

Straddling the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, the Cypress Hills region has a long history of successful cattle and horse ranching. The historical Royal Canadian Mounted Police began their pilgrimage to the Cypress Hills in the late 1800's and settled at Fort Walsh.

Many early settlers migrated to the area and resided on homesteads, building small communities. The locals began their rugged life on the range taming the land. Springing from these early settlers ranch hands performed all aspects of ranch life.

The Cypress Hills has numerous families still operating ranches in similar fashion to this day. Settling in the Cypress Hills over a century ago the Perrin, Parsonage and Bertram families began their ranching operations in a rustic fashion. Stemming from solid stock these third, fourth and fifth generation ranchers still reside on or near their fore fathers founding homesteads.

Ted Perrin of Kent, England first established his horse and cattle ranch on the north side of the Cypress Hills in 1892. The Perrin's first stallion was named Rainbow, of Kentucky Whip blood and was crossed on stocky range mares producing outstanding ranch horses. Ted's son Ernest took over the ranch and continued to raise commercial cattle and some of the areas finest cow horses. Ernest first used a stallion named Buck who was of Sleepy Cat blood, Canada's first Registered Quarter Horse. Other horses raised were of the renowned Sea Biscuit blood. Ernest's son Ken and his wife Marg still live on the old homestead operating a horse and cattle ranch. Ken is the third generation to work and live on his grandfather's land. Ken and Marg have two sons, Cody and Justin. Cody is the computer expert of the family, creating the Perrin web site and marketing on line catalogues for the business. Justin and his wife Cindy and their two sons, William and James live west of Maple Creek. Justin trains horses and competes in ranch horse competitions, reined cow horse shows and assists his parents with the family ranching business. The Perrin's four stallions and forty-five mares stem from AQHA's elite foundation breeding consisting of bloodlines of Peppy San Badger, King Fritz, Zan Parr Bar, Boomernic and many others. The Perrin's are proud of their herd of horses and strive to produce cowy performance horses. Perrin horses are ridden by Canadian royalty such as the Cowtown Rodeo Queen and Miss Rodeo Canada.

Arriving from Pilot Mound, Manitoba; Everett Parsonage began his ranching operation on the south side of the Cypress Hills in 1899. Their horses were whatever could be acquired from local settlers in Manitoba. Later on Everett raised light and draft horses for the homesteader market and Army Remount purposes. Everett's sons Graham and Reddy acquired a Thoroughbred stallion that produced outstanding ranch and using horses. He ended his career as a remount stallion for the RCMP at Fort Walsh. Graham's son Roger and his wife Lou still live on the Parsonage homestead operating their horse and cattle ranch. Roger is the third generation to manage his grandfather's land. Roger and Lou have focused on raising Paint and Quarter horses along with commercial cattle on their ranch. The Paint horse bloodlines have leaned towards a lot of today's most popular cow horse bloodlines. The Quarter horse bloodlines are intended to be an all around type – be it ranch, arena, pleasure or whatever. Their goal is to raise horses that have gentle dispositions and have conformation that will enable them to withstand many years of service. Roger and Lou have two sons, Chuck and Jess. Chuck and his wife Kyley and daughter Louise ranch south east of Maple Creek, continuing the ranching tradition. Jess and his wife Tanya ranch south west of Maple Creek also ranching and competing in horse related activities. They are expecting a new addition to their family soon.

Charlie Bertram came from Peebles, Scotland in 1905. He worked at various places before homesteading south of the Cypress Hills in 1911. Charlie's son Alan grew up and worked on the homestead, then working for local ranches and PFRA pastures for many years. He then returned home to take over his share of the homestead. The Bertram's have always used horses for every aspect of ranch work. Since Alan was school age, he has used a team of horses for the ranch and farm work. To this day they still depend on their team of percherons to feed the cattle every winter. Alan's son Chris was raised around the horses and cattle. Chris is the third generation to work his grandfather's land. Chris and his wife Shawna and their 3 sons, Tyrel, Monty and Marty, currently live on the same quarter homesteaded by Chris's grandfather. They continue to raise cattle and horses, with just enough farm land to grow feed for their stock. All aspects of ranch work are done using horses and they continue to raise their children in this manner, giving them an appreciation for the way of life. They purchased their first stallion, El Rey Skedadle, in February

of 2003. Their goals are to raise gentle, family friendly, working ranch horses. Right now they are in the process of expanding their broodmare band and raising good quality horses.

For the past 28 years the Perrin, Parsonage and Bertram families were all active members of the Cypress Hills Registered Horse Breeders Association offering their horses for sale at auction. After thoughtful deliberation they felt it was time to move on and form their own horse association. This year they have combined their talents and experience to form a new and exciting association called the Ranch Country Horse Sale Inc. The long week-end in September is going to be a horse extravaganza in Maple Creek. Mark you calendars and plan to attend the Ranch Horse Competition on September 2nd, the Ranch Country Horse Sale Inc. 1st Annual Production Sale on September 3rd (the Competition horses will sell in conjunction with the Production Sale) and the Sask. Reined Cow Horse Assoc. show on September 4th.

The Perrin, Parsonage and Bertram families look forward to serving the public with many more successful years of horse sales in the Cypress Hills. For information on these events please contact Marg Perrin at ranchcountryhorsesaleinc.com