

THE  
**AMERICAN KERRY AND DEXTER  
CATTLE CLUB**

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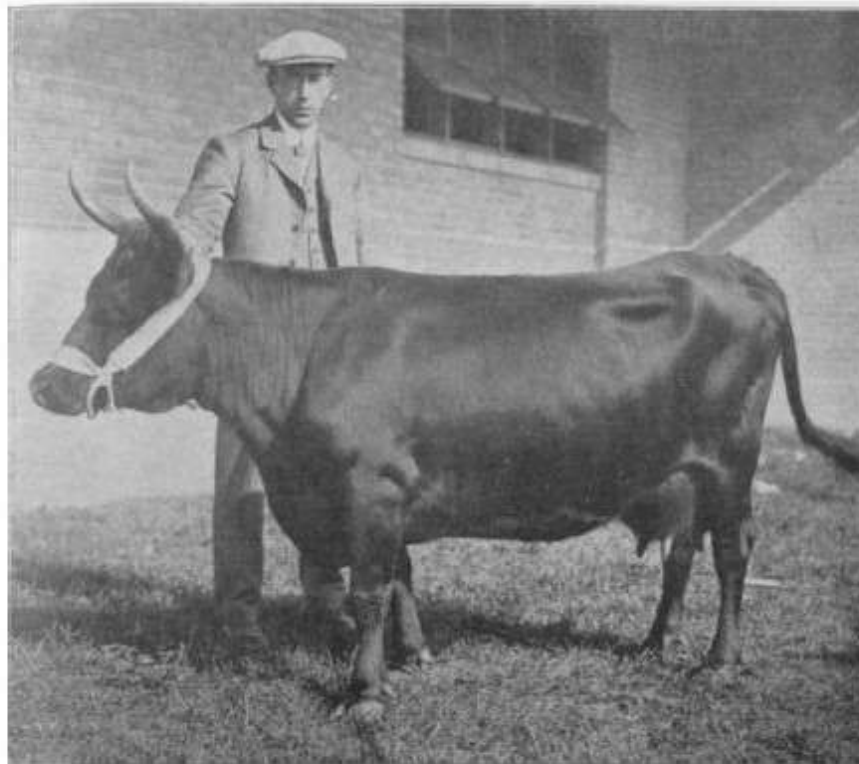


Fig. 1. KINGSWOOD COURTLEY GIRL 7(1151). First prize aged cow and champion Dexter female at the New York State Fair, 1912. Owned and exhibited by Howard Gould.

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## THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KERRY TO AMERICA

By C. S. Plumb.

Comparatively little has been published concerning the Kerry breed of cattle, and especially in America. For this reason a few facts are here given regarding the early history of the breed in this country.

Mr. Sanford Howard of Boston, Mass. was probably the first importer of the Kerry to America. He visited Ireland in 1858 and 1859, and made an importation for Arthur W. Austin of West Roxbury, Mass. In an address before the Norfolk County Agricultural Society, Mr. Howard in 1859 discussed the subject of cattle breeding. On this occasion interesting reference was made to his observations in Ireland, as applied to the Kerry. Said Mr. Sanford, quoting from the Report of the Mass. Board of Agriculture for 1859.

"The Kerry breed belongs to the county of that name in Ireland, or more especially to the mountainous portion of that county, where they have probably existed coeval with the present race of human inhabitants. They are very different from the cattle which occupy the lower and more fertile sections of the island—the latter, as has already been observed, belonging to the Longhorn tribe, of large size, the horns drooping, sometimes crossing each other beneath the lower jaw. The Kerries, on the other hand, are small, with horns of medium length, rising, and generally somewhat spreading. The color ranges from black to brindled and red, sometimes with a little white, but black is the prevailing color, and is preferred as denoting the nearest affinity with the original type. The Kerry cow has always been considered remarkable as a milker. Youatt says she is emphatically the poor man's cow; hardy, living everywhere, yielding, for her size, abundance of milk of good quality.' Milburn says, 'she is a treasure to the cottage farmer—so hardy that she will live where other cattle starve. She is a perfect machine for converting the coarsest cattle-food into rich and nutritious milk and butter.'

