# ALLEN BENSON FAMILY HISTORY Including inputs from Jon Wolz and James Ethan Poole Written by William Bauman C & O Canal Association Volunteer MAY 2021

# **PREFACE**

This family history was started with: "Lock 24 Stone Etchings" by Jon Wolz, printed in the Monocacy Monocle, March 31, 2023, p. 17, and became the basis of this report. Subsequently, both he and James Ethan Poole provided additional articles.

Text within (parenthesis) was found in the original document. Text within [brackets] is something I added for clarity or because it was missing from the original, e.g., census report.

I have added some additional family information to help other researchers. My interest stops with their departure from the canal.

New information on the family would be welcome. Fell free to contact Jon Wolz (<u>Wolzjon@hotmail.com</u>), James Ethan Poole (<u>captain14jp@comcast.net</u>) or myself (wdbauman1086@gmail.com).

William Bauman wdbauman1086@gmail.com MAY 2023

The 1850 census listed Allen M. Benson, age 23, a farmer, living in Rockville, Montgomery County, Md. Living with him was: Thomas N. B. Benson, age 25, also a farmer. Allen's father, Thomas B. Benson (b. 1808), was a younger brother to Thomas' father, Jonathan B. Benson (b. 1794). Both Allen and Thomas were unmarried.

Notice from the table of vital statistics at the end of this report, that Isabella A. Benson died before 1840. Thomas B. Benson then married Susan Veirs on March 10, 1841; they had one daughter together before he died in 1845 leaving the custody of the several children unknown. Susan Veirs Benson then married Richard Piles/Pyles on Feb. 25, 1847. The result was a blended family. In the 1850 census it was reported that Richard Piles, age 30, was living in Medley District, Montgomery County, Md.<sup>2</sup> Living with him were: Susan, age 26, wife; Hilleary, age 6, daughter; Alberta V., age 2, son; Mary M. Benson, age 17, step-daughter; John Benson, age 13, step-son; Joseph H. Benson, age 12, step-son; and Susan S. Benson, age 5, step-daughter.

Allen M. Benson married Mary E. Brashears on Feb. 8, 1853 in Montgomery County, Md.

Sometime before March 1859, Allen M. and Mary E. Benson moved to or near Weverton, Washington County, Md. wherein he took a job as lock tender at Lock No. 32. Mary E. Benson came into possession of lots No. 31, 32, and 33 of Section 1, plus lot No. 70 of Section 2, of "Bells Addition to Weverton." Then they used those four lots as collateral for three \$100 notes made by Mary E. Benson.<sup>3</sup> On January 1, 1860, Mary Benson, in consideration of \$400, paid the notes off and gained title to the four lots.<sup>4</sup>

The 1860 census reported Allen M. Benson, age 33, as a lock tender at Sandy Hook [Lock No. 32], Washington County, Md. with real estate valued at \$500 and a personal estate valued at \$50.<sup>5</sup> Living with him were: Mary, age 25, wife; James, age 5, son; and Alice, age 1, daughter.

The 1860 census listed Thomas N. B. Benson, age 34, a lock keeper [Lock No 26], Medleys District, Montgomery County, Md. with a personal estate valued at \$50. Living with him were: Deborah Kendle, age 40 and John Turner, age 14, relation not cited for either.

The Civil War started on April 12, 1861.

Thomas N. B. Benson did register for the Civil War Draft, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Montgomery County, Md. in 1863 when he was 43 years old.

The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865.

We have not found the date Allen M. and Mary E. Benson left tending Lock No. 32 at Sandy Hook, Washington County, and moved to tending Lock No. 24 in Medley District, Montgomery County. However, we see that on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 1868, in consideration of \$200, Mary E. Benson did sell to Sarah

<sup>1850</sup> Census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Rockville, enumerated 7/31/1850, p. 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1850 Census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Medley District, enumerated 10/21/1850, p. 42.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 14, p. 6, recorded 3/24/1859.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 14, p. 541, recorded 3/8/1860.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 1860 Census, Maryland, Washington County, Sandy Hook, enumerated 6/27/1860, p. 50.

