

Appreciating Our Holstein Past

Revisiting Stories from the Holstein Journal

Mount Victoria Farms

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There have been many great Holstein herds in Canada who have had a major impact on the breed. As part of a millennium series, the *Holstein Journal* recognized the legendary Mount Victoria Farms in Quebec as one of the most influential "Breeders of the Century" in a December 1999 article. Here is what they wrote:



Mount Victoria Farms

In 1924, two months before turning 65 years of age, Thomas B. Macaulay bought his first purebred Holstein. When he died 18 years later in 1942, he had developed a herd whose prefix today can be found in the pedigree of almost every purebred Holstein around the world. That prefix is MONTVIC, which belonged to Macaulay's well-known Mount Victoria Farms at Hudson Heights, QC.

T.B. Macaulay, a philanthropist and man of varied interests, was president of Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. Around the turn of the century, he purchased the land which would become Mount Victoria Farms, a few miles outside of Montreal. A student of the principles of heredity in both the plant and animal kingdom, he was convinced that by intensive linebreeding and inbreeding from the proper foundation that he could develop a family of 4% butterfat testing Holsteins who would carry exceptional udders and rank among the best at the shows. Assisting him in this endeavour was J.E. Chandler, the first Mount Victoria herd manager, and Mort Butchers, the respected cowman, fitter and showman, who was herdsman from 1926-37 and then herd manager.

No expense was spared by Macaulay as he mapped out the course for his herd's breeding program. In 1928 he paid \$11,100 in the National Ormsby Sale to acquire TRIUNE PAPOOSE PIEBE, the 6X All-American, for the express purpose of producing a herd sire for the farm. Other foundation animals purchased during those early years included OAKHURST COLANTHA ABBEKERK, LADY MEG POSCH, BONHEUR ABBEKERK POSCH 2ND, INGLESIDE PIETJE POSCH and DIXIE COLANTHA HARTOG, all of whom were rich in Posch-Abbeckerk bloodlines.

In 1926, a 5-year-old bull with an exceptional pedigree and impressive list of show winnings in the United States was identified as the sire who would be the cornerstone of the Montvic herd. His name was JOHANNA RAG APPLE PABST (JRAP or "Old Joe"). Macaulay sent J.E. Chandler to the 1926 Clark Holstein Classic in Wisconsin where he purchased JRAP for a record price of \$15,000 from Joseph Piek of Wisconsin. It was an investment that was to pay big dividends as JRAP and his sons, grandsons and great-grandsons were carefully linebred and inbred for the next 16 years with great success to the good Mount Victoria females to produce what became known as the Montvic Rag Apple bloodlines.

Macaulay lived to see his dream become a reality. Although not every member of the herd tested 4% every year, the entire list of JRAP tested daughters at one time averaged above 4%, and the same was true of his son MONTVIC CHIEFTAIN (out of TRIUNE PAPOOSE PIEBE), and of Chieftain's son, MONTVIC PATHFINDER, who sired the 1941 All-American Get which included the "Glamour Cow" of the 1940s, MONTVIC BONHEUR PIETJE B, who was All-American 4-Year-Old in 1941. Macaulay saw JRAP win at the top shows and also watched as JRAP's daughters and succeeding generations went on to claim some of the highest awards in the showing with their uniformly beautiful udders that could really turn out the milk and butterfat.

While the Mount Victoria herd was small in size, it amassed an astounding number of show winnings. They had an All-American milking age female every year save one from 1927-36. They exhibited 10 Grand Champions at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, the most of any exhibitor, with JRAP and MONTVIC RAG APPLE BONHEUR



Thomas B. Macaulay, president of Sun Life Assurance Company, founded and developed the great Mount Victoria Farms herd at Hudson Heights, QC, from 1924-42.



JOHANNA RAG APPLE PABST was purchased by Mount Victoria Farms in 1926 and became the cornerstone of their breeding program. This 5X All-American and 3X Royal Winter Fair Grand Champion bull is considered to be the foundation of the breed's Rag Apple bloodline.



MONTVIC BONHEUR PIETJE B, All-American 4-Year-Old and a member of the All-American Get by MONTVIC PATHFINDER in 1941, she brought the top bid of \$6500 in the 1942 Mount Victoria Dispersal, an event that drew over 2000 people despite gas rationing and tire shortages.

taking champion honours 3X each, and TRIUNE PAPOOSE PIEBE and OAKHURST COLANTHA ABBEKERK winning the top prize 2X. Many Canadian and World leading production records were made here as well by cows such as MONTVIC BONHEUR HARTOG and MONTVIC RAG APPLE COLANTHA ABBEKERK.

