

The Life & Times of
John Vance
Todd and Christian Counties, Ky.
1801-1834

Celeste Coleman Steger

JAN. 1988

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Sent to VFA by
B. H. Coleman
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(bro. of sister)

Searching for David Vance

We had always been told that John Vance's father was a Scotchman who fought in the Revolution, David Vance. In this research we start with the known and work backward, so I visited the court house in Knoxville, Tenn. hoping to find papers that would help with the Vance story. The court house officials told me that the old papers had been placed in the Lawson McGhee Library. The library told me that they were in the court house. (The court house was a new building and the papers had been recently moved.) However, in the geneological files in the library I did find papers where my father had been made chairman of a committee to find the father of John Vance. Someone had left a list of David Vance's children, but there was no source given. To be sure we must verify. I left in frustration.

There were five David Vances, heads of families in the North Carolina 1790 census and one in upper South Carolina. Some of the old books here in Kentucky said John and Martha were born in South Carolina. Father always said Mecklenburg, N.C. Since county lines were in a state of flux both had to be checked. I was fortunate in having a good researcher in South Carolina who found in the court house in Charlotte, N.C. a quit deed signed by all of David and Ruth's children. David Vance died intestate. The quit deed was signed Dec. 5, 1800. Our John's name was on it, his sister, Jane Thompson and her husband Gideon, on it too. They, I knew lived in Kentucky. John was married and living in Knox County Tennessee. His

document reads: "State of Tennessee"

"Be it remembered that on the third day of June 1800 before me in the county of Roane one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity for the State, personally appeared before me John Vance and in my presence signed and sealed the deed of quit claim and acknowledged to be his act as one of the heirs of David Vance dec't. late of Mecklenburg County North Carolina...under my hand in Knox County Tennessee... the year of above - Archibald Roane."

My brother Robert Coleman, his wife Doris, and I visited Charlotte, N.C. and there we found the graves of John's father and some of his children. It is in the well kept and beautiful old Steele Creek Cemetery. There is no grave stone of Ruth, wife of David Vance. It may have been that she went to live with grown children after the death of her husband, or she could have remarried. I just do not know. Neither do I know her maiden name. But I do know she was loved for her name has been brought down through the generations. Her son John named a daughter Ruth Wilson, and we named a daughter Ruth Vance. She left a loving memory. The children of David and Ruth Vance show the same fairness to their mother and the under age children that John was to show in his own will.

The quit deed is difficult to read, but the names are the same as those found in the geneological file in Knoxville, Tennessee, with the exception of Jane Vance Thompson whose name was left out in Knoxville.

The quit deed found in the County Court records of

Mecklenburg, N.C. Book 18, p. 135, June 3, 1801.

"James Vance, John Vance, David Vance, John Wilson, Martha (Vance) Wilson, Gideon Thompson, his wife Jane, David Abernathy and his wife Ruth, all formerly of the county of Mecklenburg, State of North Carolina, all heirs of David Vance dec'd with William and Samuel Vance heirs of David Vance dec'd - that for and in consideration...of money and moveable property both hath been given to us from time to time, before and at our marriages by David Vance, dec'd and at his death paid to us by Ruth Vance his widow and administrator, amounting in general to between two and six hundred silver dollars paid to each of us above named and acknowledge ourselves entirely satisfied... as to the full part and share of the estate...and do forever for himself and his heirs,...renounce any claim to the estate of David Vance."

There is a description of the home place, apparently 310 acres. The land was to go to William and Samuel (their brothers) except for the dower portion of their mother Ruth Vance for her lifetime. It is signed by

James Vance (seal)
David Vance (seal)
David Abernathy (seal)
Ruth Abernathy (seal)
John Wilson (seal)
Martha Wilson (seal)
Gideon Thompson (seal)
Jane Thompson (seal)
John Vance, June 3, 1801.

Witnesses were William Wilson, James Carothers, Wm. McRee. James Carothers was a son-in-law of David Vance. His wife Mary Vance had died, age 21.

There is another child alive at this time, Robert D. Vance. He is not mentioned in the list in Knoxville, or on the quit deed, nor on the list of Mr. Davis L. McWhorter of Bethel, N.C. found in the library in Charlotte, N.C. Robert is mentioned in his nephew's will. The nephew is the son of William Vance. He left a tombstone to be placed at "father William and brother Robert B. Vance and at my own head." Feb. Court 1817. Robert is buried in the family graveyard. He died 8-13-1825 aged 48. He ^{was age 76} is evidently a twin of William. I wonder why he was not mentioned. He could have been injured at birth... or simply wanted no part of the quit deed or none of these things. He is buried in the Vance plot, August 13, 1825,

Mr. McDavis L. McWhorter's list of the children of Ruth and David Vance came from a direct descendant (unnamed). It gives their birth dates. They are the same as those in the Vance Bible, where listed -

1. Mary Vance - 1764-9-22, 1785. Married James Carothers, buried Steele Creek Cemetery. Her husband was a witness to the quit deed. He was tax accessor in 1774 and 1781. Poor Mary to have died so young. James Carothers was active in the Revolution.

2. James - born 1767. Married Polly Barnett. This is the James who was early in Christian County. There were other Barnetts here also.

