

Ramsey Family Swan Pond Association History

2004 -2008
Compiled by
Marikay Allene Ramsey

The Association was formed at a family reunion held on the historic family plantation in Knoxville, Tennessee on July 4, 2004. Officers were elected by the family members present. The picture below shows the officers present at the 200 reunion.



Back row: Bud Bacon – Rocky Smylie – Fred Ramsey – Max Ramsey – Hank Ramsey
Front row: Lara Ramsey - Charlotte Nickerson – Erin Bunnell

Officers 2004 – 2008
President, Fred Ramsey
First Vice President, Charlotte Edman
Second Vice President, Max Ramsey
Secretary, Rocky Smylie
Treasurer, Hank Ramsey
Chaplain, Rev. Thomas Ramsey
Associate Chaplain, Rev. Erin Bunnell
Member-at-large, BG Bud Bacon
Newsletter Editor, Lara Ramsey
Gaelic Advisor, Domnall McLain, DVM

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Later during the reunion the newly elected board met at the home of Second Vice President Maxwell Doak (Max) Ramsey where they formed a plan for the next four years. The plan included three timelines: short term projects to be completed in 2005, midrange projects to be completed in 2008 and long term or ongoing projects .

Projects to be completed in 2005

1. Provide a computer database of family members to Ramsey House Plantation. The database allowed visitors to Ramsey House to see if they are connected to the family. This was completed but has been replaced by a database on our website.
2. Provide a family roster to family members. The roster was completed and available originally to the board members and anyone who asked for a copy. It has now been replaced by a roster on the family website.
3. Provide a newsletter to family members. This was accomplished in 2004. Initially the newsletter was sent to all family members whether or not they were dues paying members. However, it became apparent in 2005 that the cost of publishing a large newsletter to the entire family was going to be cost prohibitive. The cost of the newsletter was about \$900 in 2005. To reduce the cost of the newsletter we reduced the size to 8 pages (4 double sided sheets). We put color only on one page. That method lowered the costs and allowed us to continue publishing to the whole family. We continued to reduce costs by sending the newsletter via email to about sixty members. We still try to send out at least one newsletter a year to all family members on our roster.

Projects to be completed by 2008

4. Put the family database on the Ramsey House website. The purpose of this effort was to enable family members all over the country to look at our lineage and see if they were related. This project was completed but is now installed on our own family website: www.ramseyfamilyspa.org . Currently anyone who has access to a computer can find our website and look at our lineage. One concern held up the implementation. We did not want to put on the Internet the names, dates and locations of people who were still alive. This was resolved and now only the names of living people are shown and not their date of birth, marriage, etc.
5. Put the newsletter on the Ramsey House website. This project was possible but never effected. Once the decision was made to establish our own family website the newsletters were installed there.
6. Identify the next reunion chief. This was not accomplished. In 2008 it was determined to have the executive board put together a reunion process chart or checklist that will allow the reunion chiefs a better idea on how to set up a reunion.

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7. Contact Clan Ramsay in Scotland. Several contacts were attempted without favorable results. Then a message came through our Ramsey/Ramsay DNA Project liaison that James Ramsay the clan chieftain had submitted his DNA. The results of the DNA testing will be presented in the newsletter as soon as they become available.
8. Print more family genealogy books. This was not accomplished by 2008 and has become one of our long term projects or on-going projects. One of the books being worked on is a compilation of stories from the ancestors of the Samuel Ramsey line. A second book being worked on is the story of a WWII fighter pilot who was shot down over France and escaped to Spain through the French underground. There is also consideration of a book that will hold all the descendants of William Ramsay. However, this is a considerable undertaking and is definitely considered a long term project.

Long range plans

9. Assist monetarily or otherwise in implementing the Ramsey House Plantation long term plan. This is proving to be a difficult task due to the personalities on the board of Ramsey House. It appears that the board of the plantation is reluctant to implement this plan due to monetary and other considerations. As the family association becomes stronger and better funded, we may be able to influence the outcome of some of the plantation projects. SPA member at large, Bud Bacon is working on this project and would appreciate any ideas on how to effect some of these plans.
10. Working toward bringing responsibility for the Lebanon-in-the-Forks Presbyterian Church cemetery under the control of the family association or the Ramsey House Plantation. Currently the Presbytery of Knoxville has responsibility but they do not provide much maintenance. There may be a potential for the Presbytery to provide the family with funding to take responsibility. SPA vice president Maxwell Ramsey is spearheading this project. The board is currently looking into becoming a non-profit 501c organization in an effort to take over responsibility for the cemetery if necessary.

Other longer term possible projects were to identify and possibly support other old family cemeteries such as the Marsh Creek Cemetery near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania or the Ramsey plot in the Confederate Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas. Other smaller cemeteries could also be identified that might need care such as the one at Woodbine Texas where John Bain McGready Ramsey is buried.

Membership

During the first four years our association has grown to 57 members, one associate member and one honorary member. Our association maintains a roster of nearly 180 family members so we could go through considerable expansion. We also have six friends and twenty new recruits.

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Treasury

The treasury has taken in about a thousand dollars a year with the majority of that going for the publication of newsletters. During the 2007 year we did not even collect dues so the treasury nearly dried up. However, in 2008 we sent out dues notices and will continue to do so annually from now on.

Officers

Short officer biographies are presented as an appendix to this report and on the website as "Officer Bios" Below is a chart listing our officers along with their term of office.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
President	Frederic R. (Fred) Ramsey, MPA	2004-2008
First Vice President	Charlotte Elizabeth Nickerson Travland	2004-2008
Second Vice President	Maxwell Doak (Max) Ramsey	2004-2008
Secretary	John Avery (Rocky) Smylie	2004-2008
Treasurer	Henry Lee (Hank) Ramsey, MS	2004-2008
Chaplain	Rev. Thomas Ramsey	2004-2008
Associate Chaplain	Rev. Erin Bunnell	2004-2008
Historian	Marikay Allene Ramsey, MS	2004-2008
Newsletter Editor	Lara Victoria Ramsey, MFA	2004-2008
Member-at-large	BG Walter Julian (Bud) Bacon USAF Ret.	2004-2008
Gaelic Advisor	Donald Lawrence McLain, DVM	2004-2008

Family Genealogists

Short biographies of our family genealogists will also be added to this history.

<i>Family Line</i>	<i>Genealogist</i>	<i>Books</i>
Ramsey-Agnew	Fred Ramsey	Ramsey Chronicles 1982; Ramsey of Swan Pond 2004
Ramsey-Gettys	Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff	A Gettys Line: Samuel thru William Onward 2001
Ramsey-Fleming	Charlotte Nickerson Travland	
Ramsey-Alexander	William Spencer Jarnagin, Ph.D.	Ramsey-Alexander Chart
Ramsey-Perkins	Charles Perkins	
Ramsey, Samuel G.	Willie Hardin Bivins	The Family of Reynolds Ramsey Revolutionary Soldier, 1987