



# Obituaries

## *Salisbury*

THIS district has just sustained (says The Warwick Argus, QLD), a loss through the death of Captain Benson, formerly of H.M. 21st Regiment of Foot, who expired on Sunday evening at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, after a severe illness. The deceased gentleman came to Australia last May in the steamship Cuzco, for the benefit of his health, and, after staying in Sydney for some months, came to Warwick and purchased the South Canning Downs station from Mr. C.H.E. Chauvel, and it is a somewhat melancholy coincidence that the day fixed for completing the purchase and taking possession was yesterday, the day of his burial. The deceased, who was 42 years of age, was born at the Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and his father was the Rev. George Benson, Canon Residentiary of Salisbury Cathedral, a brother of Dr. Benson, the present Bishop of Truro, Cornwall. During the Crimean War, Captain Benson was serving on the Mediterranean station, and after his retirement from the line he joined as a captain in the Wiltshire Royal Regiment of Militia. The deceased was liked much by all with whom he came in contact, from his very amiable and genial disposition. Captain Benson returned a week ago from Sydney very much worse in health, yet he summoned up pluck enough to attend the show on Wednesday, and watched the jumping with much interest. But here he took a fresh cold, which culminated in an attack of his old enemy, gout. Dr. Margetts decided on calling in a second opinion, and Dr. Taylor was consulted. But the sufferer was beyond the care of man. **The Brisbane Courier, Thursday, 5 February 1880.**

### **Further Notes**

Shipping records in Australia only referred to him as Captain Benson. He arrived in Sydney as a saloon passenger on the steamship Cuzco, on 16 May 1879, from London. No other details such as age and occupation were recorded.

In determining the first name of Captain Benson, the 1841 Census of "The Close of the Canon's of the Cathedral Church" of Salisbury was consulted. From this, George Benson was found with his wife and Children, living at The Close. There were only two son's at this time, Edmund aged 3, and Robert aged 1. It is therefore assumed that Edmund was Captain Benson.

### **Birth Registration Details**

Edmund Benson, December Quarter 1837, Alderbury, Wiltshire, Vol.8, Pg.193.

### **Sources**

[Trove Australia](#) / [Ancestry.co.uk](#) / [Mariners & Ships in Australian Waters](#)

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