

Information Sheet

R **Kinderpost (Mo.).**
107 **Collection, ca. 1910-1982.**
 Three folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is material on the post office and community at Kinderpost in Texas County, Missouri. Included are two photographs, ca. 1910; an illustrated article by Priscilla Bradford; and a three-page memoir on the postal system in Texas County by Ellery P. Bradford, 1982.

The Kinderpost collection was donated by Priscilla Bradford, daughter of Columbus Bradford, who founded the community. Columbus Bradford, a Methodist minister who had filled pulpits in Illinois and Missouri, opened the "Ozark Kinderfarm" in Texas County, north of Licking, in 1904. The Kinderfarm was a humanitarian project designed to remove orphan and dependent children from the cities and to raise them in the more beneficial atmosphere of a farm in the country. As Bradford noted in the pamphlet, *The Kinderfarm Journal* (1904), the chief industry of the farm was "child culture." A secondary objective, according to the *Journal*, was the solution of the problem "as to the relative importance of Heredity and Environment in character building."

Although the project was initially privately funded, it received some state support from Gov. Herbert Hadley's immigration commission. The commission, established in 1908, launched a colonization program to settle entire families, chiefly from the St. Louis area, in uninhabited areas of the Ozarks. A tract of land near Kinderpost was designated as the site of the colony, which flourished for several years. Agriculture was the mainstay of the community, which by 1910 boasted a post office and general store, saw and planing mills, and a corn sheller and mill. Its prosperity was short-lived, however. A combination of agricultural inexperience, a poor transportation system, and the curtailment of state aid discouraged many of the settlers, who drifted away from the community.

r110 *8 February 1982* *Priscilla Bradford* *Gift*

Shelf List

This is material on the post office and community at Kinderpost in Texas County, Missouri. Included are two photographs, ca. 1910; an illustrated article by Priscilla Bradford; and a three-page memoir on the postal system in Texas County by Ellery P. Bradford, 1982.

Folder 1: Photographs of Columbus Bradford's home and an apple orchard at Kinderpost, ca. 1910.

Folder 2: Priscilla Bradford, "Kinderpost," *Comments on Etymology*, IX (8-9), 1980, pp. 1-11.

Folder 3: Ellery P. Bradford, "Some Historical Memorabilia of Northern Texas County," 1982.

r110 *8 February 1982* *Priscilla Bradford* *Gift*

Index Cards

Bradford, Columbus
Bradford, Ellery P.

Bradford, Priscilla.
Fruit-culture—Missouri—Texas County
Kinderpost (Mo.)
National Farm Homes Association
Postal service—Missouri—Texas County
Texas County (Mo.)