

# Who Was John McCrae?

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was an important figure in the First World War. He is well known for his famous poem *In Flanders Fields*, which he wrote in 1915. John McCrae was born in Guelph, Ontario in 1872 to Scottish parents. McCrae was always interested in poetry and the military, so he went to university as well as joining the cadets. McCrae finally graduated with multiple degrees, including a medical degree from the University of Toronto.



By William Notman and Son

John McCrae became very active in his field, and he was well respected as a doctor. He worked at many hospitals and universities including McGill University in Montreal. While he worked a lot in medicine, he never stopped developing his military skills. John McCrae became a gunner, and later joined the military. He served as a doctor for many soldiers and tended to those wounded in battle.

John McCrae wrote *In Flanders Fields* during the war in Belgium. The Battle of Ypres was one of the deadliest battles during the war, and McCrae saw many of his friends die. He noticed the poppies growing over the crosses that marked the graves and was inspired to write his famous poem. Partly because of the poem's popularity, the poppy became the flower of remembrance.



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