

Sam Vance



Samuel Goodwin Vance was born in Hickson, Ontario in 1879, the son of James and Susan Vance. He had one brother, Jim and five sisters.

He attended public school in Hickson and after school worked in the family General Store at Rockford, at James Bay Junction, near Parry Sound, and at a shoe store in Tillsonburg. He sold the General Stores and settled in Tillsonburg where he married Edith Somers from Rockford.

In 1912, he and his brother formed the Vance Brothers Feed and Seed business, in which he stayed active until his death on May 16, 1947 at the age of 68.

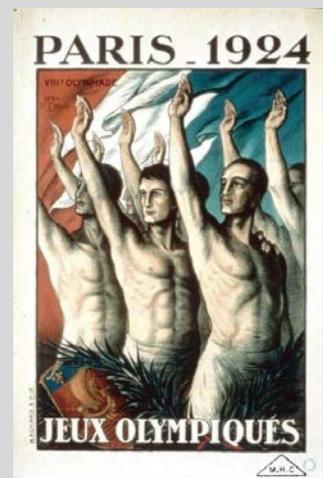
It was at James Bay Junction that Sam was first introduced to trapshooting over a temporary trap on the ice of Georgian Bay. It was from this beginning that he became a dedicated promoter and follower of our sport, it being recorded that he is the Father of Trapshooting in Canada.

A past Chief of the Canadian Indians, and one of the very early life members of the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA), he served for many years as a member of the Grand American Handicap committee.

Sam won the Canadian Trapshooting Championship in 1912 and the Canadian Handicap Championship the following year.

In 1919, he placed 12th among all ATA shooters for high average on 16-yard targets. He was captain of the 1920 and 1924 Canadian Olympic teams. The 1920 Games were a disappointment for the much-heralded shooter: he placed fifth in the team event (alongside George Beattie, William Hamilton, Ben McLaren, James Montgomery, and True Oliver) and failed to medal individually.

Four years later at the 1924 Olympics however, he won a silver medal in the team competition, with Beattie, Montgomery, William Barnes, John Black, and Samuel Newton, and was joint-sixth individually. Shortly before the 1924 Olympics in Paris, Sam broke 100 straight to tie for the Middlesex Gold Medal in England and won the Middlesex Handicap. The Canadians won the British Challenge Shield with 100 straights by Sam Vance, W. Barnes, and R.J. Montgomery, a feat that has never been equalled. Vance also won the Waltham Abby Cup against all international shooters and the Henden Trophy. During the 1924 Olympics, Canada was the only country with three shooters in the top ten in the world and Vance was one of them.



The 8th ATA Eastern "Divisional" Shoot was held in Syracuse, NY, from May 30th-June 2nd, 1927. ATA Hall of Famer Sam Vance of Tilsonburg, ON won both the singles (189x200) and the doubles (86x100).

In 1935, Sam Vance became the first Canadian ever to tie for the Grand American Handicap at Vandalia, Ohio, ending up as runner-up losing in a shoot-off to J. B. Royall of the United States. His 16-yard averages in 1927 and 1929 led all Canadian shooters as did his Handicap average in 1928. From 1926 to 1937 he won six OPTA Provincial titles, the 16-yard, and doubles twice, and the handicap and High All Around, once each.

For his years of dedication and promotion of trapshooting, Sam Vance was nominated to the Amateur Trapshooting Association Hall of Fame by editor Jimmy Robinson of Sports Afield Magazine, and was inducted on August 24, 1971, the only Canadian to be so honoured at the time of his induction into the OPTA Hall of Fame in 1981. In 2006, Vance was inducted into the Tillsonburg Sports Hall of Fame

[Sam Vance, Olympic data and results](#)

[Amateur Trapshooting Association Hall of Fame](#)

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