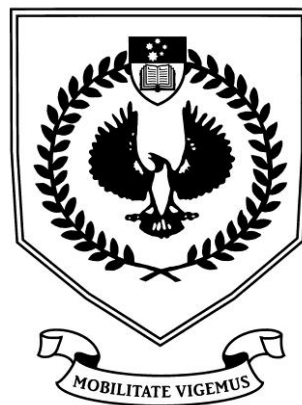




Cpl. William Frederick Dempster



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1906

(Intervarsity 1905)

Student: Law

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 William Frederick Dempster. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=77258>



William Frederick DEMPSTER

Regimental number	5297
Date of birth	11 April 1881
Place of birth	Alberton, South Australia
School	St Peter's Collegiate School, Adelaide, South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Law clerk
Address	High Street, Queenstown, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	35
Next of kin	Father, George W Dempster, solicitor, Port Adelaide, South Australia
Enlistment date	9 March 1916
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	27th Battalion, 14th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/44/4
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A70 <i>Ballarat</i> on 12 August 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	27th Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 11 December 1918
Discharge date	24 March 1919
Other details	War service: Western Front Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal
Miscellaneous details	Parents: George and Helen DEMPSTER

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3500239>

A890916

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

Name DEMPSTER = William Frederick

Unit 2ND DEPOT BATTALION 24th Bn

Joined MAR 9 1918

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. Is your Name? ... William Frederick Dempster

2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Marion in the County of South Australia

3. Natural Born

4. 24 1/2 years

5. Artillery - Gun

6. No

7. No

8. (FATHER) MR. GEORGE WAFFORD DEMPSTER
Solicitor, Port Adelaide
South Australia

9. No

10. No

11. No

12. Yes

13. No

14. No

15. Yes

William Frederick Dempster do solemnly declare that the above answers made to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children

Date MAR 9 1918

W. Dempster
Signature of Person Enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Biography

Early Life

William Frederick Dempster¹ was born in Queenstown, SA on the 11th April 1881, the son of George Wafford Dempster and Helen Wylie Caithness Begg. William was baptised at St Pauls, Port Adelaide on the 11th October 1882. George and Helen lived at High Street, Queenstown.

William's father, George Wafford Dempster and his grandfather, James E Dempster were both solicitors at Port Adelaide. The firm was the oldest law firm in Port Adelaide and traded under names including Dempster, Webb and Dempster and later Dempster & Dempster. William's mother was the daughter of Port Adelaide identity Captain William Begg who along with Capt. Legoe founded the South Australian Stevedore Coy.

William's siblings were Edwin Wafford (b 1879), George Percy (b 1882), Ella May (b 1883), Isabel Caithness (1887) and Helen Begg (b 1893).

In April 1896, aged 15 William became member number 3857 of the 'Adelaide Observer' newspaper's Children's' Column (his birth date being incorrectly recorded as 11-4-'82).

In the 1897/98 cricket season, William played for Queenstown in the Boys' Association.

Schooling

From 1897 to 1900 and again in 1902 William attended St Peter's College. Adelaide.

He passed the Preliminary Examinations in September 1898.

William played Inter-collegiate football for St Peter's College against Prince Alfred College in June 1898 and June 1899.

He also played for the Present St Peter's Boys in a match against Past students in 1898.

In 1900 and 1901 he played football for Alberton in the Port Adelaide and Suburban Junior Association.

It is not clear why William is not recorded as attending St Peter's College in 1901. He does not appear in the list of players who played Intercollegiate Football in 1901 and he did not pass any Senior Examinations in December 1901.

In March 1902, William passed the Senior Examination in Arithmetic and Algebra (tutor Mr Hollidge).

