

History of the Mastiff

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- This is an Ancient breed whose history goes back at least 4500 years.
- The Mastiff is behind many of the breeds today.
- The Mastiff has a long and storied past having been used for
 - Hunting
 - Fighting
 - Protection
 - Carting
 - But, primarily as a Companion

The Mastiff has been bred for 4.5 centuries to live by our side, share all aspects of our lives and independently think for themselves to keep us safe.

TO KNOW THE MASTIFF IS TO LOVE THE MASTIFF

History of the Mastiff

- Mastiff type dogs are depicted in paintings as far back as 2500 B.C. in Asia and Egypt
- Bas-reliefs taken from the Babylonian palace of Ashurbanipal (now on display in the British Museum) depict Mastiff-type dogs hunting lions in the desert near the Tigris River (~1600 B. C.)



History of the Mastiff

Other than being taller and leaner than current day Mastiffs (as ours would be if raised in a desert and fed lightly), those ancient dogs are remarkably similar to current Mastiffs.

Despite the passing of **4500** years.



History of the Mastiff to 100 B.C.

- After this clear, visual evidence we must rely on folklore and oral history
- Phoenician traders introduced Mastiffs to ancient Britain (600 B.C.)
- Hannibal had several battalions of Mastiffs along when he crossed the Alps. They fraternized with local dogs to produce the St. Bernard, and the Alpine Mastiff among many others (200 B.C.)
- Romans found them and brought them home to fight in the arenas and hunt (100 B.C.)



History of the Mastiff

55 B.C. – 1400 A.D.

- Caesar wrote of Mastiffs fighting beside their masters during his invasion of Britain in 55 B.C.
- The Mastiff was one of the few breeds mentioned by name in the Forest Laws of King Canute, the first written laws of England (100 A.D.)
- Marco Polo wrote that Kubla Khan had a kennel of 5,000 Mastiffs (1300 A.D.)
- In the Canterbury Tales, Chaucer calls them “Alaunts” and says they were “as great as any steer/To hunt at the lion or the deer.”(1400 A.D.)



History of the Mastiff 1400 A.D. – Lyme Hall

In 1415, British Knight Sir Peers Legh of Lyme Hall was wounded during the Battle of Agincourt in France. His Mastiff bitch stood over him and protected him from being taken prisoner or killed by the French until his squire was able to retrieve him from the battlefield. The Mastiff was taken home to England and her offspring started the legendary Lyme Hall bloodline.



History of the Mastiff

All of the Massive Mountain Dogs of Spain, France, Turkey and the Balkans can trace their size back to their Mastiff Blood

Many of the Massive Dogs of Asia and Europe can trace their ancestry back to the Mastiff – The Great Dane, St. Bernard, Newfoundland, Bullmastiff, Chow Chow and even the Pug.



History of the Mastiff

For centuries Mastiffs were used as War dogs and for fighting. However, they always functioned as “Personal Bodyguards”. All of this made them renowned for their courage and loyalty.

The English used the Mastiff to pull carts and to guard their estates and castles – releasing them at night to roam and protect the property.

