Thomas Hansell, Turner Philadelphia, PA 1786-1865



The generations of the Hansell line I am following go like this:

- 1. Peter David Hansell 1724-1786
- 2. William Hansell 1757-1800
- 3. Thomas Hansell 1786-1865
- 4. James Steiner Hansell 1811-1881
- 5. Ella Hansell (Lippincott) 1844-1914
- 6. James Hansell Lippincott 1871-1957

By now I have explored the whereabouts of the patriarch Peter David Hansell. I searched out what I could about Peter David Hansell's son William Hansell (blacksmith) and William's wife Sarah Morris.

Next I investigated the lives of the children of William Hansell and Sarah Morris: the girls Anne Hansell, Hannah Hansell Forman and Sarah Hansell Matthews and the boys William Morris Hansell (dry goods), Morris Hansell (hatter) and James Hansell (clockmaker). Last is the second born child, Thomas Hansell (turner), whose offspring make up the fourth generation in the line I am following.

Basic Outline for Thomas Hansell

Thomas Hansell, second child and first boy of William and Sarah Morris Hansell, was born in Darby, Pennsylvania in 1786. In the 1790 census for Darby, Thomas is accounted for in "2 males under 16."

By the 1800 census, Thomas would be 14 years old. A child this age is not listed with the William Hansell family in Darby. Perhaps he was away from home serving an apprentice-ship. Thomas had plenty of aunts and uncles in the greater Philadelphia area. His mother and siblings moved into downtown Philadelphia soon after Thomas Hansell's father died in 1800. But where exactly Thomas hung his hat between 1800 and his marriage in 1810 is unknown.



On February 11, 1810, 24 year old Thomas Hansell married 21 year old Mary Steiner (or Stiner) in the First Reformed Church of Philadelphia. The Reverend Samuel Helffenstein, long-time pastor of the German Reformed Church, performed the marriage.

Built in 1772 on the southeast corner of 4th and Race, this is a rendering of the church at the time Thomas and Mary married.

Thomas Hansell's first listing in a Philadelphia city directory is in 1814: occupation carpenter, address 12 North Alley, which is the long-time address for Frederick W. Steiner, tailor. More about the Steiners later.

There is an 1816 directory listing for a Thomas Hansell, grocer, NW corner 10th and Race. Is this our Thomas Hansell or someone else? This is the one and only listing for Thomas Hansell as a grocer and oddly does correlate with the Ritter Family Papers (see James Hansell, clockmaker) which cite Thomas as a grocer.

From 1817 onward Thomas is always referred to as a turner in city directories, census records, legal documents, etc. In 1817 Thomas is listed as a turner at "next 41 N. Eighth" (east side of 8th between Zane and Arch). From 1818 through 1833 Thomas, Mary and their children lived on Schriver's Court and Thomas worked at 291 Arch Street (north side of Arch midway between 5th and 6th).

Mary Steiner Hansell died "after a lingering illness" on January 11, 1829 at age 40, from tuberculosis. Though not a Quaker, she was buried in the Friends Western Burial Ground located at 16th between Cherry and Race, Philadelphia.

When Mary died her children were ages two to 18. Thomas next married his cousin, Anna Pearson, a daughter of James Pearson, long-time surveyor for the City of Philadelphia. Thomas and Anna married in February or March of 1833, when both were 48 years old.

In 1833, Thomas purchased a vacant lot on the corner of Budden's Alley and North 13th Street where he built a residence and a shop. He would live and work there for the next 30 years.

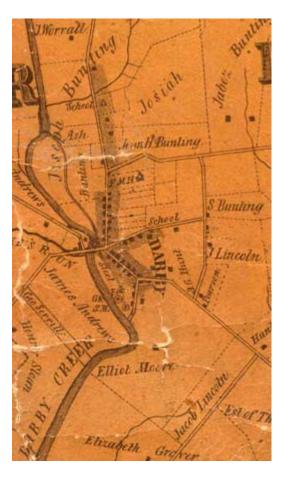
. Anna Pearson Hansell died April 7, 1863 and is buried in the Friends Burial Ground in Darby.

Thomas Hansell died July 6, 1865, at age 79. His death certificate lists valvular disease of the heart as the cause of death. His funeral was held at Budden's Alley and Thomas was buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery on the western edge of Philadelphia. Thomas is buried in Section 41, Lot 79 as are two of his grandchildren. Reportedly his headstone is missing.

That's the basic outline of Thomas Hansell's life - birth, marriage, death, where he lived and how he made his money. Like the rest of the Hansells, Thomas kept a pretty low profile, but I was able to catch glimpses of him where his life intersected recorded history.

Growing up in Darby

The township of Darby has been in existence since 1682 when eight Quaker families took contiguous land grants. They established homes, mills along the Darby Creek, businesses, a meetinghouse and a burial ground.



By the time Thomas Hansell arrived in the world in 1786, Darby Borough seems to have been a thriving community. Located on Darby Creek, the town contained 40 or 50 houses, a Quaker meetinghouse, churches, stores and public houses.

The Hansell family rented their home from Francis Howell. This two-story, wood frame dwelling was located on Darby Street on a half acre lot. The family kept one or two horses and two or three cows.

Close neighbors were Thomas Hansell's maternal grandmother, Ann Pearson Morris. Nathan Pearson, joiner and coffin maker, was another neighbor. Thomas's father's blacksmith shop was located a distance away. Grandmother Hansell and Hansell aunts and uncles lived two or three miles up the Darby Plank Road toward Philadelphia.

1848 Delaware County Map by Dr. Joshua W. Ash

Thomas Hansell's father was one of several blacksmiths in town. There were a few carpenters, joiners and a turner or two in Darby who might have taught young Thomas their skills.

The Quakers ran a school. A library was operated as sort of a modern day bookmobile. Books were carried in a case from house to house and kept in several places (about 230 volumes total) until a library building was erected in 1862. The volunteer fire department was one of the first in the country. Hansell's father was overseer of the poor and reportedly a town constable. I don't know what the family did in the religion department. Thomas's mother was dismissed from the Quakers shortly after her marriage to the non-Quaker William Hansell.

Darby is on the road to other places - Delaware to the south, Philadelphia a short seven miles to the north.

War of 1812

Betty Bright, a descendant of Thomas Hansell, has three tattered papers in her box of family memorabilia. The edges are frayed and on the reverse someone used these valuable family history sheets for a grocery shopping list! Reading around the frayed edges, one page refers to Thomas being involved in earthworks on the Darby Road in the War of 1812.

"James S. Hansell's father was Thomas Hansell, he belonged to the Mili...... when the War of 1812 was going.... They built earthworks on the Darby Road but were never attacked by the British"

In the summer of 1814 the call went out to Pennsylvanians to help prevent the British from reaching Philadelphia. Thomas's brothers James and Morris joined militia groups. It is reasonable to speculate Thomas joined the citizen volunteers who erected fortifications at strategic points on the west periphery of Philadelphia. The fortifications were completed between September 3, 1814 and October 1, 1814.

Benson J. Lossing in his *Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812* tells the story:

While the volunteers were hastening to the camps to be enrolled as soldiers, the inhabitants of Philadelphia were vigorously making preparations for the defense of the city. When intelligence of the capture of Washington reached them, a public meeting was held, and a committee of defense was appointed, with ample powers to adopt such measures as the exigency seemed to require. "They determined," says Mr. Wescott, "that, for the safety of the city, field fortifications should be thrown up in the most eligible situations on the western side of the town, and where an attack might be expected." A fort was planned near Gray's Ferry, on the west side of the Schuylkill River, at the junction of the Gray's Ferry and Darby Roads; also a redoubt opposite Hamilton's Grove, another upon the Lancaster Road, and a third upon the site of an old British redoubt on the southern side of the hill at Fairmount, which would command the bridge at Market Street and the roads leading to it.

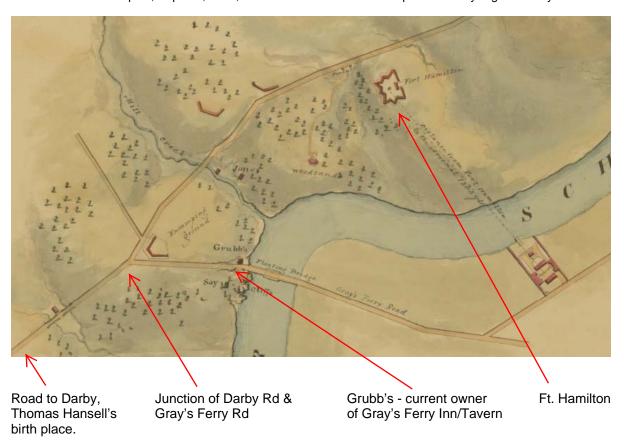
To construct these works required much labor, and, under the circumstances, they could not have been built without the voluntary assistance of the citizens. A hearty enthusiasm was shown in the service. Companies, societies, and the artificers of the different trades organized themselves for the purpose. Day after day these parties assembled, and left the city at from five to six o'clock in the morning, and, with knapsacks or handkerchiefs containing a supply of food, marched out to the fortifications to a day of toilsome labor at an occupation to which but few of them were accustomed. Labor commenced on the 3d of September (1814), and from that time until about the 1st of October, when the field-works were finished, the toil was participated in by parties having the following numbers: House carpenters, 62; victualers, 400; the Tammany Society, 400; painters, 70; hatters and brickmakers, 300; Philadelphia Benevolent Society and Fourth Washington Guard, 160; Rev. Mr. Staughton and the members of his church, 60; printers, 200; crew of the Wasp, 140; watchmakers, silversmiths, and jewelers (on Monday, September 11), 400; cabinet-makers and joiners, 300; Washington Association, 70; True Republican Society, 70; teachers, 30; friendly aliens, 500; Freemasons, grand and subordinate lodges, 510; Washington Benevolent Society, 500; Sons of Erin, citizens of the United States, 2200; Tammany Society, second day, 130; friendly aliens, second day, 150; German societies, 540; colored men, 650; citizens of Germantown, 400; Scotchmen, 100; Sons of Erin, second day, 350. The colored people also gave a second day to the work. Small bodies, not enumerated, including beneficial societies and social clubs, participated. The physicians and artists of the city also labored at the works. When the fortifications were completed, it was found that about fifteen thousand persons had labored on them. In lieu of work, many who were unable or unwilling to assist in that manner gave money. The collections from this source amounted to about six thousand dollars.

Arriving at the fortifications, the citizens, having been previously divided into companies, were put to work. At ten o'clock the drum beat for "grog," when liquor sufficient for each company was dealt out by its captain. At twelve o'clock the drum beat for dinner, when more "grog" was furnished. This was also the case at three and at five o'clock in the afternoon. At six the drum beat the retreat, when it was suggested in General Orders, "For the honor of the cause we are engaged in, freemen to live or die, it is hoped that every man will retire sober."

So did Philadelphians prepare for the invader. Happily the enemy did not come, and their beautiful city was spared the horrors of war.

