



Capt. Reginald John Verco



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: Intervarsity (1904)

Lacrosse Club: 1906 – 1908

(Intervarsity 1906 – 1908)

Degree: MB BS (1907)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind this 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 Reginald John Verco. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=308613>


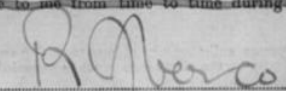


REGINALD JOHN VERCO

Date of birth	27 September 1885
Place of birth	Adelaide South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Medical practitioner
Address	St Peters, South Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	33
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs Pn F Verco, 98 Payneham Road, St Peters, South Australia
Enlistment date	24 March 1918
Rank on enlistment	Captain
Unit name	Medical Officers
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A7 <i>Medic</i> on 2 November 1918
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	Australian Army Medical Corps
Promotions	Captain
	Unit: MED
	Promotion date: 24 March 1918
Fate	Returned to Australia 25 September 1919

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8397841>

	
AUSTRALIAN	MILITARY FORCES.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.	
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.	
No. <i>medical Officer</i> <i>Capt.</i>	Name { Surname <u>VERCO</u> in full { Christian Name <u>Reginald John</u> Unit <u>A.A.M.C. for W.A.</u> Joined on <u>24 March 1918</u>
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation. You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.	
1. What is your Name? ... 2. In or near what Town were you born? ... 3. Are you a natural-born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... 4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated) ... 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... 7. Are you married, single, or widower? ... 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ... The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will. 9. What is your permanent address in Australia? ... 10. 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 ... 11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... 13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mothers) Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day? ... 14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ...	1. <u>VERCO Reginald John</u> 2. <u>Adelaide</u> In or near the Town of <u>Adelaide</u> In the State or Country of <u>South Australia</u> 3. <u>N.B.</u> 4. <u>32 1/2 years</u> <u>Sept 27 1885</u> 5. <u>Medical Practitioner</u> 6. <u>No</u> 7. <u>Married</u> <u>(Wife) Phoebe Frances Vercos</u> <u>98 Payneham Road</u> <u>St Peters</u> 9. <u>98 Payneham Road</u> <u>St. Peters</u> <u>South Australia</u> 10. <u>A.A.M.C. Reserve</u> 11. <u>Yes</u> 12. <u>No</u> 13. <u>—</u> 14. <u>Yes</u>
I, <u>Reginald John Vercos</u> 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 <u>two-fifths</u> of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my <u>wife and children</u> .	
Date <u>24 March 1918</u>	
Signature of Person Enlisted. 	
* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.	

Published Biography

From: "Blood, Sweat and Fears - Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australia who served in WW1":
ISBN: 978-0-64692-750-3; 2014

VERCO Reginald John

MB BS FRACS

1885 - 1950



Reginald John Verco was born on 27th September 1885 at Mills Terrace, North Adelaide. He was the youngest son of John Verco, a merchant, and Caroline Blisset, nee Webb. He was educated at Prince Alfred College where he was somewhat impish but always a most unselfish and delightful companion, possessing a keen sense of humour and spontaneous dry wit. He studied medicine at the University of Adelaide and topped first year winning the Davies Thomas Scholarship. He later topped final year MB BS in 1907 and was awarded the Everard Scholarship. During his student days he played intervarsity lacrosse gaining his Blue. He married Phoebe Francis Hawkes in 1909. He established a general practice at 98 Payneham Road, St Peters where he was to live for the rest of his life.

Verco joined the AIF in March 1918 as a captain. He was 32 years old, father of two, and 5' 11½ins tall, weighing 189lbs. He indicated that he had served for one month with the AAMC at 7AGH. He embarked on the *City of Karachi* on 30th November 1918 and arrived in London on 30th January 1919. He served in southern England before returning, on the *Mahana*, to Australia. He was struck off strength on 25th September 1919. He was not issued with any medals.

Verco returned to continue with his general practice. He was the traditional family doctor on whom so many of his patients could lean and obtain solace from his advice. When unable to keep an appointment punctually he would say, "*Here comes the late Dr Verco*". He was the state president of the South Australian branch of the BMA from 1940-1943 and a member of the SA Council of Australian Trained Nurses Association. Reginald John Verco died on 5th June 1950 after a heart attack at the age of 64. His son, Major Geoffrey Webb Verco, a doctor, served in the AAMC in WW2.

