

## OUR SCHOOLS

Learning to read and write was an important way of life for the first settlers in Poland Township. The very first public school in Poland was built in 1802, a log schoolhouse located north of the Presbyterian church toward the center of town (near 424 Main Street). Mr. John K. Stanton was hired by the community to teach the first term in the winter of 1802-03. Between 1804 and 1806, Mr. Perlee Brush and Mr. J. Kirtland taught together at the schoolhouse. In 1805, a little wooden schoolhouse was built at the intersection of what is now Route 224 and Struthers Road.

The early pioneer school buildings served their purpose well. Students used goose quills to write; ink was made from oak bark. The early American schools stressed the basic three R's, plus two others, rules of conduct and religion. "The New England Primer," printed in 1690, was the basis of education. Funding for the schools came from the local settlers; the sale of lands under the Ordinance of 1787 was not sufficient to provide free public schools. Parents agreed to pay a fee for each child that attended school.

In 1820, William Holmes McGuffey came to teach in one of the small one-room schoolhouses in the northern part of Poland Township. He taught the children, not only how to read, but how to live a good, clean, wholesome life. The inspiration and ideas for the "McGuffey Readers" came from his early teaching days in small country schools.

The Poland Academy was opened in 1830 by a Presbyterian minister, Reverend Bradley; this was the first institution for higher learning in Poland. The school was located in an upstairs room over Koontz's general stores, later known as Johnston's Hardware Store, on Main Street. The curriculum stressed classical languages, literature, advanced English and philosophy, and became known as "The Poland Academy." Five years later, Mr. Lynch became the owner of the Academy and relocated the school to the west side of Yellow Creek, near the site of the present middle school on College Street.

College Street was so named because in the early days of Poland's history, the street was almost always the home of an institution of higher learning. Since 1835, seven colleges or institutions were housed continuously on this street: the Academy, the Poland Female College, the Poland Institute, the Poland Law School, the Poland Medical School, the private Poland Seminary, and the Poland Public High School.

The Academy closed in 1845 for lack of financial support. In 1849, Mr. B. F. Lee, founded a girls' school on College Street. That same year, the Presbyterians founded an Academy for boys (at the present site of the Withers Apartments); in 1855, the building burned to the ground and the school was never rebuilt. Mr. Lee's Academy for girls eventually became the Seminary and, later, would merge with the public high school. Poland's high school heritage can be traced all the back to these early academies.

Lee's Girls Academy was incorporated in 1854 as the Poland Female College and moved into a large building, now the residence at 24 College Street. Again the school needed more space and Lee asked the townspeople to build a new, large, and better facility, a three-story brick structure further south on College Street (the site of the junior high building).

The Law School was opened in 1855 in the vacated building, but closed in 1859 because it was not self-supporting. The medical school was housed on the third floor of this building.

In the mid-1850s, William McKinley attended the Academy and then entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania. He later accepted a teaching position in one of the small rural schoolhouses in Poland Township at a salary of \$25 a month--the average salary for teachers at that time. After school, young McKinley each day would walk the two and a half miles back to the village where he worked as a clerk in the Poland Post office, on South Main Street.

Because of financial difficulties, the Academy had to be reorganized in 1862. A board of trustees was in charge of the new school and adopted the same "Poland Seminary," which admitted both boys and girls. The new trustees paid off all the old debts of the Academy; however, eight years later, the school's financial needs were more than the tuition paid by the students. In 1871, the Presbytery of Mahoning (now the Poland United Presbyterian Church) agreed to support the school, thus assuming control of the school. Poland Seminary School was an incorporated private church-school with a self-perpetuating board comprised of church trustees and elected board members from the public.

A boys' dormitory for out-of-town students was built at 307 South Main Street (next to the Library). Girls had to room and board in private homes near the Seminary. In 1895, portions of the second and third floors of the school building collapsed and the trustees decided to tear down the remaining structure. In 1897, a new Poland Seminary School was built on the existing foundation. The Seminary was a private school where high school and junior-college subjects were taught.

In 1882, the Poland Union Elementary School was built and paid for by property taxes levied over a three-year period. The new four-room school, the only public school in the village, offered the advantage of housing children according to their ages up to the eighth grade. There was no public high school in the area, but the village school board in 1884 anticipated the establishment of a public high school. In 1888, the village board of education added a high school course of study to the curriculum offered at Poland Union.

