

OH, THEY'RE COMING TO AMERICA

Contributed by Frank Rogers

In 1914 the first Norwich Terrier was taken to America by Mr. Robert Strawbridge of Bryn Mawr, PA. He had been while in England, and while visiting with Mr. Stokes at Market Harborough looking at horses, must have met his first Norwich terrier and was so taken with the breed that he bought one and named him "William Jones" after his previous owner. It is interesting to note that Mr. Jones seems to have been known as William Jones to Americans and yet Frank Jones to the English. He must have been the same person, as they all say he was groom or rough rider to Mr. Stokes of Market Harborough.

The terrier William Jones was a great character and was so beloved by his owner that he commissioned Mr. George Ford Morris to do a painting of him. He lived to the age of 14 years before he was killed with his son as they were defending their home from a pair of Doberman Pinschers. It will be noticed from the photograph of the painting of William Jones that he had his ears cropped and I understand that Mr. Strawbridge thought the reason for this was to prevent them from being torn when going to ground. This I find difficult to understand, a source that has bred and worked terriers with both fox and badger for 30 years states they have never had their ears torn by either of these prey, but if they have gotten into a fight with another dog then the story is different. I am sure the reason for cropping the ears was to make them look smarter, and there are some people in America who cropped the ears for this reason.

Amongst those attracted by these sporting little terriers which they saw when they were buying horses from Mr. Stokes were Mr. Eugene Reynal, Mr. Watson Webb and Mr. Gordon Massey. They all bought terriers from Mr. Jones and not knowing what they were called referred to them as Jones Terriers.

Mr. Watson Webb found them particularly game and due to the War and to the fact that he could not get over to buy more of them he crossed those he had with the Sealyham Terrier and named them Shelbourne Terriers.

It was about the same time that Mr. Strawbridge bought William Jones and took him back to the States that Mr. Alan Case of Toronto bought some and took them back with him to Canada. He always cropped their ears. It was noticed in a Christmas Card photograph in 1959 that they had their ears cropped and that one of them was a black and tan.

In 1924 Mr. Minton Verdi had a dog named Bing, who was bred by Mr. Watson Webb. Apparently Bing had a destructive nature as he had eaten about \$500 worth of Oriental rugs. Mr. Minton being somewhat annoyed wished to part with him and he was given to Mr. & Mrs. Dean Bedford of Maryland and the "Pemberton" prefix. They then bought a bitch named Ginger from Mr. Eugene Reynal that he brought over from England. She was a black and tan and had cropped ears. She was mated to Bing and had her first litter in Mrs. Bedford's bedroom. The first puppy was tan and white and the other two were brown.

[Witherslack Sport](#) and [Airman's Brown Eyes](#) were two that were bought by Mr. Gordon Massey in the early years of 1930. It is interesting to see that Sport was by Witherslack George out of Witherslack Jane, who were paternal half siblings. These latter two were the sire and dam of the famous [Ch Biffin of Beaufin](#). [Eng. Ch. Tuff](#) is another significant descendant of Sport.

As the years rolled by several more people came to England and, as was so natural amongst everyone interested in horse or hound, gravitated to Market Harborough. The Norwich Terrier was very much in evidence in Mr. Stoke's yard and more people fell under their charm.

In the early years of 1930 another person who went to England and made purchases was Mrs. A.T. McLean. She bought terriers from Mr. West, Mr. P.V.W. Gell and one from Mrs. Monckton. She seemed to have had her greatest successes from puppies by [Ch Farndon Red Dog](#) out of bitches such as Mr. West's Jill and Judy, Mrs. Fagan's Cherry Pecksniff and Mrs. Gell's Neachley Bracken. What an influence Red Dog has had on the Norwich in America and in the latter years his grandson [Pax of the Briars](#) carried on the good work. Both these names appear with great frequency in all strains on both sides of the Atlantic. Pax was bought by Mr. Robert Honeyman of Philadelphia. When Pax's first litter was born he (Pax) somehow found the litter and killed them all. Mr. Honeyman was so angry he gave Pax to Mr. Thomas, the then Huntsman to the Radnor Hounds. When Mr. Thomas gave up hunting hounds he took to training race horses and took Pax with him and the old dog was well known around the race track.

Mr. Henry Bixby purchased a good bitch named [Merry of Beaufin](#) from Mrs. Mainwaring in England. Merry was a daughter of [Biffin of Beaufin](#) out of Susan. Her name appears in the pedigrees of many good winning drop-ear Norwich. Another purchase made by Mr. Bixby was a dog puppy, a son of Mrs. Guy Blewitt's [Ch Tobit](#) out of Miss Macfie's "[Colonsay Allcando](#)". This puppy was registered "[Port Fortune the Ace](#)", and his name appears many times as an ancestor amongst the drop-ears. It is interesting to note that these two, Merry of Biffin and Port Fortune the Ace, were the great grandparents of Mr. F. Marcus Hadland's "George Pinch", who in turn was the sire of the well known "[Ch Mt. Paul Anderson](#)" bred and owned by Mrs. John Winston of Mendham, NJ, the then Secretary of the American Norwich Terrier Club. According to Mr. Bixby, Port Fortune the Ace was an outstanding good dog, and it is unfortunate that due to the War he was seldom shown, as he proved himself an excellent sire. He sired amongst others, some black and tans, of which several were purchased by **Miss Jean Hinkle, the first person to start the Norwich Terrier Club in America.**

