Lillian Bradford Dowler Diaries
(C4531)

**Collection Number:** C4531

**Collection Title:** Lillian Bradford Dowler Diaries

**Dates:** 1928-1995

**Creator:** Dowler, Lillian Bradford, 1911-1995

**Abstract:** Diaries kept by Lillian Bradford Dowler, a farm wife who grew up and lived in the Birch Tree community area in Shannon County, Missouri, her whole life. The diaries date from 1928 to 1995 and document family life and daily activities on the farm. Collection also includes transcriptions.

**Collection Size:** 0.8 cubic feet
(8 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shs.mo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] Lillian Bradford Dowler Diaries (C4531); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The diaries were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Betty S. Hall on April 25, 2014 (Accession No. CA6371).

**Processed by:** Tiana Stephenson on February 3, 2023.

**Biographical Note:**

Lillian Bradford Dowler was born on December 8, 1911, in Shannon County, Missouri, to William N. Bradford and Laura Cinderella McCloud Bradford. William and Laura Bradford had six children, and the 1920 census shows the family remained in Shannon County, Missouri,
following the death of Lillian's mother, who passed away on June 12, 1917. On January 25, 1961, Lilian's father died in Birch Tree City, Shannon County, Missouri.

On March 28, 1931, Lillian married Paul Parker Dowler, a young man she describes in her diaries as her neighbor. Paul Dowler was born in Shannon County, Missouri, in 1908. Together the couple had five children, William (b. 1933), Betty (b. 1937), Ben (b. 1940), Laura (b. 1943), and Wesley (b. 1944). Throughout her diaries, Lillian describes her life on the farm in Shannon County, Missouri, where the family continued to live well after the children grew to adulthood.

Lillian Bradford Dowler passed away on October 8, 1995, in Birch Tree City, Shannon County, Missouri. Her husband preceded her in death on March 24, 1997.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one series:

Diaries

Scope and Content Note:

Diaries

The Lillian Bradford Dowler Diaries include Lillian’s original diaries and four transcribed volumes created by Betty Dowler Hall, arranged chronologically. Volume one of the transcripts dates from 1928-1974 and begins when Dowler was sixteen years old. The diary entries pertain to Lillian's experience as a wife living on a farm and there are brief mentions of Pearl Harbor and World War II, but these entries do not provide depth on these events.

Volume two contains a description of Lillian's life between the years 1975-1982, including family events such as the birth of grandchildren, birthdays, family visits, medical operations and general tasks and duties that detail life on the farm. There is a brief mention of a release of hostages in Iran and the inauguration day of Ronald Reagan.

Volumes three and four, 1983-1995, continue to document farm life, gardening, family illnesses, and other significant family events, including birthdays and deaths. In October 1995, Lillian wrote her last entry three days before her death.

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