CHAPTER XXVI.

MY SISTER AND BROTHER.

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among his worshipers."

"'Tis sweet to be remembered and 'tis sweet and pleasant to remember your old friends and relatives." I used to often hear Mr. Philips repeat these words, but never realized how true they were until he came to see me and told me about my old friends and relatives, and the more I think about his taking such a long, tiresome journey at his age, to see me and my family and talk with me once more, the more I think it is sweet to be remembered, and the more I think that the saddest thought that can come to anyone is the thought that they are forgotten.

The next time Mr. Philips came to see me he said, "Well, Queen, the next news I am going to tell you is about your sister and brother and their descendants which comprises the Western Yeksa family, and are owned by Fred Rietbrock of Milwaukee, every individual of which is trying their best, the same as you and your descendants are doing, to perpetuate the great achievements of your mother, Yeksa." I never saw my sister Bonnie Jean, No. 3,646, nor my brother, Yeksa's Prince, No. 1,943, but my mother told me so much about them and Mrs. Foster talked to me about them so often that it seemed to me that I
knew them well; still they were so far from me that, after my mother's untimely death, I felt as if I had none of my own family left until I had sons and daughters of my own. I have heard both of my former owners say that some people believe animals will have a future life. I do not know as to that, but I do know that cattle, judging by the way they behave towards

FRED RIETBROCK, late of Milwaukee, Wis.
Founder of Helendale Stock Farm at Athens, Wis.

each other, are attached to their relatives and love them in about the same proportion people do theirs. My mother told me about Mrs. Foster selling my sister and brother to Nels Martenson, of Hutchinson, Minn., and a few years later Mr. Philips told me a little more about them which I have mentioned in a previous chapter, and I assure you that when he told me that
Dr. M. B. Wood, the great lover and good judge of Guernseys, had bought my brother and I was as glad as only a cow can be glad. This time Mr. Philips told me more about them than I ever knew before.

He told me that my only sister, Bonnie Jean, left two daughters, Yeksa Maid and Yeksa Jean. She, also, left three wonderfully good granddaughters, of which I ought to be very proud. They were Yeksa Lind, No. 14,275, daughter of Yeksa Maid. Another daughter of the same dam was Buckthorn’s Maid, No. 15,084. The third was a very fine cow named Yeksa Bell, No. 14,351, daughter of Yeksa Jean. I was glad to hear such a good report of them and that they were in such
breeders and the Guernsey breed, in bringing together the members of the Yeksa family and judiciously uniting its blood lines, and that he has ample means, is generous, public spirited and an enthusiastic breeder, and he believes will make an enviable record as a breeder of large and economical performers. Yeksa Sunbeam was bred and reared at Garden City, Minn.,

![Cow Image]

**VERNA OF HAZLEWOOD**

In advance register. She gave in 12 months 11,580 lbs. of milk which made 542 lbs. of butter fat, equivalent to 632 lbs. of butter.

by the late W. D. Richardson, who sold her when a heifer to a milkman near Minneapolis, who, after keeping her several years, sold her to Dr. M. B. Wood, of Mankato, for Mr. Fred Rietbrock of Milwaukee. Princes next daughter was Verna of Hazelwood, No. 11,761, dropped Feb. 4, 1896. She is the dam
of the valuable heifer Cresto Verna, No. 18,658, now owned by Dr. M. B. Wood, of Mankato, Minn. Next comes Yeksa Mine, No. 15,585. Her dam was Lady of Lakeside, her sire was Treynore, a very fine animal, twelve years old, once owned by Mr. F. W. Tratt, of Whitewater, Wis., but now owned and prized by Fred Rietbrock, that admirer of mature bulls. Treynore is now loaned to the Minnesota Experimental Station to improve their herd of Guernseys.

The next to go into the advanced register was Fannie O.K., a very promising heifer.

A daughter of Lulu O.K., named Yeksalulu Lady, sired by
Buckthorn, No. 4,781, was the next to enter the advanced register. Her test for twelve months, from March 14th, 1905, was ten thousand five hundred and two pounds of milk which yielded five hundred and twenty-nine and sixty-nine one hundredths pounds of butter fat, equaling six hundred and eighteen pounds of butter.

**YEKSALULU LADY**

Daughter of Lulu O. K. Entered advanced register. She gave in 12 months 10502 lbs. of milk, which made 529.69 lbs. of butter fat, equivalent to 618 lbs. of butter.

Rose Yeksa, No. 14,269, advanced register No. 342, was the next to enter the test. Her dam was Rose Bishop, No. 12,529, and her sire was King Yeksa, No. 5,684, son of Yeksa's Queen, a daughter of mine that was bred by Mr. A. J. Philips and sold to A. H. Sagendorph, my present owner. She qualified with four hundred twelve and fifty-five one-hundredths
pounds of butter fat, equal to four hundred and eighty pounds of butter.