Mr. Mark Kimmel, who served the school community for over 35 years, became the first principal of Poland's first public high school and first superintendent of the kindergarten-12th grade Poland Village School District. He was teacher, coach, custodian, principal and superintendent--all at the same time.

The Seminary as a private school officially came to an end on June 21, 1909, and the school became a public high school. In 1927, the Poland Seminary High School on College street was extensively remodeled. Enrollment was 107 with a full-time faculty of four, including part-time music and industrial arts teachers.

In the spring of 1937, the athletic field on Cortland and Lee Streets was completed. The field would be dedicated later as the Baird Mitchell Field, in memory of an outstanding athlete at Poland High School and a member of the class of 1937, who died in World War II. A new gymnasium and more classrooms were constructed at the high school in 1938 and the school cafeteria opened in the fall of 1938 for the first time.

In the fall of 1957, a new, 12-room elementary school--on a 12-acre site on Johnston Place--was built and named, "North Elementary."

In 1959, construction began for the new junior high school on Elm Street behind the high school. In 1962, architectural plans were approved for a new elementary on Dobbins Road and another addition to the high school on College Street. On August 5,

1969, school, township and village officials broke ground for the new high school, which was completed in the fall of 1971. The junior high building on Elm Street would become a middle school and the junior high students moved to the old high school building.

Since that time, enrollment grew and dropped; Poland Union School was closed and used as an education center. With the growth of the township, enrollment is again increasing. In 1996, Poland Union will reopen again, and an addition has been made to the High School.

As the school year opens in the fall of 1996, we celebrate 194 years of exceptional education in Town One, Range One of the Western Reserve. The school system had come a long way from the fall of 1802!

From "Triumph and Tradition," by Dr. Robert L. Zorn

### **POLAND UNION SEMINARY SCHOOL**

Records show that B. F. Lee founded an academy in 1848. This academy later became Poland Union Seminary with endowments from the Methodist Church (William McKinley attended the Methodist Church).

Teachers in the 1853-54 school year were:

B. F. Lee	Proprietor
J. E. Cummings	Principal of the male department
Miss M. E. Blakelee	Principal of the female department
R. F. Keeler	Assistant teacher
Miss L. L. Clark	teacher of instrumental music
Miss Mary L. Cook	teacher of instrumental music
Mrs. Lois Mansfield	teacher of drawing and painting
Miss L. King	teacher of primary department

Students enrolled for the school year were: James Riley Barclay, Edwin W. Bettes, Ivan G. Blackman, Daniel Blackman, Edward A. Boies, Thomas G. Botsford, T. Corwin Brainard, Alexander B. Brownlee, Christopher Bruce, Charles Case, John W. Cracraft, Edwin B. Cummings, Cyrus Hubbard, Nathan King, Theodore H. King, Alfred P. Kirtland, Hiram S. Lee, William Jason Lee, Charles W. Leslie, Henry G. Leslie, J. Artillas Leslie, George W. Little, William Little, Albert B. Logan, Charles M. Logan, ohn S. Logan, Ira F. Mansfield, James R. Mathews, Isaac A. M'Combs, H. Otis Mygatt, Charles Parker, John Pollock, Lewis N. Pollock, Thomas M. Pollock, Charles Robinson, Zelotus Stewart, Seth H. Truesdale, Lucius L. Woodruff, Mary E. Barclay, Alma L. Bettis, Margaret B. Blong, Mary Botsford, Lucy M. Brainard, Frances Bruce, Jane Bruce, Elizabeth Buchanna, Mary Cleland, Annie M. Cummings, Mary Heasley, Julia A. Hess, Margaret A. Holton, H. Celestia Hubbard, Nancy C. Keep, Ella King, Margaret King, Emma C. Kirtland, Jeesie Lee, Mary Little, Margaret Little, Maranda E. Logan, Mary E. Logan, Lucy A. Logan, Thalia E. Logan, Mary K. Mansfield, Lucy A. Mathews, Mary E. Mays, Elizabeth M'Gachey, Mary Myatt, Harriet Parker, Sarah Parker, Ann J. Pollock, Elmira Pollock, Adaline Ripley, S. Thalia Stoddard, Laura Stoddard, Hetta Stoddard, Charlotte Truesdale, Lucy C. Truesdale, Maria J. Wallace, Margaret E. Woodruff.



