

The Van Zandt Record

Vol. XXXIII, No. 1

Winter 2009

Academy Award[®] Nominee Gus Van Sant

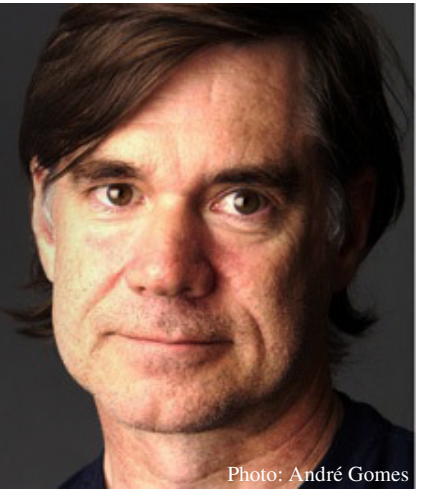


Photo: André Gomes

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For the second time in his illustrious career, Gus Van Sant has been nominated as Best Director by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the movie *Milk*. Van Sant became a household name in 1997 when he received his first directorial nomination for *Good Will Hunting*. As director, producer, screenwriter, author, musician, and photographer, Gus has earned dozens of prestigious awards for his work, but to date, he has not received an Oscar.

Milk is the story about Harvey B. Milk, California's first openly gay elected official who was savagely gunned down along with San Francisco Mayor George R. Moscone, on November 27, 1978 in City Hall. Prior to his arrival in San Francisco, Harvey Milk was an average New Yorker. In California, he became an activist for Gay Rights and ran for office three times before successfully winning election to San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in 1977. Not everyone in the community was supportive of Milk and his often flamboyant campaign tactics. In fact, former Board Supervisor, Dan White led the fight to ban gays and their supporters from working in public schools. White had recently resigned his position on the Board and wanted the resignation rescinded at the time he stormed the office and assassinated Milk and Moscone. Because of the tragedy, Milk became known as an early martyr for Gay Rights in America.

When White came up for trial, his defense team argued "diminished capacity" at the time of the shooting because of his

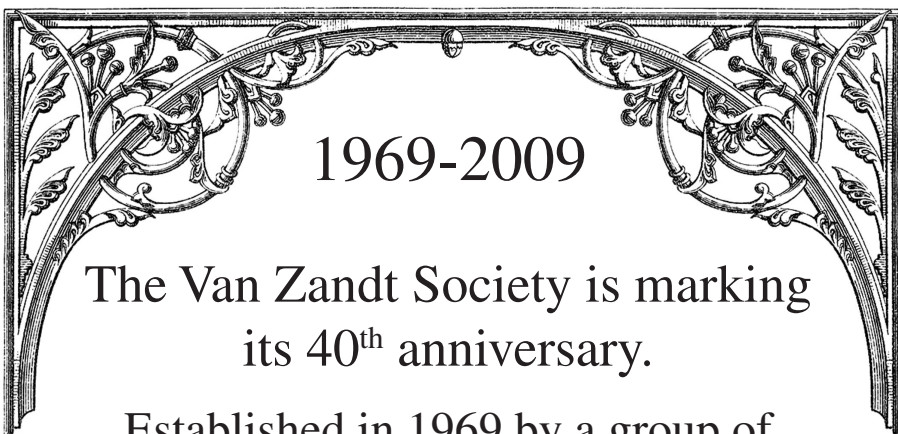
addiction to sugary foods—later termed the "Twinkie Defense". He was convicted of voluntary manslaughter instead of murder, which outraged the community. When White was paroled after serving a mere five years one month and nine days for killing two men in cold blood, officials feared a violent reaction by the community. On October 21, 1985, White took his own life by asphyxiation in a garage owned by his ex-wife.

Milk premiered in San Francisco on October 28, 2008 and opened across the country a month later. In the movie adaptation, Sean Penn plays the role of Harvey Milk. Penn is among a small group of elite actors favored by Van Sant. For *Milk*, Van Sant received an award for Best Director, and the film was also awarded Best Picture and Original Screenplay by the San Francisco Film Critics Circle.

Since the opening of Van Sant's first full-length film, *Mala Noche* in 1985, he has directed a total of 13 feature films. He's also directed more than a dozen short films and a similar number of music videos.

Gus Greene Van Sant, Jr., was born on July 24, 1952 on the outskirts of Louisville, Kentucky to Gus Van Sant, Sr. and Betty Seay. After attending Purdue University for a few years, Gus' father embarked on a career in sales that led him to move his family several times during Gus' childhood. The family lived for several years in Colorado, a short period of time in San Francisco, and later in Connecticut.

(continued on page 3)



1969-2009

The Van Zandt Society is marking
its 40th anniversary.

Established in 1969 by a group of
Adam Wensel Van Santen's descendants,
the first president was Dwight Van Zandt.

In 1977, administration of the Society
was passed to several of
Gerret Stoffelse Vansant's descendants
in Eastern Pennsylvania.

They were ably assisted by one of
Joseph Janse Van Zante's descendants,
who served as the first editor of
The Van Zandt Record until 2004.

Since the beginning, annual family reunions
have been held across North America to
provide opportunities for descendants from
the three known lines bearing the
Van Zandt name to gather and
share good times.

Turn to page 8 to read the original Constitution and By-Laws.

The Van Zandt Record

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Record, in any media format, is strictly pro-
hibited without the prior written consent of
the President or Editor of The Van Zandt
Society.

Welcome New Members

The Society welcomes the following new and returning members.

William W. Young	Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
Mary Lou Fadden	Clinton, North Carolina
Peggy Trapp	McLean, Virginia
Marilyn Webber	Leawood, Kansas
Patricia A. Walker	Lodi, California
Sarah F. Cartwright	Timonium, Maryland
Beverly Fonville Van Zandt	Shoreacres, Texas

Gus Van Sant (continued from page 1)

With the frequent moves, Gus didn't have a chance to make many lasting friendships. He did, however, start to develop his artistic skills as a young teenager when several of his paintings received positive attention. His father's career continued to advance placing the family in increasingly affluent circumstances and neighborhoods.



In junior high, Gus was greatly influenced by two teachers that he encountered in the Darien (Connecticut) public school system—the first was his art teacher and the second was a progressive writing instructor who encouraged his students to experiment with 8mm filmmaking. Gus' interest in painting and filmmaking led him to the Rhode Island School of Design in 1970 where he met classmate David Byrne and other members who would later form the *Talking Heads*. While at RISD, Gus also met Andy Warhol.

About a year before Gus' first feature-length film was released to critical acclaim in 1985, his father's career culminated with the appointment as president and chief executive of White Stage Manufacturing Co. In 1997 and after retirement, a public record of campaign contributions showed that Gus' parents returned to their original home in Mayfair, Kentucky. Today Gus' parents make their home in New Albany, Ohio.

Gus Greene Van Sant, Sr. was born on March 23, 1927 in Graves County, Kentucky to Lewis Lovering Van Sant and his wife, Dorothy, nee Greene. Lewis died at age 43. He was born in 1904 to Benjamin Franklin and Frances (Hudgins) Vansant who lived in Rowan, KY. Benjamin was a lumber salesman born in July 1862 in Elliott County, KY. He was the ninth child born to Wilbourne Henderson Vansant and his wife, Lavisy Susan Hunter.

Wilbourne was sometimes referred to as William H. He was born in October 1819 in Virginia. Wilbourne and Lavisy made their home in Morgan, KY as early as 1842. In 1869, the portion of Morgan in which they lived became part of Elliott County.

According to *Biographical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky* (published by J. M. Gresham Co., Chicago, Illinois 1896), Wilbourne's ancestors were early settlers in Pennsylvania who migrated to Maryland and then to Virginia.



Photo: André Gomes

Dorothy Van Sant Little has been looking for information about Wilbourne Henderson Vansant for many years as she is his great-great granddaughter. Based on census records and other data, Dorothy suspects his mother's name was Elizabeth or Betsey—but she lacks definitive proof. And there's an even bigger issue. Dorothy's brother participated in the Van Zandt Y-DNA project several years ago but did not match any of the three known branches. Dorothy's brother is a close match to the Purcell family group.