"In 1858, and also in 1859, I visited the native country of the Kerry cattle, chiefly for the purpose of learning their characteristics, and purchasing some to send to America. I found the cattle somewhat smaller than I had supposed them to be, but evidently very useful in that locality—living where no other dairy cattle that I have ever seen could live. In several instances they were met with at elevations of 1,500 to 2,000 feet above the sea, sharing with the goat the wild herbage of the mountainside. As illustrating their hardiness, the following incident is given: A man led me up a mountain glen to see a lot of three-year-old heifers he had grazing there. It appeared a mystery to me how the cattle could get round and over the rough rocks, and obtain a subsistence,

even in summer. Having noticed that the man had several stacks of hay down in the valley, where was the rude habitation which he called his home, I asked him if he was going to take the Kerry cattle there for the winter. He replied, 'No, the hay is for the lowland cattle and the ponies.' He had just been telling of the deep snows which sometimes fall in the mountains, and I asked what the cattle would do in such cases. He said, 'The snow generally softens after a day or two, and the cattle can **work through it.**'

"It is difficult to estimate the weight of these cattle, compared with others, from what I have seen of them. They are generally large bodied in proportion to their height, their legs being short, and the shank-bone very small. Their heads are generally handsome and the countenance lively, but with a mild expression. The best of them are decidedly attractive in their appearance. When taken to the low country and supplied with plenty of nutritious food, they become more bulky, but I had no opportunity to see what would be the effect of breeding them for several generations in a milder climate and on a better soil.

"I could not generally obtain reliable statements in regard to the yield of milk or butter of these cows. In several instances where they were kept, in the low country, it was stated that they would give, per day, ten imperial quarts of milk, which would afford a pound of butter—certainly a large product, considering the size of the animal. It is stated that Mr. Crosby, of Ardfert Abbey, near Tralee, obtained in his herd, ranging for seven years in succession, from 28 to 80 cows, mostly Kerries, an average of 1,952 quarts of milk in a year, which yielded a pound of butter to eight quarts—or 244 lbs. per cow annually, and that one pure Kerry cow in the herd gave 2,725 quarts of milk in ten months.

"I purchased for Arthur W. Austin, Esq., five two-year-old Kerry heifers and a bull of the same breed, which arrived here after a very long and boisterous passage, in November last. The bull, however, was so much exhausted, that he died a few days after his arrival. The others are at Mr. Austin's farm in West Roxbury, and are doing well. Another Kerry bull has been ordered for Mr. Austin, which it is hoped will reach here in June next, so that through Mr. Austin's exertions it is believed the breed will be fairly introduced, and subjected to such thorough trials as will settle the question in regard to their usefulness here."

In 1860, the committee on cattle of the Norfolk County Agricultural Society reported as follows:

"The most prominent among the cattle brought to our notice, were those of the Kerry breed—one bull and seven heifers—imported by Arthur W. Austin, of West Roxbury, from the county of Kerry, Ireland. They are probably the

first genuine specimens of the breed ever exhibited in this country, and many persons regarded them with curious eyes. In consequence of the loss of the bull first imported by Mr. Austin, he obtained another, 'Mountaineer,' which, with two heifers, arrived in July last. The five heifers of the previous importation are believed to be now in calf by their bull, and are expected to come to milk in April next. They have gained remarkably since their arrival, averaging an increase in girth of nearly an inch a month for the first year. Their indication for dairy purposes are all that could be expected from the high reputation of the breed. The bull is beautifully shaped—the forehead broad, the eyes large and full, the muzzle open, the upper and lower lines of the body almost straight—while his thick, furry coat and elastic hide, indicate at once an ability to endure a severe climate and to thrive rapidly."

