

**James Hansell - Clock/Watchmaker  
Philadelphia, PA  
1791 to 1865**



- Photograph
- Signature
- Three tall case clocks
- A handful of watch papers

On paper it doesn't look like much of a haul, but each item was an unexpected surprise. This is the first Hansell in my lineup whose work is still in circulation and whose photos have been preserved by his family.

James Hansell is the fourth child of William Hansell and Sarah Morris. A family tree prepared by descendant Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr. lists James Morris Hansell born in February of 1791. His family lived in Darby, eight miles west of Philadelphia, where his father operated a blacksmith shop.

Silhouette - James Hansell 1814 (age 23)

Father William Hansell died in 1800 when James was nine years old. The widow Sarah Morris Hansell and her seven children, Anne, Thomas, Hannah, James, William Morris, Morris and Sarah, moved into downtown Philadelphia.

The 1800 and 1810 census records for Sarah Hansell are problematic at best. James and his brother Thomas (born 1786) are not accounted for in males of a certain age. Starting in 1802, Sarah Hansell is listed in Philadelphia city directories at 21 North 5<sup>th</sup>, corner of Zane (aka Filbert) and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, various addresses on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and one listing at 180 Sassafras (aka Race) Street, all streets within a contiguous neighborhood.

James does not make a reliable, recorded appearance in Philadelphia until age 25 when he is listed in the 1816 Philadelphia city directory as a clockmaker, 3 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Where was James until 1816 (besides attending weddings in Radnor in 1812 and his short military service in 1814)? Probably going to school then serving an apprenticeship with a clock/watchmaker.

*Two Hundred Years of American Clocks & Watches* by Chris H. Bailey describes the apprenticeship process:

“As an apprentice, a youth, of about fourteen years of age, was bound by a contract to a tradesman, normally for seven years, though sometimes for less. The master agreed to teach the youth all aspects of his trade or trades; in return the youth would assist in completion of work being carried on in the shop. A trainee first was assigned simple tasks; then, as he became more proficient, he was graduated progressively to more complex work until he became skilled in the art. Although paid no wages, the apprentice was usually given room and board in the master craftsman's home.”

Bailey reports Philadelphia was the leader in clockmakers between 1750 and 1850. In the 1813 Philadelphia City Directory there are about 30+ men listed as clockmakers. Two famous clockmakers were living in the 7<sup>th</sup> Street neighborhood where James's mother lived.

John J. Parry (1773-1835) had inherited the clockmaking tools of his famous uncle David Rittenhouse. Parry was located at 243 High (aka Market) Street in the early 1800s.

Henry Voigt lived on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He was a clockmaker, though during this time period he was Chief Coiner of the newly established US Mint on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Voigt's son, Thomas, was a clockmaker at 44 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street from 1811 through 1836.



Detail of Hansell clock at the Athenaeum in Philadelphia.

James Hansell was proprietor of his own clock and watch shop from 1816 through 1859. I found only one advertisement for his shop in an 1848 publication.

Some of his fellow clockmakers advertised in the local newspapers. These four ads appeared in the October 20, 1840 issue of the *Public Ledger*.

The paper had just started using little icons to identify the type of advertisement (hats, umbrellas, houses, horses, teeth).

 **PATENT VIBRATORY WATCHES, FOR SALE at No. 160 NORTH SECOND Street, corner of NEW ST.—They are warranted to keep as correct time as the Patent Lever, and to cost two thirds less to keep in order. The above Watches are a new and valuable invention to the public for correct time, and cheapness in price. Also, on hand, all kinds of Watches, Clocks, Silver Spoons, Spectacles, Jewellery, &c. &c.**  
a2-3m\* **JOHN FRIES.**

 **A CARD.—The subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has removed from Juliana street to No. 277 SECOND Street, between Callowhill and Willow streets, where he now keeps a CLOCK, WATCH and LADIES' SHOE STORE. Old Clocks taken in exchange for new ones. All kinds of Yankee and other Clocks repaired and warranted to keep true.**  
a2-3m\* **JACOB REDFERN.**

 **CLOCKS AND LOOKING GLASSES—Wholesale and Retail. Philadelphia and New England manufactured CLOCKS, 8 day and 20 hour, Brass or Wood in great variety of the best quality, and lowest prices. Purchasers are requested to call and see for themselves. Also, LOOKING GLASSES, in great variety. Repairing done in all its branches. JAMES S. SMITH, s1-y3m\* No. 104 North THIRD Street.**

 **ONLY FIVE DOLLARS.—A fresh supply of the first quality YANKEE CLOCKS, warranted to keep good time, and strike the hour. These clocks are manufactured expressly for the subscriber, and will be guaranteed for one year to give entire satisfaction, or the money will be refunded. Also, Yankee Clocks and every description of Clocks and Watches repaired on the most reasonable terms.**  
**WM. D. RAPP.**

## War of 1812

James Hansell may have responded to this 8-30-1814 *Democratic Press* newspaper advertisement to join the State Guards, a Philadelphia militia group formed to serve in the 1814 campaign of the War of 1812. The burning of Washington DC on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August created a frenzy to form militia units to fend off the British and the newspapers were filled with similar advertisements.

The Military Association of Upper Delaware Ward, having formed itself into a Volunteer Company, to be called the  
**State Guards,**  
 Those citizens who are worthy the privileges of freemen, are invited to join the corps for their defence.  
 The following members compose the committee of election  
 Dan: H. Miller, 162, No Second street.  
 John Rush, 125, Race street.  
 A. McCarther, 15 Branch street.  
 J. Heiberg, 141 North Third street.  
 J. H. Fisher, 157, North Second street.  
 The company will meet this afternoon at five o'clock, at Paxon's Tavern, on Second above Race street.  
 GEO. HILLINGTON, Sec'y.

James Hansell (age 23) was a private in the State Guards under the command of Capt. Henry Meyers. This unit was part of the First Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers commanded by Clement C. Biddle. Dates of service are September 20, 1814 to January 4, 1815.

Most of the fellows in this advertisement were lieutenants and sergeants in the State Guards unit.

James Hansell's youngest brother Morris Hansell the hatter and his cousin Peter H. Hansell (carver and gilder) served in the Junior Artillerists, also part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of PA Volunteers. The

maneuvers of this regiment can be found in the chapter on Morris Hansell.

As far as I can tell, it was three months of hurry up and then wait to see what the enemy was up to. First was a southwesterly 36 mile march from Philadelphia to Camp Bloomfield at

Kennet's Square in Chester County. Then the troops marched about 13 miles to Camp Brandywine near Wilmington, Delaware. They soon shifted to Camp Dupont. I expect everyone was glad to return home to Philadelphia for the new year.

The only pay record I could find for James Hansell occurred on October 7, 1814 when the State Guards members were paid \$6 in advance for their service. The government augmented that in the 1850s by granting land to the veterans. James received two parcels of land in Minnesota, 40 acres in Washington County and 120 acres in Morrison County. He transferred both parcels to his son-in-law Charles C. French.

In September of 1829, 15 years after the war, James Hansell attended a meeting at Worn's Tavern on Fourth below New Street where 47 former members of the State Guards signed up to attend a reunion dinner.

ORDER OF THE ARRIVAL, OF THE DIFFERENT CORPS AT CAMP.			
Date of arrival.	NAMES OF CORPS.	Commanders.	Date of leaving the City.
1814. CAMP BLOOMFIELD. 1814.			
Aug. 28	Independent Artillerists,	Capt. Prevost.	Aug. 27
29	State Fencibles,	Capt. Biddle.	— 26
—	Independent Blues,	Capt. Browne.	— 27
—	Second Company Washington Guards.	Capt. Ingersoll.	— 27
30	First Company Washington Guards,	Capt. Raguet.	— 29
31	Junior Artillerists,	Capt. Cash.	— 28
Sept. 1	Third Company Washington Guards,	Capt. Pleasants.	— 30
—	Detachment of Militia,	Lt. Col. Berry.	— 30
5	Independent Volunteers,	Capt. Oldenburgh.	Sept. 3
8	First Company Union Guards,	Capt. Mitchell.	— 6
—	Second Company Union Guards,	Capt. Murray.	— 6
13	Second Troop of City Cavalry,	Capt. Rawle.	— 12
15	Nothern Liberty Artillerists,	Capt. Naglee.	— 12
CAMP BRANDYWINE.			
21	State Guards,	Capt. Myers.	— 21
—	Mifflin Guards,	Capt. Anderson.	— 21
22	Frankford Volunteer Artillerists,	Capt. Duffield.	— 15
24	Franklin Flying Artillery,	Capt. Bache.	— 15
27	Washington Artillerists,	Capt. Stephenson.	— 22
CAMP DUPONT.			
Oct. 7	Reading Washington Blues,	Capt. Keim.	— 7
13	Independent Riflemen,	Capt. Uble.	Octob. 9
—	Union Riflemen of Union County,	Capt. Muddlesworth.	— 9
—	Selins Grove Riflemen,	Capt. Snyder.	— 9
—	Union Riflemen of Montgomery County,	Capt. Rawlins.	— 9
29	Delaware County Fencibles,	Capt. Serrill.	— 22
—	Second Co. Independent Artillerists.	Capt. Paxson.	— 22
Nov. 4	Regiment of Riflemen,	Col. Humphreys.	Nov. 1
MOUNT BULL.			
Aug. 31	First City Troop,	Capt. Ross.	Aug. 28

## Where James Hansell Lived

**180 Sassafras (aka Race) Street - 1816 to 1829:** 180 Sassafras Street is located on the south side of the street, in the block between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. This two-story brick dwelling was about two blocks north of James's first clock/watchmaker shop which was located at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Market.

A study of this area was performed in conjunction with the development of the Independence National Historic Park. The opening line for the description of Sassafras (Race) Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> follows: "By 1775 Race Street had become almost as frequented as any in town partly due to a flurry of recent building on this block."

