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STATION

CEDAR HILL SEMINARY

## CEDAR HILL FEMALE SEMINARY

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MOUNT JOY STAMP CLUB

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF CEDAR HILL FEMALE SEMINARY**

Cedar Hill Seminary was a very famous school, and the most famous of the two private schools in Mount Joy. The Rev. Nehemiah Dodge, a Presbyterian minister who came to Mount Joy from New England, started the school in 1836 in an old farm house just east of Mount Joy. It grew and within three years he moved into a new building, a short distance from the original site, on the south side of the highway.

During the next twenty years, it hit its peak enrollment of 1,200 pupils. Girls from eleven states were represented, with a large portion from the south. With the outbreak of the Civil War, the girls were withdrawn, and the school closed its doors in 1864. The school building continued to be the home of the Dodge family.

In 1871 Rev. W. R. Brown of Baltimore came to Mount Joy with the purpose of restoring the seminary. He was not successful, but did remain and took the position of state's supply of the Mount Joy and Donegal Presbyterian churches. Mr. David Denlinger came to Mount Joy, reopened the school in 1874 as a coeducational institution, but it lasted only a few years.

The Rev. Dodge, who was the ruling elder in the Mount Joy Presbyterian Church for 24 years, died July 25, 1876. His family remained in the school until a fire ruined the entire structure in 1891. Today all traces of this famous seminary are gone and it remains only in the history books of old Mount Joy.