Next comes the two year and seven months old heifer Yeksarose. She entered the test Dec. 1st, 1905, and on Aug. 1st, 1906, in eight months she gave 8941 pounds of milk, which made 422.73 pounds of butter fat or 150 pounds more than is required to be made in twelve months at her age. She bids fair to make a new record for heifers two and a half to three years old and is a heifer any breeder should be proud to own. Next is her stable mate Rigolette, two years and six months old. She entered the test January 1st, 1906, and on August 1st, in
seven months, she gave 7,949 pounds of milk which made 359.04 butter fat, or 87 pounds more than is required for twelve months to enter the advanced register. The first has four and the latter five months yet to work. I tell you, Queen, you ought to be proud of two such descendants, and it knocks the theory that phenomenal cows do not reproduce themselves,

RIGOLETTE
Daughter of Guydette and Madam Patti. Bred by Fred Rietbrock, Athens, Wis.

silly, and Mr. Rietbrock had reason to be very proud of being the owner and breeder of two such heifers. And the owner of the other eight I have described. Mr. Philips said, "I too, feel proud, Queen, that I bred such a grand big bull as Guydette and that I saved him from going to the slaughter house at four years old. In addition to these ten head of the Yeksa family, which will be entered in the advanced register at the close of
the year, Mr. Rietbrock had many other members of the same family in his Hellendale herd at Athens, Wis., and vicinity, which, with all the members of the Yeksa family described in the foregoing chapter, are now in said herd, owned and managed by his estate, the home office of which is 107 Wisconsin Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

FANNIE O. K.
Daughter of O. K. 4446. A son of Yeksa’s Prince. She gave in 12 months 10343 lbs. of milk, which made 569 lbs. of butter fat, equivalent to 664 lbs. of butter. Is in advanced register.

In addition to the foregoing Mr. Rietbrock has the handsome three-year-old bull Rinaldo, a son of Guydette. He conquered Lord Roberts and is master of the eight old bulls when they are turned out in the pasture together. I was glad to know that Mr. Rietbrock has so many descendants of my mother, Yeksa,
through my sister and brother, Bonnie Jean and Yeksa’s Prince, and I am proud of the grand records they are making, and am still gladder and prouder to know that my grandson, Guydette, now ten years old, son of Yeksa’s Queen, and my son, King of Salem, eight years old, head this western family of Yeksas which forms a good portion of the fine Helendale herd of Guernseys. Mr. Philips, also, told me about another beautiful mature daughter of my brother, named Dolsey, and owned by F. W.

**YEKSA UNIS**

Six months old. Daughter of Rinaldo. She represents the eighth generation in blood lines from the great Guernsey bull, Champion 38, that the veteran breeder Ezra Michenor, spoke of so highly.

Kimball, of Austin, Minn. One of my brother’s sons, O. K., No. 4,446, and my grandson Guydette, and son, Salem’s King, have contributed much to place in history the valuable work now being done by the Helendale herd; owing to the intelligent and unselfish work of Mr. Rietbrock, their owner, who, soon after he commenced breeding Guernseys, discovered the real and great value of these cattle.

Mr. Philips, also, told me that Mr. Rietbrock’s success in
making fine records and the breeding of such excellent cows is largely due to never keeping any but capable and kind help, and to his buying and using so many well matured and aged bulls that have proved themselves to be useful, prepotent sires, and in giving his breeding stock the best of care. And that he now owns ten bulls that are from five to twelve years old, two of which, Treynore and my son, Salem’s King, are being used in the herds of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Agricultural Colleges.

YEKSA BELLE
Daughter of Yeksa Jean. In advanced register. She gave in 12 months 10232 lbs. of milk, which made 598 lbs. of butter fat, equivalent to 697 lbs. of butter.

Mr. Philips likes to tell of this because well matured, prepotent sires has always been his own guiding star in breeding Guernseys.

He said that when he was looking for information along this and other lines of breeding, Governor Hoard told him to consult the veteran dairyman, Uncle Sam Huston, of Kenosha, which he did, and spent nearly two days at his home. The first question he asked was, "Can you show me your best cow?"
Mr. Huston answered the question by driving an old cow out from fifty others and said, "Here is a cow that has made for me twenty-three pounds of actual weighed butter in seven days." Mr. Philips said he at once asked the age of the bull at the time he sired her. Mr. Huston said, "Victor Hugo, when he was eleven years old. And when he was brought from Canada he was so ugly that he had to be brought in chains, but by kind, firm treatment he became as gentle as a dog." Mr. Philips then asked which was the best breed for the dairyman. Mr. Huston said, "If you have Jerseys or Jersey grades stick to them and use an old Jersey sire, but if you have common or Short Horn cows then buy the best mature Guernsey bull you
can and grade up your herd. Feed your heifers skim milk until they are a year old and always keep your best ones and you will surely succeed."