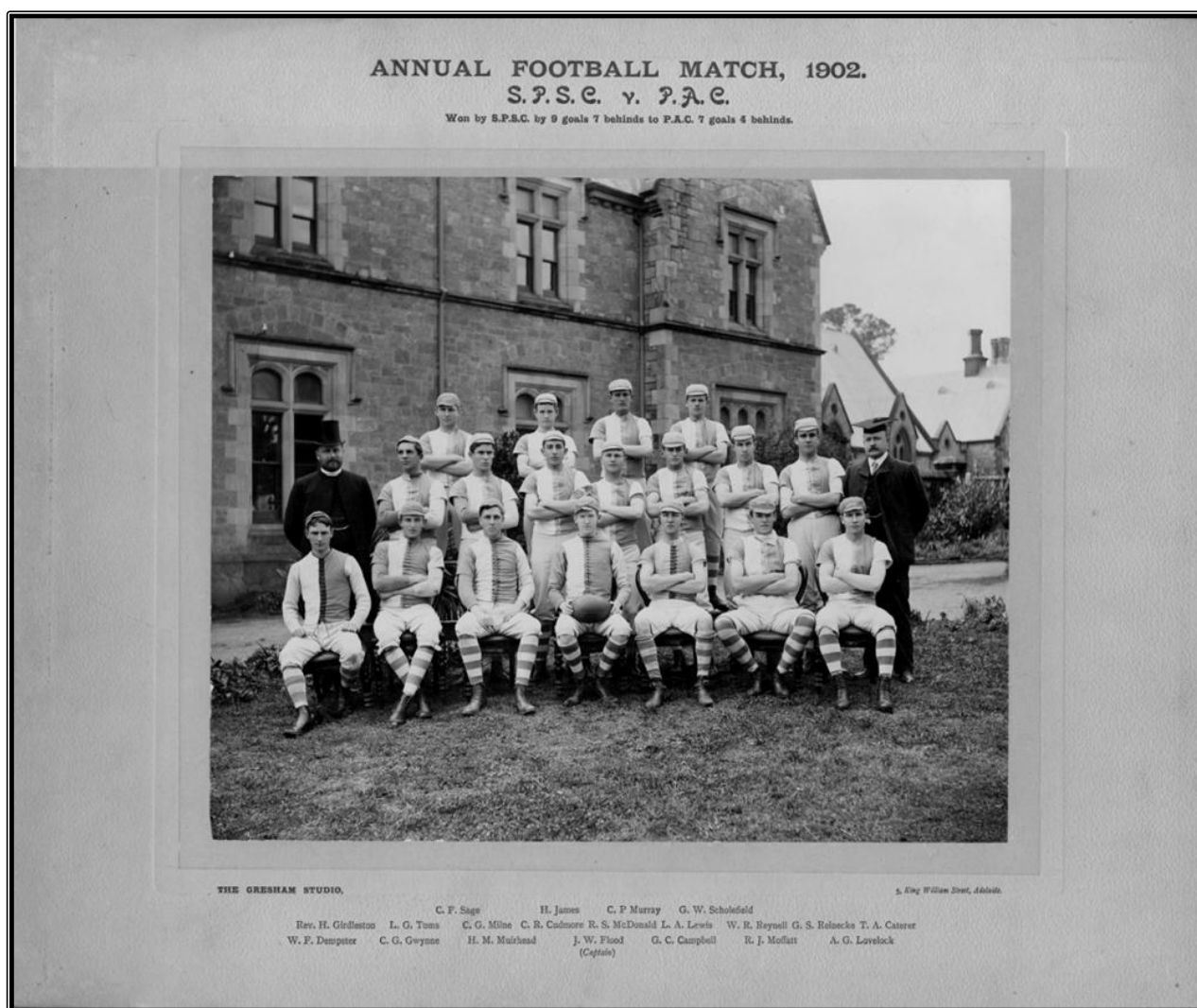
In 1902 William returned to St Peter's and played Inter-collegiate football for St Peter's College in June 1902 (see team photo below).

In December 1902 he passed the Senior Examination in Geometry.

¹ Refer to Appendix 1.

In March 1903 he passed the Senior Examinations in English Literature and Physical Geography and Geology (private tuition).

1902 – St Peter's Intercollegiate Football Team



WF Dempster – Front Row – Far Left

Early Career

It is unclear when William commenced as an articled clerk with his father's firm. The firm undertook civil, criminal, shipping and conveyancing work.

In 1903 William represented St Peter's Past scholars in the Past versus Present match.

William's mother, Helen Wylie Caithness Dempster, nee Begg passed away on the 31st Oct 1909, at Queenstown, SA, aged 50 years. She was buried at the Cheltenham Cemetery, SA.

An item in the "Port Adelaide News", 13 April 1917 states that William completed his articles just prior to the outbreak of WWI (however it also stated that William was the third son of George and Helen after Edwin and Percy when he was in fact older than Percy).

Port Adelaide Football Club

William played League football for Port Adelaide in 1904 and 1905. He played 10 matches, the first being on the 2nd July 1904 and he scored four goals in that match. He scored 12 goals in his career at Port

Adelaide. William was member of the Port Adelaide 1904 Grand Final team which lost to Norwood. He played in the forward lines in the grand final and his brother, George Percy Dempster played in the back lines (Port Adelaide, 1904-12, 78 games and two premierships).

