


**Joseph M. Hansell, Silk Dyer**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**1828-1854**

Joseph M. Hansell was the eighth and last child of Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner. In 1828, the Hansell family lived on Shriver's Court. Within the next five years, Joseph's mother died, his father married Anne Pearson and the Hansell family moved to Budden's Alley off 13th Street.

Joseph was only 26 at his death, but he left a paper trail that lets you catch glimpses of his short life.

### **Savings Accounts**

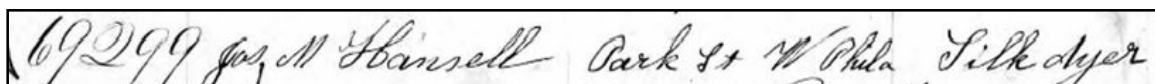
On March 22, 1847, Joseph opened a savings account with the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society. This gives us Joseph's original signature, address and occupation.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive. The text reads: "1847 Joseph M. Hansell 24 Merchant Dyer".

24 Merchant was the address of Joseph's second oldest brother William Frederick Hansell 1811-1881, silk and wool dyer. Wm. F. Hansell and his family lived at this address for most of the 1840s.

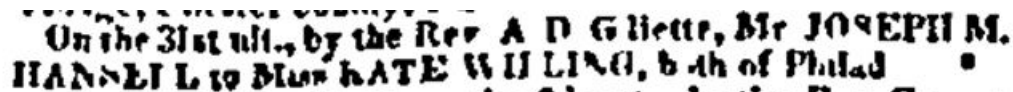
We can assume that Joseph left the family home in Budden's Alley after the 1840 census and lived with his brother, learning the dyer's trade. In 1847, Wm. F. was 35 years old and Joseph 19.

Joseph opened another savings account on August 11, 1851. At this time, he was married and living in West Philadelphia.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive. The text reads: "1851 Joseph M. Hansell Park St W Phila Silk Dyer".

### **Marriage Announcement**

The January 4, 1850 *Public Ledger* announced Joseph's marriage on December 31, 1849 to Miss Kate Willing by the Rev. A. D. Gillette.

A rectangular box containing a printed text snippet from a newspaper. The text reads: "On the 31st ult., by the Rev A D Gillette, Mr JOSEPH M. HANSELL to Miss KATE WILLING, both of Philad".

Rev. Abram Dunn Gillette was minister of the Eleventh Baptist Church (located about two blocks diagonally northeast of Budden's Alley).

It's no mystery how Joseph and Kate met. In 1845, Joseph's brother Edwin Hansell had married Kate's sister Louisa.

## 1850 Census - Joseph is Living in West Philadelphia

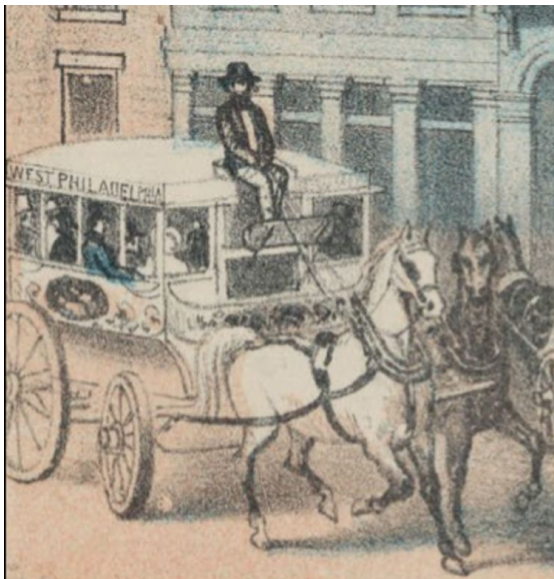
The census was taken on August 21, 1850. Joseph M. Hansell, 22, dyer, born in Pennsylvania. Catherine Hansell, 20, born in Delaware. The last column with the dash indicates married in 1850.

324	98	Joseph. H. Mansell	29	M	Days	Pa	-
		Catherine	20	F		Del.	-

The 1851 Philadelphia City Directory lists Joseph Hansell living at “Park abv Chestnut (WP).” Park Street was a mystery until I consulted an 1843 Philadelphia County Map. Park was an early name for 37th Street. Chestnut is the second street below Market Street, the main thoroughfare into downtown Philadelphia.

