

LAYTON FAMILY PAPERS

5.5 Linear Feet

**Loyola University Library
Department of Special Collections & Archives**

**Collection arranged by
Bro. Mark Allen, O.S.B.**

Collection #15

LAYTON FAMILY PAPERS

Biographical Notes

The Layton Family Papers pertain to the special relationship that existed between the family of Thomas Layton Sr. and the ecclesiastical hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. These papers reveal that the Laytons received many favors and privileges for help they gave ecclesiastical authorities in times of crisis. Thomas Layton's wife was **Mary Adelaide Layton**, and their daughter was **Sr. Mary of the Rosary Layton** (1853-1875), a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Although mother and daughter undoubtedly helped the Church, these papers are mainly concerned with the activities of Thomas Layton Sr. and his son, Thomas Layton Jr.

Thomas Layton Sr. was born in 1814 in New Orleans. He was president of the Southern Bank, which was located at 11 St. Charles Ave. He and his family resided at 67 Chartres Street (now 315 Chartres Street), and it was there that he had his sanctioned residential chapel, which was called the St. Thomas Chapel. This privilege was conferred upon him and his family for the help they gave to **Bishop James Verrea of Linares and Monterrey** and several of the bishop's priests. Bishop Verrea and his priests were exiled from Mexico after the defeat of the Clerical Party by **President Benito Juarez** and arrived in New Orleans in the early part of 1861. Apparently Layton also served the local church, **Archbishop Napoleon Joseph Perché of New Orleans** appointed him treasurer of the Archconfraternity of St. Peter's (Peter's Pence). Layton died on February 2, 1882.

Thomas Layton Jr. was born on January 22, 1845. He graduated from Jesuits' College in New Orleans in 1863. He went to Paris to study medicine. While in Europe Dr. Layton reportedly provided medical assistance to papal forces that were protecting the Papal States from siege by armed forces that were trying to unify Italy. His contribution won him acclaim at the battle of Mantana and recognition by Pope Pius IX. Dr. Layton returned to New Orleans and a life of apparent accomplishment and prominence. He was the Vice President of the Board of Directors of Charity Hospital and established the hospital's ambulance corps. He was a physician at the

French asylum on St. Ann St., and a member of the Howard Association. He was also the first president of the Alumni Association of the College of the Immaculate Conception (formerly Jesuits' College). In January 1871 he and his father were made Knights of St. Gregory the Great. He died on May 6, 1889. The family house on Chartres St. was sold in 1905, and the chapel furnishings were reportedly given to a church in Carencro, Louisiana.

Scope and Content Notes

The papers of the Layton Family consist of several types of material: **Letters, privileges, authenticics, relics, bound materials, a wooden box, and miscellaneous items.** These materials date roughly from 1834 to 1879.

Letters: These letters document the Layton family's relationship with the Catholic Church authorities. Bishop Verrea, for example, expressed gratitude for Layton's hospitality and regret that the Civil War prevented him from being able to celebrate the first Mass at the St. Thomas Chapel. One letter revealed that **Pope Pius IX** held Layton in high esteem. Another letter by **Archbishop James Gibbons of Baltimore** stated that he said Mass at the Layton's chapel on January 13, 1878.

Privileges: These documents show the favors and privileges that were conferred on the Laytons. For instance, one privilege given to Layton and his son was membership in the Order of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great. Layton and his family also received indulgences at the hour of death. Many of these privileges were written with the pen of **Pope Pius IX** himself.

Authenticics: Official documents of the Catholic Church attesting to the authenticity of a relic. Many relics with their accompanying authenticics were given to the Layton family. These authenticics are for first and second class relics of very prestigious saints, such as St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Thomas.

Relics: Most of the relics belonging to the authentics have disappeared. Perhaps the most prominent of those remaining are a relic of the post at which Christ was scourged, a piece of St. Peter's tunic, and pieces of the veil of Our Lady of Loretto.

Bound Materials: This collection contains two volumes of bound materials. The first is a history of the St. Thomas Chapel written by Dr. Thomas Layton, with accompanying materials from Archbishop Perché and with general information about the Knights of St. Gregory. The second volume concerns the consecration of the Southern Bank to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1874. The writers of this consecration were Sr. Mary of the Rosary Layton, R.S.C.J. and **Fr. Darius Hubert, S.J.** (d. 1893).

Miscellaneous: Most of these miscellaneous items are religious in nature. An exception to this is a patent signed by **President Andrew Jackson** for an invention by a **James Herron** for an improvement in the construction of railroad carriages, cars, and wagons. There are also items collected during travels and pilgrimages throughout Europe and the Holy Land. These include a 14.5" x 11" signed picture of Pope Pius IX.

Wooden Box: All of the collection's items were originally contained in a 2.5" x 18.25" x 12" box. The title on it states: "Family of Thomas Layton. Privileges conferred by His Holiness Pope Pius the Ninth." The privileges and authentics were kept in a file on the bottom of the box. The relics and other items rested on top of this file.