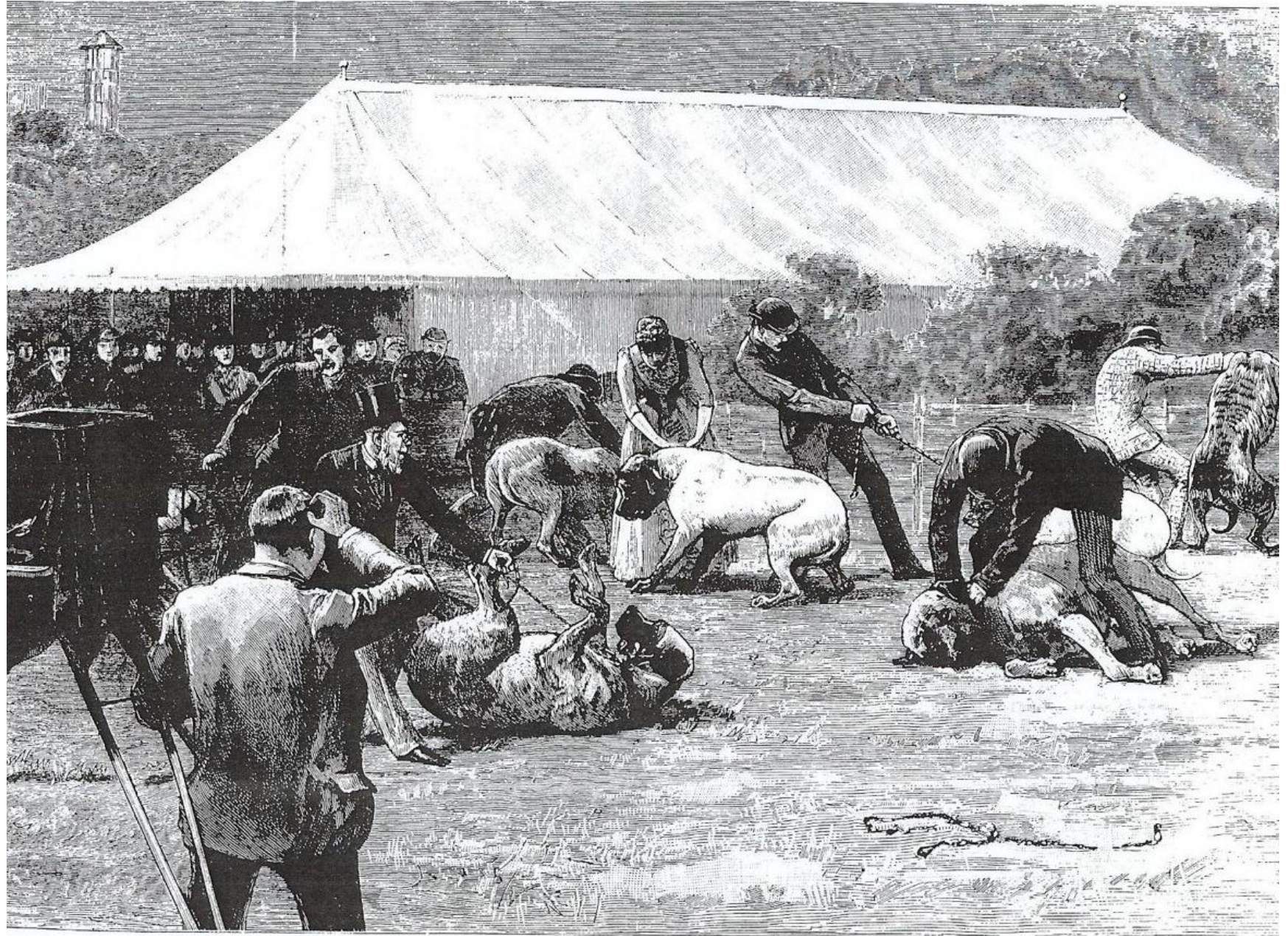


History of the Mastiff 1500 - 1835

- During this time Mastiffs were kept and bred by Royalty
- Henry the VIII of England presented Charles the IV of Spain with 400 Mastiffs to be used as war dogs (1500)
- King James I of England sent a gift of 2 Lyme Hall Mastiffs to Phillip II of Spain (1600)
- A Mastiff (Grace) and a spaniel accompanied the Plymouth colonists aboard the Mayflower (1620) (The Mighty Mastiff of the Mayflower by Peter Aronstom and Karen Busch Holman)
- They were used to fight wild animals as entertainment for Royalty until this cruel sport was banned in England in 1835

History of the Mastiff

- Mastiff popularity declined over the years until the mid to late 1800's
- Mastiffs eat about as much as an adult human, making them too expensive to keep for all but the wealthy. Those breeding programs resulted in the first recorded pedigrees
- Mid 1800's Dog showing became popular in England



THE OLD ENGLISH MASTIFF CLUB SHOW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE
TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH UNDER DIFFICULTIES

History of the Mastiff

The two world wars almost eliminated the Mastiff from Britain.

It was considered unpatriotic to keep dogs alive that ate as much as a soldier, entire kennels were put down as a result.

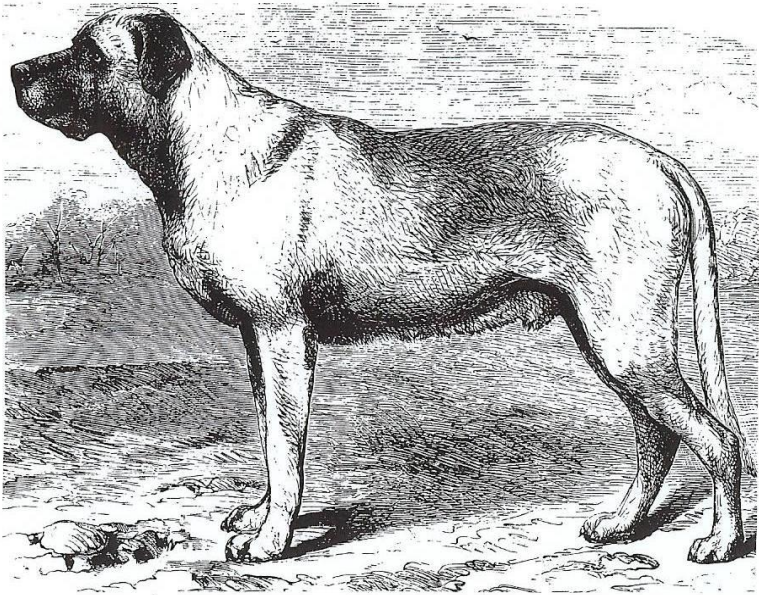
After WWII the Old English Mastiff Club helped to restore the breed in England with imported breeding stock from Canada and the United States.

History of the Mastiff

- Due to the English, the Mastiff has maintained its general structure over the centuries. Remember the Mastiff was introduced to Britain in 600 B. C.
- The Mastiffs you see in pictures from the late 1800's look just like the ones you see in the show ring today



