

# Early Vances and Tedricks in Highland County, OH

Contributed by the Vance Cousins and John D. Tedrick

The history of the Vances in Ohio likely began before statehood, which is generally accepted as 19 February 1803. No Census was taken in 1790 for the Northwest Territory, and the 1800 and 1810 Census records (except for Washington County) were lost or destroyed during the War of 1812. Without the benefit of the earlier federal Censuses, it is difficult to determine when the Vance surname first appeared in Ohio. Nonetheless, a search of early Highland County land records indicated a John W. Vance bought a lot in Hillsboro on 15 Dec 1808 [1] and later bought land in Hillsboro on 26 Sep 1814 [2]. When he sold the land in Hillsboro on 7 Dec 1821, he was living in Champaign County, OH [3]. A will for a William Vance (or Vince) recorded on 31 Aug 1814 bequeathed land (presumably in Highland County) to his son James after the decease of his wife Nancy [4]. The 1820 Census for Ohio shows 36 Vance households, none are in Highland, but two families are in adjacent Brown and Adams Counties to the south. John W. Vance, mentioned above, appears in the 1820 Census in Champaign County, three counties north of Highland. From this, we might conclude John W. may not have lived in Highland County or the town of Hillsboro even though he owned land there. In the 1830 Census there are 59 Vance households in Ohio, again none are in Highland County, but nine families are close by in Adams, Brown, Fayette, and Ross Counties. This 1830 Census apparently missed James Vance, legatee of the aforementioned William, who bought 50 acres in Highland County in 1837. By 1840, ten Vance households have settled in Highland County, nine of which are related to the authors. Who were these early Vances in Highland County and where did they come from?

The first Pennsylvania Vance families to come to Highland County, Ohio came from Fayette County. Fayette County is very near the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, and was formerly part of Virginia when it was known as Augusta County. It was a military district intended for settlement by those who had served in the Revolutionary War on behalf of Virginia. Settlement by Vances began around 1775 in both Washington and Fayette Counties, PA. The Vances that eventually relocated to Highland County, OH had first settled in Georges Township in Fayette County in the late 1790s. The earliest records for our ancestor William Vance (b. 1779) appeared in the Census of 1800 for Georges Township. William had married Rachel Mintun on 6 October of 1800 [5], just in time to be enumerated in the Census. The 1810 Census for Georges Township, PA included two more Vances, Davis and Hugh with their young families. Davis Vance (b. 1786) married Hanna Tedrick (b. 1788) and Hugh married Margaret Tedrick (b. 1790). Some researchers have reported that Hannah and Margaret were sisters marrying two Vance brothers. Recent Y-DNA testing has shown that William, Davis and Hugh Vance share a common ancestor and were likely brothers; however, any familial relationship between Hannah and Margaret Tedrick has yet to be demonstrated. What has proven to be interesting is that there were Tedricks in Highland County before the first Vance families arrived.

The first Tedricks in Highland County may have arrived as early as 1806 [6]. Two Tedrick sisters, Christina and Charlotte, married two Barnes brothers, John and Jacob, respectively [7]. The Barnes families were from Virginia. "Barnes" may appear to be English, but it was derived from Bernds. Dietrich "Teter" Bernds was the father of John and Jacob Barnes. The surnames Tedrick (also seen as Dietrich and Tedrich) and Barnes are of German origin. John and Jacob Barnes and their families were reported to have passed through the Redstone settlement (likely in Redstone Twp.

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1. "Vance Cousins" are William Vance & Joyce Patton, descendants of William's son Mintun J. Vance; Patricia Young, descendant of William's son Jacob and daughter Mary; Ida Lee Cann and Terry Hardgrave,

descendants of William's son William F. Vance; and Bruce Vance, descendant of William's son Lemuel K. Vance. John D. Tedrick descends from John Tedrick (b. 1777, d. 1849 in Highland County) in Fayette County, PA) in the fall of 1805 while enroute to Highland County, OH [8]. There were Tedricks/Dedricks in Fayette County, PA prior to 1790. A Jacob Detrick and family are listed in the 1800 Census for Georges Township, PA. Jacob and Charlotte Barnes may have over-wintered in Redstone waiting for his older brother's family to join them. The two Barnes families and a Michael Dugan were reported to have arrived in New Market Township in Highland County, Ohio on 10 June 1806 [8]. John and Christina's family settled near Fairview [9]. Both John and Jacob Barnes appeared on the first Census of Highland County taken in 1807 [6b, 8b] and on the 1810 tax list for New Market [10]. John (b. 1772) and Jacob Barnes (b. 1774) and a George Tedrick (b. 1774) appeared on a 6 June 1811 enumeration of all white males over the age of 21 in New Market [11]. Land records show Jacob Barnes of Highland County purchased 113 acres from Henry Massie of Ross County on 8 Dec 1811 [12]. John Barnes of Highland County purchased 165 acres from Cadawaller and Ruth Wallace of Chillicothe, Ohio on 28 Aug 1820 [14]. George Tedrick of Highland County also purchased 100 acres from Henry MASSIE on 4 Jul 1816 [13a] and another 110 acres on 15 Oct 1818 [13b].