In 1937 Mrs. Robert Winthrop (Mrs. A.C. Randolph) was staying in London and wished to buy a terrier from Mr. Jones of Market Harborough. He took four up to town with him for her to choose from. She took one back with her for a pet, and it was such a success that she felt she would like more of the breed. She wrote to Mr. W.E. West who had the [Farndon](#) prefix and he sent her two named Victor and [Rachael](#). They proved a great success and both became Champions. **Rachael's photograph for many years was used**

by the American Norwich Terrier Club as the type of prick-ear the nearest to the ideal.

In 1938 Mrs. McLean bought some more puppies from Mrs. Fagan and Miss Jean Hinckle bought some from Mrs. Macfie, some of them being exhibited at shows in 1940 and 1941. In the catalog of the dogs shown at Westminster in 1938 under the Judge Mr. W. Edgar Baker, Norwich Terriers were shown as having two classes, the first for American bred dogs and the other class for Open dogs and bitches. In the first class, Miss Elizabeth V.C. Bixby showed a daughter of Merry of Beaufin, Mrs. A.T. McLean had a home-bred one and the Windholme Kennels, owned by Mr. Harry T. Peters, had entered five, two of which were by [Airman's Sam Browne](#), a son of Mr. Guy Blewitt's [Ch Tobit](#), out of Neachly Toffee, the latter a daughter of [Horstead Mick](#) and Neachley Rusty. Rusty was a small prick-ear with a slightly silky coat, who when she was getting on in years went out hunting and was never seen again. It was not known if had she been stolen or gone to ground and never survived the contest.

In the other Open Class for dogs and bitches, of the ten entries from five owners, seven were by [Ch Farndon Red Dog](#), one was by [Tiny Tim of Biffin](#) and the other was [Merry of Beaufin](#), a daughter of [Ch Biffin of Beaufin](#).

Mrs. Josephine Spencer did the breed good when she purchased [Cobbler of Boxted](#) from Mrs. Guy Blewitt and imported him to the States. He was used at stud extensively and with great success. Mrs. Spencer was President of the Norwich Terrier Club for a time. The person who will long be remembered with great affection and who worked hard for many years for the breed was [Mrs. Warren Thayer](#), or Katherine as she was known by all her many friends on both sides of the Atlantic. She was Secretary of the American Norwich terrier Club for a number of years and remained so until her death in 1958. She and her sister Miss Sylvia Warren loved Norwich and bred the drop-eared variety for many years. **It was Katherine's "Rivets" whose picture has been used as the ideal type of head for a drop-ear.**

By the time the War was over and the Shows could be held again, there were some new faces amongst those who were interested in the Norwich and who had started to breed and exhibit them. In 1950 at the Westminster Kennel Club Show some of the attendees were Mrs. Howe Low with Upland Spring Honey Dun, who was Best of Breed and the winning dog was John Paul Jones of Groton, who had been purchased from Mrs. A.C. Randolph by Mr. Alden S. Blodget, the reigning President of the Norwich Terrier Club.

John Paul Jones must have been a very good dog, he was 7 years old at this time, and had lost an eye from a battle with a groundhog and still was a winner. He was by [Ch Apple Jack](#), a son of [Airman's Sam Browne](#), and Apple Jack's dam was [Vim](#), a daughter of [Ch Farndon Red Dog](#). John Paul Jones' dam was Rosa of Groton a daughter of Ch Victor and [Ch Rachael](#), Mrs. A.C. Randolph's two early imports from Mr. W.E. West.

In contrast to John Paul Jones' age, Honey Dun was only about one and a half years old. She was by [Pax of the Briars](#), out of Upland Spring Hunca Monkey, a daughter of

Wychdale Nimrod and Southmore Bantam. What a wonderful bitch Honey Dun proved to be, as she produced the following Champions Upland Spring Little Chap, Upland Spring Demon, Upland Spring Connemare, Upland Spring Jock II, Upland Spring Brown Hackle, Upland Spring Red Fox. Little Chap is by [Int Ch Farndon Randolph](#), and Demon and Connemare are by [Ch Wychdale Napoleon](#). Jock II, Brown Hackle and Red Fox are all by Thorndale Alert. It shall be noted in Little Chap's pedigree both his sire Randolph and his dam, Honey Dun, are by [Pax of the Briars](#), and their dams Veronica and Hunca Monkey were sisters.

Thorndale Alert's pedigree is also of interest, he is by Randolph's brother [Romeo](#), out of a drop-eared bitch of Miss Sylvia Warren's named River Bend Jiffy, and she in turn is a daughter of a prick ear and a drop ear, ---Mrs. A.C. Randolph's Ch Paul Jones of Groton, out of Miss Sylvia Warren's [Puff](#) – the latter a daughter of the famous [Ch Tuff](#).