It was surprising to find this young, newly-wed couple living in this area of West Philadelphia. At the start of the 1850s, the area was sparsely populated. *Market Street, Philadelphia: The Most Historic Highway in America* includes this PR piece, designed to entice people out to West Philadelphia.

*As a place of residence, it may safely be said, that no other location in the vicinity of Philadelphia offers superior attractions. The ground in general is elevated, and remarkably healthy; the streets are wide, and many of them bordered with rows of handsome shade trees; and a large portion of the District has been covered with costly and highly ornamental dwellings. New streets are being opened...footwalks have been laid. Omnibus lines have been established...enabling its residents to transact business in the City of Philadelphia.*



Maybe Joseph still worked with his brother Wm. F. Hansell, now located on 24 North Fifth Street (just up from Market Street). The 1850 manufacturing schedule for Wm. F. shows he had five male employees.

What if Joseph commuted via omnibus from 37th Street down to 5th Street? Omnibuses ran hourly from West Philadelphia into the city. A draw back was the fare of ten cents per ride, which was considered high for a working man's wages.

West Philadelphia Omnibus near a store on Market Street between 5th and 6th in 1858

By 1853, Joseph and Catharine moved back to Joseph's home neighborhood, in close proximity to his father's home and workshop on Budden's Alley. Joseph's brother Edwin (whose wife was Catharine's sister) had just purchased a house on King Street above Cherry near Budden's Alley.

## Joseph Hansell, Tax Payer

Under the heading "Extra Assessments," the October 10, 1851 *Philadelphia Inquirer* printed a full page of names, grouped by wards, of people levied with an extra tax assessment. Joseph is listed in West Philadelphia, Second Ward.

**Joseph Hansell, silk dyer, Park st, north side**

## Philadelphia City Directories

- 1851 Jos. Hansell, dyer, Park abv Chestnut (WP)
- 1853 Joseph M. Hansell, dyer, King ab Cherry
- 1854 Joseph M. Hansell, dyer, King ab Cherry

Joseph, his brothers Edwin, James and Wm. F., and their father Thomas, are among the Hansells in the 1853 Philadelphia Directory. There are a few cousins and other relatives in this directory as well as Hansells from entirely different families.

Hansell Barnet, mer. 28 High, h 232 Mulberry  
Hansell Chas. F., comb mr., R road n Francis  
Hansell Chas. G., blacksm. R road opp Francis  
Hansell Edmund M., collector, 65 S 11th  
Hansell Edwin, turner, 462 Sassafras  
Hansell Geo., clerk, 11 Jacoby  
Hansell Jacob, coach smith, Broad ab Wood, h  
Sch 8th ab Parrish  
Hansell Jas., watch mr., 236 High, h 76 N 11th  
Hansell James S., turner, Pine ab 10th  
Hansell Jesse, coachsm., Sch 8th ab Brown  
Hansell John F., mer. 28 High, h 10th ab Vine  
Hansell John P., carter, Wood n Amber  
Hansell John R., gas fitter, 8 Carroll av  
Hansell Joseph M., dyer. King ab Cherry  
Hansell Lewis, carp. 11 Sheaff's al  
Hansell Martha, dressmaker, 5 S 12th  
Hansell Robt. W., blacksm. Lancaster Pike and  
Haverford road (W P)  
Hansell Standish F., mer., 28 High, h 305 Vine  
Hansell Thos., turner, N W 13th & Budden's al  
Hansell Wm., Mint, 208 N 11th  
Hansell Wm. F., silk dyer, 24 N 5th  
Hansell Wm. S., mer., 28 High, h 109 S 3d  
Hansell Wm. S. & Sons, saddlers, 28 High  
Hansell W. A., 208 N 11th

Edwin Hansell, turner

James S. Hansell, turner

Joseph M. Hansell, dyer

The father, Thos. Hansell, turner

Wm. F. Hansell, silk dyer

1853 *Philadelphia City Directory*

On June 4, 1852, Joseph's brother Edwin Hansell purchased a home at 114 King Street, located 124 feet north of Cherry (TH 25/136). Edwin owned the property until 1858.

