

Patsy Ramsey as RN Author

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Overview

- **Handwriting Samples.** Samples of Patsy's handwriting have been [posted](#).
- **Summary Findings Favorable to Patsy Ramsey**
 - No BPD-hired experts identified Patsy as RN author
 - Odds "very Low" Patsy wrote RN
 - Other individuals *not eliminated* as RN writer
 - Numerous significant dissimilarities rule out Patsy
 - Difficulty of disguising handwriting
- **Summary Findings Unfavorable to Patsy Ramsey**
 - At least 10 professionals concluded Patsy was author
 - Caveat: none used original RN or exemplars
 - Patsy only one of 73 who could not be ruled out
 - Ramsey may have disguised handwriting
 - Patsy a journalism major

The following details the various experts and evidence to support these general conclusions.

Evidence Patsy Ramsey is Not the RN Writer

Summary Findings Favorable to Patsy Ramsey

Lin Wood's motion in Burke Ramsey's 2016 defamation case against CBS includes a thorough refutation of the claim Patsy wrote the ransom note ([detailed in pp. 56-63](#)).

- **No BPD-Hired Experts Identified Patsy as RN Author.** "During the investigation, the Boulder Police Department and Boulder County District Attorney's Office consulted at least six handwriting experts. (SMF P 191; PSMF P 191.) All of these experts consulted the original Ransom Note and original handwriting exemplars from Mrs. Ramsey. (SMF P 205; PSMF P 205.) Four of these experts were hired by the police and two were hired by defendants. (SMF P 191; PSMF P 191.) **None of the six consulted experts identified Mrs. Ramsey as the author of the Ransom Note.** (SMF P 195; PSMF P 195.) [Emphasis added.]
- **Odds "Very Low" Patsy Wrote RN**
 - **Carnes Decision.** "Rather, the experts' consensus was that she "probably did not" write the Ransom Note. (SMF P 196; PSMF P 196.) On a scale of one to five, with five being elimination as the author of the Ransom Note, the experts placed Mrs. Ramsey at a 4.5 or a 4.0. (SMF P 203; PSMF P 203.) The experts described the chance of Mrs. Ramsey being the author of the Ransom Note as "very low." (SMF P 204; PSMF P 204.) (Carnes 2003:26).
 - **Hunter Deposition.** Alex Hunter videotaped a deposition in the *Wolf v. Ramsey* case on November 27, 2001; according to Internet poster [Jameson](#), parts of this deposition are under seal. However, the deposition was referenced in the videotaped deposition of Gideon Epstein May 17, 2002 which has been made [public](#). (In this section, which begins on p. 165, line 2, the questioner is James Rawls:) **Q.** "You've read the testimony of Alex Hunter -- **A.** I have. **Q.** --that is part of Defendant's Exhibit 9; have you not? **A.** Yes. **Q.** And you understand that from Alex Hunter's perspective, the sum total of the handwriting analysis done by the investigation on Patsy Ramsey was that she was somewhere at about a 4.5 on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being elimination. **A.** (Nods head). **Q.** Do you not, sir? **A.** That's what he says. **Q.** Thus, that from Alex Hunter's perspective, Patsy Ramsey was not eliminated by the experts chosen by the district attorney, but she was close to elimination; correct? **A.** That's what he says, yes."