The Ports ranks included another new man in W. Dempster last week, and he proved himself to be a capable forward. Four of the Ports goals came from his toe.

George Dempster



Personal information

Full name	George Percival Dempster ^{[1][2]}
Nickname(s)	Percy
Date of birth	28 August 1882 ^[1]
Place of birth	Queenstown, South Australia ^[1]
Date of death	25 February 1960 (aged 77)
Place of death	South Australia

Playing career

Years	Club	Games (Goals)
1904–1912	Port Adelaide	78

Career highlights

- Port Adelaide captain (1912)
- 2x Port Adelaide premiership player (1906, 1910)

Source: AustralianFootball.com 

William's Brother, George also represented South Australia in 1905 and Captained Port Adelaide in 1911.

Adelaide University

William studied Law at the University of Adelaide from 1904 to 1913. He does not appear to have ever graduated or completed The Final Certificate in Law.

Adelaide University Sport

Football

William first played football for Adelaide University in a match against a Combined Colleges side played in August 1904 and in 1905 he played in the Adelaide University match against Wesley College (Melbourne). It was about this time that Adelaide University first proposed that they should have a team in the South

Australian Football Association (SAFA forerunner of the SANFL)), identifying that many of their students were already fine league players and could put together a formidable side.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)

Wednesday 10 August 1904, page 3

FOOTBALL.

UNIVERSITY V. COLLEGES.

A match was played on the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday afternoon between teams representing the Adelaide University and Prince Alfred and St. Peter's Colleges combined. There was a hot attendance. The University men led off, and for some time had matters practically their own way. At the end of the first quarter the score was:—University, 2 goals 5 behinds; Colleges, 1 behind. At half-time the scores were respectively 4 goals 8 behinds and 1 goal 4 behinds. In the third term the College had played, and notched 4 goals against the other side's 3 goals 4 behinds. In the last quarter University again drew ahead, and when the final bell went the scores were:—University, 13 goals 19 behinds; Colleges, 7 goals 6 behinds. The combined play, marking, and shepherding of the former were better than those of the latter, although occasionally the College team were responsible for good passing. The goalkeepers were:—University—Dempster (7), Moore (2), Dawson and Newland (1 each), and Drew (2). Colleges—Pincombe (4), Stevenson (2), and King (1). The respective teams were constituted as follow:—University—Angwin, D. Cowan, L. Cowan, Catchlove, Cudmore, Dawson, Dempster, Donnelly, Eddy, Drew, Goode, Haslam, Hooper, Moore, Muirhead, Newland, Reid, and Reynell. Combined Team.—Prince Alfred—G. Bateman, J. L. Davidson, G. P. Goode, A. V. King, R. Middleton, S. W. G. Parnell, H. Pope, H. W. D. Stoddart, and V. Oresdee. St. Peter's—J. Forrest, L. W. Gill, H. B. James, L. A. Lewis, A. F. Pincombe, A. V. Stephen, W. H. Stevenson, E. P. Fyner, and W. R. Warren.

National Library of Australia

FOOTBALL.

THE UNIVERSITY TEAM.

The decision of the S.A.F. Association not to admit a University football team into the association has had the effect of almost disintegrating that team. When it was suggested, however, that the University should get together a team to play a match against Wesley College the proposal met with cordial support. The match will accordingly be held on the Adelaide Oval on July 5. The University will be captained by W. A. V. Drew, who is a member of the North Adelaide club, for which he plays half-forward centre. L. Cowan, of Norwood, and his brother, who formerly played for Norwood, are also available, while other players in the senior association who may be counted upon are Haslam (Sturt), C. Jessop (North Adelaide), D. Dawson (Norwood), Dempster (Port Adelaide), Catchlove (North Adelaide), Moore (Port Adelaide), and Cudmore (who played for North Adelaide last year). Other good players qualified to play are R. A. Goode, Reynell, Donnelly, Verco, Plummer, M. Muirhead, and Stevenson (formerly of St. Peter's College). The University can therefore put a formidable combination in the field, though the fact that they have not had regular practice will handicap them considerably. The University team are also arranging to visit Victoria in September next to play a match against the Melbourne University.

