

FROM CUB CREEK TO RALEIGH



Dabney Cosby - An American Builder

Dabney Cosby Family Study - Issue 1, Winter 2006

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Welcome to the “Premiere Issue” of the Dabney Cosby Family Study...

This research attempts to bring together verifiable information in the hope of correcting errors made in previous genealogies of Dabney Cosby’s family. It also tries to expand our knowledge of his life, work, and numerous descendants.

Dabney Cosby & Frances Davenport Tapp were the parents of fourteen children, two died as infants. The twelve surviving children went on to marry and have families. To date I have found information on eighty named grandchildren, many of whom had their own large families.

This issue deals with one of the great mysteries of the Cosby Family, the name of Dabney Cosby’s mother. I will let the reader draw his or her own conclusions about the verified information. I will say that I have reached my own based on the legal evidence found in Louisa County, Virginia.

Legal Matters – Please read.

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*Best wishes,
Bill*

A MISSING DESCENDANT OF WILLIAM & ANN CLOPTON

Mourning Jackson, the Wife of Zaccheus Cosby

Research compiled 1978-2006, Wm. B. Johnson¹

Zaccheus (or Zacheus²) Cosby was born 1753 in Hanover Co., VA.³ According to his own testimony, he moved to Louisa Co. when he was very young.⁴ Zaccheus served as a “Minute Man” in the Revolutionary War and enlisted in Capt. James Dabney’s Company, Virginia Regt. in 1776, serving 6 months. He reenlisted in Capt. Richard Phillip’s Company in February 1777 and served an additional month. Zaccheus returned to Louisa County, and married soon after his military service ended. He apparently took up farming and lived by Cub Creek. In 1811 he settled in Augusta County, where he died in 1834.

Zaccheus Cosby was married at least twice. His last marriage was to Nancy Richardson after 1800⁵. His first wife was said to be a Susan Dabney, yet there is no known proof of this assertion. The source of Susan’s name comes from research compiled by Frank Carvill Cosby around 1894, about 120 years after this marriage was said to have occurred.

Frank Carvill Cosby died in 1905 and his research fell into revision almost immediately. In 1910, 5 years after his death, the Cosby research was being edited and revised by his son, Frank Clark Cosby, also by John S. Carpenter, his nephew. Carpenter’s work appears in manuscript form⁶ in various collections. Later published genealogies of the Virginia Cosby Family⁷ acknowledged Frank Carvill Cosby’s original research and the later revisions as a source for their information on the Susan Dabney entry.

In 1938 William Pope Anderson also acknowledged these sources in his *The Early Descendants of Wm. Overton & Elizabeth Waters of Virginia, and Allied Families*. Anderson, however, has two separate entries for Zaccheus. In the first instance⁸ his marriages are listed as 1st Mourning Mills Jackson 2nd Nancy Richardson. In the second instance⁹ they are given as 1st Susan Dabney 2nd Nancy Richardson. His conclusion was that Zaccheus had married 1st either Susan Dabney or Mourning Mills Jackson.

For many years the Susan Dabney entry led to much (possibly unnecessary) research and speculation on her lineage. Some believe she was the daughter of James Dabney¹⁰, who Zaccheus served under during the Revolutionary War. However, James had no daughter Susan and the marriages of his other daughters can be accounted for. Another likely candidate would be Susanna Dabney, daughter of Col. William and Anne (Barrett) Dabney. Susanna was living in the Cub Creek area of Louisa County near Zaccheus Cosby at the time in question. Susanna’s date of birth is unknown but several of her other siblings were born between 1740 and the mid-1750’s, this would give her the correct approximate age for a marriage to Zaccheus Cosby.

Unfortunately this Susanna Dabney never married according to John Blair Dabney in his research of 1850, which appears in *The John Blair Dabney Manuscript 1795-1868*. His biographical sketch of Susanna Dabney relates the following:

¹ Researcher is a 4th great grandson of Zaccheus Cosby and began intensive research on primary source material for this branch of the Cosby Family in 1978.

