

From Mobeetie the Comanches took these Indian ponies on north across the Canadian and Cimarron to the Elk flats at what later was Fort Larned, there the Osages and Pawnees with the French Choteaus from St. Louis having come up the Arkansas river, did their annual trading, disposing of all their Indian ponies, this French writer adds that the Comanches were such good fighters with bow and arrow on horseback that the Pawnees and Osages never attempted to rob them of their Indian ponies.

We have now noted all the sources in our horse age from which our Indian pony came and that he was first a Barb of Spanish horse, a species of hot blooded Arabian horse, as rapidly as he multiplied into the millions other pioneer and nondescript blood came in, undoubtedly the Iceland pony spotted as a coach dog and his descendents created our native Indian's chief delight, a paint, calico, pinto, buttermilk, spotted horse; a broom tail meaning a wild Indian pony with a long flowing tail; Spotted Horse was a favorite Indian name for many chiefs as was also Black Horse and Yellow horse.

Thus we see that by 1850 our Plains river valleys, mountains were inhabited by Indian ponies, mustangs and wild horses of all colors, tough, wiry. It is doubtful what the American settler could have done without him, he was hard to break with a strong dislike for a collar and could kick a single tree out of sight.

Settler's children rode the colts and grew up with him, they fed him and drove up the milk cows with him and next day trotted him all the way to town hitched to a wagon with all the family riding, eating hay in the wagon yard near the center of each town which was the social and business center of each community. "Paw" the head of the family was apt to trade him off for \$5.00 to boot and another Indian pony, they drove him home in mud or dust Saturday evening and then drove him to church on Sunday morning. The boys and girls on the homestead or farm always claimed the colts and happily they rode their Indian ponies to some small country schoolhouse and rode him home again in the evening oftentimes riding double at a dead run and sometimes some Indian pony would not ride double and the boy or girl who tried it got bucked off, dinner pail and all.

Bred to fine Morgan horses if the conformity happened to be the right one would get the finest kind of a saddle or buggy horse.

Or bred to a dappled grey Norman horse millions of farmers got a dappled grey chunk horse weighing 1200-14-- pounds, quick as an Indian pony and ideal for heavy farm work. Up to forty years ago every rural ~~Max~~ American town had its vacant lots with citizens' cows picketed on the grass and a spotted Indian pony or two, the valued prize of some boy or girl living in town who owned them for riding and pets, in that horse age every boy and girl's prestige was established by owning an Indian pony, saddle, bridle, blanket and picket rope, all boys longed to be horse traders, a term denoting shrewdness.