

SAVAGE Pacer



"Savage family name sparks a Connecticut Connection"

By Nancy Huddleston; Editor; Savage Pacer; September 24, 2005

When Dennis Savage was plotting a journey to St. Paul from Connecticut to pick up a 1956 Chevy that he bought on e-Bay, he found something priceless.

He found a town with his family name. That discovery rekindled memories of a grandfather who had a picture of Dan Patch on a hallway wall. It also brought about questions of whether his part of the Savage family tree had roots connected to the famous Marion Willis Savage, owner of Dan Patch.

Dennis is from Lisbon, Conn., and part of a "whole clan of Savages" who are descendents of Elisha and Thankful Savage. As he was growing up, his grandfather, Henry Elliot Savage II, had a photo of Dan Patch in full trot at a race track on his hallway wall. "He told me about the horse and that Dan Patch was owned by one of our relatives," Dennis said.



Dennis Savage with Vanessa Birdsey and Linda Dallavalle at the library donating his book.

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And Dennis had something else - a book written by Albert Wilcox Savage Jr., called "Descendents of Seth Savage of Berlin, Connecticut." Albert Jr. had sent the book to Dennis in 1999 with instructions to donate it to a library. It remained on the shelf in its original packaging until just recently, when Dennis donated it to the Savage Library.

When Dennis discovered the city of Savage was a short distance away from where he was picking up the '56 Chevy, he knew he had to come to town. So he searched the Internet for information, coming across an article in the Savage Pacer regarding a reunion of Savage family members during Dan Patch Days.

The discovery prompted an e-mail to the newspaper for more information and resulted in a contact with the Dan Patch Historical Society.

After picking up the Chevy and stopping at Red Wing Shoes in Burnsville for a pair of shoes last week, Dennis headed to the Razor's Edge, which is owned by Jens Bohn, president of the historical society. From there, Dennis went up to the library to donate the book and meet with two more members of the historical society. Will and Janet Williams.

Dennis isn't positive that his Savage family is related to M.W. Savage's family, but he brought along a handwritten family tree to share with the historical society. That was turned over to Greg Lind, who organized the Savage family reunion this summer and has been researching the Savage family tree. Lind's research started with Marion and his wife and worked its way down. Now he'll need to work the tree the other way to see if there is a connection with the Connecticut Savages.

However, Dennis has discovered that Marion's middle name of Willis is repeated in several names in the Connecticut Savage family tree. And he's learning more and more each day about Dan Patch and the possible Minnesota connection to his family

"If we learn that we are actually related, I would also love to come to next year's Dan Patch Days," he said. "Since starting this trek I bought the movie, 'The Great Dan Patch' and have watched it twice."

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