



# 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

Winter 2010-11

Vol. 7, Issue 2

## Farms During and After the Civil War

The 150th anniversary of the onset of the Civil War was officially marked at the Tennessee state capitol on November 12 and 13. In the coming years, through 2015, communities across the state will recognize the sesquicentennial of the war in various ways. The Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU, which administers the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA), is partnering with many groups to provide meaningful and lasting programs and products to help understand this watershed period and its legacy. For example, the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, the TCWNHA, and a number of host communities have cooperated to mark places along the Tennessee Civil War Trails. Also, premiering in January is the first of a six-part series on Tennessee during the Civil War, which is being produced by Nashville Public Television, the Renaissance Center in Dickson, and the TCWNHA.

Because the Civil War was waged largely on farmland across the state, many Tennessee Century Farms have important stories to tell. For most of the war, the military presence of both Union and Confederate forces greatly impacted farms. Stories also describe how women and children survived and continued to farm during these years and in the immediate aftermath. Less known are the narratives of freed slaves and their work as tenants or sharecroppers on the same land for years after emancipation, as well as the accounts of those who were able to buy and establish farms of their own. On some of these farms were the first churches, schools, and cemeteries of the freed men, women, and children. The largest number of Century Farms was established in the two decades after the war by returning veterans, widows, and couples who wanted to build new lives. Changes in crops, agricultural methods, and machinery before and after the war tell the story of the transformation of farming and the landscape.



Founded in 1851 in Obion County, the W. F. Pierce farm was the home of William Franklin Pierce who joined the CSA in 1861. When he returned to the farm in 1865, he and an ex-slave worked raising crops and tending livestock during the day and clearing more land at night.

These are the stories that will be told in a new sesquicentennial publication to be compiled by Center for Historic Preservation staff and students in the coming months. During 2011, we will identify 100–150 properties that illustrate the divisions within families, incidents that occurred on the farms, the daily lives of families as they struggled to survive, and the impact of changes in farming during the years from 1860 to 1880.

Please help us to tell the whole story of the Civil War from the Century Farms perspective by completing the insert in this issue of the newsletter. We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

## Century Farms Certified Since Summer 2010

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

Congratulations to the owners of the following farms which were certified since the summer 2010 newsletter. While farms may have more than one owner, we list only the first owner of record, as supplied on the application by the family, because of space limitations. Farms certified after December 15 will be listed in the summer 2011 newsletter.

