

ARCHIE WRIGHT PAPERS
DAIRY FARMERS UNION and
FARMERS UNION OF THE NEW YORK MILKSHED
Mss. Coll. No. 68
2.5 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Archie Wright was born July 25, 1891, at Westville, New York, the son of William and Mary Hanna Wright. He graduated from Ogdensburg Free Academy in 1911, married Leona Prosser in 1940 and was divorced 1952. They had two sons: William L. and Timothy A.

As a young man, Archie Wright had refused to register for the draft during World War I and spent time in jail as a result. He regarded himself as a pacifist. In the 1920s, Wright worked as a seaman and for a time worked as a journalist. He also joined the socialist-leaning Industrial Workers of the World, or I. W. W. Later, Wright returned to the North Country and began working on his father's dairy farm.

Over the next several years, Archie Wright witnessed first-hand that dairymen were unable to secure a high enough price for their milk from the dairy companies. Wright organized the first organization independent of the dairy cooperatives to bargain for fair milk prices, the Dairy Farmers Union, in 1936. The DFU was instrumental in organizing milk strikes that affected dairy plants in St. Lawrence County, as well as a much larger state-wide strike among farmers supplying the New York City market.

Wright served as president of the DFU until 1941, when he led the Farmer's Union of the New York Milkshed through the 1940s and 50s. Mr. Wright was the editor and publisher of the Northeastern Union Farmer and had a weekly radio talk show.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection covers two organizations of which Wright was president: the Dairy Farmers' Union of the 1930's and the Farmers' Union of the New York Milkshed of the 1940's and 1950's. Also included are personal papers and correspondence of Wright, copies of radio talks which he gave on WSLU, and secondary materials on the milk business. The University owns the literary rights.

PROVENANCE

The Archie Wright papers were given to St. Lawrence University by Timothy A. Wright of Madrid, New York in 1995. The photographs were acquired by SLU Government Professor Thomas Krieger and were donated in support of a photographic exhibition at Owen D. Young Library by Claudia Giffin, daughter of the photographer, Fred Dashnaw, Sr.

ABBREVIATIONS: **DFU = Dairy Farmers Union**

ORGANIZATION & ARRANGEMENT:

Box 1

Series 1: Dairy Farmers Union Papers.
DFU Journals and newsletter

Series 2: Farmers Union of the New York Milkshed Papers
Constitution, Songs, Pamphlets, Posters and newspaper clippings.

Series 3: Archie Wright: Personal Papers
Daily calendars, correspondence to and from Archie, and newspaper files.

Series 4: Documents and correspondence concerning the Consumer-Farmer Milk Cooperative
Correspondence to Alfred Kuchler from Martin Young

Series 5: Archie Wright - Radio Talks.
Broadcast on WSLU from 1943-1948.

Box 2

Series 6: Publications of the Farmers Union of the New York Milkshed
Farmers Defender 1942-1947,

Box 3

Northeastern Union Farmer 1948-1957.

Series 7: Bibliography and Further Reading
Bibliography
Articles and papers concerning the Dairy Farmers Union, milk strikes and related issues

Box 4

Series 8: Cassette Tapes & Photographs
DFU Oral History Project
1939 DFU Milk Strike Photographs
Heuvelton, NY
Canton, NY

Series 1, DAIRY FARMERS UNION PAPERS

Box/folder

- 1 1 Poster on Newsprint [Xeroxed to acid free paper] with a August 16, 1940 date: "Mr. Wright Denies It But Communism Is In Dairy Farmers Union." Includes "Daily Worker" headline for August 1940.
- DFU Journal for 1939-40: Includes comments on strike and lists of county officers (Wright was still chairman of union's GOC.)
- DFU Journal for 1940-41: Issued after Wright's resignation; also includes lists of county offices.
- 1921, November 17. Official Membership Book of Archie Wright.
- 1936 Membership Card, ("No. 9") dated October 31, 1936, issued to one William Wright, Wright's father. Significant in its date for formation of union.
- 1937 Newsletter on 1937 Strike, dated December 24, 1937 "Dairy Farmers Union."
- "An Open Letter to DFU Members. (A Case against Wright)," dated December 1, 1940 (four-page newspaper style piece criticizing Wright, issued during union infighting.)
- "What Happened to the Dairy Famers Union: A Study In Union Wrecking." Two-page newspaper broadside, reply by Wright to above, estimated date early 1941.