By the time James Hansell lived here, the original lots had been subdivided and sold or leased as separate properties. The owners/tenants of the dwellings in this area had a wide range of occupations: doctor of physic, nurse, bookbinder, blacksmith, tallow chandler, printer, tailor, cabinetmaker, bricklayer and sea captain, to name a few. Just before the Hansells moved in, the tenant at 180 Sassafras was Henry Korn, lace and fringe manufacturer. Mary Rathschlag Hansell, widow of James's uncle Jacob Hansell (blacksmith) lived in this block. Henry Meyers, Captain of the State Guards, James's War of 1812 militia unit, was the long-time owner of the Old White Bear tavern located at the southwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Sassafras which is just down the street from 180 Sassafras. Around 1810/1811 there was a Hansell's Court located behind 160 Sassafras.

James married Ann Catharine Ehrenzeller in 1817 and undoubtedly brought his bride home to Sassafras Street. The 1820 census of the South Mulberry Ward reports James, Ann and one other older female, and one female under 10 which would be Emma, their first child. There were also two other males, one between 16 and 18 and one between 16 and 25. The census reported two people engaged in manufacturing. This does not quite work out, so we are left guessing who the spare young man was.

By the end of the 1820s, Ann and James had five children and housed a few apprentices and maybe mother Sarah Morris Hansell or Catherine Evans the domestic, or perhaps one of James's sisters. Things were probably getting crowded at 180 Sassafras. The family moved six blocks west to 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **76 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street (aka 122 North 11<sup>th</sup> after the city blocks were renumbered) - 1830 to 1858:**

On March 6, 1829, James Hansell, clock and watchmaker, purchased 76 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street from John Howell, house carpenter. Hansell paid \$3,250 for a three-story brick structure on an 18' x 88' lot. The house was situated on the west side of 11<sup>th</sup> Street between Mulberry and Cherry. An alley at the rear of the structure provided access to Cherry Street. Hansell's new neighbors were stock brokers, doctors, druggists and other professionals.

Two years later, on December 7, 1831, James purchased the adjoining property at 74 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street for \$2,000. Possibly the family used this house in conjunction with 76 North 11<sup>th</sup> as Philadelphia city directories have no entries for number 74 during the years Hansell owned the property.

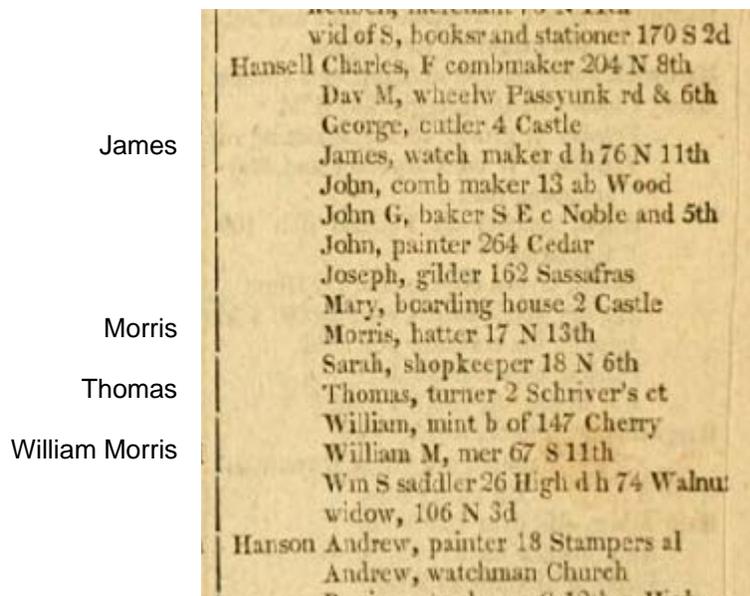
The last two Hansell children were born at 11<sup>th</sup> Street; Warner, born 1832 and died 1833, and Margaret born in 1834. James's mother Sarah Morris Hansell died December 12, 1833 and

her funeral was held at 76 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Sarah is buried at St. James Cemetery in Kingsessing, the resting place for many of the original Hansells.

All of the Hansell girls were undoubtedly courted in the parlor at 11<sup>th</sup> Street. 1846 was a particularly busy year with the marriages of Ellen, Henrietta and Catharine.

James had a six or seven block commute to his shop: two or three blocks down 11<sup>th</sup> and then four blocks east to the shop on Market Street. Did he walk, ride a horse, drive a horse and carriage? I wonder if there was public transportation down Market Street in the 1830s and 1840s.

This is my favorite Philadelphia City Directory. All four Hansell brothers are listed in 1833. Morris the hatter had recently returned from Virginia. William Morris, dry goods merchant, and his family were located on South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Thomas, turner/woodworker, would soon move from Schriver's Court to Budden's Alley & 13th, just two blocks west from his brother James.



The 1830 and 1840 census records show the requisite number of females. The two young men listed were probably apprentices/employees.

The 1850 census presents the inhabitants of 76 North 11<sup>th</sup>:

- James Hansell, 57, watchmaker, born PA
- Ann Hansell, 52, born PA
- Sarah Hansell, 22, born PA
- Margaret Hansell, 15, born PA
- Albert Rose, 30, watchmaker, born New York
- Joseph Burns, 16, watchmaker, born PA
- Catharine Evans, 44, domestic, born PA

A Hansell cousin married a Rose, but I could find no links with the above Albert Rose. Joseph Burns is lost to the ages. But Catharine Evans, the domestic, lived with James and Ann un-

til her death. I wonder if Catharine Evans had been with the Hansells since the 1820 census. 1820, 1830 and 1840 consistently list two older females of a similar age.

### Summer Home - Upper Chichester, Pennsylvania



The family had a summer home in Upper Chichester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, down near the Delaware state line.

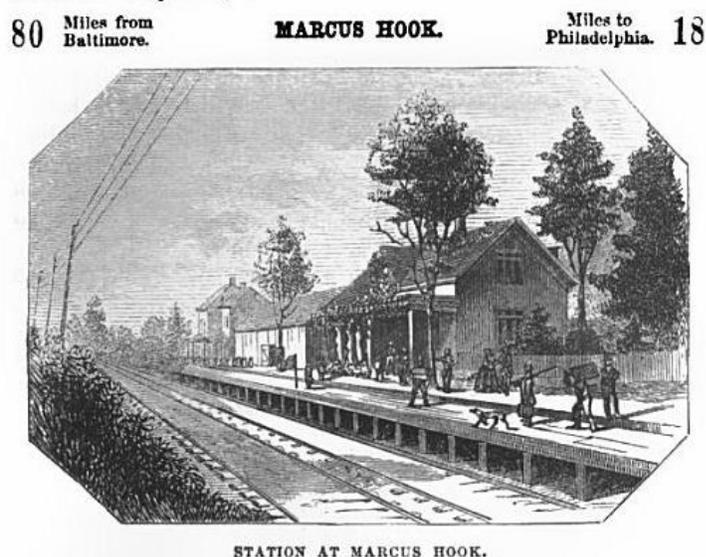
The earliest reference I can find to the summer home is on this 1848 Delaware County map created by Dr. Joshua W. Ash of Upper Darby. His map shows farm boundaries and landowner's names as derived from original surveys.

The latest reference found is in an 1858 newspaper advertisement announcing the sale of the buildings and land of the estate of Judith Stevens, James Hansell's next door neighbor. The ad describes her parcel as bordered by land of John Stevenson, Thomas Beeson, James Hansell and Hook Creek.

To travel from Philadelphia to the summer place, the Hansell family probably boarded the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad train for an 18 mile trip to Marcus Hook. Then it was about a mile north to the farm.

More interesting would have been a horse and carriage ride to the country. The family would have headed west on Market Street, over the Permanent Bridge spanning the Schuylkill River, and into West Philadelphia.

Then it was a left turn onto the Darby Plank Road (now Woodland Avenue). Entering Kingsessing, they would pass by Gray's Lane which led to the old homestead of James's grandparents, Peter David and Anna Dorothea Hansell (now deceased). After the five mile post, James could point out on the right side of the road the 10 lots acquired by his father William Hansell and each of his Hansell aunts and uncles from the Peter David Hansell estate. In 1803 Sarah Morris Hansell sold the lot deeded to her husband to pay estate debts and support



her children. At least two of James's uncles, Peter, Jr. and Andrew Hansell, lived on their lots in the 1840s. As they neared what is today 60<sup>th</sup> Street, they would pass the two lots deeded to James's aunts Elizabeth and Mary which, in the unimaginable future, would be developed with a McDonalds (yes, the golden arches).

Just beyond the six mile mark on the left is St. James Church and graveyard, the last resting place for many of the Hansell family, including James's brother Morris, the first of the siblings to die (1839). The carriage would pass by the famous Blue Bell Inn, cross Cobbs Creek and roll into Darby where James was born. There were probably a few Morris cousins still living there.



Heading southwest out of Darby, via the Chester Darby Turnpike, the family would reach Marcus Hook and then travel north a short distance on the Marcus Hook Road.

However they got there, the summer home was waiting, perhaps cared for by James's sister Hannah and her husband.

James Hansell's sister Hannah Hansell Forman and her husband Samuel Forman, farmer, resided in Upper Chichester in the 1840s and 1850s. In the 1850 census, the Formans are

listed on the same census sheet as the property owners adjacent to the James Hansell parcel shown on the 1848 map. I think it is likely the Formans operated the farm at the Hansell's summer place.

Stacy Wood, a descendant of Margaret Hansell (James's youngest daughter), sent me this photo. It is captioned:

*The homestead at the 95 acre farm where James Hansell's family spent the summers. Drawn by daughter Margaret H. Hansell for her story: "Margaret's Two Homes," written for her 8 year old granddaughter, Margaret H. Garrett*

I don't know if the text of the story still exists. Granddaughter Margaret Hansell Garrett was 8 years old in 1899.

