Published on *NCpedia* (https://www.ncpedia.org)

Sir Archie [1]

Sir Archie

by Ansley Wegner

Research Branch, NC Office of Archives and History, 2006.
www.ncmarkers.com [2]

See also: Additional NCpedia articles related to Sir Archie [3]

1805-1833


The Celebrated Horse

SIR ARCHIE

Will stand the ensuing season at my stable, in Northampton county, North-Carolina, about 3 miles from the Court House, 9 miles from the town of Halifax, and 24 miles from Hellfield, Va. He will cover mares at 75 dollars the season, payable on the 1st of January next, with one dollar to the groom in all cases. Such of Sir Archie's friends that live at a distance will send their notes with the mares, payable on the first of January; also feeding of the mares to be paid for when taken away. The season will commence on the first February, and terminate on the first of August.

Extensive fields of small grain and clover are sown for the benefit of mares, which may be left with the horse, with the addition of grain feeding, at 33 1-3 cents per day. Separate enclosures are provided for mares with colts. No pains will be spared in taking the best possible care of mares, &c. which may be left, but no responsibility for escapes or accidents.

☞ Sir Archie's blood, great size, performance on the turf, and celebrity as a foal getter, are sufficient recommendations.

JOHN D. AMIS.

An 1827 broadside produced by John Amis, Sir Archie's owner, advertising the horse at stud. From the Cameron Family Papers, no. 133, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

[4]The greatest thoroughbred in North Carolina history was the celebrated Sir Archie, foundation sire of champions Timoleon, Boston, Lexington, and Man O'War. In the era preceding the time when Kentucky became the nation's center of horse racing [5] and equine culture, North Carolina established a considerable reputation. For several generations Virginia and North Carolina horses dominated tracks throughout the country.

Foaled in Cumberland County, Virginia, Sir Archie (1805-1833) at an early age came to the attention of the nation's first great trainer, William Ransom Johnson [6] (1782-1849), a native of Warrenton, North Carolina. Johnson bought the horse for $1,500 and described him as "the best horse I have ever seen." After Sir Archie won races in Richmond and Petersburg, Johnson was hard pressed to find competition. In 1809 William R. Davie [7] of Halifax, Revolutionary War general and founder of the University of North Carolina [8], purchased Sir Archie for $5,000 and soon thereafter put him out to stud. Sir Archie's offspring became the next generation of champion thoroughbreds. From 1817 to 1833 he was quartered at "Mowfield" plantation and is buried on its grounds. In the annals of turf history he has no peer.

In 1974 a State Highway Historical Marker was erected on US 158 one mile south of the "Mowfield" and west of Jackson in Northampton County. It is one of only two state markers dedicated to a four-legged mammal, the other being about a breed, the Plott Hound [9].

References:

Elizabeth Amis, Cameron Blanchard, and Manly Wade Wellman, *The Life and Times of Sir Archie: The Story of America's Greatest Thoroughbred, 1805-1833* (1958)

Roger Longrigg, *The History of Horse Racing* (1972)

Thoroughbred Heritage Portraits website: http://www.tbheritage.com/Portraits/SirArchy.html [10]

Additional Resources:

Mason, Scott. "A big horse that left a even bigger impact."*Tar Heel Traveller*. WRAL. https://www.wral.com/a-big-horse-that-left-a-even-bigger-impact/13589433/ [11] (accessed April 24, 2014).

Fulghum, Neil. "Sir Archie: An Equine Superstar." *North Carolina Miscellany* (blog). North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. May 27, 2008. https://blogs.lib.unc.edu/ncm/2008/05/27/sir-archie-an-equine-superstar-2/ [12] (accessed April 24, 2014).

N.C. Highway Historical Markers, N.C. Office of Archives & Historyhttps://www.dncr.nc.gov/about-us/history/division-historical-resources/n... [2] (accessed September 18, 2023).

Decock, Luke. "Sir Archie of Northampton County, NC." Visit Northampton NC! https://www.visitnorthamptonnc.com/things-to-do-in-northampton-county-nc... [13] (accessed April 24, 2014).

Image Credits:

An 1827 broadside produced by John Amis, Sir Archie's owner, advertising the horse at stud. From the Cameron Family Papers, no. 133, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00133/ [4]

Subjects:
Antebellum (1820-1861) [14]
Athletes and sports figures [15]
Biographies [16]
Sports [17]
Authors:
Wegner, Ansley Herring [18]
Origin - location:
Northampton County [19]
Warren County [20]
Warrenton [21]

1 January 2004 | Wegner, Ansley Herring

Source URL:https://www.ncpedia.org/sir-archie?page=0

Links
[1] https://www.ncpedia.org/sir-archie [2] https://www.dncr.nc.gov/about-us/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program [3] https://ncpedia.org/gsearch?query=sir+archie [4] https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00133/ [5] https://www.ncpedia.org/horse-racing [6] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/johnson-william-ransom [7] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/davie-william-richardson [8] https://www.ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi [9] https://www.ncpedia.org/symbols/dog [10] http://www.tbheritage.com/Portraits/SirArchy.html [11] https://www.wral.com/a-big-horse-that-left-a-even-bigger-impact/13589433/ [12] https://blogs.lib.unc.edu/ncm/2008/05/27/sir-archie-an-equine-superstar-2/ [13] https://www.visitnorthamptonnc.com/things-to-do-in-northampton-county-nc/heritage-tourism/sir-archie-of-northampton-county-nc.html [14] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/antebellum-1820-1 [15]

https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/athletes-sports-figures [16] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term [17] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/sports [18] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/wegner-ansley-herr [19] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-31 [20] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-2 [21] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/warrenton