

A black and white pinto horse with a blonde mane is running in a field. The horse is the central focus, captured in motion. The background shows a rolling landscape with dry grass and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

GVHS HALL OF FAME

A Hall of Fame Stallion must have FIVE offspring that have earned a GOLD MEDALLION of QUALITY in the GVHS Evaluation program.

Introducing

CLONONEEN

TUMBLEWEED GV01816

First GVHS Hall of Fame Gypsy Vanner Horse

Unlike some other awards programs, the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society Hall of Fame status is not awarded based upon popularity or Committee appointment, rather this status is earned. In August 2015, Clononeen Tumbleweed, a 15-year old stallion owned by Dale and Cheryl Nygaard was the first horse ever to achieve GVHS Hall of Fame status.

Born in 2001, and imported in 2009, Tumbleweed's GVHS records show that he has sired 42 offspring and his total progeny include 137 recorded horses over 4 generations. A true measure of a successful breeding program is the quality of the offspring. The pinnacle achievement of the GVHS Evaluation Program, the GVHS Hall of Fame, is awarded to stallions and mares with demonstrated ability to produce quality offspring.

On that one day in August 2015, five of Tumbleweed's offspring were presented for Evaluation in Conformation-Movement and in the Performance disciplines of English, Western and Driving. These Gypsy Vanner horses went on to achieve multiple Gold Medallions of Quality with one achieving a FIVE-STAR status in Conformation-Movement and its Versatility Medallion of Honor. These Evaluation achievements have demonstrated that Clononeen Tumbleweed consistently produces versatile performance Gypsy Vanner horses with quality phenotype...a Hall of Fame stallion! Be proud if you are the owner of a horse with Clononeen Tumbleweed in its pedigree! In the following pages, we invite you to meet his five "qualifying" offspring.

Editor's Note: Sadly, at press time the GVHS received notice of Tumbleweed's passing on August 1, 2016.



**NORTH FORK
ORION**



When North Fork Orion, of North Fork Gypsy Cobs, walked up and stuffed his nose into the face of Trainer Jackie Johnson, neither could have guessed what the future had in store for them. Born to Clononeen Celestial and Clononeen Tumbleweed on June 27th, 2009, this gelding didn't seem to take life too seriously and had an engaging personality that made everyone wonder if he was in fact, two men in a horse suit. At a time when there were very few riding Gypsy Vanners in Western Canada, Orion was called on to make his debut performance at the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede.

Immediately, Johnson could tell there was something very unique about Orion. He possessed an honesty and work ethic combined with an incredible amount of talent, natural athleticism and trainability - a combination so rare that neither trainers nor owners are willing to ever let it go. North Fork Orion had something more however, a personality and a desire to entertain beyond that of a 'normal

horse'. After presenting North Fork Orion as a North Fork ambassador at the Calgary Stampede, Johnson simply couldn't let this unique Gypsy Vanner go and purchased him outright from Dale and Cheryl Nygaard. Johnson, a professional trick training educator, then proceeded to take Orion across Western Canada as her Trick Training demo horse and Gypsy Vanner representative.

A life of comical entertainment appealed to Orion, and he spent many clinics amusing, and educating kids, and adults, with the reliable safety that is paramount to both a Tumbleweed offspring, and the Gypsy Vanner breed. Not just a one trick pony, North Fork Orion quickly adapted to training as a driving horse (pairs, and single) as well as an English and Western mount, and showed natural talent as both a reining prospect and a jumping prospect. His honesty and safety under cart found him a place on Team Gypsy Vanner at the Spruce Meadows TELUS Battle of the Breeds, and he made the team again in 2015 as the representative Trail horse at the Saskatchewan Equine Expo Battle of the Breeds.

On August 7th, 2015, North Fork Orion contributed to seeing his sire, Clononeen Tumbleweed awarded the GVHS Hall of Fame designation. Orion also accomplished something unique to himself when he received on the same day; the Versatility Medallion of Honor and 5-Star conformation rating. This was an historical milestone as to date, no gelding in the history of the GVHS had ever been awarded a 5-Star rating.

**NORTH FORK
RORSCHACH**



On April 22, 2010, Clononeen Priceless delivered the cutest grey and white colt that North Fork had ever seen. A son of Tumbleweed, everyone who saw him agreed on one thing - that he looked like a stuffed plush toy. As North Fork Rorschach developed it was clear to see he had stallion quality and was tested and confirmed to carry the rare Grey gene - a stallion of quality AND colour is a rare gem indeed.

Rorschach was started under saddle in his 4th year for no other reason than North Fork believes that a good stallion is a good cit-

izen first. As with all Tumbleweed offspring, Rorschach's start as a riding horse was uneventful. After a summer as a general trail horse, Rorschach was bred to Clononeen Violet and produced a stunningly proper red blagdon colt, named "North Fork Rorschach's Red Baron". Upon hearing of the August 7th evaluations, Dale and Cheryl Nygaard decided that a good stallion is a proven stallion, and applied to have Rorschach evaluated in Conformation, English, Western and Driving.

