

# Vance Y-DNA Project: Group 1 Overview: Genealogy (1a)

by Adam Bradford (adam.bradford@gmail.com)

## Genealogical Overview: Group 1a

Group 1a represents the main body of Vance Group 1. By this I mean only that the ancestral haplotype of Group 1a is identical to the ancestral haplotype of all of Group 1. It is still possible that the members of Group 1a share an MRCA among themselves who was more recent than the MRCA of all of Group 1, but it is also possible that the MRCA of Group 1a is the same as that for all of Group 1. That is not possible with Group 1b, which definitely constitutes a younger branch, the members of which share a more recent ancestor with each other than they do with any of the members of Group 1a. There's another aspect of this to keep in mind when reading about the Group 1a lineages: it is theoretically possible for some members of Group 1a to be more closely related to Group 1b than they are to other members of group 1a. That is not the case with Group 1b, every single member of which is bound to be more closely related to other Group 1b members owing to their more recent common ancestor. We are able to know all this thanks to identifying the shared mutations in Group 1b on 607 and 572.

Of the 33 members of Group 1, 31 are from American lineages that are unable to identify an immigrant ancestor and trace their line back "across the pond." Group 1a contains the only two members who are able to reliably trace back to the UK or Ireland, specifically to the area near Barnbarroch, where Group 1 probably originated.

### 39200: Barnbarroch

It is fitting that we begin this vast genealogical overview of over 30 Vance lineages with the lineage of 39200, who has an unbroken pedigree based on reliable documentary evidence back to the early days of Barnbarroch. His pedigree is ironclad back to Robert Vaus of Barnbarroch, who received a charter for the lands of Barnbarroch from William, Earl of Douglas, in 1451. The charter was confirmed in 1453 by James, Earl of Douglas, who referred to Robert as "delecto consanguineo nostro", our beloved kinsman. Here is the immediate family of Robert Vaus, with the lineage leading to 39200:

1. Robert Vaus of Barnbarroch (d.aft.6 March 1459)
  - m. Euphemia Graham
  2. Blaise Vaus (d.bef.26 Feb 1482)
    - m. Elizabeth Shaw
    3. Patrick Vaus (d.1528)
      - m. Margaret Kennedy
      4. John Vaus (d.1547, battle of Pinkie)
        - m. Janet McCulloch
        5. Sir Patrick Vaus (d.22 Dec 1597)
          6. Sir John Vans (c.1574-d.June 1642)
            7. Sir Patrick Vans (d.1673)
              8. Alexander Vans (d.1709)
                9. Col. Patrick Vans (d.1733)
                10. John Vans Agnew (1724-1780)
                11. Robert Vans Agnew (1755-1809)
                12. Patrick Vans Agnew (1783-1842)

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13. George Vans Agnew (1831-1898)
  14. PRIVATE
  15. PRIVATE
  16. 39200
2. Thomas Vaus, dean of Glasgow, ambassador to England in 1457
  2. George Vaus, bishop of Galloway
  2. Patrick Vaus
  2. Alexander Vaus
  2. John Vaus
  2. daughter Vaus
    - m. Uchtred McDowall of Garthland
  2. daughter Vaus
    - m. William Adair of Kinhilt
  2. Mariotta Vaus
    - m. Quintin Agnew, younger of Lochnaw
  2. daughter Vaus
    - m. Hugh Campbell of Corswall
  1. John Vaus of Lochslin
  1. James Vaus

Although Robert Vaus is the first confirmed member of the Barnbarroch line in the documentary record, it is generally accepted that others came before him at Barnbarroch. In his *Sketch of a Genealogical and Historical Account of the Family of Vaux, Vans, or De Vallibus*, Robert Vans Agnew names Robert as the son of a John Vaus who married E. Kennedy and who was one of the ambassadors sent by James II of Scotland to Henry VI of England soon after the murder of James I of Scotland in 1437. In the sketch, the author claims that this John was the son of Robert Vaus who was in turn the son of John Vaus, the purported founder of the Barnbarroch Vaus line. According to the sketch, John Vaus “married an heiress about the Year 1384, and obtained the lands of Barnbarrow, which he held under the Douglas’s, who were at that time Lords of Galloway, and to whom he was allied.”

