

1/23/90

## VAN COURT

Source: Norma Kuhn

(Bold underlined names are our direct ancestors)

**Thomas Van Court** married **Anna Woerker**.

Their son **Elias Van Court** was born 1691 in the Parish of St. Andre, on the channel island of Guernsey, off the coast of France, and is the earliest known ancestor of the Van Court family to arrive in America. It is not known whether his parents came with him or when and how he arrived. One family tradition is that he and two brothers arrived at New York and then migrated to New Jersey. Another tradition is that they landed at Cape May and went up the Delaware River. It is believed that he went to New Jersey about 1715, when he was about 24, and settled in Bound Brook in Middlesex County.

In 1716 **Elias** married **Ann Cooper**, sister of Daniel Cooper, a longtime resident of New Jersey. Elias was a shoemaker in the Janeway Store near the landing on the Raritan River. He and Ann had fourteen children:

Thomas  
Elias  
Moses  
Ellen Jane  
Daniel  
Agnes  
Jane (Jean)  
Thomas  
Ann (b. August 27, 1730)  
**Samuel** (b. August 27, 1730)  
Abram  
John  
Elizabeth  
Michael

Some of the children and grandchildren were in the Revolutionary War.

**Samuel Van Court** married **Mary Sayre**, daughter of **Daniel Sayre** and **Elizabeth Lyons** of Newark, New Jersey. Mary was a descendant of **Francis Seare** of Leighton Buzzard, England who died intestate in 1645. Samuel and Mary had nine children:

Mary  
Elias  
**Daniel**  
Hannah  
Anne  
David

Agness  
Jane  
? (name uncertain)

**Daniel Van Court** married **Jemima Willett**, daughter of **Samuel Willet** and **Sarah Harnett (Harned)**. Samuel Willet is alleged to be the grandson of Thomas Willet, the first mayor of New York City. Sarah's family was from New York and migrated to Salem, Massachusetts 1634-37. Sarah is believed to be a daughter of **Nathaniel Harned** of Woodbridge, New York and their name was changed to Harnett in New Jersey. Daniel and Jemima had seven children:

Hannah  
Samuel  
John Warren  
William Sayres  
Sarah  
Mary

**Daniel** (b. November 14, 1802 South River, New Jersey)

South River was originally called Willettsville, then Washington and then South River.

**Daniel Van Court, Jr.** (1802) married **Catherine Dennis** of New Brunswick, New Jersey. In 1836 they went to New Orleans, Louisiana. Their children:

Daniel  
**Alfred**  
James E.  
? died young  
? died young

Most of the older Van Courts who came to New Orleans in 1836 were buried in the Girod Cemetery (now the site of the superdome) in the Lafayette #1, Lafayette #2 (Washington Ave) and Carrollton cemeteries in New Orleans. In Ocean Springs, many are buried in the Bellande cemetery. When they were in New Orleans, the Van Courts lived at 25 Magazine Street and had a clothing store at 27 1/2 Magazine Street near where D.H. Holmes was also in business. They also had a boarding house.

**Alfred Van Court** was a printer on the newspaper in New Orleans (probably the Times Democrat, later Times Picayune). At one time they lived across the lake in St. Tammany Parish and he rode horseback to New Orleans. Alfred suffered severe headaches, probably from the printer's ink used at that time, and also developed kidney problems. They moved to Ocean Springs because of the excellent artesian springs there. As with most New Orleans families, they probably went to the Mississippi Coast to escape the climate, bad water, and pestilence that abounded in New Orleans. Traveling was difficult at that time and it is not known how they traveled. Probably by boat at first. There were regular ship "packets" running at that time between New

Orleans and the Mississippi coast, and later came the railroad. **Alfred Pete Van Court** married **Virginia Susan Smith Firth** of Louisiana and their children were:

- A) **John Norman**
  - Virginia Sarah                      died young
  - Alfred                                      died young
  - Stella                                      died young
  - Regina Sarah Catherine died young
- B) Edward George
- C) Maurice Kirby
- D) Minerva Aida (Lula)
- E) Daniel Bernard (b.1885)

Sometime after 1885 when Daniel Bernard Van Court was born and 1900 when the Ocean Springs census was taken, the Van Courts moved to Ocean Springs, except for John Norman the eldest, who was already living there.

A) **John Norman Van Court** in Ocean Springs was an ice dealer and delivered ice to the railroad. Later, he worked as a painter and then a foreman of a crew on the L&N Railroad. He was a charter member of the Ocean Springs Fire Department No. 1, Hook and Ladder. His first wife was **Madeline Pons** of Ocean Springs and they had five children, three of whom died and are believed to be buried in Bellande Cemetery, Ocean Springs. Their remaining children were:

- Charles E. Van Court
  - married 1) Eugenie Beaugez 2) Adele Catchot
- William Walter Van Court
  - married Velma Cavanaugh and lived in New Orleans.

After Madeline's death, **John Norman Van Court** married April 20, 1891 in Ocean Springs, **Mary Lorena Caffey** daughter of **Eloise Mon** of Ocean Springs and granddaughter of **Mary Costeline Bosarge** of Bayou la Batre, Alabama. John and Mary had seven children, six born in Ocean Springs:

- George Edward Van Court
  - married Della Carver (Bay St. Louis, MS)
- Bertha Cecile Van Court
  - married Claude William Loescher (Biloxi, MS)
- Helen Theresa Van Court
  - married Harry W. Eart (New York, NY)
  - now lives in New York
- Oscar Leo Van Court
  - married Hazel Elder (Biloxi, MS)
- Norman                      died young
- Verna Mildred Mary Van Court**
  - married **William Conrad Westphal** (New Orleans, LA)
  - now lives in Pascagoula, MS

(see Westphal lineage)  
Robert Bernard Van Court  
married May Agnes Abbley (Pass Christian)

- B) Edward George Van Court  
married Carrie Traub and had five children:

Edna (b. Ocean Springs)  
Loretta  
Alfreda  
George  
Valentine Victor (now lives in New Orleans, LA)

- C) Maurice Kirby Van Court  
married Lottie Clark and had three children:

Adrienne Marion Clark (b. Ocean Springs, MS)  
Morris Wesley Clark (b. Ocean Springs, MS)  
Claude Earl Clark (b. Ocean Springs)

- D) Minerva Aida Van Court (Lula)  
married Johnny Seymour and had five children born in Ocean Springs:

Leona Seymour  
Marguerite Seymour  
married Travis Norman  
now lives on Dewey Ave in Ocean Springs  
Edward Seymour  
married Lucille Baillet  
lived in Cleveland, Ohio  
Mark Seymour  
married Ruth Clark  
Mark killed in WWII; buried in Belgium  
Alfred Raymond Seymour died young

- E) Daniel Bernard Van Court  
married Marie Friar and had five children in Ocean Springs:

Daniel Bernard Van Court  
married Nellie McElroy  
George Alfred Van Court  
married Eula Mae Seymour  
Arnold James Van Court  
married Rose Ludell

Evelyn Van Court (live in Ocean Springs)  
Louise Van Court (live in Ocean Springs)