## 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 (CD, EMAIL, FLASH DRIVE)

ELECTRONIC FILES MUST BE WORD OR WORD COMPATIBLE

	Street address: 348 Green Lane			
	Postal code: 19128 Councilmanic District: 4th			
2. NA	ME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE			
	istoric Name: Lepton Terrace			
	Current/Common Name: The Thomas Kenworthy House			
3. TY	PE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE			
	⊠ Building			
4. PR	OPERTY INFORMATION			
	Occupancy:			
	Current use: Multi-tenant residential			
5. Bo	DUNDARY DESCRIPTION			
	See attached			
6. DE	SCRIPTION			
	See attached			
7. Si	GNIFICANCE			
	Please attach the Statement of Significance.			
	Period of Significance (from year to year): from <u>1872</u> to <u>1944</u>			
	Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: c. 1872			
	Architect, engineer, and/or designer:			
	Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: S.S. Keely (suspected)			
	Original owner: Thomas Kenworthy			

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,  (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 See attached					
9. Nominator					
OrganizationCeleste HardesterDate7/30/2018					
Name with Title Central Roxborough Civic Association, President Email celestehardester@gmail.com					
Street Address 368 Green Lane Telephone 215-518-1799					
City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19128					
Nominator ☐ is ☐ is not the property owner.					
PHC USE ONLY					
Date of Receipt: 7/30/2018					
Property Owner at Time of Notice					
Name: Stone Door LLC					
Address: P.O. Box 4698					
City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19127					
City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19127  Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 10/17/2018					
Date(s) Reviewed by the Commission:					
Date of Final Action: 11/9/2018, Criteria A and J					
☐ Rejected 3/12/18					

#### 5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:



Figure 1: Property boundary. Source: Philadelphia Water Department, 2018.

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PIECE OF GROUND with the buildings and improvements thereon erected. **SITUATE** in the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward of the City of Philadelphia and described according to a Plan and Survey thereof made by C. A. Sundstrom, Surveyor and Regulator of the Eighth District made May 1907, as follows, to wit: BEGINNING at a point of intersection of the Northwesterly side of Green Lane and the Southwesterly side of Manayunk Avenue (50 feet wide); thence extending along the said side of Green Lane South 48 degrees 37 minutes West sixty feet six and three fourths inches to a point; thence extending North 41 degrees 23 minutes West two hundred thirty four feet five and five eighths inches to a point in the Southeasterly side of Dupont Street; thence extending along the said side of Dupont Street North 57 degrees 18 minutes East, sixty one feet three and one eighth inches to a point in the said Southwesterly side of Manayunk Avenue and thence extending along the same South 41 degrees 23 minutes East two hundred twenty-five feet two and five eighths inches to the said Green Lane, the first mentioned point and place of beginning. **BEING** No. 348 Green Lane.

Source: Latest deed of record (1999) D-1026064.

#### **6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Lepton Terrace is a house constructed in the Second Empire style of architecture that flourished roughly between 1860 and 1890. It sits prominently near the top of the hill on Green Lane (formerly Belmont Avenue), on the northwest corner of the intersection of Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue. This intersection is dominated by large homes that were built by successful local business owners, including one diagonally across the intersection that is already historically designated. Lepton Terrace occupies an entire block-face from Green Lane to Dupont Street, and is surrounded on four sides by a schist wall, the Green Lane portion of which features a band of two courses of red brick.



Figure 2: Lepton Terrace, 348 Green Lane

THE SOUTH FACADE is three bays in width and rises to a height of three stories. Its facade is of uncoursed smooth-faced fieldstone. The first story is shaded by a full-width one-story porch with a bracketed frieze just beneath the eave of its roof. The four columns seen here are 20<sup>th</sup> century replacements of the original beveled wooden posts. A cast iron railing connects the columns. Opening onto the porch are two windows extending to the floor, consisting of one-over-one sash (not original), each having a relieving brownstone arch with keystone and pentagonal springers and brownstone sills.

The second story has three one-over-one sash windows (not original). Each of these windows has a relieving brownstone arch with keystone and pentagonal springers and brownstone sills.

The third story is within a concave mansard roof and displays three original ornate dormers. Beneath these dormers is a bracketed cornice; above them is a plain cornice. This roof retains its original gray slate shingles.

The main entrance to the house is to the west side of this façade. It has an in-filled transom above double hung beveled glass doors that appear to be original. Leading to the floor of this porch is set six painted brownstone steps, with iron stair-rails.





Figure 3: Primary (south) facade along Green Lane (Left); Detail of step railing and entry doors (Right)

THE EAST FAÇADE (Manayunk Avenue) is divided into three sections: [1] the main block, [2] rear ell, and [3] rear addition.



Figure 4: East façade, which is divided into three sections.

#### The East Façade [Main Block]

The east façade of the main block is two bays in width and rises to a height of three stories, having a fabric of smooth-faced, uncoursed fieldstone. Cellar windows, with original iron grills have been set into a water table. On the first story is a flat-roofed stone projecting bay having three sides, each centered with a double-hung, one-over-one sash window. Each window is crowned with a brownstone relieving arch, keystone and has brownstone sills. The eave of its roof has a bracketed cornice. The second story has two double-hung one-over-one sash windows each having a brownstone relieving arch, central keystone, and brownstone sills. The third story is contained within a concave mansard roof having two ornately bracketed dormers, with a red brick chimney at its center.



Figure 5: East elevation of the main hlock.

The East Façade [Rear Ell] has five bays, having a fabric of smooth-faced, uncoursed fieldstone. Eight windows (four on each of two stories) have a brownstone relieving arch, keystone and brownstone sill. The first story has a side porch with roof supported by five posts (not original). A single modern door with an in-filled transom is centered in this section. The porch roof is covered with red-painted tin, has a plain eave, and is slightly pitched. A flat roof with a bracketed eave completes this two-story section of the East façade. A third-story section with mansard roof contains one ornately bracketed dormer. The railing of a modern roof deck faces east.



Figure 6: The central and rear side sections of the East Façade.

The East Façade [Rear Addition] is four bays in width and rises to a height of two stories with a fabric of smooth-faced, uncoursed fieldstone. The entrance has a glass-panelled door with an in-filled transom above it. Two small single-paned windows, having brownstone sills, are to the left of this entrance and one to its right being similar in shape and size to those of the central sections second story windows. It

is a double-hung one-over-one sash window with brownstone relieving arch, keystone, and sill. Above this a wraparound pent roof (not original) covered with painted tin and supported by long brackets. The second story of this rear section of the East façade has a large bay window in three sections. The siding beneath these windows is not original. A smaller single window is a double-hung sash, one-over-one, having a brownstone relieving arch, keystone, and brownstone sill. A bracketed cornice beneath a flat bay roof completes this section of the East façade.



Figure 7: The east elevation of the rear addition.

