

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC

Hope and History

*Grace and Louis Merryman
 commit to Maryland*

BY JOHN SCHEINMAN
 PHOTOS BY LYDIA A. WILLIAMS



Louis and Grace Merryman at their Anchor and Hope Farm near Port Deposit, Md.

WALKING ACROSS ANCHOR AND HOPE Farm with his wife, Grace, on a winter afternoon, Louis Merryman stopped and dug his boot heel into the ground several times and extolled the dark richness of the earth.

“I think we have just fantastic soil around here,” Merryman said as a chilly wind whipped off the Susquehanna River near the town of Port Deposit, Maryland. “I just look at the results, at the foals that we’ve raised. We’ve raised some really stout, really substantial foals here.

“The main thing people always talk about is limestone. Lime deposits were a really important thing when you talked about setting up a horse farm 200 years ago. But now we have soil testing; we have lime tablets. We actually live on gran-

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NEW TRACK RECORD 1 1/16 miles
in 1:40.82 (*breaking Dortmund's record*)
- 1st • **Del Mar MSW** in second start at 2
- 2nd • **Robert B. Lewis S.-G3**
- 3rd • **Santa Anita Derby-G1**

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BULLSBAY JUMP START MEDALLIST PEACE AND JUSTICE UNCLE LINO

PHOTO © LOUICE PENNELL

2017 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2017 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	187/94	4/10	1/4	(Sharp Azteca, \$1,390,490)	\$6,320,911	*1178	46	1.57	1.26
2	BELLAMY ROAD (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$6,000	178/102	1/3	0/1	(Diversify, \$690,825)	\$4,769,424	*567	27	1.20	1.29
3	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$6,000	152/79	4/5	1/4	(Hard Study, \$227,000)	\$3,320,102	*626	20	1.14	1.57
4	HOLD ME BACK (06, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	143/76	2/2	1/2	(Black Tide, \$297,894)	\$2,822,303	257	8	1.07	1.15
5	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	124/53	3/4	1/3	(Giant Expectations, \$410,000)	\$2,622,838	*363	10	1.19	1.18
6	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	75/51	2/2	2/2	(Bustin It, \$145,917)	\$2,138,323	165	6	1.35	1.39
7	DUBLIN (07, Afleet Alex), Keane Stud	\$2,500	81/41	2/3	2/2	(Celtic Chaos, \$236,400)	\$1,852,376	150	2	1.04	1.20
8	MISSION IMPAZIBLE (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	70/25	1/2	0/1	(Pure Silver, \$286,367)	\$1,787,446	111	2	1.22	1.14
9	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	103/40	2/2	1/2	(Aunt Babe, \$127,500)	\$1,644,242	205	5	0.93	1.39
10	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer)	Died, 2014	32/18	1/4	0/1	(Disco Partner, \$547,000)	\$1,538,074	268	12	1.39	1.20
11	COURAGEOUS CAT (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$6,000	74/30	1/1	1/1	(Lady Joan, \$150,300)	\$1,514,705	132	2	0.99	1.14
12	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	29/21	1/2	0/1	(Green Gratto, \$351,834)	\$1,103,130	192	1	1.06	0.97
13	D' FUNNYBONE (07, D'wildcat), Rockridge Stud	\$2,500	38/22	0/0	0/0	(D'funnything, \$127,954)	\$1,016,182	*60	2	1.12	1.30
14	GIANT SURPRISE (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	\$4,000	23/13	1/1	1/1	(Sudden Surprise, \$157,044)	\$747,430	45	2	1.91	1.26
15	COSMONAUT (02, Lemon Drop Kid)	Pnsd	35/17	1/2	1/1	(Wonderment, \$124,610)	\$641,466	92	2	1.04	1.03
16	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	28/14	0/0	0/0	(Good Bye Greg, \$100,660)	\$597,001	108	4	1.40	1.14
17	BOYS AT TOSCONOVA (08, Officer), Questroyal North	\$2,500	21/12	0/0	0/0	(My Boy Tate, \$132,300)	\$544,187	41	0	1.05	1.27
18	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2014	48/21	0/0	0/0	(Altissimo, \$92,293)	\$496,469	244	8	0.78	1.06
19	SOARING EMPIRE (07, Empire Maker), Rockridge Stud	\$2,500	21/9	0/0	0/0	(For Pops, \$82,868)	\$449,227	38	0	0.83	1.10
20	MIRACLE MAN (02, Yankee Victor)	Died, 2015	5/4	0/0	0/0	(Jc's Shooting Star, \$117,825)	\$319,438	10	1	2.21	1.56
21	MR. SEKIGUCHI (03, Storm Cat)	N/A	19/12	0/0	0/0	(Pacific Image, \$95,250)	\$314,481	*93	2	0.99	1.19
22	BANK HEIST (07, Maria's Mon), Kaz Hill Farm	\$5,000	15/8	0/0	0/0	(Salori's Bank, \$69,187)	\$281,842	29	1	1.06	1.37
23	THE CLIFF'S EDGE (01, Gulch)	Pnsd	24/14	0/0	0/0	(Gabbi's Amor, \$27,972)	\$240,308	244	4	0.79	1.14
24	TRINNIBERG (09, Teuflesberg), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	7/1	1/1	1/1	(Aqua Bel Sar, \$92,750)	\$203,751	*16	1	1.17	1.60
25	CONGRESSIONALHONOR (01, Forestry)	N/A	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Superling, \$61,819)	\$201,883	161	1	0.74	0.92
26	ALEX'S PAL (89, Valid Expectations)	Died, 2015	14/8	0/0	0/0	(Best Choice, \$33,640)	\$177,752	107	2	1.18	0.91
27	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy)	Pnsd	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Papa's Missile, \$64,465)	\$176,488	*649	14	1.01	1.45
28	MARSH SIDE (03, Gone West)	N/A	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Dr Luber's Kiss, \$34,044)	\$140,482	*151	0	0.36	1.21
29	WICKED RICH (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Jersey Rich, \$44,984)	\$136,514	14	0	0.59	1.28
30	A SHIN FORWARD (05, Forest Wildcat), Rockridge Stud	Private	17/10	0/0	0/0	(Lord Ace, \$27,954)	\$113,435	22	0	0.32	0.86

