



# Onaway Area Schools Alumni Association

February 2010  
Volume 12

## Scholarships

Through generous donations, the OASAA Scholarship Fund has grown, so we can give out two scholarships in 2010. Applications are available in January and decisions will be made in March. Candidates, seniors at Onaway High School, are judged on their

leadership, character, and service by means of a written application, possibly followed by an in-person interview. Deadline is mid-February, so encourage any 2010 grad-to-be to see Mr. Franklin for an application.

## Alum of the Year

The 2010 Alum of the Year will be chosen in March. So far, we have three candidates, but it's not too late to nominate someone. To do so, simply list specifics about the person you feel deserves the honor: how he or she stands

out from all the other wonderful people who attended Onaway schools. If you nominated someone in the past who was not chosen, you need to re-submit the name. Please include contact information for those not living in the area.

## Mystery Picture

We were given this photo with no date and no names. It might be from the 1930s.

Anyone recognize the people or the time period? Let us know at [oasaa.org](http://oasaa.org)!



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“ The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men.”  
Bill Beattie

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## Teacher Profile: Mrs. Braidwood



If you can still recite your times tables and you attended Onaway Junior High School, you probably owe a debt of thanks to Mary Braidwood. Mary Cowper graduated from Onaway High School in 1924 and attended County Normal, a one-year course offered at the time to prepare people to teach. After finishing that year,

Mary taught in Millersburg for a while and then Rogers City.

Having saved enough money for college, she then attended the school that would someday become Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and received a "lifetime degree," which would probably be called an associate's degree today.

After teaching for a while in Birmingham, Mary

married Andrew Braidwood in 1931 and took some time off to raise her family of three sons, Jim, Dick, and Larry. Andy lost his job because of the Depression, and the family moved to Grayling, where he worked in a CCC camp. In 1942 an opportunity came along for him to join the Department of Conservation in the Onaway area, and Andy took that job.

In 1947, Mary took a job teaching junior high math and Michigan history at the Onaway school. Year after year, her classroom, on the third floor of the east wing, produced well-behaved, well-educated students due to Mary's serene, ladylike, and business-like approach to teaching. As she accomplished the many tasks of a teacher, Mary continued her education through correspondence, outreach, and on-campus courses, receiving her bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in 1955.

Onaway's beloved Mrs. Braidwood retired from teaching in 1969 but remained active in church and community until her death in 2000.

## Newsletters

It has been suggested that the newsletter be posted at our site online (OASAA.org) instead of being mailed to those who have Internet access. If you are willing to receive your newsletters online, please let us know. Saving postage means we have funds for other

projects and saves paper as well. If you choose to receive your newsletter by email, you will get a message when it is ready with a link so you can visit the site and read or print it there.

## Renewals

It's time to pay your dues! The money collected goes toward three things: mailing of newsletters, scholar-

ships (a separate fund), and alumni gatherings at the Fourth of July and Homecoming celebrations.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from last year) \_\_\_\_\_

Any other changes we need to know about? (New name, phone#, email, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check or money order for \$10.00 (per person) made out to OASAA (Onaway Area Schools Alumni Association). Mail to: Sue Nelson/7546 Black River Avenue/Onaway, MI 49765

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## By-Gone Schools

The Glawe School was built in Ocqueoc Township around 1885. Logging and farming had attracted settlers to northern Michigan, and families followed. When citizens of Ocqueoc decided it was time to build a school, the building was erected on land donated by Christian Glawe located on Ocqueoc Highway on the south side of the present Lutheran Church.

Seventeen students attended the new Glawe school for about three months the first year. The first teacher, Emma Platt, was paid \$20.00 a month and provided room and board with area families. Population at the school fluctuated, reaching as high as forty-five students as numbers in the community changed.

Each school day began with a prayer and a pledge to the flag. Grades one through eight met in one room, first graders in front, older students in back. Subjects taught were reading, geography, history, hygiene, penmanship, arithmetic, and grammar. Students were taught in groups then sent back to their seats to work quietly while another group came to the front. The only whole-school instruction was in penmanship. Older students helped younger ones with school work such as reading and math problems. After eighth grade, most students' education was finished. Over time more students went on to high school, but distance made this difficult. Many students boarded with families in Onaway to be able to attend high school.

Heat was first provided by a wood-fired stove maintained by the older boys. Wood was donated by parents and stored in an outbuilding behind the school, next to separate outhouses for girls and boys. Drinking water came from a pump outside the building. Older students were responsible for keeping a bucket filled with water each day. There was a dipper in the bucket that everyone drank from. As time passed, the wood stove was replaced by a coal furnace, the dipper by a drinking fountain, and the outhouses by indoor bathrooms.

