

## William Hayman (1785–1842)

William Hayman subscribed to eight shares, worth \$200, in the initial subscription for Christ Church, placing him in the middle range of financial supporters. He went on to become one of the 26 committed pew purchasers, to in fact purchase pew No. 4 and to serve as a Warden. He was also a master brewer and member of the Masonic Lodge.

Hayman was from Chester County, PA, southwest of Philadelphia. His father, also William Hayman, who served as a Captain in the Continental Navy during the Revolution, married Ann Wayne October 15, 1772 at Christ Church, Philadelphia. Ann was the sister of Major General “Mad” Anthony Wayne of Revolutionary War fame. According to the records of St. David’s Episcopal Church Cemetery in Radnor, Delaware County, PA where he is buried, Captain William Hayman was born in Exeter, Devon, England in 1740. According to some sources, Captain William Hayman was the son of Sir William Hayman, Surveyor-General of Exeter.

It is not known when he came to Georgetown, but in 1813 Daniel Bussard, the owner of Georgetown’s first brewery, the Georgetown Brewery (established 1809), invited William Hayman into partnership with him. During the 1820s Hayman acted as purveyor of ale to General Andrew Jackson (the receipts still exist). Following Bussard’s death in 1830, Hayman constructed a new three story brewery, known as Hayman’s Brewery, at what is now the north-east corner of 27th and K Streets on the east side of Rock Creek. The creek supplied the water for making the beer. The brewery produced up to 6,000 barrels annually. Following Hayman’s death in 1842, the Orphan’s Court ordered the sale of its equipment, fixtures and inventory to pay off Hayman’s debts.

According to one source, Hayman “was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens for his uprightness and generosity, and for his amiable and affectionate nature.”

Hayman married Julianna Lane (1795-?), who was also from Pennsylvania. Her sister Mary married James Gettys, originally from Pennsylvania but who became a local Georgetown magistrate, Mason, Odd Fellow and member of Christ Church.

William and Julianna Hayman had eight children, seven of whom survived to adulthood: daughters Mary Elizabeth, Anna B., Julia, Adelaide G. and Kate Wayne, and two sons, William and Samuel Lane. William Hayman was a patron of learning, and his children received thorough educations. William Hayman, Jr., lived on his maternal grandfather’s farm at Mont Alto, near Chambersburg, PA (not Mount Alto, the current site of the Russian Embassy) and reportedly enjoyed “the good will and respect of all who know him, as a man of spotless character and large attainments.” Samuel L. Hayman, described as “a bright, enthusiastic youth,” was killed at age 24 in the Battle of the Wilderness in the ranks of the Confederacy.

Hayman died in 1842 at age 67. His funeral was held September 21, 1842 at Christ Church. He is buried, with his wife, in the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church cemetery in Chambersburg, PA, which was her home town.

In an interesting footnote to the life of William Hayman, he figured posthumously and unwittingly in an interesting court decision. At a time when courts were generally adverse to claims of slaves or former slaves, Nancy Hillman in 1850 became one of the first African Americans to



win a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Washington. Hillman was the daughter of a slave named Hannah who worked at a tavern near the county courthouse in Rockville, and she grew up knowing the lawyers and judges who patronized the tavern. Her husband was a slave to Maryland Court of Appeals Justice Richard Potts. Her uncle, Yarrow Mamout, had served as a slave to three generations of the Beall family in Georgetown, all lawyers or court officials. Yarrow Mamout, a literate Muslim, was famous in Georgetown and even had his portrait painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1818.



Yarrow Mamout (Muhammad Yaro), 1819 by Charles Willson Peale

Brought to Maryland from Guinea as a teenager, Yarrow was freed by the Bealls in 1797 after nearly a half century of servitude. Four years later, he used his savings to buy a small lot on what is now Dent Place in Georgetown. He also invested in stock in the Columbia Bank of Georgetown,

noting sagely that the stock paid dividends akin to a chicken laying eggs for its owner.

Near the end of his life, Yarrow lent \$170 to William Hayman for the purchase of a warehouse in Georgetown for the use of his brewery. Hayman signed a deed of trust as security. However, Hayman stopped paying on the loan after Yarrow died in 1823, and he took out two more loans from other persons, secured by second and third deeds of trust on the same property. Twenty years later, with Hayman's death, his brewery business failed. His creditors foreclosed. At a public sale, the warehouse brought in \$910. The third creditor, a woman named Eliza Moshier, filed suit in the Circuit Court seeking the entire amount.

That is when Nancy Hillman entered the picture. Asserting that she was Yarrow's only surviving heir, she hired an attorney and moved to prosecute her uncle's deed of trust, which had priority. Moshier challenged her right to intervene in trying to collect 20 years after the default. And then there was the matter of Hillman's race. Although she had been freed by her mother's owner, the law did not allow slaves or those without a manumission document to sue in the law courts. In the absence of the formal document, Moshier argued that Hillman was disqualified by race alone.

Judge James S. Morsell, Christ Church founder who had known both Yarrow and the Bealls, not to mention his fellow Christ Church founder William Hayman, rejected Moshier's race argument out of hand. His short opinion noted the argument was made, but he did not deign to address it. Instead, he found in Nancy Hillman's favor and awarded her \$451 of the sale's proceeds. Judge Morsell's explanation was as benighted as it was benevolent. In rejecting Moshier's argument, he wrote that African Americans could not be held to the same standard of legal vigilance as whites because "negroes (were) a class of people remarkable for being almost entirely ignorant of



their rights.” All the same, the ruling was one small step for Yarrow’s niece and for justice in general.

<sup>1</sup> “A First Step for Racial Equality in the Circuit Court of Washington,” by James H. Johnston. James H. Johnston is the author of *From Slave Ship to Harvard, Yarrow Mamout and the History of An African American Family* (Fordham University Press, 2012)