ite. Everything that is underneath the top soil here is granite."

Merryman hopes the risky business he and his wife are undertaking, launching a new stallion operation in Maryland, will settle nearly as solidly as the land beneath it.

Their Cecil County property ends at a sharply sloping cliffside that overlooks the river, which flows past Havre de Grace and then feeds out into the Chesapeake Bay. In its early years the town below was called Creswell's Ferry, and the estate where the farm now sits was owned by a member of the Creswell family before 1700.

The core of the main house at Anchor and Hope Farm is around 400 years old, and Merryman's father, Edwin Merry-

man, lives there and commutes to his job as a Thoroughbred trainer at the Fair Hill Training Center. The house, according to a 1940 guide to Maryland by the WPA Writers Project, became the first inn in

the area: "The old taproom, now the living room, with a large stone fireplace at each end, has a closet with a sliding panel that was once the ticket office for the stage-coaches and ferry. George Washington used this ferry on May 8, 1775, on his way to Philadelphia for the session of the Continental Congress that chose him commander-in-chief of the American forces."

Washington is also reported as having stayed at Rodgers Tavern in nearby Perryville. Merryman said Washington's men would spend nights in the house his father now lives in. The living room has never been wired for electricity. The original hand-carved door panel for the ticket office remains in place, and Grace said she and



The core of the main house at Anchor and Hope is 400 years old

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2013 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2017. As supplied to *BloodHorse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., lists include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2016 is \$22,141 or 45% of the 2016 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 45% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 65%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

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Giant Surprise

By Giant's Causeway
\$4,000
Leading New York Sire by AEI



Honorable Dillon

By Tapit
\$5,000
1st 2YOs this Year!



Micromanage

By Medaglia d'Oro
\$4,000
Leading 1st Crop Sire of
Weanlings in NY

Soaring Empire

By Empire Maker
\$2,500
#3 Second Crop Sire in 2017



Trinniberg

By Teuflesberg
\$3,500
Leading NY 1st Crop Sire in 2017



War Dancer

by War Front
\$7,500
1st Foals this year!