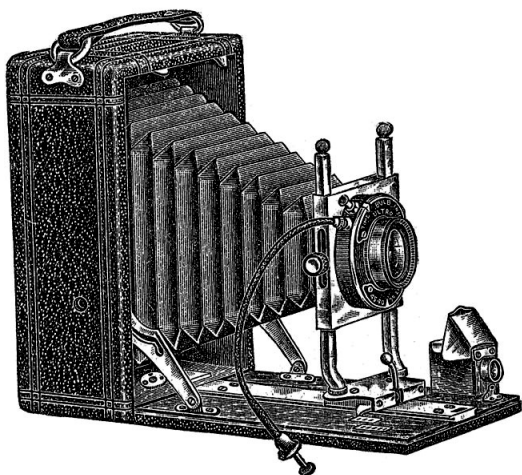
According to oral history passed down in Dorothy's family, Wilbourne Henderson Vansant arrived in Morgan County on horseback with his mother. Several Vansants migrated from Southwestern Virginia to Morgan, Kentucky at essentially the same time. Moreover, naming patterns suggest that they were related to each other, but how is the question. Please see query on page 18.

Returning back to Gus: he lives in Portland, Oregon and despite his celebrity, tries to keep a low profile as he goes about the business of creating his latest cinematic endeavor.

The Academy Awards presentation is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2009. Let's keep our fingers crossed that Gus takes home the award for his unique vision and directorial accomplishments no matter what his Y-DNA implies. ■

Van Sant's Feature Films

Mala Noche (1985)
Drugstore Cowboy (1989)
My Own Private Idaho (1991)
Even Cowgirls Get The Blues (1993)
To Die For (1995)
Good Will Hunting (1997)
Psycho (1998)
Finding Forrester (2000)
Gerry (2002)
Elephant (2003)
Last Days (2005)
Paranoid Park (2007)
Milk (2008)



Don't Be Afraid to Shoot... with your camera that is

which can make a day of genealogical research quite expensive if you're lucky enough to find relevant materials. But this is an area where modern technology can save the researcher money and, lead to less wear and tear on the research materials.

The use of digital cameras is gradually gaining acceptance in some facilities. For example, at the Pennsylvania Historical Society, for a single fee of \$5 per day, patrons are allowed to use cameras (digital or film) to capture images that once required photocopying. The fees are used to offset the lost revenue associated with duplication services. However, for most researchers, the \$5 fee turns out to be quite a bargain.

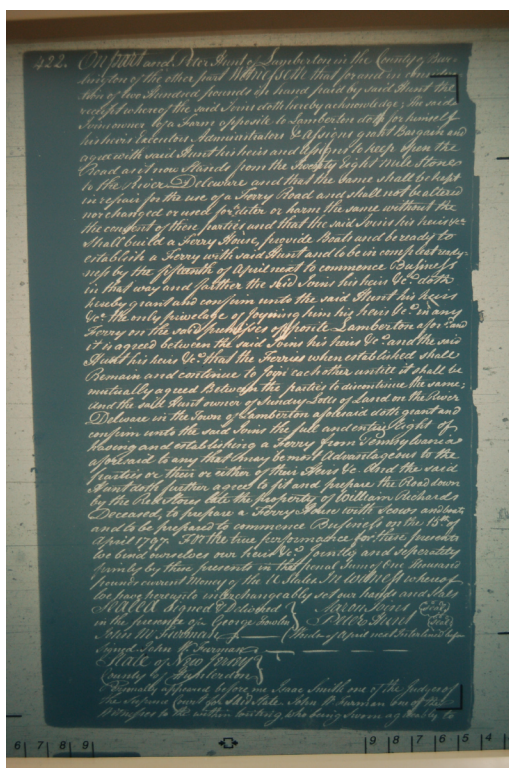
Some facilities allow cameras to be used for capturing images on microfilm and microfiche readers, too. This process, however, demands more acumen by the photographer to achieve useful results. But in some cases, the images captured are superior to regular duplication processes. In the long run, the use of cameras to capture images may be less harmful to the bindings of old books and manuscript than traditional flatbed photocopier methods.

If you are considering using a camera, be sure to check with the facility prior to your visit. Find out if cameras are allowed, and if so, check the fee. Some facilities will allow cameras but will require you to suppress the flash. Before your trip, check your camera's user guide to learn how to do this if you're unsure.

Once images are captured digitally, they can be manipulated and enhanced using such programs as Adobe's *Photoshop* to adjust contrast, square-up the image, and even to invert the image to change it from a negative state to a positive one. ■

Anyone involved in serious genealogical study knows firsthand that research facilities are often rigid in nature as they are charged with protecting valuable and irreplaceable documents and books. Some require researchers to wear white gloves, use special supports to cradle ancient books, and many forbid researchers from even carrying pens and highlighters into the facility. Bags may be banned altogether, or at least be available for inspection. Some archives allow laptop computers and others do not.

Libraries and archives often charge a premium for photocopying services. Some charge as much as \$1 per page,



ally agreed between the parties to discontinue the same;
he said Hunt owner of Sunday Lots of Land on the River
are in the Town of Lamberton aforesaid doth grant and
in unto the said Town the full and entire Right of
and establishing a Ferry from Pennsylvania
aid to any that may be most Advantageous to the
is or their or either of their Heirs &c. And the said
doth further agree to fit and prepare the Road down
Reb Stones late the property of William Richards
used, to prepare a Ferry House with scows and boats
to be prepared to commence Business on the 15th of
1797. For the true performance for these presents

Above: Portion of the enhanced image that shows the detail and clarity possible when using digital photography and appropriate graphics manipulation software.

Left: An unenhanced digital image taken of microfilm reader screen.

Searching for Our Ancestors

Query Submitters are asked to include their mailing address as well as email address for publication. In an attempt to share information more broadly and to make family connections, if you respond to a query, please contact the person who posted it and the Editor. Answers to queries sent to the Editor will appear in upcoming editions of The Van Zandt Record.



Sharing Tombstone Photographs

Helen Smith (aka Mrs. Van Zandt Smith) from Waco, Texas shared photos and information about several gravestones she found with her husband when they were in Maryland several years ago. She wanted to share the information in case it would be of interest to other family members.

Helen and Van Zandt had been touring the area driving through Maryland at the time they came upon a small cemetery that Helen remembers was close to the road. The names on the gravestones are shown below:

Helen A. VANSANT	August 26 1894–April 25 1956
Nile A. VANSANT	Dec. 24 1896–Dec. 24 1954
Everett VANSANT	1919–1925
Loretta VANSANT	(dates unreadable)
John C. VANSANT	1859–19_5
Mary S. VANSANT	1856–? (cut off)
J. Clark VANSANT	1883–1919 (larger tombstone)

Helen said that all of the tombstones looked fairly new but the one for John C. VANSANT was stained so she wasn't able to read it in its entirety.

More information about this branch of the family was found in an excerpt from the Smith Family website (no relation to Helen and Van Zandt), at <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/5127/fathersfam/smithgroups.html>. According to the site, it states that John Clark Vansant and various members of his family are buried at the Flint Hill Cemetery in Chester County, PA. From the Smith site—

Sarah Anne Smith b 8/28/1823, d 1/29/1903, buried Flint Hill Cem m 5/19/1847 Robert Montgomery b 11/25/1822, d 12/15/1900 buried Flint Hill Cem. Their daughter Mary Smith (middle name) Montgomery, b 11/8/1856, d 11/8/1928 m John C Vansant 2/3/1881; they are buried Flint Hill Cemetery.

John Vansant b 7/7/1859 to John Clark Vansant and Maria Jacobs. John Sr. was a farmer, merchant, road commissioner in Delaware. Presbyterian. Moved to London Britain 1860. John Jr. a farmer and prosperous merchant in farm equipment. Also held a number of public posts, including town supervisor, school director, and tax collector.

John Clark Vansant Jr. (third) b 12/1/1883 educated Goldey College, Wilmington, bookkeeper w/ H.K. Mulford Chemical Company of Philadelphia.

Gaylord M. K. Vansant b 1885 d 1885

George Montgomery Vansant b 12/21/1887

Nile Everett Vansant b 12/24/1896

Based on this information combined with more details found on Virtual Grave (<http://chester-county-genealogy.com/modules/gengraves/singlelink.php?cid=219&lid=4331>), it appears that Helen and Van Zandt may have crossed into the extreme

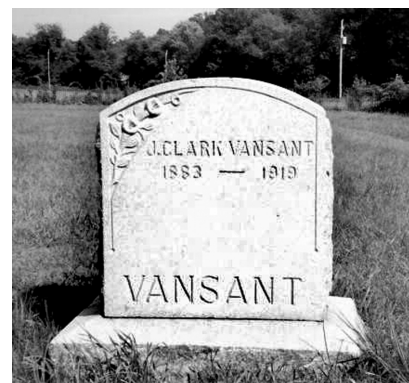
southeastern part of Pennsylvania without realizing it. The Flint Hill Cemetery is just a quarter mile from the Maryland border so it's easy to see how this could have happened.



