

[Benson, Russell F.]

Death of Russell F. Benson, One of the Oldest Letter
Carriers in the Country—Ranked Third in Point of Service

Russell F. Benson, the veteran letter carrier, died at his home, 76 Ferry Street, at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Though Mr. Benson had not been in good health for several years, no disease is ascribed the cause of death. He was well advanced in years and his life of activity had caused a general breaking down. It was not until a year ago that Mr. Benson ceased his active duties as a carrier, and his enforced idleness proved very irksome to him. As long as he was able he would visit the Postoffice daily, and in his walks about the city he always wore the uniform of Uncle Sam, in which he had for so many years rendered faithful service.

Mr. Benson was seventy-nine years old, and was born at Heath, Franklin County, Mass. He came to Troy when thirteen years old, and was employed by Russell Sage as clerk in the store at the corner of State and River Streets. He was also clerk in the store of Stephen Bosworth, and in 1846 conducted a store for himself on River Street and later at the corner of Ferry Street and Fifth Avenue.

He had served thirty-six years continuously in the employ of the government. He was appointed a letter carrier in 1846. In point of service he ranked as third in the country.

Mr. Benson was always at his post of duty and was known to most of the citizens of the city, where he had so long made his home. During the latter years of his service he was quite feeble, but insisted on performing daily duties as arduous as those performed by the younger carriers. He was always cheerful in demeanor and his pleasant countenance was always a welcome sight on the streets of the city.

He was one of a family of seventeen children, five of whom survive him. In 1845 he married Miss Jane E. Heermance, the daughter of Jacob Heermance. Mr. Benson erected the pump at the corner of Ferry and Third Streets, which stood there for so many years. He always attended the reunions of the Benson family held every year at the old home at Shelburne Falls, Mass., and took much interest in the gatherings. He is survived by his widow; a daughter, Mrs. Rufus B. Crissey; a son, Dr. Russell F. Benson, and a brother, F. O. Benson. He was a member of the Universalist Church.

Troy Daily Times, Troy NY, Wed. 5 Sep 1900