

Tim Tebow has Champion Roots in Crawford County



One day in 2013 I was working on a few distant lines of my family when I ran across an interesting tidbit. My great-great-great Grandfather was named John C. Cole. He was the oldest of six children born to Barnet & Elizabeth (Champion) Cole. Elizabeth Champion Cole, daughter of John and Mary Margaret (Holtz) Champion, died shortly after giving birth to her youngest daughter, Margaret Ann Cole. Margaret Ann Cole married James Emmor Ramsey, the son of John and Mary (Cox) Ramsey.

Margaret Ann and James Emmor Ramsey had 4 children: Mary Elizabeth, Barnet Cole, John William, and James Newton. In James Emmor Ramsey's obituary, it mentions his son James Newton Ramsey, a lawyer in Cincinnati. I began to search census records and death records for Hamilton County. I found a James Newton Ramsey buried at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. This particular cemetery has burial cards available online with bits of information. This card stated that James Newton Ramsey was the son of James Emmor Ramsey and Margaret Ann Cole of Crawford County, Ohio. It also listed his wife as Ida Alice (Neville) Ramsey.

Further research determined that James Newton and Ida Alice had two children buried here: Norma Neville Ramsey, who died as a child, and Alta Ramsey, who married Lee Tebow.

Following this line, I discovered an application for membership to the Sons of the American Revolution by Robert Ramsey Tebow, son of Lee Tebow and Alta Ramsey. That document listed Robert Ramsey Tebow's children including Robert Ramsey Tebow II. I also noticed that this family had moved south and was in Florida when Robert Ramsey Tebow II married. I began to work backwards until I had found that Robert Ramsey Tebow II is the father of Heisman trophy winner and former NFL quarterback, Tim Tebow.

So Crawford County Ohio can lay claim to being the final resting place for several of Tim Tebow's direct ancestors including:

1. James Emmor and Margaret Ann (Cole) Ramsey – Great Great Great Grandparents buried in Biddle Cemetery
2. William and Lydia (Hartsaugh) Neville – Great Great Great Grandparents buried in Fairview Cemetery
3. John and Mary (Cox) Ramsey – Great Great Great Great Grandparents buried in Sandusky Cemetery
4. Barnet and Elizabeth (Champion) Cole – Great Great Great Great Grandparents – Barnet buried in Biddle Cemetery, Elizabeth probably in Hanna Cemetery
5. William and Margaret (Hutchinson) Cole – Great Great Great Great Great Grandparents – buried in Hanna Cemetery
6. John and Mary Margaret (Holtz) Champion – Great Great Great Great Great Grandparents – buried in Hanna Cemetery