Sources:

MJA August 1950 19:2(8) 309-310
<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8397841>

Note: John played lacrosse for Adelaide University and represented Adelaide University at Intersvarsity Lacrosse matches, however no evidence has been located by AU Sports to indicate that John was awarded a Blue for lacrosse.

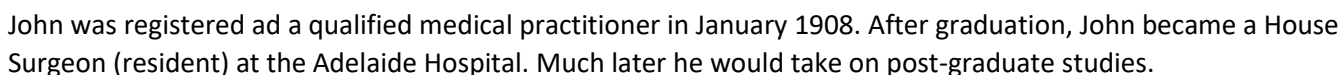
Early Life

Schooling

John competed in the PAC Sports on a regular basis from 1899. He competed in the 120 yards hurdles (under 15 ½) at the PAC Sports in 1899 and won an Intercollegiate Medal that year. In 1900 he was second in the 120 yards handicap hurdles (under 15) at the PAC Sports and third in the 100 yards flat for juniors in the Inter-collegiate Sports. He placed second in the Open 150 yards handicap hurdles at the PAC Sports in 1901.

John commenced studying medicine at Adelaide University in 1903 and in June 1903 he was licensed to study anatomy in the School of Anatomy at the University of Adelaide. He was awarded the Davies Thomas Scholarship as the top first year student.

John graduated MB BS in December 1907 and was awarded the Everard scholarship.



NAME AND ADDRESS		Yerco Reginald John		M. A. B. S. (1907)		REGISTERED NO.		GRAD		
COURSE OF STUDY		Post Grad.		DATE OF MATRICULATION		ON WAR MEMORIAL		Shad		
LEAVING										
LEAVING HONOURS										
STATUS GRANTED										
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAM.	RESULT	REMARKS
1935	Post Graduate - Anatomy	73297	5 5 0			76424	8 8 0			
1946	Post Graduate - Obstetrics	35795	3 3 0							

Adelaide University Medical Faculty 1906



R.J. Verco – Third Row from Front – Right hand side of the picture – Wearing a hat

1st row (front): N.Shierlaw, Catchlove, Miss M.George, Miss Delprat, Prof.Watson, Miss Delprat, Miss M.Moffat, R.A.Goode, St.John Poole, C.Yeatman, E.C.Black, S.L.Corry, E.J.R.Holder.

2nd row: J.Dyer, Thomas, J.J.O'Grady, D.M.Steele, Drew, E.Arnold, H.M.Jay, W.Ray, G.R.West, L.G.Muirhead, J.Leon, H.Powell, E.B.Jones, W.D.Rosengarten, N.E.Seppelt, W.R.Reynell, T.H.Donnely, R.Trudinger, J.E.Everard.

3rd row: H.Elkan, C.D.Pitcher, F.E.McAree, E.H.Lewis, J.L.Jona, E.A.H.Russell, G.Harvey, W.H.Stevenson, C.E. Dolling, W.A.V.Drew, W.Jacobs, T.G.Fleming, M.Erichsen, R.J.Verco, L.O.Betts, L.W.Jeffries.

4th row: E.J.McGlashon, H.Fry, P.T.S.Cherry, R.Plummer, H.W.D.Stoddart, D.R.W.Cowan, Sinclair, D.Parkhouse