 - **Patsy Ramsey Statement.** From Larry King Live (3/28/2000): "KING: Is your handwriting cleared, both of you? P. RAMSEY: John's definitively was cleared. And I scored a 4.5 out of 5. Five is definitely no match, and it just..." [CNN RUSH transcript \(html\)](#). On Larry King Live (4/14/2000), Steve Thomas stated: "Well, they're saying that she scored a numerical scale of 4 1/2, but that apparently is from their own defense handwriting experts." [CNN RUSH transcript \(html\)](#).
 - **On-line Discussions.** See [Using 1 to 5 Scale](#) at Webbsleuths forum chat.
- **Other Individuals Not Eliminated as RN Writer.**
- **Numerous Significant Dissimilarities Rule Out Patsy.** "The two experts hired by defendants both assert that this evidence strongly suggests that Mrs. Ramsey did not write the Note. (SMF P 254.)" (Carnes 2003:26). "Defendants' experts base their conclusion that Mrs. Ramsey is not the author of the Ransom Note on the "numerous significant dissimilarities" between the individual characteristics of Mrs. Ramsey's handprinting and of that used in the Ransom Note. (SMF P 247.) For example, defendants asserts Mrs. Ramsey's written letter "u" consistently differs from the way the same letter is written throughout the Ransom Note. (SMF P 248.)" (Carnes 2003:27).
- **Expertise of Examiners.** The expertise and high ethical standards of these experts was summarized by Darnay Hoffman, an attorney for Chris Wolf, who sought to prove that Patsy Ramsey was the note writer, in a [fax](#) to Tom Miller, a handwriting expert he had hired (see below): "I spoke with handwriting expert Paul A. Osborn...He refuses to touch the Ramsey case with a ten foot pole. His reasons: he knows the handwriting experts who gave their reports to the defense team and to C.B.I.--four in all. According to Osborn these experts are supposedly top of their field (he won't give me their names) with impeccable ethical credentials. Their verdict: the similarities between Patsy and the ransom note writers handwriting is at the very lowest end of the spectrum, i.e., there is little or no basis for match."
 - **Osborn Expertise.** Paul A. Osborn himself is at the top of his field with over 50 years of [experience](#): "he has been qualified as an expert and has testified on the subject of disputed documents in civil and criminal courts on more than four hundred and fifty occasions in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and seventeen other states, as well as in the Panama Canal Zone, Virgin Islands and Canada....In 1992, Mr. Osborn was awarded the Gesellschaft F^or Forensische Schriftuntersuchung E. V. Medal of Recognition for Outstanding Merit from the European Society of forensic document examiners."
 - **Experts Being Referenced by Osborn.** The four experts alluded to in Hoffman's fax are Dusak, Ubowski, Speckin and Alford.
- **Difficulty of Disguising Handwriting.** See [The Experiment](#) at Webbsleuths forum chat which illustrates the difficulty of disguising one's handwriting for 2-1/2 pages.