Maybe the Hansell brothers and their Willing wives combined households for a while. In 1853, Joseph and Kate had two children and Edwin and Louisa had their first four children. Edwin had a short walk to his job with his father Thomas at the woodworking shop in Budden's Alley. Where Joseph worked can only be guessed at.

## Death Notice

April 29, 1854 *Public Ledger*

On the 27th inst., Mr. JOSEPH M. HANSELL, in the 27th year of his age. His friends and those of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence at Rancocas Village, N. J., on Sunday afternoon, the 30th inst., at 1 o'clock.

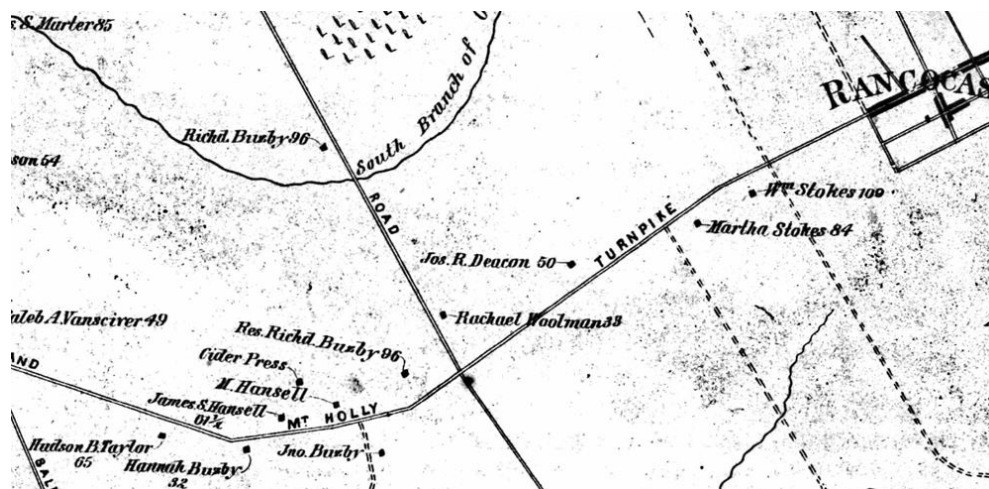
Joseph M. Hansell, in his 27th year, died on April 27, 1854 in Rancocas, New Jersey.

What was Joseph doing in the little Quaker enclave of Rancocas Village? The only observable connection is that his oldest brother, James S. Hansell, had recently established a homestead in the area.

The Hansell family story goes like this:

*In the early 1850s, James S. Hansell's doctor advised him to move south to alleviate his lung ailments (caused by his wood turning occupation). He didn't want his boys living in a land of slavery so he moved his family about 15 miles east, across the Delaware, to Willingboro, New Jersey, just outside Rancocas.*

On March 20, 1852, James purchased 36 acres of vacant land in Willingboro Township, on the Beverly-Mt. Holly Turnpike (F5/576). Rancocas was the nearest populated place to his new land.



Willingborough Township, Burlington County, NJ 1876

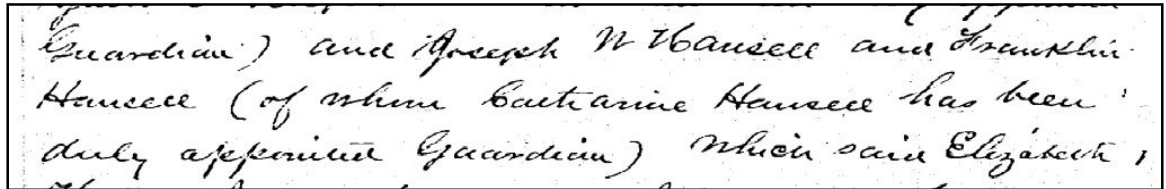
Apparently, there is not a death certificate for Joseph in Pennsylvania or New Jersey, nor can I locate probate records in either state. Joseph and Kate are among the very few Hansells whose burial sites are not known.



## Proof of Joseph's Lineage - The Deed Selling Thomas Hansell's Budden's Alley Property

Joseph's wife and children are cited in the deed selling his father's real estate. Thomas Hansell died intestate in 1865. His Budden's Alley property was sold at auction on April 16, 1868 and the proceeds shared among his descendants. Philadelphia Deed JTO 112/437 records the sale price at \$7,100.