Early in September 1814, General Jonathan Williams of the Committee of Defense of Philadelphia dispatched his cartographers to investigate road, river and terrain conditions and note likely defense positions in the area west of the Schuylkill. The cartographers' full report is written on the top left corner of this map.

"Map of the country nine miles west of the city of Philadelphia" by William Strickland, Robert Brooke and William Kneass, Topography Department, under the direction General Jonathan Williams, Chief Engineer of the Committee of Defense of Philadelphia, Sept. 28, 1814, found at the American Philosophical Society Digital Library



Thomas Hansell most likely wielded a pick and shovel constructing fortifications at either the junction of Darby Road and Gray's Ferry Road or the so-called Fort Hamilton, a large redoubt located on the Woodlands estate owned by the family of the late William Hamilton, noted botanist and plant collector. (In 1840, 300 acres of the Woodlands was purchased for the rural cemetery we know today.)

Thomas Hansell - Turner

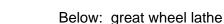
Thomas Hansell perhaps apprenticed with a master turner before he went into business for himself. His shop was in close proximity to home when he lived on Schriver's Court. When

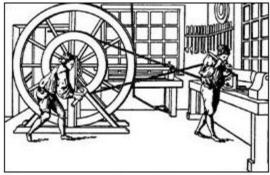
he moved to Budden's Alley, work was a 25 foot commute to the other end of his lot.

Census records reveal an apprentice/worker from time to time. Two sons worked with their father. James S. Hansell would eventually set up his own turning shop and Edwin worked with his father and took over the business after Thomas Hansell died.

Besides an array of hand tools, his major tool would be a lathe. To begin with, his lathe would be either foot or hand powered and then steam powered when these engines came into use in Philadelphia in the 1830s.

Left: treadle lathe





A 'great wheel' lathe with dual wheels, providing two different turning speeds. From Encyclopedie Methodique, Vol. IV

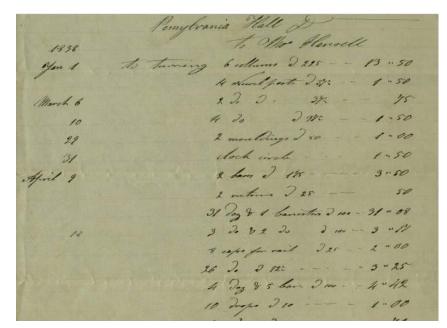
Jurner.

Below: 1840 lathe



In 1818, Thomas Hansell's shop at 291 Arch was located in a building with other workman: Enos. Reeves shoemaker, James Wade carpenter, John Kensel blacksmith.

A search of old newspapers did not reveal advertisements for Thomas Hansell's business. I expect the bulk of his work supplied the building trades in Philadelphia.



In 1838 Thomas
Hansell submitted this invoice
to the Pennsylvania Hall Association for their new building on 6th Street. Hansell
turned stairway parts including newel posts, banister,
rails, caps, etc., a clock circle
and columns. The invoice
totaled \$168.08.

The invoice is preserved in an archive but his work was reduced to ashes when the Pennsylvania Hall was burned by a pro-slavery mob.



Council of the City of Philadelphia," detailed the business of the city, including income and expenses. The following payments were made to Thomas Hansell for rammers supplied to the highway department.

In the 1800s, the Philadelphia city report, the "Journal of The Common

1837: making and repairing rammers, \$64

1838: making and repairing rammers, \$166.25

1840: 3 rammers at \$9; 14 handles at 12½ cents, \$28.75

1842: 5 paving rammers at \$9, deduct for deficit in 1 rammer \$4, \$41

1847: 8 new rammers at \$9; 18 handles at 12½ cents, repairing rammers \$1, North District. \$75.25

1849: 10 rammers at \$9 for new paving, repaving and repairing streets, \$90



Fig. 175.—Stone block Rammer.

In the 1850s there were 350 miles of cobblestone roads in Philadelphia. Lots of back-breaking work for the road crew.

- The cobblestone rammer weighed about 40 pounds and was made of turned wood, banded with iron top and bottom and included top and side handles.
- The block hammer was heavier with a wood top set into a steel base.
- A 27 pound wood rammer shod with cast iron or steel was used for laying bricks.
- A 20 pound "light" rammer with a metal base attached to a long, slim wooden handle was used for miscellaneous work (tamping trenches, etc.).

Thomas Hansell and the Hydraulion

This 1818 hydraulion (for its time a state-of-the-art fire engine) is housed in the Singerly Fire Company Museum in Elkton, Maryland. Reportedly, the Town of Elkton purchased the hydraulion from the Philadelphia Hose Company in 1827 for \$700.



Hydraulion after its restoration by an Amish carriage maker.

Nicknamed the Water Witch, this fire engine was restored in the mid 1980s in anticipation of the fire company's 100th anniversary in 1992. Before embarking on the restoration, the Singerly Fire Company consulted Jack Robrecht and Al Wills, two experts associated with the Philadelphia Fire Museum. These gentlemen (now passed on) were delighted to see this hydraulion and their input was this:

- a combination pumper and hose carriage, made by James Sellers of Philadelphia
- James Sellers made a dozen of these units between 1814 and 1820
- of those, this was the first one these historians had seen and they indicated that it was perhaps the only surviving one of its kind

Odds are Thomas Hansell was involved in the construction of this fire engine. For the back story of the hydraulion, we can visit Thomas Hansell's neighborhood in 1818 through the eyes of George Escol Sellers.

While noticing the labours of those gentlemen, an improvement from another source, onght not to be unmentioned. An apparatus called the hydraulion, from its being poculiarly constructed to propel water through hose, has been made for the Philadelphia hose company, by Mr. James Sellers. A single cylinder, closed at each end, is placed horizontally in the water reservoir of the hydraulion; by the motion of a piston within this cylinder, the water is propelled from either end, answering fully the purpose of the two cylinders in common engines. The cylinder and air vessel occupy together but a very small space in the hydraulion, the residue of which is appropriated to the reception of hose upon wheels, where about fifteen hundred feet are handsomely accommodated. The apparatus is suspended upon springs of a new construction, and when the reservoir is filled with water, it gives the machine a full bearing upon the axle-trees. In using the hydraulion at fires, the water is conveyed to it from the fire plug by hose, it is then propelled by the apparatus through hose to the fire. There is no pompous display of a handsome stream of water issuing from the branch pipe of an engine, lost partly in spray, ere it reaches the fire, but silently and unobservedly, the water is transmitted to the spot, where the fire rages, and is there discharged with an effect, that must be obvious to all.

At a late conflagration, we were astonished and delighted with the mode and extent of the service rendered by the company who own this novel apparatus.

AN OLD FIREMAN: A new innovation in fire fighting equipment was reviewed on Page 2 of the *Franklin Gazette* on May 21, 1818. James Sellers' hydraulion, constructed for the Philadelphia Hose Company, was a leap forward in fire engine design.

James Sellers, his brother Samuel, and his cousin Coleman Sellers lived at the convergence of High (Market) Street, 6th and Mulberry Court in downtown Philadelphia. They were the third or fourth generation to operate the family business, N & D Sellers, manufacturers of all kinds of wire work, located at 231 High (Market) Street in Philadelphia.

By 1818, David (father of James and Samuel) had died and Nathan (Coleman's father) had moved to Upper Darby, making way for the next generation of Sellers to run the business. Coleman Sellers moved his family to 231 High Street. A back building housed Coleman's personal workshop on the fourth floor. James continued to live on Mulberry Court.

In 1818 Coleman's son, George Escol Sellers, was 10 years old. George was one of those kids who asked "why" about a zillion times and apparently retained everything he learned and everything he observed in the neighborhood.

In the early 1820s (actual date unknown), James, Samuel and Coleman Sellers and Abraham L. Pennock formed the company Sellers & Pennock. Their shop, located at 16th and Market, manufactured fire engines and James's newly patented riveted fire hose.

Prior to the formation of Sellers & Pennock and the establishment of a central fire engine manufacturing plant, James embarked on a little research and development in his own backyard and assembled a number of hydraulions which, according to this news article, were an unqualified success. The parts for the hydraulions were made by neighborhood mechanics and the units were probably assembled at James's place on Mulberry Court. On hand for all this was the inquisitive 10 year old George Escol Sellers.

When George Escol Sellers (1808-1899) was in his 70s he started writing his memoirs. Eugene S. Ferguson assembled and edited *Early Engineering Reminiscences (1815-40) of George Escol Sellers*. George wrote about these early hydraulions and the various mechanics involved in their construction. This is where Thomas Hansell enters the story.

George Escol Sellers begins: *It is curious how, before the establishment of the shop at Market and 16th Streets, the first engines were put together.*

Brass cylinders were bored in the garret of Market Street.



Coleman Sellers (1781-1834) and his family moved into 231 High (Market) Street in 1818 when Coleman's father Nathan retired to Upper Darby. The garret of the back building was outfitted for Coleman's personal workshop. Ferguson, editor of George's reminiscences, assumes Coleman Sellers used a foot driven lathe to bore the cylinders, "which was no mean job at the time."

One of George Escol Sellers' memories about this workshop was using his father's treadle lathe when he and his brother Charles were still young boys, i.e. short in stature. One brother would work the treadle while the other stood on a stool to shape the piece.

231 High (Market) Street, situated on the NE corner of 6th and High, office of N & D Sellers and home of George Escol Sellers in 1818, drawn by Horace Wells Sellers

The patterns from which they were cast being made in father's shop and the casting being made by John Wiltbank.

John Wiltbank is John Wilbank (1788-1843), brass founder, located at 46 N 7th in 1818 (just across the street from where Thomas Hansell's mother and sisters lived). In future years, Wilbank expanded his trade to include bells of all sizes (50 to 10,000 lbs).

The air vessels and other copper work done by Israel Morris (Israel Roberts).

George Escol Sellers was not sure of the name of this coppersmith but did remember exactly where he lived. Following Sellers' street directions reveals Israel Roberts (1776-1842), coppersmith at 132 North 3rd Street. Roberts also made stills, baths, boilers, heaters, kettles, and copper work for steam engines, factories, etc.

Cast iron cylinder heads cast and turned and the stuffing boxes filled at Oliver Evans shop corner of Vine and Ridge Road.

Oliver Evans (1755-1819) has gone down in history as a great inventor/engineer. His company Mars Works was located at the corners of Vine, 9th and Ridge Road. Mars Works included a foundry, a moldmakers shop and a blacksmith shop. A 6 horse power steam engine powered lathes, boring mills, etc. Mars Works made steam engines and manufactured and repaired all kinds of equipment. An arsonist torched the factory in April of 1819. Not so good for Mr. Evans (who coincidentally died a few days later) but relevant for dating the construction of these early hydraulions remembered by George Escol Sellers as the date provides an outside time frame of 1819.

Levers forged and fitted at his (meaning Oliver Evans) blacksmith shop on Cherry Street.

Neither editor Ferguson nor I could find a blacksmith shop on Cherry Street associated with Oliver Evans. Oddly, there is a Moses Evans (can't tell if he was related), blacksmith, located at 203 Cherry St. in 1819. Three other blacksmiths were located in the neighborhood: Alexander Murray, 206 Cherry; John Thomas, back of 110 Cherry; and John Boot, Cherry above 6th.

