

Rosabelle Sinclair (1890-1978)

Rosabelle Sinclair, was born in the Ukraine in 1890. She considered herself Scottish but, although her paternal grandparents were born in the UK, her father was born in Canada and her mother in Belgium. Rosabelle's mother died when she was quite young and she was 'looked after' by a family of American diplomats.

Rosabelle attended the Friends School in Philadelphia and then St Leonards School, in St Andrews, Fife. She then spent two years between 1910 and 1912, at Madame Bergman Österberg's College in Dartford. Rosabelle was a talented games player.

Her first post was at Queen Ethelburga's School, in Yorkshire and in 1919 she was appointed to the staff of Chelsea College of Physical Training. In 1922 she was teaching at Rosemary Hall School in Connecticut and, by 1926, she was the athletics director at Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore. She is credited with starting the first women's lacrosse team in the United States that year.

Rosabelle played lacrosse for Scotland in 1913, 1914 and 1917. In 1921, while based in London she played lacrosse for England.

In 1993 she was the first woman to be inducted into the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

In 2015 she was inducted in to the Lacrosse Scotland Hall of Fame as a Pioneer.

Memories of Rosabelle Sinclair Grand Dame of Lacrosse, Jane Claydon 2019. A research booklet for US Lacrosse and The Österberg Collection