

**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

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

Street address: 1801 Meadow Street

Postal code: 19124

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: The Free Burying Ground of Frankford

Current/Common Name: Wilmot Park Playground

**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: City park with playground

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

*Please attach a narrative description and site/plot plan of the resource's boundaries.*

**6. DESCRIPTION**

*Please attach a narrative description and photographs of the resource's physical appearance, site, setting, and surroundings.*

**7. SIGNIFICANCE**

*Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.*

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1811 to 2021

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: Attached documentation

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Burgesses of the Borough of Frankford

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: Burgesses of the Borough of Frankford

Original owner: Nathan Harper of Frankford Borough in Oxford Township, City of Philadelphia

Other significant persons: William Chippy & Unknown Soldiers of the United States Colored Troops

**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**

*Please attach a bibliography.*

**9. NOMINATOR**

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Date 23 April 2021

Name with Title Joseph J. Menkevich, Histophotocartographer Email Menkevich.research@gmail.com

Street Address PO Box 45148 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19124

Nominator  is  is not the property owner.

**PHC USE ONLY**

Date of Receipt: 23 April 2021; edits made 23 June 2021

Correct-Complete  Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 23 June 2021

Date of Notice Issuance: 30 July 2021

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Address: 1515 Arch Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19102

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated  Rejected

**NOMINATION  
OF  
THE FREE BURYING GROUND OF FRANKFORD  
ENACTED INTO ORDINANCE  
THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 1811  
ISAAC WORRELL — CHIEF BURGESS  
PRESENTLY CALLED WILMOT PARK PLAYGROUND  
FOR INCLUSION & LISTING IN THE  
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**



Wilmot Park. Split-Photos are by the Courtesy of Joseph J. Menkevich. 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

## INTRODUCTION: FRANKFORD'S HISTORICAL CHURCHES AND BURIAL GROUNDS IN GENERAL

Frankford was established in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century as Quaker Meeting with a meetinghouse with a burial ground. In the year 1800, Frankford was still an active Quaker center, but there were no burial grounds for the African American residents.

<i>The Churches of Frankford</i>	
1683	Frankford Friends Meeting
1698	Trinity Church, Oxford
1770	The Presbyterian Church of Frankford
1792	Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
1807	Frankford Baptist Church
1807	Campbell African Methodist Episcopal Church
1822	Frankford Swedenborgian Church of the New Jerusalem

Figure 1: Kenneth E. Yocum— Girard Trust Corn Exchange Bank, 1958.

When Frankford's Public Burying Ground ordinance was enacted in October of 1811. America was then on the eve of a War.

The War of 1812's beginning had roots in Philadelphia. It was here, on June 3, 1811, that William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) began his regiment's march to the Indiana Territory. Several months later, on November 7, 1811, the unit fought the Shawnee at Tippecanoe. Some historians consider this the first battle of the War...<sup>1</sup>

Frankford's Black population must have been significant, because they had established an African Methodist Episcopal Congregation before 1811 and were then in the process of securing property for a burial ground and church edifice.

Frankford was still a Quaker stronghold, the *War of 76* fresh in their minds – knew Blacks had served in the Revolution. They knew because, the Byberry Meeting had provided "Free Negroes" a burial ground in 1780 even before the War's end.

The African-Americans as Slaves (in contradistinction to the Quakers) were always the codependent innocent bystanders, having neither choice in war nor the freedom to refuse to fight.

The African-Americans were active in carrying munitions & baggage, they became soldiers of the United States by default, while many of the Religious Society of Friends exercised their right not to support the American War due to conscience & religious beliefs established by William Penn.<sup>2</sup>

Historically the Quakers, sometimes known as Friends, did not allow the burial of Black people within their graveyards.

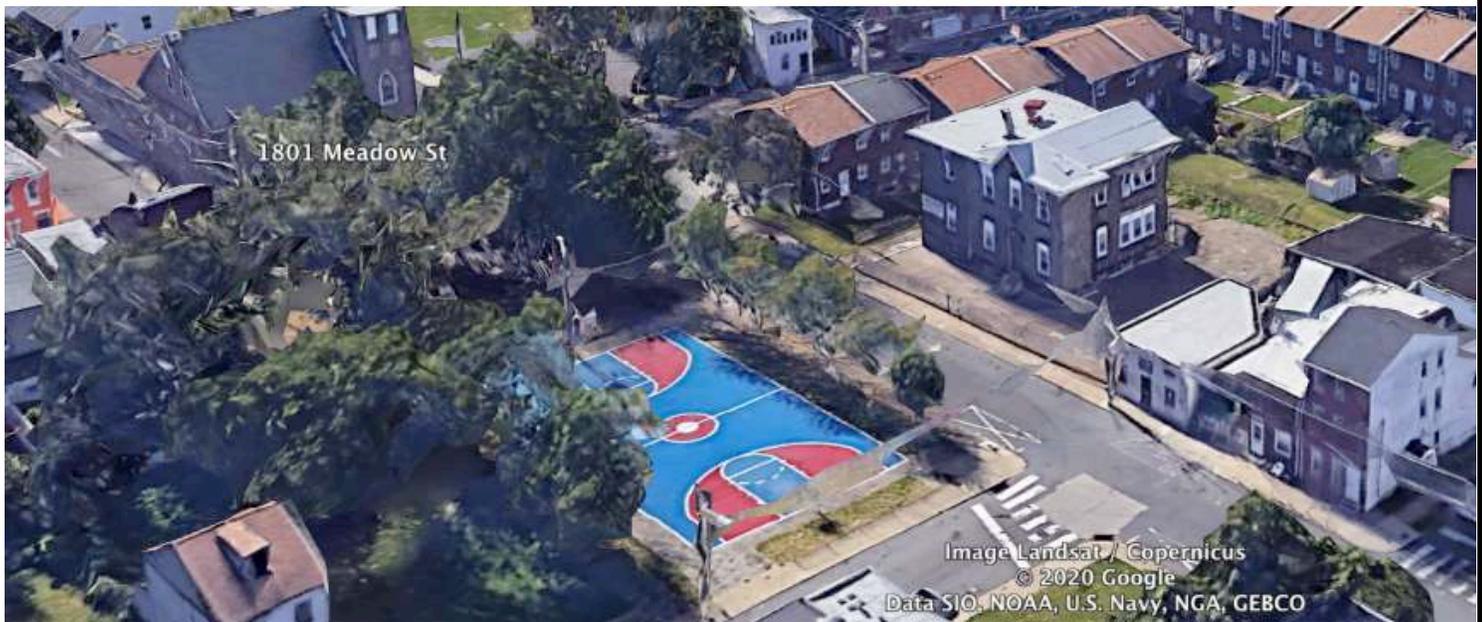
There was racism among Friends. The Quaker meetings were segregated as well as their graveyards. *Friends are not satisfied with having negroes buried in Friends' burying ground.... Middletown Friends unanimously agreed that hereafter no Deceased Negroes be Buried Within ye Walls of sd graveyard Belonging to this Meeting. No matter how "kind" they might be as masters, they did not welcome Blacks to join the meeting, or in any way encourage them.*<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *War of 1812*. Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. Web. 20 Apr. 2021 <<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/war-of-1812/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Menkevich, Joseph J. *Nomination of Byberry African American Cemetery*. 14700 Townsend Road, Phila. Pa. P.H.C. 2014. Go to <https://archive.org/> and Enter this URL: [www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/Byberry-Cemetery-nomination.pdf](http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/Byberry-Cemetery-nomination.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.* 49. F/n 47, 48 & 49.

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Two Combined Properties Sit A-Top The Free Burying Ground of Frankford**



**Figure 2: Bottom-Left: Wilmot Park & Playground. Top-Right: The David Wilmot Public School. Google-Photo.**

**1736 Meadow Street Philadelphia PA; 19124**

**1801 Meadow Street Philadelphia PA; 19124**

	BRT/OPA Account Number: 778228000	<b>Legend</b> Selected Parcel Other Parcels Impervious Surfaces Roof Other Impervious
	Stormwater Billing Class: Non-Residential	
	Parcel Address: 1736 MEADOW ST	
	Parcel Owner: THE 2ND BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRANKFORD INC	

	BRT/OPA Account Number: 885752640	<b>Legend</b> Selected Parcel Other Parcels Impervious Surfaces Roof Other Impervious
	Stormwater Billing Class: Non-Residential	
	Parcel Address: 1801 MEADOW ST	
	Parcel Owner: CITY OF PHILADELPHIA WILMOT PARK PLGD	



Parcel Area (square feet)	Gross Area	Impervious Area
Total:	9,112	8,277

Parcel Area (square feet)	Gross Area	Impervious Area
Total:	15,119	9,807

**Figure 3: David Wilmot Public School**

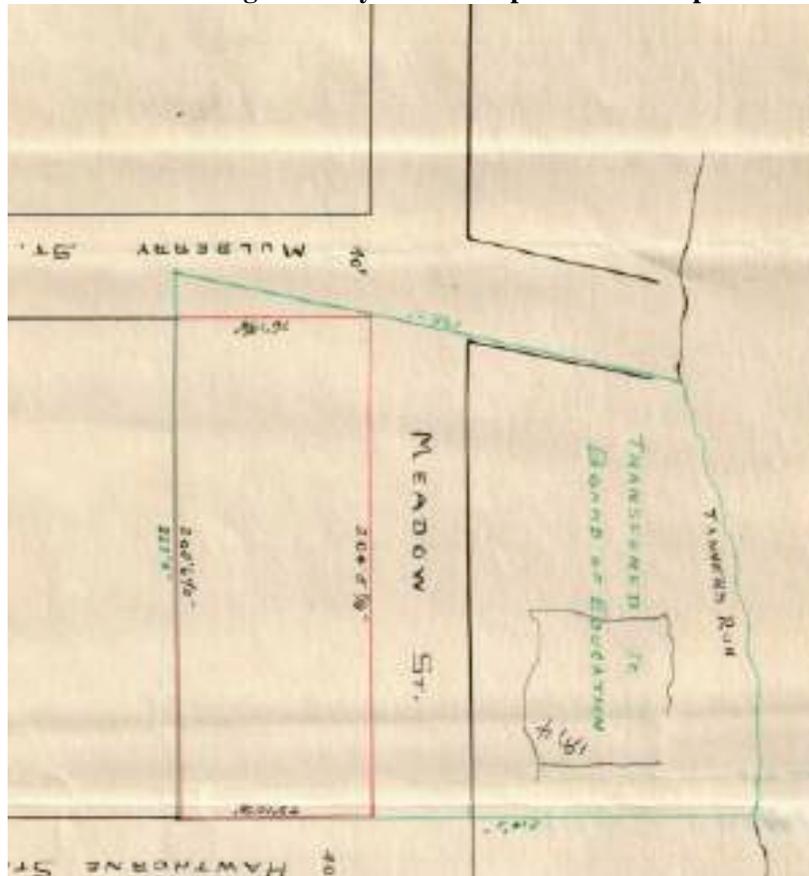
**Figure 4: Wilmot Park and Playground**

ALL THOSE TWO (2) CERTAIN—Lots, tracts or pieces of land: One with a School building and improvements thereon erected, the Other is a Public Park with a Playground, Basketball Court and other improvements thereon erected SITUATE at FRANKFORD within the TWENTY-THIRD WARD of the City of Philadelphia — Formerly known as the Free Burying Ground of Frankford.<sup>4</sup>

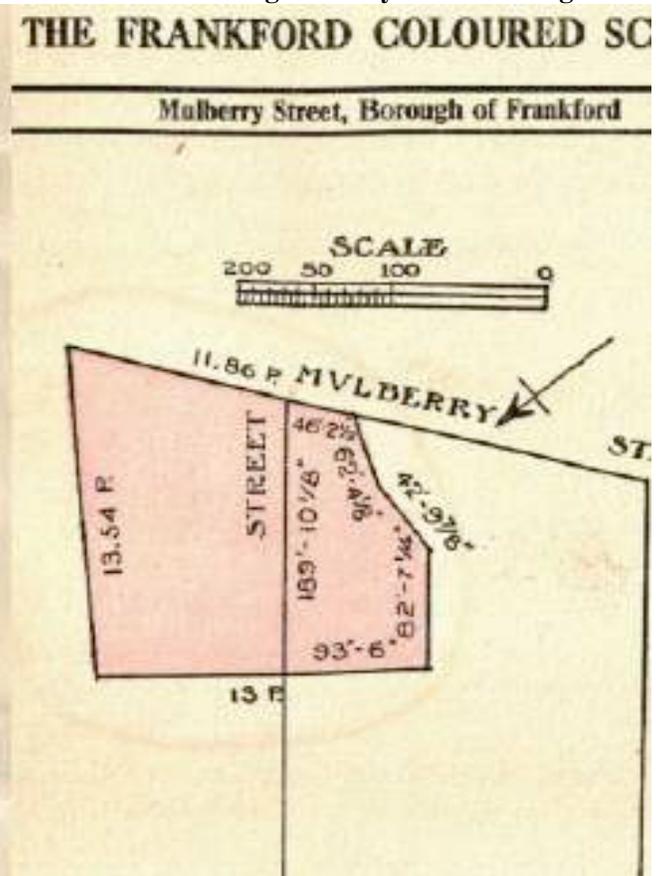
<sup>4</sup> In 2016, the David Wilmot Public School For Colored Children (now the J.C. King Educational Building) was Nominated and placed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. It is also on National Register of Historic Places. The current nomination for a burial ground may overlap with the former, in sharing of text, citations & images as once used; but the school building is not being re-nominated.

## 5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION BY DEED OF 1812: THE FREE BURYING GROUND OF FRANKFORD

### Street Through Graveyard As Proposed To Be Open



### Street Through Graveyard Is Missing



**Figure 5:** Box A - 2598 Law Department Deeds to School Properties, Accessed: Phila, City Archives 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2015.

**A CERTAIN LOT or piece of Land** Situate in the said Borough of Frankford, to wit:

**BEGINNING** at a stone set for a corner in the Middle of a Small Steam of Water Called Tanners Run (which Run is the dividing line between this lot and Land of William Grum), **and thence** extending down the Run on its Several Courses to a Stone set for a corner of this and Yeamans Gillingham Junior

**Thence** by the said Land North  $51^{\circ}45'$  East 11 perches and  $86/100^{\text{th}}$  of a perch to a Corner Stone

**Thence** by the land of Jesse Walton North  $52^{\circ}30'$  West 13 perches and  $54/100^{\text{th}}$  of a perch to cornerstone by the side of a (24) twenty-four feet wide Lane

**Thence** by the said Lane South  $36^{\circ}15'$  West 13 perches to the place of the beginning containing 142 square perches &  $5/10^{\text{th}}$  of a perch more or less —

**Being** the same lot of Land which Jesse Walton and Ann his Wife by Indenture dated the 11th day of the 5th month A.D. 1811 — Conveyed to the said Nathan Harper in fee together with all and singular the ways, streets, passes, Water Ways Courses Rights Privileges and appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging...

**The said Nathan Harper** and Mary his Wife in Law and Equity of in and to the same to have and to hold the said lot of Land Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted with the Appurtenances unto the said Burgesses and Inhabitants of the said Borough of Frankford —

**To be occupied as a public burying Ground forever hereafter for the Dead of All Nations Sects and Colours** without any charge what ever except the Customary expenses of digging and keeping up the Graves to the only use of a public burying ground free and clear of and from all Judgments heirs and other Incumbrances whatsoever... the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August 1812 in Philadelphia Deed Book IC.19 page 526. <sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The boundary description herein presented is as originally recorded in the deed of 1811. Meadow Street was opened in 1813, where it ended at the Burial Ground. See: figure (12) twelve on page (9) Nine. The Free Burial Ground fell into the possession of the City of Philadelphia by the Act of Consolidation; when all Boroughs became part of Philadelphia. Thereafter, maintenance and upkeep became the responsibility of the City of Philadelphia.

**6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: AN EXACT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION IS NOT CURRENTLY POSSIBLE, AS THAT ATTRIBUTE OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE, [A BURIAL SITE] IS BELOW THE EARTH'S SURFACE**

**General Area Of The Free Burying Ground of Frankford — Compare with Figure No. 5 On Previous Page**

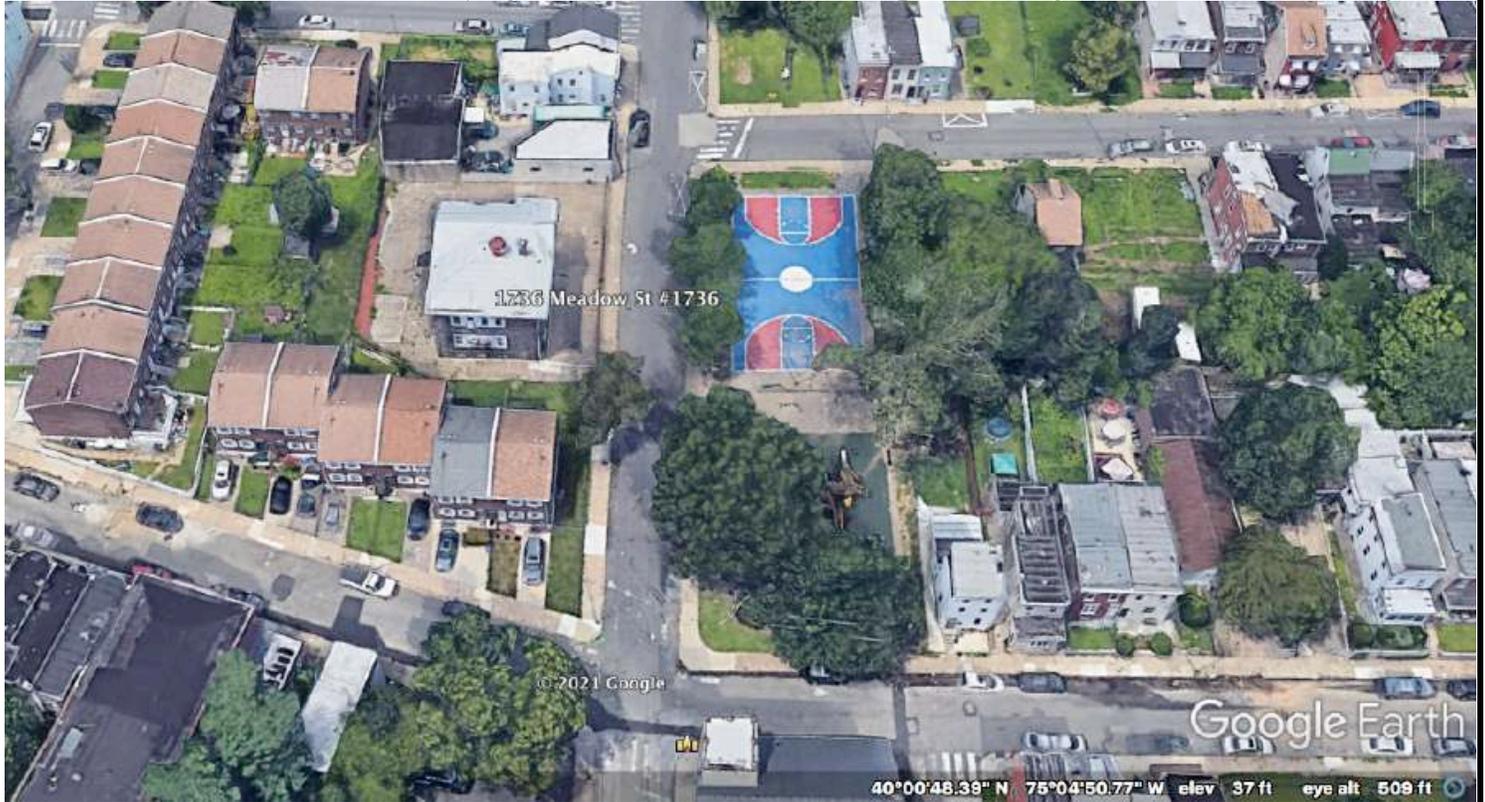


Figure 6: Image is by Courtesy of Google Earth

Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

**Visual: An Estimated Foot-Print of The Free Burying Ground of Frankford**



Figure 7: Image is by Courtesy of Maxar, Microsoft | Esri | [ArcGIS.com Map](https://www.arcgis.com)

Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

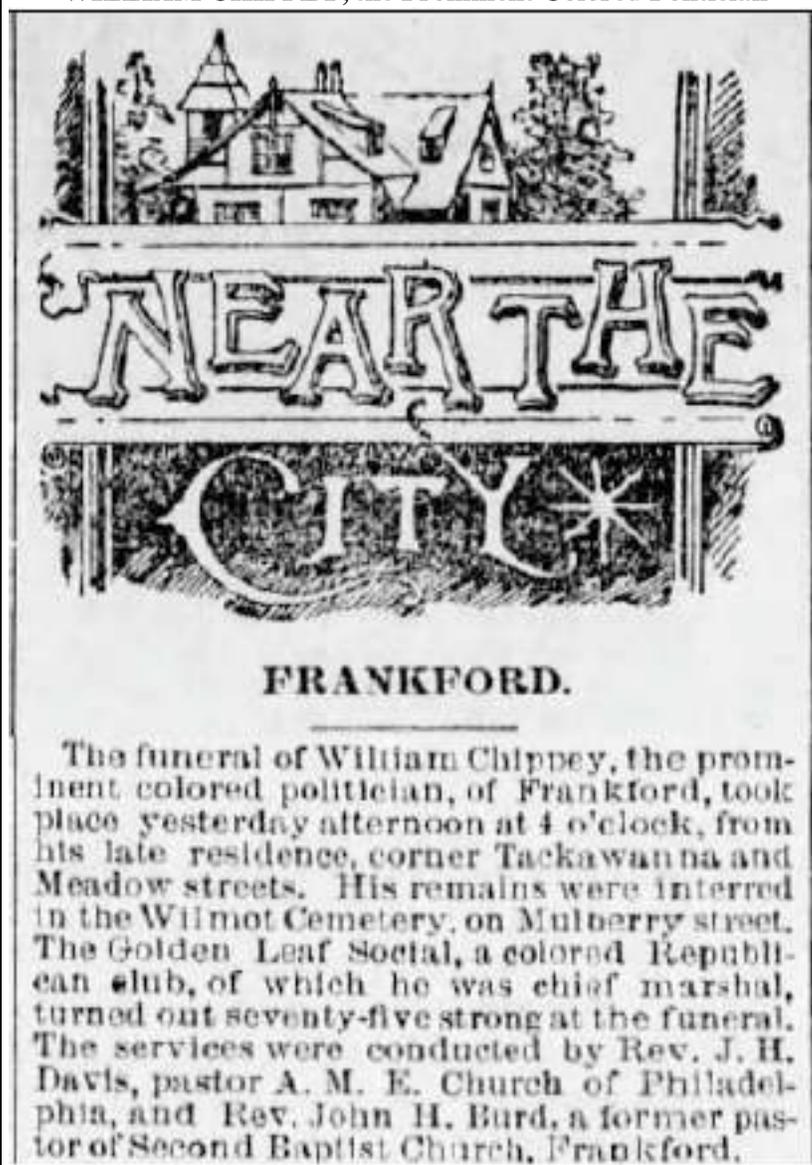
## 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Free Burial Ground of Frankford situate 1801 Meadow Street is an extremely significant historic site meriting designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, satisfying the following Criteria for Designation: a, g, i, and j as enumerated in § 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code. The Site:

- (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
- (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,
- (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.