THE NORTH FAÇADE There are three north-facing planes. The two-story façade at the north end of the rear section is three bays in width and rises to a height of two stories, having a fabric of smooth-faced uncoursed fieldstone. Two cellar windows are set into a water table. The first-story windows are double-hung, one-over-one sashes, with arches obscured by the wraparound pent roof, which is supported by two large brackets. The second-story windows have brownstone relieving arches, keystones, and brownstone sills; at the second story, a bracketed cornice is beneath a very slightly hipped roof.



Figure 8: The north façade of the rear addition.



Figure 9: East elevation of the rear ell showing the north-facing French window (circled.)

The second north-facing façade is on the main section of the house. The first story has a bay facing the porch floor that is a window extending to the floor with what may be original two over two sashes. The second story has one bay with a single window crowned with a relieving brownstone arch, a central keystone and brownstone sill.



Figure 10: North-facing French window.

The third north-facing bay is at the third story level, which has a concave mansard roof. Within the mansard is a single dormer converted to access the roof deck.



Figure 11: Aerial view from the northeast, showing third-story north-facing dormer. Source: Pictometry.

THE WEST FAÇADE is difficult to photograph directly owing to a narrow distance between two houses erected closely to each other. This façade is again divided into three sections: [1] the Main Block, [2] the Rear Ell, and [3] the Rear Addition.

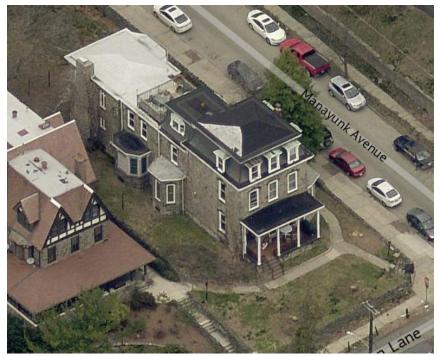


Figure 12: Aerial View of the West façade, looking north. Source: Pictometry.

The West Facade [Main Block] is one bay in width and rises to a height of three stories. Both the first and second story walls are of smooth-faced, uncoursed fieldstone, and have double-hung, one-over-one sash windows with brownstone relieving arches, keystones, and sills. The first story also has a single small two-over-two casement window. The third story is within a concave mansard roof with one



Figure 13: West façade of the Main Block.

ornately detailed dormer. Beneath the dormer is a bracketed cornice; above is a plain cornice.

The West Façade [Rear Ell] is three bays wide and rises to a height of two stories on the north-most part, and three stories on the south-most. Both the first and second story walls are of smooth-faced, uncoursed fieldstone. Cellar windows, with original iron grills have been set into a water table. The first story has two projecting bays, one having a stone foundation that rises about four feet. This bay has a central series of panels, flanked by two windows on each side. There is a deeply overhanging bracketed cornice. It has a flat roof. The second projecting bay window is of smooth-faced, uncoursed fieldstone, with a flat roof and three double-hung windows, each having brownstone relieving arches, keystones and brownstone sills. The second story has three double-hung one-over-one sash windows, with brownstone relieving arches, keystones, and brownstone sills. A bracketed cornice is at the eave of the roof. The three-story part of this section has a concave mansard roof with a modern trinity bay window, capped with painted tin. A deck not original to the house is to the north of this mansard roof.



Figure 14: West facade of Rear Ell.

The West Façade [Rear Addition] is two bays in width and rises to a height of two stories. Its fabric is of smooth-faced fieldstone. A water table is evident at the base of this façade. The first story has two casement windows with brownstone relieving arches, keystones and brownstone sills. Above these on the second story the windows are of the same design but differ by having a divided transom. There is a bracketed eave at the roofline, the roof itself being flat. A large stone projecting chimney bisects the aforementioned windows, and bevels as it narrows to its climax.



Figure 15: West façade of the Rear Addition.

#### **EXTERIOR STONE RETAINING WALLS**

This property is surrounded on its perimeter by substantial stone walls, built of rough-cut courses of schist, varying in height from approximately three feet at the southwest side to over eight feet in the northwest corner. The wall fronting Green Lane contains a detail of two courses of brick. Slate steps (3) give access to the front of the property, rising from the corner at Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue. Stone posts with brick courses abut the top of the steps, and original iron rail and gates are on each side of the steps. Another set of slate steps (5) access the East Central Section of the house, with remains of an iron gate and railing. Stone posts rise at the top of the steps. The walls surrounding this property complement the walls on the other three corners of the intersection of Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue and create an anchoring presence as a gateway to the neighborhood.





Figure 16: Southeast corner entrance steps and south-facing retaining wall with name plaque.



Figure 17: Property name embedded in south-facing wall on Green Lane.

#### **EXTERIOR STONE RETAINING WALLS continued**



Southwest corner as wall wraps to front



Northwest corner of wall -shared with neighbor



Northeast corner of wall.



West facing wall, running towards back of lot.



North-facing wall along Dupont Street.



Steps on East-facing wall, Manayunk Avenue

#### 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

"Lepton Terrace," located at 348 Green Lane, is significant based on two criteria for designation.

- (A) It has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, and Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past;
- (J) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

Constructed around 1872 for Thomas Kenworthy (1838-1887), 348 Green Lane is the first of four Kenworthy family houses to be erected in the Roxborough neighborhood. Kenworthy was an English immigrant from Yorkshire, who established the firm of "Thomas Kenworthy & Bro.," and owned "The Shurs Lane Mills," which exemplify the heritage of the Manayunk and Roxborough communities. In support of (A), life of a person significant in the past, and (J), exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community, Thomas Kenworthy is significant 1) as an immigrant who rose through the mill trades from a young age to achieve success 2) as a member of the Kenworthy family in the later wave of mill owners in Manayunk and 3) as an influential member of the mill and industrial community of Manayunk.

#### Criterion (J): Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

#### Nineteenth-Century Development of Manayunk/Roxborough

The development of Roxborough and the Kenworthy family complex at the intersection of Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue are fundamentally linked to the industrial development of Manayunk over the first half of the nineteenth century. Manayunk began developing as a textile village in the 1820s, with the construction of a series of canals, dams, and slackwater pools along the Schuylkill River by the Schuylkill Navigation Company, chartered in 1815. Shortly before the completion of the Flat Rock Dam and Manayunk Canal, the Schuylkill Navigation Company began advertising the availability of waterpower, opening up the formerly quiet riverbank to industrial development. By 1828, ten mills lined the Manayunk Canal, and six more were planned. While the products of these early mills varied, subsequent manufacturing focused predominantly on mechanized textile production. Compared to Philadelphia's other textile center in Kensington which focused on handweaving, the availability of water power from the canal allowed manufacturers in Manayunk to easily outfit their mills with mechanized devices such as the powerloom and reduced the need for skilled laborers.<sup>2</sup>

