

This paper is an account of my family history on my father's side extending back to my Great great great (Ggg) Grandfather. I will probably write more about my Grandfather and the reason for this will be clear by the end of the paper.

The history of the Broaddus family in America goes back to my Gggggggg Grandfather, Edward Broaddus, who came from Wales in the late 1600's. Edward settled on Gwynn's Island in Mathew County, Virginia. In 1715 he moved to another part of Virginia and died there at the age of 70. It is believed that in our family history that the name was spelled Broadhurst, but when the change was made to the present spelling is not known. It is also thought that Edward came from a prison in Europe and had to act as an indentured servant for 7 years. After the 7 years he became free and farmed the land until his death.

My Ggg Grandfather, Andrew Jackson Broaddus, was named after the man that would later become President. He was born on January 18, 1794 in Madison County, Kentucky. On April 8, 1819 he was married to Gracery Askins, who was born on October 3, 1798 in Howard County, Missouri. Andrew's occupation was that of farming and he owned a relatively large amount of land, the actual size is not known. He was helped on the farm by his 10 children, 7 of whom were boys.

Andrew became dissatisfied with his Kentucky home and in 1826 set out for Santa Fe in a caravan with other travellers. If he found a better opportunity elsewhere he would send back for his family. He returned to Kentucky the next spring and was missing an arm. There are two accounts of his misfortune which are as follows:

"As the caravan neared the Arkansas River, the wolves pressed in closer, and the teamsters kept their rifles loaded and close at hand. One wolf, bolder than the rest, made a rush for a straggling colt, and Andy Broaddus grabbed for his rifle. The hammer jarred loose from its lock; the gun fired; and the bullet shattered Andy's arm below the elbow. The caravan stopped, and the men crowded around Andy."

"Nearing Walnut Creek, the wagon train pulled into camping formation long before sunset. Andy Broaddus was delirious. Gangrene had set into his arm; ugly spots showed nearly to his shoulder; and in his delirium he begged the men not to let him die. But the condition of the arm was so bad that none of them dared try to amputate it. Wriggling through the crowd, Kit (Carson) looked up into Captain Bent's face earnestly, and said, 'Cap'n, suh, I kin do it. I seen the doctor in Franklin do it onc't.'"

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is the
1 source?*

This account however has been thrown out in favor of another from Josiah Gregg's interpretation. There is no mention of Kit Carson and the operation was performed by three men. Andrew remained in Kentucky after that until his death on December 24, 1872. Gracey died on August 17, 1876.

Elbridge Jackson Broaddus, my Ggg Grandfather, was Andrew's seventh child, born June 19, 1835 in Kentucky. On August 6, 1861 he married Ann Chambers, also of Madison County, Kentucky.

Elbridge and his wife raised three children, one of which was a male. Elbridge became well educated and went into law. It was at this time that the United States was in the Civil War. It was very hard for everybody in the area. Kentucky was a border state and families became divided. All of Andrew's family remained loyal to the South, however, and was not split up. Neighbors became enemies though, and the times were very rough. Elbridge as well as the other Broaddus family did not become involved in the fighting-- and the family was lucky in that respect.

The family became staunch Democrats. Kentucky at that time

was trying to push Henry Clay into the Presidency, and the Broaddus family strongly supported him.

Elbridge's wife died on October 30, 1874. The problems of the war and his wife's death had a longlasting impact on Elbridge, so he moved to Chillicothe, Missouri in 1879. His three children, Joseph, Eleanor, and Tempe accompanied him. In Chillicothe, Elbridge continued his law practice and in 1897 he moved to Kansas City. In 1900 he became a judge on the Circuit Court in Kansas City, and by the time of his retirement in 1912, he had moved up to the Presiding Judge position on the Kansas City Court of Appeals. I tried to find opinions written by Elbridge but was unable to get hold of them. In 1912 he returned to Chillicothe and remained there until his death on March 24, 1918.

Eleanor and Tempe had both married and moved away from Chillicothe, leaving my Great Grandfather, Joseph, there. Joseph had been born on May 5, 1882, and married Jessie Ware on December 22, 1887. Joseph and his wife returned to Whiteside County, Illinois, for a year after their marriage and he began working as a Civil Engineer. Joseph became unhappy with Illinois and the couple moved back to Chillicothe. It was here that they gave birth to their first son and my Grandfather, James Ware Broaddus on December 14, 1889. Other children included Richard, Jerry, Joseph Ricker, Wayne Reed, and Mary Louise.

