

NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)

Street address: **1834-1848 Frankford Avenue** **BRT/OPA Acct. No. 882966650**
Postal code: **19125** Councilmanic District: **1**

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington**
Common Name: **Mutual or Helverson's**

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building Structure Site Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: excellent good fair poor ruins
Occupancy: occupied vacant under construction unknown
Current use: **NA**

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a plot plan and written description of the boundary. **SEE ATTACHED SHEET.**

6. DESCRIPTION

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

Please attach a description of the historic resource and supplement with current photographs.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach the Statement of Significance.	[See Attached Sheet]
Period of Significance (from year to year): from	1832 to 1868
Date(s) of construction and/or alteration:	Founded 1832, Altered c1922
Architect, engineer, and/or designer:	German Immigrant Stonemasons.
Builder, contractor, and/or artisan:	Unknown
Original owner:	Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington
Other significant persons:	None

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or
- (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- X (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or**
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

9. NOMINATOR

Name with Title **Kenneth W. Milano** Email **kennethmilano@verizon.net**
 Organization **Historian** Date **4 April 2016.**
 Street Address **2313 E. York Street** Telephone **(215) 317-6466**
 City, State, and Postal Code: **Philadelphia, PA 19125**
 Nominator are **X** are not the property owners.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: ___ Original: 4/5/16, Revised: 4/14/16 _____
 Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: ___ 5/12/16 _____
 Date of Notice Issuance: ___ 5/13/16 _____
 Property Owner at Time of Notice
 Name: ___ AVC Real Estate LLP _____
 Address: ___ 113 Washington Ave _____

 City: ___ Philadelphia _____ State: ___ PA ___ Postal Code: ___ 19147 ___
 Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: _____
 Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____
 Date of Final Action: _____
 Designated Rejected

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is now known as 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue is related to the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington and the boundary description is as follows:

PREMISES "A"

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon erected SITUATE in the 18th Ward of the City of Philadelphia, BEGINNING at a point on the Northwest side of Frankford Avenue (60 feet wide) 38 feet, 1 inch Northeastwardly from the Northeast side of Berks Street (50 feet wide); thence extending Northeastwardly along said side of Frankford Avenue 12 feet, 6-1/4 inches to a point being in the said side of Frankford Avenue; thence extending Northeastwardly, still along said side of Frankford Avenue 85 feet, 10-3/4 inches, to a point; thence extending North 59 degrees, 19 minutes, 30 seconds, West 120 feet, 5/8 inches to a point in the Southeasterly side of Blair Street (34 feet wide); thence extending Southwestwardly, along same 103 feet 3-5/8 inches to a point in the bend on said Blair Street; thence extending still further Southwestwardly along the said side of Blair Street 7 feet 6-5/8 inches, to a point; thence extending Southeastwardly on a line parallel with said Berks Street 121 feet 6 inches, to the said Northwestwardly side of Frankford Avenue, being the point and place of beginning. BEING NOS. 1834-46 Frankford Avenue

Parcel No. 15N20-74

Tax Account No. 882966650



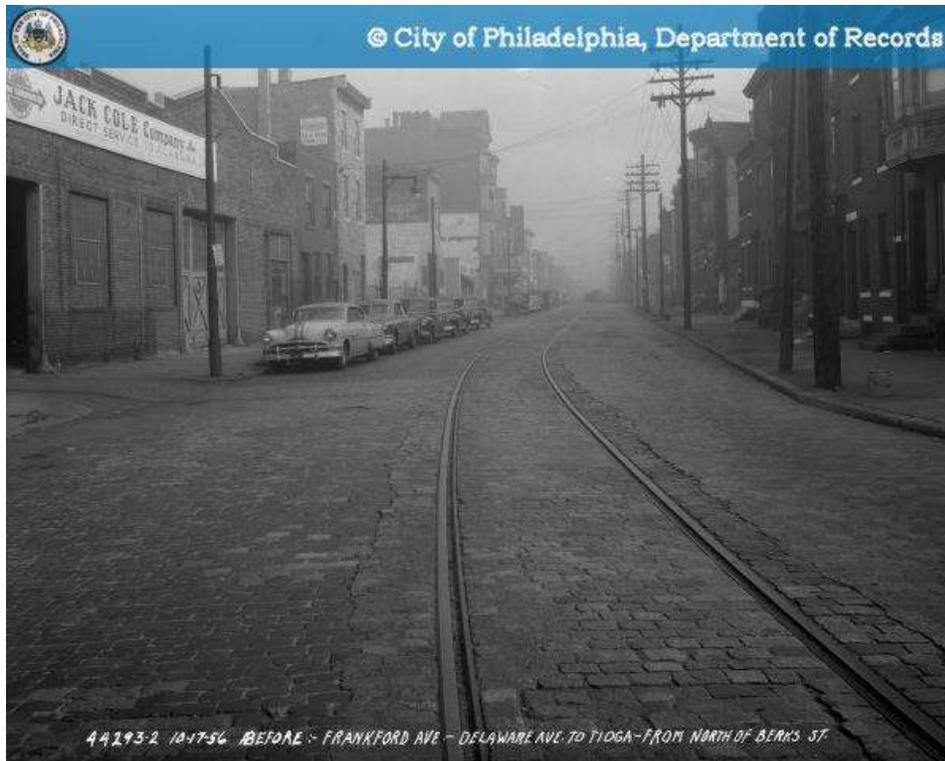
Proposed boundary of the subject nomination is outlined in red. Courtesy Philadelphia Water.



The area subject to the proposed designation is delineated by the area that falls within the red boundary line as proposed for designation. Courtesy Philadelphia Water.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The site of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington at 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue was home to the easterly portion of the subject cemetery and today is occupied by a one-story load bearing masonry garage or warehouse building that was constructed between 1923 and 1927. The building is situated on a flat parcel and was constructed upon a concrete pad that likely has a depth of 8 inches, with ground disturbance of perhaps 12 inches, with disturbance for surrounding foundation walls approximately 4 feet. The building appears not to have contained a basement, which was likely due unto the potential to encounter human remains related to the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, and intended purpose of the building as a garage. The garage structure reflects a modern vocabulary of the industrial age with vertically incised textured brick arranged in a restrained decorative pattern typical of the utilitarian building form of the 1920's. The double gabled and stepped parapet found on both the Frankford Avenue and rear façade follow two sets of trusses that span a generous open interior space. The building is currently occupied by the Philadelphia Sculpture Gym, a community based studio space for the learning and practice of sculpture arts.



1834-1848 Frankford Avenue, seen on left had side of this photo. Courtesy City of Philadelphia, Depart of Records, Aug 1956.



Similar photo to the above one, this one taken several months later, after the paving of Frankford Avenue with asphalt, 1834-1848 is located on left side of photo. Courtesy City of Philadelphia, Department of Records, December 1956.

1834-1848 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
View in app/website



1834-1848 Frankford Avenue looking southward on Frankford Avenue. This photo was taken before the addition of the 2013 Mural Arts project mural on the north exterior wall (as seen in photo below of Roman Blazic). Courtesy Google Earth.



Front view of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue. Today used as tire and auto repair shop in the southern half of the building, with the northern portion used by "Sculpture Gym," an artist fabrication and instructional business. Courtesy of Ken Milano.



Rear portion of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue facing Blair Street. Courtesy of Ken Milano.



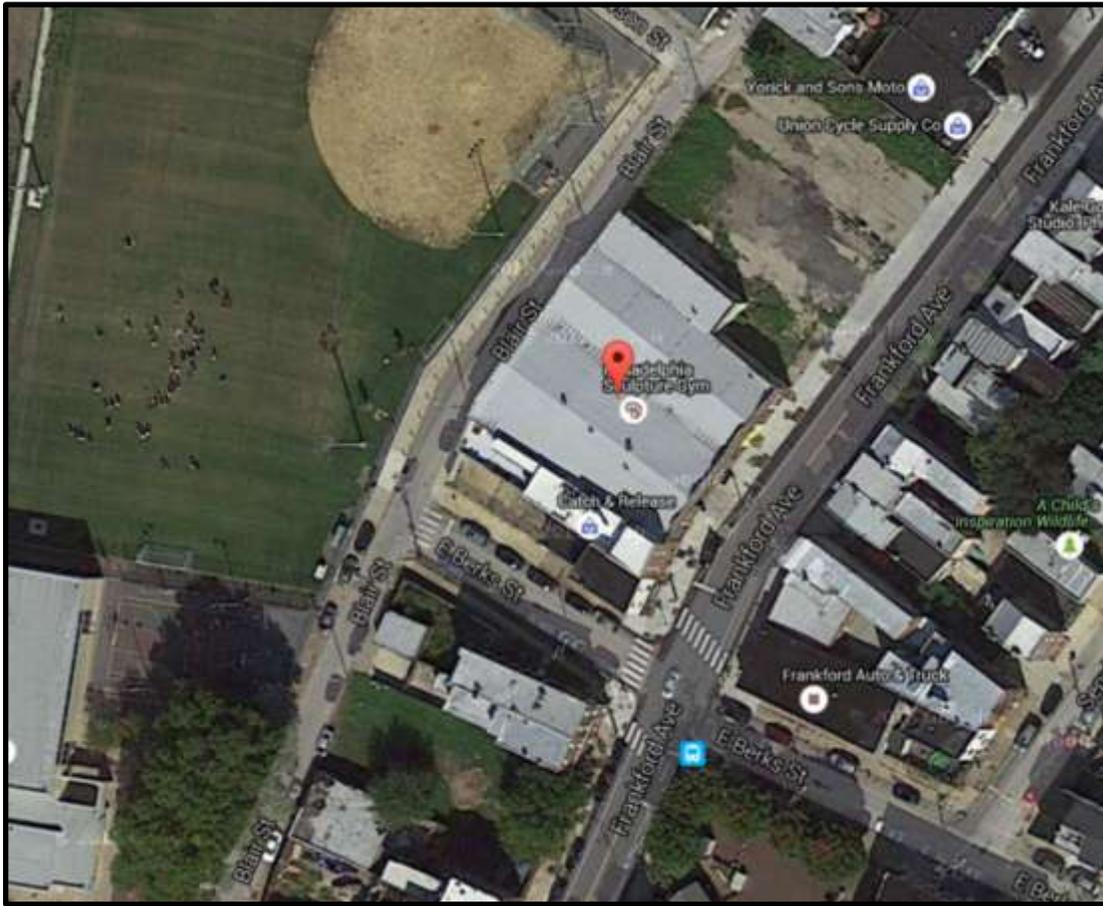
Interior of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue, northern half is used currently by the “Sculpture Gym,” an artist fabrication and instruction business, with the southern half used for an auto & radiator repair shop. Courtesy of Sculpture Gym.