John Clark VANSANT (IV) next to his wife, Mary S. (Montgomery) VANSANT at the Flint Hill Cemetery

The first John Clark Vansant in the area died in Delaware in 1799. His will was proved in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County on October 1, 1799. His wife Mary, along with son John, were executors. He had other sons named Isaac and James, and daughters named Hannah, Mary, and Sarah. According to an assessment of 1783, John owned 121 acres in Kent County, Maryland as part of his estate known as *Adventure*. John Clark Vansant was the son of George Vansant Jr. and Elinor Clark. George was born on March 31, 1712, and died on June 6, 1770 in Maryland. His will written Feb 28, 1770: *my gristmill, stock of negroes, horses, cattle and all of my moveable estate be sold at public vendue. Children: George, John Clark, and Rachel. Sons George, John Clark Vansant, and son Joshua 150 pounds current money of Pennsylvania to Joshua as soon as he arrives at the age of 21. 150 pounds to Rachel as soon as she reaches 16 years of age. Daughter Mary Welch. Wife Elinor 1/3 estate.*

The tombstone for J. Clark VANSANT 1883-1919 memorializes the fifth John Clark Vansant with an unbroken line back to the first John Clark. They descended from Gerret Stoffelse Vansant. ■



Searching is continued on page 18.

In Search of a 400-Year-Old Family Bible

Several years ago while conducting research at the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, at its former location on Broad Street in Philadelphia, I copied most of the contents from the Vansant surname file. The old manila folder contained scraps of information and documents acquired and donated by other researchers.

The clipping on the right came from an unknown Philadelphia newspaper dated October 28, 1927. It mentions an old family Bible in possession of William V. Cooper, a resident of the Kensington section of the city. I made a photocopy and filed it away for future use.

The story contains several obvious inaccuracies, but it is intriguing nonetheless. It also brings several questions to mind. Could this 80-year old story shed new light on Christoffel Harmansen and Gerret Stoffelse Vansant's German or Dutch ancestors? Is it possible to locate the actual Bible? Can a copy of the newspaper be found to see what appeared on the picture page mentioned below the headline?

Printed in 1614 in Amsterdam, the Bible once belonged to George Vansant. I believe the George mentioned was Gerret Stoffelse Vansant's son, Joris or George. He married Micah Vandegrift in Philadelphia in 1706/07 and took up residence in Kent County, Maryland.

The Bible's owner in 1927, William V. Cooper, was a descendant of Joris and Micah and is identified as "a direct descendant of the original settler" in the article. After analyzing various sources of information, I've learned that William was the son of Amanda Adele Vansant who married John Higgins Cooper. William was born September 28, 1860 in Kent County, Maryland. Amanda was a *double Vansant* because her mother, Ann, was born in 1797 to Benjamin and Ann Vansant, and Amanda's father was Perry Vansant. Amanda Adele was Joris and Micah's great-great-great granddaughter. It is not known how Perry fits into the family but with roots in Maryland, he's most likely from the same branch. It would be interesting to find out which branch of the Vansant family passed the Bible down to William Cooper—his mother's side or his father's.

The Bible, bearing on its fly-leaf the name of Pieter Proedondyk, an ancestor of the Vansant family.

Census records for 1920 and 1930 confirm that William V. Cooper resided at Schiller St. in Kensington. His wife was Marjorie and they had three children, Elizabeth born 1890, Elmer L. 1891, and John born about 1893. Elmer Leslie Cooper was a widower with three daughters in 1930 when they lived in William and Marjorie's household. The three daughters were Eleanor L., Elizabeth, and Merle. No other information has been found about Elmer's daughters, or other possible descendants of William V. Cooper and his wife Marjorie; therefore it is not possible to locate the Bible itself.

Several years ago, Society member Cynthia Lawson posted that her mother had recently come home from a funeral with her arms loaded with family information. One

POSSESSES OLD DUTCH BIBLE

Kensington Man Has Volume Printed
in Amsterdam in 1614

(Illustrated on Picture Page)

An old Dutch Bible, printed in Amsterdam, in 1614, and brought to this country in 1700 by George Vansant, is in the possession of William V. Cooper, 923 E. Schiller st., Kensington, a direct descendant of the original settler.

The Bible, bearing on its fly-leaf the name of Pieter Proedondyk, an ancestor of the Vansant family. It also contains records of births as far back as 1707, when the birth of Elizabeth, daughter of George and Mary Vansant appears, apparently the first birth in the family in this country.

The original binding has evidently been destroyed, two worn, polished wooden covers, held together by strong cord across the back, taking its place. The book is yellow with age and crumbling at the edges, but its print is perfectly clear to those who can read old Dutch. It contains both an old and new Testament.

According to Mr. Cooper, whose mother was a Vansant, ten Vansant brothers came to this country about 1700, landing near Langhorne, Bucks county. Three of the brothers went to Maryland where they formed on the eastern shore of Maryland and their descendants continued there for more than 200 years. The other brothers settled in the vicinity of Langhorne, where many of their descendants still live.

28 Oct 1927

item was a family tree prepared by William V. Cooper in 1929. Perhaps there is a clue in those papers that can help us locate the old family Bible.

The most interesting sentence in the article is: "The Bible, bearing on its fly-leaf the name of Pieter Proedondyk, an ancestor of the Vansant family." Unfortunately, the name *Proedondyk*, and its variations, when entered in Internet search engines for English-speaking markets yields no results. Two of our van de Sandt "cousins," Max and Felix said that *Proedondyk* is also not a known surname in either Germany or in The Netherlands. Max wondered if the name was misspelled, which is certainly possible, but unless we can locate the actual Bible, we may never know for sure. ■

Vansant Family Relics: Connie Mack Stadium Seat

John E. Van Sant from Medford, New Jersey brought an interesting relic—of sorts—to the attention of the Society. While John was attending a conference in Philadelphia at the new Citizens Bank Park, home to the current World Series Champions, the Philadelphia Phillies, he noticed an interesting artifact. Carefully preserved behind a Plexiglas window was an old stadium seat, number 1 that was in use at the last game played in Connie Mack Stadium on October 1, 1970. Named in honor of the Hall of Fame manager of the Philadelphia A's, Connie Mack Stadium, was torn down and replaced by Veteran's Stadium, home to the Phillies until 2004 when the state-of-the-art facility, Citizens Bank Park replaced the "Vet".

So why are we talking about a stadium seat in the relics column? It turns out that the historic piece of Philadelphia baseball history was donated by the family of Bill Vansant of West Chester, PA who was an avid fan.

According to the Social Security death index, William C. Vansant was born October 13, 1935 and died September 1, 2005. Sally Sondesky checked the Society's physical files and found his obituary.

William C. Vansant 69 of West Chester, a retired draftsman for DuPont Co. and a West Chester University sports statistician, died of heart failure Sept. 1, 2005 at Chester County Hospital. As a youngster he crawled under the fence to watch West Chester State College football games. In the 1960's he was able to see the games for free again as part of the "chain gang" handling the down markers. He was later asked to be the statistician for games and held the position for more than 25 years.

His wife, Anita Rackiewicz Vansant, said he loved Phillies baseball and attended training in Clearwater, FL. Mr. Vansant retired from DuPont Co. in Newark DE after 27 years of service when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1990.

Mr. Vansant was a graduate of West Chester High School and of Goldey-Beacon College in DE. He served in the Army in Hawaii. In addition to his wife of 40 years, he is survived by a son James; daughter Julie Carrigan and three grandchildren. He was buried in Oaklands Cemetery, West Chester, PA.

A deeper investigation revealed that the Phillies fan's full name was William Curtis Vansant. In addition to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Bill's obituary ran in several newspapers in Maryland and Delaware and from them we acquired a little genealogical information.

William was the only son of Owen Curtis Vansant and Helen Coyle Vansant. According to *The News Journal* in Salisbury, Maryland, Bill was often called "Mr. West Chester University and owner of the team." He received numerous awards for his lifelong dedication to West Chester University sports, including the "Hall of Fame Bill Vansant Award," which is now awarded annually in his memory. He kept score for the men's and women's basketball teams. From this



Donated in memory of an avid Phillies fan.
Bill Vansant of West Chester, PA
By the Vansant family

A Connie Mack Stadium seat from the last game there, October 1, 1970. Originally named Shibe Park, the stadium was located at 21st Street and Lehigh Avenue. Prior to the 1953 season, the ballpark was renamed Connie Mack Stadium in honor of the longtime Hall of Fame manager of the Philadelphia A's. Since it was seat number 1, it was autographed by Richie Ashburn who wore number 1 for the Phillies.

obituary: He loved sports and West Chester University, his collection of football and baseball cards, his collection of sports memorabilia, going to the Phillies games and spring practice in Clearwater, and being with his grandchildren. In addition to his love of sports, Mr. Vansant was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of West Chester since 1959 where he served as a trustee and deacon.

