

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Benson W5218 Sarah Benson VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 July 2017.

State of Georgia
Wilkes County SS

On this 11th day of March 1853 personally appeared before a Judge of the Inferior Court for said County Sarah Benson a resident of Wilkes County in the State of Georgia aged 82 years who being duly sworn doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 as amended by the joint resolution of August 16, 1842 and the Acts of March 3, 1843 June 17, 1844 and Feb 2, 1848.

That she is the widow of William Benson who was a soldier in the Companies commanded by Captain Edmonds [sic: Elias Edmunds] and Yancy Lipscomb in Colonel Marshalls [Thomas Marshall's] Regiment of Virginia Artillery in the war of the Revolution. That her said husband enlisted in Culpeper or Prince William County Virginia on or about the 6th day of September A.D. 1777 and served for and during the term of three years, and was honorably discharged at Richmond Virginia on the 5th day of September A.D. 1780 and that he again entered the service under officers whose names are unknown and was present at the Siege of Yorktown –

She further states that she was married to the said William Benson on the nineteenth day of September one thousand seven hundred and eighty six (1786) in Prince William County Virginia by one Rev. Mr. Craig a Clergyman, that her name before her said marriage was Sarah Seale that her husband the aforesaid William Benson died in Wilkes County Georgia on the fourteenth (14th) day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty four (1834) and that she is now and has remained a widow since the death of her said husband.

She further states that since the death of her said husband she has resided in said County Georgia and was not aware that she was entitled to a pension by reason of the services of her husband until a few days previous to making this declaration and therefore made no application for the same.

Sarah herXmark Benson

[The file includes the following documents that were apparently included as proof of William Benson's service. The first is written on the back of a letter with the heading "The Remembrance of old times 1784 and 85 and 86." The letter has been lined through and does not relate to military service.] William Benson Was Born in the year 1759 17 day September I lived with my farther and mother for six years happy and then my Father took sick and died in the year 1765 I lived with my mother one or two years then my mother took me and carried me up the Country to my Fathers Sister Molley Miller I would not stay their She took me to my uncle porters then the Boys got me out in the woods to make whips when we come back my mother was gone I hollowd and cried a plenty in the fall she come to see me and broat uncle John Seal with her and I never have seen her since She took sick soon after and died about three years after my farther died about the year 1768 I lived with my uncle porter until I was 18 years old then I Enlisted for three years that was on the twenty fourth of August 1777 we went to little york their we staid util the next fall I was taken sick in march and was sent to the horspittle at Willamsburgh me and william Waddel mason wats [sic: Mason Watts, pension application S17760] peter Kitt the last of may Waddel went down to york again with me I continued sick and we all got the ague and fevour and we got furlows and went home until we got well then we went back again we had the in the time that was 1778 in 79 we staid at york town in the Spring we was ordered up to Williamsburgh to march to Charlestown [Charleston SC] that was 1780 Charlestown was taken before we got their [12 May 1780] we went about until our time was out that 24 August

The 29 day of September We began the seage at york and the 17 day of October they com to A capatellation and the 19 day they Marchd out and laid down their armes

N the year 1781 Lord Cornwalles became A presoner

This is to Certify that William Benson a Soldier in Colo. Marshalls Regment of artillery have due him
from the State of Virginia one Coate one Vest one pr. Breeches Two Shirts Two pr. Stockings Two pr.
Shoes & one hatt
Richmond Sept. 5th. 1780
Yancey Lipscomb Capt. Lt. U.S.A

This is a list of our Army Colonel Edmonds Artillary at yorktown [Elias Edmonds]

William Benson his hand

John hammond his hand [John Hammond S31094]

Elias Edmonds Cirnel

I live in hopes this world

Poor Dear Colonel Edmonds the last time I seed him was at Fauquier court house, and we drank som grog
together for the last time that I ever seed him in this world or ever shall again he is gone to the other world
[Other side of paper. The word "Dead" in different handwriting.]

Elias Edmonds Capt of Company USAti[page torn, probably "US Artillery." "Dead" written above line.]

Samuel Blackwell Leutennant Dead

Vallentine Leach

george leach sener

george leach Juner [George Leach W27584]

James Jones [W7917]

John Porter Dead

Hendley More Dead

peter moore

William kibble

James May Dead

Joseph Weedon

george bullet Dead

Enoch Smith Dead

William Benson

John Mcall Dead

James Mclannaham

James Boothe [James Booth R1018, S30880]

John Ridley Dead

James ares

Bennet Wats [Bennett Watts R11221]

Mason Wats [Mason Watts S17760]

Joseph Markwill

Peter Witt

Nathen Holtzclaw Dead

Benjamin utterback [S16559]

William higgins

John higgins [W365]

William waddle

Jacob gipson [or Jacob Gibson, R3998]

Joshua drummond [W7045]

Joshua kennard

James kennard

John thornton dead

Reubin thornton

Thos Jett dead

John hammonds [John Hammond S31094]

Daniel Cornwel

Benjamin piper dead

William Haney

Enoch foley

Andrew Smith

thomas hudnal [Thomas Hudnall S41664]

thomas White [S40685]

Zachariah tayler [Zachariah Taylor S31408]

William Rice [W5695]

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

This is to Certify that William Benson a Soldier in Col. Marshalls Reg't of Artillery having faithfully
served three years the Time he was Enlisted for is discharged B Order of Lt Col. Edmonds. Given under
my hand this 1st Day of Aug't 1780
A Copy J Shackelford CB
John Mazaret Major [John Mazarett R16059]
V.S.A.

NOTE: The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Prince William County on 7 Sep 1786 by William Benson and John Rollins for the marriage of Benson to Sarah Seale.