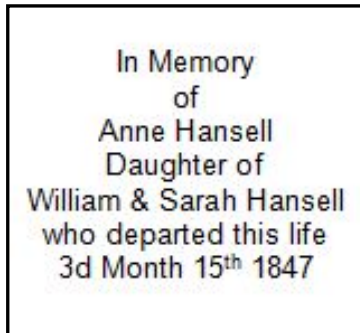


Anne Hansell, Hannah Hansell and Sarah Morris Hansell
Daughters of
William Hansell and Sarah Morris Hansell

The three sisters are buried in the same plot (A-105) at St. James Church Graveyard in Kingsessing, Pennsylvania. They are clearly identified on their headstones, so it's just a matter of trying to fill in their lives between birth and death dates.



Anne Hansell (1785-1847) was the first child of William Hansell and Sarah Morris Hansell. As the oldest girl, she likely helped her mother with the household and younger siblings, especially after her father died in 1800 and the family moved to Philadelphia. She did not marry.

Anne's mother died in 1833. I can guess that after Eliza Ann Berrett Hansell died in 1839, Anne moved in with her brother William to tend to his family. William Morris Hansell would die in October of 1846 of TB and Anne died six months later.

Only by Anne's death can we get a glimpse of her life. Her funeral notice ran in the March 17, 1847 issue of the *Public Ledger*. Her funeral was to be held at her late residence, SW corner of Eleventh and George (Sansom) which is 70 South 11th St., address of her brother William Morris Hansell. Her death certificate reports she "died with exhaustion from an anemic disease." This could very well have been tuberculosis. Her nephew, James Stiner Hansell (son of her brother Thomas) was executor of her estate.

The only other thing I can squeeze out of Anne's death is the story of Mr. Ronaldson's cemetery and its innovative bell room. Anne's death certificate is included with interments at Philadelphia Cemetery also known as Ronaldson's Cemetery.

Ronaldson's Cemetery was located between 9th and 10th Streets, between Bainbridge and Fitzwater, about seven or eight blocks from 11th and George (Sansom). The death certificates for Anne, her brother William Morris Hansell, and her nephew William Hansell Kildare report interment at Ronaldson's (Philadelphia) Cemetery. Perhaps they were placed in a vault before final burial at St. James Church cemetery in Kingsessing, about eight miles west of Philadelphia.

James Ronaldson died at Philadelphia, March 31st, 1841, aged upwards of sixty years. He was a native of Scotland, and one of the largest type-founders in the United States, and a great horticulturist. The beautiful cemetery bearing his name was established by him. He was an upright, frugal, and honest man, a sincere friend of Andrew Jackson, and a lover of his adopted country. He was never married.

Mr. Ronaldson's Cemetery was laid out in 1831. It is situated between Ninth and Tenth Streets, in the southwest section of the city, and he deserves respect for his memory, and much credit as the pioneer in this laudable enterprise. He laid out this cemetery on a square belonging to himself, several years before that of Laurel Hill was commenced, and it now contains a large number of splendid tombs, with appropriate trees, and adorned with flowers and shrubbery.

In speaking of his original plan, he said, " he wanted to erect within the inclosure of the Philadelphia Cemetery a dwelling house for the keeper or gravedigger on one side of the gate,

and on the other side, a house uniform with the gravedigger's; this house to have a room, provided with a stove, couch, &c., into which persons dying suddenly might be laid, and the string of a bell put into their hand, so that if there should be any motion of returning life, the alarm bell might be rung, the keeper alarmed, and medical help procured."

The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, Now Deceased by Henry Simpson

The last burials at Ronaldson's were during the 1818 influenza epidemic. In 1950, the cemetery had become littered with trash; the bell house had fallen into disrepair. The cemetery was turned into a city playground and the majority of the 13,500 remains moved to Forest Hills Cemetery in Somerton, PA.

Below is St. James Church, Kingsessing, Pennsylvania via google earth, 2012. I wonder if urban pressures will also lead to the demolition of this cemetery at some point in the future.



In the Delaware County Archives, Narratives, 8/1/1839, Box 16, is a document regarding a legal action brought by John Rowland, Plaintiff vs. Samuel Forman, Defendant. All I can glean from this document is that Samuel Forman, yeoman, owed Rowland \$90.

