



## Vance Y-DNA Project: Group 7 Overview

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

The five individuals in Group 7 have been grouped together based on genetic distance. There are only 5 markers out of 37 in which there is some difference between the men, and they are all among the faster mutating markers. The genetic distance between any 2 members in the whole group ranges from 1 to 4 on 37 markers, as indicated on the following genetic distance matrix.

Genetic Distance					
ID	7	1	9	7	1
	1	0	5	9	2
	8	0	6	3	0
	8	5	5	5	7
	3	8	6	2	2
		8			1
71883	67	2	2	0	2
100588	2	67	3	1	4
95656	2	3	37	0	4
79352	2	3	1	67	3
120721	2	4	4	1	37

Overall, this genetic evidence indicates a strong likelihood of a common genetic descent in a genealogical timeframe for the whole group. Traditional evidence indicates that members 95656, 71883, and 100588 are all related within 6 generations; this relationship is reflected in the short genetic distance between them. Genetic distance indicates that member 120721 may be more distantly related; this accords with the fact that his lineage is geographically distinct from theirs, implying a greater likelihood of more generations separating them from their most recent common ancestor

The closest match with this group in the Vance DNA Project is participant 85282, who is a genetic distance of 4 to 6 on 25 markers (he has not tested 37). Most likely a 37-marker upgrade for 85282 would reveal even more genetic distance, but a genealogical relationship cannot yet be ruled out. Among those in the Vance DNA project who have tested 37 markers, the next closest match is a genetic distance of 34.

### Matches with Other Surnames:

There is one man in Ysearch (Steepy, 9J9FQ) who is a genetic distance of 6 from the 37-marker modal haplotype of this group. Generally matches of this genetic distance with lone individuals of other surnames are not worth pursuing unless there is some other evidence to indicate a connection.

### Haplogroup:

None of the members of this group have had their haplogroup confirmed by a SNP test. According to Whit Athey's [haplogroup predictor](#), they very likely belong to haplogroup I2b1. Jim Cullen's [haplogroup predictor](#) predicts that they have the S24 SNP in haplogroup I2b1 and that they belong to the Cont2a clade (81% chance) or the Cont1 clade (19%), as defined by Ken Nordvedt.

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The International Society of Genetic Genealogy maintains an up-to-date phylogenetic tree of the I haplogroup here: [http://www.isogg.org/tree/ISOGG\\_HapgrpI09.html](http://www.isogg.org/tree/ISOGG_HapgrpI09.html). Ken Nordvedt's excellent work on the I haplogroup may be found on [his website](#).

### Genealogical Overview:

Although all the members of Group 7 are males named Vance, their surname is clearly an Anglicization of the German surname Wentz or Wantz. The German version of the surname is demonstrable for two of the lineages (79352 & 120721), one of which (120721) is traceable to an immigrant ancestor.

Four of the five lineages in this group may be traced to either Randolph County, IN, or Preble County, OH, the county seats of which (though they in different states) are only about 40 miles distant from each other. The fifth lineage (120721) is geographically separate, being traced to Monroe County, WV, and before that, probably to a German immigrant family living in York County, PA. This early Pennsylvania location for the lineage of 120721 accords with evidence from the census indicating that the Ohio/Indiana families moved to the Midwest from Pennsylvania. It seems likely that all of the Vances in this group may eventually be traced to one or more related Wantz or Wentz families who immigrated to Pennsylvania from Germany sometime in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century or before. The following map plots the locations of the earliest known ancestors of the Group 7 Vances and illustrates the geographic division between West Virginia and Indiana/Ohio that was present within the group by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.



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## Midwestern Group

### **Randolph County, IN**

Three of the participants (71883, 100588, and 95656) trace their ancestry to men who were living in Randolph County, IN, at the time of the 1850 census. Based on the birthplaces they gave for themselves and their children on the census, it is clear that they all came to Indiana from Ohio.

- John Vance (95656) (b.c.1804, PA; to OH by 1827; to IN by 1829)
- Jacob Vance (71883) (b.c.1814, OH; to IN by 1838)
- William Vance (100588) (b.c.1822, OH; to IN by 1846)

There were three other Vance families in Randolph County in 1850 (a soundex search for the surnames Wentz or Wantz turned up nothing):

- George Vance (b.c.1776, PA; to OH by 1824)
- Jacob Vance (b.c.1816, OH; to IN by 1834)
- Jackson Vance (b.c.1825, NC)

