

APPENDIX X  
**THE RIVERS FAMILY OF THE ISLE OF MAN**

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Kathleen Rivers is the mother of David Genn, author of this work.

George Rivers (1), born in England, was the son of John Rivers. Margaret Teare, born on the Isle of Man, was the daughter of Robert Teare, carpenter, and Margaret Currphey, married 29 May 1830, in the Parish of Ramsey.

George Rivers (1) married Margaret Teare, December 30, 1849 at Ramsey, Isle of Man. George Rivers profession was stated as "footman". Elsewhere he was reported "as butler to the Bishop". The marriage certificate gives the address of George as Waterloo Road, Ramsey and of Margaret as King Street, Ramsey.

The six children of George and Margaret Rivers were:

George Rivers (2), christened at Ramsey, May 31, 1853.

Mary Ann Rivers, christened at Ramsey, January 27, 1856.  
Residence recorded as Strand St., Ramsey.

Rhoda Margaret Rivers, christened, December 18, 1859.  
Residence recorded as Kirk Michael.

Henry Vernon Rivers, christened, October 5 1862.  
Residence recorded as Bishops Court.

Alice Rivers, christened, January 25, 1864.  
Residence recorded as Bishops Court.

Percy Charles Rivers, christened, December 1, 1867.  
at St. George, Douglas.

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The 1841 census lists the following for Ramsey Place,  
Strand Street:

Robert Teare	Husband	Age 30	Journeyman Joiner
Margaret Teare	Wife	35	
Margaret Teare	Daughter	11	
.... Teare		8	
John Teare	Son	3	

The 1851 census lists the following for Ramsey Place,  
King Street:

Robert Teare	Husband	Age 42	Joiner	Born:
Andrews				
Margaret Teare	Wife	46		
Maughold				
John Teare	Son	12	Scholar	
Ramsey				
Garth Teare	Son	9	Scholar	
Ramsey				
Mary Teare	Daughter	6	Scholar	
Ramsey				

The 1851 census also lists the following for Ramsey Place,  
Church Street:

George Rivers (1)	Husband	Age 22	House Servant
England			
Margaret Rivers	Wife	20	Teacher
Ramsey			

The 1881 census lists the following for Douglas Place,  
Marina Road House:

George Rivers (1)	Husband	Age 52	Lodging House Keeper
Margaret Rivers	Wife	49	
Henry Rivers	Son	18	Joiner Michael
Alice Rivers	Daughter	17	Millener Michael
Margaret Teare	Mother-in-Law	84	Widow Ramsey
Mary A. Teare	Sister-in-Law	36	Wordsmaker Ramsey

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George Rivers (2) married Hannah J. (surname unknown) about 1877.

Their four children were:

Rhoda H. (Ruby?) Rivers, born 1878, Douglas, I.O.M.

Robert Rivers, born 1881, Douglas, I.O.M.

John Charles Rivers, born 1883, Douglas, I.O.M.

Charlotte L. (Lottie?) Rivers, born 1886, Douglas, I.O.M



**HANNA AND GEORGE RIVERS AND THEIR CHILDREN,  
RHODA, CHARLOTTE, ROBERT AND JOHN CHARLES**



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Frederic Rivers, born 1922.

Charlotte L. Rivers reportedly married four times. Her last known place of residence was Sydney, Australia.

John Charles Rivers married Fanny Mary Haig about 1904 in Douglas, Isle-of-Man. John Charles Rivers, prior to the marriage, had resided at the Haig rooming house, and worked as a grocer. Three children were born in Douglas, I.O.M.:

Constance Haig Rivers, born 30 January 1907.

Ruth Rivers, born 30 March 1908.

Kathleen Rivers, born 30 December 1909, at 1a Sydney Street, Criterion Building.

In late 1910 or early 1911 John Rivers travelled to Canada, his planned destination, Winnipeg. After a visit to Winnipeg he decided to settle in Victoria instead. He was followed by his wife, Fanny Rivers, her mother Lucy Haig and the three children, Constance, Ruth and Kathleen. He met them in Vancouver, and took them to Victoria, arriving 11 June 1911.