3. John, born 1769. This is the same date found in the Vance family Bible.

4. Martha, born 1771. Married John Wilson. This was

the John Wilson who was appointed the guardian of Samuel Vance. Bondsman was Wm. McRee, also a kinsman.

5. Jane, born 1772. Married Gideon Thompson - Marriage Book 1783, 1816. Mecklenburg Co. Janie Vance. Married 8th Jan. 1793. John Vance bondsman, Isaac Alexander witness. They also came into Todd and Christian County.

6. Ruth, born 1774. Married David Abernathy. Their names are on the quit deed.

7. David Jr., born 1777 - died 1827. Married 1801, 18th March. Katherine Penny. He is buried in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church yard. Feb. 13, 1827, age 50 years. Katherine Penny died Sept. 7th 1825, age 43. Possibly others in the cemetery are their children.

8. Robert, born 1777 - died 1825. Apparently he was a twin of David Junior.

9. William, born 1785 - died 25 Feb. 1817. He married Rachold McRee who was the daughter of Robert McRee. Bondsman Thomas McRee. Marriage book 1783, 1868.

10. Samuel, who was fifteen at his father's death, born 6 July, 1785. Married 9 July 1807, Elizabeth Rochell. ~~Rochell~~

11. Ruth, age 1 year - died 4-13-1779. She has a small stone in the same plot as her father and the other members of the family.

There are two Ruths in this family. Baby Ruth was no doubt named late and for her five year old sister who loved her.

David Vance's tombstone is carved with the Davis coat of arms which indicates that his mother was a Davis and a sister

43

of Mary Davis McDowell and old David Davis and Joseph Davis of the general area. The Steele Creek cemetery is surrounded by a rock wall. Within the wall are very old tombstones hand hewn from nearby rock. Some, as David Vance's, contain the family coat of arms. David Vance's coat of arms is almost identical to John McDowell's, differing only with the motto. David Vances says, "Sola Juyat Virto;" John McDowell's, "Vivit Postpumera Virtus." Joseph Davis' has instead of the two lions, animals that could be hunting dogs, or deer without horns. His motto, "Robitas Verus Honos." Some researchers think he is the father of Ruth Vance. All the carving is crudely worked.

David Vance's tombstone says, "Sacred to the Memory of David Vance who died Feb. 28th 1800 aged 64 years."

"Hark from the tombs doleful sounds
My ears attend the cry,
Ye living men come view the ground
Where some dy you must ly."

"This monument is erected by the faithful partner of his life and affection."

In the same plot lies his grandson James L. Vance age 23.
Nov. 20, 1832.

His daughter-in-law, Rachold (McRee) Vance, age 32.
March 18, 1815, wife of William Vance.

Ruth Vance age 1 year, April 13, 1779.

William Vance age 32, Feb. 25, 1817.

Robert D. Vance age 48, 8-13-1825.

William Vance left a will, Feb. court 1817 in which he

names his sons, Robert David Vance and his son, James Lafayette Vance, to be bound so as to learn a good trade. When of age they were to have their estate. Their mother was dead, too. Mr. McWhorter says the children were reared by the Campbells, relatives.

Witness Thomas B. Smith and Martha Wilson, his sister. His son, James Lafayette Vance died at 23 years of age. Nov. 6, 1832. In the November term of court, 1832 it was recorded. He died single. A codicil, some date and witnesses, gave a negro girl to cousin Harriet B. Yates and provided for "three tombstones to be placed at father William and brother Robert B. Vance and my own head."

Robert would be a brother of William Vance and a twin of David Vance, Jr. It could not be James Lafayette's brother because of the age differences.

Mr. McWhorter also gave the abstract of the will of James L. (Lafayette) Vance - Died 6 Nov. 1832, single, Nov. term 1832. The plantation to be sold and proceeds divided between Aunt Marguaret Spratt and Uncle James F. McRee. (child of old Robt. McRee) various slaves and money to all cousins, Jane C. Campbell, Harriet Yates, William I or J. Campbell, John D. Campbell, Andrew Campbell, Robert M. Campbell, Robert R. Taylor, John D. Smith, Margaret T. Walker. Balance equally divided between three cousins, Mary M. Campbell, Jane Campbell, and Harriet B. Yates.

From the Estate File of David Vance. Inventory report May 20, 1800 \$1381.05 - Commission - Robert McRee, James

Carothers, Daniel McRee, John Neely. True copy signed by William McRee - Adm. of David Vance. (Why, Mr. McWhorter asks, would Wm. McRee be adm. unless closely related?) This was prior to 1805. Bond of William Vance son of Old David to Rachel McRee, daughter of Robert. Possibly a marriage of first cousins of old David Vance. Also Wm. McRee appointed guardian of Wm. Vance, orphan of David Vance, (20 July, 1800). Also 30 July, John Wilson appointed guardian of Samuel Vance orphan of David Vance. Bondsman Wm. McRee.

Then there is an estate of David Vance Jr., guardian of David Vance and Hezakia Vance orphans of David - D.N. McDowell. Return of property \$1,317.21 Wm. Campbell Exe.

Mr. McWhorter continues, I have a note from the Hopewell Church history that George Davis, choir leader for a long time, married a daughter of David Vance (possible David Vance, Jr.) I include all these names in case some one at a later date should be interested in Ruth's people.

