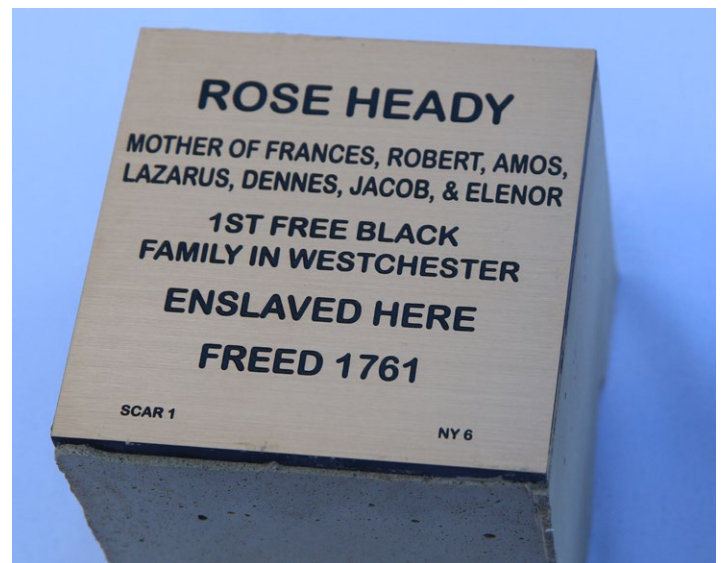




SCARSDALE OFFICIAL Village Newsletter

As America comes to grips with the full scale of slavery in its history, we are learning that Scarsdale is implicated too. As part of this reckoning, the Junior League of Central Westchester (JLCW), Dennis Culliton of Witness Stones Project, genealogist and historian Teresa Vega and faculty and students from Scarsdale High School pooled their resources and their passion for social justice to begin uncovering one of the untold stories of Wayside Cottage in Scarsdale. They discovered that Cottage owner Thomas Hadden enslaved Rose Heady and the seven children she had by Hadden. He freed them upon his death in 1761—they were the first known freed Black family of Westchester County—and left them resources to become a foundational family in the County, and beyond. Many generations later, their descendants, including Vega, have carried on their legacy. A ceremony was held on Friday, June 7, as part of dedicating eight Witness Stones at the Cottage in memory of Rose and her children, Elenor, Jacob, Dennes, Amos, Robert, Frances and Lazarus, and to honor the pivotal role they played.

JLCW president Danielle Marino called it a “most important and very special day” at a place



near and dear to both the Village of Scarsdale. She noted that Emily Butler donated the property to the Village in 1917, and the Junior League took over custodianship in 1953, running educational tours for decades. Three years ago, a new investigation brought Thomas Hadden and his family's ownership to light, along with the adjacent reality of Rose Heady and her/their family. By partnering first with Witness Stones and then with Scarsdale's school district, a new educational journey began. “The goal,” said Marino, “was to educate first our membership, then our schools and then in turn

our community at large about all the inhabitants that have lived at Wayside Cottage over the years and the impact that they have had on the community as a whole.”

Ali Park, President-Elect of JLCW agreed. “We embarked on this project with Witness Stones because we wanted to better tell the story of this beautiful building,” she said. “We have been telling stories behind this building for 70 years now, but we knew that we weren’t telling the whole story. We needed more information.”

Park said that an April 2023 article in The Scarsdale Inquirer by Todd Sliss, caught the attention of Scarsdale High School teachers Beth Colleary and Kathleen McGreal, who then ignited the curiosity of dozens of students in their classes. Two in particular, Layden Kennedy and Noah Auerbach, embarked on their own mission through an independent study to research and report their findings on the Hadden-Heady family.



“Involving kids in historical research is so important because when you do historical research you have to be really comfortable with the idea of, ‘I don’t know,’” Park said. “Through them and the work that we’ve done, despite not having a lot of recorded information on Rose and her children, I feel like I know Rose and her kids personally and I know that





a lot of other people here today feel the same.”

Layden Kennedy then talked about some of the rich history of Wayside Cottage, the home of the first woman’s club and library, from the time of the American Revolution to the Suffragettes. But, she said, it was the Heady family who lived in Scarsdale both as slaves and free people just over 200 years ago that stood out.

