

At risk of redundancy and ridicule of the subject of, yes, nervous energy, is the focus of this article.

Nervous energy is a dirty word in the Lippitt Morgan world. The superficial thinkers believe that if their horses are characterized as NERVOUS, it will keep customers away. The fact is that Justin and his like descendants had an abundance of nervous energy and the Lippitt Morgan with its highest Morgan percentage of Justin Morgan blood should also contain this aspect of the Morgan horse, which by and large has been bred out over the decades of the club's history.

If a horse was prancing around its handler at TLC in the old days of the show there would always be someone who would remark about its behavior in a derogatory manner. We see this less often now if ever as breeders continue the march toward the new Lippitt with a quarter horse attitude, a come-along-horse with less go power and stamina in its engine.

The Lippitt show will rarely see a True Type Morgan in its show ring ever again. A Morgan that truly represents **ALL** the facets of Justin Morgan. Even excluding this most important feature, the pure physical type, has been rare in recent years. **How then can lookers that want to purchase a Justin going to find it from a Lippitt breeder?**

Where are the breeders of True Type? Maybe a few left. Do they also include the *nervous energy*? Here below will be some bitter pills to those Lippitt breeders who cringe and wince at the above words.

One to two hundred years ago newspapers were full of description and analogy of the old Morgans.

Billy Morgan a Boston horse whose name was changed to Highlander. "He was a smoothly-turned, up-headed, **nervy horse**, with the best of legs and feet...."

Nov. 20, 1862 Maine Farmer – "They are very strong for their inches, hardy and **nervous**, and smart in the performance of any work put upon them.....very tractable and docile."

1848 Cultivator – Morgan Horse....pompous little creatures, almost bursting with zeal and animation,...as to give their gait too much the appearance of a strut or waddle, reminding me somewhat of the little coxcomb, who, as he parades the street, swings his arms and stretches back his head, and impudently looks every person in the face, as if to say--- "You must not presume to think me small!"....attributable more to his great vital energy"

1849 Cultivator – Jewett on Morgans. – "lively quick action" ... "great fire and courage".

1861 Feb. Maine Farmer – They appear too low on their legs when standing, but when put in motion they expand into grand proportions, rise to magnificence on account of the fire of their ambitious, bold, fearless action, and graceful, **nervous**, gathering movement.

1859 Ogdensburg Daily Journal. "...I would sometimes ride past the shop behind my prancing Morgan horses..."

1861 Vt. Journal. Article Matched Horses – “As we have said above, it is a difficult thing to get a pair of horses well matched unless they are of the same blood on both sides. A spirited, sprightly, ambitious, **nervous** Morgan will never work well with a dead mettled dunhill.”

Dec. 1859 Argus and Patriot. – MW Davis talked for an hour...His address was eloquent and practical, but one of that kind that no abstract would do justice to. No one but a shorthanded writer can keep up with Davis, for he goes into his subject like a Morgan horse, all fire, vim, and rearing and prancing,....”

Vermont Agri. Report 1881. – I sigh for the Morgan, the Vermont Morgan whose fame was heralded the world over; That pluck, style, action,...

July 23, 1904 New England Farmer. -- “Vermont is the native land of the Morgan horse. The light-limbed, sleek, **nervy** little road horses seen on the streets of her villages and towns attract the attention and admiration of visitors from other states.” (If Lippitt breeders will breed it in “they will come”.)

April 1853, The Southerner. -- We proceeded a short distance when we accidentally came upon a company of gentlemen, before whom was prancing, with seeming conscious pride, a beautiful, “Morgan” horse, the property of Mr. Battle purchased at one of the Agricultural fairs North.”

June 1857 Vt. Watchman. – In an ad of the Sherman Morgan or “Comet” these few lines of telling nature. “When the Morgan frisks his pithy tail, and lifts his lordly head, The Black Hawks all turn pale and wish themselves twice dead.” May 1874 Burlington Press. Comet. “...carrying the mind back to the pen pictures of Justin Morgan, all power and endurance with a **nervous energy** that enabled him to perform drudgery and indoor abuse that would have killed any other animal.....”

A commonly seen quote of Justin himself. -- Justin Morgan was a capital parade horse; he was sought for far and nearby military commanders for grand reviews. He had that bold, fearless, bounding action, with perfect equipoised racking movement that gave confidence to the rider, and carried him safely through the evolutions of the gallant charger. His colts put on the lofty spirit, finished style, and accomplished action of their gallant sire. ... He had the rare faculty of putting in execution every **nerve** and muscle in his body, to show his accomplished style, to captivate admiring crowds.

1895 Minnesota Farmers Institute Annual. -- Re: Green Mountain Morgan. “How strong he is at every point, and yet with style, courage, **nervous energy** and docility sufficient to make all who came in contact with him remember him as one of the greatest horses.

Apr. 1890 Atlantic Monthly – Of a Morgan mare. “Another Morgan mare, of similar appearance, being black, and “a compactly built, **nervy**, wiry animal of the steel and whalebone sort.”

April, 1898 New Haven Journal and Morgan Courier. – “The northern limit of the lake reached, the dauntless driver reins his trusty and **nervy Morgans** up the sloping bank through a magnificent grove.....”

1905 Mar. Ohio Farmer. – I gave my idea of what the Morgan horse should be and how he should be bred. Re: sons of JM. “While differing somewhat in form, size, color and action, they were all noted for compact muscular build, sound, durable feet and legs, robust constitution (all lived to be over 25 years, Bulrush 36) and great **nervous energy**. These characteristics became the family traits.The Morgan horse should be....a long-lived horse of iron constitution, sound legs and feet, of cheerful, pleasant disposition, quick **nervous** action and endless endurance.” – J. M’Lain Smith.”

Sept. 1887 Vermont Watchman. – Of the Vt. State Fair “Morgan Horses prance and neigh, and step as though they were fearful of hurting someone’s toes....”

The Yankee Horse: the descendants of Justin Morgan high steppers, though not then valued began very soon to appear. It is a vexed question what produces natural high action, but certainly a prime factor is **nervous energy.....”**

Many other articles on Morgans not mentioned have similar references to the Justin Morgans and their nervy nature.

1783 Harper’s New Mo. Mag. -- Of Justin Morgan is written. “He was a fleet runner not well adapted to speed, but then he had superior muscular strength and **nervous energy**, and these qualities gave him the rush and dash of a small steam-engine. ... and his superior muscular development made him a formidable competitor for a horse of his inches.”

If Justin Morgan was the founder of the Morgans and *Lippitt Morgans have the highest percentage of his blood* would it not be correct for them to have incorporated in their makeup a high degree of **nervous energy**? Indeed, If customers come looking for Justin Morgan from Lippitt breeders, they want the genuine article, not the Iron Pyrite version.