Family relationships among the Barnes, Tedricks, and Vances are difficult to discern. George Tedrick was born 3 Dec 1774 in New Jersey [15]. Charlotte Tedrick was born 3 May 1777 [16] in New Jersey (cf. 1850 Census for Highland Co, OH) and sister Christina was born in 1780 [17]. Looking at the vitals for the Tedrick girls that married the Vance brothers, we found that Hannah Tedrick was born 15 Nov 1788 in Pennsylvania [18] and Margaret Tedrick was born 20 Oct 1790 in Pennsylvania [19]. For Margaret, there are two caveats; the 1870 Census for Georges Twp, PA showed Margaret as born in Virginia while another source stated she came to America when she was three years old [43]. We could not determine from birthdates or birth locations if Hannah or Margaret were related to Charlotte and Christina Tedrick or to George Tedrick. However, as will be shown below, these Barnes, Tedrick, and Vance families knew each other during the years they lived in Highland County.

Davis and Hannah Vance and their family of 13 children were the first of our ancestral line to come to Highland County. No precise date has been determined for their departure from Georges Township in Fayette County, PA or for their arrival in New Market in Highland County. However, a 1901 obituary for their daughter Eliza (b. 1819), stated that she "came with her parents at the age of fourteen [20]." This would equate to an arrival after June of 1833 but before May of 1834. Davis and Hannah's daughter Anna Vance married Lewis Johnson on 12 Oct 1834 in Highland County [21]. Another account based on information provided by Davis and Hannah's grandson Isaiah Thomas Vance, told of their arrival in October of 1835 [22]. Elsie Ayers, a local Highland County historian, wrote that ". . . Davis (Vance) and Hannah Tedrick (Vance) emigrated to Ohio in 1835 [24]." From records filed at the County Recorder's Office in Hillsboro, we learned that on 4 Jan 1836 Davis had contracted to purchase 170 acres for \$1,000 from the executors of the estate of James Wadman [25]. Of these possible dates, 1834 would seem the most likely year of arrival because of daughter Anna's marriage in 1834. According to Isaiah Vance, his grandfather's family *came "in a muslin covered wagon . . . they had thirteen children of their own, and several of them married and had families, making nineteen in all in the group [22]."* Daughter Hannah had married Moses Whistler and their first child Henry was born in Fayette Co, PA in 1835 [23], thus one family member may have remained behind for one year. One can only wonder about where this large family first stayed, with whom, and for how long until they found a place of their own. This would certainly raise the question whether they might have had friends or relatives already living in Highland County when they first arrived.

Tragedy struck the Vance family when on 29 Mar 1837, less than three years after their arrival, Davis Vance Sr. died at the age of 50. Seven of his 13 children were still under the age of 21. Davis died intestate and still owed a balance of \$300 on his farm so his heirs did not have clear title to their land. His wife Hannah relinquished her right as administrator of the estate in favor of her son Jacob. The bondsmen appointed for Davis' estate on 10 Jul 1837 were: Jacob Vance (b. 1809),

administrator; George Tedrick (b. 1774) and Charlotte Tedrick's husband Jacob Barnes (b. 1774), sureties [26]. It should be noted that Jacob Vance was 27 years old at the time and likely looked to friends of the family who could help guide him through probate as well as provide bond money of \$400. Of interest, when the aforementioned George Tedrick died in 1862, an inventory of his estate showed that Lewis Vance (b. 1816), William Vance (b. 1823, sons of Hannah Tedrick Vance), Jacob Tedrick (b. 1806, son of John Tedrick), Teter Barnes (b. 1816, likely the grandson of Teter Barnes), Samuel Tedrick, George Tedrick (b. 1827, grandson of George Tedrick), and John A. Tedrick (b. 1805, son of George Tedrick) were debtors to his estate. The probate of Jacob Barnes' estate in 1860 was administered by Lewis Couch and bonded by M.M. Barrere and Davis Jefferson Vance (Davis Sr.'s son) [27]. This shows a familiar relationship between the Vances and Tedricks over two generations and 20 years after Davis Sr. passed away. We speculate that this long term relationship was, in part, because Hannah Vance was a Tedrick.

