

Early Pioneers of the Negro Leagues:

Charles Mills



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

St. Louis Giants
1916



St. Louis Giants
1916

(Standing left to right - Bill Gatewood, William Drake, Harry Kimbro, Tullie McAdoo, Sam Bennett and Lee Wade.
Seated left to right - McKinley "Bunny" Downs, **Frank Warfield**, Dan Kennard, **Charles Mills**,
Richard "Dick" Wallace, Jimmie Lyons and **Charles Blackwell**)

Charles Alexander “Charlie” Mills was born in St. Louis, Missouri on August 28, 1878. Very little is known about his early upbringing.

He started his professional career in St. Louis as a bank messenger and later became the owner of a black tavern. In 1915 Mills opened the Keystone Cafe and Cabaret which was located at the corner of Compton and Lawton in St. Louis. The Freeman newspaper was highly complimentary of Mills’ drinking and dining establishment. In one newspaper article the Freeman gave the following review: “hours of good entertainment and high class wines can always be found at the Keystone.” In short Charles Mills was an aspiring businessman.

Charlie was also a huge baseball fan but he was not a wealthy man and this fact would cause him significant problems throughout his career in professional baseball. Mills always needed investors to bank roll the team and over the years he had a lot of different people participate in the financing of the St. Louis Giants.

In 1906 Charles Mills took charge of the St. Louis Giants and his career in “high level” professional black baseball would end in 1921 when he sold the team to an investment group headed up by Dr. Samuel Shepard. Mills did make a brief appearance in 1924 when he organized the St. Louis Black Sox. Current research also seems to indicate that during the mid 1920’s to the 1930’s Charlie may have formed “low level” teams from time to time using the name of the “St. Louis Giants.” Further research needs to be conducted on this topic.

Charlie was never a ball player but understood the game and had a knack for recruiting top flight ball players. He was an owner, officer, promoter and/or manager of the “original” St. Louis Giants from 1906-1921.

St. Louis Giants in Their Early Days

During the early 1900’s every major city in the United States had a significant number of black amateur and semi-professional teams and St. Louis, Missouri was no exception. One of the better of these amateur clubs was the St. Louis Giants. Charles Mills recognized their potential and took over the team in 1906. When Charlie first got involved with the Giants they were an amateur ball club comprised of young local ball players who were playing for about fifty cents a game, if that. They had no real organization and the team didn’t even wear matching uniforms. In 1919 while giving an interview to the St. Louis Argus, Charles Mills described the St. Louis Giants as follows when he took over the team in 1906:

“The team (Giants) was merely a joke.....playing from lot to lot and receiving nothing more than car fare and a few small tokens, which they picked up by managers off bets.”

Charles Mills would guide this rag tag bunch of young players to become the top black team in St. Louis and then all the way to becoming an inaugural member of the Negro National League in 1920.

There were a significant number of high level semi-professional black teams in St. Louis during the history of the St. Louis Giants. Some of the top semi-professional teams in St. Louis during the playing days of the St. Louis Giants were the Compton Hill Cubs, East Compton Cubs, St. Louis Black Sox, St. Louis Black Stockings, St. Louis Champions, St. Louis Cubs, St. Louis Pioneers and St. Louis Syndicates.

The St. Louis Giants get Organized

From 1906 to 1909 the St. Louis Giants played primarily a local schedule in and around the St. Louis area. Most of the Giants games during this period of time were played on the weekends.

The Chicago Leland Giants was the top team in the West from 1906 to 1910. The Leland Giants' best seasons were 1907 when they reported winning 110 games and 1910 when they reportedly compiled a won-loss record of 123-6 (.953). The problem with the won-loss records of the Chicago Leland Giants was that what team owner, Andrew "Rube" Foster, reported and reality were not one and the same.

Other top teams in the West during this time were the Kansas City Giants, St. Paul Colored Gophers, Chicago Giants, French Lick Plutos, Stars of Cuba and the West Baden Sprudels.

The first order of business when Charlie took over the team in 1906 was finding capital. Mills knew he needed money to turn the Giants into a top level ball club. His response to this problem was revealed in a St. Louis Argus article published in 1919.

