

“COLONIAL INFLUENCE”

As the economy grew and colonies began to spread throughout the Americas, land Charters were being given to various esteemed individuals back in England. One particular charter was given to William Penn by King Charles II in 1681 and was the largest ever given to a single man in America. William Penn founded the town of Philadelphia and the chartered land became known as Pennsylvania.

William Penn was a well-known Quaker and was open to many different types of people, including the Indians. The economy under Penn grew tremendously and brought in many travelers and entrepreneurs. In 1767 Mason and Dixon determined the exact boundaries for Pennsylvania and England allowed Penn to govern the territory by establishing courts and judges and forming a militia. The formation of the militia instigated more of an already formidable sport at the time. Men on horseback would often feud over who had the best or the fastest horse.



During the colonial period, horse racing was the number one organized sport in America. Many town rivalries were centered on horse racing. As a matter of fact, it was not

uncommon for people to travel hundreds of miles to the early quarter-mile tracks that were built along main town roads or in level fields. People would make wagers on their favorite towns horse and quite often those bets included money, tobacco, slaves, and property. It is believed that many properties and estates changed hands during this time period through horse racing bets.

The horses that were raced were often used for work. Some were used for carrying corn from the Native Americans and working in the fields, while others were used to transport wagons filled with materials for trade or passengers from one destination to another. However, as the sport of racing grew, so did the need for a faster horse. Some of the horses were taken out of fields and replaced by African slaves and others were bought or sold to men who began to take an interest in breeding. The new breeding programs aided in the development of the Colonial Quarter Race Horse.



The eastern colonies located near the Roanoke River were known as “the Old Race Horse Region.” The colonized areas that benefited from this 410 mile river spread from southern Virginia to northeastern North Carolina. To answer the call for faster horses, wealthy men took advantage of the travel ports and began to have horses shipped in from other countries.

In 1752, the North Carolina counties housed Janus, one of the most prominent horses in history. Janus, grandson to The Godolphin Arabian, was a long-course racer shipped in by John Randolph of Virginia. His compact structure, strength and power improved bloodlines throughout the Americas by giving his progeny great speed over short distances. Many statesmen and militia men rode horses from the Janus bloodlines.

