

Andrew Harvey Young and His Experience with Immigration

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Andrew Harvey Young led a similar yet different life from other immigrant families. While his life was comparable in some ways, Young had better opportunities than most children of immigrants would. He was born in Avondale, Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 2nd, 1852.¹ Young was not an immigrant, but rather, the son of two Scottish immigrants.² Because of his Presbyterian orientation and his father's position as a minister, he was presented with opportunities many immigrants of the time rarely experienced, such as living a relatively wealthy, stable life with opportunity for educational and career growth.

When he lived in Ohio there was a significant German and Irish population, likely the product of the industrial boom of Cincinnati at the time which provided a lot of jobs for incoming immigrants.³ The *Columbus Dispatch* states, “By the 1860s, a third of Columbus’ population was German, including many of the city's prominent citizens.”⁴ By the 1870s census, the Young family had moved to Hanover, Indiana, where there was a significantly smaller immigrant population near him.⁵ Up until his death, according to the census, there were few immigrant families in his community.⁶

¹ General Catalogue of the Alumni of Hanover College 1833-1883 (Hanover, IN: Hanover College, 1890).

² U.S. Census Bureau, 1870 United States Federal Census, Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana, s.v. “H.H. Young,” *Ancestry.com*.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 1860 United States Federal Census, Hamilton, Mill Creek, Ohio, s.v. “H.H. Young,” *Ancestry.com*.

⁴ Ken Gordon, “Are Any Descendants of German Village’s Original German Immigrant Residents Still Living There?” *The Columbus Dispatch*, Dec. 28, 2020, <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2020/12/28/heritage-alive-columbus-german-village-but-do-any-descendants-remain-ohio/6490054002/>.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 1870 United States Federal Census, *Ancestry.com*.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 1870 United States Federal Census, *Ancestry.com*.

The real estate value of the Young family, according to the census in 1860, was \$16,000, and the personal estate value was \$400.⁷ This is a unique circumstance; most of the people near them (immigrant or not) in the community possessed far less than the Youngs. In 1870, the Youngs moved to Indiana and their real estate value was then \$2,500, and personal value was \$500.⁸ The people near them had roughly the same, and this value was more typical for the time.

The occupation of the Young family patriarch was also atypical of the other community immigrant families.⁹ His father, Hugh Young, was a Presbyterian minister, giving Andrew Young a much different life than other children of immigrants in Ohio, whose fathers were typically employed as laborers, servants, dairymen, and gardeners.¹⁰ In 1870, when they moved to Indiana, the most common jobs for immigrant families were farmers, servants, and laborers.¹¹ So, while other immigrant families were in lesser-paid jobs, the Youngs were well off, separating them from the typical immigrant family. The Youngs' higher social and economic status and Rev. Young's position as a minister would have given Andrew access to better education and social connections, which would have set him apart from other children of immigrants, who often faced economic hardships and lack of opportunity.

Andrew Young was also relatively lucky because he was Presbyterian. An exhibition from the Library of Congress states, “The religion of the new American republic was evangelicalism, which, between 1800 and the Civil War was the ‘grand absorbing theme’ of

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, *1860 United States Federal Census*, *Ancestry.com*.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, *1870 United States Federal Census*, *Ancestry.com*.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, *1860 United States Federal Census*, *Ancestry.com*.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, *1860 United States Federal Census*, *Ancestry.com*.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, *1870 United States Federal Census*, *Ancestry.com*.

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American religious life.”¹² Presbyterianism is a form of Protestant evangelicalism, so the Youngs were part of the main religious group. The Youngs’ Presbyterian faith ensured they did not suffer from the backlash that Catholic immigrants did during that time. During the 1800s, Catholics often faced violence: “In 1834 an angry mob burned down a convent in Charlestown, Massachusetts, because of a false rumor that a nun was imprisoned there, and in 1844 a riot broke out in Philadelphia because of fears that Catholics wanted to prevent Bible reading in the public schools.”¹³ They also faced everyday discrimination. For example: “Neighbors called Catholics names, employers refused to promote them, landlords rented them their worst apartments, newspapers blamed them for rising crime rates, and banks refused them loans. A popular national organization, the American Protective Association, was founded specifically to promote anti-Catholicism and other prejudices.”¹⁴ The Young family did not experience this prejudice towards their religion. The Young family moved to Hanover, Indiana, after Rev. Young accepted a position as pastor at Hanover College, a Presbyterian institution. This gave Andrew more access to education and opportunity while on campus. While Hanover College has always been a Presbyterian institution, the school’s religious affiliation was more prominent in the nineteenth century. Thus, the Youngs were well-known and respected.

¹² Library of Congress Exhibition, “Religion and the Founding of the American Republic: Religion and the New Republic,” *Library of Congress*, <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/rel07.html#:~:text=The%20religion%20of%20the%20new>.

¹³ Cathrine A. Brekus, “Catholics in America,” *Christian History* 102 (2012), *Christian History Institute*, <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/catholics-in-america#:~:text=Such%20were%20the%20rumors%20that>.

¹⁴ Julie Byrne, “Roman Catholics and Immigration in Nineteenth-Century America,” *TeacherServe, National Humanities Center*, <https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/nromcath.htm#:~:text=The%20churches%20could%20try%20to>.

During Young's time as a student at Hanover College, he was one of the few immigrants or children of immigrants in his graduating class. There was a Chinese immigrant and an Irish immigrant in his graduating class. Young and the other immigrant students went into the education field at one point in their lives. Moses Stanley Coulter, a Chinese immigrant, was a teacher who later became a principal. James Rowland, an Irish immigrant, was also a teacher. Young was initially a druggist in Madison, Indiana, but later became a professor at Hanover College. His contributions as a professor earned him a portrait in Hanover College's Science Center commemorating his time at the college.¹⁵

Overall, Andrew Harvey Young led a good life. While most immigrant families and children of immigrants struggled to make it, Young prospered. His family, job, status, and religion gave him a life that promoted growth, respect, and education. While he was like other immigrant families in some ways, he overall got to have a better life than most, showing how the American dream is possible for some, but not all. While many immigrant families faced significant challenges, the Youngs achieved the American dream.

¹⁵ *General Catalogue of the Alumni of Hanover College 1833-1883.*

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