



Preakness

by Kathleen Jones

The 8th foal of Bay Leaf, Preakness was bred by Robert A. Alexander's celebrated Woodburn Stud, Kentucky. Consigned to the Woodburn sale of yearlings in 1868, we brought top price of \$2000. The purchaser was Sanders Bruce, who compiled the first five volumes of the American Stud Book, and who was acting as an agent for

Milton H. Sanford.

Sanford owned Preakness Stud, near Lexington, and a similarly named farm near Paterson, New Jersey. The breeding stock was quartered at the Kentucky farm while the New Jersey farm, situated along Preakness creek, was held mainly as a training center. Here, famous runners like Loadstone, Lancaster, La Polka, Stamps, Mate, and Preakness were put through their paces.

Sanford later sold his Lexington farm to Daniel Swigert, who renamed the farm Elmendorf.

Bay Leaf tended to produce large foals, and Preakness was no exception. Because he needed extra time to mature, he was kept out of racing until age 3. He made his very first start in the Dinner Party Stakes at Pimlico on the first day of its inaugural meet in 1870. The colt Foster was expected to win, and friends were laughing at Sanford for entering his "cart horse" against him.

Ridden by noted English jockey Billy Hayward, Preakness won easily in hand over Ecliptic, with favored Foster in third. That race has since been renamed The Dixie Handicap. It was his only start at age 3. He was put away to mature fully.

At 4, Preakness won 3 of seven starts including two of the year's biggest races, the Westchester Cup (defeating Glenelg) and the Maturity Stakes (three miles), both at Jerome Park, New York City.

As a 5yo he was plagued with a loin injury that kept him from being at his best, but he returned to previous excellent form at ages 6 and 7, winning many fine handicaps such as the Grand National Handicap, Manhattan Handicap, The Jockey Club Handicap (twice) and others.

At age 8, and certainly at his best, he won two of his finest races - The Baltimore Cup, under 131 pounds, and a scintillating dead-heat with Springbok in the Saratoga Cup. In the latter, the pair set a new American record for the 2 1/4 mile distance by running it

in 3:56 1/4. The record stood for 20 years. Finishing behind the pair were outstanding runners such as Aaron Pennington, Grinstead, Olitipa, Wildidle, and Rutherford.

That autumn, Sanford sent his entire string of runners to England. Preakness won the Brighton Cup in a walkover, and ran third in the Goodwood Cup, only to lose the placing in a disqualification.

He was one of the first American runners to be given genuine recognition by the British. The Duke of Hamilton purchased Preakness and retired him to stud, where he sired Fiddler, which defeated Foxhall in the Alexandra Plate.

As the horse aged he developed a temper, or perhaps it was merely a defense mechanism to match the temper of the Duke of Hamilton. Following an occurrence in the horse's stall, the Duke became enraged, shot and killed Preakness. This set off a public outcry in English racing society which ultimately led to a strict set of rules governing the treatment of racehorses, and animals in general.

The name "Preakness" is from a local Indian word "Pra-qua-les" meaning "quail woods" It is from the tribe known as the Minisi who settled in the northern New Jersey area. General George Washington called the region "Preckiness" when he made his Continental Army headquarters there in late 1776. It was this site that was later chosen by Sanford for his Preakness Stud.

Pedigree:

Preakness, b.c. foaled 1867	Lexington, 1850	Boston, 1833	Timoleon
			Ball's Florizel mare
		Alice Carneal, 1836	Sarpedon
			Rowena
	Bay Leaf, 1853	*Yorkshire, 1834	St Nicholas
			Miss Rose
		Maria Black, 1834	Filho da Puta
			Smolensko mare

(female family # 9)

Born: 1867

Died: 18??, England

Stakes Victories:

at 3:

- won - Dinner Party Stakes

at 4:

- won - Maturity Stakes
- won - Westchester Cup

at 6:

- won - Manhattan Handicap
- won - Grand National Handicap
- won - Long Branch Stakes
- won - Jockey Club Handicap

at 7:

- won - Jockey Club Handicap

at 8:

- won - Saratoga Cup
- won - Brighton Cup