

Sir Samuel Steele

Sam Steele was a rager and a fighter.

He claimed he was the first man to sign up for the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) although two others actually beat him to it. He trained the green recruits at Lower Fort Garry (near current day Winnipeg, Manitoba). When a man was thrown from his horse, Steele would shout, "Who gave you permission to dismount?" During the Great March West, Steele led the faltering troops to Fort Edmonton.

In the South African War, Steele headed Lord Strathcona's Horse, mounted men who could shoot and ride in rough terrain. Tough as boots, hot-headed, and effective, he also organized the South African Constabulary. Often reprimanded for taking the rules into his own hands, Steele took exemplary care of his men (even stealing food for them).

Steele's manners were not pretty, but he enforced uncompromising standards and transported Canadian fighting values to other lands. He told his troop, "Never forget that you are Canadians and that Canada as a country has no superior in the world."

Ironically, Steele died, not on a battlefield, but of Spanish Influenza after the First World War.

Born: January 5, 1848 – Died: January 30, 1919

Additional Resources

- **The Canadian Encyclopedia**
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sam-steele>
- **University of Alberta Libraries**
<https://steele.library.ualberta.ca/>



Colonel Sam Steele
Glenbow Archives NA-4008-1



Our Collections

Glenbow Museum

<https://www.glenbow.org>

Glenbow Western Research Centre | Glenbow Library and Archives

<https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/glenbowlibraryandarchives>

Glenbow Library and Archives | Digital Collection

<https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/asset-management/2R340826N9XM?WS=PackagePres&Flat=1>

Glenbow

© Copyright Glenbow Museum, 2005. All Rights Reserved