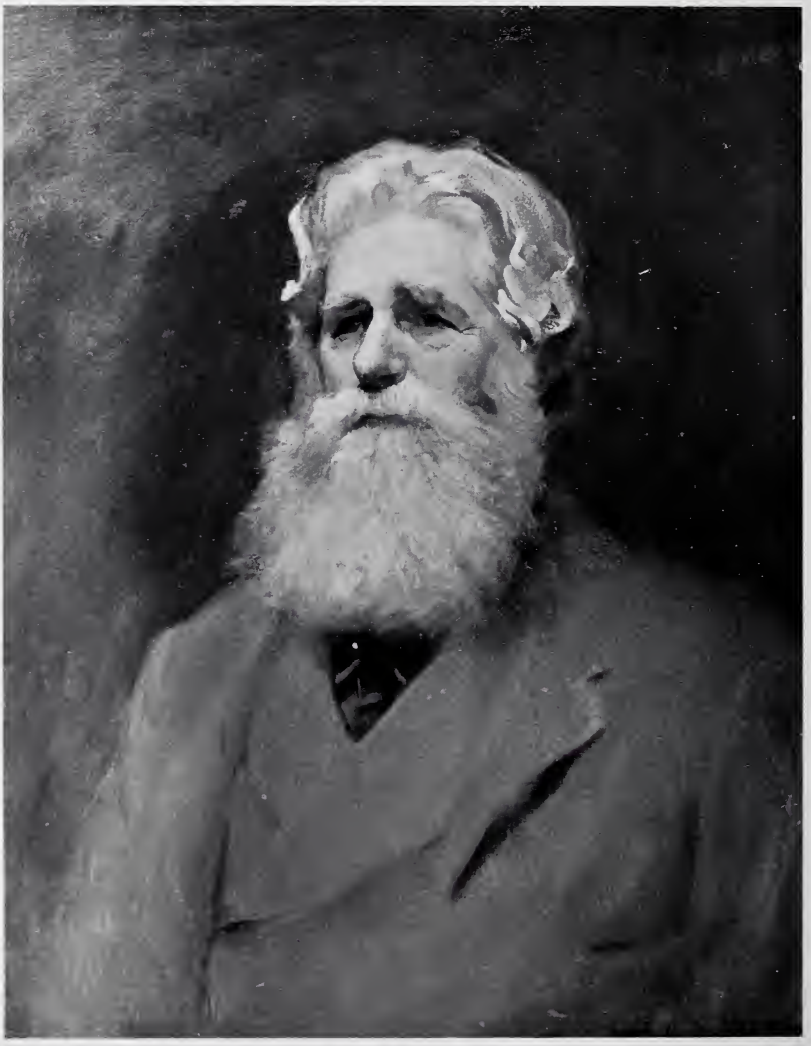


LT. GENERAL PITT-RIVERS, D.C.L., F.R.S.

From a Painting by Fredk. S. Beaumont, 1897.

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A Memoir of General Pitt-Rivers, D.C.L., F.R.S.

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

THE name of Lieutenant-General A. H. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, who died at Rushmore, his country seat on the borders of Wilts and Dorset, on May 4th, 1900, at the age of seventy-three, has been much before the public of late, in connection with his wonderful scientific career, and some concise obituary notices and short biographies have been written about him. Having been in close contact with General Pitt-Rivers for several years—indeed for a longer period than any member of his archæological staff—I am happily in a position to give a somewhat terse account of the General's strenuous life in the cause of the advancement of knowledge, and more particularly of archæology. No man has attained more celebrity in his accuracy, brilliance, and originality in archæological or ethnographical research than General Pitt-Rivers. His work at Rushmore was carried out, of course, under the most favourable circumstances. Firstly, being the owner of 29,000 acres of land, he had ample means for his loved pursuits: secondly, he had the luck to come into an estate which was teeming with earthworks of all ages, awaiting the spade of the systematic explorer; and thirdly, he was somewhat fortunate in securing assistants and draughtsmen who readily adapted themselves to the work and became devoted to it. Therefore it was nothing more than could be expected by people who knew the previous

work of the General (when Colonel Lane-Fox) that he should retire from the Army and, in his own words, determine "to devote the remaining portion of my life chiefly to an examination of the antiquities on my own property."

