



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

Spring/Summer 2013

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Into the Next Century and Beyond: Preserving Tennessee's Historic Family Farms and Natural Areas

In 2011, Color Wheel Farm owners Brad and Kim Black, along with Brad's sister Jennifer, placed a conservation easement agreement with the Foothills Land Conservancy (FLC) on the family's 191-year-old farm in Monroe County. This Tennessee Century Farm includes 410 acres of agricultural farmland that is now permanently preserved as a working farm, free from commercial development. Roughly 340 acres are being used for cattle, row crops, and switchgrass; the remaining acreage is woodlands.

For Brad Black, there were several important aspects to consider when placing their farm into a conservation easement: "We really thought about the future of our farm, and it was important to us that the

agreement include allowances for the future of changing agricultural demands and practices. We also wanted a certain flexibility in the way the easement was written for our kids and their kids. That being said, we made sure the agreement included what we did not want to see take place on our farm now or in the future."

The conservation easement agreement ensures that the Black farm can stay a working farm for future generations while also helping to retain the region's view sheds, open areas, and wildlife habitat. Many other Tennessee Century Farm landowners have made the same decision. Have you considered placing a conservation easement on your family's Century Farm?



From left to right: Kim Black with granddaughters Bella and Scarlett; FLC's Bill Clabough; son, Adam; Brad Black, Brad's mother Betty; and daughter Amy with her son, Jackson.

For landowners interested in exploring if a conservation easement is the right tool for them, the first step is to contact the staff at Foothills or any other land trust. An on-site visit can be arranged, so that the landowners wishes can be determined and FLC staff can examine the land's natural features. For more information or to schedule a time to meet with a Foothills staff member, please call the office at (865) 681-8326 or email info@foothillsland.org. To see a short video about the conservancy and to receive the latest event listings and news, visit their website at www.foothillsland.org.

(continued on page 3)

Century Farms Certified Since December 15, 2012

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

Congratulations to the owners of the following farms, which have been certified in the past six months. 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 May 15, 2013, will be listed in the winter 2013 newsletter.

AKARD-SMALLING FARM

County: Sullivan
Owner: James Francis
Date Founded: 1832

ARNOTT FARM

County: Hawkins
Owner: Travis Arnott
Date Founded: 1855

BRANDON FARM

County: Carroll
Owner: Joe D. and Barbara Brandon
Date Founded: 1913

CASH VALLEY FARM

County: Hickman
Owner: Donald Cash
Date Founded: 1884

DANIEL-HUMMEL FARM

County: Clay
Owner: Betty J. Hummel
Date Founded: 1910

ELLIS FARM

County: Marion
Owner: Gary Wayne Ellis
Date Founded: 1912

ELLISON-WEBB FARM

County: Jefferson
Owner: Teresa W. Gentry
Date Founded: 1907

ELRIE BRINKLEY FARM

County: Bedford
Owner: Carolyn B. Conner
Date Founded: 1902

GANG FARM

County: Lawrence
Owner: Donald Glen White
Date Founded: 1878

HILL CREST FARM

County: McMinn
Owner: Michael R. and Diane Turner
Date Founded: 1898

HUMPHREY FARM

County: Giles
Owner: Sarah O. Humphrey
Date Founded: 1896

J. R. YORK FARM ON CEDAR CREEK

County: Wilson
Owner: J. Lain N. Eskew
Date Founded: 1897

JAMES DURHAM TURNER FARM

County: Marshall
Owner: Joe L. and Nancy A. Turner
Date Founded: 1885

JAMES FARM

County: Loudon
Owner: Sarah James Watkins
Date Founded: 1910

JULIUS H. WILLIAMS FARM ON FALL CREEK

County: Wilson
Owner: J. Lain N. Eskew
Date Founded: 1818

MCCULLEY FAMILY FARM

County: Sullivan
Owner: Lou Ann M. Moore
Date Founded: 1782

MILBURN FARM

County: Greene
Owner: Terrill G. Milburn
Date Founded: 1882

MILL CREEK FARM

County: Wayne
Owner: Jerry L. Harris
Date Founded: 1904

NELSON BOND'S OAKVIEW FARM

County: Haywood
Owner: Barbara and Melvin Bond
Date Founded: 1887

OLD DR. LOVE FARM

County: Henry
Owner: Betty Love Peeler
Date Founded: 1898

PRESSWOOD-CHEEK FARM

County: Polk
Owner: Robert V. Cheek
Date Founded: 1865

PROCTOR FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Anne P. Fairless
Date Founded: 1880

