

## DR. WILLIAM GEORGE MACKEY AND MARTHA PETERSON RIVES

On April 11, 1843, at age twenty-eight, **Dr. William George Mackey (1814–1898)** married seventeen-year-old **Martha Peterson Rives (1826–1868)** at the Charity Baptist Church in Lincoln County, Tennessee. The Mackeys lived in Petersburg, Tennessee, located seventy miles south of Nashville. Petersburg is located in both Marshall and Lincoln Counties.

Neville's Mackey heritage<sup>1</sup> traces back to **John Mackey Sr. (c. 1730–c. 1817)**, who was first documented in 1759 in Craven County (later Lancaster County), South

Carolina. His son **Thomas Mackey Sr. (1762–1842)**<sup>2</sup> fought in the Revolutionary War and spent his entire life (almost eighty years) as a planter in South Carolina.

In about 1844, **Thomas Crenshaw Mackey (1784–1862)**,<sup>3</sup> the son of Thomas Mackey Sr., moved his family westward and settled along the Tennessee River. In 1862, at the end of his life, he lived at Cotton Ridge, a plantation near the Shiloh battlefield in McNairy County, Tennessee. He had ten children, the second of whom was William George Mackey.<sup>4</sup>

In 1841 William George Mackey enrolled at Transylvania Medical College in Lexington, Kentucky. By 1843, the year he married, he was practicing medicine in Lincoln County, Tennessee. For about fifty-six years, he practiced medicine in seven counties in Tennessee and

northern Mississippi.<sup>5</sup> Dr. William George Mackey and his wife had ten children (four boys and six girls).<sup>6</sup> Two of their daughters married Neville's great-grandfather **John Cornelius Gillespie (1843–1907)**.

Martha Peterson Rives Mackey died in 1868, and Dr. William George Mackey remarried on February 4, 1875, at age sixty. In 1876 he had a son with his second wife.

Dr. William George Mackey died at the home of his daughter in Toccopola, Mississippi, at age eighty-three. He is buried in the Springhill Methodist Cemetery in the eastern part of Lafayette County, Mississippi.



*Dr. William George Mackey,  
Neville's great-great-  
grandfather.*



Martha Peterson Rives was born in Virginia, and her Ryves/Rives ancestry<sup>7</sup> is recorded back to fifteenth-century England. The progenitor of the American Rives family is **William Rives (1636–1695)**, Neville’s eighth great-grandfather, who came to Surry County, Virginia, from Oxfordshire, England, as an indentured servant in about 1652. He was the first of the six generations of Rives ancestors<sup>8</sup> who lived in Virginia counties south of the Richmond-Petersburg area.

Martha Peterson Rives’s mother, **Rebecca Gill (1797–after 1850)**, was a descendant of the Gill family, which lived for four generations in colonial Maryland after coming to America in the second half of the seventeenth century from County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Neville’s earliest known Gill ancestor is **Alexander Gill (1609–1675)**, who lived in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. His son, **John Gill (1633–1719)**, was the immigrant ancestor of that family.

Martha Peterson Rives was also a descendant of **Major John Stith Sr. (1631–1694)**, a prominent figure from one of the first families of colonial Virginia. Another of her early colonial Virginia ancestors is **James Hardaway (1620–1685)**, who emigrated from Dorset, England, to Virginia in 1645. The Stith and Hardaway family lineages are available online. Through Martha Peterson Rives, Neville is also descended from **Edd Mosby (c. 1600–1663)**, the immigrant patriarch of my Mosby heritage. As a result, Neville and I are tenth cousins.<sup>9</sup>

Martha Peterson Rives Mackey died at age forty-two in Hernando, Mississippi. Neville’s great-grandmother **Sarah Alice “Sallie” Mackey (1857–1911)** was only ten years old when her mother died.



*Martha Peterson Rives Mackey,  
Neville’s great-great-grandmother.*



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**1. THE MACKEY HERITAGE IN THE WAXHAW SETTLEMENT**

<b>John Mackey Sr. (c. 1730–c. 1817)</b>	<b>m. c. 1750</b>	<b>Sarah McKinnie (c. 1733–c. 1775)</b>
<b>Thomas Mackey Sr. (1762–1842)</b>	<b>m. 1783</b>	<b>Mary A. Crenshaw (1761–1844)</b>
<b>Thomas C. Mackey (1784–1862)</b>	<b>m. 1812</b>	<b>Janet Emma V. Bell (1791–1865)</b>
<b>Dr. William G. Mackey (1814–1898)</b>	<b>m. 1843</b>	<b>Martha P. Rives (1826–1868)</b>
<b>Sarah A. Mackey (1857–1911)</b>	<b>m. 1879</b>	<b>John C. Gillespie (1843–1907)</b>
<b>Ola F. Gillespie (1881–1934)</b>	<b>m. 1904</b>	<b>Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)</b>
<b>Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)</b>	<b>m. 1931</b>	<b>Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)</b>

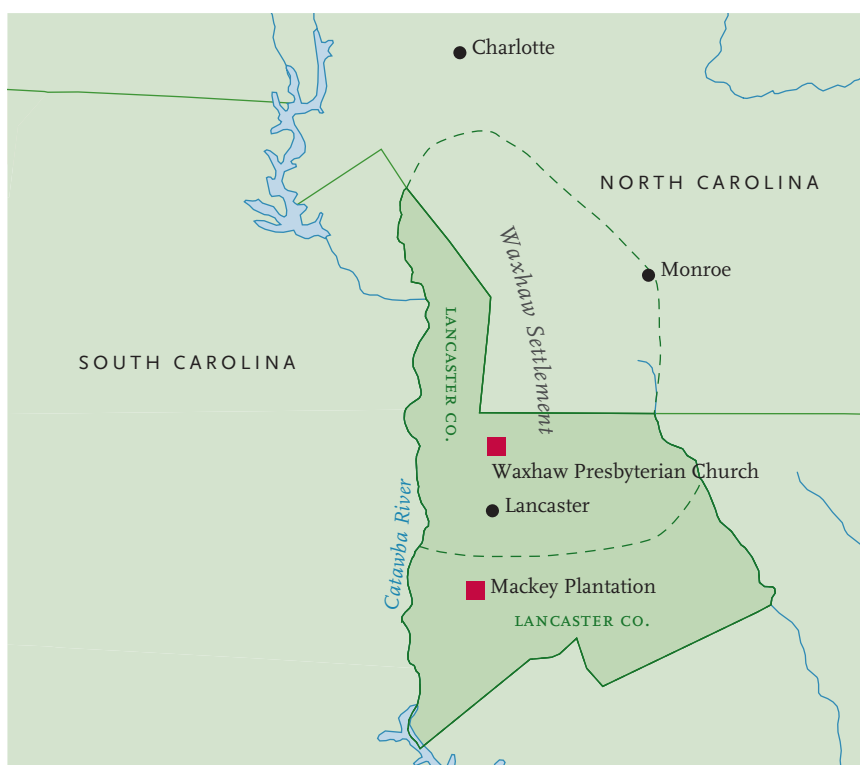
The name Mackey is derived from the Gaelic (Irish or Scottish) prefix Mac, which means “son of.” Alternate spellings of the name are Mackie, MacKey, McKee, and McKay. When the name Mackey is pronounced with the stress on the first syllable, it is said to be Irish. The most significant research on Neville’s Mackey ancestors appears in the 1957 book *The Mackeys and Allied Families* by Beatrice Mackey Doughtie (1899–1991), a second cousin of Neville’s mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**.

