

Pte. John Felix Astley



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1919/20 - 1922/23 A Grade

Intervarsity: 1921 & 1922

Other Sports: Baseball

Sports Awards: (Blue for Cricket 1922)

Student: 1916 (Arts), Law 1919 - 1922

Graduated: LLB (1922)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of John Felix Astley. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The AIF Project

https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=8595



John Felix ASTLEY

Regimental number 2601

Place of birth Adelaide, South Australia

Religion Church of England

Occupation Student

Address Adelaide, South Australia

Marital status Single

Age at embarkation 18

Next of kin Father, Alfred Astley, Hill Street, North Adelaide, South

Australia

Enlistment date 26 February 1917

Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name <u>50th Battalion, 10th Reinforcement</u>

AWM Embarkation Roll number 23/67/4

Embarkation details Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT

A32 Themistocles on 4 August 1917

Regimental number from Nominal Roll 3601

Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll 50th Battalion

Fate Returned to Australia 9 March 1919

Other details War service: Western Front

Date of death 4 June 1983

Service Records

 $\underline{https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3037648}$

AT FOR ADTIVESERY	MILITARY FORCES.				
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.					
7)	ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.				
No.2601 Name //STIEY Unit 10/50 / Joined on 28 FEB 1917	of the series				
Questions to be put to the Pers					
1. What is your name?	2. In the Parish of in or				
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	near the Town of Callaide				
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. Gatwal Bons				
4. What is your age?	4. 601-199010				
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. Student.				
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6.				
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will.	HILLS NORTH ADELADE SOUTH AUSTRALIA.				
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. No				
O. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy?	10				
1. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge.	U years Sew Cadets 180 hais 11. 16 Pilg. Fees Still Serving				
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous }	12. Yes				
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13.				
A. (For married men, widowes with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mothers.) Do you understand that mo to be a fine an amount which together with yay would seach 81, pas day?	14.				
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever?	15. Yee				
of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the li	do solemnly declare that the above answers made d hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces mits of the Commonwealth. of the pay payable to me from time to time during my				
Armica for the support of my wife t					
Date 26 FEB1917	J. J. B. Heg. Signature of Person Enlisted.				
* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried to the wife, and if there are	d men or vidouers without children under 18 years of uge. no 60000.				

Statement of Service No. 3601

Name HSTLEY John

Period of Service in each Rank Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. Unit in which served From 26-2-17 15 3.19 60.6 16.3.19 10.+ 1960.6 10/50,12 Jul ENTRAINED 2 /8/19/7 for Emborhavion 10/50 th Battalion. Embarked at Melbourne per A32 "Themistocles" on 4/8/17 Discharged 4 M.D. (TPE: 19/5/19 BAM13/229 It is noted hereon that No.S.10778.Gunner John Felix ASTLEY voluntarily transferred to Infantry from Artillery Reinforcements as the result of an appeal to them, owing to the shortage of Infantry Recruits.

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

Maribyrnong, 4th July, 1917. Lieut.-Colonel, R.A Field Artillery Cam

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDOLE Transferred to AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. No. 3601 Rank PE Name ASTLEY, J. F. 50 \$ BW Unit Casualty Rolg to Sust. por H. T "Mahmir" omborhed 9/3/19 \ Demobilised

6. J.B. L. 3306/5672 dld Landon 12/3/19 Roc. B. R. 2015/10 & Mel Returned to 1994/19 48 M. D. A. Form B 106 received 7 MAR 1919 W. O. K. Adrised returning to Australia, Form 19.5.19 Decree of the saal 4 m D. 1/2/262 WAR HISTORY INDEX

Family Tree



Education

Growing up in Hill Street North Adelaide, John Felix Astley attended nearby Queen's School.

