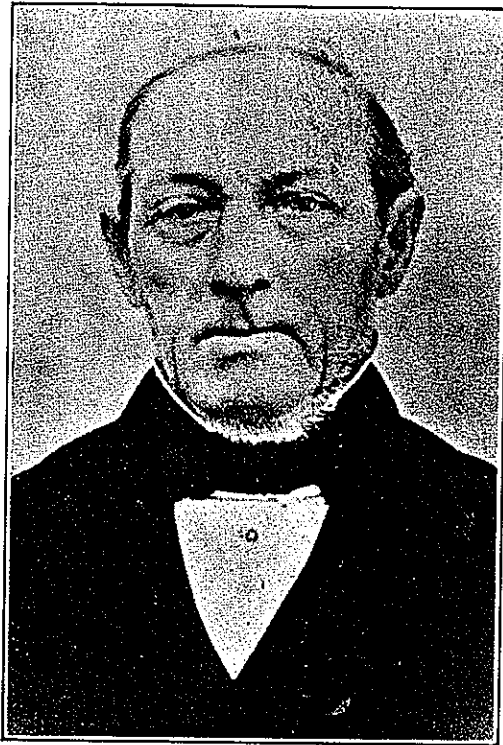


## SAMUEL M. BENSON

Ezekiel Benson, son of Stephen Benson, was born in Massachusetts in 1768. He married Ann Manson in 1800, who was born in Maine. They were both U. E. Loyalists, and settled at York (now Toronto), where he was a merchant.

Their family comprised the following:



Samuel Manson, born March 23, 1801. Stephen, born 1803 — 1836 (unmarried). William, born 1806 — 1809. John, born 1808—1882. Charles Otis, born 1811—1854 (unmarried). William, born 1814—1814. Mary Ann, born 1817—1843. Ezekiel Robert, born 1820—1858, Barrister, Belleville.

Samuel Manson Benson, the eldest son of Ezekiel, was born at York, where he lived with his father for some years. He remembered clearly the stirring events during the capture of Toronto, by the Americans in 1813, when the women and

children were sent to a place of safety up Yonge Street.

He removed to Belleville with his father in 1822.

On November 4th, 1819, Sir Peregrine Maitland did "authorize and license him to practice the art of Land Surveying in the Province during his pleasure." It is probable that he studied surveying with some Land Surveyor then practising in York. His professional career, however, began at Belleville, where he resided continuously until his death.

He laid out the Village of Napanee in 1831.

In 1856, he married Elizabeth Wilson, but they had no children.

Mr. S. M. Benson died from cancer at Belleville in the early morning of December 28th, 1876, and his funeral was from the family residence, Hotel Street, at 2 p.m. the following day.

His brother, John Benson, removed to Napanee in 1833, and in January, 1834, married Ann Robinson Denike of Fredericksburg. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters. Mrs. John Benson died in 1853. His second wife was a Mrs. Sampson, who died in 1880. There were no children by the second marriage.

John Benson was a merchant, and took an active part in public affairs. He was elected the Reeve of the Village of Napanee when it was incorporated in 1855. He was later Clerk of Division Court, 1833-1837, and Town Clerk in 1860 to 1862. In 1862 he was appointed Collector of Customs, a position he held until his death on May 27th, 1882.

John W. Benson, Secretary-Treasurer, Great Lakes Transportation Co. of Midland, a son of John Bird Benson, and grandson of John Benson, has furnished the family history for this sketch.

There is a tradition in the Benson family that Samuel M. Benson or his father, received a grant of some 6,000 acres of land between Toronto and Barrie, in part payment for surveying, which land was sold at 12½ cents per acre.

Mr. Benson was employed by the C. L. Department to perform the following surveys:

Survey Concession Lines 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 & 14, Township Huntingdon, 5th March, 1831.

Survey in Township Thurlow, 16th January, 1832.

Survey to locate Kingston Indians in Township Bedford, 10th March, 1832.

Survey in Township Rawdon, 11th January, 1837.

Survey in Township Hungerford, 7th April, 1837.

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