Individual Expert Opinions Favorable to Patsy Ramsey

Experts Consulted By BPD/BDA (6 experts inclusive of 2 hired by Ramseys)

- **On-line Discussion.** See [6 Experts Who Matter](#) at Webbsleuths forum chat.

Richard Dusak

- **Dusak Findings.** "Richard Dusak (sic) of the *U.S. Secret Service* concluded that there was "no evidence to indicate that Patsy Ramsey executed any of the questioned material appearing on the Ransom Note." (SMF P 200; PSMF P 200.) (Carnes 2003:26, note 14).
- **Qualifications.** Dusak is a member of the [American Board of Forensic Document Examiners](#). According to [ABFDE](#): "The *American Board of Forensic Document Examiners* (ABFDE) is the only certifying board sponsored by the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, the Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences, The Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners, the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners, and is recognized by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences."
- **Criticisms.** Internet poster Jayelles [reports](#) "Richard Dusak was cited as one of 4 high ranking secret service officials who were complicit in perjury during the Martha Stewart trial."

Chester A. Ubowski

• Ubowski Findings

- **"Indications" Patsy May Have Written RN.** Some of Ubowski's preliminary findings were revealed in the affidavit used as justification for the Charlevoix search warrant. According to affiant Jane Harmer, Ubowski provided Detective Linda Arndt the [following](#) information: "The analysis of the handwriting samples obtained from Patsy Ramsey showed "indications" which suggest that Patsy Ramsey may have written the reported ransom note."
- **Evidence Falls Short.** Later in the [affidavit](#), Harmer further states "He determined that there is evidence which indicates the ransom note may have been written by Patricia Ramsey but "the evidence falls short of that necessary to support a definite conclusion."
- **Full Range of Handwriting Sought.** Affiant Harmer also [stated](#): "It would be helpful to obtain additional historical samples of Patsy Ramsey's writings so that a more conclusive determination could be made on the analysis of her handwriting compared to the handwriting contained in the reported ransom note. CBI Agent Ubowski informed Detective Arndt that samples of Patsy's handwriting which had been completed prior to December 26, 1996 might not include or contain any elements of distortion, attempts to disguise handwriting, or nervousness. Agent Ubowski further stated that these handwriting samples would help to "display a full range of the variation of the writer." CBI Agent Ubowski had been present when a third handwriting sample had been obtained from Patsy Ramsey on February 28, 1997. The handwriting was completed in a standard block style. [A REDACTION APPEARING TO BE A SINGLE SENTENCE APPEARS HERE](#). Agent Ubowski stated that the handwriting samples obtained from Patsy do not suggest the full range of her handwriting." Harmer [noted](#) that "Detective Arndt said that approximately 16 pages of handwriting have been provided by Patsy Ramsey to the Boulder Police Department to date."
- **Carnes Opinion.** "Chet Ubowski of the *Colorado Bureau of Investigation* concluded that the evidence fell short of that needed to support a conclusion that Mrs. Ramsey wrote the note. (SMF P 197; PSMF P 197.)" (Carnes 2003:26, note 14).
- **24 of 26 Letters Matched?** According to Internet poster [Cherokee](#), Ubowski "is said to have found 24 of 26 letters in the ransom note which matched exemplars from Patsy Ramsey" (Thomas 2000: page number not provided).
- **Patsy Sole Possible Author of 100 Examined?** Likewise, according to Internet poster [The Punisher](#), Carol [McKinley](#) stated in the Fox News story that Ramseys sued Fox over: "Many forensic document examiners have given their opinions as to who wrote the note. But the only one to testify before a grand jury in the case was Chet Ubowski, forensic document examiner for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Out of 100 people he analyzed for the Boulder Police Department, he found ONLY ONE person whom he thought may have authored the document, Patsy Ramsey. Investigative sources tell Fox News that the disguised letters and bleeding ink from the felt tipped pen used to write the note kept him from 100 percent ID of Mrs. Ramsey." It is not clear who the source for this report was, but it would appear to contradict the sworn testimony of Alex Hunter. In his deposition for the Wolf v. Ramsey libel case, Alex Hunter [acknowledged](#) that these experts had concluded chances of Patsy writing the note were "very low" and also asserted *there were other individuals who were under suspicion whose handwriting was analyzed that were not eliminated as the author of the note*.
- **Schiller's Account.** But Schiller claimed "The police never bothered to ask Ubowski if he had put his entire analysis of the ransom note into his report. Either way, Ubowski was prepared to say, 'Patsy wrote the note.' The CBI saw this as another missed opportunity" (Schiller 1999a:536-537; quotation and source provided by Internet poster [The Punisher](#)). Schiller further notes: "experts from the CBI presented their evaluations into evidence, including Chet Ubowski. He also told Pete Mang, his boss at the CBI, that his gut told him it was her handwriting" (Schiller 1999a:740; quotation and source provided by Internet poster [The Punisher](#)).
- **Ubowski Qualifications.** Ubowski is a member of the [American Board of Forensic Document Examiners](#), the only professional certifying organization in the profession. He [served](#) as the CBI laboratory agent in charge of the JBR investigation.

Leonard Speckin

In this [video](#) (4:45 min.), Leonard Speckin states that he was asked by Steve Thomas to provide a second opinion on the RN because the FBI refused to do so (the FBI will do primary analyses, but not second opinions etc.). Speckin was sent copies of the note and crime scene photos, spending 3 days to perform his assessment.

• Speckin Findings.

