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Archaeology and the Book of Mormon - Part VI. Horses in Ancient America

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ARCHAEOLOGY and the BOOK OF MORMON

by President Milton R. Hunter
OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF THE SEVENTY

Part VI Horses in Ancient America

IT IS A FACT of interest and much significance that prior to and at the time of the publication of the Book of Mormon "... the profane histories . . . were a unit in the thought that no horses existed here previous to their introduction by the Spanish."¹ Dr. Frederick J. Pack emphasized the fact that when the Prophet Joseph Smith, aided by the power of the Lord, translated the history and religious teachings of the ancient Americans and published the account under the title of the Book of Mormon, he published statements regarding horses which were completely contrary to the universally accepted belief that horses had not existed on either of the American continents prior to the discovery of the New World and the Spanish conquest. To quote:

... It should be remembered that this book was published at a time when even the most profound thinkers were positive that no horses had existed previous to the Spanish conquest. The statements in the Book of Mormon relating to the horse were at that time used by its opponents as proof that the book was untrue, and written by someone who was not acquainted with even the crudest facts of history.²

Possibly historians had come to the foregoing conclusion because the Spanish *conquistadores* of Guatemala, Yucatan, and the valley of Mexico were mounted on horses while their opponents, the Indians, possessed no such animals and were completely unfamiliar with them. Father Diego de Landa, in reporting on conditions in Yucatan at the time of the Spanish conquest, mentioned the dog as being the only domesticated animal pos-

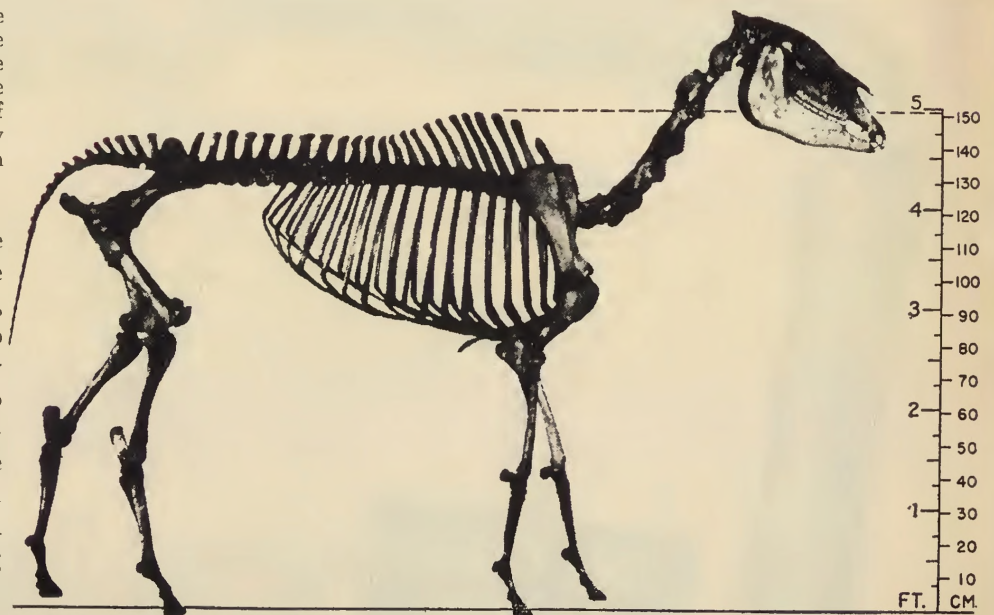
essed by the Maya Indians of that land.³ Furthermore, as far as the author knows, none of the early explorers or missionaries to the Indians in either North or South America recorded in their journals the fact that they had observed horses among the Indians during the earlier part of the colonial period. Perhaps these facts were the basic ones in causing historians to be united in their declarations that there had never been horses on the Western Hemisphere prior to the coming of the Spaniards, and so a little over one hundred years ago it was a universally accepted belief that the Spaniards brought the first horses to America.

In direct opposition to that belief, the Book of Mormon, published on

³Diego de Landa, (cir. 1556), *Relación de las Cosas de Yucatan* (1941 ed.), p. 203, cited in Milton R. Hunter and Thomas Stuart Ferguson, *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon* (Oakland, 1950), p. 310.

March 26, 1830, makes the claim that horses lived upon the American continent throughout Jaredite and Nephite times. There are eleven statements scattered throughout this ancient record regarding horses, all of which indicate that horses were among the animals in ancient America. Some of the statements definitely maintain that horses were domesticated and used by the inhabitants of this continent in ancient times for purposes similar to those for which other peoples have used them. Also, the writer finds no evidence in the Book of Mormon to the effect that the horse became extinct before the close of Nephite history. The latter few references to them seem to indicate that they were abundant during that period.

The Jaredites, who migrated to America from the Tower of Babel and flourished as a great nation for



SKELETON OF WESTERN HORSE (*Equus occidentalis* Leidy). Horse bones taken from the asphalt deposits of Rancho La Brea and now displayed in the Los Angeles County Museum collection. Courtesy of Chester Stock. Note scale at right for size of horse.

THE IMPROVEMENT ERA

¹Frederick J. Pack, "Revelation Ante-dating Scientific Discovery—An Instance," *THE IMPROVEMENT ERA* (Salt Lake City, February, 1907), vol. 10, pp. 242-243.

