



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

# Pensacola Park Post

*A Monthly Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association Distribution*  
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## **HISTORY CORNER: Our Pony Past** by Rebecca C. Glasscock

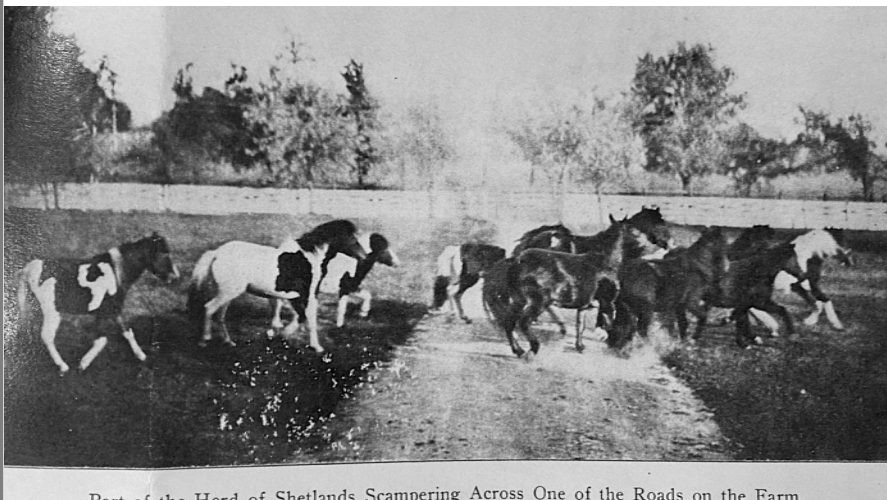
This story starts on the archipelago between Orkney, the Faroe Islands, and Norway: the Shetland Islands in Scotland. Over the millennia that people have lived on these northern islands, they bred hardy animals for food and work: the Shetland sheep, cow, goose, duck (now critically endangered), and grice (a pig that's extinct). Arguably the most famous breed, though, is the Shetland pony. The Shetland pony was "...a strong, clever, adaptable beast." Because of the harsh conditions, they developed a scruffy coat. And they were tiny: only two to four feet tall, but they were known as the strongest of all horse breeds, being able to pull twice their own body weight. By the 1800s, the Shetland pony had caught the world's eye. The 1870 establishment of the Marquis of Londonderry Stud Farm was followed by a huge demand for Shetland ponies in the Americas. The first export of Shetland ponies to the U.S. was in 1885, when Eli Elliott (Iowa) imported 75 of the ponies. Demand grew and up until 1900, about 1000 per year were exported to the U.S.

And so we come to Lexington. Leonard C. Price (1850-1915) was a prominent merchant, the co-owner of Cassell and Price. In 1895, when Mr. Cassell retired, Mr. Price continued operating the dry goods store. In 1898-99, he too retired from business in the city and bought the Penmoken Stock Farm; the address was Rural Route 8. With 200 acres of land, on both sides of Nicholasville Road, he became the largest breeder of Shetland ponies in the world. As you see from the picture of the ponies at the farm, these are not shaggy tiny ponies. They were more elegant. Why? The Shetland ponies imported into the U.S. were crossed with other breeds, mainly the Hackney Pony. At the time, Mr. Price's Shetland ponies sold for around \$150 each; in today's dollars, that's over \$4,800.

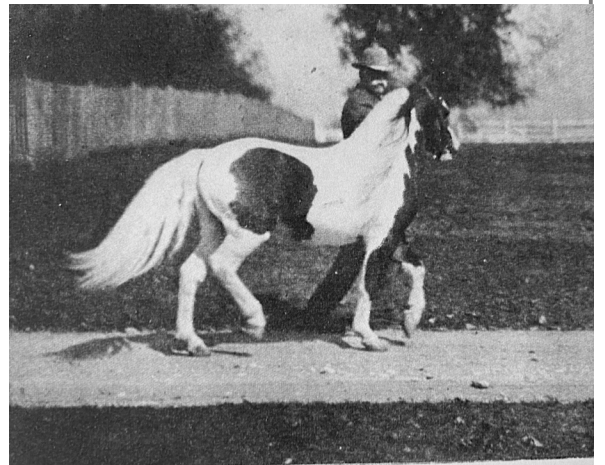
An entrepreneur, he envisioned the future growth of Lexington and secured land for the right-of-way of the Interurban streetcar. Additionally, by 1911, he was planning to subdivide the acreage on the west side of Nicholasville Road. Then in February of 1915, Mr. Price had a farm accident which resulted in his right leg being amputated below the knee. He recovered but on December 13th, he died of a heart attack. Without his guidance, the farm limped along for a while, with Frank Hurst Henderson continuing to operate a 28-acre version of Penmoken Farm for several years.

In 1919, J. F. Skidmore purchased 49 acres at \$900/acre. On this acreage, Suburban Court, Rosemont Garden, and Penmoken Park were cut through. That same year, Mr. Price's widow sold 65 acres to their son for \$12,292.97. Four years later, Leonard Jr. sold his acreage to Mr. Skidmore for \$19,127.04. At this point, Mr. Skidmore owned all of the former Penmoken Farm on the west side of Nicholasville Road. Goodrich, Lackawanna, and Wabash were soon to be cut through, with the connector street, Pensacola Drive, coming later. In today's dollars, Mr. Skidmore's purchase of 114 acres would be close to \$1 million. With that sort of investment, the plan was to build rather upscale homes. At the time, the cost of building a one-story brick home was between \$1500 and \$1600. For the neighborhood that has come to be known as Pensacola Park, builders were required to construct homes in the \$3000-\$4000 range.