“As we rest these stones here today it’s incredibly important to us that it not only represents a change in Scarsdale history, but from now on the people of Scarsdale, and especially its students, will have a better understanding of the true history of our country and the true history of the land we work and live on,” Kennedy said.

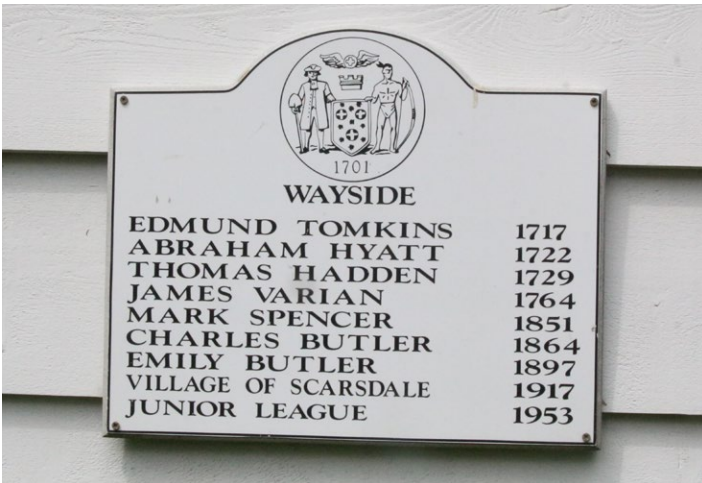
During the high school’s Non Sibi day last month, Kennedy and Auerbach gave their fellow students a tour of the building and shared their research. “Wayside Cottage is not just a building, it is a treasure trove of our community’s history, a place where stories of the past come alive,” Auerbach said. The students plan to hold an exhibition at Wayside Cottage in September to help others understand the “deeper connection to the place we all call home” and create a “bridge between the past and the present.”

Dennis Culliton, a former teacher, founded Witness Stones in 2017, modeling it after the more than 100,000 *stolpersteine* or “stumbling stones”

in Germany, and throughout Central Europe, that have been telling “one story at a time” about the Jews killed in the Holocaust. For Culliton, attaching individual names and personal information to enslaved people is a way to teach about slavery in a way that resonates deeply.

Hearing there were 2,700 enslaved people in Connecticut in 1790 just doesn’t strike people the same way, he says, or even seem like it was possible. But it was. “We don’t want to tear any signs down, we don’t want to tear down any statues, we want to put another layer on the story, and in many ways make it more colorful,” Culliton said. “Rose, through her abilities, inherited property, and with our ability to find the property she inherited through the good work of Teresa and Ali we were able to look at her and her family and see a story that kind of opened up before us.”

Last week, the 200th witness stone was placed in Connecticut. New York is just getting started with about a dozen this year, including eight so far in Scarsdale. Culliton will be spending Juneteenth in New Paltz on the historic Huguenot Street. Over the past seven years, Witness Stones has reached more than 15,000 students. With the support of educators, Culliton has been able to “help build that empathy and help build the understanding of who lived here and who helped build the communities,” which he said, “changes our vision when



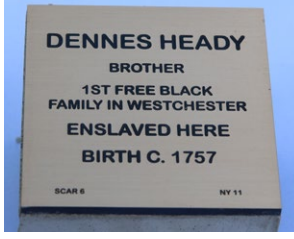
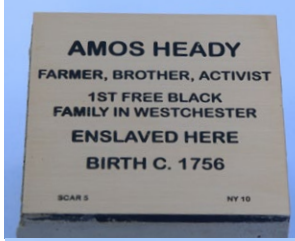
you see slaves were involved in the landscape.”

Vega was accompanied by two other relatives who are descendants of Rose Heady and her children, whom Vega said have a “unique and significant place in the history of this area.” While there are many questions about the relationship between Heady and Hadden that Vega continues to ask, tracing her lineage since 2008 has opened her eyes to a world she never knew. The witness stones, Vega said, will be “tangible reminders of their lives lived here.” The original witness stones, she said, were unmarked tombstones.

