

**Sarah Morris Hansell, Widow  
&  
The History of 49 North Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA**

Presumably not long after the death of her husband William Hansell, Sarah packed up whichever kids were still at home and moved to downtown Philadelphia.

Where did she live and what did she do in Philadelphia? Family trees tell us that all her children lived beyond her death. Sarah was able to see them all married (except the first born girl who never married) and she would know most of her grandchildren.

Here are city directory listings for the name Sarah Hansell as well as 1810 and 1820 census data.

1802	Sarah Hanfell, teacherefs, 21 N Fifth	
<b>1810 Census</b>	<b>Widow Hansell, lady, North Ward</b> <b>1 male under 10</b> <b>1 male 10-15</b> <b>1 male over 45</b> <b>1 female under 10</b> <b>1 female 10-15</b> <b>1 female 16-25</b> <b>1 female 26-44</b>  <b>total 7</b>	the location is Zane Street, probably just a few doors west of 7 <sup>th</sup> Street  Zane Street (Filbert) originates at 7 <sup>th</sup> St and runs west  Sarah would be 48 in 1810
1810	Sarah Hansell, widow, Zane St	
1811	Sarah Hansell, widow, Zane St	
1813	Sarah Hansell, teacher, 47 N 7 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Hansell, widow Arch above 12th	
1814	Sarah Hansell, teacher, 47 N 7 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Hansell, widow Arch above Twelfth	
1816	Sarah Hansell widow, 180 Sassafra (Race)	
1817	Sarah Hansell widow, 180 Sassafra (Race)	
1818		first listing for dwelling house of James Hansell (Sarah's son), clockmaker at 180 Race
<b>1820 Census</b>	<b>Mrs. Hansell, North Ward</b> <b>3 females 26-44</b> <b>1 female over 45</b>  Sarah would be 58	People listed S to N on census sheet:  -John Briggs (bleeder at 47 N 7 <sup>th</sup> ) -Brown (Philip the surgical instrument maker at 49 N 7 <sup>th</sup> ) -Mrs. Hansell (49½ N 7 <sup>th</sup> ) -William Butcher (SE corner Arch & 7 <sup>th</sup> )
1820	Sarah Hansell, widow, 49½ N 7th	
1821	Sarah Hansell, widow, 49½ N 7th	
1822	Sarah Hansell, widow, 49½ N 7th	
1825	Sarah Hansell, wid., b ct 49 N 7th	
1826	Sarah Hansell, shopkeeper 379 High ab 10 <sup>th</sup>	
1829	Sarah Hansell, shopkeeper 379 High ab 10 <sup>th</sup>	
	<b>Sarah Morris Hansell died 12/12/1833</b>	

I have not included Sarah Mensgrave Hansell, second wife of Barnett Hansell, who, after her husband's death in 1803, continued operating the family store at 18 North Sixth Street. City directories also have a listing for a widow Hansell at 106 N 3<sup>rd</sup>. Her first name is Barbary and she apparently is not related to our Hansell family.

Barnett Hansell had a daughter Sarah. She was born in 1791 and married in 1809. Sarah Morris Hansell had a daughter, Sarah Morris Hansell, born 1798 and married in 1822.

Are the widow and the teacher one and the same? Who is the shopkeeper? Who is the male over 45 in the 1810 census? I can't budge any of this tantalizing information one way or the other.

I did get wound up when I found a 1779 tax record in Darby for Ann Morris, presumably Sarah Morris Hansell's mother. In the comments column is the word "schoolmaster." There was a Quaker school in Darby at this time. Does schoolmaster refer to Ann Morris or did she rent a room to the schoolmaster? Is this a clue that Sarah Hansell followed her mother's occupation?

In the years 1816 and 1817, the address for Sarah Hansell, widow, is 180 Sassafras (Race) Street, the same as the dwelling house address for her son James Hansell, the clock-maker. **(1) This overlap of addresses and (2) Sarah's funeral held at James Hansell's house are really the only links of the family relationship.** Also, as time goes by, all of Sarah's children appear on census records and city directories in Philadelphia.

The only concrete thing we have is Sarah's funeral notice in the December 14, 1833 issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

*On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst Sarah Hansell, in the 73<sup>rd</sup> year of her age. The friends of the family are particularly invited to attend her funeral, from her son's, James Hansell, No 78 north Eleventh street, tomorrow morning, at 10 o'clock. To proceed to Kingsessing.*

A one-line notice of Sarah's death was also placed on the front page of the *National Gazette and Literary Register* on December 17, 1833. Interestingly, this newspaper was started in 1822 to keep anti-slavery issues before the public.

Starting with the 1820 census and city directories, Sarah is listed at 49½ North 7<sup>th</sup> Street. I pursued this clue. It didn't reveal anything about Sarah Hansell, but the building turned out to house an interesting cross-section of Philadelphia history.

Working on the theory that if you can't find out anything about your subject, you may as well amplify on what you can discover, here is the story of 49 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**The Building and Occupants of  
49 North Seventh Street  
Philadelphia, PA**

Thomas Clifford was such a good example of how one could prosper in the emerging colonial economy that in 1950 Grace Hutchison Larsen wrote a 900 page PhD dissertation on this enterprising fellow. This dissertation is not available through interlibrary loan but fortunately Thomas M. Doerflinger in his book "A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise: Merchants and Economic Development in Revolutionary Philadelphia" sums up Thomas Clifford as follows:

*In 1722 Thomas Clifford was born into the undistinguished middling ranks of Bucks County's Quaker community... Trained as a cooper, Clifford was orphaned at the age of 15 but inherited some land from his father. When he married, he probably received little in the way of a dowry, for his father-in-law was poor enough to merit financial assistance from the Philadelphia monthly meeting. There was, in short, little in his background, training, or financial resources to prepare Clifford for a life as a Philadelphia merchant. Shortly after his marriage (to Anna Guest) in 1743, Clifford nevertheless moved to Philadelphia, set himself up as a cooper, and used the earnings and knowledge acquired in this occupation to trade with the West Indies. His financial ascent was remarkably rapid. By 1750, at an age when many merchants would still be living in a boarding house, Clifford could afford to rent not only a house but stores and a wharf besides. In the late 1750s he invested heavily in vessels to take advantage of the strong demand for cargo space during the Seven Year's War. Clifford evidently prospered during the conflict, for in 1760 he bought a choice promontory jutting into the Delaware, not far from his birthplace, as a site for a country seat."*

To be SOLD, by  
**THOMAS CLIFFORD,**  
In Water-street, between Market and Arch-street, three doors below the Jersey Ferry-House,

**O** Zenbrigs, 10 and 11 nail, 3 qr. 7 eights, yard wide, and yard and 3 eights cotton and linen check'd, strip'd and colour'd fustians, strip'd hollands, bed-ticks, yard wide tandems, 7 eights garlix, black breeches patterns, cotton velvet shapes for waistcoats, brown buckram, buttons of several sorts, twist, womens shoes, powder and shot, brimstone, West-India and New-England rum, old Jamaica spirit, muscovado sugar, double and single refin'd loaf ditto, bohea tea, very good common green ditto, coffee, pepper and allspice, an assortment of nails, pewter, &c. castor and felt hats, sad irons, bar and pig iron, anchors of several sizes, the bottoms and sides of two coppers, one large, the other smaller, fit for refining sugar, brass kettles and iron pots of many sizes, flour, middling and ship biscuit, Burlington pork and gammons, a parcel of choice fall mackzel, and sundry other goods. © 7s. 6d. Tbcctf.