Queen's School Students c1910

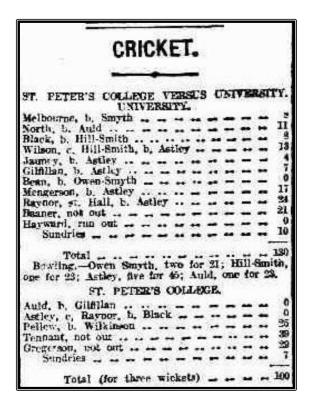


Group photograph of Queen's schools pupils and masters at North Adelaide, names supplied by Sir E.J.R. Morgan, May 1962: In the back row: R.B. Laurie; Mortimer Shannon (killed 1914 war); J.F. Astley, QC; Jack Gall; Dr. Geoffrey Howard (deceased); Dr. H.M. Fisher, Jack Tate (deceased); Leonard Tate (deceased). Next row standing: Walters(?); Sir Edward Morgan; Sir Keith Angas; Smith (?) Eddington; Dr. W. Delprat; R. O'H Giles (killed 1914 war); A. van Lenden; Evans; Sabine. Sitting on form: unknown, Vernon Farr; Dr. F.H. Beare (deceased); Dr. R.L. Thorold Grant; LeMessurier (second master); R.G.J. Hood (Headmaster); E.C.H. Taylor (third master); Jack Howard; R. Hawkes (killed 1914 war). Crouching: Fred Gall; R. van Lenden; R. Schomberg; E.L. Pellew; Dr. R.J. deN Souter; Mr. President Pellew; Borthwick; Allan MacFarlane; Dr. J.E.D. Crozier. Sitting on ground: unknown; Ronald Benny; South (?); Hunwick; Arthur Conrad; von Doussa; D.D.Dobbie (deceased)

John then went to St Peters College to complete his Senior Public Examinations. At St Peters he played 1st XI cricket in 1914 and 1915.



In his final year at St Peter's College in a match against Adelaide University B grade he took 5 for 45 with his medium pace bowling and was a member of the SPSC Intercollegiate team that played Prince Alfred College at Adelaide Oval.



SPSC v University November 1915

Adelaide University

He commenced the first year of an Arts Degree in 1916. With the SACA abandonning the official district competition due to the War their was little opportunity for John to play any cricket. His sport and studies were put on hold when he chose to serve.

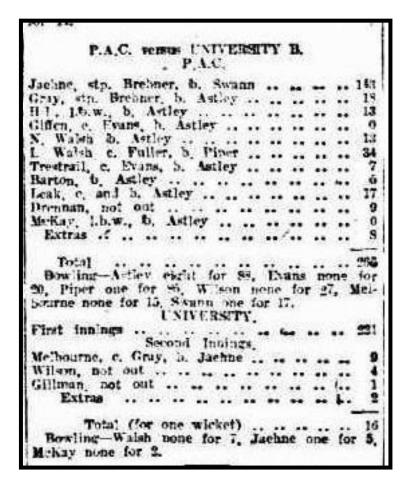
War Service

In February 1917 at only 18 years and 7 months of age, Astley enlisted in the AIF, serving with the 50th Batallion. In August, after undergoing training in Artillery in Australia, he embarked for overseas service with the rank of Gunner. Assigned initially in the Artillery he was later transferred to the Infantry as a Private because of a shortage of men. After arriving in England John had some periods of illness and did not see action in France until March 1918. He remained on overseas service until March 1919 and was discharged in May after returning to Australia.

Return to Adelaide University and Sport

Cricket

On his return to University, he commenced a law degree and was back on the cricket field in the 1919/20 season. After taking 8 wickets for 83 runs against PAC early in the season in B grade, Astley was promoted to the A Grade team, however it was not until the 1921/22 season that he became a regular A Grade team member.

