**Murder of William Savage 1871, at Pennant Hills**

**NSW Registry Births Deaths & Marriages**

Death 1871 – William Savage, age 53 years, died Field of Mars, district of Parramatta

Death 1876 – John Savage, age 70 years, died Parramatta, district of Parramatta

Death 1902 – Thomas Savage, father: William, district of Parramatta

Death? – Patrick, brother of deceased William Savage

Thomas, a cousin of Thomas Savage

**Empire (Sydney, NSW), Mon 13 Jun 1864**

EVIDENCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PARRAMATTA LUNATIC ASYLUM.

How many officers have you under you in your department?

The matron, Elizabeth Statham; the master-attendant, Michael Prior; dispenser, Charles E. Rowling; clerk, Henry Worthington Statham; male attendants - **John Savage (who is the senior)**, John Velch, James Hudson, Thomas Johnson, Luke Dunn Michael Gately, Christopher Diamond, Gregory Connor, James Kelly, John Halligan, William Burns, George Carson; James McQueeny, washerman; William Grover, cook; Laurence Kirwin, hospital attendant; William Carroll, night-watchman. The senior female attendants are - Catherine Doyle, Sarah Vetch, **Sarah Savage**; the other attendants are - Johanna Maher, Mary McGurley, Charlotte Irwin and her sister Harriet Brown, Ann O'Shea. The attendants at the Infirmary are Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Adams; the female cook is Susan Arundel; overseer of needlework, Jane Garwin; laundress, Eliza Vetch; and junior laundress, Martha Vetch, who is no relation to the other, though of the same name.

**Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 26 Jan 1870**

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

Description of Road: Pennant Hills Road to the Dural Road, county of Cumberland. Names of reputed owners through whose properties the road passes: **John Savage**, Thomas Thompson, sen., Henry P. …, James Reynolds, James Pye, - Radley, George Emmanuel, Thomas Williams, and Simon Mould - purchase.

Department of Lands,

Sydney, 25th January', 1870.

**Empire (Sydney, NSW), Sat 1 Jul 1871**

PARRAMATTA.

THE MURDER OF WILLIAM SAVAGE.

ADJOURNED INQUEST - COMMITTAL OF DECEASED'S BROTHER.

The touching the death of William Savage, found murdered on Tuesday last, was held by Dr. Brown, coroner for the district, yesterday, at 2 p.m., at Tibbett's, Star Inn, Field of Mars.

Senior-Sergeant Kelly deposed: There are two, parties in custody, Patrick and Thomas Savage, whom I wish to have present. (They were accordingly brought in.) Between 7 and 8 o'clock on the morning of the 28th instant, from information received, I examined the clothing then worn by Patrick Savage, now in court, and brother to deceased. He was wearing the waistcoat produced, on which there are, two stains or spots of blood on the sides of the collar. I asked him how the stains were caused, and he said that he supposed it was from his chin, when he was shaving on Sunday. I replied, “Those spots of blood are on the right, and you cut yourself on the left side on the face." He then said, "Those spots of blood might have been on when I bought it. I can tell you where I bought it." In the hut occupied by Patrick Savage, which is about 120 yards from deceased's, and in the same paddock, I found the poker produced, on which there appears to be a stain of blood. I took Patrick Savage into custody, and stated that I arrested him on suspicion of his having, on or about the 24th instant, at the Field of Mars, feloniously murdered one William Savage. He replied “Very well." I afterwards took down the following statement, made by him, in the presence of detective Camphin, after giving him the usual caution. He said: "Last Saturday, the 24th instant, I was at my hut till dinner-time, except while I was going to look at a shed I was putting up for Mr. Mills. I went off to Mr. Mllls's, and remained there till night. I came home to my hut at about 6 o'clock. I then had my tea with my son Thomas. At half-past 7 p.m. I went to Buckley's, near the quarry, and remained there till about 9 o'clock. I went alone to Buckley's. I think my boy was with me home. I got home soon after 9 o’clock .and went to bed a few minutes afterwards, and slept soundly. I was dreaming. My son Thomas slept in bed with me that night. The last time I saw my brother William alive was about six or seven days from the day I saw him dead. My son Thomas came to me, on Tuesday last, about dinner-time, and told me that he saw a blanket inside his uncle's door, and that he thought his uncle was there. ‘Go along,’ said I, ‘he is not.’ I told him to go back to the hut, and he came back again and said he saw his hand and the ring on it. 'Go in,' said. I, ‘and tell his little boy to come out from Parramatta, and he will know if he is asleep or not.' I expected he was in Sydney all the time. My son went to Parramatta arid saw my brother's son, who brought a key with him. They came together to me when I was at work at Mills's, and my son said to me, 'Uncle is dead.' I replied, 'Oh,' God! what is this about. I then went to his hut, and saw my brother on the ground, with part of a blue blanket on him. I said, ‘He must have shot himself. I heard the report of firearms a night or two ago.' I then went to Mrs. Hall, who lives opposite. She asked what it was about. I said, ‘He is dead,' I then told the deceased boy to go to Parramatta, and tell his mother, I may have told the boy to tell the police; I have, no other boots but those on my feet. I have worn no others but those I have on for the last month, except an old pair of slippers, [At this stage, at the request of the senior-sergeant, prisoner's boots were taken off him and examined by the jury. They were without nails. I have seen the two spots of blood on my waistcoat. I cannot account for how they came there, except by bleeding from the nose. My nose has not bled lately, but it often does. The wound on my chin was caused by shaving last Sunday." This is the whole statement of Patrick Savage. On the same day that took the father in custody I arrested his son, Thomas Savage. Afterwards, having given him the usual caution, I took down the following statement from him: "Last Tuesday morning I went to Mr. Allport's for some butter, about halt-past 8 o'clock. Mr. W. Allport asked me did I know where my uncle was. I said, 'No.' He asked me where did I think he was. I said, 'I think he is in Sydney.' He said, 'You ought to look through the cracks of the door; I he might be dead inside.' Mr. Allport also

