

## THE BLOODLINE OF RESISTANCE: FROM THE EXILE OF KINGS TO THE CURLS OF LONGSHOT ACRES

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History is not a straight line; it is a tapestry woven by those who refused to let the sacred things vanish.

At LongShot Acres, our mission as horse breeders does not begin in the modern show ring—it begins in the dust, the displacement, and the fierce survival of the 19th-century Plains.

Our family's roots are anchored deep in a history of defiance, resistance, and sanctuary. Louis Riel married into our family—his wife, Marguerite Monet dite Bellehumeur, was the sister of my great-great-grandmother, Marie Bellehumeur.

Riel was a rebel in the truest sense of the word: a man willing to stand up and fight for the rights, land, freedom, and future of the Métis and Indigenous people of the West.

That is the connection I carry with me today. I come from a family history of people willing to stand up when something worth protecting is in danger of being lost. To me, preservation is another form of that same resistance.

Today, I am not fighting a government or standing on a battlefield. I am fighting against the disappearance of a bloodline.

That is why preserving the Bad Warrior Curly means so much to me.

When Chief Sitting Bull and his Hunkpapa Lakota people were forced into Canadian exile following the Battle of the Little Bighorn, they faced starvation, political abandonment, and the crushing weight of empires.

We come from a lineage that understands what it means to protect the exiled, to feed the vulnerable, and to hold the line against total erasure.

It is that exact same spirit of preservation that guides our hands today as we breed the Bad Warrior Curly horse.

Just as Sitting Bull's people fought to keep their culture alive during their northern exile, a unique, resilient equine treasure was quietly surviving on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Inherited by Eli Bad Warrior from his father, these Curly-coated horses survived harsh Plains winters, government culls, and shifting eras.

They are more than just livestock; they are a living, breathing connection to the very history our family helped protect.

At LongShot Acres, we look at our pastures, and we do not just see horses with unique ringlet coats. We see an animal forged by the same struggle for survival that our ancestors witnessed alongside Louis Riel and Sitting Bull.

Breeding the Bad Warrior line is our Long Shot—a commitment to keeping an irreplaceable piece of Indigenous history, genetic brilliance, and frontier heritage alive for generations to come.

## **THE SACRED HERITAGE OF THE NATIVE LINE**

The history of the Bad Warrior horse is carved into the very identity of the American West. The earliest documented records of these horses exist in the Sioux winter counts of the early 1800s, which historically marked the year the Sioux acquired these striking “curly-haired horses” through raids on the neighbouring Crow tribe.

Kept safe by generations of Native American families, they were considered sacred animals, highly valued for their endurance and spiritual significance.

By the early 1930s, as the reservation era altered the landscape of the Plains, Eli Bad Warrior transferred his family’s band to horseman Slim Berndt. The lineage was later secured by legendary stockman Ernie Hammrich, who recognized the genetic marvel before him.

Hammrich selectively bred these reservation horses to foundation Quarter Horses, officially designating the line as the “Bad Warrior” or “Warrior” stock in honour of Eli’s family stewardship.

Today, this bloodline stands out globally because of its unique genetic footprint, carrying the dominant KRT25 Curly coat gene.

## **OUR GOAL AS BREEDERS: CARRYING THE TORCH OF SANCTUARY**

At LongShot Acres, we view ourselves not merely as business owners, but as genetic stewards. Our breeding goals directly mirror the historical sanctuary our family once extended to Sitting Bull.

We are holding the line against a different kind of erasure—extinction by assimilation.

### **Combating Bloodline Blending**

In the modern equine market, many original Curly lines are being heavily blended with outside gaited or stock-horse breeds, diluting their original type.

Our primary directive is to preserve the integrity of the Native Warrior profile.

### **Honouring Historical Conformation**

We selectively pair our stock to retain the distinctive “Bad Warrior” archetype: a powerful Native American build featuring short backs, long underlines, strong cannon bones, and well-laid-back shoulders built for rugged utility.

## **Intentional Outcrossing**

Following the traditional foundation footsteps of Ernie Hammrich, we focus on breeding Native/Warrior stock back to select, old-style foundation Quarter Horses and Paints.

Breed organizations like the Curly Stockhorse Registry note that this targeted line-breeding is highly preferred over mixing unrelated Curly strains, such as Damele or Curly Jim, keeping the original Plains genetics as concentrated and pure as possible.

## **A MASTERPIECE OF UTILITY: WHAT MAKES THE BAD WARRIOR AN ASSET**

The Bad Warrior Curly horse is not a novelty; it is an incredible asset to the modern equestrian world, combining extreme visual uniqueness with severe, time-tested utility.

## **THE HYPOALLERGENIC MIRACLE**

For passionate horse lovers who suffer from debilitating allergies, the Curly coat is a literal life-changer. Their unique skin and hair proteins allow many allergy sufferers to ride, groom, and live alongside these horses entirely symptom-free or with very little reaction.

## **THE FAMOUS NATIVE DISPOSITION**

Forged through generations of tribal life and close human companionship, these horses possess an unmatched, calm, sensible temperament.

They are highly cooperative, naturally curious, and maintain a low-reactive composure under pressure.

## **PLAINS-TESTED HARDINESS**

Having evolved through the unforgiving winters of the Northern Plains, the Bad Warrior line boasts dense bone, remarkably tough hooves that rarely require shoes, and incredibly efficient metabolisms.

They thrive where other breeds struggle.

## **THE URGENT CALL TO ACTION: WHY WE MUST SAVE THEM!**

The domestic horse community is facing a quiet crisis of genetic narrowing. When a specific, isolated line like the Bad Warrior Curly disappears, a piece of irreplaceable living history dies with it.

To let this line fade away would be an insult to the Indigenous caretakers who hid, protected, and fed these herds through the darkest eras of Western history.

Saving them isn't about putting horses in a pasture; it's about protecting an ancient biodiversity shield, preserving a cultural treasure, and honouring a lineage of resistance.

At LongShot Acres, we look at our pastures, and we do not just see horses with unique ringlet coats.

We see the resilient ghosts of the past.

We see an animal forged by the same struggle for survival that our ancestors witnessed alongside Sitting Bull and Louis Riel.

Breeding the Bad Warrior line is our Long Shot—a lifelong commitment to keeping an irreplaceable piece of history alive, one foal at a time.