There was always a lot of action at the Clifford wharf. This advertisement was in the June 27, 1754 *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

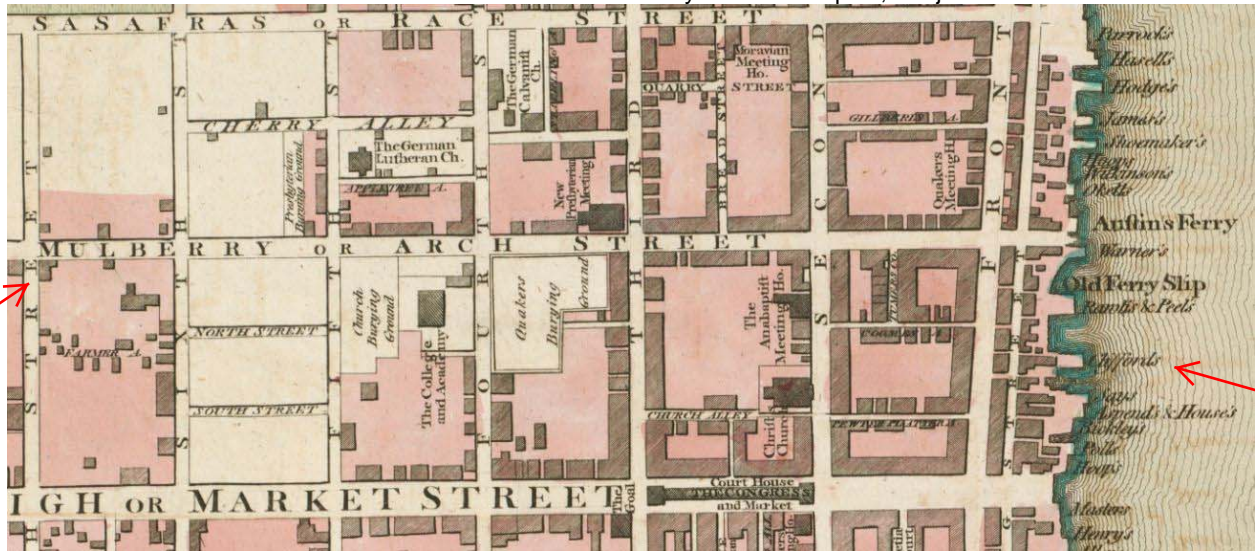
Watson, the Philadelphia chronicler, remembers: "The arrival of the London ships at Clifford's wharf used to set the whole trading community in a bustle to see them haul into the wharf.... Soon the whole range of Front Street, from Arch to Walnut street, was lumbered with packages.... Great and noisy were the breaking up of packages, and busy were the masters, clerks and porters to get in and display their new arrived

*treasures. Soon after were seen the city retailers, generally females in that time, hovering about like butterflies near a rivulet, mingling among the men and viewing with admiration the rich displays of British chintzes, muslins and calicoes of the latest London modes."*

In January of 1759, Thomas Clifford used some of his money (170 pounds) to purchase a parcel of vacant land situated on the corner of Mulberry (Arch) and Seventh Streets, six blocks west of his wharf at 29 North Water Street. The parcel measured 100' by 106' and was a section of a "great lot of land" of 306' x 396' which had been held by the Pennsylvania Land Company for the previous 60 years since its original acquisition from William Penn in 1699. By all

accounts, the Water Street location where Clifford rented his wharf, dwelling and storage buildings was hemmed in between the Delaware River and a high bank which trapped the air and created a stinking cesspool-like atmosphere, so a move west to the edge of town must have been agreeable for the whole family. The Clifford family home was built on the SE corner of Mulberry and Seventh.

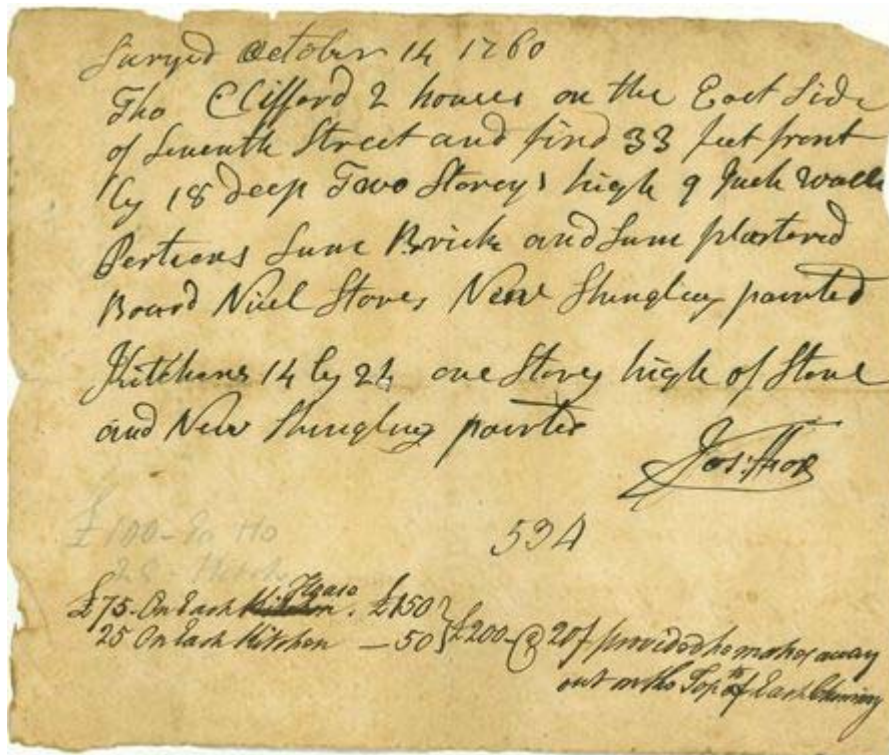
1776 Delaware Bay and Philadelphia, Benjamin Easburn



Corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Mulberry/Arch

Clifford's Wharf

In October of 1760, an insurance survey was conducted for Thomas Clifford on two contiguous houses located on the east side of Seventh Street, within Clifford's 100' x 106' parcel. These buildings were 47 and 49 N 7th Street.



