

# NORWICH IN AMERICA

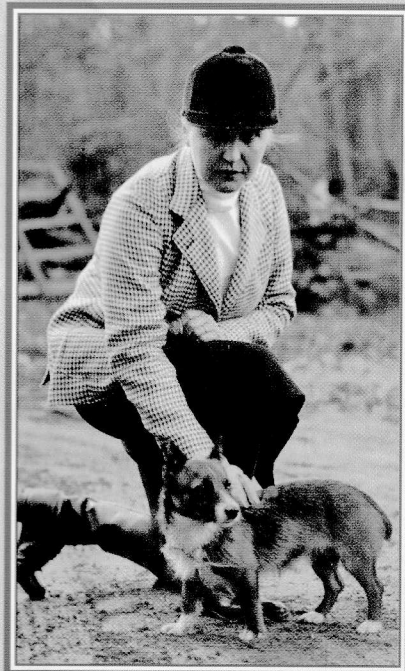
## Keeping Up with the Joneses -Margaretta Wood-

Long before the American Kennel Club recognized the Norwich as a breed, a small terrier type had arrived in Pennsylvania taking the foxhunting fraternity by storm. He was called a Jones Terrier who, along with his eventual counterparts, set the stage for the Norwich in America.

February 20, 1936, the AKC registered its first Norwich Terrier, thanks in large part to the efforts of AKC Secretary Henry D. Bixby and G. Gordon Massey. Sounds simple enough, but truth be told the story of the Norwich in America is a libation like no other. Mix equal parts of legend, lore, and likelihood, add a dash of two different ear carriages, and you have a potion whose ingredients will be debated well into the next millennium. Take for example William Jones, the first dog of its breed type to be seen in America. He was not called a Norwich, rather a Jones Terrier; his ears were not erect, they were cropped; and while a prolific sire his name will not appear in any AKC registered Norwich pedigrees. Known by his owner as "Willum," he was purchased in England by popular Philadelphia sportsman Robert Strawbridge and brought to these shores in 1914, destined to become a hit amongst the vested gentry from Vermont to Virginia and points south. Willum was bred by one of the breed's founding fathers, an Irish-born character named Frank Jones, hence Willum's surname and hence the oft-named Jones Terrier. Nobody could have predicted then that this twelve

pound mongrel, "all teeth and hair like a rat-catcher's dog" would pave a path to the popularity the Norwich enjoy today.

While no one can pinpoint the exact beginnings of the Norwich Terrier, its origins are believed to have evolved in the 1880s, primarily by stockmen in England's eastern counties, and primarily for use as a working dog, death to game, hardy of constitution, and active for its size. To simplify, Charles Lawrence



*A typical Jones Terrier, ca 1936*

produced a Cantab Terrier for Cambridge student companions and ratters. Jodrell Hopkins developed the Trumpington Terrier from which came the ubiquitous "Rags." Frank Jones is credited for the Norwich Terrier, named for the town where he first worked as a whip to the Norwich staghounds in 1901. After moving to Market Harborough in Leicestershire, once a center for English

foxhunting, Jones worked as a roughrider and earned a reputation for selling his terriers to horsemen. The breed's reputation as "devils to poach" spread quickly, particularly to the United States.

Willum was a traveling good-will ambassador who headed south every year with his owner after the Pennsylvania foxhunting season had ended. His stamina and style caught the eye of many a Master of Foxhounds (MFH) who were inspired to duplicate the dog's hunting prowess. J. Watson Webb, MFH of the Shelburne hounds in Vermont, first saw Willum in South Carolina and used him on his terrier admixtures. Equally attracted to the breed type was Harry T. Peters, MFH of Meadow Brook, who later built his strain of Windholme prick-ears from English imports. Peters would eventually become the first president of the unofficial Norwich Terrier Club formed in New York in 1938. Eugene Reynal, MFH of the Millbrook Harriers, was so impressed by Willum he traveled to England to purchase a pair from the Roughrider Jones. And when Reynal brought his pair to Virginia, Col. Sterling Larrabee, MFH of the Old Dominion Hounds, became so similarly smitten that he, in turn, began to breed the Jones Terrier. And so it went. Col. Larrabee wrote of Reynal's pair:

"The first Jones I ever saw belonged to Eugene Reynal who brought a brace to Middleburg for the hunting season in 1920 or 1921. Reynal told me he obtained these dogs in Melton Mowbray from a man known as Roughrider Jones. Reynal insisted his particular pair had been bred down from crosses between Corgis