**(Satisfying Criterion A & J). Has an association with lives of persons *significant in the past and exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social & historical heritage of the BLACK COMMUNITY OF FRANKFORD*:**

### **WILLIAM CHIPPEY, the Prominent Colored Politician**



Funeral of William Chippey took place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1891  
Residence Year: 1887  
Street address: 4800 Tackawanna  
Residence Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
Occupation: Brick Maker  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, City Directory, 1887  
He was in the Civil War Draft reg. records.  
He lived on Foulkrod st. below Main.  
Colored, laborer. Birth year 1823

### **NEAR THE CITY FRANKFORD**

The Funeral of William Chippey, the prominent colored politician of Frankford, took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, from his late residence, corner Tackawanna and Meadow streets. His remains were interred in the Wilmot Cemetery, on Mulberry street. The Golden Leaf Social, a colored Republican club of which he was chief marshal, turned out seventy-five strong at the funeral. The services were conducted by Rev. J. H. Davis, pastor A. M. E. Church of Philadelphia, and Rev. John H. Burd, a former pastor of Second Baptist Church, Frankford.

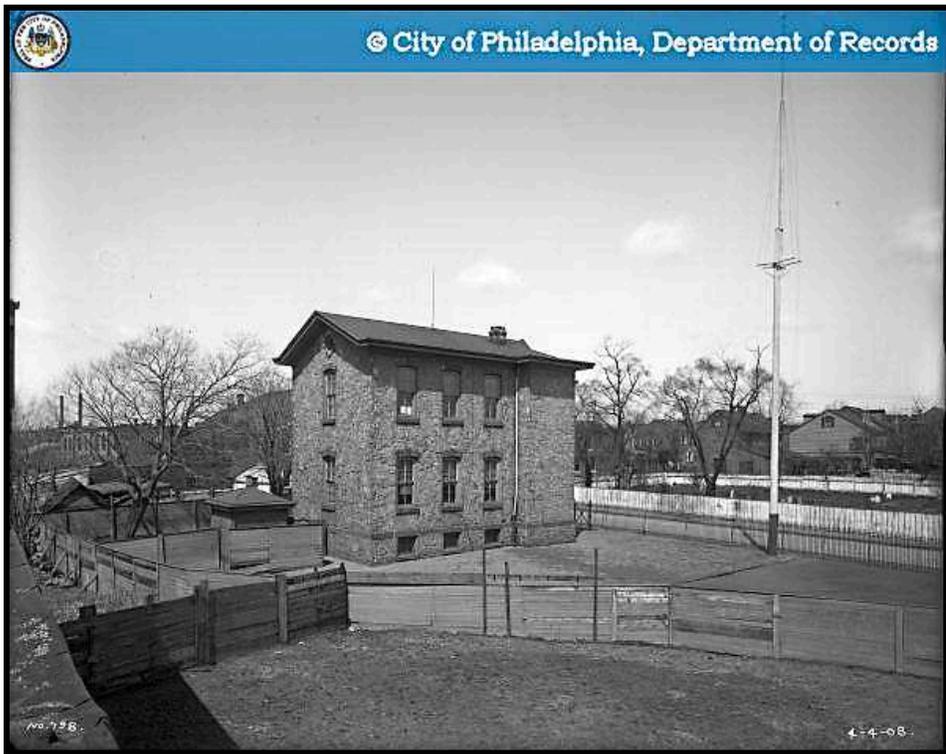
**[Note: William Chippey was a Trustee of the Second Baptist Church of Frankford]<sup>6</sup>**

***The Philadelphia Times. Phila. Pa. 25<sup>th</sup> August 1891 Page 2.***

<sup>6</sup> Philadelphia Deed Book: JOD.136.161 Thomas Castor to Edward James, Sip Williams, James Monroe and William Chippy Sr. of Frankford — 18<sup>th</sup> July 1881. [A Tract of land at Mulberry & Plum streets in the Twenty-Third Ward — IN TRUST for the use and benefit and behoof of a certain unincorporated religious association Known as the Second Baptist Church of Frankford]

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - CONTINUED - (Satisfying Criterion G & I).

Satisfying Criterion 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, BEING:



- ❖ A Free Public Burying Ground [Non-sectarian]
- ❖ An Unclassified School For Colored Children
- ❖ A Night School For Colored Adult Men and Women
- ❖ A New School House for the Education of Colored Children
- ❖ A War Memorial and Burial Site for United States Colored Troops
- ❖ A City Street
- ❖ A Public Park
- ❖ A City Playground
- ❖ A VFW Memorial Site [Veterans of Foreign Wars]

Figure 8: The School Building, Fenced Burial Ground and Grave Markers. Photo: DOR Archives Asset ID 44007. Web. <<https://www.phillyhistory.org>>.

Post 1874 — The Burial Ground Was Primarily Used by African American Citizens

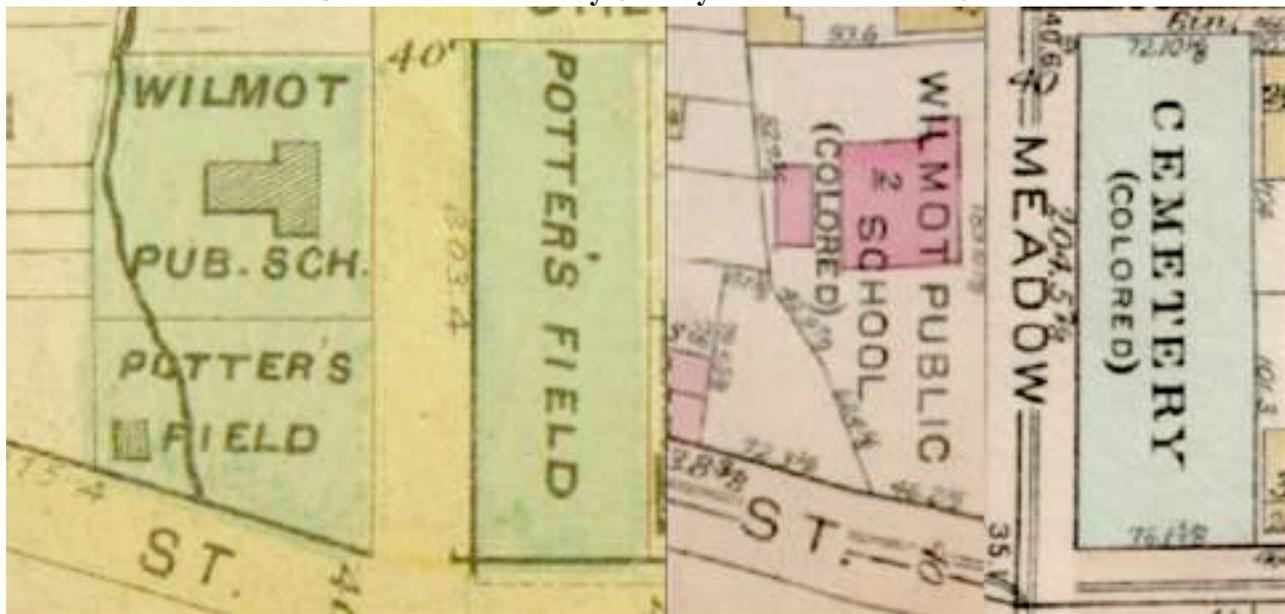
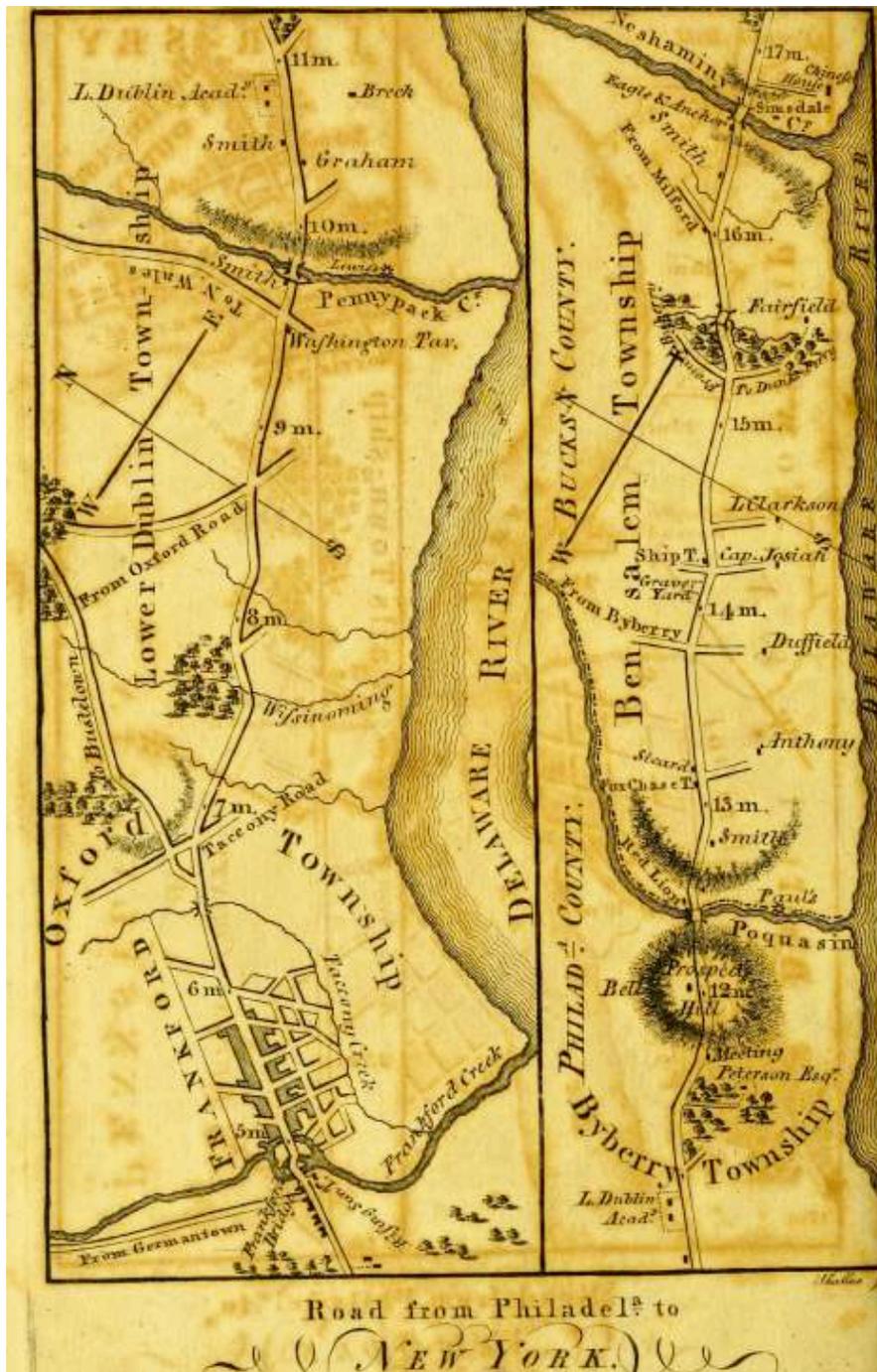


Figure 9: G.M. Hopkins, Atlas 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward — 1876 Plate A. G.W Bromley, Atlas 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward — 1929 Plate 07. (Satisfying Criterion I) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Criterion confirmed in by the nomination of Wilmot Public School, which is also related to this same Public Burial Ground. Web. Access: <https://archive.org/> and Enter this URL: [www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1736-Meadow-St-nomination-final-lowres.pdf](http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1736-Meadow-St-nomination-final-lowres.pdf)

## HISTORY — IN CONTEXT: THE BOROUGH OF FRANKFORD <sup>8</sup>

*Frankford.* — The borough of Frankford was incorporated by an act of March 7, 1800. The manuscript ordinances of the borough from 1801 to 1846, in one volume, are in the city treasurer's office. In the same office are the minutes of the burgesses of Frankford, 1839 to 1854, in two volumes. Three volumes of tax assessment books of the borough for the years 1851 to 1854 are in the office of the board of revision of taxes.<sup>9</sup>



**Figure 10: Travellers Directory 1804 — S. S. MOORE and T. W. JONES.**  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Web. <<https://archive.org/details/travellersdirect00moor>>.

<sup>8</sup> *The Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania* [1800]. Accessed: Web. <<http://www.palrb.us/statutesatlarge/18001899/1800/0/act/2123.pdf>>.

<sup>9</sup> Ames, Herman Vandenburg and Albert E. McKinley. "Report on the Public Archives of the City and County of Philadelphia." *Annual Report Of The American Historical Association For The Year 1901 Volume II.* (1902): 255 of (231–344). Accessed 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Web. <<https://archive.org/details/annualreportofth005841mbp>>.

## THE ORDINANCE OF 1811: IN CONTEXT

Whereas Sundry benevolent Inhabitants of the Borough of Frankford and its vicinity raised by subscription a Sum of Money to pay for a Lot of Ground for a Burying Ground to be for the use of all Description of persons to bury their Dead therein free of any charges other than those of paying the sexton for digging and keeping up the Graves

And Whereas by Deed of Conveyance of said lot ground to the Burgess of the Borough of Frankford in their Corporate capacity for the purposes therein stated and in Conformity to the power vested in them, and to carry the benevolent Intentions of the Purchasers and Conveyances into full Effect

Sect. 1<sup>st</sup> Be it Ordained by the Burgesses and Assistants of the Borough of Frankford: That the Ground shall be called The Free Burying Ground of Frankford: That it shall be divided into two Equal parts, by an Avenue of eight feet wide from one extremity to the other: the Northern division to be appropriated to the burying of white People and the Southern Division to burying People of Color

Sect. 2<sup>nd</sup> Be it further Ordained that a Sexton Be appointed yearly: and that he shall receive as a full Compensation for his Services of digging and keeping up the Graves the following Sums Viz

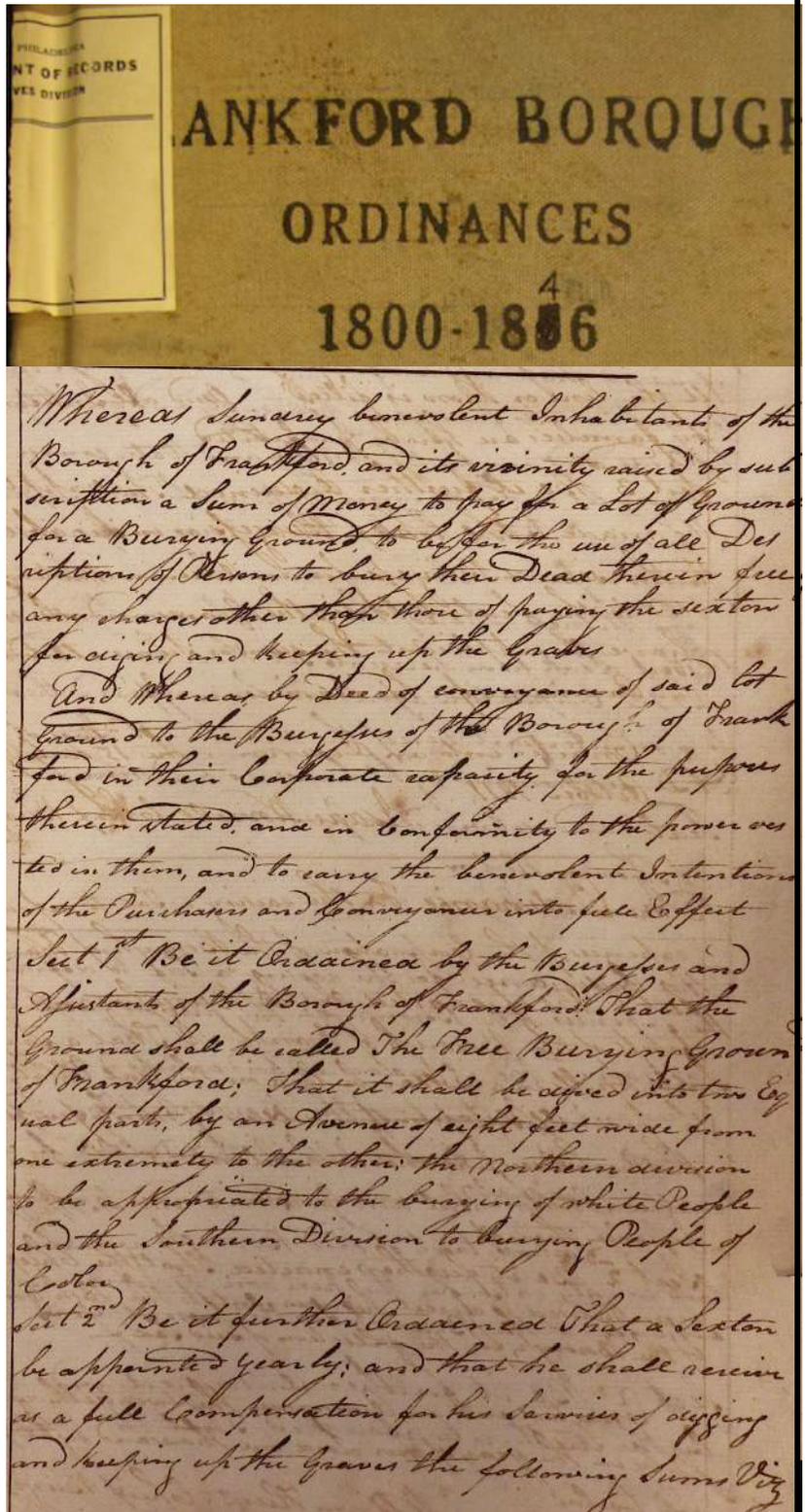
Five Dollars for all above ten years Old and One Dollar for all under ten years Old  
And That the manner of digging the Graves and Burying shall be five feet deep for Adults in parallel lines with each other, according to size; The Adults in one line; Youths in another, and Children in a third line; crossing the Grave yard in Succession until the line or Row is filled — And all Interments by families are here by prohibited

Sect. 3<sup>rd</sup> Be it further Ordained That application be made to the Chief Burgess or in his absence to the second Burgess for an Order in Writing directed to the Sexton to dig the graves, and who is to charge the applicants the sum or Sums allotted by this Ordinance for his Services

Enacted into Ordinance the 15th day of  
October 1811

Isaac Worrell Chief Burgess

— Transcribed by Joseph J. Menkevich<sup>10</sup>



**Figure 11:** Ordinances (1800-1853) of the Burgesses of Frankford, Accessed at the Philadelphia City Archives 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 and the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 by Joseph J. Menkevich.

← Pages 26 and 27 of the Frankford Borough Ordinances.

<sup>10</sup> Philadelphia City Archives. [Record Group 207.2] Ordinances. <<https://www.phila.gov/phils/docs/Inventor/graphics/archser/S207.htm>>.