Although a member of the Somersetshire Archæological Society for twenty years, he took no active part in its proceedings, except on the occasion when he assisted the Society with their excavations at Pen Pits, in the extreme S.E. of the county. (*Proceedings*, vols. 25 and 30). The relics (chiefly Norman pottery) are preserved in the Society's Museum. General Pitt-Rivers undertook further excavations on this site on behalf of the Government in 1883, on which he wrote a detailed Report to the First Commissioner of Works. He fully confirmed the conclusions previously arrived at by the Rev. H. H. Winwood and his committee, that the pits could not have been formed for habitations but merely for quarrying purposes. In 1877, General Pitt-Rivers, in company with Professor Rolleston, made an examination of three round barrows and the camp at Sigwell, in the parish of Compton, Somerset. (*Journ. Anthrop. Inst.*, vol. viii). He presented three of his large tomes on "Excavations" to the Society. As Inspector of Ancient Monuments he examined (superficially) and surveyed several of the hill-fortresses and earthworks in the county—and particularly Stanton Drew, the Chambered tumulus at Stoney Littleton, Wellow, and Cadbury Castle, monuments included amongst the twenty-nine scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Protection Act of 1882.* In his third volume of "Excavations" he published an invaluable map, entitled "Ancient Map of Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, and part of Hants."

But to commence at the beginning. General Pitt-Rivers was born on April 14th, 1827, and was the eldest surviving son

* In 1886, the Society prepared a list of Ancient Monuments in the County, considered worthy of preservation, and sent it to General Pitt-Rivers. (*Proceedings*, vol. 33, p. 3).

of Wm. Augustus Lane-Fox, of Hope Hall, who married Lady Caroline, daughter of John Douglas, eighteenth Earl of Morton. In accordance with the will of his great-uncle, the second Lord Rivers, he eventually inherited the Rushmore Estates in succession to the sixth Lord Rivers in 1880, when he assumed the name of Pitt-Rivers, his sons however being styled Fox-Pitt. Having been educated at Sandhurst, he entered the Grenadier Guards in 1845, and obtained his captaincy in 1850. He served with distinction in the Crimean campaign as D.A.Q.M.G., being present at the battle of Alma and the siege of Sebastopol, was mentioned in despatches, and placed on the staff. In 1857, he became Lieut.-Colonel, and ten years later, Colonel; Major-General in 1877, retiring as Lieut.-General in 1882. During his last few years he was appointed Hon. Colonel of the South Lancashire Regiment.

Soon after receiving a commission in the Grenadier Guards, and at the time of the introduction of the rifle-musket into the British Army, Lane-Fox was employed in investigations for its improvement at Woolwich, Hythe, Enfield, and Malta, from 1851 to 1857. He showed much talent in this experimental research and may be considered the originator of the Hythe School of Musketry. The nature of his professional work at this time led him to take notice of the very slight changes that took place in the successive stages of development to render a weapon or utensil an improvement on its predecessors. In order to illustrate this line of thought he collected series of weapons, implements, appliances, and products of human life, which collection after being exhibited for some years at Bethnal Green and South Kensington, ultimately, in 1884, found its home in an *annexe*, built for its reception by the University of Oxford, adjoining the main building of the University Museum. Owing to a constant flow of acquisitions the original collection is now nearly doubled, and being linked with the name of Mr. Henry Balfour, M.A., the Curator, whose assiduity and method are remarkable, it is likely to

remain the foremost ethnographical collection in the kingdom for educational purposes. It might be recorded here that for one and-a-half years recently I had the privilege of supporting Mr. Balfour in this congenial work. Objects of a like nature and use are arranged together into series—so that they may be compared together, independently of locality—"with a view to demonstrate, either actually or hypothetically, the development and continuity of the material arts from the simpler to the more complex forms." In this way variations may be observed by means of which progress has been effected. In connection with the Pitt-Rivers collection, the only lectureship of Anthropology in Britain was founded, the position being at present occupied by Prof. E. B. Tylor, D.C.L., F.R.S., Keeper of Oxford University Museum.

Nor is this all that the General achieved in the world of science before taking up his residence at Rushmore. He read many papers before learned societies, including his famous series of lectures on "Primitive Warfare," delivered at the Royal United Service Institution, 1867-69 ; another, "On the discovery of Palæolithic implements in connection with *Elephas primigenius* in the gravels of the Thames valley at Acton," delivered in 1872 to the Geological Society ; and another, "On the Evolution of Culture," Royal Institution of Great Britain, 1875.

