

FRANCIS DABNEY, whom I knew well, also resided for some time with Col. Dabney. He was at one period, a practicing attorney in the County of Pittsylvania, where he stood high in public estimation for moral worth, acuteness of understanding, and knowledge of his profession. By diligence and attention in the practice of the law he had succeeded in amassing a handsome competency when smitten with the idea of realizing a sudden fortune by speculation, he removed to Richmond about the year 1817 or 18, and in common with many others, was ruined by the pecuniary revulsion which occurred at this disastrous period. . . . He migrated in 1821 to New Orleans, Louisiana, intending to resume the practice of his profession in that growing country. At first his prospects on this new theatre were flattering, but after an absence of several years he returned to Virginia. . . . Withdrawing from the busy scenes of active life, he lived successively with his mother and sister Betsy. . . .

WILLIAM DABNEY, another son of Uncle Sam's, I was slightly acquainted with. Married but I think he had no children.

RICHARD DABNEY was my school-mate. He was a man of considerable genius and acquirements, but of a wayward temper and great eccentricity. His friends, induced by the indications of his superior capacity, bestowed more than ordinary care on his education, which they were enabled to do by the munificence of his uncle, Col. Dabney. Richard dabbled in rhyme, and instead of qualifying himself for some useful profession, wasted his powers in the production of third-rate poetry--a species of composition equally hateful to gods and men. He removed to the city of Richmond with a view of prosecuting his literary enterprises, and there made his first and last essay as an author by the publication of a small volume of poems---He died unmarried in the prime of life.¹

ROBERT DABNEY resided many years with Col. Charles Dabney, superintending his farm and transacting his business, for which services--he received a liberal compensation. Being infected with the mania of western emigration, he left his uncle's employment and traversed the valley of the Mississippi in quest of an advantageous settlement--he died on his return to Virginia. He was never married. . . .

GEORGE DABNEY had the reputation of being a man of sense and integrity. He was an officer in the army during the last war with Great Britain, and conducted himself so well in that capacity that, when our forces were reduced to the peace establishment, he was retained in the service. . . .

JOHN DABNEY, uncle Sam's youngest son, I never had any acquaintance with, but I have been assured by those who knew him that he was a man of worth and intelligence. He removed long since to Clarksville in Tennessee where, I understand, he married and left a family.

¹ In view of the tragedy of his life, this criticism of Richard Dabney is too harsh. When a teacher of classics in a Richmond school, Richard was present in the Richmond Theatre at the time of its burning, and he aided in rescuing many people. He had his face badly burned, with the result that he was permanently disfigured and suffered the pain as long as he lived. Retiring to his brother's estate at Cub Creek, in Louisa, he lived in a cottage in the yard, under the care of my grand-mother, his sister-in-law, for some years. It was during this period that he translated some classical poems and wrote some of his own. A sketch of Richard Dabney by _____ is found in the Encyclopaedia of American Biography.