- **Unable to Eliminate.** "Leonard Speckin, a private forensic document examiner, concluded that differences between the writing of Mrs. Ramsey's handwriting and the author of the Ransom Note prevented him from identifying Mrs. Ramsey as the author of the Ransom Note, but he was unable to eliminate her. (SMF P 198; PSMF P 198.)" (Carnes 2003:26, note 14). Speckin's report stated: "When I compare the handwriting habits of Patsy Ramsey with those in the questioned ransom note, there exists agreement to the extent that some of her individual letter formations and letter combinations do appear in the ransom note." ([Epstein Deposition](#) (p. 138:9-14) "When this agreement is weighed against the number, type and consistency of the differences present, I am unable to identify Patsy Ramsey as the author of the questioned ransom note with any degree of certainty. I am, however, unable to eliminate her as the author." ([Epstein Deposition](#) (p. 138:25 through p. 139:1-6).
 - **Infinitesimal Chance of Intruder Match to Patsy.** However, Speckin reportedly was ready to testify that "there was only an infinitesimal chance that some random intruder would have handwriting characteristics so remarkably similar to those of a parent sleeping upstairs." (Thomas 2000:page number not provided; quote and source provided by Internet poster [The Punisher](#)). In this [video](#) explaining his role in the case, it is reasonable to infer Speckin believes Patsy wrote the note based on his statements about the note being written on her pad with her pen.
- **Speckin Qualifications.**
 - "Leonard Speckin is a forensic document analyst, retired from the Michigan State Police. He has given expert witness testimony in this area over 500 times, for many courts, state committee hearings, and federal grand juries. He is certified by the *American Board of Forensic Document Examiners*" ([pdf](#)).
 - **Gideon Epstein Assessment.** In his [deposition](#) in the Wolf v. Ramsey case, Epstein, a handwriting expert testifying against the Ramseys said: "Speckin I don't consider a document examiner. Speckin has a document laboratory. He's basically a chemist, he does ink and paper work. He's a young fellow with very little experience. If he has done handwriting, it's been very little handwriting" (p. 158:2-7). It would appear that Epstein mistakenly was alluding to Leonard Speckin's son, Erich Speckin, who did a "two-year residency with Leonard A. Speckin [his father](#) in the examination of questioned documents" and indeed only has a degree in chemistry (See Chapter 29 [here](#)). Erich Speckin runs a forensic laboratory in Okemos, MI [Wall Street Journal](#).

Edwin F. Alford, Jr.

• Alford Findings

- **Evidence Fell Short.** "Edwin Alford, a private forensic document examiner, states the evidence fell short of that needed to support a conclusion that Mrs. Ramsey wrote the note. (SMF P 197; PSMF P 197.)" (Carnes 2003:26, note 14).
- **Evidence Failed to Provide Basis.** According to Internet poster Jameson (see Nov. 02 2002,6:18 pm), Alford asserted: "Examination of the questioned handwriting and comparison with the handwriting specimens submitted has failed to provide a basis for identifying Patricia Ramsey as the writer of the letter."
- **Alford Qualifications.** Alford is a diplomate of the *American Board of Forensic Document Examiners* ([ZoomInfo.com](#)).

Consultants Hired by Ramseys (2 experts)

Lloyd Cunningham

• Cunningham Findings.

- **No Significant Similar Characteristics.** "Lloyd Cunningham, a private forensic document examiner hired by defendants, concluded that there were no significant similar individual characteristics shared by the handwriting of Mrs. Ramsey and the author of the Ransom Note, but there were many significant differences between the handwritings. (SMF P 201; PSMF P 201.)" (Carnes 2003:26, note 14).
- **Cannot Identify or Eliminate Patsy as Author.** In his Wolf v. Ramsey [deposition](#), Gideon Epstein agreed with Ramsey attorney James Rawls' characterization of Cunningham's findings: "he cannot identify, nor eliminate Patsy Ramsey as the author of the ransom note..." and "he has spent 20 hours examining the samples and documents and found that there were no significant individual characteristics, but much significant difference between Patsy's writing and the note" (p. 148:9-11 and 13-17).
- **Cunningham Qualifications.** [Cunningham](#) was a police officer in the San Francisco Police Department from 1963-1991; he became the department's first forensic document examiner after receiving training with the U.S. Secret Service. He is a member of the *Southwestern Association of Document Examiners* and served as its president from 2001-2003. He is best [known](#) for being the world's leading expert on the handwriting in the Zodiac killer case.

Howard C. Rile, Jr.