As with the other Vances of Randolph, the census indicates that both George and the other Jacob moved to Indiana from Ohio. Like John Vance (95656), George Vance listed his birthplace as Pennsylvania. Loretta Mattson has been able to confirm, by means of the military records of George's son George Jr, that both William (100588) and Jacob (71883) were the sons of George Vance Sr. Member 95656's ancestor John Vance was also a son of George. According to family researchers, there is evidence that Edward E. Vance, a son of John, was the nephew of one David Vance. Other evidence indicates that David Vance was a brother to William Vance (100588), who is known to have been George's son. This allows the following reconstruction of George's immediate family, including the lineages leading to his descendants in the DNA project:

1.George Vance (b.1776, PA)

m.Margaret

2.John Vance (b.1804, PA – d.1868, Jay Co, IN)

m.Sarah Kulp

3.Jeremiah Vance (1834-1918)

m.Barbara Bennett

4.William Emery Vance (b.1865, Delaware Co, IN – d.1943)

5.PRIVATE

6.PRIVATE

7.95656

2.David Vance (b.1813, PA)

2.Jacob Vance (b.1814, OH – d.Wisconsin)

m.Edith Reck 1836, Randolph Co, IN

3.Henry H. Vance (b.1838, Randolph Co, IN – d.1914, Renville Co, ND)

4.PRIVATE

5.PRIVATE

6.71883

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- m. Anna Wallace
- 2. William Vance (b. 1820, OH – d. 1900, WI)
  - m. Margaret Wallace
  - 3. John Louis Vance (b. 1862, Richland, WI – d. 1923, Barron, WI)
    - m. Effie Gale
    - 4. PRIVATE
    - 5. 100588
  - 2. Elizabeth Vance (b. c. 1824, OH)
    - m. Thomas Pence
  - 2. George Vance

\* \* \*

### **Preble County, OH**

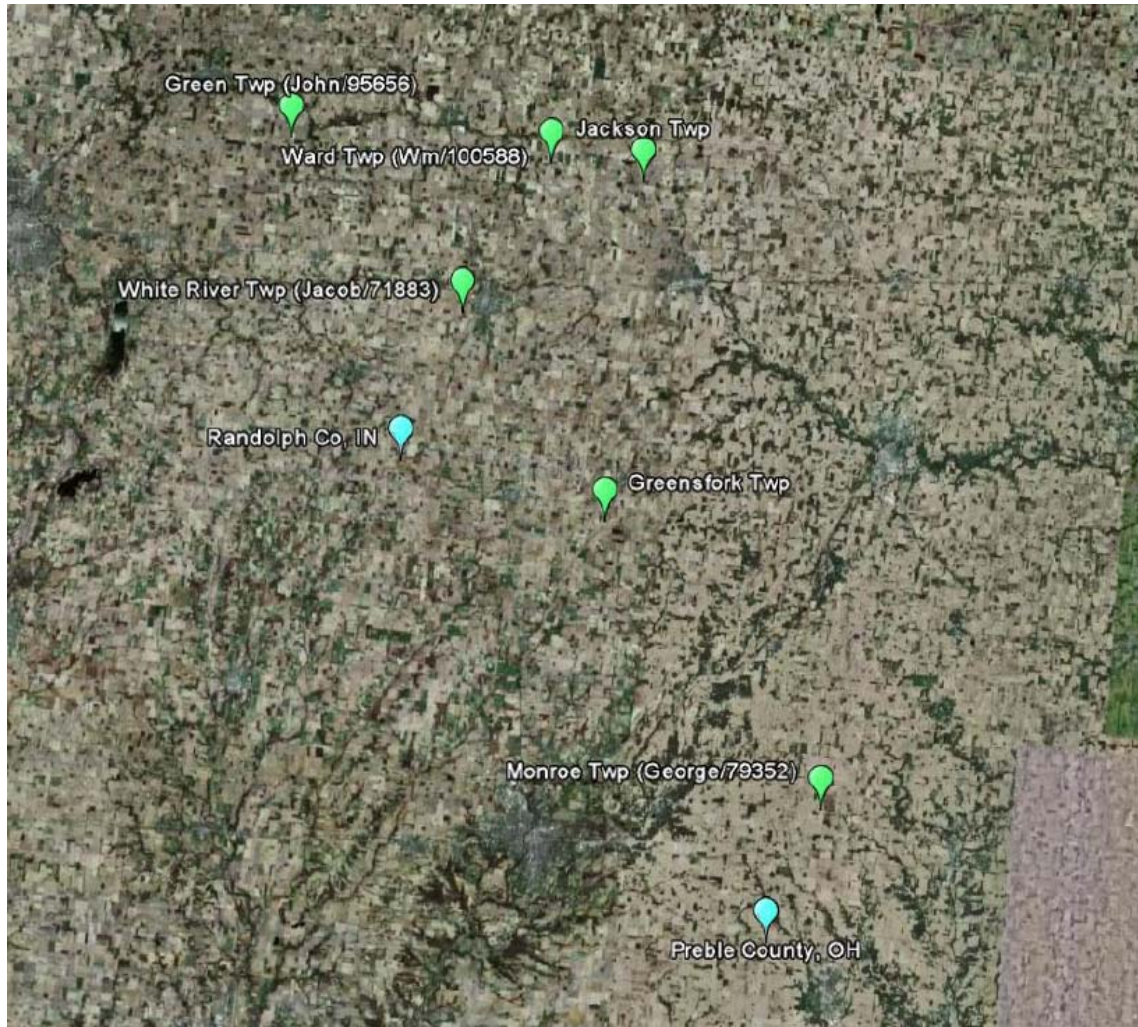
Member 79352 is a descendant of George F. Wantz of Preble County, OH. His lineage is as follows:

