

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Benson W18584                      Elizabeth Benson                      PA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of North Carolina }              Superior Court of Law  
Guilford County }                      Fall Term AD 1819

This 29<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year or our Lord 1819 came John Benson aged about eight [sic] yeas before me Joseph John Daniel one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law in and for the state aforesaid for the purpose of making the Declaration necessary to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress entitled an act making provisions for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States during the Revolutionary war; who being by me first duly sworn declareth and saith that he enlisted in the Continental service of the Pennsylvania line in Philedelphia in the year 1775 under a Capt. of infantry John Alexander belonging to the Regiment of Colonel William Ervin [sic: William Irvine] attached to the command of Gen'l. Anthony Wayne that in 1777 he was at the battles of Germanton [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] and Brandy Wine [Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] in 1778 at the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] in the State of Newjersey that he was with Gen'l. Wayne at the taking of Stony Point [16 Jul 1779] and at the Capture of Lord Cornwallis in 1781 [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] That he was marched from thence to South Carolina and stationed on Johns Island where he remained until the year 1783 when he was regularly discharged that his discharge has since been destroyed by fire. The said John Benson further states that he is now entirely blind and without any property from which he might derive a support – but has had to claim the aid of the public and is now maintained by the County of Guilford in which he resides and that he needs and requires the assistance of his Government

John hisXmark Benson

State of North Carolina }              Superior Court of Law  
Guilford County }                      October Term A.D. 1820

On this twenty fifth day of October A.D. Eighteen Hundred and twenty personally appeared in open Court being a court of Record for the County & State aforesaid John Benson aged Eighty years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision by the Acts of Congress of the Eighteenth of March Eighteen Hundred and Eighteen and of the first of March Eighteen Hundred and twenty. That he the said John Benson enlisted for the term of during the War on the — day of November or December In the year seventeen and seventy seven in the State of Pennsylvania in the Company commanded by Capt John Alexander in the seventh Regiment of Infantry In the line of the State of Pennsylvania on the Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the Corps untill the [blank] day of May In the year seventeen Hundred and Eighty two when he was discharged from the said service in Charlestown in the State of South Carolina. That he was in the Battles of Iron Hill [Cooch's Bridge DE, 3 Sep 1777], Brandywine, a skirmish at White Horse [3 mi W of present Malvern PA, 16 Sep 1777], at Peola Works [sic: Paoli, 21 Sep 1777], Chesnut Hill [sic: Chestnut Hill, 6 Dec 1777], Germantown, Monmoth in New Jersey, Stony Point, James's River [possibly Battle of Green Springs Plantation on Jamestown Island VA, 6 Jul 1781], and at York Town Virginia, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except what is herein set forth.

And the said John Benson being duly sworn doth on his Oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows In the Regiment of Seventh Regiment of Infantry, in the commanded by Capt. John Alexander, in the Pennsylvania line.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in

trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule

Ono old chest  
one small Pot  
one small Grid Iron  
one Skillett  
One Fire Shovel  
One knife & fork  
One Spoon  
One chair

Valued by the Court at \$1.45 Cents.

My trade is that of a Blacksmith. I am entirely blind and have been so for a number of years, am altogether unable to work or in any other way to conduce the least to my own support. I have been on the Parish of said County for four years together with my wife who constitutes my whole family, and is sixty seven years old and entirely unable to work a perfect cripple.

Sworn to and declared, on the twenty fifth of October In the Year of Our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred and twenty  
John hisXmark Benson

NOTE: On 23 Nov 1843 Jesse Benson, 57, son of John Benson, applied in behalf of himself and other heirs for the pension due his mother, Elizabeth Benson, who died on 9 Aug 1838. He stated that his parents were married in 1784, that John Benson died on 26 Nov 1828, and his mother died leaving besides himself the following children, Sarah, wife of James Griffith, Alesey Benson, and Robert Benson. Jesse Benson submitted the family record transcribed below. On 17 Oct 1845 Cuthbert Hiatt, 66, stated that "when he was a small boy the sd Elizabeth Benson lived at his fathers" and "John Benson coming to his fathers to see the sd Elizabeth Benson & as he understood it was to court her & he remembers the sd John Benson coming & taking the sd Elizabeth Benson from his fathers to get married." On 27 Dec 1847 Miriam Beard, 42, stated that John and Elizabeth Benson "lived for several years on one of her fathers plantations."

Jesse Benson was born 23<sup>rd</sup> of 12 mo 1785  
Hannah Benson his wife was born 7<sup>th</sup> day of 5 mo 1787  
Eliza C Benson their daughter was born the 13<sup>th</sup> 12 mo 1811  
Tarlton Benson their Son was born 22<sup>nd</sup> of 5 mo 1814  
John M Benson their son was born the 8<sup>th</sup> of 2 mo 1817  
Sarah Benson their Daughter was born the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1819  
[On reverse side in different handwriting]  
Eliza Benson her book  
Eliza Benson was born December the 13<sup>th</sup> 1811  
price fifty cents  
The English reader