After Samuel died in 1854, Hannah lived here and there in Philadelphia and by 1860 moved in with her widowed sister Sarah Morris Hansell Matthews who, in turn, was living with her married daughter's family.

Hannah's funeral notice in the June 2, 1873 *Public Ledger* follows:

FORMAN - On the 30th ult. Mrs. Hannah Forman, relict of the late Samuel Forman of Monmouth county, NJ. Her relatives and friends are invited to attend her funeral, at 10 o'clock this day Monday No. 734 Sansom Street. To proceed to Kingsessing Church.

734 Sansom Street is the home of Elizabeth Matthews Kildare, married daughter of Sarah Morris Hansell Matthews.



1917 photo of the southeast corner of 8th and Sansom. 734 and 736 Sansom Street, home/printing business of William P. Kildare.

In Memory
of
Sarah M. Matthews
wife of
John Matthews, Jr.
daughter of
William & Sarah Hansell
Born Sept. 20, 1798
died
March 15, 1882

Sarah Morris Hansell (1798-1882) was the last child of William Hansell, obviously named after her mother. See End Notes for a tree of the descendants of Sarah.

Sarah married John Matthews, Jr. on April 25, 1822 in Old St. Paul's Church in Philadelphia.

John was a boot and shoemaker with a shop at 393 High Street. The couple lived at Scott's Alley, in close proximity to Sarah's family.

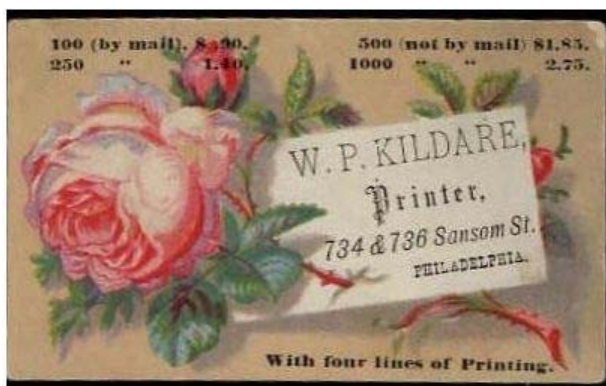
Sarah and John had two children. Elizabeth was born in 1823. Warner Roberts Matthews (1826-1830) was born just three months before his father died.

John Matthews died in 1826 at age 28. He and his son Warner are buried in St. James Church Cemetery, Kingsessing. The lot was originally purchased by a Thomas Matthews and John was the first to be buried in this lot.

The widow Sarah Matthews is listed in various Philadelphia city directories but nothing is certain until the 1850 census.

1850 - South Ward (address is 56 South 11th Street, Philadelphia)
Sarah M. Matthews, 52, born in PA
Elizabeth Matthews, 25, born in PA

It is possible that Sarah and her daughter Elizabeth were living with Sarah's brother William Morris Hansell and sister Anne Hansell at 70 So. 11th Street during the 1840s. By 1850, both brother and sister had died, and Sarah and her daughter moved up the street.



Elizabeth Matthews met up with one William P. Kildare, master printer. They married about 1851, had at least six kids (the first two children were twins), and provided a home for the sisters Sarah Matthews and Hannah Forman.

The extended family remained in the South 11th Street area and then moved three blocks east to 734-736 Sansom. An 1880 fire at their printing factory/home on Sansom Street precipitated moving their home to 627 Vine. It is here that Sarah Morris Hansell Matthews died in 1882 at age 84 of "old age." Sarah died in March and made a temporary stop at Woodlands before burial in Kingsessing.

Thanks to Elizabeth Matthews Kildare for purchasing the cemetery plot at St. James Church in Kingsessing in 1886 and ensuring a resting place for some of her children, mother, and aunts.

Elizabeth Matthews' husband, William P. Kildare, literally left a wide-ranging paper trail. He was a master printer in Philadelphia during the 1850s through 1880s.

Kildare first appears in a Philadelphia city directory in 1852 at 56 S 11th Street, home of Sarah Hansell Matthews. Elizabeth Matthews and William P. Kildare must have married between 1850 and 1852.