During these earlier years, Colonel Lane-Fox conducted many archæological excavations in various parts of England and Ireland, both on his own account and in conjunction with other archæologists and societies. To give even a list of these with brief descriptions would be material enough for a paper alone. He turned much of his attention at this period to the exploration of camps. All manner of dates of construction have been given to camps generally, and it is not surprising, as there is little in the principles of military defence to distinguish the camps of one people in a primitive condition of life from those of another. The only real method of throwing any

light upon the subject, as nobody knew better than Colonel Lane-Fox, was by means of the pick and shovel, provided these potent instruments were wielded in the right manner. In Sussex, he explored the following camps systematically :-- Cissbury, Highdown, Seaford, Mount Caburn, Ranscombe, and Cæsar's Camp. In addition he made noteworthy excavations at Ambresbury Banks, Epping Forest; Dane's Dyke, Flamborough; London Wall; Two Cairns near Bangor; Black Burgh Tumulus, near Brighton; British Tumuli near Guildford; &c. General Pitt-Rivers always evinced a pride in having been the first to discover chert implements in stratified gravel in the Nile Valley, near Thebes. His investigations extended even to Denmark, where he explored the Danne-werk at Korborg, near Schleswig.

The General's *magnus opus* consisted of his four magnificent tomes on "Excavations in Cranborne Chase," the results of seventeen years digging in Wilts and Dorset.* A good start had been made on a fifth volume at the time of General Rivers' death. It was to have included the results of the excavations made on the site of a Roman Building at Iwerne (? Ibernio), between Blandford and Shaftesbury. These excavations, which occupied three months in the autumn of 1897, were visited by the General almost daily, although this part of the property was eight miles from Rushmore. I had, in company with the General's then draughtsman, Mr. G. F. W. Johnson, the privilege of being in charge of these, the last explorations conducted by the General, and although these excavations were carried on well into December, it was remarkable that the work was only stopped for one half-day by wet weather. The relics from this site were amongst the latest archæological remains added to General Pitt-Rivers' private Museum at the village of Farnham, in North Dorset, three miles from Rushmore.

* The writer has recently ascertained that Mr. B. T. Batsford, of 94, High Holborn, has a considerable number of copies of General Pitt-Rivers' privately printed works for sale.

The original intention of this Museum was (1) to house the relics found by the General on his surrounding property, together with absolutely accurate and unique models of all the sites excavated, and in this way to carry out his views that, as far as practicable, local antiquities should remain in the neighbourhood in which they are found; and (2) to form a collection—particularly for the education of country folk, as a means of popular instruction—of agricultural implements and appliances, including models of country carts, ploughs, scythes, spades, querns, textile fabrics, dress, &c., from different localities. But in later years the Museum developed into a far larger and more comprehensive collection, occupying nine large galleries and rooms, and containing over 250 yards of wall cases alone. In addition to the series mentioned above, briefly the Museum contained the following:—Peasant costume and personal ornament of different nations; peasant carvings; household utensils used by peasants in different countries; a large series of pottery of all ages, descriptions and nationalities, commencing with the Stone Age down to the present time; a series of locks and keys showing development from earliest times, and how one form or contrivance suggested another, on which the General issued, in 1883, a well-illustrated monograph—a valuable work of reference; a fine series illustrating the history of stone and bronze implements; series illustrating the history of glass-making and enamelling; a series of accurate models to scale, made by the General's archæological staff, showing the development of the Christian Cross in Celtic times; drawings and paintings on the flat from different countries, including the drawings of savages; embroideries; lights and lighting apparatus; a remarkable collection of objects of art (in bronze, ivory, etc.) from Benin City, West Africa, on which General Pitt-Rivers compiled and copiously illustrated his last work published in 1900; carvings from different countries; and a fairly representative ethnographical collection of specimens from all parts of

the world. This latter branch of the Museum was largely developed during the last four years of the General's life. In the acquisition of all these things he displayed a rare and discriminating intelligence.

Within the compass of a paper of this description it is quite impossible to give many details of the valuable archæological information obtained from the various villages, tumuli, camps, and dykes General Pitt-Rivers exhaustively explored in Dorset and Wilts. Those wishing to seek for details should consult the works that every practical archæologist should have in his library, viz., "Excavations in Cranborne Chase," 4 vols. It is a standard work that would be used and quoted much oftener than it is, and deserves to be, if an exhaustive index were compiled. Science is making such rapid strides now-a-days that people have not time to search into works that have no index. General Pitt-Rivers many times expressed a desire to me, since the publication of vol. iv, that this should be done, but as no time could be specially allotted to this work, I commenced the work in my leisure hours at Rushmore, continuing it at Oxford, with the result that General Pitt-Rivers, at a personal interview in April, 1900, asked me to complete the compilation of the index, and send him an estimate for the total cost of publication. This I did, but unfortunately the General died three days after receiving my details and the matter is at present in abeyance. A good index would of course increase the value of the books as works of reference immensely. Young, ambitious archæologists should study these works from end to end before rushing into the field of archæological exploration, and learn what to observe, how to handle pick-and-spade, and how to record results and the circumstances of the "finds."