In 1862, Mr. Austin submitted a statement regarding his Kerries, under the date of January 14, this being to the local agricultural society. This report was as follows:

"I often had the milk measured during the past summer, and found it did not go below 60 quarts a day for five heifers of the first importation. On the 31st of May, the five alluded to, having in that month produced their first calves, gave 60  $\frac{1}{3}$  quarts, or an average of 12 quarts each. On the 14th of June the same five gave 62  $\frac{3}{4}$  quarts. Three of them gave a fraction over 14 quarts each. I weighed the morning's milk, and the 31  $\frac{2}{3}$  quarts, wine measure, weighed 67  $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. Of the two last imported heifers, one is fully equal to either of those of the first importation, in proportion to age, she being a year younger, and having given with her first calf over 10 qts. per day during the summer. I do not think the other one comes up to the standard, but she holds out well and gives rich milk. The milk of all of them is of the first quality as to richness. Butter is obtained from the cream in a very short time. Late in October it required less than five minutes churning, by the clock, to bring the butter. A lady who sends for six quarts once a week, and who has had much experience, pronounces the production of cream marvelous. She says she skims it several times over. I have had excellent milkers of different breeds, and have always been particular as to **quality** more than **quantity**; but I obtain from these Kerry heifers as large a quantity of milk as could reasonably be expected, considering their size and age; and the quality certainly surpasses, on the average, any milk it has been my fortune to see. I have now, besides the imported stock, three pure bred bulls, which will be a year old in the spring and summer of 1862, three pure-blood heifers and one steer of the same age, one half-blood Kerry and Shetland steer, and three half-blood Kerry heifers. All have improved wonderfully under my winter regimen. We think

all the imported heifers are in calf to Mountaineer, who is in fine condition."

Mr. Sanford Howard contributed an article on "The Kerry Breed of Cattle," to the Report of the United States Commission of Agriculture for the year 1862. This article contains some descriptive matter regarding the breed and conditions under which it is kept in Ireland, rather similar to that above credited to him in the Massachusetts report. He calls attention in this article to two subjects not mentioned by him elsewhere that are of interest. He comments on the increase in size of the cattle kept in America. Their growth for the first year was very rapid. When he bought the first five two-year-old heifers, their girth was only four feet, five inches to four feet, six inches. He says, "I measured two of them a few days since, and found their girth five feet and five inches, six inches, although, from having been pretty well **milked down** during the season, they are in only middling condition."

"The purchase of these cattle in Ireland to come to America," says Mr. Howard, "attracted considerable attention. The fact was noted in several newspapers, and while the cattle were in Liverpool, many persons called to see them. Singular as it may seem, but few people in England had ever seen a specimen of the breed. How much this purchase has had to do in bringing the Kerries into general notice, I cannot say: but it is certain that attention has, within a year or two, been more turned to them than ever before. English papers state that Baron Rothschild has sent a large number to his Australian possessions, the first lot of 50 heifers having been shipped a little more than a year ago. They are also attracting much more attention in England, as is shown by the special prizes offered for them by the Royal Agricultural Society, and the favorable comment made on those exhibited at its shows."

#### **KERRY AND DEXTER CATTLE AT THE 1912 SHOWS**

Kerry and Dexter cattle were shown in numerous county fairs in New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Maryland and Virginia. Two herds were shown at the New York State Fair at Syracuse, one of Kerries, shown by Mr. F. E. Stevens, of Glens Falls, and the other of Dexters, the property of Mr. Howard Gould of Castlegould, Port Washington, New York. There was no competition in each breed, and the awards were made by C. S. Plumb, as judge. At the National Dairy Show at Chicago, there were two herds of Dexters, that of Mr. Gould, and that of Elmendorf Farm, Lexington, Kentucky. Each of these herds were in beautiful condition, and attracted much attention. The following

are the awards made at the New York State Fair and at the National Dairy Show:

**Kerry awards, New York State Fair, 1912.**

All exhibits by F. E. Stevens, Glens Falls, N. Y.

First prize, bull 3 years old and over, Jerry Reid.

First prize, bull calf, Mike.

First prize, cow five years old and over, Rose Ambler.