Kildare was born in New York (probably City) of Scottish parents and learned his printing trade there. In Philadelphia he probably worked at a printing firm until he went into business for himself, first located at 422 Walnut Street in 1865. An 1865 tax record lists his products as cards, circulars, and pamphlets. Kildare also printed sheet music for various music publishing companies.

In 1866 Kildare purchased a building at 734 Sansom Street and in 1869 purchased the adjoining building at 736 Sansom. The following advertisement is in the 1878 *Journal of the Franklin Institute*.

WM. P. KILDARE'S
STEAM-POWER
PRINTING HOUSE,
Nos. 734 and 736 Sansom St., Philadelphia.

Books on all kinds of scientific subjects printed with the greatest accuracy.
Works done in all the modern languages.
N.B.—This journal has been printed for several years at above establishment.

A fire in 1880 tells the story of the Sansom Street buildings.

Fire This Morning—About half past one o'clock this morning fire and smoke were seen issuing from the book and job printing establishment of William P. Kildare, Nos. 734 and 736 Sansom street. The fire originated on the third floor of No. 736, occupied as a composing room. It burned up through the roof and communicated to the roof of No. 734, which is occupied by Mr. Kildare as a dwelling.

The firemen got to work quickly and the fire was soon extinguished. The furniture in Mr. Kildare's residence and the contents of the printing office suffered considerably from water. The roof and third floor of No. 736 were the only portions of the structure injured by fire. Mr. Kildare has occupied the place about fifteen years and owns both houses. His loss in building and stock will not exceed \$2000, which is fully covered by insurance.

After the fire, the family home was relocated to 627 Vine Street.

Kildare's family and the Sansom Street buildings are not found in the 1880 census. The fire occurred during the week the census was taken.

An 1882 Philadelphia Census of Manufacturers lists W.P. Kildare, 734 Sansom, 37 people employed.

6-7-1880 *Philadelphia Inquirer*

In 1887 Kildare's business went bankrupt. In 1888 Kildare drops out of the Philadelphia City directories. The next sighting of Kildare is in Washington DC during 1888 and 1889 where Kildare and his son were employed by the Government Printing Office, William as a floor hand and his son Paul as a pressman.

Kildare next appears in the 1900 census living at 40 Columbia Heights in Brooklyn, New York: lodger, printer, 77 years old, married 50 years, parents born in Scotland.

Kildare's obit is found in a 1904 issue of the *American Printer and Lithographer*.

Death of W. P. Kildare

William P. Kildare, formerly a prominent master printer of Philadelphia, died at the Home for Incurables, in New York, January 31, being eighty-one years of age. Twenty-five years ago he had a prosperous business, and owned a plant worth over \$100,000. He became involved by the failure of his largest customer, and lost everything. After a time he came to New York, and was in the employ of Andrew H. Kellogg. Later he was employed as assistant at the rooms of the New York Typothetae. A few years ago he was run over by a New York *Journal* delivery wagon, and received injuries from which he never fully recovered. Through the kindness of Sam'l P. Avery he occupied a bed at the Home for Incurables, where his last days were passed in peace. As a young man, he was well known in New York printing circles, having been in Harper's pressroom for some years.

I have no idea what firm failed and precipitated Mr. Kildare's own bankruptcy. In April of 1887 appraisers were appointed to value Kildare's property for bankruptcy proceedings. In June of 1888, the Sansom Street properties were bought by F. Wayland Ayer, advertising tycoon, for \$14,000. (Kildare had purchased the properties in 1863/1869 for a total of \$13,000.)

Samuel P. Avery, who footed the bill at the Home for Incurables, started his own career working as a wood engraver at Harpers and then went on to become an art collector and philanthropist.

Elizabeth Kildare died in 1901 in Marcus Hook, PA and is buried at St. James in Kingsessing. Son Paul M. Kildare worked with his father in the 1880s and is last seen in the 1910 Census at 900-908 Spring Street, Philadelphia: lodger, printer (pressman), 47 years old, single. The girls Sarah and Margaret are probably lost to history.

End Notes

I have not provided footnotes. This is not intended for publication. On the other hand, I haven't plucked this information from thin air; there is a source for all this material. My interpretations and attributions may be incorrect. If anyone wants to know where specific information came from, just let me know!