**2018
STALLIONS**



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2017 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2017 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	167/100	2/2	0/2	(Prayer for Relief, \$250,000)	\$5,421,162	*1301	41	1.45	1.30
2	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2013	117/55	2/2	0/2	(Weast Hill, \$125,262)	\$2,339,966	470	26	1.33	1.42
3	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	97/52	1/1	1/1	(Extrasexyexotkminx, \$157,964)	\$2,226,775	*533	12	1.03	1.28
4	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	59/39	0/0	0/0	(Tipyourwaiterwell, \$149,576)	\$1,482,928	*131	2	1.04	1.22
5	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	36/23	1/1	0/1	(Risques's Diamond, \$174,186)	\$1,179,424	*89	5	1.40	1.02
6	CORINTHIAN (03, Pulpit)	N/A	68/31	1/1	1/1	(Prince Lucky, \$132,690)	\$843,722	*506	12	0.74	1.38
7	LORD SHANAKILL (06, Speightstown), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	76/32	1/1	0/1	(Time Shanakill, \$111,078)	\$841,077	171	2	1.14	0.91
8	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	28/14	1/1	1/1	(Flashy Kyem, \$157,880)	\$797,240	195	7	1.27	1.36
9	BULLSBAY (04, Tiznow), Northview PA	\$3,000	31/16	1/2	1/1	(Unrideabull, \$82,722)	\$668,603	55	3	1.37	1.25
10	CAL NATION (08, Distorted Humor), Kingfisher Lane Farm	\$2,500	20/8	0/0	0/0	(Faze the Nation, \$150,368)	\$606,933	32	0	1.07	1.20
11	CROWN OF THORNS (05, Repent), Equistar Training Center	\$2,000	28/16	0/0	0/0	(Major Key, \$68,650)	\$561,110	46	1	0.82	1.14
12	GOT THE LAST LAUGH (04, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	17/14	0/0	0/0	(Dixie's Last Laugh, \$112,416)	\$553,169	48	0	1.21	1.14
13	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin)	Pnsd	28/16	0/0	0/0	(Ginner, \$76,365)	\$505,799	*387	8	1.12	1.12
14	RIMROD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	25/14	0/0	0/0	(Checkbouncin Billy, \$101,410)	\$481,213	105	2	1.27	1.16
15	EL PADRINO (09, Pulpit), Northview PA	Died, 2017	17/11	0/0	0/0	(Whereshetoldmetogo, \$92,250)	\$450,129	48	0	1.25	1.31
16	UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$1,500	9/7	0/0	0/0	(Midtowncharlybrown, \$172,138)	\$411,401	16	0	1.72	0.81
17	CITY SHARPSTER (99, Carson City)	N/A	19/7	0/0	0/0	(Campeona, \$112,042)	\$381,692	63	0	0.75	0.69
18	MAD FLATTER (05, Flatter)	Died, 2016	16/10	0/0	0/0	(Go Placidly, \$46,797)	\$349,073	31	0	0.97	1.32
19	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo)	Pnsd	14/8	0/0	0/0	(Clear Prosperity, \$75,219)	\$334,184	549	22	1.21	1.16
20	ANDIRON (06, A.P. Indy), Xanthus Farms	\$2,000	16/9	0/0	0/0	(Andy's Love, \$91,411)	\$325,250	44	1	0.94	0.58
21	PARTNER'S HERO (94, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	15/11	1/1	1/1	(Zipper's Hero, \$74,482)	\$316,467	456	15	1.18	1.30
22	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy)	Died, 2015	18/11	0/0	0/0	(Fancy Is My Name, \$73,544)	\$307,071	*307	6	1.62	1.05
23	POWER BY FAR (95, Power of Mind), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	4/2	1/2	0/1	(Power of Snunner, \$235,250)	\$301,478	111	2	1.25	1.16
24	REFLECT TIMES (JPN) (05, French Deputy)	N/A	11/5	0/0	0/0	(Hopeful Times, \$61,125)	\$212,775	24	0	0.99	0.28
25	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again)	N/A	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Only by Grace, \$45,865)	\$197,829	187	3	0.91	0.87

Louis once rebuffed an offer of nearly \$40,000 for it.

According to the Maryland Historical Trust, "Much of the town's great prosperity during the 19th century resulted from its role as a port of deposit for raw materials, such as flour, potatoes, whiskey, lumber, grain, and coal brought down the Susquehanna on rafts..."