In the spring of 2015 Rorschach began his training in preparation for GVHS evaluations. He effortlessly took to driving and trained up quickly under both English and Western tack. It was no surprise when North Fork Rorschach received his qualifying scores needed to gain the Gold Medallion of Quality in both Western and Driving, and ensure his sire Tumbleweed's entry into the GVHS Hall of Fame. The future looks bright for this compact, hard working stallion that carries the elusive grey gene, and maybe someday he will join his sire, Tumbleweed, in the GVHS Hall of Fame.

**NORTH FORK
PAULO (FINN)**



Colleen Dahlstrom purchased North Fork Paulo "Finn", (a son by Tumbleweed out of Rollin' Thunder Bailey) in February of 2013 when he was 20 months old. "Our daughter Kylie had dreamed for many years of owning a Gypsy Vanner and we dismissed it thinking they were only found in the UK", says Dahlstrom. After moving to their country home Colleen decided she'd like a horse that was quiet and reliable, and started her search. "It seemed all I could find that fit my criteria were old horses or horses that had health issues or a number of bad behavior patterns. Kylie knew I was frustrated with the search and told me to talk to Jackie about the Gypsy Vanners", says Colleen. The family was hesitant knowing the age and that it would be some time before they would actually be able to ride one of these young horses, but a video from Saskatoon, of a very young child handling 1.5 year old gelding was all it took to convince the family and they sent back a single word text - SOLD!

Like many Gypsy Vanner owners, the Dahlstrom family liked the fact that these horses are unlike other breeds in that they're reliable and easy going as well as versatile. After making their big purchase, both Colleen and Kylie spent time with Jackie, where they learned about driving, riding, training and just generally gaining the confidence needed to raise and train their very own Gypsy Vanner.

In his third year, Colleen had Finn hooked up to a cart and was enjoying short drives in and out of the arena, says Colleen "I was so happy and excited! Finn was steady, smart and he caught on so quickly. I've always admired the big draft horses and now we have our own smaller version". Kylie Rae had always admired Jackie's trick training, so she taught Finn a number of tricks, such as sit, shake a hoof and bow, and Finn was a very willing participant anytime treats were available. Kylie and Jackie spent an afternoon together in the early spring last year

when Finn was then big enough to ride. They saddled him up and Kylie got on with Jackie leading him part way, and that was all it took before she rode him a ways down the road and came back -the first saddle and ride was totally uneventful. Colleen and her daughter continued to ride him throughout the spring and summer, and whether it be bareback or with saddle Finn was always the same easy going boy. Finn is a horse that doesn't forget what he's learned.

Early on, Finn showed a real interest in cattle. The Dahlstroms raise a small herd of longhorn for roping, and frequently discovered Finn working the cattle in the yard on his own, at liberty. Since he's a good size at just under 15H and still has room to grow, they decided to make use of his interest and sent him for two months of training with Taylor Douglas at Yellowgrass Saskatchewan. In the process of learning to be a heel horse for team roping, Douglas taught the horse body control, side passes, lead changes, spins and collection. Taylor said "He's smart, he took to roping like a duck to water...like he'd done it his whole life."

After his 2 months of training, North Fork Paulo "Finn" returned home to get ready for the GVHS Show and evaluation. Uncertain on quite what to expect, the Dahlstroms registered him in all of the Evaluations. They knew that Finn wasn't quite ready for either the English or Western Evaluation but could immediately see that the evaluators were enormously helpful. "I learned so much about my horse and where to go next with him since he is still so very young and new to everything", expressed Colleen. Finn contributed to his sires Hall of Fame award by earning his Gold Medallion of Quality in Driving. The Dahlstroms plan to take the knowledge and experience they gained from the evaluations and continue working with Finn so he can be re-evaluated in English and Western, to acquire his Versatility designation. Says Dahlstrom "I knew I had a sweet kind horse that I felt safe on, but now I know he's a top quality horse that has an extreme amount of potential".

**NORTH FORK
BULLET**



If there were ever a reluctant hero, it was North Fork Bullet. Born to Clononeen Layla on June 26th, 2010, this Tumbleweed weanling was sold to a wonderful family and was sent on his way. Sometimes bad

things happen to good people, and North Fork received the request to buy Bullet back, which they did. Bullet was delivered to Jackie Johnson with the intention of preparing him for resale but what she found in the pen that day was a horse looking for the family bond he had lost.

Johnson threw a saddle and bridle on Bullet and took him for a ride down the road. Upon their uneventful return, she reported back to Dale and Cheryl that the horse was depressed but otherwise seemed fine, and asked when he had been trained to ride. She was met with silence on the end of the phone.....Bullet had never been ridden.