Interior of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue, northern half is used currently by the "Sculpture Gym," Courtesy Sculpture Gym.



Northern wall of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue, showing Mural Arts project, Artists Michael Konrad and Brad Carney and their team of student artists. Courtesy Roman Blazic, Philadelphia Sculpture Gym Blog, August 2013.



Aerial view of the locality of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington. Courtesy Google Earth.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington at 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Located in the Fishtown neighborhood of the larger Kensington District, the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington satisfies Criteria for Designation i as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code. The burial ground is located in one of Philadelphia's oldest neighborhoods, a community that was laid out in the 1730s. The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington:

- (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history;

Criterion I

A surviving plot deed within the archive of the Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church proves that this cemetery was officially known as the “Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington”, stating

that it was situated on the westerly side of Frankford Avenue. Surviving maps further the case that the cemetery was, in fact, located, in part at the site of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue. The Mutual Burial Ground is known to have occupied the subject site in part. The cemetery was presumably moved (or not) at some point between 1913 and the 1920s, but there is a high probability that human remains are extant at the site.¹ The cemetery still appeared as late as 1913 on the atlases for Philadelphia. As a result the site of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington at 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue may be likely to yield important information in history & archaeology and to the cultural understanding of the community.

The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington lies sealed under the buildings at 1834-1846 Frankford Avenue as well as under part of the 1800 block of Blair Street and parts of the City of Philadelphia's Kensington Recreation Center (a.k.a. Shissler Recreation Center) addressed at 1800-1856 Blair Street.

We know little about how the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington may have been laid out or landscaped, as no maps, illustrations, or photographs have yet been located. However, the burial ground has consistently been surveyed and included in almost every 19th Century and early 20th Century atlas for the city of Philadelphia between the years 1849 to 1922. Like Bethel Burying Ground in South Philadelphia, Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington was likely stopped being used in the 1860s, as the latest death certificate found thus far for a burial at this cemetery was dated 1868.²

By 1922 the western portion of the cemetery had the Kensington Recreation Center built over the cemetery; as well the eastern half had the 1800 block of Blair Street built over it. Soon after this sometime between 1923 and 1929, the structures at 1834-1846 Frankford Avenue were also built over the eastern part of the cemetery. These structures (garages) do not appear on the Bromley Atlas of 1922, but do appear on an aerial map of 1930 (see below). The parts of the burial sealed by the Kensington Recreation Center and Blair Street are currently being preserved in place by their usage, however the structures at 1834-46 Frankford Avenue are not protected and give the possibility of this portion of the burial ground being disturbed, thus this nomination focuses on the eastern portion of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington that lies under the properties of 1834-1836 Frankford Avenue. Any digging that may have previously taken place on this site would have been shallow and not likely to reach the depth of human remains. An approximate 8" concrete pad was installed as the floor of the garages on Frankford Avenue with no basement. Foundation walls for these structures would have only required being about four feet in depth.

The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington today may have been abused and protected by various city agencies and contractors, and users of the recreational space, buildings, and street built over it, but in South Philadelphia, Bethel Cemetery is a prime example of how structures and a recreation center was built on top of a cemetery without the bodies being removed. If memory of Mutual of Kensington burials persisted into the 20th Century, it had little or no effect on the City of Philadelphia and private contractors' plans for the use of this site. Further study of this burial

ground through archaeological investigations, is likely to help us understand how these urban graveyards were redeveloped as playgrounds, streets, and building lots. Investigations at Mother Bethel Burying Ground in South Philadelphia in 2013, found that intact burial remains were identified in shallow graves, at depths of between 2.5 and 3 feet below the surface.³

As of this date the names of 114 mostly German American Philadelphians have been identified who were buried at Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, as per copies of the cemetery returns, which are furnished in Appendix A of this application. This number is only a small sampling of 18 different weeks over a 36 year period (1832-1868). This sampling avoided the Kensington Cholera years of 1832 and 1849, excepting one burial in 1832, which was the earliest burial found thus far for Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington.⁴

Using this 18 week sampling, we find there were 114 burials, or an average of 6.3 burials per week. Some slow weeks saw 1 or 2 burials, other busier weeks found 10, 12, even 23 burials in a single week. At an average of 6.3 burials per week, the cemetery would have seen a yearly burial rate of 329. Given the fact that the cemetery operated from at least the fall of 1832 to the fall of 1868, a thirty-seven year period, there is potentially upwards of over 10,000 burials, assuming that number of burials could actually fit into this cemetery, more likely, the cemetery may hold approximately several thousand at most.

The attached Appendix A gives the names and dates of these 114 deaths and burials at Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington that has been found thus far. Further research would likely yield much larger numbers.

Letters of support for preservation of this cemetery from descendants of some of those identified as being buried at Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington are included in Appendix B of this application. These individuals represent people who have actively researched their ancestry and have identified their ancestors as being buried at Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington. They have never been able to find any records of their ancestor being removed from Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington and reinterred elsewhere.

The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington and those that are buried there represents part of the German American culture of the second and third quarters of Nineteenth Century Philadelphia. Many of those who are interred were residents of Kensington and the Northern Liberties area. Historian Russell A. Kazel in his book “Becoming Old Stock: The Paradox of German-American Identity” states that:

*“More Americans trace their ancestry to Germany than to any other country. Arguably, German Americans form America’s largest ethnic group. Yet that fact could easily elude the casual observer of American life. Today, comparatively few signs remain of the once formidable political clout, organizational life, and ethnic consciousness of German Americans. Over the twentieth century, the ethnicity that went by that label underwent what the historian Kathleen Conzen calls a ‘thorough submergence.’ ”*⁵

In Kazel's book mentioned above, he studied what he called the "Girard Avenue Corridor," which straddled the Kensington and Northern Liberties neighborhoods.⁶ The opportunity to conduct archaeological research on a predominantly German American cemetery would help to expose this lost Philadelphia ethnicity. The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington is of archaeological importance for the German-American community, much like the more famous Bethel Cemetery was for the African-American community. Like Bethel Cemetery, Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington offers the opportunity for "scientists to examine from a multidisciplinary biocultural perspective the health, diet, lifestyles, living conditions and diseases" of an urban German American population. It especially offers "a physical anthropological exploration" of the German American "skeletal biology in the assessment of health and disease status in antebellum Philadelphia."⁷

Any archaeological investigations would likely "reveal important burial customs, funeral practices and perhaps spiritual beliefs of this population. Burial practices tend to be among the most conservative or least changed factors of a group's material culture. The oldest and most persistent values are sometimes preserved only in cemeteries."⁸ The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington has the distinct importance of being relatively undisturbed, as the graves of 1834-46 Frankford Avenue sit only on a concrete slab about 8" in depth. The shift from burial ground to a concrete slab floor of the garages had the advantage of very little digging or excavation occurring on the property, thus sealing the cemetery underground.

Using traditional archaeological methods in combination with forensic osteology, one could assess the age, sex, stature, and pathological conditions of individuals. In addition, information pertaining to physiological stress, nutrition, and activity patterns could also possibly be determined, furthering our knowledge of historic lifeways.



Sarah Ann Cassady, died 26 Oct 1832 of Marasmus and buried at the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington. This is the earliest cemetery return found for this cemetery. Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915. Database with images, familysearch.org, viewed 11 April 2016.

Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington as a Cemetery Type

Like a number of cities along the Atlantic seaboard, Philadelphia began a movement of building cemeteries outside the city proper in the 1820s. For Philadelphia before 1854, this meant either north of Vine Street, or south of South Street. In New York City, the City Council banned burials south of Canal Street, the built up district, in 1823. In 1826, the City of Boston passed an ordinance ending burials in many of the city's established burial grounds. While Boston "emphasized aesthetics and played on nascent populism," the City of New York "stressed sanitation and thought about real estate." In Philadelphia, all of these ideas came into consideration. In the mid-1820s, a "particular set of social economic circumstances supplied their own distinctive rationale" for reforming burial ground practices in Philadelphia.⁹

With the changing of the American economy from farming to Industrial Capitalism, more and more workers became dependent on wage labor, which also made for a more unstable livelihood. In a down economy many more people felt the sting of poverty. While Philadelphia at this time was well-known for its charitable institutions, in the 1820s their views began to change as there were many more poorer people in the city during a downturn in the economy. The wealthier classes started to view the poor differently, with the idea that their troubles were caused more by their own "personal judgment" and "not divine will or happenstance."¹⁰

When the poor or working people found themselves in a situation where they needed to bury a loved one, they naturally looked to their local church graveyard, as this had been the tradition. However, with changing attitudes towards the poor, even amongst church officials, the poor more and more found they were told that their pew rents had to be paid up to date before burial would be allowed, or they would have to go to the "potter's field" for the poor. As well, the decrease in the available spaces in the older Philadelphia churchyards became a key factor in the increasing cost of a churchyard burial, making the once traditional churchyard burial out of the reach of many ordinary working class families, not to mention the laboring poor. A burial at an established church like Christ Church in Philadelphia cost at this time slightly over \$100.00, plus additional fees.¹¹

These attitudes of Philadelphia's wealthier class, when added to the trend of increasing costs for churchyard burials, lent to an era in the 1820s that saw the rise of non-religious beneficial association cemeteries, or "mutual burial grounds" as they came to be called. These cemeteries were founded in the outlying districts of the city proper, where the land was cheaper, greater, and for sanitary reasons, away from the majority of the population of Philadelphia.

