

County Line Inn, Blockley, Pennsylvania

Finding Two Daughters of Andrew Hansell and Hannah Morris



County Line Inn, 1915, Photographer John W. Eckfeldt
<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/54670>

When Peter David Hansell's daughter Elizabeth died in 1847, the funeral was held at "her late residence, John Saunder's County Line Inn." I searched around until I found the inn, marked on old maps at the seven mile stone on the Haverford Road, right at the border of Blockley, Philadelphia County, and Lower Merion, Montgomery County. I wondered what Elizabeth was doing out in the boonies, but at that time I was more interested in the fact that the 1800 deed for the Darby Road lot in Kingsessing Elizabeth received from her father's estate was recorded in 1848, a year after her death and 48 years after the fact. The deed must have been found among Elizabeth's possessions in her room at the County Line Inn.

Recently, I was reviewing the whereabouts of Andrew Hansell 1778-1854, Peter David Hansell's 11th and last child and brother of the above Elizabeth. Turns out that Andrew and his wife were living at the County Line Inn in the 1850 census. What's up with this?

1850 Census - Blockley, Philadelphia County, PA

John Saunders, 63 (1787), innkeeper, born Phila Co., married within this year
Sarah A. Saunders, 33 (1817), born Delaware, married within this year
William Saunders, 16 (1834), born Phila Co., attends school
Sarah A. Saunders, 15 (1835), born Phila Co., attends school
Andrew Hansell, 72 (1778), "none" for occupation, born Phila Co.
Hannah Hansell, 70 (1780), born Phila Co.

An 1863 deed selling the lot Andrew Hansell had received from his father's estate on Darby Road in Kingsessing reveals that John Saunders' two children, William and Sarah, are the grandchildren of Andrew Hansell (Deed ACH 28/391).

Obviously we need to find a daughter of Andrew Hansell to be the first wife of John Saunders and mother of Sarah and William Saunders. As far as I could tell, only three male children were known for Andrew Hansell: Charles Hansell 1804-1842, Philip Morris Hansell 1807-1841 and Amos Morris Hansell 1816-1848, whose burials are recorded in the St. James Kingessing church records.

I paged through the Gloria Dei Church Baptismal Records 1804-1878 which have recently come on line and found a record for the first four children of Andrew Hansell and Hannah Morris. The children were baptized in Kingessing on December 8, 1811 by Mr. Turner.

Susannah	born 11-18-1800
Charles	born 4-24-1804
Philip Morris	born 7-25-1807
Sarah Ann	born 10-21-1811

Two daughters! Which one married John Saunders?

Based on the birth years of the two Saunders children, whichever daughter married John Saunders around 1832, died after the birth of her second child and before 1850, and perhaps was buried at the Blockley Baptist Church, as was John Saunders. The Blockley Baptist Church interments have been lost into a genealogical black hole and she does not appear to be buried with her Hansell family at St. James in Kingessing.

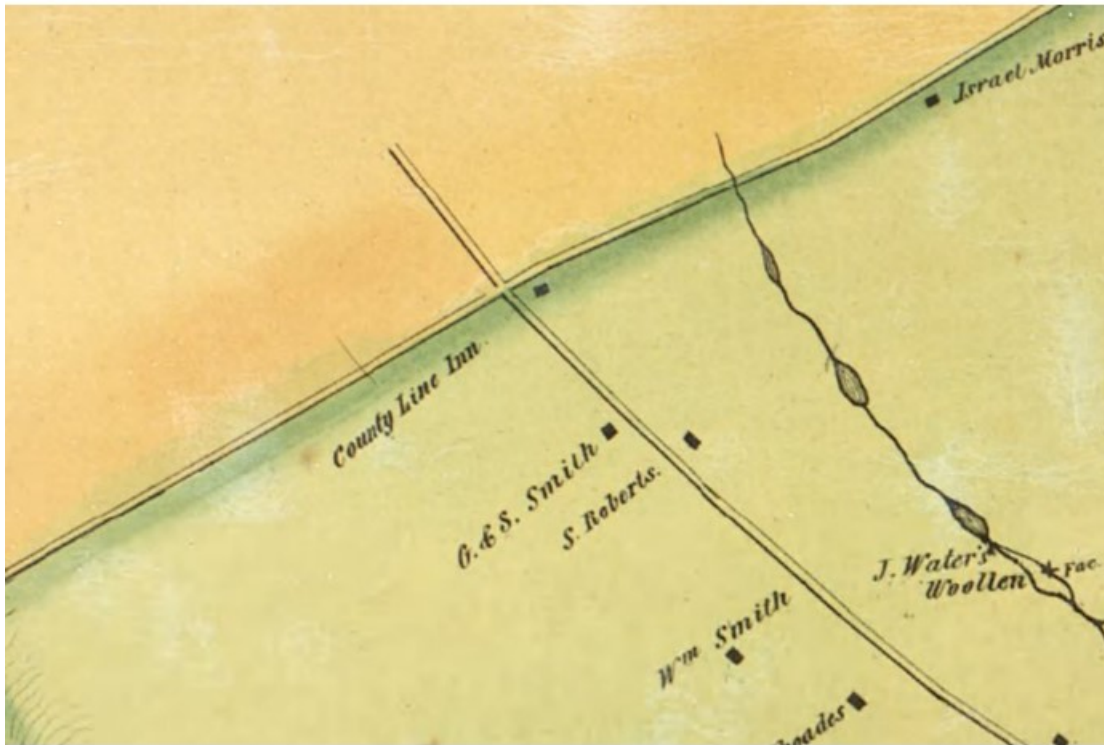
So, it was back to the Gloria Dei records to plod through the Marriage Records 1799-1856. At image 302 is the March 28, 1833 marriage of John Saunders and Susan M. Hansel, performed by Rev. Jehu C. Clay.