Industrial activity in turn spurred demand for housing for the waves of immigrants who arrived to work at Manayunk's burgeoning mills. The Levering family, one of the oldest families in what was then known as Roxborough Township, capitalized on this demand, developing portions of their land for worker housing. Skilled tradesmen and laborers followed the initial wave of unskilled workers, building more

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> B. Penrose Pictorial Philadelphia Collection: Glimpses of Philadelphia of the Past. Volume 27, Roxborough, Manayunk, Falls of Schuylkill, and a newspaper clipping "Men and Things," Evening Bulletin, July 16, 194[?]., as cited in Mildred Goshow, "Material Relating to Mills and Mill Owners of Manayunk in the Nineteenth Century," (unpublished manuscript at the Roxborough Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia), p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sara Jane Elk. "Manayunk" chapter, in *Workshop of the World: A Selective Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Philadelphia,* J. Bowie ed. Wallingford, [Pa.]: The Oliver Evans Press, 1990.

homes and auxiliary structures, such as churches, expanding the mills, improving roads, and in 1830, laying out the tracks for the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad through Manayunk.<sup>3</sup>

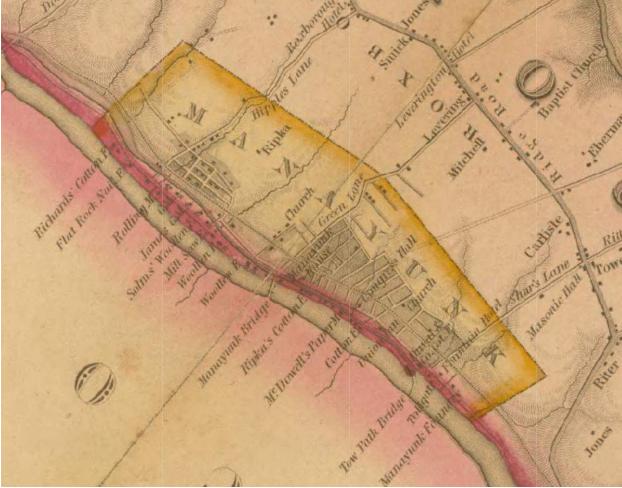


Figure 18: Detail of Charles Ellet Jr.'s 1843 Map of the County of Philadelphia. Source: PhilaGeoHistory Network.

The introduction of the steam engine in the 1850s provided mill owners along the canal with the security of continuous power, and also enabled the construction of mills further inland (or in Manayunk/Roxborough parlance, up the hill) that were not reliant on water power. As historian Philip Scranton noted, steam power, along with lucrative markets, and the fact that most of the companies were family owned contributed to the success of Manayunk's textile industry before, during, and after the Civil War.<sup>5</sup> Unlike other American textile centers, Philadelphia's textile mills (and specifically those in Manayunk), were largely family-run rather than operated by large corporations, providing them with greater flexibility in what they produced and how they invested. This created a diversity of specialized goods in Manayunk, which also guaranteed consistent production and helped many manufactures withstand the Civil War.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Philip Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism* (Philadelphia, 1983), chapter 4, "Philadelphia Textile Manufacture in The Early Republic."

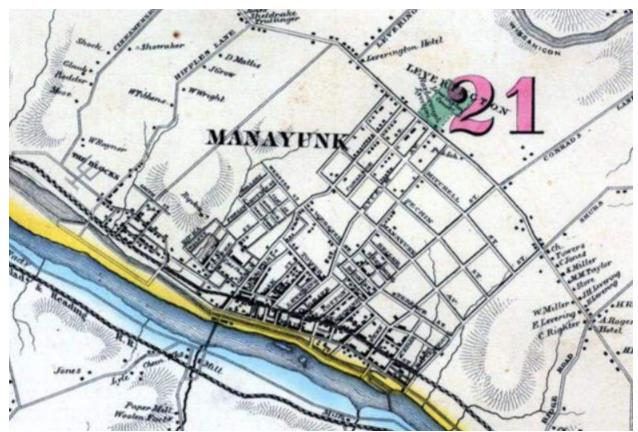


Figure 19: Detail of Samuel L. Smedley's 1863 Atlas of the City of Philadelphia (Ward 21) showing concentrated development along the Canal, as well as increased development up the hill in Roxborough. Source: Historic Map Works.

The second half of the nineteenth century also brought about a new generation of mill owners, many of whom rebuilt fire-damaged mills or expanded upon existing mills. Another boom in construction followed the Civil War, and new steam-powered mills climbed even further up the hill overlooking the Schuylkill River. 6 As their mills moved inland and workers' housing packed Manayunk, many mill owners sought refuge further up the hill in Roxborough. One member of the new generation of mill owners was Thomas Kenworthy, an English immigrant, who, in partnership with his brothers Benjamin and John (at different times), and trading as T. Kenworthy and Brother, followed the Philadelphia tradition of industrial mobility, initially leasing space from an established mill owner before eventually constructing his own mill.<sup>7</sup>

Criterion A: Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, and Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past;

Thomas Kenworthy was born at Lepton (hence the name embedded in the wall of 348 Green Lane, see Figure 17), near Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, on January 21, 1838, the sixth of seven children of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Elk, Workshop of the World.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

John Kenworthy and Alice Senior. At the age of 15 (with his profession already listed as "weaver"), he accompanied his widowed father John Kenworthy and two of his brothers (Ben and John Kenworthy) to Philadelphia in October 1853. The family first settled in Falls of Schuylkill (now East Falls), where Thomas found a job at Dobson's mill. They then moved to Roxborough and Thomas began "huckstering," a business of selling or trading small items. As his obituary notes, he found that there was money in the rag business, and began solely dealing in rags, carrying his business across the river to an area known as Mill Creek, in Lower Merion. 10

Thomas married Lydia A. Hewitt (with whom he would go on to have several children) in March 1863, but four months later enlisted in the U.S. army along with neighbor Darius Keely, just as General Robert E. Lee crossed the border into Pennsylvania. <sup>11</sup> Upon his return from the Civil War, it appears that Thomas and his family lived in Mill Creek for a time before returning to Manayunk/Roxborough, where he formally established T. Kenworthy & Brother.

