

WWI Profile: Joseph Clyde Knox 1897-1983

By NORMA ECKARD AND AMY ECKARD
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Joseph Clyde "Joe" Knox was born in Brunswick County, son of John Joseph Knox and Minnie Irene Drew. The 1900 Census and 1910 Census shows the family lived in Town Creek. His father was a farmer.

Joe's brother, George Edward Knox, also served in World War I. He was living in Waycross, Ga., when he became a 1st Lt. on Aug. 5, 1917, by way of the National Guard. He served in the 106th Engineers, 31st Division, serving overseas until July 3, 1919.

Joe attended school at Trinity Park School in Durham. Perhaps this advertisement in The Wilmington Morning Star (1910, July 8, p4) motivated his parents to send Joe.

Trinity Park School operated from 1898 to 1922 to

better prepare young people for undergraduate work at Trinity College and other institutions. In a prospectus prepared prior to the opening of the school on Sept. 7, 1898, it explains that "many young men apply for entrance to Trinity and are found upon examination unprepared and hence are not admitted."

The Trinity Park High School, as it was then known, was located on the northwest corner of the present-day East Campus of Duke University, where the Mary Duke Biddle Music Building and the Branson Building now stand.

Over time, the public school system improved in North Carolina. As these schools improved, fewer students attended Trinity Park School. In summer 1922, the Board of Trustees decided to close the school, and use the buildings and space for the growing undergraduate class.

Although the school no longer exists, several buildings still stand as part of the East Campus of Duke University. (Source: Duke University Libraries, Guide to the Trinity Park School Collection).

Joe was an accomplished student at Trinity Park School. In 1916, he was an honor student and recipient of a school scholarship, according to The Charlotte Observer (1916, June 7; p8).

In 1917, he was a manager for Commencement (The Wilmington Morning Star, 1917, June 1; p.6).

At his graduation in 1918, which was held earlier due to war conditions, Joe was again recognized as an honor student, meeting the requirements of an average of 90 or more for the year. He also was the winner of a four-year tuition scholarship to Trinity College (now known as Duke University). [Sources: The Durham Morning Herald; 1918, May

4; p3; Greensboro Daily News, 1918, May 5; p17.] A previous post introduced the Students Army Training Corps.

Joe did not become eligible for the draft until the registration of Sept. 12, 1918. His draft registration shows he was a student and farmer, living with his parents in Leland. His description includes that he was medium height and stout.

When the SATC became active in October 1918, Joe met the physical and educational admission requirements and volunteered. He was accepted and ordered to report for duty on Oct. 28, 1918, at Trinity College (now known as Duke University), a Collegiate Section from NC.

The Nov. 11 Armistice ended their training and the SATC was demobilized. Pvt. Knox was honorably discharged on Dec. 11, 1918. He remained at Trinity/Duke College.


Joe completed his freshman year. The Chanticleer is the title of Trinity/Duke yearbook. However, that year (1919) the yearbook was named Victory, in celebration of the end of the war and to commemorate the 21 Trinity College students who lost their lives in World War I.

The 1919 and 1920 yearbooks include many photos of Joe based on his activities, as well as class photos. The activities are listed in the 1920 yearbook. All yearbooks are available online in the NC Archives.

After completing two years at Trinity, Joe entered medical school at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Four years later, in 1924, he graduated. [Source: 1924 University of Maryland, Baltimore Yearbook Terra Mariae, p25].

Joe and Martha Cox were married in Belton, S.C. on June 27, 1931. The Greenville News (Greenville,

JOSEPH CLYDE KNOX
North Carolina
Nu Sigma Nu, Iota Phi, Randolph Winslow Surgical Society, Spencer Pathological Society, Wylie Biochemical Society.



AS a true son of Carolina, Joe has never faltered. Quiet, unassuming, he has ever remained a "Gentleman from the South." His philosophy of life is interesting. Never hurries—for he still gauges his pace to twenty steps per minute. Never worries—tomorrow will take care of itself. He does a given amount of work in a day. No more—no less.
Joe's specialty is to be a pediatrician. May he have much success with the children.

