



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**LEHMAN, EZRA JOHNSON**  
**(1861-1951)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1861-1957**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Ezra Johnson Lehman was a principal of the Woodbury Academy, a Quaker clergyman and a lecturer. The collection of papers contains bills and receipts, clippings and data on gardening, correspondence, insurance policies, literary efforts, personal memorabilia, account books, recipes, and some Woodbury Academy records and documents.

The materials in this finding aid measure about 200 items. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Ezra Johnson Lehman Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection is composed of about 200 items. Ezra J. Lehman was principal of the Woodbury Academy, but the papers contain very little relating to the Academy. The oldest item in the collection is a printed sheet called the Judge's Report of Root Crop for 1861, by the Whitchurch Township Agricultural Society. It was printed at the Newmarket Era Office, Main Street, January 29, 1862. This page contains thirty names, several of which are repeated two and sometimes three times for different root crops such as turnips, carrots, and mangels. Various facts about the crops are listed with the winners of first, second, and third prizes given.

There are eight deeds for portions of land to E.J. Lehman and wife, Clara, for the use of the Woodbury Academy and for a dwelling for the Lehmans. These deeds date from 1897 to 1931.

In 1925, Mr. Lehman had evidently tried to make a little money by lecturing. Several printed advertisements are in the papers which bear the caption, "E.J. Lehman in His Inimitably Amusing and Entertaining Lecture, 'The Schoolmaster'," The lecture is with the papers.

Mr. Lehman died in 1951, and there are some fifty letters and cards of sympathy together with the Memorial Record kept at the time of his death.

Altogether, by the Lehman's mortgages of land and even of household furniture, the papers relate a rather tragic story. Several receipts for old age assistance are among the papers and a note to Mrs. Lehman in 1956 as follows: "because you are receiving teacher's retirement in the amount of \$50.00 a month which is sufficient to meet your needs according to the department method of budgeting your May check will be your last one."

The remainder of the collection is made up of notebooks containing scraps and sketches of writings; attendance records of the Woodbury Academy, which list only figures and not names; a number of insurance policies; a few pictures; about 50 personal letters from nieces and nephews; and some newspaper.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

## Ezra Johnson Lehman

- 1861 February 9. Born in Markam, Ontario, Canada
- 1866 September 8. Married Clara Stone of Belding, Michigan; no children
- 1894 Came to Woodbury, Tennessee, as head of Woodbury Academy; wife also taught there
- 1918 Woodbury Academy closed
- 1951 Died.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. Armistice Day Program, 1949; Citation for distinguished Service of Frank K. Houston
2. Bills and receipts
3. Clippings and data on gardens, root crops, etc.
4. Correspondence – 1907-1957
5. Homemade School Books & Roll Books
6. Homemade School Books & Roll Books
7. Insurance Policies
8. Literary Efforts
9. Literary Efforts

### Box 2

1. Memorial Record, November 1951 – Notes of Sympathy
2. Old Age Assistance, Teachers Retirement, Teacher's Certificates and Mortgages
3. Personal Memorabilia
4. Recipes and Account Books
5. Speech of Ezra J. Lehman, "The Schoolmaster"; "Epigrams of Wit, Wisdom, and Wickedness"; "Rube's Family"
6. Woodbury Academy Records and Documents