



LCpl. John Arthur Johncock



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1914

Other Sports: Rowing

Student: Arts (1914), Economics (1923)

Teacher & Headmaster

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 Arthur Johncock. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.



John Arthur JOHNCOCK

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Regimental number | 3599 |
| Place of birth | Manoora, South Australia |
| Religion | Church of England |
| Occupation | School teacher |
| Marital status | Single |
| Age at embarkation | 22 |
| Height | 5' 6" |
| Weight | 134 lbs |
| Next of kin | Father, Charles Fuller Johncock, School House, Clare, South Australia |
| Enlistment date | 7 October 1916 |
| Place of enlistment | Adelaide, South Australia |
| Rank from Nominal Roll | Lance Corporal |
| Unit from Nominal Roll | 43rd Battalion |
| Fate | Returned to Australia 4 July 1919 |
| Discharge date | 17 September 1919 |
| Other details | Commenced return to Australia on board HT 'Wiltshire', 4 July 1919; disembarked Adelaide, 16 August 1919; discharged (termination of period of enlistment), Adelaide, 17 September 1919. |
| | Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal |
| Miscellaneous details | Name does not appear on Embarkation Roll. |
| Sources | <u>NAA: B2455, JOHNCOCK John Arthur</u> |

43rd Australian Infantry Battalion

The 3rd Division was raised in Australia early in 1916. The 43rd Battalion was South Australia's contribution to the strength of the division. Along with the 41st, 42nd, and 44th Battalions, plus support troops, it formed the 11th Brigade.


The battalion embarked in June 1916 and, after landing briefly in Egypt, went on to Britain for further training. The battalion arrived on the Western Front in late December. The 43rd Battalion spent 1917 bogged in bloody trench warfare in Flanders. In June the battalion took part in the battle of Messines and in October the Third Battle of Ypres.

The battalion spent much of 1918 fighting in the Somme valley. In April they helped stop the German Spring offensive at Villers-Bretonneux. In July the battalion was part of General Monash's attack at Hamel. In August and September, the battalion helped drive the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line. The 43rd joined the advance that followed the 2nd Division's victory at Mont St Quentin and it was during this operation that Temporary Corporal Lawrence Weathers earned the battalion's only Victoria Cross. Weathers was mortally wounded in the battalion's next battle. The battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel John Farrell wrote ".....he died at the Regimental Aid Post and lies buried on the battlefield. The same shell killed his uncle, who bore the name of Lance-Corporal J.J. Weathers."

At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent on the Western Front. The November Armistice was followed by the Treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919. Through 1919 the men of the 43rd Battalion returned to Australia in drafts for demobilisation and discharge.

Service Records

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7369671>

A 915 **ALIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**
DENTAL "B" CLASS

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.

No. 3599 Name JOHN COCK - JOHN ARTHUR
Unit 10/28 43rd
Joined on OCT 7 - 1916

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your name? ... John Arthur Johncock
2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Karoonda in the County of SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural Born
4. What is your age? ... 22 1/2 years
5. What is your trade or calling? ... High School Teacher
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No.
7. Are you married? ... No. Wife: CHARLES FULLER JOHN COCK (MRS) JOHN COCK - EMILY LOUISE
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... SCHOOL-HOUSE - CLARE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No.
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces with Ignominy, or as Incurable 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? ... No.
11. 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. ... 1 year Senior Cadets. 81B Infantry transferred to 81B. 1 year, transferred A.M.C. 3rd. Exempt.
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes.
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... Yes. (Vision)
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day? ... Yes.
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes.

I, John Arthur Johncock do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me 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.

And 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 OCT 7 - 1916 Signature of Person Enlisted. J. A. Johncock

* 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

Family and Early Years

John Arthur Johncock was the only son of Charles Fuller Johncock (1867 - 1939) and Emily Louise Johncock (1870 - 1960) nee Bond. He was born at Manoora on the 10th February 1894. Charles was Headmaster and his wife a Monitor at Manoora Primary School, the small town located on the Barrier Highway between Saddleworth and Burra in the mid-North of South Australia. The Johncock family was originally early settlers at Balhannah in the Adelaide Hills. Many of the family became teachers and then spread to all parts of South Australia with their teaching appointments. John would also follow in the family tradition. A sister Mabel Emily would also become a teacher after studying music at Adelaide University.

