

**Rising Sun Tavern
Lancaster Turnpike
Blockley, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania**

Grandfather Suplee's Legacy

John Suplee was born about 1725 in Upper Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In 1760 he married Sarah Roberts and the couple lived in Blockley (West Philadelphia), Philadelphia County. When John Suplee died, the diarist Joseph Price noted his passing with an entry dated September 21, 1805: "old John Suplee of Blockley buried this afternoon--about 70, I should think...he left a good estate amongst 5 children."

John Suplee's will provided generously for his wife and children: "...mansion and the lands, grist mill, sawmill and the like." But, prior to his death, he set up a legacy for the children of his daughter Deborah.

In 1783, John Suplee's daughter Deborah married George Hansell (1759-1819), a child of Peter David Hansell. George and Deborah had 12 children. On August 20, 1795, John Suplee (farmer of Blockley) transferred 8.5 acres of land to George and Deborah Hansell (of Blockley), for their use during their life times at a rent of five pounds annually. When they died, title to the property would pass to their children. (Deed IC 26/271)

Landowners in Blockley as of October 1777



In the 1750s and 1760s John Suplee acquired four contiguous lots from which he carved out a section for the Hansells. The 8.5 acre parcel bordered the Old Lancaster Turnpike and Peter's Road (an early name for Monument Road) and lands of Mahlon Hall and Isaac Warner.

John Suplee's neighbors made their marks on early Blockley history. Isaac Warner descended from William Warner of Blockley, England, for which Blockley Township was named. Mahlon Hall's ancestral home was Birmingham, England, which fact earned him protection from the pillage and plunder of English troops during the Revolutionary War. Edward Heston founded Hestonville. Today "The Solitude" home of the Hon. John Penn, Jr. (grandson of William Penn), is part of the Philadelphia Zoo.

Location, Location, Location



1776 - overall view of major transportation routes

It wasn't by whim that George Hansell established a tavern at this particular spot in Blockley in 1795. The Old Lancaster Turnpike had been in existence since the 1740s, providing access between Lancaster and Philadelphia. Over the past 50 years, the road (basically a glorified footpath) had severely deteriorated. An upgrade was needed.

The State of Pennsylvania had no funds for a large road building project. The legislature authorized the formation of a private company to construct a new road. So many people wanted in on this venture that a lottery was held to sell shares. Collection of tolls would repay investors and generate income.

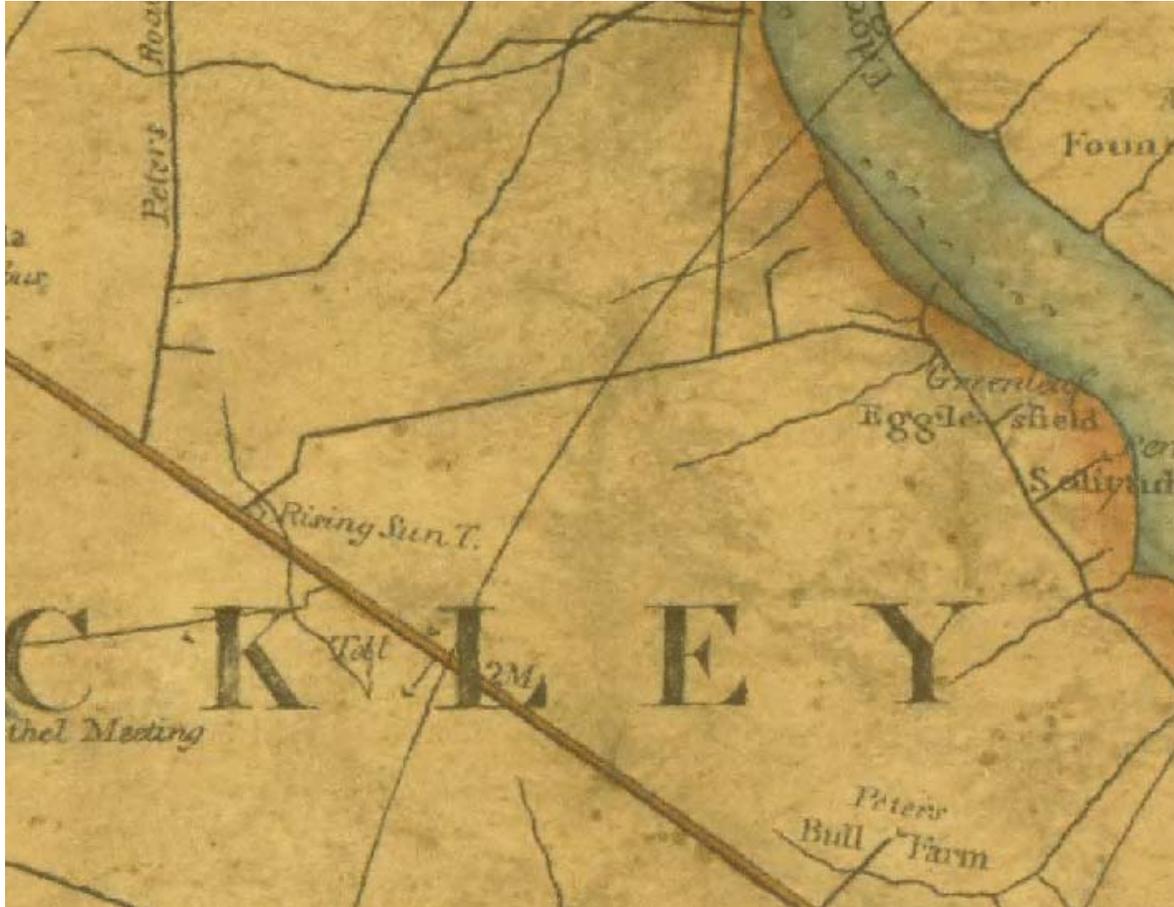
The most up-to-date highway construction methods were used: the road was 24 feet wide, the base was made of large cobblestones covered by packed crushed stone and gravel, and the center of the road was raised to promote drainage to either side.

Construction started in 1793 and the turnpike opened about 1795. In 1797 a stage coach with ten passengers set a new land speed record traveling from Lancaster to Philadelphia: 66 miles in 10 hours - that's 5.5 miles per hour!

At the height of summer, more than 1,000 Conestoga traveled the turnpike each day, carrying apples and bacon, beef and beer, biscuit and butter, cheese, cider, corn, flour, leather, lumber, pork, wheat, whiskey, and other products of the surrounding farms to the city. Herds of livestock walked the turnpike to market. The turnpike company charged a toll of "1/4 dollar" for "every score of Cattle," and "1/8 dollar" for every score of hogs or sheep.

With all this going by his tavern, George Hansell was well positioned to turn a profit.