The ash wood handles were turned by Hansell.

This is my guy, Thomas Hansell. In 1817 he worked at 41 North 8th and from 1818 through 1833 his shop was located at 291 Arch (Mulberry) Street.

The wheels and running gear at a carriage shop at Hestonville.

George Escol Sellers could not remember the name of the carriage maker in Heston-ville. Here is an identification challenge with not much to go on. Hestonville is a village located on Lancaster Avenue between 49th and 54th Streets in West Philadelphia. The only carriage/wheelwright person I can find in Hestonville is Thomas Hansell's cousin's son (small world) but, from an 1818 perspective, that would be several decades into the future.

Box or body for the first engine built in back shop on Market Street.

George remembers the first body being built in the back shop of 231 High Street.

I must not forget the painting, which was done by Woodside the sign painter.

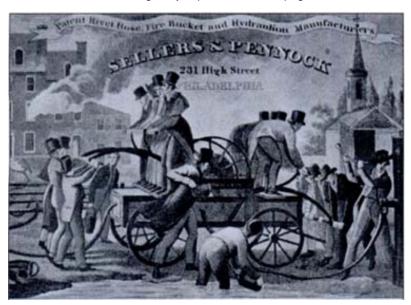
John A. Woodside (1781-1852) lived in Loxley Court in 1818. He put his artistic skills to work for Philadelphia volunteer fire departments creating front pieces for hose carriages and panels for fire engines as well as decorating fire department banners, hats and capes. Well known for his signs and fire department work (almost all of which has disappeared into history), Woodside also excelled at landscape, still life and animal pictures and historical works.

What did George Escol Sellers mean by the phrase "the painting, which was done by Woodside?" It does not seem likely Woodside painted the body of the hydraulion, which was my first interpretation. More likely, Woodside applied some ornamentation to the body, perhaps the company name and logo. Or maybe the reference is to the illustration rendered by Woodside on Page 10 of *Early Engineering Reminiscences*, a faded reproduction of the hydraulion in action which includes diagrams of the pump and James Sellers' recently-invented riveted leather fire hose.

A sharper image of the illustration (below) can be found in a digital version of The Edinburg Encyclopaedia (1832) at archive.org. The name J.A. Woodside is clear at the bottom left of the plate.



The Edinburg Encyclopaedia, Vol. 16, page 776



The illustration was turned into an advertisement for the 16 man-power fire engine.

The American Philosophical Society has a black and white engraving of this advertisement. They date it 1818.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has an albumen print which had been digitized for on-line viewing. The Library of Congress has a print which has not been digitized.

With all this scattered work you can form some judgment of the amount of leg wear to a boy old enough to run errands.

Of course I had to plot George's errand route from one shop to another. See the particularly apt 1816 map on the next page.

What are the odds the hydraulion in Elkton, Maryland is the product of the parts and pieces engineered by these neighborhood mechanics described by George Escol Sellers. Did Thomas Hansell turn these very handles? Did Coleman Sellers bore out the piston of this very hydraulion? Consult the Endnotes and I think you'll agree the odds are pretty good!

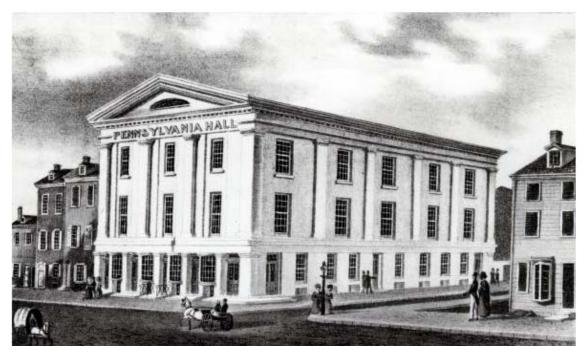
231 High St.

Thomas Hansell and Pennsylvania Hall

On January 10, 1837, a meeting of like-minded abolitionists explored the idea of erecting a building in Philadelphia dedicated "to liberty and the Rights of Man," a place to discuss anti-slavery issues and provide a venue for other general meetings. The Pennsylvania Hall Association was formed, shares of stock were sold and construction commenced.

On January 1, 1838, the following men were appointed Building Managers for the coming year: Daniel Neall, Joseph M. Truman, Henry Grew, Peter Wright, William H. Scott, Samuel Webb, Joseph Wood, William Dorsey, Thomas Hansell, Samuel Scattergood, William McKee, Caleb Clothier, and John H. Cavender. In years to come these men (the majority Quakers) were described as "God-featuring, law-abiding men of exemplary habits, exact in their business honor, conservative in their citizenship, but willed with the abhorrence of their sect for slavery."

Thomas Hansel had purchased five shares of stock (\$20 per share) and would receive two shares of stock in trade for services rendered. Some of the other building managers also took partial payment in stock for their invoices. Joseph M. Truman, tin plate worker (who we previously met in the narrative of James Hansell, clockmaker) made sconces for the gas lights (piped-in gas, a new innovation in Philadelphia which brilliantly lit the hall but hastened its destruction) and the building's unique roof ventilators which provided fresh air. Caleb Clothier, a bricklayer, submitted a hefty bill for the brick work. The outer brick walls stood for several years after the fire, until the association was forced to taken them down.

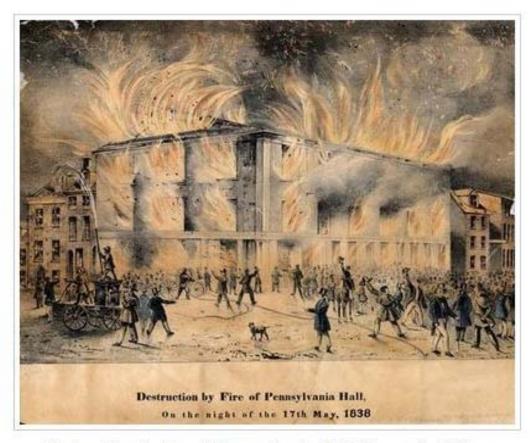


Corner of 6th and Haines Street, between Cherry and Sassafras, 62' x 100'. Offices, stores and a lecture room on the ground level. Three stairways provided access a large, second-level hall with galleries on three sides.

The building opened on May 14, 1838, hosting a series of meetings for anti-slavery and temperance organizations. Three days later, on the night of May 17, 1838, the structure was destroyed by mob violence.

A four day agenda was planned. It was estimated that 3,000 people attended. May 14, 1838, featured a meeting of the Philadelphia Lyceum and its scientific pursuits. In the evening Arnold Buffum and Thomas P. Hunt gave speeches on Temperance (which would have put today's audience into a coma).

By the next day, May 15, signs were posted around town by anti-abolitionists urging people to meet at the hall on the next day to demand an immediate end to the conference which was viewed as a challenge to the constitutional "right of property." Nevertheless, the meetings on the second day went forward. The evening session featured anti-slavery speeches which were to continue into the next day.



'Destruction by fire of Pennsylvania Hall, the new building of the Abolition Society, on the night of 17th May. [J. C. Wild] (Philadelphia: [J. T. Bowen], 1838).'

The following 1896 newspaper retrospective recounts the events of May 16 and May 17, 1838. Inflamed by pro-slavery sentiments, the mob also took exception to men and women, much less black and white men and women, appearing together in a public place. This mob mentality pushed violence to a new high in Philadelphia.

The publication of a defense of Mayor Swift and a brief reference to the fact that he was accused of indecision, if not cowardice, at the time of the anti-Abolition riots, has led to many inquiries from those of the present generation as to the circumstances surrounding those scenes of disorder.

The story is practically contained in the events leading to the burning of Pennsylvania Hall, then situated on Sixth street, below Race.

During the early part of the month of May, 1838, it was very evident that the humane intention of many of those sturdy lovers of liberty-the Abolitionists-had provoked the anger of the pro-slavery people to such an extent that a serious rupture must inevitably ensue. That believers in human bondage nearly half a century ago in this goodly City of Penn were numerous-so numerous, indeed, that even the Mayor of the city showed a strong disinclination to interfere with the work of the mob that destroyed Pennsylvania Hall and in rather a weak speech

almost gave his sanction to the work of destruction-seems almost incredible. It was a brave band of men and women that assembled in that building on the night of May 16, 1838. There were threatenings and mutterings all over the city. The first indication of disorderly spirit was manifested on that morning, when a hundred or more men were seen prowling about the building examining the exits and entrances as though preparing for an attack. The meeting in the evening was addressed by those zealous friends of the slave, William Lloyd Garrison, Alvin Stuart, John G. Whittier, Angelina E. G. Weld and several women courageous enough to defy the dangerous mob spirit. There were three thousand people in the hall and they were greatly disturbe by the hooting and yelling on the street. Occasionally a brick was thrown through a window, and the meeting was adjourned a half hour before the time set. On the morning of the 17th a larger mob began to assemble on Sixth street in the neighborhood of Sassafras, and a committee of the managers immediately called upon Mayor John Swift and delivered to him a letter addressed "Esteemed Friend."

In plain words the managers recounted the particulars of the disturbance, and called upon his Honor in the following language to protect them from violence:

To-morrow the State Anti-Slavery party will meet at 8 o'clock, Free Produce Convention at 10 o'clock; the Convention of American Women will meet at 1 o'clock P. M., and the Free Produce Convention will meet at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the Pennsylvania State Anti-Slavery Society will meet at 8 o'clock in the evening, and we shall continue to use our building from time to time, as occasion may require, and we call upon thee, as Chief Magistrate of the city, to protect us and our property in the exercise of the constitutional rights peaceably to assemble and discuss any subject of general interest. Respectfully thine,

DANIEL MEALL, President.

Imagine the astonishment of those peaceful men in drab, shad-bellied coats and broad-brimmed hats when the Chief Magistrate of the city replied that it would be necessary for him to see the Attorney General and consult with him about the law. The committee asked him upon what point he wanted information and he replied in relation to damages; that he wanted to see whether the county was liable to pay the costs. The committee told him that they had not called to claim damages but to seek protection. To this Mayor Swift replied in these remarkable words: "There are always two sides to a question-public opinion makes mobs and ninety-nine out of a hundred of those with whom I conversed are against you. However, I will go there this evening and make a speech. If that does not answer I can do nothing more." This rather unsatisfactory interview resulted in the committee calling upon the Sheriff, who said he would be very happy to afford protection, but that was the Mayor's duty. "The Mayor," said he, "has one hundred and sixty men. I only have a dozen. Nevertheless, as far as my personal, official and moral influence will go, you shall have the full benefit." When the committee made this report to the Board of Managers there was another hunt for the

Mayor, who could not be found; then for the Sheriff. That zealous official had taken himself to parts unknown. About 7 o'clock that evening the Mayor appeared in the neighborhood of the hall, and forcing his way through the mob mounted a barrel and made a milk and water speech of five minutes' duration, at the conclusion of which he was heartily cheered by the hoodlums. There were at least fifteen thousand men and half grown boys assembled on Sixth, North Fifth and Sassafras streets awaiting for the slightest provocation to begin the longpremeditated attack. It came when a German baker, whose name is now forgotten, approached the door of the hall with a crow-bar and began battering on the panels. Instantly Sixth street be-came one vast pandemonium. The crowd pushed this way and that, and shricked and yelled like very fiends. A woman with a red turban on her head cried out, "Kill the niggers! kill the niggers! Down with the Abolitionists!" A dozen men secured a long log and used it as a battering ram to assist the men with the crowbar. The door fell in with a crash. Hundreds of men surged into the building, tramping over each other in their haste to apply the torch. Twenty or thirty young men followed this mob with armsful of paper, which they carried up on the speaker's platform and applied the match. The gas fixtures were torn off and the pipes direct-

ed towards the blazing paper. In a few moments the woodwork took fire and in twenty minutes more the flames were darting from every window. The primitive fire department of those days loved noise and clamor, and it was just pie for them to visit such a scene. They turned water on the burning building, but no sooner was a stream of water directed against the hot walls than some one would cut the hose. In less than two hours nothing but the walls of Pennsylvania Hall were standing.

