Bradbury Family Papers
(R1539)

Collection Number: R1539

Collection Title: Bradbury Family Papers

Dates: 1937-2020

Creator: Bradbury Family

Abstract: The Bradbury Family Papers contain the personal and professional papers of John F. Bradbury Sr. and John F. Bradbury Jr. John F. Bradbury Sr. served in the United States Military for over 20 years; his WWII Pacific Front engineering photographs are notable. John F. Bradbury Jr. worked as a historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri at the Rolla Research Center for 35 years and collected many items concerning the history of Phelps County, Missouri, especially during the Civil War.

Collection Size: 2 cubic feet
(45 folders, 601 negatives, 121 photographs, 78 slides)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: This collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Rights & Reproductions on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Bradbury Family Papers* (R1539); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Ryan Haas on August 5, 2023 (Accession No. RA1737).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Bradbury Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

John F. Bradbury, Jr. Postcard Collection (R1551)
John F. Bradbury, Jr. Papers (R1552)
James McGhee Papers (CG0047)
Lynn Morrow Papers (R1000)

Processed by: Processed by Ashley Weaver on September 10, 2026

Historical Note:

John F. Bradbury, Sr., was born on May 13, 1904, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to William R. and Mary (Dunn) Bradbury (1880-1957). Bradbury Sr. had five siblings: four brothers and one sister. The family lived in the Scranton area at least through 1930. Bradbury Sr. attended college and earned a four-year degree in accounting before enlisting in the Army to support the war effort in 1941. He served with the Army Corps of Engineers throughout World War II. His brother, William T. Bradbury (1902-1945), also served in World War II and died while in service. Bradbury Sr. served twenty years in the United States Army and retired from active duty around 1960. In the mid-1950s, he received a new duty station near Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He moved his family to the area and worked as a ROTC instructor and military liaison at the Missouri School of Mines (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) until he retired. In 1952, he married Jeanne Holcomb, and they had four children, Patricia, John F. Jr., Robert, and Timothy. After his retirement, Bradbury Sr. was employed as an instructor at the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood. He passed away in 1976 and is buried in the Fort Leonard Wood Post Cemetery.

John F. Bradbury, Jr. was born on October 24, 1952, in Heidelberg, Germany, to John F. and Jeanne (Holcomb) Bradbury. His father was stationed there on active duty, serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. Soon after their overseas stint, the family moved to Missouri, where Bradbury, Sr. was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and served as an ROTC instructor at the Missouri School of Mines (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) until retiring from active duty. Bradbury, Jr. attended the University of Missouri – Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology), where he received his bachelor's degree in history in 1974. He spent a year in graduate school at the University of Wyoming-Laramie before leaving to take a job with the Union Pacific Railroad, working as a section man and section foreman.

In 1980, Bradbury, Jr. began working for the University of Missouri's Western Historical Manuscript Collection department in the Rolla Research Center as a Manuscript Specialist. By the end of his career, he was the Associate Director, a position he held until his retirement in 2015. After his retirement, he was appointed as a Senior Fellow by the State Historical Society of Missouri. As a Fellow, he continued to work on research projects. His list of publications includes numerous articles in the Phelps County Historical Society Newsletter and the *Missouri Historical Review*. He also co-authored or edited *A History of Southern Missouri and Northern Arkansas: Being an Account of the Early Settlements*, *the Civil War, the Ku-Klux*, and *Times of Peace; Old Pulaski in Pictures: Rivers, Rails, Roads, and Recreation, Pulaski County, Missouri*; *Rolla: The Old Town*; and *Route 66 East to West: A Self-Guided Tour Through Phelps County*. His final work, *"My Own Commander:" The Civil War Journal of J. J. Sitton, 1863-1865* was published posthumously in October 2023. Bradbury died on June 11, 2023, at his home in Rolla, Missouri.

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Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series with 7 sub-series:

John F. Bradbury Sr.
- Military Records
- Personal Papers
- Photographs

John F. Bradbury Jr.
- Personal Papers
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Miscellaneous

Scope and Content Note:

John F. Bradbury Sr.