While the Shetland pony's popularity declined during the years of the Great Depression and up into the 1970s, the pony's popularity has surged in recent years. Today, with an estimated population of 50,000, it is our country's most numerous pony breed, including Division A Shetland ponies (retaining the original rugged characteristics) and Division B ponies (with at least 50% Shetland blood and not exceeding 46" in height). When I was a kid, we had a Shetland pony named Chocolate Drop. My sister and I adored this sweet-natured and intelligent little fellow.



Part of the Herd of Shetlands Scampering Across One of the Roads on the Farm.



Sterling, Head of the Herd in Action.

A NEIGHBORHOOD BAKER

MarLee Harris, a neighbor on Penmoken, is opening up a small made-to-order and then delivered-to-your-door bakery called idahoney baked goods. They will deliver yummy treats right to your door. They make cookies, brownies, and rolls to help make your life a little sweeter. You can check them out at idahoneybakedgoods.com. You can also join the newsletter there and learn about free tastings and upcoming specials.



HARVEST SEASON / WATER YOUR TREES

End of August and beginning of September is the time for harvesting our backyard vegetables and fruit. If you have extra for the neighborhood to share, please let us know and we will pass it along to the neighborhood. There are many in our neighborhood that would appreciate fresh veggies and fruit and don't have the time or opportunity to grow their own.

Please also remember to water your trees; each mature tree needs a five gallon bucket of water 1-2 times a week during the end of dry summer hot months.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

As the holiday season approaches, we may begin to see an uptick of theft. Suburban has already reported a car break-in in late August. There have also been reports of people scoping out cars on Goodrich, Lackawanna, and Wabash. Please make sure to keep your valuables out of your cars. Please also make sure to have a good place for your Amazon packages to go if you are not there when they are delivered. Many of these are left out on the porch, and porch thefts are nothing new. Keep an eye out for your neighbors as well. One of the best defenses against theft is communication.

GRANTS

PPNA has applied for a *Neighborhood Action Grant* to inform our neighborhood about single use plastics, and pollinator gardens. We will know in October if we have received it. There were many great ideas from the neighborhood about what to go for in regards to the grant; one was for sidewalk improvement. This is definitely needed in parts of our neighborhood, but it is also a costly and time consuming endeavor. It requires the homeowner to pay for half the cost of the sidewalk repair and the grant to pay for the other half. For this to be cost effective for the neighborhood, it's best to pool this effort together with other people who need sidewalk repairs. If you believe your street could use sidewalk repair and you are willing to help canvas your street and get homeowner sign offs to repair their sidewalk by paying for half the cost, then we can apply for next year's Neighborhood Action Grant. It is a lot of legwork, but the more the merrier can get it done.

The next grant coming up is the *Corridors Commission Grant*, which would only apply to Nicholasville Road. It seeks to make physical improvements for public or community property; finances voluntary cleanups with litter awareness, prevention, and cleanup activities; tries to enhance the beauty of the corridors by the removal of dead or diseased trees. If you live on Nicholasville road and you would like to be part of this grant consideration, please reach out to pensacolapark@gmail.com.

HOW TO ORDER A PENSACOLA PARK EMBLEM

Please visit our website [www.pensacolapark.org](http://www.pensacolapark.org) to order any emblems, or write us at [pensacolapark@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolapark@gmail.com). Payment is via paypal, check, or cash. Metal Plaque is made up of holly bronze and comes in two sizes: 8x8 (\$165) and 5x5 (\$100)



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**As an organization we do not currently collect any neighborhood association dues, instead we function off of grants, fundraisers, and donations from the neighborhood. Donations allow us to go after matching grants, buy trees to increase our canopy, improve street conditions, throw community events, and be able to print this newsletter. If you would like to donate, you can either:**  
**(1) Drop off Cash or Check to our GREEN PPNA mailbox at 107 Lackawanna Rd / (2) Use Paypal @ [pensacolapark@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolapark@gmail.com)**

ABOUT PENSACOLA PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Pensacola Park Preservation Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed by Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association in order to bring together residents and businesses located in the Pensacola Park Nationally Registered Historic Boundary, for the common good of (1) preserving the historic integrity and resources of the area; (2) creating an environment that promotes sustainable and appropriate growth for the neighborhood; (3) providing historic education and assistance to those in the Pensacola Park Neighborhood for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic homes, structures, and landscapes; and (4) Unifying and being representative of all the original streets in the Pensacola Park Historic boundary. Also check us out online at [www.pensacolapark.org](http://www.pensacolapark.org), and follow us on Facebook @ Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association.

If you have any questions or would like to submit topics or op-eds to Pensacola Park Post, please feel free to write us at [pensacolapark@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolapark@gmail.com). If you would like to stop receiving the free monthly post, please write us and put "stop post" in the heading, along with your physical address. Thank you.

**Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) and Pensacola Park Preservation Society (PPPS), our nonprofit. PPNA/PPPS represent ALL streets in Pensacola Park Historic District, including: Goodrich, Lackawanna, Nicholasville, Norfolk, Penmoken, Pensacola, Rosemont, Suburban, and Wabash.**