² Most common spellings of his name have a single “c” however his signature “Zaccheus” is found on a letter in the “Cosby Papers”, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC

³ “Zacheus” Cosby’s Revolutionary War pension application

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Frank Carvill Cosby, and revisions by Frank Clark Cosby and John S. Carpenter give the date 1808 for the marriage. October 31, 1801 is the date given in *A SUPPLEMENT TO PAMUNKEY NEIGHBORS OF ORANGE COUNTY, VA. VOL. 1*, compiled by Lauretta Corkill, Ruth Sparacio, 1994

⁶ John S. Carpenter apparently sent a typescript version of his revisions to Cosby descendants for corrections. I have a photocopy of this uncorrected work in my collection.

⁷ These include: *Our Children's Ancestry*, by Sarah Cantey Whitaker Allen, 1935. *Henry Duke, Councilor – His Descendants and Connections*, by Walter Garland Duke, 1949.

⁸ Cites as source: research done by the Genealogical Bureau of Virginia. This is apparently the only research on Zaccheus that did not rely on Frank Carvill Cosby’s research.

⁹ Cites as sources: Frank Carvill Cosby, and revisions by Frank Clark Cosby and John S. Carpenter.

¹⁰ See notes on James Dabney family on final pages.

“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. 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...”

Estimating approximate dates for marriages and births is problematic in any genealogy, however the dates of birth for two children of Zaccheus Cosby are known. His son Dabney was born Aug. 11, 1779, and daughter Mary “Polly” on Feb. 28, 1782. From this we can estimate that Zaccheus married his first wife around 1778. Louisa County records indicate that Zaccheus had two other daughters, Nancy and Elizabeth.¹¹

For over 100 years it has been believed that Dabney and “Polly” were the children of Susan Dabney, the following provides evidence that this is incorrect and that their true mother was Mourning Jackson a descendant of William & Ann (Booth) Clopton of New Kent County.

A LAWYER’S OPINION

Mrs. Ann Mills made her last will and testament on the 11th June 1754, wherein she devised to Mourning Jackson a tract of land in Louisa, which she purchased of Thos Rice in words, viz:

“Item, I give and bequeath to my Grand Daughter Mourning Jackson all that tract, seat, parcel of land and plantation situate, lying and being in the parish of Fredericksville in the county of Louisa, being the land and premises I purchased of Thos Rice, which sd. Tract, seat, parcel of land and plantation I give unto her, my said Grand Daughter and the Heirs of her body lawfully begotten forever, and if she would die without issue”

She, in another clause, says that it is her will and desire that her Grand Daughter should not have possession till after the death of Mary Hogan¹², to whom she left the land during her life. Mourning Jackson intermarried with Z. Cosby & had issue, a son & three Daughters, and died about the year 1795. She died and her Husband lived on the land by the consent of M. Hogan, who is still alive. Mr Cosby, son of Z. Cosby, wishes to know what estate the Children of his mother has in the land and what estate or interest his Father has in the land. I am of the opinion that the children, both Son & Daughters of Mourning Cosby, formerly M. Jackson, have a fee simple in the land after the death of Mrs. Hogan, to be equally divided between them. I am of the opinion that Z. Cosby has no interest or estate in said land as he cannot claim as a Tenant by his curtesy [?] because the estate of the wife did not commence during the coverture. I have no hesitation in saying that if Mrs. Hogan relinquishes to the children her interest, that they may convey a good title to any person who wishes to purchase.

DAVID BULLOCK

Jany. 4th, 1804

Source:

Louisa County Historical Society Magazine V4 Dec. 1972 – “A Tour Through The Society’s Museum”

¹¹ Genealogies using Frank Carvill Cosby, and revisions by Frank Clark Cosby and John S. Carpenter as a source list Zaccheus Cosby with only two children: Dabney and his sister Polly (Mary). It is apparent from the Deed Book entries that there were two other daughters: Nancy and Elizabeth. 1785 Census records for Louisa County show “Zacheas” Cosby listing 6 people living in his home. This would be a correct accounting for Zaccheus, Mourning, Dabney, Polly, Nancy, and Elizabeth.

¹² The Mary Hogan mentioned in Mrs. Ann Mill’s will was her granddaughter Mary Mills, daughter of Charles and Ann (Thompson) Mills. Mary married William Hogan prior to 1754.

