

Records of the Leslie Mike Dairy Farm

[1935-1954]

HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

114 Main Street

Flemington, New Jersey

(908) 782-1091

hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com

Finding Aid prepared by Diane Kinney

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:

Creator: Leslie Mike

Title: Records of the Leslie Mike Dairy Farm

Collection Number: 80

Accession: 2001, from Dennis Bertland, Leslie Mike's grandson

Date of Process: December 2009

Volume: 3 linear feet in 3 containers

Restrictions: None

Access: During open library hours of the Society (12 PM to 4 PM every Thursday; 10 AM to 4 PM every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month; and by appointment.)

Abstract: This collection primarily comprises financial ledger books from the Leslie Mike Dairy Farm. Other items of note consist of a detailed herd record book, dairy-related documents, and two group photographs including Leslie Mike's daughter. These records give insight into the functioning of a typical Hunterdon County dairy in the early to mid twentieth century.

ORGANIZATIONAL NOTES:

The Leslie Mike Dairy Farm operated on 59 North Main Street in Flemington, New Jersey from at least 1935 until 1948. According to records found in this collection, the dairy sold milk, heavy cream, cottage cheese, chocolate milk, buttermilk, and sour cream. In 1948, the herd numbered 40 cows and included Guernsey, Holstein, Brown Swiss, and various crosses of these breeds.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection is divided into three sub-collections of related content.

1. Financial Records.

Consisting of business record books and ledgers dating from 1935 to 1954, these items contain financial information regarding daily cash payments for activities such as deliveries and farm labor and to organizations and businesses including The Dairymen's League, the Flemington Horse & Cow Market, the New Jersey Milk Control Board, the New Jersey Artificial Breeding Association, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The 1935-1941 business record book lists the amount of milk and cream sold by the Leslie Mike Dairy to schools, restaurants, and stores.

2. Miscellaneous Materials.

Two acid-free folders arranged chronologically contain the documents found in this collection.

The first miscellaneous grouping collects a news clipping of the 1935 marriage announcement of Elizabeth Hawke Ratliff and Bruce R. Tuttle, one copy of the April 1940 Farm Service News newsletter, and a letter and envelope from the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company dated 1943.

The second folder contains documents directly related to the dairy: an undated, blank product order form on letterhead; one typed 1946-1947 milk and cream bill; and a portion of the 1948 letter from Leslie Mike announcing the sale of his retail milk business to Grandview Dairy of Baptistown, New Jersey due to his wife's poor health.

This series also includes a spiral-bound herd record book issued by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association filled out for 1948 and including statistics on the milk production of individual cows, tables of grain feeding recommendations, and tips for improving breeding performance.

3. Photographic Materials.

Two rolled black and white photographs were unable to be flattened.

One is a group shot of an outdoor girls' club that includes Leslie Mike's daughter, Emma Marion Mike. The photograph was likely taken in Flemington, New Jersey in the 1920s or 1930s based on the biographical information found in Emma Mike's obituary.

The second photograph is of the New Jersey All-State High School Chorus and Symphony Orchestra at the Atlantic City Convention Hall and also likely includes Emma Mike, as she was a graduate of the Flemington Children's Choir School. The front of the photograph lists the names of the chorus and orchestra conductors and managers and the concert manager, and the back is stamped "Fred Hess & Co."

Six strips of a total of 16 unlabeled negatives taken using Kodak Tri-X Pan film depict an unknown man seated in the interior of a house. A photo request sleeve from the *Hunterdon County Democrat* newspaper lists a location of Pittstown at a house next to Grandin Church on Pittstown Road.

CONTAINER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
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Series: 1. Financial Records

1.1	Business Record Book (1935-1941)
1.2	Business Record Book (1936- 1937)
1.3	Business Record Book (1938-1940)
1.4	Business Record Book (1940-1942)
1.5	Business Record Book (1942-1943)
2.1	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1942-1943)
2.2	Ledger (1942-1949)
2.3	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1943-1944)
2.4	Ledger (1944-1948)
2.5	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1945-1946)
2.6	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1946-1947)
2.7	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1947-1948)
3.1	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1948-1949)
3.2	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1949-1950)
3.3	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1950-1951)
3.4	Cash Expenditure Ledger (1953-1954)

Series: 2. Miscellaneous Materials

3.5	Miscellaneous (1935-1943)
3.6	Dairy Documents (1948)
3.7	Herd Record Book (1948)

Series: 3. Photographic Materials

- 3.8 **Px 4911: Out Door Club (Undated)**
- 3.9 **Px 4912: NJ All-State High School Chorus and Symphony Orchestra (1935)**
- 3.10 **Px 4913 N and *Hunterdon County Democrat* Photo Request (Undated)**
- 3.11 **Px 4914 N (Undated)**
- 3.12 **Px 4915 N (Undated)**
- 3.13 **Px 4916 N (Undated)**
- 3.14 **Px 4917 N (Undated)**
- 3.15 **Px 4918 N (Undated)**