Rising Sun Tavern, George Hansell, Proprietor



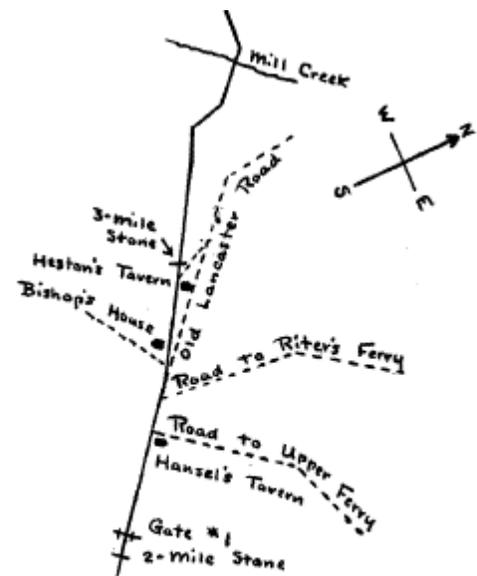
Note Peter's Rd, later known as Monument Rd, Rising Sun Tavern, Toll Gate, 2 Milestone
Map by John Hill, 1808

The Lancaster Turnpike was surveyed in 1806 by Robert Brooke. The plan to the right, based on Brooke's survey, depicts "Hansel's Tavern."

The road to Riter's Ferry (Righter's Ferry) is Peter's Road (aka Monument Rd, then 49th Street). The road to Upper Ferry was also known as Mud Lane, a private road.

Leaving downtown Philadelphia, a traveler would proceed west on Market Street and cross the Schuylkill on the Middle Ferry (until a bridge was built in 1805).

Stones marked the mileage from the west bank of the Schuylkill (city limits of Philadelphia) to Lancaster. Just beyond the second milestone was the first of 13 tollgates for the Lancaster Turnpike. As long as his purse was already open to pay the toll, a traveler might be inclined to stop in at George Hansell's Rising Sun Tavern.



Plot of a Section of Lancaster Turnpike, Surveyed by Robert Brooke, November, 1806.

The diary of Joseph Price alerted me to the fact that George Hansell owned a tavern in Blockley. Price often traveled on the Lancaster Turnpike between his home in Lower Merion and downtown Philadelphia. On a homeward trip, Joseph Price paid for the ferry to cross the Schuylkill, shelled out for the turnpike toll and then purchased wine or gin at "Hansels." Price makes references to "Hansels" starting about 1796. In 1804 Joseph Price writes directly about "Hansels Tavern." Inspection of John Hill's 1808 map revealed the Rising Sun Tavern just beyond the tollgate and the hunt was on.

Besides the diary of Joseph Price, I could find few references to the Rising Sun Tavern during George Hansell's ownership (1795 to his death in 1819). There were about ten other establishments named the Rising Sun in the greater Philadelphia area, but Hansell's tavern is always identified as being located in Blockley township on the Lancaster Turnpike, 2.5 miles west of the bridge. Joseph Price's diary entries make it clear the Hansell tavern was a place for political and social meetings, food and drink.

The 1798 US Direct Tax for Blockley provides the following for George Hansell. The two-story stone dwelling is the Rising Sun Tavern and there is a large stable to accommodate horses plus other necessary outbuildings. Bordering the parcel were the Lancaster Turnpike and Mahlon Hall's property.

2-story 30' x 30' stone dwelling
12' x 30' log kitchen
12' x 12' stone milch house
16' x 30' log barn
30' x 60' stone stable
15' x 16' frame smith shop
8.5 acres of land

Robert Brooke's 1806 survey of the Lancaster Turnpike describes a double culvert just beyond the No. 1 tollgate that runs to the west wall of "George Hansel's tavern, kept by Samuel Pugh..." I don't know who Samuel Pugh is, but George's daughter Ann had married into a Pugh family.

One of Joseph Price's last diary entries for George referred to him fondly as "Old George," this from a 65 year old (Price) about a younger fellow age 58 (George).

April 14, 1817

Wind W. no frost fine day Borrowd T. Prices old Bob & went for Boards Bout of Mower, paid Ann Robeson 5. dolrs Intrest on a 100 Dolr note, back & made a Coffin for Bill McDormans Child took it home & Buried in Baptis Yard Blockley Meet at Hansels taver[n] on Reference Old George treated to my Supper so home

George Hansell died in 1819 and his wife Deborah in 1820. The 8.5 acres John Suplee had deeded as a life estate to George and Deborah would now go to the 12 Hansell children. The deeds clearly identify the property as the Rising Sun Tavern and it is easy to follow the title of this property through its successive owners.

The Hall Era - 1830 to 1848

James Hall (1787-after 1846) was the son of John Hall and grandson of Mahlon Hall. James grew up next door to the Rising Sun Tavern.

When James Hall decided to purchase the Rising Sun he had to consolidate the individual shares. Hall purchased three 1/12th shares from the Hansell siblings Deborah Ann, Sarah and Norris:

November 1829, \$600, Charles Gill and **Deborah Ann Hansell** Gill of Lower Merion, **Sarah Hansell** McDermond (widow) of Blockley and **Norris Hansell** (yeoman) of Lower Merion

James Hall purchased John Hansell's forfeited share:

September 1829, \$200, Richard (innkeeper) and Maria Harding of Philadelphia

DIVISION OF THE COUNTY.

At a meeting of the citizens of the township or Blockley, held at the Rising Sun Tavern, (Lancaster Turnpike,) September 5, 1831, in consequence of an invitation from the Committee of Correspondence of Germantown, on the subject of dividing the county of Philadelphia.

SAMUEL BRECK was appointed Chairman, and HENRY LEECH Secretary.

A circular from the Germantown Committee having been read, and the object of the meeting explained by the Chairman, the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved by the inhabitants of Blockley, assembled as aforesaid, That they consider a separation from the city, and division of the county inexpedient, and therefore decline joining in any measures that may tend to that end.

Resolved, That the Chairman communicate the foregoing to the Committee of Correspondence in Germantown, and cause the proceedings of this meeting to be published.

SAMUEL BRECK, Chairman.
HENRY LEECH, Secretary.

James Hall purchased the share of George, Jr., the five shares accumulated by George, Jr. and the share of Ann Hansell Pugh:

March 1830, \$1,200 - **George, Jr.** (innkeeper) and Barbara Hansell of Blockley

March 1830, \$200 - Edward Pugh (yeoman) and **Ann Hansell** Pugh of Tredyffrin, Chester. County

Hazards Register of Pennsylvania 1831 - Blockley citizens determine their future at the Rising Sun Tavern

The last 1/12th was a little complicated. The 12th legatee, **Mary Ann Hansell** Tunis, died in 1824. In 1832, there were seven living Tunis children plus her husband Abraham Tunis.

James Hall first purchased the 1/7th of the 1/12th share of the eldest boy Charles H. Tunis (tobacconist of Northern Liberties) for \$18. Then Hall and George Hansell, Jr. visited the widower Abraham Tunis (weaver of Chester County) who for \$25 sold whatever interest he may have had in the property. Left were six parts of a 1/12th share of the six minor Tunis children, Mary Ann, John, Jane, Thomas, Elizabeth and Sarah. This matter was settled in court. Whatever Hall paid these children was not recorded. The deed states the amount was secured by a mortgage. (Deed AM 32/490)

By 1832, James Hall was fully invested in the Rising Sun Tavern.



