

Toggle the table of contents

James Rea Benson

James Rea Benson (January 21, 1807 – March 18, 1885) was an Ontario businessman and political figure. He represented Lincoln in the 1st Canadian Parliament as a Liberal-Conservative member until March 14, 1868, when he was named to the Senate of Canada for St. Catharines. [1]

He was born in Ireland in 1807^[1] and came to <u>Kingston</u> in <u>Upper Canada</u> with his family in 1819. He later moved to St. Catharines, where he was a hardware merchant, [2] also operating mills and ships in partnership with <u>Thomas Rodman Merritt</u>. [3] Benson was president of the Niagara District Bank, the Welland Loan Company and the St. Catharines Gas Company. [2] He served on the town council for St. Catharines and on the council for Lincoln County. [1] He died in 1885 in Ottawa while still in office. [4]

The city of St. Catharines purchased his residence and used it for some time as the city hall. [5]

Benson married the daughter of <u>Charles Ingersoll</u>. [2] His daughter Helen married Calvin Brown, the first mayor of St. Catharines. [5] His son <u>Sir Frederick William Benson</u> was a British Army officer. His niece, Mary Benson, the daughter of his brother Thomas, married Thomas Rodman Merritt. [6]

References

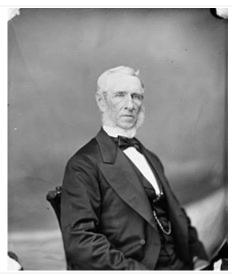
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- 4. Johnson, J.K. (1968). *The Canadian Directory of Parliament* 1867-1967. Public Archives of Canada.

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The Honourable James Rea Benson



Member of the Canadian Parliament for Lincoln

In office

1867-1868

Succeeded by Thomas Rodman
Merritt

Senator for St. Catharines, Ontario

In office

1868-1885

Appointed by John A. Macdonald

Personal details

Born January 21, 1807 Ireland

Died March 18, 1885 (aged 78)

Political party Liberal-

Conservative

6. The Canadian biographical diction ttp://www.canadiana.org/ECO/mt	enary and portrait gallery of eminent and self-made men (1880) (h
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