There is no clear evidence of when or where **John Mackey Sr. (c. 1730–c. 1817)**, Neville’s fifth great-grandfather, was born and died. What we do know is that in about 1750 John Mackey Sr. married **Sarah McKinnie (c. 1733–c. 1775)**, the daughter of **Benjamin McKinnie (1699–1759)**, who was, reportedly, a Virginian of Scottish descent. John Mackey Sr. and Sarah McKinnie moved with her parents to the Waxhaw Settlement in Craven County (which has been called Lancaster [“LANK-iss-stur”] County since 1785), South Carolina. The Mackeys and McKinnies were among the early wave of backcountry pioneers to move into that area of South Carolina. In 1759 Benjamin McKinnie died in Craven (Lancaster) County. His son-in-law John Mackey Sr. was named the executor of his will.

John Mackey Sr. appears in records in Craven (Lancaster) County from 1759 to 1809. On July 17, 1817, the following notice appeared in the *Camden Chronicle and Gazette*, a local newspaper:

*TO THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES: My father, an aged man left this country about nine years ago with a design of going to the state of Tennessee, since which I have not heard of him. In the course of this time circumstances have occurred that render it a subject of interest that I should discover where he is.*

This notice, signed by a John Mackey, presumably the son of John Mackey Sr., is the basis for the belief that John Sr. died around 1817. He would thus have lived to be about eighty-seven years old.



*The Mackey family was among the original settlers who came in the 1750s to the Waxhaw Settlement area on the border between North and South Carolina. The Waxhaw Settlement area was named for an Indian tribe, the Waxhaws, which by 1715 had been almost entirely annihilated by Eurasian infectious diseases. The Waxhaw Settlement encompassed an area just south of Charlotte, North Carolina, to Lancaster, South Carolina, and from the Catawba River on the west to Monroe in North Carolina on the east.*

Neville's Mackey forebears lived in South Carolina until about 1844/45, when John Mackey Sr.'s grandson **Thomas Crenshaw Mackey (1784–1862)** moved westward to Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Four generations of Mackeys had lived in Lancaster County for almost one hundred years.

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**2. THOMAS MACKEY SR.: REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER AND PLANTER**

Neville's fourth great-grandfather **Thomas Mackey Sr. (1762–1842)** was born in Lancaster County, South Carolina, on February 12, 1762. He was a successful planter and lived his almost eighty years in Lancaster County.

During 1780 and 1781, Thomas Mackey Sr. performed three tours of service as a patriot in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). He served for a total of ten months and held the rank of private. In his claim for a Revolutionary War pension many years later, he described his war service:

*I enrolled in the Militia of S. C. in the year 1780, age 18, for a tour of three months; . . . [I] was verbally discharged by Col. Kimbrell (Col. Frederick Kimball Sr. [1746–1812]) on the 3 of June 1780. On this tour of service I was stationed at Purrysburg S.C.*

*On or about the 10th of Aug. following, I was again drafted and called into service for a term of 3 months under the command of Col. Eli Kershaw [1745–1780] . . . discharged about the 10th of Nov. A part of this tour I was stationed in the vicinity of a place called Four Holes, S. C. and a part of the time at Augusta, Ga.*

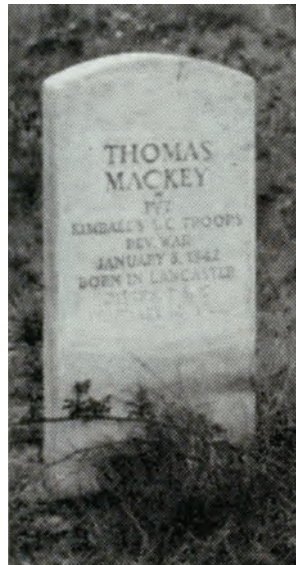
*That on or about Jan. 1, 1781, I volunteered for 4 months under the command of said Col. Kimbrell. This service was performed between Camden and Waxhaw, S. C. In this service I was severely wounded at Sloans near Grannis Quarter Creek in the vicinity of Camden, in a skirmish with a detachment of British and Tories.*

In 1782, at age nineteen, Thomas Mackey Sr. married Charity Perry (c. 1762–1782), about whom we know nothing beyond an excerpt from a letter written in 1909 by a descendant of Thomas Mackey Sr.:

*I wish I had asked more questions in my youth, but I can tell you that Grandpa's Father, Thomas Mackey served for a while in the Revolution and that his first wife was killed by a runaway team and he married our Great Grandmother, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Crenshaw.*

Thomas Mackey Sr.'s second wife, **Mary Ann Crenshaw (1761–1844)**, is recorded as the daughter of **Micajah Crenshaw Sr. (1744–1787)** and **Mary Ann Matthews (1744–1765)**, both of whom came from colonial Virginia families. Mary Ann Crenshaw and Thomas Mackey Sr. married in 1783. Their first of eight children, **Thomas Crenshaw Mackey (1784–1862)**, was born the next year; he is Neville's third great-grandfather.

Thomas Mackey Sr. resided on a plantation about five miles south of the modern city of Lancaster, South Carolina, on the old Wagon Road between Lancaster and Camden, South Carolina. His home stood on a knoll between White Oak Branch and Camp Creek; it burned shortly after his death. It is said in family tradition that Thomas Mackey Sr. gave the Mount Carmel Methodist Church and Cemetery a piece of property on his plantation.\* The church no longer stands, but a small portion of the cemetery remains. In the cemetery is a tombstone marker for Thomas Mackey Sr., who died at age seventy-nine, on January 8, 1842, in Lancaster County.



*The tombstone of Thomas Mackey Sr., located on the Mackey plantation, about five miles south of Lancaster, South Carolina. The inscription reads: "THOMAS / MACKEY / PVT. / KIMBALL'S S. C. TROOPS / REV. WAR / JANUARY 8, 1842 / BORN IN LANCASTER / DISTRICT S. C. / FEBRUARY 12, 1762."*

Thomas Mackey Sr.'s will, dated 1841, partly survives and reveals that he was a wealthy person. Several of his children inherited four or five slaves each.

Thomas Mackey Sr. was a close contemporary of Andrew Jackson (1767–1845), the seventh president of the United States. They both had Scotch-Irish ancestors and were born and raised in Lancaster County, South Carolina. In fact, Thomas and Mary Ann Crenshaw Mackey named their fourth son **Andrew Jackson Mackey (1799–1877)**. Andrew Jackson, who was president of the United States from 1829 to 1837, was a thirty-two-year-old planter and Tennessee Supreme Court justice when his namesake, Andrew Jackson Mackey, was born in 1799.

\*The Mackeys possibly became Methodist in the early nineteenth century. They were most likely Presbyterians before that time.



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**3. THOMAS CRENSHAW MACKEY, THE PLANTER WHO WENT WEST**

Neville's third great-grandfather **Thomas Crenshaw Mackey (1784–1862)** was a third-generation South Carolina planter. He was born on September 21, 1784, one year after the end of the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). He died a little over a year after the beginning of the Civil War (1861–65). He lived for almost seventy-eight years.

Born in Lancaster County, South Carolina, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey was the oldest son of **Thomas Mackey Sr. (1762–1842)** and **Mary Ann Crenshaw (1761–1844)**. At age twenty-eight, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey is said to have been drafted for service in the War of 1812; however, he did not serve. It is likely that he hired a relative or friend to serve in his place, as many men did.

On May 7, 1812, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey married **Janet Emma Virginia “Jennet” Bell (1791–1865)**, who had moved to Lancaster County shortly before 1800 from Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Jennet Bell was the daughter of **Joshua Davidge Bell (1750–1815)** and **Mary Margaret Neal (1750–1840)**, who married in Virginia in 1771. Joshua Davidge and Mary Neal Bell, Neville's fourth great-grandparents, are both descended from seventeenth-century pioneer families in Virginia. There is a considerable lineage available for them on Ancestry.com.