Susan M. Hansell is the third Hansell involved in the inn/tavern business in Blockley. Peter David Hansell's son George Hansell had the Rising Sun Tavern on the Lancaster Turnpike from 1795 to 1819. George, Jr. founded the Inclined Plane Tavern off of Monument Road which operated from 1830 to 1854. These two Hansells are, respectively, the uncle and cousin of Susan Hansell who, with her husband John Saunders, operated the County Line Inn on Haverford Road.

In 1826, Manuel Eyre, merchant of Philadelphia, subdivided a large tract and sold six acres to Samuel Saunders, house carpenter of Blockley for \$800 (Deed GWR 14/572). In 1830, Samuel Saunders, carpenter of Blockley and his wife Hannah, sold a building and six acres to John Saunders, a farmer of Merion Township in Montgomery County for \$2,200 (Deed AM 5/171). I don't know if these Saunders were related or anything else about them. Presumably Samuel Saunders erected the building.

The paper trail for the County Line Inn is sparse. There are a few stray cow and lost horse advertisements which mention John Saunders, County Line Inn on the Haverford Road. An 1853 real estate ad referred to the property as a drove stand. Another ad called it a tavern. But, astoundingly, there is a photo!

In any event, it was here the two children of Susan Hansell and John Saunders were born and raised: William H. Saunders born 1834 and his sister Sarah Ann Saunders born 1835. I wonder if William's middle name was Hansell.



1849 Map of Blockley Township, Rae & Miller

<https://digital.librarycompany.org/islandora/object/Islandora%3A6171>

John Saunders died August 22, 1851, age 65. His relatives and friends were invited to attend his funeral at his late residence, County Line Inn in Blockley, after which they would proceed to Blockley Baptist Church.

The son William H. Saunders kept on with the Inn until 1863 when it was sold to William D. Cope, farmer of Montgomery County (Deed ACH 98/10) along with two contiguous parcels of 51 acres in Blockley and 10 acres in Lower Merion.

William H. Saunders was the administrator for his grandmother's estate, Hannah Hansell, after she died in 1860.

This little Hansell/Saunders line stopped short. Sarah Ann Saunders 1835-1862 married the Baptist minister William T. Bunker 1818-1889. They did not have children. Sarah died at 27 from peritonitis.

William H. Saunders 1834-1885 married Jane/Jennie Goucher 1836-1894 about 1860. They had one child Sarah 1861-1949 who married Baptist minister William G. Russell 1860-1932. The only Russell child was Mabel G. 1888-1963 who married Robert McMinn 1885-1966 in 1915. They did not have children.