During the period of 1826 and 1834, there were five different burial grounds established along the southern border of the City of Philadelphia, one in the District of Southwark, and four in Moyamensing Township. All five of these cemeteries were set up for the "lower or middling classes" and all lacked religious affiliation. All of these cemeteries acted as beneficial associations.¹²

While these five cemeteries were being founded south of Philadelphia proper, similar ideas were being brought into practice north of the city proper in Kensington. In Kensington, there were at least three beneficial association cemeteries founded during this same time period: Union Burial Ground of the Northern Liberties and Kensington (1831), Union Harmony Burial Ground (1831), and Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington (1832).¹³

Almost all of the men involved in the founding of these three cemeteries lived in the Northern Liberties neighborhood and not in Kensington, even though the cemeteries were located in Kensington. Kensington was an even more outlying district, Northern Liberties being adjacent the city property, and thus Kensington had more open space for newer cemeteries. In the case of Union Harmony Burial Ground and the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, both cemeteries had some of the same individuals involved in their founding and operations (Christopher Dillman, James McCormack, Jacob Coleman, and Nicholas Helverson).¹⁴ Being from the Northern Liberties and having the cemeteries located in Kensington, the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington tended to draw large numbers of members from the German element of both Kensington and the Northern Liberties.

If not for the mutual beneficial burial grounds, the residents of Kensington would have been hard pressed for options for burials. There was the old Kensington Burial Ground (a.k.a Palmer Cemetery) for those that had no money, as it was bequest to the community by the Palmer family (founders of Kensington) in 1765, but you still needed to pay for the burial and you did not “own” your lot and there was no guarantee that you would be buried next to, or even with your loved ones. The only other two main burial grounds in the area for residents were the two oldest churches, Kensington Methodist Episcopal and First Presbyterian Kensington. Both of the graveyards of these churches were fast filling up as the population grew and the churches expanded, consuming parts of their old churchyards.¹⁵

Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1801, first sought out a new burial ground in 1825. In 1826, First Presbyterian Church of Kensington, the second oldest church in Kensington, was already approaching the trustees of the Kensington Burial Ground (a.k.a Palmer Cemetery) to see if they could purchase plots there (they were rejected) as their original yard was becoming full. In 1834 First Presbyterian stated that only those who were pew holders for three months with a quarter of their dues paid up could be buried in their churchyard. Eventually, First Presbyterian had to purchase a lot on Palmer Street near the Kensington Burial Ground to accommodate the overflow from their original cemetery next to their church.¹⁶

With the new mutual burial grounds both north and south of the city proper, individuals and families were able to purchase family plots for as little as \$10.00,¹⁷ compared to Christ Church’s \$100.00. As might be expected, the mutual grounds became very popular amongst the working classes of Philadelphia becoming part of the historic fabric and culture of the communities.

This constitutes one Certificate. To be returned to the Health Office, on Saturday of each week, before 12 M.

RETURN OF A DEATH
IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.
PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE.

1. Name of Deceased, *Andrew Stoops*
2. Colour, *White*
3. Sex, *Male*
4. Age, *Eight Months and five days*
5. Married or Single, *Single*
6. Date of Death, *September the Twentieth 1868*
7. Cause of Death, *Inflammation of the spinal cord*
Cecilia O'Hanell M.D.
Residence, *2368 Frankford Road.*

UNDERTAKER'S CERTIFICATE, IN RELATION TO DECEASED.

8. Occupation,
9. Place of Birth, *Phila*
10. When a Minor, { Name of Father, *And Andrew Stoops*
Name of Mother, *Kate Kate*
11. Ward, *14th*
12. Street and Number, *424 E. Bergeant St*
13. Date of Burial, *Sep 23rd*
14. Place of Burial, *Mutual Ground*
Anthony C. Hokey Undertaker.
Residence, *2252 Frankford Rd*

Andrew Troop, 8 months, 5 days old, died of inflammation of spinal cord on 20 Sept 1868, buried at Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington on 23 Sept 1868. This represents the latest burial record that has been found thus far for this cemetery. Courtesy: Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915. Database with images, FamilySearch.org, viewed 11 April 2016.

Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington as seen in the Historical Atlases & Maps of Philadelphia, 1849-1922.

Surviving within the archive of the Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church, a plot deed shows the cemetery subject to this nomination was officially called the “*Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington.*” This deed stated that it was situated on the “westerly side of Frankford Avenue.”¹⁸ The deed is dated 27 July 1833, was made out by Jacob Coleman and James McCormick, acting on behalf of the cemetery, to a man by the name of John Clemens. The lot was stated to be “No. 89” marked in a plan or draft of the cemetery. Coleman is described as a “Dry Goods Merchant” and McCormick a “Boot & Shoe Maker.” Both of the men were described as being “*of the Northern Liberties, of the City of Philadelphia.*” To this no plan or map of the cemetery has been found.

The cemetery plot deed described above stated that the “Grantee” who was purchasing the lot was to use the lot for burial purposes only and that no “person of colour or those who have been publicly executed” could be buried in the lot—this stipulation was the same for the nearby Hanover Street Burial Grounds (today’s Columbia Avenue & Thompson Street).

Sidney 1849



J.C. Sidney Atlas, 1849. Courtesy PhillyGeo History Network.

Sidney’s “*Map of the City of Philadelphia Together with All the Surrounding Districts,*” published by Smith & Wistar in 1849, shows Mutual of Kensington listed as “Burying Ground.”¹⁹ Sidney has the cemetery taking up an entire very large block from Montgomery

Street up to Norris Street and from the west side of Frankford Avenue back to Trenton Avenue. The Sidney map shows Trenton Avenue going farther south than it currently does today. Instead of stopping at Norris Street as it does today, Trenton Avenue goes further south through to Cherry (today's Montgomery) Street to the old Kensington Railroad Depot. Sidney's map is the earliest reference to the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington seen on a published map that this author was able to find.

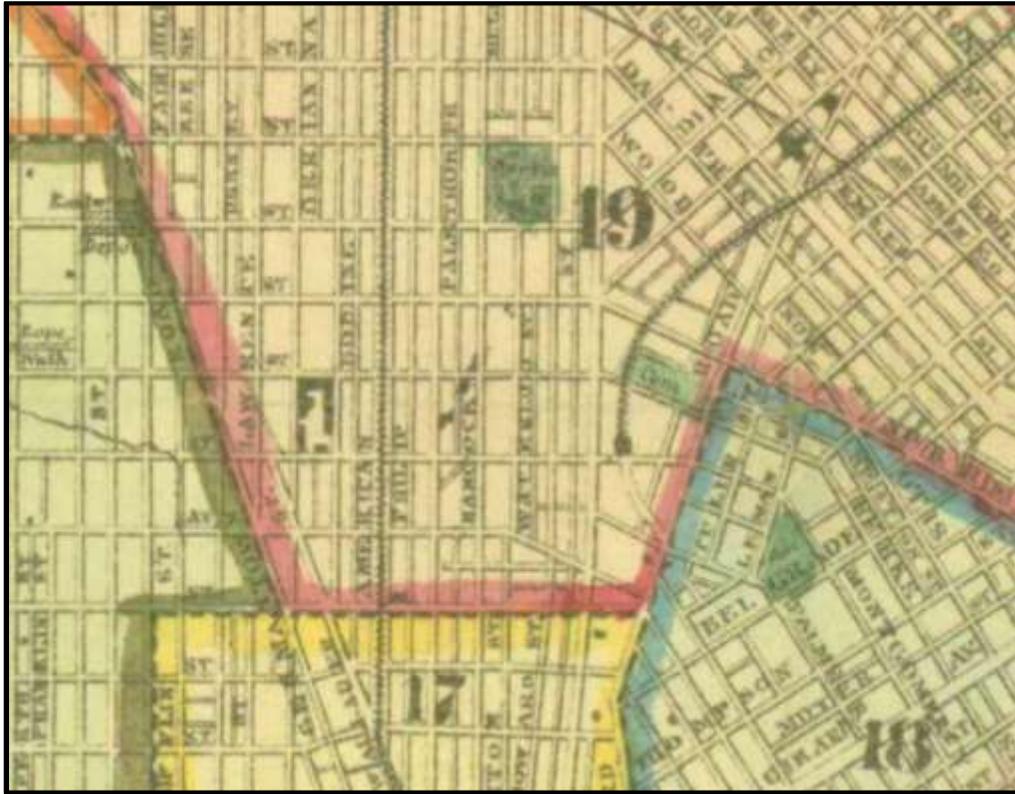


Aerial view of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue structure (with red note pegged) with an overlay in red of cemetery boundaries according to the 1849 Sidney Map, showing the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington sits under the entire property at 1834-48 Frankford Avenue. Courtesy Google Maps

Smedley 1861

Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington also shows up twelve years later on Smedley's 1861 map²⁰, where it has it labeled as "Cem" and colored green. The boundaries are from the west side of Frankford Avenue, back to the railroad tracks on Trenton Avenue, and from the north side of Berks north to a small unnamed street roughly equivalent to Hewson Street if Hewson Street