said, 'Will you look in? I said, 'Yes.' I came home and went for a can of water behind my uncle's ' house, and went round to the front door, I then looked at the side of the door in the cracks and saw the blankets on the floor. I found a marble on the floor. I looked under the bottom of the door and saw my uncle's hand with a ring on it. I went home then and told my father. This was about half-past 11 a.m. I told my father that I saw my uncle lying across the door with a blanket over him. He told me to go in and tell Tom (my uncle's son) to came out and see if he were dead or sick. Tom came out with me and asked me on the road out if the door was locked. I said, ' I don't know.' He said if it was locked, the key he had in his pocket would open it. Tom unlooked the door and lifted the blanket off my uncle's head. He then commenced to cry, and locked the door. I then went over to my father and told him my uncle was dead. My father told Tom to go to Parramatta and' tell his mother, and bis mother could tell sergeant Kelly if she liked. It was near 5 o'clock when Tom and I came out from Parramatta. My father came down to the hut when I told him my uncle was dead. He saw him lying on the floor, but never touched him. I went with Tom to catch the pony, and next saw father going home from Buckley’s about dark." (This ends the statement of the boy.) The shirt (produced) I received from constable Fowler.

By a juryman: I am satisfied that the stains on the waistcoat are blood. I have examined them through a magnifying glass. It has not been analysed; but it is my opinion that it is blood. I am quite certain that the statements made by each of the prisoner are correct. They were taken down in the words used by them.

Constable William Fowler deposed: I am stationed at Parramatta. On Thursday, the 29th instant, I was searching the hut of Patrick Savage. On the small loft or shelf over the foot of his bed, I found amongst some old clothes, a shirt which has been produced by senior-sergeant Kelly. On the right breast of the shirt there are three spots of what I believe is blood. On the front of the left sleeve, which is torn, there are three similar spots, which I also consider blood. On the left breast of the shirt there is another large spot of blood, and it has two hairs adhering to lt. By the smell of the shirt, it seems to have been recently worn. I found the shirt in the presence of senior-constable Raper. The poker was found the day previous.

Thomas Savage deposed: I am son of deceased, William Savage. I live in Parramatta. On Tuesday evening last my cousin, Thomas Savage, now in custody, came in and told me that my father was lying down on the floor, sick or dead. I said, "How do you know?" He said, "I came down for a bucket of water and saw a marble under the door, and when taking the marble up I looked under the door and saw your father's hand." 'He also said that he came up and told his father, who sent him down to look again. He did so, and on returning his father sent him for me. I went out with my cousin and opened the door of my father's hut, and went in. I saw him lying on the floor, covered over with a blue blanket. I came out and told my cousin to go for my uncle, who came down, and we went into the hut together; and my uncle Patrick said, "God forgive you, you wretch, for doing that". I thought he meant by saying this that my father had committed suicide. He then told me to come in and tell my mother, which I did. The key I had in Parramatta would open the door of my father's hut. My mother is a keeper in the Lunatic Asylum. That ls the reason she lives in Parramatta.

By a juryman: The door was locked at the time I came.

By senior-sergeant Kelly: There was no key in the lock. My father and uncle were not on good terms. They used not to speak to each other. They brought each other to the police-court, I think three or four times. There was a dispute between them about their land, on which are the huts. The dispute has lasted for over a year. I have not heard any threats made. I have known them to quarrel, and call each other names. I have not been living with my father for the last five or six years.

