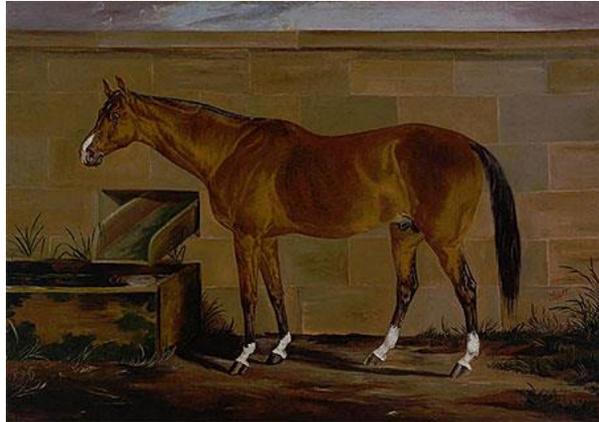


# Lexington

by Kathleen Jones

Lexington was bred by Dr. Elisha Warfield at Lexington, KY, and was known early in his career as "Darley". Under that name, he won his first two races before being purchased by Richard Ten Broeck, who changed his name.



He raced a total of seven times, although during those days "a race" was often a series of heats contested on the same day, with the "winner" being whichever horse was the first to win two heats. Lexington met with defeat only once, and earned an astounding figure of \$56,600 in purse money.

Lexington did not race at age two. His debut performance (as Darley) came at the Lexington Association track in a 1-mile heat race on 23 May, 1853. The weather was rainy and the track was heavy as Darley faced his first 11 rivals. He swept the competition easily, winning both of the first two heats in respective times of 1:55½, and 1:57 flat. The Glencoe colt Wild Irishman ran second in both heats.

Four days later, Darley returned to the Association track and moved up in distance to the Citizen's Purse which was contested in 2-mile heats. Medway won the first heat in 3:42½, but Darley was quick to regroup and aced the two subsequent heats in 3:41½, then 3:49.

Following that race, Richard Ten Broeck purchased the colt and renamed him "Lexington". It was common practice to rename horses when under new ownership; perhaps it gave the new owners the feeling they were unveiling something new.

Lexington did not race again until winter of his sophomore year, and this came on 2 December, 1853 in a match race against the filly Sally Waters. The conditions of the race was 3-mile heats. Lexington showed a great love for distance, and seemingly never tired of running, as he came home victorious after only two heats timed in nearly identical figures of 6:23½ and 6:24.

He was then supposed to meet a rival in a match race on 7 Jan, 1854, but Ten Broeck withdrew the colt and paid the forfeit. He reappeared on April Fool's Day at age four in the Great State Post Stakes, which is run in 4-mile heats! For this, he met nemesis Le Compte for the first time, and emerged the winner.

Le Compte was always considered to be Lexington's equal. He was also a son of Boston, and like Lexington, was born in the year of their sire's demise. The pair met again in a special match race a week later, again at 4-mile heats. Le Compte won the first heat in record time of 7:26 flat. Ten Broeck was not concerned. If it required a new time record to defeat Lexington in the first heat, he knew they'd win the second heat. But in the next

heat, Lexington's jockey misjudged the finish line, mercilessly driving Lexington ahead at the 3-mile marker, thinking it was the finish. Le Compte remained poised to strike and took over to win the second heat as well.

Richard Ten Broeck was furious at the jock and demanded a rematch, knowing his horse was better than the result indicated. The connections of Le Compte declined. That was the end of Lexington's four-year-old campaign.

He returned nearly a year later, 2 April, 1855 still seeking a rematch with Le Compte, and failing to secure that, ran instead against Le Compte's 4-mile record time, which in the previous year no one had bettered nor even approached. Lexington appeared on the track as a fully mature and powerful animal, eager to run, and surprised no one by galloping out the four miles in an astonishing 7:19 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Although he was the only horse on the track, it was most definitely a victory!

Following news of that bettering of his time, Le Compte's owners arranged another meeting between the two great horses. But this was no heat event. This final race of Lexington's career was a four-mile dash, and Lexington lead at every mile marker. His time for each lap was remarkably consistent; 1:49½, 1:51, 1:51, 1:52¼.

Lexington retired to stud, sound, and it was his owners wish to return him to racing, possibly in England, but Lexington went blind. He stood three years at W.F. Harper's stud at Midway KY before being sold for \$15,000 to R.A. Alexander. The latter stood him at his Woodburn Stud from 1857 to Lexington's death in 1875.

Starting in 1861, Lexington was America's Leading Sire for 16 years, and 14 of those titles were in succession. This record has never been matched by any modern sire, although Sunday Silence may stand the best chance of emulating Lexington's feat.

Lexington sired some 600 foals, over one-thirds of which were winners. Among them, they earned \$1,159,321. When you consider that most of these were racing during America's Civil War when purses were quite small, this is a phenomenal sum. It is not unusual even today to see a stallion advertised as one who has produced "earners of over a million dollars."

Lexington's best offspring on the racecourse were Duke of Magenta, Kingfisher, Idlewild, Norfolk, Harry Basset, Asteroid, Preakness, Chesapeake, Tom Ochiltree, Bayonet, General Duke, Optimist, Charley Howard, and Kentucky. While his sons did not match their sire's talent at stud, his daughters were always thought of as superior broodmares.

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**Born:** 1850

**Died:** 1875

**Trainer:** Henry Brown, John B. Pryor

**Owner:** Richard Ten Broeck

**Breeder:** Dr. Elisha Warfield

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Pedigree:

Lexington, b.c. foaled 1850	Boston, 1833	Timoleon, 1814	Sir Archy, 1802
			Saltram mare, about 1801
		Sister to Tuckhahoe, 1814	Balls Florizel, 1801
			Alderman mare, 1799
	Alice Carneal, 1836	Sarpedon, 1828	Emilius, 1820
			Icaria, 1824
		Rowena, 1826	Sumpter, 1818
			Lady Grey, 1817

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Race Record:

Year	Age	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings
1853	3	5	4	1	0	\$ 30,600
1854	4	2	2	0	0	26,000
total		7	6	1	0	\$56,600

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Career Highlights:

at 3:

- won -- Lexington Association S (1-mile heats; winner in two straight heats)
- won -- Citizen's Purse (2-mile heats; won best two of three heats)

at 4:

- won -- Match vs. Sally Waters (3-mile heats; winner in two straight heats)
- won -- Great State Post S (4-mile heats; winner in two straight heats)
- 2nd -- Jockey Club Purse (4-mile heats; lost to Le Compte when jockey mistook 3rd mile for 4th)
- won -- Match vs. Le Compte's 4-mile record
- won -- 4-Mile dash vs. Le Compte

Inducted into Hall of Fame in 1955