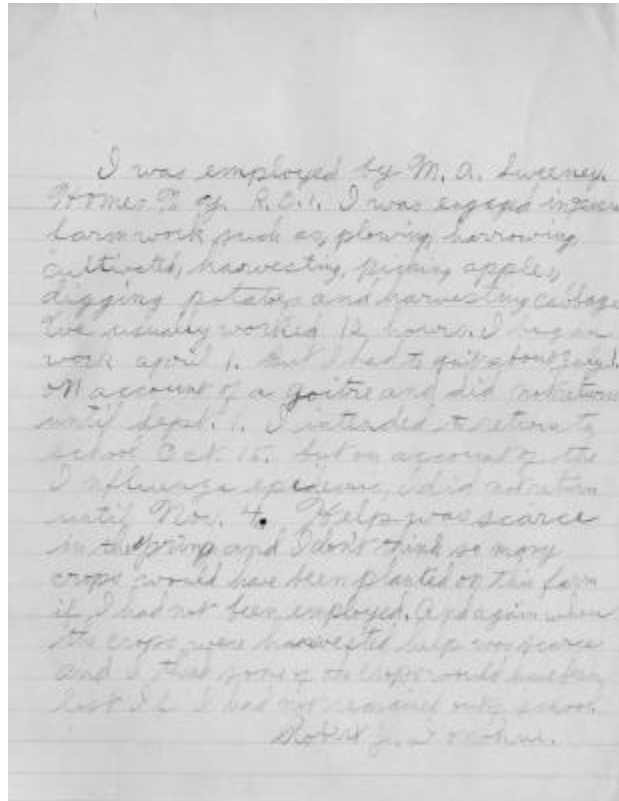


## Robert Donohue's Essay

A photograph of a handwritten essay on lined paper. The handwriting is in cursive and somewhat faded. The text describes the author's employment on a farm, the types of work performed, and the reasons for leaving the job. The signature at the bottom reads "Robert J. Donohue".

I was employed by M. A. Lweeney  
Rt. 1, Box 111. 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 in  
work April 1. But I had to quit about Sept. 1.  
On account of a goutre and did not return  
until Sept. 1. I intended to return to  
school Oct. 15. but on account of the  
influenza epidemic, I 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 this farm  
if I had not been employed. In August when  
the crops were harvested help was scarce  
and I think some of the crops would have been  
lost if I had not remained on the farm.  
Robert J. Donohue.

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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circa 1917

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**Geographic Locations**

Cortland County (is associated with)