

JAMES MADISON BROADWELL—A GENEALOGICAL NOTE¹

BY PHILIP D. JORDAN

On the morning of July 24, 1845, James G. Edwards,² editor of the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, second oldest newspaper in Iowa, gave notice in his paper that James M. Broadwell had purchased an interest in the *Hawk-Eye* and hereafter would be known as the junior editor. This new associate of Edwards' published his declaration of policy above the senior partner's announcement, and so began a financial alliance which had had its roots in Jacksonville, Illinois, many years earlier. Mr. Edwards, in his notice of the new editorial and financial arrangement, wrote that he had "known him [Broadwell] from his youth up," and that he had "served a faithful apprentice of seven years in this office, and is fully competent to discharge all the duties that will devolve on him as sharer in our responsibilities."³

Edwards had good reason to understand Broadwell's capabilities thoroughly, for the two had lived together as if they were blood kin and had known all the tribulations of printing a Whig newspaper, thoroughly imbued with temperance and Congregationalism, in a series of frontier communities possessing no excess of polish or culture. Despite this close and apparently congenial relationship, Edwards had rarely spoken in print of Broadwell, so that little has been known of the career and ancestry of this newspaper printer and editorial writer who labored and worked in Illinois and Iowa during the period from 1837

¹This genealogical note has been made possible only through the cooperation of the Genealogical Division of the New York Public Library; Mr. Paul M. Angle, of the Illinois State Historical Society; my good friend, Mr. Frank J. Heintz, of Jacksonville, Illinois; Dr. J. G. Ames, acting-president of Illinois College; and members of the Broadwell family, among them, Miss Hattie Broadwell, of San Francisco, Mrs. William B. Shaw, of Chandlerville, Illinois, and Mrs. Anna B. Davidson, of Merion, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Davidson generously placed the results of many years research at my disposal and for this I am, indeed, grateful. I am also indebted to my friend and colleague, Dr. Charles M. Thomas, for many suggestions and for much pertinent advice.

²*Vid. Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. Vol. XXIII, No. 3, October 1930, for Jordan's "The Life and Work of James Gardiner Edwards." Also reprinted as a separate. The pagination hereafter used will refer to the separate.

³*Ibid.*, pp. 81-82.

to 1851. Until now James Madison Broadwell has been more or less a shadowy figure, appearing only now and again in newspaper history, and remembered by Burlington residents, in the main, only as an old man with a plaid shawl wrapped about his shoulders.

James Madison Broadwell possessed an interesting background, although it seems reasonable to suppose that he knew less of his ancestry than is now well embalmed in a series of historical and genealogical studies dealing with the Morse and Lindsley families in America. He was born near the mouth of the Illinois River, in Calhoun County, on June 27, 1821, and was one of triplets, all boys and all named for presidents of the United States—James Madison, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. These were the first three children who issued from Baxter Broadwell and Mary Lindsley. Baxter Broadwell, descended from the Puritans of New England and the blue Presbyterians of New Jersey, was born at Morristown, New Jersey, in the year 1788, served in the War of 1812, taught school in or near Cincinnati for some six years, and then married, at Mount Carmel, in 1817, Mary Lindsley, descended from the famous New England family of that name. She was a native of Morristown and preserved the legend of General Washington taking communion in the old Presbyterian church there, during the heavy winter of 1779-80, only after he had been assured by the pastor that the table was the "Lord's table," and not a Presbyterian table.⁴ After their marriage, Baxter and Mary Broadwell started westward, living among the pioneers of the Little Miami valley for a time, and in 1818, the year of Illinois' entrance into the Union, arriving in Calhoun County. The trip had been made by keel boat which was then the popular mode of traveling. One story has it that they stopped somewhere along the Ohio and their three sons were born, but the evidence leads me to believe it more reasonable that the boys were born in Calhoun County sometime after the journey westward by water had been completed. However, the actual place of birth

⁴From the obituary, February 24, 1892, appearing in the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, and undoubtedly written by Dr. William Salter.

is a moot point, and later it may be established more precisely where the triplets were born. Broadwell himself seemed to think his place of birth was Calhoun County. From this county, Baxter and Mary, with their children, moved to Morgan County where the father secured a large farm near Morgan City. His death occurred in the year 1833, and Mrs. Broadwell died in 1837.⁵ Immediately upon the death of his mother, James M. Broadwell was bound in apprenticeship to James G. Edwards, then editor of the *Illinois Patriot*, at Jacksonville.