Express and Telegraph - Tuesday 27 June 1905

William was selected for the first Intervarsity match against Melbourne University in 1904 but was unable to play due to his football commitments with Port Adelaide.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912)

Friday 26 August 1904, page 1

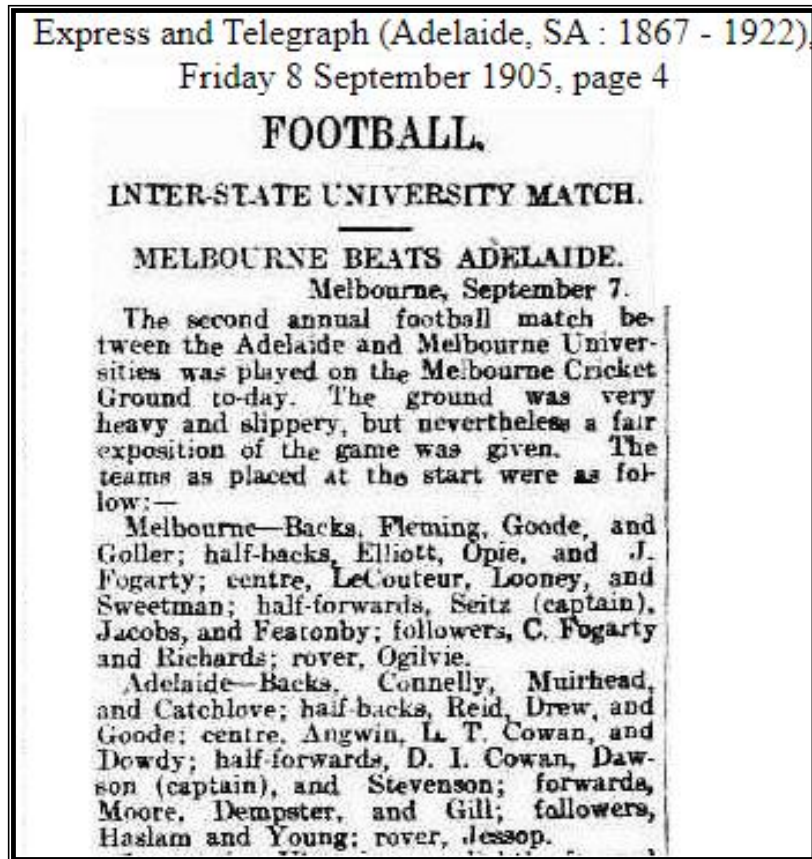
FOOTBALL.

THE INTERSTATE UNIVERSITY MATCH.

The first football contest between the Universities of Adelaide and Melbourne, which will become an annual fixture, will be played on the Adelaide Oval on Saturday afternoon. The students from Victoria, who arrived on Thursday, have been received most cordially by the undergraduates and graduates of the local hall of learning, and general interest has been excited in the match. The Victorian team includes several of the league players, while the Adelaide 18 consists of seven senior footballers. Haslam was chosen to play for University, but Sturt want him to help them against Port Adelaide. The teams will be:—Adelaide—L. Cowan, D. Dawson (captain), C. R. Doudy, and P. M. Newland, Norwood; W. Dempster, Port Adelaide; W. A. V. Drew and C. L. Jessop, North Adelaide; and W. Angwin, S. Catchlove, D. Cowan, C. R. Cudmore, T. H. Donnelly, R. Goode, C. P. Latty, H. M. Muirhead, R. G. Plummer, W. R. Reynell, and G. D. Moore. Melbourne—Wawn, Essendon; Anderson and Gardner, Melbourne; Leach, Collingwood; and Marron, Carlton; Richards (2), McConville, Seitz (captain), Cameron, Langdon, Oldham, Crooke, Hunter, Matheson, Hayes, Bourke, Featcby, and Goller.

National Library of Australia

William was able to play in the 1905 Intervarsity match played at the MCG.



Following the knock back to have a University team in the SAFA, William showed loyalty to his fellow students and decided to play football for Adelaide University in the Adelaide and Suburban Association in 1906. This year marked the true formation Adelaide University Football Club and admission as a member of the Adelaide University Sports Association.

World War I

William enlisted in the AIF on the 9th March 1916 as a member of the 14th Reinforcements for the 27th Battalion. He was 34 years old, 5'6½" and weighed 131lbs. He had a medium complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. His trade on enlistment was classified as a Law Clerk and he appears on the Supreme Court Honour Board as a 'Student of Law'.

William embarked at Adelaide for overseas on the 12th August 1916 aboard the HMAT 'Ballarat'. He joined the 27th Battalion on 28 December 1916. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 21 October 1916. William served in France and Belgium. He suffered badly from Chronic Rheumatism during most of his service due to the winter of 1916.

