

John Savage

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No Picture Available

Born: 1622 Northampton, VA

Married: Mary Robins

Died: 11 Dec 1678 Northampton, VA

Parents: Thomas Savage & Hannah Tyng

Information on Thomas Savage, John's father:

Thomas Savage

By

Martha Lee Hartman

The McMaster Essay
Onancock High School
Class of 1960

A true Eastern Shoreman is a dedicated Eastern Shoreman. We speak with pride of our heritage, our contribution to life in the United States, the Old Dominion and our society. Personalities have been the keynote to the past, and none has done more to revivify life on the eastern Shore than John S. McMaster who, as concrete evidence of his love for this hallowed land, established The old Home Prize Essay-now called the McMaster Essay.

Between 1908 and 1912 this essay along with a mometary annuity was established for six schools-Pocomoke, Onancock, Accomac Court House, Chincoteague, Princess Anne and Snow Hill. The annuity from the essay fund is used for the purchase of a gold medal to be presented each year to the person whose grades rank highest in English and History.

Having received this award I found myself giving due consideration to the past activities of the Eastern Shore. As I mentioned earlier, personalities make the greatest influence on an area and I felt that probably one of the greatest of all Eastern Shoremen would be the first white manto set foot on our shore-one Thomas Savage.

He came to this country on Christopher Newport's second voyage from England, in 1608, on the "John and Francis". He was 13 years of age and it is assumed that he went through grammar school and showed so much promise that he was apprenticed to the Virginia Company.

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"Thomas Savage spent most of his time during his first three years in the New World with Chief Powhatan and was the Indian interpreter for the workmen at Jamestown. Friendly contacts were made and some trade was engaged in through this efficient interpreter." (George Yeardley, By Nora Turman)

Governor Gates of Virginia sent for Thomas, who was now in his sixteenth year and was still living with Chief Powhatan. His well tanned skin and black hair made him look somewhat like an Indian. He had the bearing of a well trained English boy and knew how to present himself to Governor Gates.

Thomas was Powhatan's favorite Englishman and the governor of Virginia instructed him to use his persuasive power to get a treaty agreement with the Indian Chief for peace and friendship, as well as permission for his daughter Pocahontas to marry John Rolfe. Later Thomas Savage accompanied Captain Argall from Jamestown to the Eastern Shore to establish trading relations with the Indians and to locate a possible site for an outpost while they were there a considerable quantity of corn was obtained for James City from the Eastern Shore Indians through Savage's efforts.

After an outpost site was located, Governor Dale sent a detachment of twenty men with Thomas Savage as interpreter, to buy land from the Indian Chief for the neck of land between Accomack River and the stream below it called King's Creek. The men made salt and engaged in fishing on a large scale to provide salt fish for the towns on the mainland. They kept a watchful eye for any Spanish ships which might try to set up an operating base close to Jamestown. Thus, the detachment of men sent by Governor Dale had four jobs; to make salt, catch fish, watch for enemy ships and to claim the Eastern Shore for the original Virginia settlement with its central government at Jamestown.

John Pory tells us how Savage, "with much honestie and success served the publique, without any publique recompense, yet had an arrow shot through his body in their service".

On one occasion Thomas was at Opechancanough's town for the purpose of securing a captive-Thomas Graves. Some difficulty arose and Savage and three others offered to fight thirteen of the Indians at once, but the Indians declined the invitation. Powhatan loved the little white man, which no doubt aroused Opechancanough's jealousy. This coupled with the unfortunate incident, narrated, probably caused Savage to leave Powhatan.

From 1617 through 1619 he was in the employ of Captain John Martin as the Ensign. From this time on he was called Ensign Savage. Thomas disturbed the new governor of Virginia, George Yeardley, by working for Captain Martin in opposition to the Virginia Company in Indian trade.

When the first General Assembly met in the new world in 1619, a law was passed saying that Indian interpreters trained by the Virginia Company would not be allowed to hire themselves to people doing business in competition with the government here.