Thomas Crenshaw Mackey is described in *The Mackeys and Allied Families*:

*Thomas Crenshaw Mackey was short of stature, medium build and inclined to sturdiness with a short neck and broad shoulders. He was industrious and a man of integrity. Records show that he owned several hundred acres of land and a few slaves. One named Hiram lived with him until his death.*

Thomas Crenshaw Mackey was a cotton farmer and sent his cotton to the market in Camden, South Carolina (about thirty miles away), using a team of four horses and a wagon; it was an overnight trip. The Mackey plantation was just a few miles southwest of Lancaster, South Carolina, on the northeast side of the Catawba River, just south of Dry Creek. It was on the main road between the towns of Lancaster and Camden.

In early 1842, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey's father, Thomas Mackey Sr., died at age seventy-nine. One year later, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey sold his three-hundred-acre plantation to a man named Thomas Ballard (1797–1862). In early 1844, Jennet Bell Mackey renounced her dower.\* Presumably, she was giving up potential future ownership of property in preparation for the family's departure from South Carolina. She signed the document using the nickname Jennet.

\*A dower is defined as a widow's share, or part interest in her husband's estate.

It was in 1844 or 1845 that the Mackey family, after almost one hundred years in Lancaster County, decided to trek westward toward what we today call the Middle South. Thomas Crenshaw Mackey was around sixty years old and Jennet Bell Mackey was about fifty-three. They traveled with several other families.



*This map charts the migration of Neville's third great-grandfather Thomas Crenshaw Mackey from Lancaster County, South Carolina, to McNairy County, Tennessee. The dates represent the time that he lived in each location.*

Thomas Crenshaw Mackey, his wife, and their younger children began their westward migration by traveling on a trail through northern Georgia, around the Appalachian Mountains, to Chattanooga, Tennessee. From there they went down the Tennessee River to Huntsville, Alabama, and then to near the town of Lexington, in Lauderdale County, Alabama. They most likely traveled by flatboat.

On March 29, 1845, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey bought seventy-nine acres of land southeast of Lexington. He lived there for the next five years. In 1850 he moved to northeastern Mississippi, passing through Muscle Shoals\* on his way to Tishomingo County, Mississippi. The next year, the Mackeys moved farther down the Tennessee River to McNairy County, Tennessee. There they lived on a plantation called Cotton Ridge, which was located just a few miles from Pittsburg Landing, the site of the momentous Civil War Battle of Shiloh in early April 1862.

\*Muscle Shoals, also now the name of a city, is a once-shallow zone in the Tennessee River. It was a place where mussels were gathered. The early English settlers, not knowing how to spell mussel, chose to use its more familiar homonym, muscle.



Thomas Crenshaw Mackey lived for about ten years in an area where my son John H. Bryan III (b. 1960), has a business, Savannah Food Company, Inc., and a lakeside second home at Lake Pickwick. John III, who lives in Nashville, Tennessee, is a fourth great-grandson of Thomas Crenshaw and Jennet Bell Mackey.



*Neville's third great-grandfather Thomas Crenshaw Mackey lived in the eastern part of McNairy County, Tennessee, from 1851 to 1862. His plantation, called Cotton Ridge, was just a few miles west of the site of the Battle of Shiloh on the Tennessee River.*

In the August 11, 1860, census, the Mackey family is enumerated in McNairy County as follows:

*T. C. Macky—age 75—Farmer—Real estate value \$300  
 Personal property value—\$140  
 Jennett Macky—age 69—Farmer  
 Rocinda A. Macky—age 25*

During the last year of his life, Thomas Crenshaw Mackey was surely consumed by the Civil War and the Battle of Shiloh. We do not know details, but we do know that his eighteen-year-old grandson, **Leonidas William Mackey (1844–1931)**, fought on the side of the Confederacy at Shiloh. We also know that Thomas Crenshaw Mackey's son **John Peace Mackey (1829–1873)** later served in the Union Army's cavalry. Thus, the Mackeys were a family with divided sympathies.

Thomas Crenshaw Mackey died at his plantation on September 4, 1862, about five months after the Battle of Shiloh. He was seventy-seven years old. He is reportedly buried at the Mars Hill Church Cemetery near Purdy, Tennessee, the old county seat of McNairy County. The cemetery is just northwest of Adamsville in McNairy County. After Thomas Crenshaw Mackey's death, his widow, Jennet Bell Mackey, and his daughter **Rocinda Adeline Mackey (1832–1896)** moved from Tennessee to Union County in southern Illinois. They then lived about thirty-five miles north of Cairo,\* in what is called the "Little Egypt" section of Illinois.

Jennet Bell Mackey died on January 25, 1865, at age seventy-three. She is buried at the Old Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Anna in Union County, Illinois.

*Janet Emma Virginia Bell Mackey's tombstone reads, "JENNET MACKEY DIED Jan. 5 1865 / aged / 74 yrs. 9 m 29 ds." The tombstone dates are inconsistent with family records. She was seventy-three years, nine months and seventeen days at her death. Note the bell carved on the upper part of the marker.*



\*Cairo, Illinois, is pronounced "Kay-ro," not "Ky-ro."

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**4. THE TEN CHILDREN OF THOMAS CRENSHAW MACKEY AND JANET EMMA VIRGINIA BELL**

Neville's third great-grandparents **Thomas Crenshaw Mackey (1784–1862)** and **Janet Emma Virginia “Jennet” Bell (1791–1865)** had ten children, all of whom were born in Lancaster County, South Carolina.



*James Leonidas Mackey,  
Neville's third great-uncle.*

- **JAMES LEONIDAS “JEEMS” MACKEY (1813–1888)** was born on April 12, 1813. He married Sarah Jane Dixon Duren (1816–1888) of Lancaster County in 1835; they had nine children, the first five of whom were born in South Carolina. Sometime around 1844, Jeems Mackey and his family left South Carolina and moved to northern Alabama. They later moved to northeastern Mississippi and McNairy County, Tennessee. In the fall of 1861, a few months after the outbreak of the Civil War (1861–65), he and his family left the South. They traveled by rail and settled in Union County, Illinois.

Two of Jeems and Sarah Jane Dixon Duren Mackey's sons, Neville's first cousins three times removed, joined the Union Army and died during the Civil War. In October 1875, Jeems and his family moved to Dallas, Texas. He died there at age seventy-five, on August 26, 1888, and he and his wife are also buried there.

*Dr. William George Mackey,  
Neville's great-great-grandfather.*



- DR. WILLIAM GEORGE MACKEY (1814–1898) was born on October 11, 1814, and died on February 13, 1898. He is Neville's great-great-grandfather.

- **MARY MOLLY “MOLCY” MACKEY (1816–1897)** was born on June 12, 1816. She married George Washington Gayden (1817–1904) in Lancaster County around 1838. Between 1839 and 1859, they had eight children. They migrated with Thomas Crenshaw Mackey in 1844/45 to Lauderdale County, Alabama, and lived there until the late 1850s. Before 1860 the family moved to the town of Lewisburg in DeSoto County, Mississippi, just south of Memphis, Tennessee.

On June 1, 1880, Molcy Mackey Gayden is recorded in Lewisburg as the sixty-four-year-old wife of sixty-two-year-old George Washington Gayden. According to the book *The Mackeys and Allied Families*, Molcy Mackey Gayden died in 1897, at age eighty, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She was presumably there with her daughter Charlotte Gayden Evans (1841–1912). George Washington Gayden died in DeSoto County in 1904, at age eighty-six.

- **JANE YOUNGER “JINCY” MACKEY (1818–1864)** was born on June 30, 1818. She married Charner Hopson Neely (1816–1864) in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in 1845. They had two children and settled in 1851 in McNairy County, residing on land adjoining her father’s property.

After her father died in August 1862, Jincy Mackey Neely and her family moved to Illinois, where her husband enlisted in the Union Army in October 1862, at about age forty-six. He was captured by the Confederates and sent to the infamous Andersonville Prison in Georgia, where he died in August 1864. He is buried at the National Cemetery there. Jincy Mackey had already died of smallpox at the Federal Hospital in Mound City, Illinois, in February 1864, at age forty-five. She is buried in the cemetery near the hospital.