"I tried everyone whom I thought had a few dollars. The result, 'nothing doing.' My next move was to visit Conrad Kuebler (white businessman), who at the time owned a baseball park known as Kuebler Park."

Conrad Kuebler agreed to fund the St. Louis Giants. Unfortunately for Mills, Kuebler ended up with most of the profits and Mills did all of the work. Charles Mills spent the 1906 baseball season getting his team organized, developing relationships with other owners and scouting for new ball players. Prior to the start of the 1907 season Mills implemented the first step in his plan to make the St. Louis Giants a top flight ball club and that was securing a home field for his team. Charlie found a home ground for the Giants when he leased Kuebler Park which was located at 6100 North Broadway in St. Louis. The only problem with Kuebler Park was that it was not located anywhere close to the prominent African-American neighborhoods. The St. Louis Giants were also referred to as "Kuebler's Giants" from 1906 to 1908.



Kuebler Park

**Home of the St. Louis Giants
1908**

ST. LOUIS MAN IS PRESIDENT.

Mr. Conrad Kuebler of St. Louis, Mo., who is the new president of the National Colored Baseball League, is a man who has had much experience in running a league, having been connected with the Western Sporting League for some time. Mr. Kuebler has begun making plans for the coming season by setting all of his supporters at work. In St. Louis Mr. Kuebler is the owner of the St. Louis Giants and two large ball parks. He recently built a new park, which he intends to use for league games. He has had the league incorporated and the treasurer palced under a \$1,000 bond. The president is a hard worker and a strict one and will see to it that every order is carried ou to the letter.

Freeman

03-14-08

Within a year Charles Mills had transformed the St. Louis Giants into a “real” team that was extremely competitive on the field. During the 1907 season the Giants played most of their games against “white” amateur and semiprofessional teams in the St. Louis area. The vast majority of their games were played on the weekends because that was when they could draw the biggest crowd. Under Mills’ direction and guidance it wasn’t long before the St. Louis Giants were a top attraction and soon started to out draw the local St. Louis Trolley League which had dominated “white” local baseball for years.

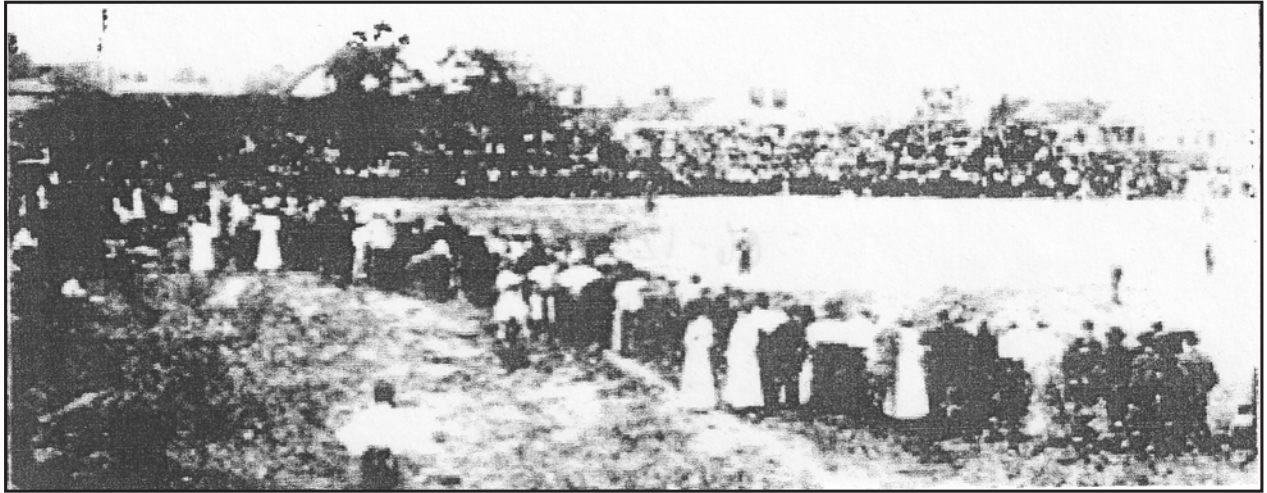
In 1908 the St. Louis Giants were playing very good ball and Conrad Kuebler decided to try to capitalize on the success of the Giants. His plan was to form his own league that he would call the “National Colored Baseball League.” According to an article that appeared in the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis on March 14th the National Colored Baseball League never did materialize but Kuebler had succeeded in forming a local black league in St. Louis that was comprised of six local teams that “has been wonderfully successful financially.”