Ch Upland Spring Jock II proved himself the most famous winning Norwich Terrier in America at that time. Not only was he Best of Breed at the eastern and the Westminster Shows both in 1958 and 1959, but he made history for the breed when he was placed fourth in the Terrier Group and with his brother Brown Hackle were made Best Brace at the Westminster kennel Club Show in 1959.

The Finale.....

From 1948 onward more dogs were being purchased in England. The most famous pair were the brothers [Farndon Randolph](#) and [Farndon Romeo](#). Romeo was born in September 1947 and Randolph was born six months later. Randolph became a Champion at the age of 10 months and was sent to America shortly afterwards to Mr. & Mrs. Dean Bedford and sometime later Romeo was purchased by Mrs. A.C. Randolph. Other purchases made by the Dean Bedfords were [Wychdale Napoleon](#) and Allercombe Tricky, who proved her worth by producing some very good children, among them 8 Champions. She lived until she was 13 years old and was then put down in 1960, the same month that her litter sister Allercombe Erica and her litter brother [Allercombe Escort of Goldencross](#) died in England. Mrs. Bedford also visited Mrs. Fagan and purchased a stud dog named "Sydney Carton". Mrs. Fagan was hesitant to part with Sydney Carton as he was not a young dog, and she feared he might fret at leaving her, but she need not have worried as he settled down and was a great favorite. In his later years he was the darling of their cook's life. Sydney Carton or "Tuffy" as he was affectionately known proved a wonderful influence at stud, bringing great character and substance to the breed. "Randolph" was another excellent purchase, for he more than proved his worth at stud, and always won top honors on the show bench even up to the age of 11 years. When he came out of retirement he again went to the top.

During the early years of 1950 it seems that the most influential sire amongst the drop-ear variety was Sylvia Warren's [Ch Tuff C.D.](#) (Champion Diploma for Obedience) Tuff appears in a great many of the pedigrees of those who in later years were to attain distinction on the show bench. He was born in 1943 and on his sire's side traces back to Ch Tobit and Neachley Toffee and on his dam's side to Tiny Tim of Biffin, Witherslack

Sport and Merry of Beaufin. He was full of intelligence, as well as good looks, and what is more important, passed these characteristics on to his descendants.

Besides Tuff, the other outstanding sire was [Cobbler of Boxted](#). These two have certainly played their part in trying to establish a good type of drop-ear Norwich.

Mrs. Stevens Baird of Bernardsville, NJ ([Castle Point](#)): her foundation bitch was bred by Josephine Spencer and was named [Partree Sparkle](#). She was by Cobbler of Boxted and her dam Partree Chance was a granddaughter of [Ch Tobit](#) and Neachley Toffee. Mrs. Baird's kennels, like a number of others in the States, were originally loose boxes for the hunters and carriage horses and were converted into delightful kennels. Her terriers were bred with great care and she was rewarded by a good type of deep rich red colored dogs. She strived to breed the faults out that were prevalent in England like light eyes, or bad mouths, or poor hind action (cow hocks being the most common) and some fore-legs being somewhat crooked.

Mr. Gerald Livingstone owned a very nice drop-ear dog named [Ch Woodchuck of Wingan](#). On the death of his owner this dog was given to Mr. D.D. Eliot, a professional trainer of retrievers. He taught Woodchuck to retrieve duck from the water and pheasants from the land. One day Mr. & Mrs. Haggerty were over at Mr. Elliot's place and saw Woodchuck retrieving and fell in love with him and decided they must have a Norwich terrier. They bought their first puppy from Miss Elizabeth V.C. Bixby and named it Newry's Pinch Hatter.

Miss Barbara Schilf (Barbara Fournier of [Bethway](#)) then purchased two good drop-ear terriers from England in Mrs. Bunting's Ragus Jimmy Joe and Miss Macfie's bitch [Colonsay Kelly's Eye](#). These two left some good progeny and Jimmy Joe sired some black and tans.

Mrs. Curtis S. Read ([Chidley](#)) worked long and hard for the breed and had a small but select kennel. The best known of her breeding is Chidley George Gordon, a lovely red harsh coated son of [Ch Farndon Romeo](#) out of Allercombe Robina. He was used extensively at stud and was the sire of many good dogs.

The majority of Norwich Terriers are in the Eastern States of America and of course it is here that there are so many shows that cater to them. Unfortunately there are very few on the West Coast. Quite a number are bred and kept exclusively for showing, and a few have the fun and pleasure of hunting on their own farms. **It is hoped that the urge to breed them to win prizes in the show ring will not have a deleterious effect and turn them into a terrier with no sporting instincts and a heavily trimmed breed, as has happened with other types of terriers.** At the moment they are enchanting, sporting and extremely intelligent little companion and long may they stay that way,

Perhaps the most endearing thing about them is the fact that each and every one is an individual with a very distinct character all his/her own and with his/her own idiosyncrasy. Many are possessed of a distinct sense of humor, an intuitive power of

temper, intentions, mood and habits of their owners. In them, these lovable Norwich Terriers, will be found characteristics of a courageous and sometimes mischievous ways, but always loyal to the end.