The Rivers family first home in Victoria was at Discovery Street and Blanshard and the next on Broughton Street, near the home of Emily (Genn) Lewis.

A son, Douglas Haig Rivers was born 15 June 1912. Douglas Rivers married Lillian Anderson and their son Paul Dennis Rivers married Adelle Louise Ewart. Paul and Adelle Rivers have children Michele Lee-Ann Rivers and Paul Kurtis Rivers.

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CONSTANCE HAIG RIVERS



RUTH RIVERS



KATHLEEN RIVERS



DOUGLAS HAIG RIVERS

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The family then purchased a home on Island Road in Oak Bay. John Charles Rivers owned and operated the Carleton Restaurant on Broad Street, Victoria.

By 1914 Canada was at war, and in 1916 John Charles Rivers joined the army as a cook and was off to France. It has been suggested that he was involved in some questionable business practices concerning widows and pensioners and this was a way to avoid prosecution.

The Carleton Restaurant had not performed well financially. Revenue was in the order of \$5.00 per week. Fanny Rivers decided that to support her four young children, she would take over the restaurant. To simplify transportation, she sold the house on Island Road, Oak Bay and purchased a home at 1560 Begbie Street at Vining. This was their home for the period 1915 to 1918. With the help of sympathetic businessmen and customers, she was able to obtain bank financing and restructure the debt. William Kelly, also from the Isle-of-Man, and a friend of Jack Rivers was instrumental in helping to put the restaurant on a solid footing. William Kelly was a member of a Masonic Lodge.

Fanny Rivers was the daughter of a Mason. William Kelly saw it as his obligation to be of assistance. Under Fanny Rivers management the restaurant prospered. Weekly revenue was now in the order of \$400.00. The debt was paid off and some surplus cash accumulated. Savings included almost \$4000.00 designated to purchase a \$1000.00 war bond for each of the children.

A romantic liaison developed between Fanny Rivers and William Kelly. Jack Rivers returned from the war in 1918 and, discovering his dilemma, was distraught. He took back the Carleton Restaurant for himself, moved into the family home on Begbie Street but isolated himself from his wife and children. He occupied the front of the house, they had the back. He claimed the \$4000 savings for himself. Grace Murton was hired as a waitress at the Carleton Restaurant.

Fanny Rivers again became pregnant. The pregnancy was terminated by a miscarriage which almost cost Fanny Rivers her life. There would have been triplets.

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By 1920 Jack Rivers had rented a small house on Ormond Street and moved his wife, children and mother-in-law into it, sold the house on Begbie Street, sold the Carleton Restaurant, and purchased an apartment as an investment and source of income.

For Fanny Rivers, her mother, Lucy Haig, and the children, Constance, Ruth, Kathleen and Douglas, this was the resumption of hard times. Jack was unreliable in providing for their support and Fanny required intervention from the courts.

Fanny Rivers then gained employment as a cashier at the new Capital Theater, and through her connections found work for her daughters, Constance and Ruth as ushers at the Dominion and Royal Theaters. She next took employment as a cashier at the Poodle Dog Cafe owned by Horace Beers. Ollie Brown was then employed as a waitress. Ollie Brown was to become a life long friend. Mr. Notte baked cakes in the back of the restaurant and these were sold by Fanny Rivers from the front window of the Poodle Dog.

In 1921 Fanny Rivers purchased a home on Niagara Street and moved her mother and children into it. This was to be their home for several years.

In 1924, Kathleen Rivers, now age 14 1/2, took a job in a jewellery store owner by a Mr. Andernak, a watchmaker. Here she was entrusted with a key to the door and the combination to the safe and had a satisfying few months selling jeweller, her first job.

Meanwhile, Mr. Notte, the cake baker, had opened the Bon Ton cake shop on Douglas Street at the present location of the Maple Leaf Cafe. By 1925, Kathleen Rivers was working at the Bon Ton. Constance Rivers was working at a florist shop next door. With the help of their earnings, Fanny Rivers was able to complete the purchase of the home on Niagara Street.