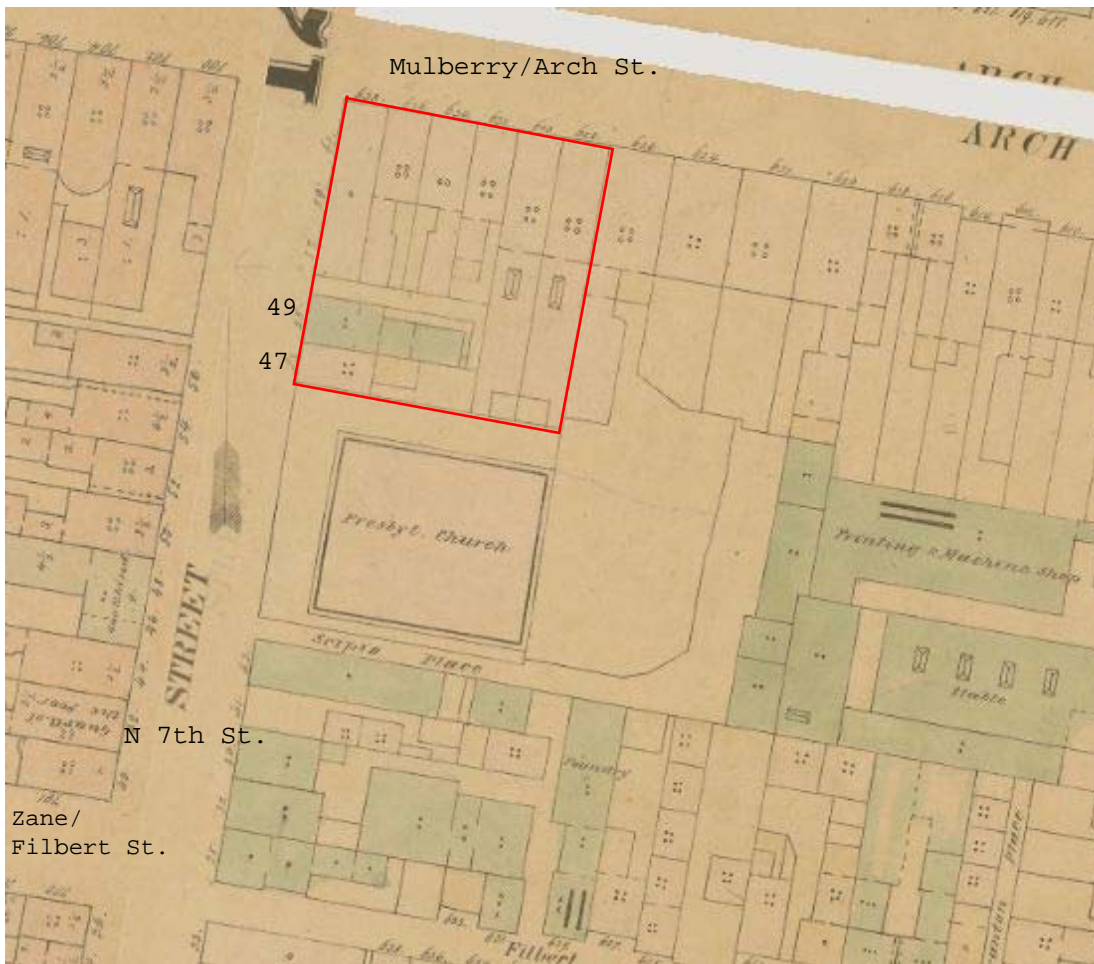
Policy #534, Philadelphia Contributionship

Thomas Clifford died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 (which reportedly broke out in the Water Street location). In 1801, following the dictates of his will, the buildings and lots with ground rents on the 100' x 106' parcel of land were passed on to surviving children or grandchildren:

- The building at 47 N 7<sup>th</sup> was deeded to grandchildren Stevenson, Cornelia and Thomas Smith. In 1828 these children would sell the building and lot to Hannah Jones who sold it a year later to long-time renter John Briggs, bleeder.
- The building at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> was deeded to Anna Smith Phillips, a granddaughter of Thomas Clifford.

Between 1800 and about 1819 the street numbers at the upper end of this block of 7<sup>th</sup> Street were a bit fluid, with numbers that varied between 45 and 53 (which may actually have been 47 through 53), so it is hard to tell who was living where using city directories. The number 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> does not show up in directories for this time period and 45 and 47 N 7<sup>th</sup> include the following tenants: John Gullen stone cutter, Isaac and Daniel Trump carpenters, Philip Heyl hatter, Sarah Hansell teacher, Elizabeth Edwards ladies seminary, and John Briggs, first listed as a hairdresser then cupper and bleeder (or occasionally lecher). By the way, Briggs, Jr. became an accountant.

By 1820 the addresses took on a consistency, with John Briggs, cupper and bleeder, at 47 N 7<sup>th</sup>. The building at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> housed an interesting collection of commercial tenants and school teachers.



This 1858-1860 Philadelphia Atlas map by Hexamer & Locher best exhibits the 100' x 106' parcel purchased by Carpenter in 1759.

49 N 7<sup>th</sup> is shaded - the adjoining alley to the north provided access to the back of the building

## The Landlady of 49 North Seventh Street

Anna Smith Phillips, granddaughter of Thomas Clifford, inherited 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> in 1801. She was married to shipping magnate William Phillips and lived in a mansion at the corner of Spruce and 11<sup>th</sup>. The house at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> was rented out--commercial uses in the front and school rooms in the back. Anna was busy raising ten children and William Phillips was busy making millions and the rental money from 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> probably went into the spare change pot.

## Commercial Tenants at 49 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street

I'll start with the first certain commercial tenants who probably occupied the front of the building, facing Seventh Street.

### **Philip Browne, Surgeon's Instruments Maker**

1819-1822

In 1819, the first documented commercial renter was Philip Browne (or Brown or John Philip Brown) who made surgeons' instruments. Research into this fellow led directly to a visually beautiful and painstakingly researched book by James M. Edmonson, *American Surgical Instruments: The History of Their Manufacture and a Directory of Instrument Makers to 1990*, Norman Publishing 1997.

Philip Browne's lasting claim to fame is his 1818 eight-page catalogue, probably the earliest trade catalogue issued by a surgical instrument maker in the US, which is held by the Warshaw Collection of Business Ephemera at the Smithsonian Institution. A part of this catalog is reproduced in Edmonson's book. As Edmonson noted, the most intriguing entry in the catalog is an "instrument for restoring suspended animation."

Philip Browne occupied a space at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> for three or four years and in October of 1821 he moved to Baltimore.

### **Lewis Doster, Silk Dyer**

1822

Lewis Doster occupied a space in this building in 1822. It was just a short stay in his career. Paraphrasing from *The Doster Genealogy and History of Northampton County, Pa.:*

"Lewis Doster, was born in Neiderhofen, Germany in 1796 and came to Philadelphia with his family in 1817. From his passport, it appears that his height was 5' 7.5", complexion fresh, hair brown, forehead open, eyebrows brown, eyes blue, nose middling, cheeks full, mouth middling, teeth good, chin round and legs straight.

A Philadelphia friend sent Lewis to Bethlehem, Pa. where he obtained employment as a dyer in the fulling and dyeing mill of the Moravian Society; but being anxious to get ahead, which was not easy in the 'community' of Moravians, he took a job as master dyer at the Burlington Factory of Peter Parker, Burlington, NJ about June of 1820. He stayed about a year and a half but his employer failed and he lost all his earnings. On August 18, 1822, we find him in business for himself as a silk dyer at 49 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Philadelphia, between Market and Arch Streets and we have his printed card soliciting business." At some point, Lewis Doster moved back to Bethlehem at the behest of Matthew Eggert who was in need of a good indigo dyer.

