

Representative Church Body Library, Dublin

MS 1117/

Papers by, or concerning, the Revd John Armour Haydn (1845-1920) and his family.

John Armour Haydn was born in the Tallow, Co. Waterford, the son of Mary and Thomas Haydn, in 1845. He was educated at Youghal and in Fermoy College Co. Cork, and then entered Trinity College Dublin in 1862, graduating with a BA in 1866, an MA in 1870 and the LLB & LLD in 1871. He was ordained for the diocese of Limerick, where he served his entire clerical career, initially and briefly as curate of St Michael's, Limerick, 1868-69; then successively as Rector of Chapel Russell, 1869-72 and then Nantenan, 1873-1918. In addition to his parochial duties, he became a canon of St Mary's cathedral, Limerick in 1891; then served as cathedral treasurer, 1906-12, as chancellor, 1912-13 and finally as archdeacon of Limerick, 1913-18, when he retired. He died on 21 May 1920. He was recognised as a skilled musician and composed anthems and chants for use in worship, while his ability as a painter have been realised after his death, with valuable sales of his works at auction in Dublin.

It is Haydn's marriage that has brought about the provenance of this collection and details of another cleric, the Revd William James Mitchell Young. On 29 April 1873 Haydn married Louisa Young (1845-1916) the daughter of James and Sara Young of Annaginny Lodge, near Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. It is Louisa's older sister Frances Priscilla Young (1842-1930) to whom many of the original contents of this collection were either sent or written. Their older brother William James Mitchell Young (c. 1825-1900) was a Church of Ireland clergyman, ordained for the diocese of Derry, serving in Armagh and Connor diocese, before transferring to the Church of England. A letter in the final section of the collection reveals his troubles in later life and sad death in Hastings, Sussex.

1859-1920; undated

From Aileen Goulding Blomgren*, Normal Illinois, 2021

[*As the content of the files reveal, Aileen was connected to Haydn's wife – Louisa Young, through Louisa's sister Frances Pricilla Young (1842-1930) who emigrated to the USA in 1873. The sisters were originally from Annaginny Lodge, near Dunganon, Co. Tyrone.]

1. Cover letter from the donor of this collection, Mrs Aileen Goulding Blomgren, Normal, Illinois, to the RCB Library, with detailed genealogical information, explaining the connection between Haydn and her family. She is connected to the Young family of Annaginny Lodge, near Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, through "Fanny" Young (1842-1930) whose correspondence with John Armour Haydn features in this collection. Fanny (the sister of Haydn's wife Louisa) emigrated to the USA in 1873.. The collection thus provides a perspective of American relatives retaining vital genealogical information about their Irish family, and correspondence otherwise lost.
17 July 2021
2. Genealogical information about Mary Hayden/Haydn, the mother of John Armour Haydn, of Tallow Co. Waterford, who died in 1886, including an original photograph of her grave, taken by him, July 1891.
3. Genealogical information about Thomas Hayden/Haydn, the father of John Armour Haydn, of Tallow Co. Waterford, born c. 1815 and who died in 1887.
4. Original correspondence by John Armour Haydn, Nantenan Glebe, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to his sister in law 'My dear Fanny' [Francis Priscilla Young] with family information and enclosing photographs of himself, dated 8 Dec. 1914; recounting the illness and death of his beloved wife Louisa, 16 May 1916; and finally to enclose the original watercolour sketch of her grave in the family plot at St Mary's cathedral which he says he visits 'every Sunday', while also revealing his poor health and general sadness: 'I am a very lonely and sad old man, and have had to cease all clerical duty this long time. Painting and typewriting are about my only recreation...', 16 March 1920, together with additional and valuable notes by Aileen Goulding Blomgren copies of printed materials about him, including obituaries following his death, as published in local newspapers; further information on Haydn's artistic accomplishments and his paintings; and a copy of his death certificate.
5. Original watercolour by the Revd John Armour Haydn of his wife Louisa (Young) Haydn's grave in the family plot at St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, annotated by him: 'My dear wife's grave (within the railing) St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, John Armour Haydn LLD, June 1918. [*This item has been framed and is on display in St Mary's, Cathedral, Limerick, 2022*].
6. Four black and white portrait photographs of Archdeacon John Armour Haydn, in later life, one of which is annotated: 'Photographed in the garden of the Shannon Hotel, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, June 1919'.
7. Copies of original press items relating to the death of James Thomas Armour Handel Haydn (1874-1892) eldest son of John and Louisa Haydn, at the age of 18 on 19 March 1892. He was an accomplished musician, and scholar at the Royal College of Music, London. The file includes a copy of Archdeacon Haydn's letter published in the Limerick Chronicle to acknowledge the 'great number of letters' of condolence that poured into the family, 22 March 1892.

8. Original letter of John Armour Haydn junior (1881-1957), second son of the John and Louisa Haydn, 26 Barrington Street, Limerick, to his aunt Fanny [Frances Pricilla Young] reporting the death of his father, 5 June 1920: 'Papa passed to his rest on the morning of May 21st', together with copies of same and information about his ability as a painter, his replica of St Mary's Cathedral, and a review of his publication *Misericords, with special reference to those in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick* (Limerick, 1938).
9. Copies of death notices for Mary Sarah Frances Haydn (died Nantenan Glebe, 8 April 1888, aged 13) as published in newspapers. Mary was the eldest daughter of John and Louisa Haydn.
10. Three original letters from Florence Adelaide Haydn (1877-1947), youngest daughter of John and Louisa Haydn, to 'Aunt Fanny', written respectively in 1913 and c. 1916 from Nantenan Glebe, Askeaton, and in 1920 from 26 Barrington Street, Limerick [her brother's home] following her father's death. Each letter contains family news and local gossip, revealing a deep affection between niece and aunt.
11. File relating to Louisa "Louey" Sarah Young (1845-1916), wife of John Armour Haydn including original letter written to her sister Fanny, aged just 14, when at the Moravian settlement in Gracehill, where she appears to have been educated, dated 4 October 1859. This is accompanied by a second letter to Fanny from E. Angell [possibly the school mistress at Gracehill] reporting about an outbreak of illness, possibly smallpox, but that Louisa was not infected, and she is 'improving in all her studies', 14 October 1859. The file also contains copies of obituaries following her death in 1916, and further information about Haydn's watercolour painting of her grave, and its transfer to the RCB Library as part of this deposit (see item /5 above).
12. File relating to the Revd William James Mitchell Young (c. 1825-1900), older brother of Louisa and Fanny Young, concerning his genealogical details, clerical career for the Church of Ireland and Church of England, marriage in 1851 and sad demise, entering Paddington Workhouse for a spell in 1889, and finally his death in 1900. The file contains to original letters, the first addressed to his mother, Mrs Sarah Young (nee Morrow) from [the Revd] James B. Smyth, Gortin, 28 June 1861 concerning the conduct of her son and his theological outlook; and finally a letter to Mrs Gregston [Fanny Young], [winter holidaying in] Pasadena, California, from the Revd A.V.W. Carden, vicar of St Andrew's, Hastings recording the last days of her brother, who died on 14 February 1900. Letter dated 22 February 1900.