Bill's grandparents were Frank Louis and Eloise E. Vansant. They lived in London Britain, Chester County, Pennsylvania in the early part of the 20th century. This area of Pennsylvania is adjacent to New Castle County, Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland.

William Curtis Vansant was a descendant of Gerret Stoffelse Vansant and his line is as follows:

Gerret Stoffelse Vansant and Lysbeth Gerritz

George Vansant and Maike Vandegrift

*George Vansant, Jr. and Elinor Clark

*John Clark Vansant and Mary _____

*Isaac Lorence Vansant and Julianne Baum

*Samuel Vansant and Mary _____

*William W. Vansant and Anna E. _____

Frank Louis Vansant and Eloise E. _____

Owen Curtis Vansant and Helen Coyle

William Curtis Vansant and Anita Rackiewicz

* signifies generations with strong ties to Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware.

A special thanks to John Van Sant for bringing the seat to our attention. In the process, we've learned about a true sports enthusiast from our clan. ■

The Van Zandt Society Constitution and By-Laws

(Reprinted as originally published in March 1975)

Following this note is the constitution and by-laws drawn up for the Van Zandt Society. The purpose of this is to incorporate our group as a non-profit organization. Some immediate results of this will be reduced rates on our Holland trip and reduced mailing costs of the family letter. We hope this letter will soon be coming out four times a year to keep our cousins aware of up-coming events and improve the group's interest in the historical and genealogical research of the Van Zandt family. We plan to include photographs, current and historical articles and want to encourage everyone's participation and contributions. Eventually we hope to compile enough Van Zandt historical and genealogical data to publish a book—a truly exciting and rewarding result of all the Van Zandts' efforts!

ARTICLES of the CONSTITUTION:

1. Name.

The family organization shall be known as the Van Zandt Society.

2. Objective.

The objective of the Van Zandt Society shall be to strengthen the ties of kinship and fellowship between living members of the family; to maintain unity in the family through frequent association of members in a social way; and to perpetuate the memory and the genealogy of the ancestors and descendants of the Van Zandt family by combining the resources and efforts of the members of the family in performing genealogical research, and by unifying all genealogical, historical and biographical research necessary to compile complete and accurate family records.

3. Membership.

All descendants, their spouses and persons who are not descendants of the Van Zandt family are eligible for membership in the Van Zandt Society. Any person who is eligible may become a member of the family organization by contacting the Secretary and by paying the annual dues required to sustain membership.

4. Meetings.

The meetings of the Van Zandt Society shall consist of an Annual Meeting and any other meetings and reunions approved by the Executive Committee. The Annual Meeting shall meet at a time and place determined by a vote by the majority of members present at the preceding Annual Meeting. The agenda of the Annual Meeting shall include any necessary election of officers, presentation of business matters and any other general activities desired by the Executive Committee.

5. Officers.

The elected officers of the Executive Committee shall be the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary

and a Treasurer. The election of the officers shall be held at every second Annual Meeting of the Van Zandt Society. The terms of office shall begin at the close of the business session at which the officers are elected and cover a period of two years. All officers shall be eligible for re-election. Failure to hold the Annual Meeting or any election of officers shall not disrupt the family organization. The appointed officers of the Van Zandt Society shall consist of a Genealogist and a Historian, chosen by the Executive Committee.

6. Amendments.

The articles and subsequent Amendments of this Constitution may be amended by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

By-Laws:

1. The duty of the Executive Committee shall be to represent the family organization during the interval between Annual Meetings, to recommend the time and place of the Annual Meetings, to determine the order of business and the program of the Annual Meeting and to perform other work which may be delegated to the Committee by the family organization.

2. The President shall exercise general supervision over the family organization, to call special meetings of the Executive Committee as necessary to carry on the work of the family organization during the period between Annual Meetings. The President shall attend all Annual Meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee. He shall submit to the family at the Annual Meeting a report on all official acts of the Committee and any other information and recommendations of importance.

3. Vice-Presidents shall carry on the policies of the family organization by developing and administering programs within their assigned spheres of activities. These programs shall be approved by the Executive Committee. The Vice-Presidents shall assist and counsel the President in all matters of the family organization activities.

4. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of Annual Meetings and all meetings of the Executive Committee and perform other secretarial duties as directed by the President or the Executive Committee.

5. The Treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate account of all dues, contributions and other monies received by and on behalf of the Van Zandt Society, and to handle all expenditures and disbursements for and on behalf of the Van Zandt Society.

(continued on page 14)

In Memoriam

Earle W. Johnson, Jr.

WESTHAMPTON, New Jersey

Earle William Johnson, Jr. died on Sunday, December 28, 2008 at Lourdes Hospital in Willingboro. Born on October 3, 1921, he was the grandson of Minnie Randolph Van Sant and William Johnson. He was a proud member of the Van Zandt Society and descendant of Gerret Stoffelse Vansant.

Mr. Johnson was a retired Chief Master Sergeant and Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor at McGuire Airforce Base.



He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth (Reynolds) Johnson; a daughter Lynne and her husband, Don Schneider of Sterling, VA; two grandchildren Chris and Ruby; five nieces, one nephew, many great nieces, great nephews; and great, great nieces and great, great nephews.

A private burial followed funeral services at the Perinchief Chapels in Mount Holly, NJ. A memorial service was held on January 10th at the Rancocas Village Community Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requested memorial contributions be made to the Rancocas Civic Association, The First Presbyterian Church, or The New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Rancocas.

Earle attended many Van Zandt family reunions over the years and will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences to Ruth, Lynne, Don, Chris, and Ruby. ■

Robert E. Vanzant

PADUCAH, Kentucky

Robert E. Vanzant, 79, died on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at Medco Center. A native of Trigg County, Mr. Vanzant was a member of the First Baptist Church of Paducah. He owned and operated Vanzant Wheel and Tire and was a partner in Auto Salvage of Paducah. He formerly owned Vanzant's BP Service Station for many years. Robert served in the Army during the Korean war.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Marianna Adams Vanzant; a daughter, Teresa Adams Wooley and husband Mark of Lexington; a son, Brian Vanzant and wife April of Paducah; a sister, Linda Brown of Princeton, Kentucky; three grandchildren, Sarah Wooley, Katie Wooley and Brandon Vanzant. He was preceded in death by one sister and two brothers.

Services for Mr. Vanzant were held on January 17, 2009, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Dr. Todd Brady and the Rev. Paul Hatcher officiating.

Interment took place at the Mount Kenton Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexander VA 22312; or the National Kidney Foundation of Kentucky, 250 East Liberty St., Suite 710, Louisville, KY 40202.

Robert's parents were Harmon Garfield and Mary Hannah (Leneave) Vanzant. Based on census records, Robert's earliest identifiable Vanzant ancestor is James Vanzant, born about 1811 in Pennsylvania who migrated to Kentucky in the late 1830s. James had a daughter, Elizabeth born in PA in 1833 and a son, James also born in PA in 1835. The rest of his children were born in KY. James' son, Franklin W. was born February 1852. Harmon Garfield was Franklin's son. ■

Joseph Winder "Van" VanSant

LINDALE, Texas

The Van Zandt Society received additional survivor information for Joseph Winder VanSant's obituary that appeared in the last issue.

In addition to those already mentioned, Joseph leaves behind nephew and Society member, Horace F. "Bronco" Quick IV, of Orono, Maine. ■



1936 Yearbook Photograph of Joseph Winder VanSant

A Note from the Editor

Sometimes I think that some of our deceased Vansant ancestors are trying to be rediscovered and written up in *The Van Zandt Record*. I've talked about the many times that coincidence has been at work in preparing the *Record*. During research for this issue, I was surprised to discover that most of the stories connected to Maryland. A stadium seat discovered by John Van Sant of Medford, NJ was somehow connected to a message that I received from Helen Smith in Waco, TX. The story about Botchie Van Sant ties to Maryland, as does the 400-year old Bible mentioned in a Philadelphia article published in 1927. Call it coincidence or something else at work, I'm delighted when a theme emerges that seems to pull an issue together.