"Lewis went on to purchase the Bethlehem mill property from the Moravians and built additions to the dyeing and fulling departments and added carding and weaving machinery to make it a complete woolen mill. He was also engaged in the lumber business as well as other commercial enterprises. He died in 1860 and his sons continued the operation of the woolen mill for two years until it was destroyed by fire."

**Wiegand & Snowden, Surgeon's Instruments Makers**  
1823-1828

For the years 1823 through 1828, John Wiegand and Thomas Snowden set up shop at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>. John Wiegand was a smith and Thomas Snowden a carpenter before they embarked on this new enterprise. Apparently this was their first location as surgical instrument makers, a trade they would carry on jointly or separately for the next 20 or so years. Their surgical instrument business is outlined in Edmonson's book. Their instruments are collectors' items today.



Perhaps the next door neighbor, Mr. Briggs, stopped in to pick up a spare lancet for his bleeding business.

How to use a lancet: The curved metal lever (top left) is depressed to engage a spring inside the box. Press the cutting blade (right) against a vein. Press the lever on the side of the box to release the spring which drives the cutting blade into the vein.

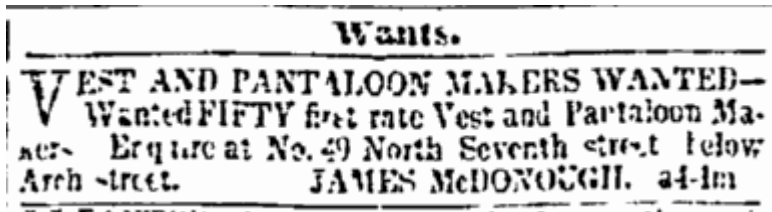
Photo at [alllancets.com](http://alllancets.com)

**William Jameson, Dyer**  
1829-1833

**William Farren, Silk Dyer**  
1830-1833

Maybe these two dyers had a partnership going for a while.

**James McDonough, Taylor**  
1835-1840



The years 1835 through 1840 find James McDonough selling vests and pantaloons at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>. He was off to a resounding start, advertising for 50 good workers in 1836.

And then there was the instance of the missing pantaloons:

**TO VEST AND PANTALON MAKERS.**—The following are persons who have taken goods of the subscriber, and have neglected to return them.

Aug. 10, Mrs. Patterson, who represented that she lived back of No. 51 New street, two vests.

Aug. 9, Mrs. Smith, Garrigue Court, one pair pants.

Aug. 10, Mary Williams, Hinckle Court, one pair pants.

Application having been made at the places given in by the above persons, as their residences, and no one of the name or description having been found it is but reasonable to suppose their motive in obtaining the goods was to purloin them.

The trade would do well to have an eye to these persons. **JAMES McDONOUGH, 49 North Seventh st.**  
a31-1m

Dr. Charles T. Fleming  
1837

**IMPORTANT.**—Use the right medicine and be cured. Sold by **C. T. FLEMING**, sole agent for the sale of **DOCT. DAVIS'S** Patent medicines in and for the City of Philadelphia, respectfully informs the public, that he has opened an office No. 49 North SEVENTH street, second door below Arch, Philadelphia, for the sale of the best medicines in the world. There has been the greatest number of cures in the city of New York, and throughout the Southern States, within the last year, ever known, and well known to be no quackery. For sale as above, **Doct. Davis's Patent Vegetable Master of Nature**, the only cure known on earth without mercury, for a certain disease, which is cured in a few days, leaving the blood as pure as at first. Received price, **Master of Nature**, per bottle \$2 50; likewise **Davis's Liniment**, sure cure for scalds and leaving no marks on the skin, 50 cents; also an infallible cure for sore eyes, 25 cents; **Fever and Ague** cured effectually, \$3; sure cure for the Piles, \$1; the great **Vegetable Tonic Pills**, \$1. The great **Vegetable Tonic Pills** warranted to create a good appetite, to keep the stomach in good order, and strengthen the solids. When these Pills are taken according to order, have never failed to cure all Billions diseases.

1837\* **CHARLES T. FLEMING, sole Agent.**

I don't know if this fellow was located in the commercial section of the building or in the rear school rooms while he flogged his snake oil preparations.



Dr. H.H. Sherwood and Dr. Parvin  
1837

Dr. Parvin was selling cures using a vibrating magnetic machine developed by his partner H.H. Sherwood. Luckily, we were left with a photo of the machine and the manual!

**SHERWOOD'S ELECTRO-MAGNETIC REMEDIES, FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, of the class Hypertrophia, including all the forms of Scrofula, viz. —**

Consumption,	White Swellings,
Dyspepsia,	Disease of the spine.
Liver Complaint,	Disease of the Hip Joint,
Scald Head,	Leucorrhœa.
King's Evil,	Colorosa,
Scrofulus Sore Eyes,	Meno-rhagia.

These are but different modifications of disease, affecting different organs and limbs, arising from the same cause, detected by the same diagnosis, or Electro Galvanic symptoms, and consequently cured by the same remedies, as is fully demonstrated by H. H. Sherwood, M. D. in his new or Electric Symptoms of Chronic Diseases, founded on the natural causes of motion in animate matter. Dr. Sherwood plainly shows that every portion of the human body, together with every particle of matter in the universe both animate and inanimate, is either in a negative or positive state of Electricity and that every motion is produced by the negative and positive action, or repelling and attracting forces of this Electric fluid, by which he clearly demonstrates not only the cause of this class of disease, but also the cause of the Electro Galvanic Symptoms, by which the disease can invariably be detected, and also the modus operandi, or reason why the Electro Magnetic remedies cure the same. Dr. PARVIN, his partner, has taken an office at No 49 north Seventh street, Philadelphia, where he will examine Chronic Cases by the Electro Galvanic Symptoms, to the satisfaction of any who may call on him. He will also visit those who are too feeble to call at his office, and will administer the medicine in those cases only which he has full confidence it will cure. Physicians and scientific gentlemen are respectfully invited to call at his office and examine the theory, diagrams, &c. at 2w\*



VIBRATING MAGNETIC MACHINE  
signed "H.H. Sherwood, M.D."  
1840's

Photo found at sparkmuseum.com

The 1837 guidebook is found in the digital collection at the National Library of Medicine.

8-19-1837 Public Ledger

**Edith Lukens - Confectionary**  
1840-1846

After McDonough lost his bloomers, Edith Lukens took over the space to bake cakes. She operated her confectionary store here from 1840 through 1846.

Here is an advertisement from an 1840 directory. "Free produce" refers to using ingredients and products not produced by slave labor, which included tobacco, cotton, and, in the case of Edith, sugar. The American Free Produce Association was established in Philadelphia in 1838.

**EDITH LUKENS<sup>o</sup>**  
**FREE CONFECTIONARY,**  
**CAKE & FRUIT STORE,**  
**49 NORTE SEVENTH-ST.**  
**Below Arch.**

Where she intends to be always provided with Fruits, Confectionaries, Cakes, &c. of free produce, she will also be provided with Mineral Waters, and Ice Creams of various flavors. Also Jellies of various kinds.

N.B. Families and Parties supplied with the above articles on reasonable terms, in the best manner, and orders attended to with promptness.

N.B. The principles embodied in this will be strictly carried out.