General Pitt-Rivers' investigations of the Romano-British Villages at Woodcuts, Rotherley and Woodyates, throw much light upon the condition and mode of life of the Romanized Britons in their rural habitations, that is, outside of the large

fortified cities—a matter that had hitherto been a somewhat obscure problem. These particular people were probably, as the General states, a tribe of the Durotriges, partially mixed with the Belgæ and perhaps with the Romans.

The General proved by means of five sections cut across the ditch and rampart of Bokerly Dyke, at Woodyates, and by four sections cut across the ditch and rampart of the Wansdyke, on Crown property, in North Wilts, that both these earthworks were of Roman or post-Roman origin, fixed upon unassailable evidence, and thus completely upsetting the Belgic and pre-Roman theories of Dr. Guest, Dr. Stukeley and others.

One of the most interesting excavations conducted by the General was the entire removal, on Handley Down, Dorset, of the silting of a huge ditch encompassing a long barrow—Wor Barrow—of the Stone Age, and of the barrow itself down to the original chalk. This work produced eight skeletons of the Stone Age with dolichocephalic heads—six being primary, and two secondary, interments—and seventeen later secondary interments. A few fragments of Stone Age pottery were found at the bottom of the ditch, and a fragment *below* the skull of one of the primary interments in the barrow on the *old surface line*, the actual discovery of which fell to my lot. Unnecessary to say, authenticated fragments of Stone Age pottery are very rare.

The excavation of two round barrows close to Wor Barrow also proved exceedingly interesting, inasmuch as they contained interments missed by Sir Richard Colt Hoare when digging into them. Unfortunately he, like the late Mr. T. Bateman in Derbyshire, dug only to procure relics of antiquity, and not for the historical evidence to be derived from them by systematic exploration and careful observation. Sir R. C. Hoare did not pay any attention to skeletons in barrows, beyond speaking of a few as "a skeleton of a stout person" or "a tall person," concerning which the General made some very humorous remarks in one of his addresses:—"In only one instance Sir

R. C. Hoare describes a skeleton, saying that it 'grinned horribly a ghastly smile,' a 'singularity that I have never before noticed.' No doubt the skeleton must have been laughing at him for his unscientific method of dealing with it, and when one thinks of the large amount of racial evidence that he destroyed in this way and the comparatively small number of skeletons that have remained in the barrows to be examined since, it is almost enough to give any lover of antiquity a ghastly smile!"

"Excavations in Cranborne Chase" records the thorough examination of as many as twenty-nine barrows, comprising those in Rushmore Park and the adjoining woods, and those at Handley, Dorset. Of square-shaped Camps, the General records the excavation of three in vol. iv, viz., the South Lodge Camp, Rushmore Park, of Bronze Age construction; the entrenchment on Handley Hill (Bronze Age or early Roman); and Martin Down Camp, near Woodyates (Bronze Age). This last-named Camp was excavated during the winter of 1895-96, and although eight miles from the General's residence, he drove there nearly every day; the supervision of the work was in the hands of my colleague, Mr. H. S. Toms, who made an excellent plan of the site. Mention must also be made of the very extensive excavations General Rivers made at Winkelbury Camp and the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Winkelbury, a little to the north of Rushmore, in Wiltshire.

The archæological excavator will do well to note—especially when he is contemplating digging on a doubtfully ancient site, having no external indications of its having been disturbed—that the existence of a previous excavation may be discovered by hammering the turf with an iron crow-bar or other instrument—the sound given forth being deeper on a spot in which the ground is comparatively loose below, than on ground which has never been disturbed. In this manner the Bronze Age "Angle Ditch" on Handley Down was discovered by General Rivers' staff, and also various pits.