T.B. Macaulay died at 81 years of age in April 1942. With his passing the decision was made to sell the herd. World War II had already broken out, but despite gas rationing and tire shortages, breeders made every effort to be there. The sale on June 29, 1942, set a new all-time high average for dispersals in North America with an average of \$1925.74 paid on 68 head for a total of \$130,950. Cattle sold to 39 buyers in three Canadian provinces and nine American states. The top was only \$6500 for MONTVIC BONHEUR PIETJE B, but prices remained strong throughout as breeders clamoured to own a piece of Rag Apple blood. Once in their new homes, the Montvic cattle continued to make further achievements in production, the showing, sale arena and as solid breeding individuals and families.

A man of great warmth, ability and foresight, Macaulay was awarded posthumously with a Master Breeder Shield in 1943 by the Holstein Association. He was also inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. In 1995, a monument to T.B. Macaulay was unveiled near the site of Mount Victoria Farms as a permanent tribute to the contributions this man and his famous Montvic herd made to the breed.

Montvic Influence Continues

While many predicted in 1942 that Mount Victoria's influence on the breed would be apparent for many years to come, few could have imagined how deeply ingrained that imprint would become. Excerpts from the *Holstein Journal's* "Century of Achievement" in 1984 reveals the further story and success of JRAP and those early Rag Apple bulls.

JOHANNA RAG APPLE PABST VG-EXTRA, sired by PABST KORNDYKE STAR and from PRINCESS JOHANNA RAG APPLE PONTIAC, was born in January 1921. Bred by Philip Linker, Hartford, WI, he was sold at eight months of age to neighbour Joseph Piek. As a show bull nobody could beat JRAP, but nobody liked him, for he was too round and "too thick in the pants." He was All-American as a 2, 3 and Aged Bull in 1923-24-25, and after coming to Mount Victoria earned his fourth All-American designation in 1926 and then was Reserve All-American in 1928-29. JRAP brought improvements to type, particularly udders, and production with high test to Mount Victoria. His blood was concentrated in the herd to great success by careful and close linebreeding and inbreeding. He sired the All-American Gets in 1935-36 for Macaulay and twice had the Reserve All-American Gets. Among the more notable JRAP daughters were MONTVIC RAG APPLE COLANTHA, his highest producing daughter with a former World 3X fat record of 1263 lbs. and a member of his All-American Gets; MONTVIC RAG APPLE BONHEUR, a 4X All-American, and her full sister, MONTVIC RAG APPLE BONHEUR ABBEKERK with 1047 lbs. fat; while his sons included MONTVIC CHIEFTAIN, GENERAL POSCH, MONTVIC POSCH RAG APPLE and MONTVIC RAG APPLE PAUL. JRAP was put to sleep in 1933 at 12 years old after breaking his leg near the stifle. At the Mount Victoria Dispersal all but two animals were homebred descendants of JRAP. In 1958, when Macaulay was inducted as a Pioneer into the Dairy Shrine Club, it was said that over 90% of present day Canadian Holsteins were descendants of JRAP breeding.

Perhaps the most significant animal to sell through the Mount Victoria Dispersal was 2-month-old MONTVIC RAG APPLE SOVEREIGN EX-ST, who was purchased for \$4075 by Tom Dent & Clark Brown, Woodstock, ON. A son of MONTVIC RAG APPLE COLANTHA ABBEKERK, he was sired by EMPEROR OF MOUNT VICTORIA. Sovereign became one of the first bulls widely used through A.I. and as a result had an enormous impact on the breed. At one time he was the sire of the most registered offspring in the Canadian herdbook. Sovereign was kept at Tom Dent's Springbank Farm for much of his career and under the care of Springbank herdsman Bob Howden who trained and showed this massive bull with just himself on the leadstrap. Sovereign was All-Canadian 2 and 3-Year-Old in 1944-45 and Reserve All-Canadian Aged Bull in 1946-47 to his maternal brother Marksman. He and Marksman formed the All-Canadian Produce of Dam from 1944-47. Sovereign, who died in 1949, sired such sons as A.B.C. REFLECTION SOVEREIGN, SONNIWILK SOVEREIGN, ROWSDALE RAG APPLE SOVEREIGN, BARALEE PABST RAG APPLE SOVERIGN and SPRING FARM SOVEREIGN SUPREME.

Sovereign's older maternal brother, MONTVIC RAG APPLE MARKSMAN EX-EXTRA, was born in January 1940 and sired by RAYMONDALE IDEAL SUCCESSOR. He was consigned at four months old to the 1940 National Sale where he brought the top bid of \$1325 from C.J. Cerswell of Bond Haven Farms, Beeton, ON, and J.J.E. McCague of Glenafton Farms, Alliston, ON, a purchase that propelled these farms to national and international fame. Marksman won more All-Canadian awards than any other bull in the history of the contest. He was All-Canadian 3-Year-Old in 1943 and then All-Canadian Aged Bull an unprecedented 6X from 1944-50. He was also All-American Aged Bull in 1947. He sired five All-Canadian Gets, 1946-47-49-50-51. At one time Marksman had sired more 100,000-lb. lifetime



MONTVIC RAG APPLE COLANTHA ABBEKERK, the highest producing daughter of **JOHANNA RAG APPLE PABST**, made a World Champion 3X fat record of 1263 lbs. during her career and in 1938 was Grand Champion at the Canadian National Exhibition for Mount Victoria Farms.


daughters than any bull in Canada, with one of his leading long timers being **GLENAFTON LAUREL PATSY PIETJE** with 213,966 lbs. milk. Among his best known sons was **BOND HAVEN RAG APPLE MAPLE**. Marksman suffered a stroke at 13 years old. His death in September 1953 made headlines in newspapers and on radio newscasts nationwide.

