

# Egyptian Dams Lines

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE FOUNDATION MARES



■ by **Cynthia Culbertson**  
photos by Tutto Arabi archive

*There is an interesting phenomenon repeated around the world at countless Arabian horse shows as well as at prominent breeding establishments – there are generally more good mares and fillies than colts and stallions. Perhaps even more interesting is that, in the best horses of either sex, the same mare lines recur with surprising regularity. A logical conclusion is that if one aspires to breed exceptional Arabian*

*horses a careful study must be made of the dam lines. While this may sound simple, it rapidly becomes more complex when a significant study is undertaken. Different branches of the same family may produce horses of considerably varying type and quality. Some dam lines achieve their success primarily when blended to sires from a particular family, while their offspring from other lines are average at best. Still other dam*



Marhoussa (Mabrouk Manial x Negma). was bred by Prince Mohamed Ali. She is a granddaughter of Bint Yamama, bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II. Many lovely horses descend from this mare, first thought to be a Koheilah Jellabiyah, but now known to be Saqlawiyah Jidraniyan in strain

*lines have a strong type-to-color link and the look of their descendants is remarkably different depending on their color.*

*In our fast-paced world, we seek instant knowledge and quick results, yet the realm of Arabian horse breeding requires patience and thoughtful study. Rather than attempting to define and categorize all of the various Egyptian Arabian dam lines, only a general overview will be given along with examples of various horses of that heritage. The challenge then becomes to study your own pedigrees and those of the horses you admire. Trace their lineage back to these root mares and the path taken to arrive at this final destination. Look for trends and tendencies. Decide for yourself which lines and families consistently produce a look that you admire. There is simply no substitute for taking the time to accumulate this knowledge, and by taking the longer path to your destination, the journey becomes more satisfying and the results more likely to meet your expectations.*

*Because the Egyptian Arabian makes up less than 4% of the general Arabian population, the root mares from which all straight Egyptian Arabians descend are relatively few in number. Of the approximately twenty foundation mares in modern pedigrees, most were foaled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These mares generally fall into two broad categories, either bred by the ruling family and aristocracy of Egypt or desertbreds presented as gifts to Egypt. Today, these*

*foundation mares are generally organized by their strain names, and thereafter through various families that descend from the root mare, with different branches of each family. Judith Forbis, in her many reference books on the Egyptian Arabian, began grouping the dam lines in this useful manner, and today countless breeders around the world use her example in defining their horses beyond a simple strain designation.*

*The examples given of horses descended from the various foundation mares are by no means complete and arbitrarily combine both modern and historic horses. The lists are not intended to indicate the relative quality or merit of those horses named, or those that are left out. Instead, they are included in the hope of provoking further study by the reader.*

#### **Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah**

*The majority of straight Egyptians of the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah strain descend from three mares: Ghazala, Om Dalal, and Bint Yemama.*

*Ghazala, who was foaled in 1896, was bred by Ali Pasha Sherif and during her lifetime was also owned by two other Arabian breeders of historic prominence, firstly by Lady Anne Blunt, and thereafter by Spencer Borden who imported Ghazala to the United States. Ghazala's daughter Ghadia (also known as Radia), and her daughters Bint*





Ghazala (Ibn Sherara x Bint Helwa), foaled in 1896 and bred by Ali Pasha Sherif was an Egyptian foundation mare of the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah strain

*Om Dalal was a chestnut mare foaled in 1899. Owned by Prince Mohamed Ali, she was bred by Prince Ahmed Kemal and was a granddaughter of the famed Saqlawiah mare Roga El Beda of Ali Pasha Sherif. Like Ghazala, Om Dalal had considerable influence through the Inshass Stud as well as through the Royal Agricultural Society and the Egyptian Agricultural Organization. This dam line is perhaps the best known of the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah families of Egypt, however, because of the fame of her prolific descendent, Moniet El Nefous. Through the sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters of Moniet El Nefous, this blood was distributed in almost every country which breeds Egyptian Arabians. Other branches of the family include El Bataa and Rateeba.*

