



J.R. Stubblefield house circa 1897.



R.L Stubblefield house as it looks today.



J.R. Stubblefield and crew binding wheat circa 1900.

Stubblefield Farms packs nearly 200 years of memories

By CHARLIE JOHNSON
News Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

Stubblefield Farms in Warren County has been designated as a Tennessee Century Farm. The announcement comes from Caneta S. Hankins, director of the Century Farms program at the Center for Historic Preservation located on the MTSU campus.

Carolyn Stubblefield, wife of Charles B. Stubblefield, who passed away in 2009, prepared and submitted the application for inclusion in the Century Farms program. Charles was the great-great-grandson of William and Wilmuth Stubblefield.

"My daughter-in-law told me about the program," Carolyn said. "The program had been around for a long time, I had just never

heard of it. So I went on their Web site and looked at it and decided I would apply, because it's been in the family for so long."

Carolyn then got her nephew, Steve Stubblefield, executive director of the local Farm Services Agency, involved in the process.

"I got Steve to go along with me on it," Carolyn said. "I did the application but he's also part of it because it used to be all the same farm. So I applied, they sent an application, and I answered all their questions, told them some stories and we were accepted and got the certificate."

Eventually a sign will be placed on the property to document its status as a Century Farm.

Carolyn says the process was simplified in their case because she and her late husband were involved in writing up family genealogies, and had compiled a lot of information on the family previously.

"We had already written up the Stubblefields," Carolyn said. "Of course, there has been a lot of genealogy written up on the Stubblefields, they go back to England, so we had all that information anyway. We got the stories from various sources and did a lot of research on it. I didn't really have to do it for this application. We'd already done the research on it."

Carolyn says she is pleased to have the farm recognized for its 196 years in the same family. She says she plans to keep it in the family.

"It will be passed along to my son Jim and he has two sons, so it may be in the Stubblefield family for 300 years," Carolyn said.

Carolyn said the farm meant a



JILL STUBBLEFIELD



STEVE STUBBLEFIELD

lot to Charles.

"We bought the land from his aunt Ruth and uncle Royce, they didn't have any children," Carolyn said. "He had a sentimental attachment to that farm, but mainly we bought it because we enjoyed it. We live in North Carolina and we'd come over in the summer a lot and we'd work. We enjoyed the folks in Viola. So there's a sentimental attachment there, but we liked coming over too."

Carolyn says she feels historic preservation is important to modern society, and her late husband felt the same.

"If we lose sight of our past, then we may not be able to make good choices in the future," Carolyn said. "I think you can learn from the past."

Carolyn says the family still enjoys spending time on the 127 acre section of the farm she owns, noting that her son Jim, his wife Beth and their two sons, Bryan and Grant, regularly make the jaunt from their home in Nashville to the farm. Steve and his wife Jill live in Viola right across the road from the 103 acre section of the farm they own. Between them the Stubblefields raise cattle, soybeans



Photos provided

CHARLES B. AND CAROLYN STUBBLEFIELD

and corn.

Steve says he is proud of the family farm's history in the community.

"I think it's a great honor that the farm has stayed in the family that long," Steve said. "And that we were able to apply for the Century Farm program. We owe thanks to my aunt Carolyn Stubblefield, she took the initiative to apply for it."

Steve and Jill have two children, Laura, who lives with them in Viola, and John, who lives in Mississippi.

The Century Farm Program recognizes the contributions of Tennessee residents who have continuously owned, and kept in production, family land for at least 100 years. Since 1984, the CHP at MTSU has been a leader in the important work of documenting Tennessee's agricultural heritage and history through the Tennessee Century Farm Program, and con-

tinues to administer this program.

To be considered for eligibility, a farm must be owned by the same family for at least 100 years; must produce \$1,000 revenue annually; must have at least 10 acres of the original farm; and one owner must be a resident of Tennessee.

"The Century Farmers represent all the farm families of Tennessee," Hankins said, "and their contributions to the economy, and to the social, cultural and agrarian vitality of the state, both past and present, is immeasurable. Each farm is a Tennessee treasure."

For more information about the Century Farms Program, please visit the Web site at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres>.

To view the information on the Stubblefield farm specifically visit the Web site at: http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/warren_county/#Stubblefield_Farms.

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