### **BEECH GROVE FARM\***

County: Washington  
Owner: Anna O. Mays  
Date Founded: 1778

### **BOND FARM**

County: Williamson  
Owner: Charles G. Bond  
Date Founded: 1870

### **BURNETT FARM**

County: Obion  
Owner: Jan Rankin  
Date Founded: 1897

### **CARMACK FARM**

County: Overton  
Owner: Chester Carmack  
Date Founded: 1860

### **CARTER FARM**

County: Henry  
Owner: Fay R. Carter  
Date Founded: 1897

### **DAVIS FARMS**

County: Henderson  
Owner: Carolyn D. Weatherford  
Date Founded: 1851

### **EDGMAN FARM**

County: Henry  
Owner: Janice B. Edgman  
Date Founded: 1850

### **FULL CIRCLE FARMS**

County: Overton  
Owner: James H. Young  
Date Founded: 1885

### **GLENN ACRES\***

County: Williamson  
Owner: Calvin C. Glenn  
Date Founded: 1783

### **GRASSY BRANCH FARM**

County: Rhea  
Owner: Don A. Massengale  
Date Founded: 1904

### **HERITAGE FARMS**

County: Cocke  
Owner: Billy H. Sparks  
Date Founded: 1849

### **HISTORIC COLLINSVILLE**

County: Montgomery  
Owner: Glenn H. Weakley  
Date Founded: 1899

### **JOHNSON FARM**

County: Haywood  
Owner: James A. Johnson  
Date Founded: 1875

### **KELLER-BLANTON FARM**

County: Hardeman  
Owner: Barbara K. Blanton  
Date Founded: 1908

### **KING FARM**

County: Clay  
Owner: John M. King  
Date Founded: 1890

### **KING FARMS\***

County: Sullivan  
Owner: Stephen E. King  
Date Founded: 1782

### **LEDFORD FARM**

County: Overton  
Owner: Keith Ledford  
Date Founded: 1860

### **LOAFER'S REST**

County: Warren  
Owner: Jewel D. Medlen  
Date Founded: 1888

### **LOOPER-THOMPSON FARM**

County: Overton  
Owner: Jim Thompson  
Date Founded: 1830

### **LUSTER FARM**

County: Williamson  
Owner: Nelson Luster II  
Date Founded: 1906

### **NEELEY FARM**

County: Hickman  
Owner: Pamela N. Tenpenny  
Date Founded: 1861

### **NETTLE CARRIER ANGUS FARM**

County: Overton  
Owner: Clifton D. Allred  
Date Founded: 1908

### **PRINCE LANE FARM**

County: Hickman  
Owner: Edwin W. Prince  
Date Founded: 1910

### **REDLAND FARM II**

County: Greene  
Owner: Barbara A. Belcher  
Date Founded: 1852

### **ROBERTS RANCH**

County: Marion  
Owner: Randy Roberts  
Date Founded: 1886

### **SPARKMAN FARM**

County: Van Buren  
Owner: Donald W. Hollingsworth  
Date Founded: 1905

### **TEMPLETON FARM**

County: Lincoln  
Owner: M. Don Templeton  
Date Founded: 1833

**TINDELL FARM “NORTH SIDE”**

County: Maury  
 Owner: Thomas Tindell  
 Date Founded: 1887

**TINDELL FARM “SOUTH SIDE”**

County: Maury  
 Owner: Wayne Sharp  
 Date Founded: 1887

**TRANQUILITY FARMS**

County: McMinn  
 Owner: Donald O. Hutsell  
 Date Founded: 1909

**WELLS FARM**

County: Dyer  
 Owner: James V. Wells  
 Date Founded: 1910

**WILL HUFF FARM**

County: Fentress  
 Owner: Margaret Wood  
 Date Founded: 1910

**WILLEFORD FARM**

County: Overton  
 Owner: Gerald C. Willeford  
 Date Founded: 1909

In the summer 2010 newsletter, the Ayers/Starbuck Farm (1834, Perry County), owned by Jessie Tiller, was incorrectly listed as the Akers/Starbuck Farm. Big Sand Spring Farm (1850, Hamblen County), owned by William D. Thompson, was incorrectly listed as being in Madison County. We regret these errors and congratulate the Tiller and Thompson families on their Century Farm certifications.

*\*These farms, founded before 1796, when Tennessee became a state, are designated as Pioneer Century Farms.*

## Farmland Legacy Conference



Top left: Blythe Semmer, right, of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker for the Century Farms luncheon. Blythe's mother, Glenna McMahan Semmer, the owner of the McMahan Century Farm (1850) in Sevier County, also attended the conference along with more than 120 other participants.

Above: Charles McBee and his sister, Betty McBee Sloan, were among five Pioneer Century Farm families honored at the November Farmland Legacy Conference in Pigeon Forge. The McBee Farm (Knox County) dates to 1785.



Left: Sara Rieger, Century Farms graduate assistant at the Center for Historic Preservation, visits with George and Margaret Holley, Pioneer Homestead Farm in Washington County, who were honored along with several other Century Farms that participate on quilt trails.



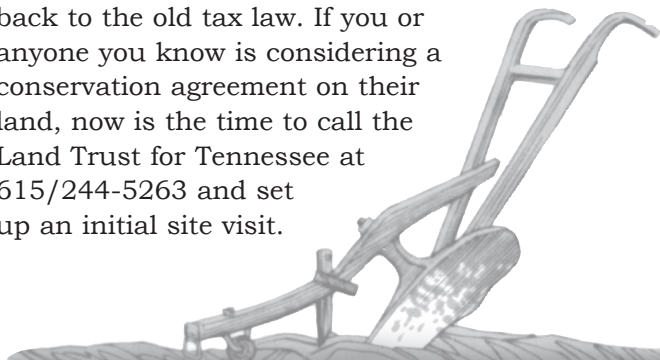
# Protect Your Land

## Enhanced Tax Incentives Continue Through December 31, 2011

Late in 2010, Congress renewed significant changes to the Federal income tax incentives for conservation agreement donations. The changes:

- Raised the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allowed qualifying farmers and farm corporations to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income; and
- Increased the number of years over which any donor can take those deductions from 6 years to 16 years beginning the year the donation is made.

However, the law stipulated that the changes would expire on December 31, 2011 and go back to the old tax law. If you or anyone you know is considering a conservation agreement on their land, now is the time to call the Land Trust for Tennessee at 615/244-5263 and set up an initial site visit.



The Tennessee Century Farms program, a public service of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, documents, recognizes, interprets, and supports the conservation of working farms that have been in the same family continuously for at least 100 years. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture partners with the program by providing a commemorative sign to each Century Farm family.

**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  
**[www.tncenturyfarms.org](http://www.tncenturyfarms.org)**

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

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Tennessee Century Farms Program  
Center for Historic Preservation  
MTSU Box 80  
1301 East Main Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

# **TENNESSEE CENTURY FARMS:**

## **TELLING THE STORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION**

FARM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION: Phone, cell, e-mail, address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Briefly recount the story or stories of your farm and its history during the Civil War and Reconstruction. (Use the back of this or additional pages if you wish.) If you have already given this information in your application, at a later date, or during a visit to your farm by center staff, just indicate that below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there buildings on your farm that date from 1860 to 1880? Please list and briefly describe them (for example: "log barn – 1850; house – 1862; tenant house – 1870").

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a cemetery with graves dating from before or during the Civil War or from the 1870s? If so, please describe briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have diaries, photographs, letters, or other items that would help tell the story of this period on your farm? Please briefly describe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact us if you have questions. Thank you for returning this form by March 1, 2011 to:

**Tennessee Century Farms Program**  
**MTSU Box 80**  
**Murfreesboro, TN 37132**  
**(615) 898-2947**