The 1909 St. Louis Giants were reported in the newspapers as having a very strong team. According to an article that appeared in the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis, the St. Louis Giants were owned by a “stock company” made up of sixteen young businessmen. Conrad Kuebler (white businessman) was the major stock holder and president of the company. Charles Mills was the manager and ran the team.



St. Louis Giants (1909)

(Standing left to right – Brickey (P), English (CF), Windom (SS), Jones (LF), Williams (2B), Shaw (P), McMurray (3B), Blair (3B), Evans (1B), Wilkins (P), Bell (C), Knight (C), Hall (RF), Dr. Ransom – team physician)



St. Louis Giants Park (1909)

Will McMurray played third base, first base, caught and was the captain of the team. The photo on the bottom of page three is the earliest known team photograph of a St. Louis Giants team. Only the last names are given in the picture. Identifying the players has been extremely difficult because only Jones (LF), Knight (CF), Will McMurray (1B) and Williams (2B) were with the team for the 1910 season when Mills starting concentrating on hiring professional players.

According to an article that appeared in the Freeman on June 12th Charles Mills was quoted as saying that his team mainly played on Saturday and Sunday and they were drawing huge crowds. Most of the St. Louis Giants games were apparently being played against the top white teams in and around the St. Louis area. According to Charles Mills' open letter that appeared in the Freeman, the Giants had only played two "colored" teams as he put it and they were the Dyers and the Missouris. Mills went on to say that his team had easily defeated both "colored" teams. The Giants played their home games at Kuebler Park which was located at North Broadway and Pope and drawing more than twice as many fans as the "white" Trolley League of St. Louis. Kuebler Park which was also often referred to as Giants Park.

ST. LOUIS GIANTS PLAYING WINNING BALL.

Manager Charles A. Mills Writes to the Freeman—Would Meet Louisville Cubs in Near Future.

The St. Louis Giants have a strong team this year, and have been on a winning streak. A stock company of sixteen members owns and controls the club. The grounds are located at No. 6100 North Broadway. Manager Charles A. Mills writes as follows:

Sporting Editor of THE FREEMAN:
DEAR SIR—Reading in your paper weekly of the advancement of baseball among the colored people in the East and South, and the grand showing made by our race in Dayton, Ohio, and I believe every Negro ball fan and business man looks upon the Marco Park at Dayton with pride, here is hoping M. C. Moore and his associates success. Keep up the good work, Mr. Moore, and may others follow in your tracks.

We only hope to do the same down here in St. Louis. The outlook is very bright. No doubt about our drawing the crowds, as we demonstrate every Sunday that we can outdraw the Trolley League (white) two to one—mighty strong to say, but a careful study has proven this. Our home grounds are within two blocks of one of

The St. Louis Giants have met and defeated the strong Funsten Brothers, now a member of the Missouri-Illinois Trolley League (white); not only that, but have defeated the crack team from Jefferson Barracks, the pick of the post. Sorry to say we have met only two colored clubs, the Dyers and Missouris, and had no trouble in defeating them. We are constantly in demand by the strongest white clubs in and around St. Louis, and we are booked up until August. We play on our home grounds every Saturday and Sunday. Our club is booked with the Kansas City, Kan., Giants in Kansas during the session of the Supreme Lodge of K. of P. in August.

Reading so much of our friend Lancaster's Cubs, I only regret that we cannot get a chance at them; mighty nifty bunch he must have. All first-class clubs can get booking at our park. We certainly want to get at our esteemed friend Lancaster, and will journey to Louisville to do so, if necessary.

The St. Louis Giants are owned and controlled by a stock company of young business men. It is our ambition to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Moore and associates.

CHARLES A. MILLS,
Manager of St. Louis Giants,
Care of Cass Avenue Bank.

Freeman
 06-12-09

St. Louis Giants become a Bon-a-fide Professional Team

Prior to the start of the 1910 season Charles Mills formed a stockholders company to fund the operation of the team and allow him to have the capital to hire more professional baseball players.