The Vances lived in the hornet's nest of the Revolution. Their neighbors were all deeply involved. Some Caruthers, and Davis were involved in the gun powder plot which C.I. Hunter tells about in Sketches of Western North Carolina, originally published 1877. The "black boys" villains before the Revolution - then heroes. This book describes many of their neighbors.

Third great Grandfather David was a census taker in the state census of N.C. 1784-87.

66

The number of Souls in Capt. Vancez District: 1784

| Number of White Males 21 yrs. old to 60 yrs. | Number of White Males above 60 and under 21 yrs. | Number of Females of all ages | Number of Negroes from 12 to 50 yrs. of age | Number of Negroes un 12 and ove 50 yrs. a |
|--|---|--|--|--|
|--|---|--|--|--|

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David Vance

Their neighbor and friend was Zachius Wilson, also active in the Revolution.

A deed in Mecklenburg Co. N.C. - 1763-1779 Vol. 4 - 10 May, 1768. Robert Barnett, planter to David Vance for 25.5 Proclamation money 310 acres on each side of Catawba River on the waters of Steele Creek and Sugar Creek at Wm. Barnet's old course adjoining Robert McRee, Zaccheus Wilson including 300 acres patented by Robt. Barrnett, 26 Oct. 1767, and including where David Vance dwells...

There was 103 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres on the branch of Turkey Creek. (This land is today in present York Co., South Carolina.) The deed is found in Tryon Co., N.C. This land was sold 22 April, 1774.

In the neighborhood, too, lived the Davidsons, all active

in the war. I intended to make a separate study of Martha Davidson Vance's family, but I am seventy four; I have yet to complete the study of the Chesnut, Cherry, Coleman, and related branches. Let me repeat the legend grandmother Sarah Ellen Chesnut Coleman wrote for her son, Robert Newman Coleman, my father, about 1920.

Martha Davidson's father was John Davidson. He lived for a time with the Indians and spoke their language. He and his wife adopted two Indian boys, some said they were his children, but we do not know. They had a tavern which stood until after the Civil War when it burned. Her father was one of the first congressmen in North Carolina. While he was there a Mr. McClain spit in his face. Martha's father knocked his teeth out.

There are several John Davidsons, two in the immediate area, one the merchant, one the signer of the Mecklenburg dec. of Independence. Both had large families. Both had married a Wilson - (Three of John's children were named Wilson).

Martha married in Knox County Tennessee. Her people could have been dead by then and she may have moved with her brother, or brothers. Both Samuel and William Davidson were in Knox Co. Tn. Another name given by Sarah Ellen Chesnut was that one of Martha Davidson's sisters had married a Mr. Hall who moved to Knox County, and that one of her parents lived with them in their old age. I leave these statements to help, or confuse, any researcher who is interested.

Three David Vances Who
Fought in the Revolution

It is the family tradition that our David Vance "the Scotchman" fought in the Revolution. It is repealed in Kentucky, A History of the State, Edition I. op. cit.

Since there were several David Vances who fought in the Revolution we can by the process of elimination find our David Vance. Three of them are listed in records in the Department of Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Revolutionary War Records.

Our David Vance's records are less colorful than the other two. It is not surprising that he did fight in the Revolution. His neighbors were all deeply involved; their children inter-married so there must have been a deep commitment there. The Wilsons, Davidsons, McRees, the Abernathys, Barnetts were all relatives and sons or daughters-in-law. His brother-in-law's family the McDowell's were also close neighbors and fought in this war.

Our David was listed as a 1st Lt. 2 North Carolina Regt. The record from General Services states:

V 2 N.C. V 5 N.C.

David Vance - appears with the rank of 1st Lieut. on list of officers that served in 2nd. N. Carolina Battalion since Jan. 1777.

Listed dated

Not dated.

Date commiss. not given.

Remarks: Sent to Carolina agreeable to arrangement.

T.M. Weaver,
copiest.

David Vance Pt. Williams Co. 5th N.C. Reg. Revolutionary War.

Copied from Rolls of the organization above.

Date of enlistment, 29 April 1776.

Term: 2½ years

Casualties -

Discharge 10 Nov. 1778.

Vol. 6, page 65
Feoster,
copiest.

8968+69
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Notes on John Vance Family

Marriage Bonds, Todd Co., Ky. Books A and B.

1. "William D. Massana Vance and Martha Gillum according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. Dec. 28, 1826.
Wm. Stewart recorded 4, Jan. 1826 - Book A, p. 24.

2. David W. Vance -

"I certify that on the 7th day of December I married David W. Vance and Lucinda Mann according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church.

Legally authorized Wm. K. Steward. Age of bride - consent - Book A, p. 30.

3. Andrew Vance - recorded 4, Feb. 1827. "I do hereby certify that on 22, Nov. 1827 I married Andrew Vance and Mary R. Sherman according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. Book A, p. 40. W.K. Steward

4. Ruth Wilson Vance, my great grandmother, married John Chesnut 1836. Returned Jan. 20, 1840. They were married by T. Bone, a justice of peace, Book A, p. 120.

John Chesnut was a widower who had married Sally Maben 4, Oct. 1821.

The Federal Census - 1850.

- 1. Gus Vance - age 23,
Letha " 19,
Unnamed child. Female - Born in Ky.
- 2. Massana Vance - age 30,
Susan " 22,
Napoleon 1 year.

