

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Perry Benson S10087¹

f8MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/19/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: There are no pension papers in this file relating to this veteran. The file contains a letter dated February 29, 1940 in which the following appears regarding this veteran and another veteran named Joseph Benson S12987. Since Capt. Perry Benson was pensioned in 1803 for wounds sustained in the Revolution, the papers relating to his claim would have been destroyed when the War Department's offices were destroyed by fire in 1814.]

February 29, 1840

BA-J/AWF

Joseph Benson –S12989

Perry Benson –S10087

Mr. Paul R Benson

Attorney at Law

New Castle, Indiana

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter in which you state that you are trying to trace the ancestry of John Benson who, in 1807, left Snow Hill, Maryland for Pendleton County, Kentucky, but because there were no such Benson's of that community who served in the Revolutionary War, the task has been difficult.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon service of a John Benson of Maryland. The two soldiers, only, of Maryland, with that surname, have been found in the revolutionary war pension records of this office, those of Joseph and Perry. Their records follow as found in the claims for pension and bounty land based upon their service in that war.

Joseph Benson – S12989

The data which follow relative to Joseph Benson were obtained from claims for pension and bounty land on file under S12989, based upon his service in the War of the Revolution.

Joseph Benson was a native of Talbert County, Maryland, date of his birth not given. He was the son of Perry Benson was living in Talbert County, Maryland, during the Revolution. The name of Joseph Benson's mother was not given.

Joseph Benson enlisted in the year 1779 in a company of Talbert County, Maryland militia, called "Hearts of Oak," served at various times until in 1783, as a private in Captains Henry Banning's and Mordecai Skinner's company, Col. Jeremiah Banning's Regiment, in all

¹ BLWt236-300 Capt. Issued May 25, 1789 To Perry Benson No papers (Carded)

about two years; this service was to protect the inhabitants and property along the shores of Chesapeake Bay. His father, Perry Benson, was Ensign in this company, also, his uncle, Nicholas Benson, was adjutant.

Joseph Benson lived a short while in Dorchester County, and Caroline County, Maryland, and about 1798 moved to Baltimore, in Maryland.

He was allowed pension on his application executed January 30, 1846, at which time he was about eighty-two years of age, and a resident of Baltimore Maryland.

He was allowed, also, one hundred sixty acres of bounty land, on his application executed October 30, 1855, still living in Baltimore, Maryland.

Joseph Benson stated that he had "six of his own relations of the name of Benson who were actively engaged in that great contest for Liberty," namely –

Capt. James Benson,
General Perry Benson
Adjutant Nicholas Benson (his uncle)
Ensign Perry Benson (his father)
James and Perry Benson (his brothers)

In a letter dated April 28, 1853, Mrs. Samuel Lucas of 99 Hanover Street, Baltimore, Maryland, refers to the soldier, Joseph Benson, as her father.

S. E. Benson, son of the soldier, gave his address in 1858, Washington City.

The papers on file in this claim contain no further discernible family data.

In order to obtain the date of last payment of pension, name and address of person paid, and possibly the date of death of this pensioner, you should apply to the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office Records Division, this city, and furnished the following data:

Joseph Benson, certificate #33123
Issued April 26, 1853, rate \$40 per annum
Commenced March 4, 1831, Act of June 7, 1832
Maryland agency.

If you desire information in regard to location of bounty land referred to herein, it is suggested that you address the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Interior Department, this city, and cite the following data:

Warrant #46942—160 acres—Act of 1855

Perry Benson²—S10087

² **[Brig. General Perry Benson \(1757- 1827\): Defender of St. Michaels, Md.](#)**

"In Memory of General Perry Benson, Son of James and Hanna Benson, born August 6, 1857. Captain of the Maryland Line, commended for gallantry and twice wounded in battle in the Revolutionary War. Major General of the Maryland Militia in the War of 1812. Died October 2, 1827. His remains were removed from Wheatland 1901." Benson gravesite.

During the American Revolution Captain Benson served under Major General William Smallwood's First Maryland Brigade at Harlem Heights, N.Y., (1776); the Carolina campaigns (Battle of Cowpens 1781); Guilford Courthouse (1781) and Hobkirk's Hill, South Carolina (1781). After the war he accompanied George Washington as a lieutenant colonel to quell the 1784 Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania.

On June 22, 1798 he was commissioned a brigadier general and commanded the 12th Brigade, of Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester Counties. During the War of 1812 he commanded the militia at the Battles of St. Michaels on August 10, 26, 1813. General Benson died on October 2, 1827 at the age of 72 years and is buried in the family graveyard at Newcomb, Talbot County.

Sources: *Easton Gazette*, October 2, 1827; *History of Talbot County, Maryland, 1661-186*, by Oswald Tilghman, (Baltimore: Regional Pub., Co., 1967), 303-324; "Perry Benson," by "Revolutionary War Hero's Grave Found," *Easton Star Democrat*, July 23, 1964.

<https://maryland1812.wordpress.com/2011/04/10/brig-general-perry-benson-1757-1827-defender-of-st-michaels-md/>

The date and place of birth of Perry Benson are not given, nor are the names of his parents shown.

The Revolutionary War records of this office show that Perry Benson served as Capt. in the Maryland line, and was disabled while in the service. There are no further details as to his service, nor is the nature of his disability shown.

Perry Benson was pensioned from January 1, 1803, at the rate of \$20 per month, on account of disability noted above; he was paid at the Maryland Agency.

He was residing in October, 1819, in all but County, Maryland, and gave his address Easton.

On account of his service in the Maryland Line as Capt., he was allowed, 300 acres of bounty land on warrant #236, which was issued May 25, 1789 to Perry Benson.

Perry Benson died October 2, 1827.

If you wish information relative to location of the land referred to above, you should apply to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Interior Department, this city, and cite the following data –

Warrant #236—300 acres—issued May 25, 1789.

Very truly yours
A. D. Hiller
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

The following discharge appears in the file of Arthur Mason S36058 and included in this transcription as an example of the signature of Perry Benson.

The Bearer hearof Arthur Mason a Soldier 5th
Maryland Regmt. having Served Three Years as a
faithful and Good Soldier being the Term of his
Enlistment he is hereby Discharged from Said
Regmt. Given under my Hand at the
Head of Elk this 25th April 1780
Perry Benson Capt
Comdt

The Bearer hearof Arthur Mason a Soldier 5th Maryland Regmt. having Served Three Years as a faithful and Good Soldier being the Term of his Enlistment he is hereby Discharged from Said Regmt. Given under my Hand at the Head of Elk this 25th April 1780

Perry Benson Capt. Comdt.