Thomas Benson, wife of Lewin Talbert Benson, the four lots of ground in Weverton, Md. Originally the sale was recorded in Montgomery County where Mary E. Benson lived; the property was in Washington County being sold to a Washington County citizen. Rather than get into a legal discussion, Allen M. and Mary E. Benson executed a Washington County deed for the four lots.

The 1870 census listed Allen Benson, age 40 [*sic.* 43], as a lock keeper [Lock No. 24] in District 4 (Brighton P. O.), Montgomery County, Md. Living with him were: Mary, age 40 [*sic.* 36], wife; Alice, age 12, daughter; William, age 10, son; Ann, age 7, daughter; Arthur, age 4, son; Mollie, age 2, daughter; [Florence] Mary, age 2/12, daughter; and Colonel Brashears, age 65, father-in-law.

The 1870 census shows Thomas N. B. Benson, age 48, a Canal Lock Tender [Lock No. 26], as living in District 3, Montgomery County, Md. Living with him were Mary A., age 58, wife; Henrietta, age 10, daughter; and George F. Koon, age 41, relation not cited.

From the C. & O. Canal Company payroll records we find that in March 1873 Allen Benson was tending Lock No. 24 at \$50/month and Thomas N. B. Benson was tending Lock No 26 at \$50 per month. During that month, Mrs. Mary Benson worked 3 days at \$1.50 each as a Cook for C. F. Elgin's labor crew. We suspect she was Thomas N. B. Benson's wife because Allen M. Benson's wife, also named Mary, was 5 months pregnant with twins at the time. Mrs. Mary Benson was paid \$5.30 for a Bill and Allen M. Benson was paid \$15.00 on his Bill that month, although the details have not been found.

For April 1873, Allen and Thomas were paid \$50, each, for tending their respective locks and Thomas N. B. Benson collected \$11.34 on a Bill he submitted. May and June 1873 records show the cousins were paid \$50, each, for tending their respective locks and Mrs. T. B. N. Benson was a Cook for Robert Boteler's labor crew. For July 1873, Allen Benson was paid \$50 for tending Lock No, 24 and Mrs. T. B. N. Benson was paid \$50 for tending Lock No. 26.

Thomas N. B. Benson died in 1873, probably in July; an obituary has not been found.

For Aug. 1873, Allen Benson was paid \$50 for tending Lock No. 24 and Thomas Reed was paid \$50 for tending Lock No 26. Allen Benson collected \$4.45 for a Bill he had submitted. Thomas N. B. Benson's name does not appear in the C. & O. Canal Company payroll records after June 1873.

Allen M. Benson continued to tend Lock No. 24 from Aug. 1873 through July 1874, being paid \$50/month. He also collected \$3.75 in Oct. 1873 and \$24.76 in Feb. 1874 on Bills he submitted to the Company.

During the winter of 1874/75, Lock No. 26 was extended on the lower end by stone-filled wooden cribs. And on Jan 8, 1875, Mr. Gregg, Clerk, was found dead in the store of James O. Trundle, at Lock No. 26. Mr. Gregg was 60 years old; there was no evidence of foul play.<sup>8</sup>

Mary E. Benson died on April 22, 1878; an obituary has not been found.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book LBN 2, p. 389, recorded 2/24/1868.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 1870 Census, Maryland, Montgomery County, District 4, enumerated 8/5/1870, p. 71.

<sup>8</sup> *Montgomery County sentinel*, Rockville, Md., newspaper, Friday, 1/8/1875, p. 3.

Allen M. Benson married [Brittania] Anne "Annie" Walters on Aug. 28, 1879, at the Mouth of Monocacy, by Rev. Calvin L. Amy. 9

The 1880 census reported Allen Benson, age 53, works on Canal [Lock No. 24], living in Darnestown (6<sup>th</sup> District), Montgomery County, Md. <sup>10</sup> Living with him were: Annie, age 48, wife; Annie, age 16, daughter; William, age 18, son; Mollie, age 12, daughter; Florence, age 10, daughter; Arthur, age 13, son; and Jackson, age 5, son.

The C. & O. Canal Company payroll records list Allen Benson as the Lock No 24 keeper from Apr. 1884 through Feb. 1885. He was paid \$40/month for Apr. through June 1884, then \$30/month through Dec. 1884 and finally \$15/month for Jan. and Feb. 1885. The cuts in salary were emblematic of the economic conditions and their specific impact on the Canal. The cuts to half-pay during the winter months, when no boats were upon the canal, were typical. Harriet Benson, Thomas and Mary Benson's only daughter, hired on a Cook for 22 days for W. H. Riley's labor crew, during May 1884.