People who remember that terrible scene do not hesitate to say that there was no effort whatever on the part of the authorities to quell the mob. And those who had taken part in the meetings of the Anti-Slavery Society were actually in danger of their lives. Edward Lippincott, a very respectable Quaker living on Arch street, was espied by three or four young ruffians on the skirts of the crowd. They approached him with rude and insulting language and actually spat in the good man's face. Mr. Lippincott, though a peaceful Quaker, was brawny. He seized one scamp by the back of the neck and bumped his head with such violence into the face of one of his companions as to knock all his teeth out. This was the signal for a general onslaught, and poor Mr. Lippincott was knocked down and kicked and beaten in the most shameful manner. When he entered complaint

before an Alderman that worthy, who was in terrible awe of the pro-slavery people, refused to take any cognizance of the outrage, saying the person who entered mobs must expect rough treatment. Although the Quaker's assailants were well known, they were not apprehended, and this, when spread abroad, further encouraged the lawless spirit which then dominated the usually peaceful city. The supineness of Mayor Swift incited the mob to greater outrages, and on the following evening there were further scenes of violence. "The Shelter for Colored Orphans," a charitable institution at Thirteenth and Callowhill streets, having no connection with the Anti-Slavery Society, was attacked and fired. Several of the inmates barely escaped with their lives. One unfortunate colored boy was captured on Thirteenth street and doused in a horse trough until he was nearly drowned. The cruel scoundrels then tied him spreadeagle fashion to a fence in the vicinity

and pelted him with decayed fruit until the poor lad fainted from fright and exhaustion. Strangely enough, the Alderman in whose district the "Shelter" was located positively declared that although he knew every man, woman and child within his bailiwick, yet he did not recognize a single person in the mob. On the Saturday evening following the Bethel Church, on Sixth street, was attacked and badly damaged. Private dwellings of citizens known to be in favor of abolition were surrounded and the inmates were threatened and bullied. The Public Ledger, although not an Abolition paper, strongly condemned the burning of Pennsylvania Hall, and the rioters began making preparations for the destruction of the newspaper office. Their intention had been learned, however, by the proprietors and the building was for the nonce turned into an arsenai. Mobs. as a rule, are made up of cowards and scamps, the former predominating. This mob was no excep-tion to the rule, and when the saw that they would probably meet with a warm recepcion they gave up their purpose, contenting themselves with loud curses instead of sticks, stones and firebrands.

It seemed that Mayor Swift began then to realize that he had permitted the lawless element to have too much rope. The rioters increased in number every hour and began talking of reforming the whole city government to such an extent that the Mayor was forced to issue a proclamation offering two thousand dollars reward for the arrest of the person or persons who fired Pennsylvania Hall. This was followed by a proclamation by Governor Ritner, who, after condemning the outrage, offered an additional reward of five hundred dollars for the apprehenhion of the ringleaders in the riot. A scathing circular was issued a few days later by the stockholders of Pennsylvania Hall Association, in which they boldly asserted their rights and strongly condemned the lukewarm action of the authorities while the riot was in progress. The Alderman who could not recognize anybody in the district where he knew everybody came in for a pretty severe rebuke. The circular was signed by such men as John Longstreth, Caleb Clothier, Peter Wright, Joseph M. Truman, Joseph Wood and Thomas Hansell. From that

day on the Abolitionists grew in strength and power and to-day the few surivors of those stirring times look back and wonder how such things could be.

Could similar scenes be repeated nowadays from any cause or through any source whatever?

MEGARGEE.

Thomas Hansell and his fellow Pennsylvania Hall managers and directors would spend years sorting the fallout from this disaster.

In 1836, the Pennsylvania Legislature had passed a law making a county liable to an owner for any damages caused by the destruction of property by mobs. The Pennsylvania Hall Board of Directors filed a \$100,000 lawsuit against the county. The lawsuit dragged on. At one point, the abolitionists were blamed for the riots: they incited violence by upsetting the citizens of Philadelphia with their views and for encouraging "race mixing."

By 1848 the Pennsylvania Hall Association received a settlement of \$27,943.82, less than half the original cost to construct the building.

Thomas Hansell - Membership in Other Organizations

National Requited Labor Association

Thomas Hansell was a Philadelphia city delegate to the National Requited Labor Association which held morning and afternoon sessions in Pennsylvania Hall on May 17, 1838. 271 delegates, men and women, attended.

Free Labor Dry Goods and Groceries. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. RESH and new Goods, just received, consisting in part of Shirting and Sheeting Muslin, bleached and brown. " Manchester' Ginghams of superior quality, various styles. 2d quality co. assorted patterns. Calico, do. Colored Cambries and Canton Flannel, assorted colors Bleached and Brown do. do. and Table Disper. Colored Table Cloths, Imitations of Linen. Cotton Handkerchiels, assorted styles, Long and Halt-Hose, superior and heavy, Apron and Furniture Check. Cotton Twilled Pantaloon Stuff. Knitting Cotton, various Nos., bleached, brown ad colored. Cotton Laps and Wadding, white and colored. Also, Refined Loaf, Crushed and Pulverized Sugar. Brown Sugar, good quality, of different grades, by the barrel, bag, or pound. Sugar House and West India Molasses, good quality. Rice, Coffee and Chocolate. Superior Tess, selected with care for family use or stores, viz.: Oolong, Souchong and other Black Teas; also, Green Tea of superior quality. Various Spices and Confectionary, &c. &c. The whole stock exclusively of Free Labour Goods, to which the subscriber would invite the attention of Country Merchants, as well as his friends and the public generally. GEORGE W. TAYLOR, Successor to Joel Fisher. N. W. corner Fifth and Cherry sts. Philada , 3d mo. 18th, 1847.

On the morning of the 18th, the association commenced its meeting at the *ruins* of Pennsylvania Hall before adjourning to a private meeting place.

The Requited Labor Association advocated using products produced only by freemen with the thought that a boycott of products produced by slave labor would hasten the end of slavery.

The name of the organization was changed to American Free Produce Association in 1839 and the organization lasted into the 1850s.

In 1847 George Taylor supplied free labor dry goods and groceries, wholesale and retail, from his shop on the corner of 5th and Cherry.

Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery

This institution was started in 1775 in Philadelphia and still exists. In 1785, Ben Franklin served as its president.

Thomas Hansell joined this organization on June 30, 1842. Some of his fellow Pennsylvania Hall members also joined this organization in the 1840s.

The Liberty Ticket Political Party

The Liberty Ticket called itself "the friend of human rights." Thomas Hansell and many of the Pennsylvania Hall organizers ran on this ticket for whatever office was up for election.

Thomas Hansell and his brother James the clockmaker each took a turn running for mayor of Philadelphia. Thomas ran on the Liberty Ticket in 1846 but received only 31 votes. In 1847 James ran on the Free Soil ticket but received only 10 votes.

And who were they running against? The incumbent mayor John Swift who practically gave the mob at Pennsylvania Hall license to burn the place down.

Masonic Affiliation

When Thomas died in 1865, members of the Concordia Lodge, No. 67, A.Y.M assembled at the Masonic Hall before attending the funeral of "our late Brother, Thos. Hansell, P.M."

Where Thomas Hansell Lived

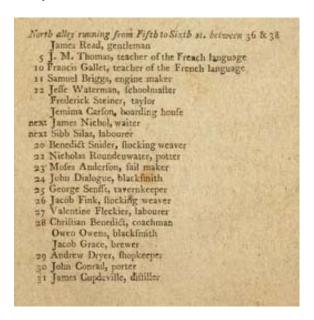
North Alley

Thomas and Mary lived with Frederick W. Steiner (probably Mary's father) from the time of their marriage in 1810 until they moved to Schriver's Court around 1818. North Alley was later renamed North Street and then Cuthbert Street. The 1816 Philadelphia Fire Engine Map shows North Alley (with handy fire plugs located at either end of the alley on 5th and 6th Streets).

In the early 1700s, one William Hudson (Yorkshire tanner who settled in Philadelphia in 1682) invested in a block of pasture land bound by Market and Arch/5th and 6th which he named Hudson's Square.

When Hudson died in 1743, he left Hudson's Square to his descendants. He had made a subdivision plan which established North Alley and South Alley traversing the lot east to west and the resulting three sections were divided into lots to be inherited by his children and grand-children. The lots were eventually sold off.

Fifty years later, in 1801, the residents of North Alley included Frederick Steiner at 12 North Alley. Thomas and Mary Hansell lived here from 1810 to 1818.



A further 50 years later, in 1856, a disastrous fire, which originated in a paper warehouse on North Street, razed most of the Hudson's Square area.* The next set of buildings lasted 100 years until they were razed by eminent domain in the 1950s for the construction of Independence Mall.

In 1818, with four children filling up the Steiner household, it was time for Thomas and Mary to move on.

* The only advertisement I found with Thomas Hansell's name was an 1851 testimonial to a fire proof chest constructed by Evans & Watson. The safes were "Warranted to Stand more Heat than any other Chests in the country." In the conflagration of 1856, the Sellers Wireworks building at the corner of Market and 6th (Hudson's Square) was reduced to ash and rubble except for their Evans & Watson's safe, with its contents unharmed.

Schriver's Court

From 1818 through 1833 the Hansells lived on Schriver's Court which is situated off North 8th Street, midway between Cherry to the north and Arch to the south.

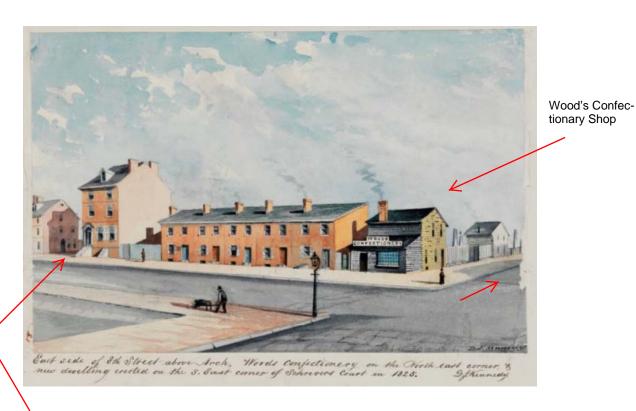
In 1826 Thomas opened a saving account at the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society. He gave his address as 2 Schriver's Court which would be on the south side of the street. His neighbors' occupations were grocer, accountant, hatter, bricklayer, trunk manufacturer, architect, tailor, coachmaker.

