

## Mrs Agnes Bryson Morrison

Born 1866

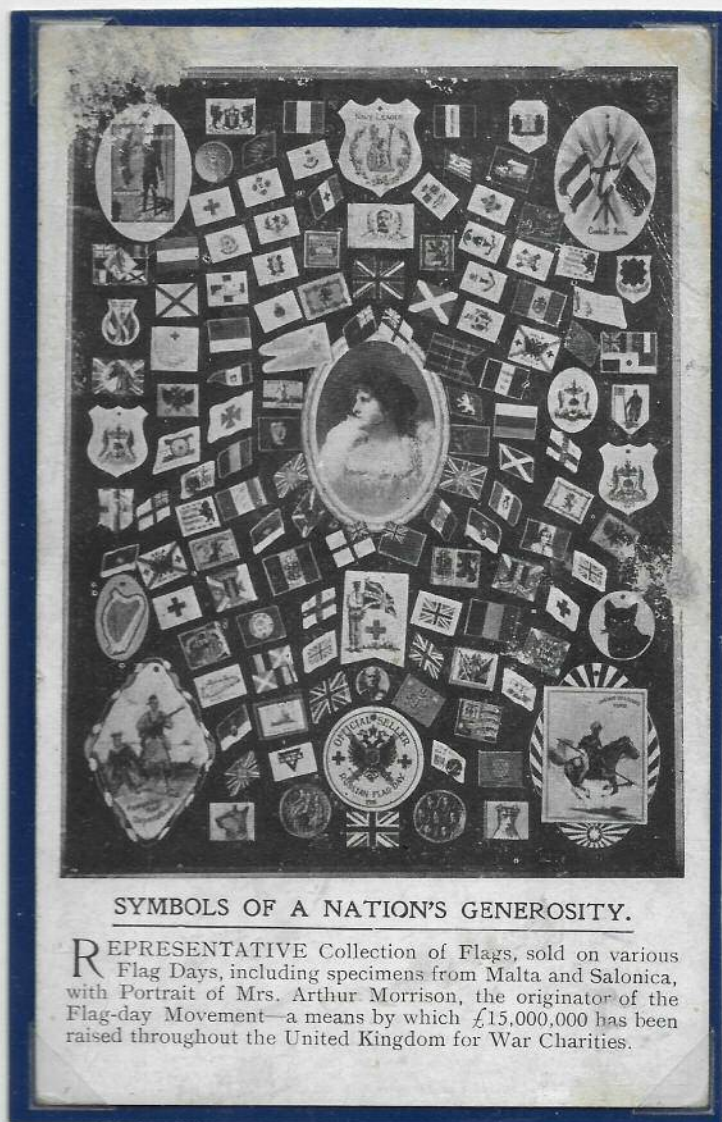
Died Wednesday 1 August 1934

Married Arthur Morrison 1896

Awarded C.B.E. for her War Work Jan 1920



WW1 charity "flag day" fundraising pin badges were sold during the Great War to raise money for a variety of causes; mainly supporting the troops fighting on the various fronts, supporting the war effort, supporting wounded soldiers, widows etc. On Saturday 5th September 1914, Mrs Agnes Morrison (the founder of the World War One flag day movement) launched her first collection of the Great War. Three thousand six hundred collecting tins were issued and each collector carried a tray laden with flags. It soon became evident that the sellers - with their red, white and blue scarves, and members of the Boys' Brigade and Boy Scouts who assisted them, had entirely captured the sympathy of the public. The extraordinary success of Mrs Morrison's flag day was widely noticed, and soon she received letters, from all parts of the country, asking for information and assistance. When it was seen how easily large sums could be obtained by such a simple method, others were anxious to take up the idea.



The holding of flag days as a rewarding means of raising money for worthy causes was proved for all to see. One of the most worthy of causes was that of raising money through the sale of penny-flags to help British prisoners of war in Germany.

The Government was forced to introduce more structure and regulation into charitable giving and Local Authorities became responsible for licensing and authorising Flag Days from 1915.