1843 Philadelphia County, Charles Ellet, Jr.

Note the tollgate, Rising Sun Tavern, and Hall properties & West Philadelphia Railroad tracks

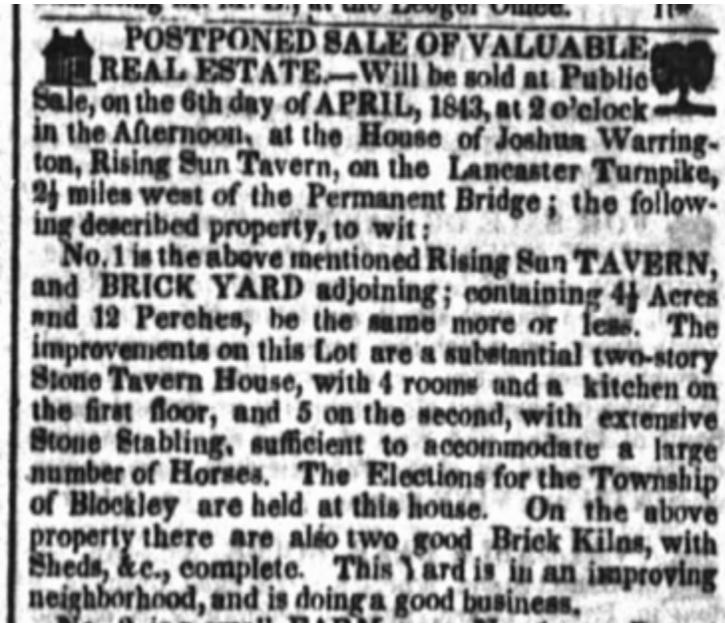
In the 1820s, James Hall, his wife Hepzibah, and their six children lived at the corner of 8th and Buttonwood in Spring Garden. James ran a tavern (I couldn't determine its name or location) and kept a hay scale. James probably saw the Rising Sun as a new opportunity and a move back to Blockley.

The Freemen residing in the Borough of West Philadelphia, are to hold their election at the house of Wm. Hughes, Innkeeper, in the said Borough.
The Freemen residing in the Township of Blockley are to hold their Election at the house of James Hall, Rising Sun, on the Lancaster turnpike road, in the said Township.
The Freemen residing in the Township of Kingsessing are to hold their Election at the house of George Fahr, Kingsessingville Hotel, on the Darby road, in said Township.

9-6-1839 *Public Ledger*

The house of James Hall, Rising Sun, continued to be the political meeting place for Blockley.

James Hall's father, John Hall, died in 1842, and life changed in the Hall family. John Hall left all his real estate to his son James, with cash provisions to his daughters Martha Dickinson and Hannah Hall. James immediately put all his father's properties on the market (the Hall homestead, a tract of land, and a small farm in Blockley and 66 acres with a stone quarry in Lower Merion). James also advertised the Rising Sun Tavern for sale.



April 4, 1843 *Public Ledger*

James Hall is selling four properties on behalf of his father's estate plus the Rising Sun Tavern.

In 1836, James Hall's daughter Sarah married Joshua Warrington. At some point, Joshua Warrington took over operation of the Rising Sun.

In this 1843 advertisement, the tavern is described as a two-story stone tavern house with four rooms and a kitchen on the first floor and five on the second.

Along with the brick kilns, reportedly a portion of the premises contained good clay for making bricks.

Ownership of the Rising Sun Tavern took a surprising turn.

James Hall was in debt to his sister, Martha Hall Dickinson, in the amount \$3,840. Martha sued and the District Court awarded her the Rising Sun property. High Sheriff Morton McMichael (soon to be mayor of Philadelphia) seized the property and put it up for sale. No buyers showed interest and the property was offered at auction. Martha went down to the Philadelphia Exchange on the evening of January 6, 1845, waived her hankie in the air and was top bidder at \$500. (Sheriff's Deed R/482)

Martha Dickinson (1785-1867) was a can-do woman. Her husband Nathan Dickinson died in 1817, leaving Martha with five children and his business interests (keeper of the Northern Liberties hay scale and a feed and flour store). Martha carried on with the store, educated her kids, and died an accomplished, prosperous woman.

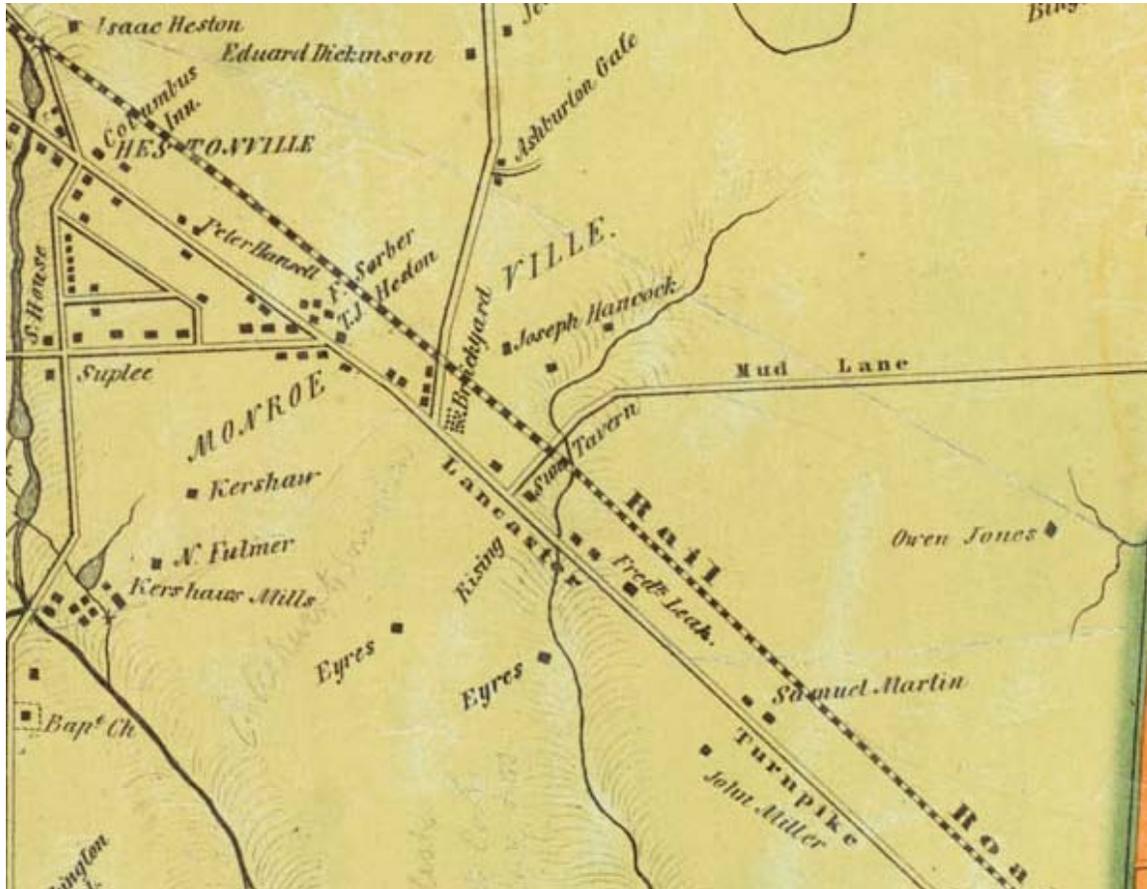
Martha held the Rising Sun property for seven months and deeded it to her nephew Nathan D. Hall, son of her brother James Hall. The deed is dated August 4, 1845 and the price \$3,200. (Deed RLL 43/537)

Nathan D. Hall (1817-1906) was a Blockley brickmaker who would soon go into the coal business. Maybe he had something to do with the brickyard on the Rising Sun property. Seeing a money-making opportunity here, Nathan subdivided the 8.5 acres. Three acres would stay with the tavern and the remaining land was chopped up into smaller parcels which Nathan sold over the next several years.