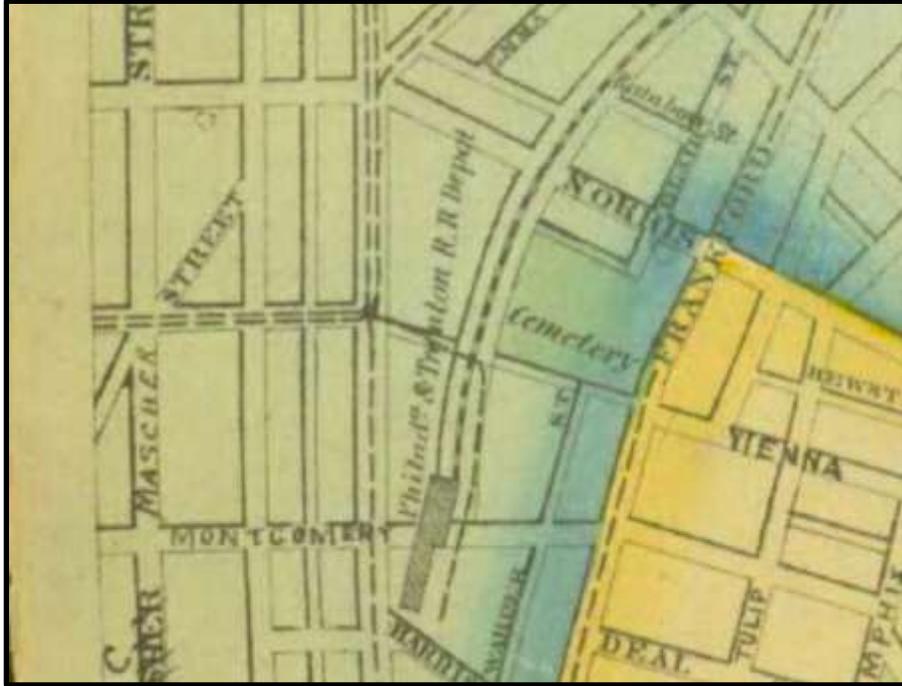
went through Frankford Avenue today. On the map below the cemetery is visible south and east of the large number “19” and adjacent to the railroad tracks.



Samuel L. Smedley Atlas, 1861. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Barnes 1865

When R. L. Barnes published his map of Philadelphia for the year 1865 he included Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington and lists it as “Cemetery.”²¹ The boundaries Barnes gives are from the west side of Frankford Avenue, to the railroad tracks, and from Vienna (Berks) Street up to Norris Street. The northwest corner of the area is separated out with a small as yet unnamed street taking out that northwest corner, cutting into the block like a right angle.



R.L. Barnes Atlas, 1865. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Hexamer 1867



Ernest Hexamer, 1867. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Two years later, in 1867, R.L. Barnes published a map of Philadelphia that was created by Ernest Hexamer.²² This map shows the same dimensions of the cemetery as in 1865, from Berks Street north to Norris, Frankford west to Trenton. The northwest corner of the block shows Blair Street (as the street formerly unnamed) cutting into that area of the block, thus creating the odd shaped cemetery. It is labeled as “Cemetery.”

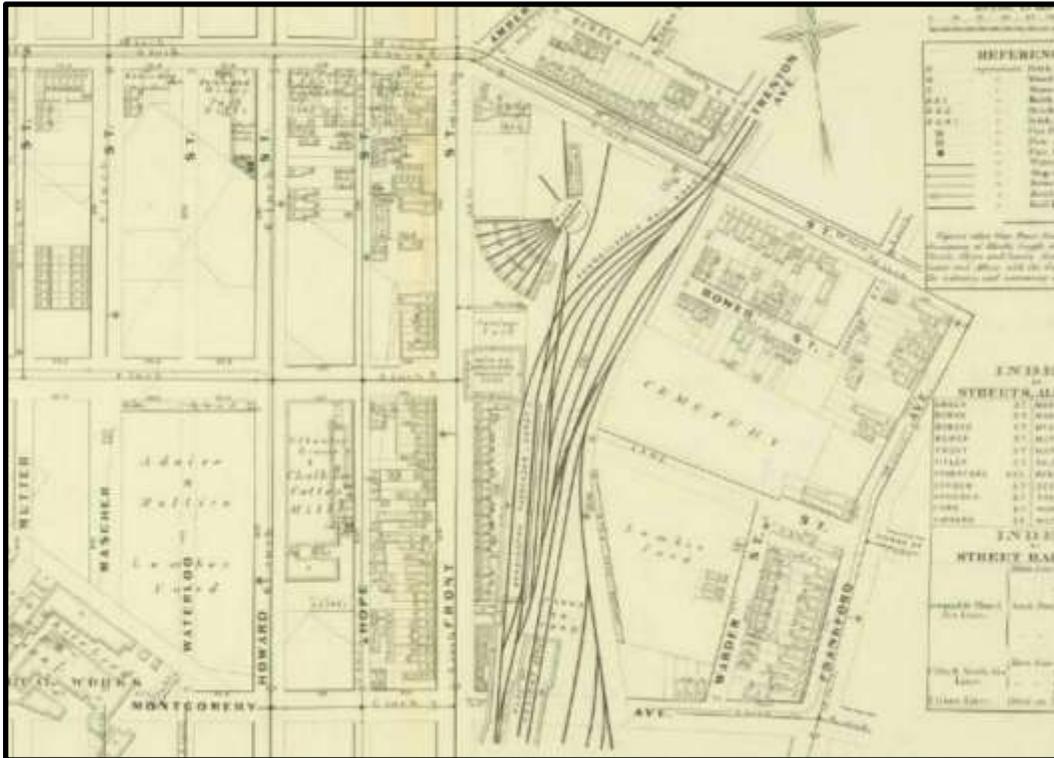


Aerial view of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue structure (with red note pegged) with an overlay in red of cemetery boundaries according to the 1867 Hexamer Map, showing the southeast corner of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington sits under the entire garage structure at 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue Courtesy Google Maps

Jones 1874

The second volume of G.H. Jones’s Atlas of Philadelphia for 1874²³, covering the Nineteenth Ward of Philadelphia, shows a good outline of the cemetery and labels it simply as “Cemetery.” Below the cemetery, on the ground that had previously been shown as part of the cemetery, there is a lumberyard and “Young’s Rope Walk.” The cemetery sat three house lots south of the old Bower Mansion, a colonial mansion not taken down until the YMCA was built in the later part of the nineteenth century. There were two buildings at the northwest corner of Berks Street and Frankford Avenue. These buildings were three-story brick homes and not part of the cemetery. Behind these two homes was the cemetery. The cemetery was accessed via Berks Street. Today’s

Blair Street would have dissected the cemetery on its eastern edge, leaving a substantial part of the cemetery under the garages that were later built in the 1920s at 1834-46 Frankford Avenue.



G.H. Jones & Co., 1874. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Hopkins 1875

The Hopkins Atlas of 1875 for Philadelphia shows the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington as being part of the estate of W.T. McNeely.²⁴ It is listed as “Est of Wm. T. McNeely.” McNeely owned the old cemetery lot, as well as the lot between Berks and Montgomery, on the west side of Blair Street (then known as Warder), running back to the railroad depot.

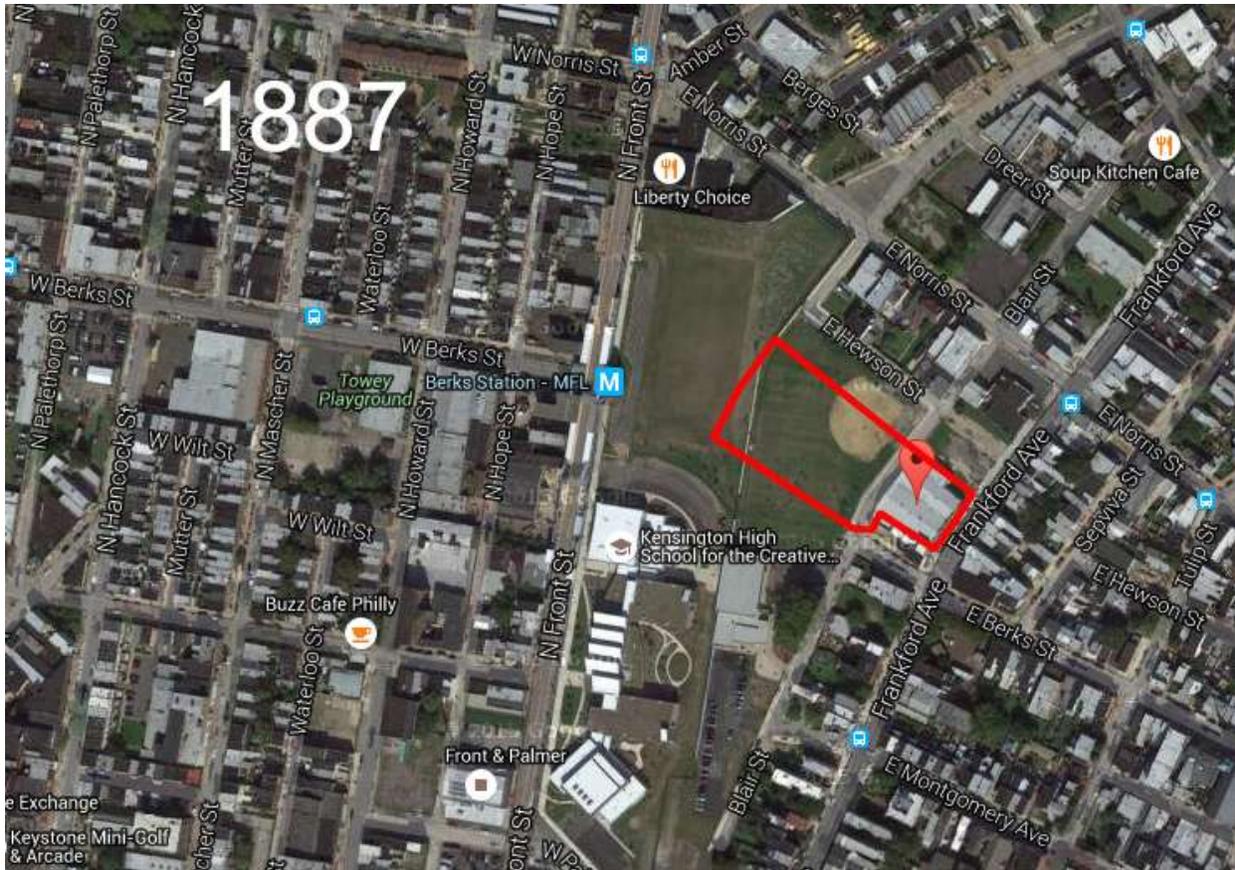
In April 1832, Jacob Coleman, dry goods merchant, and James McCormack, shoemaker, of Northern Liberties, bought the property that would become Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington from the Warder estate (the Warders inherited the land from ancestors who bought it in the 1730s from Anthony Palmer, the founder of Kensington).²⁵ The property was subject to a mortgage debt but McCormack and Coleman were given power to subdivide the property but the income from any property sale had to be divided among Coleman, McCormack, Christopher Dillman, of Northern Liberties, dentist, Nicholas Helverson, of Northern Liberties, cabinet maker, and George W. Coleman, of Northern Liberties, drygoods merchant. Nicholas Helverson eventually took over the cemetery. Besides being a cabinet maker, he was also a well-known undertaker from the Northern Liberties, whose sons followed him into the business. William T. McNeely eventually bought out the interests in the property of all of these men by the 1850s.