Tragically for the Dempster family, William's father, George Wafford Dempster, passed away at his residence Grosvenor House, Queenstown, in October 1918, aged 65 years, and was buried at the Cheltenham Cemetery.

William was invalided back to Australia aboard the *Saxon*, disembarking on 13 February 1919. His appointment in the AIF was terminated on 24 February 1919.

Career and Family Life

William returned to work at Dempster & Dempster. The firm was taken over by R Horton Wallman, Solicitor from the 1st September 1919 with Mr W.F. Dempster as Managing Clerk. In November 1919, and April 1920, William was representing clients of Dempster & Dempster in court.

From the 1st July 1921 Dempster & Dempster was taken over by John Howard Vaughan, Kenneth Hainsworth Kirkman and Edgar Loveday Stevens, all of Adelaide, Solicitors 'who will continue to carry on the same under the firm name of Dempster and Dempster at Lipson Street Port Adelaide in addition to practising at Adelaide under the firm name of Vaughan Kirkman and Stevens as heretofore.'

From June 1922 the practice "Dempster & Dempster", Lipson St, Port Adelaide was discontinued.

From November 1922 William worked as a clerk for Frank Seymour Smith, solicitor. William witnessed a document for Herbert John Wilson at Port Adelaide in February 1923. Unfortunately, Frank Seymour Smith 'had had great domestic worries on account of sickness and death in his family and as a result he sought relief in drink and neglected his practice.' As a result he was struck off the roll on the 9th July 1923.

In August 1924 William was charged with 'fraudulent conversion' of a sum of money on the 23 August 1923, the charges were related to William's services as a clerk with Seymour Smith and the charges were abandoned in September 1924.

ALLEGED CONVERSION

Clerk Charged

Charged on the information of John E. Shearing with having fraudulently converted £206 10/ to his own use on August 28, 1923, W. F. Dempster, a middle-aged man, was remanded until Friday by Mr. E. M. Sabine, P.M., in the Adelaide Police Court today. Bail was allowed in a bond in his own recognisance of £50 and a surety for a similar amount.

The P.M.—What do you say about bail?

Dempster—I am living with my people at Queenstown and ask for light bail and without a surety if possible. The charge is in connection with the case of Seymour Smith. I was employed as a clerk in his office.

CHARGE ABANDONED

Dempster Discharged

When the adjourned case was called in the Adelaide Police Court this morning in which William F. Dempster, agent, of Queenstown, was charged on the information of John Edward Shearing, chaff merchant, of Marian, with having converted to his own use a cheque for £206 10/ received from Jacob & Russell, land agents, of Pirie street, Adelaide, on account of Shearing, Dempster was discharged for want of prosecution.

Mr. C. Johns, who appeared for the informant, said that Shearing desired to tender no evidence.

Mr. W. A. Rollison, on behalf of Dempster, asked for a dismissal.

Then for a second time in 1924, William was charged with fraudulent conversion. He was found guilty by the jury but during sentencing, his lawyer Arthur Blackburn (a Victoria Cross winner in WW1 with the 10th Battalion) brought to the courts attention that a member of the jury had not been sworn in meaning that no legal trial had taken place. A new jury was empanelled but this time William did not give sworn evidence but rather just made a statement. The new jury came back with a not guilty verdict.

AGENT IN COURT

Fraudulent Conversion Charge

William Frederick Dempster, agent, of Port Adelaide, was charged on remand at the Port Adelaide Police Court this afternoon with the alleged fraudulent conversion of £39, being money entrusted to him by Mrs. Sarah Ann Nettleton, of Rosewater, widow, for payment to the Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Concord Lodge, on May 30.

Mr. G. W. Halcombe, S.M., was on the bench.

Inspector Noblet, who prosecuted, said that the lodge held a mortgage on the property of Mrs. Nettleton's late husband, and the money was paid to Dempster to discharge the mortgage. An arrangement was made for Dempster, to meet Mrs. Nettleton at the bank, and Miss Nettleton, her daughter, paid Dempster and received a receipt for the money. Later after some trouble Dempster gave to Mr. D. Evans (secretary of the lodge) a cheque for £38 18/5, but it was dishonored. Up to date no money had been paid on the mortgage discharged.

Evidence was given by David Evans, of Beaufort street, Woodville, Miss Nettleton, and Sgt. McInerney.

Dempster, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial at the next criminal sessions, bail being allowed on his own bond of £25 and another surety of like amount.