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Hansell Family Book by Ed Bradford – See this work for all known descendants of Peter David Hansell (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~edbradford/ed/books/hansell.pdf>)

St. James of Kingsessing Tombstone Inscriptions, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, call Ph22E

GenealogyBank.com - historical newspapers and documents

Google Books
Hathi-Trust Digital Library
FamilySearch.com
Ancestry.com
Archive.org
Find-a-Grave.com

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network (<http://www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/>) - maps and more

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/>) This site also has the WPA Index to Registration of Deaths-Philadelphia 1803-1860.

Delaware County PA History (<http://delawarecountyhistory.com/>)
Created by historian Keith Lockhart. Tax records, maps and much more. Keith has a private collection of history books for Chester and Delaware

Delaware County PA Government Archives (<http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html>)
repository of Forman lawsuit document

Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French by Hoard Barclay French, 1913, Vol. II, page 273, Ancestry of Catharine Ann Hansell

The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, Now Deceased by Henry Simpson, 1859 - Mr. Ronaldson's cemetery

Census of Manufacturers of Philadelphia for the Year 1882 by Loren Blodget, page 186

Serial Set Vol. No. 2608, Report H.Rpt 3300, Administration of the Government Printing Office, List of All Persons in Government Printing Office April 16, 1888, Page 886. This list was prepared for hearings held in 1888 to cut out superfluous employees and cease printing of private material at the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C.

Annual Report of the Public Printer for Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/1888, page 80 - amounts paid to William P. Kildare and Paul M. Kildare for work at Government Printing Office

N.W. Ayer and Son. F. Wayland Ayer started his advertising agency in 1869 in Philadelphia at age 21. He named the firm after his father to give a more established air to his business. The agency created these advertising slogans, recognizable to just about anyone of a certain age:

- When it rains it pours
- I'd walk a mile for a Camel
- A diamond is forever
- Reach out and touch someone
- Today's army wants to join you
- Be all you can be

F. Wayland Ayer purchased Kildare's buildings in 1888. In 1929, son-in-law Wilfred Fry had the buildings demolished and the still-standing Jewelry Trade Building was erected at 640 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA. - philadelphiabuildings.org

Advertising card for WP Kildare at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/benjclark/1435517796/>

American Printer and Lithographer, 1904, Vol. 38, Page 71 - obit for William P. Kildare

Descendants of Sarah Morris Hansell

- 1 Sarah Morris Hansell b: Sep 20, 1798 in Darby, PA d: Mar 15, 1882 in 627 Vine St., Philadelphia
Age at death: 83 Burial: Sect A, Lot 105, St. James Church, Kingsessing
- .. +John Matthews, Jr. b: Mar 29, 1798 m: Apr 25, 1822 in Old St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia d: Nov
26, 1826 in Philadelphia Age at death: 28 Burial: Sect A, Lot 105, St. James Church, Kingsessing
- 2 Elizabeth Matthews b: Jan 1823 d: May 4, 1901 in 3rd & Market Sts, Marcus Hook, Delaware
Co., PA Age at death: 78 est. Burial: Sect A, Lot 105, St. James Church, Kingsessing
- +William P. Kildare b: 1823 in New York m: abt. 1851 d: Jan 1, 1904 in Home for Incurables,
New York, NY Age at death: 81 est. Burial: unknown
- 3 William Hansell Kildare b: Apr 24, 1853 d: Nov 19, 1862 in 104 So. 11th St, Philadelphia
Age at death: 9 Burial: Sect A, Lot 105, St. James Church, Kingsessing
- 3 Warner Matthews Kildare b: Apr 24, 1853 d: Apr 24, 1853 Age at death: 0 Burial: Sect A,
Lot 105, St. James Church, Kingsessing
- 3 Alexander Kildare b: Sep 21, 1855 d: Jul 18, 1876 Age at death: 20 Burial: Sect A, Lot
105, St. James Church, Kingsessing
- 3 Sarah A. Kildare b: abt. 1857
- 3 Margaret E. Kildare b: abt. 1858
- 3 Paul M. Kildare b: abt. 1864
- 2 Warner Roberts Matthews b: Aug 11, 1826 d: 1830 Age at death: 4 est. Burial: Sect A, Lot
105, St. James Church, Kingsessing