The deed names Thomas Hansell's four living children (James, William F., Emmeline, Edwin) and grandchildren (of the deceased Sarah, Caroline and Joseph). Catharine Hansell is mentioned as the guardian of Joseph W. Hansell and Franklin Hansell.



Guardian) and Joseph W. Hansell and Franklin Hansell (of whom Catharine Hansell has been duly appointed Guardian) which said Elizabeth,

This deed proves that Joseph M. Hansell is a son of Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner.

## Joseph M. Hansell's Lasting Legacy

Joseph's children, Joseph and Franklin, were under three years old when their father died. In 1877, the boys teamed up and went into the printing business with a shop at 209 Market Street. They paid their father the honor of naming the company after him: J. M. Hansell's Sons.



## The Widow Catharine Willing Hansell

When Joseph died in 1854, Catherine was 20 years old. Her children Joseph W. Hansell and Franklin Joseph Hansell were about three and one, respectively.

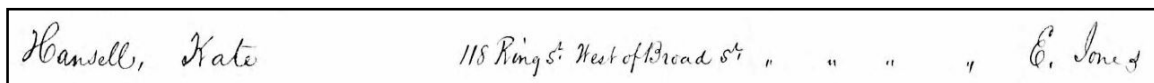
It is likely that the four Willing girls from Delaware who turn up in this narrative are sisters.

- Louisa Willing 1826/1829-1904, married Edwin Hansell 12/24/1845 in Philadelphia
- Sally (Sallie) Willing 1832-1908, did not marry, lived with Louisa and Mary Ann
- Catharine (Kate) Willing 1834-1892, married Joseph M. Hansell 12/31/1849 in Philadelphia
- Mary Ann Willing 1837-1891, married William G. Fischer 11/1/1856 in Philadelphia

### Catharine on King Street

After Joseph's death, Catharine lived at 114 King Street in Philadelphia. Her occupation in the city directory is dressmaker. 114 King is the building Edwin and Louisa Hansell purchased in 1852. When Edwin sold the building in 1858, Catharine moved up the street to 118 King. Sally Willing was on hand to witness Edwin's 1858 deed. There was plenty of family support for Catharine in her widowhood.

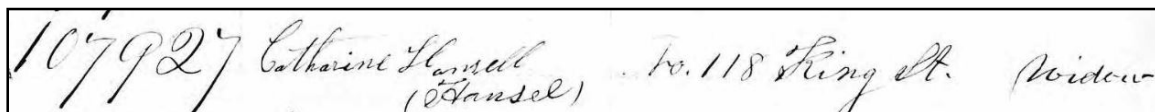
The Nazareth Methodist Episcopal Church register for 1857 has an entry for Kate Hansell. The church was located at the corner of 13th and Vine, just a block northeast of King Street.



*Hansell, Kate*      *118 King St. West of Broad St. " " " "*      *E. Jones*

The Nazareth Church records provide a nice assortment of relatives living in the neighborhood. Catharine's nieces Louisa, Mary and Ida Hansell at the rear of 114 King Street (daughters of Louisa and Edwin Hansell). Sister Sallie/Sarah Willing, living with Louisa and Edwin Hansell at various addresses in the neighborhood. Sister Mary Ann and her husband William G. Fischer living at 207 North 13th Street.

Catharine opened a savings account with the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society on December 9, 1858.



*107927*      *Catharine Hansell*  
*(Widow)*      *No. 118 King St.*      *Widow*

---

King Street was renamed Kelton, then Carlisle.

## Catherine's Real Estate Investments

Catherine's father-in-law Thomas Hansell died intestate in 1865. His Budden's Alley property was sold at auction on April 16, 1868 and the proceeds were divided among his descendants. Philadelphia Deed JTO 112/437 records a sale price at \$7,100. Catherine is named in the deed as guardian for Thomas Hansell's grandchildren Joseph and Franklin. The money from the sale was probably divided into seven parts. After expenses were deducted, Catherine may have received something a bit less than \$1,000 on behalf of her children. With cash in hand, Catherine invested in real estate.