Bromley 1887



G.W. Bromley & Co., 1887. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

When the Bromleys' published their atlas of Philadelphia in 1887, they showed the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington listed as "Cemetery – Est. William T. McNeely."²⁶ The dimensions of the cemetery were similar to Jones 1874 map of the area, with Blair Street not yet cut through the cemetery.



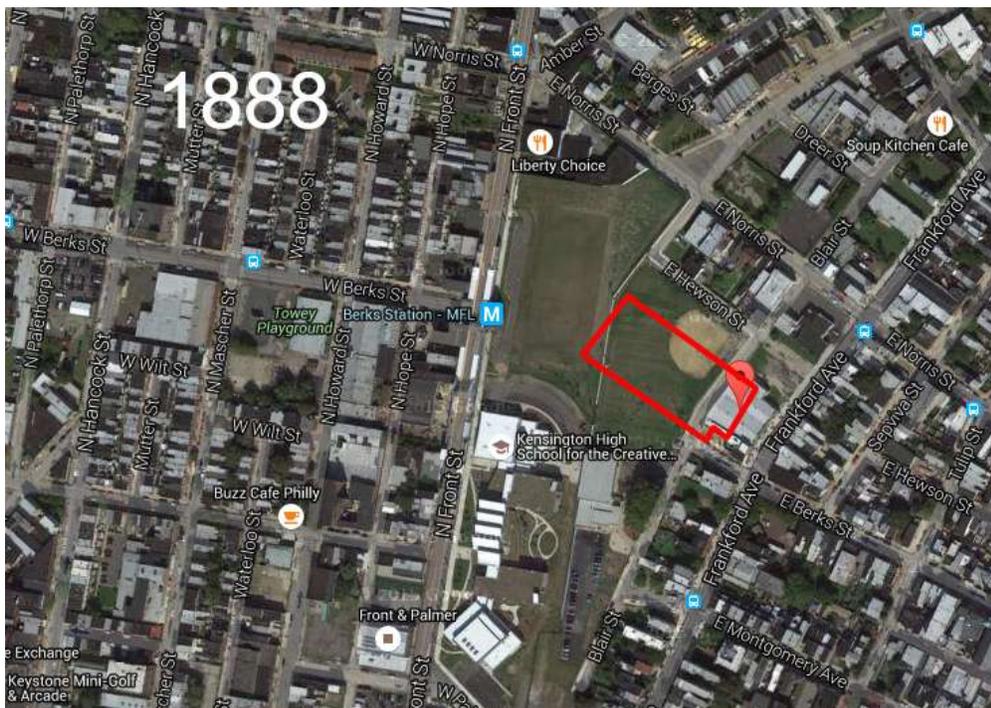
Aerial view of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue structure (with red note pegged) with an overlay in red of cemetery boundaries according to the 1887 Bromley Map, showing the eastern edge of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington sits under the garages at 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue. Courtesy Google Maps

Baist 1888

The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington was still shown on Baist's Property Atlas of the City of Philadelphia published in 1888.²⁷ It is shown as sitting back from Frankford Avenue, on the north side of Berks Street, with the Kensington Depot on the western border and some buildings along Bower Street on the northern border. A small street called Maple dead-ends into the northern border of the cemetery. This Maple Street was previously called Trenton Avenue before Trenton was shortened by the expansion of the Kensington Depot. Blair Street is still not yet cut through the cemetery, the borders being the same as the Jones 1874 map and the Bromley 1887 map.



G. William Baist, 1888. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



Aerial view of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue structure (with red note pegged) with an overlay in red of cemetery boundaries according to the 1888 Baist Map, showing the eastern edge of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington sits under the back half of the garages on 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue. Courtesy Google Maps

Sheidt 1892

J. E. Sheidt, a draughtsman, created an “Atlas of the City of Philadelphia by Wards” in 1892.²⁸ On the section of the 19th Ward; Sheidt showed the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington and listed it as “Cemetery.” The borders were the same as previously seen in Jones 1874, Bromley 1887, and Baist in 1888.



J.E. Shiedt, 1892. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Baist 1895 & Bromley 1895

On both the Baist²⁹ and Bromley³⁰ Atlases of 1895 for Philadelphia, it shows an empty lot that was previously called a cemetery. The lot is not labeled, simply a blank space. Berks Street has now been vacated between today's Blair Street, at that time known as Warder, and the Kensington Depot lot. Blair Street still has not been cut through the cemetery lot. The eastern edge of the cemetery lot is clearly shown (as it was in 1874, 1887 and 1888) to be where Blair Street would be cut through later on, allowing an ample portion of the cemetery left over to sit in the lot between Blair and Frankford Avenue, on the property were the garages would later be built in the 1920s.

Bromley 1901

The Bromley Atlas of 1901 still shows a blank lot, with no label or indication of what it is being used for.³¹ The dimensions are the same as the Bromley Atlas of 1895. Blair Street is still not cut through the cemetery lot.

Smith 1904

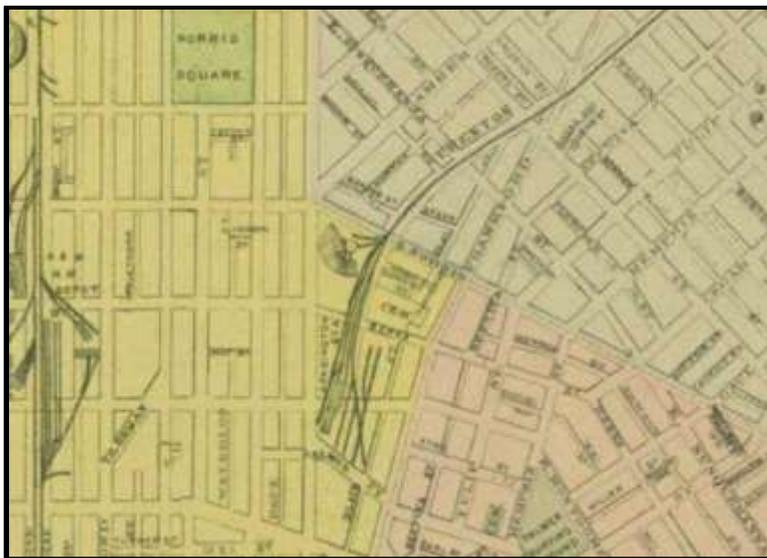
The 1904 Atlas of the 18th, 19th & 31st Wards of the City of Philadelphia, published by J.L. Smith, shows the old cemetery lot now owned by Charles W. McNeeley, who also owned surrounding lots south of the old Mutual Kensington Burial Ground, on the west side of Blair Street running back to the railroad depot.³² Blair Street has still not been cut through the cemetery lot. Charles W. McNeely was one of the heirs of William T. McNeely. In 1905 there was a large settlement of the properties owned by the estate of Wm. T. McNeely, including the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington property.³³

Bromley 1910

The Bromley Atlas of 1910 still shows the cemetery lot as empty unlabeled space.³⁴ The dimensions are the same as they were previously seen 1895. Blair Street has still not been cut through the cemetery.

Smith 1913

J.L. Smith published a map of the City of Philadelphia in 1913.³⁵ On this map the cemetery lot is shown and is labeled “Cem.” for cemetery. It is unclear if Smith was borrowing from earlier maps, or actually did his own surveying, but the dimensions of the cemetery are similar to earlier maps dating back to 1895.



J.L. Smith, 1913. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Bromley 1922

By the time the Bromley Atlas of 1922 was published, Blair Street had finally been cut through. The western portion of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington lot had been pulled together with the two other lots that Charles W. McNeeley owned and converted into the “Kensington Playground,” today’s Shissler Recreation Center.³⁶ The lot covering 1834-1846 Frankford Avenue, now had a western border of Blair Street, thus the eastern edge of the cemetery was part of the Frankford Avenue lot. In 1922, there was nothing yet built on this lot.