Some of the lots were sold in 1850 to Peter David Hansell descendants: Peter Hansell (1788-1872), blacksmith, purchased seven lots and his son William P. Hansell (1817-1898), master wheelwright and coachmaker, bought four lots. (See 1872 map.) These lots, located in the 4800 block, were probably investments as the Hansell homes and workplaces were in the 4900 block of Lancaster Avenue.

Clinton Smedley - Innkeeper - 1848-1855

On April 3, 1848, Nathan Hall, brickmaker of Blockley, sold the Rising Sun Tavern property, now with 3 acres, 36 perches, to Clinton Smedley for \$3,750. (Deed AMW 63/195)



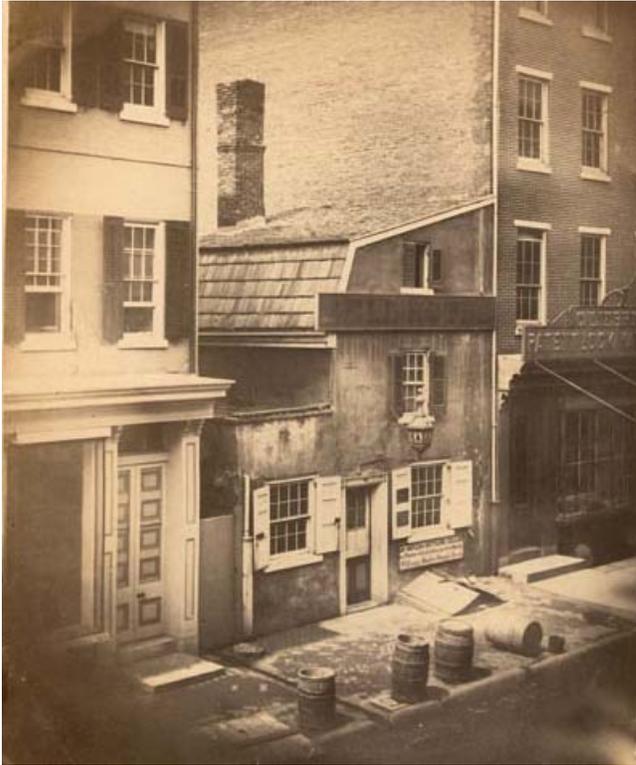
1849 Map - Blockley Township. The brickyard is shown on this map.

Clinton Smedley grew up in Lower Merion and later on purchased a farm in Radnor. His wife Ann Howard had died in 1847 and the next year Clinton sold the farm and set himself up as the innkeeper of the Rising Sun Tavern, along with his teenage children Sidney, George and Bartholomew.

This innkeeping venture lasted just a few years. Smedley sold the property in 1855 and the *Smedley Family History* tells the rest of his story.

...he (Clinton Smedley) took his son George and went to Wisconsin and was joined by his daughter and her husband (Sidney and Thomas Tyson), together with the youngest son (Bartholomew). After a year he took his son Bartholomew to California and thence to Oregon, where they engaged in mining. While hauling quartz to the Bannock City mills it is believed that they were killed by the Indians and their remains were never found.

James Boylen - Hotel Keeper - 1855 to 1872



James Boylen's first tavern in Philadelphia was the Bell Tavern located at 48 South 8th Street. This tavern has been immortalized by a photo taken by Frederick De Bourg Richards.

Boylen, a native of Ireland, first appears in the Philadelphia city directory in 1843 (tavern, 48 South 8th Street). In 1850, James Boylan purchased the three-story brick building on the NW corner of George and 8th (building to the left of the tavern in the photo) to accommodate his growing family. In 1852 he purchased the tavern property from a descendant of Hines Causland who operated the tavern in 1828-1829. It is said that Causland was a politically active fellow and his house "was much frequented by men of his own class, and it is said General Jackson was first nominated for the Presidency at the Bell."

Bell Tavern, 48 South 8th Street, Philadelphia
Frederick De Bourg Richards, photographer
1859 sign below the window: "Jas. Boylen's Bottling cellar for porter ale, cider of ... quality, NB Empty bottles bought here."

Boylan's wife Rosanna (Cunningham) died February 11, 1853 and was buried in the Old Cathedral Catholic Cemetery, directly across Lancaster Turnpike from the Rising Sun Tavern.

After Rosanna's death, James Boylen sold the 8th Street properties and in October 1855 he purchased the Rising Sun Tavern (Deed RDW 46/436) and an adjoining house as well as a house further down Lancaster Turnpike. Boylan, his children James, William, Rosanna and Frank, along with Elizabeth Cunningham (perhaps a sister-in-law) and Mary Riley (domestic help), took up residence in the house next to the Rising Sun tavern.

1845 deposit into The Philadelphia Savings Fund Society.

521152 James Boylen 48 S. 8th St. Tavern

1859 deposit - inn keeper at Lancaster Turnpike near Cemetery - location of the Rising Sun Hotel