IN CONTEXT: SURVEY OF TWO STREETS OR ROADS OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKFORD <sup>11</sup>

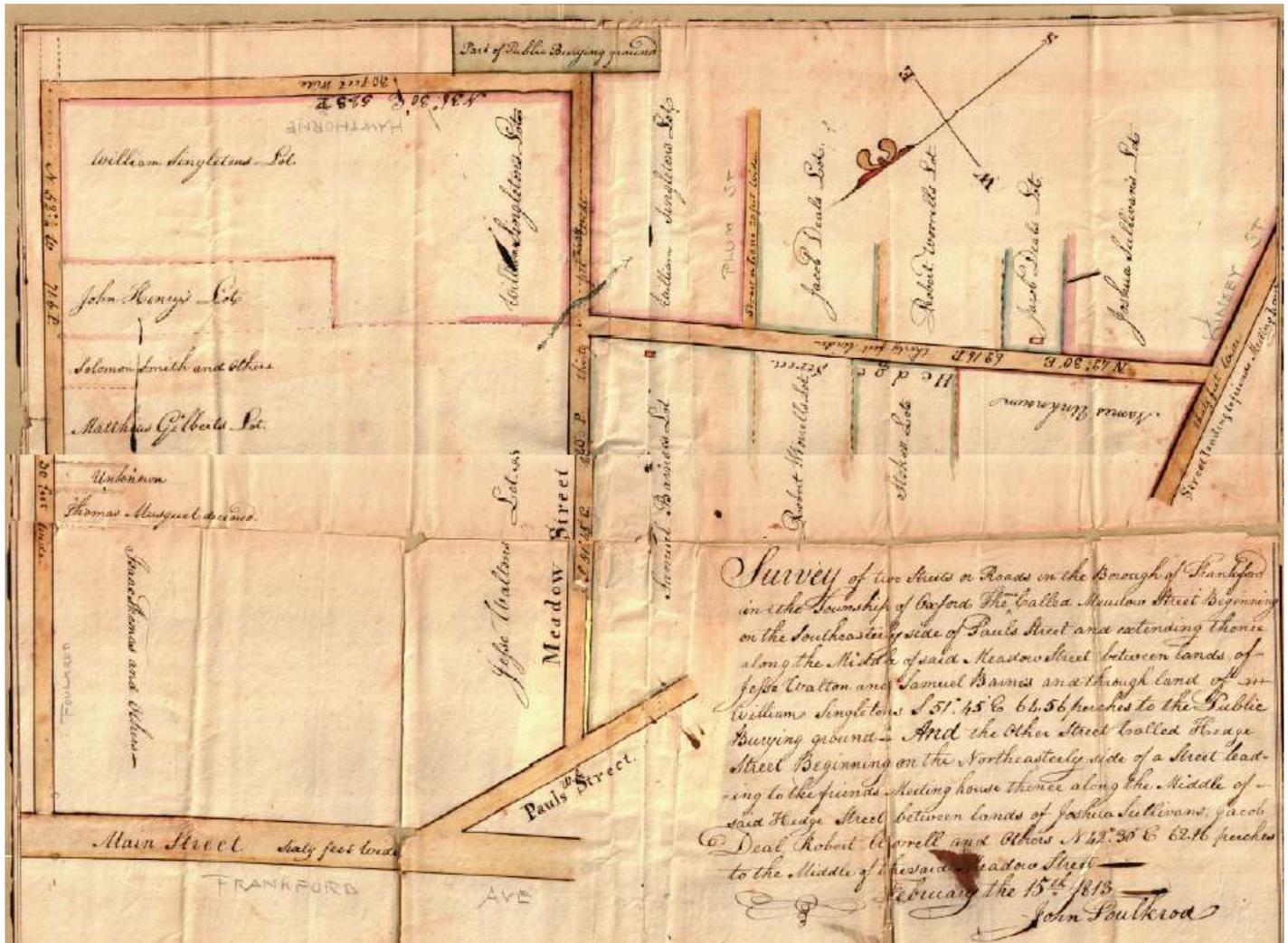


Figure 12: Survey of two Streets 15<sup>th</sup> February 1813 by John Foulkrod, Surveyor

SURVEY of two Streets or Roads in the Borough of Frankford in the Township of Oxford. The One Called Meadow Street, Beginning on the Southeasterly side of Paul Street and thence along the Middle of said Meadow Street between the lands of Jesse Walton and Samuel Barnes and through land of William Singleton S 51°. 45' E 64.56 perches to the Public Burying Ground — AND the other Street Called Hedge Street Beginning on the Northeasterly side of a Street leading to the friends Meeting house thence along the Middle of said Hedge Street between lands of Joshua Sullivan, Jacob Deal, Robert Worrell and Others N 42°. 30' E 62.16 perches to the Middle of the said Meadow Street —

February the 15<sup>th</sup> 1813 —

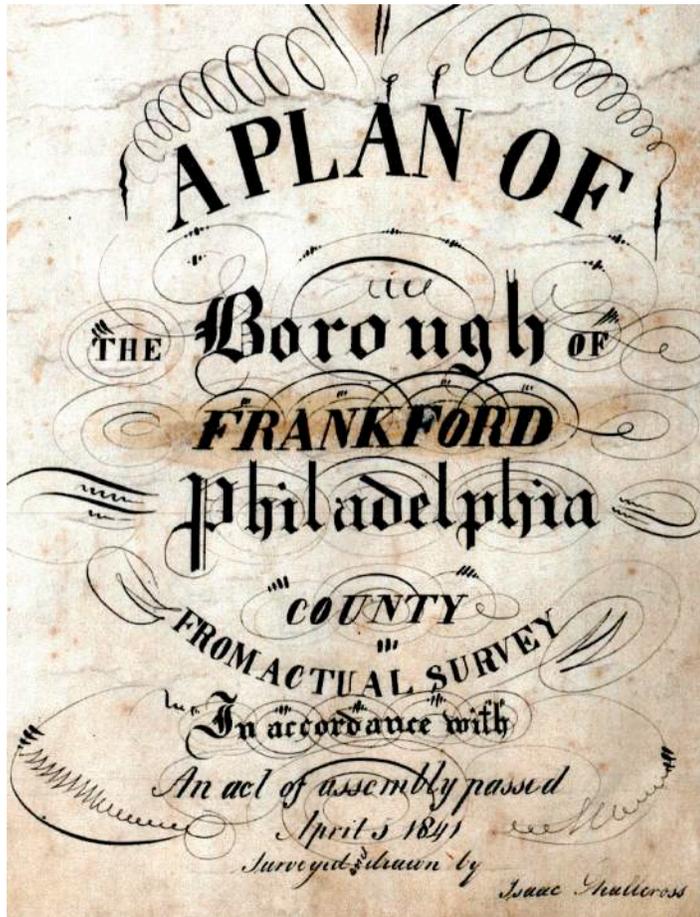
John Foulkrod

<sup>11</sup> RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.

<<https://www.phila.gov/phils/Docs/Inventor/graphics/archser/S021.htm>>. Accessed: Philadelphia City Archives the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by Joseph J. Menkevich. Transcribed the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**NOTE:** The above survey illustrates the heart of Frankford's African American Community. The Free Buying Ground is located at the intersection of Cherry and Meadow Streets. In 1839, a portion of the **Northern Division** was rented to support a school for the education of the African Community. The Plan & Survey by Isaac Shallcross (next two pages) was a proposal. In *the Plan*, Meadow Street was expected to be extended through the middle of the graveyard. Protests and litigation soon followed. The Plan was revised.

**A PLAN OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKFORD – CONFIRMED THE 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 1847: IN CONTEXT**

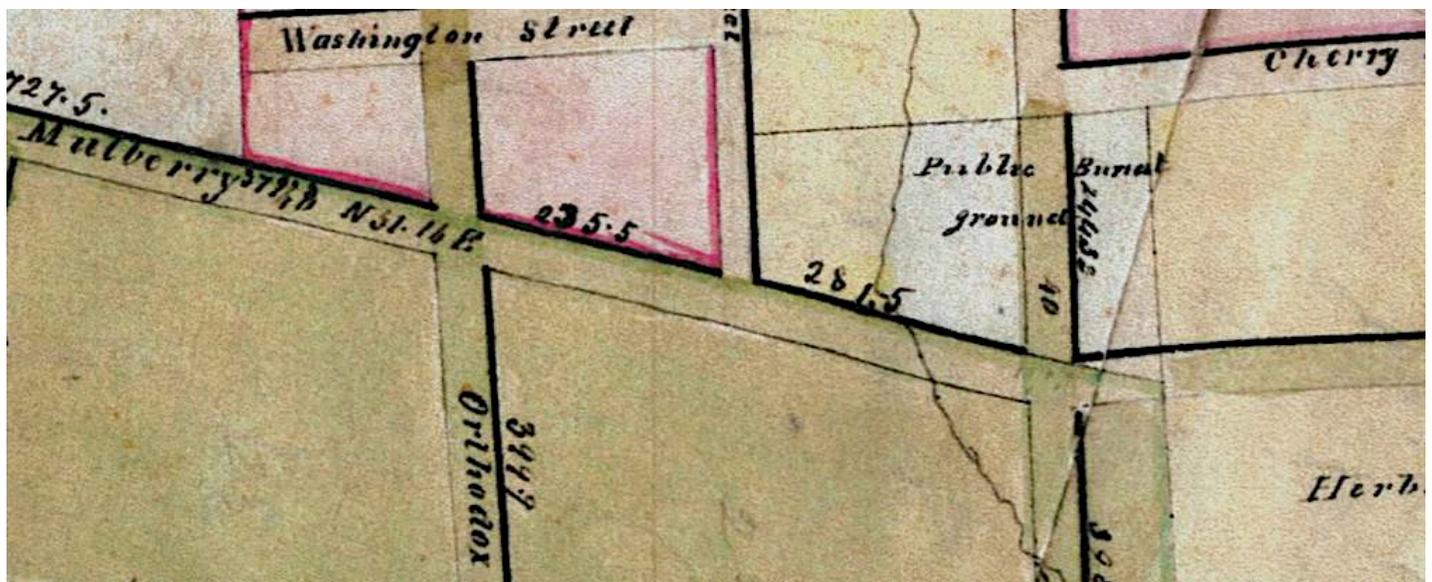


**Figure 13: PLAN OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKFORD Philadelphia County From Actual Survey In accordance with An Act of Assembly passed April 5, 1841 Surveyed and drawn by Isaac Shallcross [Adopted by Council and inhabitants of Frankford, 5 April 1841; confirmed Nov. 13, 1847].**

“According to Guernsey Hallowell, author of History of Frankford, by an act of the Assembly passed March 5, 1841, *The supervisors of the roads and highways of Oxford Township were deprived of jurisdiction after the second Friday of March, 1842, over the streets and highways of the Borough of Frankford, and prevented from collecting road tax therein.*

The act provided that the debt due by the Township and Borough should be paid jointly. The voters of Oxford Township were authorized to elect two supervisors of roads and three auditors of road accounts, one to serve one year, one for two years, and one for three years. The voters of the Borough were to elect one auditor who, in conjunction with the auditors whose terms had not yet expired, would settle the road accounts for the year.

Isaac Shallcross, Levi Coates, and Leonard Shallcross audited the accounts of the supervisors... On April 5, 1841, it was decided to appoint surveyors who would make an official plan of all the streets and lay out new streets and sewers that would be necessary for regular and convenient town plan. Isaac Shallcross was appointed surveyor...”<sup>12</sup>



**Figure 14: The Colorized Streets In This Plan Were Open. The Non-Colorized Streets Were Not Immediately Opened.**

<sup>12</sup> L.r. 1078, Pulaski Highway: Delaware Expressway to Roosevelt Boulevard, City and County of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Penna: Administrative Action Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Washington: The Administration, 1976. 19-21. Web. Google Books.

MONDAY, January 18, 1841

The Speaker presented three remonstrances, signed by inhabitants of the borough of Frankford, in the county of Philadelphia, against investing the burgesses, and assistants of said borough, with exclusive control over its roads, bridges and streets. Which said petitions and remonstrances were read, and laid on the table.<sup>14</sup>

[No. 61.] "AN ACT

To provide for a survey of the borough of Frankford, in the county of Philadelphia."

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That from and after the passage of this act, the burgesses and inhabitants of the said borough of Frankford, in the county of Philadelphia, are hereby authorized and required to appoint one or more surveyors, who shall at all times be directed and governed by the said burgesses and inhabitants, and who are hereby enjoined and required, as soon as conveniently may be, to survey and mark the lines of all the streets,

roads, lanes, courts and alleys, now opened or intended to be opened for public use within the said borough, and also to survey and lay out such other new streets, lanes, courts and alleys, and common sewers within the said borough as he or they shall deem necessary for a regular and convenient town plan, and for the more equal distribution and ready discharge of the waters thereof, and for that purpose the said surveyor or surveyors shall have full power and authority with or without his or their assistant or assistants to enter upon the land or lands of any person or persons within the said borough, and when the said survey and regulations shall be completed, the said surveyor or surveyors shall make or cause to be made, two draughts or plans thereof with every explanation necessary for a full understanding of the same, and one of the said draughts or plans shall be returned to the said burgesses or assistants...<sup>15</sup>

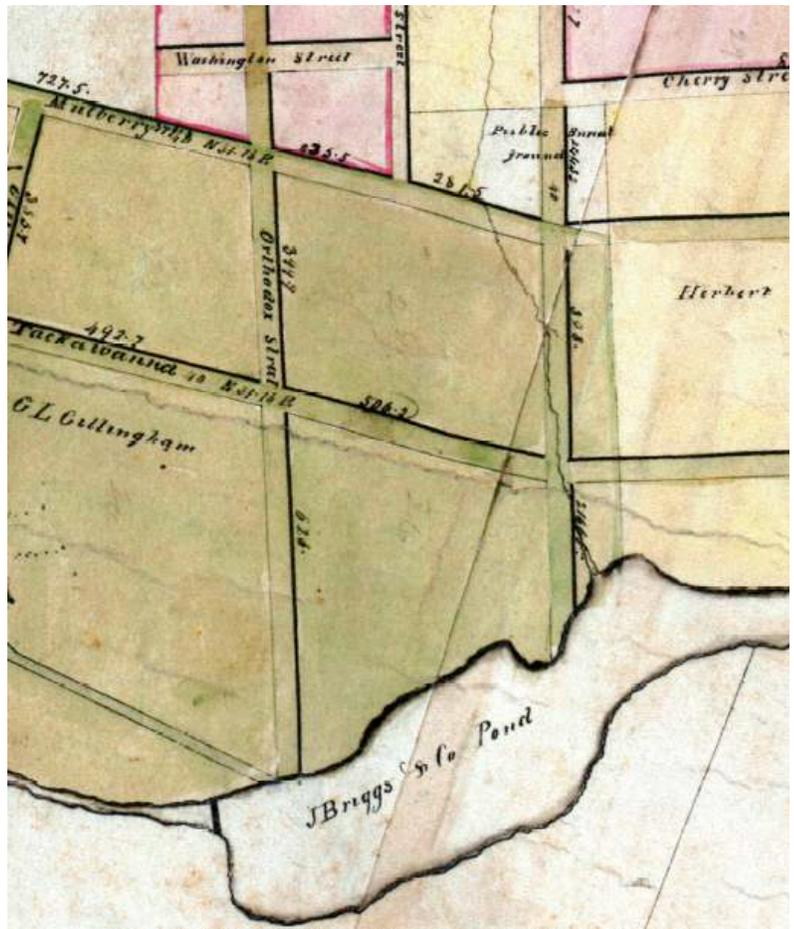


Figure 15: Clipped from Plan of The Borough of Frankford



Figure 16: Clipped from Plan of The Borough of Frankford

<sup>13</sup> A Plan of the Borough of Frankford... Surveyed & drawn by Isaac Shallcross. [Adopted by Council and inhabitants of Frankford, 5 April 1841; confirmed Nov. 13, 1847] Web. 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. <<http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/039-01> HP>.

<sup>14</sup> Journal of the Fifty-First House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fifth Day Of January 1841. Vol.1. Harrisburg, Pa.: Printed by James S. Wallace, 1841. 102. Web. 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. [Google Books](https://www.google.com/books).

<sup>15</sup> Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Passed at the Session of 1841, in the Sixty-Fifth Year of Independence. Harrisburg, Pa: Peacock & M'Kinley, 1841. 118. Web. 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015. [Google Books](https://www.google.com/books).

## EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGESSES AND COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS: IN CONTEXT

15<sup>th</sup> October 1811 — That the Ground shall be called The Free Burying Ground of Frankford...

13<sup>th</sup> May 1839 — On Motion, Resolved that Messrs Slaughter & Coats be a Committee to visit the Public Burial Ground & see what repairs are necessary to be made & lease the same for the best offer.

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1839 — The committee on the Public Grave Yard are continued with instructions to do with it to the best advantage.

1<sup>st</sup> July 1839 — The committee on the Public Grave Yard report attention to their appointment that they have rented the same to John Stull for \$5.00 the current year which report was approved.

7<sup>th</sup> October 1839 — A Petition from Sundry persons Inhabitants of the Borough of Frankford for the purpose of leasing a Small part of the Public Burial Ground for the erection of a Coloured School house was produced & read. It was on Motion Resolved that Messrs. Horrocks & Slaughter & Coats be a Committee to consult the Solicitor, to know whether this board have the power to lease a small part of said Public Ground as requested by the petitioners, & that the said committee act accordingly to their best Judgments.

November 4<sup>th</sup> 1839 — The Committee to consult the Solicitor with regard to leasing A small portion of the Public Burial Ground, for the use of the Coloured School, Report that duty performed And also presented a release from the Assignees of the late Nathan Harper which was Approved. On Motion, Resolved that the purchase money be paid for said release. On Motion Resolved that Horrocks, Coats & Slaughter be continued as a committee on the Public Ground, and have a lease drawn for the Colored School, the Committee also instructed to have the release recorded.

2<sup>nd</sup> December 1839, the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1840 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1840 — The Committee on Public Burial Ground are continued.

4<sup>th</sup> March 1840 — The Committee on Public Burial Ground are discharged and the lease to be & signed by the Chief Burgess and Secretary under the seal of the Corporation.

4<sup>th</sup> May 1840 — Calendar year. \$5 rent on Graveyard (Paid).

7<sup>th</sup> September 1840 — At a Stated Meeting of Borough Council held at the Lyceum. The Committee on Public burial ground upon service performance That they have ascertained but one instance where interments have been made too shallow and in that instance the sexton was prevented from digging deeper by a rock - they also report that the graves have been much trodden down and need repairing. They reported the following ordinances which was read and passed into an ordinance: Supplementary Ordinance for the better regulation of the Public burial ground.

Whereas an Ordinance passed the fifteenth day of October 1811 for regulating the public burial ground has been found defective in some of its provisions - it is therefore resolved by the Council and inhabitants of the Borough of Frankford in the County of Philadelphia that the followings supplements be added thereto:

**Section 1<sup>st</sup>** Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid that a sexton shall be appointed annually at the first meeting of the board in May and that he shall charge the following sums for digging the graves and repairing them up viz two Dollars for all above ten years of age and one Dollar for all under that age and that he shall pay unto the Treasury the sum of five Dollars annually the balance to be retained for his services

**Section 2<sup>nd</sup>** Be it further enacted that appellation made to the President of the Council or in his absence to a Member of the Committee on vice and immediately for an order in writing which order shall state the name of the deceased person and his or her place of residence at the time of his or her decease to the sexton to dig the grave who is to charge the applicant the sum or sums in this Ordinance for his service — he shall also keep a book in which the names of those interred shall be recorded regularly subject to the inspection of any member of the board of Council

**Be it further enacted** by the authority aforesaid that much of the ordinance to which this is a supplement is hereby altered or supplacced be and the same is hereby repealed. On Motion the Committee were instructed to have a copy of the ordinance prepared for the use of the sexton and also to procure a book to enter interments in also to have the fence repaired and to enquire what rent due from Joseph H. Comly.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGESSES AND COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS: IN CONTEXT

24<sup>th</sup> March 1841 — That from and after the Friday preceding the third Saturday in March Next, the Supervisors of Roads & Highways of the Township of Oxford in the county of Philadelphia shall no longer have any control or jurisdiction over the Street, road & highways in the Borough of Frankford... shall in all respect be governed by acts of Assembly of this Commonwealth, regulating the election & duties of Supervisors of Roads & Highways.

5<sup>th</sup> April 1841 — Notice having been given in public newspapers, that the Bill Granting to the Borough a Surveyor or Surveyors has passed the legislature & become a law. It was on motion Resolved that the thanks of this board be transmitted to Benjamin Crispin Esq., a Senator from this county & that this minute in connection with the resolution passed...

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1841 — Calendar year. \$5.00 rent on Public Burial Ground (Paid).

17<sup>th</sup> May 1841 — Fence around Public Burial Ground be repaired.

4<sup>th</sup> October 1841 — It was Resolved, That a committee of Three be appointed to ascertain what the probable cost of a general Survey of the Borough would; And the special cost of regulating Paul and Sellers streets — adopted.

1<sup>st</sup> November 1841 — A communication was received from Isaac Shallcross offering a proposal to make a general survey of the Borough. On motion it was resolved.

6<sup>th</sup> December 1841 — On motion it was Resolved. That the Committee on the Survey be continued.

