

Tennessee's Frontier Century Farms

An Enduring Legacy of Family, Farming, and Community

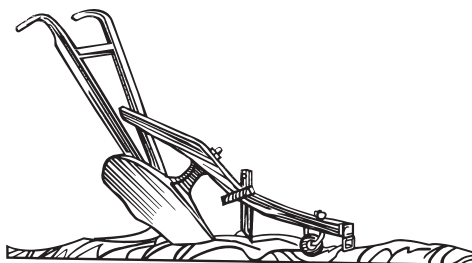


Carroll Van West
Tennessee State Historian

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*Prepared by MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Sponsored by Tennessee Department of Agriculture*

2026





Sunlit Hill Farm, Smith County. *Photograph by the author.*

Cover Image: *Photograph by Boyd Barker, Tennessee Department of Agriculture.*

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*by Commissioner Andy Holt,
Tennessee Department of Agriculture*

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Prepared by MTSU Center for Historic Preservation



Triple D Farm, Sumner County. *Photograph by the author.*

Preface

Farming is our heritage in Tennessee, and it remains our way of life and our state's number one industry. Recognizing Century Farms is one way we celebrate the families whose work sustains this tradition. When a farm has remained in the same family for 100 years or more, it represents perseverance, stewardship, and a deep commitment to the land.

Century Farms remind us that agriculture is not just a job, but a calling passed from one generation to the next. These families' stories are rooted in faith, hard work, and resilience. This edition of Tennessee's Frontier Century Farms introduces you to Tennessee families, what nourishes them, and why they steadfastly carry on.

For today's citizens, Century Farms connect us to where our food comes from and to the values that built our state. We celebrate these farms because honoring them is a tribute to responsible land stewardship, strong families, and the enduring importance of agriculture in Tennessee's economy and culture.

—Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Andy Holt



Century Farms exhibit at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum, 1988. *Photograph by the author.*

Introduction

When in July 1985 I arrived to take my place at the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, the very first day of work involved a trip to the Ellington Agricultural Center, home to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and a meeting with Commissioner of Agriculture William Walker. We met at the department's impressive conference room at Brentwood Hall, a beautiful historic home of the 1920s that had been modeled after the Hermitage of President Andrew Jackson. I had no idea what the meeting was about until Commissioner Walker began to speak. He talked about Tennessee's Century Farms and how the department had established the program in order to do its part for the American Bicentennial in 1976. He discussed how his staff had diligently worked with county historians and county extension agents to identify farms that were still agriculturally productive and had been in the same family for one hundred years. Based on that information, the department had presented each of the farms with signs that proclaimed their official Tennessee Century Farms status. Then the staff arranged the information in files, and, with the bicentennial over, they proceeded to move on with the business of the department.

Walker then looked at me and asked point-blank: We hear that you are good at rural historic preservation—could you take the files and produce a book about the Century Farms? I had no idea that request was coming, but the answer was right in front of me. Yes, I said, because if a Century Farm was a place that was in constant agricultural production by the same family for over one hundred years, then my formulative years came at such a place, the Van Hooser Farm of my mother's, which I now co-own with my cousin in Cannon County. I came from a Century Farm family.

As you might expect, everyone in that room liked that—no one had known that fact about my background. Handshakes went all around, and that same day I met with two members of the department's staff who proved critical to the project's success: Mark McBride, who worked in the department's communications, and Dot Curtis, the curator of the Tennessee Agricultural Museum. Dot Curtis was invaluable in all of the Century Farms projects for a generation. Mark McBride soon returned to the private sector, but he also never lost his passion for Century Farms. His replacement, Tom Womack, became a good friend and ally for the next 35 years. Ever

since that relationship with the department began in the summer of 1985, my thoughts have never strayed far from sharing the stories of Tennessee's Century Farms.

Farm families, county agents, and county historians were ever so gracious in 1985 to 1986 when I traveled the state to better understand the farms and to take photographs. The book, *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective*, was published in 1987. But that was only the start. My colleague at the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Caneta S. Hankins, had the great idea of creating a traveling exhibit on the Century Farms that went all across the state over the next two years. Again, the willingness of everyone involved with the farms to share their stories made each the opening of each exhibit venue a special event.

Then it became a matter of integrating the Century Farms into everything we did at the Center for Historic Preservation. In the 1990s came the nomination of many farms to the National Register of Historic Places—because those families wanted a more permanent way of preserving their place—and as I rolled into heading up the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* project for the State Bicentennial, we made sure that Century Farms were included in that reference work.

The same was true when the Center for Historic Preservation was named the administrator of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area at the turn of the 21st century. We knew from the Century Farm stories that many families, and their farms, had been ripped apart by the war and the process of post-war Reconstruction. That realization led two of my colleagues, Caneta S. Hankins and Michael T. Gavin, to prepare their own book, *Plowshares and Swords: Tennessee Farm Families Tell Civil War Stories*, published in 2013.

In 2002, I was named the Center's director and Caneta S. Hankins served as the Center's assistant director. She administered the Century Farms program on a daily basis. For ten years, she took it in new directions and new heights, with public programming across Tennessee. Hankins and Gavin even collaborated on another book, *Barns of Tennessee* (2009), which featured many wonderful historic barns from the Century Farms.

Throughout the decades the number of registered farms continued to increase. What had been a listing of 786 farms in 1987 grew to almost 2,000 farms by the 2010s. To highlight these farms, and to brag on their histories and accomplishments, I launched the Tennessee Century Farms Facebook page in 2012. I had hoped that a few hundred would join, but I was quickly proven wrong. The numbers are in the thousands of "likes" today.

The next agenda centered on the Tennessee Future Farmers of America, an organization that naturally counted many Century Farmers among its members. It also was a gratifying opportunity to work again with Mark McBride, now a Farm Bureau agent in Manchester but also a member of the board of the Tennessee FFA Foundation. Tennessee FFA had historic records that needed organizing, and the Center had the perfect doctoral graduate student for the project, Kevin Cason. Dr. Cason got everything in order, and then came the request to produce a history of this pivotal agricultural organization. My Center colleague Savannah Grandey Knies joined that effort and in 2016 we produced the booklet, *Tennessee FFA: Tradition and Transformation*, for the Tennessee FFA Foundation, with the help of McBride, Steven Gass, and Chelsea Rose.

By the 2010s, many Tennessee farm families were submitting their applications for the Century Farms program. Dozens of new applications arrived each year, and the task of reviewing and managing the submissions fell to the capable hands of the Center for Historic Preservation's assistant director, Dr. Antoinette van Zelm, and Krystal Marin, the Center's administrative assistant. Dr. van Zelm and Marin have done a commendable job working with the farm families and encouraging them to share their farm and family histories.

Then came 2024. Thirty-nine years after that 1985 meeting in the Brentwood Hall conference room came a second meeting, with me, Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, Dr. van Zelm, Ms. Knies, and Dr. Elaura Guttormson, director of the Tennessee Agricultural Museum. This time, the request was for a new book—but everyone admitted that a book with 2,200 farms was just too big to even contemplate, much less fund. Instead, we looked back to the beginnings of the program, during America's 200th birthday, and thought why not a new book, for America's 250th birthday, that would highlight the Frontier Century Farms of Tennessee's agricultural past.

That book is now in your hands. *Tennessee's Frontier Century Farms* selects early farms from each Grand Division and the Cumberland Plateau, along with the earliest Frontier Farms established by newly freed African Americans in the years immediately after the Civil War. To identify the farms to for inclusion in the book, I reviewed the original applications and then dug deep into the primary sources of Tennessee history. Compared to the mid-1980s, there are so many online tools to use for history research today. I put those to good use. I verified when a farm actually started producing, not just when land may have been obtained, because



Century Farms exhibit at MTSU, 1989. Photograph by the author.

the frontier experience began when the plow hit the dirt and the family actually lived on the land. We also used county property records and on-site verifications to certify that yes, each of these farms is still in family hands and remains agriculturally productive. Agriculture has always been a tough business—it's even tougher now.

The book is organized by the three Grand Divisions, and then by counties. Over the years, families have provided hundreds of images of their land, families, and farm buildings, and we use many of those in the book. In late 2025, I also traveled to take present-day photographs at a representative number of farms from each Grand Division and the Plateau.

The book's second part is a list of all of the Century Farms in Tennessee that we could verify as still in family hands and still agriculturally productive. These are listed in alphabetical order, from Anderson to Wilson counties. Dr. van Zelm and Ms. Marin worked with a team of MTSU graduate public history students to produce that list. They have talked with county historians and extension agents to verify and update applications and leveraged the Century Farms Facebook page to request additional information.

No doubt, Tennessee agriculture has changed significantly since 1985. Continued mechanization has replaced farm workers. Burley tobacco, once dominant in many areas in the twentieth century, is now cultivated at far fewer farms. Many farm families have left the dairy industry, which was still vibrant in 1985. The number of farms across the state has decreased as has the number of acres of Tennessee land devoted to agriculture. We have lost many farms, and too many Century Farms, in those decades. At the same time, Tennessee agriculture today has greater crop diversity than in the past. There is more attention given to sustainable practices, such as no-till farming. Poultry production has boomed, and families pursue value-added products, like specialty meats, more so than in the past. In 1985, only a handful of family farmers used computers in their daily work; now everyone uses that technology. Give credit where credit is due: Tennessee farmers still serve as a foundation for the state's economy. The Frontier Century Farms highlighted in this book are truly special places. It is an honor to share their stories and their images with you and to celebrate what these places mean to Tennessee agriculture and our shared past.

East Tennessee

The oldest Frontier Century Farms are found in East Tennessee, where settlement was underway by the 1770s, a generation before the State of Tennessee was established in 1796. Upper East Tennessee at the time of the Revolutionary War was part of North Carolina and many of the settlers who came here during and after the war had land grants issued by North Carolina. In 1784 the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Greene, and Spencer (soon renamed Hawkins) attempted to create the State of Franklin, which operated as a separate government but was never recognized by either North Carolina or the Continental Congress. In 1790, the U.S. Congress asserted control of the region by the creation of the Territory South of the Ohio River, better known as the Southwest Territory. Then in 1796 Congress recognized the State of Tennessee as the 16th state of the United States.

The ever-shifting political boundaries of the Upper East Tennessee region 200 years ago often make it difficult to trace early land holdings. Several Frontier Century Farms began in one county and then became part of a new county, not once but sometimes twice. This listing is organized by the county location of the farm today, not its county location at the time the family established their farm.



Sketch of historic Massengill Mill. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

GRAINGER COUNTY

MASSENGILL FARM (1796)

Owl Hole Gap Road, Rutledge

This 230-year-old family farm began when Revolutionary War veteran Michael Massengill and his wife Dorcus Stone Massengill began to farm approximately 200 acres in the Buffalo Springs area of newly formed Grainger County in 1796. Born in North Carolina in 1756, Massengill was one of the Overmountain Men who fought at King's Mountain in 1780. With permission of the county court, Massengill soon built a grist mill that became a county landmark. When he died in 1834, his will recorded that he owned slaves named Russell, Washington, Margaret, Pat, Abraham, Bob, John, Charlotte, Bill, and Calvin. He was buried at the family cemetery that still exists at the farm.

Much of the farm passed to his son Robert Massengill, who significantly expanded the farm into a plantation of 1,600 acres, worked by 36 slaves in 1850, a number that had decreased to 29 by the time of the Civil War. The war brought hardship to the Massengills, as U.S. forces occupied the farm and mill between 1863-1864. At that time, many Massengill slaves escaped from the farm to find safety and freedom behind Union lines. Near the end of the war, according to an account published in a Georgia newspaper in March 1865, a group of Unionists assaulted Massengill and beat him "until they supposed him dead." Another account records that a Unionist supporter shot and killed Massengill. Both accounts agree that the bushwhackers then burned the house and the mill. The facts about Massengill's death cannot be reconciled, but his tombstone in the family cemetery dates to March 1865. The war brought both death and devastation to the family farm.

The family did not give up. Robert's wife Elizabeth Paul Massengill and their son Soloman S. kept the farm alive. They sold land for funds to rebuild the mill. Within a generation, they restored the farm to prosperity. In



Ken Givens presents Century Farm sign to Emily and T.J. Cantwell.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Buffalo Springs Falls was once part of the Massengill Farm.
Photograph by the author.

1893, Solomon married Emily Jarnigan. After Solomon's death in 1906, his oldest son, Will Massengill, became the farm manager. His mother Emily continued to live at the farm until 1927.

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit the Massengill Farm hard, as it did for most of their neighbors. New Deal programs offered a lifeline. State officials wanted to work with the Civilian Conservation Corps to establish game preserves to help repopulate the land with wild game and the region's waterways with fish. In 1935, Will Massengill sold to the state over 300 acres of the farm, which included the famous Buffalo Springs Waterfall. The state then created the Buffalo Springs Fish and Game Preserve, which the CCC built and opened by the end of the decade. The preserve is now the Buffalo Springs Wildlife Management Area. The state in the 1930s planned to restore the Massengill Mill as a historic site, but those plans never came to fruition. The mill was eventually moved to Townsend in the 1990s, but a fire destroyed the building before its restoration was completed.

After Will Massengill died in 1940, the remainder of the farm passed to five great-great-great-grandchildren. Emily Dodson Cantwell and Willis L. Dodson managed different sections of the farm into the 21st century. The land yielded wheat, hay, and cattle. After Emily's death in 2012, followed by her husband T.J. Cantwell's death in 2020, their daughter Ruby Cantwell Sherrill became the latest generation to take care of the historic homeplace and farm.



Elmwood Farm house, 1986. *Photograph by the author.*

GREENE COUNTY

ELMWOOD FARM (1777)

Chuckey Pike, Chuckey

Henry Earnest and Mary Stephens Earnest, who left Virginia for the Nolichucky River Valley in 1777, established Elmwood Farm one year after the Declaration of Independence. It is Tennessee's oldest Century Farm. Their property stretched along both banks of the Nolichucky River, and many of the farm's historic buildings and related historic sites are part of the Earnest Farms Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Circa 1782, Earnest built a massive two-story log dwelling that rested on a full stone basement banked into the river bluffs; it was a type of log building familiar to Earnest, a native of Switzerland. The house remains a frontier architectural marvel. It survived the destructive 2024 flood that washed away the farm's historic toll house and bridge abutments while damaging the circa-1830 brick Earnest farmhouse and covering the nearby historic Ebenezer Methodist Church cemetery with mud.

The Earnest family had a significant impact on early Greene County history. Henry Earnest gave land for Ebenezer Methodist Church and cemetery and also served as a member of the county court during the territorial era. His son Felix fought as one of the Overmountain Men at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780.

Peter Earnest and Ruth Fain Earnest, the next owners, acquired slaves to expand crop and livestock production, owning 17 slaves in 1850 and 15 in 1860. They had a well-crafted Federal-style brick house built on the north side of the river around 1830, and added a grist mill and ferry to the farm's operations. With the approach of the new East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad in the 1850s, Peter led investors to create a toll bridge



Earnest Log House, facade, 2024. *Photograph by the author.*



Earnest Log House, rear, 2024.
Photograph by the author.



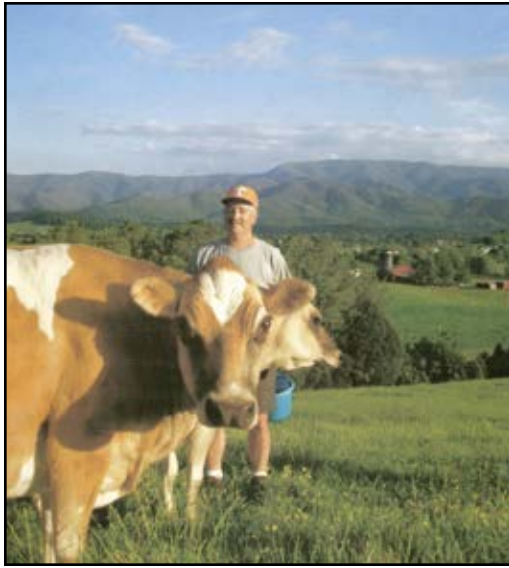
Flood Damage to Elmwood Farm, 2024.
Photograph by the author.

that allowed farmers north of the Nolichucky River to move livestock and crops to the railroad stop at Chuckey.

The bridge and railroad introduced a new era of prosperity to the farm, but that same transportation connection brought misery during the Civil War. Peter Earnest died in February 1862, leaving son Benjamin Franklin Earnest to shepherd the farm through the trials of occupation, by both armies, during the conflict. Nicholas P. Earnest and his wife Eliza Doggett Earnest acquired the farm in 1887 and managed it until Nicholas's death in 1956. Through this almost seven decades, agricultural in Tennessee changed markedly as farmers who once relied on a strategy of mixed agriculture moved into market-focused production. Burley tobacco and the dairy industry became much more important to Elmwood's profits.

Nicholas P. Earnest allowed part of the farm to become a test demonstration area for the University of Tennessee Extension Service. As president of the East Tennessee Farmers' Association, he helped launch the Greene County chapter of the Farm Bureau and served as a local bank president.

At his death the farm passed to his children, and eventually his daughter Katherine Earnest Clemmer and her husband Claudius Clemmer controlled much of the historic acreage. They lived in the circa-1830 brick home. Tobacco and dairy products remained key commodities and the farm became recognized for its history and longevity, especially after Governor Lamar Alexander visited the farm during the Tennessee Homecoming events of 1986. Wilhelmina Williams and her husband Beverly Williams led the farm into the 21st century and helped create the non-profit Fort House Foundation to preserve the pioneer home of Henry Earnest.



Tim Armstrong at Horse Creek Farms.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

GREENE COUNTY HORSE CREEK FARMS (1788)

Wilhoit Road, Chuckey

In the 1770s, Jacob Broyles and Elizabeth Yowell Broyles traveled to the western frontier of North Carolina. By 1788 they had acquired the land that began Horse Creek Farms. Two Pioneer Century Farms initially grew out of the Broyles' landholdings—Horse Creek Farm and the Mattie Lou Broyles Snapp Farm. But after Mattie Lou Broyles' death in 2013, the two properties became reunited as Horse Creek Farms, operated in 2025 by two Broyles' descendants, father Tim Armstrong and son Scott Armstrong and his family. The Armstrongs have turned the farm into a model 21st-century blend of specialized farming, in this case dairy products, and agritourism.

The Broyles family came from Virginia and began with 640 acres, which by 1794 had become a farm of over 1,000 acres operated by second-generation owners Lewis and Mary McCain Broyles. The couple and their seven children produced a mix of

small grains and livestock for both home consumption and the market. They also established a grist mill and a family cemetery.

In 1989, the fifth-great-grandson of the founders, Tim Armstrong, acquired the farm. He, his wife Nedra, and children Brandy and Scott, cultivated 128 acres of the original farm, specializing in registered Guernsey and Jersey cattle. They still used one of the farm's hand-hewn pegged barns from the 19th century. The Armstrongs were model modern farmers. Tim was a director on the Greene County Farm Bureau Board, a county commissioner, and a school board member who also served the athletic programs at Chuckey-Doak High School. He was on the boards of Dairymen, Inc., and Dairy Farmers of America. Tim had earned the FFA's American Farmer Degree in 1977. His children followed suit. Scott earned the degree in 2001 and Brandy earned his in 2005, the same year she served as FFA chapter president. They were Tennessee's first family to have father, son, and daughter hold the American Farmer Degree. Tim and Brandy were active in 4-H.

In 2020, Scott and his wife Emily Armstrong acquired the historic Snapp Farm and reunited the family



Broyles Snapp farm landscape, Horse Creek Farms.
farms. They operate a thriving farm plus agritourism program today.



19th-century farmhouse, Horse Creek Farms.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Aerial view of Woolsey Overlook Farms. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

GREENE COUNTY

WOOLSEY OVERLOOK FARMS (1779)

Misty Woods Lane, Greeneville

Established as a family farm in 1779, Woolsey Overlook Farms is now one of Greene County's primary beef producers, specializing in on-the-farm, grass-fed Angus certified cattle with beef products sold directly to customers through the farm's website.

John Woolsey III was a Revolutionary War veteran and as one of the Overmountain Men fought in the 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain. He and his second wife Sarah Oliphant Woolsey started the property with a land grant of 100 acres from North Carolina, but later expanded the farm to over 300 acres. Since the land was hilly, they established a subsistence farm by raising corn and small grains for themselves and to feed their livestock, including cattle.

Of their thirteen children, Israel Woolsey inherited 50 acres of the original farm then acquired the other 50 acres from his siblings. Over the next 30 years he expanded the farm's acreage and production. According to the 1860 census, the property was worth \$10,000, a large dollar value for the time. Woolsey's grist mill, blacksmith shop, and other personal property were worth an additional \$4,000. Two sons fought for the First Tennessee Cavalry, U.S.A., in the Civil War. One of these veterans, Bob Woolsey, operated the farm from the 1870s until his death in 1888.

Subsequent generations not only cultivated the land but also helped the



J.B. Woolsey and wife Emma Ruth Doty Woolsey, c. 1942, Woolsey Overlook Farms.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Daniel T. Woolsey and wife Laura Baxter Woolsey,
4th-generation owners, Woolsey Overlook Farms.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



9th Generation at Woolsey Overlook Farms.
Grandchildren of co-owner Doug Woolsey:
Julia Ruth, Caleb, J.D., William, and Caroline.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.

surrounding community to grow and develop in the 20th century. For instance, the fourth owner, Daniel Taylor Woolsey, opened a store and also was a local schoolteacher. The fifth owner, Jim Woolsey, likewise taught school and he also served on the county court. Jim shifted the farm to focus more on dairy products once the Pet Milk plant opened in Greeneville in the 1920s.

Jim's son James Bailey Woolsey served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. After gaining control of the farm after the war, James expanded dairy production and adding large facilities for poultry production. He married Emma Ruth Doty. Another transformation came in the 1960s and 1970s when the construction of Interstate Highway 81 divided the historic land into two sections and led to the loss of a historic house, corn crib, and treasured apple orchard.

Despite the challenge of a modern highway dividing the farm, the family continued to expand farm acreage. By the 1990s the farm had over 1,000 acres, representing a massive modern farm that passed to current owners Doug and Roger Woolsey in 1999. The brothers and their families today serve Greene County in multiple ways, from public service to education to non-profits to churches and, of course, to agriculture. The Woolseys represent a multi-generational commitment to the land and prosperity of their region.

Doty Chapel United Methodist Church, Greene County.
Photograph by the author.



Historic barn at Doty
Farm, Greene County.
Photograph by the author.

GREENE COUNTY

DOTY FARM (1783)

Doty Chapel Road, Afton

Located about 11 miles north of Greeneville, the Doty Farm has been a Revolutionary-era landmark along Doty Chapel Road for over 240 years. Established by Azariah and Sarah Tucker Doty on 200 acres in 1783, the farm began like many other early frontier farms as a subsistence operation of corn, small grains, cattle, poultry, and horses. Azariah Doty (1745-1851) was a native of New Jersey who served in the North Carolina militia in the war. Doty later explained to Judge Samuel Powel at open court in Greeneville in September 1832 that he “scouted through Burke County [NC] to keep down the Tories and keep off the Indians and was kept in that employment first under one officer and then under another one and at other times employed not under any officer.” Azariah and Sarah are buried at the Doty Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery that is adjacent to the farm.

As Azariah aged, his son Ephriam and wife Sarah Cooper Doty operated the family farm until Ephriam’s death in 1869. Their son William C. Doty and then grandson William D. B. Doty cultivated the land until 1926. In subsequent years, the family shifted their work from row crops and livestock to burley tobacco, encouraged to do so by the nearby U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Tobacco Experiment Station, which had been established in Greeneville in 1932.

In 1942, during World War II, the family decided to honor its Revolutionary War founder and host a reunion at the church. The event proved so popular that it has continued ever since and was recognized by a proclamation from the Tennessee General Assembly in 2021.

Following the death of Lyle B. Doty in 2008, his widow Charlotte and great-nephew John D. Doty took over the farm and returned to producing corn, hay, and cattle. In 2025, John’s wife Barbara Doty owns the farm.



Bailey Brothers Farm and cattle. *Photograph by the author.*

GREENE COUNTY

BAILEY BROTHERS FARM (1788)

Main Street, Baileyton

Established by Thomas Bailey, Sr., and Elizabeth Weems Bailey in 1788, eight years before Tennessee statehood, the Bailey Brothers Farm is immediately west of Baileyton. The Baileys began with 320 acres, a size maintained by the second owner, son Thomas, Jr., and his wife Henrietta Keel Bailey. Like most early Greene County farmers, the Baileys planted small grains and corn, and raised livestock. In 1860, Thomas and Henrietta donated land for the Gothic-style Zion Methodist Church, which remains active today.

Thomas Bailey died in 1884, and Henrietta Keel Bailey died in 1888. Between those years, the farm split between two new owners, sons George Alexander Bailey and Dr. Gilbert Newton Bailey, Sr., although all of the Baileys continued to be buried at the nearby Bailey Cemetery on George Bailey Lane.

As the generations of Baileys passed, the farm's fields were typically planted in corn and wheat while considerable acreage was set aside as pasture for livestock. The family began cultivating burley tobacco in the mid-20th century. In 1998, when brothers Kenneth N. Bailey, Sr., and Charles R. Bailey inherited the farm, the



Ken and Amelia Bailey at naming of the Ken Bailey gymnasium of Bulls Gap High School. *Greeneville Sun, January 12, 2016.*



Bailey Brothers Farm Century Farm sign and landscape. *Photograph by the author.*

farm had 320 acres, but its surroundings had changed. Baileyton expanded from about 309 residents in 1990 to 500 residents, a 63% increase, by 2000.

Kenneth N. Bailey, Sr., who died in 2020, had been an educator and civic leader in Hawkins and Greene counties for over 40 years. He was a winning basketball coach at Bulls Gap High School from 1955 to 1975, then moved to the family farm at Baileyton and became the girls basketball coach at North Greene High School, and later coached the girls softball squad. He was an alderman for the town of Baileyton from 1977 to 2020 and named to the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 2009.

Today his wife Amelia and brother Charles Robert Bailey jointly own the farm, with their Century Farm sign proudly standing on Main Street on the outskirts of Baileyton. The farm's 227 acres yield corn, hay, tobacco, and cattle.



Flowers in Bloom at Mockingbird Mill Farm.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.

GREENE COUNTY

MOCKINGBIRD MILL FARM (1794)

Big Springs Drive, Mosheim

Two years before statehood, Joseph and Eunice Riggs Self established a farm of 100 acres in the Big Spring Valley of Greene County near the town of Mosheim. Through all of the changes in this area over the last 200-plus years, the family farm has survived even as it lost acreage. The farm now totals about 23 acres operated by Megan, Lori Ann, and Tom Dunn, who gave it the name Mockingbird Hill Farm in 2018.

The Selves were typical Greene County farmers of the frontier period. Like many other Tennesseans, they didn't own much land, but they cultivated it heartily, producing grains, a plentiful garden, and lots of livestock, not just for consumption but for trade as well. They were also devoted to the new nation. Both Joseph Self and his son Thomas fought in the War of 1812. Thomas assumed control of the farm in 1828 and expanded it to over 400 acres. He and his wife Elizabeth Roark Self had seven children, from which Claiborn Self became owner of 149 acres in 1839.

Claiborn and his wife Margaret Frazier Self operated their farm through the prosperity of the 1840s and 1850s but also guided it through the rocky times of the Civil War and Reconstruction in the 1860s and 1870s. They emerged from those

challenging times with a much larger place—about 1,000 acres by 1866. They were community builders too, donating land for a community school and Big Springs Baptist Church.

The Selves were more than civic-minded successful farmers. They also operated a grist mill and a saw mill powered by a steam engine. Adding to their mid-19th-century prosperity was mining. They sold Baryte (barium sulfate) from their land while a daughter, Ellen Self McGuffin, sold some of the farm's red clay to the Harmon pottery, located on Pottertown Road between Mosheim and Greeneville. When the Civil War came, these craftsmen supported the United States, and a group of them, including Claiborn's brother Harrison Self,



Wildflowers at Mockingbird Mill Farm.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Harvest gathering of vegetables at Mockingbird Mill Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

plotted to destroy a strategic railroad bridge over Lick Creek. They were successful, but the Confederate army pursued the arsonists and soon arrested Harrison Self. His family pleaded for and received a pardon for Self, which saved his life. But from that point on, Confederate officials viewed all of the Sells as potential traitors, making their lives much more difficult during the Civil War.

After Reconstruction, the once large farm was divided into smaller parcels. In 1883, 67 acres of the farm along with the mill, passed to the great-granddaughter of the founders, Margaret Self Butler and her husband David Butler. They continued to operate the mill on Lick Creek and also expanded crops to include tobacco before leaving 62 acres of Self land to their son Cecil B. Butler, circa 1928.

Cecil and his wife Anna Brown Butler became typical progressive farmers of the first half of the 20th century. They particularly focused on burley tobacco but also produced fruits and nuts for sale, including apple trees, raspberries, blackberries, black walnuts and hickory nuts.

Cecil Butler died in 1960 and 40 acres of the farm eventually ended in the hands of his son James A. Butler and wife Rebecca Faye Greene Butler. They continued the mixed agricultural products of the previous generation and worked with the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resource Conservation Service) to add two spring-fed ponds to the land. James A. Butler was a leader in the Mosheim Ruritan Club and superintendent of Big Springs Baptist Church for over 40 years.

By 2009, 23 acres of the historic farm belonged to Lori Butler Dunn and her husband Tom Dunn. The Duns operate a thoroughly modern 21st-century farm, relying on their expertise as gardeners and beekeepers. They designated a natural zone to provide habitat for birds and insects, especially butterflies and fireflies. Lori Dunn has also trained others in establishing pollinator gardens and dying fabric with native plants. In 2012, about 38 acres of the Self land gained a new co-owner, their daughter Megan Dunn, the fifth-great-granddaughter of the founders. With a focus on sustainable farming, the Duns had the property certified as a Monarch Waystation, a Wildlife Habitat, and a Butterfly Garden by 2018. They pledge: "We are on a journey today to tend the remaining 38 acres that make up our farm just as our ancestors did, in harmony and balance with the natural world."



Lori Dunn watering seedlings at Mockingbird Mill Farm.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Anderson Farm barn and tractors.

Photograph by the author.



Anderson Farm house.

Photograph by the author.

GREENE COUNTY

ANDERSON FARM (1794)

Reed Road, Greeneville

Established in 1794 in what is now known as the Albany community, the Anderson Farm began with 250 acres owned by John and Rebecca Carter Ross, with the property coming from a land grant registered to Rebecca's father John Carter in 1787. Early in the next century, the property passed to John and Rebecca Carter Ross's son Allen, who married Sarah Weems. They farmed much like their parents, harvesting corn and grains while raising cattle and hogs. He died in 1846 and was buried in Carter's Station Cemetery on Albany Road. Carter's Station was a well-known location of religious camp meetings in the early 1800s. Now it is the location of the beautiful Gothic Revival-style Carter's Station United Methodist Church.

William Ross was almost 20 when his father passed and he assumed operation of the farm. Married to Susan Carter, they had four children. By 1860, William Ross made his mark on the land by building a fashionable cross-gabled two-story frame house, with plenty of room for the family. The house remains a landmark on Reed Road. After William died in 1887 and was buried at the Carter's Station Cemetery, his son James E. Ross took over the family farm. He was already married to Margaret Hawkins Ross, and they operated the farm until his death in 1930. The property then passed to their only son William Charles Ross, who died in 1947.

William Charles Ross and his wife Ethel Reed Ross had four children. By 1959 the farm was in the hands of their daughter Betty, who was the great-great-great-granddaughter of the founders. Betty and her husband William M. "Will" Anderson transformed the original 250 acres plus an additional 97 acres into a largely cattle, hay, and tobacco farm, typical of Tennessee farms in the second half of the 20th century. The Andersons had two sons, Ross and Clark. Betty worked for the county schools for 20 years and was a sponsor of the Future Homemakers of America club at West Greene High School. Will Anderson died in 2006. Betty died in 2015 at the age of 94. In 2023, the farm retained 322 acres, under the direction of Betty and William's son, Milton R. Anderson.



Billy Morelock with 1950 tractor. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

GREENE COUNTY

GRAVEYARD HILL FARM (1795)

Old Snapps Ferry Road

Located on the historic Old Snapps Ferry Road, the Graveyard Hill Farm dates to 1795, when Robert C. Gray, Sr., and his spouse Catherine Alexander Gray established a farm of 815 acres. He died in 1837 and left the farm under the management of his son Robert, Jr., while providing for Catherine to stay at the “mansion house” for the rest of her years. During this first generation, the family also designated a cemetery, eventually leading to the farm name of Graveyard Hill.

During these years, a community developed around the farm known as Graysburg. Robert C. Gray, Jr., served as its postmaster from 1840-1883; he died in 1888. At that time the property left the Gray name as Robert, Jr., willed part of the farm to one of his daughter’s sons, Alexander Brabson Walker. A grandson of the founders, Walker served in Co. B. of the 12th Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A. He fought at the battles of Perryville and Murfreesboro. By 1864 his unit was consolidated into Rucker’s Legion, which fought in Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina for the remainder of the war.



Graveyard Hill Farm. Alexander Walker with his horse. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Robert Judson Walker with banjo.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Harvesting at Graveyard Hill Farm, early 1900s.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Walker married Rachel Morelock, and they had five children. He later acquired other family land from siblings and farmed about 460 acres. The family harvested grains, corn, tobacco, and apples. The livestock they raised included Belgium horses. Alexander and Rachel's son Robert Judson Walker next inherited the farm, circa 1917. While working as a local blacksmith as well as a farmer, he was best known and beloved as a gifted banjo player.

A fifth-generation grandson, Willis Brabson "Billy" Morelock, Jr., acquired family land of almost 43 acres in 1962. He farmed there until his death in 2012. Billy Morelock came from a tradition of service to Greene County. His family had earlier helped establish Liberty Hill United Methodist Church in 1984. Later his uncle Robert S. Mitchell was a founding director and president of the Greene County Fair Association, while his aunts Edith Morelock Mitchell and Rosena Morelock served as associate directors and committee chairs for the county fair association. The family has a complete collection of the county fair programs—a rarity for any family in the nation. Billy and his wife Jeanette Luttrell Morelock carried on those traditions, especially in the development of a major antique tractor collection and leadership in the J.I. Case Collectors Association. Both were active in the county 4-H program, and Billy taught adult mechanics at the local school.

Their daughters Lisa Morelock Gosnell and Ginger Morelock Frembling were also active in the Greene County 4-H. Lisa has served as a former president and secretary of the Tri-State Antique Power Association, while Ginger was a former 4-H extension agent for Chowan County, North Carolina. Today their family farm has approximately 86 acres.



Easterly Farm barn. *Photograph by the author.*

GREENE COUNTY

EASTERLY FARM (1796)

Bewleys Chapel Road, Mosheim

Located on the winding yet beautiful Bewley Chapel Road is the Easterly Farm, established the same year Tennessee became a state. The Reverend Johann George Easterly, a native of Rockingham County, Virginia, with German ancestry, acquired 600 acres to establish the farm. He soon found his land divided when the Tennessee General Assembly created Cocke County in 1797, leaving part of the farm in Greene County, and another large section in Cocke County. Easterly married Mary Harpine, and they had eleven children. Over the next decades, the family added another 500 acres, which yielded flax, corn, grains, and livestock, including sheep. They lived in a large two-story house, probably log then later covered with clapboard, which stood on high ground facing the Nolichucky River. The house is not extant, but the family cemetery established in the first generation remains.

Jacob M. Easterly was the next owner. In 1798 he married Mary Bible Easterly, and they had ten children. Jacob acquired portions of the farm in the 1810s and 1820s, amassing land in both Greene and Cocke counties. He became one of the best regarded agriculturalists in the region, especially for his experiments in the production of silk. The Easterlys planted mulberry trees for silkworms, and by 1836 the family produced seventy to eighty yards of silk cloth. But the climate of East Tennessee proved inhospitable to the trees and the silk experiment soon failed.