Mr. Philips then said, "Now Queen, I am going to tell you a little story to show you the transformation of a bull from a fiend to a gentle animal. It is about Lord Roberts of Wheaton, now owned by Mr. Rietbrock. He is a son of Morn and grandson of the great Materna, champion Guernsey cow of the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and brother of Standard's Morning Glory. Mr. Rietbrock hearing that Lord Roberts was for sale, also that he was very ugly, made up his mind to add him to his already long list of valuable sires, because he knew that he
had valuable blood coursing in his veins. So he bought him and ordered him to be sent to Athens, at the same time informing his men of his bad reputation.

"When he arrived at Helendale Farm he was minus a good ring in his nose. The men at once turned him into a good sized yard and started to drive him into the barn to put the needed ring into his nose. He did not approve of being driven into a small place so proceeded to drive the men out of the yard. Charley Drissen was the last of the men to beat a retreat, which left Lord Roberts master of the situation and monarch of all he surveyed; but this did not last long as Charley had only gone for reinforcements and soon returned, bringing with him Rinaldo, a husky, three-year-old bull, a son of Guydette before mentioned, that the men knew never took second place or a back seat in their bull yard. They opened the door and turned him into the yard. The bulls stood and surveyed each other for a few seconds, when time was called and the combat was on. It was terrific for awhile, Rinaldo drawing first blood when he knocked some old scabs from Lord Roberts' sides. It was three-year-old energy against five-year-old courage and strength. Finally, Rinaldo succeeded in getting an under hold and hurled Lord Roberts broadside on to the ground and, instead of trying to finish his adversary while he lay there panting, stood over him looking at him very earnestly. The men thinking that the combat had lasted long enough led Rinaldo back into his stall, while Lord Roberts, completely vanquished, laid there and let the men put a good ring in his nose, when they told him to get up and go into his stall, which he did quietly and without any protest.

"When the men examined the scabs, which Rinaldo had knocked off from Lord Roberts, they found them filled with fine shot, where sometime before, somebody had shot him. When Mr. Rietbrock and I went to Helendale, after the dairy show at Chicago, he asked the men if they could lead Lord Roberts out, and they said, "Oh, yes," and young Mr. Aderhold took the
staff and went into his stall and led him out into the yard. On examination, we found his back was still full of shot, so we spent the next twenty minutes picking shot out of his skin, and he stood as quiet as a dog. We would go to his stall every morning, and Mr. Rietbrock would take hold of Lord Roberts' ring and say to him, "Well, they used you blamed mean, but now you are with friends," and he acted as if he understood it, as he never made a bad motion while we were there. I honestly think that over a quarter of a pound of shot had been fired into him, enough to have killed several bulls had they struck in a vital place."

"A lesson can be learned from this incident; first, that a bull that is used daily on a tread-power seldom gets cross, and that there are many ways to subdue one that are far better than to shoot him and make him so afraid that he thinks he must always fight for his life and always be on the defensive ready to defend himself. Most animals will fight for their lives, and will fight for their liberty too, if not kindly treated; even a rat will attack a man or boy when its life is in danger. I have said again and again, with both voice and pen, that it is poor policy and a losing business to discard a well bred bull because his environments have been such that it has made him cross. It is far better to build a suitable place for him and keep him to improve your herd; then use precaution and be careful and never employ any but a man of experience, with a firm, kind disposition to take care of him.

"You will remember Queen, that after I sold your grandson Guydette, I promised to tell you more about him some time. What I want to tell you is that, three years after Guydette left us, his owner wrote me that he could not use him any more, was going to sell him to the butcher and wanted another calf not related to him. I went and saw him and there was a providence in my going, for I got there barely in time to save him from being killed for beef. I wish, Queen, you could have seen what a great, big, majestic grandson you had. He was
so gentle that he had not yet, at almost four years of age, had a ring in his nose. I said to his owner, 'why man! what are you thinking of to sell a valuable sire like him to the butcher? Why, his dam has made six hundred pounds of butter in a year' and said emphatically, 'an animal like him cannot be butchered.' I at once informed Chas. L. Hill and he found a buyer.

"He was bought by Mr. Hunter, of Picketts, and added many valuable grades to his dairy herd. When Mr. Rietbrock became interested in the breeding of fine Guernseys, he heard of Guydette and bought him to head his Yeksa family. I never go to Athens without going to his stall and looking at him and saying a few words to him. He is a grand fellow, has weighed as high as twenty-one hundred and forty pounds. Mr. Rietbrock often turns several of his big bulls into a yard together for exercise, but will not allow Guydette and his eldest son Rinaldo, to be turned out together, for since Rinaldo subdued Lord Roberts of Wheaton, he has got a notion that he can clean out any of them, and Mr. Rietbrock said it would not look well for Rinaldo to whip his father, so keeps them apart."