



Carved out of a beautiful piece of property in middle Tennessee, Anderson Stables will join the resurgence of American Saddlebred stables in that area.



Whitney Anderson Brice will follow her dreams to Tennessee where she will continue the family legacy.

# ANDERSON STABLES

*Moves*

# EAST

BY SARA PIZZUTO

Whitney Anderson Brice is continuing her family's legacy in a new state. Anderson Stables will be relocating, moving their business from California to Hendersonville, Tennessee. Brice, along with her husband Patrick, have purchased a farm 20 minutes north of Nashville and are looking forward to expanding their business this year.

Whitney Anderson Brice was fortunate to be born into a family that was heavily involved with horses. Her great grandfather Clifton Brown and grandmother Nancy Brown Anderson were Saddlebred owners and exhibitors under the direction of Hugh and Bonnie Byrne. Nancy and her husband, Bob Anderson, who joined the industry later in life, were a formidable show ring couple at Hollow Haven Farm. She drove the multi-titled world's champion of champions CH Callaway's Pretty Penny, while he drove the notable Hackney pony world's champion of champions Super Spy and Pacifico's Standing Ovation.

"My grandparents set up riding lessons with Bob Griffin of Northern Tradition Farm when I was seven, and the rest was history," Brice said. "I instantly found my identity, confidence, and passion in riding and horses. Some part of me knew that I wanted to train horses early on. That childhood dream never went away so when Tom Thorpe and Bob Griffin offered me a job after graduating from Santa Clara University in 2010, I couldn't help but follow my dream."

Brice honed her skills alongside Thorpe and Griffin for a year before returning to California at JL Dixon Stables to work alongside Jennifer Dixon.

"Bob and Tom taught me a lot about what kind of environment I wanted to create for clients and gave me my foundation throughout my time with them as a kid," Brice said. "Jennifer really allowed me to come into my own teaching lessons and helping get juveniles and amateurs paired with their show horses. I was able to find my own approach to teaching and continued to expand my depth of knowledge."

Rockridge Farm was the next stop on Brice's journey in horse training. Whitney Anderson Brice continued her equine education with Bill Tomin.



The new home of Anderson Stables.



This aisleway will house the champions moving from California.

"Bill and Kiko Urena taught me so much about starting colts and finishing a horse for amateurs," Brice said. "Bill is meticulous and dedicated to each individual horse which helped instill another level of passion to the care of training and breeding horses. Debbie Tomin also taught me a lot more about the business side of running a farm."

It is the advice and lessons learned from these trainers that Brice said have enabled her to excel at the helm of her Anderson Stables. Brice explained that she has thus far greatly enjoyed sharing her love of show horses and the industry at her farm in California.

"Starting with lessons and seeing riders overcome challenges or fears and culminating in hitting the show ring or purchasing their own horses, and seeing clients fall in love with something that has taught me and given me so much is incredible," she said.

Brice will now be taking that passion for the equine industry east-sharing her love of horses in Tennessee. She and husband Patrick purchased a farm in Hendersonville, located on 18 rolling acres. The new property boasts a heated 24-stall barn, indoor and outdoor arenas, a jogging track, and grass pastures.

Brice explained that she was motivated to move to Tennessee due to several deciding factors. Her husband is in the military and received a job opportunity that would allow him to be home to work on the farm and wouldn't require him to deploy overseas. The couple also knew they wanted to be closer to more horse shows and expand their

business, which was difficult to do in California where prices of running a farm are increasing.

"We are looking forward to making the farm our own and attending so many of the incredible shows nearby," Brice said. "Being so close to the hearts of the Saddlebred and Morgan worlds is so exciting. We love that we will have land and pasture too."

Anderson Stables will begin the 2022 show season on the west coast before making the move to Tennessee. Once settled into their new farm, Whitney Anderson Brice will work with the list of potential lesson riders that she already has in place and will then open the doors to outside training and sales horses. She is eager to participate in new horse shows.

"I am trying not to put too much pressure on myself to get to shows back east before the 2023 season, but I know I will want to as soon as we get there," she said. "Within the next few years, I hope to build up a healthy lesson program and add an instructor to the program so that I can grow the training horse operation. I'd love to have a few clients ready to show spring of 2023. We also plan to breed a few mares every year."

Regardless of the state or coast, Whitney Anderson Brice has been able to make her lifelong dream of training horses into a reality. Her drive, determination, and passion for the equine world have enabled her to continue her family's legacy with a thriving training establishment. She is quick to remind other young trainers to create a strong support system to guide them as they navigate the industry.

"We are in a business that demands crazy hours and takes a toll on us emotionally and physically," she said. "It is important that we support each other so that we have an industry in 50 years. Find your support system and your role models. Don't hesitate to ask for support. And lastly, my dad has given me the best life and work advice, 'Find the joy in each day, no matter what.'"

The joy that Brice receives from the equine world can be attributed to her grandparents' legendary career in the horse industry. Brice said that she feels it's important that their name be attached to the business as much of her childhood was spent traveling to shows together, listening to stories of their time in the industry, and talking about great horses.

"They allowed me to find my calling and gave me every opportunity possible," she said. "I still want to call Nana and tell her about my last class or send her a picture of a nice horse. I think they would be proud of the hard work I have put into my dreams and for giving other kids and adults the joy of horses."

Whitney Anderson Brice explained that she has an old "Anderson's Tack Room" sign from her grandparents' house that she will be sure to hang in the new tack room of Anderson Stables once they relocate. It will be a wonderful reminder of her grandparents in her new home in Tennessee.

"It reads 'Relax, enjoy, we're glad you're here,'" she said. "I know they will be there in spirit, whooping on the rail."



There are several work spaces, including this outdoor ring previously occupied by a hunter/jumper trainer.



The arena is where the magic will happen for Whitney Anderson Brice and her team at Anderson Stables.