"This is the farthest point south that barges could come on the river; they would anchor and hope that their cargo sold," Grace said, repeating what the family believes is the origin story for the name of the property.

The farm sits off a long dirt driveway that winds through its paddocks and fields. A signpost hangs at the entrance, painted white and green with a silhouette of a dog and horse quizzically eyeing each other. The friendly Merryman dog pack runs wild on the property.

Louis Merryman's grandfather, John Brodix Merryman, purchased the farm in 1965.

When John Brodix Merryman returned to Maryland after World War II, he assumed control of the livestock auctioneering house founded by his father in 1925. He became renowned nationwide as

an auctioneer, and Anchor and Hope became the largest Guernsey dairy cow sales company in the world. At the time the farm stretched over 578 acres. Louis and Grace now own 75 acres and lease an adjoining 50 more.

John Brodix Merryman's wife, Kitty,

was a descendant of Edwin Warfield, the 45th governor of Maryland. Together they also bred and raced horses, one being Twixt, a two-time Maryland Horse of the Year who won or placed in 37 stakes races. Twixt was trained by one of their daughters, Katharine Voss.

The family had five children; three—Katharine, Ann, and Edwin—are Thoroughbred trainers. Another, Frances, stopped training in 2001.

This is the farming and racing clan Louis sprung from. Even more, his mother, Sarah Small, was the late trainer Dickie Small's sister. Small trained stars Broad Brush and Concern.

Grace grew up on Cape Cod and competed in eventing.

"I ended up in this game totally by accident," she said. "I went to the University of Delaware for animal science, and while I was there, I took an equine (reproduction) class, where we actually foaled babies at the end of the semester. Lightbulb moment for me. I just loved it."

Upon graduation, she wound up working for Mark Reid at Walnut Green near Kennett Square, Pa., a farm that foaled the champion Go



Stallion Bourbon Courage is a son of Lion Heart

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2017 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

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							2017 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FRIESAN FIRE (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$4,000	101/54	1/1	0/1	(Fire Key, \$280,245)	\$2,684,511	145	2	1.14	1.28
2	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2016	95/55	1/1	1/1	(Clubman, \$160,755)	\$2,676,849	974	81	1.67	1.44
3	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	81/49	3/4	3/3	(Crabcakes, \$216,442)	\$2,669,887	281	15	1.51	1.22
4	STREET MAGICIAN (04, Street Cry), Legacy Farm Stallions Standing at Roland Farm	\$3,000	57/34	2/4	1/2	(My Magician, \$251,861)	\$1,655,634	99	3	1.16	1.32
5	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	81/36	0/0	0/0	(The Great Provider, \$117,723)	\$1,392,414	*810	32	1.24	1.61
6	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$4,000	63/29	0/0	0/0	(Heatherly, \$124,260)	\$1,184,657	*728	42	1.27	1.26
7	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer)	Pnsd	36/16	0/0	0/0	(Miss Nosy, \$126,728)	\$892,663	*983	21	1.14	1.30
8	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2015	50/26	0/0	0/0	(Willie B Mine, \$79,910)	\$865,203	*616	18	1.18	1.27
9	REDEEMED (08, Include), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	31/12	0/0	0/0	(Saint Main Event, \$120,729)	\$796,903	61	0	0.99	1.05
10	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy)	N/A	30/17	1/1	0/1	(Nickyrocksforpops, \$65,842)	\$637,589	278	10	1.02	1.16
11	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	35/14	0/0	0/0	(In Arrears, \$81,050)	\$616,502	137	3	1.06	1.05
12	FREEDOM CHILD (10, Malibu Moon), Country Life Farm	\$3,000	17/8	1/2	1/1	(Limited View, \$177,096)	\$538,051	33	1	1.47	1.17
13	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	28/9	0/0	0/0	(Pinkout, \$54,770)	\$442,908	*548	21	1.34	1.13
14	ETCHED (05, Forestry), Bonita Farm	\$2,000	17/6	1/1	1/1	(My Sistersledge, \$123,621)	\$317,980	38	1	0.67	1.05
15	BALTIMORE BOB (05, Malibu Moon), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	5/4	0/0	0/0	(Baltimore Street, \$92,482)	\$265,481	14	0	1.74	1.07
16	CHEROKEE'S BOY (00, Citidancer)	Pnsd	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Dr Bolt, \$73,606)	\$260,032	103	1	0.99	0.99
17	CUBA (01, Not For Love)	N/A	6/1	1/1	1/1	(Laki, \$113,655)	\$155,004	13	1	0.87	0.50
18	ADMIRAL ALEX (07, Affleet Alex)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Distorted Admiral, \$52,220)	\$135,639	14	0	0.75	0.86
19	BUFFUM (08, Bernardini), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	3/3	1/1	1/1	(Clever Mind, \$65,900)	\$119,830	6	1	1.82	0.80
20	ETERNAL STAR (04, Five Star Day)	Died, 2013	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Sippin'onbubbles, \$42,375)	\$103,694	14	0	0.44	0.65