To prepare for the *Botchie* article, I went on a field trip to explore Eastern State Penitentiary on a mild day in January. Accompanied by my sister, we enjoyed the visit to the somewhat creepy institution. Our tour guide was delighted to meet two of Botchie's very distantly related cousins. We both had a lot of fun. I hope you'll enjoy Botchie's story and the rest of this issue. ■

Jaurie

Skeletons in the Closet

or the Darker Side of the Family

James “Botchie” Van Sant

APRIL 3, 1945 was an unseasonably mild day in Philadelphia with a high temperature of 73° when a dozen inmates attempted a daring escape from Eastern State Penitentiary¹. The escape would later be called the most audacious breakout in the long history of Eastern State—and a long history it was.

Construction began on the world's first-ever penitentiary in 1822 and was completed by 1829. Founded on Quaker principles, the facility's design was based on the belief that through solitary imprisonment, inmates would have sufficient time to reflect on their crimes, pray, and repent, and at the end of their term, would be reformed. Jails in Colonial America prior to the creation of the penitentiary concept were little more than squalid holding pens where inmates were routinely beaten and abused for the duration of their sentences.

At Eastern State Penitentiary, individual cells were built into the novel hub-and-spoke structure designed to hold up to 250 prisoners. From the center hub, a single guard could keep watch over all cell blocks. When it was built, Eastern State Penitentiary was the largest building of *any type* in America, and remarkably, the most advanced. To completely prevent prisoners from having contact with each other, primitive but functioning toilets were incorporated into each cell. This was at a time when even the White House did not have the luxury of indoor plumbing. Each 8'x12' cell had 10' ceilings and natural light was brought in through simple skylights that also provided important ventilation. The new penitentiary was a fortress that contained overtones of a monastery.

Built approximately two miles from Philadelphia's city center, the penitentiary stood high on a hill. The young English architect, John Haviland

designed the state-of-the art facility to resemble an old castle to conjure images of dungeons and torture to intimidate the population, many of whom came from European countries. By the time the prison was home to such hardened criminals as Chicago's famous mob boss, Al Capone, and the infamous bank robber, Willie Sutton, it was an overcrowded, deteriorating monstrosity.

By the 1880s, the Quaker experiment of complete solitary confinement to prevent inmate interaction was deemed too cruel and the practice was abandoned. In some cases, the walls between adjacent cells were dismantled to allow two people to share space. Overcrowding was another factor that led to shared cells.

While many men with lengthy sentences fantasized about freedom, a handful of inmates in Cell Block Seven formed and executed a plan that slowly, but surely, culminated in their getaway. One of Gerret Stoffelse Vansant's descendants, James F. Van Sant played a central role in the scheme, working side-by-side with New York mobster,



Frederick “Freddie” Tenuto, sometimes called the Saint or the Angel.

James Franklin Van Sant, born in Pennsylvania on February 20, 1908, was his father's namesake. His mother, Susan (Lambert) Van Sant, died when James was only nine years old. After his mother's death, James Sr. supposedly took up drinking and was not able to take care of James and his sister. They were sent to live with their grandparents in Maryland, and eventually, James went to live with an uncle in Delaware.

A Life of Crime

James started his life of crime at a young age. His uncle gave him food and

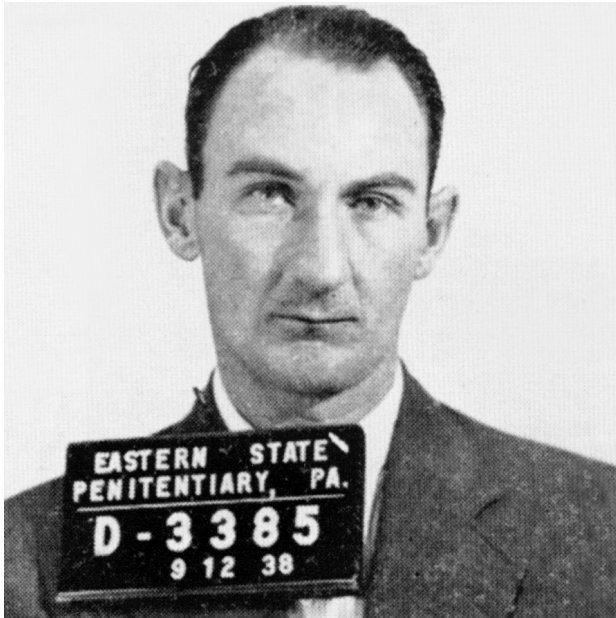


Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia opened in 1829 incorporating Quaker beliefs that would fundamentally change prison life forever.

Botchie Van Sant *(continued from page 10)*

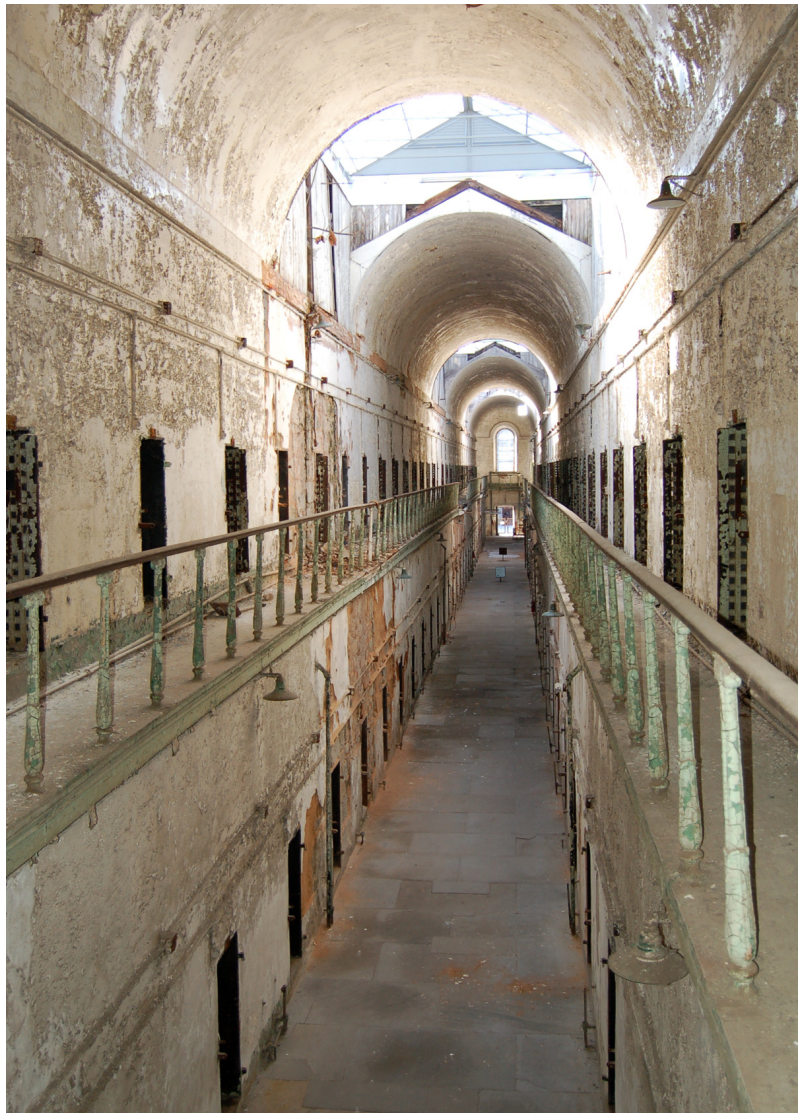
shelter in return for working on the farm, but James was not given an allowance. Without a little spending money for things important to a teenager, James ended up stealing from his uncle and at 16 was sent packing back to Philadelphia. Soon after, with forged parental consent papers in hand, he joined the Navy but was later discharged for bad conduct once the lie was discovered.

James soon found work in New York City with the transit company, but dealing with money proved to be too much temptation for him. Within a short period of time, he stole money from the company at gunpoint and was quickly apprehended. His sentence of seven and a half to fifteen years was spent at Sing Sing and in the Dannemora State Prison in upstate New York. The 1930 US Census shows that 21-year-old Van Sant was an inmate working as a painter in the prison.



Paroled after six years, he returned to Philadelphia and fell victim to the temptation of stealing yet again. Within three weeks of his release from Dannemora, James was back in jail at the Holmesburg County Prison in northeast Philadelphia charged with robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. He was eventually convicted of holding up a taxi company dispatcher at gunpoint. He was given ten to twenty years for his sentence, which was compounded by the remainder of his New York sentence because of the parole violation.

