

family Vance

(33 b.c. to 1957 a.d.)

the name “Vance”

Establishing the history of an ancient family is often best accomplished by tracing the name. Vance has progressed through history from Baux, Vaux, de Vallibus, Vans, and finally to Vance.

the barbaric Goths

Historians of France and England are reasonably certain the Vances are descendants of the Baltic Goth tribes of northern Europe. The Goth people were known to have lived on the shores of the Baltic Sea^a before the birth of Christ.

The Goths lived somewhat peacefully in their northern homes, tending their crops with the help of slaves captured in war, until about 200 a.d. when they became war-like and began to migrate south into Europe. Their history as they marched across Europe was little else than a record of barbarian slaughter and pillage.

They started war with the Roman Empire in the early 300's a.d. when they invaded Turkey and Greece. Alaric the Balthing became king of the Goths in 395 a.d. and in 410 a.d. led the Goths in a successful sacking of Rome which was a proximate cause of the fall of the Roman Empire in Italy. (It is reported by some that the Vance's are directly descended from Alaric).

Alaric was a Christian who tried to be merciful to those who were conquered. When Rome was taken he ordered that any person who took refuge in the two churches of the great apostles, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, were to be spared but his orders were ignored by his troops. Streets were heaped with the dead, while others were brutally tortured, and many slaves taken.

Alaric and his army then marched to southern Italy in an attempt to cut off supplies coming to Rome from Africa. They were caught in

a storm when they attempted to invade Sicily. Alaric became sick and died at age 35. The Goth's momentum was then stopped and many of his followers settled in Italy.

family de Baux

The Vances descend from a Baltic Goth family who overtook an ancient fortress in southern France after they were expelled from Italy. The medieval castle, Les Baux, still exists as ruins perched atop a rocky mountain ledge near Arles, France^b.

From their castle, they took the name de Baux (pronounced “dee bo”).

The first record of a de Baux is that of Gossallin who, in about 810, married



Ruins of les Baux, Arles, France
ancestral castle of family de Baux

Herriasbeuck, daughter and heiress of William, Sovereign of the Court of Orange, and niece of Bertha, wife of Emperor Charlemagne.

The de Bauxs were feudal overlords owning seventy-nine villages and towns, mostly located along the Rhone River from Marseille north to near Lyon. One author says of them “*The Princes of Les Baux were a barbaric race, ...with wild mountain blood in their veins. Their association with Christianity was certainly not of a very intimate kind. They were a blind, blood-stained race, believing in violence and retaliation as the one and only means of grace in this world and troubling themselves, till the moment of death, with very little about the next. They generally reaped as they had sown; feared, hated, and often dying deaths as terrible as those which they had inflicted on their victims.*”

It was a powerful and influential family that married into a number of kingdoms and fiefdoms of Europe. They have been Dukes of Andrea; Princes of Joinville, Taranta, and Al-

^a The Baltic Sea borders what is now northern Poland and western Russia.

^b Baux means cliffs in the original Provençal language. It could be called then the Castle of the Cliffs.

tamara; Sovereign Counts of Orange and Provence; and Kings of Vienne and Arles.

The de Bauxs also claim descendance from the Magi King, Balthazar, one of the wise men following the star to Bethlehem upon the birth of Jesus. To make sure everyone understood their relationship to Balthazar and the birth of Jesus, the de Bauxs carried the symbol of the star of Bethlehem on the arms and armor they bore in tournaments as well as in battle. It was also on their coins and in wall hangings decorating their castle. Written on the tomb of Raymond de Baux (who many think is the direct ancestor of the Vances) is, "*To the illustrious family of des Baux held to derive its origin from the ancient King of Armenia to whom under the guidance of a star, the Saviour of the world manifested himself*".



Coat of Arms of Raymond de Baux

All de Baux coats of arms have on them stars which represent the family's descendance from Balthazar, the Magi King

the Magi Kings



There were three -- Balthazar, Melchior, and Gaspar -- also known as the three wise men. The Bible, in Matthew 2:1-12, tells the story of them:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "*Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.*"

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled.... Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "*Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.*"

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East when before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

de Vaux → Vance^a

In 929 a.d. Bertrand de Baux went to Normandy, in the north of France, by invitation of the Duke of Normandy and established a branch of the family there where the name became de Vaux. Bertrand was the progenitor of the family de Vaux, which long held a distinguished rank among the nobles of Normandy.