**1640 Green Street (near Tulpehocken), Germantown - 1859 to 1865:** James retired in 1859. At some point, James and Ann and their widowed daughter Henrietta French and her children moved in with the widowed daughter Ellen Richards at her Germantown home.

In the 1860s, Green Street and Tulpehocken Street in Germantown, not so long ago farm land, were being developed with stately mansions with views of the country side. In later years (1880s and 1890s), the houses in this area would offer all the modern conveniences--indoor plumbing, central heat and gas lighting.

The 1860 census follows:

- Ellen W. Richards, 39, \$16,000 RE, \$4,000 PP (widowed daughter)
- James Hansell, 69
- Ann Hansell, 56
- James H. Richards, 12
- Lillie A. Richards, 10
- Henrietta French, 35 (widowed daughter)
- Rhea B. French, 8
- Louisa French, 6
- Cath. Evans, 40 (Catherine is getting younger!)
- Mary Tyler, 16

James Hansell died March 31, 1865 in his 74<sup>th</sup> year at his daughter's house, 1640 Green Street in Germantown. His death certificate lists "disease of the brain" as the cause of death and occupation as a watchmaker. He was buried at The Woodlands.

About six months after James Hansell died, both dwellings on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Philadelphia were sold by the Estate of James Hansell. No. 76 sold for \$8,000 and No. 74 for \$8,250. Ann Hansell and Clayton French were executors. All five daughters and the surviving husbands signed the deeds.

### **Ann Hansell in 1870 and 1880**

IRS Tax Assessment Records for 1865 list Mrs. Ann C. Hansell at 1640 Green Street: Income \$442, Gold Watch \$1 with a resulting tax of \$23.10 The 1866 Tax Assessment is for Ann C. Hansell, 1640 Green Street, succession, \$4,000, tax \$40.

In the 1870 census, Ann is listed as head of the household, age 73, \$17,000 RE, \$50,000 PP; Henrietta French, 40, \$12,000 RE, \$25,000 PP; Lilly Richards, 20, \$15,000 PP; Rhea French, Louisa French and the domestic servants Anna Kelly, Susan McCarty. Catharine Evans, 76 is listed with no occupation. This group is still living at 1640 Green Street; Ellen Hansell Richards had died in 1865.

Catharine Evans, the long-time domestic for the Hansells, died at 1640 Green Street, age 82, on February 8, 1877. She is buried at The Woodlands.

By 1880, Henrietta Hansell French had died and Ann Hansell, 83, blind, is living at 205 East Cheltenham Avenue in Germantown with her widowed daughter Margaret Ritter, six Ritter children, a niece and two domestics.

Ann Catharine Hansell died June 27, 1886, age 88, at the home her daughter Margaret Ritter, 205 East Cheltenham Avenue. Cause of death was "debility subsequent to fracture of leg." Ann is buried next to James at The Woodlands.

**Where James Hansell Worked**

James Hansell first appears in the 1816 Philadelphia City Directory, listed as a clock-maker, at **3 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street**. The address is located near the northeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Market.

The shop had been rented by one Garland Chamberlain, cordwainer/fancy shoestore, who moved his shop next door to 5 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street and James opened his shop at 3 North 6<sup>th</sup>. His aunt Sarah Mensgrave Hansell (second wife and widow of Barnet Hansell, taylor) was a shopkeeper across the street at 18 North 6<sup>th</sup>. James's brother, William Morris Hansell, operated a dry goods store at 13 North 6<sup>th</sup> from 1819 through 1822. A good assortment of Hansells on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. James could also stop in at 10 North 6<sup>th</sup> to visit his father-in-law, his wife's step-father, Sebastian Salade, at his fringe and lace weaving shop.

James was at this address for nine or so years. Long after James had moved to Market Street, a disastrous fire in 1856 destroyed this building along with 40+ other structures.

By 1825, James moved his shop a block west to **226 High Street/Market Street, one door below 7<sup>th</sup> Street**.

The photo to the right is the label inside the Hansell tall case clock on display at the Athenaeum in Philadelphia. Above Clocks & Watches are the words Chains, Seals, Keys &c.



From 1835 to 1859, James Hansell had his shop at **236 High Street/Market Street**, which was four doors west of (or above) 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The building would be re-numbered **706 Market Street** after 1857.

This is the only advertisement for James's business that I could find. It may indicate Hansell belonged to the Odd Fellows organization as the ad was published in an 1848 issue of the *Golden Rule Advertiser - Gazette of the Union, Golden Rule & Odd Fellows Family* publication.

**WATCHES, JEWELRY AND SPECTACLES.**  
**J**UST received, a new and splendid assortment of Watches and Jewelry, which we will sell at the following prices:

Gold Levers, full jeweled, 18 carat cases,	\$40 00
Silver Levers, do do	20 00
do do 7 jeweled, . . . . .	18 00
do Lapine, do . . . . .	14 00
do Quarter, . . . . .	8 00
do Teaspoons, . . . . .	5 00
Gold Pencils, . . . . .	1 50
Gold Bracelets, . . . . .	3 00

Gold and Silver Spectacles, and all other articles in our line, at the very lowest cash prices.  
**JAMES HANSELL, No. 236 Market-st.**  
 4 doors above 7th-st. Philadelphia.



At left is an 1856 photo of the southwest corner of Market and 7<sup>th</sup> Street, taken by Frederick DeBourg Richards (Philadelphia Free Library, Historical Images of Philadelphia). A famous building--Thomas Jefferson rented two rooms on the second floor in June of 1776, where he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

1854 Philadelphia Directory:

- SW 7<sup>th</sup> & Market - Wm Brown, clothing
- 232 Market - William Jordan, shoe mer.
- 234 Market - Charles Collins, Sr., tailor
- 236 Market - Jas. Hansell, watchmr
- 238 Market - Eli Holden, clock dealer
- 238 Market - William Colton, MD

Enlarge the page and you can see, left to right, Brown, Jordan and Collins. James Hansell's shop is located just beyond the right edge of the photo.

James Hansell is listed under Jewelers, etc. on Market Street in the *Ladies Philadelphia Shopping Guide - 1859*. This directory is arranged by streets. An index by classification of goods is found at the front of the guide: "By reference to the pages of any street, it can be readily seen whether desired goods can be obtained thereon; and by reference to the "Goods" index, it indicates whether the same can be found elsewhere." The author was a man ahead of his time, creating an early relational database of a sort.

This is the Market Street listing.

<b>Jewelers, &amp;c.</b>	
BAILY, THOS. W.	622
BARRAS & STELLWAGEN	632
Burnett, R. H.	1113
Hansell, Jas.	706
HOLDEN, ELI	708
LADOMUS, J.	616
Morris	1804
Robinson, Jas.	1031
Schultz, B.	914
Sharp, A. (Hair)	1526
Thomas, E. L.	1214
Voute & Murphey	214

## James Hansell's Clocks and Watch Papers

According to the Athenaeum in Philadelphia, three tall case clocks made by James Hansell are known to exist.



At left is the James Hansell's tall case clock in the DuBarry Conference Room of the Athenaeum in Philadelphia. See [www.philaathenaeum.org](http://www.philaathenaeum.org) for the details.

A second clock (to the right) is described in *Pennsylvania Clocks 1750-1850, Special Exhibit of the National Watch and Clock Museum, Columbia, PA.* (2002) found at the museum's website. Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr. lent this clock for the exhibit. Mr. Wood told me he sold the clock in 2003.

The third clock has been in the collection at the Smithsonian for "a long time." This has been confirmed by Carlene E. Stephens, Curator in the Division of Work and Industry at the Smithsonian. I made several requests for more information about the clock, but have not received a reply.

James Hansell had two expert wood turners in the family--his brother Thomas and Thomas's son James Stiner Hansell. I wonder if they contributed to the woodwork for these clocks.

There is one reference to shelf clocks made by Hansell, but none have popped up on the internet.



I have no clues that would point to the existence of a signed Hansell watch.

A number of watch papers are around. This photo is included in a wonderful collection of watch paper images assembled by Richard Newman.



## James Hansell and Ann Catharine Ehrenzeller Family

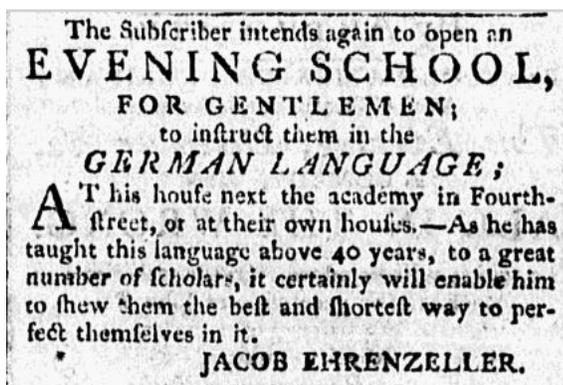
Catharine Ann Hansell, daughter of James Hansell and Ann Catharine Ehrenzeller, married Clayton French. This marriage entitled Catharine to a chapter in *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French, Vol. II* by Howard Barclay French, 1913 (pages 273-275). Mr. French outlined the relevant Hansell and Ehrenzeller family histories.

Ann Catharine Ehrenzeller was born in Philadelphia October 3, 1797, daughter of Hilary Ehrenzeller and Anna Catherina Dehuff.



Ann Catharine Ehrenzeller, 1816  
(19 years old)

The Dehuffs were early German settlers. Ann's father was a child of Jacob Ehrenzeller and his third wife Anna Catherine Baker. Jacob had emigrated from Switzerland in 1749. He was a long-time tavern keeper in Philadelphia (Brown Horse Inn on 4th, Sign of the Bay Horse on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and the Arm and Hand) and a noted German language teacher.



I don't know what Ann's father, Hilary Ehrenzeller, did for a living. He didn't last long enough to make it into a Philadelphia city directory, dying in a yellow fever outbreak in 1798, a year after Ann was born. Ann's mother then married Sebastian Salade in 1804. Salade had arrived in Philadelphia from Switzerland in the late 1700s and he made coach and livery laces, fringes and tassels.