On June 17, 1868, two months after the sale of Thomas Hansell's real estate, Catharine purchased a house at 1809 Bellevue Street. One George Keller had purchased three contiguous vacant lots on Bellevue and erected new brick houses. The property was located a few blocks north of Girard College where Catharine's son Frank was attending school. In the 1900s, the City of Philadelphia purchased the area around Bellevue Street and built the Francisville Playground.

### 1809 Bellevue Street

George W. Keller, sign painter to Catharine Hansell, widow

June 17, 1868, \$1,500, Deed JTO 157/117

Brick house and lot, NE side of Bellevue, 180 feet NW from NW side of Francis St in the 15th Ward.

Catharine Hansell, widow to Mary Prince, widow

December 27, 1877, \$1,575, Deed DHL 147/352

Catharine made a small profit from the sale of Bellevue Street. Her next purchase was a home at 1609 North 21st St. in 1875. This may have been a newly-built house also. The seller John L. Carre was a developer/builder who constructed houses on many of the lots in this area. A month after Catharine's death, her sons sold the property.

### 1609 North 21st Street



John L. Carre, builder to Catharine Hansell, widow

6-19-1875, \$2,000, FTW 217/130

Building and lot, E side of 21st Street, 90' 3" N of Oxford

Joseph W. Hansell, manufacturer, and wife Sallie and Franklin Hansell and wife Ida to Henry W. Yerger, clerk

4-11-1892, \$3,800, TG 163/232

Catharine Hansell died intestate and the property descended to her children Joseph & Franklin

This is the Google street view for 1609 North 21st. Is this the building Catharine purchased in 1875? Maybe. The interior has been completely renovated.

## Catharine in the First Enumeration of the 1870 Census

Due to complaints of undercounting in the 1870 census, second enumerations were completed for New York City, Indianapolis and Philadelphia.

In 1870, Catharine was living on Bellevue Street in the 15th Ward, 45th Division. The first enumeration was taken July 13, 1870. Not sure how the census taker came up with the first names, but this enumeration provides some interesting information.

Mary E. Hansel, 41, keeping house, \$2,500 real estate, \$300 personal property  
William, 17, apprentice printer

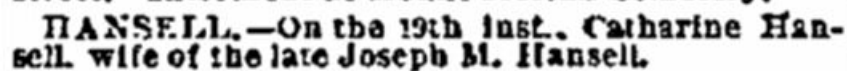
Without a doubt, this is Catharine and Joseph. The Ward and abutting neighbors are identical to the second enumeration taken November 22, 1870, which lists Catharine 30, Joseph W. 19 and Franklin 15. Frank is listed at Girard College in both enumerations.

"Apprentice printer" is the only clue we have to Joseph's education. The real estate value alerted me to the fact Catharine owned property at this time.

Personal property in the 1870 census included "bonds, stocks, mortgages, notes, live stock, plate, jewels, or furniture, but exclusive of wearing apparel." It's left to our imaginations as to what personal property Catharine owned that amounted to \$300.

## Where is Catharine Interred?

Catharine died on March 19, 1892. This terse notice was placed in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.



3/22/1892 *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Her death certificate is more informative. Catharine died of angina pectoris in her home at 1609 North 21st Street. She was born in Seaford, Delaware and would be buried in Seaford.

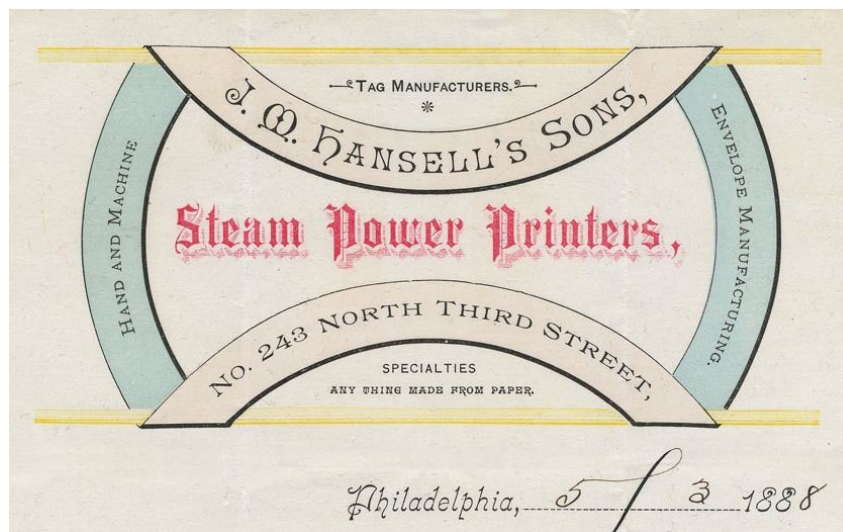
The undertaker, Theo D. Neff, signed a transit slip. There were specifications for the shipping container: the outer box would be made of No. 1 lumber one inch thick, all joints tightly closed, and equipped with strong handles. The box was to be shipped to Seaford, Delaware, by train or boat, on March 23, 1892, at 7:30 AM.