²*Ibid.*, p. 244.

hundreds of years, possessed numerous horses. Ether, the last of the Jaredite prophets, mentioned some of the animals that his people had used in ancient America for many centuries before the time of Christ. He wrote:

And they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants and cureloms and cumoms; all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants and cureloms and cumoms.⁴

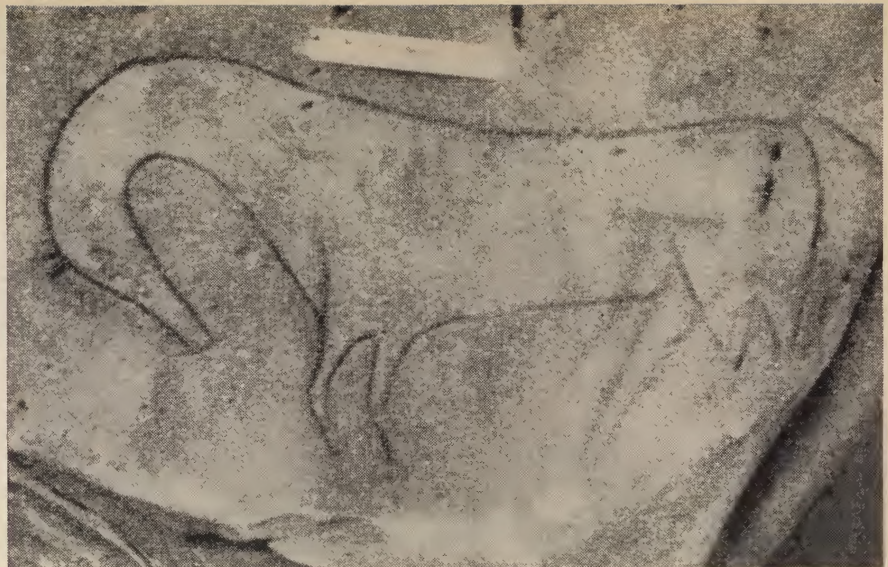
The Jaredite historian pointed out the fact that his people domesticated some of the animals and used them in doing farm work. The following is quoted from the ancient records:

And they did make all manner of tools with which they did work their beasts.⁵

A large variety of animals survived on the American continent after the close of Jaredite history, supplying the needs of the next group of colonists who inhabited the land. These people were called Nephites, and their brethren were designated as Lamanites. The progenitors of the Nephites and Lamanites migrated to the Western Hemisphere under the leadership of Father Lehi and his son Nephi. They came to America from Jerusalem, leaving the holy city in the year 600 B.C. Upon their arrival, Nephi, the historian of the group, mentioned the fact that they found a variety of animals here. He named some of the more common species which are usually domesticated for the use of man. Following is his statement:

And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forest of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, and

⁴Ether 9:19 (Italics author's throughout.)
⁵Ibid., 10:26.



An Indian pictograph of the likeness of an unbridled horse in Picture Canyon, Cimarron County, Oklahoma, which shows that Indians in early times were acquainted with horses.

the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. . . .⁶

⁶1 Nephi 18:25.



A section of an Indian pictograph from the southwestern section of US, showing a man on a horse probably driving some goats. This is an example of early Pueblo Indian writing and it gives evidence that the Indians of pre-Columbian days rode horses.

Perhaps the Nephites lost very little time in capturing various kinds of the useful animals listed by Nephi and domesticating them, since they were familiar with such animals and their usefulness, having just arrived from Jerusalem where such animals were known. At least it is definite from a statement made by Enos, the son of Jacob, Nephi's brother, that by 421 B.C. the Nephites had domesticated the horse and other animals. In the words of Enos:

And it came to pass that the people of Nephi did till the land, and raise all manner of grain, and of fruit, and . . . herds . . . of cattle of every kind, and goats, and wild goats, and also many horses.⁷

Approximately ninety years before the opening of the Christian era, four of King Mosiah II's sons refused the crown in order to devote their lives to missionary work among the Lamanites. Ammon, the oldest of these sons and the chief one among them, became the servant of one of the Lamanite kings named Lamoni, who resided in the city of Ishmael.⁸ On a certain occasion King Lamoni inquired of his servants regarding the whereabouts of Ammon. Following is the reply:

And they said unto him: Behold, he is feeding thy horses. Now the king had commanded his servants, previous to the time of the watering of their flocks, that they should prepare his horses and chariots, and conduct him forth to the land of Nephi, by the father of Lamoni, who was the king over all the land.

(Continued on following page)



A section of the same Indian pictograph shown above which depicts a horse with its rider shooting a deer with an arrow. One of the illustrations on the pictograph appears to be a wheel.

⁷Enos 1:21.
⁸Mosiah 27:34; Alma 17:18-27.

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Now when king Lamoni heard that Ammon was preparing his *horses and his chariots* he was more astonished, because of the faithfulness of Ammon, saying: Surely there has not been any servant among all my servants that has been so faithful as this man; for even he doth remember all my commandments to execute them.⁹

The Book of Mormon reports that shortly thereafter the following event occurred:

Now when Lamoni had heard this he caused that his servants should make ready his *horses and his chariots*.¹⁰

The most interesting item in the foregoing quotations is the fact that during that period of Book of Mormon history even the Lamanites—the people with an inferior culture to the Nephites—were driving horses hitched to chariots. This fact seems to indicate that horses were used rather extensively at that time as an aid in transportation and, according to the Book of Mormon, these ancient Americans had constructed a network of roads connecting the principal towns: To quote:

And there were many highways cast up, and many roads made, which led from city to city, and from land to land, and from place to place.¹¹

It is reasonable to believe that the chariots of the Nephites and Lamanites were wheeled vehicles, since before migrating from Jerusalem the progenitors of these people lived in the

Mediterranean world where horses and chariots were used extensively. It would have been the natural thing for Nephi and his associates to have brought that knowledge to their new home and put it in use when they found horses here in America.

