

# Lowline Female History - where it all began

The Australian Lowline is the result of pedigree recorded Angus cattle dating back almost 200 years. The Lowline herd book has been closed since 1974 (41 years). The closed herd was made of descendants from the original 11 Angus females which were imported from Scotland, Canada and the US. These females were descendants of Old Grannie (1824), Black Meg (Unknown), Erica (1857) and several others.

Old Grannie was bred by Hugh Watson and lived for 35 1/2 years, produced 25 calves and at 34 years of age won the medal in the class for extra stock for being such a remarkable animal at the Highland Show at Aberdeen. Old Grannie won several other shows in her time and always remained undefeated. Black Meg had calves up until she was 20 years old, she is regarded as the foundation behind one of the most prolific ongoing families in the breed (Angus) today and in the first edition of the Scottish herd book incorrectly stated Black Meg as a Galloway.



Portrait of the Ballindalloch herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle – Erica is circled

Erica is also a prolific female family in today's modern population. She was a first prize winner at the 1861 Angus Society Show in Arbroath and was the top seller at the 1861 Kinnaird Sale. She sold for 50 guineas to Sir George M. Grant of Ballindalloch and in the famous painting of the Angus cattle at Ballindalloch Castle she is the cow with white on the udder, drinking from the stream.

Erica went on to win 1st prize at 1871 Highland Agricultural Show Society Show in Perth at 15 years of age. She remained in production up until 16 years of age.

Erica was a granddaughter of Beauty (Registration no.186). Just like Old Grannie she was bred by Hugh Watson. The book, "History of Aberdeen-Angus Cattle" by Macdonald and Sinclair (1910) describes the Erica's (female line) as "The Ericas show striking uniformity of type, and display undoubted indications of high breeding. They are deep, broad, compact, low-set cattle, with short fine legs, excellent ribs and loins, beautiful quality, graceful heads and very rich cover of flesh". The Erica's description is very similar to the modern Lowline.

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The most influential female lines on the modern Lowline pedigree are Erica Mcgregor and Glencarnock Eurotia. Erica Mcgregor is regarded as the most dominant of the female lines. She was bred by James D. Mcgregor of Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. James bred

Glencarnock Revolution 6 who was proclaimed the greatest proven sire ever offered at auction in America and was sold for \$900 in 1930 (Not the same Glencarnock Revolution that was imported by Trangie). This female line is noted for its longevity; Trangie Erica's Page, a grandson of Erica Mcgregor was used at the Grafton Experimental Farm and sent back to Trangie where he served cows up until 14 years of age. Female descendants from this female are noted for their longevity; one example being Trangie Miss Primrose who lived up until 18 years of age having produced 14 calves.

Glencarnock Eurotia 4th was sired by Permit 9 who was a top selling bulling at the 1923 Tolan sale. He went on to be named Grand Champion at the Central States Fair, Junior Champion at both Mississippi Valley Fair and Oklahoma Fair before joining the Glencarnock show team where he won 38 Championships which made him a multiple champion in two countries; Canada and the USA. Erison of Harviestoun is noted as one of the main early sources of the red gene in Australia.

However, Glencarnock Eurotia 4th arrived before Erison and may have been an earlier source of the red gene. Eurotia 4th is a female imported from Canada who produced 2 sons Trangie Revolution 2nd and Trangie Edward 4th; both sired red calves. Trangie Edward 4th was the sire of the first recorded Red Angus in Australia. Between 1929 and 1945 Eurotia 4th produced 13 calves including; Sydney Royal Champion bulls in 1935 and 1937 and Champion cow in 1939 and 1940 as well as many other class winners. Due to probability of simple recessive inheritance we could assume that Eurotia 4th contributed the red gene to the Lowline herd as well as structural correctness and longevity.



1929 Canadian import cow, Blackcap Bixie 2<sup>nd</sup> & her calf , Glencarnoch Blackcap Eric  
(later to be Champion Bull at 1933 Royal Sydney Show)

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Other imported females with significance include; Blackcap Bixie 2nd who produced Glencarnock Blackcap Eric which was Champion Bull at the Sydney Royal Show in 1933. Andelot Eline 16th produced Trangie Anthony which was Supreme Exhibit at the Sydney Royal Show in 1954. Essence Glencarnock 16th was a granddaughter of Blackcap Revolution. Revolution was regarded as the greatest son of legendary Earl Marshall. Revolution was sold to James McGregor in 1921 for \$4000, he was named the Grand Champion Bull at International Livestock Exposition in 1923 and was then sold to the America's largest herd of registered Angus. He was noted for "the touch of his hide and his splendid disposition, the fullness of his quarters, the evenness and depth of flesh..." which are traits observed in today's Lowlines.



1954 Royal Sydney Show – Trangie Anthony , Supreme Exhibit

Hugh Watson, Sir George Grant and James McGregor should be commended on their early development of Angus breeding prior to the Trangie era. These cattlemen are true custodians of the breed. The longevity, docility and structural correctness dates back almost 200 years and it should be noted that the modern Australian Lowline is not only the descendant of champion Trangie bred stock but the descendants of 200 years of champion bred stock.

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Top: Rose of Glencarnock 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bottom: L to R

Erica McGregor 2<sup>nd</sup>

Glencarnock Elba 21<sup>st</sup>

Karama of Glencarnock

