

# Savage / Butler Homestead Cromwell, CT



Built 1806

200th year, 6th Generation



Captain Absalom Savage

# The Savage/Butler Homestead - 1806 to 2006

Taken from a 1906 school report by Sylvester B. Butler.  
Edited for 2006 by David Butler.

In 1806 Absalom Savage, a sea-captain who transported products from the United States to the West Indies, built a house in which he and his wife, Sally Wilcox Savage, might live.

It is an old-fashioned peaked-roof house built in the Federalist style. Its entry-way is on the center in front with a room on either side, back of which is the dining room with the pantry on one end and a small bedroom on the other. The pantry was later converted to the bathroom. The plan of the second floor was similar, above which is the big garret where the exposed beams show the work of 200 years ago as well as the initials of S. B. Butler.

There have been many additions. During the 1800's space was added on the back for a kitchen and a well room. On the south-side a veranda was built about 1902 as well as a porch over the entryway. In the 1960's another addition was added above the kitchen and well room to add more bedrooms.

In four of the rooms there are old fashioned fire-places, the largest of which is in the dining room where there is still the old crane

where the pots and kettles hung while cooking. The fireplaces were all closed up by 1906 but re-opened during renovations in the 1960's. In the dining room is an old-time dutch oven in which many delicious Thanksgiving dinners have been cooked. It is likely that in 1906 there was no plumbing or electrical works, and they still used an outhouse.

On the south of the house was a very large old native grape-vine. In 1906 it was estimated to be one hundred years old. Evidence of the vine is visible in the back wall of the veranda, but is long gone. The grapes are now by the Barn and along the north property line.

In 1906 there was a butternut tree by the fence south of the house and a shad-blow tree on the north side. Both were started from a seed by Sarah Savage (wife of Ralph B. Savage). In 2006 there is still a butternut and shad-blow in those locations, but they may not be the same ones.

There are quite a few trees about the house which were named in honor of the different grandchildren as they were born. My tree is a maple on the north of the road

that goes into the yard. There also is a horse chestnut tree, a white birch tree, for my brother, Ralph, and sister, Lucinthia. The birch tree is gone, but may well remain as several logs in the upstairs fireplace.

In August 1906 we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the homestead. My great-uncle, Rev. George S. F. Savage who is eighty-nine years of age and son of the builder of the house, came from Chicago for the anniversary. The long table was set under the

butternut tree laden with good things to eat. Our uncle gave us an interesting talk of bygone days interspersed with various anecdotes of some of our ancestors. He also told us of the death of his father the sea-captain who drowned at sea.

In August 2006 the oldest descendants of Absalom Savage attending the 200th anniversary are his great-great grandchildren: Sewall T. Butler, son of Sylvester Butler; Dorothy Butler Brown, daughter of Ralph Butler.

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Most attendees of the 200th anniversary trace back to Carrie Savage who married George Butler. Carrie was the daughter of Ralph Bulkley Savage, oldest son of Absalom Savage. One invitee is related through Carrie's older brother Francis Absalom Savage. The following tree gives a quick overview.

Absalom Savage = Sally Wilcox Savage

Ralph Bulkley Savage = Sarah Strickland Savage

Carrie Savage Butler = George Sylvester Butler

Sylvester B. Butler | Ralph S. Butler | Lucinthia Butler Carroll

Sewall T. Butler

Dorothy B. Butler  
Robert W. Butler  
George S. Butler  
John R. Butler  
William S. Butler

Ruth B. Carroll  
Marjorie B. Carroll  
Alan S, Carroll

## Cromwell, Connecticut



For the explorers in the family here are a couple of places of interest:

**1:** The Homestead (0 miles)

**2:** Old Burying Ground with the headstone for Absalom Savage. Corner of Timber Hill and Ranney Street (less than 1/4 mile)

**3:** Hillside Graveyard with graves of George and Carrie Butler among others. Hillside Road across from Shelly Street.(approx. 1 mile)

**4:** River front park at the end of Wall Street (less than 1/4 mile)

For more information on the family, visit our website at:  
[http:// www.cromwellbutlers.com](http://www.cromwellbutlers.com)