The payroll records for Jan. 1889 through April 1889 are consistent in that Allen Benson was paid \$15/month during Jan., Feb. and Mar. 1889 for tending Lock No. 24; then \$20/month for April 1889. In May 1889, a titanic flood swept the Potomac Valley, leaving the canal in ruin. However, it was rebuilt and boating resumed for the 1892 season. When the canal reopened, William Benson became the lock keeper at Lock No. 24 and continued in that position through that year, 1892. After being a lock keeper, William was a quarry sawyer, a boat captain, a farm laborer and a laborer on State roads. He and Nettie would have eight children and their children attended the Seneca Mills School. The circa 1900 photo of the Seneca Mills School children, below, shows Arthur Benson on the far right and Bruce Benson seated third from the left in the front.



Montgomery County sentinel, Rockville, Md., newspaper, Friday, 9/12/1879, p. 3.

<sup>1880</sup> Census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Darnestown, enumerated 6/1/1880, p. 36.

Allen Benson died on Sep. 12, 1897, in Washington, D. C., an obituary has not been found. He is buried in Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville, Montgomery County, Md. next to his first wife, Mary.

A newspaper had the following obituary: **THE WORK OF DEATH** – Mrs. Benson – The remains of Mrs. Allen Benson, who died at the residence of her sister, Mrs. John Bucher, were taken to Barnesville and interment was made in Beallsville cemetery. Deceased [Brittania Anne Walter Benson] was a model woman in all those qualities that ennobled and utilized womanhood. Death has been long hovering around her and she knew that very soon she would be within the Master's grasp, yet she calmly waited the hour without a tremor of fear for the future. Around the grave with bowed heads stood the friends of the community and the loved ones that were loath to give her up on earth, and, perhaps, a murmur arose from some wounded heart that one so kind, so good and cheerful should be called from earth." Brittania "Annie" Benson was buried with the Walter family at the Monocacy Cemetery.

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The News, Frederick, Md., newspaper, 3/25/1899.

# VITAL STATISTICS OF THE ALLEN BENSON FAMILY

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Birth State
Thomas Benson	hus	1753		-5/27/1828	Maryland
Henriette <b>Beall</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> )	wife	1774		1823	Maryland
Thomas Benson	son	1775		1835	N. Carolina
Cephas Webb Benson	son	1788		3/4/1832	Maryland
William Benson	son	1789			Maryland
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Thomas Benson	hus	1753	2/11/1700	-5/27/1828	Maryland
Margaret <b>Tate</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	wife		2/11/1790		Maryland
Sara Anne Benson	dau	1794		1883	Maryland
Jonathan Beall Benson	son	1794		1873	Maryland
Ruth Ann Benson	dau	1797		-12/7/1841	Maryland
Catherine Benson	dau	1800			Maryland
Benjamin Beall Benson	son	1804			Maryland
Jefferson Beall Benson	son	8/17/1806		1895	Maryland
Thomas Beall Benson	son	1808		-11/18/1845	Maryland
Ann Benson	dau	1810			Maryland
Ann Elizabeth Benson (Mossburg)	dau	1828		1881	Maryland
	E	End of 1st Gene	eration		
Jonathan Beall Benson	hus	1794		1873	Maryland
Mary Ann <b>Talbott</b>	wife	1796		1847	Maryland
Henrietta Benson (Talbert)	dau	1817		1893	Maryland
Lewin Talbert Benson	son	11/20/1819		1874	Maryland
Thomas Ninian Beall Benson	son	5/1822	1/31/1863	1873	Maryland
Ann Elizabeth Benson (Mossburg)	dau	1827		1911	Maryland
Sarah Ann Benson (Miles)	dau	1832		1905	Maryland
Jonathan Beall Benson	son	1849			Maryland
Thomas Beall Benson	hus	1790	12/26/1828	-11/18/1845	Maryland
Isabella A. <b>Broome</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> )	wife		12/20/1828	-1840	Maryland
Allen M. Benson	son	1827		9/12/1897	Maryland
Thomas B. Benson	son	5/1830		5/24/1905	Maryland
Mary M. Benson	dau	2/23/1833		6/1/1872	Maryland
James A. Benson	son	1834			Maryland
John Broome Benson	son	11/1835			Maryland
Joseph Henry Benson	son	3/19/1837			Maryland
William Howe Benson	son	1/29/1838	1885	1948	Maryland
Thomas Beall Benson	hus	1808	3/10/1841	-11/18/1845	Maryland
Susan Veirs (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	wife	4/1823	3/10/1071	6/9/1898	Maryland
Susan S. Benson	dau	1845		-3/7/1855	Maryland
Dishard Dilas/Dulas (2nd)	1a	1/1020		2/1975	Mountand
Richard Piles/Pyles (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	hus	1/1820	2/25/1847	3/1875 6/9/1898	Maryland
Susan Veirs Benson	wife	4/1823		0/9/1898	Maryland
	E	and of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gen	eration		

