

TENNESSEE CENTURY FARMS

The Land • The People • The Legacy

A joint program of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture

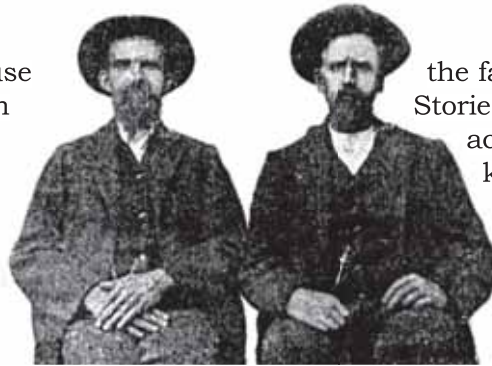
Fall 2006

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Century Farms Tell Stories of Civil War and Reconstruction

In a prominent place in a farmhouse in Jackson County, you will see an original tintype, dating from the nineteenth century. On the left is Samuel Carver, who enlisted in the Federal Army at the age of 17. Seated next to him is his brother Milton who fought in the Confederate Army. Sam, listing his occupation as "farmer," was discharged from the U.S. Army in August 1865. His descendents recall that his war pension helped the veteran and his wife, Amanda, and their family to maintain the farm they later established, even through the years of the Great Depression. Samuel lived in the house until 1936. The tintype of him and his brother is displayed by his great-grandson, Joseph S. Moore, and his family. This is one of many stories from Tennessee's Century Farms that recall the difficulties, persistence, and successes of Tennessee farming families during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, based at Middle Tennessee State University and administered by the Center for Historic Preservation, covers the entire state and "tells the whole story of America's greatest challenge, 1860-1875." This includes identifying, recording, and telling stories about the transformation of agriculture and the effects of the war on the rural landscape and the lives of



(L-R) Brothers Sam and Milt Carver

the farm families during these years. Stories of divided families, of military activity, of women and children who kept the farms operating during the war, and of the first purchases of farms by newly freed slaves are a large part of the "whole story" of this pivotal time in Tennessee's history.

The Tennessee Century Farms application now specifically requests that owners recount their family stories of the Civil War and Reconstruction if the farm was established before 1875. If your family has stories from that period that were not included in your original application, we would be grateful to add them to the collection.

To send us your stories or for more information about the programs of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, please write to Box 80, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, phone (615) 898-2947, or visit the Web site at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>.



(Top and Right)
Carverdale Farm 2006



The Tennessee Ag Tag!

Consider purchasing an Ag Tag license plate in 2007 and help fund projects including 4-H, FFA, and the Century Farms sign program.



BAIRD FARM

County: Wilson
Owner: Woodrow Baird
Date Founded: 1801

BOWEN/CREECH-MOODY FARM

County: Grainger
Owner: Alice Creech-Moody
Date Founded: 1900

Congratulations to These New Century Farms!

The following farms were certified since the summer 2006 newsletter. While farms may have more than one owner, we list only the first contact owner of record, as supplied on the farm application by the family, because of space limitations.

BRUCE FARM

County: Jefferson
Owner: Daniel Churchman
Date Founded: 1891

BURNS-MCKINNON FARM

County: Chester
Owner: Roy McKinnon
Date Founded: 1880

COOK'S HILL FARM

County: Wilson
Owner: Eulexis Cook
Date Founded: 1881

DIXIE FARM

County: White
Owner: Teddy Keith Day
Date Founded: 1869

DONNELL FARM

County: Wilson
Owner: Ethylene Lannom
Date Founded: 1893

DOWLAND-HALL FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Sandra Hall Arnold
Date Founded: 1890

GRAY FARM

County: Hamblen
Owner: Donald Gray
Date Founded: 1906

HALEY-MURPHY FARM

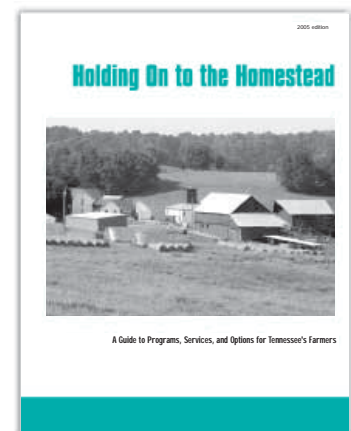
County: Wilson
Owner: Mary Grace Haley Gregory
Date Founded: 1821

Please help us to keep the information about your farm current in our files and on the Web site by letting us know when changes occur.