“Today as we stand here at Wayside Cottage, we honor the first family of Westchester for beckoning us to reclaim our ancestral narratives,” Vega said. “Their voices echo through the annals of history, guiding us with a newfound mandate to write our ancestors and their communities back into the historic

record, ensuring they are erased no more. When we look at the legacy left by our extended family we just see how foundational they were in every way. It is with gratitude and reverence we extend our heartfelt thanks to Rose, Elenor, Frances, Robert, Lazarus, Dennes, Amos and Jacob. Their legacy propels us forward on the battlefield of remembrance armed with a conviction to honor their sacrifices and preserve their rightful place in history.”

The stones are being placed in the garden on the left when you come onto the Wayside Cottage property from the parking spaces out front, with the stones on both sides of the path leading to a yellow rose bush and a bench under a shade tree. The roses signify not only Rose Heady, but the State flower of New York and the flower of the Junior League, in a perfect setting for reflection on the past, present and future.





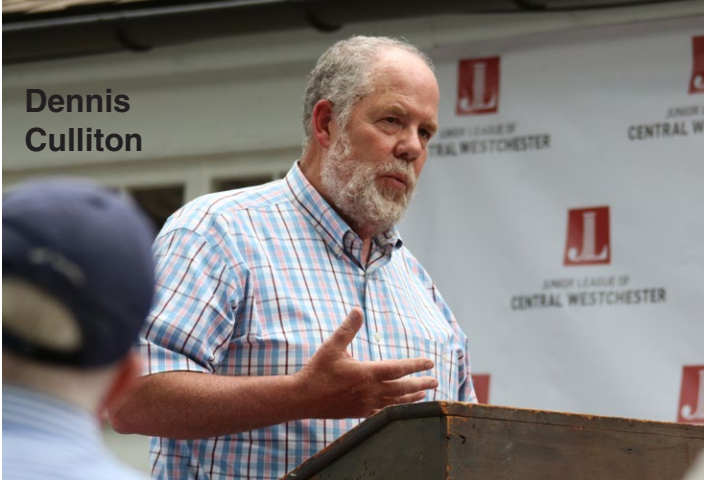
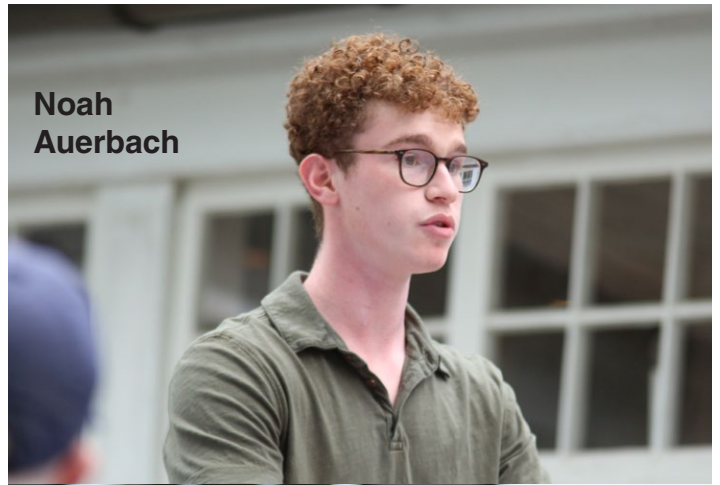
Danielle Marino

Ali Park

Kathleen McGreal



Noah Auerbach



Dennis Culliton



Teresa Vega



In the name of God Amen the nineteenth Day of february in y^e year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Sixty one of Thomas Hadden of y^e mannor Sedardsale in y^e County of west Chester and province of new york a yoman being in a p^oore state of health But of perfect minds & memory thanks be given unto God therefore calling unto mind y^e mortality of my Body & knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die I do make & ordain this my last will & testament that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul into y^e hands of God that gave it and for my Body I recommend it to y^e Earth to be Buried in a Christian like and decent manner at y^e Discretion of my Executors hereafter named nothing doubting But at y^e General resurrection I shall receive y^e same a gain By y^e mighty power of God and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life with I give devise and Dispose of y^e same in y^e following manner and form

