

## **Cedar Crest Farm Equestrian Center**

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### **Geraldine Lindsay**

Gerry Lindsay was born into a “horsey” family in Hertfordshire, England. She went foxhunting before she was born and began riding her own Welsh Mountain pony at the age of 4. As she grew up, she competed successfully in all disciplines including showing, eventing, show-jumping and gymkhana races. As a member of the Puckeridge Western pony club, she was in the winning one-day-event team that took home the prestigious Gosling Cup for the South-Eastern Counties in 1974 and, in the same year, she was in the show-jumping team that came second at the Pony Club Show Jumping Championships at Burghley Horse Trials. At the age of only fourteen, riding her sister’s horse, she placed 4th in a Junior European one-day-event selection trial and later competed successfully at Preliminary level.



Gerry took a break from riding to attend Sheffield University where she graduated with an Honors Degree in Hispanic Studies. However, during her study periods in Spain and Portugal she was fortunate to find the time and opportunity to ride with the legendary Portuguese maestro, Nuno Oliveira, thus gaining an enhanced insight into the world of classical dressage.

After graduation, she joined the British Bloodstock Agency in Newmarket, England as a bloodstock shipping agent. The B.B.A., as it was popularly called, was the world’s oldest bloodstock agency, based in the “headquarters” of racing where the modern sport of Thoroughbred horse racing began. Gerry was able to take advantage of the location to “ride out” for local stables, exercising racehorses on the historic open heathland in the early morning before going to the office. During her five years with the B.B.A., her main responsibility was the shipping of horses to and from North America and she was thus able to establish important links with the industry in the U.S. which still stand her in good stead today. In addition, however, she also shipped all the horses from the northern hemisphere that traveled to Hong Kong each year and, naturally enough, had responsibility for all shipments to and from Spain and South America. It was a demanding but satisfying role which included the occasional chances to experience airline travel with horses to such destinations as Hong Kong, France, Germany and the U.S.

Gerry moved to Scotland in 1986 with her first husband, a pilot whom she had met when accompanying a horse on a trip to Munich. Once north of the border, she quickly joined Captain Mark Phillips' team of administrators at his brand new equestrian center at The Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire. After several months as a general assistant in the establishment of this exciting new business venture, she realized that her skills really lay in event organization and she went on to be sole organizer of over 70 shows, events, demonstrations and clinics annually. This challenging role again afforded her the unique opportunity of coming into contact with leading names from all areas of the equestrian world, be it Monty Roberts or Tim Grubb giving lecture/demonstrations; the Whitaker brothers attending some of the spectacular indoor show-jumping competitions; leading national hunt jockeys participating in Olympic fund-raising events; and event riders such as Ian Stark competing at the Center's annual horse trials.

At the end of five hectic years, Gerry took a step back from her full-time role at Gleneagles to manage her 135-acre Scottish hill farm, teach English as a Foreign Language during the summer months to visiting Icelandic and Spanish children and to act as Public Relations Officer at Ayr Racecourse, Scotland's biggest racetrack and home of the Ayr Gold Cup and the Scottish Grand National Steeplechase. In addition, she used her journalistic skills to good effect by covering Scottish Horse Trials for Horse and Hound magazine whose high standards and prompt publication dates required speedy and accurate reporting.

In the fall of 1994, Gerry moved to America with her new husband, Paul Lindsay, and thanks to her old B.B.A. connections was fortunate to be given permission to travel on the horse flight with her own two Irish sport horse mares and four other geldings which had been purchased in advance for sale in the U.S. So, twelve years after her last overnight visit on a horse charter, she found herself back at Stewart Airport in Newburgh, NY with her suitcase in one hand and her horse in the other, ready to start a new life in America as deputy director of the Millbrook Equestrian Center in Millbrook, NY.

Although much of what we do with horses is a shared experience worldwide, Millbrook presented new and unexpected challenges which were met and overcome and the Center became both successful and profitable. With skills accrued over many years in the equestrian industry, Gerry was able to fulfill numerous functions at Millbrook from helping to establish the Center as a leading venue for British Horse Society training and examinations to running a busy schedule of schooling shows and clinics in addition to organizing the Center's two annual recognized horse trials and one recognized dressage show. Despite all these commitments, there was somehow time to produce Alison Emily Aylott Lindsay in 1996 and, occasionally, to compete on her fabulous Irish Sport Horse mare, Penny Sparkle, in Preliminary and Modified jumper classes.

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that Gerry can now put all her equestrian knowledge to good effect at Cedar Crest Farm and she feels sure that the best is yet to come!