The officers of the company were Edward Foster (President), John W. Thomas (Vice-President), W. Russell Shaw (Secretary), William Bell (Assistant Secretary), Byrd J. Wilkins (Treasurer) and Charles A. Mills (Manager). Other major stockholders were George Robinson, Ulysses Sadler, Noah Warrington and James Williams. Charles Mills managed the St. Louis Giants from his offices located at 2320 Pine Street in St. Louis.



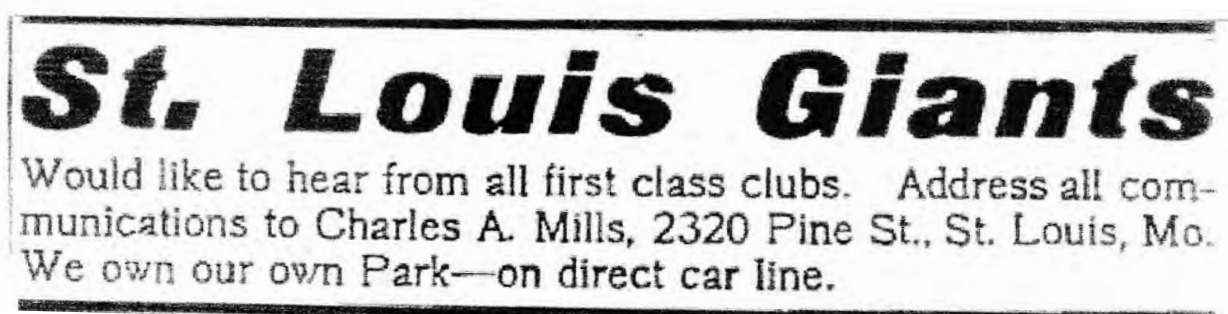
St. Louis Giants Stockholders

(Standing left to right – Ulysses Sadler, Noah Warrington, William Bell, Byrd J. Wilkins, John W. Thomas and James Williams. Seated left to right – George Robinson, W. Russell Shaw, Edward Foster and **Charles A. Mills**)

St. Louis Argus
(04-06-10)

Funding from the stock company allowed Mills to hire several professional ball players to strengthen his line-up for the St. Louis Giants. These players included Henry Hannon (3B), Joe Hewitt (SS), Charlie Hill (3B), Jimmie Lyons (P/OF), William "Will" McMurray (1B/C), William Primm (C) and H.P. Warmack (1B). Will McMurray who was signed away from the St. Paul Colored Gophers was named the team captain for the St. Louis Giants. "Big Chief" Nathan Knight was the team's leading power hitter.

According to H.P. Warmack, Charles Mills moved the team to Athletic Park for the 1910 season. Athletic Park was owned by Timothy Kavanaugh and was located at the corner of Garrison and North Market in St. Louis. The Giants reportedly drew big crowds during the season. In one five game stretch in July the St. Louis Giants drew crowds of 7,250 – 4,500 – 2,500 – 5,200 and 3,100.



Newspaper Advertisement

Freeman
(07-02-10)

According to sportswriter and former player, Dave Wyatt, the St. Louis Giants opened their 1910 season with an impressive victory over the Louisville Stars. The game drew approximately 5,000 fans to Kuebler Park to witness Bill Gatewood throw a no-hitter against Louisville. Besides great pitching, the Giants hitters also responded by racking up 11 runs in an 11-0 win over the Louisville Stars.

To help get the 1910 season off on a positive note with a "big" game, Charles Mills booked a game with the "famous" Cuban Stars in May. Unfortunately for Mills and the baseball fans of St. Louis, the Cuban Stars team that came to St. Louis was not the "real" Cuban Stars squad that included Luis Bustamante, Jose Mendez, Luis Padron and Tinti Molina. The "fake" Cuban Stars team created a media circus. The Freeman reported the following concerning the deception:

"Much talk is going the rounds over the way in which the management of the St. Louis Giants were deceived by a bunch of get-rich-quick schemers, who claimed to be the real Cuban Stars, when in fact there was not a Cuban on the club."