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the
Hop

home
Book
\$15
4,
Milt
Vance
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| | |
|---|-------|
| 3. Milton Vance, born in N.C. - age 38, | |
| Eliza Vance, born in Ky. | " 39, |
| John | 13, |
| Sarah | 10, |
| Anne | 10, |
| Newton | 8, |
| Mary | 6, |
| Augustus | 4, |
| Sam | 1, |
| Jane | 28. |

Jane lived with her sister all of her life. She did not marry. Grandmother Sarah Ellen's album of the Vance family came to me. In it are the twin daughters of Eliza and Milton Vance, Agnes and Minnie. Prim little girls, they are. Not too happy to have their picture made.

The Chester Vance Bible

In October of 1923, my father wrote to Mr. Chester M. Vance of Paducah, Kentucky asking for information from the Vance family Bible. Mr. Chester Vance was a descendant of Eliza Vance and Milton Vance. Other Bible records were sent to Mr. Davis McWhorter by another unnamed descendant of David and Ruth Vance. There are slight differences; ink fades and the writing is difficult to read. The double s'es are often mistaken for a p or an f -- Miss was written Mip.

This is the list Mr. Chester Vance sent from the Vance family Bible. The most obvious mistake that Mr. Vance has made in his letter is that Milton Vance was a brother of John Vance. John Vance was born 1770, Milton was born 1813. David

Vance, John's father died 1800. Eliza D. is listed in John Vance's will as his daughter. Sarah Ellen Chestnut, my grandmother, said Milton Vance was a cousin of Eliza Davidson Vance. He was born in N. C. She was probably right. Cousin marriages were very common.

Birth Dates in the Vance Bible

owned by Chester M. Vance of Paducah, Ky.

| | Day | Month | Year |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| 1. John Vance born | 5th | June | 1770 |
| 2. Martha Davidson Vance | 17th | March | 1780 |
| 3. Milton W. Vance | 12th | Sept. | 1813 |
| 4. Samuel Vance | 5th | July | 1780 |
| This Samuel is John Vance's brother | | | |

The children born of John and Martha Vance:

| | Day | Month | Year |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| 1. David Wilson Vance | 11th | Dec. | 1801 |
| 2. William Davidson Vance | 17th | Dec. | 1803 |
| 3. Samuel Vance | 14th | March | 1805 |
| 4. John Vance | 5th | April | 1807 |
| 5. Eliza Davidson Vance | 4th | Jan. | 1809 |
| 6. James Vance | 17th | Oct. | 1810 |
| 7. Ruth (Wilson) Vance | 7th | Nov. | 1812 |
| 8. Andrew Vance | 4th | June | 1814 |
| 9. Jane Vance | 17th | Feb. | 1816 |
| 10. Massena Vance | 25th | April | 1818 |
| 11. Martha Ann Vance | 26th | Feb. | 1822 |
| 12. Pleasant Augustus Hazelwood Vance | 21st | July | 1824 |

| Deaths | Day | Month | Year |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| John Vance Sr. | 13th | Nov. | 1834 |
| Martha (Davidson) Vance | 22nd | Oct. | 1834 |
| Samuel Vance (a brother of John Sr.) | 10th | April | 1836 |
| Samuel Vance | 13th | Oct. | 1826 |
| James Vance | 20th | May | 1826 |
| David Wilson Vance | 18th | May | 1876 |
| Martha Ann Vance | 19th | May | 1827 |

Martha Ann's death is obviously a misreading. She witnessed the sale of land from Andrew Vance to John Vance, 10, July 1848. Andrew sold this part of his father's estate for \$882. Martha Ann was also mentioned in her father's will and other estate papers.

Todd County Census 1820.

John Vance family was listed as having:

Age

- 1 male 45+
- 1 female 45-
- 3 boys under 10.
- 3 girls under 10.
- 3 boys from 10 to 16.
- 1 girl from 10 to 16.
- 2 boys from 18 to 26.

After 1820 there were four other children born.

Date of Marriage on John Vance and Martha Davidson, Knox County, Tennessee

March 4, 1799. Bondsman Samuel Davidson.

1
Witnessed by Andrew White.

License, March - Knox County, Tennessee, Vol. 6.

Our grandmother Ruth Wilson Vance Chesnut died Jan. 1, 1873 and is buried on the Trabue farm, Todd County which was then the home of her husband John Chesnut. This is the old Hopewell Presbyterian Church graveyard.

Ruth Vance's tombstone says:

"Ruth Chesnut

born

Nov. 7 - 1812

died Jan. 1, 1873

She was a tender mother here

All her life the Lord did fear

We trust that our loss will be her gain

And that with Christ she has gone to reign."

Her husband's tombstone says:

"John Chesnut Senior

Was born 25th of July 1796

And died Ja 22, 1873."

Milton Vance and Eliza D. Vance, his wife lived on the homeplace until they sold land to Elijah G. Sebree. Deed Book V - p. 397. December 25, 1852. The land was sold for \$15 an acre. Lodged for the record. Jan. 14, 1853. On Jan. 14, certified before Will H. Wells "to be the act and deed of Milton W. Vance."

This is copied from the abstract of our farm. Milton W. Vance apparently died about this time. Either in December of 1852, or early 1853.