South Australian Electoral Rolls to 1927 show William's address as High Street, Queenstown.

In May 1929 William unsuccessfully tried to sue Frank Seymour Smith for £184. The sum being made up of a promised share of the profits of Seymour Smith's business, money paid by William on Seymour Smith's behalf and money lent by William to Seymour Smith. Seymour Smith claimed that he was not indebted to William, and William, who had claimed on the basis of 'oral agreements' could not prove his case.

When the 1929 case was held, William was described as a clerk, of Oakington Street, Torrensville. South Australian Electoral Rolls in 1930 and 1931 show William's address as 4 Oakington Street, Torrensville and his occupation was clerk.

CLAIM FOR £184

JUDGMENT FOR DEFENDANT

The hearing was taken by Mr. L. H. Haslam, S.M., in the Adelaide Local Court on Monday of the action in which William Dempster, clerk, of Oakington-street, Torrensville, claimed £184 8/6 from Francis Seymour Smith, managing clerk, of Collins-street, Melbourne.

The plaintiff declared that by oral agreement between the plaintiff and the defendant, made in November, 1922, at Port Adelaide, Smith agreed in consideration of the plaintiff assisting him in his practice as a solicitor he would pay the plaintiff a four-eleventh share of the profits made by the defendant in the practice. The defendant, during the continuance of the agreement, made a profit of £116 10/ in respect of his practice, the plaintiff's share of which was £42 7/. The plaintiff also claimed £81 17/6, being money paid by him for the defendant at his request. The plaintiff further claimed £60 4/, money lent by the plaintiff to the defendant.

The defendant pleaded not indebted, and denied that there ever was an agreement between the parties as alleged by the plaintiff.

Mr. G. Ziesing appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. G. Alderman, with Mr. J. T. Reid, for the defendant.

Judgment was entered for the defendant, with costs.

Apart from the court case in 1929, nothing further is known about William's life and work from 1925 – 1938. However it is possible that William was the W Dempster who was a trainer for the Semaphore Central Football Club in 1936 and 1937.

On the 27th August 1938, William married Clara Richmond Chambers, the only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs W Chambers, at St Cuthbert's Church, Prospect Road, Prospect.

MARRIAGES

DEMPSTER—CHAMBERS.—On the 27th of August, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Prospect, Clara Richmond, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Chambers, to William Frederick, second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Dempster. Rev. Thrush officiated.

Clara was born on the 26th January 1890, at Unley Park, SA and was 48 at the time of her marriage. William was aged 57. The couple lived at 1 Fitzroy Terrace, Prospect (Thorngate), on the corner of Fitzroy Terrace and Main North Road, the former home of Clara's parents.

Clara was actively involved in fundraising for the RSPCA. In June 1940 Clara made an interest free War Loan of £750.

Sadly for William, his marriage lasted less than four years, as Clara passed away suddenly at her residence at 1 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate on the 9th May 1942, aged 52. Clara was buried at the North Road Cemetery, Nailsworth.

Electoral Rolls from 1939 to 1955 record William's residential address as 1 Fitzroy Terrace and his occupation as salesman.

Death

William died in Adelaide on the 3rd September 1957. His last abode was a Prospect. He was buried with Clara at the North Road Cemetery, Nailsworth.



Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer - AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee

Sources and Acknowledgements:

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>
RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/123986>
The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>
Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>
The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>
The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>
(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – William Frederick Dempster)
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/43270638?searchTerm=%22William%20Dempster%22&searchLimits=I-state=South+Australia|||sortby=dateAsc|||I-decade=192|||I-year=1925>
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>
Ancestry.com.au
en.m.wikipedia.org
State Library of South Australia
St Peter's School Magazines and South Australia Electoral Rolls
Grave Secrets <http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/de.html>
Billion Graves
<https://billiongraves.com/grave/William-Frederick-Dempster/13089140>
Port Adelaide Football Club (courtesy of PAFC historian Margie Gill)
St Peter's College
Photograph of 1902 St Peter's Intercollegiate Football Team
(Courtesy of Andrea Mc Kinnon-Matthews, Archivist)
Kym Beilby & Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Reseachers

Appendix 1

ancestry

PRITCHARD_WAFFORD

George Wafford DEMPSTER

BIRTH 8 OCTOBER 1853 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

DEATH 19 OCT 1918 • South Australia

1853

(AGE)

2

Birth

8 October 1853 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

2 Sources

1855

2

Birth of Brother Frederick James DEMPSTER (1855–1872)