1883 PORTRAIT OF CH. BEAU - Born 1876, Bred by Mr. E. Nichols, Sire - Prince, Dam -

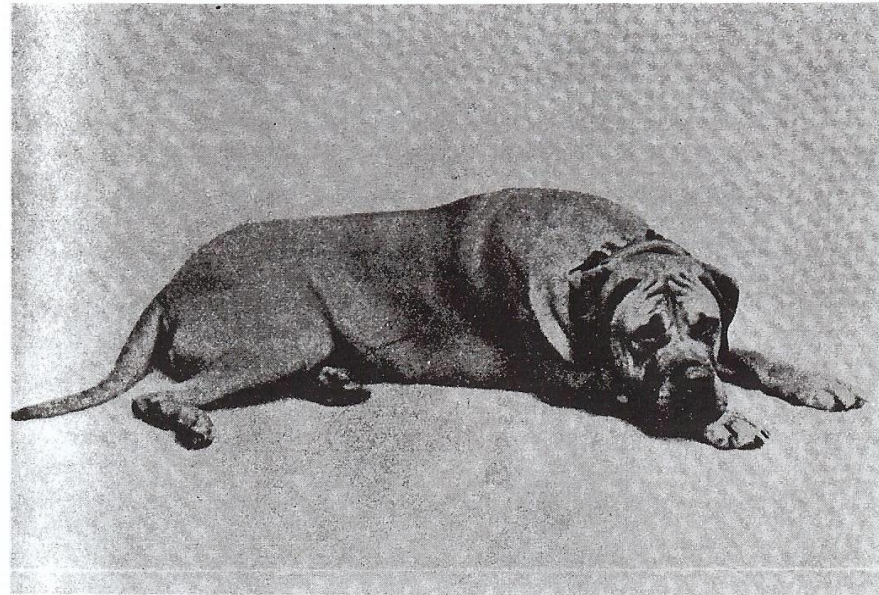


CH. TURK (6.VIII.1867)

Br:Miss Aglionby
S: Ch. King
D: Hilda

CH. WOLSEY (1873)

Br:Mr.E.Hambury
S: Ch. Rajah
D: Queen

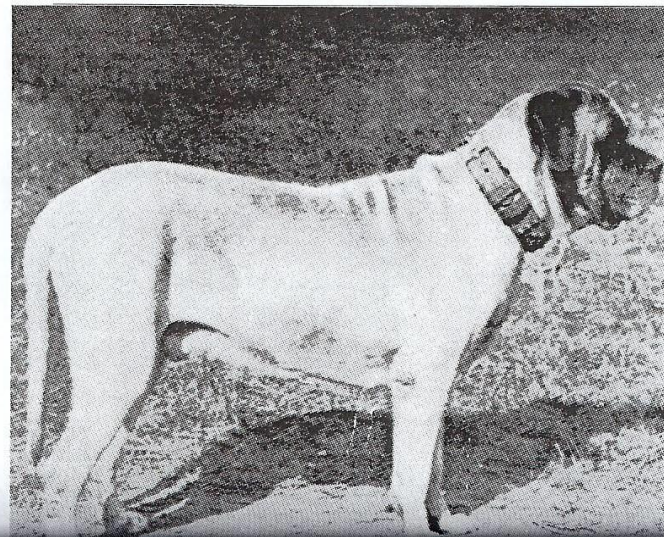


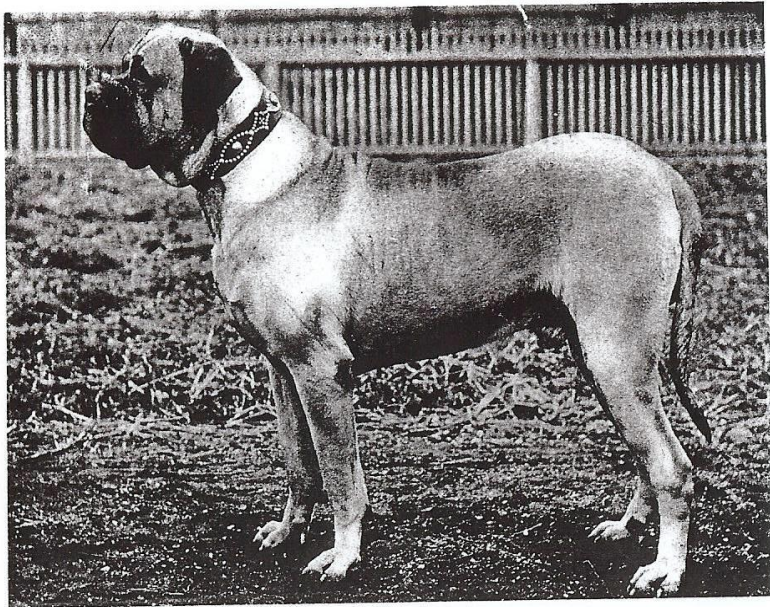
Br:Mr.W.Bulliston
S: Ch. Rajah
D: Ino

CH. THE SHAH (1873)

CH. BEAUFORT (29.VI.1884)

Br:Mr.D.S.Turner
S: Ch. Beau*
D: The Lady Isabel





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CH. MINTING (25.V.1885)

Br: Mrs. G. Willins
S: Maximilian
D: Cambrian Princess

CH. BRITAIN'S BELLE (11.VI.1908)

