Boone County: Students and Faculty at Business Schools in Lebanon, Indiana, 1898–1917

Eric Spall

Around the turn of the twentieth century, enterprises known as business schools or business colleges flourished throughout Indiana. Businesses needed employees who could write, type, maintain accounting records, and otherwise handle all the paperwork necessary for such operations. However, high schools generally did not provide adequate training in these areas and many liberal arts colleges eschewed them. Dedicated business schools stepped in to fill this gap. Lebanon, the seat of Boone County, played host to a series of such schools at the end of the 1890s and into the 1910s. A more complete overview of the beginning of business schools in Lebanon appeared in the Fall/Winter 2022 issue of *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections*, available at the IHS Basile History Market.¹

The following tables provide a list of students and faculty at Lebanon's various business schools. These lists were compiled from newspaper articles, advertisements, and the Lebanon city directories. However, they are probably not comprehensive. The table provides names and hometown locations of students if known, illustrating that while most of Lebanon's students were local, these schools also attracted enrollment from outside of Boone County. While this list includes individuals who enrolled in the schools, not all of them may have completed their courses of study. The faculty table lists the subjects taught by each instructor, illustrating the curricula to which students at these schools had access. It is interesting that some of Lebanon's schools incorporated art and music classes, subjects not typically found in business colleges.

Notes

1. Eric Spall, "Preparing Quickly for Profitable Work: Business Colleges in Lebanon, Indiana, 1898–1917," *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections* 62, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2022): 4–15.

Table 1: Students Who Enrolled in Lebanon Business Schools

The following table lists the names of students who attended Lebanon's business colleges. The table is derived from information gathered from newspapers and should not be considered a comprehensive list. Unless the schools' enrollment records are found, it may not be possible to compile a complete list of students. Except where otherwise noted, all cities, counties, and towns in the "Residence at Time of Enrollment" column are in Indiana. An asterisk indicates a place outside of Boone County, Indiana. The Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center, located at the Lebanon Public Library, will henceforth be indicated as RWSHC, LPL.

Student Last Name	Student First Name	School	Residence at Time of Enrollment	Sources
Adney	Roy	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , March 22, 1906, NewspaperArchive
Allen	Carl	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902, NewspaperArchive
Allen	Carrie	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917, Hoosier State Chronicles
Allen	Mary	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 24, 1906, NewspaperArchive
Altum	George	Lebanon Business University	N/A	Lebanon Patriot, February 15, 1906, NewspaperArchive
Anderson	Alice	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Ball	Blaine B.	Lebanon Business College	Greenfield*	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898, NewspaperArchive
Bassett	Minnie	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , October 12, 1905, NewspaperArchive

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Benson	lda May	Morris Business College	[Boone County?]	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , January 10,1901, NewspaperArchive; "Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Bercaw	Neal	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Biekes	George	Morris Business College	N/A	"Receive Diplomas," Lebanon Daily Reporter, May 24, 1902, microfilm, RWSHC, LPL
Bowman	Clarence	Lebanon Business University	Advance	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , November 9, 1905, NewspaperArchive
Boyd	Cleve	Lebanon Business University	[Milledgeville?]	"Milledgeville," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , March 26, 1908, NewspaperArchive
Bradshaw	Jessie	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Roachdale," Greencastle Star and Democrat, February 24, 1905, NewspaperArchive
Brown	Edith	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , October 12, 1905
Brown	Rosa May	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Burch	G. C.	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Locals of Home Concern," <i>Bloomfield</i> <i>News</i> , July 3, 1903, NewspaperArchive
Burch	Lee Cupid	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Buress	Ruby	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Burgin	lcy	Lebanon Business College	Royalton	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898

