

Inventory of the

Putnam Family
Harvard, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 71

INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Russel E. Putnam donated the Putnam Family Collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on June 28, 1979.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.5
Number of containers: 2
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 71

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Putnam Family Collection is a partial documentation of the breeding of Jersey cattle on the Russel E. Putman dairy farm in the 1940's in Harvard, Illinois. Herd records, registration, awards, individual cow histories reveal important breeding data for these years. Especially valuable in this regard is the Dairy Herd Improvement Association Herd Record Book. Included in the collection are related printed materials, an undated account ledger, and 4-H project records. The researcher should note that there are no materials pertaining to the business, rather than the breeding, activities of Putnam's Jersey Dairy. Those interested in the dairy business may wish to consult the following Regional History Center collections: the DeKalb Milk Consumers Association Records (RC 15), the Gurler Family Papers (RC 25), the Pure Milk Association Records (RC 62), and the John P. Case Farm Records (RC 86).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

A major business enterprise in McHenry County and other portions of northern Illinois since the 1860's and 1870's has been that of dairy farming. It remains so today. In 1967 the production of milk was the largest single cash farm crop in the county. In addition to 1,000 dairy farms, there were also three large commercial dairy processing plants, including a Borden's plant in Woodstock and two Dean Company facilities in Harvard and Huntley.

The Russel Putnam family farm, located in McHenry County in Harvard, Illinois, is one important representative of the dairy industry. In the 1940's, the period for which we have records, it was active in a variety of dairy and breeding concerns. It was also in the 1940's that Harvard, "Milk Center of the World", began its annual Harvard Milk Festival held each June to honor its dairy farmers. A distinctive feature of the Putnam farm, which is no longer operational, was its breeding of Jersey, rather than Holstein or Hereford, cattle.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Dairying
 Family Farms
 Family Life, History
 Harvard
 Livestock
 Milk Festival
 Putnam Family

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Illinois Department of Agriculture Accredited Herd Certificate, 1938-1946
		American Jersey Cattle Club:
	2	Constitution and Bylaws, 1939
	3	Membership, 1946
	4	Transfer of Ownership, 1928-1931
	5	Entry in the Herd, 1927
	6	Russel Putnam's 4-H Project Records, 1948-1949
	7	<u>Breeding Troubles</u> , 1940
	8	<u>Harvard Milk Day Official Program</u> , 1952
	9-11	<u>The Illinois Jersey Journal</u> , (1938-1951)
	1 volume	Account Ledger, n.d.
2		American Jersey Cattle Club:
	1	Herd Improvement, 1942-1947
	2	Herd Classification, 1944-1946
	3	Certificates, 1944-1946
	1 volume	Dairy Herd Improvement Association Herd Record Book, ca. 1940's