that is to say I give to mary wems and to my wench Rose y^e use and profit of my house & lot of Land lying at y^e north end of my farm adjoining to y^e road it begins at a Cross fence a little Southward of y^e house By y^e road thence westerly with y^e fence to a brook thence up y^e brook to John y^e shot land thence Easterly with fishers land to y^e road thence southerly with y^e road to y^e Cross fence wher it first begins and y^e said wems and y^e wench is to have y^e use of it Six years after my decease also I give to mary wems and to y^e wench rose a Cow and ten Bushel of wheat and a Baril of meat also I give to my wench rose her Bed and her wearing Cloaths and a mare that was given to her and a great basin and a mug that was her own also it is my desire and I give my negro Children the bedding that is their or that they sleep on also all their wearing wearing Cloaths Likewise I give to my wench rose y^e sum of twenty five pounds Good and lawful money likewise I give to two of my negro Boys that is to frances & Robert y^e sum of twenty pounds each of Good and lawful money likewise I give to my negro Children amos lazarus Dennis Jacob and Elonor y^e sums of twenty five pounds to each of them in Good and lawful money and y^e money that I give to my wench I order my Executors to pay it to her soon after my decease and y^e money that I give to my negro Children I order my Executors to put it out to interest and for them to have y^e interest of it as my Executors shall see they stand in need of it also it is my desire that y^e sheep which my two oldest negro Boys hath of their own and are put out on rent that my Executors do sell them soon after my decease and put y^e money to interest as y^e money above for them likewise there is six sheep that belongs to three of my negro Boys amos lazarus and Jacob which I give them and I order my Executors to sell them soon after my decease and y^e money to be put to interest for them as y^e money above for them also it is my will and desire that at my decease all my negroes be exempted from slavery and I give them all free from any Body claiming them as servants also I order my Executors at their discretion to bind my negro Children out to trade as soon as may be thought by my Executors they are fit also to take some care that they are brought to read also I give to my son John a Suite of my wearing Cloaths with my hat and a great & also I order my Executors as soon after my decease as they shall think proper to sell all my real and personal estate reserving y^e house and land that mary wems is to have y^e use of y^e six years as above mentioned and at y^e expiration of y^e six years to sell that also and for my Executors to give a title for y^e lands according to law or that may be a Bar against any heir at law and y^e money arising from y^e sale thereof after my funeral Charges are paid out of it I Dispose of it in y^e form following that is to say principally and first I give to my son John Hadden y^e sum of four hundred pounds of Good and lawful money and to my son Joseph Hadden y^e sum of one hundred pounds of Good and lawful money also I give to my daughter abigail tomkins y^e sum of one hundred pounds of Good and lawful money and to be paid to be paid to him by my Executors as they shall think he stands in need of it and y^e remainder of y^e money that is not above requested I order my Executors as soon as it can be collected in to put it to interest and for my wife to have y^e interest of it for her support as long as she shall remain my widow and at her decease or remarriage I give y^e money that she hath had y^e interest of to my two sons John and Joseph to be Equally divided between them by my Executors also I constitute make and ordain Jonathan Griffen and Caleb Hyatt my only and sole Executors of this my last will and testament and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannul all and every other former testaments wills legacies and Executors by me in any ways before this time named witnessed and subscribed ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament for witnesses wherof I have hereunto set my hand and seal y^e day and year above written

signed sealed published pronounced and declared by y^e said Thomas Hadden as his last will and testament in y^e presence of us y^e subscribers

Schu m card

Witness
James McWire

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Thomas Hadden
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The Will of Thomas Hadden as Transcribed in "Scarsdale Story" by Helen Hultz

A final purchase on October 23, 1732 completed Hadden acres. Thomas Hadden twenty-five acres for £54 from Joshua Tompkins and his Wife Sarah. The bound began at the highway and adjoined Hadden's hundred acres. The deed identifies the plot as land sold to Joshua Tompkins December 1731 by John Tompkins who declares he received it from his honored father Edmund Tompkins.

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Thomas Hadden, Yeoman, lived in Fox Meadow some thirty-odd years holding his property throughout his lifetime.