- **THOMAS BELL MACKEY (1820–1887)** was born on June 1, 1820. At age forty-one, in October 1861, he married Sarah Elizabeth “Eliza” Williams Rogers, presumably a widow. She was from Middleton in Hardeman County, Tennessee, adjacent to McNairy County, where the Mackeys lived. Thomas Bell and Eliza Mackey had five children, born between 1862 and 1873. Thomas Bell Mackey moved to Dallas, Texas, where he died on October 12, 1887, at age sixty-seven.

- **JOSHUA DAVIDGE MACKEY (1822–1892)** was born on March 31, 1822. He married Elva Cox (1825–1891) in Lauderdale County in December 1849. They had eight children between 1850 and 1870, the first of whom was born in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The other seven were born in Hardin and McNairy Counties in Tennessee.

Joshua Davidge and Elva Cox Mackey remained in McNairy County during and after the Civil War. They are recorded there in the censuses of 1860, 1870, and 1880. They later returned to live in Lauderdale County, Alabama, where they died. Joshua Davidge died on August 3, 1892, at age seventy; Elva was sixty-five years old when she died.

- **ELIZABETH A. “BETSY” MACKEY (1825–1849)** was born on April 28, 1825. She married Anthony Linder (1823–1895) in about 1842. They migrated from South Carolina in about 1844/45. The couple had four children before Betsy Mackey Linder died in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, at about age twenty-four. Her oldest child, Mary Missouri Mackey Linder (1843–1917), was raised by her grandparents, Thomas Crenshaw and Jennet Bell Mackey.

- **NANCY MILLISTER MACKEY (1827–1878)** was born on April 15, 1827. She married Wallace Waters (1809–1866) at about age seventeen, in 1844, in South Carolina. They had three children. In 1860 they were living in Jackson, Madison County, Tennessee. In the late 1860s, Nancy Mackey Waters, a widow, married widower Frank D. Ferguson (1814–after 1878) of Hardeman County, Tennessee. In 1870, they were living in Union County, Illinois, where several of Nancy Mackey Ferguson’s siblings had moved in 1862. Nancy Mackey Waters Ferguson died in October 1878, at age fifty-one, and is buried in Union County, Illinois.

• **JOHN PEACE MACKEY (1829–1873)** was born on June 16, 1829. He married Eliza Jane Massey (1830–1902) in May 18, 1853 in Lauderdale County, Alabama. They moved to McNairy County, Tennessee, where they had one child in 1854. They returned to Lauderdale County, where two more children were born in 1859 and 1861. A fourth child was born in 1867 in Illinois.

When the Civil War began in early 1861, the family moved to Union County, Illinois, where John Peace Mackey enlisted in the Union Army at age thirty-three. He was a private in Company M of the 15th Illinois Cavalry. Because John Peace Mackey joined the Union Army, his wife was estranged from her Alabama parents for the rest of their lives. John Peace Mackey died in the town of Jonesboro in Union County at age forty-three, on February 8, 1873. He is buried there in the Old Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (also known as Cox Cemetery).



*The tombstone of John Peace Mackey, who left the South to join the Union Army during the Civil War. He is buried in Union County, Illinois.*

• **ROCINDA ADELINE MACKEY (1832–1896)** was born on May 26, 1832. In about 1865, she married John J. Swenk (1842–1903), a Prussian-born immigrant from an area that is now in the state of Baden Wurttemberg in southwestern Germany. Rocinda Adeline Mackey and John Swenk married in Mound City, Illinois, a town on the Ohio River in southern Illinois. During the Civil War, John Swenk served in Company E of the 21st Iowa Volunteer Infantry in the Union Army. Rocinda Adeline Mackey and John J. Swenk had four children. In the 1870 and 1880 censuses, they are recorded as living in a German-speaking community in Dubuque, Iowa. John Swenk is listed as a laborer and teamster. Rocinda Mackey Swenk died on April 1, 1896, at age sixty-three, in Dubuque. John Swenk died of stomach cancer at age sixty on July 28, 1903. They are both buried in the Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque.

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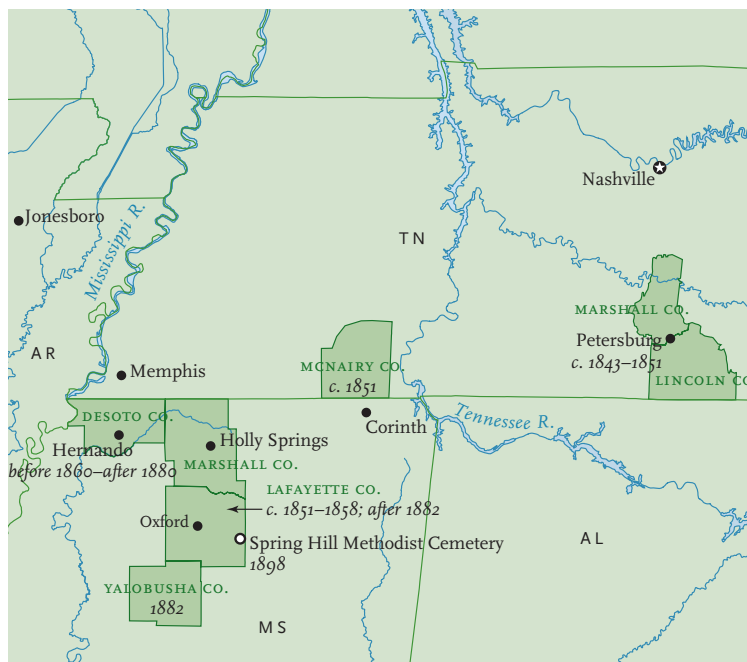
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#### 5. DR. WILLIAM GEORGE MACKEY IN TENNESSEE AND NORTHERN MISSISSIPPI FOR FIFTY-SIX YEARS

On October 27, 1841, at age twenty-seven, Neville's great-great-grandfather, **William George Mackey (1814–1898)**, enrolled at the Medical College of Transylvania in Lexington, Kentucky. When he was admitted, he gave his place of residence as Mount Mariah, a small town in Wilcox County, in south Alabama, where he was serving an apprenticeship to a local doctor. William George Mackey is not recorded as a graduate with the class of 1842. Thus, we believe he attended medical school for only one year. No medical degrees or licenses were required to practice medicine at that time.

The Medical College of Transylvania, the second medical school created in the United States,\* was founded in 1799 as a part of Transylvania University. The medical school ceased operations in 1859. Transylvania University, founded in 1780, is a small liberal-arts school in Kentucky with an enrollment of about 1100 students.

For fifty-six years, Dr. William George Mackey practiced medicine in seven counties in Tennessee and northern Mississippi.



*Neville's great-great-grandfather Dr. William George Mackey practiced medicine in seven counties in southern Tennessee and northern Mississippi from around 1843 to 1898.*

\*The oldest medical school in North America is the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania (know as Penn Med), which was founded in 1765. It is a highly regarded medical school and today is named the Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. William George Mackey most probably moved in 1842 to Lincoln, Tennessee, where he met and married seventeen-year old, **Martha Peterson Rives (1826–1868)** on April 11, 1843. She lived in Petersburg, Tennessee, a small town on the border between Lincoln and Marshall Counties.

Dr. Mackey, his wife Martha, and their four children are enumerated in Marshall County in 1850.

In the early 1850s, the Mackeys moved to McNairy County, Tennessee, where Dr. Mackey's father, **Thomas Crenshaw Mackey (1784–1862)** lived for the eleven years between 1851 and 1862. Family records state that Dr. Mackey practiced medicine in McNairy County, so he presumably lived there in around 1851/1852.

Dr. Mackey's next three children were born in Lafayette County (county seat, Oxford) in north Mississippi in the years 1852, 1854, and 1857. Between 1857 and 1860, Dr. Mackey and his family moved to Hernando, Mississippi, twenty-five miles south of Memphis, Tennessee.