The news of the death of Davis Vance in March of 1837 must have reached Fayette County, PA shortly afterwards and it precipitated major changes. His brother William and wife Rachel Vance both requested letters of dismissal from the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Smithfield, Georges Township, which were granted on 8 July 1837 [28]. It is not clear whether Davis' death triggered this action or whether William and Rachel had been contemplating a move earlier. It would have been reasonable for William to want to help his brother's widow and her family, but it also appeared that William intended to uproot his own large family to move to Ohio. Some insight into this unusual move comes from learning that William and Rachel had experienced difficulties resulting from philosophical differences with the church leaders at the Great Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown. Their unrest might also have been compounded by the death of their daughter Rachel in January of 1837 [29]. We first learn of the impending move from Oliver Harris (a farmer in New Market) whose diary contains the entry "*on Sat. (27 May 1837), I staked and aligned some fence and went to town and saw John Gossett receive 26:80 dollars for his farm he has sold to Wm. Vance from Pa. Clear and warm. Robt went to Winchester and took William home [30].*" It is not clear if William Vance was present in Highland County in May of 1837, or if Harris was referring to someone else, e.g. Davis' son William Vance who would have been 14 at the time. Robert was Oliver's son.

William might have made a trip to Highland County shortly after March of 1837 to see his brother's family and quite possibly had considered Highland as a place to live. From Highland County land records, we learned that John Gossett and his wife Polly sold 266 ¼ acres and 10 perches to William Vance, but not until 20 Oct 1837 (recorded 17 Jan 1838) [31]. Perhaps the money Oliver Harris referred to in May of 1837 was earnest money received by Gossett for making a purchase agreement, the actual contract of sale coming later. Of note, William and Rachel did not sign this purchase contract (indenture), only the Gossetts did so. Nonetheless, the contract identifies William as a resident of Highland County, Ohio and that he paid \$3,994 in lawful money of the U.S. for Gossett's land [31]. One month earlier in Fayette County, PA, William and Rachel had completed contracts for the sale of four properties: 133 acres and 53 perches for \$4,127 [32]; 148 acres and 9 perches for \$1,032.36 (mortgage amount) [33]; 133 acres and 83 perches for \$1,839.20 (mortgage amount) [34]; and 147 acres and 9 perches for \$3,372 [35]. William and Rachel (with her mark) signed and sealed these contracts on 20 Sep 1837, thus they were still residing in Fayette County at this time, but obviously intending to leave. The purchase of Gossett's property in Highland County in October of 1837 may closely coincide with the arrival of William and Rachel's family. When William Vance Sr. died in November of 1854, the news traveled back to Fayette County, PA where his obituary appeared one month later. William's obituary states that "in the year of 1837, he removed to Highland Co., Ohio, where he remained until his mortal body wearied by the years of time expired [36]."

The removal of William and Rachel Vance's family to Ohio, like that of his brother Davis, was almost an exodus. There were seventeen children in William's family and some had started families

of their own by 1837. Four of the married children remained behind: Thomas and his wife Ann Gaddis; Rebecca and her husband Samuel Hatfield; Rachel Vance Tilton (died in Fayette County 1837); and William F. Vance (Jr.) and his wife Jane Wynne. William remained in Fayette until about 1840, then removed his family to Highland County, OH. The families traveled by wagon, as evidenced by an ox yoke that still hangs over the fireplace of Rendell J. Vance, a fourth generation descendant of William and Rachel Vance living in Clinton County. Because William bought a farm in Highland County before he left Pennsylvania, his extended family had a place to settle upon their arrival. Within three years of their arrival in New Market, William and Rachel purchased four additional farms adding another 442 acres, bringing their total holdings to 708 acres [37]. In 1841, William was 62 years old. His five farms were most likely operated by his sons and son-in-laws. William Vance Sr. died 20 Nov 1854 at the age of 75, leaving a large legacy to his family and a comfortable allowance for his wife Rachel [38].