Since the principal purpose of the Book of Mormon was to give an account of the religious history of the inhabitants of ancient America, it would have been more or less by accident that horses were mentioned at all in that record. In perusing the Book of Mormon, the writer was surprised to find horses mentioned as often as they are; and certainly they are referred to enough times to supply convincing evidence of their existence and usefulness in ancient America during both Jaredite and Nephite times.

In the year 17 A.D., approximately one hundred seven years after the incident of King Lamoni's horses and chariots, the record-keeper once again casually mentioned horses, indicating that they were considered among the valuable possessions of the Nephites at that time. He stated that the Gadianton robbers had become so numerous that the more righteous portion of the Nephites collected in one place all their possessions for the purpose of making it easier to protect themselves from the robbers. To quote directly from the Nephite records:

. . . the proclamation of Lachoneus had gone forth throughout all the face of the land, and they had taken *their horses, and their chariots, and their cattle, and all their flocks and their herds, and their grain, and*

all their substance, and did march forth by thousands and by tens of thousands, until they had all gone forth to the place which had been appointed that they should gather themselves together, to defend themselves against their enemies.¹²

In reporting conditions the following year, the Nephites having had time to gather all their possessions, the historian once again mentioned horses as being numbered among that which they had collected. To quote:

Therefore, there was no chance for the robbers to plunder and to obtain food, save it were to come up in open battle against the Nephites; and the Nephites being in one body, and having so great a number, and having reserved for themselves provisions, *and horses and cattle, and flocks of every kind, that they might subsist for the space of seven years, in which time they did hope to destroy the robbers from off the face of the land; and thus the eighteenth year did pass away.*¹³

Eight years later (26 A.D.) the war was over, the more righteous part of the Nephites having been victorious. As part of his report of this event, the record-keeper wrote:

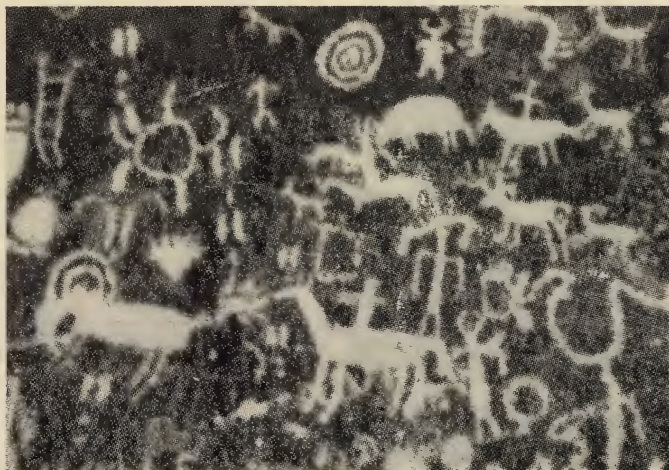
And now it came to pass that the people of the Nephites did all return to their own land in the twenty and sixth year, every man, with his family, his flocks and his herds, *his horses and his cattle, and all things that did belong unto them.*¹⁴

When the resurrected Messiah appeared to the Nephites and taught them the same gospel which he had proclaimed to the Jews before his crucifixion, in one of his discourses he said: ". . . I will cut off *thy horses* out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy *thy chariots.*"¹⁵ Jesus would not have spoken of horses and chariots if his listeners were completely unfamiliar with them.

From the foregoing quotations, it seems quite conclusive that horses were more or less numerous in ancient America and that they were extensively used by the Nephite and Lamanite peoples as well as by their predecessors the Jaredites. Also, the evidence presented does not indicate that horses became exterminated during the period of Nephite history, nor is there evidence found elsewhere in the Book of Mormon to that effect.

Prior to the publishing of the Nephite records, no fossil remains of

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A section of an Indian pictograph of the Southwestern Pueblo Indians, showing three men riding horses, and also one colt. This illustrates the fact that the Indians in early times made extensive use of horses.

⁹Alma 18:9-10.
¹⁰Ibid., 20:6.
¹¹3 Nephi 6:8.

¹²Ibid., 3:22.
¹³Ibid., 4:4.
¹⁴Ibid., 6:1.
¹⁵Ibid., 21:14.

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horses had been found on the Western Hemisphere, and so science at that time was silent on the matter. However, after the Book of Mormon came from the press, geological discoveries made by scientists supported the claims made by that book and divine revelation by producing sufficient evidence to fully establish the fact ". . . that immense herds of horses roamed the plains and forest of America centuries before its discovery by the Europeans. . ."¹⁶

On October 5, 1833, only three and one half years after the Book of Mormon came from the press, Charles Darwin, while on a scientific trip around the world, discovered ". . . the first evidence of the existence of ancient horses" in South America. In reporting the foregoing evidence, Darwin wrote:

In the Pampaeen deserts at the Bajada, . . . I found also teeth of the Toxoden and Mastodon, and one tooth of a horse, in the same stained and decayed state. This latter tooth greatly interested me (I need hardly state here that there is good evidence against any horse living in America at the time of Columbus) and I took scrupulous care in ascertaining that it had been imbedded contemporaneously with the other remains; for I was not then aware that amongst the fossils from Bahia Blanca there was a horse's tooth hidden in the matrix, nor was it then known with certainty that the remains of horses are common in North America. Mr. Lyell had lately brought from the United States the tooth of a horse; . . . Certainly it is a marvelous fact in the history of the Mammalia that in South America a native horse should have lived and disappeared, to be succeeded in after ages by the countless herds descended from the few introduced with the Spanish colonists.¹⁷