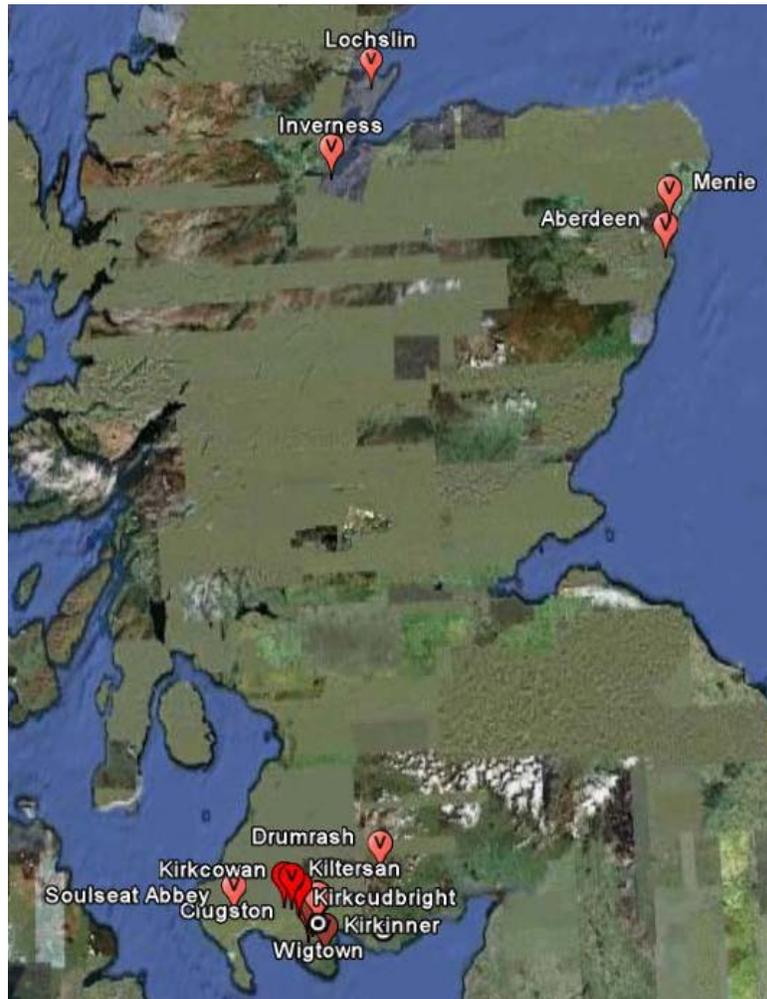
In his *History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*, McKerlie claims that the first Vaus in Galloway was Alexander Vaus, who was bishop of Galloway in 1426, and he calls this Alexander an uncle of 39200’s ancestor Robert Vaus. In *A genealogical and heraldic history of the commoners of Great Britain*, Burke mentions a French source from 1611, *l’Histoire des Malheures de la France sous le Roi Jean*, (A History of the Troubles of France under King Jean), that refers to an Andrew Vaus of Galloway who fell in the battle of Poitiers (1356) and who is described as a brother in arms (*le frère d’armes*) of Archibald Douglas (who became Lord of Galloway). Burke states that this Andrew was believed to have been the younger brother of William Vaus of Dirleton, the last of the line there, and to have been succeeded in Galloway by another Sir Andrew whose name appears in the settlement of the crown of Scotland at Scone in 1373. Burke then claims that Alexander, Bishop of Galloway, (mentioned above) was this second Andrew’s younger son, while his eldest son was the John Vaus who married E. Kennedy and who was father of 39200’s ancestor Robert Vaus. Clearly, accounts of Robert’s

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parentage and of the origins of the Vaus line of Barnbarroch differ in their particulars. However, there is a common Douglas thread running throughout, from Robert Vaus (who was a kinsman of the Douglas Earls of Galloway and who held his land under them) to Andrew Vaus (a brother in arms of Archibald Douglas) all the way to Dirleton, the last Vaus proprietor of which was married to a Catherine Douglas. Regardless of how the Vaus line of Barnbarroch originated specifically, the heraldic evidence clearly indicates that it was a cadet branch of the Vaux line at Dirleton, which traces back at least to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and likely before.

In 1456, Robert Vaus effected a charter of resignation in favor of his son Blaise and the line of succession to Barnbarroch was spelled out in the charter. Next in line after all of Robert's sons was John Vaus of Lochslin, "brother of the said Robert," followed by James Vaus, "also brother of the said Robert," followed by John Vaus and Gilbert Vaus, the sons of the late John Vaus, Burgess of Aberdeen. It is clear from this instrument that the Barnbarroch lineage was related to the Vaus lineages that were established at Lochslin/Inverness and Menie/Aberdeen in the north:



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According to Balbirnie, the Lochslin and Menie branches ended in females about the year 1600, but there may have been cadet branches of males that survived from prior generations, just as a cadet branch of Dirleton must have survived to give rise to the Barnbarroch line.

This brief discussion of Barnbarroch origins merely scratches the surface of the topic. For now, I mainly want to highlight two points: first, any of the American Vance lineages in Group 1 could have originated from any cadet line extending back to the time of Dirleton; and second, as the overview of Robert's brothers and sons reveals, cadet branches were probably being created with more frequency than we imagine. As soon as those cadet branches became separated from the main Barnbarroch tree, they are liable to leave less evidence of their existence. However, just because they disappear from the available records doesn't mean they didn't exist. We need to recognize the limits of our knowledge and avoid letting the abundance of documentary evidence relating to the main Barnbarroch line obscure the possibility that there may have been more humble cadet branches of Vaus existing in the background. It is theoretically possible that one or more of the American Vance lines in Group 1 arose from a branch that split from Barnbarroch earlier than commonly supposed and that remained relatively hidden until resurfacing from obscurity in Ireland or America in the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Rev. John Vans of Ireland

Most of the American lineages in Group 1 have a tradition of Scots-Irish descent, implying a proximate origin in Ireland for their immigrant ancestors. The ultimate source for most information on Irish Vances is William Balbirnie's *An Account, Historical and Genealogical, From the Earliest Days till the Present Time, of the family of Vance in Ireland, Vans in Scotland, Anciently, Vaux in Scotland and England, and originally, De Vaux in France, (Latin De Vallibus)*, published in 1860. Balbirnie based his work on a manuscript written by his uncle, George Washington Vance, in 1840. According to Balbirnie, all Irish Vances (and thus all American Vances) are descended from a single man, the Reverend John Vans of Kilmacrenen:

The first then of the family who settled in Ireland, and became progenitor of the name and widely-spread family of Vance in that kingdom, and more recently in America, we announce to have been of the Barnbarroch family of Vaux, Vauss, or Vans, in Wigtonshire, Scotland, and to have been the Rev. John Vauss, or Vans.

This Rev. John Vans left a will dated 22 October 1661 and recorded for probate on 26 July 1662. He signed his name Jo. Vauss, but in the Records of the Rolls at Dublin Castle his name is printed Rev. John Vans. John appointed his son William Vauss as executor and gave legacies to his two grandsons, John and William Vauss, to daughter Jane Vauss and her husband David Cunningham, and also to Rebecca and Marion Vauss. From our perspective, the most important feature of the will was the fact that it was sealed with the arms of Vaus: argent on a bend gules, 3 mollets. This clearly indicates that the Rev. John was claiming descent from the Vaus/Vans line of Scotland. The three mollets indicated that he was several steps removed from the main branch.