In 1619, Debedeavon, the Laughing King and king of the Eastern Shore, with whom Thomas was evidently very friendly, gave Savage a large tract of land lying between Cheriton Creek & King's Creek which later became known as Savage's Neck. Savage made his home here and thus became the first permanent white settler of the Eastern Shore.

In 1622, after a disastrous massacre across the Bay, a commission was given to Sir George Yeardley to go and search for a convenient settlement at the Eastern Shore, because of the unfitness of the James River to secure against foreign and domestic enemies. George Yeardley, by court order, got 3,700 acres of land on the Eastern Shore. With Thomas Savage as interpreter, he negotiated with the Indian Chief for a neck of land shaped like a duck's bill between two forks of Hungar's Creek near the present town of Eastville.

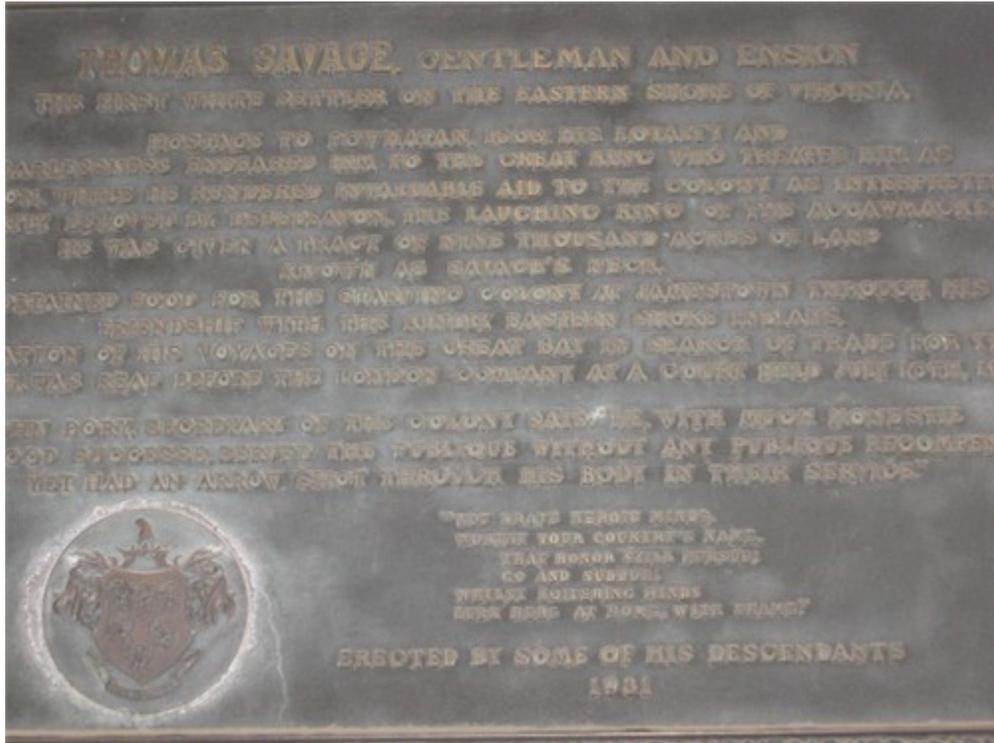
Ensign Thomas Savage was the receiver of the first of the patents of land issued on the Shore as a reward for meritorious service and thus George Yeardley became the second recipient.

In 1621 Thomas Savage married Hannah Tyng from Boston, England. She came over on the "Sea Flower", probably as a prospective bride. In 1627, she was granted fifty acres of land in return for the payment of her passage money. Thomas and Hannah had one son named John. Thomas Savage died in 1627 or 1633 and then his widow married Daniel Cugley.

John Savage was married twice. His first wife was Ann Elkington and they had three daughters: Grace who married Doctor George Corbin (Crovin); Susannah who married John Kendall, & another daughter who married William Cowdrey. John's second wife was Mary Robins, daughter of Obedience Robins. Their children were; Thomas who married Alicia Harmanson; Elkington who married Mary _____; Mary who married Sampson Webster; Frances who married Samuel Powell. John was a county justice and a burgess and he and

his father were both unassuming men & well liked by their fellow men. In a premarriage agreement, John Savage made a deed of gift to Mary Robins, his second wife, of his home plantation at the bottom of Savage's Neck around Eastville. The nine hundred & fifty acres would be hers for life. At her death her eldest son Thomas succeeded to the home plantation and from then on the oldest son would inherit the land by the law of primogeniture. They called the home plantation "Elkington" in honor of the first wife of Captain John Savage.