Edwards, inspired by the tales of a missionary from the West⁶ and wishing to become independent, had left Boston, where he had been engaged in the printing concern of Wells and Lilly, to establish this newspaper at Jacksonville. His sheet, devoted to the interests of the Whig party, to religion, and to temperance, was attractive apparently neither to the citizens nor to the printers who set type for him. The citizens gave the paper so little support that Edwards was willing to sell it, in the spring of 1838, to Josiah M. Lucas; the printers quit because they were given too many articles on temperance to put into type. Edwards writes a pathetic account of these troubles. An apprentice, bound to him for seven years, must not have been unwelcome to this editor harassed by pecuniary difficulties and by labor troubles. Broadwell was about sixteen years old when he began work for the not altogether flourishing Edwards. Broadwell probably received much of his typographic knowledge at a case presided over by Mrs. Edwards, for we have records that she did much of this kind of work, being a fairly skilled typesetter. Broadwell, after the failure of the *Illinois Patriot*, moved with Edwards to Fort Madison and, as a seventeen-year-old boy, assisted in printing the *Fort Madison Patriot*, the first number of which was pulled on March 24, 1838. During this time he was making his home with the Edwards' and went with them to Burlington where, on December 13, 1838, was issued the *Burlington Patriot*, the immediate demise of which is only too well known to the genealogist of the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*. Then

⁵Mrs. Shaw, in her outline, differs as to these dates, but I believe the ones here set down are correct.

⁶Jordan, *op. cit.*, pp. 9-10.

came another attempt to found a successful newspaper. The *Iowa Patriot* appeared on June 6, 1839, issued from a two-story frame house which stood at the corner of Washington and Water streets, Burlington. Here Mrs. Edwards, George Paul, George Edwards, a brother of James and once a property owner of Burlington, and Broadwell set the type.⁷ The press was run by Williamson, an Irishman. At this time Broadwell was about eighteen years of age and apparently had had no formal education whatsoever. The print shop had been his only school. Edwards' luck was changing and he was able to continue his paper, eventually altering its title to the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*. In the year 1844, at the expiration of his seven years of apprenticeship, Broadwell entered Illinois College at Jacksonville.⁸ He was a member of the same class as Dr. G. R. Henry, of whom Dr. Irving Cutter, dean of Northwestern University Medical School, has written such an interesting and informative sketch. Returning to Burlington in 1845, Broadwell, finding Edwards in need of money and faced with a loss of editorial prestige, arranged for the business alliance indicated at the beginning of this article. This relationship continued until June, 1851, the year of Edwards' death. The paper then passed into other hands. On November 16, 1853, Broadwell, then about thirty-two years of age, married Edwards' widow. Mrs. Broadwell lived until July 13, 1886, and James M. Broadwell until February 23, 1892, when he died at St. Francis Hospital in Burlington. His funeral sermon was preached by Dr. William Salter, pastor of the Congregational church and a friend of Broadwell's since 1843.

Broadwell was descended from two interesting and well-known families in America, the Lindsleys⁹ and the Morses, as well as the Broadwell strain.

Anthony Morse,¹⁰ a shoemaker, whose date of birth is un-

⁷*Ibid.*, pp. 22-23.

⁸Extract from letter of Dr. Ames to Mrs. Shaw (September 13, 1932): ". . . permit me to say that our records show that Mr. James M. Broadwell was a student at Illinois College in the year 1844-45, and that he died sometime in the early 90's." Two brothers of Broadwell, George Washington Broadwell and Norman M. Broadwell, also attended this college.

⁹Also spelled Lindley and Lindsly, but all spellings refer to the same family.
¹⁰Spooner, Walter W. (ed.), *Historic Families of America*. New York, 1907, Vol. I, p. 360; and Caldwell, Lucy Morse, *A Chapter in the Genealogy of the Morse Family*. New York, 1931, p. 5.

known, emigrated from Marlborough, England, on the ship "James," which sailed April 5, 1635. He was made a freeman of the Colony of Massachusetts on May 25, 1636. His home was in Newbury where he died, October 12, 1686, and was buried. His will is on file at Salem. His son, Robert Morse,¹¹ "Taylour," probably was born in England, but his date of coming to America is uncertain. It seems that he first settled in Boston (probably before 1644, although there is a difference of opinion here), and then in Newbury, and finally, in 1667 moved to Elizabethtown, New Jersey. He had taken the oath of allegiance on February 19, 1665. Sometime in the year 1654, he had taken Ann Lewis for his second wife. He, together with his brother and seventy-six other gentlemen, constituted the "Elizabethtown Associates," an organization formed under authority by Indian deed and a patent, granted in 1664, by Governor Richard Nicholls, of New York and New Jersey. This association claimed 500 acres between the Passaic and Raritan rivers. On September 26, 1681, he gave the deed for a tract of land on the Elizabeth River to his son-in-law, William Broadwell,¹² who had married his daughter, Mary Morse, born in Newbury, September 19, 1659.