Catharine's sisters are buried in Philadelphia. We can only guess Catharine's last wishes were to be buried back home. Like her husband Joseph, Catharine's burial spot is not known.



## J.M. Hansell's Sons

Joseph and Catharine's children went into the printing business.



Joseph W. Hansell learned the printing trade. When he first appears in a Philadelphia City Directory for the year 1871, his occupation is given as clerk, place of business 736 Sansom Street and home 1809 Bellevue.

The address of 736 Sansom Street was the long-time printing shop and home of William P. Kildare, master printer in Philadelphia during the 1850s into the 1880s. There is a family connection here which, from young Joseph's point of view, goes like this: Joseph's grandfather Thomas Hansell's sister Sarah Morris Hansell 1798-1882 married John Matthews. They had a child Elizabeth Matthews who married William P. Kildare 1823-1904.

There is another printer connection. The brother of Joseph and Frank's father is William F. Hansell, the wool and silk dyer who taught their father the dying business. Well, Wm. F. Hansell had a son, William Jr., who was a printer. William Jr. was born in 1850, so he was basically the same age as his cousins Joseph and Frank. William Jr. grew up at 24 North Fifth Street, right next to Lydia Bailey, a Philadelphia printer for 50 years. Maybe the Hansell cousins peeked into Lydia's printing house and thought this would be a good way to make money when they grew up.

Franklin Joseph Hansell took a different route. In 1860, seven year old Frank was admitted to Girard College for Orphans, which offered primary and secondary schooling for fatherless boys. There is a family connection at Girard. William G. Fischer, husband of Catharine's sister Mary Ann, was the music director at Girard from 1858 to 1868.

---

Read about the printer Kildare here: <http://ancestorsandothers.net/PDF/hdaughters.pdf>

By 1877, the brothers opened their business on Market Street. Later, when they were located at 243 North Third Street, a reporter for *The Paper Trade Journal* gave their company this enthusiastic review.

The live firm of J. M. Hansell's Sons, at 243 North Third street, printers and manufacturers of tags, envelopes, &c., is doing a very nice midsummer business. These young men are wideawake, hard workers and always on the qui vive for new and improved machinery. They have recently added to their well equipped establishment a new tag printing and perfecting machine from a well-known manufactory here, and they propose to engage more extensively than heretofore in that particular line. They carry a long line of out of town customers, to say nothing of a first-class city trade.

7-28-1888 *The Paper Trade Journal*

Joseph W. Hansell 1851-1919 married Sallie H. Lewis 1853-1941 around 1882. The couple had three children. Two little boys died early and their daughter Catherine did not marry.

Franklin Joseph Hansell 1853-1906 married Ida C. Fagundus 1856-1913 around 1877. Descendants of their son Joseph Franklin Hansell carry on the Hansell genes.

## Joseph M. Hansell Descendant Tree

1 Thomas Hansell 1786-1865 +Mary Stiner 1789-1820

..... 2 Joseph M. Hansell b: 1828 in Philadelphia, PA d: Apr 27, 1854 in Rancocas Village, NJ  
Age at death: 26 est. Burial: burial site unknown

..... +Catharine Willing b: 1834 in Seaford, Delaware m: Dec 31, 1849 by Rev. A.D. Gillette, 11th Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA d: Mar 19, 1892 in 1609 N. 21st St, Philadelphia, PA Age at death: 58 est. Burial: death certificate says Seaford, Delaware