Early Education - Pupil Teacher - School Sport

John's early education was dictated by where his father was teaching. His early primary education was at Gawler River and then at Orroroo and Clare. In 1908 - 1910 he went to Petersburg High School to complete his Junior and Senior Public Examinations. He received a credit for English Literature in the Senior Examination, the only person to do so outside of Adelaide. In February 1910 at 16 years of age John had received his first Education Department appointment as a Monitor at the Orroroo Primary School. In 1911 he went to Adelaide High School to complete his Higher Public Examinations where he passed English Literature.

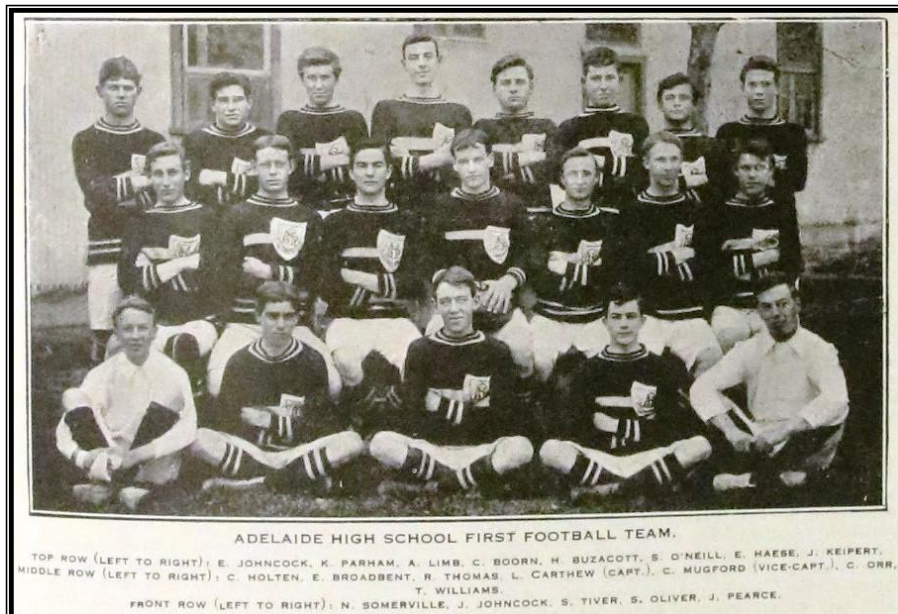
While at Adelaide High School he played football for the 1st XV111 team. Also, in the same team was his uncle Ernest who had recently come to the school as a pupil teacher. Ironically, John was a few months older than his uncle which would have been of great amusement to his schoolmates. Both John and Ernest played in the interstate contest played against Melbourne High School.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)

Sat 23 Sep 1911

On Friday afternoon a football match was played on the Jubilee Oval. The game in Melbourne was won by the Melbourne boys by 13 goals to 2, and on this occasion the local players were determined to avenge the defeat. They did not win, but they put up a much better fight, and at three-quarter time were only one goal behind their opponents' tally. The visitors finished better, however, and at the end the board showed them 20 points in the lead—8 goals 9 behinds to 6 goals 7 behinds. The contest was keen all through, and the standard of football was high. There were some fine flashes of concerted play, and the marking by the backs of both sides was good. Much of the handball was crisp, cool, and clever, and some of the boys showed great resourcefulness in getting out of difficult positions. The Melbourne boys won by their pace. They were considerably faster than the local lads, and did not lack weight. They also marked well. The game was played in the best spirit, and was enjoyed by the players and spectators alike. The teams were:—Melbourne—C. Stanley (captain), C. Cameron (vice-captain), J. Duggan, W. Colvin, T. Carmichael, B. Liston, A. Williamson, J. Hotton, A. Kelso, S. Lamb, T. Playle, L. Channon, C. Dale, O. Harrison, H. Nicholls, Denby, F. O. Collins, and H. Roberts. Adelaide—L. Carthew (captain), C. Mugford, C. O. R. Rice, C. Thomas, K. Thomas, A. Limb, S. O'Neill, H. C. Buzacott, E. Johncock, J. Johncock, E. Haese, T. Williams, C. Boorn, C. Holten, C. Orr, E. Hattier, S. Tiver, and K. Parkham. The Melbourne team was remarkably even, but perhaps the most conspicuous players were Stanley, Cameron, Williamson, Playle, Colvin, and Kelso. For Adelaide the best were Carthew, Mugford, Rice, Thomas (2), Limb, Johncock (2), and Haese.