for Wand.

“What happened for me was the first foals I delivered started running,” she said. “There was a weanling by Medaglia d’Oro out of Liszy who turned out to be Plum Pretty, and she won the Kentucky Oaks (G1) in 2011. I’d been in this game but five minutes, and I said to Mark, ‘Does this happen every year?’”

As a teenager Louis had worked at Murmur Farm and later as stallion manager at Northview Stallion Station, home of the state’s second leading sire of 2017, the late Not For Love. He and Tom Bowman, a co-founder of Northview, left in 2014 to start Heritage Stallions with Bowman’s son, Brooke, who wound up playing matchmaker to Louis and Grace, who have been married for a little more than a year.

Heritage had promise, initially opening with stallion support from Frank Stronach, who sent 2005 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Giacomo among others, but, according to Louis, a flawed business plan had it making money just a few months out of the year.

Worse, the young couple were running themselves ragged. Without steady income, they foaled 45 mares at Anchor and Hope in 2014 just to be able to keep the farm where Louis grew up afloat.

“Neither one of us was making enough money,” Louis said. “I wasn’t

making enough at Heritage to cover our expenses. We foaled and boarded here and were kind of doing shifts all night.

“My father was a help, but in a smaller role. He trains at Fair Hill, so he’d cut out to Fair Hill early in the morning. I’d stay here until 9 a.m. and then I’d go do Heritage for the whole day. Sometimes I got back at 7:30 p.m., and sometimes I got back at 11:30. We had a three-person show and would take turns watching the foaling.”

“We’d high-five when we’d see each



Imaging has top-class Maryland connections

other at night, and that was about it,” Grace, 31, said. “A wave, maybe.”

Louis, 40, had been married once before and has a 9-year-old son. He remains friendly with his first wife but didn’t want to jeopardize chances with the second.

“I asked her, ‘Are you sure you made the right decision?’”

The situation eventually became untenable, and the couple decided to go all in and live up to the name of the farm—Anchor and Hope.

“That was one of the biggest decisions that went into us consolidating and having stallions and going out on our own,” Grace said. “Without exaggeration, we were unloading feed at midnight because that’s when we were here to do it. This is not feasible for life.”

So they hatched a plan: Get the best stallions they could find, build their own broodmare band from scratch, and build new barns at the farm. Louis said the mortgage on Anchor and Hope had gone down to \$130,000 and they borrowed against the property to get started.

A gamble?

“Yes, the gamble that keeps me up at night,” he said.

They started with Bourbon Courage, a Heritage property they secured in partnership with Jamie LaMonica, who puts together syndications with the Stallion Company in Lexington.

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2017 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	HEY CHUB (00, Carson City)	N/A	20/16	1/2	0/1	(Chublicious, \$230,560)	\$846,283	31	2	1.78	1.48
2	DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	Private	19/12	0/0	0/0	(Don's Marsh, \$52,030)	\$419,906	82	3	1.18	1.29
3	DEFRERE (92, Deputy Minister)	N/A	22/9	0/0	0/0	(Oak Bluffs, \$81,100)	\$349,281	*590	22	1.20	1.18
4	CABLE BOY (04, Jump Start)	N/A	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Liz's Cable Girl, \$148,120)	\$309,581	20	1	1.37	0.95
5	IL POSTINO (06, Distorted Humor), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Postino's Champion, \$87,261)	\$179,064	13	0	0.88	0.89