During the Civil War (1861–65), Dr. William George Mackey was between ages forty-six and fifty and living in Hernando. Nearby Memphis fell to Federal forces in June 1862, after a brief naval battle took place north of the city. Thus, Dr. Mackey was probably not much engaged in the Civil War. He did sire two sons in Hernando during the Civil War, one in early 1862 and the other in late 1864. His wife died in Hernando in 1868, just three years after the war ended. Dr. William George Mackey remarried in 1875 in Hernando, and his eleventh child was born there in 1876.

One of Dr. William George Mackey's daughters, **Martha Frances Mackey (1847–1878)**, died of yellow fever in Hernando in 1878. The next year, in 1879, her sister **Sarah Alice "Sallie" Mackey (1857–1911)** married Martha's widower, **John Cornelius Gillespie (1843–1907)**. Sallie and John Cornelius Gillespie are Neville's great-grandparents.

It is likely that Dr. William George Mackey lived and practiced medicine in Hernando for over twenty-five years. In his later years, he also practiced medicine at various locations. A family account notes, "*Later he [Dr. Mackey] was a practicing physician in . . . Marshall, Lafayette, and Yalobusha Ms.*" Marshall County abuts Lafayette County to the north; its county seat is Holly Springs.

There is also a record of Dr. William George Mackey receiving a license dated May 1, 1882, to practice medicine in Yalobusha County, southeast of Lafayette County. Dr. Mackey's eldest son had moved to Water Valley in Yalobusha County in 1880. Dr. Mackey practiced medicine there until shortly before his death in 1898.



Dr. William George Mackey died at age eighty-three at the home of his daughter **Adeline “Addie” Rebecca Mackey (1852–1937)**, who lived on a plantation near Toccopola (“TOCK-ah-POLE-ah”), an old settlement in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, just east of Lafayette County. Dr. Mackey is buried in the nearby Springhill Methodist Cemetery, which is about twenty miles southeast of Oxford, Mississippi, in Lafayette County.



*Dr. William George Mackey, Neville's great-great-grandfather.*



*Dr. William George Mackey's tombstone in Lafayette County, Mississippi, is inscribed: "DR. W. G. MACKEY / Born October 21, 1814 [in family records, this date is October 11, 1814] / Died / February 13, 1898 / He died as he lived / trusting in God."*

## 6. THE TEN CHILDREN OF DR. WILLIAM GEORGE MACKEY AND MARTHA PETERSON RIVES

Neville's great-great-grandparents **Dr. William George Mackey (1814–1898)** and **Martha Peterson Rives (1826–1868)** married in Lincoln County, Tennessee, in 1843. From 1844 to 1865, they had ten children, born in Marshall County, Tennessee; Lafayette County, Mississippi; and DeSoto County, Mississippi, just south of Memphis, Tennessee.

Martha Peterson Rives Mackey died at age forty-two, in 1868, in DeSoto County. Dr. William George Mackey remarried in 1875 and had one more child. He died at age eighty-three, in 1898, near Oxford in Toccopola, Mississippi. Dr. Mackey outlived his first wife by thirty years.



*Leonidas William Mackey  
in a Confederate uniform  
at age twenty, 1864.*



*Leonidas William  
Mackey, c. 1870s.*

- **LEONIDAS WILLIAM “LONNIE/LENNY” MACKEY (1844–1931)** was born on February 14, 1844, in Marshall County, Tennessee, and died in Water Valley in Yalobusha County, Mississippi. At age seventeen, in 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army at Henderson Station, Tennessee, a major Confederate recruitment center during the early part of the Civil War (1861–65). He joined as a private in Company C of the 52nd Regiment of the Tennessee Infantry. Lonnie fought in the battles of Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, and Atlanta. With his company depleted, he resigned effective September 8, 1864; he was a first lieutenant at that time. This story is told about his escape from a Union prison during the war: *“During one of these battles he was taken prisoner by the Yankees and effected his escape by trading an old coat and coon skin hat which the Federal guard on duty admired. After exchanging clothes with the guard, he walked through the lines unobserved.”*

On December 27, 1864, Lonnie Mackey married Gabriella “Gabie” Briant Anderson (1840–1916); they had five children. They lived in Hernando, Mississippi, DeSoto County, where Lonnie Mackey became a state representative to the Mississippi Legislature in 1874 and 1875. In 1880 he moved his family to Water Valley, Mississippi.

Gabie Anderson Mackey died in 1916, after over fifty years of marriage. In 1917 Lonnie Mackey married Laura Annie Harilston Wilkes (1860–1936). Leonidas William Mackey died on April 21, 1931, at age eighty-seven, and is buried with his first wife in Oak Hill Cemetery in Water Valley.

*The tombstone of Leonidas William and Gabriella Briant Anderson Mackey at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Water Valley, Mississippi. In front of this tombstone is a Confederate iron cross, often called the “Southern Cross of Honor.” These markers were created around 1900 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and they were placed in cemeteries with the tombstones of Confederate veterans. On this marker are the words: “Deo Vindice,” which means “Let God be our Judge,” and the dates 1861 and 1865.*



- **MARY ANN MACKEY (1845–1864)** was born in Marshall County and died unmarried at age eighteen. She is buried in the Lebanon Cemetery in eastern Lafayette County.
- **MARTHA FRANCES MACKEY (1847–1878)** was born on December 20, 1847, in Marshall County. At age twenty-four, on March 7, 1872, she married **John Cornelius Gillespie (1843–1907)**. She died at age thirty in Hernando of yellow fever on October 16, 1878. John Cornelius and Martha Mackey Gillespie had two children, **Margaret Lee Gillespie (1875–1951)** and **Robert Henry Gillespie (1876–1951)**, who are Neville’s half great-aunt and half great-uncle. After Martha Mackey Gillespie’s death, John C. Gillespie married her sister **Sarah Alice “Sallie” Mackey (1857–1911)**.

• **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MACKEY (1850–1918)** was born in Marshall County on February 22, 1850, and married Mary Elizabeth Frances (1850–1875) on July 22, 1869; they had three children. On January 6, 1876, he married Julia Ann Powell (1853–1926), with whom he also had three children, the last of whom was born in 1883 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Benjamin Franklin Mackey probably moved to Jonesboro between 1880 and 1883.

*The tombstone of Benjamin Franklin Mackey in City Cemetery in Jonesboro.*



Benjamin Franklin Mackey died at age sixty-eight, on May 12, 1918, in Jonesboro, and he is buried there in the City Cemetery with his second wife, Julia Powell Mackey (who died eight years later), and several of his descendants. As the brother of Neville's great-grandmother Sallie Mackey Gillespie, Benjamin Franklin Mackey may have been the one who encouraged his sister and her family to come to Jonesboro in 1892. Also it is notable that Benjamin Franklin Mackey arrived in Jonesboro before **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)**, Neville's paternal great-grandfather, came there in late 1883.

• **ADELINE "ADDIE" REBECCA MACKEY (1852–1937)** was born in Lafayette County on August 29, 1852, and married James Reuben Bland (1849–1908) in DeSoto County on February 26, 1874. They lived on a plantation in or near Toccopola, a settlement that is next to the eastern border of Lafayette County but is in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. Addie and James Reuben Bland had ten children. James Reuben Bland died at age fifty-nine, on November 4, 1908, and Addie Mackey Bland was a widow for the next twenty-nine years. She died at age eighty-five, on September 9, 1937. Both are buried at the Springhill Congregational Methodist Church (also called Spring Hill Church) Cemetery in Lafayette County.

