

**Binghamton University Libraries**  
**Special Collections**

**Hazard Lewis Farms**  
**Collection**

**Finding Aid created 2012**

**Jean Green, Head of Special Collections, Preservation and  
University Archives**

## **Biographical Note**

The Hazard Lewis Farm was situated on Route 17, one mile west of the City of Binghamton. The farm was established in the year 1829 by Colonel Hazard Lewis, one of the early pioneer settlers of Broome County. Colonel Lewis at one time with Christor Eldredge and John A. Collier owned practically the entire southside of Binghamton. He was an influential early citizen of the county and a benefactor in the early growth and development of the community.

The farm was recognized as one of the outstanding dair farms in the County. In later years under the management and eventual ownership of James N. Allen farming and dairying operations were greatly enlarged and the farm became known throughout New York State as one of the largest and most successful farms in operation.

James N. Allen was recognized as one of the most successful dairymen in New York State. He was supervisor for the Town of Vestal ad Chairman of the Brome County Board of Supervisors in 1923. The farm produced certified milk for the Borden Company until a fire destroyed the barns and creamery. A new barn and creamery were built in 1928.

The farm was purchased from Mr. Allen's widow in 1931 by Archibald MacArthur. For several years after the acquisition, MacArthur, in partnership with C.A. Crawford, produced Guernsey milk exclusively for Crowley and Cloverdale Milk Companies of Binghamton, NY. The milk was produced and bottled on the farm and distributed in Binghamton, Johnson City and Endicott. For a time, a quantity of milk from the farm was shipped to communities along the Hudson River, in and around Newburgh, NY.

In the late fall of 1939, under the pressure of State Health Department regulations advocating and insisting upon pasteurization of milk, the owners purchased a small retail pasteurized milk business and gradually began the production and sale of pasteurized milk and dairy products. In the Spring of 1941, the Borden Milk Company of New York City contracted with the farm for milk to be shipped to their branch in Hackensack, NJ.

Through retail and wholesale routes, the farm sold buttermilk, cottage cheese, cream, butter, eggs and other products. The farm's New York State milk license permitted them to sell milk in Binghamton, Johnson City, Endicott, Union, Vestal, Kirkwood, Conklin, Fenton, Dickinson, Colesville and Port Dickinson.

According to a document in the collection, in December 1942, an aged MacArthur and Crawford (both also involved in the department store business) offered the farm for \$150,000. Documents indicate possible interest in purchase by Jack Manoil of Waverly in late 1942/early 1943. The

## Hazard Lewis Farms Collection

July 1944 document, "Milk Marketing in the Binghamton Area" (also in the collection), continues to list Hazard Lewis Farms as a milk distributor.

In 1952, the site was one of nine sites considered for the construction of a permanent site for Harpur College. On May 13, 1952, state university trustees announced officially that the college would be located on a site in the town of Vestal and directed state university president William S. Carlson to acquire the 300 acre site. Advantages were cited including location in relation to main transportation arteries, flat land that could be easily developed and easily accessible utilities. Negotiations with the owners of the land, Hazard Lewis Farms, Inc, Arthur and Kenneth Kradjian, and Marcus Hopler, throughout the summer and fall of 1952 regarding the price and payment. The owners demanded payment be made on a deferred basis which would have resulted in savings in taxes. Condemnation proceedings then ensued lasting throughout the winter and spring of 1953. The state university received the titles to the land on September 1, 1953 after a price (\$453,754.50) was settled in the Court of Claims. An appeal in 1956 affirmed that the land was worth that amount at the time of taking.

### **Bibliography**

Hazard Lewis Farms Collection, Box 1, Binghamton University Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY.

HAZARD LEWIS FARMS v. STATE NEW YORK (03/21/56)

[http://ny.findacase.com/research/wfrmDocViewer.aspx/xq/fac.19560321\\_0041074.NY.htm/qx](http://ny.findacase.com/research/wfrmDocViewer.aspx/xq/fac.19560321_0041074.NY.htm/qx)

McIntire, Stephen W. *Harpur College in the Bartle Era*. Binghamton, N.Y. : Foundation of the State University of New York at Binghamton, 1975.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection is .25 linear feet plus 5 oversized items (housed in map case). It contains documentation and descriptions of the farm in the form of manuscript materials, ephemera and photographs. Also included are three items illustrating Binghamton in the 1940s.

### **Box 1**

**Folder 1** "The Hazard Lewis Farm, 1829-1944," 9 pages.

**Folder 2** 1942 Document giving brief history of farm, production statistics, valuation of buildings, land, equipment, herd, and personal property, income and earning ability. Also includes mock up for a Hazard Lewis Farms brochure, brochure:

## Hazard Lewis Farms Collection

“Milk With the Real Country Flavor” (2 copies), and newsclipping: “Guernsey Herd on Lewis Farm has Big Output.”

- Folder 3** “Milk Marketing in the Binghamton Area,” Prepared by Stewart Johnson, Department of Agricultural Economics, New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY., July 1944.
- Folder 4** “Binghamton,” published by the Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, 1944.
- Folder 5** Perspective, December 26, 1942 – Includes aerial photograph of Hazard Lewis Farms; correspondence between Mr. A.R. Silliman of the Square Deal Farm Agency and Mr. C.A. Crawford, VP of Hazard Lewis Farms, Inc. regarding sale of farm.
- Folder 6** Photographs (8) showing interior of barn, viaduct (photo dated 1942), and buildings (2 photos dated 1940).
- Folder 7** Photographs (28) showing views of farm, viaduct, flooding in 1943 (man identified as “Crawford” standing in the water in hip waders), many photographs are undated, others dated from 1940-1943.
- Folder 8** Negatives of views of farm (14), one negative shows two children with bicycle, envelope that negatives were in reads “A. MacArthur – Hazard Lewis Farms – May 20, 1940.”
- Folder 9** Photographs (c1941) taken by Mr. Crawford showing views of farm, advertisements for Hazard Lewis Farms, the Farms’ retail delivery trucks, interiors of barns, and small map of automobile roads of Broome County (n.d.). All photographs are taped to paper with description written below. Original (unmarked) acidic enclosure for photographs was removed. Commercial map of Binghamton removed for encapsulation.
- Folder 10** Milk bottle caps for Hazard Lewis Farms (8).

## Oversized materials

Commercial Map of Binghamton, N.Y., also Johnson City, Endicott, Endwell, Port Dickinson and Vicinity. Published by Walter R. Miller Co., Inc., Binghamton, NY, Copyright 1935, Revised 1942.

Subdivision of Portion of Hazard Lewis & Adriance Farms, Town of Vestal, Broome Co., NY. Hoadley & Giles, Civil Engineers, Binghamton, NY, March 3, 1941.

Hazard Lewis Farms Collection

Newspaper piece (2 full copies) from the *E.J. Workers Daily Page* recognizing Hazard Lewis Farms as Class Leader in Broome County Dairy Improvement Association, May 29, 1934.

Blueprint for Hazard Lewis Farms barn, Binghamton, NY, January 18, 1935.

Advertising mock-up drawing for a billboard for Hazard Lewis Farms Milk Products, n.d.