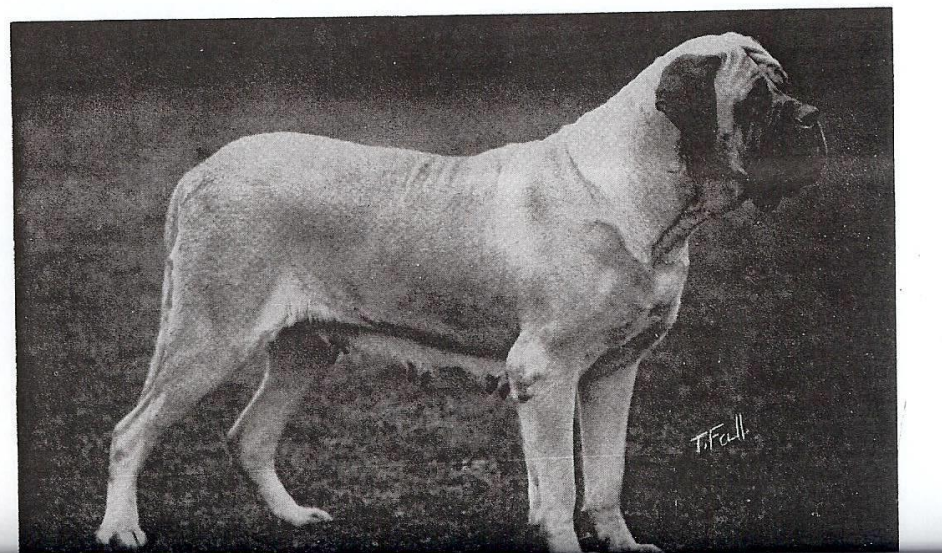
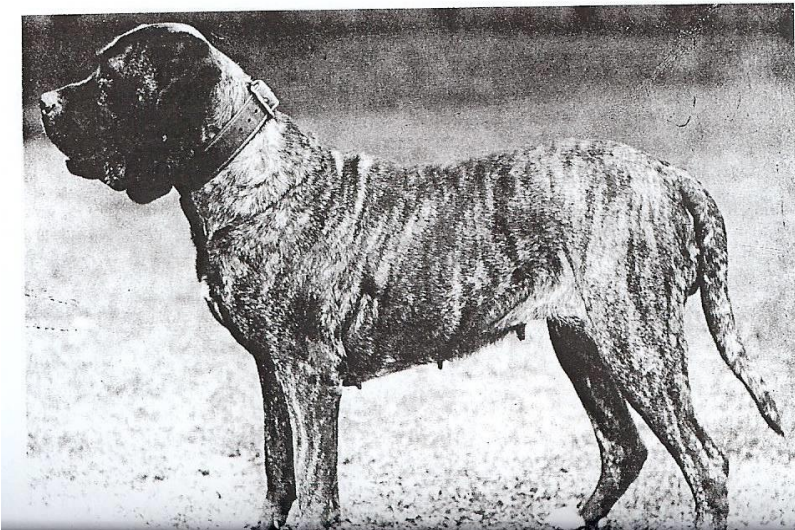
Br: Lt. Col. Z. Walker
S: Sir Kenneth
D: Dowager Duchess

Br: Mr. J. Winchell (USA)
S: Ch. Beaufort*
D: Cerda

BEAUFORT'S BLACK PRINCE (1890)

CH. YOUNG MARY BULL (5.IX.1914)

Br: Mrs. D. Berry
S: Ch. Brompton Duke
D: Galazova



CH. CLEOPATRA OF WESTCROFT
(26.X.1920)

Br: Mrs. C. Kennett
S: Ch. King Baldur
D: Princess Lie-a-Bed

HELGA (18.V.1926)

Br: Miss Bell
S: Woden
D: Victoria Menai

WODEN (12.I.1924)

Br: Miss Bell
S: Poor Joe
D: Squire's Daughter of Westcroft

LADY HILDUR (29.I.1927)

Br: Mr. W. Brunt
S: Ch. Blaise of Westcroft
D: Lady Byron



CH. JOSEPH OF HELLINGLY
(originally of 'STUDLAND')
(24.IX.1925)

Br: Mr. H. Young
S: King Baldur of Wantley
D: Tweedview Belle

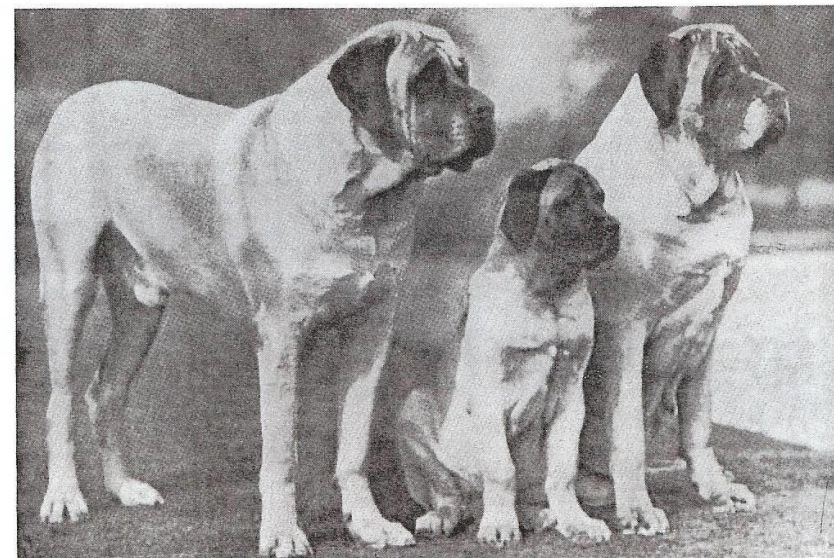
King Baldur of Wantley
S: Ch. King Baldur
D: Ch. Bernicea of Ashenhurst