1911 First Eighteen Football Team



John only attended Adelaide High School for the one year and after completion of his Higher Year was appointed as a pupil teacher in 1912 at Clare Public School where his father had just been appointed headmaster. During 1912 his father Charles had enrolled in the Arts Faculty at Adelaide University at 47 years of age. John continued as a pupil teacher in 1913, while also completing some subjects at the Adelaide school of Art. While living at Clare, John in 1912 and 1913 played football for the Clare team and also the occasional game of cricket.

Adelaide University Enrollment and Football for the Blacks

John enrolled in the Arts Faculty at Adelaide University in 1914 and passed subjects History of the United Kingdom and Pure Mathematics. While at the University he played part of the season for the University football Team. During the year he also had an assistant teaching position at Richmond Primary School.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931)
Sat 26 Dec 1914 / Page 44

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The Minister of Education (Hon. A. H. Peake) has approved the following appointments:—

—Head Teachers.—

W. J. McCarthy, B.A., B.Sc., Norwood District High School; R. J. Gates, Woodville District High School.

—Assistant-in-Charge.—

D. M. Coghlin, M.A., Unley District High School.

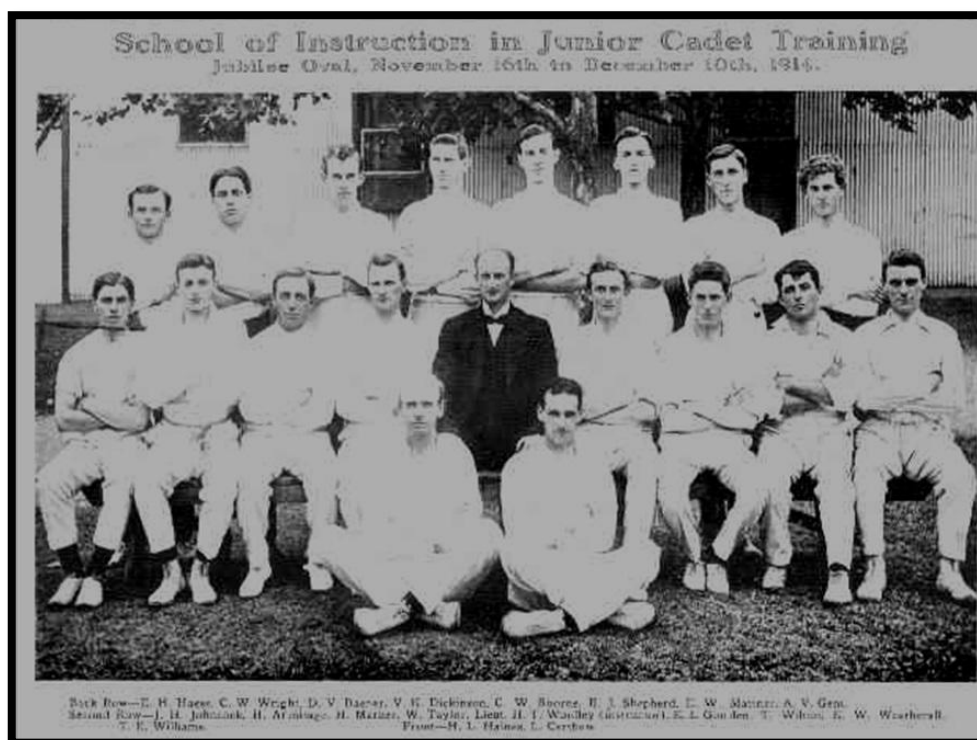
—Chief Assistant.—

Butterworth, Clarence G. R., Norwood.