Students of the school's early days recall the mittens, scarves, and overshoes scattered around the floor grate to dry on winter days, which meant that the odor of

wet wool permeated the room. Student often brought jars of soup for lunch which were dumped into a communal pot on the wood stove and shared among all. Discipline was maintained by standing the offender in a corner at the front of the room. The teacher rang a bell to begin the school day as students walked from their homes or arrived on sleighs if the snow was very deep. Special events at the school included such things as box socials, Valentine parties, and Christmas programs. Those who attended Glawe School wished to preserve their memories of the past, so a Glawe School Committee was formed, the building moved for preservation, and exhibits and artifacts collected and displayed.

The Glawe School information comes from Sandra McGlone Everingham, whose family lived in Ocqueoc. She reports: "My grandfather attended from about 1895 to 1903 when he went to work loading boats on the Ocqueoc River. My grandmother came to Ocqueoc to teach school. I am not sure of the year, but she boarded with my great grandmother. She and Grandpa were married in 1912. Grandma taught at the Glawe School, Vilburn School, Silver Creek School, Grace Harbor School and Bearinger School, that I know of. My mother was born in 1914 and my Aunt in 1918. They both attended the Glawe school, graduating from OHS. My grandmother retired about 1950, after having taught three generations in some families."



## OASAA Information

### Board Members:

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Secretary	Sara LaLonde
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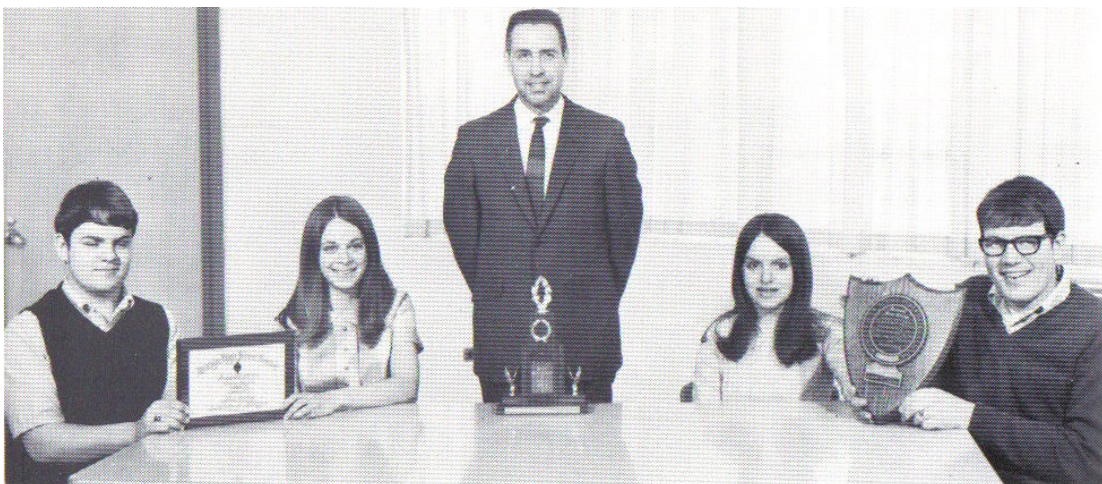
We're on the  
web:  
[www.oasaa.org](http://www.oasaa.org)

**Contacts:**  
**Mail: OASAA**  
**c/o Peg Herring**  
**20444 Hwy 638**  
**Onaway, MI 49765**

**"Working together to  
celebrate and support our  
schools."**

Class  
of  
1971

Debate Team-  
From left to right:  
Kim Brown,  
Cynthia Waite,  
Karan Pregitzer  
(Teacher), Pat  
Skinner and  
Kevin Brown



## Spotlight Class-1971

Ninety-two freshmen entered Onaway's high school wing in the fall of 1967, the usual mix of musicians, brains, athletes, fashionistas, and shy types. Their four years of high school, guided by teachers like Miss Miller, Mr. Magee, Coach Schrolec, and Mr. Butler, were filled with activity, dreams, and hard work.

The class always worked hard on their Homecoming floats, usually with good results: a football helmet and a roll of toilet paper are most memorable. As juniors, the class put on "Hillbilly Weddin", a humorous play that got lots of laughs from the audience and probably gave Mr. Magee a few headaches as it came to the stage. The place to go for an evening out was Vivio's, far, far away in the big town of Indian River.

As seniors, the class elected Don Holmes president, Kevin Brown vice president, Betty Karsten (Musser) secretary, and Robin McLennan (Mix) treasurer. Bernard Schmeltzer and John Schrolec guided their progress. The play that year was "Finders Creepers", another farce, this time produced by Mr. Schmeltzer. The senior trip was to Mackinac Island. The class chose as its song "We've Only Just Begun". Cathy McFall was chosen Homecoming Queen, and among the Mock Elections choices: Teacher's Pets, Kim Brown and Betty Karsten; Class Flirts: Don Holmes and Marlene Tucker. The class dedicated its yearbook to three retiring teachers from the elementary schools of Onaway: Marguerite Phiscator, Lola MacIntosh, and Lucille Rogers.

At the end of it all, in June of 1971, seventy-eight graduates received their diplomas, with Ruth Versnick earning the Valedictorian prize, Colleen Dittmar (Berry) the Salutatorian, and Betty Karsten as Honor Student.