University Sport

Tennis

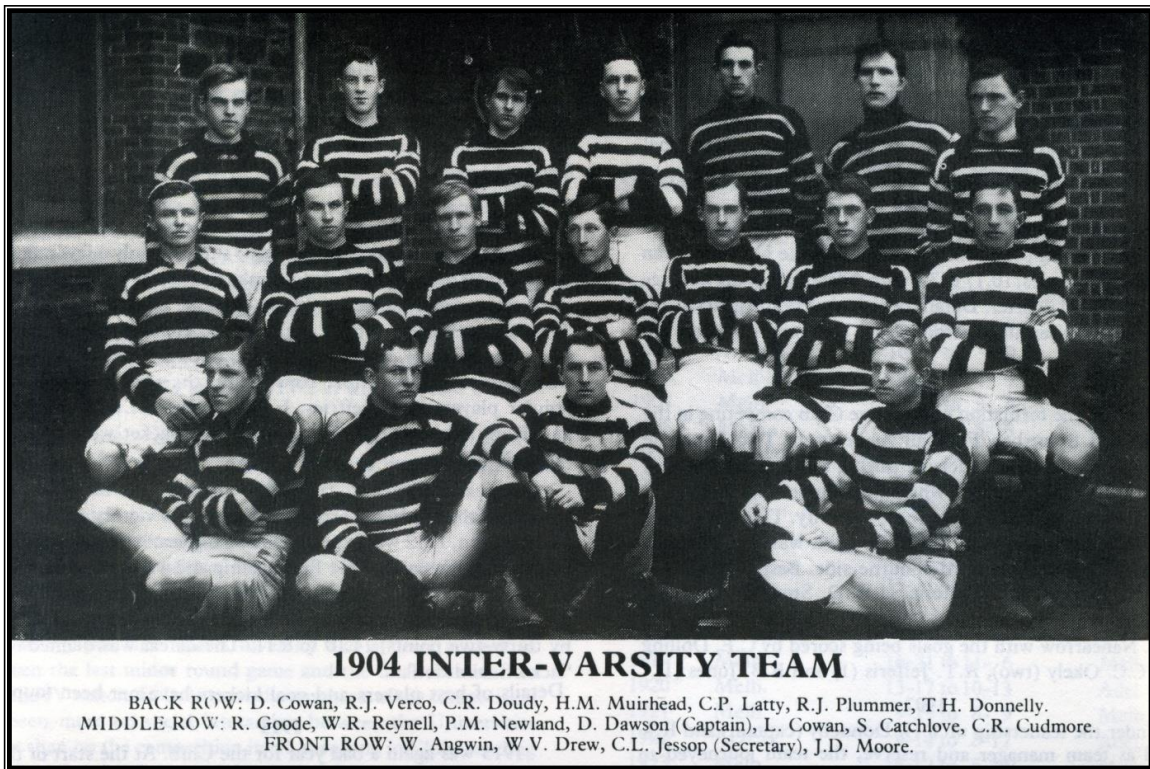
John played Second Grade Tennis for Adelaide University in the South Australian Association in the 1904/05 and 1905/06 seasons. He also completed in the Adelaide University Tennis tournaments in 1907.

Rowing

John rowed for the Adelaide University Rowing Club in the Maiden Tubs at the SA Rowing Association Regatta in December 1906.

Football

John represented Adelaide University in the 1904 Intervarsity Football match against Melbourne University, and therefore becoming a member of the first Adelaide University Intervarsity team. John was initially named the reserve forward for the team.



R.J. Verco – Back Row – Second from Left

Athletics

John competed in the Adelaide University Sports from 1904 to 1907. In 1904 he came second in the 150 yards Handicap Hurdles and first in the 300 yards Steeplechase. At the 1905 sports he was third in the 120 yards hurdles, first in the Egg and Spoon race and third in the 800 yards steeple chase. John was also awarded the prize for the Long Jump as Angwin who jumped an inch further, had already won the Cup.

The long jump was won by Angwin, who covered 19 ft. 8½ in., but as he had already secured the Cup the prize was awarded Verco, whom Angwin defeated by an inch.

In 1906. John was joint Hon. Secretary for the Sports and he won the 300 yards steeplechase. John also competed at the SA Amateur Athletics meeting in September 1906.

John was on the committee which organised the 1907 Adelaide University Sports. In May 1907, John was selected to represent Adelaide University in hurdles and long jump at the Intersports.

INTER-UNIVERSITY SPORTS.

The following team will represent the Adelaide University Athletic Club in the inter-University sports, which are to take place in Sydney on May 29 and 30:—
M. H. Moyes (high and long jumps),
W. B. Angwin (100 yards and 440 yards),
V. C. Cresdee (100 yards and hurdles),
R. J. Verco (hurdles and long jump),
C. Yeatman (440 yards and high jump),
D. M. Steele (half-mile and mile).
The team will leave Adelaide on Thursday, May 23. Mr. M. H. Moyes (secretary) will act as manager to the team during the trip. The Sydney, Tasmanian, and Victorian Universities will also take part in the sports.

John was on the committee for the 1908 Intersports, the first year the Sports had been held in Adelaide.

Lacrosse

While at University John competed in several Old Scholars Inter-Collegiate Lacrosse matches against St Peter's College, including the second annual match in 1906 and the match in 1907.