Joseph did not personally serve in any wars but his first 3 sons, James, Richard, and Jerry went to serve in World War I. Jerry was killed in action on October 14, 1918. More will be told about James' duty later on. Joseph remained in Chillicothe until his death on May 2, 1925.

Chillicothe in the early 1900's was a fairly progressive town. It had a population of about 6,000. The first cars appeared there about 1910 and three railroads served the city. The town consisted mainly of small tradesmen, as did most small towns at the time. Joseph's children all attended high school there and were taught an idea which was common back then. They came to believe that all inventions were a benefit to mankind. Joseph had seen a rapid development of transportation and the invention of the radio, and he too believed this idea. This concept was thought to be true until the Atomic Bomb, and then the turn of the century, generation began to realize that inventions could hurt mankind as well.

By the Great Depression, James had married Bessie Anderson (M-9-30-1916), Wayne Reed married Gladys Hunter (M-6-22-1932), and Mary was not yet married, and they all remained in Chillicothe except James and Bessie. The depression was not very hard on the family, at least not as hard as on others. Mary has said that "the greatest indignity of the whole thing was that of not being able to find a job."

After the depression the children that remained in Chillicothe moved. Richard went to Atlanta, Georgia, Wayne Reed to Rolla, Missouri, Mary to North Kansas City and Joseph Rucker went to Springfield, Missouri. Their mother, Jessie, remained in Chillicothe until her death on March 2, 1947.

All five of the children followed the family tradition of being staunch Democrats. They also became greatly aware of our political system and voted regularly.

My Grandfather, James Ware, graduated from the old Kansas City school of Law and was admitted to practice in 1913. While he

attended law school he worked as his Grandfather's secretary, who was then on the Court of Appeals in Kansas City. During World War I he served as a sergeant in the 83rd Infantry. After the war he returned to Jefferson City and served as the Assistant Attorney General. He then returned to Kansas City and joined a law firm. He was engaged in General Practice until his appointment to the Circuit Court in Kansas City in 1915. There he served as a trial judge until his appointment to the Jackson County Court of Appeals in 1950. In 1947, when cars were becoming more numerous after the war years, the city began to experience a traffic accident crisis. Judge Broaddus, hearing appeals from the city courts said one day that the "public has begun to drive to enforce driving ordinances," and he began a policy of more stringent penalties.

He loved to tell stories of American History, of which he was well educated in. His favorite stories were of the Civil War, Stonewall Jackson, or Andrew Jackson. He would talk for long periods about politics and the legal profession. An editorial written shortly after his death said:

"Aside from his scholarly bent, Judge Broaddus was a kindly, patient man, a judge who could be tolerant of others and see the human side of the law as well as the book of precedent and statutes. He had many friends here in and out of his profession. He was the type of person who helped make a city civilized and he influenced all of those about him."

The Judge and his wife stayed within the political lines of the family, voting strictly Democratic. He became good friends with Harry Truman as well as Stuart Symington. He died on March 13, 1973.

My father, James Anderson Broaddus, was born on November 7, 1925, the only child of his parents. He graduated from Southwest High School in Kansas City and went on to William Jewell College

there. He then went into the Navy and through the Navy attended Notre Dame and Kansas University. He never did have to go overseas during World War II and after the war he attended Kansas City Law School where he graduated in 1949. He went to Korea in 1950 and served for fourteen months. After his return from Korea he married my mother, Janet Card, on June 18, 1951. After their marriage he went to work for the Federal Reserve Bank Trust Department in Kansas City. He travelled around the country and examined other Bank's Trust Departments. After that he worked for the Missouri Highway Commission as a trial lawyer. He died in a gun accident on June 19, 1964.

My mother was born on August 14, 1927, in Gate, Oklahoma. In her younger years she experienced the migration out of Oklahoma by the people who could not make a living off the land. The dusty years were not as hard on her family and they remained in Oklahoma. She attended Oklahoma State University and later the Kansas City Art Institute where she worked on Fashion Drawing. In 1951 she married my father.

