

# Capt. Laurence Algernon Wilson



**Played with Adelaide University** 



Cricket Club: A & B Grades (1915/16)

**Degree: MB BS (1918)** 

## **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 Laurence Algernon Wilson. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

(Those men who enlisted, but either because of cessation of hostilities or other reasons did not serve overseas are still included in the list of AUFC & AUCC players recognised as serving their Country. Our men who enlisted later in 1918 were not to know that Germany would surrender on 11th November 1918 and so their courage and commitment to serve should still be recognised.)

**AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** 

## **Service Record**

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=2013278

(The record is incorrectly titled Lawrence Algernon Wilson on the National Archives of Australia website)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.  AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.  Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.  No. Name Surname WILSON in full Christian Name AURENCE PLAERNON Unit			
		Joined on 18 JUN	1918
		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!	Lamence Olgenow Wilson
			2.
2. In or near what Town were you born?	In or near the Town of Nouvosa		
3. Are you a natural loss British Subject or a Naturalized UEDIAL STUDENTS papers to be	In the State or Country of Paulla Queline		
EnViste under M. O. No. 210 of 25/5/18	2 hylens. gut Dept. 1896		
5. What is A. I. F. Standing Orders 4.a.	Medical Oluant 5th year.		
6. Are you so have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, ?	No		
to w has and for what period?  7. Are ye married, singe, or widower!	Ringle.		
	(Father) WILSON, ALGERNON THE		
8. Who year next of hin? (Address and relationship to be at all of the parties at this question shell not be overtrued as in the nature	BOUTH AUSTRALIA		
	AVENUE ST PETERS		
Vin is your permanent address in Australia!			
10. Do rod now belong to, or have you ever account in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Millian Reaction of Territorial Perce, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces, the control of the Millian Reaction	10 Ale 4 yes. Leans lity 78. Infantry.		
atale were 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?	11.40.		
13. Have you ever suffered from :-	13,-		
1. Consumption, tubercular disease, or chronic cough? 2. Fits of any kind!	200		
3. Rheumatism or asthma?	3.NO 18		
4. Mental or nervous disease?	4.NO 3		
5. Has any member of your family suffered from any of the above diseases? If so, state particulars.	5.10		
4. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—	14		
No you understand that no esperation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ton shillings per day?	Charles de Carrer de Carre		
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox	15.4/20.		
Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the	do solemnly declare that the above answers made hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth.		
for the support of my wife and children.	L. a. Wilson		
Date 1 8 111 1010	Signature of Person Enlisted.		
This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarries † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are cl			

## **Published Biography**

**"Blood, Sweat and Fears"** ISBN: 978-0-64692-750-3 Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australia who served in WW1; C Verco, A Summers, T Swain & M Jelly. July 2014

## **WILSON Laurence Algernon**

MB BS FRACS

1896 - 1989



Laurence Algernon Wilson was born on 3rd September 1896 at Norwood, South Australia. He was the son of Algernon Theodore Wilson and Lillian Charlotte, nee Laurence. He was the grandson of Charles Algernon Wilson whose extensive diary, in the South Australian State Library, documented his journey from England to South Australia in 1838. Wilson was educated at St Peter's College and studied medicine at the University of Adelaide, graduating MB BS in 1918.

Wilson enlisted in the AIF on 18th June 1918 when he was a 5th year medical student. Prior to enlistment he had served four years as a senior cadet. He was 21 years and 9 months of age 5ft 11ins tall and weighed 152lbs of fair complexion with blue eyes and fair hair. His father was named as next of kin and they lived at 6th Avenue, St Peters, South Australia. Wilson completed his medical degree at the end of the 1918 academic year and was granted the rank of captain on 25th November 1918. His appointment was terminated on 1st February 1919 and it was recorded that he had 50 days of war service in the AIF home service.

Wilson married Nance Mildred Lamphee on 30th August 1924 at the St Peter's College Chapel. Nance was the sister of Alan Dunstone Lamphee. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1932. At the beginning of WW2 after recruit training at Wayville in November 1939 he moved into Woodside Camp in South Australia as an honorary captain. Laurence Algernon Wilson died in 1989.

#### Sources:

http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/archivaldocs/PRG/PRG1399\_3\_1\_WilsonDiary\_transcript,pdf
http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/
ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=2013278
The Daily Herald Adelaide 13 December 1918
The Adelaide Advertiser 25 January 1913
The Register Adelaide 31 October 1924
http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.
html?option=com\_search&ref=search

## **Early Life**

Laurence Algernon (Laurie) Wilson was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1896, the elder son of Algernon Theodore King Wilson and Lillian Charlotte Laurence at Norwood, South Australia (SA Birth Registration 589/447). His Grandfather Charles Algernon Wilson (1818 - 1884) had arrived in South Australia in April 1838 on board the Duke of Roxburgh.