F. M. Easterly, c. 1870.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

In 1842 Jacob conveyed 115 acres of family land to his son Abraham's widow, Anna Parrott Easterly, and their six children. This branch of the family has kept the farm going into the 21st century. Frances Marion Easterly, the great-grandson of the founders, operated the farm during the Civil War. He and his wife Narcissa Powell Easterly had nine children, and in 1860 they owned two slaves, a woman named Angeline, 25 years old and known as Ann, and a 15-year-old male. Easterly supported the Confederacy and fought with the 12th (Day's) Tennessee Cavalry, while most of his neighbors stayed loyal to the United States. After the Civil War in East Tennessee deteriorated into guerilla warfare, a group of Unionist bushwhackers kidnapped Easterly and hung him from one of his own trees. Angeline cut him down, saving his life. After Emancipation, Angeline Easterly stayed with the family as a domestic worker. She died in 1920 and was buried in the Wesley Cemetery in Greeneville.

Almost one hundred years later, a descendant of Angeline Easterly, Melissa Easterly-Williams, met with the current owner Mary Anna Smith Pirozzoli and discussed their families' histories and their connections at the Easterly Farm.

In the 20th century, the farm was similar to others in Greene County in its focus on burley tobacco and dairy production. The Easterlys gained a reputation as progressive farmers. Frank Payne Easterly, who inherited the homeplace and 35 acres in 1905, later built the bungalow farmhouse that remains today as the home of Mary Anna Smith Pirozzoli, who took over the farm in 2003.



Easterly Farm sign. *Photograph by the author.*



Rocky Field Farm, 2006. *L to R: Marie Harmon, Betty Blake, Brittany Bolton, Jacob Hughes, Pamela Hughes, Wayne Hughes. Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

GREENE COUNTY

ROCKY FIELD FARM

(1796)

655 Doak Hensley Road, Afton

This 51-acre family farm has a deep history of nine generations, beginning with Virginia native Joseph J. White who purchased 40 acres along Lick Creek in the year of Tennessee statehood. Nine years later he married Margaret "Mary" Duncan and they had six children. Joseph White died circa 1850, leaving the farm to his wife and children. His son Jacob by 1852 owned a majority of the family land. He had married Rebecca Thompson in 1833 and they, along with six children, kept the farm moving forward in the late antebellum period.

After Rebecca Thompson White's death in about 1880, the property was farmed by a second Jacob White and his wife Salome, who continued the family tradition of cultivating corn and grains but also raised various livestock and fowl. Jacob also enlarged the farm by purchasing land from his aunts. Jacob and Salome's son Arthur White worked the land until his death from typhoid fever in about 1924, after which Jacob and Salome passed the property to Arthur's two daughters, Clara and Evelyn. Clara received the homeplace and its acres, while Eve-

lyn inherited 40 acres of farm land.

By cultivating burley tobacco and starting a small dairy, Clara and her husband Dorsey Hobart Hughes brought new prosperity into the 1970s. Their son Wayne recalled of those days: “We’d shuck corn under the shade tree in the front yard and can green beans. When I was little, my Papaw would milk cows by hand, and my Mamaw and I would churn butter. We’d go out and pick poke greens in the spring. In the summer we’d pick blackberries, and in the fall, we’d pick pawpaw’s. We’d kill hogs and make sausage and cure hams.” Wayne took over the farm’s management in the 1990s, and decided that “I wanted to restore Eden.”

Wayne inherited the farm’s original 51 acres from his parents. In 1996, he added over 21 acres and purchased 23 acres in 2007. Once he also reacquired Evelyn White’s former land, he had created a farm of over 130 acres. Wayne and his wife Pam began the land’s revival by focusing on raising beef cattle and maintaining pasture. Hughes noted that he understood “that I could improve the land using rotational grazing and changing our focus to improving the soil.”

He also protected the farm with a conservation easement with the Land Trust for Tennessee. He remarked, “God made us stewards of the land and we ought to take care of it.” In 2019, he was recognized as Greene County’s Farmer of the Year. Along with his farming, Hughes owned a Tennessee Farm Bureau agency from 2006 to 2019; then in 2020, he moved his agency office to Washington County. In 2025, Governor Bill Lee visited the farm as part of his tour of the state in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

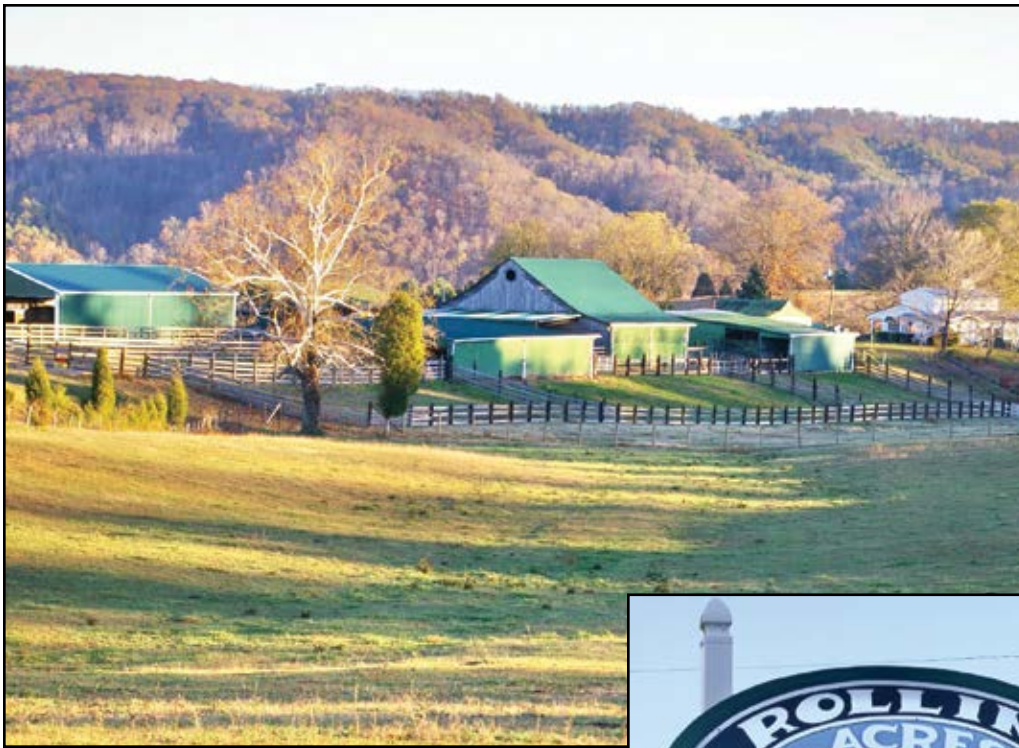


Cattle at Rocky Field Farm.

Photograph by Land Trust for Tennessee.



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee speaks at Rocky Field Farm for America 250th event, 2025. *State of Tennessee, Governor's Office.*



Barns at Rolling Acres Farm.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

HAWKINS COUNTY ROLLING ACRES FARM (1789)

Old Hwy 66, Rogersville

Between the late 19th century and the 1960s, innovations in progressive agriculture transformed this historic place, established a year before Congress established the Southwest Territory. John Grigsby, who was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1752, moved to what was then North Carolina in 1789. With his wife Winifred (Winnie or Winney) Breeding Grigsby, he farmed 200 acres on the south side of the Holston River and soon added 50 more acres.

John died in 1826, and his will gave the homeplace to his son Nathaniel Grigsby, who later married Elizabeth Lauderback in 1827. John's will also left his spouse Winnie with a slave family consisting of Will, Susan, Frank, and Gibson but specified that upon her death Will would "be no longer a slave." Winnie died in 1830, and whether or not Will's freedom also extended to his family is unknown. John Grigsby left three other slaves, Ede, Alcy, and Rose, to other family members but made no provisions for their freedom.

John and Winnie Grigsby were buried in the family cemetery, which is still maintained on the farm today as the final resting place for the different generations who have lived and worked there.

The farm's second owner, Nathaniel Grigsby, produced many types of farm commodities, including flax and fruit, during the antebellum period. He and Elizabeth also donated land for the construction of a log school. Nathaniel died in 1859 but Elizabeth lived until 1877. Exactly when their son James David Grigsby inherited 250 acres is unknown, but he and his wife Frances Guley Grigsby certainly were in charge of keeping the farm moving forward in the decades after the Civil War.

James David Grigsby died in 1889, and his wife and children operated the place until 1899, when daughter Lucy Anne and spouse Louis M. Arnott acquired the property. Arnott owned the adjacent farm and the two properties were merged. The Arnotts added honey, lye soap, and turkeys to the farm's products. The family



Rolling Acres Farm. Lucille Ryan, Tim Ryan, Leah Ryan, Colin Ryan. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

remembers that “with the development of the tractor, farm plow and other tools, man’s work was made easier” and more efficient.

A great-grandson, Edgar N. Arnott, acquired the original 250 acres in 1949. Serving as the director of the county Co-Op and as a member of other agricultural and civic organizations, he was among the first farmers in the county to electrify his operations. He began artificial breeding to improve his cattle herds and also managed a large dairy. Arnott died in 1976 and left the farm to his wife Jewel Odom Arnott, who also was an agricultural leader, having served as president of the Hawkins County Home Demonstration Club Council.

Their daughter Lucille Arnott Ryan and her husband Frederick “Rip” Ryan led the farm into the 21st century. They met while students at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and moved to the family farm in 1952. They expanded the farm’s dairy, which operated until 1989. At that time, the family left the dairy business and switched to beef cattle, a product the farm is known for today. Lucille and Rip were both educators in the local school system, and Lucille taught senior English for 35 years.

Rip Ryan died in 1997, but Lucille worked with her son Tim to manage the farm until her death at the age of 94 in 2021. Today, her children and grandchildren continue to manage the Ryan estate. Nine generations have lived on the farm.



Cattle at Rolling Acres Farm.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Barn quilt sign, Rolling Acres Farm.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Breezy Heights Farm. Dodson Creek runs through the fields.

Photograph by the author.



Breezy Heights Farm fields.

Photograph by the author.

HAWKINS COUNTY

BREEZY HEIGHTS FARM (1791)

Dru Hanes Road, Rogersville

Agricultural innovation and service to farm organizations mark the history of Breezy Heights Farm, which is south of the Holston River in the historic Persia community. In 1791 John and Nelly Dodson Saunders (later changed to Sanders) began the farm with 163 acres. They were prosperous stock growers who moved their livestock up and down the river valley to market. When John died in 1807, he carefully divided his property among his children and left 232 acres to James Sanders, who married Jane Ross in 1814. James and Jane expanded the farm significantly and cultivated corn, grains, hay, and flax while continuing the livestock business. They had nine children. In 1860, the year Jane Sanders died, the farm also depended on the slave labor of three adult males, two adult females, and three male children, placing the family in the middle ranks of slaveowners in Hawkins County.

John Ross Sanders was the next family owner. He and his wife Martha Ann Reynolds Sanders had seven children and operated their 184 acres from the end of the Civil War to 1891, when their son John Ross Sanders, Jr., inherited the homeplace and then bought out other heirs in 1907. An elder in local Cumberland Presbyteri-an churches for over 50 years and a Mason for 71 years, Ross Sanders was a charter member of the Hawkins County Farm Bureau. He also served in local government as a road commissioner and as administrator of the county's food program during World War I. He married Mollie Bailey, and they raised six children.

During the Great Depression, Ross Sanders conveyed 197 acres of the farm to Charles William Sanders and Rufus Sanders in 1936. The farm blossomed during these years, specializing in Jersey cattle and becoming known as the Breezy Heights Dairy Farm. The family also cultivated burley tobacco. The farm suffered a significant loss when the Tennessee Valley Authority took prime acres for its planned John Sevier steam plant, which went into operation in 1957, the year that Ross Sanders died at the age of 95.

Charles William Sanders married Frances Holston, and they had four children. He was an important agricultural leader, serving as president of the Hawkins County Farm Bureau, director of Hawkins County Soil Conservation, and president of the Tennessee State Mutual Insurance Company in Rogersville. Their only son Charles, Jr., better known as Chili, began to manage the farm in 1969 and turned it into a model beef cattle operation. He followed his father's footsteps in community service. He was chief of the Persia Fire Department and director of Hawkins County Emergency Medical Services, along with leadership roles in the Hawkins County Farm Bureau, Co-Op, and Rescue Squad. Chili Sanders built a new home, which he called Breezy Heights Two, along Dodson Creek and Dru Hanes Road in 2008. Cattle and hay became the farm's primary products. He died in 2017, and heirs still maintain the Dru Hanes Road property.



Circle J Farm house. *Photograph by the author.*

HAWKINS COUNTY

CIRCLE J FARM (1796)

Kite Road, Rogersville

This striking historic farm, with its 19th-century two-story farmhouse nestled on a rise overlooking fertile fields in the Holston Valley, dates to the year of Tennessee statehood. The siting of the house on a hillside tells us of the family's German roots and Shenandoah Valley origins since you will find many farmhouses placed that way in Augusta County, Virginia, where George W. W. Kite was born in 1734. He married Susan Barrett in 1761, and sometime after her death in 1776, probably in the 1780s, he moved his family to what was then far western North Carolina. By 1796 he had acquired and was farming 600 acres.

His son John W. Kite took over 180 acres of the farm when his father died in 1835. Married to Betsy Loudnerback, they had six children. A Revolutionary War veteran, Kite received a federal pension from 1831 to 1848. In his will of 1850, he left "all my tract of land whereon I now live," some 150 acres, to son Martin Kite, Sr.

During the Civil War Martin served in the 29th Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A. The family also records that U.S. troops occupied the farm at one time. The following generations of the Kites kept the property prosperous into the 20th century. David S. Kite and Joe Kite led the farm into the modern era; by 1940 both were living on the farm. David was 65 and Joe was 35. Joe Kite and his wife Mildred Burchette Kite farmed 63 acres, producing livestock, burley tobacco, and sugar cane. Their one daughter, Elizabeth Rose, married W. C. Manes. They continued with extensive farming of 63 acres, leaving the property to William Joe Manes, the fifth-great-grandson of the founder, in 1989.

The Manes family made the initial application to the Century Farms program in 1990. A year later, their son Joey established the adjacent Circle J Agricultural Supply, named in honor of the family farm. The business was community-centered, hosting such events as the Rogersville Shrine Club Car and Tractor Show. Joey Manes died in 2021. His wife Frankie Manes and family maintain the historic homeplace, which still maintains a stately presence as you travel on Kite Road today.



Circle J Farm sign on barn.

Photograph by the author.



Aerial view, Holston Valley Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

HAWKINS COUNTY

HOLSTON VIEW FARM (1795)

Christian Bend Road, Church Hill

Located in northern Hawkins County, overlooking the Holston River, is this twenty-acre Century Farm, part of the Christian-Bradshaw-Short family for over 230 years. Established in 1795, Lewis Christian, Jr., his wife Peggy, and eventually their ten children farmed 90 acres of prime river-bottom land. The first-born son, John M. Christian, acquired an undetermined amount of the family land in 1815. Within 20 years, John and his wife Nancy Christian had begun to distribute sections of the farm to their children. Out of these transactions, the next family owner would be Seth Ellis Christian, the grandson of the founders, in 1845. He and his wife Margaret Skelton Christian expanded their property to 196 acres by 1862. Despite its location along the Holston River, there are no records of any interference at the farm by United States or Confederate troops during the Civil War.

In 1892, Nathan Baxter Christian and his wife Ellen Sivert Christian acquired the property. They managed the land into the 20th century, turning the farm's op-



Tractor at Holston Valley Farm.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

erations from the mixed agriculture of the 19th century to focus on cattle and hog production. They also reshaped the farm's appearance, adding stock barns and a bungalow farmhouse in the 1930s.

One year after the end of World War II, in 1946, 80 acres of the farm passed to Effie Christian and her husband Joseph Bradshaw. They expanded the cattle operation, added a new barn, and began to cultivate burley tobacco, which required the construction of a tobacco barn for curing the leaves. Both barns were extant in 2024. Effie and Joseph Bradshaw also discovered that part of their land near the river was once a Native American settlement. In 1956, Jessie Smith, Jr., a farm laborer, plowed up several artifacts that were given to the collections of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at Cherokee, North Carolina.

The Bradshaws had no children but Fredrick Short, their nephew and the great-great-great-grandson of Lewis Christian, next acquired the property, keeping it in the extended family. Short had worked the land with the Bradshaws since he was eleven years old. Led by Fredrick and his spouse Loretta, multiple generations live on the farm today and produce cattle, corn, and hay.



Barn at winter, Holston Valley Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Dusk at Holston Valley Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

Long Meadow Farm house.
Photograph by the author.



Long Meadow
Farm overview.
*Photograph by
the author.*

HAWKINS COUNTY

LONG MEADOW FARM (CIRCA 1783-1791)

Carters Valley Road, Surgoinsville

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Long Meadow Farm has one of the most important collections of historic buildings of any Frontier Century Farm in Tennessee. Neatly arranged along Carters Valley Road, the many log buildings speak to the importance of that age-old tradition of construction on the Tennessee frontier.

Family traditions insist that the dwelling house's large interior log room was a house constructed circa 1763 by William Young, who had received a royal grant. The best primary source evidence for establishing the farm comes from a 1791 North Carolina land grant to his son John Young, a Revolutionary War veteran of the North Carolina 3rd Regiment, who was born in Virginia in 1763. Other primary sources, however, suggest the farm began earlier. John's younger brother, William Mayhew Young, was born in 1777 in what is now Hawkins County, an indication that some of the family was in the area by the 1770s. John Young received the land grant for his services in the war; perhaps he was farming the land by the time the war ended in 1783. The primary sources are not clear as to the exact year when the plow first cut through the land at Long Meadow Farm. What is clear, however, is that over the generations the family added various rooms to the original cabin, with the final major addition giving the



Long Meadow Farm stable. *Photograph by the author.*



Long Meadow Farm cabin.
Photograph by author.



Long Meadow Farm fields and cattle.
Photograph by the author.

farmhouse a long front facade, with a decidedly Victorian look. No matter its age, it is one of the most distinctive farmhouses among all of Tennessee's frontier farms.

In 1788, John Young married Margaret Galbraith and over the years they raised 12 children. Their son John took over the farm about the time of his father's death in 1844 and continued to add land to the property. The farm soon reached a thousand acres. John and his wife Sallie Miller Young had two daughters and one son. According to the 1860 census, John Young owned twenty slaves, and that number combined with the landholdings reflect his status as one of the region's most successful plantation owners at the time of the Civil War.

During the Civil War John and Sallie's son Wylie Miller Young fought in Company E of the 2nd Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A. John Young died in 1871, and the farm was divided between sisters Cornelia and Susan Catherine and son Wylie, who took his approximately 360 acres, which included the homeplace.

Wylie went back to farming the land. He married Ida Whitlock, and they transformed the farmhouse into its current Victorian style. They had four sons, three of whom were living at the time of Wylie's death in 1914. The farm went to the three brothers, Henry, Frances, and Robert, who jointly managed the land into the second half of the 20th century. They kept many of the historic buildings, but they expanded the crops to include burley tobacco and raised different breeds of livestock.

The next generation, Robert M. Young, Jr., Georgiana Young Pearson, and Frances Young Torbett, took control of all of the farm's 360 acres by 1974. They supervised operations, which concentrated on beef cattle. As the twentieth century moved to its end, they registered the farm as a Century Farm in 1994. A generation later, the farm remains a major beef cattle producer.



Valley Breeze Farm. The Sid Turner Family: Sid, Sandy, Tricia, Patrick, Tuan, Lanie, Deacon, and Turner.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.

HAWKINS COUNTY VALLEY BREEZE FARM

(CIRCA 1791)

Highway 113, Bulls Gap

Valley Breeze Farm began with 640 acres in the St. Clair community of Hawkins County. Founder Gabriel Phillips, a Revolutionary War veteran, and his wife Milly Keele Phillips moved to what became Tennessee by 1790, judging from the birth of their son John G. Phillips in the St. Clair community that year. Gabriel died at the farm in 1812, and Milly passed away in 1848. Their son William M. "Billy" Phillips, born in 1805, took over the farm's operations in the 1830s.

William and his wife Jemima Pullen Phillips had nine children. During the Civil War, their son William Marion Phillips allegedly died at the homeplace by the hands of William Sizemore, one of the war's most notorious bushwhackers.

But the dates of those events do not match up. William Marion Phillips, according to the evidence, died in March 1865. Sizemore's murderous rampage supposedly came months earlier, after June 1864, when his brother Henry was executed at a Confederate prison camp. Sizemore at that time had sworn vengeance on Confederate supporters, allegedly killing at least 10 people. If Phillips was one of those victims, this death came months after Sizemore's calls for vengeance. What exactly happened at Valley Breeze Farm in 1864 to 1865 will probably never be known, but certainly partisan violence destroyed many lives in upper East Tennessee during the Civil War.

Billy Phillips died in 1889, and his daughter Charlotte Phillips Arnott and her husband Minnis Arnott acquired 84 acres. He was a carpenter and blacksmith, trades that added to the farm's prosperity. Upon Minnis's death in 1907, the land passed to William Minnis Kite, who ushered the farm into the progressive era of Tennessee agriculture. He and his wife Elsie Mae Haun Kite built a new barn, corn cribs, tobacco barn, and other outbuildings. He relocated a tenant house and made it an addition to the homeplace. William also produced burley tobacco and became an early leader of the Hawkins County Farm Bureau and embraced extension service projects, while daughter Ruth was active in 4-H.

The 84 acres passed to Ruth Kite Turner and her husband Bruce Turner in 1940. Their six children worked the farm and kept it productive in burley tobacco and livestock. Between 1970 and 1971, their son Sidney, a U.S. Air Force veteran, returned and took over the farm's operation. He worked for the Farm Bureau as did his wife Sandy. The farm with 58 acres today relies on sustainable agricultural practice and produces cattle.



Valley Breeze Farm. Bruce and Ruth Turner.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Valley Breeze Farm. William Minnis Kite and Elsie Kite. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Mari-Mann Farm overview. *Photograph by the author.*

JEFFERSON COUNTY

MARI-MANN FARMS (1791)

Dumplin Valley Road, Jefferson City

The 1785 Treaty of Dumplin Creek, negotiated by the State of Franklin with the Cherokee Nation, opened lands north of the French Broad and Little Tennessee rivers for settlement. Richard Duffield Rankin, born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1751, was among several Revolutionary War veterans living in Virginia who took advantage of the new opportunities for agriculture in the Dumplin Valley. In about 1786, he and his wife Jane “Jannett” Steele Rankin moved from Virginia to what is now the Mt. Horeb community of Jefferson County. By 1791 they had title to 100 acres along Dumplin Creek. The next year, the federal government formed Jefferson County as part of the new Territory of the United States south of the Ohio River.

Richard D. Rankin, Jr., was the next generation to farm the family land. His brother, the Reverend John T. Rankin, also grew up on the family farm and became an ardent Presbyterian minister and an anti-slavery advocate, influenced in the latter by the convictions of his mother. In 1815 he was one of the founders of the Tennessee Manumission Society. After denouncing slavery in a sermon, members warned him to leave Tennessee because his views would not be accepted. In 1817 Rankin left Tennessee and eventually became one of the most famous abolitionists in the nation. His home in Ohio served as an important



James and Almyra McMurray House at Mari-Mann Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Mari-Mann Farm. Mt. Horeb Church remains the location of an annual Rankin family reunion.

Photograph by the author.



Mary Ruth Crawford and family heirlooms, 1980.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.

stop on the Underground Railroad. Perhaps due to his brother's fame, or the family's pro-Union leanings, Confederate troops during the Civil War took livestock from the farm in 1863-1864, for which the family eventually received \$437 in compensation.

After the Civil War, the property passed to Almira Rankin, the daughter of Richard, Jr., and his wife Mary Woods Rankin, in 1872. Twenty years later, Almira and her husband James M. McMurray built the Victorian-styled two-story gable-front-and-wing dwelling that remains standing today.

Son John McCampbell McMurray, his wife Louella Caldwell McMurray, and his brother Ben McMurray transformed what had been a mixed agriculture farm into a progressive operation that raised burley tobacco in addition to livestock and dairy products. Their home was a social center for the Mt. Horeb community, providing a library room for neighbors and hosting Home Demonstration Club meetings. John McMurray also served as the recording secretary for the Hebron Presbyterian Church for over 50 years.

Thomas Crawford and Mary Ruth McMurray Crawford inherited much of the original farm in 1969. They further modernized the farm and managed the property until their deaths in 2007 and 2014, respectively. Thomas Crawford served on the board of directors of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau for over 40 years, and was a member of the boards of the Jefferson County Livestock Association and the First National Bank of Jefferson County. Mary Ruth McMurray Crawford was likewise involved in many Jefferson County organizations. She graduated from the University of Tennessee, where she majored in Home Economics, and later taught at Rush Strong High School and served as the assistant dietitian at the cafeteria of Carson Newman College in Jefferson City. She was also on the board of the county Farm Bureau for over 40 years, and was a volunteer at Jefferson Memorial Hospital for over 30 years. The Crawford family continues the farm today as a beef cattle operation.

Oak Thicket Farm, Jefferson County.
Photograph by the author.



Oak Thicket Farm fields on a wintry day. *Photograph by the author.*

JEFFERSON COUNTY

OAK THICKET FARM (1792)

Caldwell Road, New Market

In the 1790s William C. Caldwell and his brothers Alexander and Anthony left Virginia and explored lands in what is now Jefferson County for new farms. They chose tracts south of the Holston River where Cherokee Indians had recently cleared land and cultivated corn. Caldwell married Eleanor Moore of Greene County in 1791; they probably started the farm by the next year. A family history described how he chose his land: “the oak-timbered land had the smallest corn and the soil was white and thin; whereas the pine-timbered land ... had fine corn and the soil was rich and loamy. He was not long in deciding where he would build his home.” The Caldwells were Scots-Irish and devoted members of the Presbyterian church, and for decades family members were active in the Presbyterian churches of East Tennessee.

William C. Caldwell died in 1840, and his oldest son Anthony Caldwell, who married Polly McSpadden, became the farm’s second owner. Anthony died in 1860 and Polly managed the farm during the Civil War. She administered the farm for almost 30 years, passing away in 1888. During the Civil War, her son David Moore Caldwell fought as a Captain in Company B of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry, U.S.A. He later served as the commander of the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization that supported U.S. veterans from the war.

The Caldwells grew grains and hay and raised livestock until the mid-20th century when Ralph C. Caldwell, the great-great-grandson of the founder, and his wife Minita Thelma Andrews Caldwell, turned to burley tobacco as a new commodity. Ralph served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and, like other returning veterans, when he came back home, he tried something new. In 1946 Caldwell established Construction Services Company, based in Knoxville. He was an active member of the Knoxville Downtown Rotary Club. He retired from business in 1981 and turned his attention to the family farm, ending its production of burley tobacco in favor of raising purebred Polled Herefords. Like his ancestors he was an active Presbyterian and had many leadership roles at the Fountain City Presbyterian Church. Betty died in 2007, and Ralph passed away in 2009. Their sons Thomas and Charles died in 2011 and 2020, respectively. Descendants today manage the Caldwell Farm’s 103 acres for cattle raising.



Blackburn Family Farm, Old Brick house, 1995. *Photograph by author.*

JEFFERSON COUNTY

BLACKBURN FAMILY FARM (OLD BRICK, 1792)

Hwy 139, Dandridge

Early manufacturing centers were scattered across Tennessee but were invariably located adjacent to the natural resources that they used. The Blackburn Family Farm, located along the banks of the French Broad River, was once part of the state's gunpowder industry. Revolutionary War veteran Samuel McSpadden established the farm circa 1792 with about 400 acres. In 1804 his slaves built from locally available materials a two-story Federal-style brick house on a bluff overlooking the river, and that dwelling gave the farm its 20th century name of Old Brick, until the family in the 21st century renamed the property the Blackburn Family Farm.

McSpadden operated a gunpowder mill. During the New Orleans campaign of 1814-1815, as part of the War of 1812, troops under the command of General Andrew Jackson used powder from McSpadden's works. He floated the gunpowder to New Orleans on flatboats via the French-Broad, Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers.



Blackburn Family Farm, Old Brick house and Douglas Lake. *Photograph by the author.*



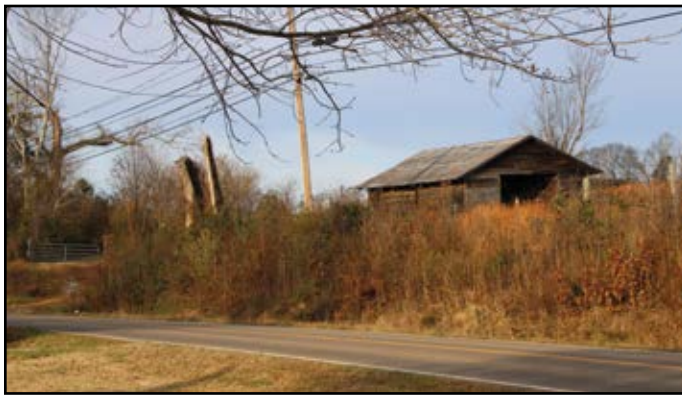
Blackburn Family Farm, McSpadden historical marker.

Photograph by the author.



Blackburn Family Farm historic log outbuilding and dinner bell.

Photograph by the author.



Blackburn Family Farm barn, divided from the house by Tennessee Highway 139.

Photograph by the author.

Alva McSpadden, who married Sarah Meek, was the second owners. According to the 1850 census, the McSpaddens enslaved two people, a 60-year-old man and a 14-year-old girl. When the Civil War came to Jefferson County in 1861, however, the McSpadden family remained loyal to the United States. Two of their sons, John and William, joined the Federal armies.

The property passed into the Blackburn family via Alva and Sarah McFadden's daughter Harriet who married William W. Blackburn. They were the farm's third owners. The Blackburns continued to work the property until a major change came in the early 1940s when the Tennessee Valley Authority constructed Douglas Dam on the French Broad River, forming Douglas Lake. The reservoir took a good bit of prime farm land but spared the Old Brick house. Compounding the impact was the construction of Tennessee Highway 139, which now divides the homeplace from the farm's barns and fields.

In 1942, Benjamin Alvah Blackburn became the sixth owner of the farm; the floodgates of Douglas Dam closed in February 1943 and soon the landscape outside of the Old Brick house had changed from that of a river to a lake. After World War II, Blackburn operated a real estate business in Knoxville but managed the 53-acre farm from the city, relying on the expertise of tenant Elmer Worth.

In 1970, Benjamin and his wife Mary Marston Blackburn moved back to the 53-acre farm, and by the 21st century their daughters Ruth Morgan and Catherine McNeil owned the land. Today, the family operates the farm as a family retreat and agritourism property. Several 20th-century farm buildings remain in use, and the family established a website, "Blackburn Family Farm," devoted to the history, architecture, and landscape of this amazing corner of Tennessee history.



Connie, Chad, and Melvin Ballinger at Dean Ballinger Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

JEFFERSON COUNTY

BALLINGER FARMS (1795)

Fielden Store Road, New Market

Nestled along a bend in the Holston River, Ballinger Farms began when Moses Ballinger acquired 300 acres the year before Tennessee became a state. His son Henry later acquired adjoining acreage in 1822. Over two hundred years later, Ballingers still farm the historic land, where they raise cattle, hay, and grains, typical products in this part of the Holston River valley. The Ballingers were Quakers. Moses was a native of Virginia, but in the 1780s and 1790s he lived in North Carolina, where he and his family were part of the Cane Creek Meeting. In circa 1795, he left to join a growing number of Quakers establishing farms along the Holston River and in the land that became Jefferson County. They were part of a gathering in what was called the Quaker Valley of Jefferson County, with their meeting, or congregation, named after the adjacent Lost Creek. The Lost Creek Meeting dates to 1797; today the Lost Creek Friends (Quaker) Church and Friends Burial Ground are important landmarks outside New Market.



Rock Quarry on Henry Ballinger land grant.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



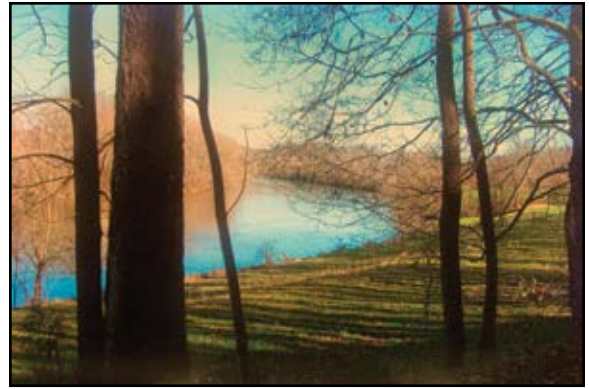
Lucian and Elmer Ballinger harvesting wheat.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Moses's wife was Hannah Allen Ballinger, and they had ten children, most of whom eventually left the region to settle in other Quaker communities in Indiana and Ohio. Quakers did not accept slavery and many left the South as a result. In 1815, the Tennessee Manumission Society, the first emancipation organization in the state's history, organized at Lost Creek Friends Meeting House. From that point forward, many believed that the Lost Creek Meeting was an important stop on the Underground Railroad, although no documents attest to this association.

Henry was the youngest child of Moses and Hannah Ballinger. After the death of his mother in 1810 and his father in 1814, he took over the farm. His parents were buried in the Lost Creek Friends Burial Ground. Henry died in the 1820s, and his wife Alsey Trogdon Ballinger kept the farm in operation until her death circa 1850.

In 1852, brothers Andrew Jackson Ballinger and Aaron Ballinger acquired the family land. Ballingers fought on both sides during the Civil War. Their farms suffered significant damage, and the U.S. Southern Claims Commission accepted Aaron's claim of for considerable destruction and loss of property from Union troops.

After Aaron Ballinger and Andrew Jackson Ballinger died in the late 19th century, the farm remained in family hands through Andrew's granddaughter Flora Trodgen Ballinger and her husband Frank Neal. In 1926, Harvey Ballinger acquired family property from the Neals and over the next five decades multiple generations of Ballingers raised livestock, cultivated grains, and added burley tobacco as a commodity. In 1976 and 1980, Bud Ballinger passed the family land to his sons Melvin and Dean Ballinger. Dean Ballinger passed away in June 2024, and today his brother Melvin and the next generation of Ballingers continue to raise cattle and horses on this beautiful property along the Holston River.



Holston River passes through Ballinger land.
Anthony Trent, photographer. Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Holston River site of Aaron Ballinger's mill.
Anthony Trent, photographer. Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Harvey Ballinger and children. Back Row, *L to R*: Jimmy, Lucian, and Hazel Ballinger. Front Row, *L to R*: Stella, Edith, Della, and Harvey Ballinger. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Wright Farm, Johnson County. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

JOHNSON COUNTY **WRIGHT FARM** (1789) *Sluder Road, Mountain City*

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Wright Farm mixes a deep historical past with the crops and patterns of 20th-century agriculture. In 1789 Joseph Cole, Sr., acquired a 363-acre land grant from North Carolina in Shady Valley. He was married to Freelove Mason Cole, and they both passed away in 1785. Their son Sampson, who was then 40 years old, took over the land and worked the farm for a few years before the founders' grandson, Jesse N. Cole and his wife Celia Brown Cole, assumed control and began developing the farm into one of the largest plantations by acreage in what would become Johnson

County. While Jesse amassed an estimated 2,000-plus acres, he did so with just a slight reliance on slavery. According to the 1850 census, he owned one male, age 75, and one female, age 41. Jesse Wright and Celia had nine children; their daughter Lydia became the next owner when her father deeded her 102 acres in 1856.

Lydia Cole had married Moses Wright in 1845, and they lived on the family land for over 50 years, until her death in 1898. At that time, their son Allen Jesse Wright, better known as A.J., led the farm into progressive agriculture. He married Girdie Belle McEwen in 1907, and they replaced the early 19th-century farmhouse with a new two-story frame dwelling, circa 1909, which had a second round of renovations in the mid-20th century after electricity reached the farm in 1941.

Between 1917 and 1947 the family surrounded the home with a cluster of outbuildings devoted to the different products that they raised. Girdie Wright supervised the buildings reserved for the raising of chickens and turkeys, and poultry joined dairy products and beef cattle as the farm's leading cash crops. Cultivating fruit, especially apples, also was important, and a historic orchard remains. The family also harvested timber, although the Wrights took steps to protect its stand of white pine-hemlock old-growth forest. In 1998 the Tennessee urban Forest Council recognized the Wright Farm's old-growth forest and listed it in the Tennessee Landmark and Historic Tree Register.

A. J. Wright died in 1964, and Girdie Wright passed away in 1977. Over the last 50 years, different family members own different parcels of the historic land, but they work together to steward the farm, its fields, its forests, and its traditions so they will be passed on to the future.