Butler	Walter	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901, NewspaperArchive
Byers	Carl S.	Lebanon Business College	Hazelrigg	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Cason	Viola	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Clark	Claud	Lebanon Business University	[New Ross?]*	"New Ross," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , April 5, 1906, NewspaperArchive
Cook	Orpha	Lebanon Business University	[Waveland?]*	Waveland Independent, June 22, 1905, NewspaperArchive
Crawford	Aaron	Morris Business College	Crawfordsville*	Lebanon Patriot, Octo- ber 23, 1902, NewspaperArchive
Cunningham	Bert	Morris Business College	[Boone County?]	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , January 10, 1901
Daily	Alice	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Darewood	Olga	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , June 1, 1905, NewspaperArchive
Davis	Edna	[Boone County Business University?]	N/A	"Lister School House," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 11, 1911, NewspaperArchive
Davis	Willie	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Denny	Gertrude	Lebanon Business University	Lebanon	"Russie-Denny," Mooresville Times, January 17, 1908, NewspaperArchive
Dodd	Ollie M.	Lebanon Business College	Washington Township, Boone County	"Democratic Candidates," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , October 27, 1910, NewspaperArchive

Dodson	Vasco	Lebanon Business University	Center Township, Boone County	Lebanon Patriot, February 15, 1906; "Democratic Candidates," Lebanon Pioneer, May 9, 1912, NewspaperArchive
Dorman	Auburn	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Business College Notes," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , December 28, 1905, microfilm, RWSHC, LPL
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Dutch	Franchetta Smith	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Eads	Salie	Morris Business College	N/A	"The Business College," Lebanon Patriot, December 18, 1902, NewspaperArchive
Eck	Raymond	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Ferguson	A G	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
Funkhouser	Pearl	Morris Business College	Johnson County*	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , January 10, 1901; "Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Good	Mabel	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
Hardy	Gertrude	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Hester	Violet	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"To Conduct Night School," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , February 9, 1911, NewspaperArchive
Hettle	Lawrence	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902

Hicks	Anna	Morris Business College	N/A	"The Business College," Lebanon Patriot, December 18, 1902
Hine	Rolla	Lebanon Business University	Whitestown	"Local News," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 12, 1905
Hollingsworth	Summer W.	Morris Business College	Hendricks County*	"Local Laconics," Lebanon Patriot, September 5, 1901, NewspaperArchive; "Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
Hornday	Anna	Morris Business College	N/A	"Receive Diplomas," Lebanon Daily Reporter, May 24, 1902
Hostetter	Harry	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898

Hostetter	Hazel	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , March 22, 1906
Hurt	Finis	Morris Business College	Thorntown	"Local Laconics," Lebanon Patriot, December 12, 1901, NewspaperArchive
Jackson	Blanche	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , March 22, 1906
Jett	Willie	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Johnson	N. Louella	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Knowlton	Ovid B.	Lebanon Business College	Harrison Township, Boone County	"Local Brevities," Lebanon Pioneer, March 30, 1899, NewspaperArchive
Lafollette	Earl	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898

Lee	Sam	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
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Martin	Roy	Lebanon Business College	Pike	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Masters	Estella	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Matthews	Anna	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
McCormick	Cora	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," <i>Lebanon Daily Reporter</i> , March 8, 1917
McDaniel	Walter M.	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
McMains	Charles	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"City or Country Life," Lebanon Patriot, November 23, 1905, NewspaperArchive
Miller	Charlotte	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
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Millet/Miller	W. Lyle	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902; "Entertained Fellow Students," Lebanon Patriot, Octo- ber 24, 1901
Mitchell	Katherine	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Monroe	Charles Homer	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902

Myers/Meyers	Leona	Lebanon Business University	Roachdale*/ Lebanon	"Local News," <i>Lebanon</i> Patriot, March 22, 1906/ "Lebanonite is 'Groceress," <i>Lebanon</i> Pioneer, December 1, 1910, NewspaperArchive
Myrick	Adelbert	Lebanon Business College	N/A	"Entertained by their Teacher," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , April 6, 1899, NewspaperArchive
Nealis	Frank	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Neff	Maud Ethel	Morris Business College	Thorntown	"Local Laconics," Lebanon Patriot, December 12, 1901; "Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
Notter	Charles T.	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Death's Harvest," Bloomfield News, October 9, 1908, NewspaperArchive
Orear	Edgar	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , March 22, 1906
Park	Helen	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Patterson	Frank L.	Lebanon Business College [Morris Business College]	[Lebanon?]	"High School Alumni," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 16, 1901, NewspaperArchive
Pavey	Ethel	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
Pavey	Jessie	Boone County Business University	N/A	"Mayor's New Stenographer," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , October 13, 1910, NewspaperArchive
Pavey	Zenta	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
Pease	Ola	Morris Business College	Topeka, KS*	Lebanon Patriot, Octo- ber 23, 1902