*Frank "Roughrider" Jones, from An Artist's Life*

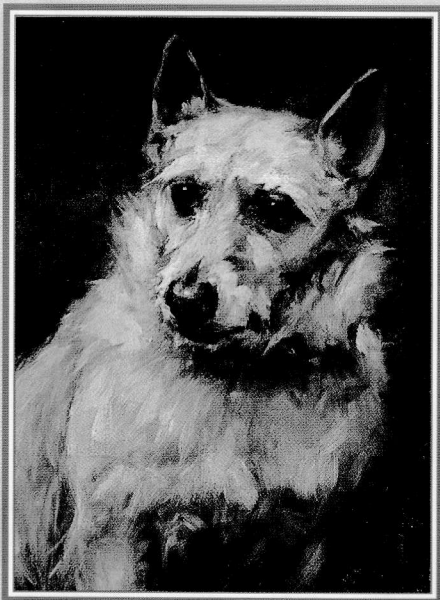


and Welsh Terriers and combinations of East Anglian Terriers. This is easily credible as the early Jones did not breed true to type. Many had the reddish coat with the white flash on chest, white paws and erect ears characteristic of the Corgi, while other manifested black and tan coloring, pendant ears, and the coarse coat of a Welsh Terrier. Jones Terriers became immensely popular and a number of them were imported from Melton, Market Harborough and the Cambridge area. Any very small red terrier was claimed to be a Jones! Thus, their origin, at least in America, is really lost in obscurity, much of which is conflicting."

Conflicting perhaps, but not to Frank "Roughrider" Jones. Throughout his very long life (1876-1969), Jones maintained as far as he was concerned their only qualifications were they be game, tackle a fox, have no white on their top coat and have prick ears. In a 1956 interview with the writer Macdonald Daly, Jones stated, "Mine all had prick ears, and they were smaller than today's – not much bigger, in fact, than Yorkshire Terriers."

By the time of Willum's death in 1928, the plucky little fox bolters had established themselves not just as game workers, but also as affectionate companions in private life as well. The advent of AKC recognition brought the breed before the public who gradually became acquainted with the now-named Norwich Terrier. Not surprisingly, efforts to encourage owners of Jones Terriers to apply for registration failed miserably. Many were of the opinion bench shows would ruin the breed. Those of another persuasion turned to England for imports. Ironically, the first registered prick ear Norwich to reach these shores, prior to World War II, were direct descendants of Frank Jones' stock, most notably dogs from Phyllis Fagan and W. E. West's Farndon strain. Worth

mentioning is English Champion Farndon Red Dog, the maternal grandsire of America's first prick ear champion bitch and dog, Rachael and Apple Jack in 1939. Full Cry came full circle.



*Terrier, ca 1895, oil on canvas by the English artist Maud Earl, given to the Museum in 1998 by Edwin L. Levy, Jr. in memory of Hope A. Levy.*

**NORWICH TERRIERS**  
(Sometimes called Jones Terriers)



Ch. Farndon Red Dog  
(Holds M. F. H. Certificate to Fox)

**THE FARNDON KENNELS**  
Mr. W. E. West, Owner  
"Grey Walls" East-Farndon  
Market—Harborough—England

**Cables, Farndon Kennels, Market, Harborough**  
This well known Norwich Terrier Kennel, which is the largest in England, is noted not only for its constant successes at Cruft's and all the principal championship shows, but for the gameness and attractiveness of these sturdy little Terriers. Four of the breeding section hold M. F. H. Certificate to Fox, and it is not surprising that they are greatly fancied by the hunting folk in England. They make ideal pets for town or country houses, having charming dispositions, and brains.

**For Sale**—Bitch puppies 5 months, from 10 guineas  
Dog puppies 5 months, from 15 guineas  
**At Stud**—Ch. Farndon Red Dog, C. C. at Cruft's, 1936, 5 guineas  
Red Pepper, C. C. at Cruft's 1937, 5 guineas

*English Advertisement 1938, Ch. Farndon Red Dog*

Today the Jones Terrier is merely a footnote in time gone by. The Norwich is a popular, well-established breed throughout much of the world. Small hunting terriers are rarely used for foxbolting, either banned by law or out of precaution; and the open country, its rolling fields once crimson with fox, is now greatly diminished. But sometimes on a quiet evening, when November chills set in, if you listen carefully, listen very carefully, you just might hear a yip, yip, yip of the Roughrider's dogs.

*Margaretta "Missy" Wood is a collector of breed history and has owned Norwich Terriers since 1966 under the Terrapin prefix.*