*Radia and Zareefa, were important mares for both the Royal Agricultural Society and the Inshass Stud. Of Zareefa, foaled 1911, Lady Ann Blunt wrote, "Very beautiful filly... the most lovely in the world." Several important stallions in Egypt, including Hamdan, Shabloul and Antar, are representatives from this family. Mares from this female line were also exported to many countries, such as Germany, Hungary, and the United States, where many have bred on into modern pedigrees. In addition, this family was used by private breeders in Egypt, including the Hamdan Stables and Albadeia. Zaafarana was an important mare of this family, as was \*Bint Serra I.*

#### **Descendants of Ghazala**

*Al Lahab*

*Allah Ateyyah*

*Ansata Bint Zaafarana*

*Antar*

*Bint El Arabi*

*Bint Serra I*

*El Moez*

*Emad*

*Fa Serr*

*Fay El Dine*

*Gulnare*

*Hayam*

*Hamdan*

*Ibn Yakout*

*Naglaa*

*Shabloul*

*\*Talal*



Ansata Selket (Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Samarra), represents the Bukra family of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah strain tracing to the root mare Obeya. Photo by Gigi Grasso



Bukra (Shahloul x Bint Sabah), is a great-great granddaughter of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah mare Obeya (Koheilan el Mossen x El Dahma) who was bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II. This family has had great influence in Egyptian breeding, particularly through Bukra branch



Dalal (Rabdan x Dalal), was foaled in 1903 and is a daughter of the Egyptian root mare Om Dalal bred by Prince Ahmed Kemal. She founded a famous Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah family which includes the "Queen of the Nile" Moniet El Nefous

*Descendants of Om Dalal*

*Ansata Bint Mabrouka*

*Ansata Ibn Sudan*

*Bint El Bataa*

*Bint Ibtam*

*Bint Moniet El Nefous*

*Bint Mona*

*Ghalion*

*Ibn Moniet El Nefous*

*Imperial Madbeen*

*Kenz Noor*

*Korima*

*Loubna*

*Lubna*

*Mahiba*

*Maysoun*

*Moneera*

*Morafic*

*Mourad*

*Sultan*

*Tee*

*The Egyptian Prince*

*Tubotmos*

*Turkiya Al Rayyan*

Bint El Bahreyn was foaled in 1898 and presented by Sheikh Aissa of Bahrain to the Khedive Abbas Pasha II in 1903. She was later owned by Lady Anne Blunt and today her descendants are an important branch of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah strain



Farida (Saklawi II x Nadra El Saghira), was bred by Prince Mohamed Ali and later acquired by the RAS. Her family represents a third influential branch of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah strain in Egypt



*Bint Yemama is also an important foundation mare for Egyptian breeding and she was believed for many years to be Kobeilah Jellabieh in strain. However when additional writings of Lady Anne Blunt were published in the late 1980's it became apparent the accepted parentage of this mare was incorrect and that she was indeed a half sister to Messaoud. Colin Pearson's book, "The Arabian Horse Families of Egypt" listed Bint Yemema as a Saqlawiyah, and Volume 2, by Kees Mol, explained the rationale behind this change. The controversy was finally put to*

*rest with the assistance of modern science when Michael Bowling used mitochondrial DNA to demonstrate the descendants of Bint Yemama matched that of the mares descended from the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah mare Ghazieh, and did not match the descendants of the known Kobeilah Jellabiyah strain from Egypt. This is an excellent example of why families merit more consideration than strain alone, for regardless of whether this family was Kobeilah or Saqlawiyah, the descendants of Bint Yemama included many lovely horses.*





RN Farida (Salaa El Dine x Noha) as her name implies, traces to the Farida branch of the Dahmah Shahawaniyah strain through the Marbach mare Nadja