3<sup>rd</sup> January 1842 — A Bill was read from William Hilles & Son for Rails for the Public Burial ground amounting to Seven Dollars and Seventeen cents and a half (\$7.17 ½), which was accepted and ordered paid and an Order to be drawn on the treasurer for that amount — on motion resolved.

14<sup>th</sup> March 1842 — Robert Shaw reported to the Board that he has received from the Trustees of the African School One Dollar for two years Ground Rent due the Borough 1<sup>st</sup> March 1842. Which was accepted and ordered to be paid over to the treasurer.

18<sup>th</sup> April 1842 — The Board of Burgess Credit By rent of the Public Burial Ground Five Dollars, Leaving a Balance due to John Stull of Three Dollars on his account. Which was accepted and An Order to be drawn on the Treasurer for that Amount.

2<sup>nd</sup> May 1842 — Treasurer's Report for the Year. William Hilles & Son charge - Rails for Public ground \$7.17.  
Credit — One Year's rent of the Public Ground - \$5.00.  
Credit — Two year's rent from Trustees of the African School - \$1.00.

7<sup>th</sup> August 1843 — The Committee on the Public Burial Ground reported progress & were continued.

11<sup>th</sup> April 1844 — On motion resolved that the chief Burgess and Secretary be instructed to transfer the lease of the African School (*as soon as it may be ready*) over to the directors of the fifth school section.

22<sup>nd</sup> April 1844 — Committee on the African School was continued.

2<sup>nd</sup> May 1844 — Committee on the African School was continued.

6<sup>th</sup> June 1844 — Board of Council - On Motion Joseph H. Comly was appointed Sexton of the Public Burial Ground.

5<sup>th</sup> August 1844 — The Committee to give Joseph H. Comly possession of the Public Burial Ground report service performance in part and on Motion Continued.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1844 — The Committee to give Joseph H. Comly possession of the Public Burial ground report service performance and committee on Motion discharged.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGESSES AND COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS: IN CONTEXT

4<sup>th</sup> May 1846 — Yearly account of Borough Expenses: Public Burial Ground, for repairs of Fence, &c. — \$ 10.70.

3<sup>rd</sup> August 1846 — At a Stated Meeting of the Borough Council held at the Lyceum: On Motion Resolved that the Committee be instructed to examine the public burial ground and report its Conditions and the manner in which interred are made and also to revise the ordinance in relation to permits for burial.

1<sup>st</sup> February 1847 and the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1847 — The Committee on Public burial ground continued.

5<sup>th</sup> April 1847 — The Committee on Public Burial ground report that the Sexton has agree to pay the rent of five Dollars for one year - report accepted and committee discharged.

26<sup>th</sup> April 1847 — Committee on Borough Plan report progress and are continued.

13<sup>th</sup> May 1847 — The Committee on Borough Plan Report the court has appointed the 5<sup>th</sup> of June to act upon it and due notice has been given to that effect. The Committee to withdraw the Borough plan, report that it cannot be withdrawn.

7<sup>th</sup> June 1847 — The Committee on Borough Plan report that on the 5<sup>th</sup> Instant, the subject came before the Court and that exceptions were filed against the plan on the ground that Orchard Street should continued to Unity Street or Oxford Street.

5<sup>th</sup> July 1847 — Court has not acted — Continued.

6<sup>th</sup> September 1847 — Committee on Borough Plan – Continued.

17<sup>th</sup> September 1847 — Committee on Borough Plan – Plan approved.

4<sup>th</sup> October 1847 — On Motion Resolved that the Committee on Public Burial Ground be requested to instruct the Sexton not to dig any more graves on the [scite] of Meadow Street and that the Surveyor mark out the Street.

2<sup>nd</sup> November 1847— At a Stated Meeting of Borough Council: The Committee on Public Burial ground report That they have furnished the sexton with a book as directed the remainder of their duties not completed — Committee continued.

17<sup>th</sup> November 1847 — On Motion resolved that the Committee on Borough Plan be desired to instruct the Solicitor to invite the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions to visit the Borough in order that they may examine that part of the Borough Survey upon which exceptions have been filed And that a conveyance be provided for them to be at their disposal.

29<sup>th</sup> April 1848 — Resolved that the appointment of Sexton for the Public Burial Ground be referred to the Committee on Vice & Immorality

13<sup>th</sup> May 1848 — Committee on Vice, Immorality and Nuisances report progress in reference to the Public Burial Ground.

25<sup>th</sup> September 1848 — Committee on the Public Burial Ground report attention to their appointment, which was accepted, and the Committee continued to collect back rents from the Sexton. Resolved that the Secretary make out a bill against Public Board of Controllers of the Public Schools, for the use of the ground on which the Colored School Stands, the rent whereof is fifty cents per year — on motion.

30<sup>th</sup> October 1848 — The Secretary is continued to present a bill to the Board of Directors of Public Schools for the use of the public ground whereon is erected the Colored School in this Borough.

27<sup>th</sup> November 1848 — The Secretary is continued to present a bill to the Board of Directors of Public Schools for the use of the public ground whereon is erected.

30<sup>th</sup> April 1849 — The Committee on Vice, Immorality to report attention to the public grounds and are continued On Motion of Col. Duffield, Resolved that the Committee on Vice, Immorality be instructed to enforce the Ordinance to the Public Burial Ground.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGESSES AND COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS: IN CONTEXT**

15<sup>th</sup> June 1849 — On Sanitation: “In Oxford Street opposite the property of John Wilson, Jacob Fry, and John Pride, Colored people, the sidewalk was too low, the plank forming the Curb having fallen down and a deep pool of stagnant water forming, not only dangerous to travelling, but extremely offensive, The Superintendent was directed to have it attended to as soon as possible. The Gutter between John Pride and Jacob Fry’s Stable Yard together with stagnant water around manure heap of the latter close to the main Street were found to be in very bad condition the parties were ordered to have the same abated within forty eight hours — William’ Kinsey’s privy at hedge & meadow – a nuisance.

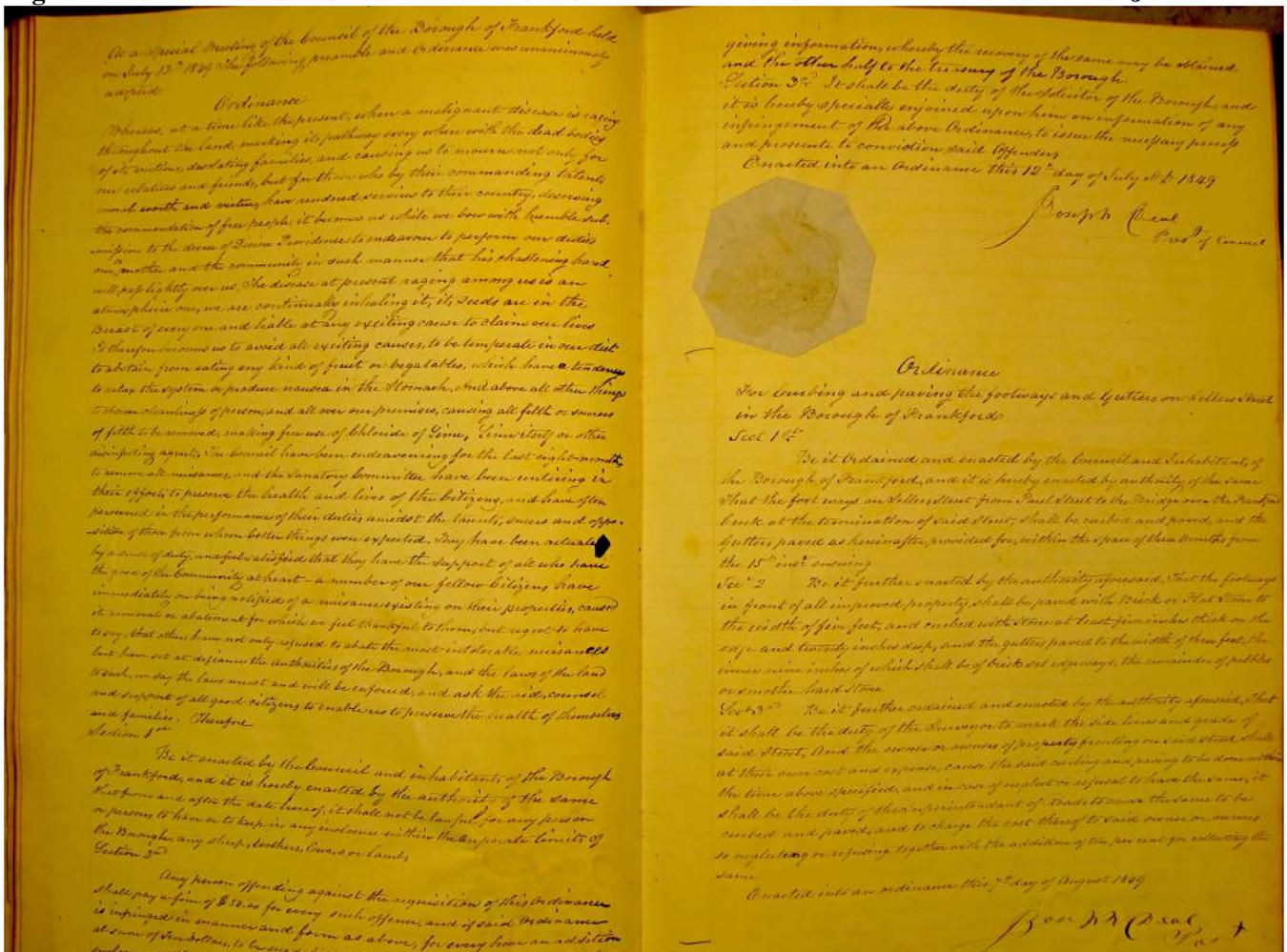
22<sup>nd</sup> June 1849 — On Sanitation: “The Constable informed us that a dead horse had been buried too superficially, in a lot beyond the Public Burial Ground and much complained of by the Colored people residing in the neighborhood, on examination we found the information correct and ordered that the person who buried the horse should be notified to bury it over with an additional depth of earth amounting to at least two feet, the Cellar of a Colored Woman on Hedge Street, (Mary Kirk) we found with a large body of water in it, the water was perfectly clear, but still we consider the same unhealthy.”

25<sup>th</sup> June 1849 — “On the property of Jacob Rigler Jr. we found a most offensive nuisance in the shape of a large filthy pool behind the slaughter house and adjoining the pig pen, receiving the foul contents of both, the water is stagnant containing putrid offal which produce a smell too intolerable to bear, these premises we ascertained to be used by Henry Rigler, consequently he was notified to have the same limed and filled up within 36 hours from the time said notice was given and if not attended to the superintendent should have it done and the amount charged to Henry Rigler with other necessary charges.

In this week’s report—we have the painful intelligence to communicate that the Cholera has at length visited our town and neighborhood, nearly every case proving fatal within a short period of time which has cast a gloom over our striving population, as while be observed by our minutes of last stated meeting we have taken measures for the establishment of a hospital should any require to be attended to at the public expense...”

Robert Burns M.D., Thomas W. Duffield, John Gibson — Committee

**Figure 17: SANITATION ORDINANCE TO COMBAT THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC — 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1849**



**ORDINANCE**

Whereas, at a time like the present, when a malignant disease is raging throughout the land, marking its pathway every where with the dead bodies of its victims, desolating families, and causing us to mourn not only for our relatives and friends, but for those who by their commanding talents moral worth and virtue, have rendered services to their country, deserving the commendation of free people, it becomes us while we bow with humble submission to the decree of Divine Providence to endeavor to perform our duties to one another and the community in such manner that His chastening hand will pass lightly over us. The disease at present raging among us is an atmosphere one, we are continually inhaling it, its seeds are in the Breast of every one and liable at any exciting cause to claim our lives. It therefore becomes us to avoid all exciting causes, to be temperate in our diet to abstain from eating any kind of fruit or vegetables, which have a tendency to relax the system or produce nausea in the Stomach, And above all other things to observe cleanliness of person, and all over our premises, causing all filth or sources of filth to be removed, making free use of Chloride of Lime, Lime itself or other disinfecting agents. The Council have been endeavoring for the last eight months to remove all nuisances, and the Sanitary Committee have been centering in their efforts to preserve the health and lives of the Citizens, and have often persevered in the performance of their duties amidst the taunts, sneers and opposition of those from whom better things were expected. They have been actuated by a sense of duty, and feel satisfied that they have the support of all who have the good of the Community at heart — a number of our fellow Citizens have immediately on being notified of a nuisance existing on these properties, caused its removal or abatement for which we feel thankful to them, but regret to have to say, that others have not only refused to abate the most intolerable nuisances but have set at defiance the Authorities of the Borough, and the laws of the land to such, we say the laws must and will be enforced, and ask the aid, council and support of all good citizens to enable us to preserve the health of themselves and families. Therefore

**Section 1st**

Be it enacted by the Council and inhabitants of the Borough of Frankford, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same that from and after the date hereof, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to have or keep any inclosure within the corporate limits of the Borough, any sheep, wethers, Ewes' or lambs

**Section 2nd**

Any person offending against the requisition of this Ordinance shall pay a fine of \$50.00 for every such offense, and if said Ordinance is infringed in a manner and form as above, for every hour an additional sum of Ten Dollars, to be sued for and recovered of the owners of the enclosure or Sheep, as fines or penalties due the Commonwealth on recoverable, one half of the said penalty to go to the person or persons giving information, whereby the recovery of the same may be obtained and the other half to the treasury of the Borough

**Section 3rd**

It shall be the duty of the Solicitor of the Borough and it is hereby specially enjoined upon him on information of any infringement of the above Ordinance, to issue the necessary process and prosecute to conviction said Offenders

Enacted into an Ordinance this 12th day of July A.D. 1849

— Joseph Deal

President of Council

## EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGESSES AND COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS: IN CONTEXT

29<sup>th</sup> October 1849 — The Committee on Vice and Immorality were authorized to have a tight Board fence place around the Public Burying ground - On Motion Resolved that the Secretary notify Leonard Krewson to have the fence on the Public Burying Ground which had been removed by him, replaced within five days or he will be proceeded against according to law.

26<sup>th</sup> February 1850 — Report of the Committee on Vice and Immorality, Nuisance & Crime... the Burial Ground over which your Committee have had Charge is in a good Condition having been during the last fall Surrounded by a Substantial tight board fence which was very much needed, and the lot thereby protected from trespass which had been carried on to a great extent...

28<sup>th</sup> March 1850 — The Committee on Highways beg leave to Report That they have commenced the performance of their duties by viewing and examining the Condition of the Streets... and find that the old streets with but a few exceptions will only require to have the Water Courses opened, holes and ruts filled up... But have concluded to report in favor of grading the full owing the streets as soon as possible to Wit: Oxford Street from Paul to Josephine Street... Tackawanna Street from Church to Oxford Streets... Mulberry Street... between Oxford and Gillingham Streets, another between Gillingham and Orthodox Streets, Culvert over Tan Run elevated about five feet grade... Cherry Street from Meadow to Foulkrod Street making the Summit about two hundred feet from Foulkrod Street...

Duty of Committee on Public Property — It shall be the duty of the Committee on Public property to have in Charge the Superintendant of the Public property of the Borough Viz — The Lot on which the market house Stands and all the Appurtenances thereunto belonging — The Public Burial ground Shall be under their especial Supervision, And it Shall be their duty to enforce the Ordinance of the Borough regulating the market and the Sale or rent of Stalls or Stands therein, they shall attend to the improvement of the Public Grounds as the same Shall be Authorized by Council that the permits for burial Shall be under their charge - and they shall quarterly make a Special report of the affairs of the Borough under their Charge.

29<sup>th</sup> July 1851 — A Stated Meeting of the Borough Council: A Petition was presented praying for the opening of Meadow Street from Cherry Mulberry Street and grading it from Mulberry Street to Hedge Street. Mr. Thorn moved That the petition be referred to Committee on Public Property.

3<sup>rd</sup> September 1851 — A communication directed to the Superintendent of Highways, was presented to the Council by Mr. Thorn, threatening him with a citation to appear before the Court of the Quarter Sessions to Show Cause why he had not complied with the order of Court, directing Meadow Street Be opened. [Answer - 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 1851] —>

Mr. Rigler moved, That the Committee on Public Property be authorized to adopt measures to have Meadow Street from Cherry Street to Mulberry Street vacated, which was agreed to.

30<sup>th</sup> September 1851 — A Stated Meeting of the Borough Council was held on Thursday Evening: Committee on Public Property reported progress in regard to opening Meadow Street.

Mr. Harper moved that the Committee on Public Property present to the Court the same claim for the part of the Public Burial Ground taken up by the location of Mulberry Street as that presented in regard to Meadow Street which was adopted.

In the Matter of Meadow Street -  
Frankford.  
Shewn, the Superintendent of said  
borough, in answer to the rule on him to  
show cause why an attachment should not be  
issued against him for not opening said street, -  
answering says - that he has been ready and  
willing to obey the order of Court at all times,  
but has been advised that it is not lawful for  
him to execute said order, and that said order  
is qualified by law, - to open the street until the  
owners of ground taken shall have been compen-  
sated for their ground, or have had an opportu-  
nity of making such claim. That he has been  
informed and truly believes that sundry owners  
of ground taken by said street have not been  
compensated for had an opportunity of claiming  
damages, and among these are the borough  
of Frankford, Samuel Morris, Charles E. B. How-  
art, Peter R. Wade, John R. Wade, Peter Buffin,  
Daniel Barber, Thomas Johnson, Peter A. Burke and  
John Yonker. And further said act.  
Affirmed and subscribed  
before me this 27th day  
of September 1851 in  
New York

John Thorn

RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of Road  
Petitions. Accessed: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015. City Archives.

**PROTESTS AGAINST OPENING OF STREET THROUGH PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND: IN CONTEXT**

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Philadelphia  
 The memorial of the undersigned would respectfully represent  
 That your memorialists are property holders on the site on which Meadow street in the Borough of Frankford is laid out for the opening of which an order has been granted by your Honorable Court. That the opening of said street will materially injure your memorialists, by taking a large portion of their ground leaving their lots not more than sixty feet  
 Your memorialists would further represent that they were only recently apprised of the intended opening of said street having never received any notice of the same and consequently had no opportunity to make their objections to such opening. They therefore pray that your Honorable Court would set aside the said order that they may have an opportunity to make their objections to the same.  
 And your petitioners will act pray  
 Sept 24 1851 Peter R. Pride  
 Samuel Morris John R. Griffin  
 Charles E. B. Stewart  
 Daniel Bailes  
 Thomas Johnson  
 Peter R. Brake  
 John Jones

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Philadelphia  
 The memorial of the undersigned would Respectfully Represent

That your memorialists are property holders on the site on Which Meadow street in the Borough of Frankford is laid out for the opening of which an order has been granted by your Honorable Court. That the opening of said street will material injure your memorialists by taking a large portion of their ground bearing their lots not more than sixty feet

Your memorialists would further represent that they were only recently apprised of the intended opening of said street having never received any notice of the same and consequently had no opportunity to make their objections to such opening. They therefore pray that your Honorable Court would set aside the said order that they may have an opportunity to make their objection to the same

and your petitioners will act pray —  
 Sept. 24, 1851 Peter R. Pride - his X mark  
 Samuel Morris John R. Pride - his X mark  
 Peter Griffin - his X mark  
 Charles E. B. Stewart  
 Daniel Bailes - his X mark  
 Thomas Johnson - his X mark  
 Peter R. Brake  
 John Jones - his X mark

RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.

The within named Peter R. Pride, Samuel Morris, Peter Griffin, Charles Stewart, Daniel Bailes and Thomas Johnson being duly sworn say that they had no notice of any proceeding to ask damages on the opening of said Street, and did not claim or get any damages, though they are seriously injured, and that the facts within stated are true to the best of their Knowledge and hereof

Sworn before me this Peter R. Pride - his X mark  
 Ninth day of Oct. 1851 Samuel Morris  
 Isaac Shallcross Peter Griffin - his X mark  
 Charles E. Stewart  
 Daniel Bailes - his X mark  
 Thomas Johnson - his X mark

The within named Peter R. Pride, Samuel Morris, Peter Griffin, Charles Stewart, Daniel Bailes and Thomas Johnson being duly sworn say that they had no notice of any proceeding to ask damages on the opening of said Street, and did not claim or get any damages, though they are seriously injured, and that the facts within stated are true to the best of their Knowledge and hereof  
 Sworn before me this  
 ninth day of Oct. 1851  
 Isaac Shallcross  
 Peter R. Pride  
 Samuel Morris  
 Peter Griffin  
 Charles E. Stewart  
 Daniel Bailes  
 Thomas Johnson

RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.

**PROTESTS AGAINST OPENING OF STREET THROUGH PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND: IN CONTEXT <sup>16</sup>**

In the matter of Meadow Street, in the Borough of Frankford, Philadelphia County. The undersigned, a committee appointed by the Borough aforesaid, In Answer to the Citation to shew Cause why the order to open the said Street as laid on the plan of the Borrough should not be complied with, Say —

1. That the law authorizing the Survey of a Plan of the Streets of the Borough Contemplate that each Street should be opened by a separate proceeding on a separate petition, Whereas in the same petition and proceeding nine Streets were included, to wit, Tackawanna, Mulberry, Josephine, Gillingham, Meadow, Orthodox, Oxford, Ruan and Green Street.