29 Dec 1855 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1858

4

Birth of Sister Ada Blanche DEMPSTER (1858–1931)

1858 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1859

5

Birth of Brother Walter Harry DEMPSTER yes (1859–1861)

1859 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1861

8

Death of Brother Walter Harry DEMPSTER yes (1859–1861)

1861 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1862

8

Birth of Sister Amy Catherine Wafford DEMPSTER (1862–1955)

16 Feb 1862 • Alberton, South Australia, Australia

1872

18

Death of Brother Frederick James DEMPSTER (1855–1872)

13 Apr 1872 • Queenstown, South Australia

1878

25

Marriage

3 December 1878 • Port Adelaide, South Australia

1 Source

1878

25

Marriage

3 DEC 1878 • St Paul's Church, Pt Adelaide, South Australia

Helen Wylie Caithness Begg

(1860–1909)

1879

26

Birth of Son Edwin Wafford DEMPSTER (1879–1963)

27 DEC 1879 • Queenstown, South Australia

1881

27

Birth of Son William Frederick Dempster (1881–1957)

11/4/1881 • Queenstown, South Australia, Australia

1882

28

Birth of Son George Percy DEMPSTER (1882–1959)

28/8/1882 • Queenstown, South Australia, Australia

1883

30

Birth of Daughter Ella May DEMPSTER (1883–1956)

24/11/1883 • Queenstown, South Australia

1887

33

Birth of Daughter Isabel Caithness DEMPSTER (1887–1960)

11/4/1887 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1893

39

Birth of Daughter Helen Begg DEMPSTER (1893–)

8/4/1893 • Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1893

39

Death of Father James Edwin Dempster yes (1826–1893)

12 Jun 1893 • Queenstown, South Australia

1907

53

Death of Mother Matilda Caroline Humberstone (1820–1907)

13 Feb 1907 • Semaphore, South Australia, Australia

1909

56

Death of Wife Helen Wylie Caithness Begg (1860–1909)

31 OCT 1909 • Queenstown, South Australia

1909

56

Death of Wife Helen Wylie Caithness Begg (1860–1909)

31 OCT 1909 • Queenstown, South Australia

1909

56

Marriage

After 1909 • South Australia, Australia

Private

1918

65

Death

19 Oct 1918 • South Australia

2 Sources

1918

65

Death (Alternative)

19/10/1918

1918

65

Burial

October 1918 • Cheltenham Cemetery, Charles Sturt City, South Australia, Australia

1 Source

Parents

James Edwin Dempster yes

1826–1893

Matilda Caroline Humberstone

1820–1907

Siblings

Edwin Wafford DEMPSTER

1879–1963

William Frederick Dempster

1881–1957

George Percy DEMPSTER

1882–1959

Ella May DEMPSTER

1883–1956

Isabel Caithness DEMPSTER

1887–1960

Helen Begg DEMPSTER

1893–

Spouse & Children

Helen Wylie Caithness Begg

1860–1909

Spouse

Private

Solicitor and Sport

Mr. G. W. Dempster

A fine, true sport and polished, courteous gentleman aptly describes Mr. George Wafford Dempster, the oldest established solicitor in Port Adelaide. His life has been lived in the Port and he has seen the greater part of its progress. His father, the late Mr. James E. Dempster, established the practice many years ago, and many prominent solicitors were articulated to him, amongst whom were Mr. Noel Webb and the late Mr. W. B. Webb. The latter, on the completion of his articles, was taken into partnership by the late Mr. Dempster, and the firm was then known as Dempster and Webb. The partners took a great interest in the city, and when the new Institute building was erected gave the project practical help by giving their services, in the conduct of necessary law work connected therewith, gratuitously.

Mr. George W. Dempster, although born at Adelaide, came with his parents to reside at Queenstown in his childhood, and has resided in that suburb of the Port for over 50 years, faithful still to the city of his adoption. He was educated at the late Mr. King's school, which stood on the spot where Messrs. W. & T. Rhodes' premises are now erected, and afterwards at St. Peter's College. On leaving school he was articulated to his father and entered his office, and on completing his articles was taken into the business, the firm then carrying on as Dempster, Webb & Dempster. After his father's decease in 1893, he continued in partnership with Mr. Webb until the latter retired about eight years ago, some time before his death. The firm has since been known and carried on as Dempster & Dempster.

