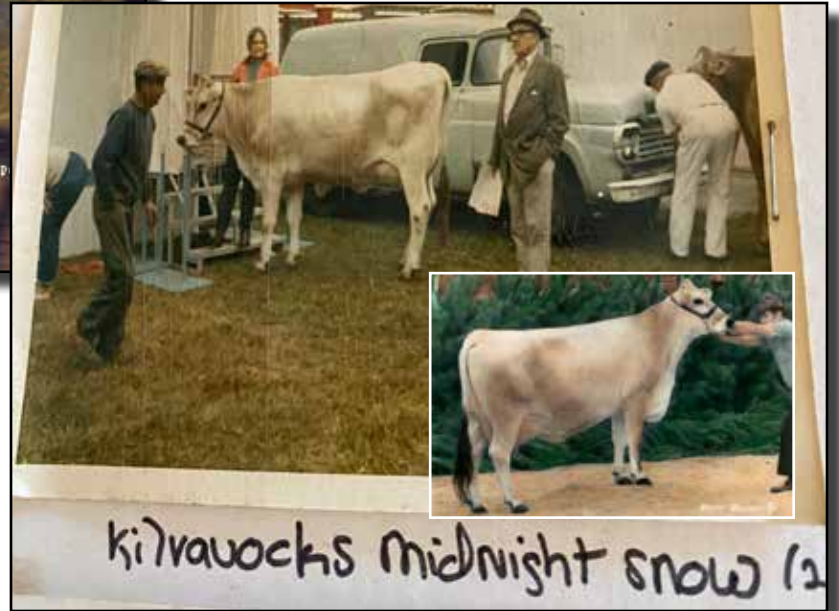




**KILRAVOCK SNOW STORM '5E90' ELITE  
SUPERIOR BROOD COW | ALL-AMERICAN  
NATIONAL TOTAL PERFORMANCE WINNER  
J.P. EVES AWARD**

## OVER 100 YEARS OF THE SNOW FAMILY



**T**his next brood cow family has had more than several articles written about them. Kilravock Snow Storm and her dam Kilravock Midnight Snow have spent the last 100 years providing top genetics to the Brown Swiss breed.

It is a well-known fact that Snow Storm and several other of her family members were purchased and developed by Wayne Sliker, then of New Jersey, now of St. Paris, Ohio. But her story didn't start there.

The Snow family lineage can be traced back to the first imports of the Brown Swiss breed. Beginning in 1867, one of the initial seven imported cows to the United States, Lissa was born. Registered as number 5, she was bred with William Tell, the first bull imported resulting in Estelle, registration number 13. From there the lineage goes from Estelle's daughter Daffodil to Brownie Tell, Brownie 2nd, Brownie 6th, Brownie C, Brownie's C Girl and then Cinnamon's Brownie who was the dam of Cinnamon's Maiden. Cinnamon's Maiden was Grand Champion of the 1925 National Dairy Show in Waterloo, Iowa. She was bred by N. C. Schmidt of Monroe, Wisconsin, and then was purchased in 1928 by J. Frank Zoller of Walhalla Farms in New York. Mr. Zoller mated Cinnamon Maiden to the bull Suydam's Nero resulting in their daughter, Nero's Cinnamon Maiden of Walhalla. The next two generations continued at Walhalla until Cinnamon Maiden's great granddaughter; Walhalla Wonderful Snowdrop was bred to Prince Baronet of Walhalla resulting in the 14th generation from Lissa, Walhalla Princess Snowflake.

In 1945, after several experiences with a variety of different breeds, Louis Ripley and his wife decided to build their dairy herd of Brown

Swiss. The Ripley's were the fourth generation on land purchased first in 1884 by Julie Dillon Ripley in Litchfield, Connecticut. At one time, the farm contained over 1200 acres, 10,000 white leg-horns with eggs shipped to New York restaurants. There was also a herd of imported Kerry cattle and Devon oxen. In 1914 the farm had a dairy, flock of sheep and raised tobacco and potatoes which were later converted to all alfalfa. Louis Ripley, the fourth generation, was the son of Louis A. Ripley and Constance Ballie Ripley. Louis A. Ripley was a member of the New York Stock Exchange and a grandson of Sidney Dillon who was the builder and president of the Union Pacific Railroad. Ballie was a founding member of the Girls Scouts of America. Their two sons, Louis R and Sidney Dillon would go on to excel in the world as well. Sidney became the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute for 20 years.

Louis R was a former president of the Heli-Coil Corporation in Danbury, Conn., which he founded in 1949, and also served as president of the United Cinephone Company in Torrington, Conn. He was president of Waltham Precision from 1957 to 1964 and retired in 1968. He married Dorothy Wagstaff who later became the secretary of the Connecticut Brown Swiss Association.

When Louis and Dorothy (Dottie) began acquiring Brown Swiss from good families and herds, one of those purchases was Walhalla Princess Snowflake from Walhalla Farms. Under the Kilravock prefix and the management of Hughes Curtiss, they produced award winning cattle in both production and type.

The Ripleys continued to develop the lineage that brought Snow Storm to reality by breeding Walhalla Princess Snowflake and her daughter to Lee Hill's bulls. Kilravocks Blue Snowdrop was the first



L-R: Dottie, Laurel, Louis & Louis R. Ripley  
on Maggie's Buttercup

of the line to be on test and made over 107,000 pounds of milk. She lived to make records well into her twelfth year. She was a daughter of Kilravocks Blue Chip, a son of Hycrest Bluealarnick and Hycrest Emperor from Hycrest Farm in Massachusetts. Snowdrop was mated with Welcome In Midnight resulting in Kilravock Midnight Snow.