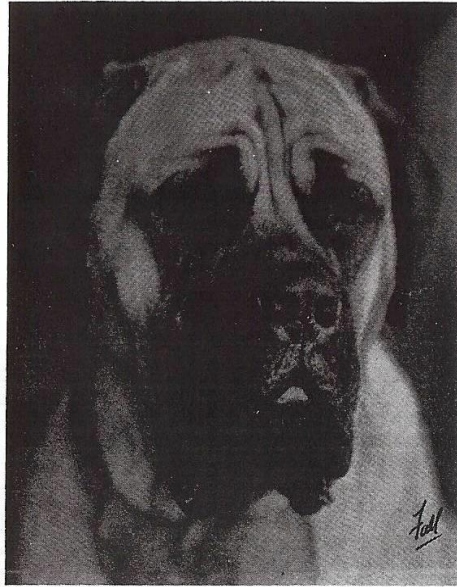
HANNIBAL OF HELLINGLY
(6.VI.1929)

Br: Mrs. Oliver
S: Ch. Cleveland Premier*
D: Hecuba of Hellingly

CH. JOY OF WANTLEY
(17.II.1925)

Br: Mr. H. Young
S: Ch. King Baldur
D: Hecuba of Hellingly





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CH. URSULA (18.V.1926)

Br:Miss Bell
S: Woden*
D: Victoria Menai

Br:Miss Bell
S: Ch. Bill of Havengore
D: Nerica

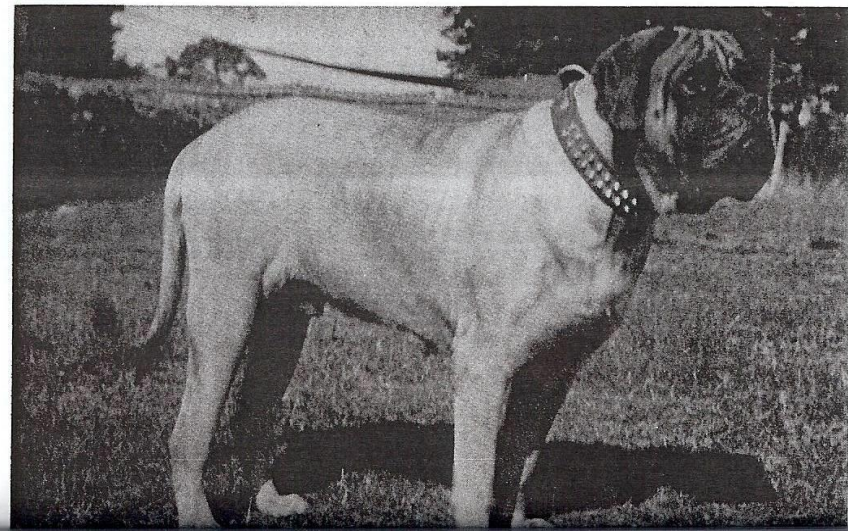
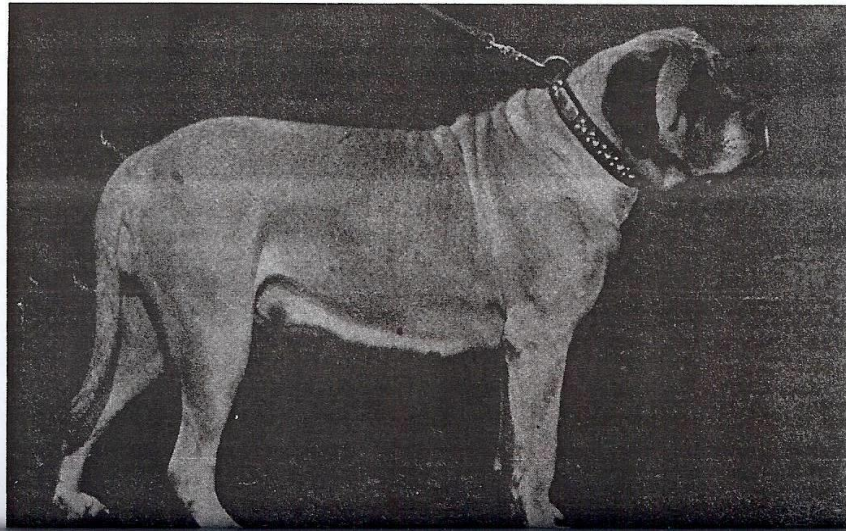
CH. LADY TURK (20.VII.1929)

CH. VOLO OF ILEDEN
(30.IV.1929)

Br:Mrs.L.Woods
S: Ch. Cleveland Premier*
D: Honor of Hellingly

Br:Miss Bell
S: Rufus
D: Bilichilde

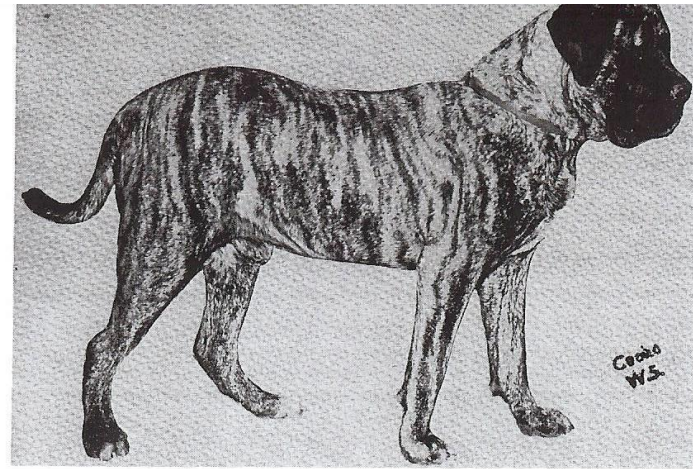
CH. UTHER PENARVON (1.X.1929)





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PRIVATELY IMPORTED STOCK



HONEY OF PARKHURST

(2.VI.1947)

