

JOHN HENRY & DOROTHY SINTON

Lived: (John H.) Born 1892 - died 14/10/1983, aged 91 years old. (Dorothy M.) Born 1895 - died 03/12/1991 aged 96 years old. Both are buried at Moyallon Friends' burial ground.

Best Known For: Evangelism and Travelling in the Ministry

Early Years: John Henry Sinton was born on the 19th of 4th month 1892. He was the youngest child of William Henry Sinton and Lucy Sinton (nee Chapman). He had 2 brothers and 2 sisters. While the rest of the family stayed in N. Ireland, his brother George emigrated to the United States of America in 1907 and was a successful cattle rancher in Montana. John Henry followed his brother George to Montana in 1909 where he worked as a ranch hand or "cowboy". Although he enjoyed the life it was tough and he was badly injured by a "wild" horse and was fortunate to survive. He returned home in 1911 before his father's death in 1912.

Dorothy (known to everyone as Dolly) was the youngest child of Robert Henry McClatchie and Margaret McClatchie of Portadown. She had two brothers and a sister, all of whom emigrated to Canada and made their lives there.

John Henry met Dorothy whilst they were playing hockey and he determined on that day that Dorothy McClatchie would be his wife - even jokingly referring to her that day as Dorothy Sinton! They were married in 1919. In the years that followed a daughter Dorothy and a son William were born

Gift for Evangelism and Outreach: Soon after the lives of both John Henry and Dorothy were transformed when they attended a mission held by the evangelist W P Nicholson in Portadown. They, like many Friends before them, experienced a clear prompting of the heart to live obedient to the Light of Christ within. Following this experience they spent the rest of their lives sharing their love of Christ with others. Both John Henry and Dorothy had a very natural gift of communication. Their ministry was almost conversational in style, and they often told stories from their past as a way of sharing what God had done in their lives. They had the ability to speak to all ages and younger Friends loved to hear John Henry talk of his time in the 'Wild West'. Both became Recorded Ministers in Ulster Quarterly Meeting.



Along with Friends such as Bob and Ella Bass, William Brien and Stephens Richardson they had a profound influence in maintaining and encouraging the evangelical tradition among Friends in Ulster.

Quakerism: John Henry had been brought up in the Quaker tradition and his father William Henry Sinton was already a prominent Quaker and had started a Friends Meeting at Tamnamore in a property located on the family farm. During the 1890s Tamnamore Friends Meeting house was established by John Henry's father and became a Preparative Meeting. It was here that John Henry and Dorothy Sinton started Junior and Senior Christian Endeavours which were to continue for over 60 years. Dorothy later became Irish President of Christian Endeavour and of the Women's

Temperance Guild (White Ribboners).

It was also at Tamnamore that their passion for evangelism and "travelling in the ministry" developed as it had many years before in John's uncle Benjamin who was renowned for his writings and his journeys around Ireland's Quaker meetings on his tricycle.

Travelling in the Ministry: Their calling eventually took them to North America in 1935 and over more than 30 years they visited the USA at least 12 times often staying for almost 2 years at a time. They travelled mainly by ocean liners including the Queen Mary and Canberra though on at least one trip they flew home to Tamnamore for a "holiday". They spoke as Quaker evangelists at meetings organised in Indiana, Idaho, Ohio, California and Montana. During this time they were often given hospitality and support by Ernest Lamb, a Quaker originally from Ulster who was by then Superintendent of California Yearly Meeting. They also met and made friends with Bernice Johnston who later visited N Ireland staying at Tamnamore. One of their last trips was to Guatemala where they ministered through an interpreter, something they had not done before.

THE SINTON FAMILY & THE LINEN INDUSTRY

Three of John Henry's uncles were involved in the linen industry - the nearby village of Laurelvale, was created by his uncle Thomas Sinton to house the workers from his linen mill of Thomas Sinton & Co. Ltd. The village was within view of Tamnamore House where John Henry lived for most of his life.

Sinton's Mill
in Laurelvale



Quakers were very involved in the Linen industry in Ulster. In addition to the Sintons other Quaker families such as the Richardson, Greeves, Bell, Spence and Bryson families all had considerable influence on the development of the industry there.