Class of Nov., 1907



Poland Union School Eight Grade 1931  
Teacher Mr. Clayton Lehman

Top row: Kenneth Eisinbraun, Kenneth Colgan, Steve Chuey, Bob Schlingman, Richard Walters, Anton Glabun, Peter Glabun

Third row: Jack Countryman, William Redman, Edgar Mort, Henry McCrone, William Smith, Tony Telago, Floyd Fonner,

Second row: George Duncan, Louise Bryant, Ruth Parsons, Victoria Metska, Joanne Gibbs, Matilda Werek, Clayton Lehman,

Sitting: Marian Slagle, Margaret Findley, Georgeanna Smith, Elvira Crumbaker, Betty Williams, Elva Mitzel, Gladys McCreary, Julia Sakely.

Old School Programs



<b>Order of Exercises</b>		<b>Order of Exercises</b>	
<b>PRAYER</b>		<b>RECITATIONS—Song of Simeon</b> Mrs. Agatha	
ADDRESS BY WILSON,     Mrs. WILSON, Darbonne		Seven Years Old—Berkshire	Mrs. Lucius BROWN, Poland
<b>MUSIC</b> <b>PSALM:</b>		Seven Years Two—Berkshire	Mrs. Mary GARDNER, Poland
DECLARATION,     J. L. VAN ALLEN, Darbonne		Seven Years Three—Low	Mrs. Tracy DEWEES, Darbonne
“THE MIND OF KING” Lighted		Seven Years Four—Berkshire	Mrs. Clara GARDNER, Poland
<b>MUSIC</b> <b>PSALM:</b>		Seven Years Five—Berkshire	Mrs. Emma MILLER, Poland
DRILL,     Mrs. Emma TAYLOR, Darbonne		Seven Years Six—Living in Marriage	Mrs. Blanche LEE, Poland
A Chapter on Kings		Seven Years Seven—Longing for Home	Mrs. Francis LEE, Poland
<b>GENERAL QUESTION</b> ,     Mrs. E. McVee, Darbonne		<b>MUSIC</b> <b>PSALM:</b>	
Answers Via		<b>GENERAL QUESTION</b> ,     Mrs. Kenneth LINDSEY	
<b>MUSIC</b> <b>PSALM:</b>		“WHY THERE IS A WIND THERE IS A WIND”	
DECLARATION,     S. AUGUSTINE CHRISTIAN, Poland		<b>MUSIC</b> <b>PSALM:</b>	
“PARRICIDE AND THE CAPTIVE” With		YALOWITZ,     Mrs. Alice HILL, Poland	
DRILL,     Mrs. JAMES D. CLARK, St. Johns, Pa.			
Interpretation			
<b>MUSIC</b> <b>PSALM:</b>			



The Exercises will take place at the Presbyterian Church, in the following order:

On Thursday Evening, there will be an Historical Contest between the following named Candidates,

- J. F. JOHNSON, West Jackson,
- JIMMIE EAGLE, Poland,
- G. B. BOWMAN, Jackson,
- JAMES SMITH, Park St.
- ARTHUR STAFFY, Poland,
- CHAS. WILLIAMS, West Jackson, Pa.

There will be a display of the Student Literary Society on Friday at 9 o'clock P. M.

### Order of Exercises

For Friday Afternoon, commencing at 1 o'clock.

#### MUSIC PRAYER MUSIC

ORIGINEAL GRAYSON, *Andantino*, S. J. Greenway, Poland

WALTON BRADSHAW, *Andantino*, S. J. Greenway, Poland

J. J. VANDERKAM, *Andante*

MUSIC

1844 Y. *And and Polka, Moderato*, E. M. Green, Poland

1844 Y. *A Plea for Education*, James S. Green, M. Jackson, Pa.

MUSIC

1844 Y. *De Groot's Tune*, E. M. Green, Poland

1844 Y. *Oh, This, and Nothing More*, E. M. Green, Poland

MUSIC

#### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

#### ADDRESS BY THE PRINCIPAL

MUSIC

GRAYSON, *And*, Mrs. Robert Johnson, E. M. Green, Poland

MUSIC

A Concert will be given on Friday Evening by Prof. R. A. and Mrs. James Henry, and Professors Latham, Archibald and Wilson. - Exercise will begin at 8 o'clock.