**Silas Frost - Brass Founder**  
1846

Silas Frost, brass founder, moved into the building as advertised in the January 31, 1846 *Public Ledger*.

**REMOVAL—SILAS FROST, Brass Founder, re-**  
**R** spectfully informs his customers and the public  
generally, that he has REMOVED his establishment  
from N<sup>o</sup> 90 South Front street, to No. 49 NORTH  
SEVENTH Street, 3d door below Arch, where he  
will continue to manufacture all articles in his line  
on the most reasonable terms. j31 sm&w3m\*

I ran across a wedding announcement for a Frost granddaughter that reported Silas came from Devonshire, England and introduced silver plating into this country. I can't verify this claim.

Silas Frost seems to have been the only commercial tenant after 1846. In fact, he purchased the building from the landlady, Ann Phillips, in 1850.

## The School Teachers at 49 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Apparently the back of the building, or a building at the back of the lot, was used for school rooms. Access was provided by a 10-foot alley leading from 7<sup>th</sup> Street along the north side of the building. The address was variously referred to as:

49 ½ N 7 <sup>th</sup>	b 49 N 7 <sup>th</sup>	b ct 49 N 7 <sup>th</sup>	rear 49 N 7 <sup>th</sup>
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### The Cox Brothers and Sisters

1820-1822

Two of the Cox boys taught briefly at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Research shows that all the Cox children were actively engaged during their lifetimes in the anti-slavery movement.

In 1801, the father of these children, James Cox, died of pneumonia at age 34 in Rahway, NJ. He was reported to be "literary in taste and had a fine library." The mother, Elizabeth Shepherd Cox, moved back to her childhood home in Philadelphia along with her three boys and two girls.

Philadelphia city directories for 1820, 1821 and 1822 list James and Abraham L. Cox, teachers of English & Latin, 49 North Seventh. These men are also listed at 49 Filbert Street (formerly known as Zane Street), as are Mary L. Cox and Susan H. Cox, teachers. Quite a family of teachers!

#### The Cox Brothers

James and Abraham taught school (English and Latin) at 49 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street while attending medical college. Sarah Hansell is listed at this building during the three years the Cox brothers ran their school.

In 1819, James Cox, along with James Hansell (clockmaker) and Thomas Hansell (turner), sons of Sarah Morris Hansell, were elected to membership of The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery. James Cox graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1825 and had a short career as a physician in Philadelphia; he died December 21, 1831, at age 34.

Abraham L. Cox graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1823. He married in 1825 and moved to New York City where he became an eminent physician. Abraham was a founding member of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Reportedly he had a large and lucrative practice which he gave up to enlist in the Civil War. The rigors of war proved too much for his health and at 64 he died in the officer's hospital at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee on July 29, 1864. At the time of his death he was the surgeon-in-chief, First Division, 12<sup>th</sup> Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

The third brother, Samuel Hanson Cox has a crisis of faith and withdrew from the Quakers much to his mother's distress. He studied theology and was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1817 and eventually was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn. Samuel took an active and outspoken role in the abolition movement and was a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society. During the three days of anti-abolitionists riots in 1834, his house and church on Spring Street, New York City, were sacked.

## The Cox Sisters

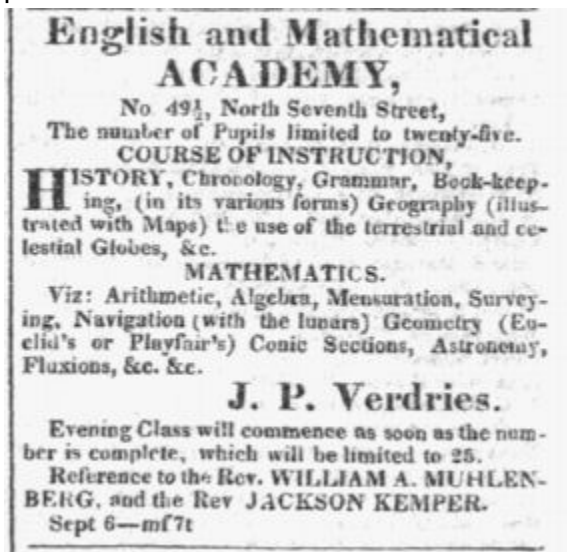
There are 1820 through 1833 directory listings for Misses Mary L and Susan H. Cox, teachers, at various addresses (none at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>). No other information turns up about teaching until September 1854 with a *Public Ledger* advertisement: "Mary L. and Susan H. Cox will reopen their school at SE corner of Race & Seventh Streets, opposite Franklin Square. Studies – English & French."

Mary Liddon Cox and Susan Hanson Cox apparently devoted their lives to teaching and anti-slavery work. Their names turn up in publications regarding the American Anti-Slavery Society and the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Association. Mary and Susan's name are always included with the more famous abolitionist and equality activists Sarah M. Grimke, Sara Pugh, Lucretia Mott and Sarah M. Douglass. The Cox sisters' activism also set them at odds with the Society of Friends.

## Joseph P. Verdries

1819-1822

Joseph P. Verdries, classical and mathematical teacher, held evening classes at 49½ N 7<sup>th</sup> from 1819 through 1822. The Cox brothers and Sarah Hansell were at this address during the same time period.



**English and Mathematical  
ACADEMY,**  
No. 49½, North Seventh Street,  
The number of Pupils limited to twenty-five.  
**COURSE OF INSTRUCTION,**  
**H**ISTORY, Chronology, Grammar, Book-keep-  
ing, (in its various forms) Geography (illus-  
trated with Maps) the use of the terrestrial and ce-  
lestial Globes, &c.  
**MATHEMATICS.**  
Viz: Arithmetic, Algebra, Mensuration, Survey-  
ing, Navigation (with the lunars) Geometry (Eu-  
clid's or Playfair's) Conic Sections, Astronomy,  
Fluxions, &c. &c.  
**J. P. Verdries.**  
Evening Class will commence as soon as the num-  
ber is complete, which will be limited to 25.  
Reference to the Rev. WILLIAM A. MUHLEN-  
BERG, and the Rev JACKSON KEMPER.  
Sept 6—mf7t

9-6-1819 Franklin Gazette

In 1821, Joseph Verdries, along with a host of other Philadelphia teachers, endorsed the *Critical Pronouncing Spelling Book* compiled by Hezekiah Burhans. The most interesting aspect of this book is the list of Philadelphia teachers, as well as teachers in a few other states, contained on the last pages of the Spelling Book. Alas, Sarah Hansell is not on this list.

Joseph began his teaching career operating a Lancasterian School from 1816 through 1819 at other addresses. Wikipedia describes the Lancasterian method of punishing errant students by tying them in sacks or hauling them up to the ceiling in cages. With visions of dangling students in my head, further re-

search gives a less draconian description. In fact, this was the educational method of choice when Philadelphia started a publicly-funded school system. Obviously there was a cost-savings element to this method of teaching--one trained teacher with lots of little helpers made for many students and low overhead.