**REMOVAL.**  
**SEBASTIAN SALADE,**  
**Lace and Fringe Maker,**  
 INFORMS his friends and the public in general that he has removed to No 10, north Sixth street, where he carries on the business as usual.  
 N. B. A house to let No 4, Letitia Court.  
 Jan 2—fws315

In 1813 Salade moved his shop and home from Letitia Court (off Market Street between Front and 2<sup>nd</sup>) to 10 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, right into James Hansell's neighborhood.

James and Ann married on July 31, 1817. Rev. Jacob Broadhead was minister of the First Dutch Reformed Church. The church was located at Crown above Sassafra (Race), across the street from 180 Sassafra.

*The American Daily Advertiser*  
 ...PHILADELPHIA...  
 Saturday Morning, August 2, 1817.  
 MARRIED, on Thursday evening last, by the  
 Rev. Mr. Broadhead, Mr JAMES HANSELL,  
 to Miss ANN C. EHRENZELLER, both of this  
 city.

The couple set up housekeeping at 180 Sassafra Street. It must have been a busy household. The first born, Emma, arrived on July 4, 1818. Every two or three years a child was born until the family included six girls. A male child, maybe named George, was born in January of 1823 and died at four weeks from spina bifida. A second male, Warner M. Hansell, died at 10 months in 1833.

The lives of these girls can be traced through their marriages. They all married prosperous fellows, many of their children died early and most of the girls outlived their husbands. Two of the girls married the same fellow! A brief summary of each child follows.

**Emma Ehrenzeller Hansell** (1818-1891) married William Boller in 1839 and the family lived at 26 Jacoby Street, a block either way from Emma's family at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and her uncle, Thomas Hansell, at Budden's Alley. William Boller had various occupations, the most consistent of which was a partnership of Boller & Beitel, mor. manuf, at 31 Margaretta St. I have not figured out what sort of business this is. In any event, William died at 36 in 1847 (of "a lingering illness," probably tuberculosis). Emma and her three children moved in with William's father and mother and eventually Emma lived with a daughter until her death in 1891.

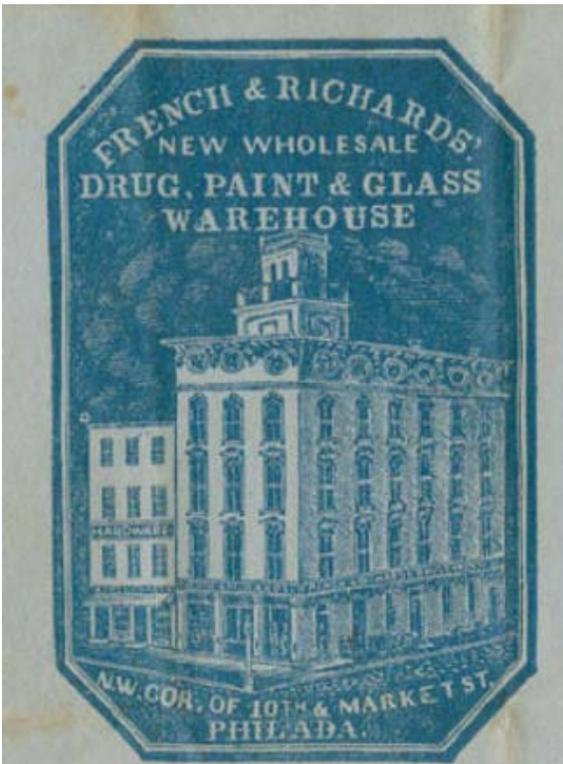
**Ellen Justice Hansell** (1821-1865) married William H. Richards in 1846. Richards was a partner in French, Richards & Co. Two children, James and Lillie. Mr. Richards died from diabetes at age 37 in 1858.

6/23/1858 *Philadelphia Inquirer*

On the 22d inst., WILLIAM H. RICHARDS, aged 37 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, Tulpabocken street, Germantown, on Thursday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, without further notice. To proceed to Laurel Hill Cemetery. The friends from the city will find carriages to convey them to Germantown, at his father-in-law's, Mr. James Hansell, No. 122 North Eleventh street, at 3 o'clock.

**Henrietta Ehrenzeller Hansell** (1824-1878) married Charles Clement French in 1846. Charles was a cousin of the below Clayton French. His occupation is listed as "agent" in the city directories. He died in 1857 at age 37 of "disease of the brain." Of their children, at least three girls died in childhood. Two children survived to adulthood, Rhea and Louisa.



**Catharine Ann Hansell** (1827-1881) married Clayton French in 1846, founder of French, Richards & Co. They had about nine children; two girls died young.

The most notable boy was James Hansell French who graduated from West Point and was killed in an Indian skirmish in New Mexico in 1880. Another son, Harry Banks French, attended University of Pennsylvania and Harvard. He was a pharmacist and joined the family firm and subsequently became Vice President of Smith Kline & French. A third son, Samuel Harrison French was a "skilled rider after hounds" until the day he was thrown by a horse, landed on his head, and died.

Seven years after Catharine Ann's death, Clayton French married Catharine's widowed sister, Margaret Hansell Ritter.

There is much written about Clayton French elsewhere.

**Sarah Hansell** (1830-1886) married Charles W. Funk in 1857. Charles worked at French, Richards & Co. from 1866 to his retirement in 1888. They had at least five children. The 1920 census reveals three of the children, Anna, Marie and Caroline, living together, unmarried, in Pasadena, California. When they died, their ashes were sent home for burial at The Woodlands.

When Emma Hansell Boller died in 1891 her funeral was held at the Funk residence at 1807 Wallace Street, Philadelphia.

**Margaret Humphreys Hansell** (1834-1905) married first Bradford Ritter in 1858. Bradford graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. His tragic death was reported in the 8-13-1873 *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

**A Philadelphian Drowned.**  
On Monday, while bathing, Mr. Bradford Ritter, connected with Powers & Weightman's chemical works, was drowned. Three of his sons were boarding at the farm of Mr. George Vanarsdalen, near Old York Road Station, on the North Pennsylvania railroad, in Montgomery county. He went there on Monday, for the purpose of bringing his children home, and, in company with his eldest son, James, about thirteen years of age, went into the creek to bathe. James had just learned to swim, and was exhibiting his progress to his father. The father, on getting into deep water, was apparently seized with cramp and unable to help himself. The son caught hold of his father, and had reached within a few feet of the shore, when, overcome by the exertion, the boy was unable to retain his grasp, and his father sank. The body was recovered in about ten minutes, but all attempts at resuscitation proved futile. The two other sons were fishing some distance up the creek with other companions, and were not witnesses of the sad calamity. An inquest was held, and the remains brought to his late residence, No. 1641 Mount Vernon street, early yesterday morning. Mr. Ritter was about thirty-eight years of age, and leaves a wife and six children. He was in every respect a most estimable citizen, and his sudden decease has caused a mournful feeling to pervade a large circle of relatives and friends.

Their son James Hansell Ritter eventually worked at French, Richards & Co. Margaret's sister Catharine Ann died in 1881 and Margaret married her sister's widower, Clayton French, in 1888, two years before his death.

Margaret died in Delaware Water Gap, Pa. Her funeral was held at her home on West Cheltenham Avenue in Germantown. Margaret is buried in West Laurel Hill cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. Her first husband, Bradford, had been buried in the Hansell plot at The Woodlands. A few months after Margaret's death, Bradford was removed to West Laurel Hill.

Maggie, as Margaret Hansell is called in various Hansell deeds, was probably the keeper of the family memorabilia. Hansell, Ehrenzeller, Dehuff, Ritter, etc. material is housed at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, donated by H. Hansell Ritter II and Stacy Wood, both descendants of Maggie.



Margaret Humphreys Hansell

French Richards & Co. was a wholesale drug and paint company with branches selling cement, plaster and building supplies. Undoubtedly the company provided well for its principals and their families. The company was acquired by Smith Kline & Co. in 1891 to "provide a greater portfolio of consumer brands." Today the company is known as Glaxo Smith Kline. There is much written about this company and the French family. My favorite article follows:

#### FRENCH, RICHARDS & CO.

This noted drug and paint house, which was at one time the leading house of the kind in the city, was established by Clayton French in 1844. The year following, the business having become a success, his brother Samuel H. French came on from Ohio and became a partner in the firm. Little can be learned of Mr. Richards, who died many years ago. At one time a Mr. Morey was a member of the firm, but he afterwards withdrew. Then Charles W. Funk, the brother-in-law of Clayton French, and Wm. Hazleton, Jr., were admitted, the latter dying in 1884. In 1883 the brothers separated, Clayton French retaining the drug business to which his sons Harry B. French and Samuel H. French, Jr., and nephew, C. Stanley French, were afterwards admitted. Samuel H. French retained the manufacturing of paints and builder supplies, at the same time taking his sons Wm. A. French and Howard B. French into partnership with him; William A. is dead and Howard B. is the present head of the firm of Samuel H. French & Co., president of the Equitable Trust Co., and president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

Clayton French died July 26, 1890, and the sons declining to take the business at the value placed upon it by the executors it went into liquidation, January, 1891. Samuel H. French, Jr., has since died, and Harry B. French has become a member and vice-president of the firm of Smith, Kline & French Co.

The following interesting facts have been learned from one, who was at one time a prominent employe of the house:

The building occupied by the firm at 10th and Market streets, was burned down on October 3, 1865. I am informed that the following morning Mr. Clayton French with some of the others of the concern went to a man whose name has escaped me, but who did a small jobbing business on Market Street, and asked what he would take for his business as it stood. A price was agreed upon, and the gentleman put on his hat and coat and went out, and French, Richards & Co. took possession. A short time after this, they moved to the old Franklin market (now the Mercantile Library on 10th Street, between Market and Chestnut Sts.) which they occupied until their new building was completed, which, I believe, was some time in 1867.

