

Thoroughbred Park
30. Side Lexington, Ky



Robert A. Alexander
1819 - 1867

Robert A. Alexander established the 2,000 acre Woodburn Stud in Woodford County, Ky with the inheritance left by his uncle in Woodford. By creating a commercial breeding operation, Alexander introduced a degree of professionalism to breeding horses that was unparalleled in Kentucky's expanding Tennessee as the center of the American Thoroughbred. Woodburn's success produced two Kentucky Derby winners and 10 Belmont Stakes winners. In 1856, Alexander purchased the young colt named Lexington from Richard Ten Broeck. Bred at Woodburn, Lexington became America's Indianapolis for 16 years and the nucleus of his progeny spanned both the Civil and post-Civil War eras. He was a pivotal link in the development of the American race horse.

Lexington had been bred by Dr. John Warfield, and raced under the name of Darby. Ten Broeck and partners bought him and changed his name for the horse to represent Kentucky in the Great Fox Stakes in Louisiana. Lexington won that race and lost only once in two years of competition. At the time Alexander bought Lexington, he was valued for breeding as much as \$15,000 for a steady blood, superior stallion. He found that one day he would set a son of the horse for a higher price. With the sale of the great horse Kentucky, for \$15,001, he made good his word.

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