..... 3 Joseph W. Hansell b: Dec 1851 in Philadelphia, PA d: Aug 14, 1919 in Delanco, NJ  
Age at death: 67 est. Burial: Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... +Sallie H. Lewis b: Aug 1853 m: Sep 28, 1881 d: Jun 1, 1941 in Delanco, NJ  
Age at death: 87 est. Burial: Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... 4 Frank Lewis Hansell b: Mar 19, 1885 d: Mar 27, 1885 in 2344 Master St, Philadelphia, PA  
Age at death: 8 days Burial: Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... 4 Catherine I. Hansell b: Jan 24, 1888 in New Jersey d: Nov 25, 1936 in Delanco, NJ  
Age at death: 48 Burial: Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... 4 Joseph Morris Hansell b: Apr 14, 1892 d: Dec 25, 1896 in Delanco, NJ Age at death: 4  
Burial: Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... 3 Franklin Joseph Hansell b: Jul 6, 1853 d: Nov 9, 1906 in 1432 Cayuga St., Philadelphia, PA  
Age at death: 53 Burial: Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... +Ida Cordelia Fagundus b: Dec 26, 1856 m: Dec 10, 1877 d: Feb 3, 1913 Age at death: 56  
Burial: Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... 4 stillborn female Hansell Jul 22, 1878 Burial: Fagundus plot, Odd Fellows Cem,  
Philadelphia, PA

..... 4 Joseph Franklin Hansell b: Jul 1, 1883 d: Aug 24, 1928 Age at death: 45 Burial: Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

..... +Helena Fanny Bales b: Sep 11, 1881 m: 1904 d: Mar 24, 1933 Age at death: 51 Burial: Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

## End Notes

Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner's eight children

James Steiner Hansell 1811-1881, turner  
William Frederick Hansell 1812-1881, dyer  
Thomas P. Hansell 1815-1841  
Sarah A. Hansell 1817-1863, married Jacob Senfft Eckfeldt (2<sup>nd</sup> wife)  
Emmeline Hansell 1820-1905, married John Sinclair  
Caroline Hansell 1822-1849, married Jacob Senfft Eckfeldt (1<sup>st</sup> wife)  
Edwin S. Hansell 1824-1908, turner  
Joseph M. Hansell 1828-1854, dyer

Philadelphia Saving Fund Society index viewed at Ancestry.com  
Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985

About Rev. A.D. Gillette  
<http://rootsandtribes.tripod.com/AbramDunnGillette.html>

Joseph Jackson, *Market Street, Philadelphia: The Most Historic Highway in America, Its Merchants and Its Story*, 1819. View at archive.org. Includes the early names of West Philadelphia streets.

City Omnibus Schedule from *A Handbook for the Stranger in Philadelphia*, published 1849

CITY OMNIBUSES.				98
Destination.	Route.	Leave the Exchange.	Fare.	STRANGER'S GUIDE.
Broad street	Third and Arch sts.	Every 10 minutes	6½ cts.	
"	Third and Chestnut sts.	Every 7 minutes	6½	
"	Walnut st.	Every 12 minutes	6½	
"	Third and Spruce sts.	Every 12 minutes	6½	
Fairmount	Chestnut and Broad	Every 20 minutes	6½	
Girard College	Chestnut, Tenth and Coates' st.	Every 15 minutes	6½	
Kensington	Second and Beach sts.	Every 7 minutes	6½	
"	Second st. and Frankford road	Every 15 minutes	6½	
Moyamensing	Chestnut and Sixth sts.	Every 30 minutes	6½	
Navy Yard	Second st.	Every 20 minutes	6½	
Norristown Railroad	Chestnut, Sixth and Green sts.	Every 12 minutes	6½	
Richmond Village	Second st.	Every 7 minutes	6½	
Schuylkill Front st.	Chestnut st.	Every 20 minutes	6½	
"	Market st.	Every 12 minutes	6½	
Trenton Depot	Second st. and Frankford road	Every 15 minutes	6½	
West Philadelphia	Market st.	Every hour	10	
Mantua or Hamilton vil.	"	Every hour	10	

Omnibus detail from the 1858 lithograph of *Bennett's Tower Hall, clothing bazaar, no. 518 Market Street, bet[ween] 5th & 6th, Philadelphia*, viewed at The Library Company of Philadelphia Digital Catalog