



Public Record Office
of Northern Ireland

INTRODUCTION

ANDREWS PAPERS

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Andrews Papers (D3655)

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Summary

Papers of the Andrews family of Comber, Co. Down, 1796-1956, and of James Andrews, later Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, and auditor of the Historical Society of Trinity College, Dublin, 1902-1903

This archive comprises c.500 documents relating to the Andrews family of Ardara and Maxwell Court, Comber, Co. Down. The material mainly consists of correspondence, photographs and newspaper cuttings.



Background

The archive is made up of two deposits, which explains the somewhat unusual structure of the collection and the classification scheme. The first deposit comprised the papers of Sir James Andrews, later Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, whilst the second deposit contained papers of various members of the Andrews family but also a few additional papers of Sir James Andrews.

Thus originally the archive was arranged numerically into subsections for the material relating to Sir James Andrews as Auditor of the Historical Society at Trinity College, Dublin. The second larger deposit was given the prefix A and a sub-classification scheme was created for the material. This was primarily arranged according to individual members of the Andrews family and their relatives. However, as might be expected there are varying degrees of overlap between the different sections. These divisions have been maintained and where necessary appropriate cross-referencing has been included.



Andrews family background

The Andrews family rose to prominence in Comber during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A pedigree in section D3655/A/11 of the archive traces the lineage of the family. Moreover, the introduction to D4189 (papers of Andrews mill) contains biographical information on the principal members of the family.



Correspondence

The bulk of the archive as already mentioned consists of correspondence of various members of the Andrews family. The two most significant in terms of quantity relate to Sir James Andrews, and his uncle, William Drennan Andrews.



William Drennan Andrews



William Drennan Andrews

William Drennan Andrews, was the second eldest son of John Andrews of Comber and his wife, Sarah, daughter of Dr William Drennan, of Cabin Hill, Co. Down. He was born on 24 January 1832, and was subsequently educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI) and Trinity College, Dublin. He pursued a legal career which culminated in his appointment as Judge of Exchequer, in the Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland in 1882. He was sworn of the Privy Council of Ireland in 1897.

He married Eliza, daughter of John Galloway, of Monkstown, Co. Dublin, in 1857 and lived in the city of Dublin. His correspondence mainly comprises a regular exchange of information with his uncles, William Lenox Drennan and John Swanwick Drennan during the period 1845-1857. These letters are not only full of family information but contain a regular budget of news on local and national politics. There is also correspondence with his future wife, Eliza Galloway.



Sir James Andrews

James Andrews was the son of Thomas Andrews (elder brother of William Drennan) of Comber, and his wife, Eliza, only daughter of James Alexander Pirrie, of Little Clondeboye, Co. Down, and sister of first and last Viscount Pirrie. He was born 3 January 1877 and like his uncle was educated at RBAI and Trinity College, Dublin. He also pursued a career in the law and ultimately served as Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland from 1937-1950.

His early papers dated 1902-1903 relate to his position as auditor of The Historical Society at Trinity College, Dublin. The correspondence mainly comprises replies from invited speakers such as Winston Churchill and other office holders such as Lord Ashbourne. The later material includes various warrants such as his appointment to the Privy Council of Northern Ireland in 1924.



Thomas Andrews

Thomas Andrews, father of the foregoing James, and the brother of William Drennan, was born on 26 February 1823. He was a partner and later chairman of John Andrews & Co., flaxspinners (see D4189). He was also a prominent public figure. He was chairman of the Belfast & Co. Down Railway Company, 1895-1916, President of the Ulster Liberal Unionist Association, 1892-1916, and one of the promoters of the Ulster Convention of 1892.

The archive contains several photographs of Thomas Andrews with his family and also includes a portrait of him in 1914. However, there is relatively little relating to his leading role in public life. Although the section does contain commemorative programmes, etc., relating to Thomas Andrews's invitation to the coronation of King George V.



Thomas Andrews and Family



Thomas Andrews Jnr

Thomas Andrews was born 7 February 1873, the second son of Thomas Andrews. He pursued a career in shipbuilding and achieved international fame as chief designer and managing director of Harland & Wolff. He is of course best known as designer of the ill-fated RMS Titanic, on which he lost his life in 1912.

This archive contains only a few documents pertaining to Thomas Andrews Jnr, however, some are quite revealing. There are two photographs of his wedding to Helen Reilly Barbour of Conway, Dunmurry, Co. Antrim. There is also a strident letter from him to his mother condemning the self interest of the Belfast Harbour Board and an emotional letter about the impact of his death on the family.



Photographs



Maxwell Court, Comber, Co. Down

The archive is rich in photographic material and especially significant is that it can all be confidently attributed. There are photographs of virtually everyone represented in the archive. Aside from those already mentioned there are photographs of William Drennan Andrews, the wedding of Sir James Andrews and the wedding of Eliza Montgomery, daughter of the Rt Hon. Thomas Andrews, to Lt Col L.A. Hind. There are also photographs of the interior and exterior of Ardara House and one early photograph of Maxwell Court.



Other Andrews family deposits

There are relatively few other deposits of papers pertaining to the Andrews family within PRONI. They are:

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| D654/N2/24 | 62 letters from John Andrews, Comber, Co. Down, agent to the 3 rd Marquess of Londonderry, discussing estate affairs, 1847-1848. (Copied from the Durham County Record Office.) |
| D4091 | 544 volumes relating to John Andrews & Co., flax spinners, Comber, Co. Down, 1863-1980 and volumes pertaining to various Andrews family farms and estates, Cos Down, Cavan and Kilkenny, 1882-1987. |
| D4209 | 14 documents mainly comprising testamentary papers relating to the Andrews family, Comber, Co. Down, 1872-c.1950. |
| T3214 | 12 account books, day books, ledgers, 1756-1802, of Robert, James, of Comber, Co. Down. |
| T3405 | 1878 election poem, 'Andrews for Down', relating to William Drennan Andrews, who was standing as the Liberal candidate against Lord Castlereagh, later 6 th Marquess of Londonderry, at the 1878 by-election on the death of James Sharman Crawford. |
| D3655 | Although relatively small in quantity presents a significant insight into one of Ulster's most notable families. |