Container Listing

Box 1

Folder

1. **Letter**, November 5, 1862
2. **Letter**, December 19, 1862
3. **Letter**, May 2, 1871
4. **Letter**, December 30, 1872
5. **Letter**, June 5, 1874
6. **Letter**, April 24, 1875
7. **Letter**, August 31, 1876
8. **Letter**, May 16, 1877
9. **Letter**, January 17, 1878
10. **Letter**, January 13, 1879
11. **Privilege**, March 17, 1861
12. List of privileges of oratory
13. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
14. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
15. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
16. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
17. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
18. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
19. **Privilege**, July 23, 1861
20. **Privilege**, July 31, 1861
21. **Privilege**, October 23, 1865
22. **Privilege**, April 27, 1879
23. **Privilege**, August 24, 1879
24. **Bound Materials**, 1874
25. **Bound Materials**, February 12, 1874
26. **Relic**, from the post where Christ was scourged
27. **Relic**, piece of damask worn by Christ
28. **Relic**, with authentic combined, from the tunic of St. Peter
29. **Relic**, piece of veil of Our Lady of Loretto
30. **Relic**, piece of veil of Our Lady of Loretto
31. **Relic** with authentic combined, piece of veil of Our Lady of Loretto
32. **Relic**, with authentic combined, from the House of Loretto
33. **Miscellaneous**: about Pope Gregory XVI
34. **Miscellaneous**: indulgences and their conditions granted to those who visit the Holy Land
35. **Miscellaneous**: list of paintings in Quebec Cathedral
36. **Miscellaneous**: list of privileges
37. **Miscellaneous**, picture from the Basilica of St. Clement
38. **Miscellaneous**, picture from the Basilica of St. Clement
39. **Miscellaneous**, picture from the Basilica of St. Clement
40. **Miscellaneous**, picture from the Basilica of St. Clement
41. **Miscellaneous**, portrayal of seamless garment of Jesus Christ, from Trier, 1844; pressed flowers from the room of Sr. Mary of the Rosary Layton
42. **Miscellaneous**, two reproductions of the title of the Cross of Jesus Christ in the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem
43. **Miscellaneous**, sand from the tomb of St. Cecelia and catacomb of St. Sebastian, October 30, 1866

44. **Miscellaneous**, scapular

Box 2

Folder

1. List of relics owned by the Laytons
2. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Philip Neri, April 10, 1834
3. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Ignatius Loyola, September 16, 1834
4. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Francis of Hieronymo, December 28, 1835
5. **Authentic** of a relic from the tomb of St. Francis Xavier and Aloysius Gonzaga, April 5, 1836
6. **Authentic** of nails similar to those used on the Holy Cross, September 27, 1845
7. **Authentic** of relics of St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis de Sales, St. Bernard, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Caneillus de Lellis, St. Joseph Calasancti, the ruler of Aemiliani, St. John of God, St. Peter of Alcantara, St. John of the Cross, January 9, 1846
8. **Authentic** of relics from the sepulchre of the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the cloak of St. Joseph, her spouse, relics of St. Joachim and St. Ann, her parents, St. Mary Magdalen, a relative, St. Catherine, virgin and martyr, St. Martha, St. Helen, empress, St. Elizabeth, queen and widow, February 5, 1846
9. **Authentic** of relics from the pillar where Christ was scourged, from the Cross of Jesus Christ, of St. Francis of Assisi, of St. Paul, martyr, St. Peter Celestine, St. Hilary, bishop, St. Paul I, St. Anthony hermit, St. Maur, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Brunonis, founder of the Vincentian Brothers, Blessed Alphonse Rodriguez, C.C., February 5, 1846
10. **Authentic** of relics of St. Agatha, St. Agnus, St. Cecelia, St. Barbara, St. Marina, St. Fecilitas, St. Praxedis, virgin, St. Pudentina, virgin, February 13, 1846
11. **Authentic** of relics of St. Peter Celestine, St. Paul I, St. Anthony, St. Benedict, St. Maur, St. Hilary, St. Francis of Paula, St. Vincent Ferrera, St. Alphonse, of St. Francis of Assisi, February 19, 1846
12. **Authentic** of a relic of the post where Jesus was scourged, May 7, 1846
13. **Authentic** of a relic of the post where Jesus was scourged, May 7, 1846
14. **Authentic** of relics of the Cross of Jesus Christ, of the headband of John the Baptist, of St. Zachariah, St. Elizabeth, martyr, of the Apostles, February 9, 1856
15. **Authentic** of relics of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Francis de Sales, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Augustine, June 27, 1858
16. **Authentic** of relics of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Andrew, St. Mathew, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Charles, bishop and confessor, St. Bernard, abbot, St. Francis de Sales, 1860
17. **Authentic** of a relic of the veil of Our Lady of Loretto, April 26, 1861
18. **Authentic** of a relic of the Cross of Jesus Christ, October 10, 1862
19. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, April 25, 1865
20. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Stanislaus Kosta, April 25, 1865
21. **Authentic** of a relic of the Cross of Jesus Christ, June 27, 1865
22. **Authentic** of a relic of the Cross of Jesus Christ, March 27, 1866
23. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Agatha, virgin and martyr, June 16, 1866
24. **Authentic** of a relic from the nail of the Holy Cross, October 19, 1866

25. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Thomas, Apostle, April 22, 1867
26. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Agatha, virgin and martyr, April 23, 1867
27. **Authentic** of a relic of the Cross of Jesus Christ, December 27, 1868
28. **Authentic** of relics of St. Ignatius of Loyola, of St. Francis Xavier, St. Joan, Queen of France, of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, March 27, 1872
29. **Authentic** of a relic from the sepulchre of the Blessed Virgin Mary, July 6, 1872
30. **Authentic** of a relic of Blessed Queen Adelaide, July 6, 1872
31. **Authentic** of a relic of St. Germaine, virgin, August 6, 1872
32. **Authentic** of relics sent from the garden of Gesthsemani, from the place of his scourging, from the tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Cross, a relic from the place of Calvary, from the house of the Holy Family, from the sepulchre of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 10, 1872

Box 3

Folder

1. **Privilege**, July 19, 1861
2. **Privilege** (with translation), July 19, 1861
3. **Privilege**, October 19, 1863
4. **Privilege**, October 19, 1863
5. **Privilege**, 1869
6. **Privilege**, January 17, 1871
7. **Miscellaneous**: about Pope Pius IX; picture of Pius IX, signed by
8. **Miscellaneous**, patent, March 28, 1835

Box 4

Wooden Box