S AND S LIVESTOCK FARM

County: Bedford
Owner: Michael T. Smith
Date Founded: 1903

SMITH FARM

County: Pickett
Owner: Peggy Jane Green
Date Founded: 1899

SYLER 7 FARM

County: Moore
Owner: Roy C. and Maggie Syler
Date Founded: 1903

VADEN FARM

County: Crockett
Owner: Don Vaden
Date Founded: 1900

WOODS FARM

County: Washington
Owner: Kenneth Darrell Woods
Date Founded: 1908

Into the Next Century and Beyond . . . (cont. from page 1)

Earlier this year, Congress renewed a tax incentive for private landowners, especially working family farmers and ranchers, who wish to protect their land with a voluntary conservation agreement. Farmers and landowners now have until December 31, 2013, to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for permanently protecting their farm. When landowners place a conservation easement with Foothills Land Conservancy, they maintain ownership, agricultural practices, and management of their land. They can also sell, lease, or pass the land on to their heirs or to public/private entities, forgoing future development rights. The 2013 enhanced incentive applies to a landowner's federal income tax. It allows farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income and increases to 16 the number of years over which a donor can take deductions.

Foothills Land Conservancy is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the lands and environments of the Southern Appalachian region and promoting the character of the land for the benefit of the general public, now and in the future. Since 1985, FLC has partnered with landowners across 23 counties in Tennessee, assisting them with permanently preserving their working farms, woodlands, scenic views, and watersheds from commercial and residential development.

Thanks to Elise Eustace, communications and development director, Foothills Land Conservancy, for writing this article. You may contact her at eeustace@foothillsland.org.

Counties with the Most Century Farms

Wilson	80	Blount	38	Claiborne	33
Greene	53	Robertson	38	Obion	32
Smith	52	Gibson	37	Giles	31
McMinn	43	Williamson	37	Montgomery	31

Caneta Skelley Hankins, who was involved with the Century Farms program from the time it was transferred to the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture in 1984, and who served as the director of the statewide program for the past 12 years, retired on May 31. Of her work with the program, Hankins recalls, "Working with Century Farm families across the state was an honor and a privilege. I learned so much about local and state history and geography, as well as agriculture, from the applications and the families. Over the years, I enjoyed visiting many of the farms and meeting the families. Farms and farmers are the real wealth of Tennessee."



Caneta Hankins visits with a few of her farm friends.

Tennessee Century Farms Program

Center for Historic Preservation

MTSU Box 80

1301 East Main Street

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

2-25400

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 website, and this newsletter to

Director, Tennessee Century Farms Program
Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
histpres@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
(615) 837-5160

Visit the Century Farms website at
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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PLOWSHARES AND SWORDS: TENNESSEE FARM FAMILIES TELL CIVIL WAR STORIES

By Caneta Skelley Hankins and Michael Thomas Gavin

A Publication of the Center for Historic Preservation at
Middle Tennessee State University

During the Civil War, the “Hard Hand of War” fell on farm families across Tennessee. Read the compelling stories of farmers, Union and Confederate, who coped with the challenges and changes of the wartime and afterward. For 150 years, generations have preserved oral traditions, documents, photographs, buildings, and the places that tell about their ancestors—those who experienced the reality of the home front during the war and hardships as rebuilding began, and those men, women, and children who made the transition from slavery to freedom. Century Farms and other historic farms listed in the National Register of Historic Places were selected because of their accounts of survival during this period. Over 100 farms from 56 counties are represented.

The full-length book with many period images is expected to be available in early fall 2013. Preorders are now being accepted for this publication, which will be limited to a printing of 1,000 copies.

Preorder Price: \$40 + \$5 shipping and handling = \$45.

After Publication Price: \$50 plus shipping and handling = \$55.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the MTSU Foundation to support the ongoing work of the Center for Historic Preservation across Tennessee.

PLOWSHARES AND SWORDS: TENNESSEE FARM FAMILIES TELL CIVIL WAR STORIES

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Checks only made payable to: MTSU Foundation – Center for Historic Preservation

Mail to: Center for Historic Preservation
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Murfreesboro, TN 37132

If you have questions, please contact the center at (615) 898-2947 or email hispres@mtsu.edu.

Please make a copy of this for your records. Thank you for your order.