This series contains materials related to John F. Bradbury Sr.'s military career and his civilian work at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, after his retirement, where he worked as an instructor at the engineering school. This series also contains photographs of his time in the Pacific during WWI, where he worked as an engineer, and a few personal items, including religious items and travel memorabilia. This series is arranged chronologically.

John F. Bradbury Jr.

This series consists of materials related to the life of John F. Bradbury Jr. The Personal papers include identifying information, like work IDs, birth certificates, a birth announcement, and passports. Also included in this section are his resume, work history, and several newspaper articles about his local history work. The correspondence consists of personal and professional correspondence related to John F. Bradbury Jr's work as a historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri. The photographs contain some local history photographs and a photographic inventory of all JFB Jr.'s Civil War artifacts. Also included in this series are bodies of information on some of his closest friends and colleagues who JFB Jr. worked with or helped occasionally, a WWII surplus catalog, and a brief Bradbury family genealogy. This section is arranged in its original order.

Container List:

John F. Bradbury Sr.

Box 001	f. 1-22	Military Papers
	f. 1	Pre-service General Accounting Office DC & FBI, 1937-1940
	f. 2	General Service Statements & Enlistment papers, 1940-1960
	f. 3	Quarter Finance, Fort Belvoir, 1944-1949
	f. 4	California Duty Stations, 1949-1952
	f. 5	Heidelberg, Germany Duty Station, 1952-1954
	f. 6	Fort Leonard Wood Duty Station, 1950-1957

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	f. 7	Fort Leonard Wood, Exercise Red Arrow, 1956
	f. 8	Enlistment Papers, 1942-1946
	f. 9	Awards, commendation letters, 1945
	f. 10	LVDC award, no date
	f. 11	Training Certificates, 1945-1957
	f. 12	Misconduct training/investigations, 1945-1955
	f. 13	Medical Records, 1946-1949
	f. 14	Leave Authorization, 1946-1955
	f. 15	Travel Authorizations, 1943-1955
	f. 16	General Correspondence, 1944-1956
	f. 17	Army Med Board, 1946-1947
	f. 18	Retirement Papers, 1960
	f. 19	Full Record of Service, 1940-1960
	f. 20	Special orders, 1960
	f. 21	Correspondence, Fort Leonard Wood, 1961-1973
	f. 22	Training Instructor, Fort Leonard Wood, 1967
	f. 23-24	Personal Papers
	f. 23	Religious Materials, 1976
	f. 24	Playbills and Show Programs, 1946
	f. 25	Photographs
	f. 25	Military photographs, 1941-1944

John F. Bradbury Jr.

Box 002	f. 26-29	Personal Papers
	f. 26	Identifying documents, 1951-2019
	f. 27	Resume, work history, job applications 1986-2011
	f. 28	Local History, Public Outreach, Newspaper Articles 1987-1988
	f. 29	John Moore, Civil War Court Case Papers, 1994
	f. 30-39	Correspondence
	f. 30-31	General correspondence, 1998-2017
	f. 32-33	State Historical Society of Missouri, 1995-2018
	f. 34	General correspondence, 2000-2012
	f. 35	Richard T. Malouf, 1991-2001
	f. 36	Rolla the Old Town Book Drafts, 2002
	f. 37	Hiram Hiller Musket, 1863
	f. 38	Gary Kremer, 2015
	f. 39	General correspondence, 1985-2020
	f. 40-41	Photographs
	f. 40	Miscellaneous historic and local area photographs, no date
	f. 41	Civil War artifact photographs, no date
	f. 42-45	Miscellaneous
	f. 42	Bradbury Family Genealogy, 1910
	f. 43	Allied Construction Company Catalog, 1943
	f. 44	Jack Morgan, 1990-2002
	f. 45	Louis Smart, Osage Studio & Fin Arts Foundry, 1984-2003

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Map Cabinet 1 Drawer 4 OS Item 1 Old Oregon Trail Map, 1959

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Bradbury, John F., Jr., 1952-2023	26-45	Yes
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Bradbury, Mary Perkins, baptized 1615-1700	42	
Bradbury, Thomas M.	42	Yes
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