



Founded in 1899

# ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 13, NO. 1

Education for Time and Eternity

A newsletter for alumni of Oneida Baptist Institute

January 2009

## “Eternally grateful to Oneida Baptist Institute”

### Lizzie Mae Allen Barrett Class of 1933



**Lizzie Mae Allen** was born January 24, 1917 at the Narrows (down Booneville Road), the daughter of **William** and **Sudie Rogers Allen**. She had four brothers and two sisters. Her father was a farmer and also ran the grist mill built by his great grandfather. Her mother was a midwife and, like most mountain women in her era, could spin, knit, quilt, crochet, embroider and make clothes.

Lizzie Mae attended the Narrows School (Sheep Pen). For the first two months of seventh grade she stayed with her uncle and aunt, **Bill** and **Mary Allen**, so she could attend Oneida Baptist Institute. **Melvin Davidson** was her teacher. The last three weeks of eighth grade, Lizzie stayed in the home of her uncle, **Alex Rogers**, long-time maintenance man at OBI, and walked up through Massey Field to finish the year in **Dan Hacker**'s class.

After passing a county exam, Lizzie moved into the dorm at OBI at the age of 12 to begin her high school career. She recalled, “I entered Oneida with not a cent in my pocket and left four years later with a diploma in my hand. I had many good teachers--**Charlie Goins**, **Saul Houchell**, **Hugh Spurlock**, and **Mayme Hensley**. But my favorite, I'd have to say, was **John Henry Walker**, my Latin teacher.”

All students attended chapel six days a week--the sixth being Sunday for church. Lizzie remembered that **Tom Britton** would call on individuals for famous quotations or a Bible verse. If the student did not respond, Mr. Britton would shake his head and say, “Empty vessel.” During chapel and in the dining room the boys sat on one side of the room and the girls on the other.

After graduating from Oneida in 1933 at age 16, Lizzie entered Berea College as a “half-day” student, working all afternoon in the college bakery for six cents an hour and washing dishes three times a day for five cents a meal.

(See **Lizzie Mae Allen**, page 2)

### Lizena Davis Powell Class of 1928



**Lizena Davis Powell** with daughter-in-law, **Joan Hartmann** (left) and granddaughter, **Joanna Powell** (right).

*Note: Interview questions were sent to Lizena's son, **Jim Powell**, seeking information for this story. What he mailed back was so interesting we're printing it just as he recorded his mother's words. Lizena celebrated her 99th birthday on December 1, 2008.*

I was born on December 1, 1909 at our family home not too far from Oneida. I was one of 12 brothers and sisters. My father's name was **James Davis** and my mother's name was **Martha Davidson** before she married my father. They did what country people did--they farmed and made their living. One of my memories is how, even with 14 to feed, my mother would invite neighbors who came walking up or down the Branch to come in for supper. I suppose one or two more didn't make that much difference.

My brother, **Charles Davis**, attended Oneida as did my sister, **Sylvia**, who received her teaching certificate there. Both of them became teachers. When I arrived at Oneida, I had an interview with **Mrs. Russell** (OBI President 1922-1928). I told her that I had five dollars that I had

(See **Lizena Davis Powell**, page 2)

(Lizzie Mae Allen, cont. from page 2)

By working during the summer after her first year at Berea, she was able to be a full-time student. In 1939 Lizzie left Berea to teach at Sheep Pen (Narrows) and Lodge Hall on Lower Teges. Returning to Berea for three semesters, she graduated in 1941. She taught another year at Sheep Pen and then went to Cincinnati, lived with her older sister and worked in a defense plant for the Navy until 1945.

On May 14, 1945 Lizzie married **Preston Barrett** and moved to Rush County, Indiana. Mr. Barrett had just left the Army as a Staff Sergeant, having served with the 18th U.S. Army Engineers in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. The Barretts had two sons--**Ronald Eddy** and **Steven Troy**. Ed, the older son, retired last year after working as a mechanical engineer at Proctor and Gamble. Steve retired this year from the Criminal Investigative Branch of the U.S. Defense Department and now works for Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

In May 1977, Lizzie retired after 27 years of teaching in Connersville, Indiana, to take care of her husband who had become ill. She was named "Master Educator" and inducted into the Fayette County (Indiana) School Corporation's "Education Hall of Fame" in May 2005.