—Assistants.—

A. H. A. Harbeld, Rose Park; F. M. Philp, Croydon; Helen Barbour, Croydon; Florence Blake, Brompton; Eva J. Dunstone, Thebarton; Haese, Ernst A. W., Goodwood; Jessaline M. Cooper, Hindmarsh; Hilda C. Coffin, Alberton; Aldyth N. Billing, Sturt Street; Kathleen M. Clark, Plympton; Juanita H. Fordham, Thebarton; Marjorie H. Kentish, Woodville; James R. Digance, Glenelg; John A. Johncock, Richmond; Dorothy M. Shepherd, Hindmarsh; Rita M. Salmon, Glenelg; Wall, Kathleen M., Port Adelaide; Lorna M. Thomas, Wellington Road; Rosina E. Simon, Thebarton; Margaret L. Bryant, Port Adelaide; Clara I. Hunt, Parkside; Ida M. Robinson, Port Adelaide; William L. Davies, North Adelaide; Grace Russell, Mount Gambier; Millicent A. Cookley, Aldgate; Coral G. McDowell, Moonka; Beatrice C. Bates, Solomontown; Mary L. Campbell, Kadina; Edith A. Lewis, Petersburg; D. Eileen Sharp, Kadina; Jean E. R. Bowker, Laura; Elizabeth B. Crump, Gawler; Eva M. Laromey, Quorn; Zulie M. Head, Petersburg District High; Agnes J. Grouser, Adelaide High; Olive V. Gilbert, Walkerville; Florence Stibbles, Flinders Street; Annie C. Fitzgerald, Unley.

In 1914, John also attended the School of Instruction in Junior Cadet Training. It was conveniently located at Jubilee Oval which was adjacent to Adelaide university.

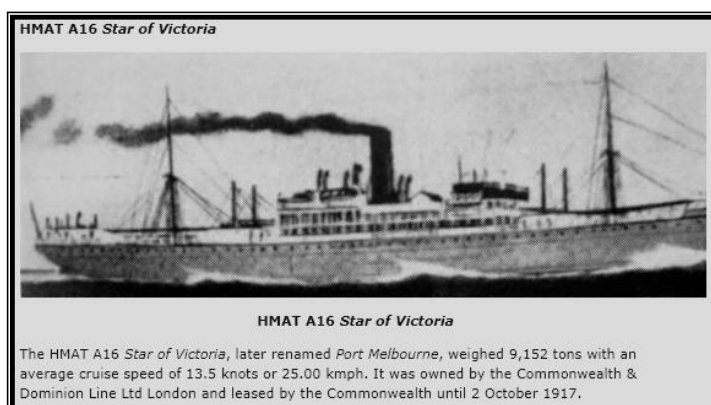


John Arthur Johncock (Seated 1st on Left)

In 1915, John, his father Charles and Uncle Ernest were all enrolled in the Arts faculty. In 1915 he was posted for a period to Thebarton Primary school then later as a locum head teacher to Long Plains, a rural town 73km north of Adelaide. In 1916 he had postings at Thebarton, Norwood and Victor Harbor. However, events in Europe would change the course of history and the immediate aspirations of the young teacher.

War Service

John at 22 years of age enlisted on 7th October 1916, he is described and standing 5ft 6in and 134lbs. Having spent time in the school cadets and Citizen Military Forces he was sent to the NCO training camp at Mitcham. With the rank of Corporal, he was assigned to the newly formed A.I.F. 43rd Battalion and In July 1917 his Unit embarked for overseas service from Sydney on the HMAT (A16) *Star of Victoria*/Port Melbourne.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Two months later in September 1917 the troop ship arrived at Liverpool, England. During the journey John spent six days in the ship's hospital. It was the forerunner of many bouts of illness while serving overseas. Almost immediately after arriving in the south of England he found himself hospitalised again, this time with Mumps.

Having recovered and returning to duty he proceeded in December 1917 to the port of Havre in France to join the 43rd Battalion. The next nine months was spent in the field with little information provided in his records. His mother back in Australia had not heard from her son during this period and contacted the Red Cross twice to enquire of her son's welfare.

| SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION | | FORM C. | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| No. <u>3549</u> | Surname <u>Johncock</u> | Christian Names <u>John Arthur</u> | Date <u>5.1.18</u> |
| Rank <u>Corp.</u> | Regiment, &c. <u>10th Reinf. 48th Bn.</u> | | File No. |
| C/ L | | | |
| OFFICIAL REPORTS: | | | |
| Other Information: <u>mother has had no word from him since he arrived in England i.e. 18 Sept. 1917 - has since heard he is ill in Hosp. She is very anxious to get some tidings of son.</u> | | | |
| Inquirer's Name and Address <u>Mrs C F Johncock - School House Clare -</u> <u>(at Henley Beach until 17.1.18)</u> | | Relation <u>mother</u> | |
| Instructions: <u>please ascertain whereabouts & condition of soldier & advise require.</u> | | | |
| Call Again. YES. NO. | | | Cost of Cable, &c. |

5107
Re No 5107
Clare
May 23rd 1918

The Hon Secretary
Aust Red Cross Society

Dear Sir

I regret that I omitted to answer your previous memo of April 6th and am pleased to tell you by the last mail five letters reached me from my son. He is in France with his unit and has been since the middle of Dec. He has written regularly ever since leaving Australia but the letters have not reached us. I thank you very much for your kindness in the search.