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Birth State
Lewin Talbert <b>Benson</b>	hus	1819		1874	Maryland
Sarah Thomas <b>King</b>	wife	1830	11/13/1844	107.	Maryland
George Washington Benson	son	10/30/1847	11/20/1871	5/23/1922	Maryland
Mary A. Benson (Herbert)	dau	5/27/1850	11,20,10,1	3/2/1921	Maryland
Samuel Thomas Benson	son	6/27/1866		9/3/1933	Maryland
Benjamin F. Benson	son	9/1867		1/19/1953	Maryland
Benjamat 1 . Benson	Jon	3/100/		1,13,1303	11101710110
Thomas N. B. Benson	hus	5/1822	1/31/1863	1873	Maryland
Mary A. Owens	wife	1812			Maryland
Henrietta Benson	dau	1860			Maryland
Allen M. Benson	hus	1827	2/8/1853	9/12/1897	Maryland
Mary E. Brashears (1st)	wife	1834		4/22/1878	Maryland
James Benson	son	1855		-1870	Maryland
Alice Benson (Wallace)	dau	12/1858		1/7/1926	Maryland
William Hampton Wade Benson	son	9/10/1862	3/24/1885	3/20/1948	Maryland
Annie B. Benson (Hammond)	dau	2/10/1864	6/22/1890	10/1/1896	Maryland
Arthur Benson	son	1866		-1896	Maryland
Molly Benson	dau	1868			Maryland
Florence Mary Benson	dau	2/1870		-1880	Washington, D. C.
Mary Benson	dau	1870			Maryland
Thomas B. P. Benson (twin)	son	7/1873	infant	7/21/1873	Maryland
Elizabeth Benson (twin)	dau	7/1873	infant	8/23/1873	Maryland
Jackson Benson	son	1875			Maryland
Allen M. Benson	hus	1827	8/28/1879	9/12/1897	Maryland
Brittania Anne <b>Walter</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	wife	1833		3/25/1899	Maryland
		end of 3rd Gen	eration		
William Hampton Wade Benson	hus	9/10/1862	3/24/1885	3/20/1948	Maryland
Henrietta "Nettie" Grimes	wife	1869		12/20/1940	Maryland
Arthur Cleveland Benson	son	8/7/1887		1956	Maryland
William Bruce Benson	son	4/7/1890		1968	Maryland
Hattie Louise Benson	dau	3/28/1892		1984	Maryland
James Wade Benson	son	5/18/1896		3/27/1941	Maryland
Cindy (Macindy) Benson	dau	3/1897		1956	Maryland
Willie Mae Benson (Webster)	dau	1905			Maryland
Belvia Lorraine Benson Walter Reginald Benson	Dau Son	4/20/1908 6/21/1910		2002 1993	Maryland Maryland

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 14, p. 6, 3/24/1859.

At the request of James A. Carlisle, the following Mortgage was recorded March 24th 1859.

