Amyr Arabians History (continued)

After graduating from veterinarian school at the University of Pennsylvania in 1958, we acquired our first broodmare, which was purchased from Mr. George Wirtz of Kutztown, Pennsylvania. I had known Mr. Wirtz and his horses for many years as he was one of the breeders I’d bugged over the years. I had visited his farm many times and had seen his older sires and their daughters who made up the broodmares at Mr. Wirtz’s farm.

I was greatly impressed with the fantastic, stylish Zab when he came from the Babson Stud in Illinois to the Wirtz farm as a yearling to become their new herd sire. I watched grow up and go on to become a great halter and park horse in the East and throughout the country. Our first broodmare, as you can guess, was a Zab daughter named [Rena](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Rena.jpg), she in turn out of Reba, a grand-daughter of both \*Raseyn and Ribal, the son of the action sire \*Berk. Rena proved to be a goldmine of a broodmare and nicked especially well with the action sire, \*Count Dorsaz, which produced their well know mare, [Amyr Doreen++](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Amyr%20Doreen.jpg), and Amyr Ibn Dorasz. We leased Rena’s full sister, [Zaree](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Zaree_Amyrs%20Grand%20Count.jpg) and bred her to \*Count Dorsaz, producing the magnificent sire, [Amyrs Grand Count](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Amyrs%20Grand%20Count.jpg). Looking over some of the pedigrees of our present day stock, you can readily see the tremendous influence these particular Arabians eventually had in Amyr Arabians’ breeding program.

Another very important mare for out herd was [\*Nadeyria](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Nadeyria.jpg), purchased from one of the Al-Marah auctions. She was an imported daughter of [\*Count Dorsaz](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Count%20Dorsaz.jpg) and went on to become a grand show mare, winning the East Coast Championship among many other big wins. She was also a great broodmare and her daughter, [Amyr Indira](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Amyr%20Indira.jpg), sired by Al-Marah Radames, gave us three daughters. Her female line is both prevalent and prominent through our herd, transmitting lots of style and actions along with great type and good size.

Other Arabians were purchased from Al-Marah over the years which have been vital to our breeding program. Among them, AM Ibn Radames is a truly magnificent type stallion and a very prepotent sire. We also acquired his maternal sister, Al-Marah Love Tiff who has given us some important daughters. [Al-Marah Rose Carol](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/Al-Marah%20Rose%20Carol.jpg), a daughter of the great mare RoseMarie, was another valued mare who added a strong female line to our herd.

From Dr. Munson’s herd came Shalimar Suspense and more recently, [Shalimar Sioux](http://amyr-arabians.com/pictures/shalimarsioux.jpg), who are valuable inbred \*Raffles-\*Raseyn/Skowronek line sires of great prepotency.

We were lucky enough to add the fine Alice Payne bred mare, Asil Zahra, to our broodmare band and she has proven to be a tremendous asset.

From the Lodwick herd in Ohio, we selected Lo Samantha, a small bay Rafden daughter who has become the more reliable producer of quality imaginable. We also acquired the beautiful, linebred Image mare, Lo Rafmia Mina.

During her last years, the famous old Gulastra daughter, Ragutaya, came to us and she left her final foal, Amyr Bint Ragutaya, to carry on for her. She has proven to be as worthy a broodmatron as her illustrious dam.

Another very valuable line greatly esteemed by us is that of \*Sulejman, which you will find in many of our pedigrees. We have one of his daughters, which we bred ourselves and consider her one of our top mares.

During our earlier years in the Arabian horse breeding business, we tried many bloodlines and strains in our program. Many were discarded as being too unreliable in their end results, for transmitting undesirable conformation faults, for lack of breed type or for lack of breed disposition in their foals. Some were not able to provide the athletic ability and stamina we felt was so necessary for using horses.

Of all the bloodlines he experimented with, it came down to a chosen few, which were outlined above, that have given us uniformity and consistence in what we wanted in our Arabians:

· Excellence of Type and Conformation
· True Arabian Natural Action
· Proper Tail Carriage
· Overall Smoothness, Presence, Style, Animation and Elegance

Along with this bit of history, I must express our great indebtedness to several people. Without their help, we could never have managed to grow and to develop as we have, especially in our early years. First and foremost is Bazy Tankersley of Al-Marah Arabians. She was always willing to extend credit for that new Arabian I “couldn’t do without for the breeding program” and also was very generous in permitting us to use her battery of stallions extensively, even leasing us great sires from time to time. I cannot express how deeply grateful I will always be for her kindness, cooperation, generosity and most of all, for her friendship. She has continually been a tremendous asset to the entire Arabian horse industry from its early days and still remains its most dynamic personality… truly a great lady.

Another person of great influence on my education and on the firming of my ideals was Dr. William Munson of the Shalimar Ranch. A person who knew more about the breed than anyone else I knew. He has probably forgotten more about the Arabian horse than most of the rest of us will ever get to know! He was truly “one of a kind” and to me, he was Mr. Arab. If you check the pedigrees of our horses, you will note that his immortal Garaff is repeated many times. The same with his great sire, Orbit. To me, the Shalimar prefix immediately denotes Dr. Munson’s great integrity and vast knowledge of the breed. It will continue to do so through many future generations of Arabian horse breeders down through the years.

Another person to whom we are indebted is Carolyn Gardner of Gardiner Gate Stables, Genesseo, Illinois. She campaigned two of our most successful show horses all the way to National Top Ten awards and one to a Legion of Merit award. Amyr Doreen+ and Amyrs Grand Count were both in her show string for several years and won many Championships all over the country. She did a fantastic job with them and her hard work was certainly greatly appreciated.