2. That it is not known what seven or more freeholders petitioned for the opening of **Meadow** Street, or whether any seven freeholders were desirous of Opening that Street: if the whole nine had not been logrolled together.

3. That it is not Known to the superintendent of the Borough or Borough Councils that the damages have been [assessed] and paid and paid to the owners whose ground is taken by said Street, without which it cannot be lawfully opened.

4. That the Burgess and Inhabitants of the Borough of Frankford own a lot which would be taken by said Street, "to be occupied as a public burying ground forever hereafter for the dead of all nations, sects and Colors — without any charge whatever, except the customary charge of digging and keeping up the graves," — And the present Council and inhabitants cannot find that the Corporation has ever has any notice to appear before any jury to [assess] damages for said ground, nor has it received any compensation therefore; and they deem it their duty to stand by their trust and protect the graves of the departed from a useless disturbance, by carrying the public highway over the dead, to be trampled by horses hoofs or thrown out as rubbish.

**Answer of Borough of Frankford on Meadow Street 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1851**

In the matter of Meadow Street, in the Borough of Frankford, Philadelphia County.  
 The Undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Borough of Frankford aforesaid,  
 In Answer to the Citation to shew Cause why the order to open said Street as laid on the plan of the Borough should not be complied with, Say —

1. That the Law authorizing the Survey of a plan of the Streets of the Borough Contemplate that each Street should be opened by a separate proceeding on a separate petition, where as in the same petition and proceeding nine Streets were included, to wit, Tackawanna, Mulberry, Josephine, Gillingham, Meadow, Orthodox, Oxford, Ruan, and Green Streets.

2. That it is not known what seven or more freeholders petitioned for the opening of Meadow Street, or whether any seven freeholders were desirous of opening that Street; if the whole nine had not been logrolled together.

3. That it is not known to the Superintendent of the Borough or Borough Councils that the damages have been assessed and paid to the owners whose ground is taken by said Street, without which it cannot be lawfully opened.

4. That the Burgess and Inhabitants of the Borough of Frankford own a lot which would be taken by said Street, "to be occupied as a public burying ground forever hereafter for the dead of all Nations, sects and Colors — without any charge whatever, except the Customary Charge of digging and keeping up the graves," — and the present Council and inhabitants cannot find that the Corporation has ever had any notice to appear before any jury to assess damages for said ground, nor has it received any compensation there for; and they deem it their duty to stand by their trust and protect the graves of the departed from a useless disturbance, by carrying the public highway over

Answer of Borough of Frankford on Meadow Street.

**RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.**

<sup>16</sup> The 1840 and 1850 Census Records indicate all of the protesters are African Americans. Deeds indicate they are also landowners.

PROTESTS AGAINST OPENING OF STREET THROUGH PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND: IN CONTEXT

Answer of Borough of Frankford on Meadow Street 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1851

the dead, to be trampled by horses hoofs or thrown out as rubbish.

5. That such an act of desecration may not take place at least before an opportunity be allowed to bring this Cemetery of the poor and destitute under the protective power of the general law of the Commonwealth of 5 April 1849, the respondents pray such a delay or will enable them to appeal to the Legislature at its next session for relief.

6. And whether such relief and protection shall or shall not be obtained the respondents submit that a measure so unusual should at least be delayed until ample time be afforded to relatives to remove their dead before their graves shall be levelled and their bodies trodden upon or cast out as an offence to the public.

Robt W Harper  
Jonathan Brooke

Robert W Harper being duly sworn and Jonathan Brooke being duly affirmed say that the facts forth in the above answer are true to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Qualified before me this  
day of September 1851.

Robert W Harper  
Jonathan Brooke

Sworn and affirmed to  
this 27<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1851  
J. R. Longstreth

5. That such an act of destruction may not take place at least before any opportunity be allowed to bring this Cemetery of the poor and destitute under the protective power of general law of the Commonwealth of 5 April 1849, the respondents pray such a delay as will enable them to appeal to the Legislature at the next session for relief.

6. And whether such relief and protection shall or shall not be obtained, the respondents submit that a measure So Unusual should at least be delayed until ample time be afforded to relatives to remove their dead before their graves shall be leveled and their bodies be trodden upon or cast out as all offense to the public.

Robert W. Harper  
Jonathan Brooke

Robert W. Harper being duly sworn and Jonathan Brooke being duly affirmed Say that the facts forth in the above answer are true to the best of their Knowledge and belief.

Qualified before me this                      Robert Harper  
day of September 1851-                      Jonathan Brooke

Sworn and affirmed to  
This 27<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1851  
J. R. Longstreth

RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.

PROTESTS AGAINST OPENING OF STREET THROUGH PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND: IN CONTEXT

Meadow Street  
Frankford  
Affidavit of Council  
that they had no  
notice

11<sup>th</sup> October 1851: Affidavit of Council that they had no notice. RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Road Petitions.

Philadelphia County ss  
The ninth day of October AD 1851 before the subscriber  
one of the Justices of the peace in and for the  
County of Philadelphia Personally appeared Herman  
Hogan Henry F. Shoch John Gibson and Lewis Brous  
who upon their solemn oath do depose and say that  
they were members of board of Councilmen of the  
Borough of Frankford in the years 1849 & 1850  
That deponents have no knowledge of any notice having  
been given to the said Council to appear before any  
Jury to assess damages for ground taken by the open-  
ing of Meadow Street And so far as they know  
and believe no such notice was given and that  
no damage has been paid for the same and further  
say not  
Sworn to and Subscribed  
before me,  
Isaac Shallcross  
JP  
Herman Hogan  
Henry F. Shoch  
John Gibson  
Lewis Brous

RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.

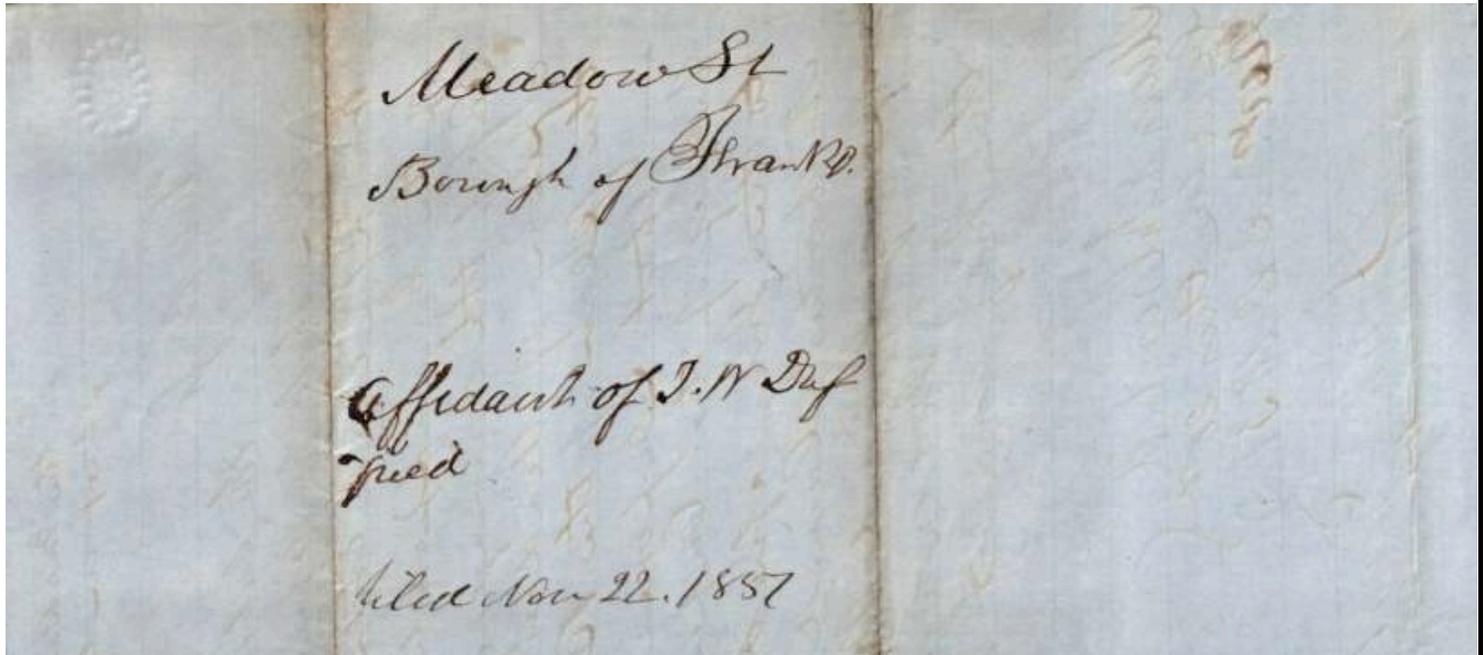
Philadelphia County ss

The ninth day of October AD 1851 before the  
subscriber one of the Justices of the peace in and  
for the County of Philadelphia Personally  
appeared Herman Hogan, Henry Shoch, John  
Gibson and Lewis Brous who upon their solemn  
oath do depose and say That they were members  
of board of Councilman of the Borough of  
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That deponents have no Knowledge of any  
Notice having been Given to the said Council to  
appear before any Jury to assess damages for  
ground to be taken by the opening of Meadow  
Street And so far as they know and believe no  
such notice was given and that no damage has  
been paid for the same and further

say not  
Sworn to and Subscribed  
before me,  
Isaac Shallcross  
JP  
Herman Hogan  
Henry F. Shoch  
John Gibson  
Lewis Brous  
(Justice of the Peace)

**PROTESTS AGAINST OPENING OF STREET THROUGH PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND: IN CONTEXT**



**22<sup>nd</sup> November 1851: Affidavit of Thomas W. Duffield. RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.**

***In the Matter of the opening of Meadow Street in the Borough of Frankford***

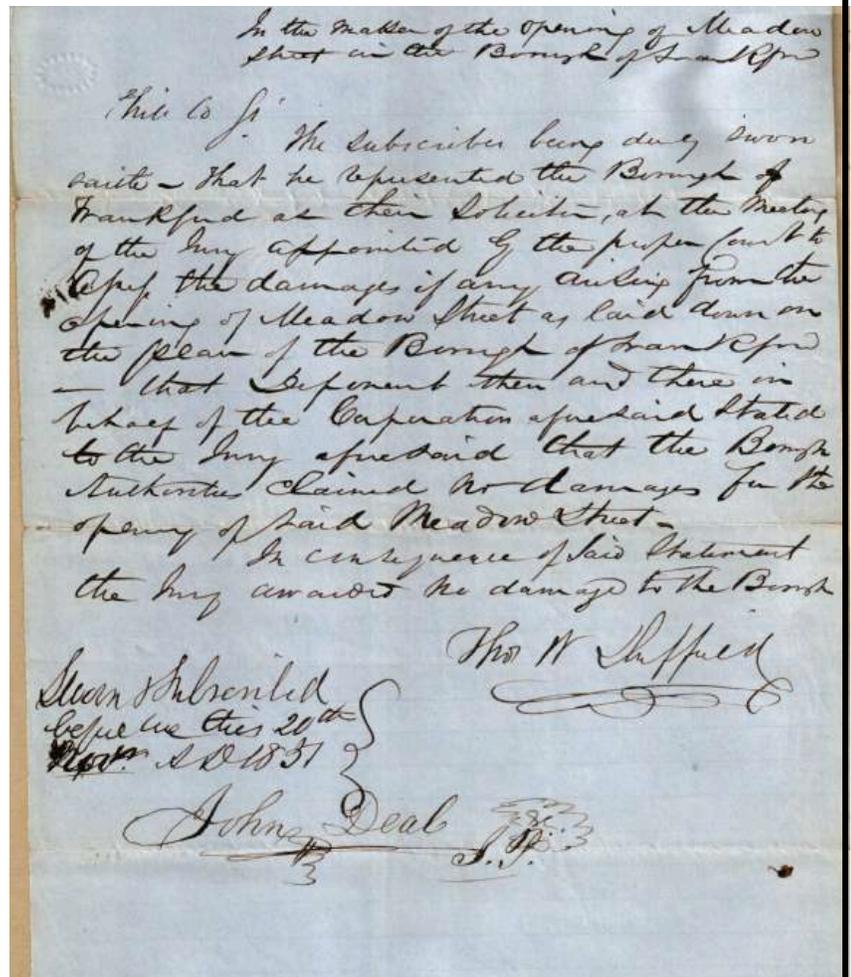
Phila. Co. s/s

The subscriber being duly sworn saith — That he represented the Borough of Frankford as their Solicitor, at the Meeting of the Jury appointed by the proper Court to Assess the damages if any arising from the opening of the Meadow Street as laid down on the plan of the Borough of Frankford — that the Deponent then and there in behalf of the Corporation aforesaid Stated to the Jury aforesaid that the Borough inhabitants claimed no damages for opening of said Meadow Street — In consequence of Said Statement the Jury awarded No damage to the Borough

*Thomas W. Duffield*

Sworn & Subscribed  
Before me this 20<sup>th</sup>  
November A.D. 1851

*John Deal*  
*J.P.*  
(Justice of the Peace)



**RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court, Clerk of. Road Petitions.**

## REPEAL OF PART OF ACT RELATING TO SURVEY OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKFORD: IN CONTEXT

### ACT No. 102. A SUPPLEMENT OF THE SESSION

Approved 11<sup>th</sup> March 1852

Repeal of part of act relating to the survey of the borough of Frankford.

SECTION 7. That so much of the plan of survey of the borough of Frankford, in the county of Philadelphia, made pursuant to the act of Assembly of the fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, entitled "An Act to provide for the survey of the borough of Frankford, in said county of Philadelphia, as relates to the survey of any street, road, or public highway through the public burial ground of the said borough," be, and the same is hereby vacated.

#### *Repeal of part of act relating to survey of the borough of Frankford:*

SECTION 7. That so much of the plan of survey of the borough of of act relating Frankford, in the county of Philadelphia, made pursuant to the act of Assembly of the fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, entitled "An Act to provide for the survey of the borough of Frankford, in said county of Philadelphia, as relates to the survey of any street, road, or public highway through the public burial ground of the said borough," be, and the same is hereby vacated.<sup>17</sup>

#### **EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGESSES AND COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS CONTINUED:**

29<sup>th</sup> June 1852 — The Committee on Public Property reported having had the Council Room papered and painted, also having visited the Public Burial Ground of the Borough which they found in good Order.

31 May 1853 — Resolved That a Committee be appointed to have the new portion of the borough surveyed and regulated, and that a plan or plans be made and provided in accordance with the Act of Assembly directing a re-survey of the said borough of Frankford, and that the said Committee be Authorized to contract for doing the same, and that the survey shall be made as soon as the present survey of the old portion of the Borough shall be completed. Mr. Thorp moved that the Committee referred to in the Resolution be the Committee on Highways. Agreed to.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATION**

4<sup>th</sup> May 1871 — **PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE—THE HOUSE:** Mr. Griffiths introduced a bill authorizing the Councils of Philadelphia to open Meadow Street, in Frankford, through Potter's Field from Cherry street to Little Tacony creek, which he endeavored to call up for passage, but failed.<sup>18</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> June 1871 — **OUR HIGHWAYS—MEETING OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE:** A Petition to grade Meadow street, from Cherry to Mulberry, was referred to the Highway Department with the power to act.<sup>19</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> October 1872 — **ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA:** Read in place a bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for enclosing a burial ground belonging to the City, on Meadow street, Twenty-third Ward, and to make an appropriation therefore." Which was referred to the Committee on City Property.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> *Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Passed at the Session of 1852, in the Seventy-Sixth Year of Independence, With An Appendix.* Harrisburg, Pa: Theo. Fenn & Co. Printers. 1852. 126. Web. 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

<[https://archive.org/details/lawsofgenerala\\_1852penn](https://archive.org/details/lawsofgenerala_1852penn)>.

<sup>18</sup> The Evening Telegraph (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) 4<sup>th</sup> May 1871, Thursday Page 8.

<sup>19</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) 11<sup>th</sup> June 1872, Tuesday Page 2.

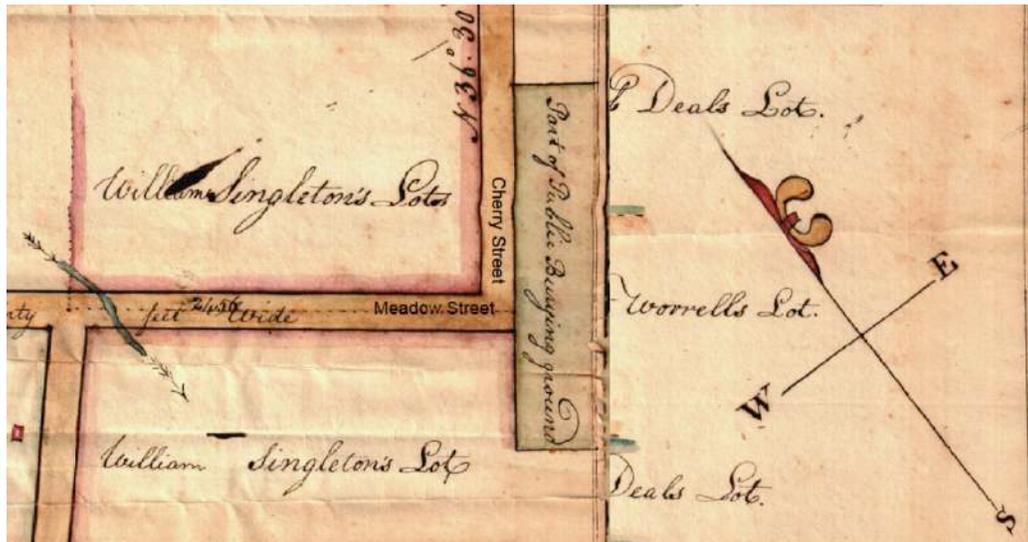
<sup>20</sup> *Journal of the Select Council of the City of Philadelphia. For The Year 1872. Vol.II, With An Appendix.* Philadelphia: Pa.: King & Baird, Printers, 1873. 184. Web. 28 Nov. 2015. <<https://archive.org/details/journalofcommonc021872phil/mode/2up>>.

## ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA: IN CONTEXT

22<sup>nd</sup> May 1873 — Submitted a communication from the Board of Public Education, requesting the privilege of erecting the new schoolhouse for colored children at Frankford, Twenty-third Ward, upon the centre of the public lot on the south side of Meadow street, instead of upon the western end of the site of the present building. (Appendix No. 200.) And the same having been read, Moved that the communication be referred to the Committee on Schools. Which was agreed to.<sup>21</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> June 1873 — **AN ORDINANCE: To authorize a change in the location of the new colored school house at Frankford. SECTION 1.** *The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain,* That permission be and is hereby given to the Board of Public Education to change the location of the new school house for colored children, to be erected in Frankford, Twenty-third Ward, from the western end on the site of the present building, to the centre of the public lot on the south side of Meadow street: Provided, it be no expense to the City.<sup>22</sup> [NOTE: Sect. 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinance of 1811].<sup>23</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> April 1874 – **RESOLUTION:** To approve contract and surety of William Keas, for the erection of a school house on the south side of Meadow street near Cherry street, in the Twenty- third Section. Resolved by the Select and Common Councils of the. City of Philadelphia, That the contract of William Keas, bearing date March 25<sup>th</sup> 1874, for the erection of a school house on the south side of Meadow street near Cherry street, in the Twenty-third School Section, being in the Twenty-third Ward of the City of Philadelphia, for the sum of six-thousand-nine-hundred (6,900) dollars is hereby approved, and John Cocker is also approved as surety in the bond conditioned for the faithful performance by the said William Keas of his said contract. Approved.<sup>24</sup>



**Figure 18: RG [21.26] Quarter Sessions Court.** North/South Orientation - 1811 survey. Burgess Minutes: "...That it shall be divided into two Equal parts, by an Avenue of eight feet wide from one extremity to the other: the Northern division to be appropriated to the burying of white People and the Southern Division to burying People of Color..."

Meadow and Cherry Streets met at the Public Burying Ground - the location of the Night School for Colored Adult Men and Women. At that time, Meadow Street was not yet extended through the graveyard. See the 1867 Controller's Report.<sup>25</sup>

Franklin D. Edmunds relates the Frankford Coloured School was of Wood Construction, Shingle Roof, Sod Yard, Paved Sidewalks with Detached Unheated Toilets, on the West side of Meadow St., North of Mulberry Street; that it was removed and replaced in 1874 by the Wilmot School.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>21</sup> *Journal of the Select Council, of the City of Philadelphia, From January 1, 1873 to July 1, 1873, With An Appendix.* Philadelphia. Pa.: K.C. Markley & Son, Printers, 1873. 388, 429, 466, 504, 523. Web. 28 Nov. 2015. <<https://books.google.com/books>>.

<sup>22</sup> *Ordinances and Joint Resolutions of the City of Philadelphia. From January 1, to December 31, 1873.* Philadelphia, Pa., King & Baird, Printers. 1874. 337-338. Web. 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1873phil>>.

<sup>23</sup> Because the Southern side of the Graveyard was reserved for *People of Color* — by *today's lens on history*, it appears that racial origin was a factor in the City's decision making for a change of location for *the new colored school house*. The City provided no explanation.

