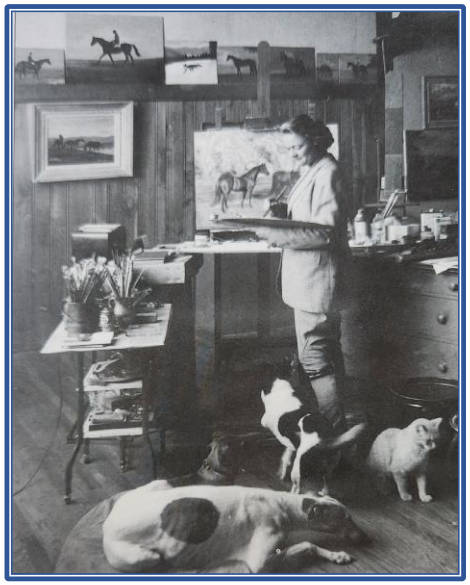
Jean Eleanor Bowman

(American, 1917-1994)



Known throughout the equestrian world as one of the foremost artists, Jean was born in 1917 in Mount Vernon, New York. She attended Spence School in New York City and Bronxville High School.

Her training was at the Art Students' league in New York City and *WHO'S WHO in American Art* states that she studied at Grand Central Art School with Jerry Farnsworth, at the National Academy of Design with Leon Knoll, and in Boston with Scott Carbee.

Jean's specialty was horses, horse people and horse sports, and is renowned for her abilities as a realist painter and inspired a generation of painters in the genre. She attained success as a female artist in a male-dominated field and was a founding member of the American Academy of Equine Art, established in Middleburg in 1980.

In 1980, Dr. Joe Rogers and Dr. Alexander Mackay-Smith founded the non-profit **American Academy of Equine Art (AAEA),** a non-profit dedicated to nurturing, educating, and promoting all artists who are interested in the classical representation of the equine subject, and celebrate the horse in sport and life. The founders tapped world-renowned equine artists Jean Bowman and Else Tuckerman to pull together the inaugural membership - a virtual "Who's Who" in the equine art world of the day: Jean Bowman, June Harrah, Henry Koehler, William Wallace Nall, Marilyn Newmark, Eve Prime, Princess Marie Louise Moncada, Richard Stone Reeves, Sam Savitt, and Else Tuckerman. The AAEA today has an active on-line presence, continuing to encourage equine artists and promote their exhibitions around the country.

Technique and Artistry

Jean used various mediums such as pen and ink as seen in the fully illustrated book KNOW ABOUT HORSES, the palette knife for "Gone Away," and watercolors for "Carter Hall." For most of her sketches and paintings she used oil. She seldom painted from photographs, preferring to "see for herself" and her works, conforming to her New York and Boston training, were classical and concentrated on attitude, color, light and style. Much of Jean's work was done on commission which provided her funds to live and travel to discuss possible commissions or to do studies on contracted-for commissions.

She also traveled to many functions featuring her work including an exhibit in the Knoedler Gallery in New York and at Tyron Gallery in London. She had one-man shows at the Vose Galleries in Boston, at Scott and Fowles Galleries of E.J. Ronsuck in New York, the Grand Central Galleries. She was the first American Painter to show at the Ackermann in London, the oldest sporting art gallery in the world. Many of Jean's works are owned by horse-oriented museums, such as the National Museum of Racing at Saratoga and the Laurel Clubhouse (her painting of Mongo, the winner of the international race in 1963). Her works include the presentation picture for Queen Elizabeth II of the race horse Hopeful Venture.

One or more of a total of some 350 of her efforts hang in the collections of Paul Mellon, Richard K. Mellon, Walter Chrysler, Walter Jeffords, Robert Kleberg, John Hay Whitney, George Widener, Duchess of Westminster and Peggy Hennesy. She designed the emblems for the U.S. Pony Club and the Museum of Hounds and Hunting in North America.

Between 1945 to 1998, *The Chronicle of the Horse* featured Jean's work on its weekly cover at least 64 times, and her works have graced the covers of many equestrian periodicals and magazines. Those journals now serve to trace history and remind us of notable equestrians, landowners and their equine partners. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of her Clarke County works are the backgrounds, the landscapes that are at once sublime and familiar. They recall the quiet, mellow Clarke County days and drive us to protect those open spaces and scenic views she captured so well and are recognized by Clarke residents and equestrians in the region.

Clarke County Presence

In the early 1940s, Jean had a house in Middleburg, Virginia, and in 1946 moved to Clarke County near the White Post village where she rented a farmhouse at Farnley called The Meadows, or "The Culver House." In the late 1940s, she helped restore Lucky Hit, converting 1/3 of the bank barn's hayloft for her studio so she could paint a horse inside. For ten years she hunted with Blue Ridge Hunt serving as a whipper-in, and lived at Lucky Hit until 1964 when she and Alex divorced. After departing Lucky Hit, she lived in a cottage by the Shenandoah River at Rosemont (or "Mar-Tu-Con."). Eventually she moved to the east side of the mountain and in the 1980s restored an old dwelling near Unison, "Bonnycastle," and made her home there.

Her marriages to Richard Pentecost and Alexander Mackay-Smith ended in divorces. Her third husband John Magruder III drowned in a boating accident in 1972. Her fourth husband, Charles Morgan, died in 1983.
Jean is survived by a son John H. Pentecost of Poolesville, Maryland, and his two children Jason and Victoria. Her sister Sally Bowman Brady and her brother Fielding Lewis Bowman have passed away.



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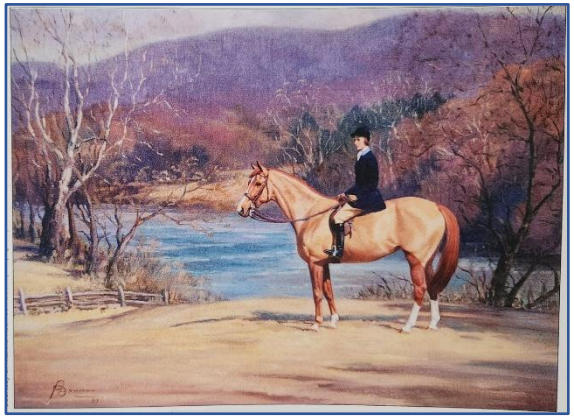
Long Branch Historic House and Farm
is a 501c(3) organization. Donations are welcome and tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Galleries at Long Branch present

Jean Bowman's Clarke County:

"A Separate Place"

An exclusive exhibit of privately owned works rarely or never seen by the public and made possible by Randy Buckley, Marianne Casey, Jean's son John Pentecost, and Stuart Brown. We are indebted to the Clarke County residents who graciously shared their Jean Bowman treasures for visitors to enjoy and recall our shared heritage with horses and countryside that separate us from an anxious world.



Martha Cook on Coed Choice (1959)

November 18 - 30, 2026

Long Branch Historic House and Farm
Boyce, Virginia