French, Richards & Co. were one of the first Northern houses to extend credit to the druggists of the South after the close of the Rebellion, and as a result they built up in time a very large Southern business. In the old days they handled, in a very large way, many articles, which have now become a separate line of business, such as soda ash and black lead. They were large importers of French and English window-glass, as well as plaster and cement in the days before the great demand for American cement. In one year, I am informed, French, Richards & Co. practically cornered the available supply of soda ash and at another time they controlled the situation of quinine, which was not then imported in so large quantities as at present.

As to the characteristics of Clayton French, the writer speaks from a personal knowledge as an employe covering a period of seventeen or eighteen years, and the personal recollections of business friends extending over many years. Clayton French, the founder of the business was its directing force and moving spirit until he was incapacitated by illness. He was a thorough, straight-forward business man. When he made contracts he stood by them, and the writer knows of more than one instance where, after contracts had been made, the sellers of the goods voluntarily offered a reduction in the price, which Mr. French declined to accept, claiming that he had made the contract and would stand by it, and that if prices had advanced he should have expected delivery of the goods in accordance with the terms and prices. In his manner towards his employes he was just, but he expected that they should do their full duty and have the interest of the business at heart. If he once made a business friend in whom he had confidence, this friendship and confidence was almost impossible to shake, unless ruptured by some overt act on the part of the other house.

*The Pharmaceutical Era*, Vol. 39, 1/16/1908, page 70, author unknown.

There is another Hansell connection with French Richards & Co. Amos Hansell and George Hansell (sons of James S. Hansell who is a son of Thomas Hansell, brother to James Hansell the clockmaker) graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Amos and George each served their apprenticeship at French Richards & Co.

## The Paper Trail of James Hansell



James Hansell - undated

11-10-1829 *Philadelphia Inquirer*: List of dealers in Philadelphia as of October 1, 1829 regarding duty on retailers of foreign merchandise: a license was issued to James Hansell, 226 High St.

June 1830 - The Charles Bird archives at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania include documents of a law suit, James Hansell v. John Bird, June 1830. John Bird is the son of Charles Bird, hardware merchant and real estate investor. It appears that John incurred a few debts around town and James Hansell was finally able to collect \$27.28.

2-10-1834 - *US Serial Set Doc No. 86* - James Hansell, clock and watchmaker, his brothers William M. Hansell (merchant) and Thomas Hansell (turner), his nephew James S. Hansell (turner) and just about all the other businessmen in Philadelphia sign a Memorial asking that deposits be restored to the Bank of the United States. See Thomas Hansell for this episode in history.

October 1847 - James Hansell ran for mayor on the Free Soil ticket. Free Soil was a short-lived abolitionist platform of the 1840s/1850s which opposed the expansion of slavery into the new territories. Its motto was "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor, Free Men." With all of ten votes for James, this obviously was not a popular political party.

James's brother, Thomas Hansell, ran for mayor the year before on the Liberty ticket (31 votes). I have written about Thomas elsewhere. In short, Thomas put much effort into the abolitionist movement, most particularly being a builder/stockholder/manager of the ill-fated Pennsylvania Hall and a member of the Requisite Labor Organization.

On the 21st of June, 1839, the Legislature passed an act providing for the election of the Mayor by the people, directing that a majority of the whole number of votes should be necessary to the election of a candidate. In case no one had a majority of the whole, the Councils were to elect one from the two candidates having the highest number of votes. This authority was exercised at the first election thereafter, none of the candidates voted for by the people having a majority of the whole.

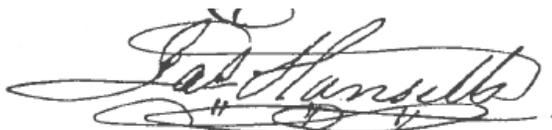
1839-40. John Swift, (elected by Councils.) POPULAR VOTE—John Swift, 3343; John C. Montgomery, 2670; John K. Kane, 3294.	1846-7. John Swift. John Swift, 5562; Richard Vaux, 3402; Peter A. Browne, 3244; Thomas Hansell, 31.
1840-41. John Swift. John Swift, 6355; Henry Horn, 4820.	1847-8. John Swift. John Swift, 6046; J. Altamont Philips, 3550; Peter Fritz, 2530; James Hansell, 10.
1841-2. John M. Scott. John M. Scott, 5658; Samuel Badger, 4693; Wm. Thompson, 84.	1848-9. John Swift. John Swift, 8440; Samuel Badger, 5079; Thos. Watson, 75.
1842-3. John M. Scott. John M. Scott, 6145; Richard Vaux, 5137.	1849-50. Joel Jones. Joel Jones, 6429; Charles Gilpin, 6364.
1843-4. John M. Scott. John M. Scott, 6585; Samuel H. Perkins, 3976.	1850-51. Charles Gilpin. Charles Gilpin, 7400; Joel Jones, 5071.
1844-5. Peter McCall. Peter McCall, 5506; Samuel Badger, 4032; E. W. Keyser, 5065.	1851-2. Charles Gilpin. Charles Gilpin, 9275; John Swift, 3934; John S. Warner, 182.
1845-6. John Swift. John Swift, 4949; James Page, 3946; Elhanan W. Keyser, 4538; John Bouvier, 78. (Free Soil.)	1853-4. Charles Gilpin. Charles Gilpin, 8002; John Thompson, 4392.

*Public Ledger Almanac 1870-1875, page 6*

A few deeds tell more stories. On February 21, 1831, Joseph M. Truman, tin plate worker, sold to James Hansell, clock and watchmaker, a vacant parcel of land on the west side of Juniper Street, south of Spruce, for \$525. Truman was selling a few lots along a section of Juniper. Then in October of 1839, James and Ann Hansell sold the property, now improved with a building, for \$2,800.

There is an 1845 deed which is almost illegible but I was able to make out the names. Joseph M. Truman (same as above deed), Isaac Lloyd, Jr., Emmor Kimber, Jr. and James Hansell, all trustees of the Harmony Fire Company (one of 20+ fire fighting organizations in Philadelphia) transferred something on behalf of the company, but I can't tell what. In 1784, Truman's father and uncle, James and Evan Truman, were among the original 28 founding Quakers of the Harmony Fire Co. James Hansell's brother, William M. Hansell, was a fire-fighter in this company in 1821.

In the 1850s, the US Government granted land to men who served in the War of 1812. Morris Hansell, James Hansell's youngest brother, had died in 1839, and his widow was entitled to this benefit. James and his brother Thomas helped Ann Hansell fill out the Bounty Land Claim Declaration forms. James Hansell signed these forms, always with the same flourish.



5-14-1857 *Philadelphia Inquirer*: Ninth Ward - tax on all businessmen in Philadelphia: Jas. Hansell, jeweler \$13

6-1-1859 *Philadelphia Inquirer*:

*Auction Notice: The stock of watches, jewelry, clocks, silver and plated ware, to be sold this morning at 10 o'clock, at No. 706 Market street, is worthy the attention of dealers and others. The whole to be closed without reserve. By Thos. Birch & Sons, Auctioneers*

6-16-1859 *Philadelphia Inquirer* - James Hansell Retires

 **MR. JAMES HANSELL, HAVING**  
RETIRED from business, begs to request all persons who have left Jewelry or Watches at his Store, No. 706 MARKET Street, for repairing, to call for them at the Store of Mr. E. HOLDEN, No. 708 MARKET St., where all friends and former customers of Mr. J. HANSELL may be accommodated.      aug-71

4-3-1865 *Philadelphia Inquirer*

**HANSELL.**—On the 31st ult., JAMES HANSELL, in the 71th year of his age.  
The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 1643 Green street, on Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, without further notice.

## The 1826 Robbery of James Hansell's Shop

James Hansell's second business location was 226 High (Market) Street. He moved there about 1825. His store was cleared out on Saturday night, April 15, 1826, by a robber who was very good at picking locks.

The robbery was reported on the front page of the Thursday, April 20, 1826 issue of the *Philadelphia National Gazette*.

*Robbery.*—Between ten o'clock on Saturday night and five o'clock on Sunday morning, the store of Mr. Hansell, watchmaker, on the south side of Market street near Seventh, was stripped of the whole of its contents: watches, jewellery and silver spoons, to the value of between four and five thousand dollars. To get into the store, the robbers had to break through five locks; and though one of the watchmen in going his round, heard them at work, he did not interrupt their labors, supposing the noise to be made by some of the family.

The robber was apprehended in New York City. The Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> issue of the *National Gazette* picked up the story from the *New York American*.

*From the New York American, April 27.*  
*Police Office.*—On Saturday last a person offered a number of gold watches for sale at the shop of a jeweller in Broadway. The young man in the shop, after examining them, found that they agreed with the description given of some property of the kind taken from the shop of Mr. Hansell, of Philadelphia, which had been robbed on the night of the 12th instant. He contrived to keep the person in the shop until an officer was called from the Police Office, who took the property and secured the man.  
As the property taken was of great amount, no time was lost in discovering the place of abode of the prisoner, whence a trunk was taken, containing the greater part of the stolen goods, and some articles not taken from the shop at Philadelphia. At his first examination he endeavoured to impose upon the police magistrate, by relating an improbable story as to the manner in which he obtained the trunk and property. He acknowledged that he had sold fourteen of the watches, six to one person, and eight to another. A quantity of counterfeit St. Domingo coins was found upon his person.

Yesterday morning, he was brought into the office for further examination. Being questioned as to how he came into possession of the goods, he varied from his former story, and declared that he purchased the trunk and goods from an Italian, in the street, near the Philadelphia steam-boat landing—and that he gave one thousand dollars in cash, afterwards adding that he gave his note for two thousand more, making the whole price of the lot three thousand dollars. On being questioned regarding several musical snuff boxes found in the trunk, which did not belong to Mr. Hansell, he would give no account of them. He was also silent when asked when and how much he had received for the fourteen

watches which he had sold; and utterly refused to go with the officer and show him where he had disposed of them, observing that he should not be able to find the places again. Among the articles found in the trunk was an ornamented gold repeater, which Mr. Hansell observed did not belong to him, but he had seen it before, and knew it to have belonged to a gentleman in Baltimore.

