

A Walk Through the History of...
Kinder Farm Park





A steer grazes in field next to the Large Animal Barn.



Enjoy 2.8 miles of paved trail through Kinder Farm Park.

Front cover images, clockwise from top left:

- Anne Arundel County Kinder Farm Park directional sign.
- Kinder Farm windmill, silos, barns, and tractors.
- Henry Kinder Farmhouse, 1939 (*center*).
- Rhode Island Red at the chicken coop.
- Goats position themselves on wooden steps.

The Kinder Family



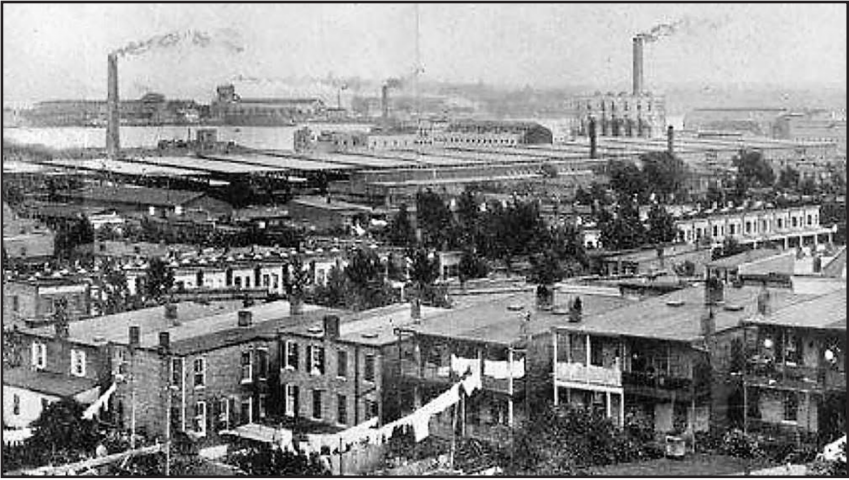
Family gathering in front of Henry Kinder House, 1940.

Kinder Farm Park encompasses part of the farm property acquired and developed by brothers Gustave and Henry Kinder who immigrated directly to Baltimore with seven other siblings and their mother Henrietta Maschinski Kinder between 1893 and 1896. Family members sailed from Bremen, Germany except for Gustave who sailed from Hamburg, Germany to Philadelphia. It is believed their original home was in Elbing, Germany.

The Kinder family were one of many German families who farmed throughout Anne Arundel County. They demonstrated motivation to work hard and initiate ventures of land purchases and a variety of farming.



Gustave Kinder Jr. in front of the house his father built in 1905.



Different Kinder siblings lived in various points of downtown Baltimore and later Curtis Bay area (*shown above in 1917*) before settling in Millersville-Anne Arundel County in the early 1900's. Gustave and Henry both worked in Baltimore factories before buying rural land and undertaking the task of truck farming, a common choice of self-employment for many immigrants arriving in the Baltimore area at that time.



Gustave Sr. and wife Martha Kinder (front), 1939.



Henry Sr. and Hilda Kinder, 1961.

Truck farming required many hours of hard work and labor intensive efforts to plant orchards and vegetables, harvest the crops, and transport this produce by horse and wagon (later trucks) to markets in various points in Baltimore.



In 1929 the Henry Kinder farm had one mule and one horse to work the farm and pull wagons loaded with produce to market.



Henry Kinder's daughters Amelia and Ida on wagon loaded with sweet potatoes and squash, 1926.

Gustave acquired 51.75 acres adjacent to the Kinder Cemetery in 1896 and Henry began with an unknown parcel of land near the current farmhouse in 1902, later adding many more acres to his holdings until he reached about 600 acres in 1952.



Aerial view of Kinder Farm, 1969.

Kinder farming began to take a new path in the late 1930s as Henry and his four sons, Edward, Henry Jr., August and Albert embarked on raising beef cattle (mixed herds of Angus and Hereford) to sell to the Baltimore stockyards. This was an enormous undertaking requiring construction of a variety of buildings, developing supply contacts, and planting large quantities of corn for feed. Henry and his sons also tried growing tobacco and raising hogs, sheep, and turkeys (*below*).