Pedigo	Ella	Morris Business College	N/A	"Entertained Fellow Students," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
Perkins	Mrs.	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Pinnell	Kathryn	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
Powell	Edna	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Business College Notes," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , December 28, 1905
Powell	Harry	Morris Business College	Elizaville	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , October 24, 1901
Powell	William	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Local News," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , March 22, 1906
Price	Mabel	Lebanon Business University	N/A	Lebanon Patriot, December 14, 1905, microfilm, RWSHC, LPL
Reagan	Walter	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
Reese	Orville	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Business College Notes," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , December 28, 1905
Rusmisel	Beulah E.	Morris Business College	Dana*	Lebanon Patriot, November 13, 1902, NewspaperArchive
Shelby	Emma	Lebanon Business University	N/A	Lebanon Patriot, December 14, 1905
Sims	Iva	Lebanon Business University	Kansas*	"Mechanicsburg," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , July 18, 1907, NewspaperArchive
Sloan	Sylvia May	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902

Smith	Leartus C.	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 29, 1902
Smith	Pearl	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Smith	Stella	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," <i>Lebanon Daily Reporter</i> , March 8, 1917

Spray	E. T.	Lebanon Business University	Mechanicsburg	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , November 9, 1905
Stark	Eleanore	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Stephenson	Grace	Morris Business College	N/A	"The Business College," Lebanon Patriot, December 18, 1902
Stevens	Mr.	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Storm/Storms	Elva	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898; "Entertained by their Teacher," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , April 6, 1899
Strawmyer	Edna	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	N/A	"Enrolling for Course in Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 8, 1917
Tice	Emma	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Debated on Woman Suffrage," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , December 14, 1905
Troutman	Ercie A.	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902

Vaught	Ara	Lebanon Business College	N/A	"Entertained by their Teacher," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , April 6, 1899
Watson	Grace	Lebanon Business University	Pittsboro*	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , November 9, 1905
Weddle	Edgar	Lebanon Business University	N/A	Lebanon Patriot, February 15, 1906
Welch	Edna	Morris Business College	Lebanon	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , January 10, 1901
Welch	Lena	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
White	Oscar	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Two Debates, <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , February 22, 1906, NespaperArchive
Whitinghill	H. R.	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
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Whittinghill	Hazel	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"F. H. Raber Quits Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 21, 1908, microfilm, RWSHC, LPL
Whorley	Parma	Lebanon Business University	Advance	Lebanon Patriot, February 15, 1906; "Advance," Lebanon Patriot, March 29, 1906, NewspaperArchive
Wiley	Charles O.	Morris Business College	[Lebanon?]	"High School Alumni," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 16, 1901
Williams	Albert H.	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
Wills	Noble	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898

Winship	William	Morris Business College	Rushville*	"Local Laconics," Lebanon Patriot, January 23, 1902, NewspaperArchive
Woodring**	Harry H.	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"About People," Lebanon Pioneer, October 30, 1913, NewspaperArchive; "Guide to the Harry Hines Woodring Collection," University of Kansas Kenneth Spencer Research Library, https://archives.lib.ku.ed u/repositories/3/resource s/1046
Worley	Minn[a/ie]	Lebanon Business College	Lebanon	"Lebanon Business College," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , December 8, 1898
Wright	C. W.	Lebanon Business University	Kirklin*	"Local News," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , November 9, 1905
Wynkoop	Hazel	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"Personal Paragraphs," Lebanon Patriot, March 19, 1908, NewspaperArchive
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Wysong	Grace	Morris Business College	N/A	"Business College Commencement," Lebanon Patriot, May 29, 1902
Yoder	Grace	Lebanon Business University	N/A	"City or Country Life," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , November 23, 1905

Table 2: Faculty Members Who Taught in Lebanon Business Schools

The following table lists the faculty who taught at Lebanon's business colleges. The table is derived from information gathered from newspapers and city directories and should not be considered a comprehensive list. Unless the schools' personnel records are found, it may not be possible to compile a complete list of faculty members.