The prisoner is a Frenchman; speaks pretty good English, is of small stature, good looking, and genteelly dressed. He was in considerable tremor during the examination. He owned that he had been in the shop of Mr. Hansell not long before the robbery. It is said that there are reasons for believing that this is the person who sometime since, on being called on by an acquaintance, probably supposing him to be an officer, leaped from the window of his boarding house, ran away, and was not afterward heard of. He was questioned on that subject, but declined giving an answer.

May 4, 1826 *National Gazette*

The culprit is brought back to Philadelphia in irons and we learn how he pulled off the robbery.

When the robber first arrived in Philadelphia, he lodged at the widow Madame Fillette Flemming's boarding house at 129 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The robber moved to the Red Lion Hotel (Titus Yerkes, proprietor) at 200 High Street (corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and High St.), the better to reconnoiter James Hansell's shop at 226 High Street.

The man mentioned as having been examined at the Police Office in New York, for robbing the store of Mr. James Hansel, Watch Maker, in Market street, about two weeks ago, of Watches and Jewellery, to the amount of near \$5000, was before the Mayor for examination on Friday, having been brought on in irons, by Conklin, a police officer of New York.

After a strict examination, the man was fully committed to answer for a Larceny at the next Mayor's Court, and not to the approaching Court of Oyer and Terminer for a Burglary, as he otherwise must have been, if it had not appeared in evidence, that the shop was a distinct and severed possession (in which no person slept,) from the dwelling house of which it made a part—making, as the Mayor was understood to say, a great difference in favour of the prisoner in the punishment awarded by law if he should be subsequently convicted before the Court. Mr. Hansel, who is an industrious worthy young man, is now deficient but about \$400 of the whole amount stolen from him. The prisoner declared himself to be a Swiss, born at Geneva, 23 years old, arrived at New Orleans from Havre about ten months ago, in the ship Edward, is small in stature, spoke French and a little English, disclaimed having any accessories or accomplices in this city or elsewhere. He had heretofore boarded at Mrs. Fleming's opposite the Custom House, and at Yerkes's, sign of the Red Lion, Market street, where it would seem he had concocted the robbery of Mr. Hansel's Store. It appeared that between 3 P. M. and 6 A. M. Saturday night or Sunday morning, he had succeeded in opening with false keys, three door locks, the lock of a fire proof, and of an intricate iron chest, all of them requiring different keys, and in doing so had not done the slightest injury to the locks or doors, completely succeeded in ridding the iron chest of the whole of its valuable contents, and carrying it off to New York.

May 9, 1826 - James Hansell placed this advertisement in the *National Gazette*.

**CAUTION.**

**T**HE subscriber having recovered the greater part of the property stolen from him on the night of the 15th inst, the following goods are yet missing, which he cautions the public not to purchase.

If any should be offered for sale, he requests the public to stop them, and give information of the same.

**NEW WATCHES.**—3 plain double cased Silver Watches, Wm. Hollison, Liverpool, 15562—13298—20262.

1 double cased Silver Watch, Christian, Dublin, 17724.

4 do. do. do. D. Edmonds, Liverpool, 20320—20344—20460—20323.

*Customers' Watches, Second Hand.*

1 plain double-cased Silver Watch, Clowes, London, 19,962.

1	do.	do.	S. Walker, London, 3047.
1	do.	do.	G. W. Barr, Dublin, 703.
1	do.	do.	B. Freeman, London, 3656.
1	do.	do.	R. Norton, London, 2342.
1	do.	do.	G. W. Barr, London, 5423.
1	do.	do.	R. Roskill, Liverpool, 76,605.
1	do.	do.	R. Holland, do., 502.
1	do.	do.	Gordon & Fletcher, Dublin, 1609.
1	do.	do.	Weldon, London, 1998.
1	do.	do.	B. Clowes, Liverpool, 7499.
1	do.	do.	Thos. Woodgrove, London, 7528.
1	do.	do.	Clowes, London, 19,979.
1	French Silver Watch, Thullice, a Geneve, 7471.		
1	do.	do.	(blank) 20.
1	do.	Gold, blank (311) under contrite wheel.	
1	do.	Gire, a Paris 2510.	
1	do.	single case Silver Swiss (blank) 22.	
1	do.	Gold, blank, under contrite wheel 2.	
1	do.	Silver Watch 20.	
1	do.	do. 73 and 96.	
1	do.	Gold, blank 133.	

**JAMES HANSELL,**  
Clock and Watch Maker, No. 226, Market,  
April 29—d6t near Seventh street.



William Hollison 1824



D. Edmonds 1805



R. Roskill 1815



B. Clowes 1809

Watch images from National Watch and Clock Museum

June 22, 1826 *National Gazette* - The Culprit Escapes from Arch Street Prison!

The young man who was committed to jail, charged with having robbed Mr. Hansell, the watch-maker in Market street, made his escape with three others on Sunday afternoon from Arch street prison. He succeeded in getting off without hat, coat or shoes, having fallen into the mud at the foot of the wall from a height of 15 feet. This escape was made in broad day light in the presence of a dozen persons.



Watercolor painting of Arch Street Prison by David J. Kennedy.

Inscription: *The Old Arch Street Prison, built in 1804. Demolished 1837. Occupied the south west corner of Broad and Arch Street... The building was the shape of a cross built of brick plastered and drawn in courses 4 stories high, the first was used for a kitchen dining and lodging rooms for the keepers families Messers Reakert and Duff.*

July 15, 1826 *National Gazette*

The two high constables of Philadelphia, Samuel P. Garrigues and John McLean, must have tossed a coin to see who would make the trip to New York to bring back the escaped prisoner.

The person charged with having robbed Mr. Hansell, and who lately went up our prison spout and down the lightning rod, and was recognized and retaken in New York, was on Tuesday evening again lodged in Arch street prison. He was brought from New York by high constable M'Lean.

I can't find the end of this story. Was the robber brought to justice or did he go up the spout and down the lightning rod again and disappear into history? Did James Hansell recover the remaining stolen items? We may never know.

## Was James Hansell a Silversmith, or Who Crafted Mr. Lasswitz's Three Piece Tea Set?

During the course of this research into the life of James Hansell, I did not find one reference during his lifetime that indicated he was a silversmith. So it intrigues me that starting with the French Genealogy of 1913 and forward to today you can find him listed as a silversmith. Spoons, a sugar tong and a three-piece tea set have turned up stamped "J. Hansell." Well...where did all this come from?

Surely James Hansell possessed silversmithing skills for his clock/watch business. He did sell silver items and jewelry in his shop. It apparently was not uncommon for retailers to apply their own stamps to silverware purchased from wholesalers. But a tea set marked J. Hansell? This anomaly interests me, so here goes four pages of an inconclusive investigation. It may clarify a few points, but there are no grand revelations.

James Hansell is always referred to as a clockmaker/watchmaker in Philadelphia city directories, land records, newspaper advertisements (what few there are...well, only one that I could find), census records, official documents, and his death certificate. James Hansell as a silversmith is not so clear cut. Just to add a little more confusion, there appear to be two J. Hansells in Pennsylvania in the early 1800s and I think the Kovals were a little hasty combining J. Hansell silversmith of Valley Forge with J. Hansell clockmaker of Philadelphia in their 1961 directory.

Presented in chronological order of publication are references to "Hansell" and "silver." I know absolutely nothing about silver which probably hampers this research effort. And for all I know, maybe clock/watchmakers crafted silver on the side to help pay the rent.

- 1826 Robbery of James Hansell's store on Market Street: items stolen were watches, jewelry, silver spoons
- 1848 advertisement: James Hansell selling silver teaspoons in addition to watches
- 1859 advertisement for auction when James Hansell retired: items to be sold included watches, jewelry, clocks, silver and plated ware
- 1913 *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French*, page 273: "James Hansell was a pioneer watch and clock-maker, and silversmith, being long recognized as a leading manufacturer in that industry." In the Ritter Family Papers collection archived at the Philadelphia Historical Society is a four page, hand written document entitled "Ancestry of Margaret (Hansell) Ritter French." The document is not dated or signed; interestingly, sections of its wording are exactly or similar to the French Genealogy description of this part of the Hansell family. Page 3 states "James Hansell was a leading silversmith in Philadelphia for nearly half a century." The document says nothing about clocks or watches. It's impossible to tell which document informed which. If French had been presented with this unsigned, undated material, and knowing James Hansell was a clockmaker, he may have split the difference and included the occupation silversmith in a sort of parenthetical way. Ahhh...this is how family history evolves!
- 1915 Ensko: Robert Hansell, Boston, MA, 1823
- 1920 Maurice Brix's *List of Philadelphia Silversmiths & Allied Artificers from 1682 to 1850*: James Hansell, Clockmaker, 1816-1850 [This list includes silversmith, watchmakers, clockmakers and jewelers.]
- 1927 Ensko I: I could not find this book. According to Koval 1961 there is an entry for Robert Hansell, Boston, MA 1823

Answer to a question about J. Hansell:

**4. Ensko does not list J. Hansell, but does list a Robert Hansell, who worked in Boston about 1825. Possibly a relative, but there is no real proof.**

**J. Hansell.**  
Question—C. P., New Jersey, asks for information about some old silver spoons marked "J. Hansell, Phila."  
Answer—J. Hansell is not listed as a silversmith but the name appears in Maurice Brix's book, "Philadelphia Silversmiths and Allied Artificers." James Hansell's name was listed in the Philadelphia Directory from 1816-1850 as a clock-maker. The name on the spoons may be his and he may have sold silver and not made it.  
\* \* \*

- 1937 Ensko II: There are no Hansell entries in this edition.
- 1948 Ensko III: J. Hansell, Valley Forge, Pa. 1825
- 1949 Thorn: C. Jordan Thorn, *Handbook of American Silver and Pewter Marks*, New York: Tudor Publishing Co., 1949. Koval 1961 cites this source for both Robert Hansell and James Hansell, but I could not verify this.
- 1961 Koval [*Directory of American Silver, Pewter & Silver Plate*. This book includes silversmiths, watchmakers and jewelers.]  
Robert Hansell (c. 1823), Boston, MA  
Bibl. 23, 28, 36, 44

James Hansell (c. 1816-1850), Philadelphia, PA., Valley Forge, Pa.  
Bibl. **3, 25, 44 (Brix 1920, Ensko 1948, Thorn 1949)**

[Note: It appears the Kovals took the liberty of assuming J. Hansell of Valley Forge and James Hansell of Philadelphia were one and the same and combined the information for the two men and this combination was picked up by ensuing publications.]

