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the ceremony is alleged to have occurred and that they lived and cohabited in that community as husband and wife continuously until the soldier's death, February 13, 1907.

Neither party was married prior to the time of their alleged intermarriage and the only question for determination is whether the fact thereof, as alleged, may be accepted as established.

A religious ceremony is essential to the validity of marriage in Maryland but the same proof of cohabitation and repute that will establish a marriage good at common law will establish such religious ceremony in that State (Rebecca Wiley, 10 P. D., 304, and cases cited). In the case under consideration such marriage is alleged and, although there is no direct evidence in support thereof, the long continued marital cohabitation of the parties and their uniform repute as husband and wife are amply sufficient, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, upon which to predicate the presumption of its occurrence.

The variance in the soldier's and claimant's statements is of course an adverse circumstance, and so is the alleged absence of a record. But neither of these is deemed of sufficient importance to rebut the presumption