

My thoughts are that the Brittany or French Spaniel existed in the United States during the latter 1700's and may have been brought originally to the US by General Lafayette. The following is a painting of General George Washington with his mother:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=TYAAAAAYAAJ&dq=French%20Hunting%20Dog%20Paintings&pg=RA1-PA72-IA2#v=onepage&q=French%20Hunting%20Dog%20Paintings&f=false>

Notably, the dog in the old painting resembles a Brittany with an undocked tail.

General Lafayette did bring dogs to Thomas Jefferson, supposedly only Briards; General Lafayette did bring Foxhounds to General Washington;

Interestingly, James Monroe supposedly had 1 or 2 spaniels. There is no known documentation or any known paintings which would identify the breed of spaniel; I checked with the James Monroe Historical Society in Fredericksburg, VA, however, they stated that there was no specific dog breed provided in any of Monroe's papers or diaries.

Monroe had served as the ambassador to France and was visited by General Lafayette a number of times during the late 1700's and early 1800's. The following is a copy of my email and the reply from the Monroe Historical Society (Monroe also maintained a sheep herd and actively bred sheep imported Merino sheep and domestic sheep for his wool and flax weaving operation.):

Reply

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Heidi Stello (hcarlson) to egeorge
show details Sep 26

Good afternoon Ms. George,

Thanks so much for your inquiry into the Monroe's spaniel. We often get questions about it, but unfortunately, don't have much to go on. We have no paintings in the collection that feature the spaniel, and have not found any information in the correspondence about it with the exception of the 1807 St. George Tucker letter that identifies it in the first place. Had he not mentioned it, it's a good possibility that we wouldn't know about it at all!

The only reference I can find to Monroe mentioning dogs/breeds is in an 1826 letter from Monroe to Lafayette requesting that Lafayette send him a sheepdog. That letter is in the Monroe

Papers collection and the New York Public Library.
Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Heidi C. Stello

James Monroe Museum & James Monroe Papers

University of Mary Washington

-----Original Message-----

From: egeorge@caa.columbia.edu [mailto:egeorge@caa.columbia.edu]

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2011 2:23 PM

To: Adele Uphaus-Conner (auphaus); Adele Uphaus-Conner (auphaus)

Subject: jamesmonroemuseum Contact Us Message

website_link:

name: Elaine M. George

email: egeorge@caa.columbia.edu

message: I am writing to inquire if there are any paintings in your collection which may include the "spaniel" dog which the Monroe family owned?

I am researching the history of the French Spaniel's introduction into the United States. There appears to be an absence of information about the type and breed of spaniel dog that the Monroe family owned.

I am aware that General Lafayette brought some French dog breeds to the United States with his visits from France. Hence, the question of the origin of the Monroe spaniel?

Elaine M. George

Bridgeport, CT

Reply

Forward

The following is a brief summary of ancient European Brittany history by Weston:

<http://www.barkbytes.com/history/britt.htm>

The year 1928 was the year the first Brittany “was documented” as being brought to the kennel in Vera Cruz, Mexico. The early 1930’s, perhaps 1932, was when Louis Thebaud of New Jersey imported Brittanyys to the United States. The year 1934 was the year the Brittany, then known as the Brittany Spaniel, was recognized by the American Kennel Club. My research, however, did reveal that Mr. Thebaud knew of and had been hunting with French Spaniels/Brittanyys as early as 1916-1919 in the US with Percival Rousseau, the famous American French sporting dog painter. Rousseau was a member of the famous Old Lyme School of painters in Old Lyme, CT.

Subsequent to the recognition of the Brittany by the American Kennel Club in 1934, Alan

Stuyvesant of New York City and New Jersey became an important Brittany dog breeder and kennel club member in the US. He had a role in reintroducing Brittany breeding stock back to France after World War II:

<http://www.michiganbrittany.com/Ady/September%201946%20Stuyvesant%20Letter%20to%20AKC.pdf>

There are a few old videos on YouTube of Stuyvesant and his Brittanys including a field trial in Vera Cruz, Mexico and a dog show in France (1946).

**Elaine M. George
November 2011**