109836 James Boylen Lancaster Turnpike near Cemetery Inn Keeper

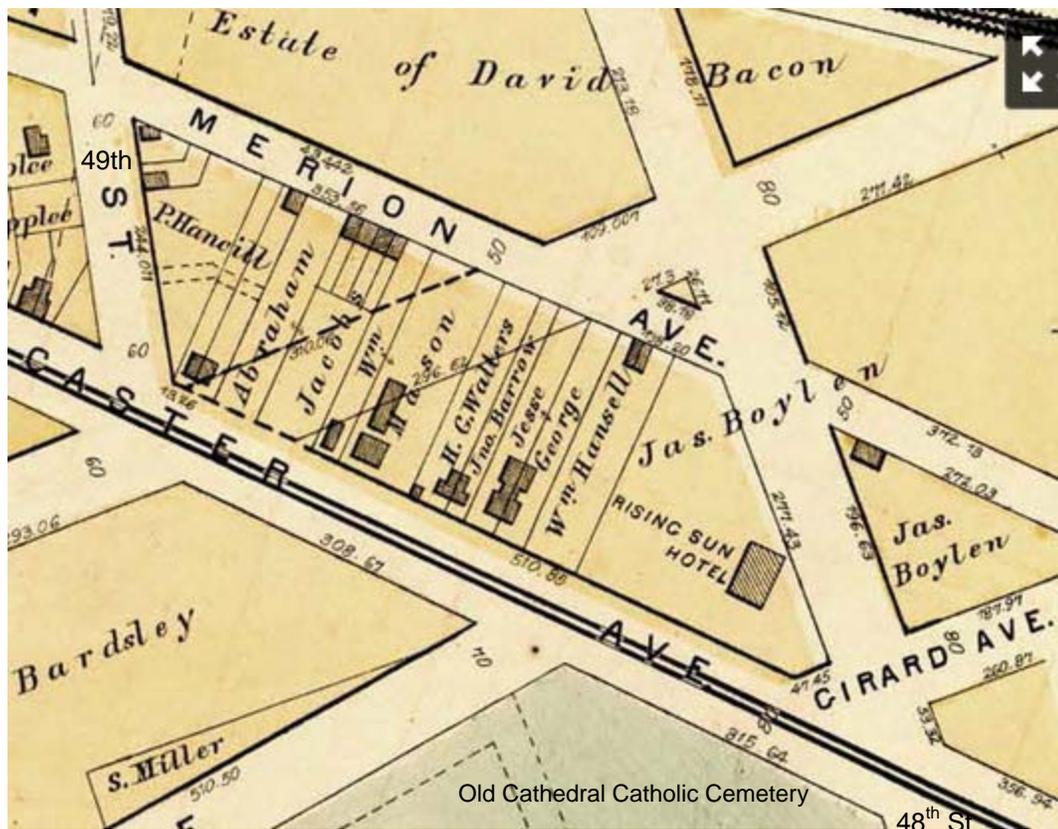
The Rising Sun Tavern became known as the Rising Sun Hotel and Boylen identified himself as a hotel keeper in the census records. The hotel was still used as a political meeting place.

A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB of the Eighth Precinct, Twenty-fourth Ward, will be held on **FRIDAY EVENING** next, September 21, at 8 o'clock, at the **RISING SUN HOTEL**, **Hostonville**. Punctual attendance is requested. By order of the Club, **sel7-mth2t* J. W. FRAILEY, Secretary**

9-17-1866 *Illustrated New Age*

James Boylen retired in the mid 1860s and operation of the hotel passed to James and Celestine Ward who had arrived from Ireland in 1865. Boylen's daughter Rosanna married the Ward's son John.

Boylen died in 1884 and is buried with his wife at the Old Cathedral Catholic Cemetery, across the avenue from the Rising Sun Hotel.



1872 Hopkins Map: I like this map because it has James Boylen's name on it, but 48th street did not bisect the Rising Sun Hotel lot; it terminated at Lancaster Avenue. By 1855, Merion Avenue paralleled Lancaster Turnpike which is now called Lancaster Avenue, and Girard Avenue extended across the Boylen property. Cathedral Cemetery is just south across the avenue. North is the Estate of David Bacon property. James Hall sold his father's properties to Bacon in 1843.

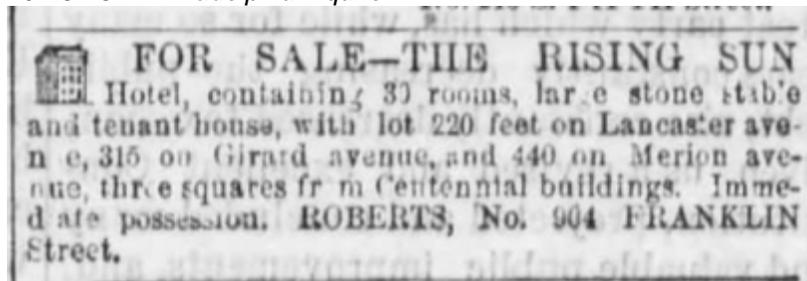
Samuel T. Roberts - Carpenter & Builder

On April 8, 1872, James Boylen, late innkeeper, sold the Rising Sun Tavern and three acres of land to Samuel T. Roberts, carpenter and builder. (Deed JAH 232/305)

Born 1819 in New Jersey, Samuel T. Roberts was a long-time builder in Philadelphia. When Roberts advertised the property for sale in 1874, there were 30 rooms in the main building.

At some point, the two-story Rising Sun Tavern had been enlarged by two stories. I can't tell what, if any, of the original structure remained. It doesn't seem likely that Clinton Smedley enlarged the tavern building. Perhaps James Boylen renovated the building for hotel accommodations. Most likely it was Samuel Roberts, a professional builder, who enlarged the building to include 30 rooms.

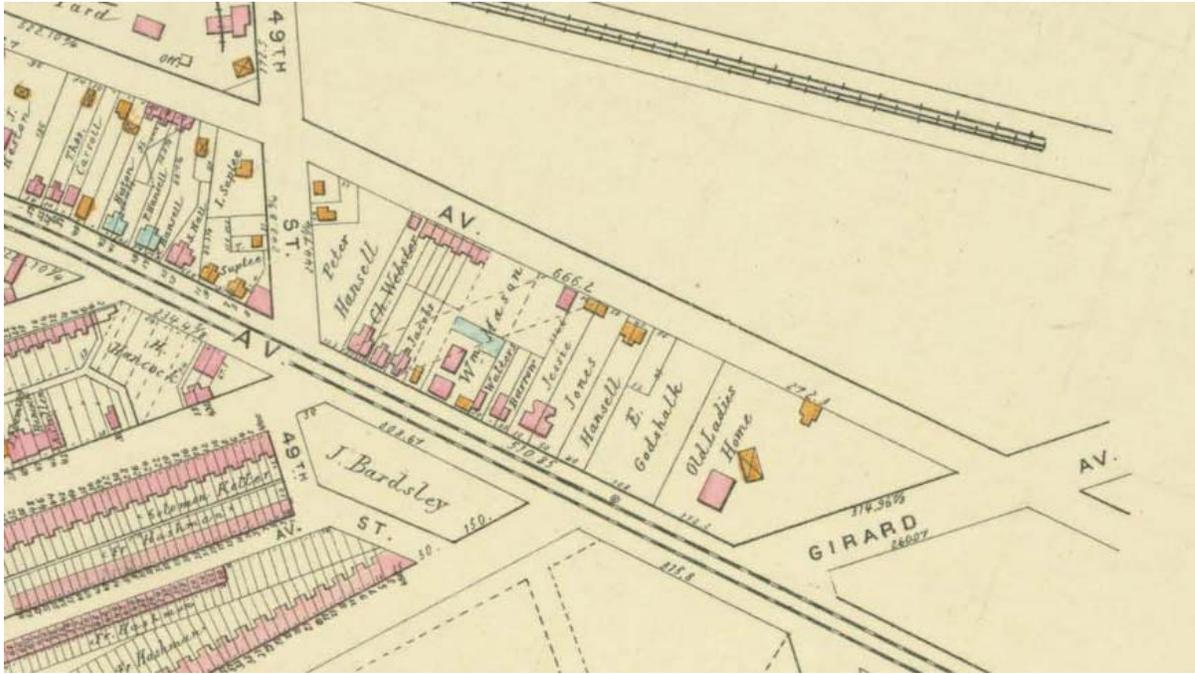
10-28-1874 *Philadelphia Inquirer*



The reference to the Centennial buildings points to an event in history. Philadelphia celebrated 100 years of independence with the Centennial Exhibition that took place in Fairmount Park during the summer of 1876. Close to ten million people visited the exhibition. The Rising Sun was located in close proximity.