*A double marble tombstone for James Reuben Bland and Adeline Rebecca Mackey Bland, Neville's great-great-aunt, at the Spring Hill Church Cemetery in Lafayette County. The tombstone has incorrect life dates (1853–1938) for Adeline Bland. They should be 1852–1937.*





• **LOUISA “LOU” JANE MACKEY (1854–1908)** was born on December 14, 1854, in Lafayette County and died there at age fifty-three on February 23, 1908. On February 20, 1873, at age eighteen, she married William Edgar Russell (1847–1901) in Lafayette County. They had seven children and lived on a farm near Oxford, Mississippi. She and her husband, William Edgar Russell, who died on December 21, 1901, are buried in the Old Dallas Cemetery in Lafayette County.

*Louisa Jane Mackey Russell,  
Neville’s great-great-aunt.*



Lou Mackey and William Edgar Russell’s second child was Lee Maurice Russell (1875–1943), the fortieth governor of Mississippi, who served from 1920 to 1924. **Ola Frank Gillespie (1881–1934)**, Neville’s grandmother, was thirty-eight years old and living in Jonesboro when her forty-four-year-old first cousin, Lee Russell, became governor of Mississippi.

Governor Lee Maurice Russell is especially remembered for his leadership in the enactment of legislation to abolish fraternities at public institutions of higher learning in Mississippi. Because of him, Greek societies were illegal at state-supported colleges in Mississippi from 1912 to 1924.

*Lee Maurice Russell, governor of  
Mississippi from 1920 to 1924, was  
the son of Louisa Jane Mackey  
Russell. He is Neville’s first cousin,  
twice removed.*



- **SARAH ALICE "SALLIE" MACKEY (1857–1911)** was born in Lafayette County on August 13, 1857. She married John Cornelius Gillespie in Hernando on December 20, 1879. She is Neville's great-grandmother, who died at age fifty-four, on December 11, 1911.
- **EMMA VIRGINIA BELL MACKEY (1860–1902)** was born in Hernando on April 3, 1860. On September 7, 1881, she married Edward Frank Nolen (1856–1901), who was born in Lafayette County on July 30, 1856. They had four children. Edward Frank Nolen died at age forty-four, on July 10, 1901. Emma Mackey Nolen died at age forty-one, on February 19, 1902, near the town of Fords Well, close to Water Valley, in Yalobusha County. They are both buried in Sylva Rena Cemetery in Yalobusha County.



*The tombstone of Emma Virginia Bell Mackey Nolen, Neville's great-great-aunt, in Sylva Rena Cemetery in Yalobusha County, Mississippi. The date of birth (April 5) conflicts with family records (April 3). The month of her death (January) conflicts with family records, which state she died in February.*

- **JAMES ROBERT MACKEY (1862–1873)** was born on October 7, 1862, and died at age ten, on July 23, 1873.

*John Wesley Mackey, Neville's  
great-great-uncle.*



• **JOHN WESLEY MACKEY (1865–1937)** was born on May 24, 1865, in Lafayette County, about a month after the end of the Civil War. His mother, Martha Peterson Rives Mackey, died when he was three years old. In the census of 1870, he is enumerated at age five in the household of his father, Dr. William George Mackey, and four older siblings. In the 1880 census, he is listed at age fifteen, living with his sister Sallie Mackey Gillespie and her husband, John Cornelius Gillespie.

At age twenty-six, John Wesley Mackey married Callie Stoddard (1872– ) on May 26, 1891, at the Methodist church in Jonesboro, where he was practicing law. Interestingly, six months later, Neville's great-grandparents John Cornelius and Sallie Mackey Gillespie moved to Jonesboro.

In 1900 John Wesley Mackey is listed as married (for nine years) and living as a boarder in Tyler, Texas. His wife is not listed with him. His occupation is recorded as a stenographer. We have no idea what happened to his wife, Callie Stoddard Mackey.

John Wesley Mackey next appears on a passport application made in Beaumont, Texas, and dated December 28, 1903. He is described as a thirty-eight-year-old man with a medium forehead, blue eyes, straight nose, medium mouth, square chin, dark brown hair, fair complexion, and rather long face. He is recorded as 5'8" tall. This description was included on his passport application in lieu of a photograph, as photographs were not used on passports at the time. His passport was issued on January 21, 1904.

Accompanying John Wesley Mackey on his 1904 trip\* was Ella Jane Buddemer (1871–1963), a thirty-two-year-old stenographer who was born in Muskegon, Michigan, but lived in Beaumont. At age forty, on September 5, 1905, John Wesley Mackey married Ella Jane Buddemer in Salt Lake City, Utah; they had one son, Frederick W. Mackey (1909–1989). In the 1940 U.S. census, Ella Mackey is listed as living with her son's family in Houston, Texas.

\*John Wesley Mackey sailed from New York on March 8, 1904. The trip lasted for three to four months and included visits to the Holy Lands, Rome, Constantinople, Venice, and other places of interest. He visited Neville's grandmother, who was his niece Ola Frank Gillespie, in Jonesboro in late February 1904.

John Wesley Mackey was an attorney and judge in Texas. He is recorded in Breckenridge, Texas, 130 miles west of Dallas, in the 1920 and 1930 United States censuses. He died in Breckenridge on February 7, 1937, at age seventy-one. After her husband's death, Ella Jane Buddemer Mackey moved to Houston, where she lived with her son until she died at age ninety-two. She and her husband are both buried in the Breckenridge Cemetery in Stephens County, Texas.



*The gravestones of John Wesley Mackey and Ella Jane Buddemer Mackey in the Breckenridge Cemetery in Stephens County, Texas.*

After about eight years as a widower, Dr. William George Mackey at age sixty remarried in Hernando, Mississippi, on February 4, 1875. His second wife, Caroline Williams Middleton (c. 1847– ), was a widow. Dr. William George Mackey and Caroline Williams Mackey had one son, who is Neville's half great-uncle.

- **WALTER BRYAN MACKEY (1878–1937)** was born in Hernando and married Julia Frances Akins (1870–1946) in Hunt, Texas, on December 29, 1895. They had five children and lived in Denison, north of Dallas, Texas. In the 1920s, they moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Walter Bryan Mackey died at age fifty-nine, and his wife Julia died at age seventy-six. They are buried in the Roselawn Cemetery in Baton Rouge .

Of Dr. William George Mackey's eleven children, Neville's mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**, could have known five of them, including Benjamin Franklin Mackey, who died in Jonesboro when Margaret Purifoy was ten years old, and Leonidas William Mackey from northern Mississippi, who died when Margaret was twenty-three. Margaret Purifoy surely knew Addie Mackey Bland and John Wesley Mackey. They both died when she was about twenty-nine years old. It is less likely that Neville's mother knew her half great-uncle, Walter Bryan Mackey.





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**7. RYVES/RIVES HERITAGE: DORSET AND OXFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND**

Robert Ryves (1490–1551)	m.	Joan
John Ryves (1514–1549)	m. c. 1535	Amye Harvey (1515–1577)
Richard Ryves (1547–after 1588)	m.	Elizabeth (1542– )
Timothy Ryves (1588–1643)	m.	Elizabeth ( –1643)
William Rives (1636–1695)	m. 1660	Elizabeth Pegram (1645–1702)
George Rives (1660–after 1719)	m. 1683	Frances E. Bishop (1665–1757)
Col. William Rives (1683–before 1746)	m. c. 1705	Elizabeth Foster (1683–1759)
William Rives Jr. (1712–c. 1786)	m. 1740	Mary E. Pegram (1724–1755)
Robert Rives (1743–1807)	m. 1777	Martha P. Hardaway (1754–1806)
Benjamin Rives (1785–c. 1860)	m. 1811	Rebecca Gill (1797–after 1850)
Martha P. Rives (1826–1868)	m. 1843	Dr. William G. Mackey (1814–1898)
Sarah A. Mackey (1857–1911)	m. 1879	John C. Gillespie (1843–1907)
Ola F. Gillespie (1881–1934)	m. 1904	Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)
Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)	m. 1931	Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)

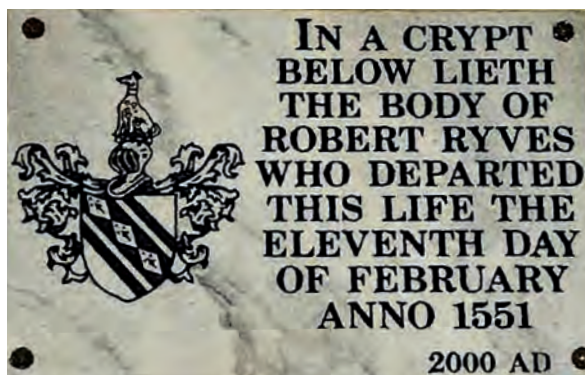
The name Rives—and its earlier variation, Ryves—are both pronounced “Reeves.” It is a Huguenot surname. Huguenots were French Protestants who came to England to escape Catholic persecution in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the French language today, the word *rives* means “riverbanks.”