Name, Last	Name, First	School	Position	Source
Bieber	Daisy	Morris Business College	Art Teacher	"Receive Diplomas," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Daily Reporter</i> , May 24, 1902
Bollinger	I. B.	Lebanon Business University	Teacher	J. A. Muriett and H. B. Swan, Indiana Directory Com- pany's Lebanon Directory (1905), 9, RWSHC, LPL
Burgess	Ella M.	Lebanon Business University	Stenography Teacher	Lebanon Patriot, October 12, 1905
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Dee	James L.	Lebanon College [Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College]	Owner; Office Teacher; Secretary and Registrar	Lebanon Daily Reporter, April 17, 1917, Hoosier State Chronicles; "Public Sale," Lebanon Daily Reporter, August 21, 1917, Hoosier State Chronicles
Dinkins	Loto	Boone County Business University	Owner; Teacher	"To Conduct Night School," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , Feb- ruary 9, 1911
Dodson	Vasco	Lebanon Business University	Instructor (penmanship and shorthand)	"Political Short Cuts," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , Feb- ruary 29, 1912, NewspaperArchive; "Will Go to Denver," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , March 19, 1908, NewspaperArchive

Essex	Bonnie Eloise	Lebanon College [Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College]	Violin Teacher; Director	Lebanon Daily Reporter, April 17, 1917
Hardy	Gertrude	Morris Business College	Shorthand Teacher	"Receive Diplomas," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Daily Reporter</i> , May 24, 1902
Hester	Violet	Boone County Business University	Owner; Teacher	"To Conduct Night School," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Pioneer</i> , Feb- ruary 9, 1911
Martin	L. A.	Morris Business College/Lebanon Business College	President	"Took Possession," Lebanon Patriot, May 21, 1903, NewspaperArchive
Morris	Mrs. N. A. (Mavoureen)	Morris Business College/Lebanon Business College	Owner; Teacher	"Local News," Lebanon Patriot, March 29, 1900, NewspaperArchive; "Entertained by their Teacher," Lebanon Pioneer, April 6, 1899
Moudy	Byron	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	Vocal Teacher; Director	Lebanon Daily Reporter, April 17, 1917
Perry	Caleb S.	Lebanon Business College	Owner; Teacher	"Formal Opening," Lebanon Daily Reporter, November 19, 1898, microfilm, RWSHC, LPL
Raber	Henry Fenton	Lebanon Business University	Manager	"Raber Quits School," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Patriot</i> , March 26, 1908
Seidler	Myrtle Irene	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	Piano Teacher; Director	Lebanon Daily Reporter, April 17, 1917
Sloan	Sylvia	Morris Business College	Shorthand Teacher	"Receive Diplomas," <i>Lebanon</i> <i>Daily Reporter</i> , May 24, 1902
Stegeman	L. W.	Lebanon Commercial and Vocational College	Commercial Teacher; Superintendent	Lebanon Daily Reporter, April 17, 1917

Twichell	J. J.	Morris Business College/Lebanon Business College	"Took Possession," <i>Lebanon Patriot</i> , May 21, 1903
Whittinghill	Hazel	Lebanon Business University	"F. H. Raber Quits Business College," Lebanon Daily Reporter, March 21, 1908

^{**} Harry Woodring, who attended Lebanon Business University in the summer of 1904, later served as governor of Kansas from 1931 to 1933 and as U.S. Secretary of War from 1936 to 1940. ("Local News," *Lebanon Patriot*, June 23, 1904, NewspaperArchive; "Gov. Harry Hines Woodring," National Governors Association, https://www.nga.org/governor/harry-hines-woodring/)