Thomas commuted down 8th Street for half a block then turned east and walked another half block to his shop at 291 Arch Street (north side of Arch midway between 7th and 8th).

In 1825 Philadelphia artist David J. Kennedy painted a few scenes in Thomas Hansell's 8th Street neighborhood. This watercolor depicts the east side of 8th between Arch Street and Schriver's Court.

I bet the Hansell kids made a few trips to Wood's Confectionary at the corner of 8th and Arch.

Schriver's Court was renamed Winfield Place. Today it is called Appletree Street and is a narrow one-way road from 7th to 8th.



Schriver's Court runs east between these two buildings

Thomas Hansell's shop was just down the road at 291 Arch Street

Budden's Alley

For 30 plus years Thomas lived/worked at Budden's Alley located on the west side of North 13th Street, between Arch and Cherry. Hansell's street address eventually became 114 North 13th Street.

1858-1860 Hexamer & Locher Philadelphia Atlas

Hansell's 3-story residence

Hansell's 2-story shop

The alley was named for Captain Richard Budden (1706-1766) who sailed a packet ship between London and Philadelphia for many years. Budden's claim to fame was his 1754 free delivery, from England, of eight bells for Christ Church. His largess was rewarded with the ringing of the bells every time he sailed into the Philadelphia harbor.

Prior to development, this block was divided into lots. There were seven lots facing 13th Street between Budden's Alley and Cherry Street numbered, south to north, Lots 13 through 19, each lot having a frontage of 20 feet. In 1827, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church purchased Lots 14 through 19 and established a cemetery in Lots 14, 15 and 16.

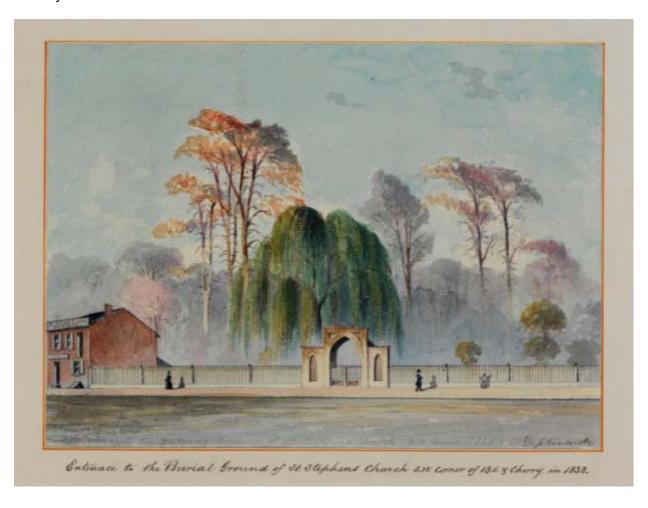
In 1831, Aaron Burtis, plasterer, and his wife Mary purchased Lot 13. On March 6, 1833 Burtis transferred the land to Thomas Hansell, turner (AM Book 52, Page 526.) This transaction agreed to a \$120 yearly ground rent due on May 1st and November 1st to be paid with "lawful silver money each dollar weighing 17 penny weights and 6 grains at least."

Three years later on June 28, 1836 (SHF Book 4, Page 181), the ground rent was extinguished for the sum of \$2,000 paid by Thomas Hansell to Aaron H. Burtis and his wife.

The lot was long and narrow, 20 feet on the west side of 13th Street and extending west 115 feet along Budden's Alley to a rear alley called Marston Street. On the corner of Budden's Alley and 13th Street was Thomas Hansell's shop, a two story brick building with an attached wood frame structure. At the back of the lot, on the corner of Budden's Alley and Marston Street, was Hansell's three story brick dwelling.

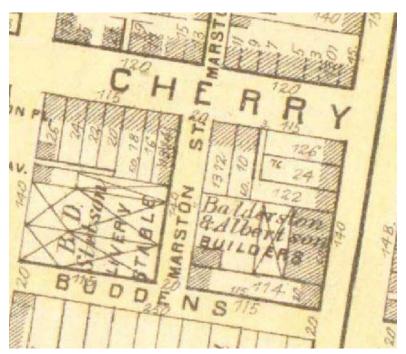
Thomas now lived in close proximity to his brothers: Morris the hatter was just down the street at 17 N 13th, James the watchmaker at 76 N 11th; and William dry goods merchant at 67 S 11th.

In 1838, David J. Kennedy set up his easel on 13th Street and painted a watercolor of the entrance to St. Stephen's Cemetery. Situated in the left corner of the painting is Thomas Hansell's two story brick shop facing Budden's Alley. What a quiet backyard the family enjoyed for 30 years.



It was a great surprise to find Hansell's sign on the building.





Starting about 1850, St. Stephen's Church sold Lots 17, 18 and 19 (122 through 126 North 13th Street).

In 1867, two years after Thomas Hansell's death, the church sold the cemetery lots to Mark Balderston. Reportedly some of the graves were removed to Laurel Hill Cemetery in 1866.

1875 Philadelphia Atlas, G.M. Hopkins

The Budden Alley property sold at auction three years after Thomas Hansell's death. The court-appointed appraisers arrived at a value of \$9,000 but one Joseph B. Myers purchased the property with a bid of \$7,100 on April 16, 1868.

ORPHANS' COURT SALE.—ESTATE OF THOS.

Hansell, doc'd.—James A. Freeman, Auctioneer.—
Dwelling and Carpenter Shop, No. 114 North Thirteenth street. Under authority of the Orphans' Gourt for the city and county of Philadelphia, will be sold at public sale, on Wednesday, Feb. 12th, 1868, at 12. o'clock, noon, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described Real Estate, late the property of Thomas. Hansell, deceased. All that certain lot of ground with the three-story brick dwelling and two-story brick carpenter shop thereon erected, with the appurtenances, sit, uste on the west side of Thirteenth street at the distance of 148 feet northward of Arch street, in the Tenth ward of the city; containing in front 20 teet and extending in depth along a 20 feet siley called Buddens Alley 115 feet to a 20 feet wide street called Marston street. Clear of all incumbrance.

EN 8200 to be paid at the time of sale.

By the Court, E. A. MERRICK, Clerk O. C. WM. F. HANSELL, Adm'r.

JAMES A. FREEMAN, Auctioneer.

1228 50 feet

Myers held on to the property for a short time before selling it to William P. Fogg on June 16, 1870.

Today the lot is situated along the section of 13th Street that goes under the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Constructing a Family for Mary Steiner Hansell - 1789-1829

There is nothing clear about the family of Mary Steiner, Thomas Hansell's first wife and mother of his children. The tattered pages of the Hansell history held by Betty Bright say:

Thomas Hansell's wife was of German descent, her father was a typical German...name was James S. Steiner.

A James Steiner, storekeeper, perished in the disastrous yellow fever epidemic of 1793. The 1785 Philadelphia city directory lists John Steiner, shopkeeper, Crown b Race & Vine. That is it for any Steiner or Stiner with a first name like James.

Another candidate for Mary's father is Frederick W. Steiner (1755-1842), who had a daughter Maria, born November 20, 1789. Mary Steiner Hansell was born in 1789. This is either a coincidence or Frederick W. Steiner is Mary Steiner Hansell's father. I can also see him being an uncle. There just is not enough information to clarify this relationship.

There are two Frederick W. Steiner/Hansell points of connection and you can cobble together a Steiner family from the records of the First Reformed Church of Philadelphia. There appears to be only one male Steiner named Frederick during this time period which simplifies the search.

- In 1814, after his 1810 marriage to Mary Steiner, Thomas Hansell's first entry in a city directory is 12 North Alley. Frederick W. Steiner, tailor, is listed living at this address starting around 1801 to about 1822.
- In 1842 Frederick W. Steiner died and his funeral was held at the residence of James Steiner Hansell, Thomas Hansell's son.

A helpful researcher at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania sorted out the Frederick Steiners in the First Reformed Church records.

Baptisms

Samuel Steiner, born October 21, 1784, baptized February 11, 1785
Parents: Friederich Steiner and wife Maria. Godparents - the parents themselves

Maria Steiner, born November 20, 1789, baptized June 14, 1790
Parents: Friederich Steiner and wife Maria. Godparents - the parents themselves

Jacob Steiner, born April 27, 1792, baptized July 23, 1792

Parents: Friderich Steiner and his wife Maria. Godparents - the parents themselves

Burials

Friderich Steiner child, July 29, 1786

Christoph Wassem by Friedrich Steiner, October 5, 1793

Friderich Steiner's child by himself, August 25, 1800

Maria Steiner, November 12, 1801, 38 years, 11 months Friderich Steiner's wife by himself, November 12, 1801

Marriages

John Bryan and Elizabeth Steiner, married May 17, 1807, by Samuel Helffenstein

(Family Search) Fred. Steiner godfather to Maria Bryan born 2/6/1808, daughter of Elizabeth and John Bryan

Mary Stein and Thomas Hansell, married February 11, 1810, by Samuel Helffenstein

It is a good bet this is Mary Steiner's family. Frederick W. Steiner was born in 1755 and his wife Maria was born in 1762.

Frederick Steiner is listed in the post Revolutionary War Philadelphia City Muster Rolls, 6th Company, 4th Battalion, Lt. Col. William Will and Captain Christian Keen,1783-1790. (Pa Archives, Vol III, 6th Series, p. 1097-1141)

A tailor by trade, Frederick first appears in Philadelphia tax records and city directories as early as 1785. He was first located at 26 North 5th Street and then he moved around the corner to North Alley. The 1800 census (next page) shows an extended family of 13 people at 12 North Alley.

If they didn't die early, Mary had at least two brothers and a maybe a sister Elizabeth who married John Bryan. All we can know of the Steiner family life is, with a tailor for a father, they were probably well dressed and presumably the little Hansells were outfitted as well!

The mother Maria died in 1801 at age 38. Frederick W. Stiner died of "old age" on September 1, 1842. He was 87 years old. His funeral was held at his grandson's home (James S. Hansell) at Lombard Street, 3rd door below 13th. Frederick was buried at the Philanthropic Cemetery in Philadelphia. The graves of this cemetery were moved in 1914 to Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill.

Maria (Mary) Steiner was born November 20, 1789. She married Thomas Hansell on February 11, 1810, gave birth to seven or eight children, and died of tuberculosis at age 40 on January 11, 1829. Her one-line obit appeared in the January 13, 1829 National Gazette: "On Sunday morning, after a lingering illness, MARY, wife of Thomas Hansell."



Though not a member of the Quakers, Mary was buried in the Western Burial Ground, located between 16th and 17th and Race and Cherry Streets. Mary's bones may lay undisturbed in this cemetery or they may have been moved for construction of a road or a building on part of the graveyard.

