



ANN JANE CARLILE – A PIONEER OF TEMPERANCE (1755-1864)

Ann Jane Hamill was born in 1775 in Rooskey House, near Monaghan town. The Hamill's originated in France and as Huguenot refugees, having settled in Ulster they joined the Presbyterian Church. In 1800 Ann Jane married the Revd Francis Carlile who began his ministry to the joint congregations of Corranearry and Second Bailieborough, (Urcher) Co. Cavan, in 1795. On February 1st 1811 the Revd Francis Carlile after a short illness passed away. Of her one son and six daughters, three daughters died within three years.

In 1822 the Carliles moved to Dublin where Ann Jane became involved in prison reform. She became a member of the Female Gaol Committee and visited all the gaols in Dublin

After the Accidental death of her son, Ann Jane devoted the share of her estate that would have been his to maintaining a missionary teacher in India for thirty years. Ann Jane became involved in temperance work. From her prison visits she realised just how many inmates were there because of the misuse of alcohol. In 1830 she formed a temperance society in Poolbeg Street in Dublin, this was an area frequented by sailors.

While visiting her sister in Cootehill she set up a temperance society there. Some years later in Dublin's Newgrange Prison she met some of the most wretched women who were all there due to their drinking of whiskey. She invited them to attend her temperance meetings in Poolbeg Street upon their release. One of them replied: "Thru for you ma'am the whiskey brought us here, but you can afford to drink your wine and we cannot". After this encounter Ann Jane signed a teetotal pledge.

Ann Jane is best remembered as a founder of the Band of Hope, in Leeds, U.K., in July 1847. At a large crowd of boys and girls in South Parade Chapel, organised by Rev. Jabez Tunnicliff, he asked "what name shall we give this society", and she exclaimed "they're a band of hope", and so Band of Hope was established. The organisation still exists today and is known as Hope U.K.

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

Ann Jane Carlile died on March 14th 1864 aged 89 years.. She is buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Harold's Cross, Dublin.