In 1866, a scientist named Andrew Murray published the data then known on horses in ancient America. To quote:

We know that the horse existed in the Old and New World both previous and subsequent to the glacial epoch. . . . Extinct species are known belonging to three genera of horses in the drift or post-glacial deposits of a recent period. . . . The occurrence of a distinct rehabilitation of the common species by man in both South and North America. The first trace of it was discovered by Darwin. . . .¹⁸

And then Murray concluded that ". . . it was well established that no

horse was living in America at the time of Columbus. . . ."¹⁹ This belief is still held by practically all writers. Only last year Dr. Paul Herrmann, a German scholar, stated that ". . . There were no horses in America prior to Columbus. . . ."²⁰ Also, Robert Moorman Denhardt, who in 1947 wrote an entire volume on *The Horse of the Americas*, maintained that:

. . . Only the fossils of the original horse which inhabited the Western Hemisphere remained when Columbus reintroduced Spanish-bred mounts into the New World in 1493. . . . In any case, when the Spaniards arrived, there were no horses.²¹

In Flower and Lydekker's work on *Mammals*, published in 1891, the following statement appears:

Fossil remains of horses are found abundantly in the deposits of the most recent geological age in almost every part of America, from Eschscholtz Bay in the north to Patagonia in the south. In that continent, however, they became quite extinct, and no horses, either wild or domesticated, existed there at the time of the Spanish conquest, which is the more remarkable as, when introduced from Europe, the horses that ran wild proved by their rapid multiplication in the plains of the South and Texas that the climate, food, and other circumstances were highly favorable for their existence. The former great abundance of *Equidae* (horses) in America, their complete extinction, and their perfect acclimatization when re-introduced by men, form curious, but as yet unsolved problems in geographical distribution.²²

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City has devoted considerable attention to the collecting of remains of ancient American horses and has done extensive research in that field. The studies of the scientists connected with this institution have demonstrated that horses in ancient America ". . . range greatly in size, in fact even more than the diminutive Shetland, and the gigantic Clyde."²³ In a pamphlet published in 1903 on the horse, under a topic headed "Fossil Remains of the Age of Man," the following statements are made:

In the early part of the Quarternary Period, wild species of horse were to be found on every continent except Australia. Remains of these true native horses have

¹⁶Pack, *op. cit.*, p. 243.
¹⁷Charles Darwin, *Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited During the Voyage of H. M. S. Beagle Round the World* (New York, 1846), vol. 1, pp. 165-166.
¹⁸Andrew Murray, *The Geographical Distribution of Animals* (London, 1866), pp. 134-135.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, p. 166.
²⁰Paul Herrmann, *Conquest by Man* (New York, 1954), p. 180.
²¹Robert Moorman Denhardt, *The Horse of the Americas* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1947), p. 5.
²²Flower and Lydekker, *Mammals* (London, 1891), pp. 381-382.
²³Pack, *op. cit.*, p. 246.

been found buried in the strata of this age in all parts of the United States, in Alaska, in Mexico, in Ecuador, Brazil, and Argentina, as well as in Europe, Asia, and Africa. All these horses were much like the living species and most of them are included in the genus *Equus*. . . .

All these horses became extinct, both in North and South America. Why, we do not know. . . .²⁴

A complete skeleton of a horse was found in northern Texas in 1899 by an expedition of scientists sent out by the American Museum of Natural History. Numerous specimens of fossil horses have been found in various parts of the United States, especially in Nebraska, Oregon, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Kansas, and Louisiana. The following is quoted from an official publication of the Los Angeles County Museum on the subject of existence of horses in early times in America as is evidenced from the finds made in the asphalt deposits of Rancho La Brea:

The presence of herds of horses in the vicinity of the asphalt deposits during the period of accumulation is clearly testified to by the numerous remains of these mammals found at Rancho La Brea. While many individuals are recorded in the collections, all of them belong to a single species, the extinct western horse (*Equus occidentalis Leidy*). In stage of evolution and in general body structure this type resembles the modern horse, although differing from it in a number of specific details. Standing on the average about 14½ hands (4 feet, 10 inches) at the withers, this animal was of the height of a modern Arab horse. It was, however, of considerably heavier build. . . .

These horses, like their living relatives, were one-toed animals. Limb and body are supported by the enlarged third toe, while slender splintlike bones represent the elements which during an earlier history of the horse group were more fully developed and carried the second and fourth toes. The hoofs in the Rancho La Brea species are distinctly smaller and more slender than in the larger type of existing horses. In this respect again, a greater resemblance is seen to exist with the asses and zebras.

The species, *Equus occidentalis*, has been known heretofore by isolated teeth and fragmentary skull material collected in Pleistocene deposits in Tuolumne County and in the Buena Vista Lake region of Kern County. Following identification of this form on the basis of the complete remains at Rancho La Brea, *Equus occidentalis* has been recorded from several additional Pleistocene locations in California. It is now known by many specimens that have been recovered from the asphalt deposits of McKittrick.