2017 LEADING SIRES IN VIRGINIA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	REBELLION (GB) (03, Mozart)	N/A	16/8	1/1	1/1	(Ratface Macdougall, \$126,113)	\$410,893	*42	2	1.20	1.26
2	COSA VERA (05, Dynaformer)	N/A	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Zebennie, \$50,034)	\$206,849	28	0	0.58	1.37
3	FRIEND OR FOE (07, Friends Lake)	N/A	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Buff, \$105,910)	\$203,884	8	0	1.97	1.59

The son of Lion Heart out of a Carson City mare had won a grade 2 stakes at 1½ miles and was a flying fourth, beaten two lengths in the 2014 Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1).

His third dam, Six Crowns, produced juvenile champion Chief's Crown.

Grace is a pedigree junkie and whenever she had free time at Walnut Green would scour the Internet for other prospects. She would come home from work with a folder full of notes scribbled on scratch paper about potential stallions.

She zeroed in on Imagining, a millionaire, grade 1-winning son of Giant's Causeway from a super Phipps family, whose pedigree page glistens with stars.

"She bugged the crap out of me," Louis said.

So, they were in LaMonica's office one afternoon, and Grace wanted to cut to the chase.

"I'm like, 'Did you ask yet? Did you ask yet? Did you talk about Imagining yet?'" she recalled.

"So, I'm in there meeting with him about Bourbon Courage, and I bring up Imagining, and he looks at me like I was from Mars, and he had the pedigree on his desk," Louis said. "and that's where the conversation started. Jamie has a relationship with the Phipps family. It was Jamie's connections that were able to get it done. There were other regional programs interested."

They also liked that the female side of

Imagining's family had top-class Maryland connections. His third dam, Dance Number, produced Not For Love. Dance Number also is a half sister to Polish Numbers, another leading stallion in the state.

With LaMonica as partner, they purchased Imagining and syndicated 48%



Holy Boss stands his first season in 2018

of him.

Lastly, they purchased Holy Boss, a grade 1-placed son of Street Boss—Holy Grace, by Holy Bull, whom Louis ran in his own name in the Maryland Sprint Stakes (G3) and True North Stakes (G2) using his grandfather's colors, white with red bars and red sleeves. Holy Boss is a half brother

to Queen's Plate Winner Holy Helena. He is being syndicated for \$13,000 a share with incentives built in to breed more mares.

Imagining covered 74 mares in his first season and more than 60 in his second. Bourbon Courage had 79 in his first and then also dipped into the 60s.

"Especially in the Mid-Atlantic region, those are solid numbers," Grace said.

Even in winter, work at the farm is unfolding with speed. They are building an eight-stall, open courtyard-style stallion barn from which the horses will be able to look out rather than at each other.

"Imagining hates looking at another stallion," Louis said.

There eventually will be seven stallion paddocks and three more will be added for new foals. Single mares soon will have larger turnout fields.

Except when building, Anchor and Hope staffing will remain lean, with only Jose Zamora joining Louis and Grace. Zamora has worked with Louis since his days at Northview.

"He's fantastic, but he's a bit grouchy," Louis said.

"That's a pot-kettle situation right there," Grace said.

"I don't like getting an expansive crew," Louis said. "My last role at Northview was general manager, and my biggest problem was managing employees. I don't know if

