

Declaration of John S. Hargraves administrator
of the estate of Nancy Benson deceased who
was the widow of Henry Benson deceased
this declaration is made by said administrator
on behalf of the ~~children~~ ^{children} of the said
Henry Benson and Nancy Benson
deceased to wit; Cynthia Benson Horner
Benson, Jane Martin, Mimma Bames, Parthena
McMurry and Lina Newson & Pharaoh Benson
The State of Mississippi } In the Probate Court of
Lawrence County } said county August term
A.D. 1856. Personally appeared in open Court
of this court the County and State aforesaid
John S. Hargraves administrator of the estate
of Nancy Benson deceased who is now
known by the Court to be such an one
who being first duly sworn according to law
as to his oath, make the following declaration
in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made
by the act of Congress passed on the 7th day of
June A.D. 1832, ~~and of subsequent acts~~
amending the same - granting pensions
to widows of persons who served
during the Revolutionary war: That the
said Nancy Benson deceased was the
widow of Henry Benson deceased who was
a ^{private} ~~private~~ ^{private} soldier for the Regiment
Commanded by General George Washington
for a term of about seven years during the
American Revolution. Said administrator declares
he has been informed that the said Henry Benson
had a written certificate of discharge showing

The services as above stated from under the hand
of Genl. Washington which is now decayed and
worn out by old age but the said remained
in the house of the said Henry Benson long
after his death. The said Nancy Benson
deceased was married to the said Henry
Benson deceased in the State of Virginia
in the year 1792 or thereabouts that her name before
said marriage was Nancy and that her said
husband, the aforesaid Henry Benson, died
at his residence in Lawrence County in the
State of Mississippi on the day of 185
and that the said Nancy Benson remained
unmarried from then until her death on
the day of July 1857

The said deponent only swears to the
above facts to the best of
his knowledge from
information derived from
Records & other sources all of John L. Hargraves
which he believes to be correct
and true

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court
on this 25 day of August August 1856 and
it is hereby certified that said Deponent
is administrator of the estate of Nancy Benson
deceased & that the above named are the
heirs of the estate of Nancy Benson
Henry Benson deceased.

Joseph Myland Justice of the Peace
L. M. Stewart Clerk of the Court

The State of Mississippi } In the Circuit Court of
Lawrence County } said County at the May
term A. D. 1857. Personally came into open
Court on this day being 19th day of May 1857.
Frederick Ward aged 63 years a resident of
the County of Lawrence in the State of
Mississippi, who being known to the said
Court as a man of Veracity and a credible witness
and being duly sworn according to Law
Say on oath as follows to wit: That he was
well acquainted with Henry or Hary Benson
and Nancy Benson both of said County
now deceased, that he lived about one mile
from the late residence of said decedent for many
years previous to the said Henry or Hary Benson
and still lived at the same place and died at the
death of the said Nancy Benson in 1854. he was
present when the said Henry Benson died and saw him
die and assisted burying him. he did not see Nancy Benson
die but the grave was dug by affiant's self. his recollection
was that the following named days and dates were
the dates of the death of said decedent and by refreshing
his memory by the records of the Probate Court of
Lawrence County Mississippi he is now certain
that he is correct, that Henry Benson died on
the 1st day of November A. D. 1828 and that Nancy
Benson his widow died on the 28th day June 1854.
affiant knows nothing of the marriage of the
parties only from reputation they lived together
as man and wife and were so reputed and recognized
it was never disputed or objected as affiant heard
of they raised a large and respectable family their
children were named by the said Hary of
Hanna, Alfred, Anna, Lina, Mirra, Pharaoh, Peter
and Job. Horsa, Alfred and Job one each

Cynthia is now the wife of Sam Benson. Parthena is now
wife of W. H. Mc Murtry. Lina is the wife of John Benson.
Zana is the wife of John Martin. Minna is the wife
of Benjamin B. Benson. affiant has been an intimate
friend of the Benson family since 1818 and is
and was well acquainted with all their affairs. he has
often heard the old man Henry Benson speak of being
in the Revolutionary War and tell of Battles and
various difficulties. he was always considered by
affiant and his acquaintances as a Revolutionary soldier. he
said he served during the war. mostly as a tender or wagon
for General Washington's regiment. affiant has
no interest in proving these facts as he is no way related to
the family or concerned whether they obtain
bounty land or pension or annuity of Benson as the
administrator or heirs of the said Henry or Nancy Benson
and Nancy Benson - the reason affiant says Henry
or Nancy he was frequently called Nancy Benson and named
to that name. but he always signed his name Henry
Benson. affiant has frequently seen the writing that was
called the discharge of Henry Benson from his service from
under the hand of General Washington, but never made
he think it is now a copy of some other paper
though he did not know where it is.

~~Ed~~
Fredrick Ward

The above affidavit and deposition sworn to in open court
and entered on record and by the signature of the judge
and the clerk of said court and the date of the day

and year above written and that this
completes a copy of record having a seal
John E. [Signature] Seal
2^d June 1845
J. [Signature] Clerk Seal