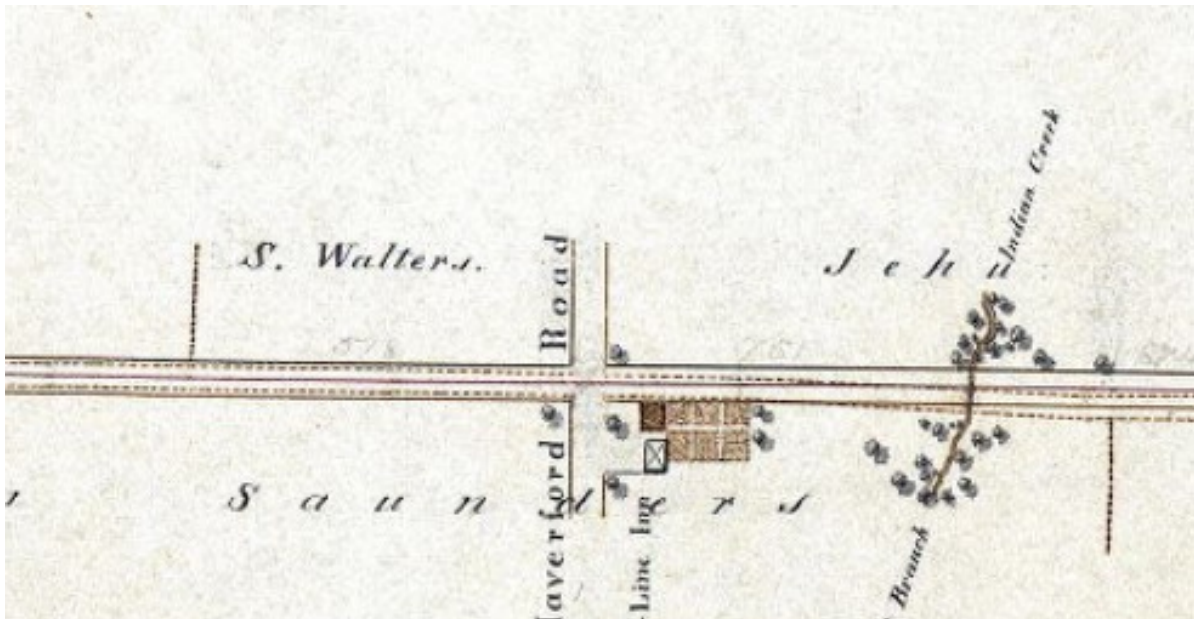
* * * * *

William Drinker Cope, who purchased the property in 1863, was the son of Thomas P. Cope, founder of the wealthy Philadelphia shipping family. After his death, his children sold the three contiguous parcels to William C. Allison, Philadelphia railroad car manufacturer. Cope and Allison held the properties as investments.

Then, oddly, the property went back into the Hansell family. In 1887, Allison sold the six acre parcel with the inn building to Emma R. Hansell (nee Breckenridge), wife of John H. Hansell 1849-1907. The Hansells and their kids lived in the inn building until John H. Hansell's death.

Emma R. Hansell sold the building and lot in 1915 to Elizabeth B. Hall. Elizabeth was the daughter of Louis Bergdoll, millionaire brewer. After her father died, Elizabeth collected her inheritance, bought a mansion on Wynnefield Avenue, and married her chauffeur Albert Hall--a shock to her family but a delight to the newspapers ("Heiress Weds Chauffeur" and "Cupid Steered the Car").

After this series of interesting owners, the County Line Inn property is now the site of a McDonalds restaurant.



1856 Philadelphia Street Map

https://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/111-03_HP

Line of descent for John H. Hansell 1849-1907: Peter David Hansell/Peter David Hansell, Jr.+Ann Walters/John Hansell+Mary Thompson/John H. Hansell.

End Notes

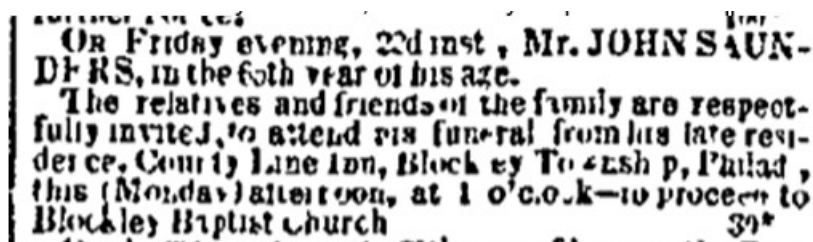
Read about the Hansells and the Hansell taverns here
<http://ancestorsandothers.net/Hansell.htm>

Gloria Dei Church Records found at Philadelphiacongregations.org
<https://philadelphiacongregations.org/records/>

In 1850, Sarah A. unknown, born 1817 in Delaware, married John Saunders, a fellow 30 years her senior. After Saunders died in 1851 she married Evan Davis Stern, 12 years her junior. In 1855, the Sterns, for the sum of \$825, gave up dower and any other rights to John Saunders' property. This worked out well for Sarah--younger guy, lots of money!