*By an act of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1818 Philadelphia County became the commonwealth's "First (and only) School District " to provide inexpensive tax-supported education through the Lancasterian method, in which older children taught younger ones. Doubtful as to how much education children were receiving, in 1834, the Assembly passed the Free School Law. As amended in 1836 it became the foundation of a statewide system of tax-supported schools with paid teachers. The Lancasterian method was abandoned and within one year there were 12,000 pupils being taught in more than fifty schools.*

<http://www.ushistory.org/birch/plates/plate05.htm>

By the time he arrived at 49½ N 7<sup>th</sup>, Verdries must have moved on to another teaching method. A JP Verdries died of influenza January 11, 1832 in Huntington, PA. He had been a teacher there for the previous year.

**John G. Parsons, English & Mathematical Teacher**  
1823-1825

**John H. Black, Classical Teacher**  
1825

Both of these fellows taught school at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> and then immediately dropped out of sight.

**Dr. Huston**  
1830

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**Dr. R. M. HUSTON'S Summer Course of Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Midwifery, will commence tomorrow.**

**Physicians and Students of Medicine generally, are respectfully invited to attend the first Lecture; which will be delivered at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in the Lecture Room, No. 49, North Seventh street, one door below Arch street, east side. ap 7—It**

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In 1830, Dr. Huston presented a midwifery course in the lecture room of 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>. Robert Mendenhall Huston was a long-time and well known professor at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

**Samuel Alderdice**  
1835/1836

The 1835/1836 city directory lists Samuel Alderdice at 49 N Seventh. Was he camping out in a school room?

**C. Felt**  
1837

This person is listed in the 1837 directory as a teacher, rear of 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Thomas Baldwin & Sarah M. Douglass**  
1838-1850

For the next 12 years Mr. Baldwin and Miss Douglass must have said "good morning" and "good evening" to each other as they entered and exited their school rooms at the back of 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Thomas Baldwin**

*The History of Chester County* by John Smith Futhey tell us: "John Baldwin...and Lydia Trimble had several children, among whom was Thomas Baldwin, who, with his relative, Joseph Thomas, MD, had edited a geographical dictionary, a pronouncing gazetteer, etc."

A few family trees on the internet round this out with: "He (meaning Thomas Baldwin) lost his membership with Friends by his first marriage, yet his sympathies were more with this sect than with any other. A beautiful and loving tribute to his memory, illustrated by a portrait, has been issued by his niece, for private circulation." (This tribute might be on the shelf at Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

Thomas Baldwin was born August 9, 1807 and died November 15, 1887 in Philadelphia. He married twice and apparently did not have children.

**THOMAS BALDWIN'S ENGLISH, MATHEMATICAL AND LATIN SCHOOL FOR BOYS—**  
 Back of 49 NORTH SEVENTH street, will reopen on the 30th of the 8th month (August.)

The course in this Seminary includes the Mathematics, Drawing, Chemistry, Mechanical Philosophy and Popular Astronomy, with the usual branches of an English education; together with the Latin and French languages. Great care is taken thoroughly to ground the pupils in whatever is taught, no more scholars being admitted than the Principal can give attention to himself, so that each shall receive his due portion of instruction.

Considerable Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus belongs to the School, which is freely used in elucidating those subjects.

JAMES HAMILTON Teacher of Drawing; J. B. CHEVALIER, of French.

The following are the names of a few of those who have had sons under his care—Dr Hartshorne; Dr J Wilson Moore; Wm Wharton; H C Corbit; Townsend Sharpless; James Fassitt; Geo Earp; Edw'd Needles; Edwin Tams; Geo Pelee; Colson Heskell; Jacob Sharp; E J Vansyckel; Seth Craige; Thos H Craige; Hezekiah Burby; Francis Heskins; O S Janney; Thos Wood; M Y Baker; Lambert Duy; Sam'l Henderson, Esq; J R Smith; Colin Davis; Wm Musser; Sam'l Bispham; Wm H Hart; Jos Seal; Jos B Hanson; Geo Platt; and a great many others.

Further particulars will be given on application at the School-room as above, or at 101 Arch st. au24 2w<sup>6</sup>

Thomas Baldwin had his private school for boys at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> from 1838 until just after the building was sold in 1850. In most advertisements, the school is referred to as Thomas Baldwin's English Mathematical and Latin School for Boys.

As can be seen from this 1847 announcement, he offered a wide range of subjects, his drawing and French teachers were well known in their fields, and the fathers of his students were among the wealthy upper class of Philadelphia.

9-2-1847 North American

Thomas Baldwin's lasting legacy is the creation of a pronouncing gazetteer. He must have burned the midnight oil creating this work. The gazetteer's most recent incarnation can be accessed via the internet. What would Mr. Baldwin think of the evolution of his gazetteer from paper to digital in 163 years?

The gazetteer was first published in 1845.

*Universal Pronouncing Gazetteer; containing Topographical, Statistical, and other Information of all the more important Places in the known World, from the most recent and authentic Sources. With a Map. By THOMAS BALDWIN, assisted by several other Gentlemen.*  
 Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. 1845. 12mo. pp. 550.

When J.B. Lippincott started publishing the gazetteer in the early 1850s, the name of Thomas Baldwin's cousin, Dr. John Thomas, was included as editor/author. John Thomas was a professor of Latin and Greek at Haverford College and a Professor of English Literature at Swarthmore College. Dr. Thomas had trained to be a physician but spent the rest of his life working with words.

A timeline/"chain of title" for the gazetteer goes like this:

<i>North American</i> , 9-1-1845, Vol. 7, Issue 2000, Pg 3	Lindsay & Blakiston, Publishers, Booksellers & Stationers, NW Corner 4 <sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets, announce the publication of <i>Baldwin's Universal Pronouncing Gazetteer</i> , by Thomas Baldwin (assisted by several other gentleman)	550 pages - you can get the third edition at abebooks.com for \$100
1855	J.B. Lippincott publishes the gazetteer with a new name: <i>Lippincott's Gazetteer of the World A Complete Pronouncing Gazetteer or Geographic Dictionary of the World</i> , edited by J. Thomas and T. Baldwin	Thomas Baldwin died 1887; his estate was inventoried at \$41,655  Joseph Thomas died 1891
1905	<i>Lippincott's New Gazetteer</i> , edited by Angelo Heilprin and Louis Heilprin, published by J.B. Lippincott	Publisher's Note in the 1913 edition: "Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer in its various editions has been before the public just half a century, the first edition having made its appearance in 1855.
1952	<i>Columbia-Lippincott Gazetteer of the World</i> , edited by Leon D. Seltzer, published by Columbia University Press	2,148 pages Entry in Stanford University Libraries' online catalog for this publication has this note: Based on the 1905 edition of Lippincott's new gazetteer, which was published in 1855 under title: Lippincott's pronouncing gazetteer
1998	<i>The Columbia Gazetteer of the World</i> , edited by Saul B. Cohen, published by Columbia University Press, 3 volumes	If you hurry, Amazon.com has one set left for \$750
2008	<i>The Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online</i> , Saul B. Cohen, editor, <a href="http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/Home.page">http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/Home.page</a>	available by subscription

The other pieces of paper left behind by Baldwin (shorter than the gazetteer but, relatively, about as wordy) are two 1840 fan letters to James Fenimore Cooper written from 49 N 7th. That Baldwin admired Cooper is without doubt, but it is hard to get around the obsequious and flowery language of the time.

After the building was sold in 1850, Baldwin moved his school up to the SE corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Race (same address as the Cox girls).