In the classification and identification of ancient pottery, the General developed a wonderful discrimination. He preserved every fragment of pottery found in his various excavations, and it was often by the form and quality of these common shards that reliable evidence of the age of an earthwork was determined. General Pitt-Rivers has spoken of pottery as the "human fossil," so widely is it distributed. The almost entire absence of pottery in a Roman or early British site, for instance, would alone be sufficient to prove the impossibility of a habitation having existed on the spot. In speaking of pottery, the General says in one of his writings that "even the absence of fragments of pottery affords negative evidence of great weight in certain cases, as, for instance, in the case of the Pen Pits in Somersetshire, which for many years were regarded as marking the site of a great British metropolis, and which were considered to be one of the most remarkable vestiges of the Britons in this country." He says elsewhere, that "in my judgment, a fragment of pottery, if it throws light on the history of our own country and people, is of more interest to the scientific collector of evidence in England, than even a work of art and merit that is associated only with races that we are remotely connected with."

Every practical archæologist who knows General Pitt-Rivers' great works will readily understand how desirable it is that novices at excavating should as far as possible be prevented from excavating the comparatively few important ancient sites (and particularly barrows) in England that remain to be explored. Until would-be excavators realise the essentiality of accurately noting every relic and fragment of pottery and recording its *gisement*, both in a scriptory and pictorial manner, it would be far better that they left history buried underground, than interpret it only cursorily, if not incorrectly, or jump to hasty conclusions upon insufficient data. Ancient sites are constantly being destroyed by agriculture and the plough, but this must unavoidably continue, as unfor-

tunately every parish has not its local antiquary, to keep a watchful eye over such demolitions.

The construction of models of ancient sites, before, in progress of, and after excavation, was one of the most distinctive branches of the General's scientific work. The utmost care was taken by his archæological staff to make the contoured plans and surveys absolutely accurate; every skeleton discovered was drawn to scale and photographed *in situ*. The 317 plates of illustrations to "Excavations" were all prepared and drawn at Rushmore. The staff always included at least one highly-certificated draughtsman from the Royal College of Art, South Kensington.

It is not generally known that General Pitt-Rivers was a naturalist of some repute. He kept quite a "menagerie" in his 400 acres of Park. In relation to breeding and hybridisation of animals, he met with considerable success, but he was not altogether fortunate in his attempts to acclimatization, Rushmore Park being an extremely bleak place in winter at an altitude of 500 feet above the sea-level. Cranborne Chase, of which Rushmore forms part, has for centuries been noted for its deer, and deer-hunting was indulged in to a great extent. The Cervidæ were represented by General Rivers by fallow-deer, roe-deer, the sombre-looking Japanese deer, the reindeer, &c. The fallow-deer had been crossed with the Mesopotamian deer, the Japanese deer with the red-deer, and these again with the Formosa deer. The General, who brought over four reindeer from the Jardin d'Acclimatation at Paris, was unsuccessful in acclimatizing them, although one or two lived for two years. Llamas lived and bred in the Park. The small "sacred cattle of India" was represented, and the Indian Zebu cow. About twenty Aden sheep, a few piebald Assyrian and some black four-horned sheep roamed about the Park. The flock of small brown sheep from St. Kilda was particularly interesting, inasmuch as they resembled, at any rate from an osteological point of view, the remains of Roman

sheep found in the Romano-British villages close to; the St. Kilda ram stands only 1ft. 11½in. at shoulder, the ewe two inches less. The aviaries contained a large variety of Asiatic, South American and Australian birds; the Australian bower-bird used to build its bower; Australian parrots stood the climate fairly well, but the South American ones were found difficult to rear; the white peacocks did not breed true, but reproduced their like occasionally; the Impeyan pheasant was found difficult to rear; piebald peacocks and Javanese peacocks were reared; eagle-owls and a pair of vultures lived many years. Some of the paddocks contained emus, rheas, prairie dogs, kangaroos, and an Indian antelope. Perhaps the most interesting animals of all were the Yaks, or grunting oxen, from Thibet, and General Pitt-Rivers being so interested in hybridisation, made many experiments in cross-breeding the pure Yak with our domestic cattle. The bull Yaks were crossed with the Kerry, Jersey, Urus, Highland and Pembroke cows. The following bulls were broken to harness a few years ago:—The Yak-Pembroke, the Yak-Jersey, and two Yak-Highlands. Although somewhat treacherous animals, they were very serviceable on the farms for hauling hay, etc., and the General had harness specially made for them. They were very strong beasts and their walking-pace was faster than that of a horse. The General also kept three pure-bred Urus bulls, a Kerry bull, a Jersey bull, and a Long-horn bull.