Imported by Mrs.P.Day

Progeny by Valiant Diadem*:-

Hadrian, Hercules*, Hippolyta* & Horatius of Hollesley*

Br:Mr.B.Parker

S: Emblem of Parkhurst

D: Joy of Parkhurst

WEYACRES LINCOLN

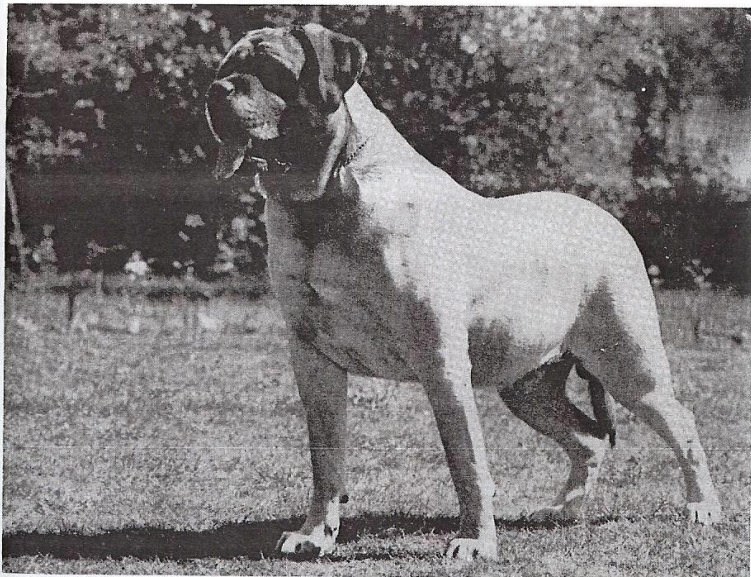
(13.XI.1952)

Imported by Miss Bell

Br:Mrs.Weyenburg (USA)

S: Withybush Magnus

D: Valiant Cythera



Br:Mr.R.Burn (USA)

S: Hector of Knockrivock

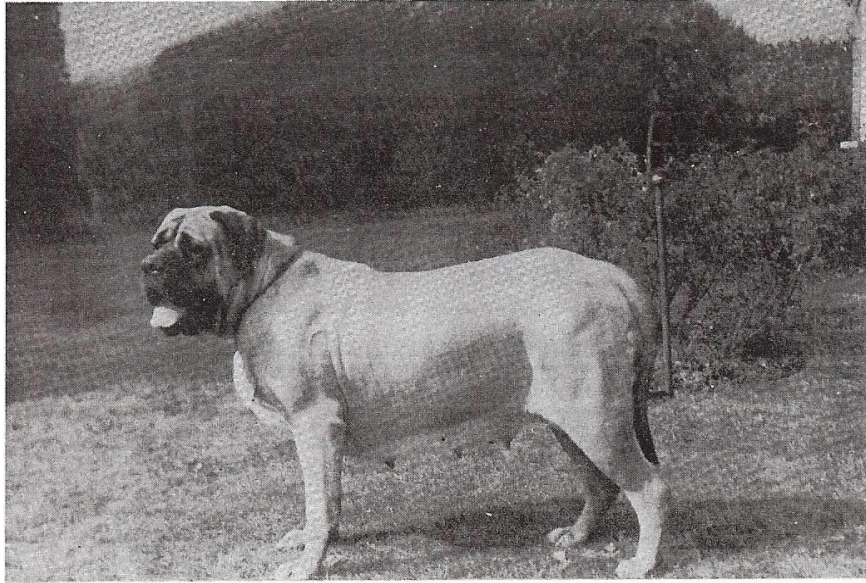
D: Valiant Cythera

VALIANT DIADEM

(30.VI.1952)

Imported by Mr. Hulbert

VALIANT DIADEM	{	Hector of K'rock	{	Eric of A'craig	{	King of H'ly	{	Marksman (of H'ly
{	Valiant Cythera	{	Olivia of Man'ta	{	Gail of A'craig	{	(i) Duke of Hellingly Maud of Hellingly	
								{
{	Aldwin of (i) A'craig	(ii) Kathrine (of H'ly						

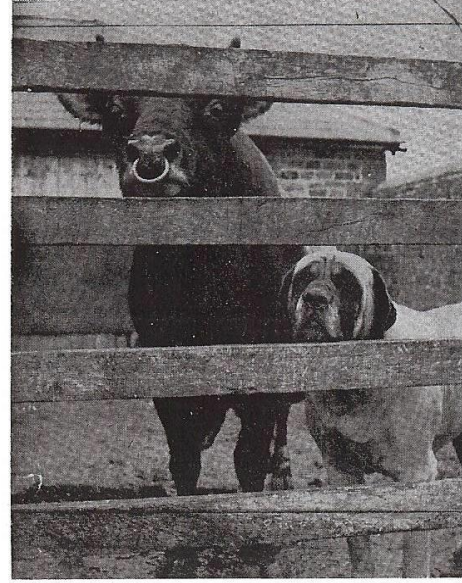


CH. WITHYBUSH BESS
(27.I.1954)

Br:Mr.J.Burdekin
S: Meps Jumbo of Mansatta
D: Jill of Flushdyke

CH. WITHYBUSH AETHELRED
(27.I.1955)

