

A HISTORY OF THE SAVAGES AND THEIR ORIGINS

“ Savage is an ancient and noble family known as Le Sauvage in Normandy France from whence they were first recorded. Unfortunately the archives of the ancient De Sauvage, Lords of Mountbaron, were destroyed in a fire that occurred in the Chateau De Mountbaron in 1615.

The Savage family entered England with William the Conqueror in 1066 and settled in Derbyshire....From Derbyshire the family branched out into several English counties. The family has its share of illustrious men who served their states, the military, the church and literature even to this day. The name Savage can be found among the crusaders, warriors knighted, speaker of the English House of Commons, Bishop and Archbishop of York and as poets. “

Source : www.stumpranchonline.com/Savage/SavageAncestry.htm

We start our history with Frederick Woodall Savage born in 1918 in Cape Town and his 3 sons, Colin Woodall, Graham Stephen and Christopher Lewis.



Frederick Woodall Savage | Colin, Graham & Christopher 1950's

| Christopher, Graham & Colin 2008

Frederick Woodall's father Lewis Savage was the first Savage from this line of the Savage family to emigrate from England to South Africa. Lewis Savage died when Fred was a young boy (Age 11) and hence very little is known of him or of the history of the Savage family and where they came from.

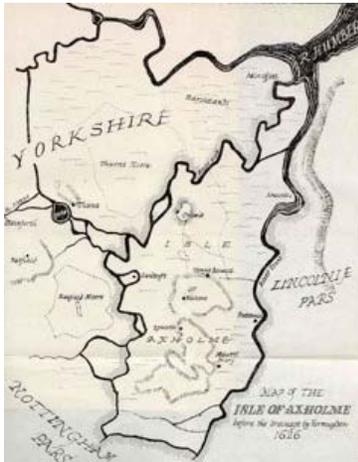
From searching historical databases and Census records, we now can trace the Savage Family back a further 3 generations from Lewis, giving a total of 7 generations in the family tree.

Lewis Savage was born in 1884 in Hull, Yorkshire. In 1901, at the age of 17, he was living in Apley Road, Doncaster and his occupation is recorded as 'Clerk for Disinfectants'. It is not known when or why he emigrated to South Africa, but he married Edith Florence Mary Ridge (of Peckham, Surrey) in St Paul's Church, Rondebosch on the 20 August 1910 . He worked on the South African Railways as a paymaster and had 5 children; Frederick, George, Jean, Peggy and Florence May, who died as an infant and is buried in Matjiesfontein.

Lewis's father was Lewis Savage (1859-1932) and Mother, Mary J (Hanson?). They had 5 children; Lewis, Rosa, Arthur, William and Frederick George. Lewis was a joiner.

Lewis Savage was born in Crowle, Lincolnshire and died in Doncaster (264 Carr House Road), Yorkshire. When Lewis died he left £301 19s. 9d to Frederick George Savage (son), Colliery Clerk and Rosa Savage (daughter), spinster.

The history of Savages is linked to the geographic area of the Isle of Axholme and the towns of Crowle, Thorne, Doncaster and Scunthorpe.



The Isle of Axholme is part of North Lincolnshire. It is the only part of Lincolnshire north of the River Trent. It is between the three towns of Doncaster, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough.

The name Axholme is a corruption of *Axel-holme*, formed from the name of the principal place *Axel* (now Haxey, a mere village), and the termination *holme*, which was used by the Saxons to denote a river-island. The name Isle was given to the area since, prior to the areas being drained by the Dutch Engineer, Vermuyden in 1620, each town was situated on an area of dry, raised ground in the surrounding marshland. Crowle was one of the last large pieces of dry land on the north of the Isle of Axholme when the area emerged from Lake Humber after the last Ice Age. (Source :

Isle of Axholme / Crowle – Wikipedia; www.oldtowns.co.uk)