**ANNIVERSARY**

OF

**POLAND**

**Union Seminary,**

**POLAND, OHIO.**

*June 14th and 15th, 1877.*

Organized by the Board of Christian Education of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

**CLASSES WILL BE FORMED**

In Reading, Spelling, Geography, U. S. History, Arithmetic, Grammar, Theory and Practice of Book-keeping, Algebra, Geometry, Philosophy, Miscellaneous Exercises, Latin Lessons, German, French, French Grammar and Reading, American, Victorian, French or German, Book-keeping, English Literature, and such other branches as the attendance may require.

**EXPENSES:**

Tuition is payable in advance—\$2.00 per term.

A Student Fee of \$1.00 each per term will be charged each pupil.

Disbursements: Books, Paper, Station, \$10.00 per term of 10 weeks.

Fee for Entertainment not less per day, \$1.00.

Excess will not be returned on account of absence, but in case of protracted illness, the same may be made up in subsequent terms.

Boarding and home cost be obtained in private families at from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per week.

Arrangements have been made for such boarding at a much lower rate. Persons wishing to enter a club will please arrange in advance with the Principal. Boarding will be made up on reasonable terms.

**LOCATION.**

Poland is on the steady railroad line of Kentucky on the P. & A. R. and the Greenway Railroad, with trains from Wheeling commencing with all the season. There is also a daily line of boats running from the Port Wayne G. R. at West Union, through Poland, to Youngstown, thus affording easy access from all points.

For other information apply to the Principal.

**Poland Union Seminary,**

POLAND, MAISONING CO., O.

Under the Patronage and Control of the Presbytery of Madison.

**CALENDAR FOR 1884-85.**

First term of Session commences Monday, September 22, 1884, at 1 o'clock P. M.

First term closes November 20th, 1884.

Session of six weeks.

Second term of Session commences Monday, December 8th, 1884.

Second term closes March 15th, 1885.

Session of ten weeks.

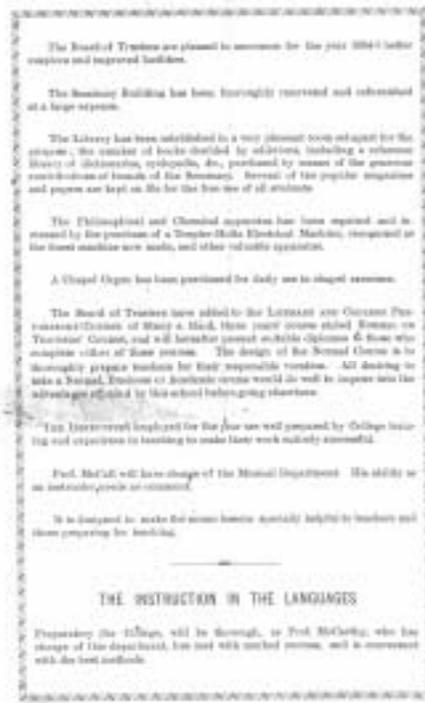
Third term of Session commences Monday, January 5, 1885.

Session of ten weeks at the end of the term.

Third term of Session commences Monday, March 23rd, 1885.

Third term closes June 20th, 1885.

Commencement Exercises, June 20th and 21st, 1885.



## THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

The only one-room school in a five-state area is still owned by the Poland Local School District. Built in 1858 on land that was purchased from Wright Adair, at the corner of Struthers and Center Roads, the school was in use until 1915.

It was a fine building in comparison to the log structures that preceded it! The front door facing Struthers Road, opened into the cloakroom. At the end of the cloakroom was a door leading to the classroom--one door for boys and one door for girls, as they would sit on opposite sides--and a potbellied stove at the front of the room.

As the township prospered--Poland Village would not be incorporated until 1866--more and more children went to the one-room schools (Center School was the only brick building).

The Poland Local School District board advertised for bids to sell the building. It was possible that the historic pre-Civil War Building would no longer retain its legacy as a symbol of education and the pioneer spirit that settled this area of the Connecticut Western Reserve. In 1927 the Poland Township School Board merged with the Village School Board and the merged school boards would become the Poland Local School District. No transfer deed marking that transaction is recorded.