### **Descendants of Bint Yemama**

218 Elf Layla Walayla

Adhem

AK Atallah

Asilat Albadeia

El Hadiyyah

El Halimaar

Fadl

Jasir

Imperial Baarez

Maaroufa

Maar-Ree

Mabroussa

Nasr

Prince Fa Moniet

RDM Maar Hala

Roda

Roufab

Other Saqlawiyah root mares in Egyptian foundation stock include: Hind, a grey mare foaled in 1942 and bred by King Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia

El Samraa, a grey mare foaled in 1924 purchased by Inshass from Sheikh Omar Abd el Hafiz

Mabrouka, a bay mare foaled in 1930 presented to Inshass by King Abdul Aziz al Saud Bint Barakat, a grey mare born in 1941 bred by the Tahawi Bedouins and owned by Hamdan Stables until her death in 1971.

### **Dahmah Shabwaniyah**

The Dahman strain was highly prized in Egypt, both by Abbas Pasha and Ali Pasha Sherif. In modern Egyptian breeding, the three primary root mares for this strain are Obeya, Bint El Babreyn, and Farida.

Obeya was a grey mare foaled in 1894. She was bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II and her dam was El Dabma of Ali Pasha Sherif. Obeya was eventually acquired by the Royal Agricultural Society where she lived until her death in 1919. It seems somewhat peculiar that she was given the name Obeya, which, although it means "cloak" in Arabic, is also the name of a strain and is therefore a bit confusing. The most influential line of this family is through Obeya's granddaughter, the 1920 chestnut mare Sabah, and subsequently through her daughter, Bint Sabah. This line was particularly influential in the United States and Germany and is also a valued damline for many breeders in the Arabian Gulf. The stallions Sheikh El Arab and Sid Abouhom were influential sires in Egypt from this family.



Bint Samiha (Kazmeen x Samiha) is most famous as the dam of Nazeer. She is also a granddaughter of Bint Hadba



### *Descendants of Obeya*

9 Tamria  
 Abeer  
 Akhtal  
 Alidaara  
 Ansata Bint Bukra  
 Ansata Halim Shah  
 Ansata Hejazi  
 Ansata Iemhotep  
 Ansata Sinan  
 Bint Bint Sabbah  
 Fa Halima  
 Fikri  
 Ghazal  
 Glorieta Sayonaara  
 Kamar  
 Noor El Fagr  
 NK Hafid Jamil  
 Pharrab  
 Rashdan  
 Sheikh Al Arab  
 Sid Aboubom

*Bint El Babreyn* As her name implies, this bay mare foaled in 1898 was bred by Sheikh Issa bin Khalifah of Bahrain. He presented her as a gift to Abbas Pasha II in 1903 and she was later purchased by Lady Anne Blunt in 1907. Lady Anne declared *Bint El Babreyn* a "fine mare" yet referred to one defect, that of having ears like "bats' ears." However Lady Anne also noted that *Bint El Babreyn* did not transmit this to her daughter *Dalal*, a filly which she described as, "Very beautiful...gazelle-like head." The descendants of this family are primarily through *Durra* and her daughters *Zareefa* and *Bint Durra*. The Marei family's *Albadeia* stud has also had many successful mares from this family.

### *Descendants of Bint El Babreyn*

AK Nawaal  
 Bint Maisa El Saghira  
 Cleopatraa  
 El Sareei  
 Elwya  
 Gassir  
 Madkour  
 Morgana  
 Orashan  
 Seef  
 Shaikh Al Badi  
 Tammen



Gelgelah Albadeia (Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia) is a descendant of the Hadbah Enzahiyah foundation mare El Hadba El Saghira. Photo by Gigi Grasso

Farida was foaled in 1921 at Prince Mohammed Ali's stables at the Manial Palace. She was a pure-in-strain Dahmah Shahwaniah and eventually went to the Royal Agricultural Society where she died in 1944. Farida's son Balance was a superb racehorse in Egypt, as well as a great sire of racehorses, but it was through the female line that the Farida family truly gained acclaim. Her daughters Bint Farida and Futna both founded families known for their exceptional quality and type. Straight Egyptian breeding in Germany was highly influenced by this family, both with stallions and mares, and Ansata Ibn Halima was a monumental influence on Egyptian Arabian in the United States.