On August 13, 1938, along with fellow inmate, John Murray, Van Sant escaped from Holmesburg via a truck filled with prisoner farm workers. One week after he was free, he acquired a gun, held up a liquor store for \$50, and shot the attendant. James was seriously injured after a shootout with police on North Broad Street in Philadelphia and doctors thought that he would die from the bullet lodged in his neck. However, James eventually recovered and was tried and



Almost cathedral-like, Cell Block Seven was Botchie's home until the famous tunnel escape in 1945.

sentenced to ten to twenty years at Eastern State Penitentiary, also in Philadelphia. At 31, Van Sant was facing a minimum of 32 years in the slammer and it was at this time he earned the nickname "Botchie" for all of the jobs that he managed to botch up.

Like many other inmates at Eastern State Penitentiary, Botchie was faced with a mind-boggling sentence. Many of the desperate convicts were obsessed with dreams of escape. In 1941 while serving at the Graterford branch of Eastern State, along with Tenuto, Botchie scaled a 30-foot wall with a homemade ladder. When he hit the ground on the other side, he seriously injured his foot which thwarted his getaway. Tenuto left in an attempt to secure a car to pick up his partner, but Botchie was caught the next day in a nearby woods and Tenuto was picked up soon after. Like most of his endeavors, James had once again botched up this latest escape plan.

"Every job I did, I got caught. I was a success at nothin'. My life's story describes 51 years of absolute uselessness—and that's just a bad joke."

(continued on page 12)

Uniontown's *Morning Herald*
August 22, 1938

Escaped Prisoner Shot After Liquor Store Is Robbed

Brought Down by Police
After Chase Through
Crowded Streets.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 21. — (AP) — An escaped Holmesburg prisoner was seriously wounded by police on crowded North Broad street last night after he fled with \$50 looted from the cash drawer of a state liquor store.

The bandit, identified from fingerprints as James Franklin Vansant, of Philadelphia, who made his getaway from the county prison farm at Holmesburg last week, and once escaped from Sing Sing, wounded Philip Ignathan, 27, a clerk in the store, as Ignathan grappled with him in a subway station. Ignathan had followed him from the store while Manager Sol Myerson, 28, called police.

Two policemen in a radio patrol car took up the chase as Vansant fled from the subway. He forced the occupants from a parked automobile and fired a volley at the pursuing police. As he was about to start away in the car, Patrolman Peter Long, who had heard the shots, dropped him with a bullet in the neck.

Vansant was taken to a hospital where physicians said it was doubtful he would live.

Vansant was under a long term sentence for a series of holdups. He was to have been returned to New York State for completion of his term at Sing Sing at the expiration of his sentence here.

Even though Botchie never killed anyone, he was a dangerous criminal who frequently used firearms in his crimes. Nevertheless, prison life put him in contact with a few truly evil men such as hit-man Frederick Tenuto.

Reunited at Eastern State Penitentiary, Tenuto and Van Sant fell in with a quiet convict named Clarence Klineinst. "Kliney" had developed a plan to dig a tunnel through the 3-foot prison wall and then to eventually burrow under the yard's outer wall. The entry to the tunnel was located in Kliney's cell.

Accounts differ as to the time it took to create the 97-foot tunnel—anywhere from seven to eighteen months—to reach ground outside the penitentiary's outer walls. The men carefully recruited fellow inmates to help dig the tunnel. Progress was measured in inches and the conditions were extremely dangerous with the chance of collapse ever-present, but still, the "commutation crew" persevered.

Eventually the tunnel intersected with an old, underground sewer pipe. When the team breached the pipe, the stench was unimaginable, yet the underground sewer line was a stroke of good luck because it provided a convenient way to remove dirt and debris from the tunneling process. Until that time, dirt brought out by each man was flushed down the commode in small amounts after each digging session. The slow and tedious process of removing dirt was greatly expedited because of the encounter with the sewer. To this day, the number of men who actually helped dig the tunnel is not known. In his memoirs, notorious bank robber Willie Sutton took credit as the mastermind behind the tunnel escape but others disagreed—including Botchie.

After so many long months of digging, collapses, flooding, gigantic sewer rats, and several prison lock-downs, the last few feet of the tunnel were completed. The breakout was planned for April 3. In rapid succession, twelve men popped out of the hole in their muddy prison uniforms and quickly fanned out in all directions.

As the last man out, and within minutes of reaching freedom at street level, Willie Sutton came face to face with two police officers and was immediately recaptured. Nine of his comrades were also caught quickly; however, despite a nationwide manhunt, Tenuto and Van Sant were successful in eluding police for nearly two months. They were eventually apprehended in Brooklyn and hauled back to jail.

For his punishment, Botchie was sentenced to serve his time in solitary confinement, just as the original Quakers had envisioned to give prisoners time to seriously contemplate their offenses



Although primitive by today's standards, the indoor toilets at Eastern State Penitentiary made the circa 1829 facility the most modern building in America.

and repent. It was reported in December 1947 that Botchie was weak after ending a 12-day hunger strike in protest for being separated from the regular prison population. The wafting smell of navy bean soup supposedly broke the hunger strike for Botchie and three of his cohorts in the 1945 tunnel episode.

A chance encounter with a young Assistant District Attorney, Sam Dash², who was investigating the death of another prisoner in solitary confinement would be a turning point in Botchie's life. After learning that Botchie had been in solitary confinement for more than 8 years, and in fact longer than anyone on record, Dash encouraged him to file a petition for a hearing. Botchie's hand-written petition charged the prison with cruel and unusual punishment for the length of time he had been held in solitary confinement. A hearing was held and Botchie was soon released into the general population and later transferred to a penitentiary in Pittsburgh.

Unexpectedly Botchie was brought back to Eastern State by the new warden at the facility. Warden William Banmiller was the opposite of the previ-

Botchie Van Sant (continued from page 13)

ous warden who promised to make Botchie's life miserable. Banmiller had carefully reviewed Van Sant's large file and recognized that in all of his years in prison, he had a record of cooperation. He was helpful to other inmates and was never involved in fights or violence. Notwithstanding his three prison breaks, James F. Van Sant was considered a decent prisoner and his sense of humor was appreciated by his fellow inmates and the guards. After returning to Eastern State, much to his surprise, Banmiller encouraged Botchie to apply for parole based on his record. And finally fifteen years after the tunnel escape, Botchie earned his freedom the legitimate way: by serving his time and by working *with* the penal system. In 1959 at the age of 51, James was a free man. He found a job, kept clean and eventually married.

In December 1987 it was reported in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* that Botchie was publishing a book entitled *The Leaking Pen* that was due for release the following year. However, I have not been successful in locating a copy of the



A cell in Eastern State Penitentiary as it looks today after years of vandalism took place before the facility was reopened to the public in 1994.

book so it may not have reached the printing stage. In 2002, another ex-con, Joseph Corvi published his own firsthand accounts of life in Eastern State Penitentiary, including an extensive profile on Botchie. Corvi's book is titled *Breaching the Wall*.

In 1995, a play entitled *Tunnel* written by Randall Wise was performed on location at the prison to raise funds to preserve the crumbling poky that closed in 1970 after 141 years of continuous use. Today tours of the prison are held throughout the year with special haunted happenings scheduled for the month of October. All revenue generated is used to keep the penitentiary open to visitors. The 30-foot high prison walls were added to the National Register of Historic Places in the 1960's and the buildings themselves were added in 1980.

As one of the most significant properties of our national heritage and considered the most influential prison structures in the world, Eastern State Penitentiary was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Due to its crumbling condition, it is also one of the most endangered structures and appears on the list of *Damaged and Threatened National Historic Landmarks*.

In addition to being a career criminal and crafty escape artist, Botchie was a writer of sorts. He composed a lengthy verse written in couplets, also titled *The Leaking Pen*, that recorded aspects of the tunnel escape in humorous detail. Below are the first few lines.

Twelve of the boys in the Eastern Pen,
were serving their time that had no end;

When out of nowhere there appeared a hole
which Kliney had dug—just like a mole.

For more than a year he'd worked at the task,
"Fore freedom", he said, "I'd work like an ass."

The digging was rough, at times really rocky,
with cave-ins a plenty that made the work sloppy.

First came the shaft, which was quite a job,
for working upside down caused his head to throb.

And then nearing the bottom of the depth he'd set,
he found the earth was damp from his very own sweat.

His tunnel outward could be no truer,
for with the aim of a marksman he hit the sewer.

And with a gleam in his eye, and joy in his heart,
he studied the sewer, then tore it apart.