His Will dated February 19, 1761, signed Thomas ^{his} II Hadden was presented March 1, 1761 and entered at the order ^{mark} of Cadwallader Colden in New York City.

The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Hadden wherein provision for his slaves comprises half his Will gives glimpses of life near the end of the Colonial era.

"I give to Mary Wemy and to my Wench Rose the use and Profit of my house and lot of land lying at the North End of my farm adjoining to the Road it begin at a Cross fence a little Southerd of the house by the road thence Westerly with the fence to a brook thence up the brook to John Fisher land thence Easterly with Fishers land to the Road thence Southerly with the Road to the Cross fence where it first began and the said Wemy and the Wench is to have the use of it six years after my Decease.

also I give to Mary Wemy and to the Wench Rose a Cow and ten bushel of wheat and a barrel of Meat

also I give to my Wench Rose her bed and her wearing cloath and a Mare that was given to her and a great Bason and a mug that was her owne

also it is my Desire and I give to my Negro Children the bedding that is theirs or that they sleep on also all their wearing Cloaths

likewise I give to my Wench Rose the sum
of twenty five pounds good and lawfull money

likewise I give to two of my Negro Boys that is
to Frances and Robert the sum of twenty five pounds
Each of good and lawfull money

likewise I give to my Negro children Amos Lazerus
Benney Jacob and Elenor the sum of twenty five
pounds to each of them in good and lawfull money

and the money that I give to my Wench I order
my Executors to pay it to her sone after my Decease

and the money that I give to my Negro Children
I order my Executors to put it out to Interest
and for them to have the Interest of it as
my Executors shall see they stand in need of it

also it is my Desire that ye ten sheep which
my two older Negro boys hath of their own and
are put out on rent that my Executors do sell them
soon after my Decease and put ye money to Interest
as the money above for them

likewise there is six Sheep that belongs to three
of my Negro Boys Amos Lazerus and Jacob which
I give them and I order my Executors to sell
soon after my Decease and the money to be put
to Interest for them as ye money above for them also

it is my Will and Desire that at my Decease
all my Negroes be Exempted from Slavery and I give
them all free from any bodys claiming them as Servants

also I order my Executors at their Discretion to bind
my Negro Children out to Trades as soone as may be
thought by my Executors they are fit

also to take some care that they are learnt to read ”

Thomas Hadden orders his Executors to sell his Real and Personal Estate. He bequeathed £ 400 to his son John Hadden, £ 100 to his son Joseph Hadden, £ 100 to his daughter Abigail Tomkins and to his brother John £ 10. The remainder of his money is to be put to Interest for his Wife as long as she remains his widow. At her decease or remarriage that money is to be equally divided between his sons. John McCord, Levi Devo and James McWire subscribed in witness.

On the fourth day of March 1761 before John Bartow came John McCord and Levi Devo and declared seeing Thomas Hadden sign the written Instrument bearing date 19th day of February 1761. Proving approved by Cadwallader Coldin Administration was granted unto Jonathan Griffen and Caleb Hyatt 17 March 1761.

Will NYC 22 - 497

It is Jonathan Griffen of the Manor of Scarsdale and Caleb Hyatt of the White Plains, Yeoman, as Executors for £ 1200 gave a Deed to Joseph Hadden late of the City of New York now of the Manor of Scarsdale, Yeoman. 17 September 1761

" BEGINNING at a stump standing by the road with a heap of stones laid round it a few rods to the southward of the house that stands in sd farm and from thence running westerly with Vine Devo's land to a read oak tree standing by Brunk's River with a spruce staddle standing close to it from thence running northerly up the river untill it comes to a stake standing close to the edge of the bank of said River with a heap of stones laid round it which is a bound this land now to be granted and Thomas Vail's land and from thence easterly with sd Vail's land untill it comes to John Fisher's land and from thence southerly with sd Fisher's land and then easterly with Fisher's land untill it comes to the above said road and then to run southerly with the road to the first mentioned bound a stump with a heap of stones laid round it, Containing by estimation One hundred and fifty acres be the same more or less within said bounds "

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