John played Lacrosse for Adelaide University (1906-1908) and represented Adelaide University at Intersarsity Lacrosse matches in 1906, 1907 and 1908.

1906 Adelaide University – Intersarsity Team



R.J.Verco – Back Row – third from Left

Back: H.Hanton, G.C.Campbell, R.J.Verco, H.Greenway, E.A.H.Russell.

Middle: L.O.Betts (sec), C.A.Edmonds (capt), D.M.Steele (vice capt), R.G.Plummer.

Front: R.D.Brummitt, J.Larner (ref), G.H.Boucaut, R.A.Goode.

Held in Adelaide, won by Adelaide 17-1

1907 Adelaide University – Intersarsity Team



R.J.Verco – Front Row – Left

*Back: G.A.Harvey, C.E.Dolling, L.W.Jeffries, D.R.W.Cowan, R.J.Rudall (mngr),
D.M.Steele, H.K.Fry, O.M.Moulden, E.C.Black.*

*Middle: C.Yeatman, L.O.Betts (vice capt), R.A.Goode (capt), S.J.K.McClennan,
G.C.Campbell, E.A.H.Russell (sec).*

Front: R.J.Verco, M.Ericksen. Held in Melbourne, won by Adelaide 11-2

1907 Adelaide University – Intervarsity Team



R.J.Verco – Back Row – Second from Left

Back: N.C.Shierlaw, R.J.Verco, D.R.W.Cowan, H.K.Fry, A.L.Pinch.

Middle: G.C.Campbell, L.O.Betts (vice capt), R.A.Goode (capt), E.A.H.Russell (sec), D.M.Steele.

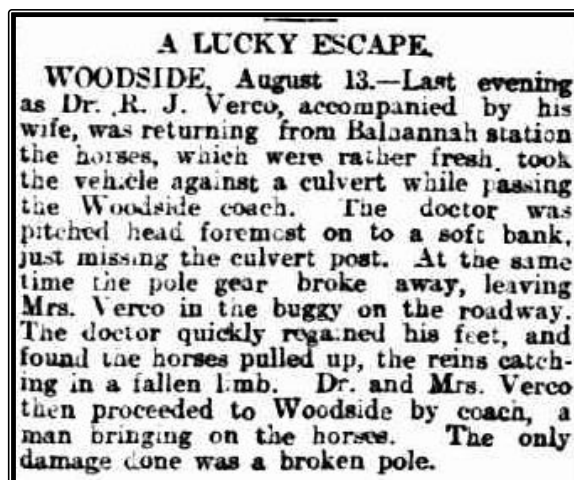
Front: L.W.Jeffries, J.Larner (ref), M.Erichsen. Held in Adelaide, won by Adelaide 8-1

Pre-War years

In April 1908 he became engaged to Phoebe F Hawkes (Born the 28th of January 1887), the eldest daughter of Mrs C.R. Hawkes, of Illabrook, Marlborough Street, College Park. The couple married at the Methodist Church, Kent Town, on the 20th of March 1909.

John then practiced at Woodside and in August 1909, he became a member of the committee of the Onkaparinga Agricultural Society, replacing Dr S.M. Verco in that role.

In August 1909, John and Phoebe had a lucky escape when the pole gear broke away on their buggy on the return journey from the Balhannah station.



On the 19th of December 1909 John and Phoebe's daughter, Lucy Web Verco, was born at Woodside.

In May 1910, John was involved in helping contain an outbreak of diphtheria at Oakbank. Geoffrey Webb Verco was born on the 11th of January 1913 at Woodside.

By 1914, John was back in the city and still involved with his old college as he acted as an official at the Intercollegiate Sports in April.

He commenced to practice at 98 Payneham Road, St Peters which was also his residence near the corner of Nelson Street, Stepney.

World War I

In December 1914, John was appointed honorary assistant medical officer of the Queen's Home, Rose Park.

DR. VERCO.

Dr. R. J. Verco has been appointed an honorary assistant medical officer of the Queen's Home, Rose Park, to fill the temporary vacancy caused by the departure of Dr. H. K. Fry with the Expeditionary Force.

In April 1916, John was appointed acting assistant physician at the Adelaide Hospital. From the 2nd of October 1916, he was appointed an honorary Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corp Reserve. By 1917, John was practicing at both Payneham Road and at North Terrace in the City.