Horses were among the more common types of hoofed mammals on the North American continent during Pleistocene time

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²⁴W. D. Matthew, *Supplement to American Museum Journal* (New York, January, 1903), cited in *ibid.*
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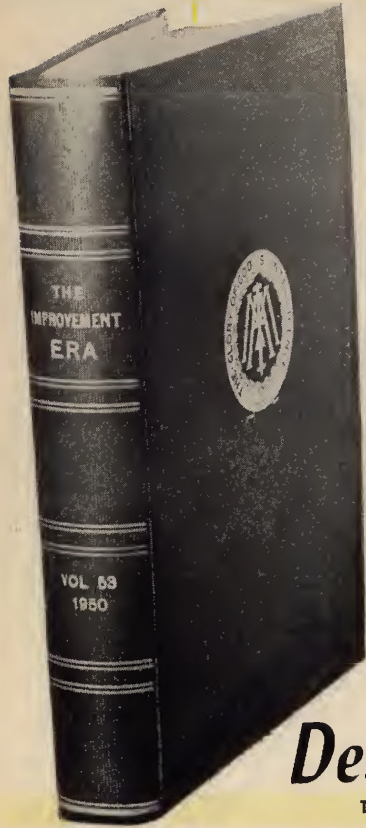
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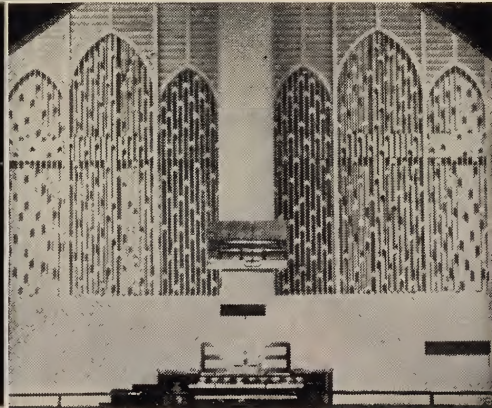
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and several distinct species have been described from fossil remains. The abundance and widespread distribution of horses in North America make the apparent disappearance of the group in this region prior to the advent of the white man an added and an unusual feature of their long and eventful career.²⁵

Denhardt suggests that in the earliest of times the horse may have originated in America. To quote:

It seems only right that America, apparently designed by nature to provide an ideal home for the horse, may be the fountainhead of equine existence. . . .²⁶

. . . During these long ages the early horse was extremely abundant, and at least four migrations took place from the New World to the Old. Of these migrations, only the last group of wanderers survived. In the Americas the original stock died out completely. From Manitoba to Patagonia the horse disappeared from the Western Hemisphere.

With the advent of the Spanish *conquistadores*, the American horse, after wandering far over the earth, journeyed again to what may well have been his homeland and to his rightful place in the history of the hemisphere. Thus moving ever westward around the globe, the horse had at last returned to the plains of America—a unique American Odyssey.²⁷

Thus the claims made by the Book of Mormon of horses in ancient America are supported by the numerous fossil remains of horses that have been obtained, not only in the asphalt deposits of southern California, but also from numerous places throughout the Americas. Furthermore, many writers have made available to the public a vast amount of information regarding the existence of horses on the Western Hemisphere in ancient times.

In a recent study (1951) on the history of the horse, George Gaylord Simpson gives the view usually presented by writers of our day. For example, he wrote:

The extinction of horses over the whole of North and South America, . . . is one of the most mysterious episodes of animal history. There is no doubt about the fact, but the reason for it is doubtful to say the least.²⁸

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²⁵Chester Stock, *Rancho La Brea, A Record of Pleistocene Life in California* (Los Angeles), pp. 42-43.

²⁶Denhardt, *op. cit.*, p. 5.

²⁷*Ibid.*, p. 9.

²⁸George Gaylord Simpson, *Horses, The Story of the Horse Family in the Modern World and Through Sixty Million Years of History* (New York, 1951), p. 148.

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(Continued from page 732)

Dr. Alfred S. Romer discussed the various finds of horse remains in southwestern United States and then he concluded:

There is a very strong evidence that horses, two genera of camels, a mammoth, the sloth, *Nothrotherium*, two extinct genera of "antelopes," and the giant "cat," *Felix Aatrox*, existed in the southwest in com-

paratively modern post-Pleistocene times. This immediately suggests a comparison with the La Brea fauna, of which these forms are typical members.²⁹

Dr. Frederick J. Pack stated that Professor W. D. Matthew of the

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²⁹Alfred S. Romer, *In Jenness, The American Aborigines* (1933), p. 72, cited in John A. Widtsoe and Franklin S. Harris, Jr., *Seven Claims of the Book of Mormon* (Independence, 1936), p. 80.

The Beginning of Things

Richard L. Evans

LAST WEEK we spoke of the beginning of things—of men who have had the courage to move into uninhabited places, and to make good beginnings. Today we should like to turn to another side of the subject: of the beginning of trends and tendencies; of the beginnings of habits; of quarrels; of good or bad qualities of character; of the beginnings of the symptoms of sickness. So often we ignore the first symptoms. So often we wait until things are well underway before we think they are serious or significant. So often we wait until we are ill before we are willing to live in a way that would have kept our health when we had it. Too much of our lives comes under the category of trying to correct things that shouldn't have happened. No doubt we should learn better the practice of preventive medicine. There is a premium for preventing things from happening that shouldn't happen. Sanitation comes under this category—preventing disease from getting started, rather than curing epidemics. Safety comes under this category—preventing accidents from happening, rather than rushing to the scene of an accident with an ambulance. Fire prevention comes under this category—keeping things from beginning to burn, rather than running in with the hose and the ax after the fire has done its damage. Beginnings! Symptoms! If we would only watch the beginnings of things and live as we ought to live, we could save ourselves many heartaches and spare ourselves many things that have no right or reason to get started, and we could prevent many tragic break-ups between people who ought to keep close to one another. If we would watch the symptoms in our boys and girls, the attitudes they have, the directions they tend to take, and keep close to them, we could prevent many tragic errors. (We have a right to parental intuition and to the guidance of Divine Providence in meeting the problems of young people, if we will live for it—and watch beginnings.) If we would watch symptoms, first showings, beginnings, we could come closer to keeping healthy, to keeping happy, to keeping sound, to keeping solvent, and would not spend so much of our effort in trying to stop things that never should have gotten a good start. The beginnings of things—watch beginnings!