Series 2, DAIRY FARMERS UNION OF THE N.Y. MILKSHED PAPERS

- 1 2 Constitution of the Farmers Union of the N.Y. Milkshed [n.d.]
- Strike Leaflet, dated August 14, [no year]: "Help Win This Strike." Pamphlet: "Why This Milk Strike?" Causes and objectives, August 14, [no year]. [2 copies]
- "Favorite Songs of the Farmers Union - Booklet published by Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Denver, Colorado. [n.d.] 32 pp.
- Pamphlet: "Legislative Suggestions, 1952, Farmers Union of the N.Y. Milkshed.
- Pamphlet written by Arichie Wright: "For How Long Does The Farmer Feed Them All." Published by the Farmers Union of the N.Y. Milkshed, on farm history. [n.d. - about the mid-1950's]
- Delegate and Special Lists of Union. Delegate and special lists dated October 1957, March 1958, and December 9, 1958.
- Pamphlet: "Divide and Conquer" for farmers on milk order. [n.d.]
- Letter to "Farmers Union Member" from Farmers Union of the N.Y. Milkshed concerning obtaining support to fight the Pierce Plan to amend Order #27.
- Poster announcing a Milk Strike
- Poster: "Organize and Fight."

Poster: "Dairymen of New York State."

Newspaper clipping: "Archie Wright heads New Group of New York Milkshed Farmers." May 12, 1941

Newspaper clipping: "What happened to the Dairy Farmers Union: A Study in Union Wrecking."

Newspaper clippings: "April Elections Important for Future of the Union: "GOC Program Is Dealer Program:", "What Lies Ahead for the Dairy Farmers' Union", "Defense Committee to Protect Members", and "Report of Audit Is 'Doctored' by Carnal." Watertown Times, March 26, 1941 issued by Archie Wright.

Diary Farmers' Union Journal 1940-1941. [2 copies]

Series 3, ARCHIE WRIGHT: PERSONAL PAPERS

1 3 Daily Calendars for 1940 through 1945.

1 4 Photo of Archie Wright with Al Kuchler, Carl Peters, and **Rockwell Kent**.

1938, July 5. "Dear Harry" (Harry Oncher - Brooklyn, NY) from "Archie"

1940, April 25. "Dear Archie Wright" from "Laurens H. Seelye" (President St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY) about his upcoming lecture to a group of students.

1940, April 30. "Dear Mr. Seelye" from "Archie Wright" confirmation of his lecture.

1940, May 17. "Dear Archie Wright" from "Laurens H. Seelye" a thank you for his lecture.

1940, May 28. "Dear Orin" (Orin Winters - Rensselaer Falls, NY) from "Archie Wright" payment on an account.

1940, June 25. statement releasing Leona Prosser of her responsibilities with the records/accounts of the Dairy Farmers Union.

1940, July 3. "Dear Mr. Wright" from "Committee Tioga County" concerns over his health and resignation from the Dairy Farmers' Union.

1940, July 13. "Dear Mr. Foster" (Holland Foster, Owego, NY) from "Leona Prosser" informing him Wright can not receive mail.

1940, July 14. "Dear Mr. Wright" from "Mrs. Fay Parker" (Secretary-Treasurer DeRuyter Local of the DFU) a resolution in his honor for efforts, leadership and honesty while with the DFU.

1940, July 14. "Dear Mr. Wright" from "Mrs. Fay Parker" sending private well wishes.

1940, July 17. Resolution to Archie Wright expressing appreciation for his work with the Union from DFU.

1940, July 27. "Dear Mrs. Fay Parker" (Georgetown, NY) from "Archie Wright" thank you for the letters of concerns.

