

# 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

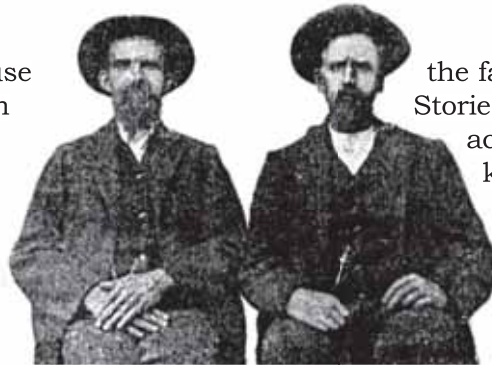
Fall 2006

Vol. 3 Issue 2

## 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

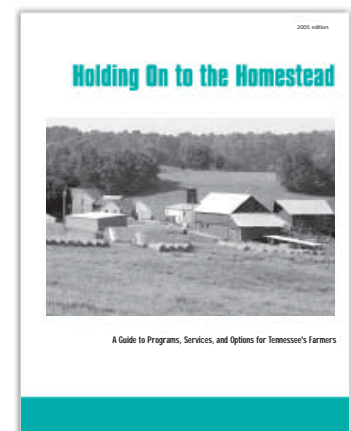
County: Wilson  
Owner: Mary Grace Haley Gregory  
Date Founded: 1821

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.*

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. AA133-1106

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**

CANETA HANKINS  
 Director, Tennessee Century Farms Program  
 Center for Historic Preservation  
 Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
 chankins@mtsu.edu  
 (615) 898-2947

**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/>.

This Tennessee Century Farms newsletter is produced as a public service by the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU.

2-25400

Tennessee Century Farms Program  
 Center for Historic Preservation  
 Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37132

MIDDLE  
 TENNESSEE  
 STATE UNIVERSITY

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit 169  
 Murfreesboro, TN