The gas fumes were strong, they turned his eyes,
but little he cared as the dirt fled.

(continued on page 14)

¹ Philadelphia Weather Data provided by The Franklin Institute (<http://www.fi.edu/weather/>)

² In the 1970s, Sam Dash would become a household name as co-chief counsel for the Senate Committee investigating the Watergate scandal.

Botchie Van Sant (continued from page 13)

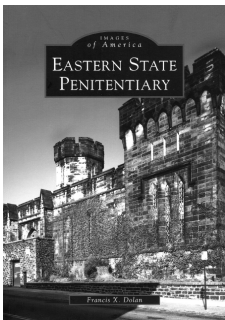
And as for one of Gerret Stoffelse Vansant's most notorious descendants...

On July 12, 1989, James Franklin "Botchie" Van Sant died six years after his wife passed away. James' burial location is not known. His father is buried at the Asbury Cemetery in Millington, Kent County, Maryland. This is also the final resting place of his mother, Susan, and his grandparents, James Crawford Van Sant and Susan Maria (Jones) Van Sant, as well as his great grandfather, Benjamin Elliot Vansant.

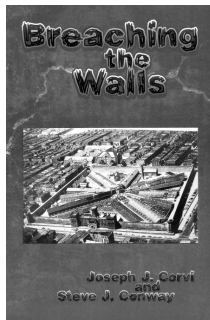
Botchie's great-great grandfather was Peregrine Van Sant who died in Maryland around 1820. Sometimes referred to as Perry, he was married at least twice. He married first wife Lucretia Grace on January 14, 1797 and his second wife, Rebecca Elliot on August 25, 1814. A note in the Van Zandt family database said that Rebecca Elliot was the wife of Peregrine's brother, Joshua. Based on geographical connections to Queen Anne's and Kent counties in Maryland, Peregrine is believed to be a relative of Ephraim Vansant, Jr., and likely a grandson of Joris Vansant (1687-1803). ■

Eastern State Penitentiary is located at 2200 Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia, just a few block from the Philadelphia Art Museum. More information about Eastern State Penitentiary, the tunnel escape, and James F. Van Sant, can be found in the following publications:

Images of America: Eastern State Penitentiary, Francis X. Dolan. Arcadia Publishing, 2007.



Breaching the Walls, Joseph J. Corvi and Steve J. Conway. Personal Legends Publishing, 2002.



By-Laws (continued from page 8)

6. The Genealogist shall supervise and direct the compilation of complete and accurate genealogical records of the Van Zandt Society. Appointed assistants, approved by the President, shall help supervise the collection of data as a committee with the Genealogist as the chairman. The committee shall have the authority to call upon the family members for data and assistance in research and shall engage as many family members who will respond to this effort, supervising, counseling and teaching when necessary. If necessary and subject to approval of the Executive Committee, the Genealogist may employ a professional researcher.
7. The Historian shall supervise and direct the compilation and writing of biographical records, family histories, and personal histories pertaining to the Van Zandt Family. Assistants, with approval of the President, may be selected as necessary.
8. The annual dues of the family shall be \$5.00. Additional funds may be requested according to the financial needs of the family organization in administering their programs. Dues shall be paid on or before the date of the Annual Meeting or other such date specified by the President and the Executive Committee.
9. The By-Laws of the Van Zandt Society may be amended, altered, or added to by a majority vote of members at the Annual Meeting. ■

Searching for our Ancestors (continued from page 18)

to any of the three lines of Vansants in this country, where did the breach happen? Theoretically it could be at *any* generation and could be explained with either an innocent justification or something more scandalous.

- Was a Purcell male orphaned and adopted by a Vansant family?
- Was Elizabeth Vansant a victim of rape?
- Was she, or another Vansant wife unfaithful?
- Did Elizabeth provide a home to area children when they had no other place to go? This could explain how she was able to add to her household after the time that she was already listed as head of household with no adult male present in 1820.
- Or, could a Purcell male simply adopted the Vansant name as we've seen others do in the past?

Regarding the surname Purcell, a Quentin Percell was born in Tazewell, VA in 1808 and lived in Morgan, KY in 1850 like many other Tazewell natives. What prompted dozens of Tazewell families to migrate approximately 175 miles to the northwest to settle in Morgan?

According to stories passed down in Dorothy's family, Wilbourne Henderson Vansant received an education and was believed to come from a family of means. He came to Morgan on horseback along with his mother. It's difficult without the facts to square this information with other tidbits gleaned from public records.

Another interesting tangent to this story is that Vansant, Virginia in Buchanan County lies between Tazewell and Morgan. Vansant was named in honor of Wilbourne Henderson Vansant's son, Rufus Humphrey Vansant. Rufus was born in 1852 in Martinsburg, Morgan County and likely named in honor of neighbor and local preacher, Rufus Humphrey. Rufus, the minister, was born in 1814 in Flemingsburg, KY and his father's name was George. It's interesting to note that several Humphrey families in Flemingsburg in 1810 were living a short distance from Elisha Vansandt, a descendant of Gerret Stoffelse Vansant. Could this be an important clue?

If you have relevant information for Dorothy, please contact the Editor. ■

Obscure Occupations List

Often when conducting genealogical research, we encounter occupations that have little meaning in today's world. In an effort to help Society members unravel these mysterious lines of work, the following list is presented. ■

Accomptant	Accountant
Amanuensis	Secretary or stenographer
Aurifaber	Goldsmith
Bailie	Bailiff
Baxter	Baker
Bluestocking	Female writer
Boniface	Keeper of an inn
Brazier	One who works with brass
Brewster	Beer manufacturer
Brightsmith	Metal worker
Burgonmaster	Mayor
Carter	Wagon driver
Castor	Hat maker
Caulker	One who filled up cracks in ships or windows
Chaisemaker	Carriage maker
Chandler	Candle maker, dealer, or trader
Chapman	Merchant
Chiffonnier	Wig maker
Clark	Clerk
Clerk	Clergyman, cleric
Cohen	Priest
Collier	Coal miner
Colporteur	Peddler of books
Cooper	Barrel maker (vessels made of staves and hoops)
Cordwainer	Shoemaker, originally any leather worker using leather from Cordoval/Cordoba in Spain
Costermonger	Peddler of fruits and vegetables
Crocker	Potter
Crowner	Coroner
Currier	One who tanned leather by oil/grease
Docker	Stevedore, dock worker who loads and unloads cargo
Dowser	One who finds water using a rod or witching stick
Draper	A dealer in dry goods
Drayman	One who drives a long, strong cart without fixed sides for carrying heavy loads

Dresser	A Surgeon's assistant in a hospital
Drover	One who drives cattle or sheep
Duffer	Peddler
Dyker	Stonemason
Faber	Artisan
Farrier	A blacksmith, one who shoes horses
Faulkner	Falconer
Fell monger	One who removes hair or wool from hides in preparation for leather making
Ferrier	Blacksmith
Fletcher	Arrow and bow maker
Fowler	Bird hunter
Fuller	Cloth goods cleaner or one who shrinks and thickens woolen cloth
Gaoler	A keeper of the gaol, a jailer
Glazier	Maker of window glass
Granger	Farmer
Hacker	Maker of hoes or woodcutter
Harper	Minstrel
Hatcheler	One who combed out or carded flax
Haymonger	Dealer in hay
Hayward	Keeper of fences
Higgler	Itinerant peddler
Hillier	Roof tiler
Hind	A farm laborer
Holster	A groom who took care of horses, often at an inn
Hooker	Reaper
Hooper	One who made hoops for casks/barrels
Hostler	Horse groomer
Huckster	Sells small wares
Husbandman	A farmer who cultivated the land; nurseryman
Jagger	Fish peddler
Johnner/Joiner	A skilled carpenter
Journeyman	One who had served his apprenticeship and mastered his craft, not bound to serve a master
Keeler	Bargeman

(continued on page 16)