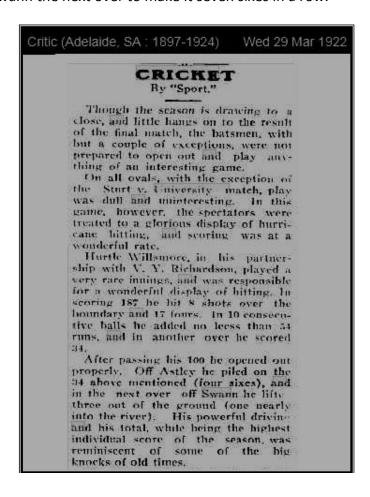


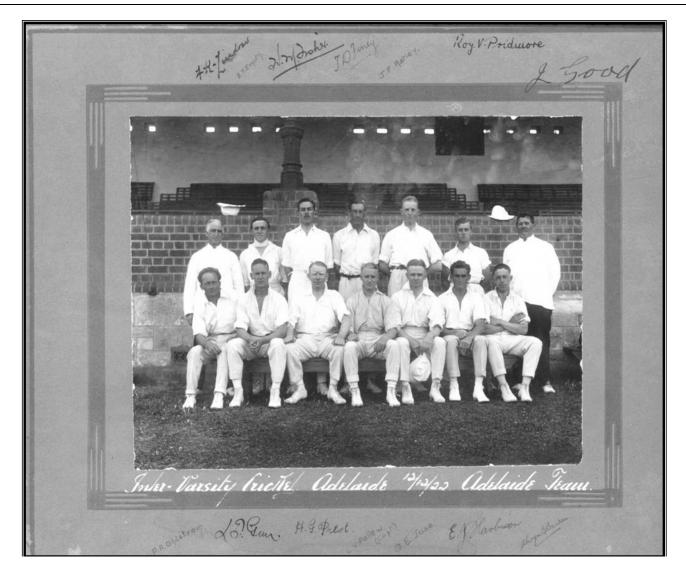
University v PAC Nov 1919

Astley also played in consecutive Intervarsity matches in December of 1921 and 1922. After graduating in 1922 he continued his cricket career with North Adelaide for a few seasons.



Probably one of his most memorable matches for University was his last in the 1921/22 Season. Bowling for University A-Grade against the powerful Sturt team that included Vic Richardson and former University and State player Hurtle Willsmore, John was hit for four consecutive sixes at University Oval. Willsmore then hit three more off Swann the next over to make it seven sixes in a row.





John headed the A Grade aggregate with 18 wickets in his final season.

Mo	n 3 Apr 19	922 /	Page:	2	
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Gum	11	. 3	119*	238	62.8
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Bednall, B.		-	51	165	37.5
Willing			45	80	50.5
Bednall, M.	W 1	_	43 52	174	17.20
Barker Pridmore, R.			50	58	14.5
Fisher			94	92	13 14
Smith Harbison		- 1	25*	83	10.66
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for 57: Fines	A. Walsh,	9; Prest	. 0 1 1	10; Z	egler,

Baseball

In 1922 State baseballer, AUCC cricketer and also a fellow Law student, Patrick Ohlstrom, founded the Adelaide University Baseball Club. Astley along with several other cricketers joined the team which was coached by another former AUCC cricketer and dental graduate, Jack Edwards.



Law Practice

John Astley was admitted as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court on 14th December 1922 (presented by Mr. W J Isbister KC) on the same occasion as fellow law graduate and soldier Arthur Blackburn VC and team-mate and State cricketer Lance Pellew. Originally with the law firm Isbister, Hayward and Magarey, he later became a partner with Finlayson, Mayo, Astley and Hayward which became the Law Firm Finlayson, Phillips, Astley and Hayward. As a prominent Adelaide barrister and QC, the firm's office was at 16 Pirie St, Adelaide.

His legal career was interrupted when he volunteered to serve again in World War II. This time in 1942 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force with the rank of Flight Lieutenant and later in 1944 was promoted to Squadron Leader.

In 1953, John and Molly Astley hosted a party for young Adelaide lawyers during a legal convention. Amongst those present would have been John Astley's son, Michael, who also became a lawyer, graduating LLB in 1951 from Adelaide University. While at University he played tennis, winning a Blue in 1948.

Big Round Of Dinner Parties

Adelaide had its biggest round of dinner parties last night for one objective — to entertain Legal Convention guests. Thirty parties were planned.

Mr. Earnest Phillips, QC, and Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. J. F. Astley invited young Adelaide lawyers and their wives to meet some leaders of the profession among interstate and SA guests at their buffet dinner party in Mr. and Mrs. Astley's home at Gilberton.