By a juryman: There was no other way persons could get in or out of the hut except by the door. There was a man who used to work with my father on the land. I don't know when he left.

Senior-sergeant Kelly said that he had made a strict search, and could not find the key of the hut.

Senior-constable Samuel deposed: I am stationed at Ryde. About 11 o'clock yesterday, in company with senior-constable Raper, I searched the hut of Patrick Savage, and in his bed-tick I found the savings bank book produced. The amount of £115 deposit was marked as having been received on the 8th June. I also found the pocket-book (produced), containing five £1 notes and 7d in coppers. I have known the deceased, William Savage, for the past five years, and have had various conversations with him, passing to and fro to Parramatta, He expressed himself at various times in very vindictive terms against his brother Patrick, and has told me on three or four occasions that he would be hanged for him yet; the two brothers were bound over to keep the peace towards each other for threatening language. Patrick Savage was bound over on the 15th March, 1869; and on the 20th March the deceased was bound over. Deceased stated the cause of the quarrel to be a dispute about the ground. I last saw the deceased on Saturday afternoon as he was returning from

Parramatta with a horse and cart. It was then between 4 and 5 o'clock. I asked him how he was, and he said, quite well, and that he and his brother were agreeing no better.

Senior-sergeant Kelly here said that the next - a most material witness - he intended to call had got drunk, and he would have to postpone taking bis evidence."

Timothy Buckley deposed: I live near Pennant Hills quarry. I last saw prisoner, Patrick Savage, at my house, at 4 o'clock on Sunday, I believe that he was there about Thursday week. I remember Tuesday last, when deceased was found dead. Patrick Savage was not to my knowledge, at my place on that day. I did not see him at my house on that day. ' I usually come, home about 5 o'clock at sundown, or a little after. I did so, on that day, the same as the others. I went to bed about half-past 9 o'clock. From the time I came home, at 5, till I went to bed, Patrick Savage was not at my house. I don't think he was at my house on Saturday night. He could not be there without my knowing it.

Dr. Rutter recalled: I stated in my evidence that the injuries were caused by a blunt instrument. Such an instrument as the iron poker (produced) might have caused them. I cannot swear the spot on it to be blood. The poker seems to have been recently dipped in clay and burnt. There were no bullet wounds on any part of the body. I repeat, the deceased could not have given himself those injuries.

Constable Fowler recalled: I produce the purse I found in the pocket of Patrick Savage's trousers, which were hanging behind the door of his hut. The purse contained two half-sovereigns and some silver. I also found the watch produced in prisoner's box. I also produce a towel which was found under the head of deceased.

Senior-sergeant Kelly said that he had no further evidence to call, in the absence of a material witness.

The coroner pointed out to the jury, that it was clear that a wilful murder had been committed, and if they thought there was sufficient prima facie evidence, they were justified in committing prisoner, Patrick Savage.

Prisoner made a statement to the jury, denying all knowledge of the murder.

The jury retired, and after a consultation of half-an-hour returned the following verdict: "We find that the deceased, William Savage, was wilfully murdered by his brother, Patrick Savage, on or about the 24th instant.”

Thomas Savage, the son, was then discharged, and Patrick Savage was fully committed to take his trial at the next central criminal court at Darlinghurst.

Prisoner protested his innocence, and was removed in custody.

**New South Wales Police Gazette and Weekly Record of Crime, Wed 5 Jul 1871**

Apprehensions.

Patrick Savage, charged with the murder of his brother, William Savage, who was found dead in his hut at Pennant Hills, on the 27th ultimo, has been, arrested by Senior-sergeant Kelly, Parramatta Police. Committed for trial at Criminal Court, Sydney.

**Empire (Sydney, NSW), Tue 21 Nov 1871**

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

James Robertson, Firth, assistant superintendent of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum said: I have seen prisoner once or twice before. I know another brother of deceased, He was an attendant at the asylum.

Savage's brother John served out clothes of the description of those produced, to the patients.

Thomas Savage, son of deceased, and I was, at the time of my father's death living at Mr. Hamsun's, at Parramatta. My mother, who is a keeper in the Lunatic Asylum, and my sister, were living together.

**Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW), Sat 25 Nov 1871**

Criminal Sittings.

PATRICK Savage charged with having on the 24th of June last at the Field of Mars Common, murdered his brother, William Savage, was put upon his trial before Mr. Justice Fawcett, on Monday. The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. Pilcher under instructions from Mr. W. Roberts. The case, as will be remembered by our readers chiefly rested upon circumstantial evidence. The trial lasted all day, and the jury was locked up for a night. The next morning a verdict of acquittal was returned.