“LOCUST GROVE”

“Locust Grove” was established on land which was a part of a 400 acre 1731 patent of Thomas Rice. In April of 1749, Rice who was residing in Hanover County, sold to Ann Mills of same, 125 acres of land and plantation in Fredericksville Parish on the north side of Cub Creek in Louisa County.

In a Will of June, 1754, Ann Mills devised the land and plantation purchased of Thomas Rice to her granddaughter, Mourning Jackson Cosby, wife of Z. (acheus?) Cosby. The will further states that she (Mourning) was not to have possession until after the death of Mary Hogan... “to whom I lent the land during her life.” Mourning Cosby died about 1795 survived by her husband and children, Dabney¹³, Polly¹⁴, Nancy B. and Elizabeth B.

In 1804, David Bullock, a lawyer of distinction, was asked to give an opinion as to whether the grandchildren of Ann Mills had an interest in her land or if their father Z. Cosby had any claim to the estate. Mr. Bullock’s opinion was ... “that the children, both son and daughters of Mourning Cosby, formerly M. Jackson, had a fee simple in the land after the death of Mrs. Hogan, to be equally divided between them. I am of the opinion that Z. Cosby has no interest or estate in said land as he cannot claim as a Tenant by (?), because the estate of the wife did not commence during the coverture...” “I have no hesitation in saying that if Mrs. Hogan relinquishes to the children her interest, that they may convey a good title to any person who wishes to purchase.”

In December of 1805, a deed was recorded to Archibald Tulloch Goodwin for 125 acres of land from the children of Mourning Jackson Cosby by their Attorney in Fact, Duke Cosby.”

Source:

Louisa County Historical Society Magazine V12 #2 Winter, 1980-81 – “Locust Grove and Macphela” by Claudia Anderson Chisholm

THOMAS AND ANN MILLS JACKSON OF CUB CREEK AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

According to his will, Thomas and Ann Mills Jackson had at least nine children. Although Ann’s mother, Ann Clopton Mills, mentions in her will of 1754 a granddaughter, Mourning Jackson (who later married a Z. Cosby and had children), no other evidence could be found to show that this was the daughter of Thomas and Ann Mills Jackson. The exact identity of this Mourning Jackson remains a mystery, and the only children of Thomas Jackson, which can definitely be identified as his, are the nine children he names in his will.

Source:

Louisa County Historical Society Magazine V12 #2 Winter, 1980-81 – “Thomas and Ann Mills Jackson of Cub Creek and Their Descendants” by Ellen G. Lillie

THE MILLS FAMILY

...ANN CLOPTON MILLS (3), in her Will of 11 June 1754, devised a tract of Land in Louisa County which she purchased of THOMAS RICE to her Grand Daughter, MOURNING JACKSON, Dau. Of ANNA MILLS (17) ca. 1720-1805 and THOMAS JACKSON (18). She was not to have possession until after the death of MARY HOGAN to whom she left the Land during her life. MOURNING JACKSON, however, married, had four Children and died while MARY HOGAN was still alive...

Source:

A SUPPLEMENT TO PAMUNKEY NEIGHBORS OF ORANGE COUNTY, VA. VOL. 2, compiled by Laretta Corkill, Ruth Sparacio, 1994

¹³ Dabney Cosby married Frances Davenport Tapp on March 4, 1801 and had 14 children. Their first daughter Susan Mourning Cosby (1803-1862) was apparently named for both grandmothers: Susannah (Gambill) Tapp & Mourning (Jackson) Cosby.

¹⁴ “Polly” Cosby married John Shane and moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

THE JACKSON FAMILY¹⁵

ZACHEUS COSBY (25) m. 27 January 1782¹⁶, MOURNING JACKSON (24). d.c. 1795. He m. 2d. 31 October 1801. NANCY RICHARDSON. Children –

1. DABNEY COSBY
2. POLLY COSBY
3. NANCY B. COSBY
4. ELIZABETH B. COSBY

Source:

A SUPPLEMENT TO PAMUNKEY NEIGHBORS OF ORANGE COUNTY, VA. VOL. 1, compiled by Laretta Corkill, Ruth Sparacio, 1994

**THE CHILDREN OF NICHOLAS AND ANN (CLOPTON) MILLS
& THE CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND ANN (MILLS) JACKSON**

