

ELIZABETH DABNEY THORNTON remained single all her life and resided for the most part with her aged mother. On the death of that excellent lady, she contrived to amass sufficient means by her own exertions to purchase the family homestead. . . .¹ By her will she devised the place to her brother, Francis. . . .She was a woman of energetic, decided character, of kind feelings, of warm affections, of general sentiments, and elevated principles. She had too much dignity and strength of mind to adopt the silly notion of many weak women that marriage is indispensable to female happiness and respectability; and she gave conclusive proofs that she was capable of maintaing in her single state the independence of her sex.

MILDRED DABNEY I was well acquainted with. She was, when I knew her, an amiable, affectionate girl of irreproachable manners and agreeable conversation; and, I am told, she is still distinguished by the same engaging characteristics. She has been married to her cousin, Reuben Lewis, a brother of Meriwether Lewis, and has been so unfortunate as not only to lose her husband, but to be childless. She now resides on her estate in Albemarle, a widow beloved and respected by all her acquaintances.

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ROBERT DABNEY

Robert Dabney, another son of Col. William Dabney, was a man of considerable talents, a wit and humorist, whose conversation was in great request in the social parties of the time.

He was married to a Miss Winston, the sister of the wife of my great-uncle, Thomas Price. . . .She had some five or six children by Uncle Robert. . . .

SUSANNA DABNEY

Susanna Dabney, a daughter of Col. William Dabney, lived and died unmarried. After the death of her father she resided with her brother, Col. Charles Dabney, until her decease, which happened before my recollection. My mother, who was named after her, knew her well. This maiden lady was of a kind affectionate disposition, but extremely indolent; so much so that in the latter part of her life she became excessively fat and clumsy and scarcely ever left her room.² Like her brother, Col. Dabney, she was fond of the society of young people, an amiable trait; and my mother, then a girl, stayed with her a great deal. . . .

ELIZABETH DABNEY

Elizabeth Dabney, another daughter of Col. William Dabney, was my grandmother by the mother's side. She married my grandfather, William Morris, to whom she bore seven children.

¹ The original, a story and a half, first residence of Samuel Dabney, where she carried on a small school for girls. The old family cemetery is at the back of this house. In it were interred three generations of Dabney's from Samuel's family, my grandfather Charles and his wife Elizabeth Price and many of their children. A cement wall has been erected around the lot and a marble tablet contains the names as far as known. C.W.D.

² Tradition says she sat in a rocking chair in one place reading novels until she wore grooves in the floor which were still apparent when I visited my uncle William there in 1862. C.W.D.