Poland Union Seminary:

Mr. George Bishop has sent me the minutes of the Trustees of its organization from January 1853 up to the time it was taken over by the town as a High School. According to these minutes B. F. Lee, my Mr. Lee, and a group of citizens of the district applied to the auditor of Mahoning County ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in January 1853 for an appraisal of the value of money, goods, lands, chattels, etc., with which they were to start what was to be called the Poland Female College. Mr. Lee seems to have been the leader in this enterprise, not only both in the amount of cash and in the land given. The whole value in the hands of the founders of the school was $5,831.00, $3,940.00 of which was cash. The articles of the association are given in these minutes. The Female College was to be under the joint patronage and control of the Pittsburgh and Erie Annual Conference for the Methodist Episcopal Church, that is here was a Seminary founded in 1853 which was to do for women what Allegheny also under the patronage of the Pittsburgh and Erie Conferences had not yet decided to do. I did not realize when I went to Poland that Allegheny may have been the factor in forcing coeducation on the Female College. The head of the first body of Trustees elected by the subscribers to the Female College on April 5th, 1853 was the name of Bishop Mathew Simpson ~~Vincent~~. My friend, Mr. Lee, of course was one of ~~among these~~ of the local Trustees.

In August of this year, 1853 he was elected President of the Board.

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The project did not receive the support that its founders had hoped and in February 1862 a plan was laid before a Committee of Poland citizens to reorganize the institution as the Poland Union Seminary ~~to be a male and female seminary~~ Co-educational, according to Mr. B. F. Lee who made the plans. And it was to be supported by several religious denominations - the old school Presbyterians, the United Presbyterians, the Free Presbyterians, the Presbyterian Episcopals, the Methodist Episcopals, the Congregational and other denominations of Christians who might wish to become patrons.

Note that here "Poland Village" is used and that P. V. established the female college and it was the Poland Village which made it the Poland Union Seminary in 1862.

The subscribers to the original enterprise put their hands and seals to a conveyance of the property on the 4th day of August, 1862. Among the names, seventy eight in all, and comprising practically the whole citizen body is the name of Annie McKinley. I am writing Mr. Bishop today to know what relation he was to William McKinley.

It seems that Mr. B. F. Lee was the contractor for the building of the Seminary and it was finally dedicated in January 1863. $1150.00 had been paid him and $724.00 was still due him.

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I find ~~a~~ Miss Mr. E. M. Blakelee in the records August 5, 1864. ~~He~~ had been eighteen instead of ~~twenty nine~~ years in the Seminary, Miss ~~Mr.~~ Blakelee was elected as an assistant teacher. The female teachers were guaranteed $500.00 a year so that it is apparent that the salaries had not increased. see below

— when 2 entered

After the reorganization the Seminary for the first time published its course of studies. The Classical Department gave three years of Latin and two of Greek. In Mathematics it gave arithmatic and algebra in the first and second years. English course gave French in the third year and in the last term of this third year it gave zoology and botany.

The difficulty of supporting the Seminary is apparent by a proposition brought up at a special meeting in April 1870. It was necessary according to Mr. Lee to take steps for the continuation of the Seminary, or if not possible to make inquiry as to the possibility of uniting with the Poland Union School and form a graded Union school. There was an unamimous vote of the trustees in favor of such a Union. That was the wish of the stockholders. In May of 1870 this idea was laid on the table and there was substituted for it the decision to try to secure a permanent endowment.

In June 1870 Miss. Blakelee had her salary raised to $600.00, though there seems to have been some doubt in the minds of the Board whether the $1000.00 that was to be paid to the Principal could be raised. It was proposed that the Seminary be turned

June 24. 1872 raised to 650.00 - June 73 - raised to 700.00

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On June 15 1824. proposed to ~~give Miss B. $1000 to~~
if ~~possible~~ - same as principal

over to the Presbytery of Mahoning. This proposition came up in October 1870. A little later they are again back to the idea of obtaining an endowment, and to persuade the Presbytery to undertake the endowment of the Seminary, make it a denominational school but if they were not willing to do that then it was proposed that they combine with other Christian denominations in raising an endowment.on a Union basis.

that Miss B. be given 600 - the principal 1000 -

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