The history of the Ryves/Rives family, both in England and in Virginia, has been extensively researched and recorded. The most significant publication is the 1929 volume *Reliques of the Rives: Being Historical and Genealogical Notes of the Ancient Family of RYVES of County Dorset and of the RIVES of Virginia* by James Rives Childs (1893–1985), an American diplomat.

Neville’s twelfth great-grandfather **Robert Ryves (1490–1551)** was from Blandford Forum in the county of Dorset, on the southwest coast of England. He is reported to have been a nobleman and peer in the court of King Henry VIII (1491–1547). In 1545 Robert Ryves purchased the 1,600-acre Dorset estate of Ranston from King Henry VIII. His descendants owned the estate until 1781.

In 1548, three years later, Robert Ryves also bought a house, Damory Court, in Blandford Forum, from the Duke of Somerset, Edward Seymour (c. 1500–1552), the brother of King Henry VIII’s third wife, Jane Seymour (c. 1508–1537). The house was destroyed by fire in 1845, and its environs were absorbed by the local railway station. Robert Ryves was also the proprietor of other considerable estates in southwest England.

Robert Ryves died at age sixty, in 1551, at Damory Court. He is buried in the old Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, “between the pillars of the chancel in the north isle,” in Blandford Forum, Dorset.



*A plaque announcing the location of the tomb of Robert Ryves, Neville's sixteenth-century ancestor, was placed in a church in Dorset, England, in 2000.*

**John Ryves (1514–1549)**, the only son of Robert Ryves, predeceased his father, and had seven children, the sixth of whom is Neville's ancestor **Richard Ryves (1547–after 1588)**. Richard Ryves had one recorded son, **Timothy Ryves (1588–1643)**, who lived in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen in Oxford, England. After his father's death, Timothy Ryves was taken in by his uncles, one of whom was **Dr. George Ryves (1561–1613)**,\* vice chancellor of the University of Oxford in 1601. The other uncle was **Sir William Ryves (1570–1648)**, an attorney in Oxford. On March 11, 1611, Timothy Ryves was admitted to the University of Oxford to learn the art of brewing. He is listed as a “*Privileged Person*” residing at Oxford in 1624 and as a steward\*\* of the university in 1625.

The Ryves were called Cavaliers, the name for supporters of King Charles I (1600–1649) during the English Civil War, which began in 1642. The next year, Timothy Ryves and his wife died. As a result, his youngest son, six-year-old **William Rives (1636–1695)**,\*\*\* was left an orphan, like his father before him. During his childhood, William Rives was raised by his extended family in the town of Woodstock, near Oxford. It was a tumultuous time: King Charles I was beheaded on January 30, 1649, and the Commonwealth Period (1649–60) of English history ensued. During the 1650s, a second wave of immigrants came to America. It consisted of distressed Cavaliers and indentured servants. Among them was sixteen-year-old William Rives, who came to the colony of Virginia in 1652. This impoverished but educated teenager became the patriarch of the Rives family in America.

\*George Ryves is said to have been “one of the most illustrious scholars of his day” and is known to be one of those responsible for creating the King James version of the Bible in 1611. He oversaw the translation of the New Testament from Greek.

\*\*A steward is a university official. At that time, the steward probably served as a deputy to the chancellor of the University of Oxford.

\*\*\*Apparently, William Rives adopted the spelling Rives instead of Ryves when he came to America in 1652.

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8. RIVES ANCESTRY IN VIRGINIA

For almost 160 years, Neville's Rives forefathers lived in an area south of the middle of the James River in Virginia. Six successive generations of male Rives ancestors are recorded in Surry, Prince George, and Dinwiddie Counties in Virginia.



*This map shows the present-day Virginia counties in which Neville's Rives ancestors lived for almost 160 years, from 1652 to 1811. The dates identify the year in which each of the counties was established.*

These six generations of the Rives family have been much researched, for they are a large first family of Virginia, with many, many descendants. The following is a summary of available information about Neville's Rives ancestors in Virginia.

• **WILLIAM RIVES (1636–1695)**

The progenitor of the American Rives family, William Rives, came to Virginia from Oxford, England, in 1652. He was a sixteen-year-old indentured servant\* whose passage to Surry County, Virginia, was paid for by Littleton Scarborough (1646–1664).\*\* William Rives was part of a flood of immigration to Virginia during the Commonwealth Period (1649–60) in England; Virginia's population was 10,000 in 1642 and 38,000 in 1665.

William Rives married **Elizabeth Pegram (1645–1702)** in about 1660 in Surry County. They had five sons, whose names are recorded. Despite coming to America as an indentured servant, William Rives is believed to have amassed considerable holdings in Virginia during the seventeenth century. He died in Southwark Parish in Surry County in 1695, at about age fifty-nine.

• **GEORGE RIVES (1660–AFTER 1719)**

George Rives, the oldest son of Elizabeth Pegram and William Rives, was born in Southwark Parish, Surry County, in 1660. He is recorded as a landowner in both Charles City County and Prince George County, which was formed in 1703 from Charles City County.

George Rives was a Virginia merchant trader and sea captain. In *Reliques of the Rives*, James Rives Childs (1893–1985) noted, "*George Rives was one of that venturesome and stout-hearted band of early Virginia traders who braved not only the ordinary perils of the seas but, even more implicit of danger, the pirates who infested the American coast in the later part of the 17th and 18th century.*" In an early 1719 deposition, George testified about an encounter with a runaway mulatto slave while sailing near Charleston, South Carolina. In about 1683, George Rives married **Frances Elizabeth Bishop (1665–1757)**. They had four sons and one daughter.

\**Indentured servants from Britain were mostly teenagers who signed contracts to work for a number of years (usually four to seven) in exchange for transportation to Virginia from England. The cost of the eight-week journey to America was five to seven English pounds, the equivalent of four to five years of labor back in England. Those who paid for their indentured servants' transport often received land grants in America, usually about fifty acres for each person they brought.*

\*\**On May 10, 1652, Colonel Edmund Scarborough (1617–1671) patented 1,000 acres of land in the name of his six-year-old son, Littleton Scarborough. He was awarded this land as payment for transporting twenty persons—including William Rives—from England.*

• **COLONEL WILLIAM RIVES (1683–BEFORE 1746)**

The eldest son of George Rives is identified as Colonel William Rives. He was born and died in Prince George County. He was either the commander or deputy commander of the militia in Prince George County. In early eighteenth-century Virginia, every county had a militia, and every male sixteen years or older (except for indentured servants and slaves) had to serve. The major purpose of the militia was to protect landowners\* from the local Native Americans.

Colonel William Rives is the first of the Rives family to appear in the Virginia patent books. On September 19, 1711, he was granted 422 acres for transporting 5 people to America and paying an additional 22 shillings. On July 15, 1717, he was granted 206 acres south of the Nottoway River in Prince George County. This patent was given in exchange for transporting another five people to America. In 1724 Colonel William Rives patented four hundred acres in Isle of Wight County. For this land, he paid the transportation for five people and gave an additional forty shillings.