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There is no need for us to follow Balbirnie in assuming that the Rev. John was the ancestor of all Irish and American Vances. It is entirely possible that other Vans or Vaus men came to Ireland from Scotland after the Rev. John and it is also possible that there were Vans or Vaus men living there before him whose arrivals are currently hidden from our view. Still, the Rev. John's importance is justified by the fact that he is the earliest one we know about (he was made rector of Kilmacrenen in 1617), and he also is the only one who may be tied securely to the Vaus of Scotland, thanks to the seal found on his will. Balbirnie's theory was that the Rev. John was the eldest son of Sir John Vaus of Barnbarroch, who was the eldest son of Sir Patrick Vaus (d.1597). In *Origin of the Irish Vances*, Jamie Vans pretty well demonstrates how unlikely this theory is, and proposes an alternate theory that the Rev. John was the son of Patrick Vaus of Lybrack, the second eldest son of Sir Patrick Vaus (d.1597). Kathleen Mason, historian emerita of the VFA, has put forth a third theory, that Rev. John may be identified as the bastard son of Sir Patrick Vaus (d.1597), the John Vaus referred to in a few documents of the Barnbarroch estate as "brother natural" of Sir John Vans of Longcastle (this last being the legitimate heir of Sir Patrick).

### John Vaus of Capenach, son of Sir Patrick Vaus of Barnbarroch (d.1597)

There happens to be a specific connection between the illegitimate John Vaus and Donegal, Ireland. In an assignation dated 15 May 1629, the "brother natural" was referred to as John Vans in Capenach, Capenach being a property near Barnbarroch.



In the 1629 assignation, John of Capenach was given the quarter lands of "Lillerli" in Ireland, County Donegal. Here at last we have a confirmed connection to Ireland of a Barnbarroch descendant whose lineage is known! It's hard to overstate the importance of this find for Vance genealogy. So where was this "Lillerli"? Wouldn't we like to know! I could find no evidence of a townland named "Lillerli" and it should be born in mind that "Lillerli" is after all just a transcription. The original assignation should be consulted with a view towards identifying the name with [one of the existing townlands of Donegal](#). It's tempting to think that "Lillerli" might be a garbled version of Lifficulty, since Balbirnie mentions a Patrick Vance of Lifficulty whose will was dated 23 December 1697. Unfortunately, the location of Lifficulty is also unknown. Thus, neither location can be easily confirmed, much less the one identified as the other.

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## 198026: Thomas Vance of Inver Parish (early 1700s, Donegal)

Member 198026 is a descendant of the Vance family that dwelled at Gortward in Donegal in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. When compiling his history of the Irish Vances, Balbirnie visited with member 198026's grandfather, Hugh Vance of Gortward (1820-1907), and wrote at some length about his family and its ancestry:

George of Raneel, parish of Inver, Donegal . . . was succeeded in Raneel, by his second son, Thomas, whose son, Hugh Vance of Gortward, also in Inver, had two sons, first, Patrick, who emigrated to America unmarried; second, Hugh, an officer of excise, and four daughters, married respectively to Messrs. McKee, McGonigal, O'Donnell, and Carscadden, and had families.

Hugh Vance, of the excise, had five sons, first John, who went to Baltimore, became a wealthy merchant, and was killed by his horse running off with him. He left two sons.

Hugh's second son, Patrick, also went to America, and had two daughters.

The third, James Vance, succeeded his father in Gortward; fourth, Thomas, also went to Baltimore; and fifth, Hugh, married Miss Carscadden, of Donegal, and went to Pittsburgh, US, where he died in three years, leaving three sons.

James Vance of Gortward, Hugh's third son, had Hugh, the present possessor of Gortward, whom we had the pleasure to see, and by whom we were courteously entertained and lodged when visiting him, and his near neighbors and kinsmen, the Messrs. Vance, of Drumgorman. He married Miss Galbreath, daughter of Mr. Galbreath, coachbuilder, Donegal, and has young children.

James second son, Thomas, married in Philadelphia, and has three children.

James was third, and four daughters, three of whom are in America, the other, Isabella, resides at Gortward, with her brother Hugh.

This family could trace their pedigree up to their grandfather's-grandfather, Thomas of Raneel. Further they could not go, it was our happiness to enlighten them by making them acquainted with the will of George, Thomas's father.

Gortward (now Gortaward) is in Inver parish, where a cluster of Vances left wills in the early half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century:

- George Vance of Raneel (1711-12)
- James Vance of Drumgorman (1717)
- David Vance of Drumgorman (1739)
- Thomas Vance of the Point (1748)

The following map shows the locations of the above Inver parish Vances, as well as Gortward.

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All these locations may be thought of as essentially being in the same neighborhood, since the distance between Gortaward and Raneel, the farthest points, is a mere 5 miles. Given this proximity, it's reasonable to assume that the Vances of Inver parish were related, including the Vances of Gortaward (the line of member 198026). Below is an extract of Balbirnie's extended passage on the Vances of Inver parish.

Now, as to the descendants of the Rev. John Vans, we are soon furnished with certain indications of their increasing and spreading – at first this was chiefly confined to Donegal; we have already referred to Patrick, of Lifficulty, living, dying, and leaving children here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Early in the 18<sup>th</sup> we find them quite numerous in the west of Donegal, all in the Parish of Inver, thus we find George Vance, of Raneel, dying on or about 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1711-12, whose children named in his will are, John, Thomas, William, George, Alexander, Hugh, and daughter Jean, (singularly enough the Scotch way of spelling Jane), the witnesses being Hugh Vance, James Vance. George Vance of Raneel was a man well to do in the world, as appears from the inventory of his chattels.