- 1977 *Marks of American Silversmiths* by Robert Alan Green:  
James Hansell wc 1825-50  
Valley Forge & Phila. PA  
Mark: J.HANSELL
- 1989 Ensko IV: **John Hansell, Valley Forge, Pa. 1825**  
Mark: J. HANSELL
- 2013 *Philadelphia Silversmiths and Related Artisans to 1861* by Catherine B. Hollan  
Page 367 - James Hansell listed under Clockmakers  
Page 89 - James Hansell listed under Silversmiths. Hollan cites two watch papers, the 1826 robbery, and a large fiddle ladle at the Yale University Art Gallery.
- [www.sterlingflatwarefashions.com](http://www.sterlingflatwarefashions.com) - Silversmiths Directory and Sterling Marks:  
James Hansell  
Philadelphia, PA and Valley Forge, PA 1816-1860  
J. Hansell mark with a left facing eagle.



Given the preceding, here are some observations:

James Hansell sold silver as noted in the early newspaper clippings.

Mr. French was always very complimentary toward his subjects, so there may be a bit of hyperbole in his statement about James Hansell: *“James Hansell was a pioneer watch and clock-maker, and silversmith, being long recognized as a leading manufacturer in that industry.”*

**Robert Hansell** of Boston appears in the first and second Ensko books but has been removed by the 1948 edition. Maybe Ensko deemed he did not fit whatever criteria he had for silversmiths. Robert Hansell is listed in Boston city directories 1821 through 1823 as a jeweler, jewelry/precious metals. He married Keziah Bird in 1815, moved to Stoughton, MA by the 1830 census and died there in 1856. There is no indication he belongs to the Hansell family I am studying. If he had a relative who headed to Valley Forge, that fact has been lost to history.

**Koval Book:** Apparently the Kovals combined the entries found in Brix 1920, Ensko 1948 and Thorn 1949 and came up with one Hansell entry, which I think represents two separate J. Hansells, particularly in light of the 1989 Ensko entry of John Hansell of Valley Forge.

As presented in this investigation into James Hansell’s life, it is not likely James was associated with Valley Forge, especially around 1825 when he had a firmly established business and family in downtown Philadelphia.

Who is the mysterious **John Hansell of Valley Forge**? The first issue is which Valley Forge: Valley Forge in Chester County or Valley Forge in York County.

The famous Valley Forge in Chester County is located about 20 miles northwest of Philadelphia. An 1832 Gazetteer reports the village contained 20 houses, cotton manufacturing, rolling mill, gun manufactory, merchant grist mill, one tavern and two stores. Not exactly the arts and crafts center of Pennsylvania.

Valley Forge in York County is located in the southwest corner of Springettsbury township, 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia and just northeast and adjacent to the town of York. Among other historic connections, York was considered an important clock making center from the mid 1700s to the mid 1800s. The famous Phineas Davis lived in York from 1809 to his death in 1833 and he worked as a silversmith, jeweler, watchmaker and clockmaker. This Valley Forge, by its close proximity to York, seems to be a better choice of location for a fellow to set up a silversmithing business.

John Hansell of Valley Forge: There are Hansells in various Pennsylvania counties during the start of the 1800s and a few Johns turn up, but there is nothing that connects to silversmiths, so I won’t go on about all the improbable leads. Downtown Philadelphia in the same time period has a few John Hansells. I have accounted for most of them and none seem to have anything to do with silversmithing or an allied craft.

The 1989 Ensko book, which contains the entry *John Hansell, Valley Forge, 1825*, was compiled by Dorothea Ensko Wyle, daughter of Stephen Guernsey Cook Ensko. After the 1948 edition, Mr. Ensko continued to collect information and Mrs. Wyle took on the task of incorporating the material into the 1989 edition.

Mrs. Wyle must be in her 90s today, so I won’t be tracking her down with a request to rummage through her files looking for the source of the name John Hansell. I do not know if the

Ensko materials have been archived anywhere--they may still be held by the family or there is always that dumpster-of-history repository.

**Silver Objects Attributed to J. Hansell:** Searching the internet turns up a variety of spoons with the stamp J. Hansell, some with the left facing eagle mark. The Winterthur Library in Delaware has a photo of sugar tongs with shell grips and engraved handles. Each tong is stamped with J. Hansell and a left facing eagle. The attributions for these pieces vary, depending on which book the seller consulted.



Catherine Hollan cites the large ladle which can be viewed in the Yale University Art Gallery eCatalogue: Large Ladle c. 1825, made in Philadelphia. The maker is listed as James Hansell, w.c. 1816-1859. The spoon was donated by Frederick C. Kossack. The name, dates, and place attributions are correct for James Hansell the clockmaker. This ladle is just one of 4,400 pieces of silver donated by the Kossack family to Yale.

**Mr. Lasswitz's Three Piece Tea Set:** This is the most substantial item to have surfaced signed J. Hansell with a left facing eagle. Would a retailer put his own stamp on a tea set? Or did James Hansell craft this set in the back room of his clock/watch shop? How intriguing!

There are two silversmith forums on the internet for exchanging information: 925-1000.com and smpub.com. Bob Lasswitz posted at both forums. Here is his post at 925-1000.com dated October 28, 2007:

*Hansell - Silversmith ?*

*I am trying to find out some information about J. (James?) Hansell, an American silversmith, active in the late 1790's to 1820's. The two reference books I have do not show any information about him. I have found other items marked by him, mostly tea spoons. I did come across some information that had him working in the Valley Forge/Philadelphia area, but this information cannot be verified. I have an extremely well made three piece tea set, marked "J. Hansell", "Sterling" with an eagle pseudo mark.*

Replies to this query were mostly speculation and contained no evidence to the identity of J. Hansell. The moderator at smpub.com covered all the bases:

*When there is a paucity of information about a maker who generally is not well known, as there is in this case, what little there is may or may not be accurate - the silversmith may have been elsewhere at another time as well, or he may have never been there at all; there could also have been another of the same name elsewhere.*

According to information from the two silver forums, it is thought the left facing eagle is indicative of Philadelphia silversmiths. I trolled through Green's *Marks of American Silversmiths* and, sure enough, every left facing eagle of a similar shape is associated with Philadelphia silversmiths with working career dates of roughly 1820 through 1850.

After all that, I have no conclusions--only idle speculation. I expect if a silver expert examined the tea set, a smidgen more information could be gleaned. While Bob Lasswitz, and the rest of us, may never know who made his tea set, the elusive John Hansell of Valley Forge, James Hansell the clockmaker, or some other craftsman (how about an apprentice toiling away in the back room of the Hansell clock shop), it surely is a unique tea set with a bit of mystery to its past!

## End Notes

I have not provided specific 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 any information came from, just let me know!

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

Hansell Family Book by Ed Bradford. See this work for descendants of Peter David Hansell <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~edbradford/ed/books/hansell.pdf> Without this resource, my Hansell epic would never have gotten off the ground.

*Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French* by Howard Barclay French, 1913, Vol. II, "Ancestry of Catharine Ann Hansell," pages 273-275

Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr. (1933-2012), naval officer, historian, clock expert and a descendant of James Hansell. Stacy was kind enough to send his James Hansell work, including a James Hansell family tree of descendants, the photo of James and the drawing of the summer house.

Historical Society of Philadelphia: Ritter Family Papers Circa 1773-1926, Contributors H. Hansell Ritter, II and Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Collection Number 3677. A researcher culled the following for me:

Silhouettes of James and Ann Hansell

Photos of Margaret Hansell

Ehrenzeller family history, 2 pages, hand written, not dated or signed

Ancestry of Margaret (Hansell) Ritter French with Dehuff information, 4 pages, handwritten, not dated or signed

Hansell vs. Bird documents

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

Hathi Trust Digital Library

FamilySearch.com

Ancestry.com - recently added an extensive collection of Quaker records

Archive.org - Philadelphia City Directories

Find-a-Grave.com

Local library inter-library loans

*A Brief Sketch of the Military Operations on the Delaware During The Late War: Together with a copy of the Muster-Rolls of the Several Volunteer-Corps which composed The Advance Light Brigade, as They Stood at the Close of the Campaign of 1814*, published by Robert P. McCulloh, No. 6, South Eighth Street, 1820

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Records Office database. War of 1812 Bounty Land - James Hansell, Documents 30678 and 22717

Maps to find your way around Philadelphia in the 1800s:

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network <http://www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/>

Documents related to the Independence National Historic Park can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/history/>. Sassafras Street is studied in *Independence Hall Historic Resource Study*.

*Market Street, Philadelphia, The Most Historic Highway in America, Its Merchants and Its Story*, Joseph Jackson, 1918

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/>)

John Howell to James Hansell, GWR 27/171, 3/6/1829

Silas W. Sexton to James Hansell, A, 22/ 193, 12/7/1831

Estate of Jas. Hansell to Wm N. Mencke, LRB 113/143, 8/1865

Estate of Jas. Hansell to Mary Eagleton, LRB 115/256, 9/17/1865

These deeds are signed by all the Hansell daughters and their living husbands

J. M. Truman to James Hansell, AM 7/659, 2/21/1831

James and Ann Hansell to Joseph E. McShammey, GS 7/338, 10/30/1839

Harmony Fire Company deed, RLL 38/421, 5/19/1845

Delaware County PA History <http://delawarecountyhistory.com/>

Created by historian Keith Lockhart. Tax records, maps and much more. Lockhart has just scanned the 1848 Ash map which revealed the location of James Hansell's summer home.

*Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Guide: Containing a Description of the Scenery, Rivers, Towns, Villages and Objects of Interest Along the Line of Road - Including Historical Sketches, Legends, &c.*, by Charles P. Dare, Fitzgibbon & Van Ness, 1856 - Google ebook

Frederick DeBourge Richards photographs at the Philadelphia Free Library:

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/hip/>

*Two Hundred Years of American Clocks & Watches* by Chris H. Bailey, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 1975

Thomas Jefferson orders a new watch from Thomas Voigt in 1813:

<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-06-02-0280>

References to James Hansell clocks and one watch paper:

*Report upon the condition and progress of the U.S. National Museum, 1936*, Accessions During the Fiscal Year 1934-1935, page 97 [note this is the Smithsonian Museum]: HOOPES, WH, Washington, DC : Ebony cane with ivory head, silver fittings, made in England, and a powder flask (131191); tall case clock of about 1820 marked " Jas. Hansell, Philadelphia " (131393, loan)

*American Clocks and Clockmakers* by Carl W. Dreppard, 1947, Page 233: James Hansell: Philadelphia, 1810s-1840s. Made fine shelf clocks.

*The Book of American Clocks* by Brooks Palmer, 1950, p 207: Hansell, Jas.: Phila., Market St. below 7<sup>th</sup>. Dir. 1816-1850 and later. Tall clock at Smiths. Inst. Tall clock owned by Van Leer Heyburn, Chester, Pa. Watch Paper in Bir. Col., "at 226 Market St." [note Bir. Col. is Harry Birnbaum Collection]

Philadelphia Athenaeum Clock Exhibit. <http://www.philaathenaeum.org/ppexhibits/exhibit4/vexmain4.htm>

National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, PA: <http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/museum>

I lifted the watch photos from the data base at the National Watch and Clock Museum (click Search the Collection)

Museum Exhibit Publications: <http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/museum-exhibits/museum-exhibit-publications> You can download *J. Carter Harris, Pennsylvania Clocks 1750-1850 (NAWCC Special Exhibit, 200)* which contains a description of the Hansell clock formerly owned by Stacy Wood.



Richard P. Newman has assembled a wonderful set of photographs of American watch papers. The Philadelphia watch papers are here and include two for James Hansell:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~silversmiths/SalonImages/Pennsylvania/Philadelphia%20PA/>

If you know of any Colonial/early American watches, contact Rich Newman via his website:

<http://www.colonialwatches.com/>

Left: Samuel Hutchinson's shop was located next to the Red Lion Hotel where the robber lodged before he made off with James Hansell's watches.

Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware: The Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera, Doc. 499. A scrapbook assembled by an unknown person contains 47 late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century watch papers. James Hansell's watch paper is on Page 17.

Winterthur Museum also has a Decorative Arts Photographic Collection of objects made or used in America before 1920. Included are photographs of spoons and the sugar tongs marked J Hansell.

Ensko references:

Ensko 1915: *Makers of Early American Silver*, Robert Ensko, page 13 (found at archive.org and Google books)

Ensko I, 1927: *American Silversmiths and Their Marks*, Stephen Ensko (I could not find a copy of this edition)

Ensko II, 1937: *American Silversmiths and Their Marks*, Stephen Ensko (found at Hathi Trust)

Ensko III, 1948: *American Silversmiths and Their Marks*, Stephen Ensko, pages 67 and 206 (reprinted by Dover Publications in 1983)

Ensko IV, 1989: *American Silversmiths and Their Marks IV*, by Stephen G.C. Ensko and Dorothea Ensko Wyle, D.R. Godine, Boston, 1989, pages 97 and 296

Want to know about High Constables in Philadelphia?

<http://www.phila.gov/phils/Docs/Inventor/graphics/agencies/A096.htm>

David J. Kennedy watercolor of The Old Arch Street Prison

[http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object\\_id/3664](http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/3664)

Kossack family: <http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/27/arts/antiques-yale-enriches-its-silver-trove.html>

*The Story of a Dynamic Community* by Betty Peckham, York Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania

Will abstract for Morris Humphreys: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/philadelphia/wills/willabstrbk7b.txt>

Truman Genealogy: [http://www.trumantransfer.com/truman\\_genealogy.htm](http://www.trumantransfer.com/truman_genealogy.htm)

The Woodlands

James and Ann, four of their daughters and some husbands and grandchildren are buried at The Woodlands, 4000 Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia. James owned Lots 6 and 8. Charles W. Funk owned Lot 4.

Miss Hannah Lombert, age 60, died at 1013 Walnut Street in Philadelphia and appears to be the only non-family person buried in these adjoining lots.

#1		WOODLANDS CEMETERY					Area 778 1/3	Sq. Ft.
Section	G.	Lot	4-6-8					
NO.	NAME OF DECEASED		DATE OF INTERMENT	NUMBER OF PERMIT	DEPTH	SIZE OF CASE	REMARKS	
1.	French	Henrietta E.	3-7- <sup>18</sup> 78		8.	age 62	no permit	
2.	"	Chas. C.	9-12- <sup>18</sup> 57	2341	-	age 36	Wm. H. Moore	
3.	"	Annie Hansell	12-21- <sup>18</sup> 49	305	"	age 3	Wm. H. Moore	
4.	"	Rebecca C.	6-4- <sup>18</sup> 52	794	"	age 3 1/2	Wm. H. Moore	
5.	"	Ellen L.	6-15- <sup>18</sup> 52	802	"		Wm. H. Moore	
6.	Richards	Wm. H.	10-31- <sup>18</sup> 65	5153	-	age 45	Perm.	
7.	"	Ellen J.	6-30- <sup>18</sup> 65 10-31- <sup>18</sup> 65	5154	-	revised	"	
8.	Hansell	James	4-3- <sup>18</sup> 65	4859	-	age 74	Kirk & NICE	
9.	"	Ann C.	6-30- <sup>18</sup> 86	11697	8.	age 89	205 E. CHELTON AVE. R.R. BRINGHURST & CO.	
10.	Soller	Emma E.	3-3- <sup>18</sup> 91	13664	"		1807 WALLACE ST. R.R. BRINGHURST	
11.	Funk	Chas. W.	11-7- <sup>18</sup> 94	16149	"	age 69	1807 WALLACE ST. R.R. BRINGHURST	
12.	"	Sarah	3-18- <sup>18</sup> 86	11579	-	caust	57 yrs Ashes, from CALIF	
13.	Richards	Caroline W.	3-30- <sup>18</sup> 23	23060	-	R.R. BRINGHURST & CO.	Transf. to 501-504-7 and later (5/23/23) to W. Laurel Hill S.P. Moore	
14.	Funk	Keelen E.	10-22- <sup>18</sup> 59	2918	-	age 3		
15.	Lombert	Hannah	3-14- <sup>18</sup> 78		-	age 60	no permit.	
16.	French	Emma B.	6-28- <sup>18</sup> 49	236	-	age 8 mos	Wm. H. Moore	
17.	"	Ella Hansell	7-22- <sup>18</sup> 56	1984	-	2 yrs.	W. H. Moore	

#2		WOODLANDS CEMETERY					Area 778 1/3	Sq. Ft.
Section	G.	Lot	4-6-8					
NO.	NAME OF DECEASED		DATE OF INTERMENT	NUMBER OF PERMIT	DEPTH	SIZE OF CASE	REMARKS	
18.	Funk	Anna L	12-30- <sup>18</sup> 32	24909	5		R.R. BRINGHURST & CO. CALIF 74 yrs Ashes	
19.	French	Louise F.	5-26- <sup>18</sup> 34	25128	8		Kirk & NICE 79 " BRISTOL ST R.R. BRINGHURST & CO. PASADENA CALIF	
20.	Funk	Marie Eloise	2-26-1941	26093	5		80 " Ashes CALIF	
5.								
6.								

## Diagramming a Will Abstract

James Hansell witnessed a will for his cousin Morris Humphreys. The will was executed November 2, 1821, Morris died on the 4<sup>th</sup>, age 38, from an abscess in the liver, and he was buried on the 5<sup>th</sup> in the Friends Burial Ground in Philadelphia.

Morris Humphreys is the son of James Hansell's mother's sister, Hannah Hansell Humphreys.

William Garrigues, Jr.'s half brother's son is Samuel P. Garrigues, High Constable in Philadelphia in 1826 when James Hansell's store was robbed.

HUMPHREYS, MORRIS, County of Philadelphia. Late Farmer.  
 November 2, 1821. November 5, 1821. 7.395.  
 Estate to my wife: Sarah Humphreys.  
 Children: Richard Vanleer Humphreys, Mary Humphreys, Charles Humphreys.  
 Exec: William Garrigues, Jr. (of Philadelphia).  
 Wit: James Hansell, Evan Truman.

William Garrigues, Jr. married Margaret Humphreys 11/12/1812 in Radnor, PA. Among the witnesses were James Hansell, his sisters Ann and Hannah, and Joseph M. Truman.

Evan Truman and his brother James founded the Harmony Fire Co. James Truman is the father of Joseph M. Truman.

Morris Humphreys married Sarah Evans 11/19/1812 in Radnor, PA. Among the witnesses were James Hansell, his sisters Ann and Hannah, Joseph M. Truman and the newly married Margaret and William Garrigues, Jr.

When Joseph M. Truman married Sarah Shaw on 5/15/1817 in Philadelphia, James Hansell was among the witnesses.

Joseph M. Truman sold James Hansell land on Juniper St. and was a fellow trustee of the Harmony Fire Co.