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2017 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Sire Index	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,000	102/68	2/3	2/2	(Bound to Windsor, \$118,601)	\$2,133,754	315	12	1.03	1.00
2	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	85/46	0/0	0/0	(Karla With a K, \$134,582)	\$1,712,456	*418	21	1.20	1.16
3	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	70/51	1/3	1/1	(Moonlit Song, \$234,140)	\$1,620,758	173	8	1.21	0.80
4	CHARITABLE MAN (06, Lemon Drop Kid)	Died, 2016	79/39	1/1	1/1	(Charitable Annuity, \$197,085)	\$1,368,586	138	2	0.98	1.06
5	DENIS OF CORK (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$750	63/28	1/1	1/1	(Romantic Cork, \$92,860)	\$790,631	*117	4	0.68	1.09
6	MR. SIDNEY (04, Storm Cat), Beau Ridge Farm	\$6,500	40/23	0/0	0/0	(Pascasha d'Or, \$71,292)	\$734,904	109	0	0.93	1.87
7	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,000	47/25	0/0	0/0	(Nebikon, \$38,180)	\$532,245	769	15	0.98	1.03
8	PEAK DANCER (97, Mt. Livermore)	N/A	28/19	0/0	0/0	(Sweet Lady Sue, \$47,790)	\$382,241	91	4	0.86	0.83
9	DURING (00, Cherokee Run), O'Sullivan Farms	\$750	25/11	1/1	0/1	(Lucy N Ethel, \$72,000)	\$281,847	204	4	0.81	1.07
10	OFFICER ROCKET (GB) (04, Officer)	N/A	16/10	0/0	0/0	(Rocket Thunder, \$32,935)	\$225,916	20	0	0.85	0.67
11	LUFTIKUS (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$500	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Lucky Candy, \$40,243)	\$203,869	288	8	0.95	1.05
12	GATTOPARDO (05, Johannesburg), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Unaquoi, \$69,739)	\$189,381	18	1	0.98	0.76
13	MACHEN (08, Distorted Humor)	N/A	15/10	0/0	0/0	(Moovin On Machen, \$38,050)	\$179,480	47	0	0.53	0.75
14	GARNERED (98, Holy Bull)	N/A	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Mean Bean, \$52,140)	\$176,573	100	0	0.64	0.72
15	REAL ESTATE (04, High Yield)	N/A	13/8	0/0	0/0	(Fifty Nays for Hay, \$36,277)	\$170,915	39	0	0.66	0.80

I was bad at it, or we just had so many, but I much prefer to be a hands-on manager. I have the most respect for Jose. He can handle any one of these horses.”

As of December, there were 24 mares on the grounds, along with 11 weanlings and two yearlings.

The couple is hoping Jazzy Idea, a multiple stakes-winning mare Edwin trained and who defeated Ben's Cat in her final start, can possibly become a foundation for a broodmare band.

They keenly know what they are up

Cricket Goodall, the executive director of the Maryland Horse Breeders' Association, looked at the number of mares bred and pointed to the bonus incentive tug-of-war playing out against the program in neighboring Pennsylvania.

“The new stallions, they're going to have to be creative with,” Goodall said. “Mares are not falling out of the sky for anybody. Even if you're getting mares back from Pennsylvania, that isn't enough to support new stallions. The stallion owners will have to support their own stallions—send

than 20 years, credited Anchor and Hope for bringing in “three uncomplicated horses. They know what they're doing. It's the kids' theorem: Keep it simple.”

The farm already is receiving substantial support from David Dobson, who operates Lady Olivia at North Cliff in Rixeyville, Va. Dobson has 30 broodmares and plans for 15 of them to go to Anchor and Hope stallions. With Virginia racing all but shuttered, he wanted to move into the next-closest arena to breed and race—Maryland.

“We bought into Imagining and bought into Bourbon Courage, and we are looking into Holy Boss,” Dobson said. “I think all are going to do well.”

Asked where they see themselves five years from now, Grace said, “We work so hard to find stallions that we think have the best chance of being a positive impact on the local racehorse population from a breed perspective. Putting runners in the barns at Laurel and Pimlico.”

“You have to give them credit for doing what they love and doing it well,” Goodall said. “Louis is invested. They aren't just playing around. That's what they do for a living. Other than land, they don't have a trust fund somewhere.

“All these stallion guys, they're invested, and it's the hardest business to be in. To have people trying is a testament that things have turned around. Now they have to make it work. The hard part is on them.” **EH**

John Scheinman is an Eclipse Award-winning writer based in Baltimore.



The farm ends at a sharp sloping cliffside that overlooks the Susquehanna River

against. Mares bred to Maryland stallions fell from 923 in 2016 to 768 in 2017, according to Jockey Club statistics. The oft-reported revival of Thoroughbred racing in Maryland cannot be considered complete if more mares aren't bred in the state, several industry stakeholders said.

20 mares, or whatever—plus each stallion manager should look at the region to see what kinds of deals are being offered. In this day and age you can't just put a stallion out there with an advertised stud fee without being creative.”

Stuart Morris, a bloodstock agent in Lexington who has known Louis for more

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