Nicholas Mills made his will April 6, 1741 in Hanover County and named his wife Ann and the following 7 children:

- 1) Charles Mills
- 2) Nicholas Mills
- 3) Jane Rice (wife of Thomas Rice)
- 4) David Mills
- 5) Robert Mills
- 6) Ann Jackson (wife of Thomas Jackson)
- 7) Elizabeth Anderson (wife of David Anderson)

The marriages of the 3 daughters of Nicholas & Ann (Clopton) Mills were to Rice, Anderson, and Jackson. There were no other Jackson grandchildren except the children of Thomas and Ann (Mills) Jackson. So there is no other apparent reason to assume that Mourning was not their child. However, not being mentioned in her father's will has raised concerns about her relationship.

¹⁵ This 17 page sketch of the Jackson family lists Mourning Jackson as the 10th child of Thomas & Ann (Mills) Jackson, based on the will of Ann (Clopton) Mills. This source speculates that the reason Mourning is not mentioned in Thomas Jackson's will is because of the prior inheritance from her grandmother.

¹⁶ The marriage date is a factual interpretation error in this book. It is unclear from which of the few source references the marriage date of Jan. 27, 1782 was obtained unless it came from the Malcolm H. Harris book *History of Louisa County, Virginia*, published in 1936. In the Harris work we find, yet another error listing the wife of Zaccheus as Mary Johnston who was, in fact, his mother. The Harris entry reads "Zaccheus Cosby and Mary Johnston" and lists their child as "Mary b. January 27, 1782." The Jan. 27, 1782 date is found in the transcribed *Douglas Register*, published 1928 – the 1st page of this edition carries the following warning: "Caution! The dates shown for the couples on pages 98 through 149, are not marriage dates, but are a "presumptive" marriage date. The dates shown on pages 98 through 149 are the birth dates of the oldest child of the couple, as found in the birth and baptism section..." the Zaccheus Cosby (spelled COSBIE) & Mourning Jackson entry is found on page 102, so clearly it is not the actual marriage date. Note: Mourning's son, Dabney, was born Aug. 11, 1779 and his sister Mary "Polly" was born Feb. 28, 1782. The date of Polly's birth falls one month after the date given in this source for the marriage. A stipulation in the will of Ann (Clopton) Mills was that the property would pass from Mourning Jackson to "the Heirs of her body lawfully begotten", which it apparently did.

WILL OF THOMAS JACKSON

LOUISA COUNTY WILL BOOK 3, p. 611

Will of THOMAS JACKSON. To my 2 grandsons Wm. & Thomas Jackson plantation whereon their mother Susanna Jackson lives, lying on upper end of Cub Creek. Unto my 3 grandchildren: Mary Steel, Wm. Jackson & Thos. Jackson, slave for the use of their mother Susanna Jackson. To my son Thomas Jackson half land where now I live, lying on lower side of Cub Creek, including plantation & reserving to my wife Ann Jackson for life; my son Charles Jackson the other half of land on lower side of Cub Creek. The line of div. between him & his son Thos. To be fixed. To my son John Jackson & my dau. Eliz. Britton & 3 grandchildren: Elly, Judah & Augustus Parsons; my dau. Ann White & granddau. Eliz. Jackson Dabney reserving for her to her mother Ann Christmas use of said negroes. My grandson John Nelson Christmas. To my children: Frances Anderson, Ann Christmas, Thomas Jackson, Charles Jackson, John Jackson, Ann White & children of my son Wm. Jackson, decd. children of my dau. Eliz. Britton & children of my dau. Mary Parsons, decd. (in all 9 shares) & dau. Frances Anderson's husband Nelson Anderson. Exors.: wife Ann Jackson & 3 sons Thos., Chas. & John Jackson. Dated 28 Nov. 1794. Signed: Thomas (X) Jackson, Wit: Thomas Marks, Joel Walton, John Walton. Recd. 12 Apl. 1796

NAMED CHILDREN FOUND IN WILL

Thomas Jackson's will Nov. 28, 1794 named his wife Ann and the following 9 children:

- 1) Frances Anderson (wife of Nelson Anderson)¹⁷
- 2) Ann Christmas (wife of John Christmas)
- 3) Thomas Jackson
- 4) Charles Jackson
- 5) John Jackson
- 6) Ann White (wife of John White, Jr.)
- 7) William Jackson (deceased)
- 8) Elizabeth Britton (wife of Lydall Britton)
- 9) Mary Parsons (deceased, wife of Samuel Parsons)

Mourning (Jackson) Cosby and her children were not mentioned in Thomas Jackson's will for some unknown reason. The cause could be some great conflict between father and daughter, or more likely that Mourning had already received a substantial inheritance. This does not account for the lack of some token mention in her father's will. David Bullock stated that Mourning Cosby died "around 1795" and Thomas Jackson's will was made towards the end of 1794, perhaps indicating that Mourning died slightly before Thomas. If so, Mourning's children were already due an inheritance from her estate.

¹⁷ Frances Jackson was the only Jackson grandchild mentioned on the will of Nicholas Mills in 1741. This may place Mourning Jackson's date of birth sometime between 1742-1753, when her grandmother, Ann (Clopton) Mills made her will. The Clopton Family Genealogical Society has given approximate birth dates for the children of Thomas Jackson. There is a noticeable gap between the birth of Charles, ca. 1745, and the next child Elizabeth, ca. 1755. Zaccheus Cosby was born in 1753 and Mourning's birth probably falls close to that year, perhaps being an infant or newly born when her grandmother made her will.

LOUISA COUNTY DEED BOOKS

Book: A, Page: 341, Grantor: Thomas Rice, Grantee: Ann Mills, Date: 25-Apr-1749

Thomas Rice of Hanover County to Ann Milles (Mills) of St. Martin's Par., Hanover Co. £25 curr. Money. 125 acres land and plantation in Fredericksville Par...north side of Cubb Creek... Robert Anderson's line near the road... Richard Bennett's corner... Bennett's and John Watkins corner on Cubb Creek. Sig. Thos. Rice wit. Israel Davis, John Watkins, Waddy Thompson. 28 May 1749 Ack. By Thos. Rice. Jane his wife, relinquished right of dower.

Book: K, Page: 191, Grantor: Duke Cosby, Grantee: Archibald T. Goodwin, Date: 05-Dec-1805

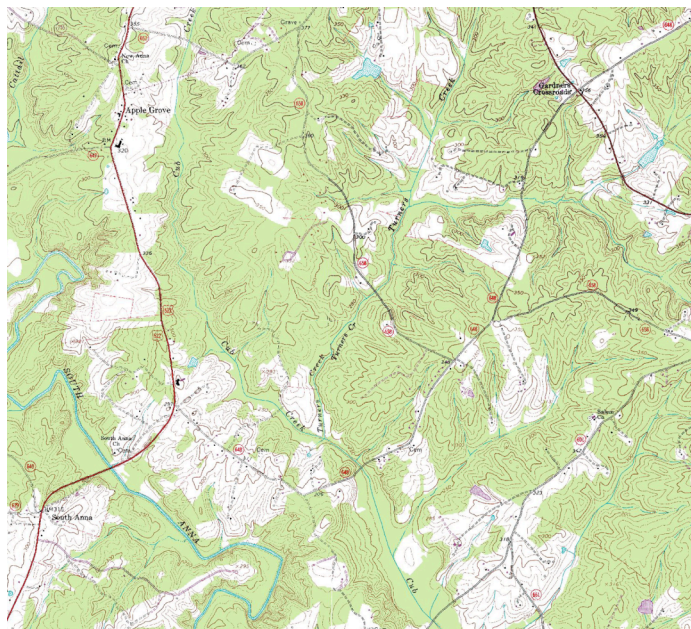
Duke Cosby atty. in fact for Dabney Cosby, who is atty. in fact for Polly Cosby of the Borough of Staunton and Nancy B. Cosby and Elizabeth B. Cosby of Louisa Co. to Archibald T. Goodwin of Louisa. for \$1,000 for tract in Louisa adj. Cub Creek, Robert Anderson, Bennetts, Watkins, cont. 125 acres which said land descended to sd. Dabney Cosby, Polly Cosby, Nancy B. Cosby and Elizabeth B. Cosby by the last will of Ann Mills, dec'd. as heirs of Mourning Jackson late Mourning Cosby, dec'd. . Sig. Duke Cosby atty in fact for Dabney Cosby who is atty for Polley Cosby, Ann B. Cosby, Elizabeth J. Cosby. wit. P. Sandidge, Wm. Dickinson, Lydl. Britton.