In about 1705, Col. William Rives married **Elizabeth Foster (1683–1759)**; they had eight recorded children. Col. William Rives died before 1746, and his wife, Elizabeth, died thirteen years later. An inventory of her estate, recorded on June 1, 1759, lists three slaves and personal property worth \$3,000.

• **WILLIAM RIVES JR. (1712–c. 1786)**

William Rives Jr. was the fourth of eight children of Colonel William and Elizabeth Foster Rives. He was born and resided in Prince George County, in an area that became Dinwiddie County in 1752. He lived in Bath Parish, about twenty-five miles south of Petersburg, Virginia, and very near the town of Dinwiddie, Virginia.

In 1735, with his older brother **Benjamin Rives (1706–1775)**, William Rives Jr. paid fifty shillings for five hundred acres of land along the Nottoway River in Amelia County, west of his home and land holdings in Prince George County. The Rives family were tobacco planters, for that was the principal cash crop in Virginia at the time.

William Rives Jr. married **Mary Eleanor Pegram (1724–1755)** in 1740. She was the daughter of **Daniel Pegram (1689–1726)** of Williamsburg, Virginia. Daniel Pegram's tombstone is in the Bruton Parish Churchyard in Williamsburg. William and Mary Pegram Rives Jr. had three sons.

In 1772, when William Rives Jr. was about sixty years old, he was recorded as the owner of 466 acres of land in Dinwiddie, 11 slaves, 8 horses, and 33 head of cattle. He died in about 1786, at almost age seventy-four, at his home in Dinwiddie; his wife predeceased him.

\*In 1704 there were only 346 landowners in all of Prince George County, even though the county was much larger than it is today.

• **ROBERT RIVES (1743–1807)**

Robert Rives, the second son of William Rives Jr., is Neville's fourth great-grandfather. He is recorded as the owner of extensive estates in Dinwiddie County, where he resided for his entire life. Subsequent to his father's death, he appears as the owner of one thousand acres of land.

By 1807, he owned 1,959 acres and 13 slaves.

In 1777 Robert Rives married **Martha Peterson Hardaway (1754–1806)**, who came from an old colonial family in eastern Virginia. Martha Peterson Hardaway's great-great-grandfather **James Hardaway (1620–1685)** came to Virginia prior to 1650 from Dorset County, England. Robert and Martha Hardaway Rives had eight children.

We have no record that Robert Rives participated in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83); nor do we know whether his sympathies were with the Loyalists or Patriots.\* He was thirty-two years old when the war commenced. He died at about age sixty-four at Cedar Green, his estate in Dinwiddie County. It is said that Cedar Green was in the Rives family for five or six generations.

• **BENJAMIN RIVES (1785–c. 1860)**

Neville's third great-grandfather Benjamin Rives was the fourth child of Robert and Martha Peterson Hardaway Rives. He was born and raised at Cedar Green in Dinwiddie County. On January 22, 1811, twenty-five-year-old Benjamin Rives married **Rebecca Gill (1797–after 1850)** in Bedford County, Virginia. She was thirteen years and nine months old when she married. Rebecca Gill was descended from an Irishman, **John Gill (1633–1719)**, who emigrated from County Armagh in Northern Ireland to Charles County, Maryland, in the late seventeenth century.

Sometime in the late 1820s, Benjamin and Rebecca Gill Rives migrated from Virginia to Lincoln County, Tennessee. They apparently moved with members of the Rives, Gill, and other interrelated families from Dinwiddie County. In the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses, Benjamin is enumerated in Lincoln County, near Fayette, Tennessee. There are several Internet postings that state that he died in Arkansas around 1860.

Benjamin and Rebecca Gill Rives are recorded as the parents of four sons and one daughter, **Martha Peterson Rives (1826–1868)**, Neville's great-great-grandmother.

*\*Historians believe that fifteen to twenty percent of American colonials were avowed Loyalists, and forty to forty-five percent were active on behalf of the American Patriots.*



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**9. NEVILLE'S MOSBY AND STITH HERITAGE**

Edward Mosby (c. 1600–1663)	m.	Hannah (1604–1663)
Jane Mosby (1624–1686)	m. 1656	Maj. John Stith Sr. (1631–1694)
Lt. Col. Drury Stith Sr. (1660–1740)	m. 1693	Susannah Bathurst (1674–1745)
Jane Drury Stith (1694–1749)	m. 1707	Thomas Hardaway Sr. (1685–1746)
Thomas Hardaway Jr. (1713–1806)	m. 1739	Agnes P. Thweatt (1717–1789)
Martha P. Hardaway (1754–1806)	m. 1777	Robert Rives (1743–1807)
Benjamin Rives (1785–c. 1860)	m. 1811	Rebecca Gill (1797–after 1850)
Martha P. Rives (1826–1868)	m. 1843	Dr. William G. Mackey (1814–1898)
Sarah A. Mackey (1857–1911)	m. 1879	John C. Gillespie (1843–1907)
Ola F. Gillespie (1881–1934)	m. 1904	Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)
Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)	m. 1931	Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)

In my family history, the name Mosby holds an important place. My maternal great-grandmother Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858–1890) was a direct descendant (sixth great-granddaughter) of **Edward “Edd” Mosby (c. 1600–1663)**, who was the first of nine generations of my American antecedents with the surname Mosby. Additionally, my maternal grandmother was named Caroline Mosby Montgomery (1884–1957); an aunt of mine was named Caroline Mosby Wilkerson; (1917–1982); my sister was given the name Caroline Mosby Bryan (b. 1937); and a niece of mine is named Caroline Mosby Harrell (b. 1965).

The shared ancestor and immigrant patriarch in Neville’s and my Mosby heritage is Edd Mosby, my ninth great-grandfather. I am a descendant of Edd’s son Richard Mosby (c. 1626–1706).<sup>\*</sup> Neville is descended from Edd’s daughter **Jane Mosby (1624–1686)**.<sup>\*\*</sup> Thus, Neville and I are tenth cousins through the lineage of Neville’s great-great-grandmother **Martha Peterson Rives (1826–1868)**. Incidentally, we are also ninth cousins through the ancestry of her great-great-grandfather **Levi James Gallaway (1819–1867)**.

<sup>\*</sup>My Mosby lineage is discussed in *Where We Came From*, beginning on page 274.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Jane Mosby is the presumed (but not documented) Jane who was the wife of Major John Stith Sr.

Edd Mosby, an immigrant from England (probably Yorkshire), became a successful planter in Virginia. He was a vestryman at the Westover Church at Westover Plantation\* on the James River in Virginia, and he is buried in the Old Westover Church Cemetery in a patch across from the parents of President William Henry Harrison (1773–1841).

Jane Mosby, Edd Mosby's daughter, born in England in 1624, came to America with her parents at about age fifteen, in 1639. Jane Mosby's first husband died in 1655; after his death, she married a widower, Joseph Parsons (c. 1620–1655), who had a young daughter from a previous marriage. Joseph Parsons died soon after they wed, and Jane was again left a widow, this time pregnant with Joseph Parsons's child.

In December 1656, while carrying the child of her deceased husband, Jane Mosby Parsons married **Major John Stith Sr. (1631–1694)**, who was born in Lancashire, England. After studying law, he came to Charles City County, Virginia, sometime in the early to mid-1650s. In Virginia he was an attorney, a large plantation owner, a major in Virginia's colonial militia, and a notable member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. Major John Stith and Jane Stith had at least three children. Their second son, **Lieutenant Colonel Drury Stith Sr. (1660–1740)**, like his father, was a prominent figure in colonial Virginia. He is Neville's seventh great-grandfather.

*\*The present house at Westover Plantation was built in 1730 by William Byrd II (1674–1744), the founder of Richmond, Virginia. It is often thought to be the most beautiful of the James River plantations.*