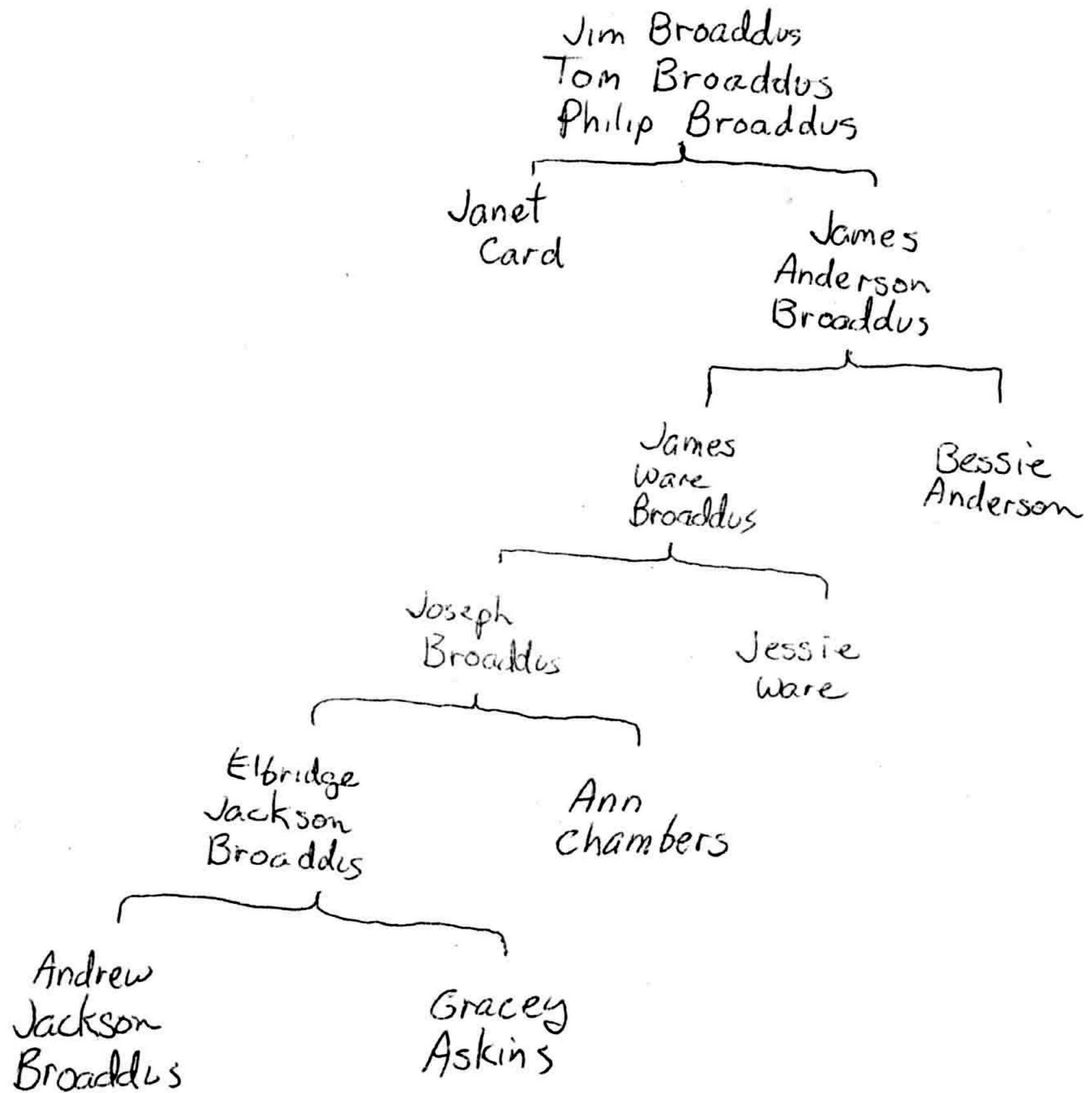
The marriage of my parents created a split in the family's voting habits. My father remained a Democrat until his death but my mother votes mainly Republican. With the breaking down of our two-party system, she has voted more for the individual rather than the party, as are many people.

Going back through the generations, it is apparent that my family has been greatly aware of political trends and been a valuable part of our American system. In the earlier years they fit in well with the American concept of life. Andrew, for instance, leaving Kentucky trying to find a better life for his family out

West. We were, as a family, not greatly affected by any major wars, except for World War I, where one of my Great-Uncles died. The depression also had little affect on my family even though we have never at any time been considered wealthy. Overall, the family has made the best of certain situations and has come out well.



Broaddus Family Tree



Backnotes

- 1 Ralph Moody, Kit Carson and the Wild Frontier, Random House - New York. pg 15-16, 1955.