Among Mrs Morrison's other interests was child welfare work, and for many years she was closely associated with the Glasgow Branch of the Scottish Children's League of Pity. She also organised





Moina Belle Michael  
(15 August 1869 - 10 May 1944)

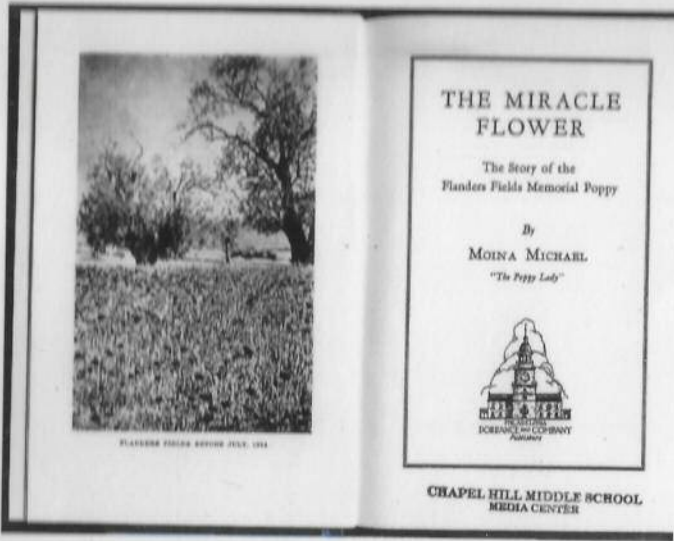


Moina Belle Michael was an American professor and humanitarian who conceived the idea of using poppies as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in World War I.



Michael visited Europe in June and July 1914. She was in Germany when the First World War broke out in August 1914, and travelled to Rome to return home to the US. In Rome, she assisted around 12,000 US tourists to seek passage back across the Atlantic. She returned to the US on the RMS Carpathia and returned to teaching at Normal School in Athens, Georgia. She was a professor at the University of Georgia when the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917. She took a leave of absence from her work and volunteered to assist in the New York-based training headquarters for overseas YWCA workers.





Known as the "Poppy Lady" for her humanitarian efforts, Michael received numerous awards during her lifetime. She retired from the University of Georgia in 1934, and published an autobiography in 1941, "The Miracle Flower: The Story of the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy".



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On 9 November 1918, inspired by the Canadian John McCrae battlefront-theme poem "In Flanders Fields", she wrote a poem in response called "We Shall Keep the Faith".[2] In tribute to the opening lines of McCrae's poem - "In Flanders fields the poppies blow / Between the crosses row on row," - Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in the war.

