

Collection #
SC 3051

**CASSIE LEHMAN
AUTOGRAPH BOOK, 1900**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Kate Scott
August 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1900

PROVENANCE: Hayden M. Wetzel, Washington, DC

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2011.0058

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Catharine “Cassie” Lehman (1876–1972) was one of three sisters born in Mahoning County, Ohio to Fanny Martin Lehman and Christian Lehman, who were farmers. The family was most likely Mennonites. Lehman completed school through the eighth grade. In 1905 she married Stephen R. Martin, also a farmer, with whom she had five children: John, Homer, Elsie, Bertha, and Eber. Her youngest son Eber was the first in the family to attend and complete high school. Though she lived in Mahoning County most of her life, she died in Columbiana County, Ohio.

Sources:

Ohio Birth, Marriage, and Death Records

United States Federal Census Records

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This short collection consists of a single autograph book compiled by Cassie Lehman over a period of ten days in mid-late November 1900. At the time she would have been 24 years old. None of the signees are from her immediate family or from her home state of Ohio, although two of the entries are signed “Uncle John” and “Aunt Lizzie.” Several entrants are from Canton, Kansas, and the rest are from towns in Elkhart County, Indiana: Elkhart, Goshen, Foraker, Nappanee, and Wakarusa. The locations and the signees’ surnames (Landis, Martin, Weaver, Wenger, etc.) indicate that they were likely Mennonites. Two signees also have the first name “Menno,” after the church’s founder. It is not entirely certain why the people named in the book would have been gathered in the same place, but their gathering may have been related to the Mennonite Church General Conference, which was held in Sterling, Illinois earlier in the month. Wakarusa had hosted the conference two years earlier in 1898. It is also possible that Lehman coincidentally visited Elkhart County at the same as the Kansas signees.

Though only one signee gives her age (20), the sophistication of the entries suggests they were written by adults and/or teenagers. Most are written in clear script and consist of sincere, rhyming verses providing advice or wishing Cassie well. The majority of these were probably commonly known poems, as opposed to original creations, since several of the verses are repeated by different signees. Most of the entries begin “Friend Cassie,” a typical form of address for Mennonites at the time. There is frequent mention of God, and many pages are signed “Forget Me Not” or “Remember Me.”

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Cassie Lehman Autograph Book, 1900

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 3051).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.