The game reportedly drew thirty-six hundred (3,600) disgruntled fans who paid their way into Kuebler Park to see the game. There is no record as to the final score of the game but the Giants were said to have disgraced their inept opponents on the field of play.

Charles Mills drew the brunt of the negative reaction from the angry fans. The Freeman supported Mills and reported he was an innocent victim of the scam and that the deception was "in no way the fault of the St. Louis Giants." Mills reaction to the incident was as follows: "it was a high handed game to defraud the public and an unpleasant occurrence that caused (the Giants) to be unjustly criticized by some of our best followers."

THE ST. LOUIS GIANTS IN SPLENDID FORM.

Special to THE FREEMAN.
 Manager Mills, of the St. Louis Giants Baseball Club, has one of the best colored teams in the country under his wing; and this has been clearly demonstrated by the wonderful article of ball they have been playing in the past several weeks.

On July 3 and 4 the St. Louis Giants defeated the Memphis Unions before one of the largest crowds that ever assembled under one roof to witness a semi-professional ball game in the city of St. Louis. The Giants gave Memphis two sound wallopings.

St. L. Giants3 0 0 2 3 0 4 2 *—14
 Memphis Unions ..1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1—1
 Batteries—Lyons and Primm; Talbot, Lee and Turner.

Attendance, 7,250.
 The St. Louis Giants continued their long string of victories by taking two games from Nashville, July 10 and 11, before a great crowd.

First game—
 Giants1 4 4 0 0 0 0 1 *—10
 Nashville0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 0—4
 Batteries—Lyons and Primm; Sneed, Calloun and Turner.

Attendance, 4,500.
 Second game—
 Giants5 0 0 1 0 0 3 0 *—9
 Nashville0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
 Batteries—Stevenson and Primm; Hurt and Woodford.

Attendance, 2,800.
 Before one of the most fashionable crowds of the season the Giants continued to win by downing the Black Eagles, of New Orleans, in two brilliant games, July 17 and 18.

First game—
 Giants0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 *—3
 Black Eagles1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0—2
 Batteries—Lyons and Primm; Stevens, Scott and Ephram.

Attendance, 5,200.
 Second game—
 Giants2 0 0 3 0 2 0 2 *—9
 Black Eagles0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0—3
 Batteries—Stevens and Primm; Scott, Stevens and Ephram.

Attendance, 3,100.

Notes of the Game.

Little Primm is certainly the candy kid. His brilliant catching and accurate base throwing are certainly a pleasure to the fans.

Oh, you Stevens, keep up your brilliant work in the box and you will be reckoned among the greatest boxmen in the country.

Big Chief Nathan Knight has gained the title of Home Run Knight. They just can't keep him from hitting it over the fence.

Manager Mills is all smiles these days. Alex Jones is now quite a favorite with the fans, because of the wonderful one-hand catches he has been making in left field and saving several games.

It seems as if the Giants are going to set a new record in winning victories. They have annexed their twenty-sixth victory.

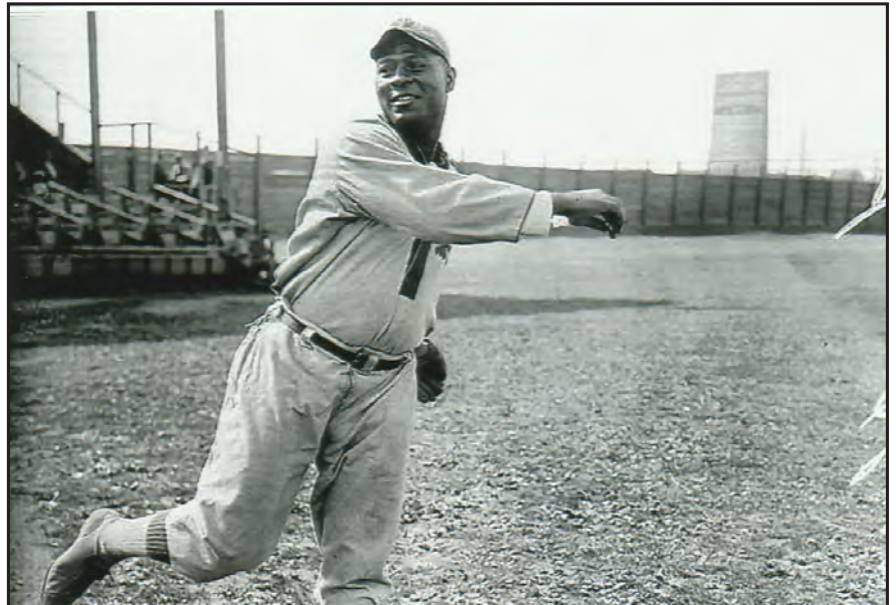
CHAS. A. MILLS.

