



## ***Joseph Moore Dixon (1867-1934)***

*Senator, and its seventh governor. Joseph was a man before his time due to his far reaching proposals in tax reform. He openly battled the giant copper companies who eventually ruined his political career.*

- **1867-Birth.** Joseph was born on July 31, 1867 in Snow Camp, North Carolina to Quaker parents who operated a farm and a small factory.
- **1889-Graduation.** Joseph graduated from the Quaker school of Guilford College in North Carolina. He excelled at history, debate, and oratory.
- **1891-Law School.** Joseph moved to the western frontier town of Missoula, Montana to study law.
- **1893-Attorney.** Joseph first served as assistant prosecuting attorney was then promoted to prosecuting attorney for Missoula County.
- **1896-Marriage.** Joseph married Caroline M. Worden, daughter of Missoula's co-founder, Frank Worden. They had seven children: Virginia, Florence, Dorothy, Betty, Mary, Peggy, and Frank. (Frank Dixon died on February 24, 1912 in Washington, D.C. as an infant only three days old.)
- **Wealth.** Joseph's law career led to his financial ability to invest in real estate, newspaper ownership, and dairy farming. All of his ventures led to great financial success.
- **1900-Missoulian.** Joseph Dixon purchased a local newspaper named the *Missoulian* at a time where political views were interwoven into stories. It would not be until much later that he would concentrate on this newspaper to further his progressive political views.
- **1900-Representative.** Joseph was elected as Montana's lone representative to the Legislature and served two terms. He promoted development and expansion of Fort Missoula, helped create Glacier National Park, assisted in giving Missoula a regional headquarters for the U.S. Forest Service, and passed legislation for the national Bison Range.
- **1907-Senator.** Joseph supported measures such as a federal graduated income tax, inheritance taxes, protectionist tariffs, and direct election of U.S. senators.
- **1912-Bull Moose.** Joseph was an ardent admirer of President Theodore Roosevelt. He abandoned the mainstream Republican party to join the Republican progressive wing party named "Bull Moose." Joseph managed Roosevelt's re-election campaign and shared the Bull Moose ticket for his own senate campaign. Both he and Roosevelt were unsuccessful in their re-election efforts.
- **1912-Missoulian.** Out of office, Joseph returned to Missoula, Montana to concentrate on his newspaper investment. He quickly entered into battle with the Amalgamated Copper Company who dominated both political parties through their corrupt spending. The copper giant would battle Joseph through the use of their own rival newspaper, the *Missoula Sentinel*. It appeared Joseph had beaten down Amalgamated when they sold him the Sentinel. In an ironic twist Joseph sold the paper in 1917 to three businessmen from Chicago: Martin J. Hutchens, Lester L. Jones, and George B. Rice. They reportedly had ties to Joseph's arch rival copper company and in turn sold the newspaper back to Anaconda Company in 1926.
- **1920-Governor.** Joseph pushed for reform and won election as governor by a landslide only to face drought, low crop prices and a \$2 million deficit. He enacted one of the nation's first old-age pension programs and spearheaded efforts at tax reform. His attempts to raise taxes on mines, however, led to a systematic opposition from Amalgamated Copper Company and eventually to Joseph's political demise. He was defeated for re-election as governor in 1924.
- **1928-Senate.** His final run for political office was as an unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Senate.

- **1929-Appointment.** Joseph was appointed by President Hoover to First Assistant Secretary of the Interior. He was devoted to developing water power on the Flathead Indian reservation along with a complex network of water rights.
- Joseph Dixon left a living legacy in Montana when residents elected to name their town in his honor. The town of Dixon is a farming community located in northwestern Montana off U.S. Highway 200.
- **1934-Death.** Joseph died on May 22, 1934 in Missoula, Montana from heart failure.

*Researched by Mary Ellen Stub, Missoula Cemetery Sexton. Information and photo sources: National library archives, world-wide newspaper archives, and public legal documents.*