One of the General's hobbies was to afford enjoyment to his people, in fact for everybody who visited his domains, and in order to achieve that end he spared neither expense nor trouble in forming, and almost daily improving upon, the Larmer Grounds (1½ miles from Rushmore). It is gratifying to know that his efforts were highly appreciated, and have never been abused. Although many thousands of visitors picknicked at this pleasaunce in the summer months, the grounds maintained all the air, loveliness, and privacy of the most secluded property. The gates were occasionally locked, as General Pitt-

Rivers was most particular about the private rights: ever since a lawsuit about Cranborne Chase, he always did his best to do all that the law required to preserve these rights. The General seemed clearly to understand the people for whom he provided, and entertained everybody, so to speak, out of his superabundance. These grounds are situated in two counties (Dorset and Wilts) and three parishes, and in them the General erected a temple, a rustic bandstand, an open-air theatre, four Indian buildings, a large dining-hall, statuary, many arbours and summer-houses, and skittle-alleys. Music was indulged in on Sunday afternoons, but the hours of Church services were avoided. Few of the local clergy disapproved, and a Canon in the course of an address delivered there one Sunday said, "This Sunday music ought to serve as a handmaid to the Church for improving the moral and religious tone of the district." *Quot homines, tot sententiæ.* The "Larmer Tree," an old wych-elm, was a notable landmark and trysting-place, and it is here, tradition says, King John used to assemble with his huntsmen for the Chase. Up to the time of the disfranchisement of the Chase in 1830, a Court Leet of the Manor was held under this tree on the first Monday in September; when the Court was sitting, the steward and dependents of the Lord of the Manor had the privilege of hunting a deer within the precincts of the Manor. The business of the Court consisted in the appointment of a hayward, and other matters with respect to the cattle in the Chase. After the Court a dinner was held at King John's House, Tollard Royal—five minutes' walk from the Larmer—a building of the 13th century with Tudor additions, on which General Pitt-Rivers published another copiously-illustrated quarto work in 1890. This historic building, after being carefully restored and furnished with antique furniture and a series of pictures illustrating the history of painting from early Egyptian times, was opened for visitors' inspection. Close to is Tollard Royal Church, in which may now be seen, deposited

in a beautifully-decorated niche in the south wall, the black marble sarcophagus containing the deceased General's cremated remains.

In conclusion it will be desirable to record the Societies and Institutions to which the distinguished General belonged. In 1886 he received from the University of Oxford the honorary degree of D.C.L.; in 1876, he was elected F.R.S.; in 1864, F.S.A. (for some years V.P.); Government Inspector of Ancient Monuments in Great Britain; Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; Fellow of the Geological Society; Fellow of the Zoological Society. Member of the following:—British Association (twice President of Section H); Anthropological Institute (twice President); Archæological Institute (President at Salisbury and Dorchester Meetings); Royal Institution of Great Britain; Royal United Service Institution; Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland; Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-on-Tyne; Cambridge Antiquarian Society; Somersetshire Archæological Society; Wiltshire Archæological Society (President, 1890-93); Dorset Field Club; Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society; Society of Antiquaries of France; Hon. Member, Royal Irish Academy; Foreign Associate of the Anthropological Societies of Paris and Italy; Hon. Member of the Anthropological Society of Washington, &c.

In 1853, General Pitt-Rivers married the Hon. Alice Margaret, eldest daughter of the 2nd Baron Stanley of Alderley, who survives him. Their eldest son, Alexander E. Lane Fox Pitt-Rivers, who has inherited the Rushmore estates, was born in 1855, and married in 1889, Alice Ruth Hermione, daughter of the Rt. Hon. Lord Henry F. Thynne, P.C. General Pitt-Rivers' other children are:—Sons: St. George Wm. Lane Fox-Pitt, b. 1856, m. 1899, Lady Edith Gertrude, b. 1874, dau. of the 8th Marquess of Queensberry; William Augustus Lane Fox-Pitt, b. 1858, Major 1st Batn.

Grenadier Guards, m. 1893, Lillie Ethel ("Blossie"), dau. of Arthur F. Payne, Esq., of Château de Beuvillers, near Lisieux, Calvados, France; Lionel Charles, b. 1860, m. 1898, Nesta Mary, youngest dau. of J. C. Blackett, Esq., of Thorpe Lea, Egham; Douglas Henry, b. 1864. DAUGHTERS: Ursula Katherine, b. 1859, m. 1880, William Charles Scott, Esq., of Thorpe, Chertsey; Alice Augusta Laurentia, b. 1862, m. 1884, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Lubbock, 4th Baronet (now Lord Avebury), of High Elms, Kent; Agnes Geraldine, b. 1863, m. 1882, Sir Walter John Grove, 2nd Baronet, eldest son of Sir Thomas Fraser Grove, 1st Bart., of Ferne, Wilts.