



Cavill Family, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 1967



Sid, Arthur and Dick Cavill – just part of the family

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Cavill Family consists of two generations of seven colorful champion swimmers (from 1839 to 1940) who set national and regional records and promoted swimming.

Frederick (Father – born English): Royal Humane Society; received four medals for life saving; and attempted the English Channel the two years after IMSHOF Honoree Captain Matthew Webb's crossing. In 1876 he swam a record distance of 32 km down the Thames, from Southampton to Southsea Pier; from Dover to Ramsgate and then pulled from the English Channel 4.8 km from completion. In 1877 he missed completing the Channel by less 200 meters when the boatman refused to land at night.

Ernest: world record holder in the 1000-yard freestyle and "World Title" series winner in England.

Charles: First man to cross the Golden Gate.

Percy: won 4 Australian National Championships and set world records in the 440 yards and 5-mile freestyle. Taught swimming for 15 years in America.

Arthur: stunt swimmer who crossed rivers with both hands and feet tied. He died from exposure, attempting to swim across Seattle Harbor.

Syd: won 1 Australian Championship and coached at San Francisco Olympic Club.

Dick: won 18 Australian titles and 2 English titles. Toured America as Father Neptune in a stage act and was influential in the development of independent arm stroke and leg kick of the crawl stroke. Died of a heart attack during a swimming demonstration in 1938.

They were also inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1970).

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)