Wright Farm, 1999. *Photograph by Michael Testerman. National Register of Historic Places.*



Wright Farm, chicken house, 1999. *Photograph by Michael Testerman. National Register of Historic Places.*



Burros at Wagner-Worley Farm, 2004. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

JOHNSON COUNTY

WAGNER-WORLEY FARM (CIRCA 1790-1795)

Roan Creek Road, Mountain City

In the 1780s David Wagner lived in Davidson County, North Carolina, with his first wife Mary Hagey Wagner. Mary died in 1788, and David Wagner soon moved west with their children. In 1790 he acquired a North Carolina land grant for 572 acres in the Roan Creek Valley of what was then Washington County, North Carolina. He acquired a second land grant of 100 acres on the north fork of Roan Creek circa 1795. Ever since those transactions, the Wagner Farm has been a landmark in this beautiful valley.

In 1806 David Wagner married Virginia native Margaret Weitzel Wagner, and they had ten children. Their son Nathaniel T. Wagner acquired about 195 acres after his father's death in 1845, and that same year he married Sarah Slemple, but she died a year later. He married Elizabeth Baker in 1848, and two years later, together with their slaves, they built the first section of the family home, which still stands today. They also added a well, well house, and a stock barn, which also is extant. Its pegged log construction is why locals consider it the oldest standing barn in the county. According to the 1850 census, Nathaniel owned four male slaves, two adults and two children. They lived in a log house which stood near the farm's blacksmith shop (neither building remains).



Nathaniel Wagner House, built c. 1850.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Wagner-Worley Farm.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Quilt from Wagner-Worley Farm
with grandchildren, c. 2004.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Worley, who lived across the road from the homeplace. The Worleys established a small dairy, turned to the production of apples and apple cider, and remodeled the historic farmhouse. Their son, Thomas, Jr., who was born in 1939, took over the farm after his mother's death in 1997 and focused on livestock, tobacco, and hay. He, his wife Mary Ann Lowe, and their two children took the farm into the 21st century while also preserving the many historic buildings that document how Tennessee agriculture has changed over the last 150 years.

Elizabeth Wagner died in 1856, and two years later Nathaniel married for the third time to Sarah Amanda Baker, with whom he had twelve children.

The farm was productive, with corn, barley, flax, sugar cane, grains, hay, and livestock, including sheep that provided thread for textiles still in the family's hands. Unlike many of his neighbors, Wagner may have been a Confederate sympathizer during the Civil War. Family papers include a bill of sale from December 29, 1864, where the Wagners sold corn and hay to Confederate officials.

In 1900 Nathaniel died, and operation of the farm passed to son Clyde M. Wagner (his mother Sarah continued living at the house until her death in 1906). Clyde married Ada Willis in 1901 and for over the next 60 years, the Wagners led the farm into the progressive era of 20th-century agriculture. They modernized the historic farmhouse with new technology, including a telephone and electricity circa 1910 and later an interior bathroom circa 1928. Their farm products included corn, barley, and wheat but also specialized in green beans, which became a major cash crop in the county. They later added burley tobacco and also kept bee hives behind the blacksmith shop. Clyde Wagner also had business interests outside of the farm. For example, he joined other local farmers and businessmen to create the Farmers State Bank of Mountain City.

While the farm was associated with many of the technologies of modern life, it kept one 19th-century tradition—using mules for cultivation and harvest—much longer than many of the neighbors. The family did not add a tractor to the farm's operation until 1958.

More changes came when the land passed to daughter Jennie Lee Worley, the wife of Thomas P.



Roan Valley Farm house. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

JOHNSON COUNTY

ROAN VALLEY FARM (1795)

Lumpkin Branch Road, Mountain City

Roan Valley Farm is also associated with the early farm of David Wagner, a property that never moved itself but found its boundaries listed in three different counties between 1795 and 1836. Just as the shifting county boundaries of early Tennessee can cause confusion in the records, the division of property among a large number of heirs can confuse families, and historians, today. When the farm was first registered with the Tennessee Century Farms program in 1990, everyone agreed that the founder was Peter Dick Wills, who had bought land from Alexander G. Sutherland, and that the founding date was 1868, at which time a deed drawn up two years earlier was confirmed. But as more research has been carried out, connections between the 1868 farm and the David Wagner farm became apparent through the 1911 marriage of Roby Newton Wills and Gladys Ward, who was a great-granddaughter of David Wagner and a first cousin, once removed, of Alexander Sutherland.

Thus, the Wills family has cultivated the land for over 150 years with Roby and Gladys Wills playing a major role in turning the farm into a specialized operation for green beans, in the time when Johnson County became known as the South's "green bean capital." They also cultivated strawberries as a cash crop, introduced burley tobacco, and bought the farm's first tractor circa 1945.

Roby and Gladys' youngest son, John Ward Wills, acquired the family land in 1958. Married to Dorothy Vaught Wills, John farmed 147 acres, and in 1960 the family established a Grade B dairy operation. With early profits, they expanded it into a Grade A dairy that milked some 100 Holstein cows.



Roan Valley Farm log barn.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Roan Valley Farm dairy operation.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

John and Dorothy's son John V. "Skip" Wills expanded the farm's dairy in the 1980s and received both local and regional awards for his prowess. In 1995 Skip and his wife Margaret Jones Wills acquired 113 acres of family land and began to shift production away from dairy to beef cattle, corn, and hay. Skip Wills was an agricultural leader in Johnson County, serving as president of the Johnson County Cattlemen's Association. Both Skip and Margaret served as directors with the Johnson County Farm Bureau. Their daughter Erin followed in their footsteps as a leader in local 4-H and FFA, while also raising award-winning sheep. The family maintains several historic buildings at the farm, including the homeplace and a cantilever barn from the 19th century.



McBee Farm sign, 1998. *Photograph by the author. Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

KNOX COUNTY **McBEE FARM** (1785)

Washington Pike, Corryton

One of East Tennessee's most historic farms, especially for the dairy industry, is the McBee Farm, a 200-plus-year-old landmark on Washington Pike in northern Knox County. Col. John Sawyers was born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1745. He married Rebecca Crawford in 1776 and within two years they were living in Blountsville in what is now Tennessee. Serving as a captain under Col. Isaac Shelby, Sawyers fought with the Overmountain Men at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. In

1785 he moved to what is now Knox County and established his farm along an early pioneer route so "he could sell to neighbors if he preferred."

Sawyers was a community leader, serving as a founder of the Washington Presbyterian Church (where he is buried), a county justice of the peace, a colonel in the Knox County militia, and, after statehood, a



McBee Farm house, 1998.
Photograph by the author. *Tennessee Century Farms Files*.

member of the 2nd and 3rd General Assemblies, 1797 to 1801. He and Rebecca had ten children. Upon his death in 1831, John left 333 acres to their son William. Rebecca continued to live at the farm until her death in 1841.

About the time of his mother's passing, William Sawyers built the first section of the farmhouse that still survives today. He also added a grist mill to the farm. Like his father, he was engaged in local politics, serving as a county justice of the peace for over 20 years. He was also a slaveowner, with eight slaves, five males and three females, counted in the 1850 census. He died in late 1861, and due to the disruptions of the Civil War, the estate was not settled for some time.

In October 1865 his daughter Nancy Ellen, one of seven children of William and his wife Elizabeth Cassady Sawyers, took her portion of the farm into her marriage to Ganum Cox McBee, a veteran of the First Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A.

The McBees owned 273 acres of the original Sawyers farm. Their daughter Sallie Bell McBee took over the family land circa 1890 and managed the farm by herself, with the help of tenant and contract laborers. Her capable management of the property kept the farm together during many lean years and set the stage for the modernization of the property by her son Walter and grandson Charles McBee in the mid-to-late 20th century.

Walter McBee added burley tobacco to the farm in the 1920s and launched the dairy in the 1930s. In 1957, when he modernized the family home, McBee turned to the U.T. Extension Service for advice. The remodeling of the earlier kitchen wing into a new kitchen, utility room, bathroom, and garage was praised by the magazine *The Business of Farming* in 1961 as a model example of modern farm living.

In 1966 the farm passed to the three great-grandchildren of the founders, and Charles McBee and his wife Betty Tucker McBee took the farm into the UT-TVA Rapid Adjustment farm demonstration program, which was designed to raise the incomes of family farms. The key to the program was the use of computers to better monitor production, costs, and outcomes.

The program was a success, and the McBees became leaders in the state's dairy industry, with the farm herd reaching 115 cows by 1985. Charles McBee served on the board of the Knox County Farm Bureau, as president of the Knox County Farmer's Co-Op, and as board chairman of the American Dairy Association in Tennessee. In 1986 the UT Dairy Club gave him its Outstanding Service to the Dairy Industry Award.

Betty Tucker McBee died in 2008, followed by her husband Charles in 2014. The farm passed to their children, who manage the property today.



McBee Farm dairy operation, 1998.
Photograph by the author. *Tennessee Century Farms Files*.



McBee Farm cemetery, 1998.
Photograph by the author. *Tennessee Century Farms Files*.



Emma Ruth and William Catlett at historical marker. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

SEVIER COUNTY

TREATY HILL FARM (1783)

Kodak Road, Kodak

Nestled in the center of the rural village of Kodak, which is just south of Interstate Highway 40, is Treaty Hill Farm, established by Maj. Hugh Henry in 1783. Born in 1756 in Hanover County, Virginia, Henry was a member of the Watauga Association of 1772 as a teenager, and served in the Revolutionary War at the battles of King's Mountain and Boyd's Creek in 1780. He established this farm with a land grant in 1783. It was here, in June 1785, that John Sevier of the newly established, but short-lived, State of Franklin negotiated with the heads of numerous Cherokee villages, including Aucoo of Chota and Abraham of Chilhowee, a land cession known as the Treaty of Dumplin Creek. The extra-legal agreement opened lands in central East Tennessee to settlement, but Cherokees contested the treaty and the State of North Carolina and federal government agreed, since neither ever recognized the State of Franklin. In place of the Dumplin Creek Treaty, the United States negotiated the Treaty of Hopewell in November 1785.

Although the exact location of Henry's residence has never been determined, the Treaty Hill Farm pro-



Treaty Hill Farm barn, built 1900.

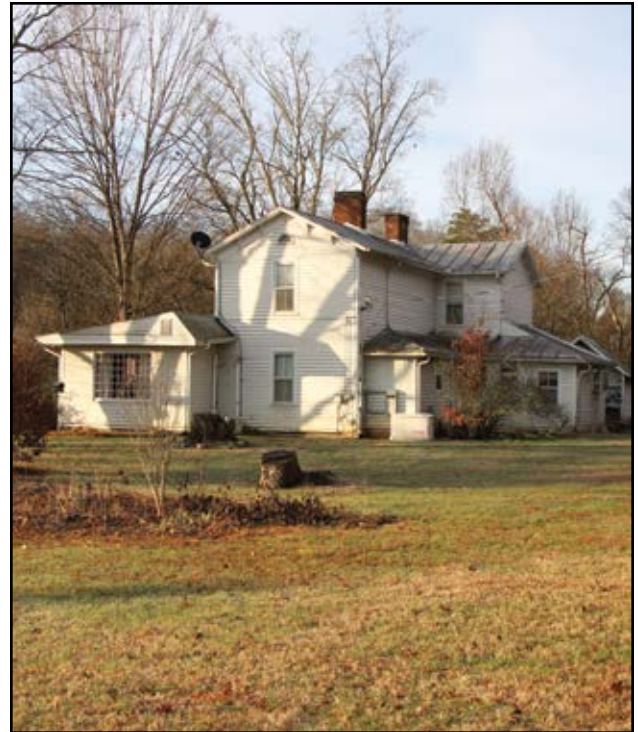
Photograph by the author.



Treaty Hill Farm house, front.
Photograph by the author.

tects land associated with Hugh Henry and these important events associated with the State of Franklin. Henry and his first wife Mary Long Henry, who died in 1813, had nine children. They enlarged the farm with additional purchases and soon owned over 200 acres. Henry and his second wife Mary Upton Henry, who lived until 1865, had another ten children. Maj. Henry died in 1838, and the family land passed to daughter Rachael Henry and her husband Ephraim Johnson. They had nine children. Ephraim died in 1862; Rachael died in 1885.

In 1934 William H. Catlett, a fifth-generation grandson, inherited the family land and served in the Navy during World War II. In 1946 he married Emma Ruth Catlett, who celebrated her 103rd birthday in 2025. William and Emma supported local efforts to tell the history of Hugh Henry and the Dumplin Creek Treaty through historical markers, dramas, and commemorative events. Four state historical markers in the vicinity interpret Hugh Henry and the Dumplin Creek Treaty. After William's death in 1993, 155 acres passed to Emma Ruth Catlett, who has been a great advocate for local history, especially the story and significance of the Dumplin Creek Treaty. Today her family manages the property through a limited partnership. The Catletts use the land for pasture, grow hay, and raise cattle. They also maintain the 19th-century farmhouse, which is an important local landmark.



Treaty Hill Farm house, rear.
Photograph by the author.

Hatcher Farm house.
Photograph by the author.



Hatcher Farm barns.
Photograph by the author.

SEVIER COUNTY HATCHER FARMS (1793)

Hatcher Mountain Road, Sevierville

William and Polly Crowson Hatcher were influential early settlers in Sevier County, establishing their family farm in Wear's Valley in 1793. They had eleven children, of whom their son Rueben took over the farm in the mid-19th century. He married Martha Magill in 1821, and they had ten children. The family improved and enlarged the farm to 450 acres.

Reuben Hatcher, Jr., next owned the family land, and during his ownership, and that of his son James W. Hatcher, little changed in what the farm produced and how it operated. The Hatchers were livestock traders and raised grains, particularly corn, to feed their animals. Andrew W. Hatcher, the great-great-grandson of the founders, modernized operations following his death of his father James in 1915. He added burley tobacco to the farm's products and also purchased the first threshing machine, powered by a Fordson tractor, to harvest crops in this area. During harvest season, he rented the machine to different farms in the region, producing a steady income. An accident with the machine, however, cost him an arm.

After the death of his father Andrew in 1948, Lendell Archie Hatcher directed the farm's activities. Lendell was a World War II veteran who participated in the D-Day invasion at Normandy in 1944. In 1950 he married Pearl Ownby, and they continued to improve the farm, with greater reliance on the burley tobacco crop. In the 1980s, Lendell and Pearl divided the farm, and Archie Hatcher and James F. Hatcher bought separate tracts. In 1986, the properties were registered as two separate Century Farms.

In the 1990s Archie Hatcher and his wife Karen were determined to keep the family land productive. He served as a director with the Sevier County Farm Bureau and stayed active in local efforts to promote rural life and preserve the Wear Valley landscape. Archie told the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, August 26, 1992: "I don't like subdivisions," but admitted that "people are going to come here and I don't want to be a stumbling block for them. They have as much right as I have." Wears Valley has developed significantly in the thirty-plus years since that interview, but the land of the Hatcher Farms, as descended from Archie and James F. Hatcher, remains an agricultural landmark along Hatcher Mountain Road.



Hatcher Farm fields. *Photograph by the author.*



Brabson Ferry Farm, Sevier County. *Photograph by the author.*

SEVIER COUNTY

BRABSON FERRY PLANTATION (1798)

Indian Warpath Road, Sevierville

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Brabson Ferry Plantation is one of the most recognized historic farms in East Tennessee. It surrounds the confluence of Boyd's Creek and the French Broad River, the location of the 1780 Battle of Boyd's Creek during the Revolutionary War. In 1798, John Brabson II purchased the existing ferry and farm of Andrew Evans and established his property. He married Elizabeth Davis, a native of South Carolina, in 1808; they raised ten children. In the 1820s and 1830s, Brabson expanded his landholdings into one of the region's largest plantations, with over 5,000 acres. Located at an important river crossing, with access to two central roads, the Indian Warpath Road and the Knoxville-Sevierville Turnpike, Brabson established sawmills, a tannery, grist mill, blacksmith shop, and a store on his land. He also became one of the area's largest slaveowners, with 46 enslaved at the plantation at the time of his death in 1848. The family also employed white tenants on the farm and at their businesses. In addition to the



Brabson Ferry Farm barn and plank house. *Photograph by the author.*



Brabson Ferry Farm ferry roadbed.
Photograph by the author.



Brabson Ferry Farm historic house.
Photograph by the author.

plantation, Brabson was a town merchant, establishing a mercantile business in Maryville in 1830 that operated until his death.

The estate in 1848 was divided between his wife and their children. Elizabeth administered the farm until poor health convinced her to sell to son Benjamin Davis Brabson in 1854. She remained at the plantation house until her death. Soon thereafter sons Benjamin and Thomas Brabson each built large houses on the plantation, with both extant today. Benjamin's farmhouse still stands along the historic road above the ferry crossing. The Greek Revival-style Thomas Brabson House is outside of the farm's boundaries and is now a bed and breakfast, named the Sidecar Inn.

The Civil War wreaked havoc on the plantation. Slaves mostly fled the place. U.S. troops occupied the property for a few days in December 1863. The Brabsons were Confederate supporters, and their neighbors who remained loyal to the United States punished them by stealing livestock, looting the property when possible, and finally forcing them to leave. In September 1865, the elderly Elizabeth Davis Brabson reported to her son Benjamin that locals "rocked my house so, burned my carriage, and fired my outbuildings, they also shot at me several times." Sallie Scruggs, a neighbor, went to Knoxville on her own to plead for assistance and safety for Mrs. Brabson with Capt. W. J. Colburn, the Assistant Quartermaster of the U.S. Army in Knoxville. As Elizabeth explained to her son Benjamin, the Federal army "gave her three wagons, an ambulance for me, and six colored soldiers for a guard." They brought Brabson to Knoxville, and she reported, "I landed here safely with most of my plunder. I really felt relieved when I got here though completely worn out with the excitement and fatigue of packing." Her son Thomas joined her in Knoxville while Benjamin and his wife Elizabeth Toole Brabson moved to the Tennessee town of Winchester, where he died in 1866.

Elizabeth Toole Brabson returned to the land during Reconstruction, and her son William Brabson, who had fought for the Confederacy, rebuilt the farm's fortunes. Elizabeth Toole Brabson died in 1868, and the farm eventually passed to John Brabson IV, who guided it from the late 19th century until his death in 1943. He returned the Brabson Ferry to a place of importance in local transportation and agriculture. After his death, the farm went to son Ben Davis Brabson and his wife Estalena Rogers Brabson. Ben was active in local business and politics, serving as president and board chairman of the Sevier County Bank, chairing the Sevier County Election Commission, and serving as a justice of the peace. Estalena was a local historian and prepared research for the plantation's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

By the 21st century, Ben D. Brabson, Jr., and his wife Elaine DeSimone Brabson managed the farm, which produced beef cattle, grains, hay, and soybeans. Ben was a veteran of the Vietnam War, where he served in Naval intelligence, and graduated from the University of Tennessee Law School. He practiced law in Sevierville while directing operations at the family farm. In 2021 the farm passed to son Benjamin Davis Brabson III and his wife Lucinda Bailey Brabson. They own the farm and manage its beef cattle herds.



LaRay Farm historic house.
Photograph by the author.



LaRay Farm barn.
Photograph by the author.

SEVIER COUNTY

VICTORIA LARAY FARM (1795)

River Road, Sevierville

Only a dozen or so acres remain of the original 428-acre farm along the Little Pigeon River established by James W. McMahan and his wife Rachel Calvert circa 1795, but great-great-great-granddaughter Linda Rolan is doing what she can to keep the land's legacy alive in an ever-expanding and continually evolving Sevierville.

The McMahans lived here probably before 1795 because in that year they donated 25 acres along the East Fork of the Little Pigeon River for the future county seat of Sevierville. Of their thirteen children, son Samuel W. McMahan, born in 1812, inherited a farm of 800 acres in 1832. The river bottomland was fertile and productive, with livestock and grains as primary commodities. In the 1850 census, McMahan was listed as owning two slaves, a teenage male and a teenage female. Of the minority of Tennesseans who owned slaves, most owned fewer than five individuals. Samuel McMahan fits that pattern. In 1855 he married Mary Henderson, and they had four children. The large Greek Revival-style house at the farm probably dates to the late 1850s, although it has had additions and renovations in the decades since.

During the Civil War, Samuel McMahan supported the Confederate cause in a county that was predominantly loyal to the United States. In 1865 he paid a heavy price for that support. In March he was charged with treason against the State of Tennessee for providing Confederate forces with beef, pork, grains, one thousand pounds of hay, and mules and horses from his farm. The case stretched into November 1867, and about a year later McMahan committed suicide by drowning. A local newspaper reported his suicide: "He had been in bad health for some time and was otherwise troubled in consequence of the war."

Mary Henderson McMahan lived until 1874 after which the farm passed to the oldest daughter Corra McMahan Henderson, who had married Robert Swann Henderson two years earlier. Their son Ray C. Henderson, the great-grandson of the founders, acquired a portion of the family land in 1930. He and his wife Rebecca Leake Henderson farmed a small plot of around ten acres and were witnesses to the boom in Sevier County that started in the mid-20th century. The farm's fifth owners, Ray C. Henderson, Jr., and his wife Wanda Allen Henderson, opposed the 1970s construction of the parkway, named in honor of Dolly Parton, that divided farmland. On their small farm of about 18 acres, they raised cattle and grew vegetables for sale to local markets and restaurants.

Their daughter Linda Henderson Rolan inherited about 12.5 acres of the founders' land in 2016. She raises hay and cares for horses and other animals.



LaRay Farm. Mary Henderson
Stokley and Lula Henderson
Swann. *Tennessee Century Farm Files.*



John and Sarah King. *Johnson City Press*, June 24, 2018.
Photograph by Mackenzie Moore.

SULLIVAN COUNTY KING FARMS

(1782)

Warren Drive, Piney Flats

Over 240 years, the King family has transformed this North Carolina land grant of 640 acres into a modern, prosperous livestock and dairy business. Founder Edward King had served in the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War and fought in 1754 under George Washington at the Battle of the Meadows at Fort Necessity, Pennsylvania. He later served in the Virginia militia during the Revolutionary War, then moved here with his wife Elizabeth Nichols King in 1782.

They had ten children. The Kings were charter members of the New Bethel Presbyterian Church organized by the Reverend Samuel Doak at Piney Flats in 1782.

In 1795 Edward King died, but Elizabeth remained at the farm until her death at the age of 80 in 1808. The farm passed to their youngest son John, who was also a Revolutionary War veteran. John's first wife was

Mary McKinley, and they had six children; his second wife was Sarah White, and they had four children. Like his parents, John King was a leading member of the New Bethel Presbyterian Church, serving as ruling elder. Like his parents, he also produced grains, hay, and livestock on the family land.

John King died in 1837. Isaac, the son of John and Sarah White King, became the farm's third owner. Isaac and his wife Susan Dyer King added tobacco to the farm's products and also built a Gothic Revival-styled brick farmhouse about 1879 that is still at the farm. They lived on the farm for the rest of their lives: Susan died in 1896 and Isaac passed away in 1902.

During the Civil War, Isaac and Susan's son Edward R. King, who would later become the farm's fourth owner, used a corn sheller to prepare and load a shipment of shelled corn at Allison's mill that traveled by barge to Knoxville. In 1862, he joined the Confederate army. He survived the war and married Mary Gross in 1868. Once Edward took control of the farm's operations, he changed little in what had brought the family success in agriculture. He also continued the family tradition of leadership in the New Bethel Presbyterian Church. Edward and Mary had thirteen children, of whom Roy A. King, the founders' great-great-grandson, took over the farm in 1908.

Roy King changed the farm significantly. He improved the livestock through breeding and was recognized as an expert breeder of horses and mules. He married Mary Snapp, and



King Farms house, built 1879.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



King Farms crib and granary.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

they had a large family of eight children. When Roy died in 1959 at the age of 79, his son E. Lynn King had already been operating the farm for 17 years. He continued the breeding business but also began to further modernize farm operations, purchasing the first tractor in 1945. He married Georgia Mae Byrd, and they had two children. On his 277 acres, Lynn was devoted to local Soil Conservation Service efforts and was named Conservation Farmer of the Year for Sullivan County in 1982.

The seventh farm owner was Stephen E. King, who in 1999 acquired 400 acres of family land, which yielded corn, grains, and tobacco as well as providing for the livestock business. He married Teresa Ann Whitson, and they had two children, John and Lauren. The Tennessee Farm Bureau recognized Stephen as the Young Farmer of the Year in 1986, and in the following year he received a similar award from Sullivan County Soil Conservation. In 2010 he received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture and Forestry. FFA recognized John as its State Star Farmer of the Year in 2010. He and his wife Sarah operate the King Dairy Farms today.



King Farms horse barn, built 1895.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



McCulley Family Farm barns. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

SULLIVAN COUNTY

McCULLEY FAMILY FARM (1782)

McCulley Place, Kingsport

With 1,733 acres of land grants from North Carolina, Stephen Easley of Virginia established the McCulley Family Farm near Kingsport in 1782. He and his wife Mary Ann David Easley had six boys, beginning a long line of family owners that extends today to the eleventh and twelfth owners, Lou Ann Moore, daughter Heather Moore Kunysz, and her husband John M. Kunysz, Jr.



McCulley Family Farm,
detail of log barn.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



McCulley Family Farm cemetery. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

Stephen, Mary Ann, and their boys opened their log home to visitors and to Methodist preachers. Bishop Francis Asbury noted preaching at the farm in 1788 and 1790. Stephen died in 1812 and was the first to be buried in the family graveyard that still overlooks the land today.

Easley had divided his property between two sons Robert and Peter sometime in the 1790s. By 1796 Robert Easley had 720 acres, and a portion of that land comprises the current McCulley Family Farm. He served in the local militia and as a justice of the peace. In 1778 he married wife Winifred Dixon in Virginia. They had nine children and lived in a two-story log dwelling that overlooked the road connecting Jonesborough and Long Island. A log barn from this period is still in use on the farm.

Thomas Easley, the founders' grandson, cultivated 276 acres of family land from 1830 through the Civil War. His family remained loyal to the United States even as many others in Sullivan County joined the Confederacy. Thomas married Sarah Hamilton, and they had ten children.

For the next 100 years the farm passed through multiple generations, becoming part of the McCulley family through the marriage of Lucy Ann Easley to Frank McCulley and their acquisition of family land in the early 1900s. The McCulleys cultivated fruit and raised livestock for the growing urban markets of Bristol and Kingsport and then added burley tobacco and beef cattle as cash crops in the 20th century. Lucy Ann and Frank's descendants kept the farm's market focus, adding tomatoes as a cash crop in the mid-20th century. Lawrence Bailey "Doc" McCulley and his wife Gladys Chase McCulley were charter members of the Sullivan County Farm Bureau.

Their daughter Lou Ann McCulley Moore took over the farm's management by the end

of the 20th century. As a teenager, Lou Ann had been active in 4-H, winning district and state awards. She earned a degree in home economics from East Tennessee State University and a Master's degree in art and interior design from the University of Tennessee, after which she worked as an extension home economist in Montgomery County. There she met and married Tom Moore, a U.S. Navy veteran who was a Clarksville city planner. They moved back to the farm by 1986 and built the current farmhouse. Focusing on beef cattle production, they joined the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. Tom passed away in 2018.



Lou Ann McCulley
as "Teen of the Week,"
Kingsport Times-News,
February 12, 1961.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



McCulley Family Farm house.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Cedar View Farm. Fields under cultivation. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

SULLIVAN COUNTY

CEDAR VIEW FARM (CIRCA 1788)

Edgefield Road, Piney Flats

The Torbett family's history is etched deep into the Piney Flats community. The founder of Cedar View Farm was John Torbett, a native of York County, Pennsylvania, who came to what was then Washington County, North Carolina, after acquiring a 200-acre land grant in 1788. His father Hugh was Scottish; in fact, he was born on the ship crossing the Atlantic to the Pennsylvania colony in 1740, while the family of John's mother Sarah Allison originally came from Northern Ireland. In 1813 John Torbett married Catherine Payne, and they had ten children. The Torbetts achieved success by raising livestock and harvesting timber. They were also community builders. The Reverend Samuel Doak organized the nearby New Bethel Presbyterian Church in 1792. The members of the Torbett family joined and supported the church, and they took on leadership roles in the congregation then and today. John Torbett, in about 1800, allowed a local Methodist church, now Edgefield United Methodist Church, to be built on his land. After his death, his heirs deeded the property to the Methodist church in 1847.

Hugh Torbett was the farm's second owner and married Elizabeth "Eliza" Smith in 1839. They had a large family of six children. In 1863, at the age of 45, Hugh joined the local Confederate guard as a private. He died in 1870, but his wife Eliza lived at the farm for another ten years.

John Alexander Torbett, the founders' grandson, took over the farm's operation after his father's death in 1870 and managed it for the next 50 years. He and his wife Julia Smith Torbett had four children, of whom their son Eli Anderson Torbett acquired 133 acres in 1902. Eli continued to raise livestock and grains on his 133 acres, as the family had for decades, but he also operated a saw mill and specialized in cultivating plants and flowers for sale, a precursor to the family's prosperous nursery business of today. His wife Mary Fitzgerald Torbett had twelve children between 1898 and 1921. She died in 1925, but Eli lived until 1961.

Farrell Justene Torbett, the founders' great-great-grandson, and his wife Anna Jane Glover Torbett took over 77 acres of the family land in 1955. While raising a crop of burley tobacco and a herd of cattle, they specialized in plants and established the F.J. Torbett Plant Farm Greenhouses. F. J. Torbett was a leading progressive farmer in the county. He served as a director of the Sullivan County Farm Bureau, chair of the county's Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee, and a charter member of the Piney Flats Ruritan Club.



Cedar View Farm. Eli Torbett house.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Cedar View Farm barn, built c. 1900.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

His son John Phillip Torbett and wife Barbara Denise Torbett acquired 102 acres of historic family land in 1994. John earned his degree in animal science from the University of Tennessee in 1978 and six years later was acknowledged as the Young Farmer of the Year by the Sullivan County Farm Bureau. He served as the past president of the Tennessee Flower Growers Association and the Sullivan County Cattlemen's Association and was an active supporter of the Sullivan County 4-H Club.

Phillip died in 2016, and the farm passed to his wife Denise. She and her son Colby have continued the plant farm business while also selling vegetables and brown eggs. Colby Torbett explains: "Everything grown at our greenhouse comes from seeds or cuttings.... We have been in business since 1949 and take pride in growing quality plants and produce."



Beech Grove Farm. Anita and Mike Newsom. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

WASHINGTON COUNTY **BEECH GROVE FARM** (CIRCA 1790)

Odell Lane, Fall Branch

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Shadrack Hale brought his family into the far western counties of North Carolina during the Revolutionary War and participated in fighting against the Chickamauga Indians in 1780, most likely at the Battle of Boyd's Creek. From 1778 to 1782 he acquired land grants for at least one thousand acres. Shadrack, wife Molly Kicheloe Hale, and children first lived among the Watauga settle-

ments in the 1780s. By circa 1790 the Hale family had established a farm in what is now Washington County.

In 1803 son Shadrack Hale, Jr., acquired 100 acres of the family land. Following his death in 1842, Landon Carter Hale, the grandson of the founders, operated the farm with his wife Hannah Ellis Hale and their eleven children. The fourth owner was James E. Hale, who served on the Washington County Court. Together with his second wife, Nancy Anne Ferguson Hale, James significantly expanded operations to include orchards and



Beech Grove Farm,
historic image of smokehouse.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Beech Grove house, after a snow.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

tobacco as cash crops. Nancy Anne Hale was one of the charter members of the Oak Hill Baptist Church.

In about 1897 the farm next passed to daughter Mary “Mollie” Tennessee Hale Odell and her husband Albert Odell, who had married in 1892. Albert had the farm’s unique Victorian-style two-story V-shaped house built between 1897 and 1900. They also constructed new outbuildings, like a chicken house, stock barn, and corn crib, and introduced electricity into the farm’s operations in the 1920s. At Mollie’s death in 1944 the farm was divided between the children.

In 2004, Richard G. Odell and sister Anna Odell Mays inherited the land. In 2005-2006 Anna Odell Mays, the fourth-great-granddaughter of the founders, acquired about 25 acres of the original farm. She and her husband John E. Mays restored the 100-year-old farmhouse, added horse stalls to the old tobacco barn, and restored other farm outbuildings as they turned the farm into a livestock operation featuring cattle and horses. She told the *Johnson City Press* on December 19, 2010, that running a farm in the 21st century remained a family affair: “Without them, the improvements would not have happened. I’m talking hard work, grubbing, fencing, painting, and all the things that have to be done on a daily basis, like feeding. We seem to have one or two people in every generation where that’s what they like.” Their daughter Anita Mays Newsom and her husband Mike Newsom now work the family’s 25 acres.



Beech Grove Farm, 1984.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Brookside Farm barns. *Photograph by the author.*

WASHINGTON COUNTY

BROOKSIDE FARM (CIRCA 1793)

McCall Road, Limestone



Brookside Farm.
Susannah Graham.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Brookside Farm is an impressive agricultural landscape as outbuildings and open fields complement a farmhouse that was built circa 1903. In the late 18th century, Ireland natives William and Susannah Graham Walker married in Virginia. They later moved from Wythe County, Virginia, and purchased the original 100-acre farm between 1790 and 1793 in what was then the Southwest Territory. Like most places in those early years, the farm was a mixed agricultural operation, producing corn, wheat, vegetables, and all types of livestock.

Two years after his father William's death in 1846, William "Billy" Walker acquired a section of the family farm. Honey production combined with livestock-raising to produce most of the farm income. Billy also donated land for the construction of the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, which still serves the community, although the congregation now meets in a 20th-century brick church not far from Brookside Farm.

During the Civil War, Billy's nephew Henry M. Walker served from 1863 to 1865 in the 13th Tennessee Infantry, U.S.A. Many of the neighbors supported the Confederacy, and the families like the Walkers and the Keys that remained loyal were harassed, even assaulted.

In 1888 part of the family land passed to Sarah Matilda Walker Keys, the spouse of Elbert W. Keys, who had fought in the 4th Tennessee Infantry, U.S.A., during the Civil War. Sarah and Elbert married in 1866. In 1903 they built a large Victorian-style farmhouse, which remains as a centerpiece of the farm.



Brookside Farm. The family was among the founders of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. *Photograph by the author.*



Brookside Farm historic house.

Photograph by the author.



Brookside Farm, Century Farm sign.

Photograph by the author.

Before Elbert's death in 1917, he passed family land to Charles and Monnie Osborne Keys in 1916. They kept the farm intact during the trying years of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Part of the reason why was the family's decision to cultivate burley tobacco, a crop that remained in production at the farm until 2006.

Charles and Marie Whetsel Keys, who married in 1970, acquired the family land in 1978. They have two children, Julie Keys Gantley and Charles Nathan Keys. They farm over 60 acres, 50 of which can be traced to the founders' landholdings, and raise Holstein cattle and alfalfa hay. Brookside Farm's well-kept buildings are testaments to the family's devotion to each other, their land, and the history of Washington County.



4F Clover Pioneer Farm. Dee Cox and Mary Etta Cox Felty.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.

farmed an additional 84 acres. Another grandson, Jonathan Ford, and his wife Jane Stone Ford, acquired about 13 acres of Grant Ford's land circa 1836, a year of difficult economic times in Tennessee. Jonathan also inherited one of the family's slaves named Jason. Jonathan and Jane Ford grew their farm to encompass 73 acres of the founders' land. They had two sons, Robert L. and John J. Ford.

While this part of the farm was expanding, a section left to Lloyd Ford, Jr., became mired in controversy after his

WASHINGTON COUNTY

4F CLOVER PIONEER FARM (1783)

Ford Creek Road, Gray

Dating to the year the Treaty of Paris was signed to end the Revolutionary War, the 4F Clover Pioneer Farm has a rich history. Lloyd and Mary Grant Ford, the parents of ten children, first lived in the Watauga settlements. They obtained over 500 acres through two North Carolina land grants and began the farm, which yielded livestock, poultry, grains and hay in its early decades.