Kennedy was once again on the scene with a painting of the Friends Western Burial Ground.

Census Records for Frederick W. Steiner - Philadelphia, PA - ancestry.com

Census Records - Philadelphia. PA - ancestry.com

Census Records - Philadelphia, F	A - ancestry.com	T
1790 - Water Street East Side		Year: 1790; Census Place: Water Street
Frederick Steines, taylor		East Side, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Se-
(26 N 5 th Street)		ries: M637; Roll: 9; Page: 108; Image: 438;
_		Family History Library Film: 0568149
1 male over 16	Frederick W. Steiner	
3 females	?	
1800 - North Ward		Year: 1800; Census Place: Philadelphia
Fred. K. Steiner		North Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
(12 North Alley)		Series: M32; Roll: 43; Page: 220,221; Im-
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		age: 88; Family History Library Film:
		363346
3 males under 10	?	
3 males 16-25	?	
2 males 26-44	Frederick W. Steiner	
2 females under 10	?	
1 female 10-15	?	
2 females 26-44	?	
	·	
1810 - North Ward		Year: 1810; Census Place: Philadelphia
Frederick Steiner, taylor		North Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
(12 North Alley)		Roll: <i>55</i> ; Page: <i>179</i> ; Image: <i>00035</i> ; Family
(12 110111111111111111111111111111111111		History Library Film: 0193681
		I motory Energy : min o roose :
1 male 16-26	possibly Thomas	I Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner married
1 male 16-26	possibly Thomas Hansell	Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner married February 11, 1810
1 male 16-26 1 male 45+ over		I homas Hansell and Mary Steiner married February 11, 1810
	Hansell	I homas Hansell and Mary Steiner married February 11, 1810
1 male 45+ over	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner	I homas Hansell and Mary Steiner married February 11, 1810
1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown	Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner married February 11, 1810
1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown possibly Mary Steiner	I homas Hansell and Mary Steiner married February 11, 1810
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1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10 3 females 16-26 1820 census ? 1830 census ?	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown possibly Mary Steiner Hansell Likely James S. Hansell	Year: 1840; Census Place: Philadelphia Cedar Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 484; Page: 277; Image: 1150; Family
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1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10 3 females 16-26 1820 census ? 1830 census ? 1840 - Cedar Ward James S. Hanfar James S. Hanson	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown possibly Mary Steiner Hansell Likely James S. Hansell (son of Thomas Hansell) based on street addresses of neighbors, ages of fam-	Year: 1840; Census Place: Philadelphia Cedar Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 484; Page: 277; Image: 1150; Family
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1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10 3 females 16-26 1820 census ? 1830 census ? 1840 - Cedar Ward James S. Hanfar James S. Hanson (Lombard below 13 th) 2 males under 5 2 males 20-29 1 male 80-89	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown possibly Mary Steiner Hansell Likely James S. Hansell (son of Thomas Hansell) based on street addresses of neighbors, ages of family members & lack of info regarding Hanfar and Hanson Amos, Milton James and probably his brother Thomas who died in 1841 Frederick Steiner	Year: 1840; Census Place: Philadelphia Cedar Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 484; Page: 277; Image: 1150; Family History Library Film: 0020554 children of James S. Hansell
1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10 3 females 16-26 1820 census ? 1830 census ? 1840 - Cedar Ward James S. Hanfar James S. Hanson (Lombard below 13 th) 2 males under 5 2 males 20-29 1 male 80-89 1 female 20-29	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown possibly Mary Steiner Hansell Likely James S. Hansell (son of Thomas Hansell) based on street addresses of neighbors, ages of family members & lack of info regarding Hanfar and Hanson Amos, Milton James and probably his brother Thomas who died in 1841 Frederick Steiner Hannah	Year: 1840; Census Place: Philadelphia Cedar Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 484; Page: 277; Image: 1150; Family History Library Film: 0020554
1 male 45+ over 1 female under 10 3 females 16-26 1820 census ? 1830 census ? 1840 - Cedar Ward James S. Hanfar James S. Hanson (Lombard below 13 th) 2 males under 5 2 males 20-29 1 male 80-89	Hansell Frederick W. Steiner unknown possibly Mary Steiner Hansell Likely James S. Hansell (son of Thomas Hansell) based on street addresses of neighbors, ages of family members & lack of info regarding Hanfar and Hanson Amos, Milton James and probably his brother Thomas who died in 1841 Frederick Steiner	Year: 1840; Census Place: Philadelphia Cedar Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 484; Page: 277; Image: 1150; Family History Library Film: 0020554 children of James S. Hansell

Finding the Children of Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner - A Deed Revealed All

For a few years I looked here and there for signs of Thomas and Mary's children. To start with, Thomas was an unknown in genealogical circles, i.e. I couldn't benefit from some one else's hard work! My immediate family history knew about one child of this marriage, James Steiner Hansell, born January 12, 1811 in Philadelphia.

The 1820, 1830 and 1840 census records for Thomas Hansell indicate five or six boys and two girls. By the 1850 census, all the children were grown and Thomas and his second wife Anna Pearson were living by themselves at Budden's Alley.

So for a few years I tried to divine the children from the early cryptic census records of so many males between the ages of, etc., etc., and sort out the males who were probably workers in Thomas Hansell's turner shop and wondered at the extra older females.

One child finally came to light through a 1908 death certificate (the form now included the names of the parents of the deceased). So Edwin Hansell took his place in the line up. Next was William Frederick Hansell. Newspapers revealed William F. Hansell, administrator for the estate of Thomas Hansell. A Random Act of Genealogical Kindness volunteer found an administration paper in Philadelphia City Hall which stated William F. Hansell as a son of Thomas. That was the only information that could be gleaned from the administration file. And here matters stood for a while.

Somewhere along the line, I figured out Philadelphia deeds were available on line. The first thing I did was search out the deeds for the patriarch of this Hansell family, Peter David Hansell. These deeds were extremely informative and provided corroborative evidence for the first and second generations. Finally it dawned on me to search the deeds for grantor William F. Hansell, acting as administrator of his father's estate. Yes!

The Budden's Alley property sold at auction in 1868, three years after Thomas's death. Thomas died intestate and the deed (JTO Book 112, Page 457) contains the names of the heirs to his estate – his living children and the children of his deceased children. One of those spectacular genealogical finds that makes your jaw drop onto your keyboard!

Now I could fill in the census records with James, William, Sarah, Emmeline, Edwin and Joseph. An unconfirmed child, Thomas, died in 1841. Possibly there was a male born between 1825 and 1830 who died before the 1840 census. I now had the five or six boys and the two girls, the children of Thomas Hansell and Mary Steiner. A third girl, Caroline, was revealed in the will of her aunt Anne Hansell (1785-1847).

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

Census Records for Thomas Hansell - Philadelphia, PA - ancestry.com

4000 Carrill Marilla anna Wanal	1	4000 H 0 0
1820 - South Mulberry Ward		1820 U S Census; Census Place: Philadel-
Thomas Hansell		phia South Mulberry Ward, Philadelphia,
Schriver's Court		Pennsylvania; Page: 178; NARA Roll:
		M33_108; Image: 196
3 males under 10	James (9), William (7),	
o maios anasi 10	Thomas (5)	
2 females under 10	Sarah (3), Emmeline (6	
	mos)	
1 male 16-18	unknown	
1 male 16-25	unknown	
1 male 26-45	Thomas (34)	
1 female 26-44	Mary (31)	
		2 persons engaged in manufactures: Thomas and an unknown male
1830 - South Mulberry Ward		1830; Census Place: Philadelphia South
Thomas Hansell		Mulberry Ward, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
Schriver's Court		Series: M19; Roll: 159; Page: 392; Family
		History Library Film: 0020633
0 1 5		11 111 1 1005 : ::::::::::::::::::::::::
3 males under 5	Edwin (6), Joseph (2),	possibly a male child was born 1825 to 1830
2 males 15-20	unknown James (19) or William (17)	and died before the 1840 census
2 maies 15-20	or Thomas (15)	
1 female 5-10	Caroline (8)	
1 female 10-15	Emmeline or Sarah	
1 male 40-50	Thomas (44)	
1 female 50-60	unknown	Mary Steiner Hansell died in 1829
Tromate of the	diminowii	mary eterner transcentared in 1626
1840 - South Mulberry Ward		Year: 1840; Census Place: Philadelphia
Thos Hansell		South Mulberry Ward, Philadelphia, Penn-
Budden's Alley		sylvania; Roll: 481; Page: 89; Image: 184;
		Family History Library Film: 0020554
4 40 45		
1 male 10-15	Joseph (12)	
1 male 15-20	Edwin (17)	
1 female 15-20	Caroline (18)	
2 females 20-30	Emmeline (20), Sarah (23)	
1 female 40-50 1 male 30-40	Ann Pearson Hansell (55) Thomas Hansell (54)	
1 maie 30-40	Thomas Hansell (54)	2 ampleyed in manufacturing 8 trade: The
		2 employed in manufacturing & trade: Thomas Hansell and his son Edwin
		mas hansell and his son Edwin
1850 - South Mulberry Ward		Year: 1850; Census Place: Philadelphia
Thomas Hansell		South Mulberry Ward, Philadelphia, Penn-
Budden's Alley		sylvania; Roll: M432_815; Page: 276A; Im-
		age: 128
Thomas Hansell (64)	turner	\$6,000 real estate value
Anna Hansell (63)		
		1
1860 - Philadelphia Ward 10		Voor: 1960: Conque Place: Philadelphia
1860 - Philadelphia Ward 10		Year: 1860; Census Place: Philadelphia Ward 10 Fact District, Philadelphia, Penn-
East District		Ward 10 East District, Philadelphia, Penn-
East District Thos Hansell		Ward 10 East District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1160; Page: 565; Im-
East District		Ward 10 East District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1160; Page: 565; Image: 135; Family History Library Film:
East District Thos Hansell		Ward 10 East District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1160; Page: 565; Im-
East District Thos Hansell	turner	Ward 10 East District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1160; Page: 565; Image: 135; Family History Library Film:

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. Thanks to Ed for personally inspecting the hydraulion in Elkton, Maryland.

Historical Society of Philadelphia: Ritter Family Papers Circa 1773-1926, Contributors H. Hansell Ritter, II and Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Collection Number 3677. Ancestry of Margaret (Hansell) Ritter French with Dehuff information, 4 pages, handwritten, not dated or signed

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

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

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

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/)

First Reformed Church of Philadelphia rendering found at

http://hiddencityphila.org/2012/09/philadelphias-first-mega-musical-event/

Darby

Darby Borough by Lindy Constance Wardell, Arcadia Publishing, 2003

Darby History: http://www.darbyhistory.com/

The Darby Borough Historical and Preservation Society: http://www.delcohistory.org/darby/

A History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania edited by John W. Jordan, LL.D., Lewis Historical publishing Co., NY 1914 - A History of Darby Borough

Delaware County History.com - http://delawarecountyhistory.com/index.html
1848 Ash Map of Delaware County

War of 1812

Notes written by Elizabeth Rebecca Engle Hansell (1885-1945), wife of Albert Hansell, Jr. (1880-1923), of Rancocas, New Jersey. Elizabeth wrote out in long hand an extensive genealogy of the Engle family and created a few hand drawn trees for the Engle and Woolman families.

