The Preservation of the Colonial Spanish Horse
1493 to 2014
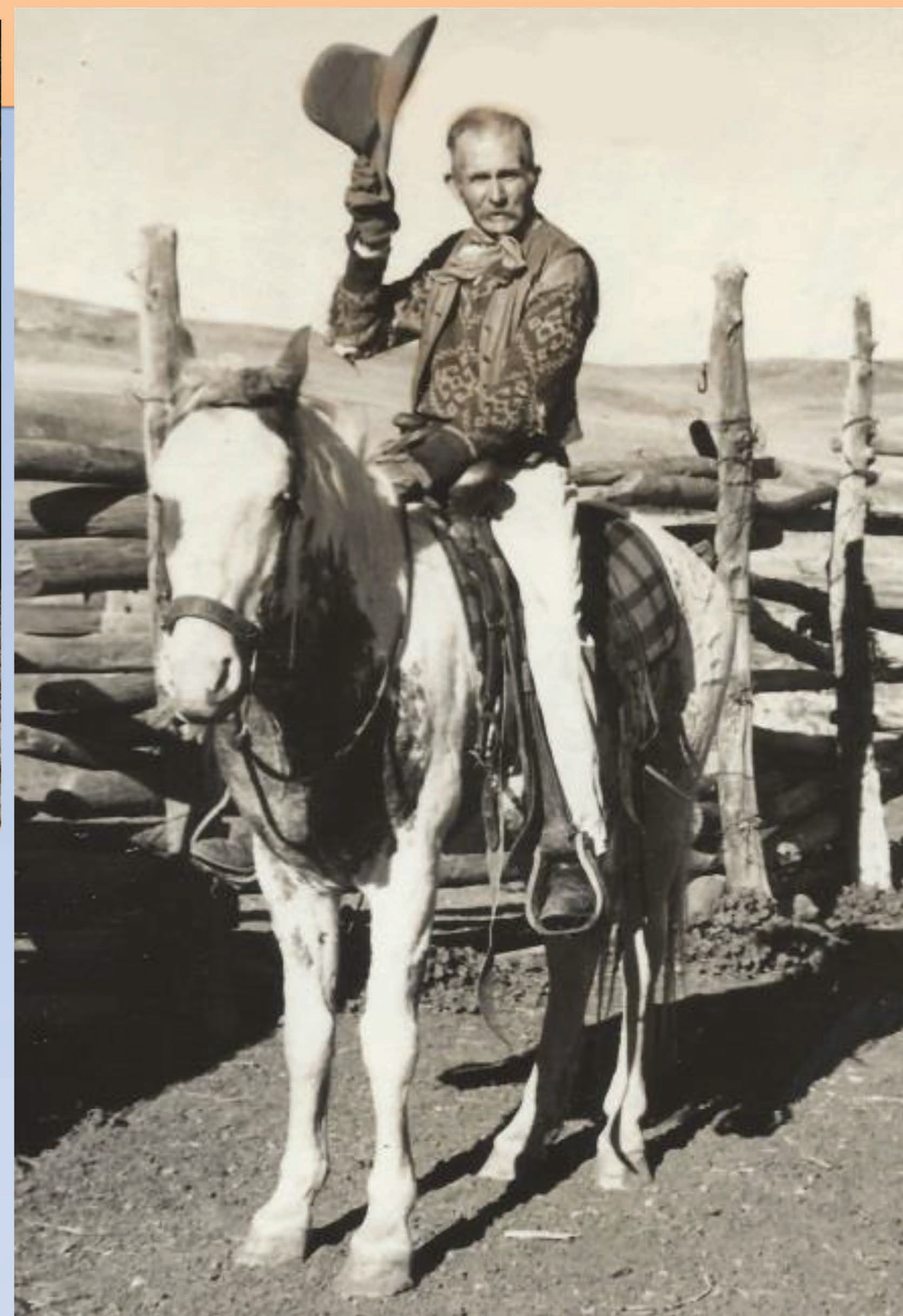## Gretchen Patterson
Dr. Jennifer Beisel

Captain Walker
SMR-3419, HOA-1326, AIHR O-4920
Photo by Alicia Sims, 2013
Lothlorien Farm, Leesville, Texas

The Colonial Spanish Horses of today descended from the first horses brought to the New World by Christopher Columbus in1493, followed by Spanish conquistadors. The Spanish horses were an important influence in the settlement and development of North America from the Outer Banks of North Carolina, across the United States to California and into Canada. Their history runs parallel to the expansion of the United States, and they remain today as a living example of American equine history, worthy of preservation for future generations of horsemen and women. The descendants of the original Spanish horses did not become a monument of yesteryear because Robert E. Brislawn decided that he would save the last remnants of these hardy equines.

San Domingo, SMR-2
Robert E. Brislawn, Sr.
Founder of the Spanish Mustang Registry

In 1889, frontier artist and writer, Frederic Remington remarked, *"Of all the monuments which the Spaniard has left to glorify his reign in America, there will be none more worthy than his horse."*

Choctaw Sun Dance
Glenda Ives Cargile
SMR-1282, AIHR O-594, SSMA-1143
Photo by Richard Tinker

Starting in 1925, Brislawn bought and traded for Spanish type horses throughout the United States. With the assistance of Dr. Lawrence P. Richards, he incorporated the Spanish Mustang Registry in 1957 to preserve this unique American horse breed. With over 6,500 current registrations to date (alive and dead), the Colonial Spanish Horse as a breed is secured, demonstrating to the world the attributes inherited from its Spanish ancestors and traits developed through natural selection. Writer Don Worcester states, *"Like the buffalo, longhorn, and other symbols of the Old West, the mustang has been saved from oblivion."* The Colonial Spanish Horse remains as a living legacy of American equine history.