The Boring Berats

What child does not close his hearing when the old folks start to explain the family tree? I still feel that way, but sometimes it is necessary in order to find our own place in the long line of descent.

I start with my own immediate family as I have in the first chapter. I list my own children and those of my brother and sister, should they care to go from there it will be easy to do so.

A star marks our direct line of descent through the Vances.

My father was:

*Robert Newman Coleman

born Allensville, Ky. Feb. 25, 1878

died Huntsville, Ala. Dec. 19, 1945.

He was married in Russellville, Ky. June 9, 1909 to Mary Martha Cherry who was born in Ky. April 13, 1886. She died in Huntsville, Ala. Oct. 5, 1957.

Their children:

I. *Robert Howard Coleman born April 13, 1910 in New Market, Ala. He married Doris Whittinghill who was born in Louisville, Ky. March ³13, 1918.

Their children:

1. *Robert Newman Coleman b. Nov. 18, 1942.

2. *Doris Lyndell Coleman b. Aug. 17, 1948.

3. *David Coleman b. Dec. 22, 1954.

II. *Catherine Celeste Coleman born Jan. 13, 1912, married John Charles Steger May 17, 1935.

Their children:

1. *Mary Cherry Steger b. Sept. 23, 1937.
2. *Marguerite Steger b. July 28, 1939.
3. *Ruth Vance Steger b. Feb. 23, 1943.
4. *Carolyn Steger b. April 18, 1948.

All born Huntsville, Alabama.

III. *Elizabeth Cherry Coleman b. August 10, 1915.

Married Major Hubert Cornelius Payne, Jan. 2, 1943, College Hill, Ky.

Their children:

1. *Almon Elizabeth Payne b. Aug 10, 1945.
2. *Lane Alison Payne b. March 6, 1948.

My father's mother was:

*Sarah Ellen Chestnut married Robert Henry Williamson Coleman Feb. 18, 1873 in Todd County, Ky. Robert Henry W. Coleman was born July 24, 1840, Dinwiddie Co., Va. He died near Allensville, Ky. Jan. 3, 1922.

*Sarah Ellen Chestnut was born in Todd Co. Ky. Feb. 6, 1851. She died July 11, 1925, Todd Co. Ky.

Their children:

1. *Robert Newman Coleman b. Feb. 5, 1878, died Dec. 19, 1945, Huntsville, Ala.
2. Lella Ruth Coleman b. Jan. 25, 1874, died June 30, 1923. Married Pleasant Bagwell, no children.
3. Nora Coleman b. Sept. 5, 1880, Allensville, Ky. Married James Bagwell, no children.

This is as good a place as any to tell you of Sarah Ellen Chestnut as I remember her. Remember, too, that our

being is always an individual thing, and colored by their response to us.

Sarah Ellen Chesnut was very much the lady, liking to wear her silk dress "even if I am old I like to look nice". There was a time when she cut up her bright blue second day dress to make dresses for her two small daughters. I have part of that dress upstairs in the brass bound chest that Father made the first year he was married. She wore her gold earrings, and loved her son, Robert Newman and his son, Robert Howard Coleman, but cared little for her two daughters, Nora and Lella, neither did she care for me. My sister she liked better, for people said they were look alike. She thought of her daughters, not as women in their own right, but as someone to care for her and to cater to her wishes.

She was small and dark with a hooked nose, delicately made. She had great pride in her small feet.

Her home was always clean, the bed linens with lace, home-made, and the food delicious.

The yard of her home was shaded with tall maple trees with rings of white mussel shells around their base. She had a large flower garden by the side of the house. I still remember the scent of her clover pinks, but children were not allowed there. This was in contrast to mother's mother, Celeste White Cherry. She also had many flowers, and if a child wanted a garden of his own, he was given it. Should he plant a grain of corn in the petunia bed, the corn was admired as much as the petunias.

Grandmother Sarah Ellen also had a flower pit where her tender plants spent the winter, most especially her roses. Pres

I doubt whether her children had an easy time growing up. fire

She was Presbyterian all of her days. She married a Metho-ther
dist, and attended the Allensville Methodist Church all of her
married life, but Presbyterian she remained. and

Sarah Ellen Chesnut's mother was Ruth Wilson Vance who In
married John Chesnut. are

The children of John Chesnut and *Ruth Wilson Vance.
Married June 13, 1836, returned to court 1840. T. Bone Justice
of Peace, Book A, p. 120 Todd Co. Ky.

- 1. John William A. Chesnut b. May 6, 1837, d. Dec. 18, 1857
- 2. James Augustus Chesnut b. May 7, 1837.
- 3. Samuel Massena Chesnut b. March 24, 1842, d. Aug. 9, 186
- 4. Marion Franklin Chesnut b. Feb. 23, 1844, d. May 8, 1910
- 5. Martin Luther Chesnut b. July 25, 1846, d. Nov. 9, 1904
- 6. Underwood Porter Chesnut b. May 2, 1848.
- 7. *Sarah Ellen Chesnut b. Feb. 6, 1851, d. July 11, 1925.
- 8. Margaret Jane Chesnut b. June 20, 1854, d. April 28, 18

The census of Todd Co. lists a twin of Martin Luther age
5, whose name was John W.

These names were taken from the Coleman family Bible pub-
lished 1869.