It is near this point we can begin to follow each generation forward to the present, as follows:

Harold²⁹ de Vaux: The first we can identify in the lineage is Lord Harold de Vaux of Normandy. He had three sons, Hubert²⁸, Rundolph, and Robert, all of whom accompanied William the Conqueror of Normandy in the invasion of the British Isles, 1066^b. All three sons remained in England and well established themselves by acquiring baronies.

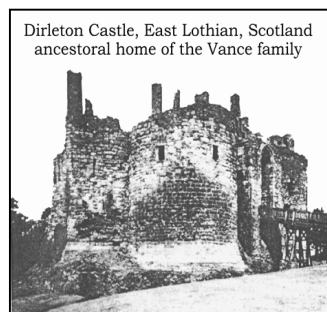
Hubert²⁸ de Vaux: Hubert, the oldest of the three brothers, became the first Lord of Parliament for the Barony of Gilliesland. He married into family Gracia and had two sons, Robert and Rundolph²⁷.

Rundolph²⁷ de Vaux: Rundolph had a son, Phillip²⁶.

Phillip²⁶ de Vaux: Phillip settled in Galloway, Scotland in the mid-1150's, the first of the Scottish Vances. He married an heiress, Elizabeth Comyn, and obtained significant land holdings in the southernmost part of Scotland.

Philip and Elizabeth's son was Johannes²⁵.

Johannes²⁵ de Vallibus: Johannes possessed the Barony of Dirleton, the castle of which is shown here.



^a Note that this family history lineage has been established by researchers and historians (such as Playfair in *Baronetage of Scotland* and Balbirnie), although in some cases the proof is not rigorous, and often not up to standards of normal genealogy documentation. Some published Vance family histories differ on the succession of a generation or two. The above is the consensus and is representative of the family history.

^b See **William the Conqueror**, page 24.

He was appointed by Alexander of Scotland as Counsellor at Roxburgh, 1255; and he was with Comyn, Baliol, Bruce, and others in 1264 at the siege of Northampton.

Johannes' son was Alexander²⁴.

Alexander²⁴ de Vallibus: Alexander's oldest son, Thomas Vaux, died without issue. Another son, Johannes²³ de Vaux succeeded his father.

Johannes²³ de Vaux, Dominus de Dirleton: Johannes was at one time Sheriff of Edinburgh. Johannes's first son, Thomas Vaux, was one of the earls and lords who led the Scottish army at the Battle of Halidon Hill, 1333. He fell at the Battle of Durham, 1346, and died without issue. Johannes' second son, William²², succeeded to Dirleton.

William²² de Vans: William was one of the Scottish prisoners taken at the Battle of Durham. After being held in England as a prisoner, he returned to Scotland and was prominent in affairs there. He was a party to the ransom of King David II and was a principal in other negotiations and treaties between Scotland and England. William married Catherine Douglas²². Their first son, Thomas, was killed at the siege of Berwick, 1355. Their second son, Johannes²¹ carried on the line of descent.

Johannes²¹ de Vans: Johannes went to Galloway where he married an heiress about 1384, and obtained the lands of Barnbarroch, in Wigtonshire. He was sent to England as Scotland's ambassador to the Court of King Henry VI.

Johannes had three sons, Robert²⁰, Thomas, and Patrick. Thomas was exceptionally prominent in the affairs of Scotland. He was Ambassador to England, Dean of Glasgow, Secretary to the King, Keeper of the Privy Seal, Dean of the Chapel Royal of Stirling, and a Conservator of the Peace with England.

Johannes was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert²⁰.

Robert²⁰ Vaux: Robert married Lady Euphemia²⁰ Graham of the Menteith family. In addition to Barnbarroch, he also acquired the lands of Barnglass in 1453. Robert and Euphemia's successor was their eldest son, Blanse¹⁹.

Blanse¹⁹ Vans: Blanse married Elizabeth¹⁹ Shaw of Haillie. Blanse and Elizabeth's successor was Patrick¹⁸.

Sir Patrick¹⁸ Vans (- 1528): Patrick married Lady Margaret¹⁸ Kennedy, daughter of Lord John¹⁹ Kennedy, and descendent of King Robert²² the Third of Scotland (for the ancestry of Lady Margaret¹⁸ Kennedy, see page 9). Patrick and Margaret's son was Alexander¹⁷.