1930 Aerial View

This circa 1930 aerial view of 1834-1848 Frankford Avenue structure (circled in black) shows that the garages have been built by 1930.³⁷



Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

Charles R. Barker, Philadelphia Cemetery Historian

According to Charles R. Barker’s monumental work “Register of the Burying Grounds of Philadelphia” an unpublished work located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the

Philadelphia County Board of Health's registers have burials for Mutual of Kensington from 1832 to 1860.³⁸

In 1859, Barker states there is reference to "Mutual, Frankford Road." In July 1846, there is one single report of twenty-three burials at "Helson's," which had previously reported only occasionally. The report for Mutual of Kensington is missing for this same time period, which caused Barker to believe that Mutual of Kensington at this time was being called "Helson's." Barker went on to state that a Mutual of Kensington report of 1832 was signed by "N. Helson"—the well-known undertaker Nicholas Helson who had his business on Fairmount Avenue in the Northern Liberties, but also controlled several burial grounds in the District of Kensington, including Hanover Burial Ground's "Union Harmony Burial Ground," and "Franklin Cemetery."

A death notice published in Philadelphia's *Public Ledger*³⁹ in December of 1849, calls Mutual of Kensington "Helson's Burial Ground, Frankford Road, above Harrison St., Kensington." Harrison Street is the old name for Palmer Street west of Frankford Avenue. The board of health has miscellaneous references to the cemetery as also being called "Mutual Family, Frankford Avenue below Norris Street."⁴⁰

The Closing and Removal of Cemeteries in Philadelphia

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries there are many examples of cemeteries being closed as the course of development spread across the older parts of the city. Though on paper there are often dates of the closing cemeteries and relocation of the associated human remains, there is an increasing record of evidence that most of these removals are incomplete. Thus far, no record has been found that Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington was closed and removed, but obviously it was closed, but were the human remains removed? From the late nineteenth through the course of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, stories have frequently appeared in newspapers about bodies being found at these various cemetery sites, which were thought to no longer contain human remains. Some notable examples of these incidents are:

- First African Baptist Church Cemetery, Eighth and Vine Streets
- German Reformed Church Cemetery, Franklin Square
- Mother Bethel Cemetery, Fourth and Catherine Streets
- Second Presbyterian Church Cemetery, National Constitution Center

In December of 2013 a work crew unearthed at least six pine coffins beneath the playground asphalt behind the William Dick Elementary School near 24th & Diamond Streets. Inside were human skeletal remains, left over from when the Odd Fellows Cemetery was "removed" in 1954 for the building of Raymond Rosen housing project and the school.⁴¹

More locally, in the Fishtown/Kensington area of Philadelphia where the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington is located, archaeological investigations revealed that the majority of the former

1st Presbyterian Church cemetery grounds today lay beneath an asphalt parking lot situated between I-95 and the former Chandler School building (now converted into apartments). A small portion of the burial ground plot, encompassing its far northeast corner, did extend into the current I-95 project area and was tested for the presence of intact graves during this investigation. Several intact burials were indeed found.⁴²

Kensington's Willard School, which opened in 2010, was halted when crews stumbled upon graves from a former cemetery there. Franklin Cemetery, founded in 1840 in Kensington (Elkhart & Helen Streets) was closed in 1947 and 8,000 bodies were said to have been removed. A recreation center was built on top of the former cemetery. In 2009 when the City of Philadelphia decided to close the recreation center and build a school in its place, it was determined that there were still approximately 300 bodies still buried at the location.⁴³

These are just a few examples wherein minor ground disturbance led to the recovery of human remains. These examples show that the incomplete removal of cemeteries was common for all classes of people and disproportionately affected the burial grounds of the poor and working classes. The Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington served a working class population and, no doubt, removal was less thorough.

Addendum to Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington Application for Historical Nomination

Board of Health Minutes, volume 1910-1921, 76.1, Board of Health Records, Record Group 76, City Archives of Philadelphia. Minutes of meeting for May 11, 1914.

A check of this record group from 1910 to 1921 revealed the following:

“11 May 1914: Removals from Mutual Burial Grounds, Frankford & Berks St., to Mt. Zion Cemetery, Del. Co., PA. Application of W.S. Helverson for permission to remove 200 bodies more or less, from Mutual Burial Grounds, Frankford Ave & Berks St., to Mt. Zion Cemetery, Delaware County, PA. Permission granted, price of permit to be Twenty Five Dollars”

While this removal of bodies from the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington request the removal of 200 bodies “more or less,” cemetery returns for this cemetery show there to be many more bodies buried at this location.

The earliest burial that was found was 1832, the latest 1868, giving the cemetery at least a thirty-six year history of use. A small sample of thirty-nine weeks of cemetery returns were looked at, randomly chosen between the years of 1832 and 1868, shows there were 247 burials, an average of six burials per week in these sample weeks. W. S. Helverson, a local undertaker, asking for a permit to remove “200 more or less” would appear to be far short of the projected number of bodies buried at this cemetery. Estimates put the number as high as 10,000, assuming the lot could hold that many. In all likelihood there were several thousand burials at this cemetery.

Footnotes:

1. Searches were conducted at the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas' Orphan Court for any record of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington. A search was first conducted in the Orphan Court indexes located at Philadelphia's City Hall, both by corporation name (Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington) and by individual surname of the men that owned the property during the cemetery's history, 1832 to 1868 and through the rest of the nineteenth century: Jacob Coleman, James McCormack, Christopher Dillman, Nicholas Helverson, George W. Coleman, and later after William T. McNeely purchased the property from these men, a search was conducted for McNeely and his son and heir Charles McNeely. While there were entries in the Orphan Court indexes for these men (except Dillman), after checking the actual docket books, which contain abstracts of the files, there was no mention of Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, nor any cemetery. Also, through email correspondence and telephone conversations, a search was conducted by Ms. Noël Stratton, CRGIS Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Museum & Historic Commission in the archives of the Pennsylvania State Archives. She found no evidence of the state archives holding any records related to the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington. Thus this cemetery appears to have somehow slipped through the cracks and the proper paper for its closing has been lost, or at worst, never existed, and the cemetery was not properly removed. Bethel Cemetery, which lies under Weccaoe Playground in South Philadelphia, is one such case

where the cemetery appears to have been simply paved over with a playground and the human remains never removed.

2. Barker, Charles R. A Register of the Burying-Grounds of Philadelphia. Volume II. H-Presb., Pp. 2, 93-95. Philadelphia, PA: Unpublished, 1944. Eight month old Andrew Stoop of East Sargent Street died on 20 Sept 1868 and was buried by Kensington undertaker Anthony Hookey of the 2200 block of Frankford Avenue at the Mutual Ground of Kensington.

3. Mooney, Douglas & Morrell, Kimberly. Phase IB Archaeological Investigations of the Mother Bethel Burying Ground, 1810 - Circa 1864 ER No. 2013-1516-101-A. Prepared for Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 2013. Pp. 1.5.

4. Philadelphia. Board of Health. Sanitary Committee. Statistics of Cholera: with the Sanitary Measures Adopted by the Board of Health Prior to, and During the Prevalence of the Epidemic in Philadelphia, in the Summer of 1849, Chronologically Arranged. Prepared by the Sanitary Committee, Approved by the Board, and Ordered for Publication, October 10th, 1849. Philadelphia: King & Baird, Printers, 9 Sansom Street. 1849. 62, [10] pp.

5. Kazel, Russell A. Becoming Old Stock: The Paradox of German-American Identity. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2004, Pp. 1.

6. Kazel, Russell A. Becoming Old Stock...Pp. 48-57.

7. Buckalew, Terry. Historical Nomination Application of Bethel Burying Ground, 404-411 Queen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Philadelphia Historical Commission, Philadelphia, PA, 14 June 2013. Section 6. Description, p. 2.

8. Buckalew, Terry. Historical Nomination Application of Bethel Burying Ground, 404-411 Queen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Philadelphia Historical Commission, Philadelphia, PA, 14 June 2013. Section 6. Description, p. 2.

9. Wunsch, Aaron Vickers. Parceling the Picturesque: "Rural" Cemeteries and Urban Context in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia. A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture in the Graduate Division of the University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2009. Pp. 24.

10. Wunsch, Aaron Vickers. Parceling the Picturesque... pp. 25.

11. Wunsch, Aaron Vickers. Parceling the Picturesque...pp. 29.

12. Wunsch, Aaron Vickers. Parceling the Picturesque...pp. 26.

13. Milano, Kenneth W. Palmer Cemetery and the Historic Burial Grounds of Kensington & Fishtown. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2011, pp.88, 103, 131.

14. Milano, Kenneth W. Palmer Cemetery and ...pp. 88-91, 130-134.

15. Milano, Kenneth W. Palmer Cemetery and...pp. 13-20, 116-127.

16. Milano, Kenneth W. Palmer Cemetery and...pp. 81, 122-123.

17. Wunsch, Aaron Vickers. Parceling the Picturesque...pp. 29.

18. Archive of the Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church, located at the church, Marlborough & Richmond Streets, Philadelphia, PA, 19125.

19. Sidney, J.C. Map of the City of Philadelphia together with all the surrounding Districts. Philadelphia, PA: Smith & Wistar, 1849.
20. Smedley, Samuel L. Map of Philadelphia (Reduced from Smedley's Complete Atlas of Philadelphia). Philadelphia, PA: 1861.
21. Barnes, R. L. Barnes Map of Philadelphia, 1865. Philadelphia, PA: 1865.
22. Hexamer, Ernest. Map of the Whole Incorporate City of Philadelphia, 1867; From actual surveys and official records. Philadelphia, PA: R. L. Barnes, 1867. Plate 4 - East Philadelphia.
23. Jones, G. H. & Co. Atlas of Philadelphia, Vol. 2, 19th Ward. Philadelphia, PA: G. H. Jones & Co., 1874. Plate 7.
24. Hopkins, G.M. City Atlas of Philadelphia, Vol. 6, Wards 2 through 20, 29 and 31. Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1875. Plate O.
25. Philadelphia Department of Records. Deed AM36_597, John H. Warder et al to Jacob Coleman & James McCormack, 16 April 1832.
26. Bromley, Geo. W & Walter S. Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 18th, 19th, and 31st Wards, 1887. Philadelphia, PA: Geo. W. & Walter S. Bromley, 1887. Plate K.
27. Baist, G. Wm. Baist's Property Atlas of the City and County of Philadelphia, Penna, complete in one volume, 1888. Philadelphia, PA: G. Wm. Baist, 1888. Plate 22.
28. Sheidt, J. E. Atlas of the City of Philadelphia by Wards. Philadelphia, PA: J.E. Sheidt 1892. Ward 19.
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30. Bromley, George W. & Walter S. Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 1895. Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1895. Plate 15.
31. Bromley, George W. & Walter S. Atlas of the City of Philadelphia; Complete in One Volume, 1901. Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1901. Plate 15.
32. Smith, J.L. Atlas of the 18th, 19th, & 31st Wards of the City of Philadelphia, 1904. Philadelphia, PA: J.L. Smith, 1904. Plate 11.
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37. Dallin Aerial Survey Co. Aerial Survey of Philadelphia, PA, 1930 (circa). Philadelphia, PA: Dallin Aerial Survey Co., c1930. Plate 10.