- 1 4 1954, July 31. [3 leaves] "Dear [?] from "William H. Hinton" about the hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security.
- [3 leaves] "Statement of William H. Hinton" mostly about China.
- 1954, December 6. [2 leaves] "Dear Bob" [Bob Hinton] from "Archie" philosophical account of life.
- 1966, February 28. "Dear Archie" from "Bill H." (Fleetwood, PA) about his writing and various union activities
- 1973, September 6. [2 leaves] "Dear Tim" from "Ellen Parodneck" in answer to her letter to Myer.
- 1973, September 17. "Dear Timothy" (Timothy A. Wright - Utica, NY) from "Meyer Parodneck" (Attorney at Law, New York, NY) telling of his extensive collection of files.
- [n.d.] "Hello Archie" from "Harry Oncher" about his upcoming visit.
- photo [xerox copy] "The Speakers" picture of Archie Wright, Leslie Porteous, Paul Graves, and Meyer Parodneck.
- 1 5 Unemployment Insurance Claim, December 19, 1941 with decision findings.
- DFU Expense Accounts, January 13, 1937-December 30, 1939.
- Accounts with DFU - Archie Wright debtor January 1-December 31, 1940.
- Tax Returns for 1940 and 1942.
- 1 6 **Newspaper Files on Archie Wright (from *Ogdensburg Journal* and *Utica Observer-Dispatch*)**
[copies to acid free paper]
- 1939, August 23. Photo of Archie Wright
- 1940, June 28. article: "Archie Wright Granted Leave from DFU Post."
- 1940, July 2. article: *Commercial Advertiser* "Archie Wright, DFU Chief, Takes Leave of Absence"
[article added to collection August 29, 2000]
- 1940, July 2. article: : *Commercial Advertiser* "Farmer Still Has No Voice In Sale of His Milk"[article added to collection August 29, 2000]
- 1940, November 6. article: "Wright Renamed in Canton, Denies He's Red."
- 1940, November 6. article: "Archie Wright Candidate For Re-Election."
- 1940, November 8. article: "Archie Wright Sues 2 Men For Slander." [men named in the article - Frank Brill and Sam Schou].
- 1940, November 9. article: "Wright Seeks Big Damages For Slander."
- 1940,. November 13. article: "Wright Drops Suits Against 2 DFU Members."

1940, November 25 [4 leaves] article in the *The Union Farmer* "Chairman Cleared of Charges; Unity Established in Union."

1940, December 3. article: "Wright's Defeat Urged by 51 in DFU"

1940, December 27. articles: "Wright Held Too Radical" and "Split Over Wright Policies Threatens Future of FDU"

1940, December 28. article: "Wright Quits' Repudiated By Delegates"

1940, December 28. article with photo: "Wright Action Climaxes Long Strife in DFU"

1940, December 28. article: "Wright Resigns Dairy Union Post" photo of Lyman Rogers and Archie Wright.

1940, December 28. articles: "Union Founded By Wright" and "Loses Fight to Expel 51 Members" 2 photos 1. "Dairy Farmers After Nine Hours of Wrangling, 2. Mrs. Fay Parker

1940, December 29. article: "Milk Price Differentials Brought DFU, Says Wright"

1940, December 30. article: "DFU Maps Drive In Support of Order Changes"

1941, February 13. article: "Wright Asks \$14,000 of DFU"

1941, February 14. article: "DFU Says Wright Claims \$14,000"

1944, October 13. article: "Wright To file \$7,600,000 Libel Action Against Farmer's Journal - Denies He Was Ever Communist"

1944, November 4. article: "Farmers Union Leader Balks At Hillman Tie"

1944, November 13. article; "Farmers Union Asks Standardization of Milk, Even Production Thru Year; Wright Sent to Denver Convention"

1945, February 20. article: "Archie Wright Supports Dewey Fair Play Bill"

1945, March 12. article: "Archie Wright Opposes Sheffield Evaporated Plea"

1945, November 19. article: "Ives Commission and 'Interlocking Directorate' Of State Groups Come Under Fire At Farmers Union Parley"

1945, December 31. article: "Wright's \$7,600,000 Libel Suit Against Farm Journal Opens In New York On Jan. 7." Included is a photo of Wright.

1946, January 19. article: "Archie Wright Loses Suit For \$100,000."

1946, June 22. article: Wright Protests Any Discrimination Against Farmers In Writing OPA Bill."

1946, December 4. article: "County Dairy Farmers Union Nominates Wright For Head of the New York Milkshed."

1947, January 15. article: "Archie Wright Urges Suspension Of Price Sections"

1947, January 16. article: "Archie Wright Case May Go To U.S. Supreme Court."