John Chesnut was a widower who had married Sally Maben.
They had three children. They are not listed here since they
are not in the Vance line.

Ruth Wilson Vance Chesnut is buried in the Old Hopewell

Presbyterian Church yard. The deed for this church was the first recorded in the new Todd County. There was also a school there.

*Ruth Wilson Vance's (Chesnut) parents were John Vance and Martha Davidson. Their children are listed in the notes. In the same way John Vance Sr.'s parents and their children are listed in the text.

THE VANCE FAMILY

OF
AMERICA

PARTICULARLY OF VIRGINIA AND OF
BURKE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTIES. NORTH CAROLINA

THE BRANK FAMILY

OF
NORTH CAROLINA and KENTUCKY-***

(PRISCILLA BRANK OF BURKE CO. N.C.
married COLONEL DAVID VANCE OF N.C.)

The name of Vance is maintained by family historians to have been derived from the Norman name of De Vaux, which was taken by its first bearers because of their residence at a place called Vaux, in Normandy. Other writers, however, state that the name is derived from the word usain 'Tree for a lamb', and was originally applied to 'a lamblike man'. Of these possible derivations, the former is by far the more probable.

In ancient European and early American records the name is found in its various forms as Vaux, Vaus, Vants, Vanse, Vaunce, and Vance, of which the last is the most frequently found in America in modern times.

The Lords de Vaux, of Normandy, were prominent prior to the time of the Norman conquest of England. In 1066 Hubert, Rudolph and Robert, sons of Harold DeVaux, Lord of Vaux, accompanied William the Conquerer into England. From Hubert descended the Barons Vaux of Gilliesland, which line eventually died out in the male descent; Rudolph was the ancestor of the Vaux family of Tryerayne; and Robert was the progenitor of the Lords Vaux of Harrowden, Northamptonshire.

One branch of the family removed to Scotland at an early date. Of this line it has been said 'this family combines within itself the blood of some of the most ancient names in European Genealogy, as the present representative is by paternal descent, the heir male of the Lords Vaux, Vaus, or Vans of Dirleton Castle, in East Lothian, a noble race, who were numbered among the magnates Scotia as early as 1244, who were indubitable descended from the same general stem as the three noble houses, now extinct of Vaux, of Gilliesland, of Brevor, and of Harroden, in England.'

According to some historians, Hubert de Vaux, son of Harold de Vaux, Lord Vaux of Normandy, was the father of a son named Rundolph who settled in Scotland soon after the year 1130. His son, Phillip, had great possessions in the Border countries in 1160. He married Elisabeth Comyn and was the
(Cont'd. on next page)

father of a son named John, who possessed the Barony of Dirleton. John left a son named Alexander, who was the father of Johannes or John de Vaux (Latinised Vallibus). Thomas Vaux, Lord of Dirleton and son of the last mentioned John, was one of the 65 Earls and Lords who led the Scottish Army at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333. Thomas died without issue and was succeeded by his nephew, William Vaux, who married Catherine (nee Douglas) and was the father by her of Thomas, John, and William.

Johannes or John Vans or Vaux, probably son of William and Catherine (nee Douglas) went into Wigtonshire, (otherwise Galloway) Scotland about the year 1384. Some writers believe, however, that this John was the son of Sir Andrew, son of one Sir Andrew Vaus, who was of Galloway and was slain at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. At any rate, this John Vans or Vaux married a Miss Kennedy and obtained the lands of Barnbarroch, from the Earl of Douglas. His children included Robert, Ninian, Martin and John. Of the younger sons, Ninian was Bishop of Galloway; Martin was Almoner and Confessor to King James the Third and in 1468 was sent as Ambassador to Denmark; and John was the progenitor of the family of the name at Lochalin, in Rosshire, Scotland.

Robert of Barnbarroch, eldest son of John of that place, married Lady Euphemia Graham, by whom he had issue, among others, a son, named Blaise Vans, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Shaw, and left issue by her of a son named Patrick. This Patrick Vans married Margaret Kennedy, daughter of John, Lord Kennedy, one of the Regents of Scotland, and left an only son named Alexander.

Alexander had a son named John who married Janet Kennedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassilis and had two sons, Alexander and Patrick. Of these Alexander left no issue and was succeeded by his brother. Some writers state that Alexander and Patrick were the sons of Sir John Vans, son of Patrick, son of Blaise.

In any case, Patrick, the youngest son, of John and Jane (nee Kennedy)

(Cont'd., on next page)

who married Margaret, daughter of Euchtred McDowell. Sir John was the father of Sir Patrick, who succeeded to the Barnbarroch estates and married Grisel, daughter of John Johnston, of that ilk. They were the parents of John and Alexander, of whom the first married Grisel, daughter of Sir John Mac Culloch, but died without issue. Capt. Alexander Vans, heir to the last mentioned John Vans, married Margaret Maxwell, by whom he was the father of Colonel Patrick Vans. Colonel Patrick first married Jean, daughter of Sir James Campbell, and was the father by her of Patrick and Agnes, and by his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Patrick McDowell, he probably had no issue.

One branch of the Scottish family settled in Ireland about the middle of the 17th. century. At this time, the Rev. John Vans, who is called a grandson of Sir Patrick Vans, and his wife, Margaret Kennedy, removed from Scotland to Donegal, Ireland.