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ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BOOK OF MORMON

(Continued from page 734)

American Museum of Natural History, New York City,

... one of the foremost scientists, thinks it not impossible that some [horses] may have lingered on as late at the fifteenth century. . . . He implies that a few of them may have lived down to the time of Columbus.³⁰

³⁰Frederick J. Pack, "Revelation Ante-Dating Scientific Discovery—An Instance," *THE IMPROVEMENT ERA* (Salt Lake City, June, 1907), vol. 10, pp. 596-597.

To quote Dr. Matthew:

. . . It is very probable that man . . . played a large part in extinguishing the race [of horses]. . . . Whatever the cause, the horse had disappeared from the New World when the white man invaded it (unless a few individuals still lingered on the remote plains of South America), and in his place the bison had come and spread over the prairies of the North.³¹

³¹W. D. Matthew, *Supplement to American Museum Journal* (2nd ed., New York, May, 1905), cited in *ibid.*

The Question of Quitting

Richard L. Evans

SUMMER has all but slipped away. Every year it happens—more swiftly it seems—and the passing of summer brings with it decisions—decisions particularly for young people—decisions as to what to do for the future: whether or not to return to school; whether or not to quit or to stay with what they have started in life's long period of preparation. There is much reason for sympathy with young people in the decisions they face these days. First of all, they don't altogether own their own lives—young men especially. Besides the more or less "normal" reasons for restlessness, they have added obligations placed upon them, and are faced with perennial and repeated intrusions upon their plans—all of which adds an element of uncertainty. And often there seems to be something intangibly contagious in the very air and atmosphere, that prompts giving up prolonged preparation to satisfy immediate demands. But one of the great lessons of life is to learn to appreciate the opportunities for preparation, despite uncertainties and interruptions. And one of the great characteristics of youth is to have the courage and faith to face the future. It is true that there often are real reasons for restlessness. But sometimes young people quit without real cause to quit. Sometimes they quit because they feel that they must have more money—that they must "work awhile," that they will stay out "only this one year." But time goes so very quickly, and a year in which we merely mark time or simply succumb to restlessness is likely to be a lost year. And so we suggest to you who are young: That you settle down and make the most of your opportunities for preparation, for development, for service, for seeing things through. The best thing you can do for yourself, your country, your family, and your future is to make yourself as capable and competent as you can. The best thing you can do for your own life and your loved ones is to make good beginnings as to the solid things, solid learning, solid living—to begin to build solidly, to endure to the end, to see things through.*

"The Spoken Word" FROM TEMPLE SQUARE
PRESENTED OVER KSL AND THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING
SYSTEM, AUGUST 7, 1955

*Revised.

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"Alfred Sherwood Romer places man in America when horses were still here."³² George Gaylord Simpson (1951) presented a number of possible causes for the extermination of horses in both North and South America, maintaining that they were still here, however, while these continents were inhabited by man. To quote:

Did man possibly kill off the horses? It is now clear that wild horses still survived both in North and South America when the earliest Indians reached these lands . . . These Indians probably killed horses for food—but in North America they certainly killed large numbers of bison, and bison did not become extinct. If horses were already on the wane, the herds becoming few and weak, then persecution by man might have provided the finishing touch. It is, however, almost inconceivable that the Indians alone put an end to the whole vast population of the late Pleistocene horse over so enormous an area.³³

Simpson also stated:

There are, indeed, persistent legends that wild horses still lived in the Argentine when the Spaniards arrived there and that their blood is mingled with that of jinetas in the feral pampas horses, but careful study by A. Cabrera and others indicates that these legends are just legends.³⁴

The writer checked this possibility by writing to the Departments of Agriculture of each of the South American countries. A reply was received from practically all of them. Those who replied were all in agreement that there were no horses in South America at the time of the Spanish conquest, and so it is evident that they have accepted the prevalent viewpoint of the complete extermination of horses before Columbus discovered the New World.

Although almost all writers maintain that the horse had been exterminated in the western hemisphere before the arrival of Columbus, it is extremely difficult to explain how wild horses became so numerous in both South and North America so quickly following the arrival of the first Spanish *conquistadores*; for example, in 1535 at Buenos Aires, Pedro Mendoza is reported to ". . . have turned loose five mares and seven horses, although it seems more probable that they would have been salted down for provisions"³⁵ Forty-five years later, the following was reported:

. . . At the second founding of Buenos Aires in 1580, Juan Garay found that the
(Continued on following page)

³²Denhardt, *op. cit.*, p. 5.

³³Simpson, *op. cit.*, p. 150.

³⁴*Ibid.*, p. 147.

³⁵Denhardt, *op. cit.*, p. 34.

