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prior to June 27th, 1890, claimant has no right as soldier's widow to pension under said third section, one condition necessary to title thereunder being that the widow "shall have married said soldier prior to the passage of this act".

It is unnecessary to consider the evidence as to marriage without any ceremony prior to the date of the passage of said act. In the case of Denison vs. Denison (35 Md. 361.) the Maryland Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal of the state, decided March 17th, 1872, that marriage by agreement between the parties, even when followed by cohabitation and public acknowledgment of each other as husband and wife, that is, a marriage per verba de presenti, or per verba de futuro cum copula, without any marriage ceremony, such as is set up in this case, was not legal marriage under the laws of Maryland.

In that case, after very thorough and exhaustive examination of the law and the authorities in point, the court said: "We think we are safe in saying that there never has been a time in the history of the State, whether before its independence of Great Britain or since, when some ceremony

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