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ELECTRONIC

The Preservation of the Colonial Spanish Horse and Robert E. Brislawn, Sr.

[Gretchen L. Patterson Ms., Stephen F. Austin State University](#)

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History

First Advisor

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Abstract

The Preservation of the Colonial Spanish Horse and

Robert E. Brislawn, Sr.

In 1493, the Spanish horse importation to the Caribbean island stimulated American exploration as an agent of transportation. In the nineteenth century, the necessity of horses declined with the advent of railroads and automobiles. Reduction of Native American populations through warfare and forfeiture of territory also contributed to less reliance on horses. Robert E. Brislawn, Sr., a dedicated horseman, decided to collect and preserve Spanish-type horses that he could locate as links to western heritage. From 1979, Brislawn's diligent quest introduced him to like-minded individuals who shared his goals. His story places these horses into the larger frames of western Spanish Colonial history and their role in the evolving environment of the mid-west and western plains and concludes with their development.

Brislawn's narrative, as told to family and friends, combined with the immigrant and nineteenth-century western expansion stories provided an opportunity to become familiar with the Spanish-type horses. His research enabled him to identify horses as a cultural touchstone in a region affected by international wars and western development. The preservation of these horses provides a small, interesting side story to American western history as well as the national preservation and conservation movement.

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The Preservation of the Colonial Spanish Horse and Robert E. Brislawn, Sr, developing this theme, self-observation supports flugel-horn.

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