As was common practice in the period, T. Kenworthy & Brother originally leased space from Mrs. Stafford's Little Falls Mill at Church Street (now Krams) below Wood Street in Manayunk. 12 Between 1867 and 1870, the offices of T. Kenworthy & Brother were listed in the Philadelphia City Directory at 311 and 313 N Front Street. It was a common practice in those days for Manayunk mill owners to have offices in central Philadelphia. In 1871, the company was listed with offices at both 311 N Front Street and 111 Church Street in Manayunk, but by 1875, was listed solely at 111 Church Street. By 1876, their business dealing in the import of wool, hair, and woolen rags was prosperous enough that the brothers were able to purchase land from the estate of Samuel Levering and construct their own mill complex at the corner of Pechin Street and Shurs Lane. Like many other mill owners in Manayunk/Roxborough, the Kenworthys appear to have hired S.S. Keely, a master contractor and lumber mill owner, to build their new facility. 13 Kenworthy's Mill (later known as Shurs Lane Mill) was built in two stages, the first building in 1876, as surveyed in 1881 by Hexamer, the second in 1882, as surveyed by Hexamer in 1885 (See Appendix A). <sup>14,15</sup> On July 1, 1886, the firm was enlarged when Theo. B. Culver, an employee, joined them along with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> West Yorkshire Archive Service; Wakefield, Yorkshire, England; *Yorkshire Parish Records*; New Reference Number: WDP160/1/2/4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Pennsylvania, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1800-1962, [1853, 24 October, pg. 7]; *Thomas Kenworthy Obituary,* Manayunk Sentinel, 1887.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington D.C.; Roll #: 1800; Volume #: Roll 1800 - Certificates: 106500-106875, 23 Dec 1921-24 Dec 1921. Source: Ancestry.com. U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> There are no City directory entries for Thomas Kenworthy from 1861 to 1863. City Directory of Philadelphia, 1861 p. 519, 1862, p. 353, 1863, p 408; U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009. (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records (Provost Marshal General's Bureau; Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865); Record Group: 110, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War); Collection Name: Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records); NAI: 4213514; Archive Volume Number: 6 of 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> In 1867, the city directory shows Thomas' partnership with his older brother Ben (Kenworthy and Bro.) A new co-partnership was set up with his younger brother John, showing up in the city directory of 1870 (T. Kenworthy and Brother) and they relocated the firm's office/store to 111 Church Street (now Krams Street). City Directory of Philadelphia, 1867, p.726; City Directory of Philadelphia, 1870, p. 850, City Directory of Philadelphia, 1872, p. 764; Hexamer General Surveys, 1874, Volume 9, plates 798-799.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Elk, *Workshop of the World* Ch 7, p 31, suggests that the similarities between a number of mills in Manayunk, including T. Kenworthy & Brother Shurs Lane Mills, indicate that Keely, a well-established contractor, built many of the mills and the area.

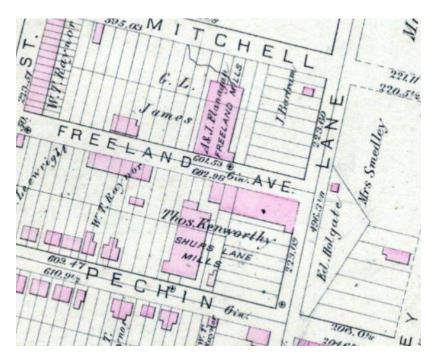
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Hexamer General Surveys, 1881, Volume 17, plate 1591

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Hexamer General Surveys, 1885, Volume 20, plate 1948

Thomas Kenworthy's son Joseph and nephew Reuben, son of yet another immigrant Kenworthy brother, Reuben Kenworthy (1829-1882). 16 The Shurs Lane Mills are still standing today, having been converted to residential rental units (See Appendix A).

Like Little Falls Mill, the Kenworthy's Shurs Lane Mills acted as an incubator for smaller milling enterprises, accommodating other mill operators as tenants and also offsetting the costs involved in having a second building on their site. The 1885 Hexamer survey notes that in addition to T. Kenworthy & Bro., the premises were occupied by James M. Davenport and Joseph Adams, both carpet yarn manufacturers. Joseph Adams would go on to own Arcola Mills at Main and Centre Streets. 17

Kenworthy was clearly well integrated into the community of mill owners. Even after constructing his own mill, and despite the fact that many of the mills in Manayunk had their offices in central Philadelphia, Shurs Lane Mills retained only its office at 111 Church (Krams) Street, where they had been located as tenants in the Little Falls Mills. 18 Kenworthy purchased the land for the Shurs Lane Mills from Samuel Levering, a member of one of the oldest families in Roxborough history, and the mill buildings were most likely constructed by Samuel Keely, one of the earliest and most prolific builders in Manayunk/Roxborough. 19 But he also served as a mentor to the subsequent generation of mill owners, who would train under his tutelage in the business and later establish their own mills. Andrew Flanagan of the firm of A. Flanagan & Brother; Joseph Boothroyd, a wool merchant; and J. W. Dodgson of the firm



of Schofield & Dodgson were all bookkeepers for the firm of T. Kenworthy & Brother. 20 An 1884 map shows the Flanagan mill property across from the Shurs Lane Mills on Freeland Street.<sup>21</sup> City directory records show Andrew Flanagan as a clerk up until the mid-1880s, when he moved up in the mill business to establish his own.22

Figure 20: Detail of G.M. Hopkins' 1884 City Atlas of Philadelphia, Wards 21 and 28, Plate 15, showing Thomas Kenworthy's Shurs Lane Mills and the neighboring A & J. Flanagan's Freeland Mills.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> City Directory of Philadelphia, 1887, p. 404.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Hexamer General Surveys, Volume 22, plate 2059, Hexamer Index 1887-1888.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Elk, Workshop of the World Ch 7, p 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 1870 Population Census of the United States of America, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Co., Ward 21, Post Office Manayunk,

page 124, line 32. Lists Flanagan as bookkeeper.

<sup>21</sup> Bromley, George W.: *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia. Volume 12, Plate 33. 21<sup>st</sup> Ward.* Philadelphia: G. W. & W. S. Bromley, 1895.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> City Directory of Philadelphia 1882 p. 532 lists Flanagan and Co, yarns, in Manayunk, 1880 Population Census of the United States of America, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Co., Ward 21, Enumeration District 431, page 10, line 34.

#### The Thomas Kenworthy House

The success of the Kenworthys is evident not only from the construction and expansion of their own mill complex, but by the homes they were able to build for their families in neighboring Roxborough between the 1870s and 1890s (See Appendix B). While the earliest mill owners built and lived in houses close to their mills, the next generation of mill owners such as the Kenworthys were able to not only build their mills away from the river due to the development of steam power, but to select generous parcels of land for their residences higher up the hill. Much of the lower area of Manayunk was already filled with worker housing, and conditions of water, air and sewage were less than desirable there.<sup>23</sup>

The Kenworthy family, along with other successful mill families, created a residential enclave of freestanding homes around the intersection of Manayunk Avenue and Green Lane. In 1872, Thomas Kenworthy purchased the parcel of 348 Green Lane (formerly Belmont Avenue) for his house from Samuel S. Keely. <sup>24</sup> Samuel S. Keely, who owned multiple parcels surrounding the intersection of Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue, was one of the early mill owners, already established with mills on the

river in Manayunk and with land investments in Roxborough. 348 Green Lane first appears on a G.M. Bromley map in 1875 (Figure 21).<sup>25</sup> For the design of his home, which was likely also built by Keely, Thomas Kenworthy chose the popular Second Empire style. He named his home "Lepton Terrace," after the town of Lepton where he was born. In 1876, Thomas's brother Benjamin (1836-1907) purchased an existing house diagonally across the intersection at 365 Green Lane, which had been constructed in 1871 (PRHP: 4/10/2015). Benjamin's son John Kenworthy (1865-1893) built his home at 325 Green Lane around 1890. Other Kenworthy family members lived on nearby streets of Riley (now Dupont) and Lyceum Avenue.

