

## Arthur W. Piper, K.C.



- Norwood Patron - 1920-1935
- Norwood Chairman - 1905-1919
- Norwood Committee Member 1905 -1915; 1919.

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/piper-arthur-william-8507>

Arthur William Piper was born on 5 July 1865 at Faversham, Kent, the eldest son of Thomas (a clergyman) and Elizabeth Yelland. Arthur had a brother and two sisters and the family came to Adelaide from England when his father was appointed to Adelaide as a resident minister. In Adelaide, Arthur won a scholarship to Prince Alfred College and was articled to Fleming, Boucaut & Ashton in 1881-85. Admitted to the Bar on 24 July 1886 at the tender age of 21. He entered partnership with F. A. Joyner. In 1892 he joined the firm of Symon, Bakewell & Stow (in 1897-1922 Bakewell, Stow & Piper; later Piper, Bakewell & Piper). He worked up an extensive practice, especially in commercial cases. On 7 August 1889 at Middleton he had married Edna Elizabeth Counter, and they had two daughters and six sons.

From 1892, Piper was a member of the board of examiners of the Supreme Court and from 1906 he lectured in commercial law at the University of Adelaide. He was appointed a King's Counsel (KC) in 1911. After he had refused an offer in 1919, his appointment as justice of the Supreme Court in 1927 was welcomed both for his 'forensic qualities' and his 'splendid personality'. His erudition enabled him to handle any case with ease, he dealt expeditiously with the most involved problems, and he was a 'prodigious worker'. He served as president of the Law Society of South Australia for a total of five years, his second appointment being in the year before he died.

A Federationist, Piper was an official guest at the ceremonies in 1901 in Melbourne and Sydney. A member of the Australian National League, he represented it at the conference which resulted in the formation in 1910 of the Liberal Union whose constitution he drafted and of which he was president in 1916-19.

In 1894 Piper had joined the council of Prince Alfred College. Following a quarrel with W. G. Torr, headmaster of Way College, Piper joined Stow Memorial Congregational Church and became a deacon there. He was also grand master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of South Australia in 1919-24.

Piper generously supported many of Norwood's sporting bodies. He was a founding member of the Norwood Bowls Club, but gave up the game when he moved out of the district (perhaps when they took up residence at 91 Wattle Street, Fullarton). He was chairman of the committee that established the Norwood Oval.

He was an active member of the Royal Geographical Society, the Liberal Union, then the Liberal Federation, South Australian Literary Societies' Union, and the River Murray League, and served as President or Vice-President of each.

He was a candidate for the House of Assembly seat of Torrens in 1910, but lost in a general move to Labor.

Survived by his wife and seven children, Piper died of cancer on 19 February 1936 and was buried in Mitcham cemetery.

*Chris Brown, August 2022*

#### Sources:

R. W. Piper, 'Piper, Arthur William (1865–1936)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University.

Wikipedia website – Arthur William Piper.