<sup>24</sup> *Ordinances and Joint Resolutions of the City of Philadelphia. From January 1, to December 31, 1874.* Philadelphia, Pa., King & Baird, Printers. 129-130. Web. 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021. [Google Books](https://books.google.com/books).

<sup>25</sup> *Fourty-ninth Annual Report of the Board of Controllers of the Public Schools of the First School District of Pennsylvania, Comprising the City and County of Philadelphia, for the Year Ending December 31st, 1867: With Their Accounts.* Philadelphia: Published by order of the Board of Controllers. E.C. Markley & Sons, Printers. 1868. 180. Web. 28 Nov. 2015.

<<https://archive.org/details/annualreportcon02schogooq>>.

<sup>26</sup> Edmunds, Franklin D. *The Public School Buildings of the City of Philadelphia.* Philadelphia [Pa.: F.D. Edmunds, 1913. 37-39. Web. 15 Nov. 2014. <<https://archive.org/details/publicschoolbui00educgoog/mode/2up>>.

# RALLY! RALLY! RALLY!

## HEAD-QUARTERS,

# 23<sup>d</sup> WARD TROOP!



JULY 1863.  
**ATTENTION!** Twenty-Third Ward Troop, will report themselves at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, **THIS DAY,** in Citizens' Dress, mounted for Parade and Drill. By command of  
**Capt. WILLIAM C. MURPHY,**  
*Recruiting Officer.*

Bounties and Pay for this Troop are expected to amount to \$0.00 per week during the present emergency, for each man mustered in.

ALL MALE CITIZENS ARE REQUESTED TO MEET AT THE  
**SEVEN STARS HOTEL, FRANKFORD,**  
**THIS DAY,** at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock,

To participate in the Cavalcade in honor of our Glorious Union Veterans. Those who cannot come in person, are earnestly called upon to send Horses, Saddles or Bridles, to these Head-Quarters, as it will be the Troop for this occasion, which will be accepted for, and returned to the owners at the time agreed upon by  
**Capt. W. C. MURPHY, Recruiting Officer.**  
 This Troop has been accepted by MAJOR GENERAL DANA, as Minute Men, for City Defense, and will be reviewed by him.

**POLITICAL MEETINGS.**—A number of political gatherings convened in various parts of the city last night. The only two of any note, however, being one at Concert Hall and the other at the Continental Theatre. Speeches were made at the former place by N. K. Richardson, Hon. Charles O'Neill, William D. Pierce, and others.

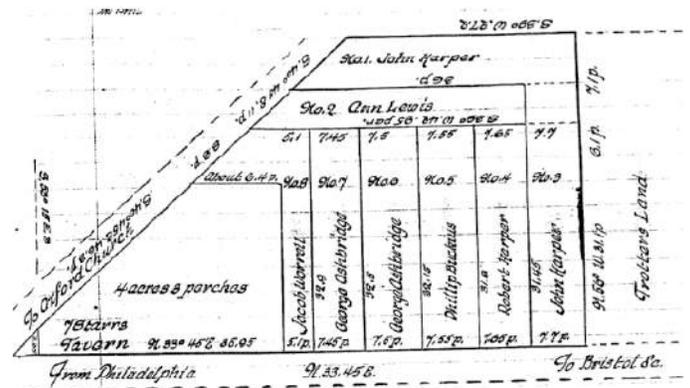
Last night the Union League of the Twenty-third Ward and the Union citizens of Frankford, together with a delegation of the Republican Invincibles nearly four hundred strong, paraded through the principal streets of Frankford. The usual cavalcade and mottoed transparencies made up part of the attraction. A large portion of the residents, including the ladies and even the children, lined the sidewalks, applauding the processionists with cheers and waving handkerchiefs. Residences on all the streets marched through were brilliantly illuminated. When the procession had passed over its route, which ended at the "Seven Stars" hotel, a large meeting was held, presided over by James Ashworth, Esq., late Captain in the 121st Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. Three gentlemen made speeches—Rev. Mr. Dennison, Hon. M. Russell Thayer, candidate for Congress from the district, and William B. Mann, Esq.

**JULY 1863. HEAD-QUARTERS, 23<sup>RD</sup> WARD TROOP  
 SEVEN STARS HOTEL, FRANKFORD <sup>27</sup>**

— The Evening Telegraph Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1864.



Historical and Industrial Celebration - 27<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1912. For A Greater Frankford. Page 15.



Recorded the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1863  
**Seven Stars: Bristol Pike and Oxford Church Road.  
 Philadelphia Deed Book EF.14.255**

“Last Night the Union League of the Twenty Third Ward and the Union citizens of Frankford, together with a delegation of the Republican Invincibles nearly four hundred strong, paraded through the principal streets of Frankford... ended at the “Seven Stars” hotel...” — Evening Telegraph 11<sup>th</sup> October 1864.

<sup>27</sup> Civil War Broadside. (3) 5777.F.58 (McAllister). Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia. Web. 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, <<https://digital.librarycompany.org/islandora/object/Islandora%3A6796>>.

## COLORED TROOPS.

By the late advices from the Department of the South, among other important matters, we see that General GILLMORE has been authorized by the War Department to enlist and organize all the colored troops that can be recruited within his department. Colonel M. S. LITTLEFIELD, Twenty-first Regiment United States Colored Troops, has been appointed by General GILLMORE general superintendent of the colored recruiting service in that department, and charged with the payment of all bounties to those recruits, and also President of the Board for the examination of white officers for colored troops raised in that department. The policy of raising colored troops has now become a fixed fact with the Government, and the services which they have rendered in that department and elsewhere proves the wisdom of the undertaking; while their docility, discipline and bravery have successfully combatted the prejudice which first met the project. If there ever was a time or a war in which colored troops should take an active part, this Slaveholder's Rebellion now presents the opportunity. They have a peculiar interest in the struggle which is now going on between freedom and slavery for their race. If slavery shall now be broken in America, it will soon disappear from among the civilized nations which still hold to the custom. The colored men know and feel this, and they are determined to seize the golden promise which the future opens to their race, and they should be encouraged therein by all proper means.

The question of raising their pay equal to that of the white soldiers has been brought to the attention of Congress, recommended by the officers who have seen them in service, and who know the value of their services and their peculiar adaptability to the climate of the Department of the South.

From official statements, it appears that during four months of the sickly season at the siege of Charleston, the average of sickness among the white infantry regiments was twenty-two and six-tenths per cent., while the average of sickness in the colored infantry regiments was only thirteen and one-tenth per cent. In one brigade of white troops, during the same period, the average of sickness amounted to thirty-two and one-tenth per cent. of the whole number. These facts speak loudly for the availability and value of colored troops in that locality, and should be a most successful argument for giving them wages equal to the white troops. The colored troops are now paid seven dollars per month, and have three dollars per month allowed for clothing. The colored soldiers of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, killed in the assault on Fort Wagner, died indebted to the Government for their clothing, and they had received no pay. The Fifty-fifth colored Massachu-

## COLORED TROOPS

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20<sup>th</sup> January 1864 Philadelphia Inquirer. Pg.4

Assessed: Free Library of Philadelphia

<sup>28</sup> Dattel, Gene. "Commodities - Cotton, the Oil of the Nineteenth Century - Important Lessons of History." *The International Economy*. 24.1 (2010): 60-63. Web. 12 March 2016. <[http://www.international-economy.com/TIE\\_W10\\_Dattel.pdf](http://www.international-economy.com/TIE_W10_Dattel.pdf)>.

## THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS OF FRANKFORD — CAMP WILLIAM PENN: IN CONTEXT

For the Christian Recorder — 23rd January 1864:

MR. EDITOR: - We thought we would let you and your many readers know what is going on in the Twenty-third Ward, Frankford, Pa. The call for colored soldiers reached us, and the young men have responded to the call. Seventeen have enlisted, fifteen in the army and two in the navy. The evening after they enlisted, we called a meeting in the A.M.E. Church at Frankford, to encourage them for their bravery. The meeting was opened by singing the hymn, "Hark! Listen to the Trumpeters! They call for Volunteers," &c. Prayer by Mr. Henderson Davis, Sr. After which Mr. Henderson Davis was elected Chairman, and Mr. William S. Walker Secretary. Two or three gentlemen very eloquently addressed the brave boys, and the meeting adjourned. We will give you a list of the names of the men who enlisted: - James W. Davis, Alexander Bedford, Thomas Davis, Charles Somers, Joseph Lancaster, Benjamin Jackson, Jeremiah Murray, Silas Little, Benjamin Little, Elias Cury, Thomas Calvin Trusty, Edward F. Marks, James Butler, Andrew Trusty, Samuel Shorter, Benjamin Woodlin, Albert Farral.

Respectfully yours, &c.

JACOB TRUSTY,

PETER R. BRAKE, *Committee.*

RANDALL PLEASANT.

### The 25<sup>th</sup> USCT at Camp William Penn



COURTESY OF KURT LUTHER AND THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA <sup>29</sup>

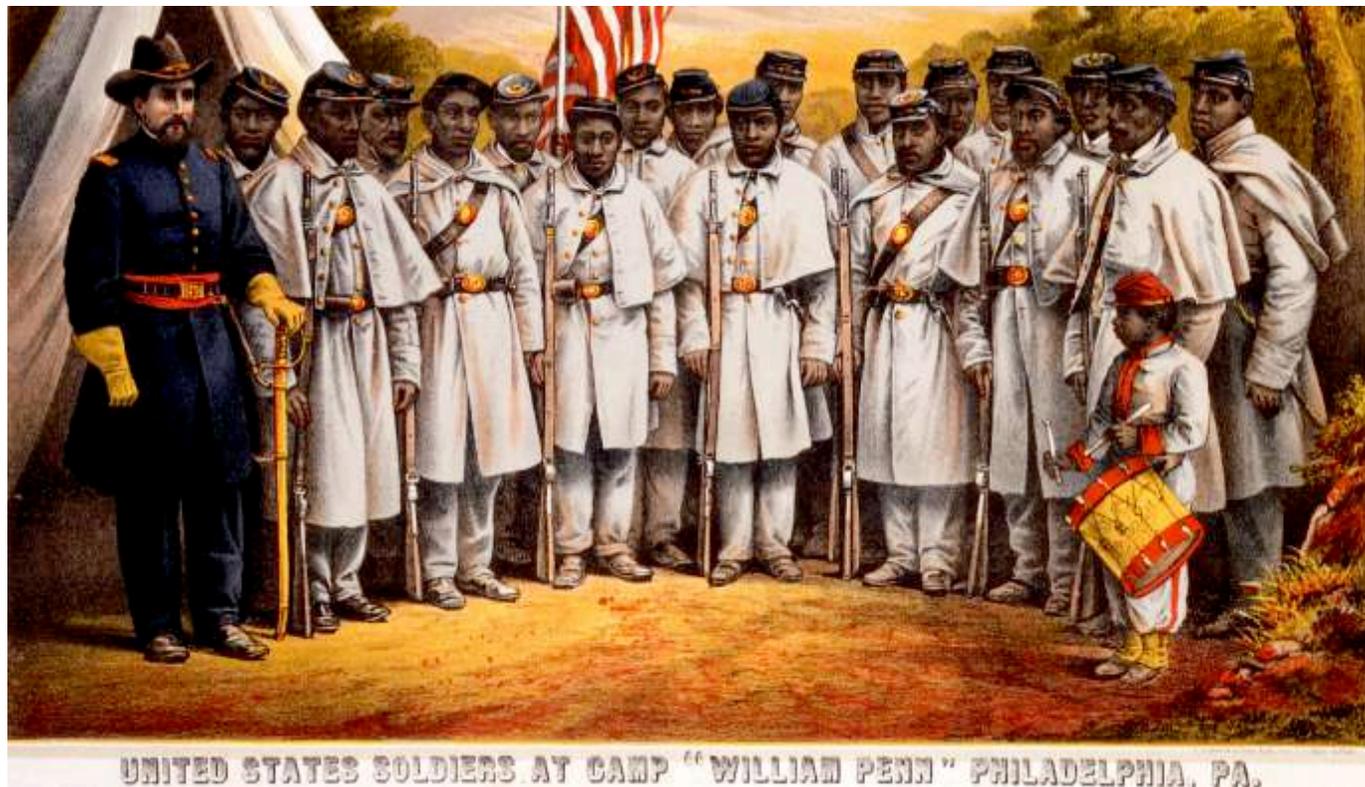
The image, probably an albumen print, features 18 African-American soldiers standing at attention, fully equipped with muskets and winter greatcoats, joined by a sword-bearing white officer on the far left. ... Andy Waskie, an expert in Pennsylvania regiments, who identified the soldiers as members of the 25th U.S. Colored Infantry—an identification that has become widely accepted. Waskie...“has confirmed the photo is of the 25th USCT unit (possibly Company C or G), mobilized at Camp William Penn in February 1864 and sent to war in March 1864.

<sup>29</sup> Revealed: The Identity of an Officer in an Iconic Group Portrait By Kurt Luther. Web. 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

<<https://militaryimages.atavist.com/photo-sleuth-autumn-2015>>, and the Library Company of Philadelphia. Web. 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

<<https://digital.librarycompany.org/islandora/object/digitoool%3A55107>>.

ILLUSTRATION IS BY COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY COMPANY



Missing from the original photographic portrait was a drummer boy. The story of a poster child (him?) is found below:

“I will tell you of a little boy, who has been wit us ever since we left Camp Wm. Penn. From what I learn, he ran away from his mother, about four miles this side of Richmond, Va., with the 25<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, (whites,) to Washington City, but how he got to Philadelphia, I cannot say. We found him there, and he has been with us ever since, until of late, after having been shifted from one of the officers to an other, he was turned away, and now the poor little fellow has nobody to care for him. He has to go round from company to company, to get something to eat. As soon as we get paid off, we intend to send him to Philadelphia, to you, or to some of the Reform Schools, or to some one who will take care of him...”

— *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1865.

### OBITUARY.

Died, at Fort Pickens, Florida, Sergeant  
JAMES W. DAVIS, son of Rev. Henderson  
Davis, on July 19, 1864.

Sergeant Davis was 26 years old, and was a  
member of Co. B, 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment U.S.C.T.

— *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*,  
15<sup>th</sup> October 1864.



Pensacola Harbor, Florida <<https://www.loc.gov/item/2001699182/>>.

## IN CONTEXT: THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS FROM FRANKFORD — FORT PICKENS

FLORIDA CORRESPONDENCE.

Fort Pickens, Nov. 7th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR:

- Sir: - Allow me again, through the medium of your paper, to call your attention to a few things which I would wish to relate to our friends at home, relative to our regiment. We are at *Fort Pickens*, Florida, one of the greatest forts our country, or I might say, this country ever produced. Yet I have one fault to find with it, and that is, its scarcity of vegetable diet. Scurvy has been amongst our ranks since our embarkation from Philadelphia, and many a stout heart has yielded to its influence, and passed to that bourne from whence no traveller ever returned. Yet the boys keep up buoyant spirits. Thinking it might be interesting to you, as well as the numerous readers of the *Recorder*, to know something concerning our condition, I submit the following for your and their perusal. For the last few weeks there has been an awakening among my brother soldiers, to their spiritual as well as to their temporal affairs; and on last Sabbath the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper was administered to some 14 or 15 of our regiment. My earnest desire is, and shall ever be, that they may "Gird on the whole armor of faith, and fight the good fight, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." We have also a school of an average of 60 to 80 scholars, in reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, and also a Bible class. All these things tend to make our sojourn out here tolerably comfortable. Yet there is one thing lacking, and that is, our pay. We want, that in order to make comfortable those that are near and dear to us, and those we have sworn to love, cherish, and protect. Likewise, we are willing to suffer privations, endure hardship, and combat with the enemy, but when we sit down to meditate, 'tis hard; it almost drives one to do things contrary to law and military discipline, to think your partners relying on you for support, must wait month after month, day after day, without receiving any assistance, denying themselves of all happiness and comforts, with probably one or two children to look to them for maintenance and support. Now, Mr. Editor, I ask in the name of justice, can you blame the soldiers of the 25th regiment for being discontented? Reason says, no. Why are we not paid? Why are we promised and promised time and again, and yet receive no pay? Are we not worthy of it? The Scriptures say, "The laborer is worthy of his hire." They tell us we shall certainly get it. But when will that be? Will it occur when our families, driven to destitution and despair, shall wander from house to house begging their daily sustenance? Or, when driven from place, they shall seek the alms house for refuge? Justice echoes shame on such dilatoriness; and your humble servant says, Give us our just and honest dues; 'tis all we ask and all we want. Now, Mr. Editor, I will close, hoping you will insert in your paper such passages of this document as may be of interest to you and to the friends of the 25th U.S.C.T.

I cheerfully subscribe myself your humble servant,

JACOB S. JOHNSON,

Co. H, 25th U.S. Col'd Infantry.

P.S. In behalf of the regiment,

I will tender our best wishes to Colonel Wagner,

Camp William Penn, Cheltenham Hill, Philadelphia.

— *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1864.

### CHELTEN HILLS – CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.



Map of a reconnaissance of the approaches to Philadelphia showing the positions and lines of defence on the north front of the city. Bache, A. D. (Alexander Dallas) Date: 1863. United States Coast Survey. Library of Congress. Web. 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. <<https://www.loc.gov/item/99446457/>>.

## THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS FROM FRANKFORD — FORT PICKENS: IN CONTEXT

### Birds eye view of the Mississippi Valley from Cairo to the Gulf of Mexico



Library of Congress: <<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4040.cw0009000>>

FLORIDA CORRESPONDENCE.

Fort Pickens, Fla., Nov. 7th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR: - The change of events, which are so singularly and significantly revolutionizing other localities, are not wanting in the place we occupy. Two years ago, or near that time, a torn, and scattered, and demoralized army, under General McClellan, fled from the battle-fields of Virginia, and sought refuge under the guns of Fort Pickens, where there is some of his scattered force yet to be seen, but now the scene has changed, for there is a detachment of four companies, of the gallant 25th, and some other companies, holding this, as a post well garrisoned by a brave set of the sable sons of Uncle Abe, who have passed through the fiery ordeal more than once, and were found to be free from any drops of cowardly material.

With a fort as formidable as Fort Pickens, through whose embrasures between two and three hundred angry-looking howitzers and rifled cannon seem to be angrily looking for a reb, besides there are some sixty-four gun men-of-war, and some eighteen or twenty smaller ones, lying out upon the deep blue sea, in front of us, ready at a moment's notice, to belch forth their vengeance into the planks, or vessels, of any invading foe. But this is not all that constitutes our defences, for we are all the time fortifying ourselves against any invading foe, by sea or land, that may approach.

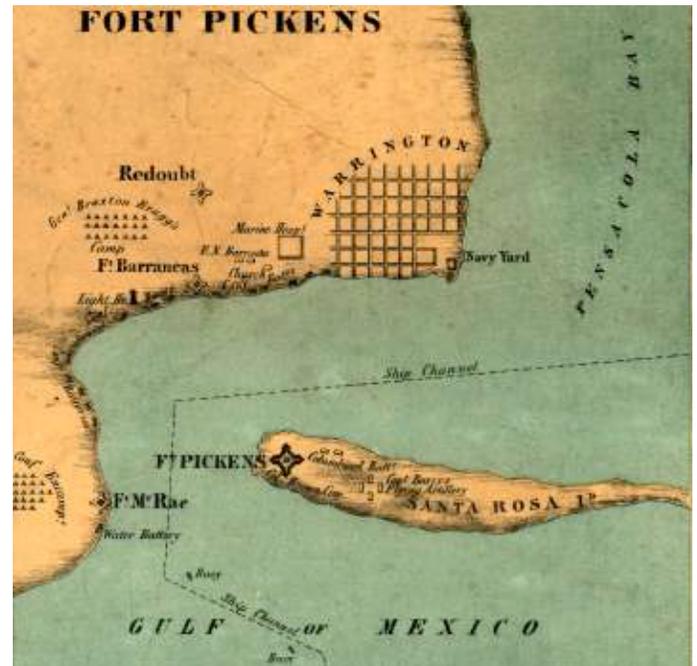
I will tell you of a circumstance that occurred the other night. Our officers of the 25th used to go the grand round every night, and try to fool the pickets. They did it so often that the boys got used to it. But, mind you, the rebels were watching all their movements, so they thought they would take the advantage of our pickets, some dark night, and so they did. - Our rebel officer approached one of the cavalry pickets, same as our own officers, and got so close he just out with his pistol and let our picket down. So then there were some forty rebel pickets came over, and there was a general skirmish among our pickets and the rebel pickets and out of forty or more that crossed into our lines, there were none went back.

The whole of them were captured and marched off to the guard-house, under a heavy escort of guards, and all the casualties that happened to our men was one shot severely, and one run overboard by three rebs and not much hurt, and four or five slightly wounded. The next day the forts opened fire with bomb-shells, in and up and down the woods, for five or six miles. Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas and Fort Reed belched forth fire, ball and destruction to every thing that happened to meet their rage, and we have heard of no rebels since in that quarter. ... (next page)

## IN CONTEXT: THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS FROM FRANKFORD — FORT PICKENS

A few days since, two companies of the 25th, two of the 82d, two of the Louisiana cavalry, and two of the white cavalry, who had been captured rebs and enlisted in the cavalry troops, went out on a scout, a hundred or two miles up the island, to a small town called Mariana, in West Florida, where there was supposed to be some eight hundred or a thousand inhabitants.