- 1. George Frederick Wantz/Vance (b. 1819, OH – d. 1909)
  - m. Sophia (Preble Co, OH)
  - 2. Erwin Christopher Vance (b. 1845)
    - 3. PRIVATE
    - 4. PRIVATE
    - 5. 79352

Though the counties are in different states, Preble is quite close to Randolph (the county seats are only 40 miles distant). This is apparent on the following map, which notes the locations of the earliest known ancestors of 71883, 100588, 95656, and 79352, without revealing county or state boundaries. The blue markers denote the general location of the two counties, and the green markers are the townships where the ancestors of the 4 Vances were living in 1850.

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Since it's clear that the Randolph County Vances moved to Indiana from Ohio, it's natural to wonder whether they might have come to Indiana specifically from Preble County and whether they might have left kin behind, including perhaps the ancestors of 79352. There is traditional evidence to suggest that this may be the case. The July 2000 issue of the Vance Family Association Newsletter contains excerpts from *Early Ohio Settlers, Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio, 1800-1840*. These were purchases made through the Cincinnati Land Office, and the purchases included land that ended up in Randolph County, IN, which is on the Ohio border. A George B. Vance purchased land in Randolph County in 1836. Could he be the same George Vance who was ancestor of 71883, 100588, and 95656? We know George of Randolph was still in Ohio as late as 1824, since his daughter Elizabeth (Vance) Pence listed her birthplace as Ohio and her age as 26; but it is unclear when he moved to Randolph. Interestingly, there are other entries for a George Vance in the book and these entries are all from Preble County, OH:

George Vance 1827 Preble Co, OH  
George Vance 1829 Preble Co, OH  
George B. Vance 1836 Randolph Co, IN

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It is not apparent that these entries all refer to the same George Vance, but the dates and locations are consistent with what is known of George Vance of Randolph County, IN. Taken with birth information from the census, they imply a scenario whereby George moved with his family to Ohio around 1813/1814, settled in Preble County in the 1820s, and then moved on to Randolph County at some point in the early-to-mid 1830s.

Other than George Vance, there is only one other Vance mentioned in the land entries for Preble County - Jacob Vance (1811 Preble Co, OH), perhaps the same Jacob Vance who is listed as purchasing land in Montgomery Co, OH, just east of Preble, in 1807. He may be related to George in some way.

By 1850, there were at least 11 Vance, Wentz, or Wantz households in Preble County, OH. Following is a list of all the male Vance heads-of-household in both Randolph and Preble in 1850 (those whose descendants are known to be represented in the project are bolded):

<u>Randolph Co, IN</u>	<u>Preble Co, OH</u>
<b>George Vance</b> (b.c.1776, PA; to OH by 1824)	John P Wantz (b.c.1799, PA)
<b>John Vance</b> (b.c.1804, PA; OH by 1827; IN by 1829)	Jacob Wantz (b.c.1803, PA)
<b>Jacob Vance</b> (b.c.1814, OH; to IN by 1838)	Frederick Wantz (b.c.1804, PA)
Jacob Vance (b.c.1816, OH; to IN by 1834)	Jacob M Vance (b.c.1808, OH)
<b>William Vance</b> (b.c.1822, OH; to IN by 1846)	John Wantz (b.c.1814, OH)
Jackson Vance (b.c.1825, NC)	George Vance (b.c.1816, OH)
	Peter Wentz (b.c.1825, VA; in OH by 1829)
	Irwin Wantz (b.c.1825, OH)
	John J Wantz (b.c.1827, OH)
	<b>Georg Wantz</b> (b.c.1829, OH)

Further research may elucidate the connections between these families and it would probably be worthwhile to include descendants of some or all of these other Vance lineages in the DNA project.