Poland Township Trustees used the building as a town hall and even on the old tax duplicate, it is listed as the Town Hall. Over the years many groups met at the schoolhouse to sew and quilt and enjoy each others' company; for a while, the Poland Grange met at the schoolhouse as did The Poland Center Community group. The schoolhouse was also used for storage.

Nick Jeswald organized a group of volunteers to restore the school, which would be used as a town hall; the present township building--a quonset-type hut--was

inadequate and too crowded. Nick Jeswald, Dave Ludt and Pete Sturbi approached the board with the plea that the American Colonial building, which they felt was the beginning and the end of an era, be preserved.

The building was not sold and the Poland Historical Society, under the direction of Betty Jones, leased the building for \$1.00 for 99 years; the Society started their fund raisers, most notably the Christmas Tour of Homes, to finance the restoration of the little red schoolhouse. After many years of work by dedicated volunteers, and an addition to the back of the building, it has been completed and can be used for meetings.



Now

## BERNARD FORD LEE

Bernard Ford Lee was born in Poland on May 7, 1814, and was the founder and president of Poland Union Seminary School. He died in 1886.

Mr. Lee attended Poland Schools and when he was very young, he was a tailor's apprentice. He was naturally inclined to the intellectual and professional life. After working at his trade all day, he attended night school and prepared himself for college, later entering an institution at Meadville, Pennsylvania. He returned to Poland with the intention of studying law, but circumstances induced him to open a school. For one year he conducted a school in the building that was erected for that purpose but was later converted into his residence. He met with such unexpected patronage, a building was erected on the present site of the Poland Seminary (now the Junior High School).

Mr. Lee opened a law and medical school in the building, which he formerly used for the first school. From Poland Union Seminary and from under Mr. Lee's personal supervision, William McKinley, as an early volunteer, went to enter the service of his country. Before he departed he wrote his name on the walls of the dining room, and that signature was carefully preserved through the years of his great rise to heights of statesmanship and public honor.

Bernard F. Lee was married (first) to Pauline King, who died in June, 1859. Six children were born of this marriage: Florence; Jessie, who married Dr. W. S. Matthews; Carrie, who married I. P. Sexton; Henry Kirk, who died in infancy; Blanche, who married H. W. Lowery, residing in Akron; and Grace, residing in the old homestead at Poland. Mr. Lee's second marriage was to Jane Simpson, and three children were born of this union; Bernard Lyle, Clyde Duncan and Annie. His two youngest sons were lawyers. Mrs. Lee died in 1868.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library was organized in 1973, with Rosemary Magulas serving as first Chairperson until officers were nominated and elected. We have grown from a Charter membership of about 30 people to our present 139.

The purpose of the "Friends" has never changed. It was, and still is, to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries, to focus public attention on library service, facilities, and needs and to influence the gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments and bequests.

The membership listing we consider to be the oldest includes: Mary Jane Becherer, Jean Boldt, Connie Coloutes, Ora Mae and Bob Dally, Mary Ann Juvrud, Phyllis Kramer, Jo Libert, Edith Lynn, Rosemary Magulas, Betsy McCamey (first secretary), Margaret Frazier (first Treasurer), Nancy McGil, Marge Parella, Barbara Sabota, Barbara Schrock, Marianne Schuster (first hospitality Chairperson), Mary Smidt, Elaine Stroup, Bernard H. Steinfeld, Connie Swan, Sue Van Zandt, Rae Watts (first president), Elinor Zedaker, Marie Scudder, Noreen Dornbrock, Helen Lewis (first Vice-president), and Ella Mae Miller. The first nominating committee was composed of Marge Parella, Margaret Frazier and Connie Coloutes.

Our Library is heaped in history. On May 1st, 1935, Poland became the first community in Mahoning County to open a branch library! It was located in the upstairs room of the Fire Station and had 1500 books. Later, it was housed in the Kennedy House, and remained there until the present building was constructed and dedicated in 1965. Mrs. Dorothy Foutts was our first librarian. "The Friends" was organized under her guidance.

Many, many purchases were made over the years of books, magazines, movie screen, projector, book shelves, wheel chair ramp, typewriter, McNaughton Book Plan, etc.- all financed mainly by our annual Book Sale. Although the library has an allowance to purchase books, twice as many books can be purchased through the help of the "Friends." As our almost "perennial" membership chairperson, Marge Parella, pointed out, "It costs so little and the rewards are so great."



Poland Library