Lloyd Ford, Sr., died in 1816, and Mary died the following year. The farm was divided among various children; their daughter Mary Ford Britt and her husband John Britt were already operating 36 acres of the farm by that time. By 1820 those same 36 acres passed to the founders' grandson, Grant Ford, who also



4F Clover Pioneer Farm, canned vegetables and fruits. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



4F Clover Pioneer Farm granary. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



4F Clover Pioneer Farm. Robert and Alice Almany at farmhouse, c. 1950. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

death in 1843. Lloyd Ford, Jr., had children by his slaves, and he recognized them in his will, leaving Lloyd III one acre and freedom to “Peg and her family, Rhoda and her family, Edward and his family, Lark and his family, and John. I want them to have the land to live on and raise their families on.” Lloyd’s sons from wife Mary Wood Ford contested the will, which passed through various courts before landing at the Tennessee Supreme Court as the case *Ford v. Ford* (1850). As explained by historian G. Brian Jackson in the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Justice Nathaniel Green ruled in favor of the Ford slaves, stating: “A slave is not in the condition of a horse or an ox. His liberty is restrained, it is true. . . . But he is made after the image of the Creator. He has mental capacities, and an immortal principle in his nature, that constitute him equal to his owner but for the accidental position in which fortune has placed

him. . . . [T]he laws under which he is held as a slave have not and cannot extinguish his high-born nature nor deprive him of his many rights which are inherent in man.” In 1850 the Ford slaves were finally freed and received the property.

In 1890 the founders’ great-great-grandson David Lafayette Ford inherited a farm of about 72.5 acres. Over the next fifty years, the property changed hands within the family several times. In 1944, Martha Almany Cox, who was the fourth-great-granddaughter of the founders, and her husband Dee Cox obtained 12.5 acres of the founders’ farm, along with another 10 acres of land. They were model mid-20th-century small farmers, raising burley tobacco, swine, and beef cattle.

Between 1974 and 1981, Martha and Dee’s son Charles E. Cox became the 11th family owner of the property, owning 12 acres of the founders’ land but eventually increasing the farm to 28 acres. Charles married Barbara Sue Ford, and they had one daughter, Mary Etta Cox. She married Jarvey E. Felty, Jr., and between 1990 and 2005 they acquired 11 acres of the original farm. To that acreage they have added more land, making the farm about 45 acres in 2025. They produce honey for sale and also raise sheep and beef cattle. The property includes the circa-1919 farmhouse of Robert and Alice Hall Almany (she was the great-great-great-granddaughter of the founders) as well as a late-20th-century Ranch-style farmhouse and other historic outbuildings such as a smokehouse, tobacco barn, corn crib, and granary.

Middle Tennessee

The settlement history of Middle Tennessee begins in 1779-1780 with the epic trips of John Donelson and James Robertson from upper East Tennessee to a place on the Cumberland River known as the French Lick or Big Salt Springs. Along the banks of the river, they established Fort Nashborough. Later the town was named Nashville. In 1780, 256 early settlers signed the Cumberland Compact to begin the process of local government.

In 1783, North Carolina recognized these early settlements by establishing Davidson County in the Middle Tennessee region. In time, other counties centered on the Cumberland River were designated, such as Sumner County, established in 1786, and Robertson and Montgomery counties, established in 1796. Most Frontier Century Farms in Middle Tennessee date to the 1780s and 1790s. The new state legislature established Smith and Wilson counties in 1799. The end of the eighteenth century also marked the end of Middle Tennessee's frontier period.

Following the end of the Civil War, a second frontier period emerged out of Emancipation and Reconstruction as African American families gained the freedom and earned the money to purchase and establish their own farms from 1865 to 1880.

Like in East Tennessee, the ever-shifting political boundaries of Middle Tennessee counties often make it difficult to trace early land holdings. Several Frontier Century Farms began in one county and then became part of a new county, not once but sometimes twice. This listing is organized by the county location of the farm today, not its county location at the time the family established their farm.



Cleveland Hall Farm. *Metro Nashville Historical Commission.*

DAVIDSON COUNTY

CLEVELAND HALL (CIRCA 1788-1790)

Old Hickory Boulevard, Nashville

One of the oldest frontier farms in Middle Tennessee, Cleveland Hall's history begins with the arrival of Col. John Donelson at what would become Nashville in 1780. A Revolutionary War veteran, Col. Donelson is one of the most important individuals in early Tennessee history. He served in the House of Burgesses in Virginia, then moved to the Watauga settlements in East Tennessee. In 1779-1780 he led settlers, and approximately 30 of his slaves, from the Boat Yard in present-day Kingsport to Middle Tennessee. As Nashville developed, Donelson was a surveyor, land speculator, farmer, and merchant, owning a store in partnership with Andrew Jackson and John Coffee. He moved to Kentucky but returned to Tennessee by 1783. He died in 1785.

Sometime between 1788 and 1790, his son Capt. John Donelson built a log dwelling in the vicinity of the present-day Cleveland Hall and established the farm. He married Mary Purnell and they had thirteen children. Capt. Donelson also was an enterprising farmer and raised livestock in addition to growing corn, cotton, wheat, and fruit. By 1810 the first major dwelling, a two-story log house, on the Cleveland Hall property was completed.

John and Mary's son Stockly Donelson, born in 1805, made major changes to the property after his father passed away in 1830. In the late 1830s he contracted with builders Joseph Reiff and William C. Hume, builders of the Hermitage in 1835, for a two-story, central-hall plan, brick mansion, with a one-story Greek Revival-style portico. Stockly and his wife Phila Ann Law-



Cleveland Hall Farm. Farmland Legacy Conference, 2008, Caneta Hankins, Judith Ann Orman, and Bill Donelson.

rence Donelson moved into the house in 1839. They were prosperous plantation owners, due to a large number of enslaved individuals cultivating grains, cotton, and livestock. According to the 1850 census, the Donelsons owned approximately 45 slaves. Historians of slavery in Tennessee, such as Chase C. Mooney and Frank L. Owsley, have determined that farmers who owned more than 20 enslaved individuals should be considered members of the planter class. The Donelsons had seven children, of whom William S. Donelson became the next owner after the death of his father in 1888.

William S. Donelson's farm had 716 acres, from which he and his hired labor ran an active livestock program, especially for horses, mules, jacks, and jennets. He married Alice Ewing in 1870, and they had one son and three daughters.

William and Alice's son John Donelson guided the farm into the 20th century. He inherited the farm after his father's death in 1895. Four years later he wed Elizabeth Hooper, and they operated Cleveland Hall for over 50 years until John's death in 1952. Once Elizabeth Donelson passed away in 1963, their children John, Jr., Leonard, and Mary Donelson Stevens jointly owned 420 acres of the historic land. The siblings supervised farm operations that yielded soybeans, Tennessee Walking horses, and beef cattle in the 1970s. In 1971, they listed the house, outbuildings and about 10 acres of the farm in the National Register of Historic Places.

In the 21st century, the family sold much of the remaining agricultural lands for a new suburban development. As the development proceeded, contractors discovered a large slave cemetery of about 60 individuals. They were likely associated with adjacent Donelson farms, including Cleveland Hall, and were soon moved to the grounds of the Hermitage with the assistance of the MTSU archaeology program. There they were reburied with a memorial monument sharing the story and protecting the site.

The Donelson family retained the National Register acreage and about 29 total acres of the historic farm. William S. Donelson, III, supervised the farm at the time of its designation as a Pioneer Century Farm in 2008. In 2025, John Donelson III and Janice T. Donelson own and maintain Cleveland Hall.



Cleveland Hall slave dwelling, 1971.

*National Register of Historic Places,
National Park Service.*



Marshall Farm field and barn. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

DAVIDSON COUNTY

MARSHALL FARM

(CIRCA 1790)

Old Hickory Boulevard, Nashville

With 320 acres purchased by at least 1788, and the family in residence based on the death of a daughter at White's Creek by at least 1796, the Marshall Farm is a late-18th-century farm nestled in the hills of north Davidson County. With its extant historic buildings and open fields, the farm still conveys an impressive agricultural landscape along Old Hickory Boulevard.

Gilbert Marshall, born in Northern Ireland in 1715, married Martha Rowan in 1741. Soon thereafter they immigrated to Pennsylvania, and within three years



Marshall Farm house.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Marshall Farm 19th-century crib.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

had moved to Albemarle County, Virginia. They came to Kentucky during the Revolutionary War, then Tennessee after the war, and founded the farm around 1790.

About 1801 the farm went to son James Marshall and his wife Margaret Wilson Marshall. They and their 13 children cultivated wheat, corn, and apples while raising swine and sheep. They also owned a saw mill and grist mill on Trantham Creek, which bisected the farm. The Marshalls more than doubled the size of the farm to over 700 acres. They were slaveowners, according to James's 1837 will.

The third owner was Gilbert S. Marshall, who married twice, first to Judith Drake and later in 1843 to Frances Wilkinson. Gilbert continued to expand the farm to 908 acres, much of which was for fodder and grazing for a large number of cattle, mules, oxen, swine, sheep, and goats. Gilbert donated three acres for the construction of the Mt. Hermon Cumberland Presbyterian Church. According to the 1850 census, Marshall owned eight slaves; ten years later that number had increased to ten people enslaved. They worked the farm along with the family's many children, thirteen with Judith Drake, and then seven more step-children with Frances Wilkinson.

Before his death, Gilbert S. Marshall divided his farm among the children. Son George Washington Marshall, born in 1845, inherited his portion and owned 435 acres at his death in 1881. He fought in the Civil War with the Tennessee 3rd Mounted Infantry, also known as the 3rd Lillard's Cavalry, C.S.A. He joined on May 15, 1861, and within weeks was part of the fight at the Battle of Bull Run in northern Virginia. After the war he married Kate Cartwright, and they had two children.

George W. Marshall died in 1881, but Kate lived until 1927 and continued to reside on the farm. She supervised operations with the help of her children Lily C. and George C. She then remarried, choosing as her husband Robert D. H. Marshall, who was a cousin of her first husband. The family established a dairy business. Kate and Robert had one son, Bob, who was active in local Democratic politics and served as Davidson County Sheriff from 1940 to 1942.

About 1927, 243 acres of the family land passed to Lily C. Marshall Connell and her husband Allen P. Connell. They continued the dairy and cultivated corn and other row crops. She left the homeplace to her two living daughters, Ella and Patsy. In 1940 Ella and her husband Mark Williams purchased more family land, and in the 1950s they transitioned the farm from a dairy business to a beef

cattle operation. A graduate of Vanderbilt University in 1927, Ella taught at Joelton Elementary and Alex Green Elementary. She was also active in the area's Country Home Garden Demonstration Club.

Ella and Mark replaced the 19th-century homeplace with a modern Ranch-style dwelling in the 1950s. The property changed significantly as Nashville grew in the 1970s and 1980s, and the family sold land for the construction of Whites Creek High School and Whites Creek Park.



Marshall Farm workers.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Marshall Farm barn and cattle.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

Ella and Mark's sons Allen C. and Wallace C. Williams inherited the remaining 170 acres of the farm in 2003. In 2006 the state soil and water conservation agency named Allen as Davidson County Conservation Farmer of the Year. The farm yielded hay and beef cattle, products that are still current under present family manager Angela Williams, who graduated from the University of Tennessee. In a story in the September 2019 issue of *The Cooperator*, Angela observed that "this farm is my sanity," adding that the land is "a source of tranquility from the chaos of city life only a few miles away."



Larkins Farm sign, 2025.
Photograph by author.

DICKSON COUNTY

LARKINS FARM (CIRCA 1792)

Jones Creek Road, White Bluff

Born in Ireland in 1748, John Larkins was about ten years old when he arrived in the American colonies. Bonded as an indentured servant, he was taken to Guilford County, North Carolina, where he eventually gained his freedom, sought his fortune, and married Sarah McAdoo in 1774. Larkins fought for the patriot cause in the Revolutionary War. He received land grants in North Carolina's western lands as he and his family of six children still lived in Guilford County when the first federal census was taken in 1790. Pollyana Larkins, their last child, was born in 1790 after the census taker arrived. Within two years, however, John Larkins had acquired land in southern Montgomery County, Tennessee, a section that is now part of Dickson County, and moved his family to the new territory. The Larkins family is considered among Dickson County's earliest settlers. They raised corn, grains, and livestock. In 1803, Larkins was among the founders of Dickson County government and was the first county trustee.

The second owner was son James M. and his wife Mary McAdoo Larkins, who married in 1810. The next year they moved to Dickson County, where their first child, Margaret, was born. James and Mary Larkins

had five other children over the next nine years. According to the 1850 census, the Larkins owned slaves, with James and Mary owning three females and son Ebenezer E. Larkins owning two males and three females. James died during the Civil War in 1864.

After the war, Calvin Larkins inherited family land, and after his death in 1878, it passed to his son James A. Larkins. James married Mary “Tick” Larkins in 1886, and they had a huge family of 13 children of whom Leslie D. Larkins, Sr., inherited family acres when his father and mother died within days of each other in 1940. The Clarksville *Leaf-Chronicle* on April 18, 1940, described James A. Larkins “as prominent in political and civic circles in Dickson County.”

Leslie D. Larkins, Sr., was a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Navy. On the family farm, he specialized in hay and cattle production, and by the 1970s he and his wife Jean Corlew Larkins worked the land with his son Leslie D., Jr., his wife Lisa, and their two children. Corn is a decades-old staple on the farm. Larkins, Sr., told the *Dickson Herald* on April 2, 2004, “Now there are as many different kinds of corn as there are brands of calculators. It just goes on and on.” Leslie D., Jr., died in 2014, followed by Jean in 2015. Their son Kevin D. Larkins and his family work the farm’s 72 acres in 2025.



Larkins Farm. Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Terry Oliver, Leslie and Jean Larkins, Governor Phil Bredesen, 2008.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Larkins Farm barns, 2025. *Photograph by author.*



Sullivan Farm field and hay. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

DICKSON COUNTY SULLIVAN FARM

(CIRCA 1799)

Cedar Creek Road, Vanleer

Jeremiah Nesbitt, a native of South Carolina, came to Tennessee in the late 1790s and established a large farm in what was then southern Montgomery County. He married Elizabeth Newbitt (?) in March 1799 in Davidson County. His mother died that July in South Carolina, which transferred his father’s property to him. Sometime between his marriage and receiving his inheritance, Nesbitt began farming hundreds of acres of family land. At an unknown date his first wife Elizabeth died and in 1811 Nesbitt married again to another Elizabeth, Elizabeth Clarke Williamson. When Dickson County formed in 1803, commissioners met at the nearby home of his brother Robert.

By 1820 Jeremiah and Elizabeth Williamson Nesbitt were managing a large farm. Like many Middle Tennessee farm families, they raised corn, grains, cattle, swine, and poultry. They relied on their family and a number of enslaved people for labor. The Nesbitts had six children but also owned two male and one female adult slaves, meaning that the Nesbitts were like most Tennessee families who owned slaves in that they owned five or less. Ten years later, the number of slaves remained at three—while the household had increased from eight to eleven. By 1840 the family owned only one young adult female slave. Ten years later, they owned four adult females and two boys as slaves. The greater reliance on slave labor may be due to the advancing age of the founders (Jeremiah was over 80 years old in 1850) or the growth in Middle Tennessee agricultural markets during the 1850s.

The founder's son, Robert Sterling Nesbitt, took over 175 acres of the family land after the death of his father in 1855 and his mother in 1859. Robert had earlier married Martha Ragan, and they had twelve children. During the Civil War, the Nesbitts supported the Confederacy.

Robert S. Nesbitt died in 1894, and the land passed through succeeding generations in the 20th century. Sterling H. and Verna Smith Nesbitt farmed the land from the mid-1930s until his death in 1972. Five years later, Hilda Nesbitt Sullivan, the great-great-granddaughter of the founders, took control of about 385 acres. Besides assisting the management of the family farm, she served as the executive director of the Dickson County Chamber of Commerce for 19 years. Hilda, her husband Bob, and son Bobby raised beef cattle and hay. Hilda Sullivan died in 2019. In 2025 her son Bobby F. Sullivan operated a farm of over 300 acres.



Sullivan Farm house. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Sullivan Farm historic farm lane. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Carr Creek Carr Farm tobacco barn.
Photograph by author.



Carr Creek Carr
Farm house, 2025.
Photograph by author.

MACON COUNTY

CARR FAMILY FARM ON CARR CREEK (CIRCA 1797)

Carr Creek Road, Lafayette

Established circa 1797, the Carr Family Farm on Carr Creek began when Daniel Alexander, an important early 19th-century land broker and speculator in northern Middle Tennessee, acquired 320 acres from George Pirtle. Alexander was a native of North Carolina, and he married Rachel Mauphet (perhaps Moffett) in 1794. Their daughter Margaret “Peggy” Alexander was born in Kentucky in early 1795, but they probably moved to Tennessee soon after since by late 1796 Alexander was acquiring land in the newly established state of Tennessee. When Alexander acquired the farm, it was in Sumner County, followed by Smith County, and finally, in 1842, its address became Macon County when the Tennessee General Assembly created the new county.

The second owner was Peggy Alexander Carr, the oldest daughter of ten Alexander children, and her husband James D. Carr. Around 1837 they acquired 320 acres. According to the 1850 census, John Carr owned two slaves. The Carrs had nine children, of whom John N. Carr, the grandson of the founders, had married Martha Carter in 1854. When his parents died during the Civil War, John and Martha inherited 65 acres circa 1865. The Carrs had six children and raised hay, corn, cattle, and hogs.

Daniel Tucker Carr, the founders’ great-grandson, took over the farm after his father died in 1892 and received the 65 acres by deed in 1894. Around the time he received the land, David married Julia Dobbins. They would be the parents of six children between 1895 and 1908. The family kept the farm together during the Great Depression and, like many farm families, experienced prosperity as a result of the demand for food during World War II. They increased the farm to 140 acres and built a new Bungalow-style farmhouse that is still extant.

In 1947, both parents died, and their son John Daniel “Jack” Carr inherited the 140 acres. He had married Lillian White in 1926. Their family pushed the farm into 20th-century agriculture, adding burley tobacco and sheep and building several new barns and other farm structures.

The Carrs’ daughter Ida Francis Carr Tucker, who had married Louie M. Tucker, acquired the farm’s 140-plus acres in 1992. By this time, the farm had transitioned to focus on beef cattle and hay. Ida Carr Tucker died in 2024, leaving her husband and their two children in charge of the farm, which now has 147 acres prominently situated along Carr Creek.



Carr Creek Carr Farm cemetery
and barn. *Photograph by author.*



Allendale Farm 1896 Reunion. Note the string band on the right side. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ALLENDALE FARM (CIRCA 1796)

Allen Griffey Road, Clarksville

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Allendale Farm's history links the frontier period of Tennessee agriculture to its modern transformation in the mid-20th century. In 1796 Abraham Allen, a Revolutionary War veteran from North Carolina, acquired about 1,275 acres. Soon thereafter Allen relocated his wife Elizabeth and family to northern Montgomery County. By 1812, the Allens owned at least six horses, seventeen head of cattle, twenty sheep, and forty hogs. He also owned at least six slaves.

Around 1815 the farm passed to son George and his wife, Elizabeth Blackwood Allen. They brought up thirteen children at Allendale and continued to raise livestock, such as hogs, cows, and sheep. In 1847, Bailey F. Allen, the founders' grandson, acquired 165 acres along with Lewis, a former slave of his father. During this period of antebellum prosperity, Allendale produced wheat, corn, swine, and tobacco, among other crops and much livestock. In 1858, to make room for the growing family, Bailey and his wife Mary Osburn Allen relied on enslaved labor and craftsmanship to build the extant two-story brick Federal-style house that has been a Montgomery County historic landmark ever since.

The Civil War and Federal occupation of Montgomery County significantly damaged the farm. Federal soldiers confiscated everything but a pony soon after the fall of Fort Donelson in February 1862, with the soldiers taking all of the livestock and crops. In November 1863, men who pretended to be Confederate soldiers asked Bailey Allen for directions. When he refused to answer, they dragged the elderly Allen out of the house to the



Allendale Farm house. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Allendale Farm slave cemetery.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Allendale Farm barn.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

lawn and demanded money. Allen and other family members fought back. Family friend Serepta Jordan recorded this incident in her diary, concluding that Bailey would have been murdered if the family had not interceded.

Upon Bailey F. Allen's death in 1880, his son Bailey F. Allen, Jr., eventually took over the farm and assumed ownership upon his mother's death in 1902. Bailey F. Allen, Jr., sought new markets by encouraging the construction of a railroad through the property. He also invested in selective breeding of cattle, mules, horses, sheep, and swine. He even diversified the region's long-standing dark-fired tobacco by adding burley tobacco in the 1920s.

In 1932 the family took its next steps to improve cattle production by purchasing a Hereford cow and bull as part of a 4-H project of son William Bailey Allen. Pleased with the results, the family continued to purchase bred livestock from the Nebraska Sandhills through the 1930s and 1940s.

Bailey, Jr., married Liza Emery, a member of the Clarksville Women's Club. Their home in 1925 won second prize in the National Better Homes Contest. Tennessee's Department of Agriculture Extension Service had encouraged farm families to join the Better Homes contest to encourage home improvements and enhance the quality of rural life. Extension officials hoped that "better homes" would help convince families to continue farming.

Bailey F. Allen, Jr., died in 1943, and his son William Bailey Allen, Sr., returned to the farm. He married Mary Farmer in 1949, and they became mid-twentieth-century agricultural leaders. From 1947 to 1953, when they allowed the property to be the demonstration farm for Austin Peay State College, they transformed the farm. They introduced broad-based terraced fields, installed under the direction of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, so students could learn how to farm with the latest in soil conservation techniques. They also planted Kentucky fescue, a rich, productive grass for hay, as well as adding pine tree shelters to prevent soil erosion and protect livestock from the elements. A partnership with Tennessee State Forestry improved the timber crop, and the family cultivated Serchia Lespadeza and Ladino clover, again for soil protection but also for livestock production.

In 1954 the Allens linked the farm to the University of Tennessee's performance testing program for livestock, which remained in place for over 50 years. By 1955 William Bailey Allen, Sr., was the board chair for the



Allendale Farm overview of buildings.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Allendale Farm horse ring and tenant house.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

county Soil Conservation District, a leadership position that he retained for many years.

An August 16, 1955, story in the Clarksville *Leaf-Chronicle* highlights the farm's success with planting but-ton clover at a former tobacco farm as an effective way to re-energize the land. The story features a photograph of Toliver Coleman and his son Robert, African American tenant farmers, who worked and lived on the farm in the 1950s. On October 3, 1961, another *Leaf-Chronicle* article discussed how Allen instituted grassland farming at Allendale, using round hay bales (extremely rare on Tennessee farms at that time) as both a conservation and labor-saving technique.

Along with its specialized cattle production, the Allen family also joined the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry. Amelia Allen Hartz won the Walking [Saddle] Seat Equitation World Championship in Shelbyville in 1966, 1967, and 1968. Her horse, "Go Boy's Greater Glory," was raised and trained on the Allen farm. Into the 21st century the family continued to keep Walking Horses and had a small training ring on the farm. William Bailey Allen, Sr., lived at the farm until his death in 2021.

William Allen Bailey, Jr., supervises the farm today.

H&S Farm historic Hargrove house, 2025.

Photograph by the author.



H&S Farm sign, 2025.

Photograph by the author.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

H & S FARM (1799)

Springdale Rd, Cunningham

Dating to 1799, H & S Farm is the second-oldest Century Farm in Montgomery County, established by John and Silvia Harris Hargrove, who were married in North Carolina in 1789. After various settlements of family estates and land sales within the family, the Hargroves left North Carolina for Tennessee circa 1797. An estate document from that year remarked that Hargrove was "about to remove himself & family to the Western Country." John died in late 1798 but not before he acquired 503 acres south of Clarksville, the county seat. The executor of the estate divided family land among the children from his first wife—whose name has never been identified—leaving his youngest son, John D. Hargrove, who was 13 at the time, as the next owner. Other brothers remained in charge until John turned eighteen.

John married Martha Green about 1820. Their oldest son Thomas Green Hargrove was probably managing the property during the 1850s. He had married Suzannah "Susan" Whittington in 1851. They grew grains and dark-fired tobacco and raised livestock. Farming dark-fired tobacco until his death in 1891, Thomas earned a reputation as a leading citizen of the county. The Clarksville *Leaf-Chronicle* on April 9, 1891, in an editorial noting his passing praised his contributions to the county, calling him "a landmark gone" and "one of the



H&S Farm store, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



H&S Farm barn, 2025. *Photograph by author.*

best citizens of the south side.” It acknowledged his devotion to the Martha’s Chapel Methodist Church and his Masonic Lodge. The newspaper added that he was “the last aged member of the well known family of Hargroves of the county” as well as “a man greatly beloved by all who knew him.”

Thomas’s youngest son, William Thomas Hargrove, who was born during the Civil War in 1864, became the farm’s next owner. After his father died in the spring of 1891, he took over the farm and married Alice Minor later in that year. William and Alice had seven children, of whom son Herbert Carlyle Hargrove and his wife Alice Harris Hargrove acquired 42 acres of the original farm in 1952, following the death of his mother. They built a new Ranch-style farmhouse along Springdale Road. Herbert died in 1985, after which ownership remained with Alice until her death in 1997.

Herbert and Alice’s son Lauren Hargrove operated the property throughout the late 20th century. After 2009 he married Ora Lewis Sleigh and formed a partnership called H & S Farms with her sons Ron and Robin Sleigh. The family business has become recognized throughout the county for its agricultural experiences and products, including strawberries, tobacco, and beef cattle. “Slowly but consistently,” the Clarksville *Leaf-Chronicle* reported on October 28, 2020, “farm families like the Sleighs are disappearing in Montgomery County, a phenomenon tied to the constant push of urban sprawl.” Ron Sleigh told the reporter, “Sure, we can sell and make a nice sum of money out of it, but if we can leave our children and ultimately, our grandchildren a farm, and a great lifestyle, that’s paid for, that’s even better to me.”

Ron’s mother Ora Sleigh Hargrove died in 2018 and Lauren Hargrove, his step-father, died in 2021, leaving the farm to the children and grandchildren, many of whom live on or nearby this 240-year-old family farm.



Ol’ Ledford Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY THE OL’ LEDFORD FARM (1880)

2875 St. Paul Road, Woodlawn

The Ol’ Ledford Farm, established by James and Mary Dawson Ledford, has about 75 acres in the Woodlawn community west of Clarksville. Its story began with Emancipation during the Civil War when Andrew Ledford freed James from a Kentucky plantation. He also gave James several goats, which James traded for a mule. With that mule, he crossed the state line and came to live with relatives in the Woodlawn community.



Ol' Ledford Farm. Painting of farm house by Alotha Barbour.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

James Ledford married Mary Dawson, and they became hired laborers near Oakwood. With the money they made, James and Mary Ledford acquired the first 35 acres of the Ol' Ledford Farm in 1880.

The Ledfords had seven children. They raised tobacco, poultry, and livestock, and sold timber. In 1901 they sold one acre for the construction of Griffey School, named for Joseph Griffey, a fellow member of the nearby St. Paul AME Church. James Ledford's grandfather, Archie Casey, had been one of the founders of the church. The school, located about 140 yards behind the Ledford homeplace, served as a community landmark and operated until 1954.

Grandson James A. Williams and his wife Leah Williams obtained 149 acres of the Ledford Farm in 1959. They had already been working the land for some time, especially the family's steam-powered sawmill. They continued to raise tobacco and livestock. They had 11 eleven children, of whom their daughter Alotha Williams Barbour and her husband Felix Barbour, Jr., acquired 80 acres of family land in 1978. Tobacco remained a cash crop, but the family also began to raise Angus cattle.

Of their four children, Craig Barbour and his wife Debra L. Barbour obtained the farm's 80 acres in 2016. They no longer grow tobacco but continue to raise Angus cattle, horses, chickens, and goats. Every fourth year on Labor Day weekend, the farm hosts a large family reunion. To honor the 50th reunion in 1995, the City of Clarksville proclaimed the Ledford-Williams-Rogers Reunion Day.



Ol' Ledford Farm.
Griffey School, 1955.
L to R: Roy Williams,
Andrea Holland, Mike
Williams, Roy Williams, Jr.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Ol' Ledford Farm. *L to R:* Annie Mae Williams,
Mary Frances Williams, Roy Lee Williams, 1948.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Ol' Ledford Farm sawmill. James A. Williams
meets with customer Dave Knight.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Hartsaw Cove Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

VERTON COUNTY

HARTSAW COVE FARM (CIRCA 1800)

Monterey Highway, Livingston

Revolutionary War hero Gilbert Christian was a native of Augusta County, Virginia. He married Margaret Anderson and sometime between 1772 and 1773 they and children Elizabeth, Robert, William, George, and John came to the Reedy Creek settlement in what is now Kingsport, Sullivan County, Tennessee. With the rank of colonel, he commanded the Sullivan County militia during the Revolutionary War. He later served as the Speaker of the Senate of the State of Franklin in the mid-1780s. His wartime service led to North Carolina land grants, one of which in 1792 allowed him land far to the west, a place that later became Overton County, Tennessee.

Col. Christian died in 1793, and his lands passed to his wife and children. Son George Christian and his wife Elizabeth McCormick Christian, who married circa 1796, received the Overton County lands and established their farm between 1796 and 1800. They had ten children. The 1850 census documents that they owned four slaves. The Christians also harvested timber from the thick stands of forest on their property. They lived at the farm for the rest of their lives; George passed away at the age of 101 in 1870.

The next owner was their son Anson E. B. Christian, who inherited the land circa 1870 and expanded the family's timber business. According to local historian Orpha Halsell, "most of the men in the community worked for the Christian family. In those days timber was one of the main sources of income." A.E. Christian then passed the farm to three of his children, J. William, Susan D., and Ernest W. Christian, and eventually Ernest acquired most of the land. His son Anson Christian operated the farm until 1973 when he sold it to relatives Millard V. and Robert Oakley. The family connection came through Zeda Amanda Christian Masters, who was the granddaughter of George and Elizabeth Christian.

The Oakleys have farmed the land for the last 50 years, and it is a large cattle-raising business. Millard was a leader in the Upper Cumberland as a banker and philanthropist. An alumni of Tennessee Technological University, he took his law degree from Cumberland University and was a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention in 1952. He then served four terms in the Tennessee General Assembly and later served as staff with the Committee on Small Business for the U.S. House of Representatives. He was Tennessee Commissioner of Insurance from 1975 to 1979 and a member of the Tennessee Board of Regents from 2006 to 2012. His wife J. Annette "J.J." Oakley had a distinguished career in nursing education and took a law degree



Hartsaw Cove Farm sign, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Hartsaw Cove Farm, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

from the University of Tennessee in 1985.

In 2009, the Oakleys leased a large portion of the Hartsaw Cove Farm to Tennessee Technological University for its use as an agricultural campus. In late 2014 they placed 1,502 acres into a conservation easement with the Foothills Land Conservancy. Two years later, they donated about 1,400 acres of that land to the university. However, the family also kept land to continue its farming legacy. Rob Oakley and Kendall Smith are part of the next generation at the farm. In 2019 the family managed about 300 acres with about 100 brood cows and 50 purebred Angus cows. Upon Millard's death in 2022 and Annette's passing a year later, the property passed to the next generation, and they are proving to be excellent stewards of this Cumberland Plateau agricultural landmark.



Craig Farm. McDonald and Rosetta Craig. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

PERRY COUNTY CRAIG FARM (CIRCA 1871)

North Fork Road, Linden

The oldest African American farm in Perry County, and one of the oldest in Tennessee, the Craig Farm is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It began when Tapp and Amy Craig, both former slaves in Perry County, acquired 110 acres in 1871. They had married in the 1850s, and already had four children by the time of Emancipation between 1863 and 1865, and they had one more child after the Civil War. The Craigs made enough money by 1871 to put a down payment on land, and they finished paying off the property two years later. They were peanut farmers who also raised cattle and sheep while carefully harvesting timber from the black gum, white oak, hickory, and yellow poplar on their land.

In about 1912 ownership passed to the youngest daughter, Mary Craig Randle, whose husband Alex Randle was a local carpenter. The family rented land to local sawmill operator Oliver Deere. In 1958 Korean war veteran McDonald Craig and his wife Rosetta Smith Craig acquired the family farm from Ida Randle Toran,



Craig Farm cemetery.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

who was Alec and Mary Jane Craig Randle's daughter. Craig had served in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Star in 1953.

After his service, Craig had returned home to manage the farm. In 1954 local school officials hired him to take high school students to the nearest African American high school. He purchased a bus and made that route every school day for the next ten years. He also attended the high school each day, graduating in 1958 and then marrying Rosetta Smith after graduation. A year later they built the present farmhouse from timber from their own farm. He later added barns and other buildings to the farm, typically using timber cut from the land.

McDonald Craig was a talented musician and soon became well respected as an old-time country musician and yodeler. Music historians compared his style to that of Jimmie Rodgers, but Craig mixed both old-time and popular styles in his songwriting and singing. He recorded four singles in the mid-1960s, during the folk music revival craze, but passed on being a full-time musician because of the demanding travel involved and his wish to stay more focused on the family farm, where he harvested its rich stands of timber. In 1978 he won the talent contest for yodeling at the Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival in Meridian, Mississippi, the first African American artist to win the competition. Later at the turn of the new century, some of Craig's music was released on CD, and his artistry gained new fans from across the world. In 2009 the Tennessee General Assembly recognized him as a "Legendary Country Music Performer." In 2011 a DVD of Craig performing his music was released as "Pistol Packing Papa."

McDonald Craig passed away in 2021. Rosetta Smith Craig still owns the farm of 90 acres and operates it with the help of her sons and grandchildren.



Craig Farm, c. 1960. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Logging on Craig Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Woodard Hall
Farm barns, 1994.
Photograph by the author.



Woodard Hall Farm house, front,
1994. *Photograph by the author.*



Woodard Hall Farm house, rear, 1994.
Photograph by the author.

ROBERTSON COUNTY

WOODARD HALL FARM (1792)

Owens Chapel Road, Springfield

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Woodard Hall Farm began along Beaver Dam Creek four years before Tennessee statehood and then blossomed in the 19th and 20th centuries to become one of the most famous plantations of northern Middle Tennessee, noted for its tobacco, livestock, and distilled spirits. Thomas Woodard, Sr., from Edgecombe County, North Carolina, and his wife Elizabeth Pitt Woodard purchased a tract of 180 acres and began farming soon thereafter in 1792. The Woodards also distilled whiskey and owned at least two stills at the time of Thomas's death in 1836.

Soon thereafter, their youngest son, Wiley Woodard, acquired the homeplace and an additional 205 acres. Over the next decades he expanded the farm into a dark-fired tobacco plantation of 1,600 acres. He married Elizabeth Henry, and they had seven children. Wiley Woodard served in the Tennessee General Assembly from 1849 to 1853 and was recognized as a colonel in the Tennessee Militia. As a reflection of his status and growing family, he expanded the homeplace in 1854 and, probably, his slaves built a separate brick kitchen and farm office. The Woodards owned 17 slaves in 1850 and 26 slaves in 1860, according to the census.

Distilled spirits were an important farm product. In 1859 Woodard expanded the family's business and hired a distiller from Ireland to run the operation, which produced whiskey, apple brandy, and peach brandy. The corn mash was fed to the swine, and the farm also became known for its ham, sausage, and bacon.

The Woodards prospered during Reconstruction and some formerly enslaved people stayed as tenants



Woodard Hall Farm fields, 1994. *Photograph by the author.*

and laborers for the distillery. In September 1865 the Wiley Woodard & Company distillery shipped 249 gallons of whiskey to Nashville. By 1879 the farm had expanded to 2,300 acres and two years later, Woodward was one of the founders of the Springfield National Bank.

In 1877 Wiley Woodward passed away and over 408 acres of the farm went to son George R. Woodard. Wiley also left land to three former slaves, Charry, Elizabeth, and Amanda, and provided money for them to build houses for their families. George R. Woodard returned to the production of dark-fired tobacco, a key agricultural product in turn-of-the-20th-century Robertson County. His heirs who inherited the farm in 1920 continued tobacco production on a major scale.

In 1932, in the middle of the Great Depression, 228.5 acres of the farm went to Edwin Hart Brown, the founders' great-grandson. He married Georgia Eckles, and they had two children, of whom Josephine Brown Cervantes inherited the farm in 1970. At that time, Jack Cook, an African American farmer, lived at the farm and worked the land, producing the annual tobacco crop, a task that he continued into the 1990s.