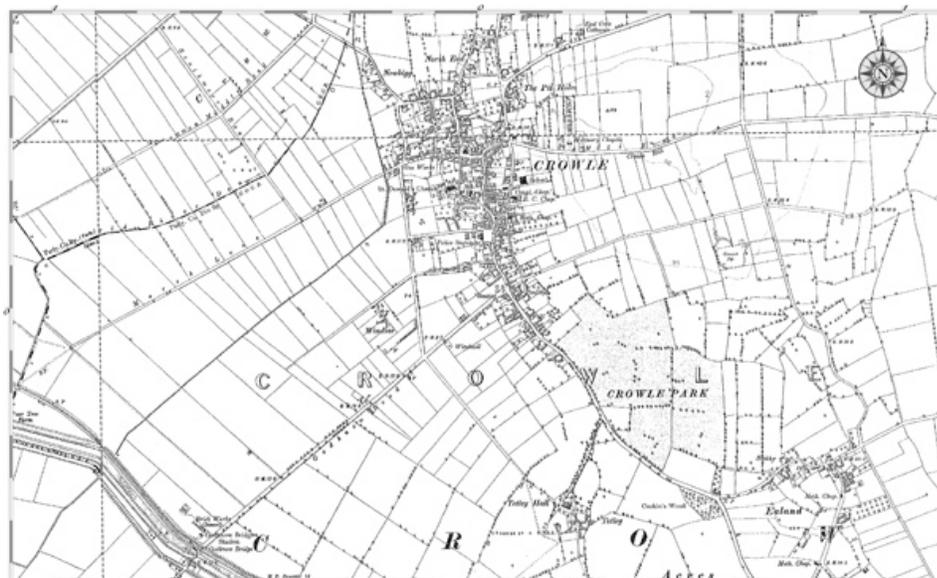


Crowle (pronounced Crul) is the principal market town to the north of the Isle of Axholme in Lincolnshire. It is located to the west of the River Trent between Scunthorpe and Doncaster.

“After descending the downland lawns, and passing through the fertile plain called Belton Field, the traveler enters a similar tract of land, where the town of Crul, Croule, or Crowle, stands close to one of the branches of the southern Don. The word Crowle is probably a corruption of the Dutch word Krol, which signifies a shed or small habitation of any kind..... Crowle, at the time of the Conquest, was the moat populous and most valuable manor in the Isle of Axholme; that the original Lord Paramount, Geoffrey de Wirce, had established a demese., dominium, or piece of land, which he kept in his own hands; that there was an ancient inclosure; and

that the great meres in this neighbourhood were then in existence, as they afforded situations for thirty-one fisheries, valued at a shilling each.”

From Read's History of the Isle of Axholme. 1858 www.crowle.org





In the Domesday book Crowle was the most populous and valuable manor in the Isle of Axholme, it consisted of a manor house and 34 cottages. By 1821 this had increased to a population of 1729 living in 295 houses. The area was primary agricultural. Crowle lies on the Stainforth and Keadby Canal opened in 1800. The canal made the movement of goods easier and heavier loads could be transported by water rather than road in those times. In the late 1850's the South Yorkshire Railway laid a line to Keadby and established a station at Crowle. With the coming of the railway, Crowle became the centre of traffic for the Isle of Axholme, with its population increasing. After 1871 its population decreased in part due to the agricultural depression caused by the import of cheap American Wheat. (Source : www.crowle.org) During the nineteenth century, the average population of Crowle was approximately 2500 people.

The Savages listed in the 19th century trade Index of Crowle were joiners, wheelwrights, boot & shoe makers, law clerk and joiner and fruit and fish dealer.

Source : 19th Century Trade Index www.crowle.org

Lewis's father was Thomas Savage (1828-1892). He was born and died in Crowle. He married Elizabeth Sayles and had at least 13 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood and are recorded in various Census records. He was a joiner and lived in the High Street, Crowle.

Thomas's father was Thomas Savage (1805-1892). He was born in Crowle and died in Thorne, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, West Riding¹. He was a builder. He married Elizabeth Bellamy in 1828, and had 10 children, one of whom was called Frederick Woodall Savage. Frederick Woodall Savage (1844-1927) was therefore an uncle to Lewis Savage. He married in 1868 and was a Solicitor's Clerk, but Census records subsequently list him as a widower living with his niece (Blanche) and nephew (George). He died in 1927.

This is the origin of the family name of "Woodall".

Thomas's father may have been Stephen Savage and he would have been born around 1795-80.