In 1931, a bronze tablet to Thomas Savage was placed in the re-constructed Jamestown Church by his descendants. Today there are many Savages on the Eastern Shore and elsewhere in the United States who can trace thier ancestry back to Ensign Thomas Savage and are representatives of the oldest family in the United States. Savage's Neck of the Easter Shore still bears the family name and after three hundred years, some of the land in the original grant to Thomas Savage is still in the hands of the Savage family.



Anyone interested in Thomas Savage may leave route 13 one half mile south of Eastville and take route 634 for 4.8 miles which will take you to a marble marker placed there by Virginia Conservation Comission, inscribed as follows" "Hereabouts lies Thomas Savage 'ensign' 1595-1633 Earliest Virginia settler whose discendants are known."

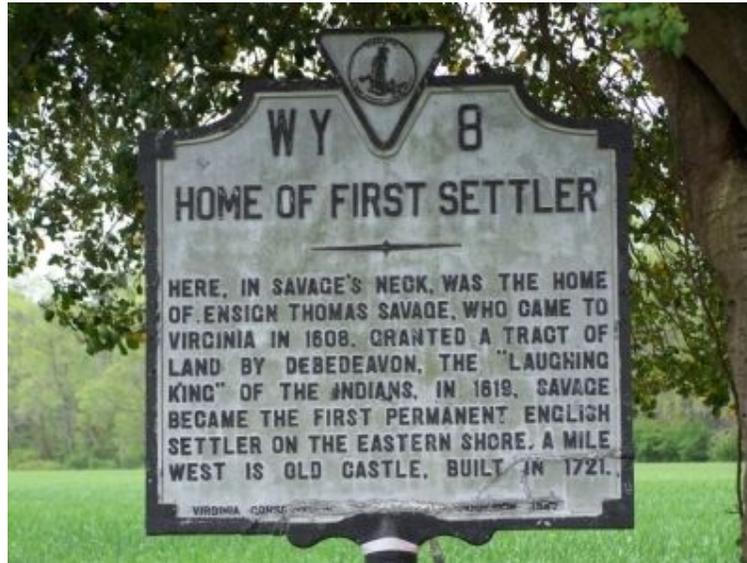
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 "THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA".....Jennings C. Wise
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 "GEORGE YEARDLEY".....Nora Turman
 "THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA".....Clark

THE SAVAGE RECORD FROM THE RECORD OF THOMAS SAVAGE WHO CAME ON THE SHIP-JOHN AND FRANCIS-IN 1608 TO JAMESTOWN-THE SECOND SHIP TO COME TO JAMESTOWN.

Name: Thomas Savage came to Virginia with the first settlers in 1608 when thirteen years old, and soon after was given to Powhatan by Newport in exchange for an Indian, Namontack. He remained with Powhatan about three years, and afterwards performed a useful part as interpreter of the Indian language; was ensign and had an arrow shot through his body. About 1619 he went to the eastern shore, where he received from the "Laughing King" a tract of land called Savage's Neck. He died about 1635. He left an only son John Savage.

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com



Inscription. Here, in Savage's Neck, was the home of Ensign Thomas Savage, who came to Virginia in 1608. Granted a tract of land by Debedeavon, the "Laughing King" of the Indians, in 1619, Savage became the first permanent English settler on the Eastern Shore. A mile west is Old Castle, built in 1721.

Erected 1947 by Virginia Conservation Commission. (Marker Number **WY 8**.)

Location. 37° 20.923' N, 75° 56.88' W. Marker is in Eastville, Virginia, in Northampton County. Marker is on Alt. US 13 0.2 miles north of Savage Neck Drive, on the left when traveling north. Marker is in this post office area: Eastville VA 23347, United States of America.

<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?MarkerID=7606&Print=1>