

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 heritage¹ 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)**² 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)**,³ 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.⁴

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.⁵ Dr. William George Mackey and his wife had ten children (four boys and six girls).⁶ 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 ancestry⁷ 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 ancestors⁸ 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.⁹

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.*