

(A cousin of Major McCrae, Lieutenant William Arthur McCrae Bruce of the Indian Army, was killed in action at Givenchy (France) in 1914. Five years later the Victoria Cross was sent to his father, Colonel Andrew McCrae Bruce, C.B.)

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS CONCERNING THE McCRAE FAMILY.

(Taken from Jose's Australian Encyclopaedia, published in 1926)

"George Gordon McCrae (father of Major McCrae), born at Leith in Scotland on 29 May 1833, is the son of Andrew Murison McCrae, writer to the signet, who in 1839 at the suggestion of his friend Sir T.L. Mitchell migrated to Sydney, but settled almost at once in the new township of Melbourne. The family reached Melbourne on 1 March 1841, and Andrew McCrae took up land for a cattle-run near Arthur's Seat. After a short experience of commercial and banking work, G.G. McCrae on 1 January 1854 entered the office of the Victorian Auditor-general, and after promotions through several Government departments reached the position of deputy registrar-general, from which he retired, having reached the statutory age-limit, in 1893. He has since lived in retirement at Hawthorn, a suburb of Melbourne. McCrae's chief service to his country, however, has been rendered outside his official life. Joining during the sixties the coterie of literary men - R.H. Horne, Marcus Clarke - who founded the Yorick Club, made the reputation of the Colonial Monthly, and attracted into their circle both Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall, he began to devote his leisure to authorship, and in 1867 produced two ballads of aboriginal life - The Story of Balladeadro and Mamba the Bright-Eyed. In 1873 he published The Man in the Dron Mask, which some critics consider his masterpiece, others preferring the later Rosebud from the Garden of the Taj (1883), which was published only in the Melbourne Review. Though his verses are widely scattered through many Australian periodicals, the only other volume of verse yet published is The Fleet and the Convoy (1915). A novel, John Rous, appeared in 1918; but other novels, besides dramas, poems, and the third of his ballads of the aborigines (Karakorok), are still unpublished.

"His second son, Hugh Raymond McCrae, born at Hawthorn in 1876, is notable among the younger school of Australian poets; his published volumes are Satyrs and Sunlight (1909), Columbine (1920), and Idyllia (1922), and (in prose) The Du Poisse Anecdotes (1922)."