Farms certified after December 15, 2006, will appear in the next newsletter.

The Tennessee Century Farms Web site is now complete with all certified farms online. We welcome updates and additional photographs from farm owners. Special thanks go to Kevin Cason, a Ph.D. student in public history who is employed by the Center for Historic Preservation. Kevin has worked diligently on this project for over a year, entering information on over 1,000 certified farms.

A free copy of *Holding on to the Homestead: A Guide to Programs, Services, and Options for Tennessee Farmers* is available to farmers and those who work with farmers from the center or online at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu>.



HARTSAW COVE FARM

County: Overton
 Owner: Millard V. Oakley
 Date Founded: 1792

HICKMAN HOLLOW FARM

County: Jefferson
 Owner: Billie J. Hickman
 Date Founded: 1883

J & J FARM

County: Montgomery
 Owner: John Robert Wall
 Date Founded: 1875

JEROME D. REED FARM

County: Scott
 Owner: Jerome D. Reed
 Date Founded: 1880

LOGGINS FARM

County: Dickson
 Owner: Jewell Loggins
 Date Founded: 1898

LYONSDALE FARM

County: Hawkins
 Owner: Jessie Lyons Brown
 Date Founded: 1806

M & M FARM

County: Crockett
 Owner: Margaret C. Norville
 Date Founded: 1859

MAPLE GROVE FARM

County: Bledsoe
 Owner: John Hollis Pope
 Date Founded: 1832

MASSEY FARM

County: Trousdale
 Owner: Robbie Evitts
 Date Founded: 1852

MOORE FARM

County: Smith
 Owner: Roy K. Moore
 Date Founded: 1867

PEACH FARM

County: Wilson
 Owner: Myra B. Bates
 Date Founded: 1848

PITTS FARM

County: Cocke
 Owner: Charles D. Hughes
 Date Founded: 1897

ROBERT MCKENRY AND SONS FARM

County: Blount
 Owner: Robert McKenry
 Date Founded: 1845

STONEWALL HERITAGE FARM

County: Smith
 Owner: Shirley B. Jones
 Date Founded: 1896

STONE HOLLOW FARM

County: Dickson
 Owner: Robert L. Stone
 Date Founded: 1905

TRICE FARM

County: Chester
 Owner: William Trice
 Date Founded: 1856

WRIGHT FARM

County: Smith
 Owner: Julia Goodlett
 Date Founded: 1894

YOUNG FARM OF STONEWALL

County: Smith
 Owner: Mary Sue Young
 Date Founded: 1878



The counties with the largest number of Century Farms are as follows:

Wilson - 67

Smith - 43

Greene - 41

McMinn - 37

Blount - 30

Claiborne - 29

Robertson - 28

Williamson - 26

Obion - 25

Rutherford - 25

Wilson County Fair

The annual Wilson County Century Farms luncheon was held August 24 at the Wilson County Fair. Nine new farms were certified. The Baird Farm, established 1801, and the Dobson Farm, established 1803, were honored with signs for more than 200 years of continuous agricultural production. Several members of both families, including the younger generations, were on hand for the presentation (see photo). Wilson County has more properties in the Century Farms program than any other county in the state.



Pictured are the Baird and Dobson families with their 200 year signs.

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The Tennessee Century Farms Program, a joint effort of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, documents, recognizes, interprets, and supports the conservation of farms that have been in continuous production and owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

Please direct comments and inquiries regarding applications, existing farm files, the Web site, and this newsletter to

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Murfreesboro, TN 37132
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Please direct questions about Century Farm signs to

LYNNE WILLIAMS
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ellington Agricultural Center, P.O. Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
Lynne.Williams@state.tn.us
Fax: (615) 837-5194

Visit the Century Farms Web site at
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/>.

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