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and crew
will sail into this
**OYSTER-TUNA
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*Here's your
easy recipe made with...*

White Star Tender Tuna Cuts

OYSTER-TUNA BUCCANEER • Cook 1/2 cups elbow macaroni as directed on package. While it cooks, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Stir in 1/2 tablespoons flour and liquid from 1 can Willapoint Brand Oyster Stew. Cook, stirring, until smooth. Add 1 cup diced process Cheddar cheese. Heat gently until cheese is melted. Mix with drained macaroni. Add 1 can (6 1/2- or 7-oz.) White Star Brand Tuna, coarsely flaked, and oysters from stew. Heat and serve at once. Or pour into shallow 1 1/2-qt. baking dish, dot top with thin tomato wedges and bake at 375° (moderate) 15 to 20 min. Makes 4 servings.



↑ *Look for the Blonde Mermaid*

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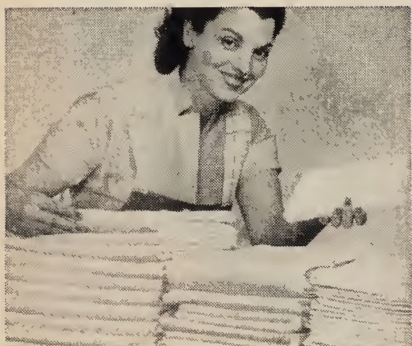


Ground-in dirt makes work clothes a problem on washday. But not if you protect them with the Faultless Starch-Rinse. The light finish of starch helps keep dirt on the surface, requires less hard scrubbing next washday. See directions below for the famous Faultless Starch-Rinse.

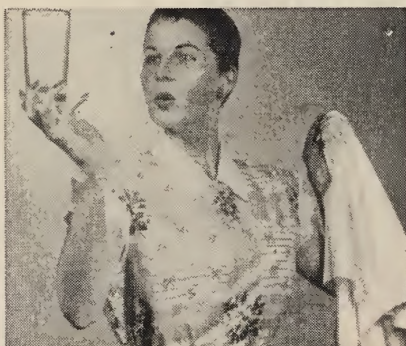


Children's play clothes require less scrubbing, too, if you give them the protection of the Faultless Starch-Rinse. It requires no separate starching job. You starch and rinse in one easy operation. Directions for the Faultless Starch-Rinse are given below.

How to make "problem" articles easy to wash and iron



Sheets and pillow cases look better, are easier to iron if you give them a light finish of Faultless Starch. They stay fresh longer, feel cool, comfortable. It's no problem to give linens this "hotel" finish if you use the Faultless Starch-Rinse. Easy directions are below.



Tea towels won't shed lint on glasses if the "fuzz" is smoothed down with a light finish of Faultless Starch. They're easier to iron, too, because Faultless Starch contains ironing-aids. It's so easy to do if you use the Faultless Starch-Rinse. See directions below.



Overalls and jeans will be no problem next washday if you give them a light starching with the Faultless Starch-Rinse. They need less scrubbing and are easier to iron. Give everything you wash the Faultless Starch-Rinse. See next panel for easy directions.



How to do the Faultless Starch-Rinse: Simply add 2 qts. of extra thick hot starch (made according to directions on the Faultless Starch box) to your last tub of rinse water. Rinse and wring as usual. You'll find this makes problem articles easy to wash and iron.

WARNING: The method described above has been tested and proved for Faultless Starch only. Perfect results cannot be assured if any other starch is used.

Archaeology and the Book of Mormon

(Continued from preceding page)

whole province was full of wild horses. The herds flooded the entire pampas, from the shores of the Rio de la Plata to the Rio Negro, and were even found in large numbers in Patagonia. Father Bernabe Cobo, S. J., says that in Rio Grande do Sul a horse was worth nothing. To illustrate how numerous horses became, there was a common saying, "In Montevideo the beggars ride."³⁰

Denhardt explained that:

The Spaniards did not know for a number of years that there were no horses in the New World. In fact, until some time after Columbus' death they thought that there were. Columbus himself on his fourth voyage wrote the King: "It was told that those on the shore of Veragua [Panama] had horses which they used in battle."³¹

Drs. John A. Widtsoe and Franklin S. Harris, Jr., arrived at the following conclusion:

... Some doubt has been cast upon the Book of Mormon account which mentions horses because there is no record of horses having been in America at the time of the early explorers. It is well known, however, that the horse was numerous and widespread on the American continent in recent geological times, and the absence of the mention of the horse in the scant records of the first explorers is not a proof that the horse was not really there, in fact evidence of the pre-Columbian use in South America of horses for burden bearing seemed conclusive.³²

If there were horses still living on either of the American continents at the time of the discovery of the Western Hemisphere and its occupation by Europeans, that portion of the study regarding horses in America awaits further investigation and the accumulation of much more evidence.

Now let us have a brief look at evidence which shows that the American Indians were acquainted with horses and actually domesticated and used them before the coming of the Europeans. Such evidence may indicate the continuance of the use of horses following the close of the Book of Mormon records.

Indian pictographs on the rock walls of shallow caves and canyon ledges, carved in the most out-of-the-way and difficult terrains in the western portion of the United States, clearly show that the Indians were acquainted with horses; for example,

³⁰Ibid., p. 35.

³¹Ibid., p. 28.