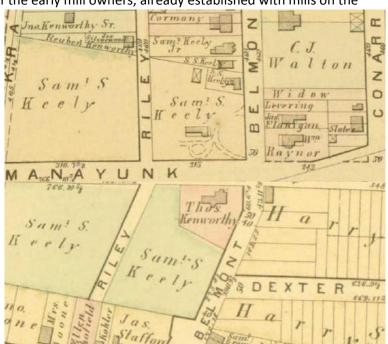


Figure 21: G. M. Hopkins' map of 1875 shows the Thomas Kenworthy House on a corner next to land as yet undeveloped by Samuel S. Keely. In 1876, Thomas's brother Benjamin purchased the catty-corner property, identified on the atlas under the name of "Wm. Raynor." Source: PhilaGeoHistory Network.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> "Manayunk and Roxborough [contain] a population numbering about twelve thousand," Birkinbine wrote in a report to City Councils in September 8, 1859. "Of these, at least three thousand are operatives employed in the different factories. This part of the city is much in need of a supply of water for culinary, manufacturing and sanitary purposes, and for protection against fire, as the property in the manufactories is of great value, and now almost entirely without protection against fire.... From the dense population of parts of the district, the wells have become so contaminated, that the water in but few of them is now fit for culinary purposes. The necessity of a supply for manufacturing and mechanical purposes, is evident." From Adam Levine, "Watershed History: Roxborough Waterworks", Watersheds Blog Philadelphia Water Department, 19 May 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 1872 – Samuel S. Keely <u>TO</u> Thomas Kenworthy – JAH:284;369.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Hopkins, George M.: City Atlas of Philadelphia. Vol, 2, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Wards. Plate A, Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1875.

Although he died prematurely 1887 at the age of 49, Thomas Kenworthy's legacy would continue well into the twentieth century. <sup>26</sup> After his death, Thomas's wife Lydia continued to reside in the house at 348 Green Lane for the next twenty years. A second house was constructed on the large original parcel of 348 Green Lane for Thomas and Lydia's elder son Joseph H. Kenworthy around 1890.<sup>27</sup> After Lydia's death in 1907, the Kenworthys' two living sons, Joseph and Samuel, divided the property between themselves, transferring ownership of the family home at 348 Green Lane to younger brother Samuel, and subdividing off a parcel with the newer home at 346 Green Lane for Joseph (see Appendix B). Samuel P. Kenworthy lived on at 348 Green Lane with his wife Mary, two cousins and a maid. By 1942 only he and his wife were living in the house where he died on November 15th. 28 Samuel P. Kenworthy's widow Mary continued to reside in 348 Green Lane for the next two years following his demise, when she sold it. The Kenworthy family had owned and occupied the house for 72 years. 29

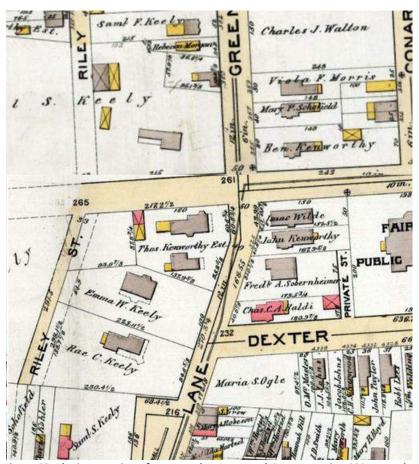


Figure 22: The intersection of Manayunk Avenue and Green Lane in 1892. Note the names Kenworthy, Keely, Schofield, Wilde, and Ogle. G.W. Bromley's 1892 Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Vol. 12, Ward 21, Plates 2 and 6. Source: PhilaGeoHistory Network.

<sup>26</sup> The Thomas Kenworthy family wills indicate that they were a family of means. Thomas Kenworthy, dying in 1887, left an estate of \$218,864, which would be comparable to the sum of \$5,500,000 by today's standards in monetary value. Source: Official Data Foundation, http://www.in2013dollars.com. He was buried first in a simple grave in Leverington Cemetery on Ridge Avenue, but was later moved to West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Joseph H. Kenworthy is listed as living at "h Green La c Mykav, Myk" in the 1890 Philadelphia City Directory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Vital Statistics, *Death Certificates*, 1942.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Some of the information provided in this "Historical Overview" was taken from the Manayunk Sentinel (July 21, 1887), p. 2, and has also been independently documented.

In addition to the Kenworthys, other prosperous mill owners chose to build their homes at the top of the hill on Green Lane (Figure 22 & Appendix C), including textile mill owners Schofield, Wilde, the Ogle

family (textile dye manufacturer), and S. S. Keely, (lumber mills, responsible for building many of the mills and much of the surrounding worker housing. Other successful business people chose to build homes near this intersection, including estate attorney Frederick Sobernheimer (323 Green Lane), and Charles Baldi, ice/coal/funerals and railroad businesses, (319 Green Lane, PRHP: 7/14/2017).<sup>30</sup> Many of these families were listed in Boyd's Philadelphia Blue Book in 1899 (Figure 23).31

## ROXBOROUGH.

#### GREEN LANE.

```
319 Mr. & Mrs. C. C. A. Baldi
323 Mr. & Mrs. F. A. Sobernhei-
                                                                            344 Mr. & Mrs. J. Howard Keely
                                                                           244 Mr. & Mrs. J. Howard Keely
346 Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Kenworthy
348 Mrs. T. Kenworthy
350 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel S. Keely
350 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund M. Keely
362 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel F. Keeley
364 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ott
412 Mr. & Mrs. R. Bruce Wallace
420 Mr. & Mrs. J. Silverwood & drs
           mer
365 Mr. & Mrs. B. Kenworthy
369 Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Morris
375 Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Walton
 375 Miss Mary Emily Walton
407 Rev. & Mrs. G. R. Moore
407 Miss Hattie M. Moore
                                                                             440 Mr. & Mrs, Henry Wanklin
446 William F. Robinson
478 Capt. J. S. Walter
407 George R. Moore, jr
407 Miss P. Fobes
421 The Misses Klauder
443 Dr. & Mrs. Samuel C. Breiten-
bach & dr
                                                                            443 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred R. Halg.
Receiving day Tuesday
```

Figure 23: Boyd's Blue Book Register, 1899, showing the names and addresses of prominent Green Lane residents.