This Mortgage, made this 19th day of March eight hundred and fifty-nine by Mary E. Benson and Allen M. Benson, her husband. Witnesseth that whereas the said Mary Benson gave her several noted dated the first day of April eight hundred and fifty-nine to James A. Carlisle amounting to the sum of three hundred dollars, as follows: one note for one hundred dollars, payable in twelve months from its date; one note for one hundred dollars payable in two years from its date; and one note for one hundred dollars payable in three years from its date, all of which notes to bear interest from the first day of April eighteen hundred and fifty-nine. And as a security for the payment of said notes; the said Mary E. Benson and her husband, Allen M. Benson, do grant unto the said James A. Carlisle, all that lot or parcel of grand with the appurtenances thereunto belonging situated in Washington County in the State of Maryland, which is described as follows: all those four lots or parcels of ground lying and being in the town of Bells Addition to Weverton in Washington County and State of Maryland known and designated in the plan of part of Bells Addition to Weverton which said plan was surveyed and drawn by Jacob A. Miller as lots thirty-one (31), thirty-two (32), thirty-three (33) in Section One fronting on the Valley Road; also No. seventy (70) Section two (2) containing one acre and ten perches more or less of land, the beginning of which is on the North East corner of lot No. thirty-one in Section one, thence South eighty-seven and one half (87½) perches, east fifteen perches to the line of C. W. Wever, then South West with C. W. Wever's line to the corner of lot No 37, thence West to the place of beginning, bounded on the West by lots in Section one (1). Provided the said Mary E. Benson shall on or before the first day of April eighteen hundred and sixty-two pay the full sum of three hundred dollars to the said James A. Carlisle with all interest thereto accruing, and in such payments as the several noted hereinbefore recited shall become due in succession then this Mortgage shall be void. And the said Mary E. Benson and Allen M. Benson, her husband, further covenants that in default of payment, the said James A. Carlisle may enter provided that until default of payment, the said Mary E. Benson shall possess the premises. And provided that if default shall be made in the payment of the money aforesaid or the interest thereon at the time and in the manner aforesaid, then it shall be lawful for the said James A. Carlisle to sell the said mortgaged premises at Weverton by public auction for cash, after giving at least three weeks public notice of the time, place, manner and terms of sale in one or more newspapers published in the aforesaid County of Washington once or twice a week for three successive weeks prior to the day of sale, to pay the debt and the surplus if any over to the said [Mary E. Benson1.

Witness our hand and seal Test. O. B. Castle

Mary E. Benson {Seal} Allen M. Benson {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in the said State and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Mary E. Benson and Allen M. Benson, her husband, and acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be their act. And at the same time before me also appeared James A. Carlisle and made oath in due form of law that the consideration in the said Mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

O. B. Castle, J.P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 14, p. 541, 3/8/1860.

At the request of Mary E. Benson, the following Deed was recorded March 8th 1860.

This Indenture, made this 25th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and sixty (1860) between James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, of Washington County and State of Maryland of the one part, and Mary E. Benson of the County and State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars, current money of the United States, to the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, in hand paid by the said Mary E. Benson at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, do hereby acknowledge and thereof do release, acquit and discharge the said [Mary E. Benson] her heirs, executors and administrators by these presents, the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, having granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell unto the said Mary E. Benson all those four lots or parcels of ground laying and being in the town of Bells Addition to Weverton in Washington County and State of Maryland known and designated on the plan of part of Bells Addition to Weverton which said plan was surveyed and drawn by Jacob A. Miller as lots thirty-one (31), thirty-two (32), and thirty-three (33) in Section one, fronting on the Valley Road, also No.. seventy (70) in Section two (2) containing one acre and ten perches, more or less, of land the beginning of which is on the North East corner of Lot No.31 in Section one, then South eighty-seven and one half (87½) perches, East fifteen 4/10 perches to the line of C. Wever, then South West with C. W. Wever's line to the corner of Lot No. 37, then West to the place of beginning. bounded on the West by lots in Section One (1) together with all and singular, the buildings, improvements, ways, waters, water courses, rights, members, privileges and appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises hereby granted, thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining. To have and to hold the said lands and premises hereby conveyed, with appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said Mary E. Benson, heirs and assigns forever, to the only use and behoof of the said Mary E. Benson, of her heirs and assigns forever. And the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, for themselves and heirs do hereby covenant, grant, promise and agree to and with the said Mary E. Benson, her heirs and assigns, that they, the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, and their heirs, the said tract of land and premises hereby granted bargained & sold and every part and parcel thereof the appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said Mary E. Benson, her heirs and assigns, against them the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, and their heirs and against all and every person or persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and forever defend. And the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, for themselves and their heirs do herby covenant, grant, promise and agree to and with the said Mary E. Benson and her heirs and assigns that they the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, and their heirs shall and will at all times hereafter whensoever required thereto by the said Mary E. Benson heirs at the proper cost and expense of the said Mary E. Benson her heirs or assigns, make, do, execute and acknowledge all and every such further assurance or assurances, deed or deeds, conveyance or conveyances in the law as the said Mary E. Benson and her heirs and assigns, or her or their Counsel in the Law may or shall advise, devise or require, for the more effectual assuring, conveying and quitting the possession of the said Mary E. Benson, her heirs, assigns of in and to the said tract of land and premises, with the appurtenances forever. In witness whereof the said James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals the day and year above written. Signed, sealed and delivered