Br:Miss Bell
S: Weyacres Lincoln*
D: Withybush Duskie Lady

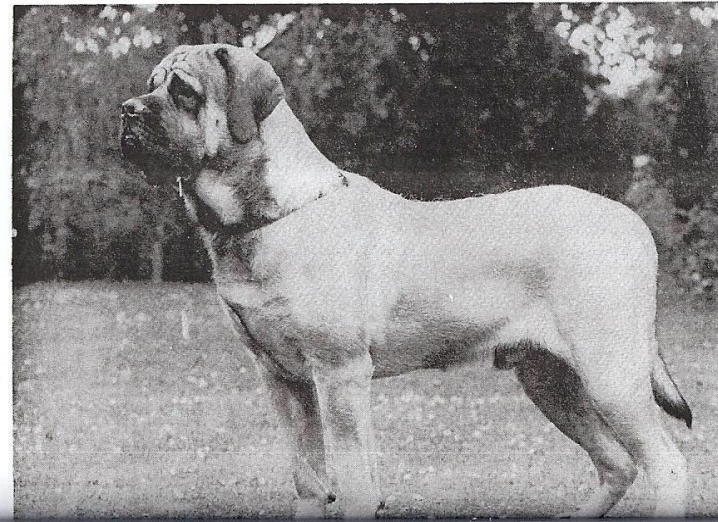


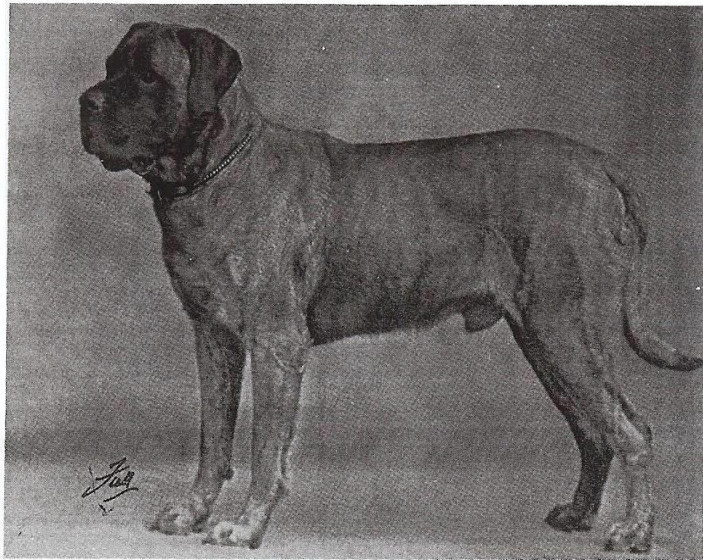
Br:Mrs.Harrild
S: Benedict of Mansatta
D: Duchess of Moonsfield

CH. BARON OF MOONSFIELD
(11.IX.1954)

Br:Miss Bell
S: Weyacres Lincoln*
D: Ch. Withybush Bess*

CH. WITHYBUSH CRISPIN
(25.II.1956)



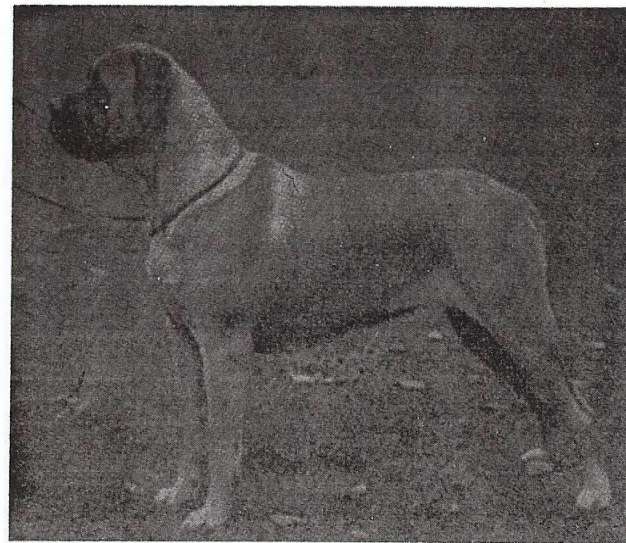
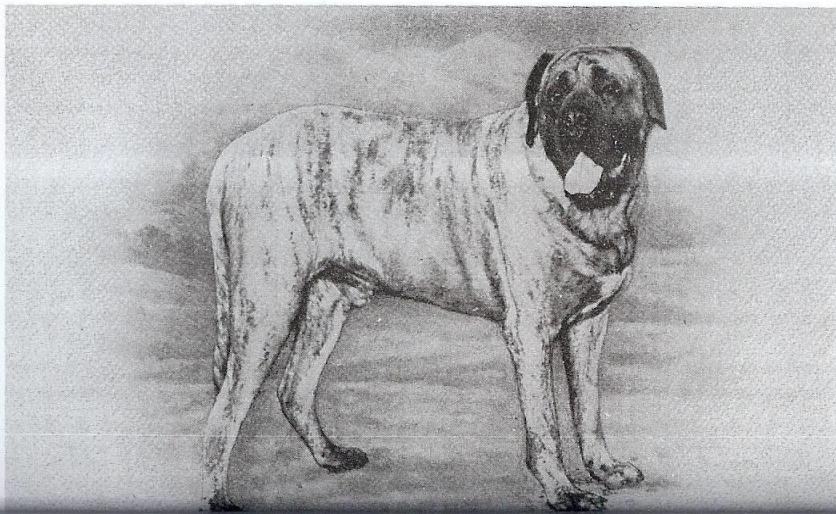