Alexander¹⁷ Vans: Alexander was succeeded by his son, John¹⁶.

Sir John¹⁶ Vans of Barnbarroch: John married Janet¹⁶ Kenedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassilis¹⁷. They had two sons, Alexander and Patrick¹⁵.

The first son, Alexander, succeeded to the estate, but died without issue so the lands and title passed to his brother, Patrick¹⁵.

Sir Patrick¹⁵ Vans (- 1642): Patrick was on the Privy Council and Exchequer, he was one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and he served as Ambassador to the Court of Denmark.

Patrick married twice, His second wife was Lady Catherine¹⁵ Kennedy. Patrick and Catherine had a son, John¹⁴.

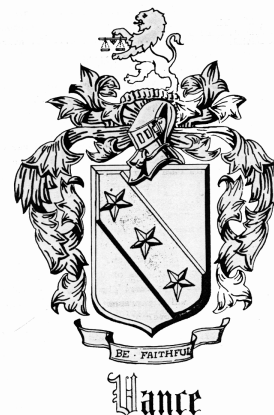
Sir John¹⁴ Vans: John succeeded his father as Ambassador to Denmark and became a gentleman of the Privy Chamber. He was in great favor of King James VI and because of that he received grant to the estates of Longcastle, in County Donegal, Ireland; and had bestowed upon him the title *Sir John Vans of Longcastle, Knight*. He married Margaret¹⁴ McDowell of Gartland.

John and Margaret had a son, John¹³, from whom the America Vance descendants depart from the Scottish Vances, although they did so via Ireland.

Reverend John¹³ Vance (1617 -): England systematically removed the Irish Catholics from the north of Ireland and re-colonized it. Many of the new colonists were Scotchmen (see Ulster Scots, p. 12).

John was the first of the Vances to settle in Ireland. He was a Presbyterian minister and traveled to Ireland about 1660 to escape religious persecution and likely to search for new opportunities. He was also the first to use the name Vance. Under the Act of Settlement, John obtained the lease of a tract of land in the County of Tyon and there founded the village of Coagh. He married Sarah¹³ Williams, daughter of Ashe¹⁴ Reinty, Esq. of the County of Derry and had six children.

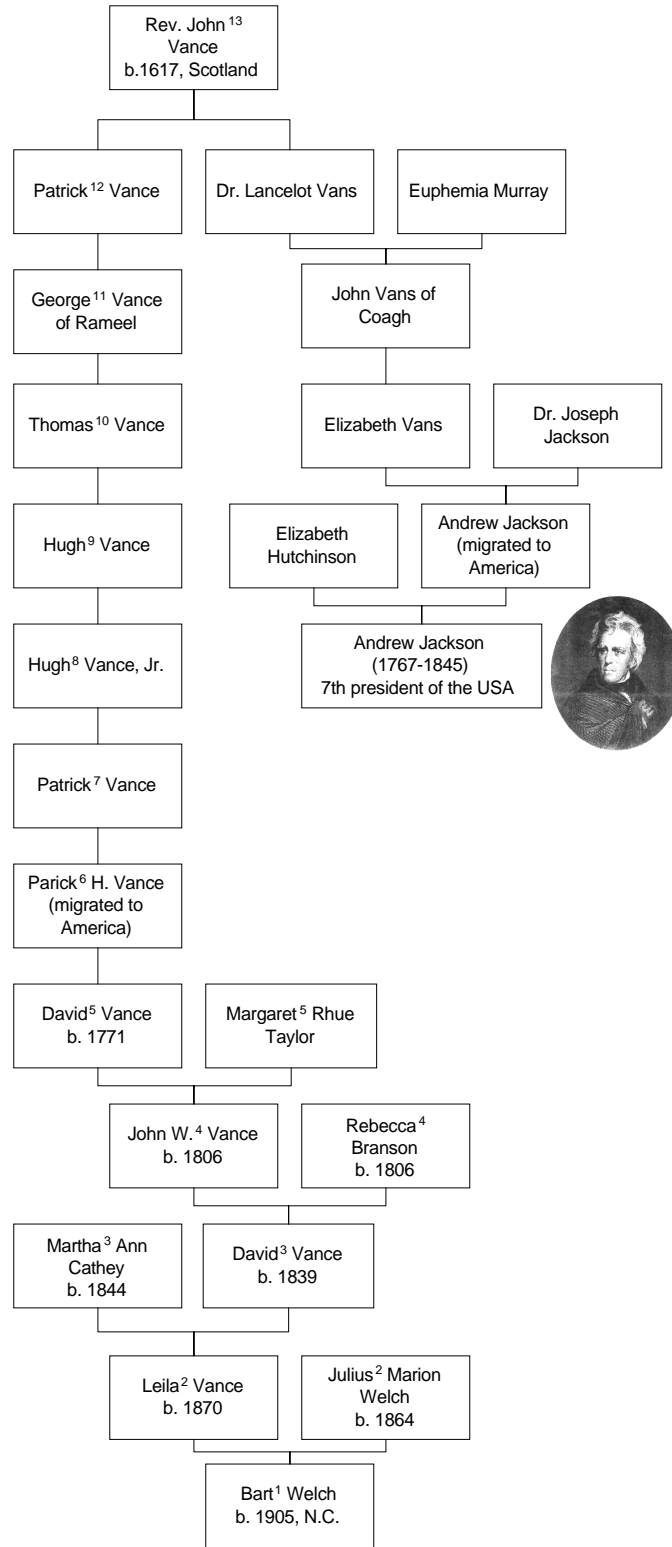
Their first son, Dr. Lancelot Francis Vance, died of fatigue at the siege of Londonderry leaving one other son as heir, Patrick¹².