Obscure Occupations List *(continued from page 15)*

Kempster	Wool comber
Lardner	Keeper of the cupboard
Lavender	Washer woman
Lederer	Leather maker
Leech	Physician
Longshoreman	Stevedore
Lormer	Maker of horse gear
Malender	Farmer
Malster	Brewer
Manciple	A Steward
Marshall	Horse doctor
Mason	Bricklayer
Mercer	Cloth merchant
Mintmaster	One who issued local currency
Monger	Seller of goods (ale, fish)
Muleskinner	Teamster
Neatherder	Herds cows
Ordinary Keeper	Innkeeper with fixed prices
Peregrinator	Itinerant wanderer
Peruker	A wig maker
Pettifogger	A shyster lawyer
Pigman	Crockery dealer
Pitman	Coal miner
Plumber	One who applied sheet lead for roofing or set lead frames for glass windows
Porter	Door keeper
Puddler	Wrought iron worker
Quarrier	Quarry worker (rock quarry, etc.)
Rigger	Hoist tackle worker
Ripper	Seller of fish
Roper	Maker of rope or nets
Saddler	One who makes, repairs or sells saddles or other furnishings for horses
Sauntere	Salt maker
Sawbones	Physician
Sawyer	One who saws, a carpenter, or runs a saw mill
Schumacker	Shoemaker
Scribler	A minor or worthless author
Scrivener	Professional writer; public copyist; Notary Public
Scrutiner	Election Judge

Shrieve	Sheriff
Slater	Roofer
Slopseller	Seller of ready-made clothes in a slop shop
Snobscat/Snob	One who repaired shoes
Sorter	Tailor
Spinster	A woman who spins or an unmarried woman
Spittleman	Hospital attendant
Spurrier	Maker of spurs
Squire	Country gentleman, a farm owner, or justice of peace
Stuff Gownsmen	Junior barrister
Supercargo	Officer on merchant ship who is in charge of cargo and commercial concerns of ship
Tanner	One who tans (cures) animal hides into leather
Tapley	One who puts the tap in an ale cask
Tasker	Reaper
Teamster	One who drives a team for hauling
Thatcher	Roofer
Tide water	Customs inspector
Tinker	Traveling salesman, sold pots and pans, or repairman as in watch tinker
Tipstaff	Policeman
Travers	Toll bridge collection
Tucker	Cleaner of cloth goods
Turner	A person who turns wood on a lathe into spindles
Victualer	Tavern keeper, or one who provides food for military ship
Vulcan	Blacksmith
Wagoner	Teamster not for hire
Wainwright	Wagon-maker
Webster	Weaver
Wharfinger	Owner of a wharf
Wheelwright	One who made or repaired wheels
Whitesmith	Tinsmith
Whitewing	Street sweeper
Whitster	Cloth bleacher
Wright	Workman, especially a construction worker
Yeoman	Farmer who owns his own land

From Cookies to Coleslaw

Thank the Dutch for these Culinary Contributions to the American Diet

In the 17th century the Dutch were some of the earliest settlers in New World establishing New Netherland which comprised present-day New York, New Jersey, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Our Vansant ancestors were among those early settlers who brought with them seeds, plants, and spices typical of their native land in addition to their traditional recipes. Although the Dutch eventually lost control of the region, many of their culinary contributions remained popular in the New World and helped influence some of America's gastronomic tastes.

For example, the beloved cookie originated with the Dutch "koekje" meaning small cake. The English pronunciation is something like kook-yuh or kook-ya. The Dutch are also responsible for a favorite sandwich sidekick: coleslaw. The Dutch word for cabbage is "kool" and when combined with "sla" for salad, easily transformed into coleslaw.

Although pancakes have existed in the cuisines from diverse parts of the world, the Dutch are credited with bringing their recipes for "pannekoeken" to the New World. The Dutch pancake may be served at any meal, including dinner, and is typically larger and thinner than its America cousin and will often be filled with apples, raisins, or even bacon and ham.

Many early Dutch recipes were preserved in the hand-written cookbooks of the early settlers. Recipes for doughnuts, or "olykoeks" (oil cakes) were brought with the Dutch to the New World. They were the first to take sweet dough balls and fry them in pork fat. The olykoeks were enjoyed in the afternoon and also as a favorite birthday cake of the Jersey Dutch. The Dutch doughnuts were usually prepared with apples, prunes, or raisins in the middle to avoid the problem of the centers not being fully cooked in the hot fat. Oliebollen—oily balls—are traditionally served on New Year's Eve. ■



Olykoeks (oil cakes, or Dutch Doughnuts)

1 pkg. yeast
1/4 cup warm water
4 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 3/4 cups warm milk
1/4 cup shortening melted
2 eggs, well beaten
1/2 lb. (1 1/4 cups) seedless raisins
Fat for deep frying
Confectioners' sugar

Soften yeast in water. Sift dry ingredients together. Add milk and shortening. Blend. Add yeast, eggs, and raisins to flour mixture. Beat thoroughly. Cover and let rise in warm place until double in bulk, about 2 hours. Drop by teaspoonfuls into deep fat heated to 375°F (or until a 1" cube of bread browns in 60 seconds.) Fry doughnuts for 3 – 4 minutes. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Yield: 3 1/2 dozen Olykoeks.



Koolsla (coleslaw)

4 Tbs. hot melted butter
1/3 cup wine vinegar
Salt and freshly ground pepper
2 cups green cabbage, cut into thin strips
2 cups red cabbage, cut into thin strips

Slice cabbage into very thin strips and allow it to come to room temperature. In a small bowl, whisk melted butter with vinegar, salt, and pepper. Pour mixture into a saucepan and heat through then allow it to cool slightly. Pour dressing on the cabbage and toss to combine. Allow coleslaw to stand for at least one hour before serving. Keep coleslaw at room temperature or the dressing will congeal.

Searching for our Ancestors (continued from page 5)

Dorothy Van Sant Little is one of several researchers who have been trying to solve the mystery of Wilbourne Henderson Vansant's ancestry. By providing details of the story, it's hoped that someone in the Society may be able to provide needed information or assistance to solve the puzzle.

Seven people named Vansant appear to have migrated from Tazewell County in southwestern Virginia to Morgan County, Kentucky in the 1840s. They include:

- Lucinda Vansant, born 1810, married Reece B. Murray. Moved to Morgan, KY between 1842 and 1848.
- Nancy Taylor Vansant, born 1813, married Jarrett W. Bowling in 1829 in Tazewell, VA, migrated to Morgan, KY between 1842 and 1844. Nancy died in 1884.
- Ellen/Elenor Vansant, born 1817, married John Houston Flannary, Jr., migrated to Morgan, KY bet. 1842 and 1845.
- Wilbourne Henderson Vansant, born October 1819 in VA, married Lavisy Susan Hunter Dec. 21, 1842 in Morgan, KY. Wilbourne died in 1870.
- Minerva Jane Vansant, born Jan 18, 1823, married William Houston Flannary Aug. 28, 1843 in Scott Co., VA, migrated to Morgan between 1846 and 1847. Two years after William died in 1851, Minerva married John Morgan Adkins. Minerva died in 1899.
- Lavisy Vansant, born 1826, married Franklin (Francis) H. Adkins, was living in Morgan prior to 1848.

It's suspected that the Virginians listed above were siblings, and, the children of Elizabeth Vansant who also appears to have migrated from Tazewell County to Scott County, VA, and later to Morgan Co., KY.

On August 27, 1847, the 60-year old Elizabeth Vansant married 71-year old John Flannary, Sr., in Morgan County. John was the father of William Houston Flannary and John Houston Flannary, spouses of two of the younger Vansant

women. The Bowling, Murray, and Flannary families each had roots in Tazewell.

The names Elizabeth Vansant and Elizabeth Flannary appear as midwives on birth records throughout the 1850s in Morgan and she/they helped birth children for several of the couples listed above.

Naming patterns suggest strong ties between these families. For example, subsequent generations included Wilbourne Henderson Bowling and Wilbourne Henderson Flannary. Reese B. Flannary and Reese Bowling honored Lucinda Vansant's husband, Reese B. Murray. In addition to John H. Vansant and John H. Adkins—no doubt for John Houston Flannary, female names were repeated many times for Lucinda, Elizabeth, Ellen, Nancy, and Eliza.

Moreover, these families were close neighbors often shown immediately next to one another on the census records. The Morgan County Vansants must have been related to each other in some fashion.

Stepping back in time to earlier census records, a Betsey Vanzant is located in Tazewell County, VA in 1820; Elizabeth Vinsant in Tazewell 1830; and Elizabeth Vansant in Scott Co., VA in 1840 (Rees B. Murry on same page in this census). An appropriate number of children in the households generally correspond to the possible offspring mentioned above but are not an exact match. Based on the 1850 census in Morgan, Elizabeth's birth year was about 1787.

If these census records are correct, and for the appropriate Elizabeth Vansant/Vinsant, it begs the question as to why she was the head of household as early as 1820, but continued to have more children added to the household after that time.

And now for the wrinkle: because Gus Van Sant's second cousin is a DNA match to the Purcell/Percell family, and not

(continued on page 14)

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