Interstate guests included Mr. Justice Kinsella and Mrs. Kinsella, the president of the Law Council of Australia | Sir Garfield Barwick, QC and Lady Barwick and Mr and Mrs. B. J. P. Wright, from NSW: Mr. J. G. Norris, QC and Mrs. Norris, from Victoria.

Mr. Justice Ross and his daughter Elizabeth were among SA guests.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1931 - 1954) Fri 10 Jul 1953

Legal Representative for Elder Smith & Co.

John Astley QC, in addition to other important clients, over many years acted for one of the long established Adelaide companies, Elder Smith & Co. The company, in addition to other businesses, had established one of Adelaide's earliest and largest trustee companies and provident funds to protect the interest of the community in their retirement years. Many of the Adelaide "Establishment" were investors, benefactors, and guardians of the company and its provident funds.

Following a merger with Goldsborough Mort in 1962 and changes to corporate structures, the protection of the people's retirement funds became a paramount issue for both the company and the SA State Government. John was called on several occasions to represent the company at Parliamentary Hearings engaged to implement legislation to protect these funds.

In 1963 he was called before a "Select Committee":

"Select Committee on the Elder Smith & Co. Limited Provident Funds Bill, 1963 – Minutes of Evidence Tuesday, September 10, 1963 at 10.00am in Committee Room No.1 of the Legislative Council {Chairman Colin Rowe, Attorney-General}

John Felix Astley, QC, Barrister and Solicitor, 16 Pirie St, Adelaide, called and examined."

In 1971 he was further "called and examined" before a Parliamentary Select Committee.

. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELDER'S TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR COMPANY LIMITED PROVIDENT FUNDS BILL Minutes of Evidence, Tuesday, March 23, 1971, at 9.35 a.m. at Parliament House, Adelaide. Present: The Hon. L.J. King, Q.C., M.P., (Chairman)
P. Curren, M.P.
Dr. B.C. Eastick, M.P.
Mr. R.W. Groth, M.P.
Mr. G.M. Gunn, M.P. JOHN FELIX ASTLEY, Q.C., Solicitor for Elder's Trustee and Executor Company Limited, 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide; RONALD WILLIAM GAYLER, Manager, and ALBERT EDWARD DAVIES, Assistant Trust Officer, both of Elder's Trustee and Executor Company Limited, 172 North Terrace, Adelaide; and IVAN EDWARD CROSSING, Superintendent (Administration), Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited, 31 Currie Street, Adelaide, called and examined:

Despite the duty of care that the legal representatives for Elders and the State Government had taken in the decade that followed corporate raiders saw the assets of Elders, including the Provident Fund, stripped resulting in losses to a huge number of fund members.

http://superfraud.org/?page_id=468

"There is a remarkable history to an employee benefit trust established in South Australia on 23 December 1913 known as **The Provident Fund**. This Fund and related funds were established by acts of personal generosity by "*Adelaide Gentlemen*". Yet these acts of personal generosity were to be followed decades later by acts of sheer greed by "*Melbourne Asset Strippers*".

The name of The Provident Fund was changed to the Elders IXL Superannuation Fund in 1982.

One of the "Adelaide Gentlemen" was Robert Barr Smith, the co-founder with Sir Thomas Elder, of Elder Smith & Co Limited in 1888. Robert Barr Smith was also concerned about the number of cases of widows being swindled by dishonest lawyer and accounts after the deaths of their husbands, so with the assistance of the Parliament of South Australia, Robert Barr Smith established a reputable Trustee and Executor company that the widows could turn to with confidence.

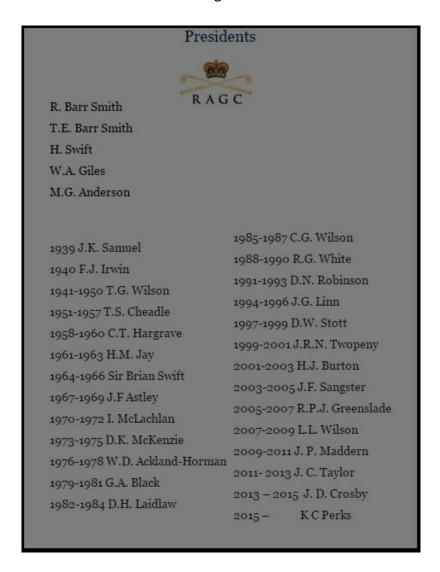
It was to be a cruel turn of fate that resulted in the widows of both the male employees of the Trustee and Executor company, as well as its parent company, to themselves be the victims of dishonest lawyers and accountants many decades later, when their survivorship pensions were stolen from them to fund the "get rich plans" of the "Melbourne Asset Strippers"."