Book: K, Page: 211, Grantor: Polly Cosby, Grantee: , Date: 10-Jan-1806

Polly Cosby of Augusta Co., Va., appointed my brother Dabney Cosby of same county my lawful attorney to sell all my title to a tract of land in Louisa Co. 4 Jan 1806 Sig. Polly Cosby. wit. Vincent Tapp. Rec. 10 Jan 1806 Louisa Co.

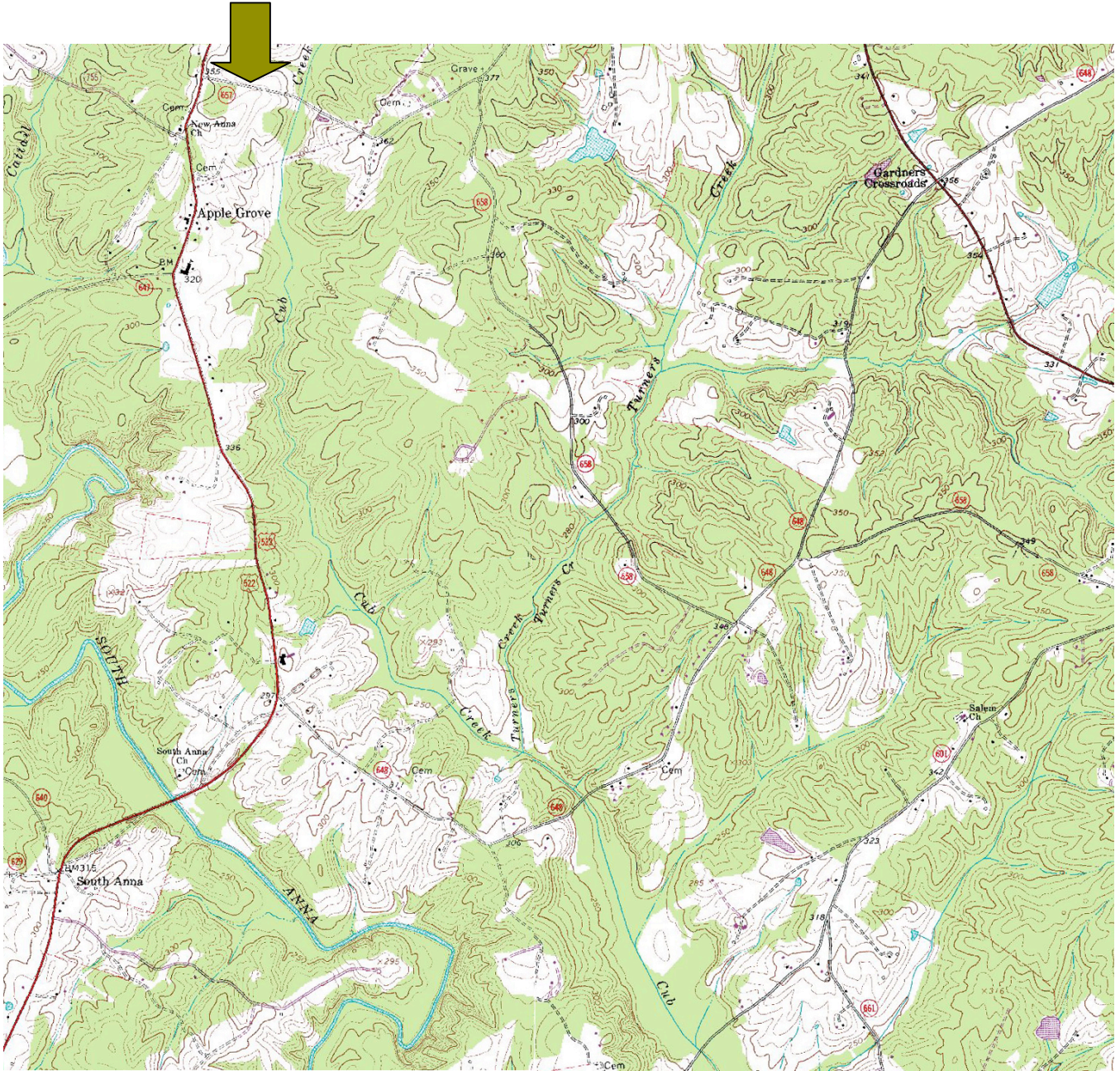
Book: K, Page: 211, Grantor: Dabney Cosby, Grantee: , Date: 13-Jan-1806