One of the brightest Rag Apple stars was Sovereign's son, **A.B.C. REFLECTION SOVEREIGN EX-EXTRA**, from A.B.C. INKA MAY. Born in December 1946 at A.B.C. Farms, Brampton, ON, he sold two years later, along with the farm, to Dr. Hector Astengo of Argentina who then selected the Rosafe prefix. ABC was leased for one year to the Toronto District Holstein Breeders Club in 1949. The wide use of frozen semen at this time



HANOVERHILL STARBUCK EX-EXTRA, one of the most prominent sires in recent Canadian history, traces 45X in his pedigree to the legendary **JOHANNA RAG APPLE PABST**.

led to the rapid spread of ABC blood into many herds. ABC was All-Canadian 2, 3 and Aged Bull in 1949-50-51, Reserve in 1952, and Reserve All-American in 1951. ABC offspring dominated the showing in the 50s and 60s and won many All-Canadian awards. He sired a record seven All-Canadian Gets (1953-54-55-57-59-61-62), plus five All-American Gets. At the 1979 Romandale Dispersal, three ABC offspring sold for world record prices, including **ROMANDELE PRIDE** at \$400,000. ABC died in July 1957 at 10 years old. At the 1958 Rosafe Dispersal, 57 ABC offspring averaged \$2697. ABC's influence continued through sons such as **ROMANDELE REFLECTION MARQUIS**, a 3X All-Canadian, **ROELAND REFLECTION SOVEREIGN**, **MAPLE LEA REFLECTION GOVERNOR**, and full brothers - **ROSAFE CITATION R** and **ROSAFE SIGNET**.

Countless more famous bulls in the Holstein breed possess many crosses to JRAP in their pedigrees. **ROUND OAK RAG APPLE ELEVATION** traces at least 20X and his son, **HANOVERHILL STARBUCK**, traces 45X in his pedigree to JRAP. **PAWNEE FARM ARLINDA CHIEF**, who is the sire of **WALKWAY CHIEF MARK** and **S-W-D VALIANT**, who, in turn, is the sire of such bulls as **HANOVER-HILL INSPIRATION**, **CARNATION COUNSELOR** and **CONANT-ACRES-JY BROKER**, trace at least 14X to JRAP. 

Big Average & Lots of Milk at the VI Holstein Club Sale

The VI Holstein Club held its annual sale on August 28th at the Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, in Duncan, BC. This is the first sale the club has held since 2022, but a strong cattle market and regularly scheduled incentive days proved to be an excellent opportunity. The sale committee, chaired by Luke Van Huizen, assembled a great lineup of deep pedigrees from the heart of many Island herds. Overcast skies and a little bit of rain brought over 100 breeders and enthusiasts, including several mainland buyers, out to take in the sale and enjoy lunch.

TOP SELLERS

- 1. SILVERMAPLE MUDSLINGER FRESKA \$9400**
Consignor: Silvermaple Holsteins
Buyer: Westcoast Holsteins
- 2. FRUEH AUTOGRAPH TYPHOON \$7500**
Consignor: Frueh Farms
Buyer: Westcoast Holsteins
- 3. WEDGWOOD DETECTIVE TAMARA \$7100**
Consignor: Stanhope-Wedgwood
Buyer: Westcoast Holsteins
- 4. SAANWOOD FUEL GIPSY \$7100**
Consignor: Viewfield Farms
Buyer: Rockycrest Holsteins
- 5. WILLSWICK LAMBDA DIZZIE \$7000**
Consignor: J. William Wikkerink Farms
Buyer: Westcoast Holsteins



**Sale Average:
\$5371 on 35 lots**

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COURSE DATES AND TIMES

- **proAction: Let's Get it Done: \$175**
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Dr. Phil Chris
- **Calving Management: \$200**
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Dr. Beverly Chard
- **Basic Examination and Treatment of the Cow: \$425**
Thursday, October 23, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Dr. John Dick
Friday, October 24, 2025, 9:00am – 3:00pm, Dr. John Dick
- **Health Management of the Young Calf: \$275**
Monday, October 27, 2025, 9:30am – 5:00pm, Dr. Beverly Chard
- **Trimming and Treating the Lambe Cow: \$400**
Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 9:30am – 4:00pm,
Dr. Christina Lyn & Doug Johnstone, Certified Professional Hoof Trimmer
Our expanded course provides hands-on trimming instruction with power tools.
- **Dairy Reproduction and Cow Comfort: \$225**
Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Dr. John Dick

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