Second prize, cow five years old and over, Rose Ambler 2d.

First prize, cow two years and under three, Maggie Ambler.

Second prize, two years and under three, Rose Ambler 3d.

First prize, heifer one year and under two, Brownie.

Champion male over two years, Jerry Reid.

Champion male under two years, Mike.

Grand champion male, Jerry Reid.

Champion female, over two years, Rose Ambler.

Champion female under two years, Brownie.

Grand Champion female, Rose Ambler.

Exhibitor's herd, get of sire and produce of dam also awarded Mr. Stevens.

**Dexter awards, New York State Fair.**

All exhibits by Howard Gould, Castlegould, Port Washington, N. Y.

First prize, bull 3 years old and over, Tom Thumb.

First prize, bull 2 years old and under 3, Castlegould Comrade.

First prize, bull 1 year old and under 2, Castlegould Clansman.

First prize, bull calf, Castlegould Duke.

First prize, cow 5 years old and over, Kingswood Courtney Girl.

Second prize, cow 5 years and over, Gort Queen.

First prize, cow 3 years old and under 5, Castlegould Duchess.

Second prize, cow 3 years and under 5, Castlegould Slip-Knot.

First prize, cow 2 years old and under 3, Castlegould Blanche.

Second prize, cow 2 years old and under 3, Castlegould Milliner.

First prize, cow 1 year old and under 2, Castlegould Beatrice.

Second prize, cow 1 year old and under 2, Castlegould Countess.

First prize, heifer calf, Castlegould Matilda.

Second prize, heifer calf, Castlegould Polly.

Champion male, over 2 years, Castlegould Comrade.

Champion male, under 2 years, Castlegould Clansman.

Grand Champion male, Castlegould Clansman.  
 Champion female, over 2 years, Kingswood Courtley Girl.  
 Champion female, under 2 years, Castlegould Beatrice.  
 Grand Champion female, Kingswood Courtley Girl.  
 Exhibitor's herd, breeder's young herd, get of sire and produce of dam were also shown by Mr. Gould.



Fig. 2. The cow on the left is **KINGSWOOD COURTLEY GIRL 7(151)**, first prize cow over 5 years; the cow on the right is **CASTLEGOULD DUCHESS 14**, first prize cow 3 to 5 years old at the New York State Fair, 1912. Kingswood Courtley Girl produced, in 1911 during 9 months, 5010 pounds of milk averaging 4.73 per cent fat.

#### **NATIONAL DAIRY SHOW AWARDS, CHICAGO.**

**Prof. F. C. Minkler, New Brunswick, N. J., Judge.**

First prize, bull 3 years old or over, Howard Gould on Castlegould Diplomat.

Second prize, bull 3 years old or over, Elmendorf Farm on Gort Fred.

First prize, bull 2 years old and under 3, Howard Gould on Castlegould Comrade.

First prize, bull 1 year and under 2, Howard Gould on Castlegould Clansman.

Second prize, bull 1 year old and under 2, Elmendorf Farm on Gort Fred 3d.

First prize, bull calf, Howard Gould on Castlegould Duke.

First prize, cow 3 years old or over, Elmendorf Farm on Gort Peep.

Second prize, cow 3 years old or over, Howard Gould on Kingswood Courtley Girl.

First prize, cow 2 years and under 3, Elmendorf Farm on Gort Flossie 5th.

Second prize, cow 2 years old and under 3, Howard Gould on Castlegould Blanche.

First prize, cow 1 year old and under 2, Elmendorf Farm on Gort Sunbeam 9th.

Second prize, cow 1 year old and under 2, Howard Gould on Castlegould Countess.

First prize, heifer calf, Howard Gould on Castlegould Marion.

Second prize, heifer calf, Howard Gould on Castlegould Polly.

First prize, exhibitor's herd, Elmendorf Farm.

Second prize, exhibitor's herd, Howard Gould.

Mr. Gould furnished the only exhibits of breeders' young herd, breeder's calf herd, get of sire, and produce of cow.