#### Thos. Kenworthy & Brother in the Twentieth Century

Industry in Philadelphia prospered in the first decades of the twentieth century. After Thomas's death, his brother John continued to run Thomas Kenworthy & Brother in partnership with other brother Reuben Kenworthy, Thomas's son Joseph H., and Theodore B. Culver. Thomas's sons Joseph and Samuel would eventually establish their own business, Thomas Kenworthy's Sons, importing and dealing wool, an enterprise that would endure well into the mid-twentieth century. Thomas Kenworthy & Brother's mill facility remained in operation and under family ownership into the 1920s, but, like most textile mills in Manayunk, does not appear to have survived the Depression.

#### Conclusion

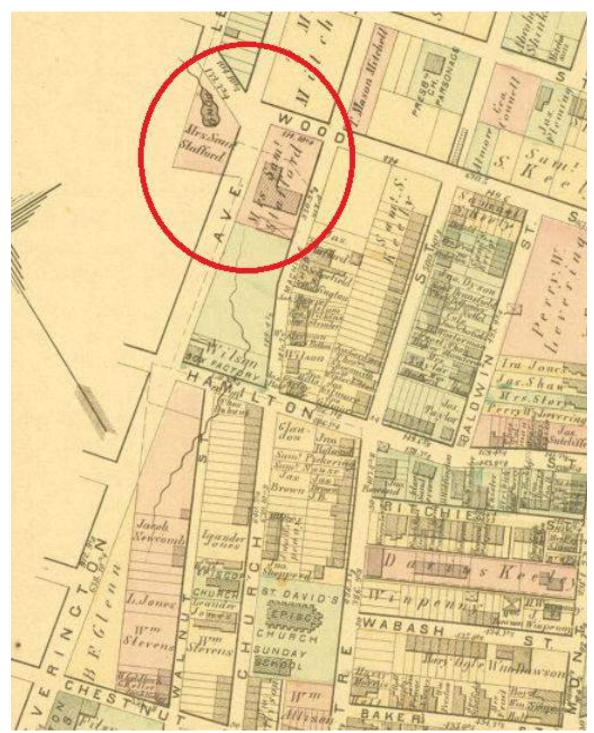
"Lepton Terrace, the Thomas Kenworthy House, located at 348 Green Lane, exemplifies the development of the Manayunk and Roxborough communities. Thomas Kenworthy was a prominent member of the Roxborough/Manayunk community in the late nineteenth century. He was the head of the prosperous Kenworthy family, owners of the Shurs Lane Mills. These mills were among the many textile mills established in Manayunk throughout the nineteenth century. Thomas Kenworthy's success is significant, in that he came to America as a 15 year old immigrant, had an established business with his brother John Kenworthy by the time he was 30, had his own mill by the age of 38, expanded that mill to two buildings by the age of 44, and in-between, built the grand house at 348 Green Lane. 32 He was resourceful, and respected as is shown by his business integration into the mill community of Manayunk. Although he died before the age of 50 in 1887, his legacy continued well into the twentieth century. The Kenworthy family was close-knit, not only in business but in their choice of location for their homes, and as a result, has left this area at Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue with a significant collection of houses, in particular the Thomas Kenworthy house.

<sup>30</sup> http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/319%20Green%20Lane%20FULL.pdf

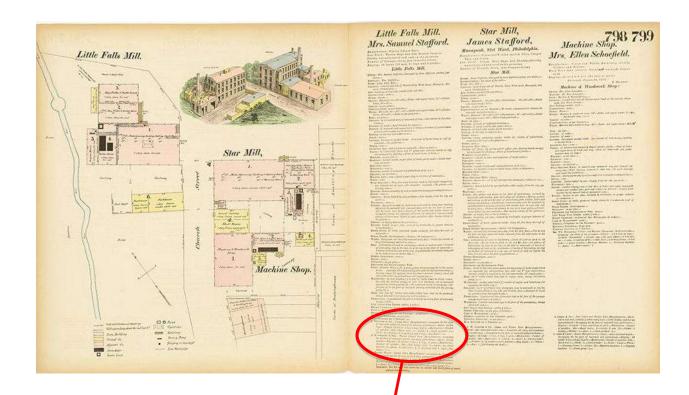
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Bovd's Philadelphia Blue Book, 1899, p. 362.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> 1851 England Census- County: Yorkshire-Civil parish: Almondbury-Registration District: Huddersfield: Hudderfieldsubregistration District: Almondbury-Piece: 2294-Folio: 227, p 16.

APPENDIX A: Thomas Kenworthy & Brother



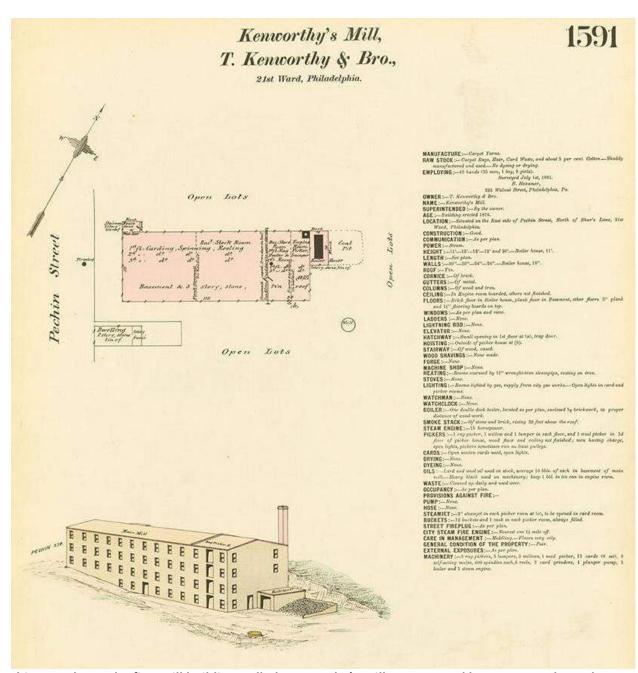
Detail of G.M. Hopkins' 1875 City Atlas of Philadelphia, Vol. 2, Ward 21, Plate A, showing Mrs. Stafford's mills, space in which was leased early on by T. Kenworthy & Bro . Source: Athenaeum of Philadelphia.