- **Rile Findings.** "Howard Rile concluded that Mrs. Ramsey was between "probably not" and "elimination," on a scale of whether she wrote the Ransom Note. (SMF P 202; PSMF P 202.)" (Carnes 2003:26, note 14). This also is confirmed in [Epstein Deposition](#), p. 150:6-9).
- **Qualifications.** Rile is a member of the *American Board of Forensic Document Examiners*, the only professional certifying organization in the profession.

Authors/Internet Analysts (5 individuals)

Gerald McMenamin

- **McMenamin Findings.** In McMenamin, Gerald R., and Dongdoo Choi. *Forensic Linguistics: Advances in Forensic Stylistics*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC, 2002, he concludes that [Patricia Ramsey is excluded as](#)

[the writer of the questioned ransom letter. This conclusion is based on three facts:](#)

- [There are substantial and significant dissimilarities between her range of variation and that of the ransom letter.](#)
 - [Limitations present in the available data \(i.e., lack of more than one contemporaneous, dictated request sample, nonoccurrence of some variables in the nonrequest samples, and chance of disguise in evidence or reference writings\) do not diminish the significance of reliable available data or indicate language disguise.](#)
 - [The range of variation measured in the questioned letter constitutes sufficient basis for comparison to any suspect writer, given that the probability of replicating it by chance in other than its own writer is near zero.](#)
- **Qualifications.** [According](#) to Jameson, McMenamin "was a professor of Forensic Linguistics at the University of California when he compared the ransom note with samples of Patsy's letters to family and friends."
 - **Critique of Epstein's Methodology.** In a court affidavit, Geoffrey Nunberg severely criticized McMenamin's methods (cited on pdf p. 32 of Carole Chaski's [Best Practices and Admissibility of Forensic Author Identification](#)).
 - Professor McMenamin's methods are not based on well-established theoretical principles nor are they consistent with rigorous practice in the statistical analysis of written texts. McMenamin has performed no statistical research that would give any scientific grounding to his conclusions. I would not classify McMenamin's work as bad science; rather, it is not science at all.
 - Professor McMenamin's choice of the features used in document comparison is arbitrary and subjective, and unmotivated by any empirical research; another set of features could well have been chosen that would have given very different results. His method could not pass the test of independent replicability.
 - Professor McMenamin's work is not accepted as sound science within the linguistic community. . . .

Sheila Lowe and Associates.

- **Lowe Findings.** Based on differences between Patsy's personality profile (inferred from handwriting) and those of the perp, this on-line analysis concludes Patsy is not the writer.

Beverly East

- **East Findings.** Her on-line personality profile of [Patsy Ramsey](#) draws no direct conclusions about whether she was the note's author, but appears inconsistent with her having written the RN.
- **Qualifications.** According to her [Web site](#), Ms. East trained intensively for 4 years and was qualified in the world's foremost institute of graphology, based in Chicago, Illinois. She established Strokes & Slants in Washington, D.C. in 1989 and in London, England in 1991.

Bill James

- **James Findings.** "Patsy Ramsey did NOT write that note. It should be obvious to anyone who studies the subject that Patsy Ramsey did not write that note, for reasons that I will outline later in this article. No expert will EVER testify that Patsy Ramsey wrote that note, because if they did, they would be torn to shreds on cross-examination so completely that it would end their career, absolutely and beyond any question. It's never going to happen."
- **Qualifications.** James has no training in handwriting analysis, but he points out that the field is not scientific: it is instead based on expertise: "Handwriting, on the other hand, has NO field of free-standing knowledge open to the public and verifiable by the public. It could have; it should have. It just doesn't. Handwriting analysis perfectly well COULD be done by scientific methods; it just isn't. The field went in a different direction. It developed expertise independent of verifiable knowledge."

DocG

- **DocG Findings.** Based on extensive analysis of handwriting samples for both Patsy and John, DocG concludes that it is much more likely John wrote the RN. His discussion of Patsy's writing is at [Patsy's London Letter Revisited](#) and [Patsy's Left Hand Sample Revisited](#).
- **DocG Qualifications.** Internet poster DocG has no professional training in handwriting analysis.

[Evidence Patsy Ramsey is the RN Writer](#)