CH. RODNEY OF HAVENGORE
(9.IX.1949)

Br:Mr.K.Hulbert
S: Valiant Diadem*
D: Nydia of Frithend*

CH. VYKING AETHELWULF OF SALYNG
(21.XII.1951)

Br:Mr.W.Harvey
S: Heatherbelle
Bearehill's Rajah*
D: Valerie of Rayne

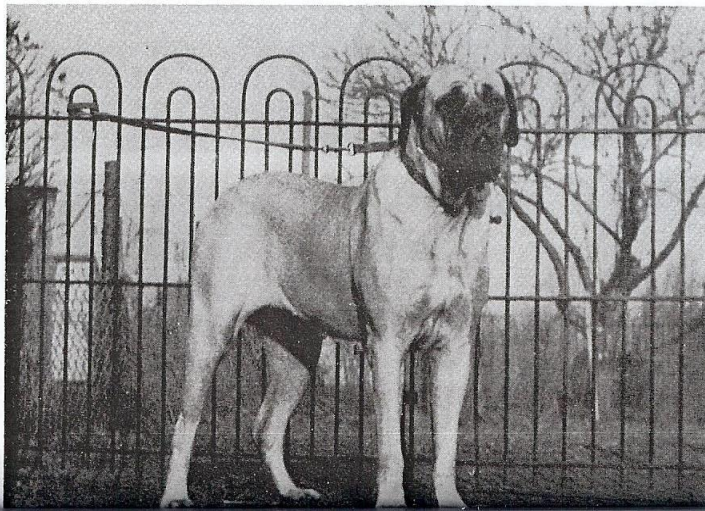


Br:O.E.M.C.
S: Valiant Diadem*
D: O.E.M.C. Heatherbelle
Portia of Goring

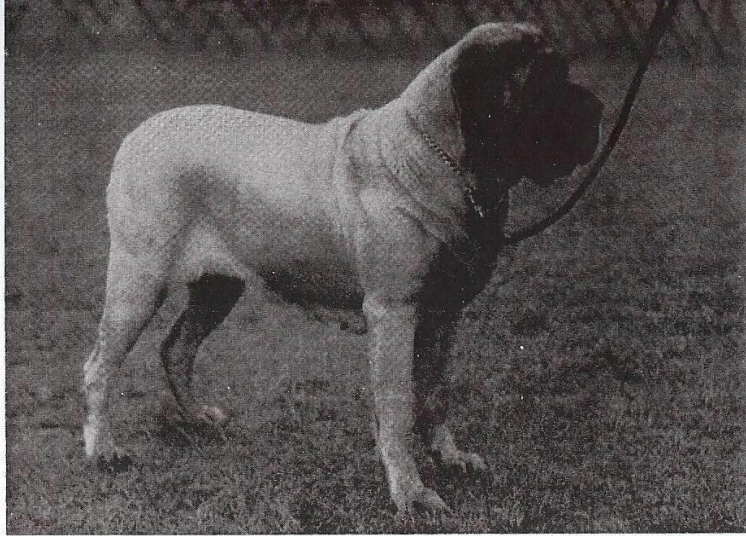
CH. O.E.M.C. COUNTESS
(13.VIII.1950)

Br:Mr.F.Bowles
S: Heatherbelle Bearehill's
Rajah*
D: Jana of Mansatta*

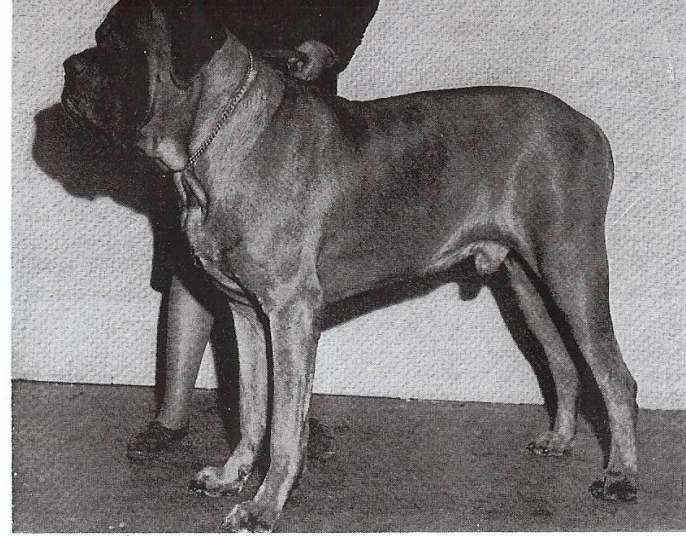
CH. VILNA OF MANSATTA
(28.IV.1952)



Note:
The breeder
on this and
many other
dogs was The
Old English
Mastiff Club



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CH. DAWN OF HAVENGORE
(19.XI.1958)

Br: Mrs. Scheerboom
S: Turk of Havengore
D: Sally Ann of Havengore

Br: Mrs. A. Anderson
S: Ch. Hotspot of Havengore*
D: Cindy Lou of Bardayle

CH. BALINT OF HAVENGORE
(7.II.1960)

CH. WEATHERHILL MILF MANETTA
(VI.1960)

Br: Mrs. S. Mather
S: Ch. Hotspot of Havengore*
D: Serena of Sparry

Br: Mr. W. Hanson
S: Drake of Havengore
D: Gipsy of Havengore

CH. RHINEHART OF BLACKROC
(also US.CH.) (19.X.1960)