In the presence of Thomas Boteler, J.P.

James A. Carlisle {Seal} Mary E. Carlisle {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: Be it remembered, and it is hereby certified that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty, before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the County of Washington aforesaid, personally appeared James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, they being known to me to be the persons who are named and described and professing to be the parties to the foregoing deed or indenture and do severally acknowledge the said indenture or instrument of writing to be their respective act and deed. The said Mary E. Carlisle having signed and sealed said indenture before me and out of the hearing of her said husband whether she doth execute and acknowledge the same freely and voluntarily and without being induced to do so by fear or threats of ill usage by her husband or by fear of his displeasure, declareth and saith she doth. In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name on the day and year aforesaid.

Thomas Boteler, J.P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book LBN 2, p. 389, 2/24/1868.

At the request of Sarah T. Benson, the following Deed was recorded February 24<sup>th</sup> 1868.

This Deed, made this sixth day of February A. D. 1868, by us Allen M. Benson and Mary E. Benson, his wife, of Montgomery County in the State of Maryland. Witnesseth, that I, the said Mary E. Benson being then as now, the wife of Allen Benson, did by my deed of the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February A. D. 1865, executed by myself alone, undertake to convey to a certain Sarah Thomas Benson, certain lots of ground in "Bells Addition to Weverton" in Washington County in said State, which said deed was recorded in said Montgomery County in Liber E.B.P. No. 2, folio 11, one of the land records of said Montgomery County, but as doubts exist as to the sufficiency of said deed, therefore we the said Allen Benson and Mary E. Benson for the purpose of removing all doubts and quitting fully the right and possession of the said lots to the said Sarah Thomas Benson, do execute these presents. Now this indenture further Witnesseth, that we the said Allen Benson and Mary E. Benson, his wife, of Montgomery County aforesaid, in consideration of the premises and of the sum of two hundred dollars, do grant unto Sarah Thomas Benson, wife of Lewin T. Benson of Washington County in the State of Maryland, all those four lots or parcels of ground, situate in "Bells Addition to Weverton," in the said County of Washington, known and distinguished on the face of said "[Bells] Addition to Weverton" by the numbers thirty-one, thirty-two and thirty-three in Section one, fronting of the Pleasant Valley road and number seventy in Section two respectively containing in all one acre and ten perches of land, more or less, being the same lots or parcels of ground which were conveyed to me, the said Mary E.. Benson by James A. Carlisle and Mary E. Carlisle, his wife, by deed dated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, A. D. 1860 and recorded in Liber I N 14, folio 541 and 542, one of the Land Records of said Washington County, reference thereto being had it will more fully and large appear, and the said Allen Benson and Mary E. Benson, his wife, do hereby covenant that we will execute such further assurance or assurances as may be requisite. Witness our hands and seals.

Teste: R. T. Hilliard A. T. [illegible]

Allen M. Benson {Seal}
Mary E. Benson {Seal}

State of Maryland, Montgomery County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this sixth day of February, A.D. 1868, before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Montgomery County, personally appeared Allen Benson and Mary E. Benson, his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing instrument of writing to be their respective act.

R. T. Hilliard, J.P.

State of Maryland, Montgomery County, Sct.: I hereby certify that R. T. Hilliard, Esquire, before whom the aforegoing affidavit appears to have been made, and whose name is thereto subscribed was at the time thereof a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for said County, duly commissioned and sworn. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court fro Montgomery County, this eleventh day of February 1868.

{Seal} E. B. Prettyman, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.