Dabney Cosby of Borough of Staunton, Va. appoint Duke Cosby of Louisa co. my lawful attorney in behalf of my sister Polly Cosby, whose attorney in fact I am and for myself to sell a parcel of land in Louisa which we claim by virtue of the last will of Ann Mills, dec'd. as heirs of Mourning Jackson late Mourning Cosby dec'd. as will appear by reference to the will recorded in the office of Hanover Co. 31 May 1805 Sig. Dabney Cosby. wit. Vincent Tapp., Tho. O Neil Rec. 13 Jan 1806.



The lands mentioned in Deed Books A & K are located upper left corner of this map. Following Rt. 522 from Apple Grove to New Anna Ch. it is located near the Rt. 657 symbol. (See next page for larger version)

“Locust Grove” willed to Mourning Jackson by her grandmother is located directly below.





“Catalpa Hall” – Thomas Jackson’s home near Cub Creek.
Mourning Jackson was probably born here about 1752.



“Locust Grove” – Ann (Clopton) Mills’ property willed to her
Granddaughter, Mourning Jackson. Sold in 1805 to Archibald T.
Goodwin by Mourning’s children: Dabney, Polly, Nancy, and
Elizabeth Cosby.

NOTES ON "CAPT." JAMES DABNEY

A popular theory is that Zaccheus Cosby married the daughter of Capt. James Dabney, who he had served under during the Revolutionary War. In 1888, William H. Dabney published a major study¹⁸ of the descendants of George Dabney, which includes information on James and his children. Much of this research was based on direct communication with various branches of the Dabney family. From this we can see the following relationship between several Dabney families in the Cub Creek area of Louisa County.

Cornelius d'Aubigne was the Emigrant ancestors to these families. The child of Cornelius was:

1) George Dabney. George had the following three children:

- 1) George Dabney II (wife unknown) parents of "Capt." James Dabney
- 2) William Dabney (md. Anne Barrett) parents of Susanna, previously mentioned.
- 3) Sarah Dabney

"Capt." James Dabney (George, George, Cornelius) was born January 6, 1735 and died November 13, 1803. He married Judith Anderson February 26, 1756. James and Judith Dabney had the following 9 children:

- 1) Ann Dabney – (1757-1758)
- 2) George Dabney – (1759-1759)
- 3) Elizabeth Dabney – b. 1760, md. 1794 David Johnson
- 4) Cicely Dabney – b. 1768, md. Thomas Shelton
- 5) William Dabney – (1771-1813)
- 6) Pouncey Dabney – (1774-1780)
- 7) Mary Dabney – b. 1777, md. 1794 Edward Hallam
- 8) Charity Dabney – b. 1779, md. Judge Todd
- 9) Ann Anderson Dabney – b. 1781, md. Mr. Hardin

The information on James Dabney's children can be verified in his will, which mentions no Cosby marriage or grandchildren. Also note that while his daughter Elizabeth might have been of age to bear a child (Dabney Cosby) in 1779, his other daughters births were 1768, 1774, 1777, 1779, and 1781.

Will of James Dabney

Louisa County

Book: 5, Page: 206, James Dabney, Type: Will, Date: 09-Dec-1805

Will of James Dabney I have already given to my daughter Eliza. Johnson 5 Negroes and 360 acres of land , I have already given to my daughter Cecilia Shelton 7 Negroes; I have already given to my daughter Ann Anderson Hardin 7 Negroes, I have already given my son William Dabney 4 Negroes. I now give my daughter Charity Dabney Negroes Jeffery, Fanny, Matt, Joanna, Nanny, Hannah and her child Patrick. To my beloved wife Negroes Jonathan, Patt, Massie, Will and Pattys other youngest child with Pattys future increase, Amy and her child named Pleasant and feather beds, furniture, cattle, etc. Also lend wife Ben and Tarlton and after her decease to be divided amongst my children equally taking into account legacies already given to my six children. The part lent to my daughters Eliz. Johnson and Ann Anderson Hardin shall be only lent to them and at their death equally divided among their children. My lands I lend to my beloved wife all that part that lies above the road commonly known as Parson Todd's road on both sides Cub creek at the upper end of the land above the mill...corner with myself and James Byars, Cleviars Duke, John Armstrong and John Richardsons line and after my wife's death to my daughter Charity and her heirs.