### *Descendants of Farida*

*Abla  
Adaweya  
Adl  
Ansata Ibn Halima  
Ansata Majesta  
Ashbal Al Rayyan  
Balance  
Bint Nefisaa  
Dahma II  
Deenaa  
El Hilal  
El Thay Kamla  
El Thay Ibn Halim Shab  
Fayek (Ramses Fayek)  
Ghazalabh  
Halima  
Ibn Akhtal  
Inas  
Madkour I  
Malik  
Malikah  
Messaoud  
Mobebe II  
Noha  
RN Farida*

### *Hadbah Enzahiyah*

*The Hadbah strain in Egyptian breeding traces to the mare Venus who was bred by the Shammar tribe and brought to Egypt in the mid-1890's. Two branches of the Venus family come from her daughter Hadba, but it is through Bint Hadba El Saghira that this strain founded an influential dynasty in Egyptian breeding.*

*Bint Hadbah El Saghira was a chestnut mare born in 1912. She was bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II and both her sire and dam were sired by Saklawi I. Like many of the other Egyptian foundation mares, she was eventually acquired by the Royal Agricultural Society and died there in 1931. In a fashion often adopted by the Arabs, she was named "Daughter of Hadbah" or Bint Hadbah, with the suffix El Saghira, the "smaller" or "younger." Along with the suffix "El Kebira," which means the bigger or older, these additions to the name helped further identify the offspring of a particular mare and helped prevent confusion with their namesake. Bint Hadbah El Saghira had four daughters which bred on: Samiha, Bint Rustem, Bint Bint Hadba, and Magboura. The vast majority of her descendants, however, trace from the Samiha and Bint Rustem branches of the family. Because of the unprecedented success of her great-grandson, Nazeer, the majority of straight Egyptians in the world boast multiple lines to this mare. She remains influential through the tail female as well, and this family has consistently produced both outstanding stallions and mares.*





Bint Rissala (Ibn Yashmak x Risala) was bred by Lady Anne Blunt and foaled at Crabbet Arabian Stud in England. She was sold to Egypt as a young foal and founded one of two branches of the Koheilah Rodaniyah strain in that country



Hanan (Alaa El Din x Mona) has created her own dynasty of the Abeyyah Om Jurays strain, which traces to the mare Obeya Om Jurays presented to Egypt in the 1930's by King Abdul Aziz Al Saud

***Descendants of Bint Hadbah El Saghira***

- Al Adeed Al Shaqab*
- Aswan*
- Bint Saida Al Nasser*
- Bint Samiha*
- El Thay Kamla*
- Farazdac*
- Farid Albadeia*
- Gad Allah*
- Galal*
- Gelgelah Albadeia*
- Gharib*
- Hadban Enzabi*
- Hafeed Anter*
- Hemmat*
- Hind*
- Foze*
- Kamla*
- Kbofo*
- Kodwa*
- Makhsous*
- Malekat El Gamal*
- Mamdouba*
- Mohga*
- Nazeer*
- Shams*
- Shaaraawi*
- Shaker El Masri*
- Simeon Safanad*
- Simeon Shai*
- Thee Desperado*
- The Mistril*
- Tiffaha*
- Yosreia*

*Other Hadbah root mares in Egyptian foundation stock include: Bint Gamila, a grey mare foaled in 1911 bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II and acquired by the RAS in 1914.*

***Abbeyah Om Jurays***

*The Abbeyan strain is considered to be highly related to the Saqlawi, yet, as in the case of Bint Yemama, science in the form of mitochondrial DNA and other DNA sequencing, may soon reveal much about the relationships between Arabian horse families. Both the al Saud and Ibn Jaluwi families of Arabia highly prized this strain and its most common sub-strain was named after Al Sherrak. In Egypt, this strain is found through the mare El Obeya Om Jurays.*