This marriage occurred August 25, 1677. She was his second wife. By occupation Broadwell was a cordwainer, an owner of 148 acres of land near Elizabethtown, purchased October 30, 1678, as well as other lands. His sawmill was one of the landmarks of the day. He died early in 1689, and his estate was valued at £67.9.1. From this William and Mary there issued William Broadwell (1682-1746), who was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard at Elizabethtown. This William Broadwell married Jane ————— and from them issued William Broadwell (b. ?—d. ?)^{12a} who married Mary Hand, a probable descendant

¹¹Morse, Rev. Abner, *Memorial of the Morses*. Boston, 1850, p. 135; also, Morse, J. Howard, and Leavitt, Emily W., *Morse Genealogy*, p. 5; also, Lord, Henry Dutch, *Memorial of the Family of Morse*. Boston, 1896, p. 42.

¹²*Vid.* Hatfield, Rev. Edwin F., *History of Elizabeth, N. J.* New York, 1868, pp. 252-53.

^{12a}The dates of the birth and death of this William Broadwell are uncertain, but the proof of this relationship is found in the following citations kindly compiled by Edgar R. Harlan, curator of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa:

"Josiah Broadwell was born July 14, 1795, in Morris County, N. J. His father, Simeon Broadwell, was a brother to Moses Broadwell, represented in this book. A COUSIN TO MOSES AND SIMEON—BAXTER BROADWELL—was the father

from the Hands of Southampton, Long Island. This Broadwell served in the Revolution, but there does not seem to be much further information. From this William and Mary there issued Baxter Broadwell, the father of James Madison Broadwell.

Baxter, as before indicated, had married Mary Lindsley, a descendant of Francis Lindsley,¹³ brother of John Lindsley,¹⁴ who came to America about 1645, and who died in Guilford, Connecticut, about 1689. Francis Lindsley was born in 1600, came to America in 1650, settled in Newark in 1666, and died in the year 1704. It seems incredible that he should have lived to the age of 104 years, but the records do indicate this longevity. His son was John Lindsley,¹⁵ born in Newark in the year 1668 and died October 27, 1749. He wedded Elizabeth Freeman Ford sometime prior to 1742. He was a fence viewer of Morristown, New Jersey, in the years 1696-97, was constable in 1700, and an overseer of the poor in 1716. He may have had a wife

of Judge Norman M. Broadwell, of Springfield . . ."—*Sangamon County, Ill.*, by Powers, p. 142.

"Moses Broadwell was born November 14, 1764, near Elizabethtown, N. J. Jane Broadwell was born February 6, 1767, in the same neighborhood, and was Moses' second cousin. They were married November 5, 1788 . . ."—Powers' *Sangamon Co., Ill.*, p. 142.

Will of Josiah Broadwell, in which he mentions sons, Simeon and Moses: "1774, Jan. 4. *Broadwell, Josiah*, of Morristown, Morris Co.; will of. Wife, Sarah, 50 pounds out of personal estate, and the use of my plantation, and the interest of such part of my estate as I give to my daughters, Chloe and Esther, till they are 18. Sons, Hezekiah, Samuel and SIMEON, plantation where I live. Sons, Moses and Jacob, 100 pounds each, when they are 21. My forge may be sold. Daughter, Mary, 10 pounds. Daughters, Chloe and Esther, 50 pounds each. Executors—friend, Capt. Samuel Mills, Timothy Mills, Jr., Ezekial Cheever. Proved Feb. 2, 1774. Lib. L, p. 102"—*New Jersey Colonial Documents*, 1st series, v. 34, p. 66.

Baxter Broadwell's parents were William and Mary Hand Broadwell. And since Baxter was a cousin to Moses and Simeon, sons of Josiah Broadwell, William Broadwell and Josiah Broadwell were brothers.

Will of William Broadwell in which he mentions his sons, William and Josiah: "1745, May 9. *BROADWELL, WILLIAM*, of Elizabeth Town, Essex Co.; will of. Wife, Jane, plantation at Connecticut Farms. Sons—*JOSIAH, WILLIAM* and Henry, all under age. Daughters—Mary Darling, Susannah Day, Jane, Ann, and Hester Broadwell, last three under age. Saw mill on and near Pissaick River in Essex and Morris Counties; land in Morris Co.; land in Elizabeth Town, joining lands of Benjamin Trotter, Nath'l Bonnell, Peter Willcock, John Magee, Jonathan Allen and John Chandler. Executors—sons Josiah and William. Witnesses—Jeremiah Ludlam, William Jones, John Pierson. Proved March 29, 1745. Lib. D, p. 372"—*New Jersey Colonial Documents*, 1st series, vol. 30, p. 62. (Note—date at beginning of will is later than date when proved.)