All that remains of her work on the Hansell family are three scraps of paper. Written on the reverse of the first two pieces are grocery lists and the reverse of the third had directions to an artesian well.

These fragments are in the possession of Betty Bright of Stowe, Vermont (granddaughter of Elizabeth Hansell).

Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812 by Benson J. Lossing, 1869, page 968 - volunteers from Philadelphia

History of Philadelphia, Vol. 1 by Thomas Scharf, 1884, page 573 - fortifications erected west of Philadelphia

Minutes of the Committee of Defence of Philadelphia, 1814-1815, Volume 8 by Philadelphia Committee of Defence

Map of the County Nine Miles West of the City of Philadelphia and between Darby Creek & Young's Ford on the River Schuylkill, cartographers William Strickland, Robert Brooke and William Kneass, 1814 held by the American Philosophical Society, found here:

http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/islandora/object/graphics%3A5848

Thomas Hansell - Turner

Antiquemachinery.com - photo of 1840 lathe and other antique machinery dragged home by the creator of this website - the link to the home page is broken

Journal of The Common Council of the City of Philadelphia - various years 1830s to 1850s are in Google books.

Some payments of interest:

May through July 1840, the city paid James Young, high constable, for killing and burying 944 dogs at the rate of \$1 per dog. One of Young's other duties was apprehending swine running at large and selling them, thus putting money back into the city coffers.

March 10, 1840, the city paid \$30 to Moses Kempton for ringing Christ Church bells on Washington's birthday

The Art of Roadmaking by Hardwood Frost, 1910 - drawing of rammers

Modern Road Construction by Austin Thomas Byrne, American Technical Society, 1917 - description of rammers

Hydraulion

Early Engineering Reminiscences (1815-40) of George Escol Sellers, edited by Eugene S. Ferguson, Bulletin 238, Smithsonian Institution, 1965, page 43, Chapter 7, "Sellers and Pennock Fire Engine Works." The book can be downloaded here: https://repository.si.edu/handle/10088/10090

"Elkton Firemen Plan to Restore Old Fire Engine for Museum," Cumberland, Maryland *Cumberland Times News*, February 17, 1986, page 3, article includes this paragraph:

Records indicate the engine, which was made by James Sellers of Philadelphia, was sold to the town of Elkton from the Philadelphia Hose Company No. 1 in 1827 for \$700,

"Amish Craftsman Helped Restore Part of Singerly Legacy," Elkton, Maryland *Cecil Whig*, June 21, 2013 (CecilDaily.com), the opinions about the Elkton hydraulion offered by Jack Robrecht and Al Wills are reported here:

http://www.cecildaily.com/our_cecil/article_13e8085a-da8d-11e2-9844-0019bb2963f4.html

Window on Cecil County's Past - historian and author Mike Dixon hosts this blog.

This link includes before and after photos of the restored Water Witch.

https://cecilcounty.wordpress.com/2012/01/27/relic-from-1818-proudly-displayed-at-fire-company-museum-in-elkton/

Another link.

https://cecilcounty.wordpress.com/2012/01/30/grand-day-for-elkton-when-2nd-pumper-double-size-of-firefighting-force/

Singerly Fire Company Museum Blog: https://singerly.wordpress.com/about/

Five posts about the 1818 hydraulion:

- Dusting Off the Old Hydraulion
- Amish Carriage-Maker Restored Two Hand Pumpers Nearly 30 Years Ago for Fire Company
- The Pride of Elkton's Volunteers Before the Civil War
- Relics from Another Age of Firefighting Getting Ready for Station Dedication
- Relic From 1818 Proudly Displayed at Fire Company Museum in Elkton

The Edinburg Encyclopaedia, Volume 16, 1832 - check out this book at archive.org if you want to know exactly how the pump worked:

page 203 - Description of Sellers & Pennock's Rivetted Hose and Other Fire Apparatus page 776 - plate illustrating the hydraulion, riveted hose and pumping system

The Friendship Fire Company of Newville, PA has a hydraulion, too! They call it the Resolution Hand Cart. http://www.newvillefire.com/past.php



The following four sources mention the hydraulion. *The History of Philadelphia* presents a timeline for the early fire apparatus of the Philadelphia Hose Company.

(1) *History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884* by John Thomas Scharf, 1884, Vol. 3, Chapter XLVI, page 1883 "Fireman, Fire Companies & Large Fires"

Paraphrasing material starting on page 1896:

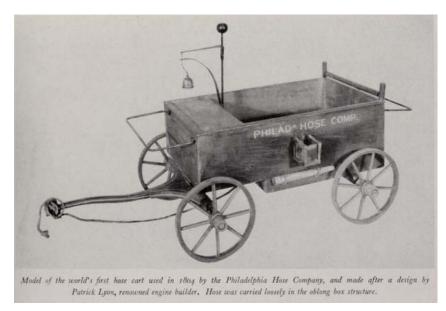
- In 1814 James Sellers built for the Philadelphia Hose Company "a combined apparatus" after the plan of Rowntree of London, which Sellers called a "hose-engine" but which in later times was called a hydraulion. The unit was finished in 1814 and had two reels for hose. It was difficult to use and in April 1817 the Philadelphia Hose Company gave the unit to James Sellers who took it in part payment for another one which he built for the company. The old two-reel apparatus was sold to the Friends Asylum in Frankford.
- A committee of Philadelphia Hose Company members formed to decide what to call Sellers' second hose-engine and the name hydraulion was decided on.
- After four years (say 1821/1822) the members were dissatisfied with the hydraulion and determined to procure a new machine. The new unit was made by Samuel V. Merrick and was finished in 1823.

Intersperse the May 21, 1818 newspaper review of the hydraulion made by James Sellers for the Philadelphia Hose Company. Take into account the remembrances, which date around 1818, of George Escol Sellers about the neighborhood mechanics making a hydraulion. I can find no information about the Philadelphia Hose Co. hydraulion between the time it was replaced in 1823 to the purchase of a hydraulion by the Town of Elkton from the Philadelphia Hose Company in 1827. Lots of room here for speculation!

- (2) *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Volume 3, 1827, pages 281-288 "On Fire Engines, Hose and Some other Apparatus Manufactured and Used in Philadelphia for the Purpose of Extinguishing Fires," available at HathiTrust.org and Google books. See specifically pages 285-288.
- (3) Annals of Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania, in the Olden Times, Vol. 3 by John Fanning Watson, enlarged by Willis P. Hazard, 1899, pages 405-430 "Fires and Fire Engines" (on page 409, Watson dates the manufacture of the first hydraulion like the Elkton, Maryland unit at 1817).
- (4) Historical Sketches of the Formation and Founders of the Philadelphia Hose Company, Being the First Hose Company Instituted in the City of Philadelphia, December 15, 1803 (1854), available at archive.org and Google books one speech remembers a hydraulion.

Philadelphia Hose Company

James Sellers joined the Philadelphia Hose Company in 1804, shortly after its creation. Abraham L. Pennock was a founding member. At the turn of the century, fire hydrants were installed in the streets of Philadelphia and fire buckets gave way to hoses. A group of young men formed the Philadelphia Hose Company in December of 1803 with the specific purpose of managing fire hoses. After raising funds, they purchased 600 feet of leather hose and a cart to haul the hose to fires. On the front of the cart was painted the company's motto "Non Sibi Sed Omnibus" in a semi-circle and under it "Original Institution, 1803." On the next page is a model of the cart, part of the historical collection of the Insurance Company of North America.



The cart had a few shortcomings as did the first hoses.

James Sellers and Abraham L. Pennock put their heads together to develop a riveted fire hose that would not fall apart. William P. Morris, a member of the Philadelphia Hose Company, conceived the idea of a combo engine/ hose carriage. James Sellers executed this idea and made a vast improvement in the cart situation with the multi-purpose hydraulion, one of which ended up in Elkton, Maryland.

Above: Model of the "world's first hose cart." Historical collection of the Insurance Company of North America



Left: Watercolor of the first hose cart of the Philadelphia Hose Company by David J. Kennedy, 1803

Held by the Historical Society of Philadelphia

Sellers Family

There are many works about the Sellers family - this is the most recent: *Engineering Philadelphia, The Sellers Family and the Industrial Metropolis* by Domenic Vitiello, Cornell University Press, 2013

John Wilbank

Wilbank (who cast the brass cylinders for the hydraulion) soon moved into casting bells. Wilbank's lasting claim to fame involves the Liberty Bell.

The Liberty Bell was installed at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia in 1753. The bell and the State House fell into disuse around 1800 when the US Congress and Pennsylvania Legislature moved out of town.

In 1824 the State House, now known as Independence Hall, was refurbished and in 1828 a new bell tower was erected and the city contracted with John Wilbank to cast a replacement for the cracked Liberty Bell. Wilbank agreed to lower his bill by \$400 in exchange for the 2000 pound Liberty Bell. He

ultimately decided hauling away the Liberty Bell (certainly to be melted down) would cost more than the bell was worth. The city sued Wilbank for this breach of contract but an agreement was reached whereby Wilbank donated the bell to the city.

Through the years some Wilbank descendants have claimed ownership of the Liberty Bell and court actions have ensued. In any event, this was a pretty close call for the Liberty Bell.

Israel Roberts

Roberts is still at 132 North 3rd St. in this 1839 advertisement. When Israel Roberts died in 1842 his son continued the business in partnership with George Megee.

OLD ESTABLISHED
Copper Warehouse,

No. 132 North Third street and No. 11 Branch street:

SRAEL ROBERTS & SON, Copper Smiths, manufacture to order every kind of Still, or vessels required by Grain, Turpentine, and other Distillers, Sugar Refiners, Brewers, &c. Also, Baths, Boilers, and Heaters, Dying Ketties, Mineral Water Fountains, and all kinds of Copper work for steam engines, factories, &c.

The highest price given for old Copper, Brass, Pewter and Lead.

Oliver Evans and Mars Works

7/28/1807 Aurora General Advertiser (Philadelphia, PA)

MARS WORKS.

Philadelphia, April 30, 1807. THE subscriber has established at the corner of Vine and Ninth streets and the Ridge road, & set of works, consisting of an Inox Foundary, STEAM ENGINEER'S SHOP, MOULDMAKER'S SHOP, for making such moulds as may be wanted, BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, MILLSTONE FACTO-RY, and a STEAN MILL for grinding plaister and turning heavy cast and wrought Iron. And he is prepared to supply Millbuilders with such articles as they may want, and toe secute such orders as he may receive, either for steam engines or mill work ; such as cast iron cog wheels, gudgeons, cranks, spindles, rynes, &c. sugar and soap boilers' kettles or kerbs; rollers for sugar mills, which may be neatly turned and finished; forge and rolling mill work, &c. In short all that may be wanted either of cast or wrought iron for machinery. The Steam Engines are of his own invention, and are patented; they will serve as a substitute for water falls to produce power, much cheaper than by cattle, to move machinery He has on hand. for sale, Burr mill stones and Bolting Cloths of the best quality, and plaister calcined for stuceo work ; also, gudgeons and their boxes ready cast, of all sizes, from three to twenty-four inches dia-meter of their wings, made of the most suitable metal for wearing well, and cog wheels for bolt-ing geers cast of iron from moulds which he has made for the purpose. They come cheaper and will last much longer than those made of wood.