John joined the AAMC on the 24th of March 1918, but did not embark for the UK until the 30th of November 1918, when hostilities had already ceased. He arrived in the UK in January 1919, but there was still much to be done.

John and Phoebe's second son, John Webb Verco, was born on the 3rd of August 1919, while John was still in the UK. John returned to Australia on the 9th of November 1919 on the troop ship *SS Mahana* and was discharged on the 25th of November 1919.

. THE MAHANA.

The troopship *Mahana* arrived at the Semaphore shortly after 1 p.m. on Saturday. There were 34 men and also 33 women and four children for this State. They were transferred at the Anchorage on to a launch, which conveyed them to the Outer Harbor wharf, where they were heartily welcomed. Captain N. Campbell represented the S.O.I. and R.S., and Lieut. F. Heithersay conducted the disembarkation. Lieut. R. Buller represented the Naval Commandant. The Y.M.C.A. provided refreshments for the men. Officers landed were Captain R. J. Verco and Sisters M. H. Gordon and M. H. Gurner. Corporal J. Goutts was the only extra man, and Gunner B. Cowling did not arrive. Those who went on with the vessel, on duty, were Lieuts. R. G. Beverley and D. P. Lees, and Sergeant R. A. Grant, M.M.

Post-War Career and Family Life

On his return from overseas service John registered a 22.5 Ford motor car and in early December he recommenced his practice at 98 Payneham Road, St Peters and at North Terrace.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.
Dr. R. J. VERCO has returned from Active Service, has RESUMED PRACTICE, and may be consulted at VERCO BUILDINGS, NORTH-TERRACE, and at PAYNEHAM-ROAD, ST. PETERS.
N337,9-40

On the 11th of November 1920, John was driving his car on King William Street when he was involved in an accident which resulted in the death of an elderly man.

Casualties.

KNOCKED DOWN BY A DOCTOR'S CAR.

The City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) conducted an enquiry at the Deputation Room, Education Building, on Monday concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Harris Stringer, who was knocked over by a motor car in King William street on the evening of November 11, and died a few hours later at the Adelaide Hospital. Mr. F. Kelly represented Dr. R. J. Verco, of St. Peters. Mr. P. A. Moss, of Barton terrace, North Adelaide, stated that deceased, who was an old-age pensioner, had lived at Hanton court (off Pulteney street), was about 80 years of age, and had relatives in Melbourne. Dr. Verco said that at about 9 o'clock on the night in question he was proceeding in his motor car northward along King William street, and when near to the Col. Light statue commenced to pull up the car to allow a tram to pass before he turned into Flinders street. He then noticed deceased two or three yards in front of the motor, and proceeding towards the middle of the street. Witness applied the brakes, but the radiator struck the right side of the deceased, who, in falling to the roadway, made an unsuccessful effort to save himself by catching hold of the mudguard. Witness conveyed him to the hospital. Dr. S. E. Francis (Resident Medical Officer) stated that deceased on admission to the institution was suffering from a fracture of the skull and cerebral hemorrhage, which could have been caused by an impact or by a crushing of some sort, and which injuries resulted in his death. The Coroner stated that the police had not been able to discover any one who actually saw the accident. The verdict was that Stringer died from injuries accidentally received by colliding with a motor car.

In December 1923, John was appointed an official visitor to the Mental Hospital, Parkside.

By March 1929, John was a golfer, playing at Kooyonga Links.

In December 1931, John's brother (Sydney Manton Verco) died after several months of illness, he was 54 years old.

John and Phoebe travelled to the UK and the Continent in 1932. Their ship, the P and O Steam Navigation Company Ltd vessel, *Maloja*, left Adelaide on the 31st of March 1932 and arrived in London, England on the 6th of May 1932. They are listed as returning to Adelaide onboard the *Balranald* which left London on the 14th of October 1932, but it may have been delayed as they are also recorded as leaving London on the *Narkunda* on the 18th of November 1932.

In February 1933, John's son Geoffrey skippered the South Australian 21-foot yacht Carina to a win in the Forster Cup.

Tragedy struck the Verco family when John's father (John Verco) passed away in late July 1933 and John's uncle, Sir Joseph Verco passed away in early August 1933. Dr WA Verco, Dr R John Verco, Dr J Stanley Verco and Dr Ronald L Verco all attended the funeral of Sir Joseph Verco.

John represented the doctors of SA at the Australian Medical Congress in Hobart in January 1934 and by August 1935 he was treasurer of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association.