The general sent the white cavalry in the town to capture all inside from the biggest white reb, to the darkest contraband, while two more companies went to the west end of the town to meet them as the cavalry drove them out, but they did not come, for they went in on a trot, but they galloped out, and the general told them to go in again, but they refused, and the general took their battle-flag from them, and then he told the Louisiana cavalry to perform that duty, at which they jumped.



Loc: <<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4040.cw0009000>>.

They had not been in the town many minutes before there was a smoke seen, and rebs skeddaddling in all directions, but the infantry stopped them when they came outside of the town, for it was too hot for them to stay in it, as the colored cavalry had the town half burnt down before the general stopped them. It was the women that did all the fighting, for they fired out of the windows and every by-place they met us. One woman walked right into the street with a pistol, and aimed at the general. - She fired and shot him in the left arm, breaking it between the shoulder and elbow. Another came out from another place, and shot Captain Young, of the 7th Vermont, through the heart, killing him instantly. Then the boys rushed on the women, and they had to bayonet several of them before they could get them out of the way.

So we captured one hundred and sixty-seven rebs, including one general, and several of the other officers, and two companies of the regiment brought them down the island safe to Fort Pickens, and next came two more companies, with two hundred head of cattle - plenty of fresh beef. Now, then came the general, and the Fort Pickens boys, with four hundred and fifty contrabands, men, women, and children, of all kinds and sizes. As soon as they came to the Fort, we, the 25th boys, gave them our tents, and they put them up in our old camping place, and at night, all the companies, B, H, E, and C, made them three kettles of coffee apiece, twelve in all, by authority of our noble Major Risinger, of the Fort.

Then came the cowardly cavalry, with the colored Louisiana cavalry behind them, bringing up the rear with about one hundred and forty horses and mules; so this ends their captures this time. But if the general had known there were one thousand contrabands just three miles distant on a small plantation, before he got so far away, he would have had all of them. - They are going again, next week.

Yours truly,

Sergt. A. J. BEDFORD,

Co. B, 25th U.S.C.T.

— *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*: 4<sup>th</sup> March 1865

## FRANKFORD'S BLACK WAR VETERANS — DURING THE WAR AND AFTER THE WAR: IN CONTEXT

### The Public Ledger (Philadelphia,) says that the Frankford

The Public Ledger (Philadelphia,) says that the Frankford and Southwark Horse Railroad has tried the experiment of letting colored persons ride in its cars, and found it unprofitable - more being lost by whites refusing to ride with negroes than is gained by the custom of the latter.

Whereupon, says The Ledger: "It is not to be expected that business companies will sacrifice their pecuniary interests to carry out a political or social principle. "Probably not. we have only to say to Mr. Childs, the present editor and proprietor of The Ledger, that that is just what is the matter. Now that The Ledger and such other papers give credence to such God-hated wrongs, how long will it be before men will learn to do right?

— *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*: 18<sup>th</sup> February 1865

### VOLUNTEERS FROM FRANKFORD, PA.

By the kindness of Mr. W.S. Walker, we have obtained a list of names of the colored men who have lately enlisted in defence of the Stars and Stripes, in Frankford . They are all young men, and well known, and many of their friends elsewhere, will be pleased to see their names: - Robert Calahan, Elijah Barret, Jesse Pleasant, Wm. Massy, George Pleasant, Moses Bedford, Isaiah W. Somers, David A. Jackson, Samuel Morris, James W. Somers, Jacob Scott, James Butler, Jr.

— *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*: April 1, 1865

### CITY INTELLIGENCE.

#### (WAR IS OVER – A HOMECOMING FOR THE U. S. C. T.)

#### CITY INTELLIGENCE.

**POLICE INTELLIGENCE.—SUNDAY DISTURBANCE AT FRANKFORD.**—About 7 o'clock last Sunday evening quite a melee occurred on the main street of Frankford, sadly disturbing the Sabbath quiet of that sweet rural district. Eight or ten negroes visiting the town had entered the Seven Stars hotel to get drinks, and were taunted with chaffing words by some white bar-room loungers. When the negroes went out into the road one of them spoke warmly to a companion about the insult, and being overheard by one of the white rowdies following was knocked down by him. A general fist and stone fight ensued, until a couple of hundred persons had gathered around. After some heads had been pretty badly battered, the negroes were driven down Foulkrod street. The police then interfered and quelled the riot, arresting Thomas Davis, Alexander Bedford, and Andrew Rust, (colored) with Percival S. More, S. N. More and Charles C. Dryden, (white) the latter of whom, it is alleged, struck the first blow. Alderman Holme held each of the offenders in \$400 to answer.

Police Intelligence.—Sunday Disturbance At Frankford  
About 7 o'clock last Sunday evening (sept.16) quite a melee occurred on the main street of Frankford, sadly disturbing the Sabbath quiet of that sweet rural district. Eight or ten negroes visiting the town had entered the Seven Star hotel to get drinks, and were taunted with chaffing words by some white bar-room loungers. When the negroes went out into the road one of them spoke warmly to a companion about the insult, and being overheard by one of the white rowdies following was knocked down by him. A general fist and stone fight ensued, until a couple of hundred persons, had gathered around. After some heads had been pretty badly battered, the negroes were driven down Foulkrod street. The police then interfered and quelled the riot, arresting Thomas Davis, Alexander Bedford, and Andrew Rust, (colored) with Percival S. More, S.N. More and Charles C. Dryden, (white) the latter of whom, it is alleged, struck the first blow, Alderman Holme held each of the offender in \$400 to answer.

— *Philadelphia Inquirer*:

18<sup>th</sup> September 1866

**IS IT OUTRAGE OR LAW ?**

**The Dead Colored Caterer's Body Excluded from Mount Moriah Cemetery—Color or Absence of Ownership the Trouble.**

At the funeral of Henry Jones, the well-known colored caterer of this city, who died the other day, a very unusual and painful scene was presented to the attendant friends and to the bereaved family. It had been arranged that the body should be laid in the ground in a lot which had been purchased by Mrs. Jones in May last from an agent of the Mount Moriah Cemetery Association. All the friends were gathered at the house of mourning, and the funeral was about to proceed to the grave yard, when the following note was handed to a member of the family:

MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY, September 27, 1875.—Mrs. Elizabeth Jones—MADAM: I am in receipt of a note from you requesting a grave to be dug in lot No. 48, E½, Section 58, in Mount Moriah Cemetery. I am unable to comply with your request, because the lot in question is registered as belonging to William H. Boileau, and the rules of the cemetery require me to act only under the order of the registered owner. Very respectfully yours, &c.,

H. P. CONSELL, Superintendent.

The Times, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1875, page 1

**CIVIL RIGHTS IN A GRAVEYARD**

**THE COLORED MAN'S BODY UNBURIED.**

**Henry Jones, the Deceased Caterer, Still Before the Public—Both Sides of a Very Knotty Question.**

**IS IT MERELY A DEFECTIVE TITLE ?**

The refusal of the Mount Moriah Cemetery management to allow the interment of the body of Henry Jones, the colored caterer, in their grounds, continues to be the subject of comment. The secretary

The Times, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1875, page 2

**The Unburied Caterer.**

Mrs. Jones, the widow of the caterer, says that she bought a lot in the Mount Moriah Cemetery instead of in one of the cemeteries for colored persons, because the burying grounds of St. Thomas, Big Wesley and the Bethel have been condemned because they are in the heart of the city. In the Lebanon Cemetery, in which Mrs. Jones' family own four lots, and in the Olive Cemetery, the city is cutting streets, one of the streets having gone through two of her lots in the former, leaving no room for her husband to be buried there.

The Times, 30<sup>th</sup> December 1875, page 1

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**TO PROMOTE CIVIL RIGHTS A PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS' REMARKABLE REQUEST**

The Register of wills this morning admitted to probate the will of John D. Lewis, colored, late a member of the Philadelphia bar, who last week died suddenly of heart disease at his office, at Eighth and Locust Streets. The estate left by the decedent consists mainly of real property located in Toronto and this city, valued at about \$100,000. The last mentioned was counsel against the Mount Moriah Cemetery Company in a famous case fifteen years ago, in which the Supreme Court ordered the interment in its grounds of Henry Jones, the noted colored caterer, who was the father-in-law of Mr. Lewis.<sup>30</sup>

There are several modern articles with expanded explanations on this Pennsylvania Supreme Court case.<sup>31 32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1891. Web. 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Accessible Archives. <<https://www.accessible-archives.com/>>.

<sup>31</sup> *Hidden in plain sight: Cemeteries and civil rights*. Eisen, Mimi. 2018. Web. 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. <<https://ncph.org/history-at-work/hidden-in-plain-sight-cemeteries-and-civil-rights/>>.

<sup>32</sup> *Cemeteries, Segregation, and the Funerals of Henry Jones*. Wysong, Lori. 2020. Web. 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. <<https://hiddencityphila.org/2020/10/cemeteries-segregation-and-the-funerals-of-henry-jones/>>.

4<sup>th</sup> October 1862. THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER. DIED.

Died, on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, PETER CREAG, aged 105 years.

To be buried from his late residence, Brown Street, Frankford, at 3 o'clock, on Wednesday afternoon.

105 YEARS! One of the aged, said to be one hundred and five years old, died in Frankford on the 27<sup>th</sup> ultimo.

We cannot say anything about the life he lived, but one thing we do know – he has entered into a life that has no end.

25<sup>th</sup> June 1864. THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER. Quarterly Conference will be held at the following named Circuits:

At Bristol, 25<sup>th</sup> inst.

At Frankford, July 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup>.

At Bensalem, July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

At Holmesburg, July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

At Bristol, July 23<sup>d</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

26<sup>th</sup> November 1864. THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER. THE BETHEL SUNDAY-SCHOOL. Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

This is the mother church of the A.M.E. Church, and it is a fact, that it is as large, if not the largest church in the connection, and probably has the largest congregation of orthodox faith.

4<sup>th</sup> December 1869. THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER. A.M.E. CHURCH NEWS.

Thanksgiving at Bethel, Frankford, Nov. 18, 1869. -MR. EDITOR: We are happy to inform you that

Thanksgiving Day in Bethel church, Frankford, was one long to be remembered. Morning service was deferred in consequence of a funeral in the afternoon. And at half past two o'clock the body of Sister Harriet Lisby - one of the old veterans of the cross, was conveyed to the church. At which time and place the Rev. Henry Davis delivered a beautiful and solemn discourse (over the corpse) from Psalm 23:4. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... After which the body was conveyed to the burying ground..."

27<sup>th</sup> August 1885. THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER.

PHILADELPHIA FACTS. AMONG THE CHURCHES. FRANKFORD.

At the Trinity A.M.E.Z. Church, Willow street between Foulkrod and Meadow, Rev. J.W. Brown is preparing for a grand rally, which will take place on next Sunday. It is for the purpose of liquidating the remaining debt of \$275 which is due on the church.

The congregation of the Laws M.E. Church, Tackawana and Margarett streets, and pastor, Rev. Holly, are busily engaged in arranging for a special effort, which is to take place on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at which time they hope to raise \$200 to pay the remaining indebtedness due on the church.

24<sup>th</sup> September 1885: THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER.

PHILADELPHIA FACTS. AMONG THE CHURCHES. SUBURBAN NOTES..

A grand rally will take place at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Frankford. Rev. B.F. Lee will preach in the morning; for the afternoon the missionary society has arranged a very interesting programme of exercises. A church camp-meeting will be inaugurated in the evening.

It will be Missionary Day at the Laws M.E. Church, Frankford, on next Sunday, at which time the Rev. William E. Hilton will preach. The congregation are likewise busily engaged in arranging for a fair to be given in October from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.

The choir of Bethel Church, Frankford has removed from the gallery to the main body of the Church. "What can we do to improve the church?" This is one method, at least. The concerts given at said church every other Tuesday evening are quite a success.

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<sup>33</sup> **Bethel Church** was a body encompassing several individual A. M. E. congregations. **Bethel Church, Frankford** was most often used for the Frankford congregation. 1875, **Campbell Chapel, Frankford** found it's way into the Christian Recorder's lexicon: *REVIEW OF SUNDAY SCHOOL: I hope the Superintendents of Mt. Pisgah and Campbell Chapel will in future look more to the good of their schools. Mr. Benj. Masten of Allen Chapel was Musical Conductor, and Mr. Henry P. Carter of Zoar M.E., organist...* The Christian Recorder — 1<sup>st</sup> April 1875.

## FRANKFORD BURIAL GROUND — POTTER'S FIELD — WILMOT CEMETERY: IN CONTEXT

After the construction of Wilmot Public School in 1874, the graveyard was seen as a Potter's Field (See Fig. 9 on page 6). The name of *Frankford Burial Ground* began to transition in several of the newspapers to Wilmot Cemetery. The City Ordinances relating to the Frankford Burial Ground became progressively sporadic, irregular and eventually disappeared.<sup>34</sup>

A lot of human bones have been unearthed, while digging a sewer, on Meadow street, Frankford. The place was a potter's field many years ago. Messrs. Yost & Scattergood, the contractors, were ordered to rebury them in a potter's field near by.

Meadow Street, Frankford — An Old Potters Field

"A lot of human bones have been unearthed, while digging a sewer, on Meadow street, Frankford. The place was a potter's field many years ago. Messrs. Yost & Scattergood, the contractors were ordered to rebury them in a potter's field near by."

— Philadelphia Inquirer 9<sup>th</sup> August 1886

## ROBERT BYRAN, POST NO. 80, G. A. R. — DECORATING THE GRAVES OF THE COLORED SOLDIERS

Formation of a new Post of the G.A.R. HEADQUARTERS OF ROBERT BRYAN, POST NO. 80, G.A.R., No. 506 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

The honorable discharged soldiers and sailors of the late war for the union assembled at their headquarters on Friday evening Sept. 25th, for the purpose of forming themselves in an organization known as Robert Bryan Post No. 80, Grand Army of the Republic, Dept. of Pennsylvania.

Some twenty of the old veterans were present, representing nearly every colored regiment that left this and other cities in the Union during the Rebellion; and nominated and elected their officers...

— The Christian Recorder, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1877.

**KEYSTONE NOTES.**  
—During the decoration of the graves of the colored soldiers in Lebanon cemetery (a colored place of interment), Philadelphia, on Saturday afternoon, a row occurred between a party of Irishmen and members of Post 80, Grand Army of the Republic (colored), during which several men on both sides were shot and cut. The wounds of none of the party are believed to be dangerous. The row, it is understood, was caused by the Irishmen.  
A COLORED COMPANY MOBBED IN PHILADELPHIA.  
PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—This afternoon while the Gray Invincibles, a colored military organization with the Robert Bryan Post No. 80, G. A. R., were on their return from the funeral of a deceased comrade, they were attacked with stones and other missiles by a crowd of roughs at Forty first and Market streets. The post was unarmed, but the Invincibles had their muskets, and they were ordered to fix bayonets and charge, which was done. The mob retreated and they returned to their armory without being molested.

31<sup>st</sup> May & 20<sup>th</sup> April 1880 — Penna. Newspapers.

<sup>34</sup> **Bureau of City Property:** Caretaker, Frankford Burial Ground . . . . . \$300 00 per Annum ----- 1 appointment.

- 1907: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 514. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1907phil/>>.
- 1908: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 414. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1908phil/>>.
- 1909: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 461. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1909phil/>>.
- 1910: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 343. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1910phil/>>.
- 1911: Journal Of The Common Council. Pages 152 & 384. <<https://archive.org/details/journalofcommoncou1910phil/>>.
- 1912: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 508. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1912phil/>>.
- 1913: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 555. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1913phil/>>.
- 1914: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 686. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1914phil/>>.
- 1915: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page. 656. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1915phil/>>.
- 1916: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 658. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1916phil/>>.
- 1917: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 565. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1917phil/>>.
- 1918: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 410. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1918phil/>>.
- 1919: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 383. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1919phil/>>.
- 1920: Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia. Page 315. <<https://archive.org/details/ordinancesofcity1920phil/>>.

**ROBERT BYRAN POST NO. 80, G. A. R. DECORATE THE GRAVES AT WILMOT CEMETERY FRANKFORD**

**Bryan Post, No. 80, Commander Francis Wood, starts at two P. M. for St. Thomas, Lebanon and Wilmot Cemeteries.**

30<sup>th</sup> May 1881 Philadelphia Inquirer Page 8

**The graves in St. Thomas', Lebanon and Wilmot Cemeteries were decorated by Post No. 80, and those in Philadelphia by Post No. 191, which also laid a wreath on Lieutenant Ziegler's monument in the Union Burial Ground.**

31<sup>th</sup> May 1882 Philadelphia Inquirer Page 2

Robert Bryan Post, No. 80, after visiting St. Thomas' and Wilmot Cemeteries, marched at 1 o'clock, under the escort of the Gray Invincibles and the Sons of Veterans, to Lebanon Cemetery, where a general observance of the day was held. Post 115 was detailed

31<sup>st</sup> May 1885 The Times Page 2

Robert Bryan Post, No. 80, the finest colored Grand Army organization in the country, held their services in the Wilmont Cemetery, Frankford. The Post was accompanied by Camp No. 52, Sons of Veterans, and the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Sunday School of Frankford.

30<sup>th</sup> May 1886 The Times Page 5

**The graves of the colored heroes in the Wilmot and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Churches, of Frankford, were decorated by the Robert Bryan Post, No. 80, composed exclusively of colored soldiers, who make up the finest colored Grand Army post in the country. The comrades assembled in their headquarters, at 505 Chestnut street, at 10 o'clock, and under the escort of the Gray Invincibles, Captain Charles A. Hallstock, took the train from Broad Street Station. Camp No. 80, Sons of Veterans; Woman's Relief Corps, No. 68, and the Ladies' Auxiliary Corps of the post participated in the exercises. The Sunday school class of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Frankford was on the grounds and sang appropriate hymns. Rev. C. C. Felts, D. D., offered up prayer and Hon. Stephen Gipson made a scholarly oration.**

31<sup>st</sup> May 1888 The Times Page 2

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Robert Bryant Post, No. 80, was accompanied by the Ladies of the G. A. R. to Bethel and Wilmot Cemeteries, Frankford. Rev. B. F. Watson conducted the services.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, page 2, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans Military Band, escorted the Old Veterans of Post No. 80 G. A. R. to Frankford on Monday, to commemorate the heroes of the Civil War.

The New York Age, page 6, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1918

Robert Bryan Post, No. 80, was accompanied by the Ladies of the G.A.R. to Bethel and Wilmot Cemeteries, Frankford. Rev. B. F. Watson conducted the Services.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans Military Band, escorted the Old Veterans of Post No. 80 G. A. R. to Frankford on Monday to commemorate the heroes of the Civil War.

### Johnson Post

The Atmore Johnson Post, the new colored veterans' post of Philadelphia, located in Frankford, has been advancing rapidly during the past month. The membership has increased and new quarters have been secured. The post has secured a home on Orthodox street. It succeeded in furnishing the building and all colored veterans of Philadelphia, especially those of Frankford have been urged to join. The post has promised to turn out in uniform for Memorial Day in conjunction with Frankford Post.

### Johnson Post — 20<sup>th</sup> May 1928

The Atmore Johnson Post, the new colored veterans' post, of Philadelphia, located in Frankford, has been advancing rapidly during the past month. The membership has increased and new quarters have been secured. The post has secured a Home on Orthodox street. It succeeded In furnishing the building and all colored veterans of Philadelphia, especially those of Frankford have been urged to join. The post has promised to turn out in uniform for Memorial Day in conjunction with Frankford Post. [Reference to it] <sup>35</sup>

— Philadelphia Inquirer.

### 29<sup>th</sup> May 1970 – VFW PARADE

Combined veteran organizations of Frankford will have 1 P. M. ceremonies at St. Joachim Cemetery, Griscom and Church sts.; a 2 P. M. parade; services at Wilmot Park, Meadow and Mulberry sts., and 2:45 P. M. ceremonies with a speaker in North Cedar Hill Cemetery, Frankford and Cheltenham aves.

— Philadelphia Inquirer, page 5.

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<sup>35</sup> Post 211 American Legion, 4521 Paul Street: *Evening public ledger*. [volume] (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 18 Feb. 1920. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045211/1920-02-18/ed-1/seq-5/>>.

**Meadow Gardens Redevelopment**



Inquirer Staff Map  
**MEADOW GARDENS REDEVELOPMENT AREA** site design plans are to be discussed with members of the East Frankford Housing and Improvement Association.