Kay Baker Gaston and her husband Joe Gaston operated the farm for its last 40 years and renovated the farmhouse in the mid-1990s. Kay Baker Gaston taught history at Middle Tennessee State University and other colleges, and she published several academic articles about Tennessee history of the 19th and 20th centuries, along with biographies of Emma Bell Miles, an important Chattanooga writer, and Dr. William A. Cheatham, the state's first mental health professional. Joe was a Chattanooga-based attorney who also practiced in Robertson County in his later years. He passed away in 2021. In 2025 three historic tobacco barns remained on the property, reminders of the importance of this crop to northern Middle Tennessee.



Woodard Hall Farm tobacco barn, 1994.

Photograph by the author.



Woodard Hall Farm. Jack Cook (L) and Joe Gaston (R) discuss the tobacco crop, 1989. *Photograph by the author.*



Butler Farm goats. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

BUTLER FARM (CIRCA 1869)

Woodbury Pike, Murfreesboro

By circa 1869 Josiah “Joe” and Martha Lillard Butler, slaves emancipated four years earlier, accumulated enough money to establish a 26-acre farm. Butler Cemetery is located on this acreage, which was later sold to satisfy a court ruling. In 1880 son Perry Butler and his wife Alice purchased additional land near the same location. The Butler family raised livestock, sold timber, and cultivated cotton as well as grains and vegetables for the table and for feed. They also were community builders. They donated land for Butler Chapel Methodist Church, which also served as a school during the week.

Joe Butler died in 1897 and left the property to his wife, his youngest daughter Martha, and his oldest son Perry and his wife Alice Henderson Butler, who lived on adjoining land. After Martha Lillard Butler died in 1914, other children challenged the will, but Perry retained the family land. He died in 1920, with services held at Butler’s Chapel Methodist Church.

Oscar A. Butler became the farm’s third owner. When the State of Tennessee in the 1910s-1920s decade expanded an earlier turnpike into a modern highway, Tennessee Highway 1, it contracted with the Butlers for gravel. The family established two large quarries on the property; remnants are still used for gravel on the farm today. The money gained from highway construction enabled the family to weather the hard times of the Great Depression.



Butler Farm sign and house, 2025.

Photograph by the author.



Butler Farm landscape, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Butler Farm cemetery. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

Oscar A. Butler married Annie Belle Spain, and they had four children. The family had a small dairy and Oscar used wagons to deliver milk to creameries in Murfreesboro. Oscar also was noted for moonshine, and sales may have been brisk since the farm was located on what was then the state's major road, also known as the Memphis-Bristol Highway. Oscar and Annie Belle divorced, and she moved first to Murfreesboro, then Nashville. Oscar lived and worked the farm until his death in 1970, when the property passed to James L. Butler, Sr., the grandson of the founders.

James was a veteran of World War II and active in the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as the Masons and the Shriners. His wife was Dolores Williams, and they had eight children, who have had impactful careers in education, law enforcement, administrative support, carpentry, and the ministry. The family raised Angus cattle, goats, and hay on the farm, and maintained two historic dwellings, one from 1920 and the other from circa 1948.

James L. Butler, Sr., died in 2019. His son James L. Butler, Jr., manages the farm today.



Lancaster Farm. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

SMITH COUNTY LANCASTER FARM (CIRCA 1795)

Old Lancaster Road and Temperance Hill Road, Lancaster

One of the oldest farms in Middle Tennessee is the Lancaster Farm, established before Tennessee statehood by John Lancaster, Jr., who was a native of Henrico County, Virginia. After the Revolutionary War, circa 1783, John moved his family to North Carolina, where he acquired various North Carolina land grants in the state's western counties. On some of the transactions and lawsuits in 1787-1788, Lancaster's attorney may have been a young Andrew Jackson, who practiced law in Salisbury, North Carolina, during those two years.

In 1789-1790 the family relocated



Lancaster Farm. Smith Fork Creek Bluff.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Lancaster Farm. Smith Fork Creek.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

again, first to Davidson County, Tennessee. There in 1789 son Richard Lancaster was attacked and scalped by unidentified Native Americans. Dr. Felix Robertson, in a medical journal article published in Philadelphia in 1806, documented the attack because he reported on a medical procedure, developed at the Long Island of the Holston settlements in the 1770s by Dr. Thomas Vance of Augusta County, Virginia, that allowed the scalped head to heal. Dr. Vance taught the settlers a technique where holes were carefully bored in the skull of a scalped victim from which scabs would form and slowly generate a new skin covering over a two-year period. Robertson reported that Lancaster had been “scalped, and left for dead,” but the procedure allowed him to get well. The family records that Richard Lancaster “wore an oiled skull cap the rest of his life.”

The saga of Richard Lancaster is a fascinating sidenote to the family’s eventual move to Smith County. By 1795 the family had acquired some 2,560 acres in what became Smith County in 1799 and then some lands ended up in DeKalb County when it was formed from parts of Smith County in 1837.

The second owner, son Richard Lancaster, acquired more than 600 acres of the property once his father’s estate was settled and divided in 1805. Richard had married Jane Vernon in 1795 at a ceremony in Davidson County. They would have seven children together. Sometime in the 1820s, he left Smith County and moved to Alabama, where he died in Wilcox County in 1835. He and Jane left about 275 acres to Thomas Allen Lancaster, a nephew of the founders and veteran of the War of 1812, who was living in Smith County by 1815. He and his wife Frances Lancaster, a first cousin, had six children. While the initial landholdings of Thomas and Frances were modest, they expanded the farm to over 2,000 acres. They owned four slaves listed in the 1830 census; the number increased to nine by the 1850 census. Thomas also operated a general merchandise store in the adjacent village of Lancaster.

William Lancaster, the great-great-great-grandfather of the current owner John W. Rose, was the next family owner, acquiring family land in 1856. He had been married for almost twenty years to Elizabeth Pryor Lancaster, and they had three children. They had 11 slaves according to the 1860 census, but according to family tradition William freed them around 1861. Sometime after the Civil War, he completed the construction of a two-story Victorian-style farmhouse before his



Lancaster Farm, east side. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Lancaster House, built c. 1860.
L to R: Matilda (Cowan) Lancaster, Effie (Bellar) Lancaster, Henry C. Lancaster.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

death in February 1867. At that time, daughter Melissa Lancaster Prichard and her husband James C. Prichard inherited the homeplace and 309 acres.

James C. Prichard had served in the 24th Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A., during the Civil War; he and Melissa wed in 1868 and had five children. In 1884 they sold 400 acres for the right of way of the Nashville & Knoxville Railroad (later named the Tennessee Central Railway), which soon opened the entire region to growth and development. On the tract of land sold by the Prichards, for example, the railroad established a company club house called Sebowisha (a place name taken from Henry W. Longfellow's epic poem "Song of Hiawatha") as a company retreat overlooking the confluence of Smith Fork Creek and the Caney Fork River.

Ed Prichard and his wife Edna Betty Prichard were the farm's sixth owners, with 160 acres, acquired in two tracts in 1913 and 1924. Ed Prichard died in 1950, and the farm passed to the only child, Rubye W. Prichard Williams, and her husband Elmer Ernie Williams. They too had only one child, James Marshall Williams. Rubye Williams lived until 2007, but in 2000 the fifth-great-nephew of the founders, John Williams Rose, acquired approximately 282 acres of the original farm, to which he added 1,500 acres by 2008. John W. Rose, his sister Cindy Rose Dowell, and brother-in-law Steve Dowell supervised farm operations while Darrin Drake has served as farm manager. Their farm products have included burley tobacco, cattle, hay, fescue seed, and timber.

John Williams Rose is one of the state's leading agriculturalists. He took a degree in agribusiness economics from Tennessee Technological University, a master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University, and his Juris Doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He was Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture from 2002 to 2003 and later served as chairman of the Tennessee State Fair Association. Then in 2018 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving the 6th Congressional District in Tennessee. In Congress, he serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the Financial Services Committee. His wife Chelsea Doss Rose was the first woman to represent Tennessee as a National Future Farmers of America officer and has served as executive director of the Tennessee FFA Foundation.



Lancaster Farm recognition, 2008.
L to R: John W. Rose, Cindy (Rose) Dowell, Steve Dowell, Governor Phil Bredesen.



Sunlit Hill Farm sign, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

SMITH COUNTY

SUNLIT HILL FARM (CIRCA 1795)

Rome Road, Dixon Springs

On prime river-bottom land on the early road between the Rome ferry over the Cumberland River and the town of Dixon Springs, William Saunders and his wife Nancy Cunningham Saunders took his North Carolina land grant for services during the Revolutionary War and established their family farm between 1795 and 1800. Saunders had served in North Carolina's first provisional congress at Halifax, and he then served as an officer in the 6th North Carolina Regiment during the Revolutionary War. He married Nancy Cunningham, who was the sister of a fellow officer in the 6th North Carolina. William Saunders was a member of the prestigious Society of the Cincinnati. He and Nancy along with William's brother Thomas moved to Davidson County, Tennessee, in the early 1790s. William and Nancy were living on their land of approximately 220 acres by about 1795.

William died in 1803, and the property passed to Nancy as a lifetime estate. In 1808 she married Richard Alexander. They developed the farm into a large prosperous plantation that relied on slave labor. Richard Alexander owned 29 slaves in 1820, but that number decreased to 21 by 1840 when Alexander was in his seventies. Nancy died in 1839 but Richard lived until 1855. He and son Dr. James L. Alexander are credited with building in circa 1840 the five-bay, central-hall, two-story frame farmhouse, featuring a one-story Greek Revival-styled portico, known as Bledsoeboro.

The farm next passed to William Sanders Alexander, who managed the farm as well as a general merchandise store and post office at Dixon Springs. He married Susan Black, and they had seven children. Their son, William S. Alexander, Jr., joined the Confederate army and died at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. The family cultivated grains, hay, and tobacco and raised cattle.

Lewis Cass Alexander was willed about 500 acres of family land after his father's death in 1876. He married Mary Barksdale, and they had a daughter, Kate, and a son, who died at birth. Lewis Alexander changed the farm into more of a livestock-breeding operation. He bred saddle horses and race horses, which trained on a track at the farm.

Lewis and Mary's daughter Kate inherited about 450 acres in 1897. Her first husband, Tom Maxey Beasley, died in 1923; Kate's second marriage was to Erby N. Dalton. Kate's family ended the farm's horse-breeding operation and focused instead on typical crops of the region: corn, hay, and tobacco while raising swine and cattle. She died in 1947.

After Kate's death, the farm was divided between three of her sons, Jesse, Lewis, and William Beasley. Jesse Beasley, a World War II veteran, inherited about 76 acres and focused on enlarging burley tobacco production, constructing a new tobacco barn in 1950. His wife Pauline "Polly" Hite Beasley served as a nurse in the U.S. Army and later taught nursing at Smith County High School. In 1954 Lt. Jesse Beasley, a U.S. Navy pilot, died in the Korean War. He was awarded a Purple Heart posthumously. His portion of the land, about 76 acres, passed to his wife Polly and son Charles "Satch" Beasley. They built a new farmhouse the following year. Polly Beasley was a widely respected agriculturalist and upon her passing in 2020, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a resolution that praised her as "a true lover of nature and its beauty" and noted her "lifelong dedication to the care and humane treatment of animals."

In 2004 the Beasleys submitted the Century Farms application for Sunlit Hill Farm. Satch Beasley had taken his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and became a pilot. He maintained a plane, hangar, and runway on the farm. He also created a website about the military careers of his parents and the history of the farm. Satch Beasley died in 2018, and about 68 acres of the original farm passed to his wife and children, who operate it through a family trust.



Sunlit Hill Farm barn, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Sunlit Hill Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Howell's Farm house and field, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

STEWART COUNTY HOWELL'S FARM

(CIRCA 1800)

Howell Lane, Big Rock

Around 1800 David Moore, one of the founders of Stewart County, acquired about 1,000 acres in western Montgomery County, which became Stewart County in 1803. He and wife Mary raised grains, tobacco, and livestock, including horses. They were slaveowners; according to the 1820 census they owned three and by 1850 they owned eight slaves. David and Mary donated land for the construction of Big Rock Baptist Church around 1834. David Moore was an active Jacksonian Democrat from the 1820s to the 1840s, serving as the chair of the county nomination



Howell's Farm field, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Howell's Farm field, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

committee in 1849. He died around 1858, because in that year newspapers noted the settlement of his estate.

Daughter Priscilla Moore Howell and her husband William Carroll Howell inherited 250 acres circa 1858. They had six children, of whom son John J. Howell acquired family land, probably after his mother's death in 1881. Like his parents, John and his wife Nannie Wall Howell were tobacco farmers. After John's death in 1900, Nannie moved to Trigg County, Kentucky, where she lived until her death in 1947. The family farm passed to David Howell and his wife Virginia Horn Howell, who operated the farm in the first decades of the 20th century.

In 1922, the property passed to their son, Oliver L. Howell, who was 98 years old when he died in 1985. His wife was Ethleen Taylor Howell, and they had three children. The farm in the late 20th century produced corn, wheat, soybeans, tobacco, and timber. When Howell registered his family farm as a Century Farm in 1976, he noted that Ross Bagwell worked the land, a task that Bagwell continued for years. Bagwell served for years on the boards of the Montgomery County Co-Op and Stewart County Soil Conservation. His family still owns and operates farms along Bagwell Road in Stewart County.

The next owner of Howell's Farm was Oliver and Ethleen's son William D. "Bill" Howell. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and returned to serve the city of Dover as the city attorney and as a board member of Dover People's Bank. In politics, he was a delegate to the 1952 Tennessee State Constitution Convention and also was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee Senate in the late 1950s. Upon the death of both Bill and his wife Louise in 2008, the management of the farm passed to their children, who have established a family partnership guided by son David Howell.



Wallace Farm historic log house, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

SUMNER COUNTY

THISTLEDEW HILLS FARM (1787)

Wallace Road, Gallatin

A native of Pennsylvania, Joseph Wallace and wife Mary Meek Wallace acquired a land grant of 640 acres in 1787 and settled in Sumner County between 1789 and 1790, when they were listed in residence in the census for the Southwest Territory. With a large family of twelve children, the Wallaces and their three slaves, according to the 1820 census, produced syrup from maple trees, cultivated grains and tobacco, and raised horses, cattle, and swine.

Joseph Wallace died in 1820, and at least 129 acres of the farm went to the youngest



Major Samuel Wallace grave marker,
Wallace-Gillespie Cemetery, 2025.

Photograph by the author.



Wallace Farm. FFA officers, 1964-1965.
Joe Miller Wallace, Jr., is on top row, first
person on left. *Tennessee FFA Foundation.*

son Samuel Wallace. He married Saffira Brackin. In 1836, Wallace served in Capt. William Trousdale's Company in the Second Regiment of the Tennessee Mounted Militia. After serving in the War with Mexico, he was recognized as Major Samuel Wallace. He supported the Whig and the American political parties as well as the building of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, which passed through his property.

When Samuel Wallace died in 1881, his will left most of the farm to his children. But he also made some interesting short-term arrangements for two African Americans, William Bracken and Abram Wallace, whom he described as having "been faithful in their attentions and services and nurseing to & of me."

Wallace granted them "the use of the land between 55 & 60 acres free of any charge" as well as "the choice of land to rent any where on my place as much as they can cultivate well at one 50/100 dollars per acre" for three years.

In 1882 son Joseph Wallace and his wife Elizabeth purchased 430 acres from the estate. They had eight children. Joseph was a land surveyor and gained the nickname "Surveyor Joe." The Wallaces cultivated tobacco and corn and raised cattle, horses, and swine. In 1884 John Randolph Wallace acquired 159 acres of the family land. He married Mary Francis "Fannie" Elliott in 1889, and they had one child, Charles Houston Wallace, who took over the farm after his father's death in 1920. Fannie Elliott Wallace died in 1932.

In 1911 Charles H. Wallace had married Mina Cobb, and they had four children. In 1935 Charles served on the Sumner County Court. He died in 1938, and Mina and the children managed the farm for the next decade. Their son Joe Miller Wallace, Sr., first purchased 85 acres of the family land in 1947; he purchased another 74 acres from his siblings in 1972.

In the second half of the 20th century, the Wallace Farm became known for its swine, cattle, and tobacco production. Joe and his wife Mary encouraged their children to participate in 4-H and FFA. In 1963 their son Joe Miller Wallace, Jr., won the Junior Market Hog Show at Nashville's Union Stockyards. In 1964-1965 he was state secretary for Tennessee FFA. Their daughter Mary Lou Wallace won two ribbons for her hogs at the same Junior Market Hog Show competition in 1965.

Joe Miller Wallace, Sr., died in 1981 followed by wife Mary Freeman Wallace in 1982. The following year, their property passed to their heirs, who now manage and operate the historic farm (now known as Thistledew Hills Farm) and maintain its historic log and brick dwelling along Wallace Road.



Gillespie Farm with house, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

SUMNER COUNTY

GILLESPIE FARM (1787)

Wallace Road, Gallatin

The neighboring Gillespie Farm is the second Frontier Century Farm to develop from the initial land grant and settlement of Joseph and Mary Wallace. The history of the two properties is similar for almost 100 years until 1884, when Mary Jane Wallace, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Wallace, acquired 129 acres of family land. Two years later she married Foster C. Gillespie, who had served in the 7th Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A., during the Civil War. Their farm was known as the Gillespie Farm.

The Gillespies added sheep to the cattle and swine they raised but mostly the farm produced tobacco and grains. They had five children and the farm passed to sons Robert, Jessie, and Charles Henry following the death of Foster in 1914 and Mary Jane in 1917. Within three years, however, Charles Henry Gillespie owned the farm's 129 acres. In 1925 he married Allie Lee Gorham, and they had four children. Charles expanded farm operations by renting land for corn production but also outfitting three threshing crews who not only worked his land but those of others in the county.

Charles died in 1971, and his wife Allie Gorham Gillespie took over the farm's administration. She filed its original application to the Century Farms program in 1976. At that time the property included 155 acres in addition to the original 129 acres of family



Gillespie Farm. Wallace-Gillespie Cemetery, 2025.
Photograph by the author.



Gillespie Farm fields, 2025.
Photograph by the author.



Gillespie Farm historic road, 2025.
Photograph by the author.

land. Her son Charles Henry “Pete” Gillespie, Jr., supervised operations. Living at the farm was the family of her daughter Jo Ann Gillespie Bartlett, her husband Frank Bartlett, and their children Terry, Frank Lynn, Linda Ann, and Carrie. Jo Ann Gillespie and Frank Bartlett had married in 1955.

After Allie Gorham Gillespie died in 1994, the farm passed to her three daughters and a daughter-in-law. Jo Ann Gillespie had married James Herbert Perdue in 1986, and they had 64 acres of the original farm, which included the early 20th-century farmhouse. Her son Terry Wallace Bartlett took over the farm’s operations. Another section of land went to her sister Mary Gillespie Gregory, who married Homer C. Gregory, Jr. The Gregorys, along with sons Foster and Henry, developed one of the county’s largest 21st-century farms, Gregory Farms, which included over 300 acres of the original family land.

James Perdue died in 2015, and Jo Ann has subdivided her 64 acres between herself and her children. In 2025, the land produces beef cattle, hay, and feed crops.



Triple D Farm, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

SUMNER COUNTY

TRIPLE D FARM (CIRCA 1790)

Center Point Road, Hendersonville

Philip Jacob Kizer, Sr., and his wife Elizabeth Gebheart Kizer acquired hundreds of acres in the Shackle Island community of Sumner County before Tennessee statehood. Having married in Bedford County, Virginia, in



Triple D Farm landscape and sign, 2025.

Photograph by the author.



Triple D Farm house, 2025.

Photograph by the author.

1783, the Kizers, along with their daughter Betsy, moved to what was then called the Southwest Territory. They had four more children in their new home. The Kizers used their extensive landholdings to raise livestock and grains and sell timber. They owned four slaves according to the 1830 census. They joined the Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Philip Kizer, Sr., died in 1829 and was buried at the family cemetery off present-day Center Point Road. His son Philip J. Kizer, Jr., began farming 119 acres of family land in 1820. He married twice, to Elizabeth Jones, who died in 1825, and then in 1830 he married Sarah “Sally” Perry. The first marriage had two sons, Addison Andrew and Leander, who would eventually inherit the land. Philip, Jr., and Sally Perry had ten children. According to the 1850 census, they owned seven slaves. Sally Perry Kizer died in 1878, and Philip passed away the following year.

The next owner was Leander Kizer, who acquired his first family land of 129 acres from his father in 1859. He had married Amanda Kirkpatrick in 1845, and they had three children to reach adulthood. In 1880 the farm had 22 acres in apple orchards, 100 acres of woodland, and kept 6 horses and 22 mules. Over 74 acres yielded corn, oats, wheat, and potatoes. Both white and black hired labor worked the land. From the 1870s to the 1910s, the family enlarged their property to 436 acres. Like his parents, Leander was a member of the Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church. When he died in 1889, the family buried him in the church cemetery.

Amanda Kizer continued the family farm, having received 200 acres when her husband died in 1889. She managed the land along with her daughter Lucy Ann Kizer Gray, who had married James Washington Gray in 1867. A veteran of Company E of the 7th Tennessee Regiment, C.S.A., Gray was wounded at the Battle of Antietam and captured. Later paroled, he immediately rejoined the Confederate army only to be wounded and captured again at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. He never fully recovered from his chest wounds, which hampered his work as he grew older. Gray died in 1908.

In the late 19th century, Amanda Kizer and the Grays kept the family’s mixed agricultural practices, but added tobacco as their main cash crop. She died in 1916 and is buried beside her husband at the Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Two years earlier, Amanda Kizer and Lucy Ann Gray took steps to make sure the farm passed to the next generation, leaving to Lucy Ann and James Gray’s seven children about 200 acres of Kizer land, plus seven acres acquired by James Gray. From this division of property came the sixth owners of the farm, Emma Kizer Willis and her spouse Horace L. Willis and Amanda Gray Rice and her husband Henry Burford Rice.

By 1926 Henry Burford and Amanda Gray Rice owned over 150 acres of the family farm. They had six children. Amanda died in 1943 and after World War II, Henry transferred family land to three sons due to his old age and inability to be active in agricultural practice. His children George and Lillian remained at the homeplace with their father, who died in 1973.

In April 1947 James Henry Rice and Martha Davy Rice acquired 51 acres of the original farm from his father. James and Martha had married in 1932 and had one child, Carl Dean Rice in



Triple D Farm. Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2025.

Photograph by the author.

1941. The Rices acquired tracts from siblings and soon farmed over 63 acres of land. They specialized in beef and dairy products while also raising goats. In 1967 son Carl Dean Rice and his spouse Patricia Proctor Rice acquired the family land and kept up the farm's long tradition of raising beef cattle.

In 2024, the family registered the 63-acre farm with the Century Farms program. At that time four generations, including Patricia Proctor Rice and her children Debra D. Rice, LaDonna Rice Gilmore, and James D. Rice, lived on the property. Beef cattle, hay, and garden vegetables are the farm's products.

Fox Horn Hill Farm sign, 2025.
Photograph by the author.



Fox Horn Hill Farm entrance and house, 2025.
Photograph by the author.

SUMNER COUNTY

FOX HORN HILL FARM (CIRCA 1790)

Hurt Road, Hendersonville

Fox Horn Hill Farm is a second Frontier Century Farm in Sumner County to evolve from the large pre-statehood landholdings of German immigrant Philip Jacob Kizer and his wife Elizabeth Gebheart Kizer. Of their four children, son John Kizer inherited family land at his father's death. He married Frances "Fanny" Blare in 1820, and they had twelve children. According to the 1850 census, he owned five slaves.

John Kizer died in January 1860. His first son, Marcus L. Kizer, took over the family farm. When Marcus's brother-in-law John Ralph, the husband of his sister Harriet Kizer, died in 1867, Marcus moved the family into the Ralph home, joining his sister Harriet. He built a new two-story, central-hall plan house for the extended family around 1874. The house still stands on the property today.

Marcus lived to the age of 78 and died in 1900. The next owner was one of his sister Harriet's daughters, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ralph, who was born in 1866. She married Joseph Warren Hurt, and they had two sons. Joseph Hurt died in 1919, but Lizzie Ralph Hurt lived at the farm until 1950, during which time the family constructed new

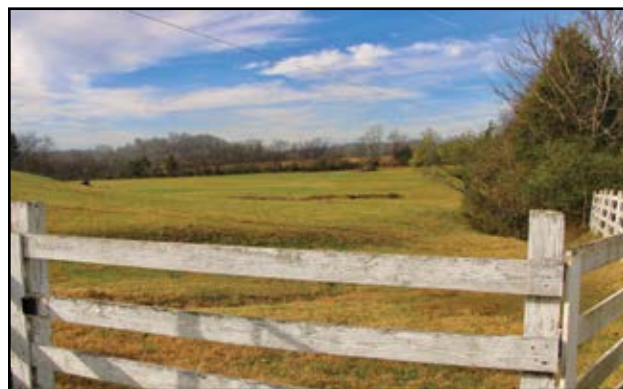


Fox Horn Hill Farm house, c. 1900.
L to R: Joseph Warren Hurt, Lizzie Hurt, and Lizzie's daughter Lonnie. Tennessee Century Farms Files.

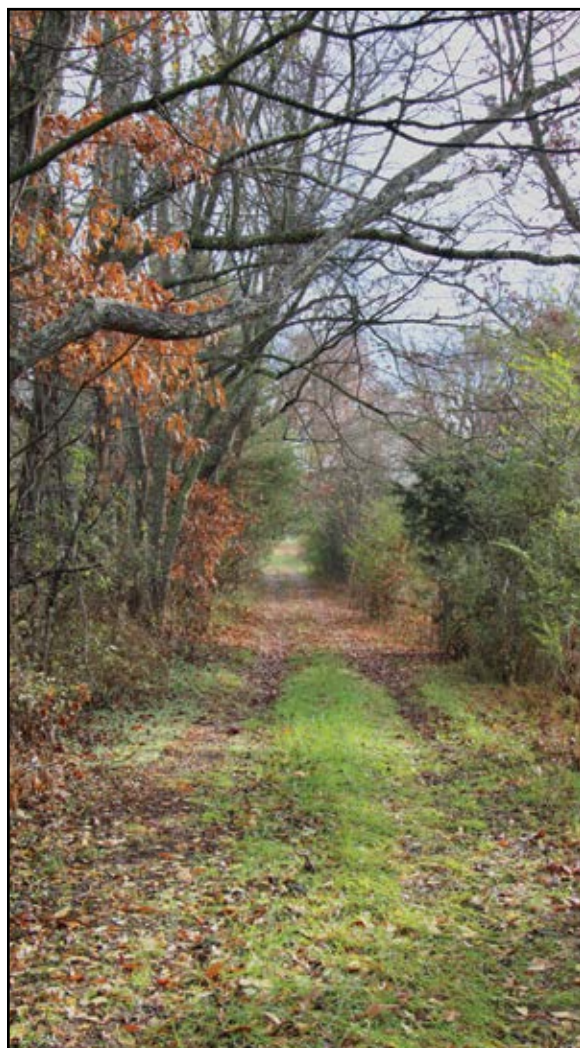
barns for sheep and cattle around 1945. The road that leads to the farm was named Hurt Road.

Operating the farm during these years was Edd Seay Hurt, Sr., who had married Sadie Avaritt in 1926. After his mother Lizzie died in 1950, she deeded over 80 acres to her son Edd. After his death in 1965, the property passed to the only child, Edd Seay Hurt, Jr. He married Mary Hotchkiss, and they had two children. Hurt served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Returning to Tennessee, he took his law degree from the Nashville YMCA Night Law School and established his practice in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Daughter Mary Hurt Nelson took over the farm after her father's death in 2007. Mary, her husband Steve Nelson, and their two children managed 84 acres of the original farm. In 2025, the farm had been reduced to 74 acres but remained agriculturally productive.



Fox Horn Hill Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Bradley Farm road, 2025.
Photograph by the author.

SUMNER COUNTY

BRADLEY FARM (CIRCA 1800)

Bradley Lane and Centerpoint Road, Cottontown

The Cottontown community is home to the Bradley Farm, established by Elisha or Elijah Kirby (primary sources have both names) and Rebecca Sarah Woods Kirby circa 1800. Their large farm produced cattle, swine, sheep, grains, and tobacco. The 1840 census lists Elisha Kerby, which may be Elijah Kirby, as owning eight slaves. About the time of her mother's death in 1849, daughter Margaret Kirby Warren and her spouse Thomas H. Warren took over the farm. Margaret died in 1853 but left the farm to her husband and two children, Napoleon Washington Warren and Laura Warren. During the Civil War, Thomas joined the Confederate army. Due to his absence, according to the family, "Yankee soldiers pilfered the farm, stealing everything they could take with them."

In 1870, the farm passed to daughter Laura Warren. In 1874 she married Andrew Jackson Bradley, a Civil War veteran who had served in Company B of the 7th Tennessee Regiment, C.S.A. They had five children.

Andrew died in 1887, and the farm continued under Laura's management, assisted by her children, who then ranged in age from 4 to 12 years old. The youngest son, John Ernest Bradley, eventually became the fourth-generation owner, probably around the time he married Bessie Briley in 1911. They and their two children, Lola May and Lawrence E. Bradley, operated the farm through the first half of the 20th century.

Lawrence Bradley, the founder's great-great-grandson, married Mary Ralph in 1943. He had attended David Lip-



Bradley Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Bradley Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

scomb College and as the wedding announcement noted he was “connected to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.” They received 120 acres of the farm in 1952. Over the next thirty years he, his wife Mary Ralph Bradley, and their three children practiced diversified agriculture and increased the property to 165 acres, producing beef cattle, grains, soybeans, and hay. In 1976, when they registered the farm in the Century Farms program, the family still lived in the 19th-century homeplace.

Lawrence Bradley died in 1984, but Mary lived almost another 25 years, passing away in early 2009. She lived at the farm, sharing the management duties with Larry Bradley and Wayne Bradley. Lawrence and Mary’s daughter Lanita Bradley Boyd became a well-regarded writer of devotionals. The family farm still produces grains and soybeans, under the direction of the next generation of Bradley heirs, including Tennessee residents John R. and Dale Bradley.



Drake Farm
burley tobacco.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Drake Farm tobacco barn.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

SUMNER COUNTY

DRAKE FARM (1876)

Macedonia Road, Castalian Springs

With the end of the Civil War in 1865, tens of thousands of enslaved people across Tennessee sought freedom and opportunity. It took time to accumulate enough money to buy and maintain your own farm, but African American families took on that hard work, and many achieved their goals.



Drake Farm, planting the garden.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

In brief, that is the early history of the Drake Farm. Located where large plantations once existed in the Castalian Springs area, the farm was established by George Bullock in 1868, but he did not finish paying for the 160 acres until 1876, when he received the deed. Developing the farm in the early years was difficult, but Bullock, his wife Maria, and two children were determined. His great-great-great-granddaughter, Frances Drake Malone, told the Nashville

Tennessean on October 26, 2014, that “we’re not a people known to starve to death. You’re going to make it some kind of way because the good Lord is going to let you make it.” The family practiced mixed farming during the early decades and raised corn, wheat, cattle, horses, and swine, while maintaining an orchard.

The Bullocks also supported community institutions and donated land for a combination church/school, which is now the location of Macedonia Baptist Church.

The next owners were son Henry Bullock and his wife Frances Sweat-Thompson, who had married in 1881. The birth of their first child, Alice Melissa Bullock, came the following year. Alice would inherit 130 acres of the original farm sometime between her father’s death in 1916 and her mother’s death in 1935. Alice graduated from high school and became a public school teacher. She married Charles Wallace Drake in 1904, and they had six children.

In 1964 Alice Drake died, and the founders’ great-grandson Herman K. Drake received the 130 acres of family land. He enlarged the property by 122 acres while also adding goats and tobacco to the farm’s products. In 1934 he had married Elizabeth Barr. The farm was part of the Tennessee Maneuvers during World War II, and the family has stories of cooking pies for the hungry soldiers.

By 1964 the children had left the farm to launch promising careers across the country. George Barr Drake, for instance, finished a degree in mechanical engineering from Tennessee State University and then had a long career with General Motors and in public service as the village president in New Haven, Michigan.

Frances Elizabeth Drake Malone and her husband Richard Malone managed the farm from the late 20th century through the first decades of the 21st century. Richard was a graduate of Union High School in Gallatin, then served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Returning home, he worked at the Gallatin Steam Plant of the Tennessee Valley Authority. He also worked with his father-in-law Herman Drake and his wife Frances Drake Malone in operating the farm. Frances told the Nashville *Tennessean* on October 26, 2014, that “we all worked it. We are a family of entrepreneurs.... It’s important because it connects people together, and it’s nice to tell the stories.” After Richard Malone’s death in 2022, everyday management passed to son Richard Malone, Jr., and the farm produces hay today.



Drake Farm. Richard Malone on tractor.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Beech Hill Farm house. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

BEECH HILL FARM (1796)

Horton Highway, College Grove

One of the oldest Frontier Century Farm dwellings lies at the heart of the Beech Hill Farm, established in 1796 by William and Mary Harris Ogilvie. Moving from North Carolina, the founders located their property near a spring that still supplies the farm today from a stone spring house. William built a log house for his family, but as needs changed over the decades different generations have added rooms and spaces to the homeplace. Owner Elizabeth Ogilvie Battle explained to Carole Robinson of the *Williamson Herald* on June 4, 2015, “It’s nothing like a mansion—it’s a little ole farmhouse that’s been added onto and added onto, but I love every board in it.”

Mary Harris Ogilvie died in 1807, and William transferred many of his holdings to their children before his death in 1813. For instance, he left the homeplace and 315 acres to son Richard and his wife Cynthia Mary Wilson while he bequeathed a slave named Juniper to his daughter Nancy Ogilvie Allison. Richard and Cynthia had seven children. According to the 1830 census, they also owned 508 acres and 14 slaves, whose labor had helped to turn the frontier farm into an antebellum plantation.

When Richard died in 1832, he left the place to his wife Cynthia and youngest son James Smith Ogilvie. James married Rachel Webb in 1844, and they had five children. During the 1840s, the Ogilvies expanded the size of their livestock herds and their acreage in cotton. Doing so meant that they also increased their ownership of slaves. According to the 1850 census, James owned 32 slaves, more than double the number from 1830.

Cynthia Wilson Ogilvie lived on the farm until her death in 1853. After that, in the summer of 1858, James S. Ogilvie offered any interested buyer a “stock farm” of 570 acres, “all of which is under a good fence.” He placed an advertisement in local newspapers that touted the land’s many virtues: “about 325 acres cleared, the balance well set with poplar and other valuable timber; there is more than a dozen of never failing springs on the premises, with plenty of lasting stock water on all parts of the farm. There is also a young Orchard of several



Beech Hill Farm cemetery.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Beech Hill Farm spring house.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

hundred choice fruit trees. The lands are rich and productive; the location healthy and desirable—desirable on account of the morality and intelligence of its citizens, and the schools and churches that surround it.”

James S. and Rachel Ogilvie, however, did not sell the farm, operating it until James’s death in 1897. The land yielded corn, tobacco, hay, and livestock, including sheep. In about 1897, when their father died, James Smith Ogilvie, Jr., and Samuel Jason Ogilvie, the grandsons of the founders, inherited 350 acres. Working as partners, they raised the same crops as their parents and grandparents. Samuel Jason Ogilvie, however, died at age 36, leaving his part of the farm to wife Anna Rucker Ogilvie, who had three small children. She relied on hired African American laborers to produce crops and livestock, and her oldest son James De Ogilvie worked the farm with the hired hands.

In 1931 James De Ogilvie acquired 150 acres of the farm. Naming the property “Beech Hill Farm,” Ogilvie and his wife Bettye Maxwell ran the farm until James’s death in 1963. In 1964 Sam R. Ogilvie and his sister Betty Ogilvie Battle, who was married to *Nashville Banner* journalist Bob Battle, received the family’s 150 acres. Sam and Betty were the great-great-grandchildren of the founders.

In 1982 family historian Craig Ogilvie remarked that “the old house with its thick walls of solid timbers, is something of a shrine. It is believed that other members of the family, other than Richard’s descendants, occupied parts of the house and outbuildings at different times in history, especially during the Civil War when families struggled together to survive.” In 1988 the farmhouse, outbuildings, family cemetery, slave cemetery and 73 acres of land were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At that time, the farm produced corn, tobacco, hay, and cattle.