## Sarah Mapps Douglass

Sarah M. Douglass (1802-1882) must have been an extraordinary woman of many talents: writer; poet; artist; teacher; lecturer; advocate of women's education, rights and equality; fund raiser; member of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, the Female Literary Association of Philadelphia and the Sarah M. Douglass Literary Circle. Sarah left a lasting legacy by her thoughts and work.

According to city directories, Sarah M. Douglass operated her school at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> from 1838 through 1850. The class size was 30 to 40 girls.

An essay by Jean R. Soderlund, *Priorities and Power, The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society*, provides information about Sarah's teaching career at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>. Soderlund used the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society (PFASS) Minute Books, 1833-1870 to assemble this information.

*In June of 1834, the women (of the PFASS) appointed a committee to assess the public education of African American students, and by the end of the year they had started their own school. At their request, Rebecca Buffum took charge and combined it with her own, but by March 1838 she had left the city and Sarah Douglass had taken over the institution. Douglass asked the society to assume full financial responsibility because it did not yield sufficient income. The board of managers agreed, offered to pay Douglass a salary of \$300 and appointed Sarah Pugh and Mary Grew to procure any necessary furniture.*

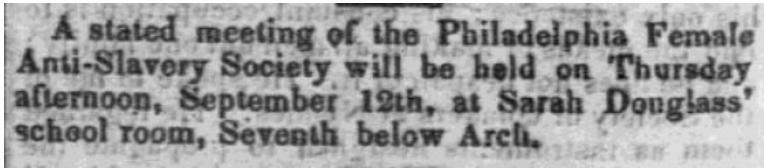
*For the next 11 years PFASS contributed financially to the school. Relations were sometimes strained, however, though Douglass was a member of society committees and served as recording secretary, librarian and manager. The board of managers reprimanded Douglass for permitting students to make up time when they had been absent because of sickness or foul weather. They also refused to pay the salary of an assistant she had recruited from among her students, and they threatened to move the school unless the landlord lowered the rent. By March 1840, Douglass had had enough of their meddling. After she announced that she would withdraw the school from the society's oversight, the board relented and resolved to appropriate \$125 annually for the school's rent. Nine years later, however, they decided they could no longer afford the expense.*

In November of 1837, the editor of the New York City newspaper *The Colored American* travelled to Philadelphia and reported his visit in two editorials. December 2, 1837:

*We cannot, in justice to our own feelings, and the merits of the institution, close this article without some special notice of Miss Sarah Douglass' school. Wednesday last, we passed two of the most gratifying, satisfactory hours of our life, with Miss Douglass and her interesting, improving scholars. The school numbers over 40, selected from our best families, where their morals and manners are equally subjects of care, and of deep interest. All the branches of a good and solid female education are taught in Miss Douglass' school, together with many of the more ornamental sciences, calculated to expand the youthful mind, refine the taste, and assist in purifying the heart.*

*Miss Douglass has a well-selected and valuable cabinet of shells and minerals, well-arranged and labelled. She has, also, a mind richly furnished with a knowledge of these sciences, and she does not fail, through them, to lead up the minds of her pupils, through Nature, to Nature's God.*





A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society will be held on Thursday afternoon, September 12th, at Sarah Douglass' school room, Seventh below Arch.

Sarah's schoolroom was used for meetings of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society.

9-5-1844 *Pennsylvania Freeman*

The Society of Friends undertook a survey, published in 1849 as the *Statistical Inquiry into the Condition of the People of Color of the City and District of Philadelphia*. Among school teachers is Sarah Douglass, teacher at a private school with 27 students. The report goes on to say "Sarah M. Douglass's is an excellent school of many years standing; she has a good cabinet and philosophical apparatus, and teaches the higher branches."

### The End of 49 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street

A few events coincided around 1850. Silas Frost, the brass founder tenant in the unit facing 7<sup>th</sup> Street, purchased the building on April 17, 1850 from Anna Phillips for \$2,000.

Thomas Baldwin and Sarah Douglass left the building. Thomas opened his school one block up 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Sarah used her home at 54 Mulberry (Arch) for her school until 1853 when she merged her school with the Philadelphia Institute for Colored Youth and accepted an appointment to supervise the Girls' Preparatory Department. She remained at ICY for the rest of her teaching career.

When the streets of Philadelphia were renumbered in the late 1850s, the building was numbered 55 Seventh Street. Silas Frost died in 1862 and title transferred to his son. I didn't follow the history of the building after that.

From Google maps it looks as though Thomas Clifford's parcel has been consumed by a multi-story office building housing the likes of the IRS and Secret Service. To offset that, diagonally across Arch Street is the African American Museum in Philadelphia. I wonder if anything of Sarah Douglass is preserved at this museum.

After that long, off-topic digression, I am no closer to knowing very much about Sarah Morris Hansell. I'll have to settle with her death notice, burial in Kingsessing (reportedly sharing a grave with

her husband), her signature  and, of course, her children.

## END NOTES

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

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

Newspapers at [genealogy.com](http://genealogy.com) and [accessible-archives.com](http://accessible-archives.com)  
Philadelphia City Directories at [archive.org](http://archive.org)

### **Sarah Hansell**

1810 Census: 1810; Census Place: Philadelphia North Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 55; Page: 195; Image: 0193681 Family History Library Film: 00043

1820 Census: 1820 U S Census; Census Place: Philadelphia North Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Page: 97; NARA Roll: M33\_108; Image: 110.

*Robert Walsh: His Story* by Sister M. Frederick Lochemes, 1941 Dissertation, published by Kessinger Publishing, 2006. Walsh was the publisher of the National Gazette and Literary Register, page 116

### **Clifford**

#### Maps

1776 Delaware Bay & Philadelphia by Benjamin Easburn, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center,  
Boston Public Library  
Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network (<http://www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/>)

*A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise: Merchants and Economic Development in Revolutionary Philadelphia*, Thomas M. Doerflinger, UNC Press Books, 1986; Thomas Clifford pages 14-15.

*Profile of a Colonial Merchant: Thomas Clifford of Pre-Revolutionary Philadelphia* (Ph.D. dissertation), Columbia University, 1955 by Grace Hutchison Larsen

*Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, in the olden time...*, Volume 1 by John Fanning Watson; page 243 description of Clifford's wharf

*Gentlewomen and Learned Ladies: Woman and Elite Formation in Eighteenth Century Philadelphia* by Sarah Fotherly, Associated University Press, 2008; pages 56-57 Anna Clifford's role in the operation of her husband's shipping business.

*Colonial And Revolutionary Families Of Pennsylvania* by John W. Jordan, Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004; pages 302-303 Clifford family genealogy

*Philadelphia's Lost Waterfront* by Harry G. Kyriakodis, The History Press, 2011. Information about Carpenter's Wharf and lots of other interesting history about Philadelphia's waterfront, including life in the caves.

Early Philadelphia, 1682 - 1800 website at <http://www.philahistory.net/>  
Description of stinking Water Street and lots of other useful information about early Philadelphia.