Samuel T. Roberts subdivided the three acres of land and sold lots to the right and left of the Rising Sun Hotel. The lot now had about 112 feet road frontage on Lancaster Avenue at the front and Merion Avenue to the rear. On June 29, 1877 Samuel T. Roberts and Isophena his wife passed title of the former Rising Sun Hotel to the Union Home for Old Ladies. (Deed DHL 100/441)

Union Home for Old Ladies - 4801 Lancaster Avenue



1878 - Note Old Ladies Home, stone stable and tenant house as advertised by Samuel Roberts

The Union Home for Old Ladies was established in September 1875 at Harrowgate Lane (above Kensington). By the next year it was located at 3947 Market Street in West Philadelphia. At some point, Mr. Roberts and the management of the Union Home struck a deal (\$2,000 down with a \$13,000 mortgage) and by 1877 the old ladies were installed in the old Rising Sun Hotel at the corner of Lancaster Avenue and 48th Street.

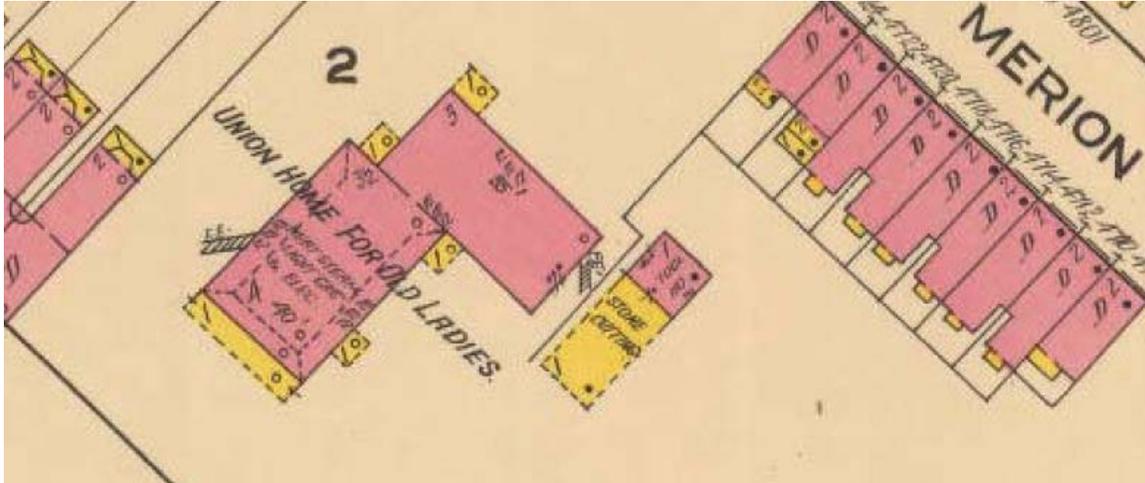
Union Home for Old Ladies.

Among the numerous benevolent organizations in our city the Union Home for Old Ladies stands prominent. It is located on the corner of Girard avenue and Lancaster avenue. The Race and Vine street cars pass the door. The building was originally intended for a hotel, but has been altered, improved and enlarged. The lot extends back to Merion avenue, with ample room for future growth. There are now in the institution thirty-nine old ladies, whose ages range from sixty five to eighty-five. Mrs. Thomas M. Newbold is president of the Board of Managers, and Archibald C. Levy is president of the Board of Trustees. Mrs E. C. Pauling is treasurer, No 8060 Market street. All the rooms are neatly furnished, and the duties of the matron are admirably performed. The name "Union Home" is chosen because Christians of all names harmoniously unite in this noble work. A few daily and religious newspapers and some books for a library would be welcome, as well as gifts of money.

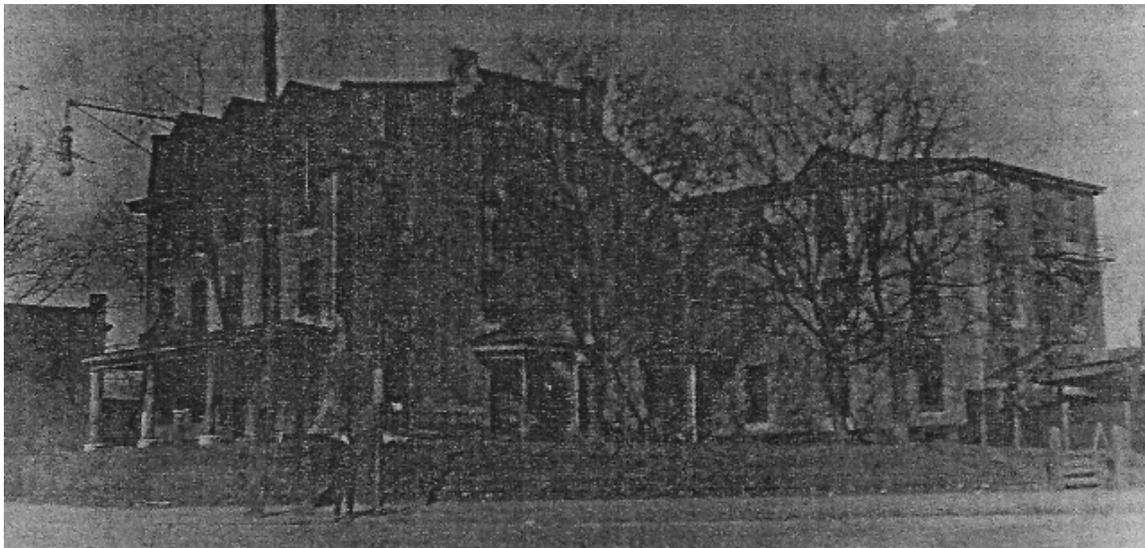
For admission, the "old ladies" had to be over 65 years in age, of good moral character and peaceful behavior. Applicants paid \$200, furnished their own rooms, and conveyed their property, benefits and pensions to the home

1-13-1882 *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Until 1891, there was only one water closet and one bath tub for the entire house. In 1892 a three-story wing was built which added 16 rooms, five new water closets, four bath rooms, a laundry, kitchen, large dining room, and an entertainment room. Moving into the 20th century, there would now be accommodations for 50 old ladies.



Detail from 1922 Sanborn Insurance Map



Photograph - 1920s

This photograph of the Union Home for Old Ladies was taken in the 1920s. The main building to the left faces Lancaster Avenue. The side of the building is viewed across Girard Avenue. The new wing is to the right.

Newspaper articles are numerous for the Union Home for Old Ladies. There were always fund raisers, charity events, visitations, donations, public relations, open houses, annual reports, holiday parties, help wanted advertisements (cooks, matrons, etc.) and, of course, deaths.

One old lady stood out by virtue of her age and personality. Margaret Garwood moved into the Union Home for Old Ladies in 1906 when she was 99 years old.

6-23-1914 *Lebanon Daily News* (PA)

Mrs. Garwood Is 107 Many Birthday Gifts

On her 107th birthday Mrs. Margaret Garwood, Monday received the congratulations of her friends and her fellow inmates in the Union Home for Old Ladies, 4801 Lancaster avenue, Philadelphia.