38. Barker, Charles R. A Register of the Burying-Grounds of Philadelphia. Volume II. H-Presb., Pp. 2, 93-95. Philadelphia, PA: Unpublished, 1944. [Manuscript volumes located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA]
39. *Public Ledger* (Philadelphia, PA), 18 Dec 1849, Page 2.
40. Barker, Charles R. A Register of the Burying-Grounds....., pp. 93-95.
41. Whelan, Aubrey. "City Attempts to identify those interred in caskets found in school playground," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7 December 2013, as viewed on 1 April 2016
http://articles.philly.com/2013-12-07/news/44868983_1_school-playground-willard-school-ditch
42. Digging I-85, as viewed on 1 April 2016:
<http://diggingi95.com/archaeological-sites/fishtown-one-site/>
43. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "A Tale of 47,000 Bodies, Final Resting Place Unknown" by Donna Shaw, 9 Oct 1988, as viewed 1 April 2016:
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Note on Maps & Atlases:

Except for the 1922 Bromley Atlas, all of the above referenced atlases and/or maps were viewed on 1 April 2016 at the Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network website:

<https://www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/>

Almost all of these same atlases and maps are available for viewing at the map room of the Central Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, located at 1900 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA.

APPENDIX A: Sampling of Philadelphia Board of Health – Cemetery Returns for Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, 1832-1868

of Kensington
INTERMENTS in the Mutual Burial Ground

from the *27th of Oct^r* to the *3rd of Nov^r*

NAMES.	AGE.	DISEASES.
<i>Sarah Ann Casady</i>	<i>14 Mo^s</i>	<i>Marasmus</i> <i>St. Helensian</i>

Sarah Ann Casady D^d
October 26th 1832 of Marasmus
aged one year & two
months

H. L.
Oct 28th

Thomas de Jours

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 3 Nov 1832, the first burial found for this cemetery.

INTERMENTS in the <i>Kensington Mutual Burial Ground</i>		
from the <i>7th</i>	to the <i>14th of Feb</i>	
NAMES	AGE	DISEASES
<i>Wm. Allen</i>	<i>1 yr</i>	<i>Parasitic</i>
<i>Wm. Paul</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs</i>	<i>Typhus fever</i>
<i>Wm. Paul</i>	<i>3 yrs</i>	<i>Scarlet fever</i>
		<i>Cholera</i>

*Died at home, at 11th & Locust
 near to 9th of Feb 1835
 Wm. Allen U.S.*

*At St. Paul died of Typhus Fever aged
 two years
 Phila Feb 12th 1835
 W. Griffiths*

*Died Feb 6th 1835 of scarlet fever the infant
 son of Mr. Reed aged 3 years
 Thos. & Smiley M.D.*

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 14 Feb 1835.

Enterments in the *Mutual* ^{of Kensington} Burial Ground,
 for the week ending *Jan 5th 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Wm E Mathias</i>	<i>1 Year</i>	<i>Hydrocephalis</i>
<i>Mrs Hewings Daughter</i>	<i>Still born</i>	<i>born</i>
		<i>St Helens</i>

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 5 Jan 1839

of Kensington
Interments in the Mutual Burial Ground,
 for the week ending *Jan. 12th 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Avelina Austin</i>	<i>10 M^o</i>	<i>Inflammation of brain</i>
<i>Abel Thomas</i>	<i>43 Y^s</i>	<i>Dropsy of Abdomen</i>
		<i>J. H. Hewson</i>

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 12 Jan 1839.

of Kensington
Enterments in the Mutual Burial Ground,
 for the week ending *Jan. 26th 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Miss Austin</i>	<i>2 Yrs</i>	<i>Scourge</i>
<i>Elizabeth Eldes</i>	<i>8 M^o</i>	<i>Inflammation of breast</i>
		<i>A. H. Johnson</i>

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 26 Jan 1839.

of Kensington
Interments in the Mutual Burial Ground,
 for the week ending *Feb 2nd 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Maria M. Jastan</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>Hydrothorix</i>
<i>James Glen</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis</i>
<i>W^m Smith son</i>	<i>Still born</i>	
		<i>J. H. Henson</i>

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 2 Feb 1839.

of Kensington
Interments in the Mutual Burial Ground,
 for the week ending *Feb 16th 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Ann Drain</i>	<i>35 Yrs</i>	<i>Paralysis</i>
<i>Emma Harvey</i>	<i>4 Yrs</i>	<i>Croup</i>
<i>Mrs Conway</i>	<i>Still born</i>	<i>Male Child</i>
<i>Henry Evans</i>	<i>9 M^{os}</i>	<i>Dropsy of brain</i>
<i>Margaret Rineman</i>	<i>32 Yrs</i>	<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis</i>
<i>Daniel N Stackhouse</i>	<i>6 days</i>	<i>Convulsions</i>
<i>Jacob Schwartz</i>	<i>39 Yrs</i>	<i>Phthisis hepatica</i>
		<i>N. Helms</i>

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 16 Feb 1839.

of Kensington
Interments in the Mutual Burial Ground,
 for the week ending *March 9th 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>John Henry Able</i>	<i>1 yr</i>	<i>Convulsions</i>
<i>Lydia French Still</i>	<i>born Male</i>	<i>Child</i>
<i>Joseph Pepsler</i>	<i>2 yrs</i>	<i>Carcinoma</i>
<i>Mrs Griffiths Son</i>	<i>6 weeks</i>	<i>Convulsions</i>
<i>Mrs Greaff Daughter</i>	<i>7 yrs</i>	<i>Croup</i>
<i>Robert Taylor</i>	<i>45 years</i>	<i>Consumption Dropsy St. Helinson</i>

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 9 March 1839.

of Kensington

Interments in the Mutual Burial Ground,
for the week ending *March 16th 1839*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Abijah Mitchell</i>	<i>10 M^o</i>	<i>Hydrocephalus</i>
<i>Henry D. Swann</i>	<i>27 Y^o</i>	<i>Consumption</i>
<i>Lydia French</i>	<i>18 Y^o</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
<i>John S. Phillips & Son</i>	<i>3 Weeks</i>	<i>Marasmus</i>
<i>Mary Perkins</i>	<i>70 Y^o</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>
<i>Rebecca Dehaen</i>	<i>82 Y^o</i>	<i>Bronchitis</i>
		<i>J. H. Hulse</i>

Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 16 March 1839.

of Kensington

Interments in the Mutual — Burial Ground,
for the week ending April 18th 1846

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
Samuel Rich	20 M ^r	Disease of Spine
W ^m Abbott	4 weeks	Convulsions
Stephen E. Volvaton	19 M ^r	Pneumonia
Mary Hinkle	23 y ^s	Pulmonary Consumption
Emma Hall	3 year	Small Pox & Cholera

Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 18 April 1846.

Enterments in the *Melcorson* Burial Ground,
for the week ending *July - 18th 1846 -*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
<i>Mrs Summers daughter</i>	<i>2 Weeks</i>	<i>Aphtha</i>
<i>Amanda Stager</i>	<i>3 "</i>	<i>Marasmus</i>
<i>Caroline Helme</i>	<i>3 "</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Israel Socialls daughter</i>		<i>Still born</i>
<i>James Kellys wife</i>		<i>" "</i>
<i>Elizabeth Miller</i>	<i>8 months</i>	<i>Coxsullion</i>
<i>Mrs Davney Child</i>	<i>4 "</i>	<i>Marasmus</i>
<i>Wm Jones</i>	<i>9 "</i>	<i>Cholera infantum</i>
<i>Mary E. Ebert</i>	<i>5 "</i>	<i>Convulsion</i>
<i>Fred Perrait</i>	<i>4 "</i>	<i>Cholera infantum</i>
<i>Elizabeth Loudens Dager</i>	<i>16 "</i>	<i>Pleur</i>
<i>Brown Hunt</i>	<i>7 "</i>	<i>Catarrh on the Chest</i>
<i>Sorens Bampton</i>	<i>18 "</i>	<i>Cholera infantum</i>
<i>Chas Goldens daughter</i>	<i>15 "</i>	<i>Diarrhea</i>
<i>Sophia Devault</i>	<i>7 years</i>	<i>Swelling of the pericardium</i>
<i>Jacob Conair</i>	<i>55 "</i>	<i>Anasarca</i>
<i>Mary Martin</i>	<i>48 "</i>	<i>Diarrhea</i>
<i>Mrs Wells Child</i>	<i>8 "</i>	<i>Effusion of the lungs</i>
<i>Jacob Kirschhoff</i>	<i>60 "</i>	<i>Neuralgia</i>
<i>Amelia Walton</i>	<i>1 "</i>	<i>Cholera infantum</i>
<i>Thomas Moffit</i>	<i>45 "</i>	<i>Paralysis</i>
<i>Johs G. Bird</i>	<i>69 "</i>	<i>Debility</i>
<i>Charles C. Klapproth</i>	<i>25 "</i>	<i>Syphilis</i>