¹ "Unlike most English counties that were divided into hundreds, Yorkshire, being so large, was divided first into thrithjungar (an Old Norse word meaning 'third parts'), which were called the three Ridings (East, North & West) and, later, the City of York (which lay within the city walls and was not part of any Riding). Each Riding was then divided into wapentakes, a division comparable to the hundreds of southern England and the wards of England's four northern-most historic counties. The wapentakes of the West Riding were Agbrigg and Morley, Barkston Ash, Ewcross, Claro, Osgoldcross, Skyrack, Staincliffe, Staincross, Strafforth, and Tickhill." (Source : Wikipedia)

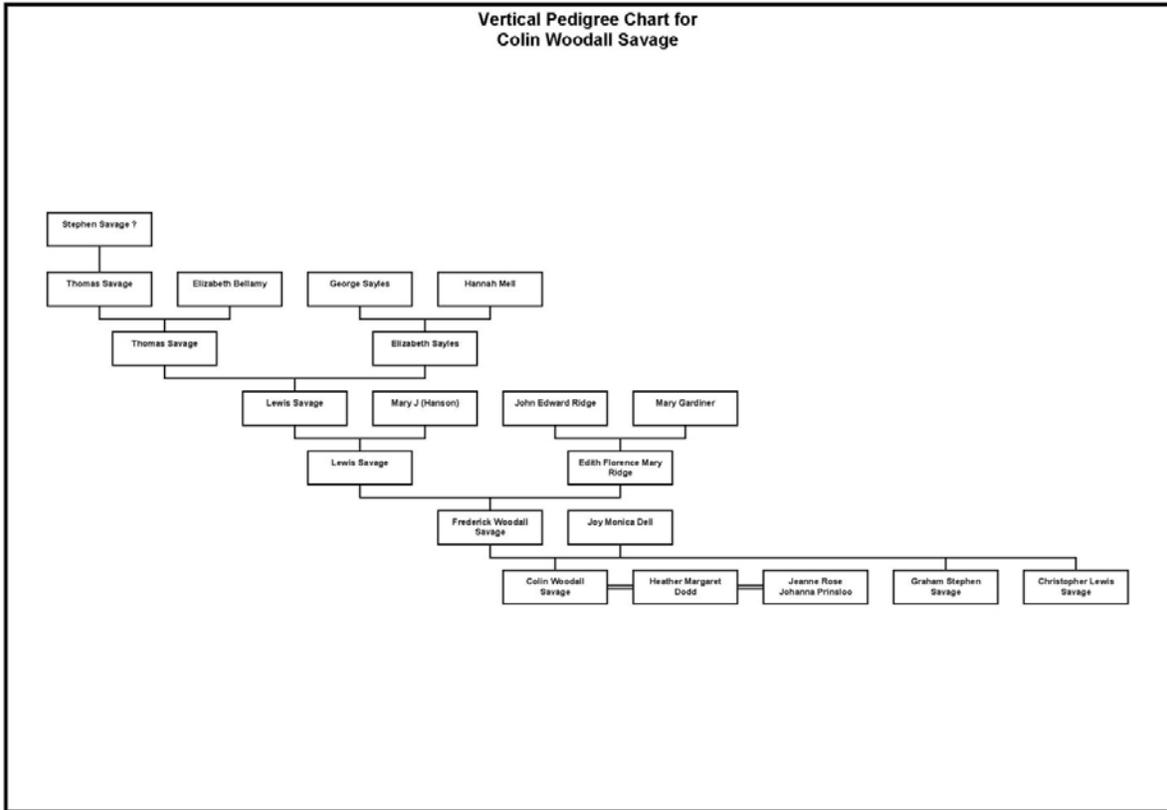


Generations of Savages were baptised in the Church of St Oswald's in Crowle and are buried in the Parish Cemetery. There are Parish records dating back to the mid 1500's recording Savages, with the recurrent names of Thomas, Stephen and George. The church is dedicated to Saint Oswald the Christian King of Northumbria, converted to Christianity by the monks of Iona. He was slain by the heathen King Penda of Mercia at the battle of Maserfield on August 5th 642. There are traces of Saxon and Norman architecture in the

church. At the rear of the church there is part of an ancient cross or Runic Stone, with various carvings upon it, which could have been carved about AD 650 and may have been part of the ancient church. The Parish Registers start in 1561. (Source : www.axholme-fhs.org.uk)

Crowle : Aerial Photographs taken from a bi plane 1925. Source : isleofaxholme.co.uk





A full family tree with 63 members to date has been constructed on Family Tree Maker.

References :

www.ancestry.co.uk : Census Records 1841/1851/1861/1871/1881/1891/1901/1911, Birth & Death Index / Parish Records

www.axholme-fhs.org.uk

www.red1st.com

www.crowle.org.uk

www.isleofaxholme.co.uk

www.visionofbritain.org.uk

Compiled by Heather Dodd and Colin Savage.

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