Then in 1928 David William Davies appeared on the scene and everything seemed to fall apart again. Fanny Rivers sold the house on Niagara Street, married David Davies, took daughter Ruth and son Douglas and moved to Vancouver. Dave Davies was keen on betting at the horse races and that was the end of the family savings.



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Of the four Rivers children, Constance Haig Rivers married George Andrew Small, who was born 30 September 1903 at Pueblo, Colorado, died at White Rock, B.C., 31 January 1990.

Ruth Rivers first married Fred Hackett ? then Clifford Hilton.



Kathleen Rivers married Kenneth Reginald Genn, born 21 November 1905, at Victoria, B.C., deceased 24 March 1982 and father of the author of this work. His life is discussed in Chapter 9.

Douglas Haig Rivers married Lillian Anderson who died about 1942, then married Joyce Wilson Mosby.

Lucy Phoebe Haig died 1 May 1938, at the Aged Woman's Home, Victoria, B.C., and is buried at Hatley Memorial Gardens, (Colwood Burial Park), (62N. W1/2), by S.J. Currie & Son. The grave marker gives her birth year as 1858, rather than 1861, and is considered to be in error.

Frances Mary Davies (Fanny Mary Haig) died 24 September 1950. Her last residence was 2886 Parkview Drive, Saanich, B.C. She is also buried at Hatley Memorial Gardens, (Colwood Burial Park), (62N. E1/2) by B.C. Funeral Home, same grave as her mother.

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Kathleen Genn died 29 August 2005. Her last residence was Central Care Home, 844 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC. She is also buried at Hatley Memorial Gardens, (Colwood Burial Park), (62N. E1/2), same grave as her Mother and Grandmother, by McCall Brothers Funeral Directors.

Jack Rivers purchased a tract of waterfront land at Sidney, B.C., and again tried marriage for a short while. He invested in mining stocks, but without a lot of success, and would grub-stake prospectors around British Columbia. The land at Sidney sold for \$4000 an acre making him a fair profit. By the 1950's Jack Rivers was managing the Canadian Legion on Warf Street, Victoria.

Grace Murton, the waitress from the Carleton cafe, who was born 7 July 1897, now widowed from her marriage to Johnston, married Jack Rivers in 1955.

Jack Rivers was an entertaining sort and had a good voice for singing. He also had a penchant for strong drink. His reflections on his family was that he had been the looser and they had abandoned him. His son, Douglas eventually restored some communication with his father.

In 1965, after a week of serious drinking, Jack Rivers took ill, was hospitalized and died three days later.

His widow Grace then married Ted Fritz, lives in good health at 218 - 425 Simcoe Street, Victoria, age 92. Her second cousin, Nancy Constance Murton, incidentally, was married to Denis Michael Genn, nephew of Kathleen Rivers.

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**NOTES:**

J. J. Kneen, *The Personal Names of the Isle of Man*, (London: Oxford University Press, 1937) provides us with the following historic information:

**TEARE** is from the Irish, Mac an tSaoir and in Manx, Mac y Teyir, 'son of the craftsman'. At the beginning of the sixteenth century the name was the most common and the most widely spread surname on the Island. The evolution of the name can be seen in some early references: Mactyr, 1372; Mac Tere, 1417; Mac Terre, 1504; Mc Tyre, 1532; Mac Teare, 1580; Teare, 1599.

**CURPHEY** is from Murchadha, 'son of sea-warrior'. Early references show the evolution of the name to its present form: Mac Curghey, 1422; Mac Curghey, 1502; Ine Curghey, 1515; Curghe, 1580; Curgie, Courghey, Curghey, Curghe, 1601; Curphey, 1643. William Mac Curghey was involved in the rising of 1422. William Curphy was Sergeant, 1st Company, 1810. John Curghey was Vicar of Kirk Braddan and Vicar General. His son, Matthias Curghey (1699-1771) was Vicar of Kirk Christ Lezayre and Rector of Ballaugh. He assisted in translating the Liturgy into Manx.

While George Rivers (1) was an Englishman, and his arrival on Isle of Man is relatively recent, his children, through their mother, have deep historic roots in the Island. The names Clucas and Collister are also Manx names of long standing.

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