¹⁸ *Sketch of the Dabneys of Virginia, with Some of Their Family Records* by William H. Dabney, 1888

I also lend my water grist mill to my wife and furniture and after her death my silver to my son William and silver spoons to daughter Charity after wife's death. I give my water grist mill and still house & 10 acres of land adjoining to my son William. My land lying below Parsons road, Cub Creek, both sides Taylors Creek road, adjoining John Richardson, John Foster, Wm. Armstrong, Saml. Dabney, Lancelott Minor and Elisha Purrington to my daughter Mary Hollum and her heirs. The part allotted to my dau. Elizabeth Johnson to be divided among her children and part allotted to my daughter Ann Anderson Hardin to be divided among her children and the other parts to be divided between my son William Dabney and my daughter Cecelia Shelton. 28 Nov. 1799. James Dabney. wit. Elisha Purrington, J. Sharp, Dabney Gibson. Presented 14 Oct. 1805 and recorded 9 Dec. 1805.

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM DABNEY & ANNE BARRETT, HIS WIFE

William Dabney (George, Cornelius) & Anne Barrett had the following 6 children:

- 1) George Dabney
- 2) Charles Dabney
- 3) Samuel Dabney
- 4) Robert Dabney
- 5) Elizabeth Dabney – md. William Morris
- 6) Susanna Dabney – discussed earlier, did not marry

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

When I first began genealogical research in 1978 I had no background in it and made many errors in my approach. There are many finely researched family histories, which have been published but I doubt if any of them are flawless. I have learned that, while other's research might be accurate, it is always better to verify any information before including it in your own work.

Frank Carvill Cosby did an incredible job trying to compile his collected information on the Cosby Family into a structured and accurate study, however he did make a number of errors, which remain part of what we accept as our family's history. While I admit that I originally relied on his work and that of John S. Carpenter in my own research of the Dabney Cosby branch I have also gone to great lengths of verifying information from more reliable sources.

One common mistake in Cosby and Carpenter's work has helped in verifying what source material has been used in a number of published and online genealogies which include Zaccheus and his son Dabney. This mistake is found in entries on Dabney's daughter Susan, my great-great grandmother.

Susan Mourning Cosby married Dr. Richard H. Henry in Staunton, Va. on January 30, 1824. What both Cosby and Carpenter listed sounds like a bad phone connection... "Susan Cosby...married Dr. Richard Henry Stanton." This entry changed Susan's husbands name from HENRY to STANTON. While Susan & Dr. Henry had 8 children, Frank Carvill Cosby only mentions two daughters from this marriage: Mary Frances, who married Thomas Jones, and Susan M., who married "Mr. Wetherly" of Richmond. In subsequent genealogies the daughters are listed as "Mary Frances Stanton and Susan M. Stanton". Also the name "Wetherly" is incorrect and should read "Netherland." Again, the "Wetherly" entry appears to be a transcription of something obtained through a conversation and not based on records. Susan M. Henry married George Saunders Netherland, Jr. sometime between 1870 and 1880. Apparently this data was obtained around the time that Frank Carvill Cosby was compiling his Cosby research.

From this I conclude that Frank Carvill Cosby was not basing parts of his research on verifiable information and did not bother to validate it. Carpenter, while using Cosby's research as a starting point did try to solicit corrections from some of the families. A family member showed a typescript copy of this to me many years ago, it had apparently been sitting in the old family home since around 1910. This work also had clipped to it a sheet of corrections, which apparently was never returned to Mr. Carpenter.

After many years of researching the "Susan Dabney" name I am of the conclusion that this was an inaccurate entry and hopefully will be corrected for future generations.

Wm. B. Johnson 2006