As the families of Gustave and Henry grew, their children and grandchildren became farm workers, creating a major source of employment on Kinder Farm (*above*). However, changes in farm practices brought about the sale of small parcels over the years, with Anne Arundel County (AACO) purchasing 288 acres in 1979 from the Kinders and five acres of pond land from William Bunk, a relative. Additional Kinder family history is available by visiting the Kinder Farmhouse museum on this farm and spending time in the park's Visitors Center.



Henry Kinder's sons Albert, August, Henry Jr., and Edward.

1. Kinder Farm Park Visitors Center
- 2a. Kinder Family Cemetery
- 2b. Site of Gustave Kinder House
3. Duck Pond
4. Tobacco Barn Museum
5. Operating Sawmill
6. Antique Tractor Sheds
7. Working Blacksmith Shop
8. Woodworking Shop
9. Large Animal Barn
10. Small Animal Barn



Kinder Farm Park

0 90 180 Feet

- 11. Green Barn, Corn Crib & Silos
- 12. Ice House
- 13. Kinder Family Farmhouse
- 14. Comfort Station & Playground
- 15. Bunk's Pond



Bunk's 15
Pond

1. Kinder Farm Park Visitors Center

The Visitors Center Exhibit Hall houses a collection of notebooks filled with old photos and history about farm life in Anne Arundel County, and displays farm tools, pickers checks, and vintage household items circa 1890s to the 1940s. The Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society



assembled these items to share with the public. All but one of the display cabinets were made by the Sawmill Club in 2010. Please Explore the Visitors Center and this booklet will guide you on a walk through Kinder Farm Park.



2a. Kinder Family Cemetery



The Kinder Family Cemetery was started by Gustave Kinder in 1913 when his youngest child died. Kinders buried here are Gustave and wife Martha, and his mother, sister, and brother. This family cemetery is one of three known cemeteries in the park.

2b. Site of Gustave Kinder House



Next to the cemetery stood a white house built by Gustave and Martha (Will) Kinder in 1905; it was the first Kinder home built on this property. Gustave worked at the Naval Academy as a machinist. He and Martha raised five children here doing small subsistence farming before retiring to Pasadena in 1942. Gustave Jr. tried to maintain the homestead but became tired of farming and sold his remaining 20.75 acres around 1949 to his four Kinder cousins, who were expanding their farm. The Gustave Kinder House was demolished in 2020.

3. Duck Pond



There is a Duck Pond within the farm complex, one of four ponds that you might see on a walk at the park. These ponds froze so solid in the early 1900s that the Kinders cut ice during the winters of the 1920s and 1930s and sold it to neighbors nearby. They kept an ice supply in the Kinder ice house for family use. In the summertime this pond became a swimming “hole” for the Kinder kids. An adjacent large windmill built in 1998 by the County, pumps water from the pond if needed. This pond is visited by ducks, geese and even a few swans in the warmer months.

4. Tobacco Barn Museum



This is a replica tobacco barn built by the County in 2006 with some lumber from a collapsing tobacco barn at Bell Branch Park in Crofton. Inside is a display welcoming visitors to view a collection of vintage tools and farm implements.

5. Operating Sawmill



This sawmill was built by the County and Kinder Park volunteers in 2006. On Wednesdays from 9AM until noon, you can observe the Sawmill Club and Woodshop Club at work. It takes at least four men to operate the mill, mostly cutting lumber selected from around Kinder Farm Park. This club built the floor in the tobacco barn, display cabinets and a large table in the Visitors Center, and other items within the Park.

6. Antique Tractor Sheds



These 3-sided loafing sheds display The Friends of Kinder Farm Park's collection of antique tractors dating from the 1940s to the 1990s. Prior to purchasing a tractor around 1933, the Kinders used hand tools and hand pushed, horse drawn ploughs. These are typical farm sheds with many uses on any given farm.

7. Working Blacksmith Shop



Many farmers, including the Kinders, had to do blacksmithing for horse shoes and farm tool repair, as well as any necessary metal work. The Chesapeake Forge Guild operates this forge on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings and welcomes visitors to observe from the doorway. This blacksmith guild built the gate at the Kinder family cemetery.