Surrounding the aged woman, as she sat in her rocking chair in her room in the institution that has been her home for the last eight years, were numerous gifts of flowers, birthday cards and remembrance tokens. Many callers paid their respects and wished her many happy returns of the day.

Mrs. Garwood was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1807. She came to this country when she was 27 years old, and has since lived in Philadelphia. Mrs. Garwood has a remarkable active memory. Many years ago she was employed in the home of George H. McFadden, a noted philanthropist of Philadelphia.

Starting at her 100th birthday, a news reporter annually interviewed Mrs. Garwood. The "facts" in the newspaper articles celebrating her birthdays are a little muddled but there apparently was documentation of her birth date: June 22, 1807 in County Tyrone, Ireland.

Margaret came to the US probably in the 1830s or 1840s. She married and had at least one child.

Reportedly, Margaret was a long-time domestic for George H. McFadden (1847-1926). McFadden was a second generation owner of the oldest and second largest cotton brokerage firm in the US and Europe. It was said his influence was so far reaching he could control the price of cotton.

Mrs. Garwood had no particular advice for her longevity but she believed in getting plenty of sleep and she abstained from eating between meals. She also credited the good care she received at the Union Home for Old Ladies.

Mrs. Garwood spoke out on politics. "Votes for women and such new fangled notions are responsible for much of the suffering nowadays. Woman could not tend to her home and dabble in politics at the same time as the home is the source of happiness - any interference with it necessarily means more misery."

Death finally came on January 31, 1915. Her last words were "My time has come." She is buried in Fernwood Cemetery (Lot 13/2) in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Her death certificate states the cause of death as "old age (nothing else)."

The last reference I can find for the Union Home for Old Ladies is a 1966 report of a minor fire in the building. All the old ladies were saved but the home drops out of newspaper articles. Presumably it had come to the end of a 90 year run.

Urban renewal took its course and one day a wrecking ball and bulldozers razed the structure and the last remnants of George Hansell's Rising Sun Tavern were hauled off to a landfill.

Today the site of the tavern is between Checker's Drive In Restaurant to the west and Girard's Meat Market to the east.

2016 Google Earth - approximate lot lines of the Union Home for Old Ladies



End Notes

Nancy Ettensperger
P.O. Box 86
Underhill, Vermont 05489

Peter David Hansell and John Suplee descendants - see the Hansell Family Book by Ed Bradford
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~edbradford/ed/books/hansell.pdf>

Diary of Joseph Price

The Lower Merion Historical Society presents the transcribed pages of Joseph Price's diary here: <http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/texts/price/>. The original diary is preserved in four boxes at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, along with other papers of Joseph Price <http://www2.hsp.org/collections/manuscripts/p/price1657.htm>.

Joseph Price was a life-long (1752-1828) resident of Lower Merion. Starting at age 35 he kept a diary until three days before his death. The diary is truly an extraordinary record of the everyday activities of a fellow who was into everything and knew everybody in the area. His role as coffin-maker/undertaker added an extra dimension to his observations and activities in his community. It was a good thing Joseph Price liked to stop in for a drink at Hansell's Tavern.

Maps

1777 Map by J.M. Duffin, Mapping West Philadelphia

<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/map.php>

1776 Map - Historical Maps of Pennsylvania, Road Maps of Pennsylvania, 1776 Road Map

<http://www.mapsofpa.com/roadmaps.htm>

1808 Map by John Hills - Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory

<http://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/>

1819 Map by John Mellish - Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.la000783/>

1843 Map by Charles Ellet, Jr., Philadelphia County - Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory

<http://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/>

1849 Map by Rea and Miller, Blockley Township - West Philadelphia Community History Center

<http://westphillyhistory.archives.upenn.edu/maps>

1872 Map by Hopkins, Atlas of the 24th & 27th Wards, West Philadelphia, Plate H - West Philadelphia Community History Center

<http://westphillyhistory.archives.upenn.edu/maps>

1878 Map by J.D. Scott, Atlas of the 24th & 27th Wards, West Philadelphia, Page M - West Philadelphia Community History Center

<http://westphillyhistory.archives.upenn.edu/maps>

1922 Map - Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, PA, Vol. 14, 1922, Sheet 1358, Sanbourn Map - Penn State University Libraries

<https://collection1.libraries.psu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/maps1/id/18485/rec/14>

2015 Map by Google Earth

The First Long Turnpike in the United States by Charles I. Landis, 1918. Includes Robert Brooke's survey (George Hansel's Tavern description on digital page 94)

<https://archive.org/stream/firstlongturnpi00landgoog#page/n9/mode/2up>

Overbrook Farms by Tello J. D'Apery, 1936. Hansel's Tavern on a plan based on the survey of Robert Brooke, see digital page 91. Use the pdf created by Adam Levine.

<http://www.phillyh2o.org/backpages/OverbrookHistory.htm>



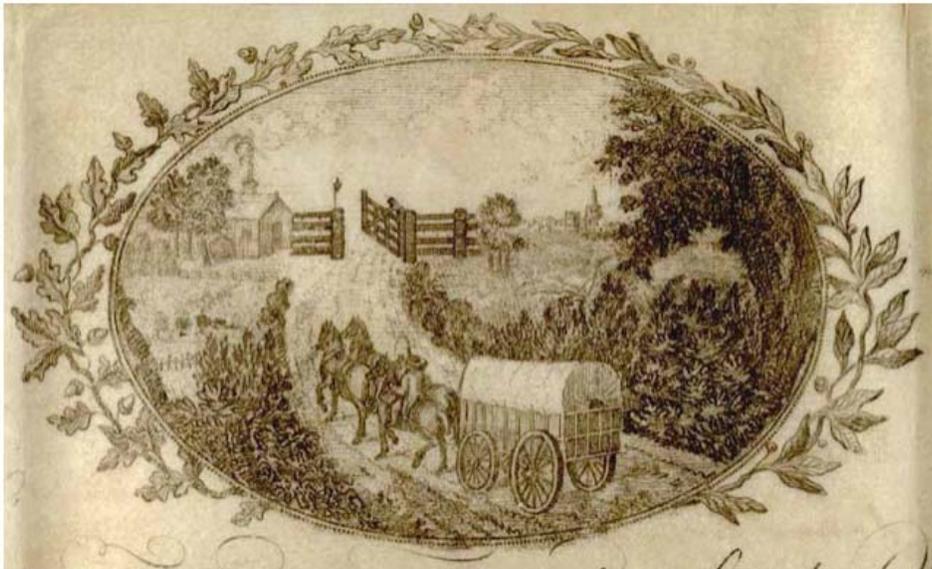
Mileage along the new Lancaster Turnpike was calculated from the west bank of the Schuylkill, the city limits of Philadelphia. Milestones 1 through 4 are missing. Milestones 5 through 9 were erected by our diarist Joseph Price. Here is a photo of the sixth milestone marking the mileage to Philadelphia.