I remain
Yours Sincerely
Mrs C. F. Johncock

23rd May, 1918.

No. 5107.

Mrs. C. F. Johncock,
School House,
Clare,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dear Madam,

No. 3549 Corporal J. A. Johncock, 48th Battalion.

Our Commissioners have made full enquiries at A.T.F. Headquarters, concerning the above soldier's whereabouts, and have confirmed by letter the detailed information, which we forwarded to you on the 6th April. They advise that Corporal Johncock's name is not included in the records of wounded or sick, and it can therefore only be presumed that he is well and with his unit.

We trust hereafter you have heard from your son, or that letters are on the way home to you.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

The 43rd Battalion in 1918 had played a vital role in the Somme Valley and drove the Germans from Villers-Bretonneux and then back to the Hindenberg Line. The next piece of information on his service record was that in September John was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal, however in October was in hospital again, this time with gastritis.

After the Armistice and having recovered from his illness, he rejoined his unit and was made an acting Sergeant. During the demobilisation he was twice admitted to hospital with measles and therefore remained in France until May 1919. He was at last repatriated back over the channel in July and finally boarded the troop carrier HMAT (A18) Wiltshire in England for the journey home.



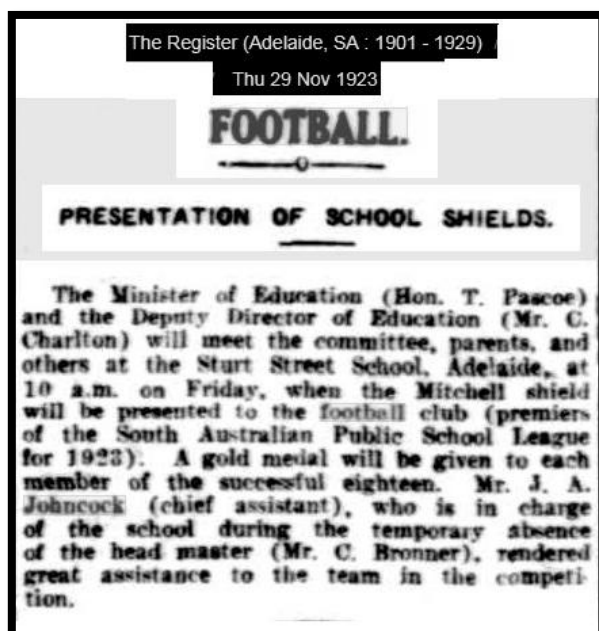
He arrived back in Australia and disembarked in August and was discharged on the 17th September 1919.

After the War, Marriage and Teaching Profession

John soon after his return to South Australia received a posting at Mount Gambier Public School where he remained until 1921 and then was transferred to Port Pirie Public School.

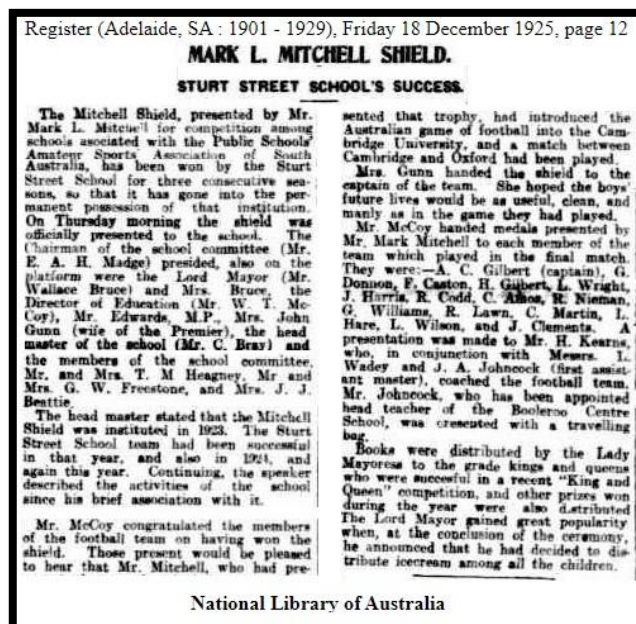
John married Sarah Burnard Temby (1894 - 1975) on 11th January 1921 at the Spicer Memorial Church, 4th Avenue, St Peters, SA. He had known Sarah from his days teaching at Long Plains where her family had the farming property, Paddy's Station, at the nearby Korunye township. Soon after the wedding John and Sarah moved to Port Pirie where John had been recently appointed to the local school. A son, Arthur William Johncock (1921 - 1992) was born 1st November 1921 at Nurse Dow's Hospital, Port Pirie.