Deeds to 49 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia County Deed Indexes and Deeds

Plats (<http://www.phillyhistory.org/PhotoArchive/>)  
Deed and Plat Indexes (<http://philadox.phila.gov/phillyhistoricalindex/>)  
Deeds (<http://phila-records.com/historic-records/web/>)

The original deed from William Penn to The Pennsylvania Land Company may be in Book B, Volume 2, Page 329, 8/12/1699, transferred nine great lots. This is not available on line.

H 18/168, 1/31/1759, 170 pounds, Thomas Hayman, Thomas Reynolds, Thomas How, of London, only surviving trustees of the Pennsylvania Land Company, by their attorney Francis Rawle of Philadelphia to Thomas Clifford, merchant, 100' x 106' SE corner Mulberry/Arch and 7<sup>th</sup> Street

EF 23/2, 6/1/1801, Anna Clifford, Thomas Clifford, John Clifford, Anna Giles to Anna Phillips (1/3), Elizabeth Smith (1/3), Smith Children (1/3), 3 parcels of original 100' x 106' SE corner Mulberry/Arch and 7<sup>th</sup> Street

GWC 40/496, 4/17/1850, \$2,000, Ann Phillips to Silas Frost, brass founder, 49 N 7th

Fire Insurance Survey of 47 and 49 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street - The Philadelphia Contributionship  
Fire insurance company established 1752 in Philadelphia and still in business today  
<http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/contributionship/search.cfm>

In 1760, Thomas Clifford would buy land 17 miles up the Delaware in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and establish a country home he would call "Rocky Point."

*The Bristol Pike* by Samuel Fitch Hotchkiss, 1893; page 344, history of Thomas Clifford's country seat, Rocky Point in Croyden, Bucks County, PA

*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 1881 at [archive.org](http://archive.org). Miss Sarah Eve's Journal, page 19 and continued on Page 191. Miss Eve's Philadelphia diary (1772 to 1773) recounts many visits to the Clifford home on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and a 17 mile trip north to visit the Clifford country home.

## Phillips

Phillips Family Business Records, 1793-1838, Repository: Hagley Museum and Library  
William Phillips (1771-1845) clerked in the counting house of George Meade and became a merchant and importer. He began in the French trade, but later extended his operations to the West Indies, the Mediterranean and the Far East, generally trading Pennsylvania foodstuffs for rum, wine, spices and cloth. He maintained a large house in Philadelphia and a farm and summer home on the Delaware River north of the city. He also invested in city real estate and speculated in land in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Kentucky.

## Browne and Wiegand & Snowden

*American Surgical Instruments: The History of Their Manufacture and a Directory of Instrument Makers to 1990* by James M. Edmonson, Norman Publishing 1997.

## Doster

*The Doster Genealogy* by Elizabeth Anne Middleton Doster & Wadsworth Doster, William Byrd Press, 1945  
*History of Northampton County, Pa.*, Vol 3, by William J. Heller, 1920; Lewis Doster, page 300

## Sherwood

Read the guidebook for the magnetic vibrating machine here:

<http://collections.nlm.nih.gov/pageturner/viewer.html?PID=nlm:nlmuid-63911200R-bk>

## Lukens

*A.E. Wright's Boston, New York, Philadelphia & Baltimore Commercial Directory, and General Advertising Medium*, 1840, page 334.

## Cox Family

*The Cox Family in America* by Henry Miller Cox, et al., 1912, pages 91-92.

*Lamb's Biographical Dictionary*, Vol. 2; page 218, Samuel Hanson Cox

*New York Times*, 8-10-1864 obituary, Abraham Liddon Cox, MD

*The American Portrait Gallery* by Lillian C. Buttre, 1880, Vol. 3; profile of Dr. Samuel Hanson Cox

*Selected Letters of Lucretia Coffin Mott*, edited by Beverly Wilson Palmer, University of Illinois Press, 2002; Mary L. Cox and Susan H. Cox Luther, pages 62, 73, 74

## Verdries

*Lancasterian Schools in Philadelphia*, Charles Calvert Ellis, University of Pennsylvania, 1907; page 26: Verdries announces opening of a Lancasterian School at NE corner Race and Chester St.

For more on the Lancasterian method and lots of other information about early education in Pennsylvania:

*A History of Education in Pennsylvania, Private and Public, Elementary and Higher: From the Time the Swedes Settled on the Delaware to the Present Day* by James Pyle Wickersham, Inquirer Publishing Company, 1886

## Huston

*History of the Huston Families and Their Descendants, 1450-1912* by E. Rankin Huston, 1912; Dr. Robert M. Huston, page 168

His father in law would not allow marriage to his daughter unless Dr. Huston joined the Quaker church, which he did. What a stand-up guy. So far, all the Quaker women who married Hansells were ejected from the Society of Friends.

## Baldwin

*History of Chester County* by John Smith Futhey; page 471, John and Lydia Baldwin family

Timothybreese.com. This site includes Thomas Baldwin on a family tree

*Friends Intelligencer and Journal*, Vol 49; page 65 has an article on Dr. Joseph Thomas

*Correspondence of James Fenimore Cooper*, edited by his grandson James Fenimore Cooper, Vol 2, 1922; pages 455 and 456 contain Baldwin's letters to Cooper.

A snippet view of the *Letters and Journals of James Fenimore Cooper*, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1840, shows that the Nov. 24, 1841 reply from Cooper is addressed to Mr. Thomas Baldwin, back of 49 North 7<sup>th</sup>. The letter can probably be found in the 1960 issue of this book, page 196.

### **Sarah M. Douglass**

*The Abolitionist Sisterhood, Women's Political Culture in Antebellum America*, editors Jean Fagan Yellin and John C. Van Horne, Cornell University Press, 1994. Jean R. Soderlund essay pages 76 and 77

*African American Lives*, edited by Henry Louis Gates and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Oxford University Press, 2004. Sarah Mapps Douglass, page 241

*A Gentleman of Color: The Life of James Forten* by Julie Winch, Oxford University Press, 2002. This book has nothing in particular about Sara M. Douglass' teaching career, but it is an excellent read about James Forten's (1766-1842) life and times in Philadelphia.

*The Liberator* (Boston Mass. newspaper), January 31, 1835:

*Rebecca Buffum would most respectfully announce, that she is forming a class of young ladies, without distinction of color, to attend to the higher branches of education, in her School at No. 29, North Fifth Street, near Arch, to commence as soon as twelve pupils shall be engaged. The terms, including the use of Maps, Globes, &c., will be \$5 a quarter, and no extra charges. A few more scholars, in the ordinary branches of a plain education, will be admitted, at \$3 a quarter. Philadelphia, 1st mo. 20th.*

Rebecca Buffum married 10/26/1836 in Philadelphia and her first child was born in New York City on 8/26/1837. It is likely Sarah M. Douglass took over Buffum's school 1836/1837.

*The New York Annual Register* by Edwin Williams, 1836, page 273

It is often cited that Sarah M. Douglass taught in New York City before taking up her teaching post at 49 N 7<sup>th</sup>. Sarah M. Douglass and John Brown are listed in this book, teaching at a primary African school at 120 Amity Street in New York City. 146 boys and girls. The year is 1834/1835.

*Statistical Inquiry into the Condition of the People of Color of the City and District of Philadelphia*, 1849; Sarah Mapps Douglas, pages 21 and 22