Yearbook picture, 1924 graduation from University of Maryland medical school.

SC), covered the wedding the following day on page 14. "The bride received her education at Greenville Woman's college and has taught art in the schools of Winston-Salem for several years, also doing recreational work there and in New York."

The 1935 Duke Alumni Register includes details of his life between 1924 and 1935.

In the Aug. 11, 1935, issue of the News and Observer appears the photograph and an article about Dr. Joseph Clyde Knox, state epidemiologist, who has been in the spotlight of the state and nation since the outbreak of infantile paralysis. Quoting from the article:

"When nationally known experts arrived in the state to study means of controlling the malady, they found his office prepared to offer them every assistance, particularly as to records, and they complimented the State Board of Health for having done everything possible during the emergency.

Dr. Knox was trained largely to cope with ailments of children. After leaving his native health in Brunswick County, he went to the University of Maryland and was graduated there in 1924. For the next four years he practiced

in children's hospitals, including one in New York, another in Baltimore, the University of Iowa's children's hospital and the University of Oregon children's hospital. He majored in contagious diseases, and saw quite a bit of infantile paralysis. He spent a year at Harvard and got his master's degree in public health.

"After practicing pediatrics in Goldsboro for a while, Dr. Knox came to the State Board of Health in 1932 and has been there since in the division of epidemiology. He is married and has two children."

The 1940 Census shows Knox continued his work at the State Board of Health, living with his wife and two children in a brick home on Clark Avenue in Raleigh, which still exists today.

In 1941, Joe and his family moved to Wilmington, N.C. The announcement shown was printed in The Sunday Star-News (Wilmington, NC), on July 9, 1941, p4. The story included details of his education:

"He was graduated from the medical school of the University of Maryland and interned at the Church home and infirmary, Baltimore, and the Children's hospital of the University of Iowa. He served as resident physician at the Doernbecher Hospital for

Children in Portland, Ore., and instructor in pediatrics at the University of Oregon medical school. He also was resident physician at the Willard Parker hospital for contagious diseases in New York. Doctor Knox received his master's degree in public health from Harvard University." [Source: Chronically America].

Dr. Joseph Clyde Knox passed away on Sept. 27, 1983, at age 85. He was laid to rest in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington. His wife Martha had passed away just three months earlier. No military honors are shown.

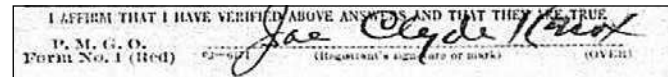
The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range announced that orders are now being taken for the book commemorating Brunswick County men and women who served in the Great War, written to ensure they will not be forgotten. The publication has 584 pages that follow veterans through the war describing divisions, major battles, medals awarded and men who were killed in action, wounded, died of wounds and died of disease. Send a check for \$56, which includes shipping cost, to the following address: Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, Inc., 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.



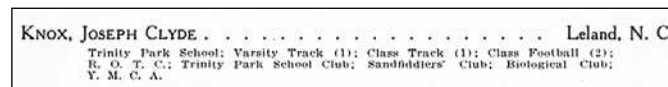
Sign of Trinity Park School in the Wilmington Morning Star News, July 8, 1910.



Joe and Martha Cox were married in Belton, S.C., on June 22, 1931 (The Greenville News, Greenville, S.C.).



Joe Knox WWI Draft Registration signature.



Joe Knox Trinity Park School activities in the college yearbook, Chanticleer.

Knox Joe C(lyde) 4,456,489 *White *Colored. 1
(Surname) (Army serial number)

Residence: RFD #2 Leland Brunswick NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

*Enlisted *R. A. *N. G. *E. R. *C. *Inducted at Durham NC on Oct 28, 1918
Place of birth: Leland NC Age or date of birth: Aug 29 1899

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: Students Army Trng C Trinity College Durham NC to disch

Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from †None to †, from † to †

Honorably discharged on demobilization Dec 11, 1918

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.

Remarks:

Form No. 724-1, A. G. O. *Strike out words not applicable. †Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.

Joe Knox NC WWI Service Card.