1947, February 6. article: "Wright Wins Reversal In Libel Action."

1947, June 5. article: "Archie Wright Raps Congressional Ending Of Limestone, Superphosphate Distribution In Agriculture Budget."

1947, July 18. article: "Wright Labels Five-State Milk Pact Effort By Powerful Milk Interests To Escape Present Federal Control."

1947, October 22. article: "Local Farmer Union Leaders Will Attend Utica Convention"

1947, October 28. article: "Wright Charges Big Business Stirs Up Fear."

1947, November 19. article: "Archie Wright Named."

1947, December 28. article: "Three Banks Object To Archie Wright's Rutland Co-Op Plan." Included is photo of Wright.

1948, April 5. Article: "Wright To Speak At Union Meeting."

1948, April 10. Article: "Wright Faced With 'Rebellion' In Farm Union."

1948, April 13. Article: "Wright Denies Rebellion Story."

1948, May 3. Article: "Wright's Talk Stirs Dairy Tilt."

1949, September 19. Article: "Wright Questions Further Increases For Farmers."

1950, February 10. Article: "Archie Wright, Borden Co. Aide Clash Over Class III Milk Price."

1950, September 17. Article: "Archie Wright Hit By Senator Bridges." Included is a photo of Wright.

1951, July 5. Photo of Mrs. Archie Wright.

1957, February 5. Article: "Archie Wright Quits As Farm Union Head."

1957, February 6. Article: "Peters To Guide Farmers Union" [Carl K. Peters]

1957, February 6. Article: "Archie Wright Resigns As Head of Farmers Union." Included is photo of Wright.

[1957, May 27]. Article: "Archie Wright's Union Is Ousted."

1967, December 31. Article: "Archie Wright, Organizer of Dairy Farmers Union, Died Christmas Eve." Included is photo of Wright. [2 copies]

[n.d.] Article: "South Pacific: Japs May Try to Send Guadalcanal Forces Help From Sea."

[n.d.] Article: "Wright Heads Farmers Union."

[n.d.] Article: "Famous Artist [Rockwell Kent] Pays Tribute to Late Archie Wright." [2 copies]

[n.d.] Article: "Farmers Union Will Protest Amendments."

Xeroxed photo of Archie Wright.

[n.d.] Article "Strike Leader" from the Associated Press mat Service

- 1 7 1944, October. *Farm Journal* - Article: "Communist Beachhead in Agriculture" it is critical of Wright and accusing him of Communist affiliation.

1950, September 7. Pamphlet issued by Senator Style Bidges: "Communist Invasion of Agriculture." Reference to Archie Wright on page 9.

1950, September 7. "Congressional Record" Senate. Reference to Wright.

Series 4, DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THE CONSUMER-FARMER MILK COOPERATIVE

- 1 8 Four page outline on the history of the Farm Union by Martin Arnold [sic] [Young]. October 1971 "Towards an Historic Appraisal of the Consumer-Farmer Milk Cooperative"

1971, November 8. [2 leaves] "Dear Mr. Kuchler" (Alfred C - Stittsville, NY) from "Martin Young" [on Consumer-Farmer Milk Cooperative Letterhead] asking for information on files, records etc. as he is compiling a history of the organization.

1971, November 15. "Dear Mr. Kuchler" from "Martin Young" (Sales Manager) sending him something [it was not attached]

1971, November 29. "Dear Mr. Kuchler" from "Martin Young" a follow up letter as to whether the first was received.

1971, December 1. [2 leaves] "Dear Al" from "Martin Young" continuing his research on the history of the Consumer Farmer and the DFU in which he asks several questions.

1971 December 6. [2 leaves] "To the Board of Directors of the Consumer-Farmer Milk Coop., Inc." from "Martin Young"

Series 5, WRIGHT'S RADIO TALKS

Delivered on Stations WSLU in Ogdensburg NY on a consistent biweekly and weekly basis over a six year period: 1943-1948. Most are by Wright.

