

he came to America we do not know, but Edward Hallam refers to him in 1816 as still quite a young man.³ John Braidwood seems to have been a man of education and culture, and of a kindly and genial disposition, and no doubt has ever been raised concerning his competency as a teacher of the Deaf; but unfortunately intemperate habits ruined his life, and brought to a sudden end all the enterprises with which he was connected.

Upon his arrival in America he advertised extensively that he would open a school for the Deaf in Baltimore on the first of July 1812; and Colonel William Bolling, who proposed to send his deaf son to him, advanced six hundred dollars to help him start the school. Unfortunately this had the very opposite effect: The school was never opened, and Braidwood started off on a wild course of dissipation until the money was exhausted and he landed in jail. Col. Bolling had to advance another six hundred dollars to get him out of jail; and in return for these accommodations Braidwood agreed to reside with Col. Bolling as tutor to his children for a sufficient length of time to enable the Colonel to reimburse himself for the money expended.

In October 1812 Braidwood took up his residence at Bolling Hall, Goochland County, Va.; and carried on there a little private family school for the benefit of the children of Colonel Bolling, two of whom were deaf. As long as Col. Bolling was at home he did very well; but the country was at war with Great Britain and the Colonel had to leave home for six months in charge of a troop of cavalry. Upon his return he found that Braidwood had relapsed, and had almost abandoned the school. However, after the Colonel's return his conduct improved. He succeeded in carrying on his Bolling Hall School for a total period of about two and a half years to the satisfaction of Col. Bolling, who then turned over to him the Bolling family mansion at Cobbs, near Petersburg, Va., to be used as a public school for the Deaf.