OLIVER EVANS.

N. B. He has lately received a good stock of Burr Pieces, of the best quality. June 2 ifactor

John A. Woodside

John A. Woodside, Philadelphia's Glorified Sign Painter by J. Jackson, 1933, published in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. Download a pdf here:

http://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/issue/view/1850



"The Sea Green Lady/Water Witch of the Waves"

John A. Woodside painted this panel for a hand engine of the Water Witch Fire Company #5 of Wilmington, Delaware in 1840. Held by the Delaware Historical Society.

The Historical Collection of the Insurance Company of North America by M.J. McCoster, Philadelphia 1945. The book is available to "borrow" from archive.org.

The Insurance Company of North America (located in Philadelphia) holds seven fire engine panels painted by John A. Woodside. Or at least they did in 1945 when their collection of fire fighting apparatus was catalogued in this book.

Also catalogued are items of the Philadelphia Hose Company: the model of the first hose cart (see photo on a previous page); a fireman's belt dated 1803; and a parade hat "Philadelphia Hose Company No. 1" with the initials J.S.M. and the date 1803. This hat must have belonged to Jacob S. Miller who joined the company in 1835 with 1803 being the founding date of the hose company.

Philadelphia Firehouse and Fire Plug Map

Great circa 1816 map of downtown Philadelphia showing locations of fire plugs and engine and hose companies.

http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/32835/

Pennsylvania Hall

History of Pennsylvania Hall Which Was Destroyed by a Mob on the 17th of May 1838, Pennsylvania Hall Association, 1838. The book was put together by the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hall Association giving a full account of activities at the hall during the tumultuous three days in May. Available at archive.org.

Pennsylvania Hall papers archived at Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College and available on

http://triptvch.brvnmawr.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/HC QuakSlav

Pennsylvania Hall Associates, Board of Managers Minutes

Required Labor Convention Proceedings

Pennsylvania Hall Association, Legal and Financial Papers (Thomas Hansell's invoice)

Pennsylvania Hall, Retrospective Newspaper Articles

Pennsylvania Hall Associates by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen, Swarthmore College, Class of 2009, Quakers and Slavery Digitization Project Intern

http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/commentary/organizations/pennsylvania hall.php

Louis N. Megargee (1855-1905) - well-known newspaper man and writer.

Incorporation of Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery - found in the Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Collection http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/mayantislavery/

James Hansell of Philadelphia, elected 9/7/1819 (brother of Thomas Hansell) William S. Hansell, elected 6/12/1832 (cousin of James and Thomas) Thomas Hansell, elected 6/30/1842

Also at the Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Collection Minutes of the Proceedings of the Reguited Labor Convention, 1838

Philadelphia City delegates

William A. Garrigues	William C. Betts
Robert Biddle	Charles Wise
David Sellers	Thomas Hansell
Samuel Webb	Robert McClure
Charles C. Jackson	Daniel Neall, Jr.

Thomas Hansell's run for mayor of Philadelphia - http://www.phila.gov/phils/Mayortxt.htm

John Wilbank, brass and bell founder (who cast the pump cylinder for the hydraulion), ran an advertisement in the August 1, 1836 Philadelphia Inquirer. After listing bells for sale he added this politicallycharged note: "I will deduct 10 dollars from the price of every bell that weighs four hundred pounds and upwards, that is to be used for an alarm Bell in case of an insurrection of the negroes and I will charge 30 dollars advance on every bell of the above weights, knowing it is to be used for the purpose of calling an Abolition Society together. From the above the public may know my sentiments of Tappan & Co."

Where Thomas Hansell Lived

Digging in the City of Brotherly Love, Rebecca Yamin, Yale University Press, 2008

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

American Biography: A New Cyclopedia, Vol. 10, page 230 - story about the 1856 fire and the Sellers' Evans & Watson safe

David J. Kennedy paintings on line at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Digital Library

Undoubtedly there is a story associated with every street in Philadelphia and the Schriver's Court area where Thomas Hansell lived is no exception.

Mr. Wood of Wood's Confectionary on the corner of 8th and Arch (painted by Kennedy in 1824) soon moved to a building on Chestnut Street. In 1839, his only daughter secretly eloped. Mr. Wood found out about the marriage. He straight away purchased two pistols, went home to confront his daughter, she confessed to her marriage and Mr. Wood shot her in the head. He was acquitted on a plea of insanity but never showed his face in public again. Mr. Kennedy tells the full story in a written piece of art found in the digital library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



This photo, reportedly one of the earliest views of Philadelphia, was taken from a daguerreotype of 1840/41.

These five dapper fellows are posing in front of the building on the northeast corner of the intersection of 8th and Arch which formerly housed Woods Confectionary as depicted in David J. Kennedy's 1824 water color.

Free Library of Philadelphia collection

A Google search for Shriver's Court turned up this gem: A Guide to the Stranger, or Pocket Companion for The Fancy, Containing A List of the Gay Houses and Ladies of Pleasure in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection, Philadelphia 1849 available from The Library Company of Philadelphia here: http://www.librarycompany.org/shadoweconomy/section4 5.htm

> Mrs. RACHEL JACKSON, No. 19 Schriver's Court, Eighth above Arch St. This bed house has the reputation of being A No. 1, in point of cleanliness, quietness and privacy. Great resort for married ladies.

This entry does not make it quite clear what Mrs. Jackson was up to at the end of Schriver's Court.

St. Stephens Cemetery, 13th Street, Philadelphia

I am on a constant search for the burial place of Thomas Hansell's son Joseph M. Hansell who died in Rancocas, New Jersey on April 27, 1854. This cemetery seemed a likely spot, located next door to Thomas Hansell's property on 13th Street. The cemetery is associated with St. Stephens Episcopal Church of Philadelphia. Church records are available at ancestry.com. Some burials in the cemetery (referred to as 13th Street) can be identified through the death and funeral entries for St. Stephens Episcopal Church which start on Image 85 (page 233). Alas, no Joseph Hansell.

Vital Statistics

Thomas Hansell's birth date is calculated from his death certificate and census records. His death certificate, available at FamilySearch, cites he was born in Darby.

Thomas Hansell's marriage to Mary Steiner and Steiner family records are recorded in the First Reformed Church Records located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Call Ph 1R:1 through PH 1R:4.

Thomas Hansell's obit in the July 8, 1865 issue of the Philadelphia Inquirer:

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HANSELL.—On the 6th instant, THOMAS HAN-
SELL, in the 79th year of his age.
The relatives and friends of the family are respect-
fully invited to attend his funeral, from his late
residence, Budd street, above Arch and Thirteenth
street, on Monday afternoon, the 19th instant, at 3
o'clock.
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Thomas is buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery. I expect he purchased the lot when his granddaughter died in 1860. Though not a member of the Quakers, Thomas Hansell's death is noted in the Darby Monthly Meeting Records 1784-1898 (available at ancestry.com)

Visit the Friends of Mount Moriah Cemetery website to learn the problematic history of this graveyard. http://friendsofmountmoriahcemetery.org/about/recent-history/

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania has indexed the burials at Mt. Moriah (which includes searchable lots). Also the Mt. Moriah burial book is at ancestry.com.

Hansell entries in the Mt. Moriah database located at the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania follow.

Mt. Moriah Cemetery - Section 41, Lot 79:

1.	HANSEL	Thomas	1865	JUL	11	41	79
2.	HANSELL	Edwin	1871	MAR	9	41	79
3.	HANSELL	Sarah	1860	DEC	21	41	79

- 1. Thomas **Hansell**. b. 1786 d. 7-6-1865
- 2. and 3. are the children of Thomas Hansell's son Edwin Hansell

Mt. Moriah Cemetery - Section 33, Lot 36

Rec#	Last	First	Year	Month	Day	Sect.	Lot	Grave
1.	H(???)ELL	Thomas J	1914	AUG	7	33	36	
2.	HANSEL	?	1865	JUL	12	33	36	S. W. 1/4
3.	HANSELL	Geo. W.	1937	OCT	5	33	36	SW 1/4
4.	HARTMAM	Sam'L. H.	1933	APR	3	33	36	SE 1/4
5.	HARTMAN	Emma	1915	JUN	6	33	36	S.E. 1/4
6.	HARTMAN	Hannah A.	1867	AUG	1	33	36	S. E. 1/4
7.	HARTMAN	Kati	1871	JUN	22	33	36	S. E.1/4
8.	POWERS	Annie	1865	JUN	14	33	36	N. W. 1/4
9.	RAMBO	Adeline	1901	Aug	9	33	36	NE 1/4
10.	RAMBO	Annie H.	1865	DEC	27	33	36	N. E. 1/4
11.	RAMBO	Emeline	1916	DEC	4	33	36	NE 1/4
12.	RAMBO	Henry	1888	SEP	29	33	36	NE 1/4
13.	RINBO	Daird Snyder	1879	JUN	1	33	36	N. E. 1/4

Thomas Jefferson Hansell is a grandchild of Peter David Hansell, Jr. (1773-1845) and his wife Anne Walters.

- 1. Thomas Jefferson Hansell b. 11-24-1835 d. 8-4-1914
- 2. Rachel Hansell, b. 1837 d. 7-9-1865 (wife of Thomas Jefferson Hansell)
- 3. George Washington Hansell, b. 7-5-1861 d. 1937 (child of Thomas and Rachel)

I did not look into the following Hansells.

Last	FirstLast	Year	Month	Day	Sect.	Lot	Grave
HANSEL	Rose L	1878	May	31	star	A	
HANSEL	Sarah	1902	AUG	20	116	34	
HANSELL	(Sbc)	1918	MAR	16	12	13	
HANSELL	Amy S.	1916	DEC	30	42	9	SW 1/4
HANSELL	Elizabeth	1876	JAN	24	42	84	
HANSELL	Emma	1915	OCT	21	200	69	
HANSELL	Herbert	1901	OCT	29	210	91	
HANSELL	John	1907	MAR	3	210	91	
HANSELL	John	1907	Mar	3	210	91	
HANSELL	John	1917	FEB	19	STAR	6	
HANSELL	John H.	1872	JUL	28			
HANSELL	John H.	1872	JUL	28			
HANSELL	John S	1956	Jan	28	141	43	NE 1/4
HANSELL	Margeret R	1881	DEC	10	Star	A	
HANSELL	Mary A.	1937	FEB	20	144	220	
HANSELL	Minnie E	1919	JUL	5	Star	6	
HANSELL	Susan	1919	DEC	9	12	13	
HANSELL	Willie	1881	DEC	13	210	91	