Box/folder

1	9	[n.d.]	6 pp
		[n.d.]	6 pp
		[n.d.]	30 pp. "Farms For Veterans"
		1942, January 16	3 pp
		1943, January 2	7 pp
		1943, January 9	3 pp
		1943, February 14	4 pp
		1943, February 21	8 pp
		1943, February 28	7 pp [2 copies]
		1943, March 7	7 pp
		1943, March 14	5 pp

		1943, March 21	11 pp
		1943, March 28	6 pp
		1943, April 4	8 pp
		1943, April 18	9 pp
		1943, April 25	5 pp
1	9A	1943, May 2	7 pp
		1943, May 9	6 pp [2 copies]
		1943, May16	7 pp
		1943, May 23	6 pp [2 copies]
		1943, June 6	6 pp
		1943, June 13	6 pp
		1943, June 20	6 pp
		1943, July 4	3 pp
		[n.d]	letter
1	9B	1943, July 11	6 pp [2 copies]
		1943, July18	5 pp
		1943, July25	6 pp [2 copies]
		1943, August1	4 pp
		1943, August 8	6 pp
		1943, August15	6 pp
		1943, September 5	5 pp
		1943, September 12	4 pp [2 copies]
		1943, September 20	6 pp
		1943, October10	6 pp
		1943, October17	6 pp [2 copies]
		1943, October24	8 pp
		1943, October31	5 pp
		1943, November 6	8 pp
		1943, November 7	8 pp
		1943, November 14	5 pp [2 copies]
1	9C	1943, December 5	3 pp
		1943, December1 9	4 pp
		1943, December 26	6 pp
		1944, January 23	4 pp
		1944, February 6	4 pp
		1944, February 11	3 pp
		1944, February 28	3 pp
		1944, March 5	3 pp
		1944, March 19	6 pp
		1944, March26	4 pp
		1944, April 9	4 pp
		1944, April 16	4 pp
		1944, April30	5 pp
		1944, May 7	4 pp
		1944, May14	4 pp
		1944, May21	3 pp
		1944, May 28	4 pp
		1944, June 4	4 pp
		1944, June11	4 pp
		1944, June18	7 pp
		1944, July 8	4 pp [3 copies]

		1944, July16	4 pp
		1944, July23	5 pp
		1944, July30	3 pp
		1944, August20	4 pp
		1944, August27	3 pp
		1944, September 3	4 pp
		1944, October1	4 pp
		1944, October 8	4 pp
		1944, October15	8 pp [2 copies]
		1944, October22	3 pp, 6:45 p.m.
		1944, October22	5 pp
		1944, October29	4 pp
		1944, November5	5 pp
		1944, November9	6 pp "A Report on Some Aspects of the Utica Convention"
1	9D	1944, November 26	6 pp "Farmers' Union, Northeastern Division"
		1944, December 3	7 pp
		1944, December 16	5 pp "NFU Proposal Assures Living Income For Family Type Farmers"
		1944, December24	4 pp [3 copies]
		1945, January 7	4 pp [2 copies]
		1945, January21	10 pp
		1945, January28	6 pp
		1945, February11	8 pp
		1945, February25	4 pp
		1945, March 4	4 pp [2 copies]
		1945, March11	13 pp [3 copies]
		1945, March18	4 pp [3 copies]
		1945, April 8	8 pp [2 copies]
		1945, April15	7 pp [2 copies]
		1945, April22	9 pp [2 copies]
1	9E	1945, April 29	7 pp [2 copies]
		1945, May 6	8 pp [3 copies]
		1945, May 6	3 pp letter of regret of not being present at a radio round table discussion
		1945, June3	7 pp
		1945, June 17	2 pp, attached article from The Rocky Mountain Union Farmer "Army Warns Soldiers Against Native Fascism"
		1945, June 24	8 pp
		1945, July15	8 pp
		1945, July29	7 pp [2 copies]
		1945, August 5	7 pp [3 copies]
		1945, August12	8 pp
		1945, August19	7 pp
		1945, August26	8 pp
		1945, September 2	7 pp [2 copies]
1	9F	1945, September 16	4 pp
		1945, September30	7 pp [3 copies]
		1945, October 7	11 pp
		1945, October14	9 pp
		1945, October21	9 pp
		1945, October28	8 pp
		1945, November 4	9 pp