Again, we find James Vance, of Drumgorman, in the same parish, whose will is dated 19 December 1717, he appoints “my son Patrick, my sole heir and executor of this my last will and testament, bequeaths “£40 to my daughter Sarah,” also a bequest to Betty Vance, also “I bequeath to Alexander Vance, all that he owed me, or was indebted to me and I bequeath to Mr. Patrick Vance, minister all that he was indebted to me.”

Again, we find will of David Vance, of Drumgorman, dated 25 January 1739, bequeaths “a horse to his brother Alexander, remainder equally between his two daughters and Thomas Bareily's three children, he appoints, “John Holmes, brother Thomas Vance, Patrick Vance, my executors.”

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This David doubtless was the previous James's brother, Alexander, mentioned in each will, the same person and brother to both, and Patrick, testator's nephew, the son and executor of James.

The next document we have in order of time relating to these Vances is a "Bond to Bishop of Derry" for £500 (a large sum in those days) of date 20 November 1743, by Alexander Vance, merchant, Londonderry, Administrator of David Vance, parish of Inver.

Next, we have of date 5 January 1745, the will of Thomas Vance of the Point, parish of Inver, who "bequeaths to his son, John Vance, among other things, "Bond due by Alexander Vance, of Londonderry," and bequests to his other three children (not named), Hugh and Patrick Vance, executors. Patrick Vance administered 10 June 1748.

This Thomas of the Point was we presume the brother mentioned in David of Drumgorman's will, and hence James and David, of Drumgorman, Alexander of Derry, and Thomas of the Point, were all brothers, so we presume had been George of Raneel, if so five brothers in all.

This extract contains a great deal of useful information, but it also contains several unsubstantiated assumptions about the relationships between the Inver Vances. Let's examine them in turn. Balbirnie claims that all five Vances mentioned (George, James, David, Alexander, and Thomas) were brothers, but only one relationship is clearly indicated. David Vance of Drumgorman names two brothers (Thomas and Alexander), and from the 1743 administration bond it is clear that his brother Alexander may be identified as Alexander, merchant of Londonderry. This same Alexander is mentioned in the 1745 will of Thomas Vance of the Point, which strengthens the conclusion that Thomas Vance was also related to them somehow; Balbirnie assumes he was the other brother mentioned by David of Drumgorman; this is probably true, but the evidence would also allow a cousin relationship. Balbirnie names James of Drumgorman as a brother of them both, presumably because he is from Drumgorman, like David, and because also because he mentions a bequest to Alexander Vance. However, no sibling relationship is attested, and it is conceivable that they too could have been cousins. Balbirnie's assertion that these four were the brother of George of Raneel is the most tenuous conclusion, not supported by any evidence; one senses that he made the connection based on geographical proximity alone, and for the sake of tidiness. Balbirnie was clearly very eager to assign a place in the tree to each and every Vance he discovered, even when those connections are not substantiated by any evidence. While it does seem likely that these Inver Vances were closely related, in the absence of hard evidence we can't be sure that some of them may have been cousins rather than brothers.

Later in his book, Balbirnie claims that the Inver Parish Vances were the sons of Patrick Vans, whom he claims was the son of Rev. John Vance of Kilmacrenen. Neither of these relationships is supported by any evidence. Balbirnie begins with the unwarranted assumption that all Vances of Ireland were the Rev. John's descendants, and appears to have been satisfied with placing later Vances in his lineage based on nothing more than the period in which they lived. Thus, since Patrick Vans is the next Vance we have evidence of after Rev. John, Balbirnie makes him John's son, even though John mentioned no son Patrick in his will and even though there is no independent evidence whatsoever as to Patrick's parentage. Again, given that the Vances of Inver parish appear to be two generations removed from Rev. John, he makes them all the sons of Patrick, even though there is no independent evidence whatsoever as to Patrick's children, or even

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whether he had any. In fact, the only evidence of Patrick's existence was a grant, dated 10 July 1688, of land in Limerick for having served in Cromwell's army. However, Limerick is far from Donegal. A William Vance also served in Cromwell's army and received grants in 17667 at Cork and Dublin, also locations far from Donegal. Balbirnie assumes that he was the son actually mentioned by Rev. John in his will, but there is really no solid evidence to back this up. Everything follows from Balbirnie's assumption that the Irish Vances are descendants of Rev. John of Kilmacrenen. As soon as we admit the possibility that there could have been separate Vaus/Vans/Vance migrations to Ireland, the connections appear very tenuous.

Returning now to the Gortward lineage, it seems safe to assume that member 198026 is descended from a Thomas Vance of Inver parish, since Balbirnie does mention that they traced back to a Thomas Vance. However, we must remain skeptical of Balbirnie's claim that this was "Thomas of Raneel". We cannot assume that the Gortward line thought of their Thomas as being "of Raneel;" this may have been an assumption inserted by Balbirnie. One senses that he may have simply looked at all the existing Vance wills from Inver Parish and picked the one that named a son Thomas, that of George of Raneel. However, the will of Thomas Vance of the Point (1748), whom Balbirnie claims was a brother of George of Raneel, mentions three children who are unnamed; one of them could very well have been a Thomas. For that matter, it is possible that the Thomas Vance from whom the Gortward branch claimed descent was Thomas Vance of the Point himself. We can't even rule out the possibility that the Gortward Thomas was some other Thomas, unnamed in any of the wills or instruments of the period. The coincidence of names and the congruence of time periods do not alone suffice to prove specific relationships, even if we agree that their close geographical proximity makes it likely that they were related.