WILSON.—On the 3rd September, at Osmondterrace, Norwood, the wife of Algernon T. K. Wilson, of a son.



Algernon Theodore King Wilson QC

Laurie's father was a solicitor and a partner in the firm Wilson and Genders.

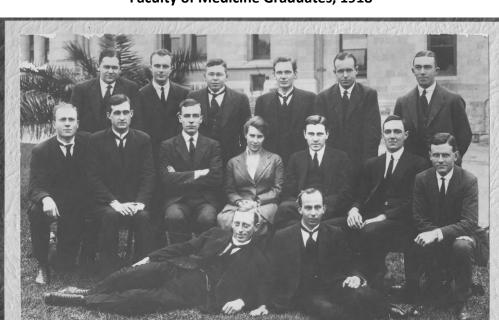
His younger brother Keith Cameron Wilson (later a solicitor and politician) was born on Laurie's fourth birthday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1900.

#### Schooling

Laurie attended St Peter's College, Adelaide and he passed his Primary examinations in October 1909, Senior Examinations in 1911 and 1912 and Higher Public Examinations in 1913. While at St Peter's College, Laurie was a Senior Cadet for four years.

### **Adelaide University**

Laurie passed Compulsory Biology at Adelaide University in November 1913 and commenced studying medicine full time at Adelaide University in 1914. Laurie graduated MB BS in 1918.



### Faculty of Medicine Graduates, 1918

L.A. Wilson – Middle Row – Third from Left

Standing – Left to Right- J. McNeil, W.K. Collins, H.R. Pomroy, R. Cilento, C. Gurner, K.W. Bollen,
Sitting – Left to Right J. Keipert, B. Shanasy (non-graduate), L.A. Wilson, P. McGlew, D.R. Wallmann, P.S. Messent, R.L.T. Grant,
Front (left to right): W. Webb (non-graduate), L.W. Linn

#### **University Sport**

#### Cricket

Laurie played cricket for Adelaide University in the 1915/16 season, playing most of his games in B Grade. He did however play an A Grade Game, when after being initially named as an emergency, he replaced C.E. "Nip" Pellew. Pellew was originally named, but after having enlisted in the AIF in June 1915 and still based in South Australia, was possibly unable to get leave from the army camp.



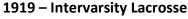
Daily Herald (Adelaide Mon 15 Nov 19	
PORT ADELAIDE	V UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY. First Iunings.  A. G. Moyes, b. Alford	PORT ADELAJDE First Innings R. J. Moromey, c. and b. Willsmore W. I. Boon c. Limb, b. Mander B. D. Prikohard, b. Northey M. James, stpd. Limb, b. Jose W. Thurgariand, b. Moyes W. M. Alford, b. Moyes W. M. Alford, b. Moyes C. R. Brundell, c. and b. Northey G. Harris, b. Jose L. Scott, c. Jose, b. Rayner F. Brook, c. Moyes, b. Northey N. Fraser, not out Extras 11
Total	Total 284
P. D. Rundell	Bowling O. M. R. W A. G. Moyes 18 5 66 2 H. B. Willsmore 8 1 27 1 I. B. Jose 19 93 H. L. Rayner 31 10 1 G. D. Northey 10 2 51 F. H. Beare 6 19 L. A. Mander 9 1 28 1

#### Rifle Club

Laurie was a member of the Adelaide University Rifle Club and represented the University regularly at shooting matches in 1914 and 1915.

#### Lacrosse

Laurie played lacrosse for Adelaide University in 1914 (C Grade), 1915 (B Grade). In 1916, senior lacrosse matches were suspended due to WWI. When senior lacrosse recommenced in 1919, Laurie represented the Adelaide University in A Grade and represented Adelaide University in the 1919 Intervarsity match against Melbourne University. While Adelaide was defeated in this match, Laurie was among the best players.





L.A. Wilson – Back Row – Second from Left
Back row: C.G.Evans (emerg.), L.Wilson, D.A.Dowling, H.M.Fisher,J.L.McGee, H.N.Rees, R.Walmsley (emerg.)
Front: H.R.Othams, R.T.Grant, H.K.Pavy (capt), N.R.Bennett, A.K.Gault, K.J.Healy.
Held in Melbourne, won by Melbourne 8-5

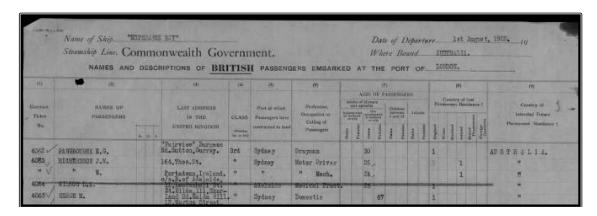
#### World War I

Laurie enlisted for WWI on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1918, while still in his fifth year of medical studies. He was 21 years 9 months of age. Laurie completed 50 days of home-service; he did not serve overseas due to hostilities ceasing on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918. Laurie was appointed a Captain on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 and was discharged on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1919.