Mr. Dempster's practice is of a most varied character, and embraces civil, criminal, shipping, and conveyancing work. His heart is in his profession, and he enjoys his work right well. He has conducted many notable court cases, but perhaps the most remarkable was one which is still fresh in the public mind—the case, Alexander Grant, third mate of the ship *Torrens*, who was charged with murder as the outcome of a shooting case in the Port. Mr. Dempster attempted to brief Sir Josiah Symon, but his client was unable to raise the necessary money for Sir Josiah's fee. Mr. Dempster, perforce, had to conduct the case himself, and did so with such success that the man, who appeared before Judge Boucaut, was acquitted. In civil cases he has been equally successful, and on one occasion went over to New Zealand in connection with a will case there, which he brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The business has been established for many years, and has passed on from father to son, and probably will continue to do so. During the long period Mr. Dempster has himself been practising in the Port, he has seen fully 17 prominent solicitors commence practise in the Port and then retire to the City. But he has pinned his faith to the Port and his loyalty to the city in which he has worked for so many years has been amply rewarded. He still transacts business for clients who were on the books of his firm when he first became connected with it in 1872, and he is solicitor for several of the leading shipping firms and family estates. Messrs. Dempster & Dempster transacted business for the late Mr. David Bower, and by special instructions in his will were appointed solicitors to his estate.

He married Miss Helen Caithness Begg, a daughter of the late Captain William Begg, one of the founders of the South Australian Stevedore Coy. Mrs. Dempster died 7½ years ago, leaving three sons and three daughters of the marriage.

Mr. Dempster's eldest son (Mr. E. W. Dempster) is manager of the Bank of Adelaide at Caltowie. His second son (Mr. Percy Dempster), who is with the Union Bank at Adelaide, was well-known as the goal-keeper for the Port Adelaide Football Club, and was also a member of the winning crew in the inter-Bank Challenge Rowing Fours in 1910. The third and youngest son (Mr. William Dempster) had just completed his articles under his father prior to the outbreak of the war. He enlisted, and is now at the front with the 27th Battalion A.I.F.

Although there were a fair number of houses erected around Mr. Dempster's house in High Street, Queenstown, when he took up residence there about 50 years ago, there were very few houses between the Port Road and the Alberton Station, and at that time he had to walk over sandrift to the Alberton station. He can well remember the stationmaster, Mr. White, at work of a morning shovelling the sand-drift off the railway line to allow the trains to pass. There were no return tickets in those days, so that the action of the present Government in bringing into force a single ticket system on country lines is a reversion to the conditions of 50 years ago. The spot where the late Mr. John Caire's residence now stands was a very high sandhill, and to do away with the menace of drift-sand, the railway authorities built a siding near that

spot and removed the sand, using it for filling up the ground about Rosewater, where the old Dry Creek line was laid down. There were very few houses between the Port and the Semaphore, and the same sandy conditions prevailed as at Alberton. Eames' buses were the means of conveyance to the Semaphore, and the horses had heavy work, having to be flogged through the sand at places, particularly at Exeter.

An All-Round Sport.

Nearly every branch of sport has had Mr. Dempster's support and he has not played merely the part of a patron either. He is a member of all the leading race clubs, so it is needless to say that he is very fond of horse racing. He was a member of the committee and a steward of the Port Adelaide Racing Club for six or seven years. In his boyhood he was a great cricket enthusiast and acted as a human alarm clock for Senior Cricket Club in the district in 1870 (the Port Suburban). The members of the club were much Mr. Dempster's seniors, but he was in the habit of going from house to house rousing the members up in the early morning for practice, and they generally allowed him to join them as a reward. Amongst the members of the Port Suburban Club were Messrs. T. Brock, C. L. Gardiner, G. W. Smith, J. Wald, T. Sinclair, De Lissa, B. Grandfield, Ted Lepage, J. Counsel and L. Rix. Mr. Dempster played with the Queen and Albert Cricket Club, of which Messrs. Morphet (of the Steamship Coy.) and Alf. Saunders were members. He was an enthusiastic footballer and was a member of the Port Adelaide Football Club when

they played on Buck's Flat, Glanville, near Hart's paddock. That he was a thorough-going young athlete can be judged from the fact that he secured several prizes at Woodville and Alberton for running, jumping and throwing the cricket ball. He took an active part in the promoting of the defunct Port Adelaide Regattas, and was very fond of fishing and yachting, sailing his own boat. His father before him had been interested in the latter sport and was a member of the South Australian Yacht Club. Mr. Dempster is a member of the Alberton Oval Bowling Club and still enjoys a shooting expedition—in fact, he has just recently returned from a duck-shooting trip on the Murray River.