, br. m.,  
Miss Clay, by Hindoo; J. B.  
Cherry Wild, 3 years, b. m.,  
ise, by Moccasin; Edward  
Cassopla, 7 years, ch. m., by  
sun-Starlight, by Iroquois;  
gill.....  
Castalia, 13 years, ch. m.,  
Castagnette, by Marsyas;  
Whitney.....  
Close the Door, 14 years, b.  
dum-Draughtly, by Exmih  
Scotland, Parkersburg, W

# In the Winner's Circle



- Armstrong, Larabie and Daly
- The three frontiersmen made a measurable and lasting imprint on Montana and American Thoroughbred horseracing from 1889 to 1900



# THANK YOU!



Image: Jacob Lowney

“Winners’ Circle” research is funded through a Humanities Montana research grant