**Cemetery Has Been Made Into a Small Recreational Area**

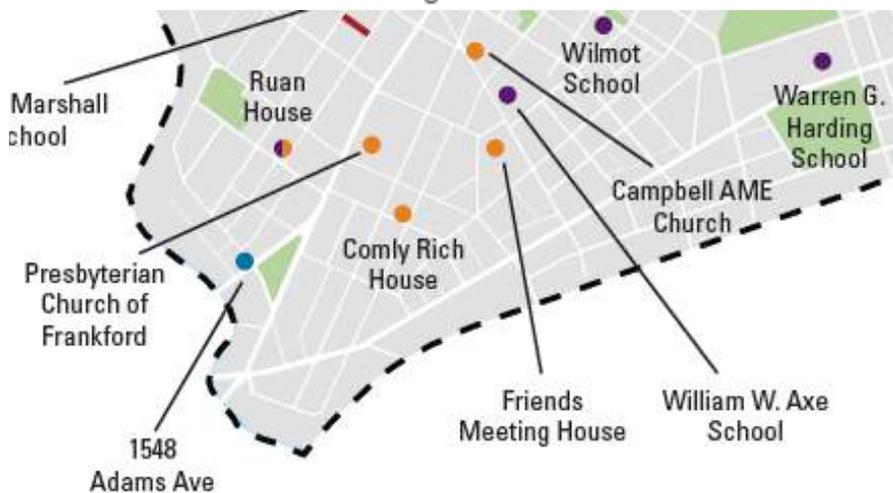
One of the area's two churches operates an educational center on Meadow st. between Hawthorne and Mulberry sts. directly opposite a cemetery which has been made into a small recreation area.

The commission staff has a plan for a new residential development on vacant land in the Meadow area as well as on areas cleared of blighted residential and nonresidential buildings.

30<sup>th</sup> October 1969 – *Philadelphia Inquirer* – Page 21

**Historic Resources**

- Philadelphia Register of Historic Places
- National Historic Landmark
- National Register of Historic Places
- Eligible for National Register\*
- Recommended for Local Historic Designation (LNE 39)
- Historic Street Paving



**2035 Lower NE District Plan - City of Philadelphia**

18<sup>th</sup> June 1970 – *Phila. Inquirer* – Page 22

Frankford's Redevelopment in the late 1960's and through the 1970's required demolition of the most historic properties in the heart of the African American Community. Many of those homes were simple clapboard wooden structures and in very poor condition.<sup>36</sup>

The Historic Burial Ground at Mulberry and Meadow streets was converted into a Public Park and Playground. Records to verify any removal or disinterment of human remains have not yet been found.

<sup>36</sup> Redevelopment Plan: <[https://www.phila.gov/media/20190430103833/EastFrankford\\_Meadow\\_RedevelopmentPlan.pdf](https://www.phila.gov/media/20190430103833/EastFrankford_Meadow_RedevelopmentPlan.pdf)>

## THE FRANKFORD PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND – WILMOT PARK & PLAYGROUND: IN CONTEXT

### Wilmot Park project starts, but funds are coming up a bit short — 6th April 2011

Preliminary work for installation of new playground equipment has begun in Frankford's Wilmot Park, at Mulberry and Meadow streets.

Excavating old blacktop near the small park's basketball court began two weeks ago, according to Jason Dawkins, an aide to City Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez (D-7th dist.), who gave the news to members of the Frankford Parks Group during their meeting March 28 in the 2nd Baptist Church of Frankford.

But Dawkins and Kimberly Washington, the group's president, said the organization is out of money and \$9,000 more is needed to pay for the work.

Dawkins said he expected installation of new equipment to begin this week and that it would be ready for the youths by April 16. He's hoping to organize a basketball tournament for the grand opening.<sup>37</sup>

Ian Litwin | Project Manager, Phila City Planning Commission

Alexa Bosse | Community Design Collaborative

Kimberly Washington | Executive Director, Frankford CDC

### Wilmot Park



2014 SESSION A3: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN FRANKFORD PHILADELPHIA <sup>38</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Philadelphia Inquirer. Sunday, April 06, 2011. Web. 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

<[https://www.inquirer.com/community/pa/philadelphia/netimes/Wilmot\\_Park\\_project\\_starts\\_but\\_funds\\_are\\_coming\\_up\\_a\\_bit\\_short.html](https://www.inquirer.com/community/pa/philadelphia/netimes/Wilmot_Park_project_starts_but_funds_are_coming_up_a_bit_short.html)>

<sup>38</sup> City Planning Com. Web. 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. <<https://planningpa.org/wp-content/uploads/A3.-Creative-Placemaking-in-Frankford.pdf>>.

## SUMMARY & OPINION: EARLY RACISM IN FRANKFORD BOROUGH

Frankford Burgess minutes reveal that Civil Complaints were filed against Black people and White people equally.

Warnings were more often issued against the Frankford Friends School House than against the A.M.E. Church of Frankford, usually for blocking the street or entrance of a Public building. This was a violation of an ordinance to protect against being trapped in a building during a fire. No Black person every paid a fine, because the corrective measures were immediate.

12<sup>th</sup> July 1849, the *Sanitation Ordinance To Combat The Cholera Epidemic* (page 15, figure 17) may be an indication of high death rates and burials in Frankford Borough as well as the City of Philadelphia.<sup>39</sup>

The protests by members of the Black Community (1850-1851), against the opening of Meadow Street through the Public Burial Ground were successful. This may be an indication of a high number of African Americans interred within.

When the American Civil War broke out – young men of Frankford’s Black Community who enlisted in the Union Army were assigned to the United States Colored Troops. In 1866, after the War, a race riot began in Frankford. Black Veterans paid a return visit to Union Army recruitment station, the Seven Stars Hotel – Whites outnumbered the Blacks by 20 to 1.

The transition of the Public Burial Ground to Wilmot “Colored” Cemetery becomes clear around 1874, with the construction of David Wilmot Public School and the opening of Meadow Street through the Public Burial Ground.

The 1875 Civil Rights violations by Mount Moriah Cemetery was an indicator of Public sediment harbored by Philadelphia’s White population. It somewhat resembled the early Quaker’s practices “justified” from within their Christian values. White Christians did not want to be near Black people, not on the horse-drawn omnibus and not in a graveyard.

According to newspaper accounts, the Robert Bryan Post No. 80, Grand Army of the Republic first came to Frankford Memorial Day of 1881 to decorate “Wilmot Cemetery.” This may be an indication that “Wilmot” was now officially a Black Cemetery that contained a sufficient numbers of deceased African American Veterans.

Robert Bryan Post No. 80 was last seen in Frankford on Memorial Day in 1907 visiting Wilmot and Bethel (Campbell A.M.E.) Cemeteries. They returned as War heroes on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1918, very aged. They needed an escort by women.

**OPINION: What did the Civil War give to Black America?** In the beginning - Nothing!

Before the War of 1861, an underground railroad was operating out in the open with *The Christian Recorder* as a conductor, *The Liberator* as an engineer, numerous Black Churches all working toward a common goal against Slavery and oppression.

The change came when the Union became desperate for manpower & labor. On the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1862, the Militia Act was legislated, on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1863, Lincoln passed the Emancipation Proclamation and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1863, the Enrollment Act, allowing African Americans to join the War.<sup>40</sup> Invite and entrance into the Civil War gave Black Americans: Self-esteem with a belief, the hope and an opportunity to prove they were the better human beings.<sup>41</sup>

Victory in the Civil War created African American War Heroes, Black parades, Black celebrations, Black music – American music. Victory in that War was a transition from Slavery to Freedom and was the birth of true American music.

*This train has left the station, you know, this train  
This train has left the station, I said, this train  
This train has left the station and this train takes on  
every nation  
'Cause this train is a clean train, I said, this train*<sup>42</sup>

<sup>39</sup> *Cholera*. Encyclopedia of G. Phila. Web. 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021. <<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/category/john-b-osborne/>>.

<sup>40</sup> Hudson River Valley Heritage. <<https://omeka.hrvh.org/exhibits/show/new-paltz-in-the-civil-war/laws/militia-act-of-july-18--1862>>.

<sup>41</sup> *The human as the image of God*. Web. Apr. 2021. <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christianity/The-human-as-the-image-of-God>>.

<sup>42</sup> Sister Rosetta Tharpe. *This Train*. Web. 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOrhigt-Qc>>.

YOUNG AMERICA HONORS OLD GLORY

THE STARS AND STRIPES LIFTED OVER  
THREE MINIATURE "FORTS"

CANNONS BOOM AND BANDS PLAY

Flag-Raising in Frankford.

"Fort Byram," located at Willow and Margaret streets in Frankford, was yesterday afternoon the scene of the most enthusiastic and impressive flag raising held in the suburb. The "fort" is named in honor of Select Councilman J. Emory Byram, and he was present and delivered an address. The exercises were begun by a drill by the Byram Guards, a company of colored boys, commanded by Captain Bud Smith. The combined church choirs from the Campbell, Trinity, Zion and Law's A.M.E. Churches and the two thousand people present sang "My County 'Tis of Thee." Prayer was offered by the Rev. Arnold, of Campbell A. M. E. Church.

Chairman Lewis Bedford then introduced Colonel Bryam. In the course of his remarks the Councilman spoke of the early history of Frankford and said when a boy, Alexander Bedford, a well known and respected resident of the town, and father of Lewis Bedford, who had just introduced him, had carried him on his back across a most dangerous stream. He said that the future of the country rested with the boys of to-day, and they should all receive a good Education to enable them to honorably fulfill their duties to their God, their country and themselves.

Florence Jones sang "The Star Spangled Banner," cannon boomed and the flag, the gift of Colonel Byram,<sup>43</sup> was lifted to the breeze amid the vast assemblage.

**YOUNG AMERICA  
HONORS OLD GLORY**

THE STARS AND STRIPES LIFTED OVER  
THREE MINIATURE "FORTS."

CANNONS BOOM AND BANDS PLAY

"Fort Nebinger," at Eighth and Diamond Streets; "Fort Byram," in Frankford, and "Fort Este," at Twenty-Second and Cumberland Streets the Scene of Rousing Patriotic Demonstrations—The Colored Youth of the Twenty-Third Ward Comes to the Front.

Old Glory now floats proudly above the white-washed walls of "Fort Nebinger"—a miniature fortress erected on the lot at Eighth and Diamond streets. Last evening, to the music of "The Star Spangled Banner," Anna Marie Cooney, a child, unfurled the handsome flag presented to the "garrison," and as it ascended, three rousing cheers were given by the boys. The salute was fired by Birney Post, No. 63, G. A. R., after which patriotic addresses were made by Lieutenant James D. Gay, Rev. Thomas and Dr. R. E. Tomlin.

Mr. Thomas spoke of the glory of the American nation and of its recent brilliant victories in the cause of justice. He said that the desire to build miniature forts manifests the patriotism inculcated in every American boy.

**Flag-Raising in Frankford.**

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Florence Jones sang "The Star Spangled Banner," cannon boomed and the flag, the gift of Colonel Byram, was lifted to the breeze amid the cheers of the vast assemblage.

"Fort Byram" was erected mostly by colored boys and is a stone stronghold, seven feet high and one hundred feet in circumference. The walls are three feet thick. Eleven "guns" are mounted. The officers are: Captain, William H. Mason; first lieutenant, James Stewart; second lieutenant, James Rothwell; sergeant, Charles B. Jones; quartermaster sergeant, Earle Somers; commissary sergeant, Robert Knight; orderly sergeant, James Roan; first duty sergeant, John Anderson; corporals, Clarence Owens, Joseph E. Lunk, Walter Johnson and Charles Lee.

**Other Flags Raised.**

The Times (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) 7<sup>th</sup> August 1898, Sunday Page 2.

"Fort Byram" was erected mostly by colored boys and is a stone stronghold, seven feet high and one hundred feet in circumference. The walls are three feet thick. Eleven "guns" are mounted. The officers are: William H. Mason; first lieutenant, James Stewart; second lieutenant, James Rothwell; sergeant, Charles B. Jones; quartermaster sergeant, Earle Sommers; commissary sergeant, Robert Knight; orderly sergeant, James Roan; first duty sergeant, John Anderson; corporals, Clarence Owens, Joseph E. Lunk, Walter Johnson and Charles Lee. **Other Flags Raised.** ...Sergeant Harry Glesker made an address and said that the spirit which built the 'fort' was a patriotic one and there never was a time in history of the country when fidelity to raise the flag was as conspicuous as it is to-day in all sections of the country. The unification and the amalgamation of the various races within the country make us the greatest nation on earth. ...

<sup>43</sup> J. Emory Byram, attorney, bottle manufacturer and the local politician responsible for Frankford's Bath-House, lived at 4645 Penn Street. He was an Army Civil War veteran. Web-bio: <<https://www.ourcampaigns.com/CandidateDetail.html?CandidateID=23518>>.

## POST MORTEM

Let it be understood — Many burials were conducted out of the various Frankford Area Churches, both Black and White. Some of those churches no longer exist, while many are still holding church services today. Many funeral services were conducted far away, but interment was in Wilmot. The number of people interred in this burial ground will never be known.

As for the U.S.C.T., because a soldier enlisted from Frankford should not imply that he lived there or is interred in Frankford.

“This index represents an attempt to document all African American soldiers and sailors from Chester County who served in the Civil War. Unlike their white counterparts, black volunteers did not muster into local companies. There were no black Pennsylvania regiments. Local volunteers from Chester County joined the United States Colored Troops (USCT) or other black state regiments such as the 54th Massachusetts. This index defines a Chester County soldier as 1 who was born here, and/or resided here at the time of enlistment, and/or lived and died here after the war. Of those identified, Chester County African Americans served in over 30 different regiments. The largest contingent of Chester County soldiers (134) served in the 3rd USCT. This regiment was mustered in at Camp William Penn outside of Philadelphia in August of 1863.

### USCT enlisted in Frankford Soldiers

Barrett, Elijah — 1865 Private H 24th Received gun shot wound to left leg. Discharged Infantry USCT.

Butler, Henry — 1864 Private Infantry 45th USCT. Not taken up on muster rolls of regiment SR.

Glasgow, William — 1864 Private F 45th Died of at Chapins Farm, VA on Nov. 24, 1864 Infantry USCT SR.

Howard, James Spencer — 1863-1865 Corporal C 6th SR/VBR. Enlisted as James Spencer Infantry USCT.

Hunter, Jacob T. — 1864-1865 Private K 127th SR/VCC/VBR. Service record found in the 45th USCT Regt.

Miller, Robert — 1865-1865 Private Infantry C 24th USCT. SR/VCC/VBR.

Richardson, George W. — 1865-1865 Private Infantry D 24th USCT. SR/Bounty.

Roberts, John Ephraim — 1864-1865 Private A 127th SR/VCC/VBR.

Service record found under 45th USCT Regiment Infantry USCT.

Thomas, George — 1865-1865 Private Infantry E 24th USCT SR.”<sup>44</sup>

### *Dying Far From Home Pvt. Joseph S. Money, Co. C, 6<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.T.*

“Conscripting (drafting) men for United States military service and the expanded enlistment of African Americans following the Emancipation Proclamation coincided in the spring of 1863.

Black men of military age were just as subject to conscription as white men. At the time, drafted men could either pay a \$300 commutation fee to get out of their service obligation, or they could provide a substitute. In most cases, the substitute charged the drafted man to serve in his place. We do not know the motivation behind Joseph S. Money’s decision to serve as a substitute for a man named Henry Johnson. Unfortunately, due to Johnson’s common name, details into his life cannot be ascertained.

Regardless, Joseph Money enlisted on August 5, 1863, at Frankford, a suburb northeast of Philadelphia. At 32-years old, Pvt. Money, born in Salem, New Jersey, was older than the average Civil War soldier. He was not a tall man, measuring just under 5’4”. The enlisting officer described Money’s complexion as ‘brown.’ ”<sup>45</sup>

**Dying Far From Home - Pvt.  
Joseph S. Money, Co. C, 6th USCT**



**Photo and text is by Courtesy of Tim Talbott**

<sup>44</sup> Chester County Archives. Web. 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. <<https://www.chesco.org/1566/Military-Records>>.

<sup>45</sup> Random Thoughts on History: <<http://randomthoughtsonhistory.blogspot.com/2021/03/dying-far-from-home-pvt-joseph-s-money.html>>.

POST MORTEM

The 14<sup>th</sup> February 1864, Moses W. Handley enrolled in Frankford, PA into Company B of 24<sup>th</sup> US Colored Troops.

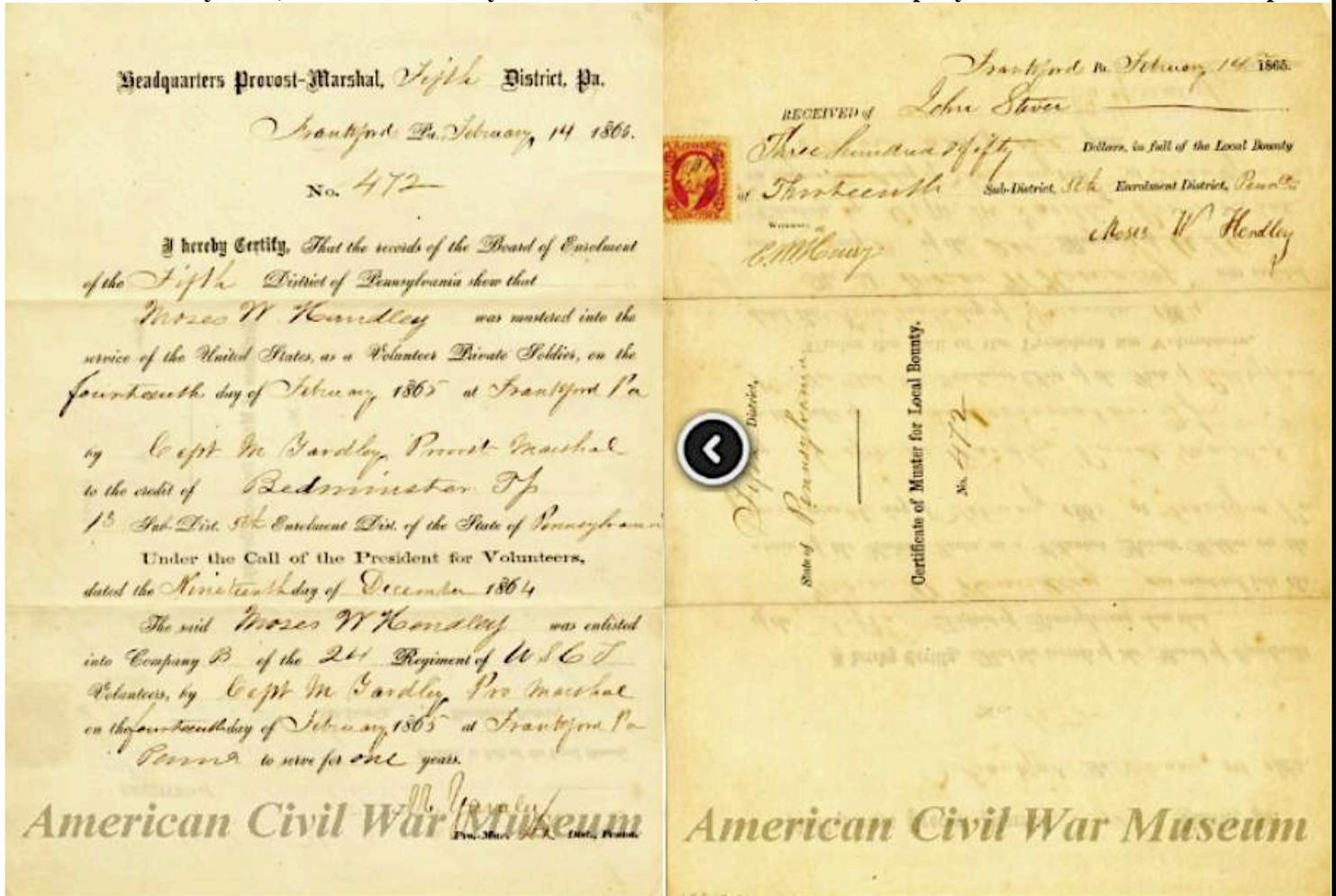


Image and Text is by Courtesy of the American Civil War Museum<sup>46</sup>



Absalom Ray Co F, 24<sup>th</sup> U.S.Col'd Inf.

**RAY.**—On November 20, 1896. Absalom Ray, aged 52 years. The relatives and friends of the family, also survivors of Company F, Twenty-fourth Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Tuesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, from his late residence, No. 4740 Stiles street. Services at Law's M. E. Church and interment at Wilmot Cemetery.

The Philadelphia Inquirer 24<sup>th</sup> November 1896. Page 11

Ray. — On November 20, 1896, Absalom Ray, Aged 52 years. The relatives and friends of family, also survivors of Company F, Twenty-fourth Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Tuesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, from his late residence, No. 4740 Stiles Street. Services at Law's M. E. Church and interment at Wilmot Cemetery.

<sup>46</sup> American Civil Museum. Web. <<https://acwm.pastperfectonline.com/archive/98E337FD-DDA2-4136-ADED-748093575000>>.

## 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – CONCLUSION.

In the earliest years, the resource was well used and well kept as a burial ground. The Frankford community has used it for the last 210 years in some capacity. It transitioned into an African American Cemetery and a center of community celebration. It is still a centerpiece of the Frankford Community today. It should be kept that way.

Supported by the evidence, original source documents and research: The Free Burial Ground of Frankford situate 1801 Meadow Street is an extremely significant historic site meriting designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, satisfying the following Criteria for Designation: a, g, i, and j as enumerated in § 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (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
- (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,
- (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.

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