The Rev. John was the grandfather of the brothers, Patrick, John, David, and James Vance, who were probably the first of the family to use this form of the name. Among the witnesses to the Will of the last mentioned Patrick, were his cousins, Thomas and Alexander Vance.

George Vance, of this family, died in the Parish of Inver, Donegal about 1711, leaving issue of John, Thomas, William George, Alexander, Hugh and Jean. The Will of this George Vance was witnessed by Hugh and James Vance, of whom the latter may have been that James who died at Drumgorman, in the same Parish, about 1737, leaving an only son named Patrick. David Vance of Drumgorman, whose Will is dated 1739, mentions his brothers, Alexander, Thomas and Patrick.

Another branch of the family in Ireland traces its descent from Joseph Vance, who was born in Wigton, Scotland about 1555 and married his cousin, Grace Vans, in 1600. He removed to County Tryonne, Ireland, shortly after that date and left issue there.

(Cont'd. on next page)

William Vance of County Tryonne, whose Will is dated 1713, is thought by some historians to have been the son of the George Vance who died in Donegal about 1711. He left four sons, John, William, Adam and James, of whom the son William was the father of John, David and William, of whom the second came to America and served under General Washington in the Revolutionary War. John, the eldest of the last mentioned brothers, is also said to have had a son named David, who came to America at an early date, as well as four other sons, William, Adam, John and James, of whom the first two followed the eldest brother to this country.

John Vance, of Coagh, Ireland, who is called a son of the first Rev. John Vans, of Donegal, was the father by his wife, a Miss Williamson, of four sons, John, James, William and Andrew. Of these, William had two sons, Ezekiel and William, who settled in the Country of Antrim, Ireland; while Andrew the youngest, emigrated to America and served in the Revolutionary War. One of the descendants of this Andrew is said to have been a member of Congress for North Carolina in 1824.

Although the direct ancestry of all of the early families of the name in America has not been definitely ascertained, it is thought probable that most, if not all, of the Vances in this country came from Ireland.

The first of the family in America was John Vans, who settled in Charles City County, Va., in 1638. In 1654, Robert, Susan, Elizabeth and Humphrey Vans, all of the same family, although the exact relationships are not in evidence, settled in York Co., Va., and in 1656 one DAVID VANCE made his home in Lancaster Co., Va. The records of these lines are not, however, complete.

James Vance, of Ireland, came to this country before 1734, and settled in the Shenandoah County, Va. He married Eliza Glass prior to his emigration and had issue by her of two sons, Samuel and William. Of these, Samuel married a Miss Rannells or Runnells, while William first married a Miss Gilkeson, who gave him a son named James. By his second wife, Sarah Colville,
(Cont'd. on next page)

Robert Johnston Vance (1854-1901) of New York and Connecticut, Journalist, Legislator and Congressman.

Hiram Albert Vance (1860-1906) of New York and Tenn., Educator and author.

James Isaac Vance (b. 1862) of Tenn. Clergyman and author.

Joseph Anderson Vance (b. 1864) of Tenn. Clergyman and author.

William Reynolds Vance (b. 1870) of Connecticut. Educator, lawyer and author.

Arthur Turner Vance (b. 1872) of Penn. and New York., Journalist, Editor and author.

Louis Joseph Vance (b. 1879) of Washington, D. C. Playright and novelist.

The Coat of Arms for the Irish Family of Vance, from which the American families of the name are descended, is described as follows: (Burke, Encyclopaedia of Heraldry 1844.

Arms: "Barry pily of eight, gules and or."

Crest: "An old man's head proper, helmet azure, garnished argent."

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David Vance of Fredericks County, Va. is thought by some historians to be another son of the immigrant James, but this is not certain; and Samuel Vance of the same county, who married Hannah Warth and had issue by her of a son named John, may have been another. David, above mentioned, made his Will about 1768, mentioning in it his children, David, John, Joseph, Mary, Ann, Martha and Jeanette of whom the son Joseph removed to Kentucky and thence to Ohio.

As early as 1739, a Charles Vance was living in Lancaster Co., Pa., and his sons were John, Alexander, and Joseph. From this line was descended Joseph, the progenitor of the family in Ohio.

A John Vance of Winchester, Va. in the early eighteenth century removed with his son, Isaac of Washington Co., Pa.

Major William Vance of Frederick Co., Va. before 1756, who was probably a member of one of the before mentioned lines, had two sons, Joseph and David and removed with them to Washington County, Pa. Another account adds that Major William resided in Augusta County, Va. as early as 1742, and was accompanied by his two brothers, John and Patrick. It also says that his nephew, John Vance, son of John, removed with him to Pennsylvania.

Captain David Vance, of North Carolina, who is believed to have been born in Frederick Co., Va. in 1745, served at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He married Priscilla Brank, by whom he had issue of Samuel, David, Robert, Jean, Eliza, Sarah, Priscilla and Celia, many of whom removed to Tennessee.

Joseph Vance (parentage unknown) of Berkeley County, Va., married Rachel Alexander about 1763. Their children were Samuel, Alexander, John, Joseph, Rachel and Jane.

A Samuel Vance or Vans is said to have removed from Scotland to Londonderry, Ireland, and thence to Winchester, Va. about 1764. By his wife, Margaret Laughlin, he was the father of John, Robert, Samuel, Andrew, David, James, Margaret, Elizabeth and Sarah, of whom Samuel settled in Tenn.