What about retirement? If you attended Homecoming in 2008, you heard from Lizzie Mae herself, who was here for her seventy-fifth anniversary. She is 91 and tutors two days a week at a elementary school in Connersville. But that's not all. She also attends Sunday School and church on Sunday morning, church on Sunday night, and Wednesday night services at the New Heights Church of Christ. She's the secretary for the Ladies' Missionary Circle, secretary-treasurer for her Sunday School class, a member of the Missions Committee, and a prayer chain caller. She goes to Health Works for exercise five or six days a week, visits nursing homes, reads, writes letters and e-mails, works crossword puzzles, plays Solitaire on her computer, goes fishing, visits fam-

ily and is never, never, bored.

What about plans for the future? Lizzie Mae said "If time lasts and God is willing, I will be at OBI next year for Homecoming." ■

(Lizena D. Powell, cont. from pg. 2)

earned milking my sister's cow all winter. She said that would be enough and admitted me. Mrs. Russell was quite a power. **Mr. Burns** got the school started but she got it out of debt. Mrs. Russell had come from Lexington and had taught at a school in Irvine. I lived in a new dormitory, Melrose Hall, which was built while I was there.

One day Mrs. Russell had a visitor from New York and asked me to make a chocolate cake for dessert. The visitor asked Mrs. Russell where the girl came from who had baked the cake. She replied "Bar Creek." Her visitor said, "Being able to cook like that, she should come from Bar Harbor."

My favorite teacher was **Miss Bentley**, who taught French. I also took German. We went to church on Sunday morning and then had chapel services on Sunday evening. Once we girls were supposed to kill chickens so that the cook could dress them on Saturday and have them ready for Sunday dinner. We asked the boys to help us but unbeknownst to us, they went down one side of the hill to collect the poor birds while we went down the other side to do the same thing. We wound up with twice as many chickens as we needed so we ate chicken for a long time.

We students did different jobs. If you were helping cook, you had to get up a five in the morning. If you wanted to go to town, you usually went in a wagon. The automobile came in about 1931, as I remember.

After graduating from Oneida in 1928, I went to the Berea College School of Nursing from which I graduated in 1932. After that I became a private nurse and one of my patients was **Mrs. Lawrence Powell**. Her son **Robert** and I got to courting and then got married. We had two children, **James**

(continued)

## WEDDING BELLS



**Donnie Houchell** and **Martha Bowman Adams**, both from the Class of 1956, were married at the Horse Creek Baptist Church in Manchester on November 22, 2008. They wrote the following narrative for their wedding bulletin:

*In 1952 a young lady from Sexton Creek, Martha Bowman, went to Oneida Baptist Institute to begin her freshmen year in high school. There she met for the first time a boy by the name of Donnie Houchell who lived in Oneida. We went through four year of high school as good friends, graduated together and went our separate ways. Through the years we would see each other, mostly at the annual Homecomings at Oneida.*

*We both experienced long and happy marriages. Following the death of our spouses, we met again in 2008 at Homecoming after 56 years. We both believe the Lord had a hand in bringing us together again, giving us a second chance to love and be loved in the bond of marriage. Our desire is to keep the Lord at the center of our marriage, honoring and serving Him each and every day.*

~ Don and Martha

(Lizena Davis Powell, continued)

**Lawrence** and **Mary Elizabeth**. Robert ran the Central Service Station in Berea and then became the Standard Oil Company agent there. I have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

I live at a residential care facility in Santa Maria, California, near my son, James Lawrence. He and Beth both graduated from Berea. I have often wondered what path my life would have taken without Oneida. I am so glad that I did not have to find that out and I am eternally grateful to the Oneida Baptist Institute. With OBI and Berea College for my education, I was as well prepared as anybody could be. ■



On October 25, 2008 **Ruby Baker** celebrated her 95th birthday with family and friends at the Holiday Inn in Louisville. The dinner was hosted by her son, **Roy Baker** ('50) and daughter, **Brenda Farrell** ('60). Ruby and her husband, **Preston Baker**, were associated with the school all their lives. Ruby worked with the girls and was Food Service Supervisor for many years. She has known all 10 OBI presidents.

#### IN MEMORIAM 2008

Ray Brownfield - former staff  
 Virgil Butler - former teacher  
 Clay Davidson - former staff  
 Neal Pauline - former staff  
 Elizabeth Saldaris - former staff  
 Ralph Wilson - former staff  
 Steve Bowling Jr.-former student  
 Henry Hensley - former student  
 Regina McClurg-former student  
 Frank Nolan-former student  
 Gusta Rowlett '37  
 Nancy Webb Bowling '39  
 Grace Bowling Coe '40  
 Charles Treadway '41  
 Georgia Reed Ives '43  
 Grace Samples Cox '44  
 Olza Gay Fox '45  
 Minnie Webb Banks '47  
 Rudolph Shepherd '47  
 Lucy Baker Frost '53  
 Majorie Combs Bowling '55  
 Norma Dennington Pierce '56  
 Floyd Townsend '57  
 Clifford Britton '58  
 Bill Roberts '62  
 Harold G. Hacker '66  
 Barbara Gooch '74  
 Mark Mohedano '85  
 Sam Payne '90 (died in 1995)