#### **Career and Family Life**

Laurie was appointed a resident medical officer at Adelaide Hospital from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1919. He was an applicant for the 1920 Rhodes Scholarship which was won by Howard Florey. From at least April 1920, Laurie was practicing medicine at Kadina, Yorke Peninsula, SA with his uncle Dr C.E.C. Wilson. At Kadina, Laurie's main sport was golf. He was second in the B Grade Championships at the Kadina Golf Club in 1920, losing in a playoff. He was at Kadina until at least October 1920.

Laurie then went overseas to study and may have returned to Australia onboard the *Esperance Bay,* which departed from London, England on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1922, however the entry on the passenger list appears to have been struck out. Laurie was back in Australia before January 1923.



In January 1923, Laurie was practicing at the Yorketown Hospital on Yorke Peninsula and in February 1923, he was relieving Dr J. "Ian" McNeill at Pinnaroo.

In September 1923, Laurie was practicing at Woodside and was appointed as a health officer for the district of Onkaparinga, SA. In 1924, he was a vice-president of the Hills Association (football), Honorary Surgeon of the Woodside Racing Club and on the committee for the Woodside Show.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1924, Laurie married Nance Mildred Lamphee, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phill Lamphee, at St Peter's College Chapel.

MARRIAGES.

WILSON—LAMPHEE.—On the 30th August, at St. Peter's College Chapel, by the Ven. Archideacon Clampett, Laurence Algernon, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. K. Wilson, St. Peters, to Nance Mildred, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Lamphee, Unley Park.

By June 1925, Laurie had a practice at Gawler Chambers, North Terrace, Adelaide. Sadly, Laurie and Keith's father, A.T.K. Wilson, passed away suddenly in August 1925.

Death this morning removed from the legal profession one of its oldest and most respected members in Mr. Wilson, who was 62 years old: He was son of Mr. C. A. Wilson (Registrar Probates many years ago). and Peter's was educated St. Colat lege. He was admitted to the Bare in July, 1886, and was a member of the firm of Wilson & Genders at the time of his death. Mr. Wilson was absorbed in his profession, being of the old school family lawyers, and his advice and judgment upon questions of probate and sucession duties were valued by solicitors. Mr. Wilson has left a widow and two sons, Dr. L. A. Wilson, of Unley, and sons, Dr. J. A. Wilson, of Unley, and Mr. K. C. Wilson, of the firm of Wilson and Genders.

Laurie and Nance's first child, a son, John Grenell Wilson, was born in 1926.

In 1927, Laurie was chairman of the SA branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association and by 1927, he had a surgery on Unley Road.

Laurie and Nance's second child, a daughter, Rosemary Nance Wilson was born in 1928.

By December 1929, Laurie was a member of the Board of management of the Children's Hospital.

Laurie played in the Doctors' golf tournament in 1930 and was a member at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club from at least 1931.

In February 1931 Laurie attended the fifth annual general meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) in Melbourne. He was admitted as a Fellow of the RACS in February 1932.

In March 1933, Laurie played cricket for the Children's Hospital in their annual match against the Adelaide Hospital.



Laurie and Nance's second son, Laurence Leigh (Leigh) Wilson, was born in about 1933.

From 1937, Laurie was a clinical lecturer in the surgical diseases of children at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Adelaide. From 1938, Laurie was on the honorary medical staff of the Children's Hospital and in November 1938, he became Chairman of the honorary medical staff at the Children's Hospital.

In April 1938, Laurence's motor car was destroyed in a fire at Brighton.

He was appointed the British Medical Association representative on the Nurses' Registration Board in 1939.

In 1939, Laurie played again in the annual doctors' golf day, held that year at Kooyonga Golf Club at Lockleys.

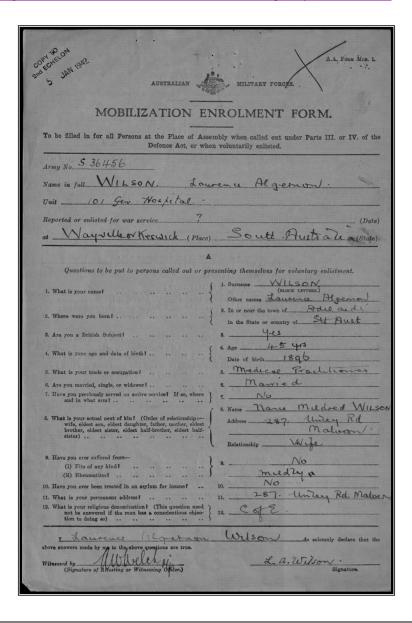


Laurie (left) with Dr Guy Lendon

#### **World War II**

In November 1939, Laurie was restored to the rank of Honorary Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corp and he attended at camp for 19 days during April and May 1940.

