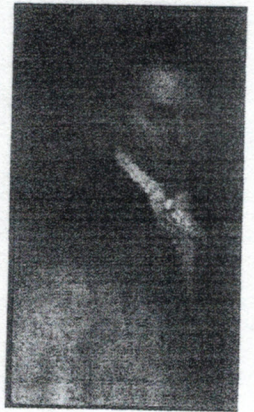


Benjamin Ellicott
(April 17, 1765 – December 10, 1827)
Assistant surveyor and brother of Joseph Ellicott



Born in Buck's County, Pennsylvania, young Benjamin moved with his family to Ellicott Mills, Maryland in 1774. His surveying career began in 1789 when he accompanied his brothers Andrew and Joseph, into Upper Canada to determine the western boundary of New York State. A year later he was in the Finger Lakes region assisting Andrew in locating the true line between the Phelps – Gorham Purchase and the Livingston Indian Lessee Company.

His relationship with the Holland Land Company began in 1794, when he accompanied Joseph in surveying company lands in Northwestern Pennsylvania. In 1798 he was again working for the Holland Land Company, this time in Western New York, assisting Joseph's during the Great Survey. He spent the remainder of his life as a resident of the Holland Purchase, during which he was active in politics. In 1817 he became a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, and from 1817 to 1819, he represented Western New York in the United States Congress.

Benjamin was also a large landowner. Together Joseph and Benjamin owned land on the south side of Buffalo River and in Niagara County. Benjamin was also the sole owner of part of present-day downtown Buffalo. He owned a plot of land on top of a small rise overlooking the small village, with a clear view of Lake Erie. Today the boundaries of the land are Terrace St., Franklin St., Seneca St., and Pearl St. (Near intersection of I-190 and the Skyway). It is thought that Benjamin was going to build his mansion overlooking the city he helped found.

After the death of Joseph, Benjamin lived with family in Williamsville, where he died on December 10, 1827. He was interred in that village, but was reburied in the Batavia Cemetery on Harvester Ave., near his older brother Joseph.