

Merchants' Hope. He settled in Accomac County, Virginia, married and had several children, as appears by his will, on record in the Northampton County Court House. His son, Donnock Dennis, was born in 1645, moved to Somerset County, Maryland, and resided there until 1716, when he died. He married Eliza Lyttleton, daughter of Nathaniel Lyttleton. He was appointed Lord High Sheriff of the county in 1685 by Governor Copley, an office at that time of high rank and dignity, and was a lawyer by profession.

The descendants of Donnock Dennis held high positions in each generation and were recognized as men of learning and ability, holding offices in the courts and councils of the State and of the Nation.

Lyttleton Dennis, fourth in descent from Donnock, married Elizabeth Upshur. He was an able man and an eloquent speaker. For many years he held the office of Judge of the Court of Appeals and was a Whig Presidential elector for five elections—from 1801 to 1829.

His son, Lyttleton Upshur Dennis, married Sarah Waters. He died at his estate in Somerset, known as "Essex," aged 29 years. Two children, George Robertson Dennis and Elizabeth Upshur Dennis, who married Mr. Murray Rush of Philadelphia, survived him.

Colonel George Robertson Dennis married Fanny McPherson of Frederick County. He removed from the Eastern Shore to Frederick County after his marriage, where he engaged in farming, and in later years was elected president of the Central National Bank of Frederick. In protecting the property of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad during the Civil War he became a warm personal friend of the late John W. Garrett and was a director in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company from 1862 until his death in 1902.

On his mother's side, the ancestors of John McPherson Dennis were equally prominent in the early history of the country. Governor Thomas Johnson, the first Governor of Maryland, 1777-79, was his great-great-grandfather. Colonel Robert McPherson took an active part in establishing the independence of the Colonies and in the Revolution.

From the above record it is not difficult to see from whence John M. Dennis derived his love of statesmanship and interest in public affairs.

John M. Dennis was educated in the public schools of Frederick County and for two years attended Milton Academy at Philopolis, Baltimore County, Maryland. At sixteen years of age he left Maryland and was employed by the C.