

Mike Ramsey was born in San Saba, TX, and grew up in Midland, TX and then Mesquite, TX. He rose up through the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Working his way through college with a wide variety of jobs, from digging ditches, to bricklayer helper, to unloading boxcars, to retail, to Fotomat booth attendant, to bus driver, to lifeguard, he graduated with a dual major in General Business in Real Estate and Insurance.

Graduating from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce), he began his working career with Southwestern Bell Telephone and AT&T, then part of the Bell System, first as a call center supervisor, then as a project manager for converting the Dallas area to computer terminals from microfiche viewers.

When the Bell System was broken up, Mike began looking for other business opportunities and discovered (or was discovered by) the fashion modeling business. Working all over the USA and Mexico, Paris, Munich, and Osaka Japan, he became one of the most famous models you never heard of, featured in magazines, catalogs, newspapers, and television ads. During this period, he began competing in triathlons and bicycle racing, and developed an interest in and reputation for being an expert in nutrition and supplements.

Starting a business selling sport nutrition supplements and energy foods from the back of his van at races, Mike grew it into a mail order business. When his son Stephen was still just a twinkle in his eye, wanting to be involved in the raising of his child, Mike opened a retail store selling health and athletic supplements, and then was the primary caretaker for his son while managing the store. As Stephen grew old enough to prepare for school, Mike began to expand the business to allow more time for parenting, opening other retail locations, a wholesale warehouse selling to other businesses, hosting a weekly radio fitness show, and then when the internet took off, building a web store. Expanding into his own brand, Mike began formulating his own products to be made by contract manufacturers with his own label.

After eleven years, Mike sold the nutrition brand and assets to a larger competitor in California, and began looking for jobs that would allow the same schedule as his son's school calendar required. First driving a school bus, then working as the technology specialist in a high school, Mike was able to assume the role of ferrying his son to and from school, to soccer practice, trombone lessons, PTA meetings, school conferences, concerts, Scout meetings, and all the things his own father was unable to do because of work requirements.

When his son graduated high school and began his culinary studies, Mike had more time to get back to working a job that would reward him with better salary and retirement options, as well as offer greater technical challenges. He accepted a technology manager

position at the University of Texas at Dallas, managing tech support and server maintenance at the McDermott Library there. After a few years, realizing that dealing with end users was a more personal and satisfying part of the technology process, he moved to a desktop support position, providing support to users all over campus, including the President's office and Provost. Mike intends to continue in this position for another two to five years before retirement.

Mike met his wife Sharon ten years ago, who took him to his first Scottish festival. Sharon had been a SCA medieval heavy fighting competitor, researching and making her own armor and costumes, and studied historical customs and traditions. She still treasures her trip around Scotland's countryside and castles. Sharon's enthusiasm was one of the catalysts for his growing interest in Scottish culture and history, and the entry point for his pursuit of traditional and DNA genealogy.

Studying traditional paths, along with internet tools, aided by the jump start received when he joined Clan Ramsay and exercised the option of the add-on genealogy fee, Mike learned enough about his earliest known ancestor to piece together another two generations of Ramsey ancestors. With subsequent DNA testing, he has not only filled in much of his family tree after 1775, but now has known relatives from before that time in Scotland. The trick will be to find the common ancestor of these known genetically-related matches in Scotland, who came to America.

Sharon and Mike were engaged to be married in 2019, but big world events delayed the wedding until March 2022. Of course, the wedding was at a Scottish festival, outdoors, with other Clan representatives, and a piper, and a Star Wars TIE Fighter pilot.

Mike is eager to meet as many Clan members as possible, and help anyone interested in the DNA aspect of genealogy to learn more about their extended Ramsay family.