In 1923 the family moved back to Adelaide after John had been transferred to Sturt Street Primary School in the City of Adelaide. He was Chief Assistant and in charge of the school in the headmaster's absence. With his football background he had provided "great assistance" to the football team which had won the inaugural Mark L. Mitchell Shield during the 1923 Primary School's football season.



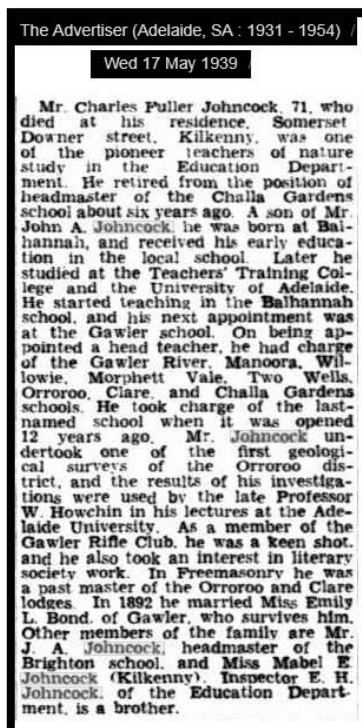
While back in Adelaide in 1923, John had again enrolled at Adelaide University and passed an Economics subject.

The Sturt Street School's football success continued under John's coaching and in 1925 the School was again presented with the Mark L. Mitchell for the third year in succession.

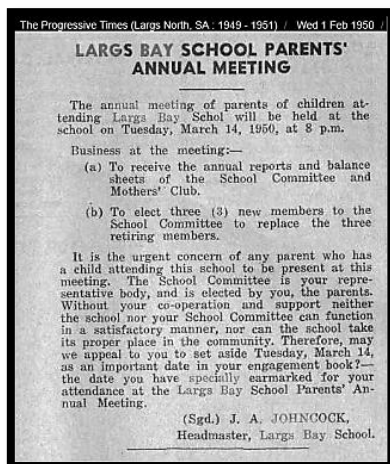


By 1926, John was again in the country, having been appointed to the headmaster's position at Booleroo Centre Public School in the mid-north of the State; an area he knew well from his early years. There he remained for several years and participated in the local community and was on the committee of the local football club. His second son, Ian Keith (1927 - 2009) was born there on the 8th January 1927. A third son was born on 22nd January 1929, however sadly it appears this child died in infancy. In 1932 he returned to Orroroo Public School as headmaster where 22 years earlier he had received his first Education Department appointment as a monitor. His father Charles had also been headmaster there at the time. On October 7th, 1937, he was still there to welcome many old scholars back to the school as the town celebrated its Golden Jubilee (1887 - 1937).

Sadly, John's father, Charles Fuller Johncock, died on May 5th, 1939. His mother Emily lived a further 21 years after Charles, passing away in 1960. John had returned to Adelaide and an appointment as headmaster at Brighton Primary School just prior to his father's death.



In 1940 John was transferred to Largs Bay Primary School as headmaster where he spent the next 12 years, his longest stay at any school during his long teaching career.



In 1946 John and Sarah celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary and at the time were living on Belair Road at Blackwood. In 1952 at the age of 58 he was appointed headmaster at Colonel Light Gardens Primary School. Details of his retirement are not yet available.



John Arthur Johncock died on 16th April 1970 at Glenalta and was laid to rest at Centennial Park Cemetery not far from the Colonel Light garden's School. He was survived by Sarah (d 1975) and sons Arthur (A.I.F. WW2 d 1992) and Ian (d 2009) all have been now laid to rest at Centennial Park.

Profile Compiled by: Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial committee

Acknowledgments:

- The AIF Project – University of New South Wales
- Adelaide High School Magazine
- With additional information from the National Library of Australia - Trove (Digital Newspapers)
- National Archives of Australia - WW1 Service Records
- Ancestry.Com - Members Public Family Trees and Documents
- Australian War Memorial