

My name is Melanie Caldwell Ballesteros and I am honored to be the upcoming Clan Secretary/Archivist/Historian. I currently live in Lyman, SC with my partner Jason who belongs to Clan Leslie. I am a native of Asheville, NC and most of my family still lives in western NC. The Ramsay (Ramsey) line of my family are from Madison County, NC and have been in that area since the late 1700's. Both of my paternal grandparents are descended from Jobe Ramsey (1797-1880); two of his sons, Woodard and Garrett, were great-grandfathers of my Caldwells and Anders. I have been doing extensive research into my family tree with my mother and cousin for a few years and although we have hit a few roadblocks, especially with my Caldwells, we have traced our roots back to the 1600's in a few family lines. We think our immigrant Ramsey was William Thomas Ramsey who died in Bucks Co., PA.

I have three adult children, Savannah (30), Taylor (29) and Kendall (24), and six grandchildren who range in age from 10 months to 12 years old. My two older children are both interested in our Ramsey heritage and my son is a "serial kilter" and proudly wears his Ramsey blue kilt. My younger daughter married into Clan Duncan; interestingly, her husband's grandmother is also a Ramsey from Kentucky.

I am a late bloomer in the career world; I have been a registered nurse for 10 years now. I started my nursing career as an LPN, working for a correctional facility that houses US Marshalls and ICE inmates. I now work in the recovery room at Oconee Memorial Hospital in Seneca, SC and have been here for three years. I am also clinical faculty for Clemson University School of Nursing. I received my initial nursing degree from Central Arizona College and my master's degree from Gonzaga University. I participate in the SC Nurse Honor Guard which provides a funeral service to nurses who have passed away that is similar to the one received by veterans, such as presenting the family with a box with a Nightingale lamp and bible. It is out way of giving back to those who have gone before us. I have previously worked for a variety of industries, from retail, hotel services, and even a hair salon, to being a federal judge's clerk for the Immigration Court.

Prior to becoming a nurse, I served in the US Marines for 18 years, most of which was in the reserves. I was an ammunition technician (2311) with Ammunition Co. 4th Supply Battalion for my first six years. I was called to active duty in 2003 and spend five years stationed at Camp Lejeune, working as the Ammunition and Armory Chief and Career Planner for Deployment Processing Command. I finished my reserve time as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee with the same unit at Camp Lejeune. I am still active in the veteran community and am a member of the Marine Corps League, Women Marines Association, American Legion, and the Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS). My Ramsey blue kilt is part of my SAMS uniform so I represent our Clan at every event in which SAMS is involved.

In my spare time, I enjoy working on my family and Jason's family genealogy, sundry crafts, playing musical instruments, fly fishing, and photography. I am beginning

to do research on kiltmaking and hope to attend a kiltmaking course in Edinburgh within the next couple of years. I have basic sewing skills so we shall see how it goes!

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you and to continuing the Clan's legacy. Slainte Mhath!