http://australian-guardians.org/?page_id=1954

Other Activities

In 1953 John Felix Astley, then of 16 Edwin Terrace Gilberton was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal for his service as Chairman, Physiotherapist Board of SA.

John was also a fine golfer and member of the Royal Adelaide Golf Club for over 50 years and was Club President 1967 - 69. On several occasions came close to winning the Club Championship. The Honour Board at the Club lists him as having had a hole in one. His wife was also Associates President 1958 - 60.



GOLF ROYAL ADELAIDE CHAMPION-SHIP WON BY T. S. CHEADLE The final rounds of the Royal Adelaide Golf Club Championship, which were played on Saturday, resulted in a win fur Mr. T. S. Cheadle with a comfortable margin of seven strokes. The chief feature of the day was the fine recovery of Legh Winser, who was unplaced on the first two rounds, fourth after An 83 on Saturday morning, and pulled up to second with a par 73 in the afternoon. A fine round of 74 on the previous Saturday left J. P. Astley in the lead by one stroke from Cheadle, but on Saturday morning ne fell away to an 85 saginst Cheadle 72. L. G. Tome, who was equal second with Cheadle and R. C. Nott, turned in an 87. Cheadle was regarded as a certain winner at the beginning of the final round, especially after Winser's poor display in the morning. As it proved, Winser, with a good morning round, might easily have pulled up even the seven strokes which he lacked on the leaders after the two first rounds, as he went out and shot a 73, faultless with the exception of putiting lapses at one or two holes. His figures were —Out—4, 4, 5, 4, 1, 6, 1, 4—36; in—4, 4, 4, 5, 2, 5, 4, 5, 4. The six at the long asyenth was the result of a failure to hole an eighteenment putt. He had three putts at the short tenth, and missed probables at the thirteenth and seventeenth. A long put went down for a two at the fourteenth. Even this effort, however, gained him only two atrokes on Cheadle, who returned a thoroughly sound 75 in the afternoon. He started with a pair of indifferent fives, but after that never made a mistake. He failed to get his four at the sixteenth and seventeenth, but a four at the last finished a 2a home round for a total of 73. Both Toms and Astey innoved after lunch. Toms making a creditable 78 to the for third place with Astey, who just broke 30. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hors-Ruthven). Who was accompanied by Mr. Patrick Hore at the sixteenth and seventeenth, and active missed proposed for the Bosanquet Cup was also played. Scores

Later Years

in 1982, John would have been disappointed to witness the corporate raid by John Elliott when his company (Henry Jones IXL) "merged" with Elder Smith Goldsborough & Mort to form Elders IXL and saw the asset stripping that followed. He died in 1983 at the age of 84.

His wife "Molly" had predeceased him in 1961.

Name:	John Felix Astley
Death Date:	4 Jun 1983
Cemetery:	Enfield Memorial Park
Burial or Cremation Place:	Adelaide, Adelaide City, South Australia, Australia

- ID: I433028
- · Name: Michael John ASTLEY
- Sex: M
- Birth: 27 Apr 1928 in Gilberton, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
- · Death: Y
- Note: Born: Michael John ASTLEY. Father: John Felix ASTLEY. Mother: MollyFINLAYSON. Source: South Australian Births 1907 1928. Book: 210A Page: 550

District : Ade.

Profile Compiled by: Rob O'Shannassy (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Sources and Acknowledgements:

- State Library of SA
- Photographs and additional information from the National Library of Australia Trove (Digital Newspapers)
- National Archives of Australia WW1 Service Records
- Ancestry.Com Public Family Trees
- The AIF Project University of NSW