		1945, November11	7 pp
		1945, November25	3 pp
		1945, December 2	7 pp
		1945, December 9	7 pp
		1945, December16	7 pp
		1945, December23	7 pp
		1945, December30	6 pp
		1945, December 31	4 pp [2 copies]
1	10	1946, January 6	8 pp
		1946, January28	5 pp
		1946, February 3	9 pp
		1946, February10	7 pp
		1946, February17	8 pp
		1946, March10	6 pp, title is "Atomic Energy"
		1946, March17	8 pp
		1946, March24	7 pp
		1946, March31	8 pp
		1946, April 7	8 pp
		1946, April14	8 pp
		1946, April28	8 pp
		1946, May 5	8 pp
		1946, June23	8 pp
		1946, July14	7 pp
		1946, July21	7 pp
1	10A	1946, July 28	8 pp [2 copies]
		1946, August 4	8 pp
		1946, August 11	8 pp
		1946, August 18	8 pp
		1946, August 25	8 pp
		1946, September 1	8 pp
		1946, September 8	4 pp W.G. Houk (Assistant Professor of Biology, St. Lawrence University)
		1946, September 15	7 pp
		1946, September 22	8 pp
		1946, September 28	7 pp
		1946, October 6	7 pp
		1946, October 13	7 pp
		1946, October 27	7 pp
1	10B	1946, November 10	6 pp
		1946, November 17	8 pp
		1946, December 1	7 pp
		1946, December 8	7 pp
		1946, December 15	7 pp
		1946, December 22	7 pp
		1946, December 29	6 pp
		1947, January 19	7 pp
1	10B	1947, January 26	8 pp
		1947, February 2	7 pp
		1947, February 9	7 pp
		1947, February 16	7 pp
		1947, March 2	9 pp

		1947, March 9	8 pp
		1947, March 30	7 pp
1	10C	1947, April 6	8 pp
		1947, April 13	7 pp
		1947, May 4	8 pp
		1947, May 11	6 pp
		1947, May 18	7 pp
		1947, May 25	9 pp
		1947, June 1	8 pp
		1947, June 8	7 pp
		1947, June 15	7 pp
		1947, June 22	7 pp
		1947, July 6	7 pp
		1947, July 20	8 pp
		1947, July 27	7 pp
		1947, August 3	7 pp
		1947, August 17	8 pp
		1947, August 24	7 pp
		1947, August 31	7 pp
1	10D	1947, September 28	7 pp
		1947, October 5	7 pp
		1947, October 12	7 pp
		1947, October 19	8 pp
		1947, November 2	9 pp
		1947, November 9	5 pp
		1947, November 16	7 pp
		1947, November 23	7 pp
		1947, November 30	7 pp
		1947, December 7	8 pp
		1947, December 28	7 pp
		1948, January 4	7 pp
		1948, January 18	7 pp
		1948, February 8	7 pp
		1948, February 22	7 pp

Series 6, PUBLICATIONS OF THE FARMERS UNION OF THE N.Y. MILKSHED

Box/folder

- 2 11 *Farmers Defender* (Published monthly by Farmers Defender, Inc.)
February 1942 - December 1943
January 1944 - December 1945
January 1946 - December 1947
- Also included:**
- 12 1953 January "Cooperative Organization of Producers in the New York Milkshed" by Leland Spencer (Professor of Marketing, Emeritus, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station.)
42 pp
- 13 1968 July "Evolution of the Milk Pricing System of the New York - New Jersey Market: Part II The Era of Pricing by Dealers, 1880-1916" by Leland Spencer. 293 pp

Box/folder

- 3 14 *Northeastern Union Farmer* (Published monthly by Farmers Defender, Inc.)
- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1948 | January - December | Vol. 7 no index |
| 1949 | January - December | Vol. 8 no index |
| 1950 | January - December | Vol. 9 with index |
| 1951 | January - December | Vol. 10 with index |
| 1952 | January - December | Vol. 11 with index |
| 1953 | January - December | Vol. 12 with index |
| 1954 | January - December | Vol. 13 with index |
| 1955 | January - December | Vol. 14 with index |
| 1956 | January - December | Vol. 15 with index |
| 1957 | January - December | Vol. 16 with index |

NOTE: 1948 and 1949 is bound together as one book.