8-25-1851 *Philadelphia Inquirer*

On the 22nd, Mr. John Saunders, 65th year (born 1786)
Residence County Line Inn, to Blockley Baptist Church



On Friday evening, 22d inst, Mr. JOHN SAUNDERS, in the 65th year of his age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited, to attend his funeral from his late residence, County Line Inn, Blockley Township, Philad., this (Monday) afternoon, at 1 o'clock--to proceed to Blockley Baptist Church

Andrew Hansell 1845-1885, son of Amos Morris Hansell and Henrietta Smith

This child of Amos Morris Hansell (Amos being a son of Andrew Hansell 1788-1854) and Henrietta Smith was noted in Deed ACH 28/391. Likely he left no children, but there is a record of his burial at St. James in Kingsessing.

Mentioned in the 1863 deed selling Andrew Hansell's lot on Darby Road.

May 11, 1868, Andrew Hansell of Philadelphia and Mary Margerum of Lambertville, Hunterdon County, NJ (NJ Marriage Records) [this could be anyone but it fits]

April 3, 1870, Hansel, stillborn, parents Andrew Hansel and Mary, physician P.I. Hoopes, buried St. James (Philadelphia Death Certificate)

January 17, 1875, George H. Hansell, age 3, parents Andrew and Mary Hansell, buried Mount Moriah (Philadelphia Death Certificate)

June 10, 1885, Andrew Hansell died age 40 of TB, born 1845 in Delaware County (Philadelphia Death Certificate)

June 10, 1885 newspaper - On the 8th Andrew Hansell son of Henrietta Hansell, 41st year, funeral at mother's residence on South Street near Island Road in Paschalville, to St. James.

St. James Headstone Inscriptions

Lot A-26 - "Andrew Hansell in his 41st year"

Listed between his mother Henrietta Hansell d. 1886 and his grandmother Hannah Hansell d. 1860.

Census Records:

1850 & 1860 Andrew living with mother Henrietta Hansell.

1870 Andrew and Mary living with George H. Hill, butcher in Ward 27.

1880 Andrew Hansell, 35, single, domestic servant, 7301 Woodland Avenue, West Philadelphia. [This is the Blue Bell Inn at the corner of Woodland Avenue (Darby Road) and Island Road in Paschalville, near Cobbs Creek and Darby.
<http://www.darbyhistory.com/BlueBell1.html>]

Deeds

This deed sells the lot Andrew Hansell d. 1854 inherited from his father Peter David Hansell. This sale took place after Andrew's wife Hannah Morris died in 1860.

Deed ACH 28/391, Roll 531, 494.tif

May 24, 1862, \$1,050

Andrew Hansell's frame dwelling and 113 square perch lot on Darby Road, bounded by property of Jacob Hansell, Dorothea Hansell and William Hansell

William H. Saunders, trustee, to Alexander Robinson, bucket maker of Philadelphia

William H. Saunders, one of the grandchildren of Andrew Hansell who died June 19, 1854 intestate, leaving heirs and legal representatives:

William H. Saunders

Sarah A. Bunker (late Saunders) married to William T. Bunker

(the above are the children of Susan Hansell and John Saunders)

John S. Hansell

Andrew Hansell, minor; John Hoopes guardian

(the above two are the children of Amos Morris Hansell and Henrietta Smith)

This deed sells the County Line Inn property.

Deed ACH 98/10, Roll 561, 340.tif

March 7, 1863, \$15,688.43

sale of three contiguous properties: structure & 6 A on Haverford Road [County Line Inn]; 10 A in Lower Merion, 51 A in Blockley

William H. Saunders, innkeeper & wife Mary Jane and William T. Bunker to William D. Cope, farmer of Montgomery County

John Saunders died leaving a widow Sarah and two children, William H. and Sarah A.

Widow intermarried with Evan D. Stern, released dower right Jan. 1, 1855, \$825, Deed TH 178/222, Roll 393, 613.tif

Daughter Sarah A. married William T. Bunker, died, made a will dated 11-17-1862, filed in Chester County.

1st premises [building & 6 A] being the same which Samuel Saunders carpenter and wife Hannah of Blockley sold to John Saunders, farmer of Merion, 7-21-1830 AM 5/171, Roll 133, 87.tif, 6 acres and building