



Cavill Family, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 1967



Sid, Arthur and Dick Cavill – just part of the family
Personal Website (None known)

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

Frederick (Father – born English): Royal Humane Society, received four medals for life saving; Attempted the English Channel the two years after IMSHOF Honoree Captain Matthew Webb completed. In 1876 he swam a record distance of 20 miles down the Thames, from Southampton to Southsea Pier, from Dover to Ramsgate and then pulled from the English Channel 3 miles 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 against American champion McCusker.

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 \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation) – will never be established for a family

