

Last spring when the men were leaving by the thousands for different camps, there came a call for farm hands. Many of the farmers of the draft age had to go to war so that not many men were left to work the farms. I saw my chance to do my bit and felt that it was my duty to my country to help take the place of the boys who are fighting. So on the first of May, 1918, I left North High School for the Bevan Farms of Marcellus, New York.

After the first day's work I was very tired but gradually got hardened to it. I was engaged in general farming. My working hours were from between six and six-thirty A. M. until between seven and seven-thirty P. M. I had ten hogs and two horses to care for besides milking two or three cows at each chore time. Every day after dinner I had to chop wood for the kitchen fire. I spent the evenings, reading or

took long walks up the road. On rainy days the work was not so hard but I was busy running a fanning mill which takes the dirt out and leaves the grain. The barns had to be cleaned also. My employer treated me very well. I had a good comfortable bed which was always clean and neat. My meals came at seven A.M. one-thirty or one P.M. and six-thirty P.M. Every morning before breakfast twelve cows had to be milked, five horses and <sup>the</sup> stables cleaned and ten hogs fed. By the time I had helped to do all this I was quite hungry and was ready for a good breakfast. All of my meals consisted of good, substantial food. Most of the farmers around the countryside worked by the old time.

I earned this summer seventy two dollars. That is not a great amount of money but I, as I have said previously, did not go on a farm to get rich. Not only did I help make my employer's crop a larger one but I helped increase Uncle Sam's food supply. When I first pitched hay

I was hardly able to pitch a small bunch of hay but later on my strength kept increasing until I could pitch any good sized bunch and could roll boulders onto the stone-boat which I could not do before I went out on a farm. In all I was absent three days from farm work, two Fridays and one Saturday. Each one of these absences was very necessary. I returned to school with my duty done and was ready to study. I expect to <sup>do</sup> farm work next year if I am needed, for \$<sup>8</sup>, as a whole, I am very fond of farm life.

## **William Sogg's Farm Cadet Essay (Transcription)**

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