For the next two years the team of North Fork worked to rebuild the spirit and confidence that Bullet had lost. He was trained, and exposed

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(BULLET...continued from previous page) to as many different things as possible. Everyone who encountered him loved him immediately. His kind, gentle, quiet nature instilled confidence in the most inexperienced person and eventually a sparking personality started to emerge. Bullet showed a lovely way of travelling and earned a spot on Team Gypsy Vanner as the 2014 Dressage horse. He was easily trained to drive, and just as effortlessly trained in hunter/jumper up to 2'9". Through it all, he remained much loved, steady and reliable but otherwise rather unremarkable at the beginning of his 5th year. The Gypsy Vanner, it is known, blooms on the 5th year. That is the year they find their balance, add finish to their growth, and develop their strength.

NORTH FORK CASH



"Great horses are often not easy horses. They have big egos and idiosyncrasies and quirks and foibles. Horses of a lifetime do exist, but only for riders so skillful, tactful, and courageous that they can unlock and then reveal the brilliance of their equine partners." ~ Denny Emerson (Eventer)

Enter the stallion North Fork Cash. Cash was born May 24th, 2008 at North Fork Gypsy Cobs. A fine son of Tumbleweed and Clononeen Bliss who was imported from England in foal, Cash was afflicted at an early age with a deadly *Streptococcus Equi* infection, and at about 6 months of age spent two weeks with a Tracheotomy tube which required daily cleaning. His prognosis was not good. Veterinarians at the most noted college in Saskatoon determined that this was a horse that would have limited usefulness and ability due to probable respiratory damage and scarring due to the tracheotomy. Thus the stage was set for a Gypsy Vanner who had the heart and soul to defy all odds and fight all adversity, yet still show amazing sensibility and kindness to his handlers.

On a cold, blustery fall day in 2010, North Fork Cash tumbled out of the trailer and landed at the reluctant feet of Jackie Johnson. This was the first time she had ever seen the likes of such a hairy hobbit of a creature and with some reservations Johnson set about trying to determine just what to do with such a strange anomaly. After a winter of trick training, Cash and his dam Bliss made their debut at the 2011 Red Deer Mane Event. Handled by a 14-year-old girl, Cash won the crowd with a trick routine that included sitting, laying on the ground and rearing on command. Thousands of people fell in love with Cash and the Gypsy Vanner breed that day. A star was born. What his breeders and trainers didn't realize was that they had also unleashed an ego that feasted on adoration.

Cash spent most of his 2nd and 3rd years growing and maturing. He made performance appearances at Spruce Meadows, Calgary Stampede, Main Event, Equine Expo's and many trick clinics, where he was the fan favorite and undisputed star. When he wasn't performing in front of thousands of cheering fans, he would spend his time lounging

At the August 7th, 2015 GVHS Evaluation, Bullet didn't just bloom, he burst forward with an effervescence that took everyone by surprise! Achieving his Versatility Medallion, his Gold Medallion, and his 5 star in Driving, North Fork Bullet easily contributed to the Hall of Fame designation of his sire Tumbleweed, won the high point gelding award at the following English/Western show, and then quietly returned to his humble, gentle and unassuming, reluctant hero ways.

in the field except for the odd days when he was turned out into the jump ring. Seeing Cash run free was a sight to behold! With no encouragement, and at complete liberty, he would race around the arena launching himself over 3' jumps until someone stepped in to stop him. It was decided that it was definitely worth tapping into this natural desire to jump, and Cash began his training. "North Fork Cash was, and continues to be the safest, and yet most strongly opinionated horse I have ever trained", says Johnson. "I don't want to say he's a jerk, but he has a roiling, boiling, Rock Star attitude and he wants his input on every suggestion in order to do things his way. I knew from the get-go that if I could channel the strength of his opinion and character away from me, and into the task at hand, I would have a powerhouse". After many years of working together, Johnson and Cash operate on a middle ground of mutual respect. The time and understanding has paid off, and Cash has indeed focused his strength of character onto tasks such as barrel racing, competitive trail and jumping, where he has come in on the heels of Provincial Champion Barrel Racing Quarter Horses and easily pops over 3'6" jumps with room to spare.

Along the training path, Cash showed his natural desire for speed and was trained to launch his powerfully compact body around barrel racing and mounted shooting courses. This speed combined with his bravery and "take no guff" attitude made him a strong contender as both the trail horse and Barrel racer for his Spruce Meadows TELUS Battle of the Breeds competitive debut in the fall of 2014. An entire nation saw the beauty and strength of this very unique breed and voted North Fork Cash and Team Gypsy Vanner the "Fan Favourite". For the first time in history, a Gypsy Vanner graced the coveted grounds of the Spruce Meadows International Ring. This extra element of sparkle did not go unnoticed and he captured the eye of Spruce Meadows President and CEO Linda Southern-Heathcott who went on to purchase a gelding and a mare from North Fork that was to bear North Fork Cash's very first foal, a stunning 2015 filly. This little beauty now makes the International Ring her playground, where she is loved by over 500,000 fans a year.

At the GVHS Evaluations, Cash contributed to Tumbleweed's Hall of Fame status by earning Gold Medallions of Quality in both English and Driving.