\* \* \*

### West Virginia Branch

Member 120721 is a descendant of Philip Vance, who was living in Monroe County, VA, at the time of the 1850 census. Traditional evidence indicates that Philip was the son of Adam Vance/Wentz, who moved to Monroe County from York County, PA, around 1799. Adam appears to be the son of Johan Philip Wentz (d.1795, York Co, PA), a German immigrant.

The following adult male Vance heads of household were listed in Monroe County on the 1850 census. (There were no Wantz or Wentz men on the 1850 census in Monroe County; by this time, the family's name had become Anglicized to Vance.)

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Jacob Vance (b.c.1795, VA)

**Philip Vance** (b.c.1800, VA)

Adam Vance (b.c.1814, VA)

Adam Vance (b.c.1823, VA) (probably Philip's son, as they were "next-door" neighbors)

The household of Philip Vance is listed as follows:

Philip Vance	50	M	Farmer	Va
Sally Vance	40	F		Va
William Vance	21	M	Laborer	Va
Margaret Vance	20	F		Va
Elizabeth Vance	19	F		Va
Mary V Vance	15	F		Va
Philip K Vance	13	M		Va
John D Vance	11	M		Va
Thomas C Vance	9	M		Va

The following Monroe County land grant abstracts, published in the January 2000 issue of the Vance Family Association newsletter, contain clues as to Philip's origins:

### Monroe County, VA Land Grants

Adam Vance	10	Carpenters Run	1807	1, 149
Jacob Vance	136	Maple Spring Run	1838	2, 138
Adam Vance	101	Second Creek	1841	2, 162
<b>Philip Vance</b>	58	Holsapple Mountain	1841	2, 165
Henry P. Vance	60	Laurel Creek	1855	3, 51
John D. Vance	133	Maple Spring Br.	1855	3, 58
Adam J. Vance	125	Carpenters Run	1860	3, 186
Adam & Adam J. Vance	3	Carpenters Run	1861	3, 198

The Jacob, Adam and Philip who acquired land around 1838-1841 appear to be the 3 adult Vances recorded on the census in that county in 1850. From the land grant index it appears that they may all be descended from the Adam Vance who obtained the grant of land on Carpenters Run in 1807. An article from the April 2003 VFA newsletter details numerous land transactions and marriages from Monroe County and adjacent Greenbrier County which solidify the connection between Adam Vance/Wentz and Philip Vance, ancestor of 120721, and also provide the clues necessary to tracing the family back to Johan Philip Wentz of York County, PA.

In both Greenbrier County and Monroe County, Adam Vance appears in numerous records with members of the Holsople/Holtzapple family. Other Vances are associated, including Jacob Vance, Henry Vance, Philip Vance, and Robert Vance. The estate of Adam Vance was appraised in Monroe County in April 1827, indicating that he had died



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by that date. A deed from Monroe County dated 27 Sept 1834 provides some details about his family:

Henry Vance and his wife, Betsey; Charles Kyle and wife, Catherine of Greenbrier Co; **Philip Vance and wife, Sally**; John Vance and wife Cristena to William Vance for \$1 each all right to a tract of land belonging to the **heirs of Adam Vance dec'd adjoining lands of Philip Holsapple** and others.

The connections between Adam Vance and the Holsapple family are the basis for the conclusion that Adam Vance of Greenbrier/Monroe was the son of Johan Philip Wentz of York Co., PA. Church records of York County indicate that Johan Philip Wentz was married to Anna Maria Holtzappel, daughter of Erasmus Holtzappel. Hendrich/Henry Holtzappel, a son of Erasmus, moved to Greenbrier Co, VA, and Adam Wantz and Jacob Wantz were named in his estate appraisal of 1822. Other members of the Holsapple/Holtzappel clan lived adjacent to Adam Vance in Monroe County. By the time of the 1840 census, Adam's children were all going by the name Vance, but note the Wantz spelling on the 1820 census:



The above evidence allows the following reconstruction of the lineage from Johan Phillip Wentz to 120721

1. Johan Phillip Wentz (b.1732 – d.1795, York Co, PA)  
m. Anna Maria Holtzappel
2. Adam Wentz/Vance (b.1762, York Co, PA – d.c.1829, Monroe Co, WV)
3. Phillip Vance (b.c.1800, Monroe Co, WV)  
m. Sarah/Sally
4. John D. Vance (b.c.1838-42, Monroe Co, WV)  
m. Rebecca Carte
5. PRIVATE
6. PRIVATE
7. 120721

More information about Johan Philip Wentz is available at [a website on Pennsylvania Wetz families maintained by Cathy Wentz-Eisenstadt.](#)