Member 198026's lineage back to Thomas Vance is given below, with some further details provided about the family as it is found in Balbirnie:

### 1. Thomas Vance

#### 2. Hugh Vance of Gortward

#### 3. Patrick Vance (to America, unmarried)

#### **3. Hugh Vance, officer of excise (b.c.1776)**

#### 4. John Vance (to Baltimore, wealthy merchant)

#### 5. two sons

#### 4. Patrick Vance (to America)

#### 5. two daughters

#### **4. James Vance of Gortward (b.c.1790)**

#### **m. Catherine Coscadden, 1816, Inver, Donegal**

#### **5. Hugh Vance of Gortward (1820-1907)**

#### m. Elizabeth Galbreath

#### **6. PRIVATE**

#### **7. 198026**

#### 5. Thomas Vance (to Philadelphia)

#### 5. James Vance

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- 5. Isabella Vance
  - 5. daughter, married Mr. Magee (in Philadelphia)
  - 5. daughter, married Mr. Lennon
  - 5. daughter, unmarried in Balbirnie's day
- 4. Thomas Vance (to Baltimore)
- 4. Hugh Vance (to Pittsburgh)
  - m. unknown Carscadden
  - 5. three sons
- 3. daughter, married McKee
- 3. daughter, married McGonigal
- 3. daughter, married O'Donnell
- 3. daughter, married Carscadden

Member 198026's DNA results have several interesting implications:

- 1) Given member 198026's DNA match with the Barnbarroch heir, and given Gortward's proximity to the Inver parish Vances, all the Vances of Inver Parish stand a good chance of being genetic descendants of the Barnbarroch Vaus. This likely genetic connection, combined with their location in Donegal, makes them the group of Irish Vances with the best claim to a descent from Rev. John Vans of Kilmacrenen, whom we know claimed descent from Barnbarroch owing to the seal on his will.
- 2) Member 198026's results also suggest that none of the members of Group 1b are likely to be descendants of the Inver Parish Vances mentioned by Balbirnie. This conclusion is based on the mutations at 607 and 572 that define Group 1b; these mutations are not shared by member 198026, and therefore probably weren't shared with the other Inver parish Vances. We also know that these mutations must have been accumulated several generations prior to the earliest lineages in Group 1b for so many of the disparate lineages in the group to share them. The earliest confirmed ancestors in Group 1b were born in the late 1600s/early 1700s, and left wills at mid-century, making them contemporaries of the Inver Parish Vances, either in the same generation or one generation removed. This indicates that the mutations must have happened prior to the Inver Vances.
- 3) Further, since the Inver parish Vances were only a couple generations removed from Rev. John Vance, and since the Inver Vances have the best claim to a descent from him, there is a very good possibility that Group 1b is not descended from Rev. John. Yet the DNA evidence clearly indicates that they were related to the Barnbarroch line. Given the strong traditions of Scots-Irish descent among the Group 1b Vances, this opens up the possibility that there were at least two, possibly more, separate migrations of Barnbarroch-related Vaus to Ireland.
- 4) Member 198026's results could prove to be very valuable for the American Vance lineages in Group 1a, since they open up the possibility that members 54198, 67952, and 73264 might also be descendants of the Inver Parish Vances. These three American Vance lineages share the alternate value of 576=17 with member 198026, which might be a shared mutation among the Inver Parish Vances. Vances from these lineages should keep in mind the possibility of a connection

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with the Inver parish Vances when researching or thinking about their earliest known ancestors. Following are the reconstructions of all the Inver County Vance families, as based on the extant wills.

- 1.George Vance of Raneel (d.1711-12)
  - 2.John Vance
  - 2.Thomas Vance
  - 2.William Vance
  - 2.George Vance
  - 2.Alexander Vance
  - 2.Hugh Vance
  - 2.Jean Vance
- 1.James Vance of Drumgorman (1737) (bequest to Patrick Vance, minister)
  - 2.Patrick Vance
  - 2.Sarah Vance
- 1.David Vance of Drumgorman (1739)
  - 2.two daughters
- 1.Alexander Vance, merchant of Londonderry (1743)
- 1.Thomas Vance of the Point (1745-1748) (Hugh and Patrick executors)
  - 2.John Vance
  - 2.three other children

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### 92592: David Vance of Wigton (m.Agnes Jones)

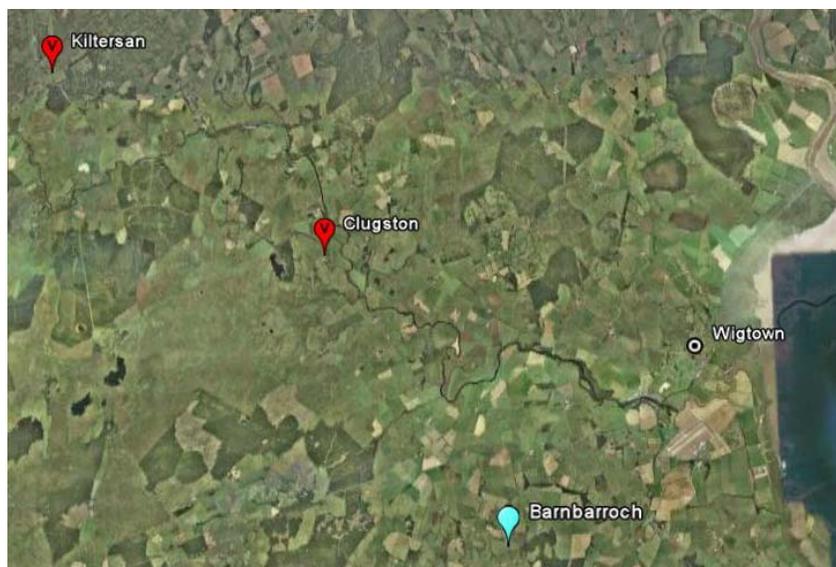
Member 92592 is a descendant of David Vans/Vance of Wigtown, Scotland, and his wife Agnes Jones. His lineage is as follows, with some further details provided about David's immediate family:

- 1.David Vans/Vance (d.1819, Wigtown, Scotland)
  - m.Agnes Jones
  - 2.Robert Vance (b.1804, Wigtown, Scotland)
    - m.Mary Hogg
  - 2.Joseph Vance
  - 2.James Vance (b.1809, Wigtown)
  - 2.George Vance (b.1812, Kirkcowen – d.1903, Ontario)
    - m.Margaret Little
    - 3.Robert Vance (b.1854, Ontario - d.1925, Ontario)
      - m.Elizabeth Luscombe
      - 4.PRIVATE
      - 5.PRIVATE
      - 6.92592
- 2.David Vance (b.1814, Wigtown)
- 2.Mary Vance (b.1817, Wigtown)
- 2.Jennet Vance (b.1817, Wigtown)

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David died around 1819 near Wigtown, in the heart of Barnbarroch territory. His descendants in America went by the surname Vance, but David's surname appears as both Vans and Vance in the parish registers of Kirkcowan, where his children were born. From 1809 to 1817, David resided at Kiltersan and Clugston and his occupation through these years was listed alternately in the parish registers as Cotman or Laborer. The following map gives an idea of how close David and Agnes lived to the old Vaus estate at Barnbarroch, which is about 10 miles from Kiltersan and only 5 miles from Clugston.



Although the location of David's residences seems to suggest that 92592's branch didn't stray very far from the Barnbarroch tree, the fact that his surname was frequently spelled Vance rather than Vans could indicate that his line came back to Scotland from Ireland, where the Vance variant of Vans is thought to have originated.

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### 54198: William Vance of Smyth Co., VA b.1826

Member 54198 is a descendant of William M. Vance of Smyth Co, VA, whose immediate family, and the lineage to 54198, are provided here:

1. William M. Vance (b.c.1826, VA – d.1905, Webster Co, MO)
  - m. Nancy Emmeline Wortham/Watham, 1843 Johnson County, TN
  2. John Vance (b.c.1844, VA)
  2. Rachel E. Vance (b.c.1846, VA)
  2. Mary Ann Vance (b.c.1848, VA)
  2. Sarah J. Vance (b.c.1851, VA)
  2. William D. Vance (b.c.1854, MO)
  2. Robert Jefferson Vance (b.1856, MO)
    - m. Marthie Elizabeth Wright
    3. Robert Jefferson Vance Jr. (b.1888)

## Vance Y-DNA Project: Group 1 Overview: Genealogy (1a)

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m.Olive Timmer

4.54198

2.Nancy Vance (b.c.1859, MO)

2.Colmon B. Vance (b.c.1860, MO)

2.Thomas J. Vance (b.c.1866, MO)

Clues relating to William M. Vance's origins are scant. The earliest record I have knowledge of is the 1843 marriage record of William Vance and Nancy E. "Whorton" from Johnson County, TN. By 1850, William and Nancy were living in Smyth County, VA. They moved to Missouri between 1851 and 1854. Some have theorized that William's father may have been David Vance (b.1803), who lived in Smyth County and was married to Sarah Minton. While the Smyth County location suggests a relationship, I am not aware of any specific evidence that would tie William to David and have also been unable to find out much about David in his own right from the sources available to me.

Those researching this line should keep in mind the possibility of a descent from the Inver parish Vances, based on the DNA match with member 198026.

\* \* \*

### 67952: John Vance (d.c.1760, Frederick County, VA)

Member 67952's ancestor John Vance (d.c.1760), was settled in Frederick County, VA, by 1751, when he received a grant for 353 acres near present-day Berryville. In 1753, he sold this tract and purchased a 490-acre tract farther north in what is now Jefferson County, WV, not far from Charles Town. His will (dated 11 November 1754) was proved in Frederick County court on 7 October 1760. In it he named his wife Elizabeth, sons John and Alexander, and daughters Elizabeth Matthewis and Hannah Crafford. Son John received 400 acres and wife Elizabeth 90 acres; to his son Alexander he gave 145 acres "where he lives". His wife Elizabeth and son John were appointed executors; witnesses were Margaret McKee, Anne McKee, and John Doones. John Vance's sons John and Alexander moved to Fayette County, PA, with their sister Hannah Crawford and her husband Colonel William Crawford (a figure of some note in Revolutionary War history).