*El Obeya Om Jurays (Grees) was a gift to the Inshass stud from King Abdul Aziz Al Saud in the 1930's. Little is known about her and the names of her sire and dam are not given. Obviously her name is the same as her strain, Abbeyah Om Jurays, although, as usual, the spelling may differ depending on which transliteration system one is using. Of the major strains in straight Egyptian breeding today, this is one of the rarest. However it has produced many extremely influential mares and stallions, primarily through the Mahfouza and Mahdia branches. Two modern mares descending from El Obeya Om Jurays, Hanan and Magidaa, have founded their own families which have produced numerous outstanding horses.*

### **Descendants of El Obeya Om Jurays**

Aisba  
Alidarr  
Asfour  
Bilal I  
Bint Magidaa  
El Araby  
Ghazala  
Hanan  
Jamil  
Ibn Galal I  
Ibn Hafiza  
Maddah  
Magidaa  
Nabiel  
Nashua  
Ruminaja Ali  
Salaa El Dine  
Safir

### **Kobeilah Rodaniyah**

The Kobeilan is said to be the original strain of Arabian horse. Although the breed is quite ancient, the concept of strains is relatively a recent one, as the various divisions and sub-strains evolved in a little over three centuries. In Egyptian breeding the Kebeilan Mimreh strain has been lost in the tail female line, and those horses thought to be the representatives of the Kobeilan Jellabi strain are now classified as Saqlawi. This leaves the Kobeilah Rodaniyah as the primary Kobeilan strain in Egyptian dam lines. Both branches, that of Bint Rissala and Bint Riyala, trace to Rodania, a Kuhailan Ajuz of Ibn Rodan, foaled in 1869. She was purchased by the Blunts from a branch of the Anazeh tribe, who related that they had taken her earlier from the Ruwala. A chestnut mare with considerable white markings, Rodania bore the scars from wounds in battle and was well-known in the desert.

Bint Rissala (Razieh) was a chestnut born in 1920 at Crabbet Park in England. Lady Wentworth sold her to the Royal Agricultural Society as a young filly and she died in Egypt in 1946. Bint Rissala's descendants in modern Egyptian breeding are through her daughters Yaquota, Kateefa and Yashmak. Interestingly, none of her sons bred on into modern pedigrees. This dam line is noted for both its height and athletic ability, and many of Bint Rissala's descendants, even today, have excellent motion. Several well-known stallions traced to this family, including Kaisoon, Farag, and Alaa El Din, who was noted for his daughters.

### **Descendants of Bint Rissala**

Alaa El Din  
El Mareekh  
Enayat  
Farag  
Hossny  
Ikhnatoon  
Kaisoon  
Kayed  
Kisra  
Nazic  
Om El Saad  
Omnia  
Rafica  
Rashad Ibn Nazeer  
Ra'weyah  
Sakr  
Serenity Sonbolah  
Yashmak

Bint Riyala (Risama) was a bay mare foaled in 1920, also at Crabbet Arabian Stud. Like Bint Rissala she was sold that same year to the Royal Agricultural Society in Egypt. In 1934 she was sold once again, this time to T. G. B. Trouncer. This has been a prolific family, primarily through Bint Riyala's granddaughter Malaka, and several horses of this line were exported to the United States where they won numerous championships and national titles.

### **Descendants of Bint Riyala**

Asadd  
Imperial Imdal  
Imperial Madori  
Dalia  
Fifi  
Nazeera  
Omayma  
Romanaa II  
Salomy  
Serenity Bint Mamlouka  
Shabeen  
Waseem

Other Kheilah root mares in Egyptian foundation stock include: Futna, a grey mare foaled in 1943 bred by Abdul Hamid el Talawi. Her strain was Kobeilah Halawiyah and she remained at Hamdan Stables until her death in 1960. El Kahila, a bay mare foaled in 1921 and presented to Inshass Stud by King Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabian in 1927. While no details of her strain are recorded, she is presumed to be a Kheilah by virtue of her name.

While there are a few other mares who contribute to straight Egyptian breeding, these are the primary families that exist today. Study them well and remember the future of the straight Egyptian Arabian lies in the hands of today's breeders! □