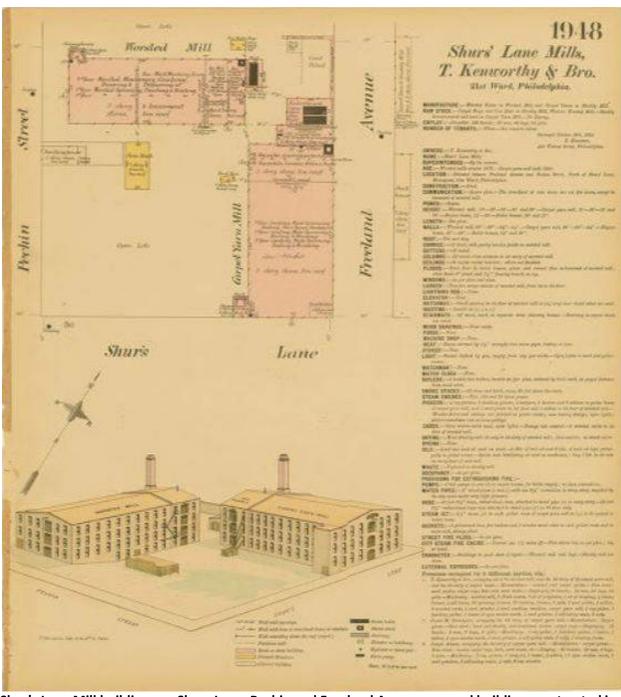
### MILL OCCUPIED BY 3 TENANTS AS:

- 1. Stafford & Co.: Carpet Yarn Manufacturers: occupying the 1st floor floor of the 2d story prescriberes -Stock: woolen aptoy: 12 hands: 6 men, 4 boys, 2 girls.—Machineries epindles: 280.—Hand mule: 1.—Cards: 4.—Card grinder: 1. Reels: 2.—Pickers: 2 (1 finishing and 1 rag).—Rag duster: 1—
- 2. Kenworthy & Bro.: Woolen Carpet Yarn Manufacturers: occupying the 2d floor of mainmill and the one story pickerhouse .- Stock: woolen carpets.-Employ: 10 hands: 5 men, 3 boys, 2 girls.-Machineries: Number of spindles: 300 .- Self acting mule: 1 .- Cards: 4 .- Card grinder: 1.—Reels: 2.—Pickers: 2 (1 finishing and 1 rag).—Rag duster: 1 .-
- ROSET WILDE: Carpet Yarn Manufacturer: occupying the of mainmed and the 2d story of the 2 story nickent sase.—Stock: woolen carpets.-Employ: 11 hands: 5 men, 4 boys, 2 girls.-Machineries: Number of spindles: 280 .- Hand mule: 1 .- Cards: 4 .- Card Grinder: 1 .- Reels: 2 .- Pickers: 2 (1 finishing and 1 rug) - Rag duster: 1 .-Remarks: One 21/2 inch hose connection on second and third floors of standpipe, in main building.

Little Falls Mill (above), at Church and Wood Streets in Manayunk, lists Kenworthy and Bro. as tenants of the main mill and pickerhouse. Hexamer General Surveys, Vol. 9, Plates 798-999, 1873-1875.



This map shows the first mill building, called Kenworthy's Mill, constructed by T. Kenworthy and Bro. in 1876 at Pechin and Shurs Lane. Hexamer General Surveys, 1881.



Shur's Lane Mill buildings on Shurs Lane, Pechin and Freeland Avenue, second building constructed in 1882, surveyed in 1885, owned by T. Kenworthy & Brother. Hexamer General Surveys, 1885.



Detail of G.W. Bromley's 1895 Atlas of the City of Philadelphia showing Kenworthy's Shurs Lane Mills, A & J Flanagan's Freeland Mills, and J.W.A Leech's Roxborough Mills. Source: PhilaGeoHistory Network.



2018 birds-eye view of Shurs Lane Mills and the neighboring Freeland and Roxborough Mills. Source: Pictometry.

### APPENDIX B: Thomas Kenworthy & 348 Green Lane, "Lepton Terrace"

# "Lepton Terrace." (The Thomas Kenworthy Residence, built ca. 1872) Deed Abstract

348 Green Lane

Map: 92-N-21/ Lot #46

21st Ward, Philadelphia Co., Pennsylvania.

Year:	Grantor:	Grantee:	Deed Number:
1872	Samuel S. Keely	Thomas Kenworthy	JAH:284;369
1898	Elizabeth Kenworthy Joseph H. Kenworthy	Ada L. Kenworthy Joseph H. Kenworthy	WMG:297;197
1907	Joseph H. Kenworthy & Eva, h/w, et al.	Samuel P. Kenworthy	WSV:896;149
1944	Mary S. Kenworthy	Charles E. Liess	CJP:480;545
1944	Charles E. Liess	Morris Kaplin	CJP:480;297
1944	Maria Kaplan	Joseph S. Clark	CJP:480;174
1946	Joseph P. Clark & Edna P., h/w	Lily K. Wilson, Edward M. Wilson & Grace M., h/w, Virginia P. Wilson	CJP:623;211 <sup>1</sup>
1947	Edward M. Wilson & Grace M, h/w and Virginia F. Wilson, singlewoman, and Marion E. Wilson, singlewoman	Elizabeth S. Waugh, singlewoman	CJP:1633;349
1977	Elizabeth S, Waugh	Clinton Ollivier	DCC:1522;232
1987	Clinton Ollivier & Kay K., h/w	Clinton E. Ollivier & Kay K., h/w	FHS:772;449
1989	Clinton E. Ollivier & Kay K., h/w	William E. Vogel	FHS:1294;531
1999	William E. Vogel	James L. Baimen	D-1026064

in francisco made the beaud day of Navember with you of our Lord suc the Turning First ward of the only of Attachephia Carpenter a Jan his time of the our part and Thousand Nementally of the same part untressette that the Said Laune for we we considered in our of sous west our Housestay at and Julan the Leading and allingy of these

Portion of 1872 deed record in which Samuel S. Keely transferred this plot of land to Thomas Kenworthy. Deed Book JAH: 284; 396.

nown as the is a popular he gives his to politics. more cases r man at the g rapidly to

r. is a great blacksmith, ffairs in the xl, the dele-I to his party in the Mint. of Controller mong young red from the has a good e town.

n Manayunk. great extent There is one whom nearly althy Samuel began opera-1850, when To-day nel. ow of houses

about 120 journeyman a day. He nd whenever to build as can, thrifty, nly of work most men of y but plainly. dahrubbery. omson Jones ound Mana-Jones, the rother, looks ding associaand to them. wn owes the people own

a well as its clubs and The richest is , which has sted house at m G. Entresident. Mr. ople who one a chat or a McGlinchey,

## THOMAS KENWORTHY.

It was a great surprise to many who read in the last issue of the SENTINEL that Thomas Kenworthy had returned from Europe and was lying seriously ill at his home. They were more startled when, on Sunday evening, they learned that he had died on the afternoon of that day. The short sickness that terminated in his death seems to have resulted from a cold contracted while in the woods on Fourth of July.

Mr. Kenworthy was born at Lepton, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, on January 21st, 1838, every member of the family being also born in the same house. There were five brothers: Thomas, John, Ren, James, and Renben, all of whom are dead but John and Ben. When but fifteen years old, secompanied by his father and two of his brothers, he left Liverpool for America, sailing in the Steamer Wyoming, and arriving in Philadelphia in October, 1853. The four walked out to Falls of Schnylkill, where they located.