Dear Friends,

Homecoming 2008 is now history but will long be remembered as an outstanding event. We were so pleased with the turnout--445 registered. **Barkley's** mother, **Evelyn Moore**, his sister and brother-in-law, **Gloria** and **Ronald Bowling**, and their children, **Will** and **Veronica**, were all present to unveil his portrait. Twelve of Barkley's classmates were here from the class of 1958 to celebrate their 50th anniversary. **Linda Whitt Glovak**, **Carolyn Kelly** and **Gail Burns Young** had all written letters encouraging members of their class to attend.

We've already begun work on Homecoming 2009. The class of 1959 will celebrate their 50th anniversary at Homecoming on June 27, 2009. We will be unveiling a portrait of Oneida's fourth president, **Charles Goins**, at Homecoming this year. **Charlie Goins**, a grandson, who owns the Rawling & Goins Plumbing and Electrical store in Manchester, loaned me a picture of his grandfather to be used as a model for the oil painting. Malick's Art Studio in Lexington has been doing the oil portraits of all our presidents.

As usual in January, I am including a list of OBI alumni, former students, and former staff members who died this past year. If I have missed someone, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Webb Cooke '60 OBI Alumni Director

Phone: (606) 847-4111, ext. 268

Email: myrtlewebbcooke@yahoo.com

#### ALUMNI NOTES

- **Betty Barger Pace** '59, Winchester, Ky. was a Kentucky delegate to the Democratic Convention in Denver, Colorado in September 2008.
- **Frank "Stormy" Burns** '60, Leesburg, Fla. would like to know if anyone has an extra yearbook from 1952, 1954, 1956. He said he's willing to pay "top dollar." Contact him at 819 Palm Ave, Leesburg, FL, 34748.
- **Janie Bishop Campbell** '62, Wasilla, Alaska and her sister **Jean Bishop Mason** '57, Ellenton, Fla. came in October and had lunch with Bud, Kay, and me.
- **Larry Arnett** '65, Frankfort, Ky. accepted a job as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources. He wrote, "I look forward to serving the Commonwealth again and extending my public service career."
- **John and Hannah Sanderson**, former OBI teachers, have retired and moved from Vermont to Bardstown, Ky. to be near Hannah's mother.
- **Joel Lee Rackley** '83, Gladys, Va., along with his family, attended **Jerry Smith's** retirement dinner last April. He e-mailed, "We really enjoyed our visit; I felt like I came home...I am finishing my undergraduate degree at Liberty University this year and hope to start my masters degree next year."
- **Jerry Smith**, retired OBI teacher, had a stroke in August 2008. He is currently recovering at the Laurel Creek Health Center.
- **Greg Roberts/Peters** '90, Lexington, Ky. wrote on OBI's Yahoo board, "When my family and everyone else had written me off, Oneida was there for me and became my family. I know God today because of Oneida and I will always be grateful for the faculty and staff who gave up much of their personal time to give me a chance to experience love and an education. Thanks to all."
- **Chris Smith** '97, London, Ky. also wrote on Yahoo, "I am now married and have a stepdaughter and a son on the way. My wife's name is **Virginia**. I'm working as an over the road truck driver...I would like to add my sentiments to what Mr. Peters said. Thank you faculty and staff..."
- **Sean Godbold** '99 and **Laura Beth Hasty Godbold** '98, Prestonsburg, Ky. attended Homecoming 2008 with their son, **Samuel David**, born April 3, 2008.
- **Robert Nutter** '04 and **Savannah Hay Nutter** '05, Somerset, KY are the proud parents of **Lily Ann Nutter**, born Sept. 8, 2008.

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### More pictures from Homecoming 2008



Representing the class of 1968: **Ronnie Gay, Vance Garrison.**



Class of 1958: Back row--**Darrell Gay, Zeno Perry, Stanley Clem.** Front row--**Ruby Byrd Raleigh, Stella Townsend Hoog, Lora Baker, Carolyn Kelly, Carol Roberts Halliburton, Dorothy Pierson Miller, Linda Whitt Glovak, Frances Collinsworth Smith.**



**Audrey Sams Howard ('46)** getting off the shuttle bus after attending the Hymn Sing at the Oneida Baptist church.



Alumni gather in the Sparks Gym for the annual odd versus even years basketball game.



Homecoming registration on the porch of Rush Hall.