Bart & Andrew Jackson

Before we continue following the Vance ancestry through Patrick¹², let us briefly follow that of Lancelot, his older brother. Before his death, Lancelot married Euphemia Murray and they had five children, one of whom was John of Coagh. From John descended two persons notable in America history. One was Andrew Jackson. Because Andrew Jackson and Bart have a common ancestor, they are related. The common ancestor is Reverend John¹³ Vance, Andrew Jackson's third great-grandfather and Bart's tenth great-grandfather. This makes President Andrew Jackson the fourth cousin, seven times removed, of Bart.

Bart is also related to Zebulon Vance, the great war-time governor of North Carolina. Zeb Vance is Bart's sixth cousin, five times removed. Their common ancestor is also Reverend John¹³ Vance, Zeb's fifth great-grandfather and Bart's tenth great-grandfather.



Patrick¹² Vans: Patrick had a son, George¹¹.

George¹¹ Vance of Raneel: George had a son, Thomas¹⁰.

Thomas¹⁰ Vance: Thomas had a son, Hugh⁹.

Hugh⁹ Vance: Hugh had a son, Hugh⁸, Jr.

Hugh⁸ Vance, Jr.: Hugh, Jr. had a son, Patrick⁷.

Patrick⁷ Vance: Patrick had a several known sons, one of whom was also named Patrick⁶.

Patrick⁶ H. Vance (- 1803): Patrick was born in Donegal, Ireland. He came to America in the mid-1700's (some say 1754) and settled in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (later to become Franklin County). He married Sarah⁶ Elizabeth Taylor in 1767. Per the 1768 tax list Patrick had a three hundred acre farm and had two servants, and owned four horses, six cows, twelve sheep.

Patrick and Sarah had six children. The third was David⁵, discussed below. Sarah died soon after the birth of their sixth child in 1777 and one year after that Patrick married Elizabeth Houston. With her he had nine additional children.

Patrick was called to serve in the First Battalion of the Cumberland County Militia in 1780 in actions against the British and the Indians, but it is unclear whether he served or paid a fine in lieu of serving.

Patrick's home in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, a large and impressive two-story structure, still exists and presently serves as the corporate headquarters for a quarry company.

In the mid-1790's Patrick and his family moved south to Knox County in the sparsely settled area of North Carolina west of the Blue ridge Mountains (now Jefferson County, Tennessee). There he purchased 640 acres, established a farm, and lived there until he died in 1803.

David⁵ Vance (1771 -): David was born in Pennsylvania in 1771. His mother died when he was six. He later moved with his father and step-mother to Tennessee. He inherited family land on the Holston River in Jefferson County, Tennessee upon his father's death in 1803. In 1804, at age 32, he married Rhue⁵ Taylor and together they had seven children, one of whom was John⁴, discussed below. In 1845 he sold his lands and moved to Kentucky.

John⁴ W. Vance (1806 -): John was born in Tennessee in 1806 and lived there his entire life.

As a young man of twenty-one he married Rebecca⁴ Branson, also twenty-one. Together they had ten children, as shown below.