Melcorson

of Kensington

INTERMENTS in the *Mutual* Burial Ground,
for the week ending *May 9th 1846*

NAMES	AGES	DISEASES
<i>John Blight</i>	<i>60 1/2</i>	<i>Pneumonia & other</i>
<i>Edward Thomas Daughter</i>	<i>4 M^o</i>	<i>Hydrocephalus</i>
<i>Emmie Ann Tompkins</i>	<i>1 y^o</i>	<i>Marasmus</i>
<i>George W Potter</i>	<i>2 M^o</i>	<i>Diarrhoea</i>
<i>Mr Windle Sites</i>	<i>40 y^o</i>	<i>Inflam of Brain</i>
<i>W^o Robinson Daughter</i>	<i>3 Weeks</i>	<i>Convulsions</i>
<i>Liddy Batters Son</i>	<i>Premature Birth</i>	
<i>Mary Ann Hoop</i>	<i>9 M^o</i>	<i>Hydrocephalus</i>
<i>Ann Jane Shamor</i>	<i>5 M^o</i>	<i>Cholera Infantum</i>
<i>Louis Visha</i>	<i>2 M^o 2 W^o</i>	<i>& Helverson</i>
<i>Convulsion</i>		

Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 9 May 1846.

of Kensington

INTERMENTS in the *Mutual* Burial Ground,
for the week ending *May 16/46*

NAMES.	AGES.	DISEASES.
Joseph Hartman	1 day	Convulsions
Fredk Martin	45 ^{ys}	Marasmus
Charles Bramby	5 M ^o	Debility
Spencer Hooper	3 ^{ys}	Hydrocephalus
Joseph Hillman	26 ^{ys}	Varicella
Hannah A. M. Dought	3 weeks	Marasmus
Mr. Woodman Dought	3 M ^o	Disease of Brain
Ellen Rayins	36 ^{ys}	tubercles
Regina Cosman	6 M ^o	convulsions
Eliza Mitchener	25 ^{ys}	Metritis
Samuel A. Tomally	4 M ^o	Small pox
Christian Steinhilber	6 ^{ys}	consumption
		S. Helleson

Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns for Week Ending on 16 May 1846.

Return of Interments made to the Registrar, before 12 o'clock, M., on the Saturday of every week.

INTERMENTS in the *Kensal Ground* Burial Ground,
Location, *Frankford Road & 4th Streets.*

For the Week ending *Saturday March 18th 1865*

NAME.	AGE.	WARD.	DISEASES.	NATIVITY.
<i>Willie Davis</i>	<i>4 wks. 6.</i>		<i>Convulsion</i>	<i>Phila</i>
<i>Lothian Snow</i>	<i>15 yrs 20</i>		<i>Confluent smallpox</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Jacob Schmit</i>	<i>— 20</i>		<i>Abortion</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>John William Werner</i>	<i>3 mos 20</i>		<i>Quench of lungs</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Mary Felder</i>	<i>10 yrs 19</i>		<i>Spotted Fever</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Daniel Henry Bender</i>	<i>15 mos 17 1/2</i>		<i>Convulsion</i>	<i>" "</i>

Samuel Flood Superintendent.
Residence: *1830 Sepvino St*

Return of Interments made to the Registrar, before 12 o'clock, M., on the Saturday of every week.

INTERMENTS In the Mutual Burial Ground,
 Location, Frankford Road, Vienna Streets.
 For the Week ending Saturday July 28th 1866

NAME.	AGE.	WARD.	DISEASES.	NATIVITY.
Anna Engel	44	North 17 th	Nothing	Phila
Abraham Lincoln Rose	1 yr	17 th	Colic convulsions	Phila
Anna Kramer	3 yrs	16 th	Acute meningitis	Phila
John Drey	6	North 16 th	Cholera Infantum	Phila
Maria Maria (Bayer)	6	North 15 th	Scarlet	Phila
Henry Thugner	4	North 15 th	Cholera Infantum	Phila
Geo. F. Scher	40 yrs	15 th	Effusion of heart	London
		16	Still born	Phila

Samuel Wood Superintendent.
 Residence: Seporia below Wood

Return of Interments made to the Registrar, before 12 o'clock, M., on the Saturday of every week.

INTERMENTS In the Mutual Burial Ground,
 Location, Frankford Street Streets,
 For the Week ending Saturday June 30th 1866

NAME.	AGE.	WARD.	DISEASES.	NATIVITY.
Thomas Henschel	36 yrs	17 th	Dropsy	Germany
Caroline Murray	1 yr	16 th	Convulsions	Phila
Christian Howe	59 yrs	10 th	Abscess	Germany
Rebecca Mary Reinwald	17 yrs		Colic	Phila
Selena Reinwald	24 mths	15 th	Croup	Phila
Abraham Reinwald	16 mths	12 th	Measles	Phila
E. Elizabeth Grossnick	2 yrs	13 th	Congestion vesicae	Phila
Williamson Finkbe	6 mths	10 th	Diarrhoea	Phila
Friedrich Christian	11 mths	11 th	Cholera Infantum	Phila
John R. Baker	16 mths	18 th	Still Born	Phila
John P. Baker	16 mths	18 th	Basilitis	Phila
John Holt	1 yr	17 th	Measles	Phila
George Goginger	7 mths	25 th	Cholera Infantum	Phila
Frederick Deutz	23 yrs	25 th	Accidentally drowned	Germany

Samuel Flood Superintendent.
 Residence: Sepvira-ben-Wood

This constitutes one Certificate. To be returned to the Health Office, on Saturday of each week, before 12 M.

RETURN OF A DEATH
IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.
PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE.

1. Name of Deceased, *Andrew Stoop*
2. Colour, *White*
3. Sex, *Male*
4. Age, *Eight Months and five days*
5. Married or Single,
6. Date of Death, *September the Twentieth 1868*
7. Cause of Death, *Inflammation of the spinal cord*
Ronald O'Sannell M.D.
Residence, *2368 Frankford Road.*

UNDERTAKER'S CERTIFICATE, IN RELATION TO DECEASED.

8. Occupation,
9. Place of Birth, *Phila*
10. When a Minor, { Name of Father, *And Andrew Stoop*
Name of Mother, *Kate Kate*
11. Ward, *14th*
12. Street and Number, *424 E. Sergeant St*
13. Date of Burial, *Sep 23rd*
14. Place of Burial, *Mutual Ground*
Anthony C. Hooker Undertaker.
Residence, *2252 Frankford Rd*

Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803-1915." Database with images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: accessed April 2016. Philadelphia City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Kensington Mutual Burial Ground Cemetery Returns – Death Certificate for Andrew Stoop, died 20 Sept 1868, buried 23 Sept 1868. The latest burial found for this cemetery.

Appendix B: Copies of Email Correspondence of Letters of Support for Preservation of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington written by Descendants of some of the Individuals Buried at this Cemetery:

On 04/04/16, Linda Michael<lmic657@gmail.com> wrote:

Subject: Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington

To Whom it may Concern:

I have family buried at the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, at least one that I know about. I understand that the grounds will be disturbed due to new construction. It's is so sad that these old burial grounds are not respected. One of my uncles is buried there, Carl/Charles Fredrick Bauer, and I would like this site to be historically preserved: Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, 1834-1848 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19125.

Linda A. Michael
Frankfort, Indiana 46041

On 04/05/16, Hopkins, Robert<RHopkins@pcaphl.org> wrote:

To Whom it may Concern:

I have family buried at the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, at least one that I know about. I understand that the grounds will be disturbed due to new construction. It's is so sad that these old burial grounds are not respected. One of my uncles is buried there, Carl/Charles Fredrick Bauer, and I would like this site to be historically preserved: Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, 1834-1848 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19125.

Thank you,

Rev Robert Hopkins
Saints United Lutheran Church
3200 Ryan Ave
Philadelphia Pa 19136

On 04/05/16, LegmDavis@aol.com wrote:

Mr. Milano, I hope you can help.

I just heard that the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington may be destroyed and used for other purposes.

My family has at least one known ancestor buried there with no record of removal. We would really like to have that cemetery preserved!

If there's anything you can do, we would greatly appreciate it.

Sharon Davis
CAPT, USN (Ret)
Scottsdale, AZ

On 04/06/16, LoisSaysHi@aol.com wrote:

To Whom it may Concern:

It has recently come to my attention that the grounds of the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington are scheduled to be disturbed due to new construction. Based on genealogy research, I believe one of my uncles, Carl/Charles Fredrick Bauer, is buried there.

As someone interested in genealogy and historic preservation, it is sad that these old burial grounds are not being respected and protected. I therefore respectfully request that the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington, 1834-1848 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19125 be historically preserved.

Thank you.
Lois Hirschman Gregory
Somers Point, NJ

On 04/08/16, Patricia Betz<pbetz@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam:

I support the efforts of Ken Milano and his associates to have the Mutual Burial Ground of Kensington and the associated burial grounds deemed historical and so to stop any further destruction/disturbance of the site. At the very least a full and complete investigation must be undertaken.

If these efforts fail, and the cemetery must be disturbed, all remaining burials must be found and respectfully removed to a currently active cemetery outside of the city. A full and complete accounting of all reburials should be made and this report/accounting should be presented in written form to the Philadelphia Historic Society for their safekeeping. Previously, burials from now defunct Philadelphia cemeteries were accepted at Fernwood Cemetery and also Cedar Hill Cemetery. This option must be considered again.

At the very least I have three ancestors buried at Mutual of Kensington and/or another of the group of cemeteries associated with that area. They are:

Charles Dietz d: 1860

John Dietz d: 1865

William Pfisterer d: 1903

I do not know at this time where they are currently buried, or if they were among the burials removed in previous re-development of the area.

Please don't let this happen again.

Patricia A Betz