In 1992 Elizabeth and Bob Battle became sole owners. Bob worked for the *Nashville Banner* for 54 years, but he also was active with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Foundation, the Tennessee Agricultural Museum, and the Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America, along with many other civic organizations. Battle died in 2010 and recently the farm has been placed in a family trust. It yields pasture and beef cattle in 2025.



Locust Guard Farm house, 2025. Photograph by the author.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY **LOCUST GUARD FARM** (CIRCA 1800)

Moran Road, Brentwood

Revolutionary War veteran John Motheral was a native of Pennsylvania who served in the North Carolina militia. He and his wife Jane Currie Motheral left that state in the late 1790s and took up land in Williamson County in 1800. Over the next twenty years, the Motherals and 12 slaves,



Locust Grove Farm historical marker, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

as recorded in the 1820 census, farmed approximately 400 acres, raising corn, grains, and livestock.

Of the founders' seven children, Joseph Motheral received 225 acres of family land in 1822. He and wife Anness Wil-

liams Motheral transformed the farm's appearance and activities. Joseph directed the slaves to complete the farm's stone fences and to construct and operate a grist mill. The slaves also built new work spaces, including barns, a milk house, and a "machine house for spinning and weaving." According to the 1830 census, the Motherals owned 10 slaves; twenty years later, Joseph owned 19.

Joseph Motheral died in 1872, and the farm passed to three daughters, Emaline, America, and Jane. Emaline Tennessee Ring's son, Henry Hiram Ring, became the next farm operator and later acquired the landholdings of his aunts. When his mother died in 1898, Henry and his wife Sarah McClellan Ring became the farm's sole owners.

Henry Ring was a well-respected progressive farmer. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Ring introduced new commodities to the farm, including honey and a walnut grove. His success as an agriculturalist also contributed to his success as a member of the Williamson County Court. After his death in 1930, he left the farm to Sarah McClellan Ring. Their sons James E. and Ned Ring added peach and pecan orchards and installed an irrigation system, not just for the fruit trees but also for the cultivation of alfalfa.

In 1953 the family land passed to the surviving children of Henry and Sarah Ring. In 1959 Robert Ring joined his Uncle Ned in managing the farm. Two years later, the farm was deeded to Emma Mai Ring, who taught in Williamson County schools, and her nephew Robert Ring, who is the great-great-great-grandson of the founders. An agriculture major at the University of Tennessee, Robert brought modern management techniques to the farm's everyday activities, increasing crop and livestock yields. In the 1970s Robert and his wife Charlene supervised a large beef cattle herd, and cultivated corn, wheat, hay, and soybeans. Like Henry Ring, Robert Ring also was more than a successful farmer. From 1982 to 1998, he was County Executive of Williamson County.

In 2025 the farm rotates corn and soybeans while still producing hay and renting land for grazing. The family also maintains three early 19th-century buildings as well as the original front six rooms of the farmhouse.



Locust Guard Farm barn, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Locust Guard Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Cloydland Farm house, 2025.
Photograph by the author.



Cloydland Farm woods, 2025.
Photograph by the author.

WILSON COUNTY

CLOYDLAND FARM (CIRCA 1790)

Lebanon Road, Old Hickory

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Cloydland Farm is one of the most famous Frontier Century Farms in Middle Tennessee, known for its 1791 homeplace prominently situated on Lebanon Road. Its significance in the early settlement history of Middle Tennessee is matched by its significance in the region's 20th-century agricultural history of the hog-breeding industry.

Cloydland's survival today is an impressive testament of the Ligon family's devotion to the land and their family history. A modern four-lane highway roars through the middle of the property. On all sides of the farm are the houses and businesses of the 21st-century expansion of Wilson County. Yet, this rural oasis remains, and reminds us of the region's agricultural roots.

John Cloyd, a native of Ireland who was born in 1735, came with his family to Delaware circa 1750. In 1758 he married Margaret Jane Scott and soon thereafter moved to Augusta County, Virginia. By the 1780s he and Margaret were living in Chester County, Pennsylvania. About 1790 they moved to Tennessee to take up a 220-acre property. The homeplace was completed the following year.

John Cloyd died in 1795, and Margaret followed in death in 1799. The farm passed to their oldest son John Cloyd, Jr., who was born in 1764 in Augusta County, Virginia. He continued to produce grains and livestock, like his father, but also grew cotton. According to the 1850 census, he appeared to have owned one slave family, an adult male and adult female, both 48 years old, and three children, ages 5 to 12.

Upon his death in 1851, the founder's grandson, John W. Cloyd, born in 1814, inherited the family property. He had been farming for some time. When the federal census-taker visited his property in 1840, he counted John and eight slaves; later that same year John married Sarah Wade Brooks. At the time John and Sarah took over the farm in 1851, they had five children, with four more to come by the end of the decade. They operated a tanyard in addition to their farm.

After the death of her parents in the 1880s, Dora T. Cloyd took over the farm. The tanyard had closed, but she, her siblings, and her farm workers continued cultivating corn and cotton while



Cloydland Farm hog barn, 2025.
Photograph by the author.



Advertisement for hog sale at Cloydland Farm, 1953. *Tennessee Century Farm Files.*

Service as a major in the U.S. Army during World War II interrupted his livestock breeding project but upon his return home in 1946, Ligon registered his herd and entered hog shows and sales across the state and nation. By 1954 the business had become international, with the Ligon family selling breeding stock to Argentina, Mexico, and Cuba.

Duncan Ligon also bred registered Pulled Shorthorn Cattle and Hampshire Sheep. His wife Gladys Ware was a painter who became a dealer in antiques and collectibles and who also operated Ligon's Flower Shop in Donelson. The Ligon family had two children, Lanov and Herschel; the latter took over the farm following his father's death in 1979 and his mother's death in 1987.

Herschel Ligon and his second wife Lillie Eller Ligon continued the farm's livestock business, operating the oldest Poland China hog herd in the United States and one of the oldest sheep flocks in Tennessee. In the 1970s and 1980s he testified before state and federal agricultural committees about livestock markets, especially the hog market, and was one of the founders of the Tennessee Pork Producers Association in 1985. That same year, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Poland China Association and was named the Mid-South Fair's Farmer of the Year. Jack Ficken, the association's vice president, told the *Nashville Tennessean* on January 9, 1991, "Herschel is a seed stock producer. Poland Chinas are a good lean breed, and he sells about all the boars that he can produce." In 2008 Ligon was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Upon his death in 2010, the farm passed to the next generation of Ligon family, who are determined to keep the family farm's traditions alive despite constant development pressures from the rapidly expanding Old Hickory and Mt. Juliet communities. Bill Ligon has been particularly active in all sorts of agricultural organizations and endeavors to keep the farm together, assisted by his son Andy, who is a local veterinarian, son Jason, and daughter Randi Langlois. In 2024 Bill Ligon and his wife Cheryl Summers Ligon, who had passed away from cancer in 2020, were inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

raising horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. Dora died in 1916 and left 160 acres of family property to her nephew James Duncan Ligon, the son of her sister Ellinora "Ella" Van Leer Cloyd and William B. Ligon.

Adding 130 acres to the property over the following decades, Duncan took the farm into the progressive era of Tennessee agriculture. He bred a herd of Poland China Hogs that impacted hog-breeding across the nation. In a February 28, 1954, story in the *Nashville Tennessean*, Ligon explained how his prize-winning herd started: "My wife and I spent part of our honeymoon at her uncle's farm in Ohio. When we left, he gave us one of his best suckling boar pigs. At that time I owned a few Duroc sows. The Poland China-Duroc cross produced such strong, healthy pigs I bought two Poland China gilts the following year and soon shifted to this breed entirely."



Cloydland Farm, c. 1980. *Tennessee Century Farm Files.*



Rice Farm fields, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

WILSON COUNTY

RICE FARM (1800)

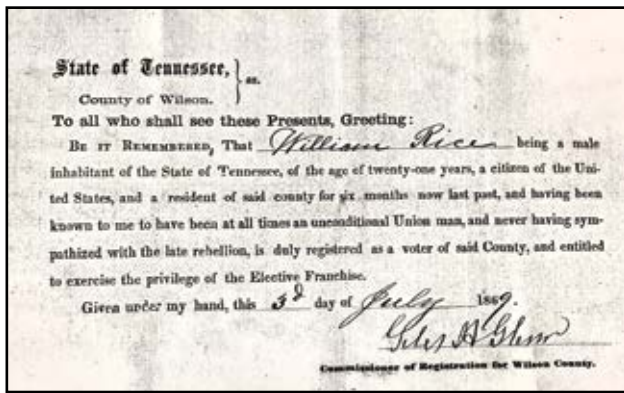
Riceland Road, Gladeville

John and Mary T. Rice were one of the founding families of Gladeville after they acquired 214 acres and started their farm in 1800. After 20 years of marriage, they had moved from their native Caswell County, North Carolina, to land well-watered by Pond Lick Creek. Like many of their new neighbors, they raised grains and livestock and started the farm by first building a log cabin as their residence. A modern log house on the property today is a homage to that early history. In 1811 the family also established the Rice Cemetery, one of the oldest in Wilson County.

Mary Rice died in 1821, and husband John died the following year. The farm passed to the families of their sons Benjamin, John, and Simeon. John had married Nancy Ramsey in 1807, while Benjamin married Elizabeth Climer in 1819. Simeon never married. The joint operation of the farm later changed and at the time of Benjamin Rice's death in 1864, at least 100 acres of the property went to William C. Rice, the founder's grandson, who lived there until his death in 1909.

Rice had married Catherine Gates in 1842, and they had seven children between the time of their marriage and the end of the Civil War in 1865. In the 1850s the family leased land for timber harvesting and the construction of a sawmill. During the Civil War, the family sold one gun to the Confederate army in 1861 but otherwise remained loyal to the United States, as demonstrated when William took the oath of allegiance before the federal Provost Marshal in 1863. After the war, county officials recognized Rice's loyalty and granted him the right to vote in 1869.

In 1909 Thomas J. Rice, the founders' great-grandson, acquired 103 acres, which yielded hay, corn, fruit, and cattle. He married second cousin Nannie H. Rice, and they had three children. They lived on the



Rice Farm. William Rice's voter registration affirming his support for the Union, 1869.

Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Rice Farm fields, 2025. Photograph by the author.

farm until the end of the Great Depression. Thomas died in 1940 and Nannie died in 1941, leaving the farm's 103 acres to their son Ezra "Edd" Rice and his wife Carmien Murphy Rice. The new owners soon encountered major change when their land became part of the Tennessee Maneuvers during World War II. Sadly, they also lost a son to the war: Phillip Rice served in the Army Air Force and died in action in 1942.

The sixth owner of the Rice Farm was Phillip's sister, Christene Rice Robinson, who acquired the 103 acres in 1981. She and her husband Sam S. Robinson turned the farm into a livestock business, with pasture for cattle and goats. Then came another major change: the construction of Highway 840, a four-lane, interstate-quality road, built through part of the farm in the mid-1990s.

The Robinsons had one child, Darryl, who received over seventy acres of family land in 2005. He operated a cattle business and also donated the farm's original log cabin to Fiddlers Grove, a living history museum at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, he was a former Dean of Students at Cumberland University in Lebanon and also worked for the Tennessee Department of Education.

The current owners, Phyllis and Thomas Hunter, acquired about 73.5 acres in 2013. As the grandson of Edd Rice's sister Annie Rice, Tom Hunter is Edd's great-nephew. The Hunters operate the land as a heritage tree nursery and also produce garden vegetables and raise livestock.



Windy Hill Farm. Martha and Herman Coleman receive Century Farm sign. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

WILSON COUNTY WINDY HILL FARM

(CIRCA 1790)

905 Logue Road, Mt. Juliet

Although only 40 acres today, Windy Hill Farm began big, as in 1,000 acres of land, surveyed by William Nash in 1788 and acquired by founder John Logue in 1789, with the farm underway the next year. Two hundred and thirty-five years later, a farm of pasture and timber is surrounded by recent subdivisions in Mt. Juliet.

John Logue was a native of Delaware and married Eleanor Telford Tinnin in 1776. Exactly when the Logues came to Tennessee is unknown, but his stay here was brief. John Logue died in 1793, and his will divided the farm between Eleanor and their three sons.

By 1811 Carnes Logue had established his own farm, but its development was interrupted by his service in Tennessee volunteer regiments during the War of 1812. After the war, in 1814, he married Margaret “Peggy” Randal and built her a large two-story home. They were farming at least 350 acres of family land by 1826 but continued to expand the farm during the antebellum decades. They also operated a tannery and depended on the labor of seven slaves, according to the 1850 census. Carnes and Margaret were members of the Suggs Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church and had four children. At the time of the 1860 census, the family operated 350 acres and had six slaves.



Windy Hill Farm house, 2025. Photograph by the author.

Carnes died during the Civil War in 1864, and the next owner was Tapley Green Logue, Sr., the founders’ grandson. In 1844 Tapley had married Nancy Ann Bass, and they had 12 children. They continued to operate the tannery and farm, but Tapley also got involved with post-war real estate in Davidson and Wilson counties. The Goodspeed History of Wilson County noted that at the time of his death in 1882, “Logue had accumulated considerable land...of about 1,200 acres.” He also was a member of the International Order of the Odd Fellows fraternal lodge, as well as the Suggs Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Nancy Ann Bass Logue died in 1890, after which the farm was divided and 160 acres passed to son Franklin L. and his spouse Daisy Cantrell Logue. They had married in 1894. Franklin and Daisy shifted farm production from mixed agriculture to feed crops for a large livestock operation. During the Tennessee Maneuvers in World War II, Daisy often cooked for hungry soldiers and in return got cash to help operate the farm. Her granddaughter Martha Coleman remembered, “She cooked on a wood stove. Soldiers would kill and dress chickens, which she would fry for them.”

Lindsay died in 1948, but Daisy Logue lived on the farm until 1961. Her unmarried children Roy and Bessie Lee Logue helped her and then took over the management of the farm’s 80 acres. Roy died in 1971 and left his niece Martha Stamps Coleman his 40-acre portion of the farm.

Martha was the great-great-great-granddaughter of the founders. Her spouse was Herman Mark Coleman, who was a U.S. Army corporal during the Korean War and then had a career in country music radio. He performed with Nashville radio station WLAC personality “Big Jeff” Bess as one of his “Radio Playboys” in the late 1940s and 1950s. In 1973 Herman and Martha built a Colonial Revival-style Ranch house, which remains today. In the late 20th century, they raised cattle, hay, and vegetables, but in the 21st century the 40 acres was primarily for hay, pasture, and timber. Herman Mark Coleman died in 2020, followed by Martha Stamps Coleman in October 2025. The family has established a trust to manage the property.

West Tennessee

In negotiations led by Andrew Jackson of Tennessee and Isaac Shelby of Kentucky with the Chickasaw nation in 1818, the United States acquired lands between the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers, including all of what is now West Tennessee and the eight westernmost counties of Kentucky. This land transaction, known as the Jackson Purchase, opened West Tennessee to settlement and by 1825, many West Tennessee counties had been created.

Therefore, the Frontier Century Farms of West Tennessee do not date to the late eighteenth century. Instead, seven of the eight farms included here date from 1818 to 1825. The eighth farm dates to the Reconstruction era when African Americans finally had the opportunity to own their own farms.

The landscape of the eight farms varies significantly, from the rolling hills of the uplands of Benton, Carroll, Henderson, and Henry counties to the almost Delta-like landscape of Shelby, Obion, and Hardeman counties. Cotton was, and in many ways remains, king in this region, but the production of soybeans and beef cattle also significantly increased in the 20th century, and remain important today.



Peebles Farm soybeans. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

BENTON COUNTY

PEEBLES FARM (1822)

Highway 192, Holladay

Around August 1821 Revolutionary War veteran John Matlock and his wife Margaret acquired 640 acres along Eagle Creek in what is now Benton County. They quickly conveyed the property to their son Caswell Matlock, who, along with his wife Mary “Polly” Merrick, established the family farm in 1822. The Matlocks were acknowledged in early county histories as among the first settlers of the Eagle Creek region. According to the 1820 census, Caswell and Polly had six children and owned four female slaves.

In 1835 Warren Parrish ordained Caswell Matlock, then in his nineties, as deacon of the Eagle Creek Church of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He became a frontier leader for the Latter-day Saints in West Tennessee. That same year church officials baptized Lydia Walker, an enslaved Black woman, and she became a member of the Eagle Creek Church. Latter-day Saints historians consider Walker to be among the first three Black women to join the church.

Caswell Matlock died in 1836, but the small Latter-day Saints congregation remained active until Joseph Smith’s murder at Carthage, Illinois, in 1844. After that event, most members left the eastern states for the West. But the Matlocks stayed. The founders’ grandson John Wesley Matlock and his wife Elizabeth Flowers were the farm’s next owners and cultivated the land almost to the end of the century when, in 1891, it passed to daughter Mary R. Matlock Peebles and her husband Jacob Peebles.

Jacob was a Civil War veteran, having served in the 38th Indiana Regiment, U.S.A. The 38th Indiana was



Peebles Farm. Arch and Mattie Lou Peebles. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Peebles Farm hay barn.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Peebles Farm, 2015. *Seated:* Ann Peebles, Ricky Peebles. *Standing L to R:* Katie, Denton, Brooke, Ginny, Chris, Matthew, Renee, Ansley, and Maddie Peebles. With their dog, Whitie. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Peebles Farm. Ann Peebles accepts a certificate on behalf of the Benton County Farm Bureau from Tom Wilson, 1979. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

involved in many of the major battles of the Western Theater, including Perryville, Stones River, Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga. Why Jacob Peebles returned to Tennessee is unknown, but he married Mary Matlock in 1872 and spent the rest of his life in the state.

Mary and Jacob, along with their nine children, raised livestock, mostly horses, oxen, milk cows, sheep, and swine. They also cultivated corn and peanuts. Of the children, Arch Peebles was the farm's fifth owner. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I and inherited family land in 1927. Arch and wife Mattie Lou Shannon Peebles maintained a big garden but also raised swine and cattle. She was active in the Eagle Creek Home Demonstration Club.

Bill Peebles, the third-great-grandson of the founders, acquired 250 acres of the original farm in 1973. Married to Aileen Peebles, they raised four children, who were active in Benton County 4-H. They continued the tradition of maintaining a big garden and raising cattle, but also added sorghum to the farm's

products. They expanded the farm to over 400 acres.

In 1998, William Richard Peebles and Patricia Ann Peebles took over about 69 acres of the farm. Ann Peebles served as Farm Bureau secretary in Benton County for 15 years as well as representing Farm Bureau Blue Cross/Blue Shield in the county. Corn, hay, and soybeans have been primary crops throughout the years. The family has also raised cattle, hogs, and sorghum.



Moore Family Farm signs, 2023. *MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.*

BENTON COUNTY MOORE FAMILY FARM (1870)

Manleys Chapel Road, Holladay

Emancipation allowed formerly enslaved African Americans in Tennessee to become landowners and establish family farms. One of the oldest is the Moore Family Farm, established in 1870 by John Moore and his wife Harriet Strayhorn Moore. They moved from North Carolina to West Tennessee in search of new opportunities and began with over 200 acres in the Flatwoods community. Like their neighbors, the Moores and their children raised livestock, especially swine, and cultivated grains for their table and to feed the livestock. They also raised sheep from which they could spin yarn and make clothes and quilts. Cash crops included

sorghum—the farm produced 27 gallons of molasses in 1879—cow peas, and sweet potatoes.

John Moore died in 1880, and Harriet decided to move to Gibson County, leaving the family land for son John Lewis Moore. He was a community builder, donating land for a school that also served on Sundays as the Moore's Chapel C.M.E. Church. He also donated land for a community cemetery. Two brothers, Ramsey and Alfred, as well as sister Cora, taught at the school.

Cora Moore took summer classes at Lane College in Jackson, and she encouraged Moore children to strive in education. A land dispute within the family almost changed the farm's history in 1918, but John Lewis Moore bought 200 acres outright and kept the farm together.

In 1923 John Henry Moore, grandson of the founders, inherited the farm. He married Inez Parson, and they had seven children. This generation became known for its sorghum and its barbeque. Shirley Moore Williams remembers that John Henry Moore put his heart and soul into the annual family barbeque that attracted a “bus load” of relatives from Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, and Kansas: “It was a very special time for him and the entire family and community.”

The Moores also sold vegetables in neighboring towns as a cash crop. Inez Parsons Moore worked with the University of Tennessee Extension program, where she trained other African American farm women to use



Moore Family Farm fields, 2023.
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.



Moore Family Farm interpretation, 2023.
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.



Moore Family Farm fields and road, 2023.
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.



Moore Family Farm. Moore Chapel Cemetery, 2016.
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

pressure cookers for canning vegetables. The construction of Interstate Highway I-40 in the late 1960s cut through the farm's southeast corner.

In 1991 the family land passed to great-great-granddaughter Shirley Moore Williams and her daughter Renee Williams. After listing the property as a Century Farm in 2015, the Moores have established an agritourism program at the farm, which includes a state historical marker and interpretive exhibits at the location of the farmhouse, the old school, and the cemetery. The family also created a website to tell its story. The former Moore's Chapel Church is now Friendship C. M. E. Church, located across the road from the farm. It is one of the oldest African American congregations in the region.



Bennett Farm, 2009. Gailford Bennett flanked by Seth Bennett (L) and Burton Bennett (R). Seth's boys are Jaxon and Broox. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

CARROLL COUNTY **BENNETT FARM** (1822)

Bennett Road, Huntingdon

The Bennett Farm began with 100 acres, owned by Etheldred and Mary "Polly" Clemons Bennett, North Carolina natives who came to West Tennessee from Wilson County. They had a family of 15 children. The Bennetts planted corn for food and feed for their livestock. They also cultivated cotton. Polly died in 1850; Etheldred passed away six years later. Their son Elisha Bennett, born in 1807, acquired 70 acres of the farm in 1848. He had married Margaret Horton in 1840, and they operated

the farm for the next four decades. During the Civil War, Elisha and Margaret's son Samuel H. Bennett served in Company F, 7th Tennessee Cavalry, U.S.A., which fought throughout the region during the war.

The founders' grandson Hiram Bennett acquired family land of 400 acres in 1880. Like most in the region, he largely cultivated cotton and corn. He married Alice Vickers, and they had five boys, of whom Horace Lee Bennett inherited 40 acres of the farm in 1910. He married Euvie Oatsvall, and they had four boys and one

daughter. In these years, the Bennetts grew fruits and corn, made sorghum, and raised cattle and chickens.

Then in the late 1940s, the farm passed to Gailford W. Bennett, the great-great-grandson. Gailford's wife was Brooxie Lee Rich, and they had six children. The family's 40 acres produced hogs, cattle, corn, and cotton. When the farm joined the Century Farms program in 2009, Gailford still lived on the property with his son Burton and daughter-in-law Sharon.

In 2025, Burton and Sharon Bennett own 46 of the farm's original acres. Their recent crops have included corn, soybeans, and wheat. Many of the farm's 20th-century historic barns and outbuildings remain in use.



Bennett Farm, 2009. A 1940s barn covered in metal in 2002 by Gailford, Weldon, Burton, and Seth Bennett. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Harris Place house, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

HARDEMAN COUNTY

HARRIS PLACE (1825)

Center Point Lane, Hickory Valley

George Washington Harris left Cabarrus County, North Carolina, and established a plantation of 2,000 acres in the rich lands of southern Hardeman County in 1825. In 1836 he married Martha Wylie Lake, and they had ten children. The plantation yielded livestock and corn but was primarily a cotton plantation. According to the 1840

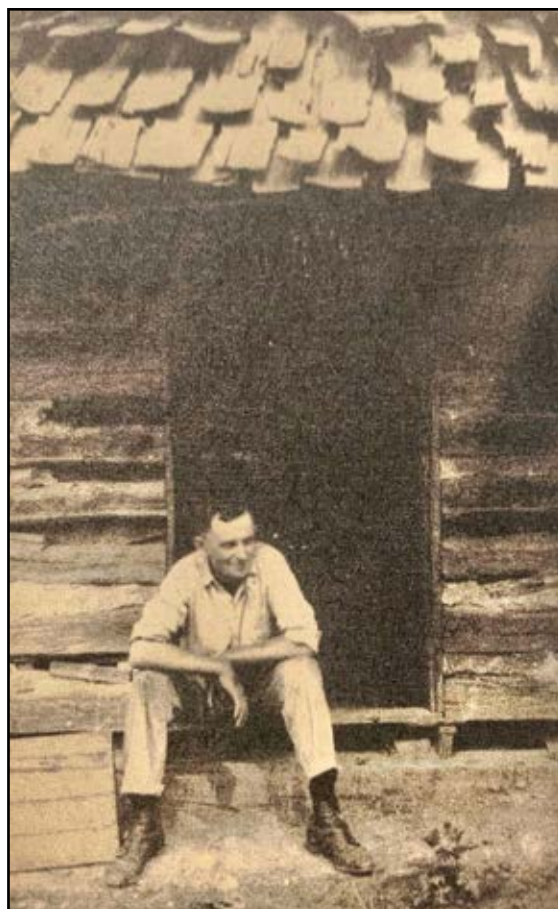
census, Harris owned six slaves; three of these people may have been Anne and her children Anthony and Annette, who Harris purchased from Julius Drew in 1839. By the 1860 census the number of slaves had more than doubled to 13. Along with agriculture, Harris was also admitted into the state bar but rather than practice law, he administered a school. The 1840 census listed 30 students, which, according to the family, included both white and black children. Harris maintained the school until at least 1851.

During the Civil War, George W. Harris took the oath of allegiance to the United States in December 1862, and after the war neighbors testified to his pro-Union support during the war. However, his son George W. Harris, Jr., joined the Confederates at the age of approximately 20. He died from pneumonia while in service at Kingston, Georgia, in January 1864. His younger brother Matthew L. Harris died in Confederate service at Forsyth, Georgia, from wounds he had received in the Battle of Atlanta in July 1864.

After the war, Martha Lake Harris died in 1871, but George Washington Harris lived to 1887 when he died at the age of 87. His son Joseph J. Harris, Sr., acquired 740 acres of family land. In 1886 he had married Sallie Pulliam Harris; they had nine children. Like his father, who had been a county magistrate, J.J. Harris, as he was known, was an influential local leader, serving as a bridge inspector, for example, in the early 1900s. Between 1912-1915, Harris, his older children, and farm laborers cut the timber to build a large 13-room farmhouse, which still stands today.

J.J. Harris died in 1935, and son Joseph John Harris, Jr., assumed control of the family farm, first from a share given to him in 1924 and then by acquiring an additional 250 acres in 1944. He married Lucy Sanders, and they had two sons, Harry and John. Like their ancestors, the Harris family continued to cultivate cotton, corn, and livestock. During World War II the family and farm was recognized for their contributions to the Tennessee Home Food Supply Program.

In 1976 John Russell Harris, the great-grandson of the founders, took over approximately 125 acres of the founders' land and added more to the farm over the next decades. He worked for the Tennessee Department of Transportation as a right-of-way agent for 39 years. He married Marjorie Ann Green, and they had two sons and a daughter. His son Scott Harris also farmed a section next to that of his father. John Russell Harris died in 2022, and the farm passed to his wife and children. The family is proud of its historic buildings, including a smokehouse, log corn crib, and the c. 1915 farmhouse. The farm's cotton-farming era is over, replaced by a cattle-and-hay operation on the historic acres.



Harris Place log dwelling, not extant.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Harris Place entrance road, 2025.
Photograph by the author.



Harris Place cattle, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Snider-Reed homeplace, 2025. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

HENDERSON COUNTY **SNIDER FARMS** (CIRCA 1821)

Shady Hill Road, Lexington

Stretching along Shady Hill Road, outside of Lexington, Snider Farms is a remarkable family farm, largely because the 19th-century log farmhouse still exists, a testament not only to the family's 200-year commitment to Tennessee agriculture but also to the state's log building traditions.

Henderson County historians consider farm founder Joseph Reed to be the county's first permanent settler. He married Mary "Polly" Leverett, and they had five children. In 1817 he left North Carolina with sons William and John L. to find land in western Tennessee, arriving in what is now Henderson County in 1818. After finding the right property, Reed left his sons with Chickasaw Indians, according to family tradition, and trekked back to North Carolina to bring the rest of the family. The Reeds received title to the 160 acres by 1821. Polly died in 1859; Joseph passed away in 1861, the year the Civil War began.



Snider Farm. Reed homeplace dogtrot, 2025.

Photograph by the author.

William, the youngest son, had stayed with his parents throughout the antebellum years to manage the farm, which yielded sheep, cattle, and swine as well as corn and cotton. His wife was Ellen Boatwright; they had married in 1848 and had three sons and one daughter, who became the owners after their father's death in 1886. Son John L. and his wife Fannie Dyer Reed, who had married in 1870 and had four children of their own, purchased the family land from his siblings, taking control of the farm.

John and Fannie Reed's four children were the founders' great-grandchildren, and a portion of the property passed into the Snider family after daughter



Snider-Reed homeplace, 1985.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.



Snider Farm barns and storage, 2025.
Photograph by the author.

Dora Reed married George W. Snider in 1903. Their first son, Willie, died within eight days of birth. Unfortunately, Dora died about ten weeks after the birth of the second son, Goy William, in 1905. For the next 60 years, George W. Snider ran the family farm with the help of his son Goy and other family members.

Goy W. Snider was an educator as well as a farmer, with his last posting being the principal of Pin Oak Elementary school. He passed away at the age of 69 in 1975. His wife Gladys Jones Snider and her two sons managed the farm from the late 20th century into the second quarter of the 21st century. After Gladys died in 2006, at the age of 92, sons Bobby and John, their wives, children, and grandchildren have kept the land in production, yielding corn, grains, and soybeans. Theirs is an amazing story, and an amazing place.



Homeplace Farm.
Will and Edna Nored Linsman.
Tennessee Century Farms Files.

HENRY COUNTY

THE HOMEPLACE FARM (1821)

Shady Grove Road, Paris

A little over 12 acres remain of what was one of the earliest farms in Henry County. Around 1821 William and Nancy Nored purchased 252 acres on what is now Shady Grove Road. Over the next five decades, the family conveyed the property through three generations. Their son John W. Nored bought the farm sometime after 1832 and in the 1850s, his son Aaron Lafayette Nored and his wife Margaret McFarland Nored acquired the land. Aaron and Margaret had ten children between 1859 and 1872. Their oldest child, John William Nored, acquired the farm sometime after his marriage to Sarah Haseltine in 1876. Throughout these years, the land yielded grains, tobacco, and cotton. The family also began to harvest timber, part of the regional push for timber sales in the late 19th century.

Edna Nored, born in 1891, was among the nine children who inherited land after the passing of their father in 1927. Edna married Will Linsman, and they bought most of the remaining parcels from her siblings, acquiring a little more than 150 acres. The Linsmans then entered the dairy business, selling milk to the Pet Milk Company in Mayfield, Kentucky. Of their four children, son Plase Linsman purchased the farm from his parents in 1947. Plase and wife Alma Prentyce Linsman continued the dairy business but also raised tobacco, corn, cotton, and sweet potatoes, the latter being an especially popular cash crop in northwest Tennessee.

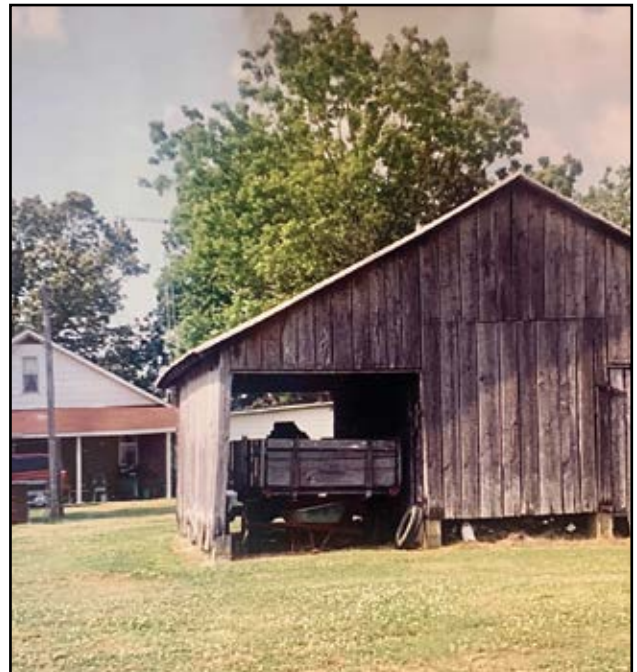


Homeplace Farm corn fields. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

Prentyce Linsman died in 1995, but Plase continued to live on the 215-acre farm and manage its crops of corn, soybeans, and timber sales until his death in 2009. Their only child Shirley Linsman Flanagan had married Gus D. Flanagan in 1954. They had three children. Upon Plase's death, daughter Shirley then took over the farm's management, assisted by her daughter Kim Flanagan Anderson and her husband Carl Anderson. During the 21st century the Andersons remodeled the farmhouse and constructed a new barn and outbuildings. Shirley Linsman Flanagan died in 2022, and Kim and Carl Anderson continue to live at The Homeplace.



Homeplace Farm. 1942 farmhouse, photo from 2007. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Homeplace Farm corn crib. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*



Allen Farm at Totten Road, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

OBION COUNTY

ALLEN FARM AT TOTTEN'S WELLS (CIRCA 1820-1821)

Totten Road, Union City

One of the oldest family farms in West Tennessee is the Allen Farm at Totten's Wells. In 1820 Benjamin Totten and Adam Huntsman jointly acquired title to about 3,500 acres; the following year Benjamin and his wife Polly McDonald Totten moved to the property and established their plantation, which yielded corn and cotton, primarily worked by the 13 slaves Totten owned in 1830. The couple had nine children.

The plantation was well located, on the road between Dresden, the seat of Weakley County, and Hickman, Kentucky. It had a general store and post office with Totten as the postmaster, appointed in 1828. The store and post office are gone today, but the road, known as Totten Road, bisects the farm.

Benjamin Totten died in 1847 and left a portion of the family land to his daughter Sarah Totten Allen and her husband Dr. Nicholas L. Allen. Allen also owned a medical office and a dry goods store in the village of Jacksonville. The family and their slaves—Dr. Allen owned three in 1850 and four in 1860—raised cotton, corn, wheat, and livestock. The family's property became even more valuable when a railroad between Union City and Hickman opened in the late 1850s. The Allens had a ready transportation system for its agricultural products at the adjacent Harris Station.

The Civil War brought hard times to the farm as both Confederate and U.S. troops faced each other in constant guerilla warfare in this section of Obion County, from the beginning of Federal occupation in the spring of 1862 to the end of the war. Soldiers looted and burned the farmhouse and corn cribs. The train tracks that had brought prosperity now only brought misery as the two armies fought over this vital transportation link. For safety, the Allen family temporarily moved to the adjacent railroad village of Harris Station.

After Sarah Allen grew old, her son Lewis D. Allen operated the farm. Lewis, who attended college in California circa 1880, returned to the farm and married a school teacher, Mary B. Smyth, in 1887. For his bride, he built a new home at Harris Station. They had four children. After Sarah's death in 1900, Lewis D. Allen acquired about 220 acres of the family land. He and Mary practiced a more diversified agriculture than simply relying on cotton. They also harvested tobacco, corn, and wheat, and raised livestock.