John⁴ W. VANCE & Rebecca⁴ BRANSON

John⁴ W. VANCE

Birth: 20 Oct 1806, TN.
Father: David⁵ VANCE (1771-)
Mother: Margaret⁵ Rhue TAYLOR

Rebecca⁴ BRANSON

Birth: 05 Apr 1806
Marriage: 04 Mar 1827, Jefferson Co., TN.
Ten Children

Olena VANCE

Birth: 09 Jul 1830, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.

Emily K. VANCE

Birth: 14 Nov 1833, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.

Mary A. VANCE

Birth: 09 Jul 1835

Sarah A. VANCE

Birth: 09 Aug 1837, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.
Marriage: 12 Jul 1855, Daniel Buryman NELSON (1832-)
Death: 03 Dec 1901, Hendersonville, NC.

David³ VANCE

Birth: 27 Mar 1839, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.
Marriage: 27 Oct 1868, Martha³ Ann (Mattie) CATHEY (1844-1891); N.C.

Eli VANCE

Birth: 10 Oct 1840, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.

Rue Hanna VANCE

Birth: 26 Sep 1842, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.

Katharine A. VANCE

Birth: 27 Sep 1846, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.
Marriage: Henry Clay VANCE

William Hugh VANCE

Birth: 22 Jul 1850, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.
Marriage: Margaret Jane KENNEDY

Harriet VANCE

Birth: 1828, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.

David³ Vance (1839 -): David was born in Strawberry Plains, Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1839.

As a young man he moved to Haywood County, N.C., and at twenty-nine years of age took as his bride twenty-six year old Martha³ (Mattie) Ann Cathey of Pigeon River Valley. Martha³ Ann Cathey was the seventh child of Colonel Joseph⁴ Cathey and Nancy⁴ Hyatt. (See family Cathey, p. 14.).

Together they had seven children, as shown in the side bar.

Leila² Vance (1870 - 1957): Leila married Julius² Marion Welch (see p. 63).

Sources:

The Family of, and The descendants of Robert McGovney Vance; Dean F. Vance; 1983.

Vances in Scotland and Ireland; William Balbirnie.

Vance Family Data; W.D. Hoff.

The Vance Family of Piedmont, NC; Vance Voss Smith; 1981.

The Vance Family of Burke and Buncombe Co., NC; Elizabeth Williamson Dixon.

Europe, a History; Norman Davies; 1996.

Bible, Matthew 2:1→ 12.

Patrick Vance 'to Tennessee'; Margaret Vance Webb; 1997.

Research and FGR data; Bryant Rogers.

Family history, lore, & undocumented notes; Eula Rigdon & Dolly Marshall Welch.



David³ VANCE & Martha³ Ann (Mattie) CATHEY

David³ VANCE

Birth: 27 Mar 1839, Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co., TN.

Father: John⁴ W. VANCE (1806-)

Mother: Rebecca⁴ BRANSON (1806-)

Martha³ Ann (Mattie) CATHEY

Birth: 13 Mar 1844, Pigeon River Valley, Haywood Co., N.C.

Death: 25 Feb 1891, Haywood Co., N.C.

Father: Col. Joseph⁴ CATHEY (1803-1874)

Mother: Nancy⁴ HYATT (1807-1874)

Marriage: 27 Oct 1868, Haywood Co., N.C.

Seven children

Mary Emma VANCE

Birth: 30 Jul 1869

Marriage: 01 Jun 1893, J.F. ABLE

Leila² VANCE

Birth: 27 Dec 1870, N.C.

Marriage: 23 Jun 1889, Julius² Marion (Jule) WELCH (1864-1944)

Death: 19 Apr 1957

John Thomas VANCE

Birth: 09 Oct 1873, N.C.

Marriage: 31 Dec 1903, Lillie HENSON (1881-)

Nettie Cathey VANCE

Birth: 27 Mar 1876

Marriage: 01 Feb 1898, Robert PENLAND

Joseph Branson VANCE

Birth: 01 Jul 1879, N.C.

Marriage: 28 Dec 1902, Delena COOK

Sally French VANCE

Birth: 13 Mar 1885

Marriage: 05 Sep 1906, William Pinckney (Willie) WELCH (1878-1925)

Death: 12 Aug 1964

Nannie Ellen VANCE

Birth: 15 Apr 1887
