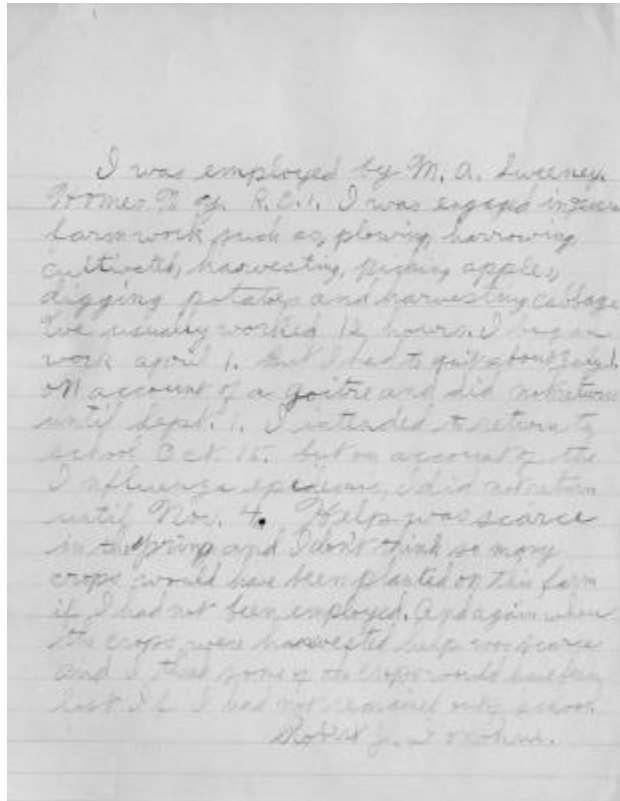


Robert Donohue's Essay



I was employed by M. A. Lweeney
Home B. Co. N.Y. I was engaged in
farm work such as plowing, harrowing,
cultivating, harvesting, picking apples,
digging potatoes and harvesting cabbage.
We usually worked 12 hours a day on
week days. But I had to quit about Sept.
11 on account of a gout and did not return
until Sept. 11. I intended to return to
school Oct. 15, but on account of the
influenza epidemic, did not return
until Nov. 4. Help was scarce
in the spring and I don't think so many
crops would have been planted on the farm
if I had not been employed. In addition when
the crops were harvested help was scarce
and I think some of the crops would have
rotted. I had not received my school
books yet.

In 1917, the New York State Education Department began a program that allowed students between the ages of 16 and 18 in good academic standing to sign up and become Farm Cadets. Many teens jumped at the chance to become a Farm Cadet, and to leave their homes in the cities and towns and to assist with the war effort by replacing the laborers who had enlisted in the military and gone to fight overseas. From April-September, students worked on farms throughout the state and, in order to receive academic credit for their contribution, wrote essays about their experience. In this essay, Robert Donohue briefly discusses some of the tasks he had to take on while working as a Farm Cadet.

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Geographic Locations

Cortland County (is associated with)