³²Widtsoe and Harris, *op. cit.*, p. 80.

there is a likeness of a wild horse carved on the edge of a cliff in Picture Canyon, Cimarron County, Oklahoma. W. Douglas Hartley wrote the following regarding this horse:

The unbridled horse was found in Picture Canyon some two or three miles up from the Hallock Park ranch house. The fact that the lower part of the legs is not shown perhaps indicates that the horse, being both wild and fleet-footed, could not be approached closely enough for the artist to observe the hoof formation.³⁹

It is impossible to obtain the exact date of the carving of this horse, but it is believed by those who have studied it that this pictograph could date during the B. C. period or between that period and the eighth century A.D. Certainly it is maintained that such a carving was made before the discovery of America and the bringing of horses to this land by the Spaniards. If such is the case, the carving of the unbridled horse in Picture Canyon was not influenced by those events. The following is quoted from an article written by W. Douglas Hartley:

... The findings indicate the presence of men in Oklahoma much earlier than had been suspected. Certainly these carvings were done by people more primitive than the ones who built the well-known dwellings at Mesa Verda, Chaco Canyon, and other sites. The cliff dwellers are believed to have made their communities sometime after the Eighth Century. Everything found in the Cimarron, however, points to greater antiquity.⁴⁰

Also the same author states that "... without doubt, some of these records go back hundreds of years before Christ."⁴¹ If that statement is true, the records would date into early Nephite times and perhaps into the Jaredite period.

Other pictographs made by Pueblo Indians of the southwest definitely show the Indians not only knew of wild horses, but also that they domesticated and rode them, as the illustrations indicate. It is impossible to give the exact date of their pictographs, but it is quite certain that they were made before the Indians had contact with white man and obtained horses from them.

Frank Waters, in his intensely interesting and scholarly book on the Navajo and Pueblo Indians, main-

(Continued on following page)

³⁹W. Douglas Hartley, "Indian Drawings of the Cimarron County," *Ford Times*, p. 34.

⁴⁰*Ibid.*, p. 34.

⁴¹*Ibid.*, p. 36.

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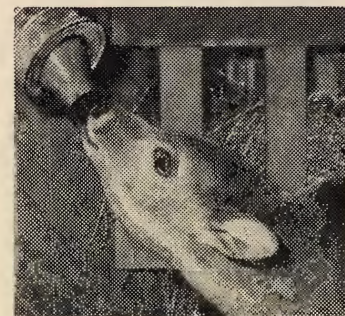
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ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BOOK OF MORMON

(Continued from preceding page)

tained that horses roamed the southern Rocky Mountain region of the United States during the days of the "Cliff Dwellers." To quote:

. . . the first people grasp at the Rock. Shuddering with fear they looked down at the dangers lurking below—at the mountains smoking on the far horizon; the camels and lumbering mammoths, the thundering herds of bison and *wild horses*, and the savage beasts which preyed upon them; . . .⁴²

The evidence presented in this article definitely shows that before the Prophet Joseph Smith published his translation of the ancient records it was the universally accepted belief that no horses existed on the Western Hemisphere previous to their introduction by the Spaniards; and then the Book of Mormon came forth with definite statements not only of the existence of horses in ancient America but also of their domestication and use by man throughout a period of many hundreds of years. Shortly thereafter science came to the rescue of the Book of Mormon claims regarding horses by discovering sufficient skeletons which supply irrefutable evidence that vast bands of horses roamed the Americas in prehistoric times and probably for an indefinite period after the coming of man to the New World.

In addition to the numerous fossil remains of horses that have been obtained from the asphalt deposits of Rancho La Brea in southern California and elsewhere, the Indian pictographs of Picture Canyon, Oklahoma, and those of the Pueblo Indians of the southwestern part of the

United States, lend additional support to the claims made by the Book of Mormon that horses were on this continent during the Jaredite and Nephite periods and that they were used in ancient America for purposes similar to the use we make of them today.

The claim may be made that all the fossil remains of horses pre-date Book of Mormon times; but since science has definitely proved that horses were in both of the Americas in large bands prior to the arrival of the Jaredites and the Nephites, there is no logical reason for believing that they could not have still been here during the period in which those ancient civilizations flourished. There is no doubt that such was the case since the Book of Mormon makes that claim, and also the Lord himself has declared the truthfulness of that record to Martin Harris, stating, ". . . *the Book of Mormon, . . . contains the truth and the word of God*—"⁴³

Speaking of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, the Master bore the following testimony to the three witnesses:

And he [Joseph] has translated the book, even that part which I have commanded him, and *as your Lord and your God liveth it is true*.⁴⁴

Thus, the author concludes that during the time which has passed since the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith, modern science has sustained latter-day revelation and vindicated the claims made in the Book of Mormon that horses lived in ancient America.

(To be continued)

⁴²Frank Waters, *Masked Gods—Navaho and Pueblo Ceremonialism* (Albuquerque, 1950), p. 21.

⁴³D. & C. 19:26.

⁴⁴*Ibid.*, 17:6.

RICHES AT YOUR FEET

(Continued from page 711)

commercial fertilizer. If you dig the ground well in the fall, working into it a reasonable amount of humus, it should be mellow and easily cultivated as soon as it is dry enough in the spring.

There are endless books and magazines and extension programs covering the important subject of gardening. But the point we are concerned with is the ultimate relationship between this oldest of the arts of man

and his material and spiritual salvation.

It may be we are reaching a crisis in human destiny by overplaying the herd instinct which sends us into a stampede for services furnished by someone else, while our own contribution to the whole is constantly narrowing. The biblical dictum about earning our bread by the sweat of our brow had a very literal application in Old Testament times and has continued to be in high repute

THE IMPROVEMENT ERA