Like many another boy born of poor parents he early learned to toil for a livelihood, having been employed before he left England and finding work almost immediately after his arrival at the Falls in Shaw's (now J. & J. Dobson's) mill. From the Falls of Schnylkill he removed, while still a youth, to Roxborough, and there started linckstering, often trading produce for rags, and finding that there was money in the latter, he finally dealt solely therein and carried on the business at Mill Creek, Lower Merion,

Subsequently he came to Manayank and carried on the rag trade and from there got to trading among the big firms in the business down on Front street, Philadelphia, where for a time he was associated in a partnership with his brother Ben. This partnership was subsequently dissolved and a co-partnership was entered into with his brother John and they removed to the firm's present store, No. 111 Church street. On July 1st, 1886, the firm was enlarged by adding thereto Theo. B. Culver (the firm's right-hand man), Joseph (son of

Thomas), and Reuben (son of John) Kenworthy. The business carried on at 111 Church street is the importation of wool and hair and dealing in woolen rags. This is also the office of the Shur's Lane Mills, where worsted and woolen carpet yarns are manufactured. In connection with the importing business the deceased made frequent visits to the Old World, his last and recent journey making the seventeenth time that he had crossed the ocean.

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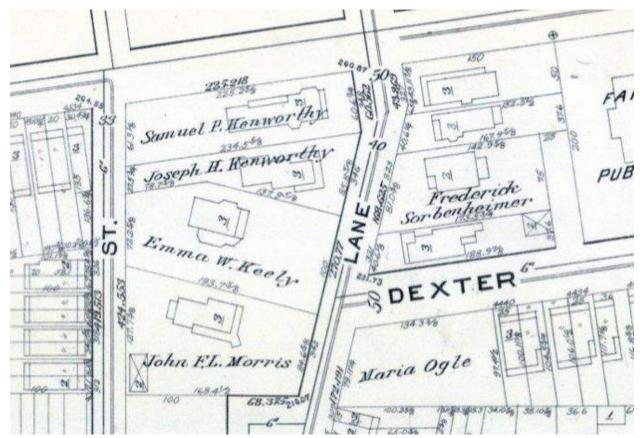
ng

The subject of this sketch always felt a pardonable pride in the successful men who had received their business training while in his tirm's employ. Andrew Flanagan, of the tirm of A. Flanagan & Brother; Joseph Boothroyd, the retired wool merchant; and J. W. Dodgson, of the firm of Schotield & Dodgson; were all bookeepers for the firm of T. Kenworthy & Brother

Thomas Kenworthy married on March 8th, 1863, Lydia A. Hewitt, the ceremony being performed at the parsonage of Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church by Rev. James A. Brindle. Twelve children were the product of this marriage, six sons and six daughters, of whom there are three sons and four daughters living. Mr. Kenworthy was very successful in business and leaves a large fortune to his family. One of his sons says : "Father always attributed his success to mother, who always stood by and advised him by her loving council."

The deceased evinced a constant and strong attachment for Ebenezer Church, was for years a member of the same, and this church has many times been aided in its finances by his liberal contributions. A few years ago, however, he transferred his membership to Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Roxborough, which was more convenient to his home, and the funeral services were held in the last-named church yesterday afternoon, the building being crowded to its utmost capacity. At the conclusion of the solemn exercises the encoffined remains were conveyed to Leverington Cemetery for interment.

Thomas Kenworthy's obituary, Manayunk Sentinel, July 21, 1887



This 1911 map shows the new boundary between Nos. 348 & 346 Green Lane, as both Kenworthy brothers now reside side-by-side on the parcel where their father Thomas Kenworthy first had his house erected. Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 21st Ward, Plate No. 7, 1911, E. V. Smith.

#### **APPENDIX C: Other Noteworthy Kenworthys and Green Lane Houses**

Thomas Kenworthy's brothers Ben and John also established themselves in the mill community, as well as the larger community of Manayunk. Benjamin Kenworthy (1836-1907) was a successful trader in the rag business, having his office in center city Philadelphia, first at 311-313 N. Front, then at 130 Arch Street. Like his brother, he arrived in America in 1853 with very little at the age of 18, but by 1867 had his own established business with his brothers Thomas and John. 33 In addition to his wool business, Benjamin Kenworthy served as a director of the Wissahickon Electric Railway Company in the first decade of the 20th century.<sup>34</sup> He was a director of the recently founded Manayunk Trust Company in 1892, and president from 1904 to 1907. 35

John Kenworthy (1840-1916), was the younger brother of Thomas and Benjamin, but when he reached an appropriate age and skill level, joined them both in their companies, first with Ben, then firmly established as a partner with Thomas in the Shurs Lane Mills. 36 He lived much longer than Thomas, and the company remained in family ownership until the 1930s.<sup>37</sup> His home is listed at 428 Lyceum in the 1880 Census and is still standing today as a well-maintained, and beautiful, if smaller house than many of the other Kenworthy homes.<sup>38</sup> John Kenworthy was also a member of the Wissahickon Electric Railway Company. 39 (The John Kenworthy who owned 325 Green Lane was not this John, but instead was the son of Benjamin Kenworthy.)

There are two other Kenworthy brothers, Reuben and James, who likely immigrated to America either shortly before or after their father and three brothers. It is worth noting that their homes are also located in the Roxborough neighborhood, Reuben Kenworthy's at 366 Riley (now Dupont) also still standing today.40

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> City Directory of Philadelphia, 1867, p. 726.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> American Street Railway Investments, 1902, p. 222, McGraw Electric Railway Manual, 1910, p. 377.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Trust Companies Monthly Magazine, January 1907, p. 48, Historical and Commercial Philadelphia, 1892, p. 111.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> City Directory of Philadelphia, 1868, p. 890.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service/National Register of Historic Places, John Wilde & Brother,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> 1880 Population Census of the United States of America, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Co., Ward 21, Enumeration District 431, page 10, line 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> American Street Railway Investments, 1902, p. 222

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> 1880 Population Census of the United States of American, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Co., Ward 21, Enumeration District 433, page 15, line 36.



348 Green Lane "Lepton Terrace" standing on the NW corner of Green Lane and Manayunk Avenue, with another Kenworthy property circa 1890 (owned by Joseph Kenworthy, 1865-1926) just downhill from it.

350 Green Lane (Owned by S.S. Keely) standing on the NE corner of Green Lane across Manayunk Avenue from 348 Green Lane.





Across Green Lane on the SW corner is a Wilde family house to the left (327 Green Lane) and another Kenworthy house on the right (325 Green Lane, built 1885, owned by John Kenworthy (1865-1893), son of Benjamin Kenworthy

Diagonally across on the SE corner is another Kenworthy house (365 Green Lane, Ben Kenworthy), already historically designated.





Two views of 344 Green Lane, built 1885, owned by S.S. Keely.



344 Green Lane, 346 Green Lane, 348 Green Lane, and, in the background on right, 350 Green Lane.

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