In 1937, John and Phoebe's elder son, Geoffrey Webb Verco gained his MB BS from Adelaide University.

John played in the doctor's annual golf contest in June 1938.

June 1938 – Doctors at Golf



Dr. R. F. Matters (left) and Dr. R. J. Verco (right)

World War II

In December 1939, Dr. Geoffrey Webb Verco, son of Dr. and Mrs. John Verco, Payneham Road, St. Peters married Miss Betty Primrose Sawers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Sawers, of Stannington Avenue, Marryatville at St. Peter's College Chapel.

By 1940, John was the State president of the British Medical Association and he made many statements to the papers as part of that role on topics including the selection of doctors for military service, the use of alien doctors

during the war, the proposed national medical scheme, the impact on hospitals due to the depletion of women power, subsidies for university students and 'when not to call a doctor'.



President of the SA branch of the British Medical Association, 1940-1943

Both of John and Phoebe's sons served in WWII, Geoffrey (SX10746) was a Captain in the 2nd 10th Infantry Battalion and John (SX17092) was a Private. John became seriously ill and has left the AIF prior to June 1944.

Post World War II

In December 1945, John's sister (Jane Elizabeth Verco), died at her home at Balham Ave, Kingswood. She was 66 years old and had been in ill health.

In March 1946, John was a delegate for South Australia at the Federal Council of the British Medical Association meeting in Sydney. He also represented SA at the BMA Federal Council in Melbourne in June 1948.

In May 1950 John's son Dr Geoffrey Verco was made a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

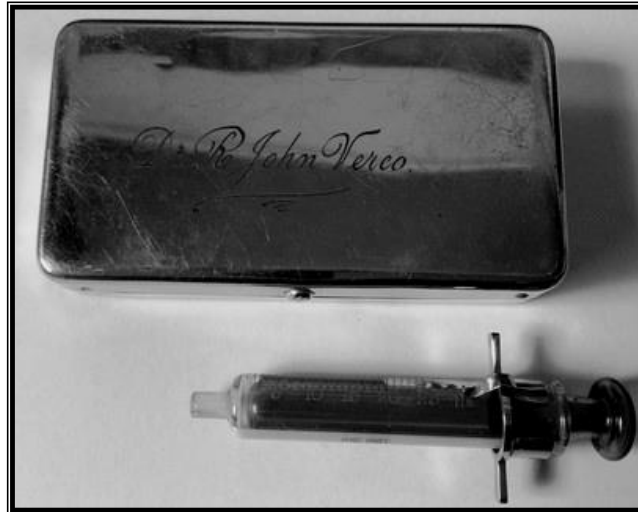
Death

Reginald John Verco passed away on the 5th of June 1950, aged 64 years and was buried at the North Road Cemetery. Phoebe Frances Verco passed away in 1972.

<h2>Death Of Dr. John Verco</h2> <p>Dr. Reginald John Verco, senior SA delegate on the BMA Federal council, died at his home, Payreham road, St. Peters, on Monday night.</p> <p>Dr. Verco, who was 64, had been confined to his home by illness for three months after an attack of coronary thrombosis.</p> <p>During World War II, he was State BMA president for the unusually long term of three years (1940-43) and was SA delegate on the BMA Federal council for the past seven years.</p> <p>Dr. Verco was a son of the late Mr. John Verco, of Adelaide, and a nephew of the late Sir Joseph Verco, a distinguished SA doctor.</p>	<p>The late Dr. Verco's cousin, Dr. J. S. Verco, is president of the Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.</p> <p>The late Dr. Verco was educated at Prince Alfred College and graduated top of his year at the University of Adelaide 43 years ago.</p> <p>He was a member of the SA Council of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association.</p> <p>Dr. Verco leaves a widow, Mrs. Phoebe Verco, a daughter, Miss Lucy Verco, and two sons, Dr. Geoffrey Verco and Mr. John Verco.</p> <p>A private funeral will leave Dr. Verco's late residence at 11.30 a.m. today for the North Road Cemetery.</p> <p>A colleague said last night:— "Dr. Verco was one of the best loved practitioners in the State. He spent himself in the interests of his patients. He had been in practice at St. Peters for nearly 37 years."</p>
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Family Legacy

The syringe case pictured below belonged to Dr R John Verco and is now held at the Health Museum of South Australia.