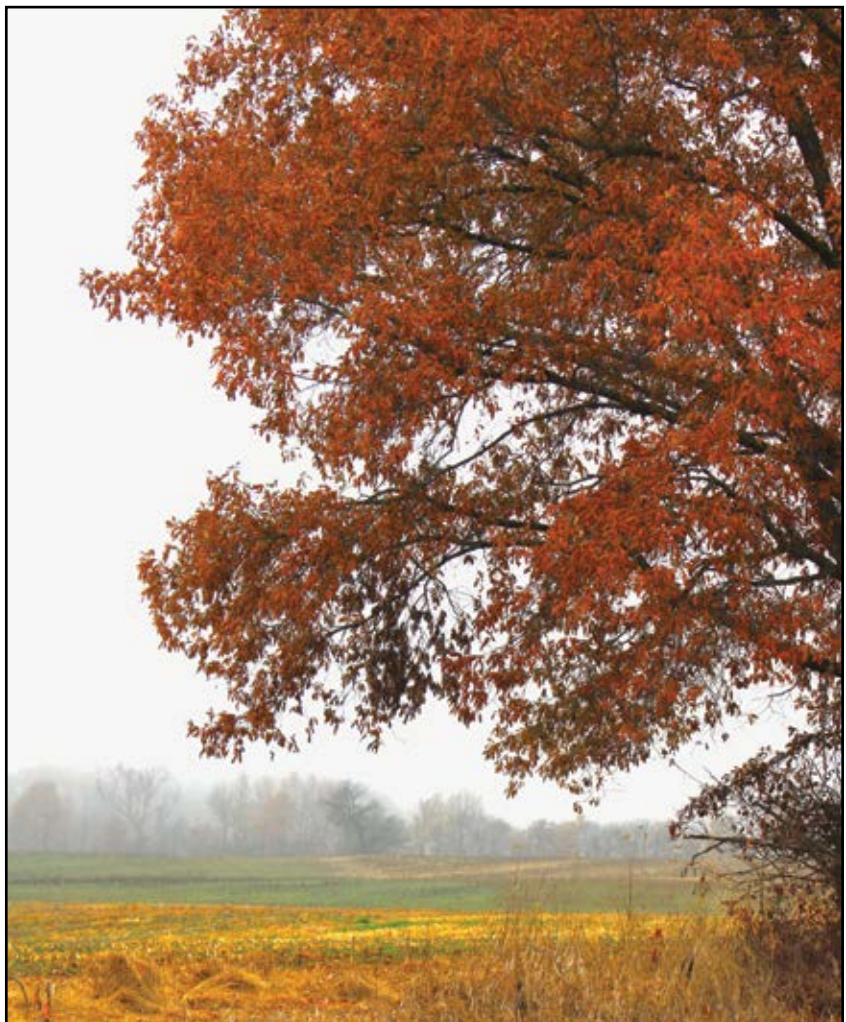
The fourth-generation owners were the founders' great-grandchildren, brother Lawrence D. and Lewis N. Allen, and sister Marene Allen. Marene taught school in Union City, and her salary helped to keep the farm afloat during the Great Depression.

Lawrence D. Allen married Martha Foulks, and they had four children, of whom their daughter Martha Allen Hutchinson and her husband Charles M. Hutchinson acquired their first tract of family land in 1972. Martha and Charles had both been students at the University of Tennessee and married in 1949. Martha taught high school chemistry and English before specializing in library science, teaching that topic at Auburn University. Charles was from Murfreesboro, where his father chaired the Agriculture Department at Middle Tennessee State College (now University), and his family operated a large successful farm nearby the town. Charles Hutchinson served on the Obion County Commission and was a member of the County Fair Board and Road Commission. In 1981 the couple received the property of Aunt Marene Allen. In 1986 they owned 350 acres in Obion County, and another 200 acres in Rutherford County, and focused on soybeans, corn, and wheat. Both Martha and Charles passed away in 2012.

After their deaths, daughter Mary Lucille Hutchinson and her husband James H. Thorpe took over the farm. Two years earlier, in 2010, the National Corn Growers Association recognized the Thorpes for their high yields of corn from irrigated lands. The family now owns almost 400 acres in Obion County, where Jim Thorpe serves as a highway commissioner for county government.



Allen Farm house, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Allen Farm tree and field, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*



Rembert Place Farm sign, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

SHELBY COUNTY

REMBERT PLACE FARM (1821)

2910 Little John Road, Millington

Rembert Place Farm is the oldest Century Farm in Shelby County and one of the oldest in West Tennessee. Established by Andrew Rembert in 1824, the property originally had 2,000 acres located near the historic road linking Memphis and Millington (now known as the Old Millington Road). Rembert came from Wilkes County, Georgia, to Shelby County in search for new land, not only for cotton production but also for corn and livestock. In 1844 he directed the construction of a fine Greek Revival-style plantation house. In 1845 son Samuel Stokes Rembert took over the family land and finished the mansion, which became known as Seven Hills Plantation, a name that still can be found in historical records today. An inventor and writer, in addition to being a planter, Rembert had studied at the University of Virginia but never finished his degree, much to the disappointment of his family. In 1842 he had married Ann Duncan; of their 13 children, only 5 survived to adulthood. In 1850 Samuel patented a mule-driven cotton picker, a working idea for a machine that failed to gain popularity until decades later when the harvesting of cotton became almost totally mechanized. From the 1850s on, Samuel Stokes Rembert invented several items, but patented few of his ideas. He wrote and published books on religious matters and on home science for women.

The Remberts were slave owners, having 33 slaves in the 1850 census and 36 in the 1860 census. They worked the cotton fields, raised livestock, and also cultivated grains for the livestock. Samuel and Ann's son Andrew Rembert, only 18 years old, died fighting for the Confederacy at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. The family retrieved the body and buried him at the family cemetery. Later they erected a large marker in his memory, topped by a statue of an angel. The epitaph bitterly recalled "my noble gentle brilliant and brave brother" who was killed "for defending his home against the most envious lot of cutthroats that ever cursed the face of this earth."

Ruth Rembert inherited 300 acres in 1874. She married William Henry Williams and was the mother of three children. In 1944, 150 acres passed to Anne Charlotte Williams, and nine years later she left the property to her nephew Rembert H. Williams, Jr., the great-great-grandson of Andrew Rembert. Rembert Williams, Jr., worked the farm for over 30 years, with soybeans, hay, and beef cattle as products.

In 1999 the farm passed to his nieces Beth Tucker Goforth and Pamela Oglesby and nephew A. Lee Tucker. In the 21st century, the farm has yielded hay and beef cattle. In 2023 Beth Goforth deeded her third of the property to William R. H. Goforth.



Rembert Place manor house, 2025. *Photograph by the author.*

List of Certified Farms by County

Prepared by Dr. Antoinette van Zelm and Krystal Marin, with the assistance of Joshua Brown, Alexandria Lingle McMahan, Amanda McCrary Smith, and Lily Sousa.



In 2025-2026, the Tennessee Century Farms project team at the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, supervised by Assistant Director Dr. Antoinette van Zelm, updated and verified as many of the over 2,300 Century Farms applications (1975-2025) as possible to produce this certified list. After the certified list is a second list, of farms that have passed out of families since their original designation as Century Farms or that have an uncertain status in 2025-26.

East Tennessee

ANDERSON COUNTY

- Darnell Farm
- Fairdale Farm
- Longmire Farm
- Lamar Farm
- Twin Springs Hereford Farm
- Irwin Farm
- Bowling Family Farm
- Ivester Family Farm

BLEDSON COUNTY

- Joe and Virginia Johnson Farms
- Kelly Farm
- Loyd's Angus Farm
- McReynolds Farm
- Rolling Acres
- Sam S. Stephens Dairy Farm
- Swafford Ranch
- Summer City Farm

- The Swafford Legacy
- Maple Grove Farm
- Rains Farm
- Little Farm
- Harwood Heritage Farms
- Davis Farm
- Flat Top Mountain Farm
- Austin Bend Farm
- H & W Farm
- Tollett Farm

BLOUNT COUNTY

- Baldwin Farm
- Burns-Helton Farm
- Callahan Farm
- Davis Farm
- Nora Davis Farm
- George Davis Farm
- H.F. Anderson Farm
- Henry Farm
- Henry Hereford Farm
- J.R. Gamble Farm
- McConnell Farm
- Russell Place
- Warren Farm
- Lane Farm
- Warpath Farm
- Robert McKenry and Sons Farm
- Harold Prater Farm
- Hillandale Farm
- Samuel Henry Farm
- Powell-Flynn Farm
- Bowman Farms
- Walker-Gamble Farm
- Martin Farm
- Walker Properties LLC
- Long Farm
- Vanwin Farms (*formerly Cunningham Farm*)
- Flynn Walker Farm
- Stephens Farm
- DeLozier Farm
- Kelmont Farms Inc.
- Rolling Acres Farm

BRADLEY COUNTY

- Hiwassee Bend Farm
- Chatata Valley Heritage Farms
- Varnell's Dairy Farm
- Levi Trewhitt Farm
- RLH and Thousand Hills Family Farm

CAMPBELL COUNTY

- Black Bill Baird Place
- Sharp-Condry Farm
- Sharp-Hunter Farm
- Mitchell Farm

CARTER COUNTY

- Renfro Farm
- Colbaugh Farm
- Campbell Farm
- W.J. Cole Farm

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

- A.B. Rowe Farm
- Campbell Farm
- Chumley River Farm
- Echo Acres Farm
- Landgrant Farm
- England Farm
- Fortner Farm
- John N. Fugate Farm
- Neely Farm
- Neely Brothers Farm
- Overton Hereford Farm
- Rowe Farm
- Wallen Farm
- Brooks Farm
- Cardwell Farm
- Dogwood Farm
- McNeil Farm
- J.C. Pearson Farm
- N. Don Pearson Farm
- Rogers Brothers Farms
- Steve Rogers Dairy Farm
- Kenneth Simmons Farm
- Three Brothers Ranch
- Beason Acres
- Bill Russell Farm
- Buis Ridge Farm
- Nelson Campbell Farm
- J.D. Campbell Farm
- W.M. Edwards Farm
- Roy Edwards Farm
- Parks Farm
- Parkey Farm
- Lookout View Farm
- Lazy B Farms
- Beason Hill Farm

COCKE COUNTY

- Ottinger Farm
- Neas Farm

COCKE COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Oakleaf Farm
- Pitts Farm
- Bible Farm
- Leibrock Farm
- Jim and Alice Freeman Gulf Farm
- Dwight L. Bundy Farm
- Baxter Farm
- Joel A. Brooks Farm

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

- Hendrix Farm
- Little Cove Farm
- Orme Farm
- B.A.T. Angus Farm
- Brady Farm
- Greenberry Wilson Farm
- James S. Kemmer Farm
- John C. Kemmer Farm
- Tommy & Rebecca Kemmer
- R.E. Kemmer Farm
- Homer Taylor Farm
- Mt. Gilead Farm
- Tollett Farm

GRAINGER COUNTY

- Big Maple Dairy
- Harrell Farm
- Massengill Farm
- Bend of the Creek Farm
- Roach Farm
- Kidwell Farm
- Johnson Farm
- Dutch Valley Farms
- Curl Farm
- Welch Farm
- G & M Farm

GREENE COUNTY

- Cave Springs Farm (*formerly Baskette Farm*)
- Maden Hall Farm (*formerly Fermanagh-Ross Farm*)
- Five Springs Farm
- Jenny-Ben Farm
- Mardale Acres
- Lost Mountain Farms
- Phil Gaby and Sons Farm
- The Steele “Holm” Farm
- Twin Acres
- Hoodley Creek Farm
(*formerly Whispering Hills Farm*)
- Alban Hills Farm

- S.K. Alexander Farm
- Anderson Farm (*aka Farm at Three Creeks*)
- Baker Place Farm
- Bird Haven Farm
- Long Fork Farm
- Doty Farm
- Easterly Farm
- Elmwood Farm
- Murray Farm
- Scruggs Homestead
- Soloman Farm
- Sideline Farm
- Renner Farm (*aka Little Meadowcreek Farm*)
- Burgner Farm
- Rocky Field Farm
- Waddell Nolachuckey River Farm
- Southerland Farm
- Still Hollow Farm
- Neas Mountain View Farm
- Kenneth Rhea Family Farm
- Horse Creek Farms
(*formerly Mattie Lou Broyles Snapp Farm*)
- Graveyard Hill Farm
- Pin Oak Farm
- Redland Farm I & II
- Bolton Farm
- Milburn Farm
- Bowers Valley Farm
- James D. Whittenburg Farm
- Buffalo Trail Orchard
- Kenneytown Farm
- Iler Pointe Farm
- Bales Farms
- Woolsey Overlook Farms
- Lister-Waddell Farm (*aka J&J Icy Dairy Farm*)
- Southern Breeze Farm
- Sheffey Farm
- Johnston Farm
- Earley Farm
- Basil Myers Family Farm
- Harmony Hills Farm
- Cobble Creek Angus Farm
- Meadowcrest Farm
- Bailey Brothers Farm
- Sycamore Terrace Farm
- Triple H Farm
- J and J Farm
- MayArp Farm
- Rebel Hill Farm
- Mockingbird Mill Farm
- Brown-Williams Farm



Blackburn Farm, Jefferson County. *Photograph by the author.*

- Lawson Farm
- D and J Farm
- Kilday Farm at Lick Creek
- Mountain View Farm

HAMBLEN COUNTY

- Austin Farm
- Bellwood Farm
- Green Acres Farm
- Maple Hill Farm
- Noe Farm
- Sandy-Delle Farm
- Shady Oaks Farm
- West Side Acres
- White Farm
- Whitetown Acres Farm
- Wright Farm
- Howell Farm
- S.N. Catron Farm
- Taylor Farm
- Gray Farm
- Terry Farms
- Baker Farm
- Big Sand Spring
- Jarrell Haun Farm
- Davie Haun Farm

- Thompson Creek Farms
- Morris Angus Farm
- Litz Farm
- Sunnyview Farm

HAMILTON COUNTY

- Shelley Dairy Farm

HANCOCK COUNTY

- Stony Acres
- Clinchview Acres Farm
- Parkey Farms
- Mossy's Creek Farm

HAWKINS COUNTY

- Circle J. Farm
- Little Valley Farm
- Long Meadow Farm
- The Orricks Home Place
- Sam P. Roark Farm
- Breezy Heights Farm
- Brooks Farm
- Rolling Acres Farm
- Valley Breeze Farm
- Talley Farm
- Moore Farm

HAWKINS COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Arnold Farm
- Lyonsdale Farm
- Sheperd Farm
- Arnott Farm
- The Gouldy Farm
- Simpson Farm
- The Rogan Farm
- Arnold Farm at North Fork
- Dobbs Family Farm
- Thompson Family Farm
- Holston View Farm
- Shanks-Terry Farm (*aka Walnut Hill*)
- Elcaney Acres
- Vaughan Farm
- Kirkpatrick Farm

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Allenland Farm
- Newman Farm
- Old Loy Home Place
- The Old Brick Farm
- Wine Farm
- Bell Farm

- Blackburn Family Farm
- Frazier Farm
- Lockhart Farm
- Mari-Mann Farms
- Oak Thicket Farm
- Neil Manley Farm
- Hickman Hollow Farm
- Fairview Farm
- Warham Easley Cameron Farm
- Ruby Bird Farm
- Fielden Heritage Farm
- Hinchey Hollow Farm
- Riverbend Farm (*aka Duignan-Hamilton Farm*)
- S/V Big Bend Farm
- Ellison-Webb Farm
- Ballinger Farms
- Cedar Hill Farm
- Lick Skillet Farm
- Bates Farm
- Finchum Farm
- Poor Pride Farm
- FFF Farms
- Pearly Gates Farm
- Hammer Farm
- Whillock Farm



McMahan Farm house, Sevier County. *Photograph by the author.*

JOHNSON COUNTY

- Roan Valley Farm
- Shady Lane Farm
- The Samuel Robinson Property
- Wright Farm
- Muddy Branch Farm
- Sycamore Stock Farm
- Creekside Farm
- Wagner-Worley Farm
- Maple Hill Farm
- Hawkins Farm

KNOX COUNTY

- Thompson Farm
- Green Acres Farm
- River View Farms
- Spring Meadow Farm
- Shackelford Sons Farm
- Prater Farm
- McBee Farm
- Murphy Springs Farm
- Doane Brothers Farm
- Ragle Family Farm
- Gregory Farms
- Barker Family Farm
- Yarnell Family Farm
- Troutman Farm
- Willow Creek Farm

LOUDON COUNTY

- Alexander Farm
- Eldridge Farm
- H.E.F. Blair Farm
- Harrison Bend Farm
- Henry Madison West Farm
- McQueen Farm
- Sam Blair Farm
- Shipley Farm
- Springdale Farm
- Bird Farm
- James Blair Farm
- River View Farm
- T & W Farms
- Paul Alexander Farm
- Robert Thompson Farm
- James Farm
- Henderson Farm
- Old Bailey Farms
- Hair Brothers Farm

MARION COUNTY

- Hoge Farms
- The Teague Farm
- Hill Echo Farm
- Roberts Ranch
- Samuel Raulston Farm
- Ellis Farm
- Ashburn Farm

MCMINN COUNTY

- Bluffview Spring Farm
- Chesnutt Farm
- Crabtree Farms
- Creekside Farm
- Frank Hutsell Farm
- Hurstland Farm
- Land Haven Farm
- Lane View Farms
- Leslie Farm
- M.E. Trew Farm
- Old Englewood Farm
- P. Swafford Farm
- Richardson's Pebblebrook Farm
- W.T. Matthews Farm
- Wilson Farm
- Grant Glaze Farm
- Mayfield Farm
- Edward Parkison Farm
- Hugh Parkison Farm
- Thomas Farm
- Glaze Farm
- J.K. Pickens Farm
- Shultz Farm
- Saddle Cave Farm
- Kyker's Shady Hill Farm
- Tranquility Farms
- Mason Dairy Farm
- Hill Crest Farm
- Back in Time Farm
- Crisp Farms

MEIGS COUNTY

- A.K. Davis Farm
- Ashley Farm
- Griffith Place Farm
- Moore Farm
- Waters Farm
- Dake Farm (*aka Willow Oaks*)
- Sam H. Davis, Jr., Farm
- Locke Farm
- Stewart Farms

MEIGS COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Agency Creek Acres Farm
- Scott Farm
- McKeown Billingsley Farm
- Powell-Masoner Farm

MONROE COUNTY

- Cedar Lane Farm
- Fowler-Lenoir Farm
- Earl Black Farm, LLC
- Ferguson Farm
- Fowler Farm
- J & J Ranch
- McKenzie Farm
- Scruggs Place Farm
- Harrison Dairy Farm
- Triple S Farms
- Brakebill Farm
- Hunt-Lovin House and Farm
- Mitchell Farm
- Wolfe Farm
- Tinker Farm
- Myers Farm

MORGAN COUNTY

- Powell Farm

POLK COUNTY

- Carter Farms
- Lindner Farm
- Rogers Farm
- Webb Brothers Farm
- Presswood-Cheek Farm

RHEA COUNTY

- Chattin Farm
- Crosby Spring Farm
- Cawood Farm
- Grassy Branch Farm
- Galloway Farm
- Double S Farm
- Cedar Lake Beef Farm
- Brady Farm
- Ellis Farm
- Harrison Farm
- Walt Smith Farm
- Sneed Tomato Farm

ROANE COUNTY

- Edgeman Brothers Farm
- Martin Farm

- Valley View Farm
- Robinette Family Farm
- Thomas Family Farm
- Alford Family Farm
- Bacon Farms

SCOTT COUNTY

- Chitwood Farm
- Jerome D. Reed Farm

SEVIER COUNTY

- Floyd Farm
- Tanasi Mist Farm
- McMahan Farm
- Murphy Farm
- Tarwater Farm
- Hatcher Farms
- Treaty Hill Farm
- Robertson's 1849 Rippling Water Farm
- Brabson Ferry Plantation
- Fred O. McMahan Farm
- Kyker Farms
- Loveday Family Farm
- Paul A. Tipton Farm
- Grapeton Farm
- Keeler-McGaha Farm
- Howard & Vera Wilson Family Farm
- Victoria LaRay Farm
- Henderson Heirs Farm
- Trundle Farm
- Dry Fork Farm
- Catlett Farm I & II
- Fleming Farm
- William C. Tarwater Farm
- Spring Hollow Farm

SULLIVAN COUNTY

- Earhart Farm
- Elm Circle Farm
- Grass Dale Farm
- Hall Rockhaven Farm
- Kanah's Place Farm
- Pemberton Farm
- Strawberry Ridge Farm
- River View Farm
- Cedar View Farm
- Shady Lawn Farm
- Houston Farm
- Fleenor Farm
- Morrell Farm
- B & G Farm
- King Farms



Fred O. McMahan Farm, Sevier County. *Photograph by the author.*

- Breeding Family Farm
- Holston Mountain Farm
- Samuel Bruce Slaughter Farm
- Indian Brook Farm
- McCulley Family Farm
- Akard-Smallling Farm
- Strickler Farm
- Miller Branch Farm
- Conkin-Hite Farm

UNICOI COUNTY

- E.C. Bell Farm

UNION COUNTY

- Branum Farm
- Perkey Farm
- Wolfenbarger Farm
- Cox Farm
- Tolliver Farm
- Graves Farm
- McCarty Jones Farm
- Big Valley Farm
- Booker Farm in Tater Valley

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Allison Farm
- Archer Farm
- Breezy Hill Farm
- Brumit Farm
- Centuryolde Farm
- Galloway Farm
- Karst Farm
- Keefauver Farm
- Lone Pine Farm
- Mizpah Hills Farm
- Pioneer Farm
- St. John Farm
- Willow Branch Farm
- Knob View Farm
- Michael Krouse Farm
- Pioneer Homestead
- Maple Valley Farm
- Brookside Farm
- Bacon Farm
- Lewis Family Farm I, II, & III
- Sunnyside Farm

WASHINGTON COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Beech Grove Farm
- Woods Farm
- Mitchell Farms
- Harvey Farm
- Hall Farms
- 4F Clover Pioneer Farm
- Cold Springs Farm, Walker-Shanks
- Booth Settlement
- Dillow Farm
- Shipley Family Farm

Middle Tennessee

BEDFORD COUNTY

- Garrondale Farm
- Hillview Acres
- J.C. Leming Farm
- Knight Farm
- O.D. Stubblefield Farm
- Parker's Farm
- Roberts Farm
- Spring Hill Dairy Farm
- Stow-Ha-Wa Farm
- Vannatta Farms, Inc.
- Wayside Farms
- Wherley's Farm
- Woodlawn Farm
- Fox Run Farm
- Hawkins Farm
- Wooten-Kimbrow Farm
- Rowesville Valley Farm
- Meadow Dale Farm
- Phillips Farm
- Wright Farm
- Dement Home Place
- Willow Wood Farm
- Elrie Brinkley Farm
- S and S Livestock Farm
- Spring Hill-The Spencer Eakin Farm
- Lokey/Bomar Farm
- Sallie Creek Farm
- Farrar Farm
- Lynn Home Place
- BSA Farm
- Walker Farm
- Troxler/Prince Family Farm
- Simmons Creekside Farm
- Hale Family Farm
- Ayers Family Farm, LLC
- Neeley Farm
- Stone Duck Farms

CANNON COUNTY

- Cates Farm
- Robert W. Hawkins Farm
- Sun Valley Farm
- Tucker Place
- Heritage Hollow Farm (*originally Hunter Farm*)
- Vance Farm
- Banks Farm
- Van Hooser Farm
- Duggin Farm
- Hale's Half Acre Farm
- Vinson Farm
- Cooper Farm
- DKM Farm
- Crimson Lea Farm
- Downing-Burke Farm

CHEATHAM COUNTY

- Hewitt Farm
- Jimmy E. Shearon Sr. Farm
- Wayne Shearon Farm
- 4 M Acres Farm
- Rest Tennessee Farm
- Johnson Farm
- Oakdale Farm
- The Click Place
- The Reed Place
- North Oakdale Farm
- Rolling Hills Farm
- Knox Farms
- Hooper Homestead
- Shearron Farm
- George Stack Farm
- Sycamore Valley Farms

- J.W. Maxey Farms
- Watts Albert Farm
- Clifton Manor

CLAY COUNTY

- Wilson Capshaw Farms
- Donaldson Terry Farm
- King Farm
- Pine Hill Angus Farm
- Sweezy Farm
- Daniel-Hummel Farm
- Spear Farm
- Stone Farms
- Rush Gentry Farms
- Henson-Pedigo Farm
- Cherry Farm
- Copas-Craighead Farm
- Bazle and Bertha White Farm
- Pine Hill Farms
- Lynn Family Farms
- Purcell Farms

COFFEE COUNTY

- Brown Dairy Farm
- Jacobs Farm
- Shamrock Acres Farm

- The Homestead
- Crouch-Ramsey Farm
- Carden Ranch
- Long Farm
- Freeze Farm
- Claude Anderson Farm
- Sunrise View Farm
- John F. Willis Farm
- Smartt Farm
- Clouse-Elrod Farm
- Blue Springs Farm
- Mountain View Family Farm
- The Old Homeplace
- Hill Top Farm
- Lasater Farm
- Kidd Spears Farm
- Shady Grove McMahan Farm
- M & K Johnson Farm

DAVIDSON COUNTY

- County Line Farm
- Smith Farm
- Cleveland Hall Farm
- Stenberg Cattle Farm
- Marshall Farm



Van Hooser Farm, Cannon County. *Photograph by the author.*

DEKALB COUNTY

- Rose Farm
- Corley Farm
- Oakley Farm
- Stevens-Manning Farm
- J.M. Bailiff Farm
- Robert and Nettie Page Simpson Farm
- Mullican Farm
- Womack Farm
- Vernie Love Homeplace
- Magness Farm at Seven Springs
- Murphy/Cook Farm
- Allen Farm

DICKSON COUNTY

- Cook's Stokes Farm
- Harrell's Farm
- Hickory Hill Farm
- Holland Berry Farm
- Neblett Place Farm
- Steele Farm
- Hunter Farm
- Larkins Farm
- Miller Farm
- Sugg Farm
- J. Wellington DePriest Farm
- Daniel's Dairy Farm
- Sullivan Farm
- Triple G Farm
- Fiser-Jackson Farm
- Spring Forest Farm
- Loggins Farm
- Stone Hollow Farm
- Rocky Top Farm
- Dull Farm
- Buchanan Farm
- Baker's Burden Farm
- Howell Century Farm
- Piney River Farm
- Williams Farm
- Jordan-McIntire Farm
- England Farm
- Elliott Farms
- Bledsoe Farm
- Lunn Family Farm
- Fussell Farm
- Hooper Farms
- Noland Farms
- Tolar Farm
- Balthrop-Potter Farm
- Foster Farm

- Harris Hills Farm
- Welcome Home Farm
- Matlock Valley Farms

FENTRESS COUNTY

- Clayton Upchurch Farm
- Reed Farm
- Big Dry Farm
- Jerry Green Farm
- Williams Farm (*aka Kenthrease Farm*)
- Otto Pile Farm
- Williams and Pile Farm
- W.R. Reed Farm
- Will Huff Farm
- Cooper Farm
- V.H. Pile Farm
- Lyman S. Pile Farm
- Tompkins Blacksmith Farm
- Turner Farms
- Wood Farm
- West Farm
- York Farm

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- East View Farm
- Ikard's Dogwood Acres
- Glaus Farm
- Scharber Farm
- Schwartz Farm
- Williams Cove Mountain View Farm
- Crownover Farm
- Atkinson Farm
- Mountain Cove Farm
- Breezy Knoll Farm
- Walker Farm
- Limbaugh Farm
- R & L Buckner Farm
- Noah Farm
- W.J. and Willie T. Arnold Farms
- Grady Elliot Farm
- Weaver Farm

GILES COUNTY

- B.J. Newman Farm
- Cave Spring Farm
- Crack Hill Farm
- Dugger Farm
- E.D.R. Farm
- Hannah-Dunavant Farm
- Bass-Bethel Farms
- Lairdland Farm

- White Cloud Plantation-*East*
- White Cloud Plantation-*West*
- Black Farm
- Foster Farm
- Hannah Farms
- Parker Farms
- Shagbark Farm
- Midvale Farm
- The Newton Place
- Burns Farm
- Rudd Farm
- Ed Bass Sons Farm
- Creecy Farm
- Curry Farms, Bethel
- Mize Farm
- Gooch Farm
- The Lazy D Farm
- Matt Gardner Farmstead
- Humphrey Farm
- Bryan Farm
- Cleveland Farm
- Friendship Acres Farm
- Butler Farm
- Merritt Farm
- Rose Farm
- Castle Gray Farm
- The Bee Farms

GRUNDY COUNTY

- Jim Burnett Farm
- T.L. Sissom Farm
- White Family Farm
- Elk River Sartain Farm
- Hamby Farm
- Richland-Elk River Valley Farm
- Burnett/White Family Farm

HICKMAN COUNTY

- Aydelott Farm
- Maple Shade Farm
- Mule Farmer Ranch
- Carothers Farm
- Green View Valley Farm
- Spring Mount Farm
- Riverview Farm
- Blue Rock Shoals Farm
- Mayberry-Garrett Farm
- Four Hills Farm
- Luckett Farm
- Mathis Angus Farm I & II
- Mathis Angus Farms III

- Tim Mathis Farm
- Prince Lane Farm
- Neeley Farm
- Royal Oaks Farms
- Martin Farms
- Cash Valley Farm
- Beech Valley Farm
- Fox Family Farm
- Fogg Hollow Farm
- Baker Farms
- Little Spring Creek Farm
- Sisco-Loveless Farm

HOUSTON COUNTY

- Twin Cedars Farm
- Bateman-Sullivan Farm
- Welker Farm
- Valley View Farm
- Beard's Triple H Farm
- Felts Hill Farm
- Windy Ridge Farm
- Harvey Family Farm
- Bateman Farm
- Moore Parchman Farm
- Parchman Farm
- Rodgers-Brooks Farm
- Bar M Farm
- Stanfill Farm

HUMPHREYS COUNTY

- Meadowdale Farm
- Page Place Farm
- Pleasant Oaks Farm
- Scholes Farm
- The Wilbert & Annie Enochs Farm
- Allison Farms
- Lewis Farm
- Westbrook Farm
- Hooper Family Farm

JACKSON COUNTY

- Clark Farm
- Kennedy Farm
- Cummins Mill Farm
- Carverdale Farm
- Brown Farm
- Cedar Stone Farm
- The Old Myers Farm
- The Morgan Farm
- Woodard Farm
- Mabry Farm

JACKSON COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Collier Farm
- Hix Farm
- Sutton Hollow Farm
- Keith-Dayton Farm
- J.T. Watts Family Farm
- Springhouse Farm

LAWRENCE COUNTY

- Old Lee Long Farm
- Carrell Farm
- Crews Farm
- Frank Niedergeses Farm
- Rocky Top Holstein Farm
- Marston Farm
- Gang Farm
- Gamble Farm at Cotts Creek
- C.W. Gillespie Farms
- Brewer Farm

LEWIS COUNTY

- Lankford Farm
- Robnett Farm
- Double E Farm
- Yates Amazing Grazeland Farm
- Cothran Farm on Buffalo River

LINCOLN COUNTY

- Barnes Acres Farm
- Bert Lee Jennings Farm
- Craig Farm
- Lone Cedar Farm
- Smith Hollow Road Farm
- Coleman Place Farm
- Walker Farm
- Wright Way Farm
- Halbert Acres Farm
- Childress Farm
- Douglas Farm
- Hill Farm
- Sunnyside Farm
- Wiley Farm
- Conger Farm (*formerly Beech Lawn Stock Farm*)
- Kidd-Wiley Farm
- Ashby Farm
- Kidd-Spray Farm
- John Massey Farm
- Towry Farm
- Scott's Orchard
- Sun Rose Dairy
- Templeton Farm

- Joe M. Lambert Farm
- Luna Farms
- Burton Farm
- Stewart Farm
- Roden Farms
- Delap Farm
- Wiley Farm
- Flint River Farm/Simms-Delap Families
- Serendipity Farms
- Stevenson Farm
- English Family Farm
- English "*Old Homeplace*" Farm
- Fanning Farm
- McLemore Farm
- Martin Jesse Towry Farm
- Golden Hollow Farms
- Moore Family Farm
- Bayless Farm
- Pickett Farm
- Mountain Field Farm
- Gray Farm
- Reed Farm
- Over Yonder Farm
- Mitchell Farm
- J. English Farm
- Johnston Farm
- Gleghorn Farms
- Franklin Farm
- Good Farms
- Harpers Branch Farm
- Briarwood Farm
- Storey Farm
- Honey Branch Farm
- Talley's Pleasant Valley Farm

MACON COUNTY

- Blair Farm
- Clearview Farm
- Drury Farm
- Four J Farm
- Hanes Hedges Farm
- Hugh B. Morrison Farm
- Jenkins Farm
- Lawrence Farm
- Massey Farm
- Stinson Farm
- Tucker Brothers Farm
- Tucker Farm
- Tuck Farm
- W.E. White Farm
- White Farm

- Goad Farm
- Porter Farm
- Wheeley Springs Farm
- Canada & Green Farm
- Charlie and Flora Hire Farm
- Carr Family Farm on Carr Creek
- Doss Farm
- Parkhurst Farm
- Jenkins Sunny Slope Farm
- Russell Family Farm
- McDonald, Loftis, Marsh Farm
- Wilder Painter Farm
- Beech Bottom Farms

MARSHALL COUNTY

- Allen Farm
- Craig Farm
- Hillview Farm
- Lanier-Smith Farm
- Ogilvie Farm
- Shady Lawn Farm
- Homeplace Farm
- Fuller Homeplace Farm
- Ridge Vale Farm
- Moses Farm
- Orr's Green Valley Farm
- Gladestone Farm (*aka Ruth-E Farm*)
- Lazy J Farm
- Big Orange Country Farm
- Kirkland Pleasant Valley Farm
- James Durham Turner Farm
- Miller-Drake-Turner Farm
- Briar Lane Farm
- Smiley-Fagan Farm
- Walker Hollow Farm
- Ancestral Farm and Home Place
of Joseph and Sarah Robinson
- Shady Valley Farm
- Wilson Hill Farm
- Wiles Home Place
- Twin Elms Farm
- Talley's Pleasant Valley Farm
- Talley's Pleasant Valley Farm and Vineyard
- Lamb Farm
- Circle K Farms
- Scott Family Farm
- JABBO Acres
- Tate Farms
- Homewood Farm

MAURY COUNTY

- Cross Bridges Farm
- Kingstree Farm
- Lunn-Ragan Farm
- Pleasant Valley Farm
- Napier Farm
- Campbell Farm
- Alderson Homestead Farm
- Tindell Farm "*North Side*"
- Tindell Farm "*South Side*"
- The Kinzer Farm
- Shannon Farm
- Cathey Family Farm
- Benderman Farm
- Scott Hollow Farm
- Leftwich Bridge Farms
- Fox Farm
- Jagers Hill Farm
- Johnson Farms

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- Allendale Farm
- Beech Bend Farm
- Bourne Brothers Farm
- G.R. Davis Farm
- H & S Farm (*formerly Hargrove Farm*)
- Hoganswood Farm
- Menees Brothers Century Farm
- Teeter Farm
- Three C Farm
- W.C. Harvey Farm
- W.E. Jones Farm
- McCauley Farm
- Powers Farm
- Maple Lawn Farm
- Anderson Farm
- J & J Farm
- Rinehart Acres
- Marks Farm
- Moore Family Farm
- Grant Farm
- Historic Collinsville
- Rinehart-Carrigan Farm
- Triple J Farms
- Gunn Farm
- Wyatt Farm
- The Ol' Ledford Farm
- Maple Crest Farm
- Summershade Farm
- The Jack Batson Farm
- Barely Do Farm
- Sleepy Hollow Farm

MOORE COUNTY

- Hezekiah Acres
- Parks Pastures Farm
- Bedford Wiseman Farm
- Rock Creek Farm
- Holt-Elam Farm
- Wagoner-Stone Farm
- Syler 7 Farm
- Allen Family Farm
- Green Place Farm
- Pyrdom's Choice Farm
- Maple Tree Farm
- Honey Branch Farm

OVERTON COUNTY

- F.M. Gore Farm
- Stockton Farm
- Wells Farm
- Crawford Farm
- Archibald Qualls Farm
- Jonathan Allred Farm
- Leck Gore Farm
- Bob Gore Farm
- Hartsaw Cove Farm
- Dodson Farm
- Ivy Hill Farm
- Looper-Thompson Farm
- Willeford Farm
- Nettle Carrier Angus Farm
- Ledford Farm
- Carmack Farm
- Full Circle Farms
- Richardson-Holman Place
- Cream Valley Farm
- Qualls Three Forks Farm
- Norrod Farm
- Ramsey Dairy & Beef Farm
- Looper Farm at Dry Hollow
- Simcox Farms
- Taylor Carmack Ogletree Farm
- Anderson Farms
- Poor Branch Farm
- The Beaty-Smith Farm
- Donald Norrod Farm
- Qualls Farm
- Lee Springs Farm
- Upchurch Farms
- Thompson Farm

PERRY COUNTY

- Howell's Twin Oakes Farm
- Kidd Farm
- Moore Farm, Swindle Creek
- Horner Farm
- Craig Farm
- Qualls-Parnell Farm
- Tucker Farm
- Pin Hook Farm
- Godwin Farm
- Harder Farm
- Howard Farm
- Patterson Farm
- Ayers/Starbuck Farm
- May Farms
- Allen-Rhodes Farm
- Lawrence Farm
- Leeper Farm
- Seven Maples Farm
- Elijah Duncan Cherokee Hills Farm
- Coon Creek Cattle Farm