Champion bull, Howard Gould on Castlegould Clansman.

Champion cow, and winner of the Howard Gould silver cup for best female two years old or over, Elmendorf Farm on Gort Peep.

#### **KERRIES SHOWN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.**

Under date of September 2, Mr. A. N. White writes:

"I have just exhibited a part of my herd at the Greenfield Fair. The farmers showed great interest, and such comments as I overheard were extremely favorable."

#### **DEATH OF MR. GEORGE G. MAHONY, AN IRISH KERRY BREEDER.**

The *Farmer's Gazette* of Dublin, contained the following item on September 21, 1912:

The Kerry breed of cattle has lost one of its most ardent admirers and most spirited supporters by the death of Mr. George Gun Mahony, D.L., which took place at his residence, Kilmorna House, in the Co. Kerry, a few days ago. For many years past Mr. Mahony has been actively associated with the development of our native cattle and he brought into our leading show yards animals of outstanding excellence and type. His herd, indeed, is one of the most valuable in the country. The deceased gentleman was exceedingly popular and highly esteemed and his death will be widely lamented.



**VOL. XII. OF THE ENGLISH KERRY AND DEXTER  
HERD BOOK.**

Volume 12 of the English Kerry and Dexter herd book, containing 140 pages, has recently been published. It contains registrations of Kerries as follows: Bulls, 239-277; cows, 1335 to 1555. Dexters are registered as follows: Bulls, 456-495; cows, 18211-2001.

**COMPTON DOT F. S. 809 E. H. B.**

The picture on the cover of bulletin two is of Compton Dot F. S. 809 E. H. B. She won first prize at Belfast both in 1900 and 1901, and was owned by the Duchess of Devonshire. Mr. R. Tait-Robertson writes the Secretary that she was winner of 13 first prizes and four championships at the Royal Agricultural Society Show of England, at the Bath and West, Royal Counties, and Oxfordshire Agricultural Society. Mr. Tait-Robertson says she is a perfect model of the breed, and was sold to the late Duchess of Devonshire at a very high price. In her prime she gave from 16 to 18 quarts of milk per day.

**GORT PRINCESS 1825 R. D. S.**

The Dexter cow shown on page 10 of bulletin 2, is Gort Princess 1825 R. D. S. She was calved in 1901, and was qualified by inspection. Mr. R. Tait-Robertson writes that she won three first prizes and one third, the only times shown. She is one of the greatest milkers that the breed has produced, and was sold by Mr. Tait-Robertson for a very long price.

**A BOOK ON KERRY CATTLE.**

Mr. P. Taaffe of Clonlarf, Dublin, Ireland, owner of the Shamrock herd, writes the Secretary that he is soon to publish a volume dealing with the Kerry, from various points of view. This work is prepared with the purpose of making the merits of the Kerry well known. The author is a large breeder of extended experience, and his observations will no doubt be read with much interest. He has kindly offered to place at the disposal of the Secretary, some of the contents of this treatise, for publication in the Bulletin. Persons desiring copies of this volume should address Mr. Taaffe at 3 Hillview Terrace, Clonlarf, Dublin, Ireland.

## HERDS OF KERRY AND DEXTER CATTLE.

Kerry or Dexter cattle have been registered by the following since the Club started business. Some of the herds are very small, and some are of considerable size. But very few females of either breed are for sale. Letters addressed to the undersigned will no doubt receive a response:

G. M. Carnochan, Cairnsmuir, New City, New York.

Elmendorf Farm, Lexington, Kentucky.

Cecil D. Gregg, St. Louis, Missouri.

Howard Gould, Castlegould, Port Washington, New York.

Oak Hill Estate, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

F. J. Rodgers, Mills Building, San Francisco, California.

F. E. Stevens, Glens Falls, New York.

Albert N. White, Greenfield, New Hampshire.

Persons contemplating purchasing Kerry or Dexter cattle are urged not to do so unless registered on the books of this Club. All sales should be accompanied by a certificate of registry, and also of transfer.