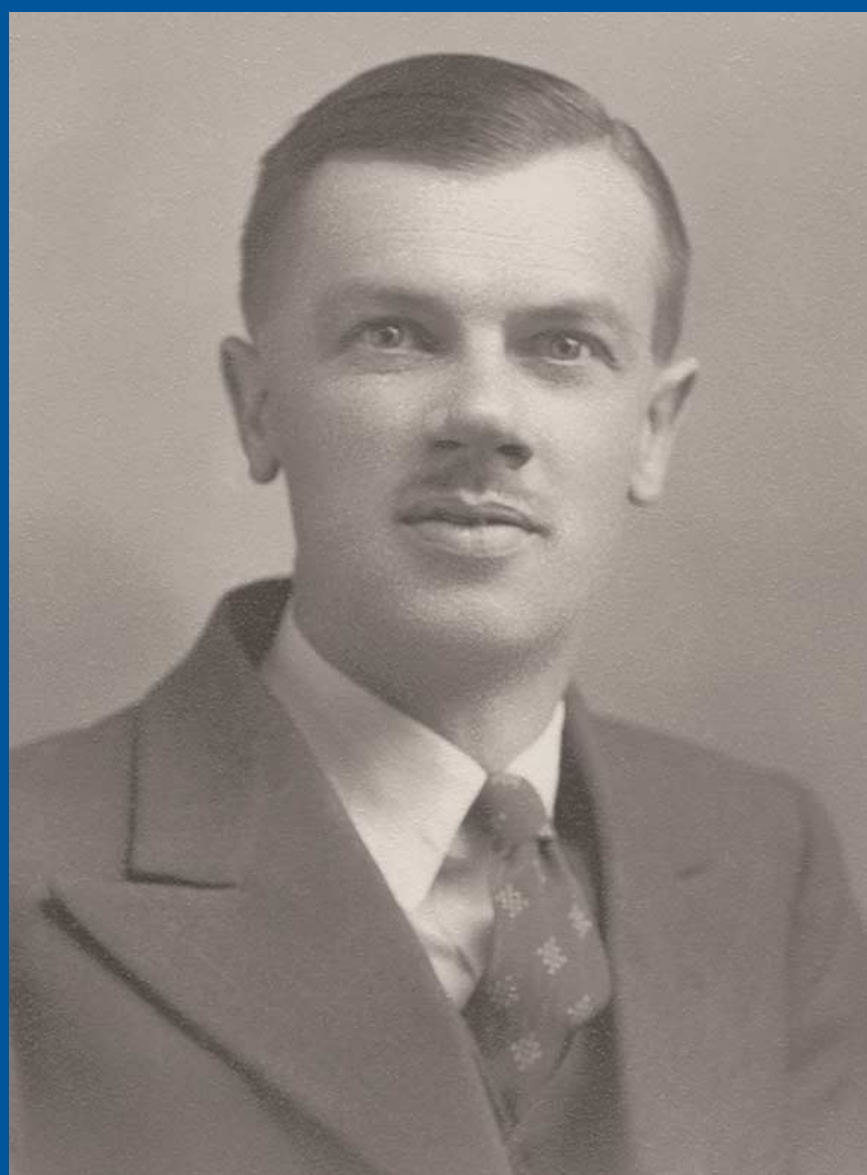


DOCTOR ERIC LINDSAY: THE MAN WHO BUILT ARMAGH PLANETARIUM

A man with a vision

The most important person in the history of Armagh Planetarium is Dr Eric Lindsay. Without his efforts there would be no planetarium here today. Lindsay, born near Portadown, was director of Armagh Observatory from 1937 to 1974. He had a distinguished career as a full-time astronomer in Ireland, South Africa and the US.



Dr Lindsay was impressed by the general public's interest in astronomy, as indicated by the number of requests from private individuals for tours of the Observatory. He believed that a planetarium to complement Armagh Observatory would cater to this need. His vision was to make it a reality.

Armagh Planetarium's
founder Dr Eric Lindsay

Building the dream



Dr Lindsay first proposed building the Planetarium in 1943 and began fund raising for the project. He continued this throughout the 1950's in addition to his duties as Observatory Director.

In November 1964 he made a breakthrough. Dr Lindsay persuaded the government and local councils to pay for the construction of a planetarium as a centre for education and tourism. The go-ahead for the project was announced in March 1965.

Armagh Planetarium and Observatory
Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey NI © Crown Copyright 2006