During the late summer of 1971, Wayne Sliker was selecting for consignments to the Eastern Breeders' Sale when he stopped at Kilravock and spotted a group of white colored Swiss. Although the Ripleys would not consign them to the sale, Sliker did end up trading a group of fresh cows to them for the four animals. Those 'white' cattle were Midnight Snow, along with her full sister, Kilarvock Midnight Blue and another maternal sister and Snow's daughter, Snow Storm that Wayne Sliker took back to New Jersey.

Between 1971-1973 the Produce of Kilravock's Blue Snowdrop was 3X All-American with the two full sisters for Sliker's Top Acres. Kilravock Midnight Snow was '5E90/90MS' with 160,170m 6892f in 3195 days. She had five daughters, four scored Excellent and one Very Good along with seven sons through a flush program. Her full sister, Kilravock Midnight Blue was '3E90/90MS' and was the Honorable Mention All-American in 1971. She had two daughters, one, a Lee's Hill Bravado 4E90 Honorable Mention All-American, one a 'VG88' Norvic Lilason Beautician with Lifetime credits to 3083d 140,650m 5658f and a Welcome In son, Top Acres Blue Chip, who sired some winning daughters for Snells in Ohio.

Midnight Snow's daughter by Welcome-In Stretch, Snow Storm wasn't the epitome of grace at the time of her purchase, but Sliker's keen eye and instinct told him she would follow in her families footsteps. And the 'gutter calf' proved him correct. Snow Storm would go on to produce 4052d 212,000m and 9217f in her lifetime, score '5E90' and be both 'Elite' and a Superior Brood Cow. She would win multiple All-American titles and the J.P. Eves Award and the National Total Performance Award in 1981. Sliker's extensive flush program was successful for Snow Storm resulting in 24 offspring by sires Elegant, Notable, Balison, Jubilation and more. Through sales and exports, offspring could be found in several states, Colombia and Mexico and the next generations would make their way to Europe and around the world. Eight Snow Storm daughters in the US were scored Excellent and four 'VG87' points or higher of the 14 daughters she produced.

A branch of the Snowstorms that made their way out west to write their own story was Top Acres Rhythm Sunset ET. She is out of the '2E90' Res. All-American, National Total Performance winner, Top Acres Elegant Stylon ET purchased from Top Acres by John and Kim Mower in Washington. Rhythm Sunset went on to score '3E91' and win several awards at the Western National Show for the Mower's Chocolate Swiss herd.

Midnight Snow and Snow Storm daughters have produced All-Americans and nominations too numerous to count and descendants still continue to produce and show well. Many of her descendants have come into their own right as brood cows such as Dublin-Hills Sasha, Blue Heaven JW Snowplow, Sun-Made Jetway Shatzi ET and Kulp Gen Starbuck Shania. Both Shatzi and Shania go back to Top Acres Elegant Starlite 'E90' who, owned by Sunshine Genetics, exported and sold daughters all over the world.

Dublin Hills Sasha was the result of a purchase by Dennis Smith of Garstlyn SS Sonnett ET '2E91' bred by Brad Garst. Garst had purchased her dam, Top Acres Simon Sable '3E92' from Walkerbrae Farms in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Sasha is



DUBLIN HILLS SASHA '5E93'



BLUE HEAVEN JW SNOWPLOW 'EX94'



SUN-MADE JETWAY SHATZI ET '4E94'



KULP GEN STARBUCK SHANIA '4E94'

Continued on page 14



'23 All-American Jr. 3 Nominee

A JOY CP SNOW WHITE



'23 HM All-American Summer Jr. 2

DOUBLE J FAMOUS SNIPER



'23 All-American Spring Yrlg Nom.

KOURLYN CARTER STARLIGHT

the fourth dam of Kourlyn Carter Starlight, a 2023 All-American Spring Yearling Nominee.

Several other All-American nominees in 2023 trace back to the Snow family including Double J Famous Sniper, HM All-American Summer Jr. 2; Cutting Edge BG DS Sharice, nominated All-American Sr. 3; A Joy CP Snow White, nominated All-American Jr. 3 and A Joy T Snowfall, nominated All-American 5-Year-old to name a few.

Snow family members have also reached across the globe. Allstar Farms in the United Kingdom stated this on their Facebook page, "The Snowstorms are a must have for any Brown Swiss breeding program and there are two cows working at Allstar, both from the Cancourt herd. Cancourt Fifi EX90 is a 12th generation VG/EX by Vigor, 11 of those generations are Excellent. Cancourt Sindy VG86 is a Cadence bred from 7 generations of Excellent cows. This family makes Excellent cows for fun."

Cancourt Fifi is the 10th generation daughter of Snow Storm. She traces back to Top Acres J Sadie '2E90' a daughter of Elegant Style another '2E90' daughter of Snow Storm. Wayne Sliker said "They (Husseys of Cancourt Farm, UK) were over here and spent about a week with us and we worked out an embryo purchase. One of Sadie's embryo daughters by Elegant Simon, Cancourt ES Sadie ET, went '3E94' and at one time was one of highest scored Swiss in Great Britain."

The prolific genetics from the Snow families continue to make an impact in today's breed from the sale ring to the show ring and in the bulk tank across the world.



Editor's note: Thank you to the Ripley family, Allstar Dairy & Wayne Sliker for information and photos.

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