8. Woodworking Shop



On Wednesday mornings woodshop volunteers use the sawmill club to build items for the park, such as cabinets, paneling, and counter tops in the Visitors Center, and ramps, boardwalks, shelves, and cabinets in the tobacco barn. From the early 1900s the Kinders did their own carpentry and repairs around the farm.

9. Large Animal Barn



At the center of the park is a farm complex with a variety of barns and animals replicating farm life in the early 1900s. A large animal barn is used mainly by the Farm Education Livestock Club, where children and parents must both be heavily involved. These families purchase, birth, raise and care for most of the animals you see at Kinder Farm Park. They own pigs, cows, dairy and eco goats and alpaca.

Sometimes they have quail. Check out the fields around this barn. The Farm Education Livestock Club sells some of their animals to the Kinder Farm Park 4-H Livestock Club.

10. Small Animal Barn



The small animal barn is used by Kinder Farm Park 4-H Livestock Club which raises pigs, sheep, and goats. They also raise turkeys and chickens in adjacent coops and at times ducks. Look beyond this barn and

you will see the rabbit hutch. Some of these animals go to market and/or are shown at the County Fair each year. The poultry houses were built about 2015 by students from the Center for Applied Technology-North in Severn.

11. Green Barn, Corn Crib and Silos



The circa 1940s green barn and corn crib are the only remaining structures used by the Kinder Family when they farmed. The four tall, white silos were built in the 1950s to store corn that grew in surrounding fields, which provided year-round food for cattle. These historic barns are presently used by the park rangers and animal clubs to store a variety of “things” such as hay, animal feed, and small tools.

12. Ice House



Henry Kinder Sr. built this ice house in 1910, and the family used it to store ice and food products before home refrigeration. Sometimes the ice would last until June. By the 1940s the house held limited food and cattle medicines. Feel free to open the door and explore; interpretive signs provide more information.

13. Kinder Family Farmhouse

Standing alone is the 1926 home of Henry and Hilda Kinder which was renovated from 2011-2014 by the Friends of Kinder Farm Park and outside volunteers. The Farmhouse is open the second Saturday of each month and there are docents to share extensive Kinder Family history. Henry and Hilda raised eight children on this farm and their four sons farmed alongside their father until his death in 1963. Edward, Henry Jr., Albert, and August Kinder continued farming this land until 1979 when Anne Arundel County bought the property. Notice the adjoining kitchen garden maintained by the Chartwell Garden Club.



14. Comfort Station and Playground



A paved path leads to the comfort station which is close to the large children's playground. This area was originally occupied by free range turkeys and a large cinder block maintenance building used by the Kinder brothers. Follow the paved path across the road and connect with a 2.8-mile paved walking trail. Do not be afraid to venture off this path into the woods or the fields. You may be walking on old Kinder Farm roads or through old cattle pastures and vegetable fields. You might find the Meyn Family (another German born family of immigrants) cemetery on a hill among the trees across from the playground.



15. Bunk's Pond

Bunk's Pond with its bamboo lined banks, was built in the 1950s on William and Amelia (Kinder) Bunk's property. There is a history notebook in the Visitors Center about this pond with exceptional pictures of its original appearance. To find this pond, walk down the East-West/Greenbrier trail, turn onto an old dirt farm road and experience a multitude of nature's bounty. Two very old cattle sheds, similar to the current tractor loafing sheds, stand along the East-West path. These sheds may not remain for many more years.



There is much more to see and learn in this remarkable park. Keep walking and ENJOY IT ALL.

You may keep this booklet for return visits or you may recycle it by returning it to the Visitors Center for others to use.



This booklet reflects the many efforts of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park volunteers and the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society to present historical farming information to the public as they visit this unique park.

For more information about park activities or information about the Friends of Kinder Farm Park please go to our website at kinderfarmpark.org

Special thanks to:

The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Diane Rausch and Mike Lowman of the FKFP Historical Society, and consultant John E. Kille.

We hope you enjoyed learning about the park and if you would like to recycle this booklet, please return it to the Kinder Farm Park Visitors Center.



*This Visitor Guide was financed
by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County
and Friends of Kinder Farm Park, with assistance
from Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division*