

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Mielte Baptis Cardinal VAS2881  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) misfiled with Capps, Obediah.]

Declaration of the Heirs of Mielte Baptis Cardinal to obtain his Bounty Land from the State of Virginia, for four years services in the Illinois Reg't. during the revolutionary war.

The undersigned, the heirs of Capt'n Mielte Baptis Cardinal dec'd most respectfully represent to His Exc'y The Governor of the state of Virginia, that although it has been rumoured in Vincennes, and they heard the rumour from their youth to the present day, that the soldiers and officers who faithfully served under Col'l George R. Clark [George Rogers Clark VAS269] in the Illinois Reg't during his conquest of the western posts, and protecting the western inhabitants from the tomahawk of the savage during the war of the revolution, or the heirs of such as are dead, were promised and should receive land from the state of Virginia, it is only of late that the french at said town of Vincennes (only a very few of whom can read English) received information of the course to pursue essential to obtain it – and now, but a very few survive of those who were in actual service. It is known to His Exc'y that the commandant was the lawmaker previous to the reduction of the Post by Col'l Clark, and that it was many years afterward before a regular court of Probate was established, or administration and record of heirship required. With this memorial however, positive proof of services, and heirship will be presented, and as time cannot obliterate the long and faithful services of Captain M. Baptis Cardinal, it is hoped it will not be allowed to operate against the just claim of his legal heirs under the circumstances glanced at. The evidence annexed is that of the oldest citizens who during a long life have sustained a character and standing which secures implicit credit at home. The venerable Gabriel Uno, commonly called Patoon, [Gabriel Uno dit Patoon VAS2249] universally admitted to have been one of Col'l Clarks soldiers in all his expeditions from his first approach to Vincennes to the [several undeciphered words] speaks of his own personal [one or more lines missing at bottom of page] enemy to submission at Vincennes, has a distinct and personal knowledge, and was acquainted with man and things, as he became able to be an actor for the American cause himself, and took a part under Clark, before the revolutionary conflict in this quarter was concluded. The personal knowledge of both these old veterans, is clearly corroborated by the statement of the oldest and most respectable native inhabitants now remaining amongst us that Col'l Clark on his first arrival in Vincennes, halted at the residence of M. B. Cardinal, and with the appellation of Captain, adopted him as a confidential officer, and making his house the "Head quarters" he summons to Lieut't. Governor [Henry] Hamilton demanding the immediate surrender of the british Garrison, in performing with daring courage this duty, Cardinal was fired at and wounded in the hand the flag staff was splintered, but he persevered, and delivered his message which finally brought about the surrender [Fort St. Vincent, 20 Jul 1778], that when Col'l Clark after taking the post and arranging his duties determined on returning to Kaskaskia leaving Lieut. [undeciphered] and a Mr. Helm [Leonard Helm R14982] as commandants Captain Cardinal after taking prisoners to the Falls of the Ohio [now Louisville KY] returned, and soon afterwards was left the active subordinate in possession of the garrison and commanding the french company; and he and his company remained in service until he was killed by Indians towards the end of the war always acting with invincible bravery and essential utility.

The undersigned Ekin Dubois, is the husband of Mary Cardinal Antoine Laverau is the husband of Lilise Cardinal, and Francis & August Turgow, are the sons of Janet Cardinal, and the said Mary, Lilise and Janet are the legitimate daughters of the said Captain M. B. Cardinal, and his only heirs.

Ekin hisXmark Dubois  
Antoine hisXmark Laverau  
Fran's hisXmark Turgow  
August hisXmark Turgow

In continuation of the foregoing statement we deem it proper to add, that although the papers and evidences under the hand of Col'l Clark in behalf of Capt'n Cardinal are all lost or misplaced, yet there exists in the papers of the Late Lieut't Charles Vilneuf, a commission to him signed by commandant Helm in May 1779, shortly after the conquest, acting under Col'l Clarks orders, to serve in the company commanded by Capt'n Cardinal which we deem to be conclusive.

Ekin hisXmark Dubois for himself and the other Heirs.

State of Indiana. Knox county. Ss.

On this 3<sup>d</sup> day of April [1845] personally appeared in open court being the circuit Court for the said county and state, Gabriel Uno dit Patoon, who being duly sworn doth on his oath declare that according to the record of his age, distinctly remembered by him, he is now over eighty eight years old, and has been a resident of Vincennes and Knox County aforesaid, during eighty two years past – that the record alluded to of his age is in a catholic church in Canada, and annually remembered from his youth – that he was personally and well acquainted with the late Captain Mielte dit Baptis-Cardinal of whom Ekin Dubois, Antoine Leverau, Francis & August Turgow are the heirs in right as set forth in their declaration, that he knows the said Captain Cardinal served as a confidential officer under Colonel George Rogers Clarke from the time the Colonel first approached Vincennes to the end of the Revolutionary war, that Colonel Clarke when he first arrived fixed his quarters at the house of the said Cardinal, and made the same his head quarters, until the fort was reduced, that the said Captain Mielte dit Baptis Cardinal, was the officer selected by Colonel Clarke to bear a flag of truce to Lieutenant Govenor Hamilton demanding of him to surrender the garrison, that on approaching the said garrison the deponent was near to Cardinal and seen the flag riddled with balls, the staff shattered and the hand of said Cardinal wounded, that some of the non-combattant by standers called to Cardinal to throw away the flag and save his Life, he answered audibly “no, I will die or carry my message to the governor”, then he carried the message to the fort, but his hand was wounded, his hat shot through, and the flag staff splintered by balls before he reached there, that the message alluded led to the surrender of the fort by Lieutenant Govenor Hamilton, after which the said Captain Cardinal continued in the service until he was killed, in the performance of his duty, by the Indians near to the Wabash north of Vincennes, four or five years afterwards, and that he served at the post at Vincennes and in the Illinois country as a captain of spies and of the french company in active service up to the period of his death

Gabriel hisXmark Uno

State of Indiana }

Knox County }

On this 3<sup>d</sup> day of Apl 1845, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record in and for the county and state aforesaid Pierre Greemore aged seventy five years and Amable Potoine both born in Vincennes the latter now aged seventy years, who both being first duly sworn according to law do on their several oaths state, that they have a perfect recollection of Captain Mielte dit Baptis Cardinal, and were personally acquainted with him, that they have heard the facts stated by Gabriel Uno, and that they correspond precisely with all previous information, and their own knowledge and recollection of the services of the said Cardinal

Pierre hisXmark Greemore

Amable hisXmark Potoine