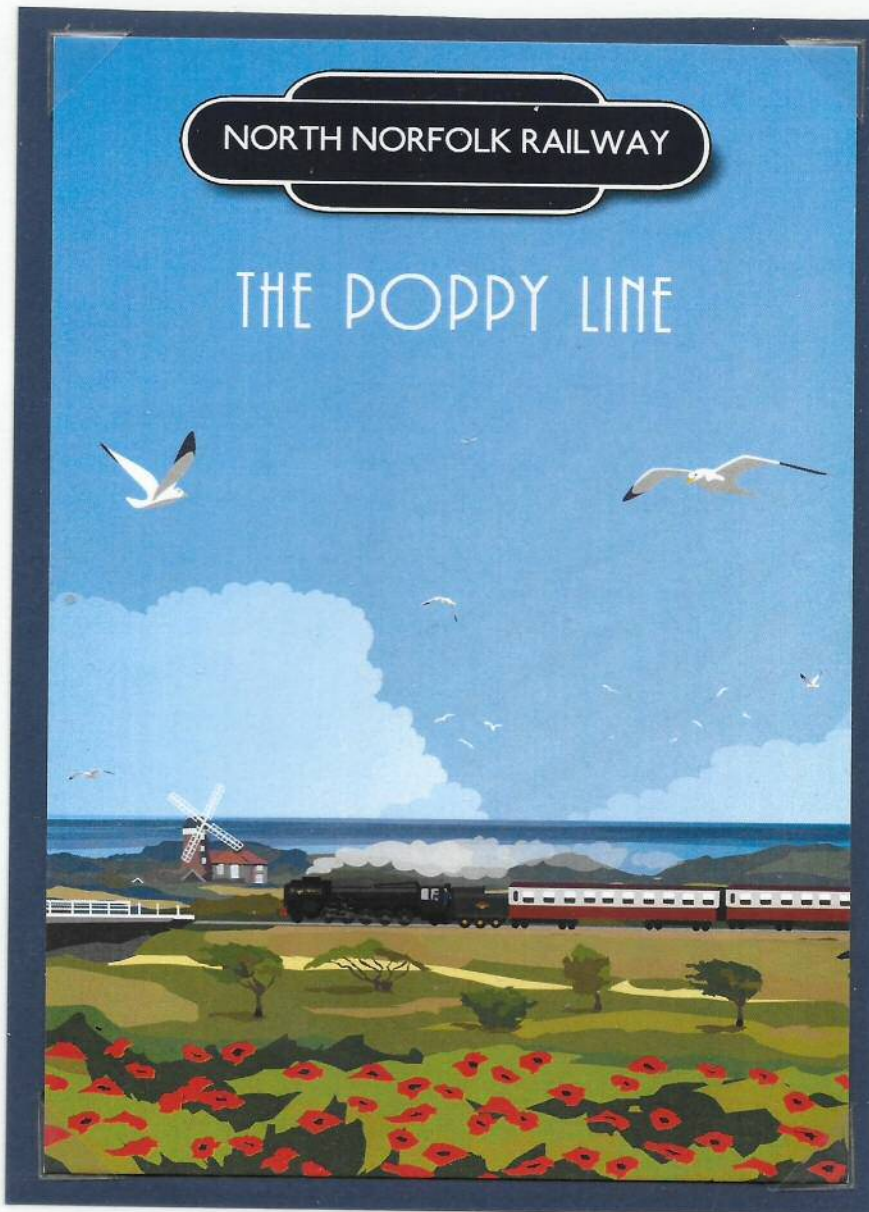


Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.  
We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.  
And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.

After the war was over, Michael returned to the University of Georgia and taught a class of disabled servicemen. Realizing the need to provide financial and occupational support for these servicemen, she pursued the idea of selling silk poppies as a means of raising funds to assist disabled veterans. In 1921, her efforts resulted in the poppy being adopted as a symbol of remembrance for war veterans by the American Legion Auxiliary, and by Earl Haig's British Legion Appeal Fund (later The Royal British Legion) later that year.



There is a memorial water trough to Scott in Cromer which bears the inscription: 'Who by his pen immortalised PoppyLand'. Scott wasn't considered a particularly inspired poet but his writing helped to kick-start the Norfolk tourist industry.



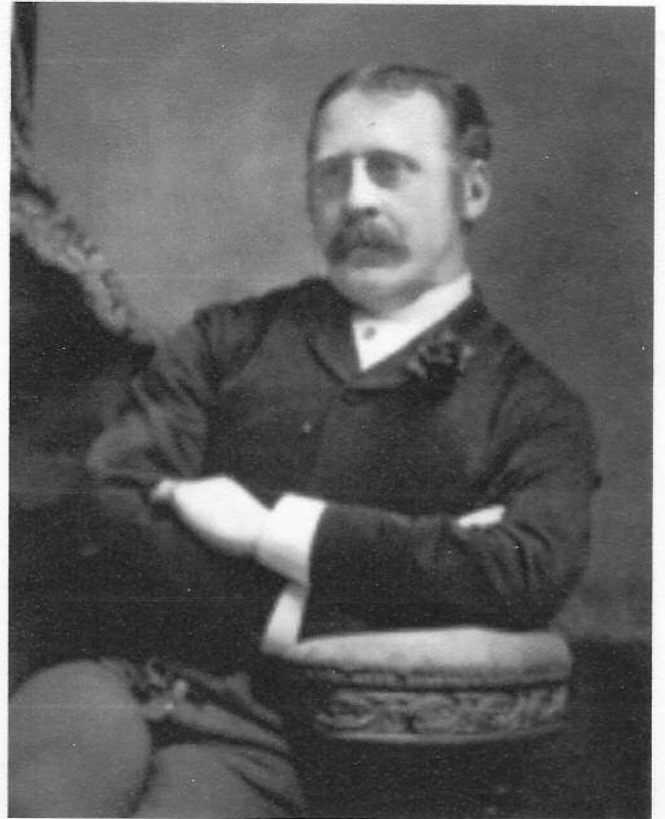
The railway line which brought the early tourists to Poppy land is still operated by British Rail as far as Sheringham but then becomes a heritage line (the North Norfolk railway) from Sheringham to Holt. This part of the line was axed during the 1960s by Dr Beeching. It is often referred to today as the 'Poppy Line'.