PICKETT COUNTY

- Williams Farm
- Sells Farm
- Triple T Farm
- The Crouch Farm
- P & Z Farm
- Whittenburg Farm
- Smith Farm
- Storie Farms
- Wood Farm

PUTNAM COUNTY

- Boyd Jerseys Farm
- Hunter Cove Farm
- Pearson Farm
- Rockwell Farm
- Shanks Farm
- Holloway Farm
- Judd Farm
- Quarles-Phillips Farm
- Mansell Farm
- Isaac Huddleston Farm
- Hyder Farm
- Nash Farm at Hickory Nut Point
- Young Farm
- Jernigan Farm
- Draper Angus Farm
- Homer Netherton Farm
- Thomas Family Farm

- McGee Farm
- Cedar Bluff Farm
- The Lynn Farm
- Lewis Farms
- Nash-Myatt Farms

ROBERTSON COUNTY

- Walker and Felts Farm
(formerly Walker Farm)
- Browning Farm
- Ellis Farm
- Henry Gill Farm
- James W. Long Farm
- Krisle & Stark Hereford Farm
- La-Z D Farm
- Osborne Doss Road Farm
- Sprouseland Manor
- Stainback Farm
- Stately Oaks Farm
- Tilley Farm
- Woodard Hereford Farm
- Hobdy Farm
- Cook's Seldom Rest Farm
- Woodard Hall Farm
- Brown's Fork Farm
- J.C. Balthrop Farm
- Riverside Manor Farm
- Robert Elliot & Sons Farm
- San Tee Farm
- Homestead Acres
- Amokolee Farm
- Green Hill Farms
- Sugartree Farm
- Wolf Farm
- Strickland Place
- Clinard Farm
- Ayres Farm
- Yates Cave Farm
- Ernest Yates Farm
- Jackson-Winfield Farm
- Smoky Hollow Farm
- Calvert Farms
- Cold Springs Farm
- Dorris Farms
- Kelley Farms
- Yates Farm
- The Browning/Shearon Farm
- Roger Goostree Farm
- Freeland Farm
- Clinard Cattle Company
- Moore Farm



Smokehouse, early 1900s. Hatcher Family Farm,
Williamson County. *Tennessee Century Farms Files.*

- Wilson Farm
- Justice Farms
- Stark Brothers Farm
- Dillard Farms
- Jernigan Dairy Farm
- Fisher-Wells Farm
- Wells-Adams Family Farm
- Swann Family Farm
- J.C. Head Farms
- Pearson Farms

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

- Caff-E-Hill Farms
- Cates Farm
- Drake Farm
- Gooch Farm
- Marlin Farm
- Jernigan Farm
- Sanders Farm
- Smiths Farm
- Tarpley Farm

RUTHERFORD COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Wild Acres Farm
- Batey Farm
- Elmwood Farm
- Sugg Farm
- Castlewood Farm
- Lawrence Farm
- Gamewell Farm
- Murray Farm
- Gordon Farm
- Jackson Family Farm
(formerly *Thomas Jackson Farm*)
- Butler Farm
- McGehee-Yeargan Farm
- Tony Angus Farm
- Hickory Hills Farm
- Blackwell Farm-Greensward
- River Lane Farm
- Worley Farms (formerly *Grimes Farm*)
- Ayeden Acres
- Lowe Hollow Farm

SEQUATCHIE COUNTY

- Johnson Farm
- Gray Farm
- Harmon Farm
- Bryant Reese Farm
- Hickey Farm
- Stone Creek Farm
- Allen Farm
- Meadowbrook Farm
- Wilmoth Farm

SMITH COUNTY

- Allendale Farm
- Allison Farm
- Arnold Farm
- B.D. Wooten Farm
- Beasley Farm
- Cartwright-Russell Farm
- Clendennan's Branch Farm
- Cloverdale I & II
- Gibbs Farm
- Gwaltney Home Farm
- Key Farm
- Kittrell Farm
- Lewis Beasley Farm
- Litchford Farm
- Neal Hollow Farm
- Oldham Brothers Farm
- Paschall Farm

- Phillips Farm
- Polly Hill Farm
- R.L. Alvis Farm
- Rocky Retreat
- Smith Farm
- Star Rock Farm
- Steele Farm
- Thompson Angus Farm
- Vallie Phillips Farm
- Florance Terry-Carter Farm
- Eastes Farm
- Jo Ella Kelly Farm
- Manning Farm
- Point Breeze Farm
- Sloan Farm
- Sunlit Hill Farm
- Baker Farm
- Davis Farm
- Young Farm of Stonewall
- Stonewall Heritage Farm
- Moore Farm
- Wright Farm
- Lancaster/O'Fallon Farm
- Holliman's Southern Cross Farm
- Mason Farm
- Lancaster Farm
- Locust Hill Farm
- Gregory Hill Farm
- BG Farm
- Kilzer Farm
- Pigeon Roost Road Farm
- Caplenor Farm
- Albert Nixon Farm
- Paschal Farm
- Stallings Farm
- Sloan Branch Farm
- Scudder Farms
- The Cornwell-Butler Farm
- P & H Farms
- S.S. Webster Farm
- Tanglewood Farm
- The Piper Farm
- Harville Farm
- White Oak Farm
- Armistead-Shoulders Farm
- Phillips Family Farm
- Williams-Russell Farm
- Farley Farm
- Gregory Farms
- Wilkerson Farm
- The Canter Farm

- Bussell Farms
- Bridgewater Farm
- Holleman Farm
- Sleepy Hollow Farm
- The Payne Place
- Bellar Family Farm
- Springhouse Farm
- Allen Dairy Farm

STEWART COUNTY

- Evergreen Farm
- Howell's Farm
- Wright Farm
- Jobe Farm

SUMNER COUNTY

- Drake Farm
- Gillespie Farm
- Link Farm
- Maple Valley By Groves
- Oakdale Farm
- Thistledew Hills Farm (*formerly Wallace Farm*)
- Thompson Farms
- Anna Brown Farm
- Ashcrest Farm
- Bradley Farm
- Douglass Farms
- Greenwood Farm
- Garrett Farm
- Tate Farm
- Payne Farm
- McKee Farm
- Bentley Farm
- Martin Homestead
- Lauderdale Farm
- Roberson Family Farm
- Brewer Farm
- Fox Horn Hill Farm
- Harvest Moon "*The Old Field*" Farm
- Rock Springs Farm
- 3 M Farm
- Barbee Farm
- Cole Family Farm
- Triple D Farm
- J.H. Cummings Farm
- Perdue-Hunter Farm
- Braswell-Gregory Farm
- Suddarth Farm
- Barr Family Farm

TROUSDALE COUNTY

- Kyle Farm
- Ward Frontier Land Farm

- Ward Pioneer Land Farm
- Fergusson Farm
- The Billy Rhea Robertson Farm
- Triple Stone Farm
- Massey Farm
- Terry Farm
- Holder Farm
- Hillview Farm
- Dix Farm
- Scott Tobacco Farm
- Oldham Farm
- Robinson Farm
- Belcher Farm

VAN BUREN COUNTY

- Ward Farm
- Haston Farm (1858)
- Haston Farm (1879)
- Kell's Farm
- Sparkman Farm
- Hillis Outfit Farm
- Hollingsworth Farm-Four Generations
- Laurel Creek Farm
- Slatton Farm
- Slatton-Vance Farm
- Worthington-Shockley Farm
- Dodson Farm at Beech Cove
- Slatton Family Farm

WARREN COUNTY

- Chastain Farm
- Adams Farms
- Moffitt Farm
- Davenport Farm
- Loafers Rest Farm
- River Valley Farm
- Miller Farm
- George Cope Place
- Myers Cove Farm
- Rogers Home Plate Farm
- Whitlock Lazy Acres Farm
- Windy Hill Farm
- Smith Farm
- Blair Farm
- Hulett Farms

WAYNE COUNTY

- Dicus Place
- Stults Farm
- Duren Farm
- Haggard Farm
- Mill Creek Farm

WAYNE COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Spring Creek Farm
- Hime Farm
- Dew Slide H Ranch
- West Farm
- Brewer Fantail Branch Farm
- Cothran Farm on Buffalo River

WHITE COUNTY

- Goddard Mountain Farm
- Johnson Farm
- Sullivan Farm
- Carter Farm
- Crowder Farm
- Hitchcock Farm
- JOT Farms
- Brown Farm
- McPeak Farm
- Moore Farm
- Dixie Farm
- Russell Farm
- Hutchings Farms
- K & M Farm
- Howard Farm
- Lee-Jernigan Farm
- Post Oak Creek Farm
- Price Family Farm
- Conley Farm

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

- Cannon Farm
- Sherwood Green Farm
- Hunt-Beasley Farm
- Maple Crest Farm
- Pleasant View Farm
- Beech Hill Farm
- Blue Grass Farm
- German Farm
- Locust Guard Farm
- Maplewood Farm
- Valley View Farm
- Woodland View
- Bag End Farm
- Walker Farm
- Sullivan Givens Farm
- Ozburn Hollow Farm
- Johnsongrass Farm (*formerly Lampley Farm*)
- Gentry Farm
- Nichols Jersey Farm
- Crystal Valley Farms
- Glenn Acres

- Bond Farm
- Luster Farm
- Longview Farm
- Wilson Family Farm
- Smith Brothers Farm
- Bud's Longview Farm
- William Steele Farm
- Cedar Creek Farm
- Aunt Loreen Place
- Bledsoe-Sullivan Farm
- Willow Creek Farm
- Aurelia Acres
- Poynor Farm
- Thomas Jefferson Byrd Sr. Farm
- Short Farm
- Crestview Farm
- Jefferson Farms
- Reams-Jefferson Farms
- The Penn Hollow
- Hatcher Family Dairy Farm
- Barker's Hillview Farm
- Sullivan Farm
- Hatcher Family Farm
- Pewitt Farm
- Eastview Farm

WILSON COUNTY

- Bates Farm
- Bellwood Farm
- Catpaw Farm
- Clemmons Farm
- Clendennan's Branch Farm
- Comer Farm
- Cunningham Farm
- Drennan-McMendway Farm
- Everett Farm
- Grandstaff Farms
- Graves/Wright Farm
- Haley Farm (*1821*)
- Haley Farm (*1834*)
- Hardy Farm
- Harris-Lannom Farm
- Hillside View Farm
- Huddleston Heritage Farm
- Woodhaven Farm
- Lone Pine Farm
- Massey Farm
- Old Shannon Farm
- Ozment-Comer Farm
- Phillips Farm
- Pine Springs Farm

- Smith Farm
- Tomlinson Farm
- Trice Homestead Farm
- Vivrett Farm
- W.B. Walker Farm
- Whipperwill Hill Farm
- Williams Farm
- Wright Jennings Farm
- Young Acres Farm
- Burton Farm
- Beech Hill Farm
- Alford Farm
- Berry Place Farm
- Cedar Acres
- Chambers Farm
- Cloydland Farm
- Dromoland Farm
- Harris Hereford Farm
- Huddleston Farm
- Kingswood Farm
- Owen Farm
- Rieff Land Farm
- Tipton Farm
- Robinson Brothers Farm
- Partlow Farm
- Windy Hill Farm
- Mires Farm
- Carter Farm
- Gillespie Shady Acres Farm
- Dillard Farm
- The Wright Place
- Hill Top Farm
- Carter-Miller Farm
- Blue Lake Ranch
- McKee Farm
- Poplar Hill Acres
- Dobson Farm
- Cook's Hill Farm
- Donnell Farm
- Haley-Murphy Farm
- Peach Farm
- Baird Farm
- Dudley Farm
- Bloodworth Homeplace
- Bentley Farm
- Sundale Farm
- Groom-Saddler Farm
- Swain Farm
- Rice Farm
- Kirkpatrick Farm
- Rising Sun Farm
- Patton Farm
- Old Home Place
- J.R. York Farm on Cedar Creek
- Julius H. Williams Farm on Fall Creek
- Foxwood Farms
- W.D. Farms
- Smith Brothers Farm
- Captain William Harris Farm
- Everett Farm
- Laneland Farms
- Halbert Farm
- Denney Farm
- Cherokee T. Farm
- Crowell Hill Farms
- Eatherly Crowell Farm
- Robert Halbert Farm
- John F. Walker Farm
- Joseph G. Walker Farm
- Nathan J. Walker Farm
- Thomas Halbert Farm
- Watkins Farm
- T.K. Watkins Farm
- Wedge Oak Farm
- Cragwall Farm
- Cragwall Bottoms Farm
- Knobblehurst Farm
- Eastes Dairy/Happy Valley Farm
- Walker Farm
- Sam J. Alsup Estate
- Linwood Farm
- Garrett Farm/Heart of Vine
- George Alexander Cunningham and
Troy Judson Cunningham Farm
- Cassetty Farms
- Bingham Thorne Farm
- Lazy Branch Farm
- Christian Farm
- Bone Hollow Farms
- Ricketts Farm
- Purnell Farm
- Bobo Acres
- Ashe-Bates Farm
- Triple B-Bates Farm
- McDaniel Family Farm
- Bradshaw/Tubb Farm
- Charles Vantrease Farm
- Hancock Farm
- Robin Roost Farms

West Tennessee

BENTON COUNTY

- E.A. Cuff Farm
- Stokes-Wood Farm
- Wyly C. Lockhart Hereford Farms
- Carter Farm
- Cypress Creek Farm
- Wheatley Farm
- Peebles Farm
- Smith Farm
- Moore Family Farm
- Ryan Heirs Farm
- Cox Family Farm
- Berry Farm
- Oakdale Farm (*formerly Nicholas Family Farm*)
- Kee-Iver Farm
- Meadow View Farms
- Taylor Farm-Beulah Land
- Leaning Cedar Farm
- Latimer Farm
- Hall-Dinwiddie Farm
- Leslie-Stokes Farm
- Brinkley Ellis Farm
- Johnson Farm
- Hollowell's Farm
- C.J.C. Farm
- Waters' Farm
- Melton Farm

CARROLL COUNTY

- W.F. Collins Farm
- Hamilton Farm
- Jones Farm
- McDonald Farm
- Welch Farm
- Holland Farm
- Chance Farm
- Utley Farm
- Bennett Farm
- Aden Farm
- Johnson Farm
- Taylor Farm
- Clark Farm
- Crum Farm
- Webb Farm

CHESTER COUNTY

- Walnut Corners Farm
- McKinnon Farm
- Trice Farm
- Burns-McKinnon Farm
- F & W Farm
- Beene Farms
- Hearn Farm

CROCKETT COUNTY

- Frog Jump Farm
- Hillcrest Farm
- J.W. Williams Farm
- C.C. James Farm
- Riddick Farm
- Spence Farm
- Ward Farm
- Ball Farm
- Rulee Farm
- Oakcrest Polled Herefords Farm
- M & M Farm
- Cypress Creek Farm
- Mount Farm
- Goode Farm
- Griggs Farms, LLC
- Tritt Place Farm
- Cherry Farm
- Holly Tree Farm
- Butner Farms
- Riddick-Turnage Farm
- Vaden Farm
- Brown-Jones Farm
- Culp Farm
- Dupree Farms
- Twelve Oaks Farm
- Sutton Farm
- Conyers Farm
- Cherry Hill Farm
- Beaver-Castellaw Farms
- William E. Nichols IV Farms
- The John Beasley Cherry Farm
- Cotton Hill Farm
- Sherrod Farm

DECATUR COUNTY

- Keeton Farm
- Lealon Wyatt Farms
- P.W. Welch Farm
- Rhodes Farm
- Vise Farm I & II
- Lafferty Farm
- Miracle Farm
- Crawley Family Farm
- Ward Farm
- F.F. Crawley and Sons Farm
- Herron Creek Farm
- Jackson Farm
- Corner Bluff Farm
- Huckleberry Hills Farm
- Clenney/Eason Farm

DYER COUNTY

- Anderson Farm
- Cawthon Farm
- Foxridge Farm
- Frost Farm
- Huffstutter Farm
- Lucas-Weatherly Farm
- Scobey Farm
- Smith Farm
- Sweatt Farm
- Light House Farm
- Burks Farm
- Sudbury Acres
- Three Moore Acres Farm
- Miller Farm
- Tom Bell Farm
- Hastings Farm
- Baker-Young Farm
- Jones Hill Farm
- Gauldin Farm
- Webster Farm
- Childress Farm
- Wells Farm
- Austin Farm
- Bell Farms
- Double D Farms
- Jackson-Bowen Farms
- Kee Family Farm
- Rice Farm
- Walker Place
- Gregory Farm
- Jones-Boswell Farm
- Rose Farm
- Brandon Farm

- Moore Farm
- T.A. Austin Homeplace
- Seven Oaks Farm
- J.M. Eskew Family Farm

FAYETTE COUNTY

- Boswell Farm
- Estanaula Oaks Farm
- Harvey Hill Farm
- Hester Farm
- Crawford Farm (*aka Old Walker Place*)
- Teague Farm
- Armour Farm
- Mattie W. Fowler Farm
- Petty Farm
- Pulliam Farm
- Chestnut Hill Farm
- Farley Place
- H.E. Havercamp Farm
- Reid Farm
- Sylvan Ridge Farm
- Walter Burch Farm
- Yancey Place
- Cedar Lane Stables
- Old Mill Farm
- Spencer Brothers Farm
- Hodges-Mitchell Farm
- McKinnie Farm

GIBSON COUNTY

- James's Farm
- Lancaster Farms
- Penn Farm
- Pope Farms
- Reed Farm
- Country Wood Farm
- Dowland Farm
- Alvin Smith Farm
- Vaughan Farm
- Hunt Farm
- Johnny Sample Farm
- Tosh Farm
- The EHM Farm
- Dowland-Hall Farm
- Norman Farm
- WBY Farm
- Old Browning Place
- Holt Farm
- Paris Manor
- Carroll-Richards Farm
- Robinson Farm

GIBSON COUNTY *CONTINUED*

- Kings Chapel Farm
- The Homeplace
- Hall Farm
- Walker-Freeman-Bell Farm
- Tilghman-Rochelle Farm
- Mud Creek Farms
- Thompson Homeplace
- P.B. Edmonds Farms
- Baker-Arnold Farm
- Davidson Farm
- Harris Family Farms
- Proctor Farm
- Griffin-Ketcham Farm
- Mayfield Farm
- McDaniel Farms
- Penn-Wilson Farm
- Flowers Farm
- Flippin Farms
- Partee Farms
- Pinkerton Farm
- Schoonover Davidson Farm
- McDougald, Allen Farm
- Gumwoods Farm
- Yarbrough Farm
- Boulton Farm
- Crisp Farm
- Norton Farm
- Rochelle Farm

HARDEMAN COUNTY

- Pecan Row Farm
- Thompson Farm
- Robertson Farm
- Harris Place
- Albert Lloyd Keller Farm
- Keller-Blanton Farm
- Anderson Grain Farm
- Overton Farm
- Yarbrough Farm
- Richland Oaks Farm
- Mitchell Farm
- Grand Gait Farm
- Fair Meadow Farms
- The Rose Farm
- McKinnie Farm

HARDIN COUNTY

- Hanley Franks Place
- Dodd Farm
- Weatherington Farm

- Spring Valley Farms
- Circle A Ranch-Robinson Farm
- Hinton & Hinton Farm

HAYWOOD COUNTY

- Alta Vista Farm
- Bob Curlin Farm
- Greaves Farm
- Joyner's Hill Farm
- Norris Farm
- Castellaw Corner Farm
- Lagoon Plantation
- Booth Farm
- Stewart Farm
- Friedman Farm
- Adams Farm
- Morris Farm
- Outlaw Farm
- Johnson Farm
- Maher Farms
- Williams-Lonon Farm
- Dickinson-Lonon Farm
- Whitehurst Farm
- Nelson Bond's Oakview Farm
- Shaw Farm
- The Homeplace
- Williams Wood Farm
- Hooper Family Farm
- Miller Farm
- Pearson Farm
- Rainey Farms
- Carlton-Warren Homestead
- McConnico Farm
- Haywood County Farm
- Plain Fields Farm
- Cain Farm
- McCool Brother's Farm
- Clinton Evans Farms

HENDERSON COUNTY

- Houston Farm
- Robinson Farm
- Timberlake Farm
- Snider Farms
- McBride Farm
- Rhodes Farm
- Meadows Brothers Farm
- Carrington Farm
- Rhodes-Clifford Farm
- Welch Farm
- White-Anderson Farms



Holland Farm, Carroll County. *Photograph by the author.*

- Hart Family Farm
- Robins Farm
- S & S Farms
- Daws Farm

HENRY COUNTY

- Heritage Farms
- Kesterson Farm
- Olive Farm
- Paschall Farm
- Rabbit Creek Hereford Farm
- Shankle-Scott Farm
- Thompson-Overton Farm
- Tyler Farm
- Upchurch Hereford Farm
- Wade Farm
- Martin Farms
- Morris Farm
- Wynns Farm
- Henry Farm
- Roberts Farm
- Sweatt Farm
- The Homeplace Farm
- Kendall Homeplace Farm

- Clendenin Legacy Farm
- McDaniel Farm
- Gregson Farms
- Carter Farm
- Edgman Farm
- Thomas Farm
- Old Dr. Love Farm
- Norwood Family Farm
- Hastings Farm
- Bomar Farmstead
- Cannon Crews Farm
- Bowles Farm
- Howard-Dodd's Red Oak Farm
- Adams Farm
- Lee Farms
- Walters-Perkins Farm
- G.C. Pop Salmon Farm
- Pleasant Allen Lax Farm
- Cox Farm
- Caldwell Farms Elkhorn
- Diggs Farm

LAKE COUNTY

- Ed Sumara Farm

- Keefe Farm
- Prentice Wynn Farm
- Shumate Farm
- House Farm
- Marijac Farms
- Powell Heirs
- Freeman & Powell Farms

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

- Keller Farm
- New Farm
- Old Ball Place Farm
- Paradise Farm
- New-Williams-Summar Farm
- Wiley Farm
- Austin Farm
- Rhoads Acres
- William and Luella Carter Farm

MADISON COUNTY

- Bond Farm
- Elmwood Farm
- Taylor Homeplace Farm
- Walnut Flat Farm
- Donnell Farm
- Smithland Farm
- Spivey Farm
- Blackmon-Parrish Farm
- Dougan-Hall Farm
- Rochelle Farms
- Harris Farm
- Claybrook Farm
- Alexander Farm
- Haynes Family Farm
- Steel Magnolia Farm
- Sikes Farm
- Sherrod Farm

MCNAIRY COUNTY

- Canaday Brothers Farm
- Circle A Ranch-Ashe Farm
- Circle A Ranch-Boyd Farm
- Jones Farm
- Sam Bishop Farm
- Boyd Acres Farms
- Burks/Plunk Farm

OBION COUNTY

- Foulks (*Hutchinson*) Farm
- Frances H. Wade Farm

- Hailey Hill Farm
- Joyner Farms
- Key Farm
- Key Farms
- Robert Holman Farm
- Whitesell Farm
- Millrock Hill Farm
- Roberts Farm
- Broadview Farm
- Hampton Farms
- Griffin Farm
- Lloyds' Shore Farm
- McGaugh Farm
- Hutchison Farm
- Roach Farm
- Allen Farm at Totten Wells
- Burnett Farm
- Hutchison's Dixie Chicks Farm
- Wehman Farm
- Buchanan Bottom Farm
- Jernigan Farms
- Harper Farm
- Johnson Farm at Paw Paw Creek
- Walker Farm
- Gray Farms
- Albright Farms
- Board Farms
- Leigh Ann Valley Farm
- Giffin Farms
- Bright Farm
- Callis Farm
- The Ross Place Farm
- Richard Alexander Cole Farm
- Hillview Farm
- Oakhill Farms
- Snead Farms

SHELBY COUNTY

- Glenn Farm
- Gaines (*Humphreys*') Flower Farm
- Louise Reid Farm
- Maplecrest Farm
- Sydney Bryant Ray, Jr., Farm
- Vernon Farm
- Goldsby Farm
- Rembert Place Farm
- Castles-McCalla Farm
- Barret Farm
- Parr-Worley Farm
- Duke Family Farm

TIPTON COUNTY

- Corona Farm

- McCullough Farm
- Brice Moffatt Farm
- Moffatt Farm
- Driver Farm
- Cliftwood Farm
- Hawthorne Place Farm
- J & J Farms
- Lone Oak Farm
- Fleming Farm
- Oak Hill Farms
- Kinney Farm
- Oaklawn, Fortner-Walton Farm
- The Gwinn Place

WEAKLEY COUNTY

- Anderson Farm
- Artell Bell Farm
- Collier Farm
- Dillard Brooks Farm
- Freeman and Sons' Farm
- Freeman Farms I & II
- J.B. Nanney Farm
- Kennedy Farm
- Kennedy Ridge Farm
- McNatt Farm
- Reed's Angus Farm
- Rose Hill Farm
- Rowlett Farm

- Ruthville Farm
- Stow Hill Farm
- Bragg Farm
- Carlton Farm
- Ervin Farm
- Snider Farm
- Brock Farm
- Oliver Brothers Farm
- Pemberton Farm
- Mansfield Farm
- Smith-Wright Farm
- Isaac Oliver Farm
- Dennis Davis Farm
- Silver Gate Farms
- Williams Family Farms
- Billingsby Farms
- Rea Farms
- Sims Farms
- Yeargin Farm
- Ogg Farm
- Mason Hill Farms
- Grooms Farm at Liberty Road
- J.A. Jackson Farms

Previously Certified Century Farms

These farms no longer meet the qualifications of Century Farms,
usually because they have been sold out of the family.
In some cases, the status of the farms in
2025-26 could not be determined.

East Tennessee

ANDERSON COUNTY

- Sunny Slopes Angus Farm

BLEDSON COUNTY

- Etherton Farm

BLOUNT COUNTY

- Best Farm
- Brickey Farm
- H.V. Burns Farm
- Hitch Farm
- J.L. Burns Farm
- J. Lloyd Garner Farm
- L. Farmer Farm
- McDonald Farm
- McMurry Farm
- Ralph Kidd Farm
- Raulston Acres

- Reese Tip Davis Farm
- Serene Manor (*aka Cedar Crest*)
- Country Acres Farm

BRADLEY COUNTY

- Bend of the River Farm
- Kelley Farm

CARTER COUNTY

- Lewis Farm

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

- Fugate Farm
- Simmons Dairy Farm
- Simmons Farm
- Holt Farm
- Joe Lewis Dairy Farm

COCKE COUNTY

- M.G. Roberts Poplar Tree Farm
- River Dale Farm
- Heritage Farms

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

- Wheeler Farm

GRAINGER COUNTY

- Big Oak Farm
- Glencrest Farm
- Hammer Farm
- Renfro Cattle Farm
- Rolling Acres
- Dukes Farm
- Morgan Farm
- Bowen/Creech-Moody Farm
- Daniel Farm in Narrow Valley Community
- Busler Farm

GREENE COUNTY

- Susong Farm
- B. Williams Farm
- Big Elm Farm
- Crum Farm
- Hayes Farm
- Lee Susong Farm
- Newt & Rettie Matthews Farm
- Ayres Farm
- Bailey Farm
- College Farm
- Hilldale Farm
- Lindavista Farm
- Maymeade Farm
- Reed Crossing
- Rivamonte Farm

HAMBLEN COUNTY

- Ballard Farm
- Leeper Farm
- Suits U.S. Farm

HAWKINS COUNTY

- Fudge Farm
- Maple Hill Farm
- Campbell Acres Farm
- Webster Angus Farm
- Beal Farms

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Milldale Farms
- Nance Farm
- Bettis Farm
- Neil Manley Farm
- Bruce Farm

JOHNSON COUNTY

- M.J. Swift Farm

KNOX COUNTY

- Dowell Farm

LOUDON COUNTY

- Ben Roberson Farm
- Greenway Farm
- Hotchkiss Farm
- Harrison Farm
- Hardin Farm

MCMINN COUNTY

- Hester Matthews Farm
- Homestead Farm
- Moore's Valley View Farm
- J.H. Crittenden Farm
- Seth Hutsell's Farm
- Meadow Brook Farm
- Smith Farm
- Varnell Farm
- Old Bohannon Place
- Sharp Farm
- Slack Farm
- Blair Farm
- John C. Cate Farm
- Big Spring Farm I & II
- Valley Home Farm

MEIGS COUNTY

- Bennett Farm
- E.O. McNabb Farm

MONROE COUNTY

- Brookside Farm
- Glen Simpson Farm

POLK COUNTY

- Boyd Farm
- Willis Springs Farm
- Lillard's Branch Farm
- Taylors' Farm

ROANE COUNTY

- Cooley Farm

SEVIER COUNTY

- Glenview Farm
- Headrick's Hereford Farm
- Henry Gobble Farm
- Harvey Headrick Farm

SULLIVAN COUNTY

- A.K. Waterman Farm
- Denton Farm
- Hatterdale Farm
- Kreger Farm
- Masengill Farms

UNICOI COUNTY

- Allen Hill Farm
- Tilson Farm

UNION COUNTY

- Mynatt Farm

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- E.E. Brown Farm
- Sellers Farms on Clear Fork

Middle Tennessee

BEDFORD COUNTY

- John Elam Scruggs Farm
- Morgan Place
- Russell Farm
- Maple Dean Farm
- Joe Tom Walker Farm

CANNON COUNTY

- Youree Farm
- Todd Farm
- Bill Banks Place
- Campbell Farm
- Joe D. and Estel Smith Reed Farm

CHEATHAM COUNTY

- Edgen Hills
- Jackson Farm
- Nicholson-Pardue Farm

CLAY COUNTY

- Hayes and Hayes Farm

COFFEE COUNTY

- Beckman Farm
- Thomas Farm

DAVIDSON COUNTY

- Devon Farm
- The Homeplace Farm
- Castleman-Smith Farm

DICKSON COUNTY

- Bluff View Farm

FENTRESS COUNTY

- Greer Hill Farm

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Crownover Cove Farm
- Natural Springs Farm

GILES COUNTY

- Coker Farm
- Hulsey Farm
- The King Farm
- Townsend's Farm
- W.C. Morris Farm
- W.L. Potts Farm
- Wits End Farm
- B.W. Burgess Farm

GRUNDY COUNTY

- L.H. Burnett Farm
- Jasper J. and Wilsie Hobbs Tate Farm

HICKMAN COUNTY

- Williams Farm
- Nichols' Creekside Farm
- Nunnelly Farm
- Rial Farm

HUMPHREYS COUNTY

- Parks Farm

JACKSON COUNTY

- Billingsley Farm

LAWRENCE COUNTY

- Alexander Springs Farm
- Beuerlein Farm
- Wilburn Farm

LEWIS COUNTY

- Beechwood Farm

LINCOLN COUNTY

- Philpot Farm
- Sulser Farm

MACON COUNTY

- Burrow-Gregory Farm
- Smith-Wilson Farm

MAURY COUNTY

- Armstrong Farm
- Forest Home Farms
- Tanglefoot Farm
- Whistle Top Farm

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- Dickson Farm
- Elliott Farm
- Hinton Haven Farm
- K.T. Cocke Farm
- Corlew Farm
- Edwin Elliott Farm
- Nichols Farm
- Welker Farm

MOORE COUNTY

- Burt Farm
- Chestnut Ridge Farm
- Stone-Rives Farm

OVERTON COUNTY

- Hancock Farm
- Standing-Stone Farm

PICKETT COUNTY

- Clark Dairy Farm
- Riley Estate

ROBERTSON COUNTY

- Acworth Farm
- Padfield Farm
- Patterson Farm
- Hyde Farm
- Maryama Farm
- Jackson-Moss Farm
- Circle G Farm

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

- E.S. Williams Farm
- Jones Farm
- Lane Farm
- Riverside Farm
- Bennett Place
- Duggin Farm

SMITH COUNTY

- Sutton Farms at Difficult
- Beechwood Farm
- Agee Farm
- Waggoner Farm
- Yancey Farm

STEWART COUNTY

- James C. Kingins Farm
- Vaughan Farm
- Walker Farm

SUMNER COUNTY

- High Oak Farm
- Anglea/Coley Farm
- Light's Farm
- Judge C.D. Key Farm
- Milky Meade Farm
- Oak Haven Farm
- Perdue Farm
- Willis Farm
- Hidden Springs Farm
- W.B. Dye Farm

TROUSDALE COUNTY

- Hillcrest Farm
- McMurtry Farm
- High View Farm
- Gid Kyle Farm

VAN BUREN COUNTY

- Joseph Francis Connell, Sr., Family Farm

WARREN COUNTY

- Stubblefield Farm

WAYNE COUNTY

- Sharpe Farm

WHITE COUNTY

- Mullican Farm
- Sparkman Farm
- Plum Creek Farm

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

- Mockingbird Hill Farm
- Reynolds' Grant
- Riversmeet Farm
- Woodland Farm
- Creekside Farm

- Dripping Springs Stock Farm
- Carter Acres Farm
- Hillsdale Farm
- Montrose Farm
- Moss Side Farm
- Westbrook Farm
- Midway Farm
- Cedar Lane Farm I & II
- Peaceful Valley Farm
- Cartwright Farm
- Willow Run Farm
- J.R. Givens Farm, LLC
- Rodgerswood Farm

WILSON COUNTY

- Bland Farm
- Hudson Farm
- Pafford Farm
- MacFarland Farm
- W.N. Robbins Farm

West Tennessee

BENTON COUNTY

- Lee Gald Farms

CARROLL COUNTY

- Harvey Aden Farm
- Thomsen Farm
- Brandon Farm

CHESTER COUNTY

- Larry Tignor Farm
- Walnut Grove Farm

CROCKETT COUNTY

- Homeplace Farm
- Humphreys Farm
- Tommy Smith Farm
- Potts Farm
- Minglewood Farm
- Terre des Chenes Farm

DECATUR COUNTY

- Moore Farm

DYER COUNTY

- Hendren Farm
- Hurley Farm
- R.S. Bell Farm
- Brothers-Clift Farm

FAYETTE COUNTY

- Bejach Farm
- Hilltop Farm
- Wiggins Place
- R.P. Neville Farm
- Jones-Rogers Farm

GIBSON COUNTY

- Bledsoe-Smith Farm
- Hazlewood Farms
- Gibson Boys Farm
- Raines' Farm
- Crenshaw Christmas Tree Farm
- Robinson Goodman Farm

HARDEMAN COUNTY

- McNeely Farm

HARDIN COUNTY

- Dickson Farm
- Cagle Farm

HAYWOOD COUNTY

- Crafton Farm
- Oak Hill Farm *(1828)*
- Oak Hill Farm *(1832)*
- S.B. Mann Farm
- Pineyhill Farm
- Tucker Place

HENDERSON COUNTY

- Davis Farms
- Johnson-Burke Farm

LAKE COUNTY

- Joe Carter Farm

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

- Murley-White Farm
- Hyde Farm
- Pecan Hill Farm

MADISON COUNTY

- Beaty Farm
- Sykes Farm
- Hopper Farm
- Coburn Farm

OBION COUNTY

- Barker Farm
- Brown Farm
- Brown Place

- Caldwell Farm *(1858)*
- Caldwell Farm *(1886)*
- Catron Farm
- Erwin Farm
- Foster Farm
- Hills of Home Farm
- Jones Farm
- Overall Farm
- Palmer Home Place
- Shipp Estate
- Stone Farm
- Sturgis Farm
- W.F. Pierce Farm
- Wilson's Lone Pine Farm
- Rodney Holman Farm
- L. Harpole Farm
- Pierce-Leitherland Farm
- Walnut Grove Farm

SHELBY COUNTY

- Bonniebrow Farm
- Bragg Brothers Farm
- Mt. Airy Farm
- Davies Plantation
- Flippin-Castles Farm

TIPTON COUNTY

- Cedar Hill Farms
- McDow Farm
- McLennan Place

WEAKLEY COUNTY

- Harmsworth Farm



Hawkins County sign, East Tennessee.

Tennessee Century Farms

is a program of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and is administered in partnership with the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. For the program's requirements and an application, contact the Center.



Skullbone store,
Gibson County, West Tennessee.



Ozburn Hollow Farm,
Williamson County, Middle Tennessee.

