

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Cordell W9814      Judith Cordell      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Missouri  
County of St. Louis

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1837 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for Bonhomme township St. Louis Co. Mo. Judith Cordell a resident of said County & State aged Eighty four years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836.

That she is the widow of the late Rev'd. John Cordell who was first a Captain & then a Chaplain in the Virginia Line in the army of the Revolution, but whether of the Continental or State lines she does not know – that he entered the army at an early period of the war, but at what precise time she does not know – that by reason of the loss of her memory through age & recent illness she cannot remember many particulars respecting his services – but that she knows that he went to the north & was in the army & was captured at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], as he always stated, & was confined some months in Philadelphia, in prison, & that he came home to Fauquier Co Virginia (which was the place of his residence before & after & during the War) in the year 1779 & that she was married to said John Cordell on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1779 – that said Cordell shortly afterwards returned to the army & went [two or three illegible words] the army several times, & sometimes was gone several months before he returned, and that he continued to do so for two or three years after they were married – that this declarant cannot recollect the exact time he left the service – but she has no recollection of ever hearing that he resigned his station & does not believe he did resign. This declarant states that she was the widow of Binnet [or Burnet] Price when she married said John Cordell – that her maiden name was Judith Blackwell & she is the sister of the late Capt Thomas Blackwell [pension application S35193] who was an officer in the Virginia line – that she was married to Bennet Price in 1769 & he died in 1774. This declarant also says that her husband John Cordell died in the year 1800 in St. Louis County & that she has never since married, but has always remained & is still his widow as will more fully appear by the testimony herewith sent. She further states that she has now in her possession her husbands family record contained in a book called "*Illustration of the Book of Common prayer*" & which book he used in his religious exercises & which contains the date of her marriage, & the births of her children, in the hand writing of her said husband John Cordell, & by which it appears as follows towit. "John & Judith Cordell married 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1779." – also "Steptoe B. Cordell born 20<sup>th</sup> March 1780" – also "Arthur Cordell born 12<sup>th</sup> October 1781." – also "Harriet Cordell born 22<sup>d</sup> May 1783" – also "Hiram Cordell born 27<sup>th</sup> March 1785" and that there are other entries all in the hand writing of her said husband respecting the ages of their other children. This deponent further states that the marriage ceremony between herself & said John Cordell was performed by the Rev'd Mr. Craig of Fauquier County – that her husband & herself & family removed from Fauquier Co to Frederick Co Virginia & from Frederick Co Va to Louisville Kentucky & from Louisville to Vincennes Indiana & from thence to this County about the year 1798 in which Co. said Cordell died as afs'd in 1800 –

Judith hisXmark Cordell

[The following are in the [bounty-warrant files of the Library of Virginia](#):]

I Do Hereby certify that the Bearer hereof John Cordell acted as a chaplain to the 11<sup>th</sup> Virg'a. Reg't under my command from the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Jan'y. 1777 untill after the Battle of Brandewine when he was captured by the Enemy & Remain'd a prisoner of war till the Beginning of the year 1779, and that During his captivity a Different arrangement of the army taking place He became a supernumerary and was

Discharg'd from the army after his Exchange, as such. I also further certify that when it was known that the officers of the army were to be allow'd the Depreciation of their pay the said Cordell applied to me to be Inform'd In what manner he should make out His accompt, mentioning at the same time a Difficulty that lay In his way, that made the undertaking Rather Dubious with Him, which was that after his Exchange, He had Rec'd at Philadelphia agreeable to an order from the commissioners of the board or war, one years Extra pay. Herein he said he Had a Doubt whether that was to be consider'd as a Donation from Congress made to officers in general in like circumstances with himself, or otherwise – and asked my advice whether it would be proper to incert it in his accompt to the credit of the united states – to which I Replied, that the case was new to me. But thought it would not be improper to Enter it in the accompt & that if it should Be wrong presumed the Auditors would correct it But it appears that the accompt was settled by them [next 11 words missing from the Library of Virginia online file; filled in here from a copy in the federal pension file] as stated, and that he is thereby deprived of the donation (If to be consider'd as such) Intended him, at Least in part – Given under my Hand this 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1792

Dan'l Morgan [Daniel Morgan]/ Late Brigad'r Gen'l

I was very well acquainted with General Morgan, and have often seen what I understood to be his writing. the foregoing certificate bears a general resemblance to his writing but I cannot recollect it sufficiently to say with any positiveness that the writing is his. I was myself an officer in the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia regiment in 1777 and recollect that Mr. Cordell was its Chaplain. J Marshall

May 28<sup>th</sup> 34

*Dan Morgan -  
Late Brigad'r Gen'l*

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*J Marshall  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 34*

[The two signatures above match others attributed to Daniel Morgan and John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States.]

Richmond Virginia February 10th 1781.

Sundry Accounts Dr. to G.B.T.

Officers of the Army for moneys advanced	}	
	continued }	52920
Warr't to Ensign Geo A Washington [George A. Washington]		2400
Rev'd John Cordell		4000
Ensign Willis Wilson		2400
Lieut Wharton Quarles		<u>3240</u>
		£64960

Extract from Journal B page 21./ Jas E Heath aud'r:/ Aud Off: May 28 1836

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 4th day of April 1783, in the name of John Cordell as Chap. for £94.14.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Gen'l. Morgan and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782. To Wit – pay as Capt. from 1st Jan'y 77 to 1st Jan'y. 1779

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 26th day of May 1834.

Joseph Jackson at AUDITOR Office

NOTES:

The Virginia bounty-warrant file contains an extensive discussion of whether Cordell was a Chaplain or a Captain, and whether his heirs were entitled to land bounty under an act that provided such lands to those who served to the end of the war in 1783 or were supernumerary officers (not having sufficient troops for a command). Confusion arises from the fact that Chaplains were paid at the same rate as Captains. The conclusion was that they were not entitled, because John Cordell last served as a Chaplain, did not command troops, and therefore could not be considered supernumerary. On 28 May 1834 Hiram Cordell, son of John Cordell, requested a reconsideration of the case, and on 20 Oct 1837 he stated that he and the other heirs had been awarded the bounty land.

A Treasury-Department document states that Judith Cordell died on 21 Aug 1842. On 3 Sep 1844 Hiram Cordell assigned power of attorney to obtain his deceased mother's pension.

On 20 October 1837 Catherine Cordell, 86, stated that she was born in Northumberland County VA and was the widow of George Edwards Cordell, who was the brother of John Cordell, and that about two years previously she had moved to St. Louis County with her son, Presley Cordell, who was born on 5 March 1779 and was three months old at the wedding of John Cordell and Judith Price. She stated that John Cordell often wrote to her husband from prison in Philadelphia.

On 1 April 1834 James Tucker of Norfolk Borough stated that between 1795 and 1800 in Norfolk Borough he had known a man named Cordell who married a Miss Stammer[?], the daughter of a Mrs. Smith and the sister of Rebecca Campbell. Another document in the Virginia bounty-warrant files states that Rebecca Campbell was the only heir of Dolly Cordell, widow of John Cordell, who was a Chaplain in the Revolutionary War. There was no explanation for this discrepancy.