

Ringtail Galloway

As mentioned in the book (page 83), Sir Arthur Hesilrige, 2nd Bt, maintained a nice stable of racehorses at Woodstock Park. The tradition continued through generations of the family. Sir Arthur, the 7th Bt, counted among his stock a prized mare, known as Ringtail Galloway. The following image is of a painting of Ringtail Galloway, hanging high in the Marble Hall at Noseley.



According to volume 1 of the *General Stud Book* (5th edition) Sir Arthur's mare was offspring of Hip (dam) and Curwen Bay Barb (sire). Other sources in the history of the development of the Thoroughbred racing horse give somewhat different accounts of the early pedigrees leading to the Thoroughbred, however, and controversies remain to this day. In any case, Ringtail Galloway was considered a remarkably good racer, who later was dam to another famous mare, Miss Patch. This is confirmed by Heber's *Racing Calendar* (volume 11, page 143) for the year 1761.

The term "ringtail" probably referred to the physical expression of a genetic trait ("rabicano")—usually a roaning of the flanks and the presence of one or two bands of white hairs at the root of the tail (visible in the painting).