Series 7, BIBLIOGRAPHY AND FURTHER READING

- 3 15 Archie Wright - Dairy Farmers Union Collection—Bibliography

Articles for further reading:

Kruger, Thomas J. "Power Lies in their Milk:" The Story of Archie Wright and the Dairy Farmers Union, St. Lawrence County Historical Association *Quarterly*, Winter 1996, pages 1-29

Krieger, Thomas J. "The 1939 Dairy Farmers Union Strike in Heuvelton and Canton, New York: The Story in Words and Pictures", *Journal for Multimedia History*, Fall 1998

Kruger, Thomas J. "Synicalism and Spilled Milk: The Origins of Dairy Farmer Activism in New York State, 1936-1941", *Labor History* vol. 38: 2-3, pages 266-286

Clifford, Nicholas "The Dairy Farmers Union in Vermont, 1939-1942", *Vermont History* Winter/Spring 2011, pages 58-81

Dyson, Lowell K., "The Milk Strike of 1939 and the Destruction of the Dairy Farmers Union", *New York History*, October 1970, pages 523-544

Spellen, Suzanne, "Walkabout: The Great Milk Wars, Parts 1-4", *brownstoner.com*, published Nov. 2011

Wright, Timothy A. "Milk Strike: The Story of the Dairy Farmers Union of New York. 1936-1941." 80 pp. (Princeton University senior thesis) Note—Timothy Wright is the son of Archie Wright

- 3 16 [Story, R. P.] "The Dairy Industry" (137 page research paper written in the early 1970s—author's name unsure)

Unknown author, "The Milk Strike", 25 page research paper with bibliography, Pages 3-25, date of authorship unknown. Footnotes indicate 1966 or later.

SERIES 8, CASSETTE TAPES & PHOTOGRAPHS

Box/folder

4 17 Dairy Farmers Union Oral History Project

Tape #1 Labor Activity in St. Lawrence County, compiled by St. Lawrence University Professors Robert Schwartz (History) and Richard Guarasci (Government). Tape #1 contains three of four special programs originally broadcast in 1989 on WSLU, FM, Canton, New York. Part One: Overview of the 1939 Dairy Farmers Union milk strike, parts three and four examine the history of the Dairy Farmers Union, its Chairman, Archie Wright, and the DFU's 1939 milk strike.

Tape #2 The first farmer interviewed on Tape #2 was a participant in the 1933 New York Milk Producers Federation milk strike, organized by Felix and Stanley Piseck. He lived in Boonville, New York, and was interviewed March 25, 1992.

The second farmer interviewed on Tape #2 was a participant in the 1939 Dairy Farmers Union strike in Camden, New York. Called to Camden to reinforce Union picket lines, he was shot by a young man who was guarding the milk of non-striking farmers. He spent thirty days in the hospital (including a week in intensive care), and received a visit from DFU Chairman Archie Wright. He lived in Boonville, and was interviewed March 25, 1992.

The third farmer interviewed on Tape #2 lived in the Boonville area, and discussed his recollections of the 1933 milk strike in Boonville. He was interviewed March 26, 1992.

The fourth farmer, who lived near Lowville, New York, was a founding member of the Lowville Farmers Co-op. In this extensive interview, he discussed many aspects of farming in the North Country from 1929 to the present. He was interviewed March 27, 1992.

Tape #3 The first interview on this tape is a continuation of the previous interview on Tape #2.

The second farmer interviewed on Tape #3 was a participant in the 1967 National Farmers Organization (national) milk strike. He lived near Adams, New York, and was interviewed April 7, 1992.

Tape #4 The four small dairy farmers (twenty to twenty five cows in the 1930s) interviewed on this tape lived on the Black Lake Road in the town of Hammond, New York. They spoke on many different topics, including milk strikes, the development of agriculture in the North Country, and farm life. The interviews were conducted on April 7-8, 1992.