(Cont'd. on next page)

3. Rudolph de Veax, settled in Scotland
4. Philip de Veax
5. Johannes Veaux, Latin name "De Vallibus"
6. Alexander "de Vallibus"
7. Johannes "de Vallibus"
8. ----- Veaux
9. William Veaux
10. Johannes Veaux, called Vans
11. Johannes Vans, Jr., Ambassador of James II, to England
12. Robert Vans (living in 1451)
13. Blaise Vans, of estate called "Barnbarroch"
14. Patrick Vans, married Lady Kennedy, (desc. of Robert Bruce)
15. Sir Alexander Vans
16. Sir John Vans, slain in 1547 at Battle of Pinkie.
17. Sir Patrick Vans (of Barnbarroch) m. Lady Catherine Kennedy, died 1597.
18. Rev. John Vans (1617-1662) Rector in Donegal
19. Sir John Vans (died 1642), married Margaret McDowell
20. Dr. Lancelot Vans of Londonderry. Insiege of Londonderry, died 1688.
21. John Vans (Vance) of Coagh, in Eastern Tryone, Married Miss Williamson
and was a large distiller. Children: Elizabeth, ** Andrew,
Sarah, Margaret, William, David, Samuel, Robert, Joseph, John,
Patrick, James. Four of these sons are said to have married
four Colville sisters. All children came to America.

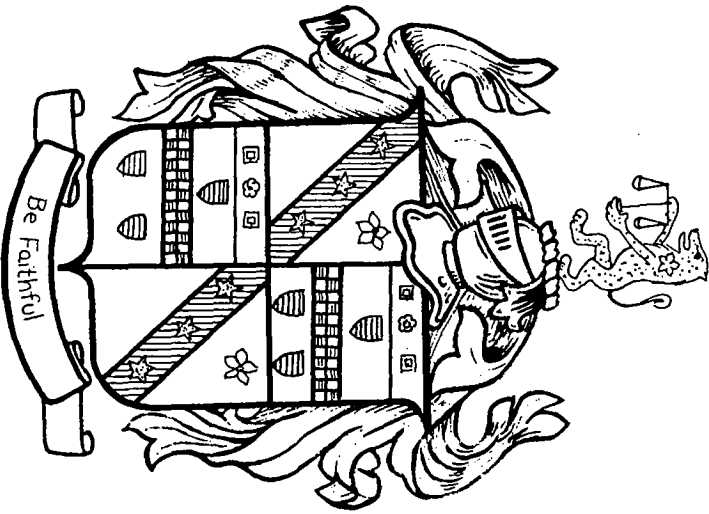
Elizabeth married Dr. Joseph Jackson of Dondonderry and their son,
Andrew Jackson, who married Elizabeth Hutchison, was father of U.S.
President Andrew Jackson.

** Andrew, father of Samuel who was father of David, later of Buncombe Co., N. C.

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Coat of Arms



Be Faithful

Historiography

The Vance Coat of Arms illustrated left was drawn by an heraldic artist from information officially recorded in ancient heraldic archives. Documentation for the Vance Coat of Arms design can be found in Burke's General Armory. Heraldic artists of old developed their own unique language to describe an individual Coat of Arms. In their language, the Arms (shield) is as follows:

"Quarterly, 1st and 4th, ar. on a bend gu. three mullets or, in a sinister chief point a cinquefoil of the second; 2nd and 3rd, vert a fess chequy ar. and az. betw. three cuirasses of the second, on a chief indented of the last a rose gu. betw. two buckles of the third."

Above the shield and helmet is the Crest which is described as:

"A lion ramp. or, gorged with a collar gu. and holding in the dexter paw a pair of balances ppr. and charged on the shoulder with a cinquefoil of the second."

When translated the blazon also describes the original colors of the Vance Arms and Crest as it appeared centuries ago.

Family mottoes are believed to have originated as battle cries in medieval times. A Motto was recorded with this Vance Coat of Arms:

"BE FAITHFUL"

Individual surnames originated for the purpose of more specific identification. The four primary sources for second names were: occupation, location, father's name, or personal characteristics. The surname Vance appears to be locational in origin, and is believed to be associated with the meaning, "one who resided near low, wet marshland." The supplementary sheet included with this report is designed to give you more information to further your understanding of the origin of names. Different spellings of the same original surname are a common occurrence. Dictionaries of surnames indicate probable spelling variations of Vance to be Vansé. Although bearers of the old and distinguished Vance name comprise a small fraction of the population there are a number who have established for it a significant place in history. They include: DR. PATRICK VANCE (1800) He was the first of the VANCE family recorded in America. He came from North Ireland, and was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. Prior to the Revolutionary War, he was a physician, and is said to have settled in Pennsylvania. From 1895, he was Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, which was the largest single congregation in his denomination. ZEBULON BAIRD VANCE (b. 1830) Senator whose grandfather, DAVID VANCE, born near Winchester, Virginia, was a prominent soldier during the attack on Ferguson at King's Mountain. This victory of the American troops was the turning point of the Revolutionary War. DAVID came to North Carolina, and settled on the French Bend River. His father, DAVID VANCE, was killed in a duel with Samuel P. Carson.