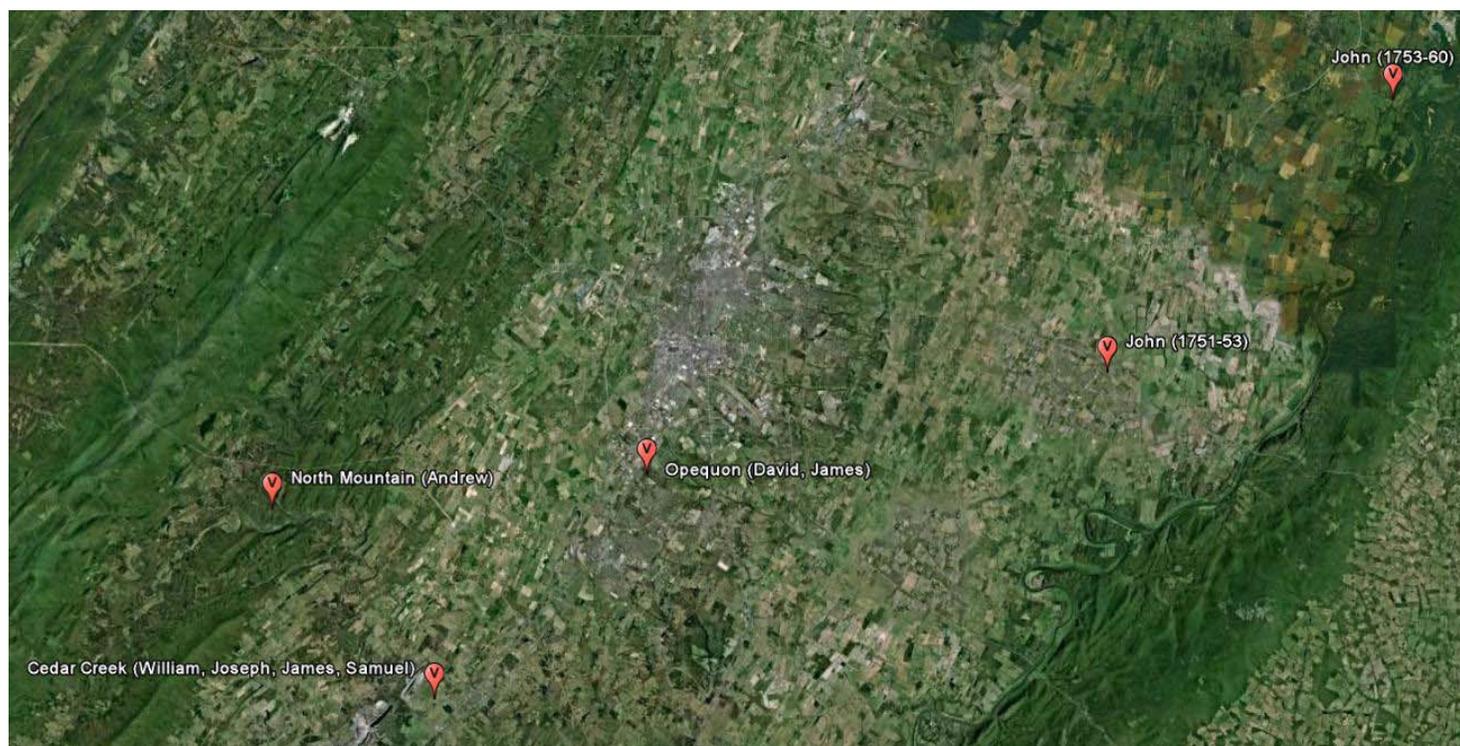
Note: John Vance's sons John and Alexander were living in Fayette County at the same time as the ancestors of Group 6, though the two groups lived in different townships (John and Alexander in Tyrone Twp and the Group 6 Vances in Georges Twp). Thanks to DNA evidence, we now know that these two groups of Fayette County Vances were not closely related.

There were many other Vance families settled in Frederick County, and most of them are represented in the DNA project. With the exception of John Vance's line, they are all in Group 1b, indicating that John was more distantly related to them than they were to each other. Most of the Vances were clustered around Opequon Creek near Winchester or farther south near Cedar Creek; John Vance's initial homestead was to the east of both

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these groupings, and within a few years he moved farther north. The various Frederick County Vance locations are depicted on the following map:



Nothing is known of John Vance's whereabouts prior to his 1751 land grant in Frederick County. Given the 1730 birth year of his oldest son, he is presumed to have been born in the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His immediate family is given here, along with the lineage leading to 61703:

1. John Vance (d.1760, VA)  
m. Elizabeth
  2. John Vance (b.1730 – d.1778, PA/VA)  
m. Margaret White
  3. Moses Vance (b.1773, PA – d.1829, PA)  
m. Elizabeth Strickler
  4. John Vance (b.1797 – d.1886, PA)  
m. Mary Strickler
  5. Milton Vance (b.1817, PA)  
m. Catherine Shellenberger
  6. PRIVATE
  7. PRIVATE
  8. 61703
- 
2. Elizabeth Vance  
m. unknown Mathews
  2. Hannah Vance  
m. Col. William Crawford

## Vance Y-DNA Project: Group 1 Overview: Genealogy (1a)

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### 2.Alexander Vance

Those researching this line should keep in mind the possibility of a descent from the Inver parish Vances, based on the DNA match with member 198026. George Vance of Raneel (d.1711/12) mentioned a son John in his will, but it is unclear what became of him. Thomas Vance of the Point (d.c.1745-1748) also mentioned a son John in his will. Since John Vance of Frederick was within a generation or two from these men, it is even possible that he might be identified with one of the John's mentioned in the Inver parish wills. It is unclear how this could be confirmed, but perhaps further research, especially in Ireland, could turn up more clues.

\* \* \*

#### 73264: William Vance (b.c.1811, SC)

Member 73264 is a descendant of William Vance of Yalobusha County, MS. On the 1850 census, William's birthplace and the birthplaces of all the children in his household were listed as South Carolina. Since the youngest child, Thomas, was 7 months old and since the census was enumerated on 5 September 1850, William and his family must have moved to Mississippi earlier in the year. Here is the make-up of his household in 1850 (Note the presence of Jane Vance, age 80, listed at the end – possibly William's mother):

Wm Vance	37	SC
Jane	33	SC
Jessee	18	SC
George	16	SC
Samuel	14	SC
William	12	SC
Sarah	10	SC
Andrew	9	SC
Robert	7	SC
John	4	SC
Edmund	2	SC
Thomas	7mo	SC
Jane Vance	80	NC

From this, William's immediate family, including the lineage leading to 73264, may be *tentatively* given as follows [not all of the children may have been his]:

#### 1.William Vance (b.c.1811, SC)

m.Jane (b.c.1817, SC)

2.Jesse Vance (b.c.1832, SC)

2.George Vance (b.1834, SC)

3.Charles Wesley Vance (b.1861, MS – d.1932, MS)

4.PRIVATE

5.PRIVATE

## Vance Y-DNA Project: Group 1 Overview: Genealogy (1a)

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6.73264

- 2.Samuel Vance (b.c.1836, SC)
- 2.William Vance (b.c.1838, SC)
- 2.Sarah Vance (b.c.1840, SC)
- 2.Andrew Vance (b.c.1841, SC)
- 2.Robert Vance (b.c.1843, SC)
- 2.John Vance (b.c.1846, SC)
- 2.Edmund Vance (b.c.1848, SC)
- 2.Thomas Vance (b.c.1849, SC)

Given that William would have been about 27 years old in 1840, we might expect to find him listed on the 1840 census in South Carolina. A search for all Vances on the 1840 census in South Carolina reveals just one Vance named William, in Union County. His household is described as follows:

- 1 male 20-29 (William Vance, then 27)
- 2 males 5-10 (Jessee and George?)
- 1 male under 5 (Samuel or William?)
- 1 female 20-29 (Jane, his wife, then 23)
- 1 female under 5 (Sarah, an infant)

This household doesn't match up precisely with the 1850 household of William of Yalobusha - he has one less son that we'd expect in 1840 - but it is extremely close. A Union County origin argues strongly in favor of William's descent from the only Vance family known to have settled in Union County, SC, that of a Thomas Vance who seems to have arrived in Union County around 1785 and who purchased land there in 1787 and 1788. Descendants claim he was married to Eleanor Bogan, the widow of John Steen, who played a prominent role in the revolution in South Carolina. He appeared on the census in Union County in 1790 (2 males over 16, 1 male under 16, 5 females, 2 slaves), and again in 1800 (1 male 45+, 1 male 10-16, 1 male under 10, 1 female 45+, 2 females 16-26, 2 females under 10). Although he was alive in 1810, Thomas was not listed as a head of household in Union County that year, which could indicate that he was living with his son George Campbell Vance who was the only Vance listed in Union County in 1810. Thomas passed away on 5 March 1818.

Thomas Vance's son George Campbell Vance was born in the mid-1780s, possibly about 1786 judging from his listings on the 1840 and 1850 census. He was thus probably the one male under 16 in Thomas' household on the 1790 census. However, Thomas may have had at least two other sons: the boy who was under 10 in his household in 1810 and the other male over 16 in his household in 1790. Since William Vance of Yalobusha was born around 1813, that would put him squarely in the generation after George Campbell Vance. There is thus a good chance that he was the grandson of Thomas Vance. If the Jane Vance, age 80, in William's household was his mother, then he was probably not the son of George Campbell Vance, who was still alive in 1850 and living in South Carolina. William may have been the son of another son of Thomas who has yet to be discovered.

## Vance Y-DNA Project: Group 1 Overview: Genealogy (1a)

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The 1850 census enumeration for Yalobusha County contains other evidence suggestive both of William Vance's Union County origins and his descent from Thomas Vance of Union. Listed two households away from William on the census in Yalobusha was the family of Robert Luske, who was a former resident of Union County. The Lusk family appears to have settled near the family of Thomas Vance of Union: in 1816, R. Lusk and J. Lusk witnessed a deed from Thomas to his son George. This R. Lusk was probably the same Robert Lusk who was a neighbor of William Vance in Yalobusha. Robert Lusk of Union was the son of Martha Davidson (she appears in Robert's household on the 1850 census in Yalobusha as Martha Luske) and John Lusk, who was himself the son of Robert Lusk and Mary *Vance*, according to Lusk family researchers. This latter Robert Lusk was a resident of Augusta County, VA, in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century; his wife Mary Vance is thought to have been related to one Thomas Vance of Augusta County. This Thomas Vance of Augusta County, VA, has been independently identified by some as the same Thomas Vance who moved to Union County, SC. This is due largely to the fact that the Lusks and other families are associated with both Thomas Vance of Augusta and Thomas Vance of Union, and it is bolstered by the fact that Thomas Vance disappears from Augusta records around the same time Thomas Vance first appears in Union County.

Thomas Vance of Augusta appears in Augusta County records as early as 1763. By 1768, he was wed to a woman named Jennet. In 1771, he served as bond for the administration of William Lusk's estate in Augusta County; in the estate settlement, it was explicitly noted that William Lusk's sons John and William were in Carolina. Thomas Vance was still in Augusta (or rather on the Borden Grant, in that part of Augusta that would later become Rockbridge County) in 1778, as he was appointed a road surveyor that year. This is the last record associated with Thomas Vance in Augusta County.

George Vance of Augusta has been identified as a possible relative of Thomas Vance of the Borden Grant. George first appears in Augusta records in 1748. In 1752, he was a witness to a land transaction between Thomas Gilham and William Jameson on Mill Creek. This is notable because Thomas Gilham's daughter Sarah [noted above] was the wife of John Davidson and her children intermarried heavily with the children of Robert Lusk and Mary Vance. [Namely, 4 of the children of John Davidson and Sarah Gillham married four of the children of Robert Lusk and Mary Vance.] Mill Creek (where Thomas Gilham lived) was located on the Borden Grant, where Thomas Vance held property.

Those researching this line should keep in mind the possibility of a descent from the Inver parish Vances, based on the DNA match with member 198026. The names Thomas and George certainly resonate with the wills of Inver parish, as there are wills from George Vance of Raneel and Thomas Vance of the Point, and since George of Raneel named sons Thomas and George in his will.