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LexLin Gypsy Ranch

Rockwood, Tennessee



In the tradition of fine southern hospitality, Mechelle and Eric Barton would like to welcome you to LexLin Gypsy Ranch! Nestled near the banks of the Tennessee River in Rockwood, Tennessee, the ranch was named for the couple's eldest daughter, Lexi, and their youngest daughter, Lindie, and is home to 83 registered, or pending registration, Gypsy Vanner horses and cobs representing some of the finest bloodlines available. Selected by Mechelle for the ranch's breeding program, each horse was chosen for its lineage, exemplary conformation, movement, temperament and beauty. Additionally, every horse has been DNA tested and their breeding stock color tested, and their six stallions are registered with all four registries operating within the United States.

"Every horse born here is registered immediately, and DNA and color testing is done as soon as possible," says Mechelle Barton. "I think it is very important that we do everything we possibly can to give good, correct information about the background of each of our horses. Having correct lineage and DNA information will really help this breed. I think it will be important to the future of the Gypsy Vanner Horse."

The Bartons began in 2009 by developing a sound business plan. Then, Mechelle began visiting breeders, starting with Tom Price of Wales. Once she understood the finer points of selecting the best stock, she returned to the U.S. and began touring farms throughout the country. She then returned to Wales and began selecting horses for the ranch. She and Eric purchased the farm during this time, moved in during early summer, and by the end of the year, 83 Gypsy Vanners were in residence on the property. Impressively, the Barton's are 100 percent debt-free, and all of the horses are 100 percent owned by the family.

"When we bought this ranch we did so to have a place to raise our five children and to pursue our dream of raising quality horses and selling them for more affordable prices than you can purchase them overseas," explains Eric Barton, a veteran Marine. "Because of the number of horses we purchased from Tom Price, we are



The Barton Family.

often asked if we are a front for selling imported horses. The answer to that is no, we are not. The vast majority of the horses were purchased for our breeding program. We took advantage of the economic climate to purchase the finest quality horses we could find so we can build a quality breeding program. While we imported many of the horses, we have also purchased several from good breeders right here in this country. We are looking towards having an increased number of foals next year and hoping to have 40 foals on the ground by the year 2012.”

The family owns and stands six world-class proven stallions, five of which are available to outside Gypsy mares on a limited basis.

OUTSTANDING STALLIONS

The Producer is one of the most famous Gypsy Vanner horses in the world for his generation. Sired by The Road Sweeper (UK), out of Bay Rayfields Good Mare, the Producer is also known internationally as The Kent Horse, The Twenty Five Grand Horse, and The Buck Horse. Holding a remarkable pedigree and possessing fine conformation, exquisite mane and feathering, as well as displaying a quiet and gentle temperament – the Producer passes all of these traits on to his foals.

The Ambassador, also known as BeesKnees, was sired by Fleetwood and out of Toyboy Daughter. He was a Tom Price exemplary stallion, used to educate buyers in the finer points of selecting superior quality stock.

The Midget is a grandson of Eddie's Old Horse, out of the daughter of The Old Horse of Wales. A prolific stallion, he was one of the best producers to leave the UK. He boasts a superior pedigree, and fixes anything a mare is lacking. A 100 percent color producer, he stamps his foals in his image and passes on his conformation, gorgeous feathering and color to his foals.

Dreammaker, sired by Henry's Old Horse and out of P.O. Mare, is the only Barton-owned Gypsy stallion exclusively reserved for use in their own breeding program. Broke to drive, willing and easily trained, he also sports fabulous conformation, pedigree, beauty and feather.

Sir Maverick, a tri-colored Gypsy stallion, was sired

by Simon of Sunshine and is out of Sally. Possessing strong bone and beautiful mane, tail and feathering, he is registered in two books: Rhineland and Westfalia. A multiple award winner while showing in the Irish Cob Society he has superior movement with a big stride in both the trot and canter, is easy to handle and fun to hack out. Currently for sale, he will stand at the ranch until he is sold.

Gentleman Jack is an amazing up and coming Gypsy cob stallion. An intelligent, quick learner with superior athletic ability, he is a sweet stallion in a gorgeous physical package. Sired by Tid and out of The Chestnut Mare, his pedigree extends back to the famous Lob.



Jora and her bay 2010 filly, Jora's Promise, by Thomas Bay.

MEET THE MARES

The LexLin Gypsy Ranch mares were also selected for their exemplary traits.

Lenny's Lucky Lass was a Tom Price exemplary mare. Sired by Lenny Howard's Horse and out of Tom Smith's Horse, her pedigree carries the best bloodlines in the UK. With a thick bone structure, a full, thick mane, a great neck, refined head and beautiful feathering, she is easy to handle and has fabulous manners.

Additional mares on the ranch include The Bull Mare (Road Sweeper UK x Boxer Bill's Mare), The Jagged Dollar Mare (Samson x Bob Daughter), Jora (Blue Billy Boy x Bob Daughter), Savannah's Bay (Bob the Blagdon x Bonnie) and Memory (Tubs x Mare from Robert Watson's Old Horse).

People interested in purchasing a Gypsy Vanner from the Bartons might find their sales philosophy to be a bit of a relief.

"We have a no pressure sales approach here," Eric continues. "Sure, we would like to sell a few horses, but we don't mind if they stay right here either. Being located near Knoxville, we are centrally located to interested buyers throughout the country. We welcome anyone who thinks they might like to purchase one of our horses. If they come here and don't see what they're looking for, that's fine. And, if they would like to return for another look at a later time, that's fine, too."

"We are passionate about what we are doing here. We are an independent breeding operation, offer a 30-day guarantee, and back everything 100 percent. We hope to be more involved with the registries soon. We will be showing at the Feathered Horse Classic Shelbyville show and look forward to meeting other breeders and Gypsy horse lovers. We want folks to enjoy their horses, and we hope to be a stabilizing force for the breed."

More information may be found at gogypsy.com.



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