The arrival of William and Rachel Vance's family in New Market presented new opportunities for the expression of their religious faith. William was opposed to the anti-missionary practices of the Great Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown, PA. There was a growing schism among the congregation over this and eventually William and Rachel left this church and joined the Mount Moriah Baptist Church on 11 July 1835 [28]. Both William and Rachel received letters of dismissal from the Mount Moriah Church on 8 July 1837 in order to relocate to Ohio [28]. When they arrived in Highland County, they found the original New Market Baptist Church (founded in 1824) to also be anti-missionary and would not receive new families into communion regardless of letters from their previous church [39]. On 9 June 1838, the Vance, McConnaughey, Arnett, Harris, Johnson, Ross and Wheaton families met in the home of Oliver Harris to organize a new congregation; they founded the Little Rocky Fork Baptist Church (near a creek of the same name) [39]. Andrew McConnaughey, William Vance and Oliver Harris are identified as "Commissioners of the Rocky Fork Baptist Church" and were named grantees for the land upon which the new church was built [40]. This became the 'new' New Market Baptist Church where William's son-in-law Levi Griffith became one of the pastors [39]. Many of the founders and their descendants are buried in the cemetery adjacent to this church.

The first member of Hugh and Margaret (Tedrick) Vance's family to leave Fayette County, PA for Highland County was their daughter Eliza (b. 1814). Eliza had requested a letter of dismissal from the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Smithfield, PA which was granted on 12 Dec 1841. The records of this church indicate she had married (Oliver) Sanders [28], which had taken place in Ohio on 11 Dec 1841 [41]. (These dates do not reconcile because letters of dismissal were often delayed because the church elders had to make a determination that the member was in good standing and of high moral character before recommending him or her to the receiving congregation.) Oliver (b. 1820) was the son of John and Anna Sanders, the family for whom the Sanders Cemetery in New Market is named. Eliza and Oliver and four of their children are interred in this cemetery. Davis and Hannah (Tedrick) Vance are also buried there [42].

The second member of Hugh and Margaret (Tedrick) Vance's family to leave Fayette County, PA for Highland County was their son George Vance (b. 1825). George had married Lydia Wilson about 1855 and they had three children by 1860, when they came to New Market [43]. George was a shoemaker. The Census of 1880 for New Market shows George's mother Margaret living in his household. Margaret Tedrick had married Hugh Vance in August of 1810 and was widowed by 1827 [44]. She raised a family of nine children in Georges Township in Pennsylvania. Her two oldest sons, Samuel and Ezekiel left for Wisconsin in 1845 [45]. Her youngest son, Hugh Vance Jr., left for the Gold Rush and died in Butte County, California in 1900 [46]. It is thought that when Margaret first came to New Market about 1875 she lived with her daughter Eliza Sanders and then later moved in with her son George. While in New Market in August of 1881, and at the age of 91, Margaret finally received a widow's pension for her husband's service in the War of 1812 [47], almost 70 years after the fact. Margaret was the last of our Vance line to move from Fayette County, PA to Highland

County, OH. The family believes she died in New Market, but her place of burial is unknown. The family has searched the Sanders Cemetery where her daughter Eliza is buried and the New Market Baptist Church Cemetery where her son George and his wife Lydia are buried, but no headstone has been found for Margaret.

From our family research, it is clear that John and Jacob Barnes and their wives Christina and Charlotte Tedrick were among the first families in Highland County. George Tedrick and his family would also be considered a first family. Davis Vance and his wife Hannah Tedrick were among those who arrived after 1830 and probably came at the suggestions of friends or family. William Vance and his wife Rachel Mintun came to Highland County most likely to help his brother's widow Hannah and her family, and perhaps to escape the troubles of their church in Pennsylvania. Hugh Vance's widow, Margaret Tedrick came to Highland County in her senior years to live with her two children who had come in 1840 and 1861. Their legacies include many Vance and Tedrick descendants, some of whom still live in Highland County today.

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The headstone for William Vance reads "Died Nov. 20, 1854, Aged 75 years, 9 mo and 12 days. The Scripture is from Revelations 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints, here are they who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

William is buried alongside his wife Rachel, "The Mother of 20 Children," in the New Market Baptist Church Cemetery.



The new New Market Baptist Church in New Market Twp, Highland County, OH.

Contributed by [Bill Vance](#)



Headstone for Davis Vance Sr. reads "Died March 29, 1837, Aged 50 yrs, 4 mo and 7 days"

Davis is buried alongside his wife Hannah and son Isaiah in the Sanders Cemetery in New Market Township.



The ox yoke that hangs over the fireplace of Rendell J. Vance was used by his great grandfather Jacob Vance when the family came to Highland County in 1837. Jacob was born Sep 1806 in Georges Twp., Fayette County, PA.

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