Geoffrey and Betty Verco had four children, Gillian, Rosemary, Vanessa, and John (all born before 1952).

Building a family dynasty

Story by Ben Osborne

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/lumen/issues/66602/news66686.html>

For more than 100 years the Verco family—headed by Sir Joseph Cooke Verco—has been a towering influence on medicine, dentistry and the University of Adelaide.

In 1840, a young stonemason named James Crabb Verco arrived in Adelaide to help build the new colony of South Australia.

Nearly 175 years later, his contribution to the State can be measured in far more than mere bricks and mortar. He began a family dynasty which over the generations has made a huge contribution to South Australia through its strong links with the University of Adelaide.

More than 15 direct descendants have earned qualifications from the University, with the majority of those coming from the fields of medicine and dentistry.

The broader family contains many other distinguished Adelaide names including Magarey, McMichael and Ludbrook, and not least of all J. Robin Warren, who graduated in medicine in 1961 before going on to win the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2005.

James' fourth son, Sir Joseph Cooke Verco, was closely involved with the University through his involvement in both medicine and dentistry.

But it was a contribution that nearly did not happen: he left school at the age of 16 and began work as a clerk in the railways at Kapunda.

He quickly realised it was not the type of career he had envisaged and returned to school and studied classics before matriculating.

After studying medicine in London for most of the 1870s, he returned to Adelaide in 1878 to pursue his career--a move that coincided with the rise of the newly formed University.

In 1885, along with Edward Stirling, he helped found the University of Adelaide Medical School, a move made possible with funding from Sir Thomas Elder and Mr J.H. Angas.

Sir Joseph's nephew, William Alfred, was one of the first graduates from the new Medical School in 1890. But reprising his family's masonry past, in 1912 he helped build the first pre-stressed concrete building in Adelaide, with the engineer being none other than General Sir John Monash.

Located at the corner of North Terrace and Stephens Place, the Verco Building was six stories high and remained Adelaide's tallest building for some 20 years. Sir Joseph also played a major role in establishing the University's Dental School after World War I, acting as Dean from 1920 to 1928. At the time he was also Dean of Medicine.

These twin streams of medicine and dentistry have continued to intertwine with the Verco family ever since.

Several of James Crabb Verco's grandchildren went on to make significant contributions in both fields. Stanley and Peter Verco were pioneers in radiology, and Dr Peter Joseph Willis (Joe) Verco was the first graduate of the University in the specialty of Paediatric Dentistry, and just the second in Australia.

Joe is also the only dentist to have been awarded a Baillieu Medical Research Grant for postgraduate work.

His two brothers, Christopher and William, both have medical qualifications from the University—Medicine and Dentistry respectively—while his son Sam also obtained a dental and medical degree and is now specialising in oral and maxillo-facial surgery.

"We are obviously proud of our name and those that have come before us, and that there are expectations," Joe Verco said.

"But I think it's equally as gratifying that we can give back in other ways. Three generations of Vercos served across the Australian Defence Forces in the major wars of the 20th century.

"Some of our patients have also gone on to become doctors and dentists. It is gratifying to see that for those who follow, we can help to shape their professional career paths."

Vercos with University of Adelaide qualifications*

Sir Joseph Cooke Verco, co-founder of Adelaide Medical and Dental Schools

Dr William A Verco (MBBS 1890)

Dr Reginald John Verco (MBBS 1907)

Dr J Stanley Verco (MBSS 1913)

Dr Ron Verco (MBBS 1928)

Dr Geoffrey Verco (MBBS 1937)

Dr Luke Verco (MBBS 1940)

Dr Peter W. Verco (MBBS 1940, MD 1942)

Dr Patricia Verco Wyllie (MBBS 1965)

Dr Christopher J Verco (MBBS 1972)

Dr P Joseph W Verco (BDS 1973, BSc (Dent) Hons. 1975, MDS 1977)

Dr William J Verco (BDS 1976)

Dr Rose Verco (M Pub Hlth 1993)

Dr Samuel Joseph Verco (BDS 2001)

Penny Verco (B Ag Sc - Hons 2002)

Annabel Verco (B Com (Acc) 2003, LLB Hons. 2005)

Susanna Verco (B Ag Sc 2006, Grad Dip Ed 2007)

**This list is a representation of Verco graduates and is not a complete listing.*

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