**Poppy Land** is a term coined in the 19th Century by the poet and theatre critic **Clement Scott** and generally refers to the section of the North Norfolk coast from Sheringham to Mundesley. Scott first visited the area in 1883 courtesy of the new railway line from Norwich to Cromer. His letters to the Daily Telegraph and his book *Poppy-Land - Papers Descriptive on the East Coast* (1886) helped to popularise this section of Norfolk. The actual term 'Poppyland' first appeared in Scott's poem *The Garden of Sleep* composed in Sidestrand churchyard.

### **The Garden of Sleep**

On the grass of the cliff, at the edge of the steep,  
God planted a garden - a garden of sleep!  
'Neath the blue of sky, in the green of the corn,  
It is there that the regal red poppies are born!  
Brief days of desire, and long dreams of delight,  
They are mine when Poppy-Land cometh in sight.  
In music of distance, with eyes that are wet,  
It is there I remember, and there I forget!  
O! heart of my heart! where the poppies are born,  
I am waiting for thee, in the hush of the corn.  
Sleep! Sleep! From the Cliff to the Deep!  
Sleep, my Poppy-Land, Sleep!  
In my garden of sleep, where red poppies are spread,  
I wait for the living, alone with the dead!  
For a tower in ruins stands guard o'er the deep,  
At whose feet are green graves of dear women asleep!  
Did they love as I love, when they lived by the sea?  
Did they wait as I wait, for the days that may be?  
Was it hope or fulfilling that entered each breast,  
Ere death gave release, and the poppies gave rest?  
O! life of my life! on the cliffs by the sea,  
By the graves in the grass, I am waiting for thee!  
Sleep! Sleep! In the Dews of the Deep!  
Sleep, my Poppy-Land, Sleep!



Church of St. Michael & All Saints,  
Sidestrand



## St John's Gate, Clerkenwell

The Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem was founded in 1144 when Jordan de Bricet was granted 10 acres of land in Clerkenwell. From the construction of a church between 1144 and 1160, the Priory grew to become powerful and wealthy. The ten acres of land was divided into an Inner Precinct with the Priory Church, the Prior's Hall and the Great Hall and the Outer Precinct containing the houses of the Knights of the Order, tenements for servants and workers, gardens and buildings required for a self-sufficient operation. The Priory flourished until the 16th century, when Henry VIII's declared himself Supreme Head of the Church of England, followed by the Dissolution of the Monasteries, when the Crown took control of the buildings, lands and income of religious establishments across the country. The Clerkenwell Priory was taken by the Crown, some officials of the priory were allowed to retain their houses, and other buildings were granted to favourites of the King, with the remaining buildings sold or demolished and rebuilt.



Drawn by Tho. H. Shepherd.

Engraved by J. B. Allen.

ST. JOHN'S GATE, CLERKENWELL.

Pl. 20.

In 1875 St John's Gate became the home of the modern version of the Order of St John. In 1877, the Order formed the St John Ambulance Organisation, who provided training and first aid equipment. This led to the founding of the St John Ambulance Brigade as a volunteer organisation, trained and equipped to provide medical support.



## Austria

On 16 September 2021 Austrian Post issued an unusual stamp which "should be a light-hearted reminder of how easily we can protect ourselves against infection by wearing a mask. Embroidered with nonwoven material, the new stamp gives a detailed portrayal of the masks that have dominated daily life since the spring of 2020.



Designed by David Gruber, the €2.75 stamp features the embroidered shape of a face mask, complete with ear loops. "Austria 275" is embroidered in red on the white background, next to a similarly coloured illustration of the coronavirus — the fuzz-ball image that has become so common in visual media. The detail of this embroidery is significant. Even a casual glance reveals the distinctive nose strip and folds in the mask. Hammerle & Vogel, experts in both embroidery and textile postage stamps, embroidered the stamps in two layers of nonwoven materials. According to Austrian Post, these are the same materials "produced within Europe for the making of masks." The ear loops especially portray the detail in this stamp, as they were stitched separately and attached in a process that the Austrian Post understates as complex. After the embroidery, the stamps were cut using laser technology. The stamp, which is sold in a sheet of one, measures 60mm by 41mm. The print run was 150,000 stamps.



This unusual block of stamps in the form of a patch was issued on 15 March 2022. It draws attention to the importance of vaccination in combating the corona pandemic. The stamp block "Doesn't hurt at all!" has the shape of a plaster and was made from the material of a sensitive plaster. Of course, the "wound pad" and the adhesive strip for peeling off are also available on the back - like a real band-aid. Size 58mm by 30mm, it was designed by David Gruber, printed by Variusdruck and had a print run of 150,000.