Tape #5 The two dairy farmers interviewed on Tape #5 lived near Heuvelton, New York. The first farmer and his son were the owners of a 125 dairy farm in 1992. A long-time Dairymen's League (Cooperative) member, he recalled the 1939 Dairy Farmers Union strike, which he opposed. The second farmer claimed his father was a founding member of the Dairy Farmers Union in 1936. He recalled the conditions that gave rise to the DFU, and the milk strikes of 1937 and 1939. Both farmers were interviewed April 8, 1992

Tape #6 The first farmer interviewed on Tape #6 was an employee of the Sheffield Farms milk plant in Heuvelton, New York, during the 1939 Dairy Farmer Union strike. He contributed the

photographs of the 1939 strike, that are found in the Dairy Farmers Union/Archie Wright Collection in the ODY Archives. In this interview he discussed the strike and the dairy processing industry in the 1930s. The interview was done on March 10, 19

- 4 17 The second farmer interviewed on Tape #6 lived and worked outside the town of Rensselaer Falls, New York. He was 12 years old at the time of the 1939 Dairy Farmers Union milk strike, and remembered the crowds and the excitement that the strike generated. He also spoke on North Country agriculture in the 1930s and 1940s. He was interviewed on March 15, 1995.

Tape #7 There is one interview on Tape #7, with a lifelong dairy farmer from Madrid, New York, whose father was the most successful organizer for the Dairy Farmers Union in the 1930s. He recalled that, as a young man, he also organized farmers for the Union. The interview also contains a discussion of North Country farming, the Depression, and rural life. The interview was conducted June 10, 1995.

Tape #8 Two St. Lawrence University first year students, Lisa DeFone and Melissa Wilson, conducted the interviews on Tapes #8 and #9. Their research involved talking to women who lived and worked on North Country farms in the 1930s and 1940s, in order to better understand the role of women in local agriculture. All of the women (Helen Doyle, Beatrice Hadkinson, Doris Hitchcock, Dorothy Larabee, Ruth Lucas, and Gertrude Macdonald) lived in the Lowville, New York area; the interviews were conducted during April, 1995.

Tape #9 This tape is a continuation of the interviews on Tape #8, conducted by SLU First Year students Lisa DeFone and Melissa Wilson.

Tape #10 Former Canton resident Joan Liebler conducted the interview on Tape #10, with former St. Lawrence Plaindealer editor Atwood Manley. During his discussion of Canton history, Manley discussed the dairy industry, the 1939 Dairy Farmers Union milk strike, his relationship with DFU Chairman Archie Wright, and his (Manley's) role in negotiations between the DFU and nonstriking farmers.

Photographs of the 1939 Dairy Farmers Union Milk Strike in Heuvelton and Canton, New York:

(Note—these photos and the accompanying descriptions were used in an exhibition on the DFU Strike presented by Thomas J. Kriger, Professor of Government at SLU, December 1995)

- 4 18 Heuvelton Dairy Farmers Union Milk Strike (descriptions are enclosed with each photograph)

H 1 - large crowd of DFU members and supporters crowded around the gates of a milk plant
H 2 - crowd waiting for milk truck to approach the plant
H 3 & 4 - photo of spiked planks used to stop non-striking farmers from delivering milk (2 photos)
H 5 - DFU farmers waiting while on picket duty
H 6 - milk dumped by farmers on picket line
H 7 - "flying squadron" patrolling country roads
H 8 & H 9 - trucks used to circumvent the DFU picket line.
H 10 - farmer unloading milk onto ramp
H 11 - ramp guarded by law enforcement officer armed with stout club
H 12 - State police mobilized
H 13 & H14 - State Police guarding the daily milk trains and escorting milk tank trucks
H 15 - State Police escorting milk into the Sheffield Farms plant
H 16 - inspection of the rails due to rails being greased by the DFU farmers
H 17, H 18 & H 19 - Women involvement.
H 20 - injured DFU picket being carried from the plant

H 21 - result of stone throwing by the DFU farmers and supporters

H 22 - photo of barn burning

H 23 & H 24 - signs held by pickets

4 19 Canton, Dairy Farmers Union Milk Strike

Group #1 C1- Farmers and bystanders gather on a rainy day on an access road to one of the Canton dairy plants

C2- A truck of DFU picketers rallying community support for the milk strike

C3- A huge crowd gathers on one of Canton's wide streets near a local milk plant

Group #2 C4- Non-striking farmers attempt to make a delivery of milk to the plant

C5- Union organizers try to convince a reluctant farmer to hand over his milk shipment

C6- a large crowd of picketers halts another milk shipment

C7- A police officer trying to keep the peace between the two sides

C8- C12 - More negotiations

Group #3 C13-16 – After discussing the situation with the non-striking farmers, they were, in most cases, convinced to hand their milk over to the picketers