¹³The best treatment of the Lindsley family is to be found in Lindly, John M., *History of the Lindley Family in America*. Winfield, Iowa, 1925, Vols. I and II.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, Vol. I is devoted to John Lindsley and his descendants.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 189 *et seq.*

previous to his marriage to Elizabeth Ford. However, there issued from this John and Elizabeth a son, Daniel Lindsley,¹⁶ born in Morristown in the year 1700 and dying August 14, 1777. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church of Morristown as early as July 5, 1754. In the year 1769 it is recorded that he gave £3 to further the endowment of the College of New Jersey. In 1740 he was one of the two surveyors of the highways. In 1733 he was married to Grace Kitchell who died September 12, 1777, aged sixty-eight years and six months. The bill of mortality gives the cause of both deaths as dysentery.

From this Daniel and Grace there issued Joseph Lindsley,¹⁷ born in Morristown on June 7, 1736, and dying on October 8, 1822. Joseph was one of the leading men in Morris County, New Jersey, a major of the militia and a captain of engineers in the Revolutionary War, an elder in the First Presbyterian church, a head carpenter, and a powder maker. In the opinion of some students his eyesight was impaired in an accident occurring in Ford's powder mill, a mill erected between May 11 and June 10, 1776, and credited with making much of the powder used in the Revolution. It is known that the provincial government loaned Colonel Ford, the owner of the mill, £2,000, without interest, to help defray the building expenses. Lindsley was wedded to Mary Gardiner, of Morristown, on November 1, 1781. She was born in the year 1750 and died April 4, 1828. From this Joseph and Mary there issued Mary Lindsley, born February 20, 1789, the wife of Baxter Broadwell and the mother of James Madison Broadwell.

It is unfortunate that the Broadwell genealogy cannot be worked out more completely, but the information we do possess gives us a fair knowledge of James Madison Broadwell's ancestry; at least, this sketch may serve as an introductory note for a more intensive and exhaustive examination than I have been able to make. Of one thing we now are certain—this asso-

¹⁶*Ibid.*, Vol. I, pp. 71; 101-2.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, Vol. I, pp. 183-200.

ciate of Edwards' is no longer a newspaper editor whose background has not been worked out to some degree.

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Morse-Broadwell-Lindsley Chart

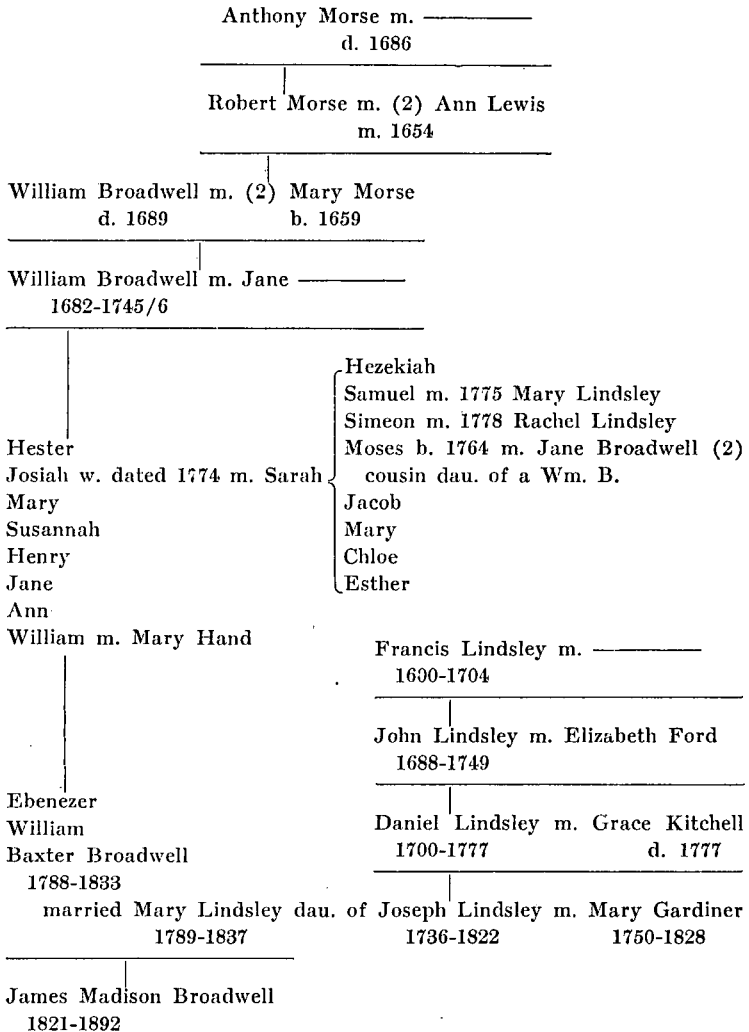


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