Milestones, Inns and Taverns of the 1794 Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Lancaster) Turnpike. Some enterprising fellows documented the milestones and taverns along the Lancaster Turnpike

<http://pastones.yolasite.com/>

Below is a detail from the stock certificate issued for the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike road project depicting a Conestoga wagon (the tractor trailer of its time) and a tollgate in the background. Maybe this is tollgate number one, just east of Hansel's Rising Sun Tavern, with Philadelphia in the distance?

www.certificatecollector.com



West Philadelphia Community History Center - everything here was useful for this research
<http://westphillyhistory.archives.upenn.edu/>

Explore PA History.com - Pennsylvania Toll Roads and Canals, 1790-1850.
<http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-132>

The Wayside Inns on the Lancaster Roadside Between Philadelphia and Lancaster by Julius F. Sachse, 1912, page 16 reference to Rising Sun Tavern
<https://archive.org/details/waysideinnsonlan02sach>

Newspapers at GenealogyBank.com, ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov, Accessible-Archives.com, Active Paper digital newspapers at Penn State, Newspapers.com, FultonHistory.com

Philadelphia County Deed Indexes and Deeds

Plats (<http://www.phillyhistory.org/PhotoArchive/>)

Deed and Plat Indexes (<http://philadox.phila.gov/phillyhistoricalindex/>)

Deeds (<http://phila-records.com/historic-records/web/>)

The Death of John Suplee

The diarist Joseph Price wrote that John Suplee died with gravel, an archaic term for kidney stones.

21st Wind S W fine day... Old John Supple[e] of Blockley Buried this afternoon, about 70 I Should think dyed with Gravel, was very bad & sufferd much the Doct by an Instrument drove near a Gallon from him at twice he Left a good Estate amongst 5 Childern

John Penn's The Solitude - George Washington Did Not Sleep Here

Unlike most estates George Washington had visited, he noted in his journal, after a visit to this estate, he was not asked to spend the night at the small, one bedroom Solitude of John Penn.

<http://drphysick.com/solitude.html>

The Hall Family

A profile of the Mahlon Hall family and the story of the Revolutionary War is found on Pages 147/148 of the *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Vol. III, 1905* by William H.W. Davis, viewed at
<https://archive.org/details/historyofbucksco03davi>

The Hall family is mentioned in the Burial Records of Merion Meeting Graveyard compiled by Margaret B. Harvey: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/philadelphia/cemeteries/merion09.txt>

James Hall, his first wife Hepzibah and their six children (William, Sarah, Anna, Nathan, Charles and John Morris) can found in the Green Street Monthly Meeting records located in the Quaker Records at Ancestry.com. After the sale of the Rising Sun Tavern, the children Sarah Hall Warrington and Charles Hall (married to Sarah Lukens) and their families moved to New Boston, Illinois. The last sighting of James Hall and his youngest son is in this 1846 notation in the Green Street MM records: "John Morris Hall gone with his father to New Boston, Ill."

The Warrington Family in New Boston, Illinois

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mygermanfamilies/Mossman.html>

Smedley Family

Genealogy of the Smedley Family, compiled by Gilbert Cope, 1901, viewed here:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogyofsmedl00byucope>

James Boylen Family

Photograph of the Bell Tavern found at <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/2607>

Bell Tavern and Hines Causland: *Memorial History of the City of Philadelphia, From its First Settlement to Year 1895, Vol 2*, John Russell Young, Ed., published 1895 and viewed here: <https://archive.org/details/memorialhistoryo02youn>

Philadelphia Savings Fund Society: If your ancestors lived in Philadelphia in the early 1800s and had spare change to bank, you can probably find them in the records of The Philadelphia Savings Fund Society at ancestry.com (in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records.)

Samuel T. Roberts

One of Roberts' projects in downtown Philadelphia still stands. The buildings located at 110 through 120 Pine Street have been converted to townhouses and sell for \$1,000,000+.

Union Home for Old Ladies

A List of Philadelphia Inns and Taverns, 1680-1900 by Walter C. Brenner (Call number Am.3033) Mr. Brenner donated his work to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on January 31, 1929. He lists approximately fourteen establishments with the name Rising Sun that existed between 1750 and 1832 in the greater Philadelphia area.

Photograph of the Union Home for Old Ladies - the photo is captioned "Old Rising Sun Inn - Lancaster Ave at 48th St" It came from either the above Brenner file or the Benjamin Randolph Boggs Papers (#Am.3032) at the Historical Society of PA.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania also has early issues of the yearly corporate reports of the Union Home for Old Ladies (Call Number: Wj.331).

Thanks to Louis Hansell (who descends, probably, from an entirely different Hansell family) for sending me this information about construction of the new wing. *Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities, Volume 23* by Pennsylvania Board of Public Charities, 1893, page 158.

158

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

[OFF. DOC.]

THE UNION HOME FOR OLD LADIES.

Corner of Girard and Lancaster avenues.

Visited May 23 and November 15, 1892.

It was a great pleasure to your visitor to see the greatly needed renovation of the exterior by the Union Home, as well as the addition of sixteen rooms in the new wing just completed. There are five new water closets, four bath rooms, a laundry, a large bright kitchen, a fine large dining room, an entertainment room, and a good, large, light cellar with cemented floor. There is a new steam arrangement for heating the house. All of which must greatly add to the comfort and health of the old ladies.

The repairs are still going on, and perhaps will not be entirely finished until after the first of the year.

There are now twenty-seven inmates; three deaths and one dismissal having occurred during the year. The future capacity will be about fifty.

Sheriff's Sale.
SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
Philadelphia, July 30, 1822 }
By Virtue of a Writ of Vendition Exponas, to me directed,
**Will be Sold, at Public Vendue,
On Wednesday,**
The 14th. of August at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at the premises,
ALL the Right, Title, and Interest of John Hansell, in all that certain Tract or Lot of Ground, situate in the Township of Blockley, Philadelphia County, beginning at a stone in the line of Mahlon Hall's land, thence south $84\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, west 24 perches and nine-tenths to the middle of Peters' road, thence along the middle of the same south 6 degrees, west 23 perches to the Lancaster road, thence by the side of the same south 51 degrees, east 50 perches, thence by land late of Isaac Warner north $3\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, west 38 perches and three-tenths to a stone, thence north $86\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, east 4 perches, thence by land of Mahlon Hall north $38\frac{1}{2}$ degrees west 22 perches and nine-tenths of a perch, to the place of beginning, containing eight acres, one half, and thirty-five perches, including one half of Peters' road, be the same more or less.
Seized and taken in execution as the property of John Hansell, and to be sold by
Caleb North, Sheriff.



N. B. There is on said premises a Two Story Stone House, a Log Barn, a Frame Wheelwright's Shop, and three good Stone Sheds.—
It is occupied as a Tavern. aug 27. 14—3t

This is the first newspaper advertisement concerning the Rising Sun Tavern.

John Hansell (son of George and Deborah Hansell) was sued by one James Jones. John lost the suit and Sheriff Caleb North, as directed by the court, seized the property and John's 1/12th interest was sold at auction. (Sheriff's Deed D/20)

Below: approximate 1795 lot lines - 2015 Google Earth and <http://platplotter.appspot.com/>