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=6342001



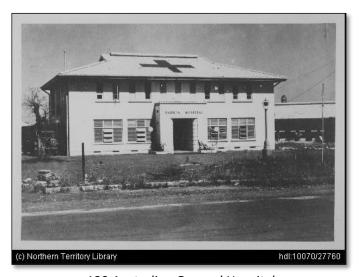
On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1941, Laurie enlisted (SN S36456). He was 44½ years old, 6' tall and 196 lbs. His wife, Nance, was his next-of-kin. The couple were living at 287 Unley Road, Malvern. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1941, Laurie was appointed as a Temporary Major. His promotion to Major was confirmed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1942.



Dr L.A. Wilson - Enlistment Photograph

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 194,2 he was called up for full time duty at the 101 AGH (Australian General Hospital - Adelaide). On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 1943, he entrained for the Northern Territory Line of Communication Area. As a result of his transfer interstate, Laurie's position on the Nurses' Board was taken by Dr. A.B.Russell.

In March 1944, he was detached to the 129 AGH (Australian General Hospital – Darwin), Darwin Hospital which had been taken over by the military after the Japanese bombing in 1942.



129 Australian General Hospital

In January 1945, Laurie was transferred to the 110 Military Hospital - Perth. He was then transferred to the 118 AGH (118 Australian General Hospital - Northam, WA) in March 1945 and to the 101 AGH (Australian General Hospital – Northfield, SA) in May 1945. The 101 AGH, originally formed at Woodside, SA, had relocated to Katherine, NT during 1943 and relocated to Northfield, SA in November 1944 at the Morris Hospital (a former infectious diseases hospital) and was retained as a military hospital until 1948. Laurie was discharged on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1945 and taken on the Reserve of Officers List on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1945. Laurie continued to undertake medical duties for the AAMC on medical boards at various times until October 1946.

#### **Post WWII**

In November 1946, Laurie was appointed a lecturer in surgical diseases of children with the Division of Surgical Studies, Adelaide University.

Laurie and Nance moved to Commercial Road, Hyde Park in September 1951.

In June 1952 Laurie and Nance commenced a cruise on the *Kanimba*, however the ship had engine problems and the couple returned from Brisbane by air.

Laurie and Nance's daughter, Rosemary, attended Walford House School and Woodlands Girls' School. She qualified as a nurse in 1950. In 1951, she went to England and travelled in the Scandinavian countries. She arrived back in Adelaide in January 1952 after nine months overseas. In May 1954, she moved to Perth, WA to continue nursing at the Royal Perth Hospital. She planned to be in WA for six months and then returned to Adelaide in December 1954.

John Grenell Wilson and Laurence Leigh Wilson both attended St Peter's College and Adelaide University and gained their MB BS in 1949 and 1956 respectively. John married Yvette Kay, the daughter of Mrs. and the late Rev. L.G. Kay in August 1953. John went on to practice at Renmark in December 1953.

Laurie and Nance left Australia from Sydney in 1959 onboard the *Orion* which arrived in London, England on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1959. The couple arrived back in Fremantle, Australia on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1959 on Qantas Empire Airways Em 534/185 from Rome, Italy. The couple's address in Adelaide was 35 Commercial Road, Hyde Park.

As most South Australian newspapers are only available digitally until December 1954, no further details on Laurie's and Nance's lives are known until their deaths.

#### Death

Nance Mildred Wilson passed away on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1988, aged 87 years. She had been a resident of Walkerville prior to her death. She was buried at Enfield Memorial Park, Adelaide.

Laurence Algernon Wilson passed away on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1989, aged 93 and was buried with Nance in the family plot at Enfield Memorial Park, Adelaide.



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

## **Sources and Acknowledgements**

RSL Virtual War Memorial <a href="https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/">https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/</a>

https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/565824

The National Archives of Australia <a href="http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/">http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/</a>
Australian War Memorial <a href="https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/">https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/</a>

The Adelaide University <a href="http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/">http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/</a>
Faculty of Medicine, Graduates, 1918 <a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2440/39525">http://hdl.handle.net/2440/39525</a>

Intervarsity Lacrosse, 1919 <a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2440/58592">http://hdl.handle.net/2440/58592</a>

The National Library of Australia <a href="http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/">http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/</a>

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Laurence Algernon Wilson)

SA Genealogy <a href="https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html">https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html</a>

Ancestry.com.au

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