

= Robert Ramsay (cricketer) =

Robert Christian Ramsay (20 December 1861 ? 25 June 1957) was an English @-@ born gentleman who spent much of his life as a pastoralist and businessman in Queensland , Australia . During the late 1880s , he was also an amateur cricketer who played for Harrow , Cambridge University and Somerset . In 1882 , he also played for the Gentlemen of England under W.G. Grace .

Born in Cheltenham , Gloucestershire , Ramsay spent his early childhood in Australia , but moved back to England with his family in March 1874 to enable him and his older brother to receive an education . He attended Harrow and then Cambridge , and gained his sporting Blue at the latter , playing in the University match against Oxford in 1882 . He made fifteen first @-@ class appearances for Cambridge and Somerset in 1881 and 1882 , but did not play any first @-@ class cricket after that . In 1883 , he left Cambridge without graduating and returned to Australia where , after working as a jackaroo at Winbar Station in New South Wales for nearly two years , he joined his brother Frank at Eton Vale , a large pastoral station on Queensland 's Darling Downs owned by their father Robert Burnett Ramsay and Arthur Hodgson . At the time , Eton Vale was being managed by Arthur Hodgson 's son Edward .

Bob Ramsay remained in Australia until his retirement in June 1920 , when he returned with his wife and children to England and settled in Bekesbourne , Kent .

= = Life and career = =

= = = Early life and cricket = = =

Robert Christian Ramsay was born in Cheltenham , Gloucestershire on 20 December 1861 as the sixth child and fourth son of Robert Burnett Ramsay and Susan , née Lindsay Carnegie . Three of his elder siblings died in very early childhood and his older brother Alfred died from appendicitis in 1874 when only 15 years old . Apart from spending five years as a director of mercantile firm Ramsay , Young & Co. in Sydney between 1839 and 1844 , Robert Ramsay 's father was a pastoralist and politician in Queensland who served as the eighth treasurer of Queensland . Bob Ramsay was at school in Warwick and then briefly at Ipswich Grammar School in Queensland , Australia until the family moved to England in March 1874 . He then attended Elstree School and Harrow School . At Harrow , he was part of the football team in 1878 and 1879 , captaining the side in the latter year . He also played for the school 's cricket team , alongside his older brother Marmaduke Francis Ramsay , better known as Frank . In 1879 , the brothers combined to take seventeen of Eton College 's twenty wickets , of which Robert claimed six in the first innings and four in the second .

Ramsay followed his older brother to Trinity Hall , Cambridge , and in his first year played in the freshmen 's trial match in which he claimed six wickets , five of them in the first innings . He played one first @-@ class match for the university that summer , bowling ten overs without taking a wicket against Yorkshire . He also played five second @-@ class matches during 1881 , all for Somerset County Cricket Club . His best performance for Somerset during that time was against Kent , when he claimed six wickets in the first innings .

The following year at Cambridge , Ramsay played nine first @-@ class matches for the university , and gained his blue . His first match in the summer of 1882 was played for the university against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) , a match which Cambridge won by 189 runs , aided by the strong bowling of Ramsay , who claimed 13 wickets and conceded 49 runs , the tenth best bowling performance for the university . Later in the summer he claimed eight wickets against Lancashire , and then picked up 12 wickets against the touring Australians . In the match against the Australians , he collected five wickets in the first innings and seven in the second , albeit more expensively than in the match against the MCC . He was less prolific against Lancashire for Somerset , during a match played in such cold weather that catches were hard to hold . Bill Roe said that during this

match , Lancashire 's number eleven , George Nash was dropped off every ball of an over bowled by Ramsay , before Roe himself caught Nash off the first ball of the following over . Ramsay was selected to play for the " Gentlemen of England " against the touring Australians , and claimed three wickets in a match which the Australians won by an innings . In the University match against Oxford , Ramsay had little success , taking two wickets from his 52 overs , during which he conceded 91 runs . Cambridge won the match by seven wickets .

In all , Ramsay played 15 first @-@ class cricket matches , and took 69 wickets at an average of 17 @.@ 82 . He claimed five wickets in an innings five times , and ten wickets in a match twice . He bowled with an unusual action which gained him the nickname " Twisting Tommy " , because of its resemblance to a corkscrew . As a batsman , he totalled 303 runs at an average of 13 @.@ 77 , including two half @-@ centuries , with a career best of 71 .

= = = Return to Australia = = =

Ramsay did not graduate from Cambridge , but instead returned to Australia in 1883 to go into farming , first as a jackaroo on Winbar Station in New South Wales and then , in late 1885 , with his older brother Frank at Eton Vale , a large station on the Darling Downs owned by their father and Arthur Hodgson , later Sir Arthur Hodgson , that was then being managed by Arthur Hodgson 's son Edward .

In December 1886 , he and Frank , together with Edward Hodgson , established Ramsay Bros. & Hodgson independently of their fathers and bought Oondooroo , a huge station that , in Bob 's own words in a letter to his father , was " about 140 miles from Hughenden Railway and 18 miles from Winton , [and] consists of 1035 square miles of country as good as it is possible to get " . The two Ramsay brothers became five when three younger Ramsay brothers , Lauderdale , Douglas and Norman joined the firm two years later . Ramsay Brothers & Hodgson went on to acquire numerous other Queensland stations and , after the premature death of Edward Hodgson in 1896 , became one of the largest sheep @-@ farming enterprises in the world . In response to claims by an American journalist about an American sheep @-@ farmer , The Western Champion and General Advertiser dated 9 October 1905 echoed the North Queensland Register in saying that the Ramsay Bros. would , " with a good season or two , give the American a shaking " for the title of biggest sheep @-@ farmers in the world . At Oondooroo , Ramsay established what the Australian Dictionary of Biography described as " the most progressive run [station] in north @-@ west Queensland . " He used modern technology to achieve this , including " private telephone @-@ lines , shearing machines , Humber motorcycles and Serpollet steam @-@ motorcars . " In 1907 , Ramsay married 20 @-@ year @-@ old Olive Zillah Voss at St James ' Cathedral in Townsville , Queensland , with whom he had seven children between 1908 and 1924 .

He took over management of the family estates upon his brother Frank 's retirement to England in November 1908 , and two years later became a founding member of the Brisbane branch of the Round Table . Between 1914 and 1917 , he was a member of the Queensland Recruiting Committee but left in protest over the failure of the 1916 Federal Government referendum to introduce conscription . Instead , he joined the Queensland Reinforcements Referendum Committee , of which he became president . He remained active as a pastoralist and businessman until his retirement in 1920 , at which time he moved to England . In 1921 , he moved to Howletts , his parents ' former home in Bekesbourne , Kent , and remained there until he died on 25 June 1957 .