St. Louis Giants
 Winning Streak

Freeman
 07-23-10

In August of 1910 Charles Mills signed both Bill Gatewood and Clarence "Dude" Lytle away from the Minneapolis Keystones. On August 28th Gatewood faced his old team the Minneapolis Keystones in St. Louis. Gatewood defeated his former teammates 11-2 in the first game of a two games series. The next day behind the pitching of Clarence "Dude" Lytle the Keystones avenged their loss the previous day with a 4-1 win. Charles Mills got the "big" win for his team when he signed Lytle before Minneapolis left town.

During the 1910 season, Charles Mills sent his team to Chicago to play the top semi-professional teams in the area and play a two game series against the powerful Leland Giants. In game one of the Leland Giants series, Johnny "Steel Arm" Taylor beat Rube Foster's team by a score of 6-3. Bill Gatewood started game two for St. Louis and Walter Ball was on the mound for Leland's. The St. Louis Giants scored three runs in the top of the ninth inning to give St. Louis a 4-3 win.



Bill Gatewood

The St. Louis Giants were considered one of the top teams in the West for the 1910 baseball season.

Charles Mills was always planning and looking for new opportunities for his team. One excellent example of this occurred early 1911. On February 25, 1911 the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis (IN) reported a story that Charles Mills was attempting to form a "new" black league that was going to be called "Southwestern Negro League of Professional Ball Clubs." Cities that Mills planned to include in his "league" included Chicago, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Louisville, Minneapolis, New Orleans, St. Louis and a team to be located some where in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, Mills' "league" never got off the ground.

St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association

MR. NOAH WARRINGTON.

President of the St. Louis Giants Baseball Association.

One of St. Louis' foremost colored business men, and a credit to the race. The height of Mr. Warrington's ambition is a winner in colored baseball in St. Louis, and from the way he is working St. Louis is bound to be on the map



when the curtain falls in the fall of 1911. Mr. Warrington is owner of the Gilt Edge Buffet, one of St. Louis' most popular resorts, and enjoys the patronage of the best; also owner of the Vendome Theater.

Noah Washington

St. Louis Giants
President

MR. OLLIE JACKSON.

Treasurer of the St. Louis Giants Baseball Association.

One of the bright, shining lights in St. Louis, and a man that is for the advancement of the Negro race. A true sport and one man that doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit." Mr. Jackson is president of the Modern Horseshoe Club, one of the finest and most elaborate clubs west of New York,



and the pride of St. Louis. His \$5,000 auto carries the name of the "Modern Horseshoe." This combination of Warrington, Jackson and Mills looks like a winner. Three real live wires for the St. Louis Giants.

Ollie Jackson

St. Louis Giants
Treasurer

St. Louis Giants Prepare for 1911 Season

SAINT LOUIS GIANTS, 1911, OPEN TO ALL COMERS.

Wants Booking Through Texas.

All arrangements to send the St. Louis Giants on a tour through the South have been perfected by Chas. A. Mills. This is the first time in years that this club visited the South, and from the record the boys made in 1910, fans can surely expect to see some live baseball under the leadership of Felix Wallace. Manager Charley Mills promised in the latter part of the season of 1910 to spring a surprise by the addition of new men, and from the line-up of his club it surely looks the winner that this boy claims. In Wallace, the new Captain, he has a sure-enough ball player, a gentleman on and off the field. Mongin, of last year's Brooklyn Royal Giants, is some ball player, with a good reputation in the East. Warmack, Hewitt, Lyons and Milliner look good to any Manager. Green and McMurray can hold their own anywhere. The pitching staff—Steel Arm Johnnie Taylor, A. Gillard and Ben Taylor—can easily be ranked with the Class A box men in the country. One thing certain, this boy Mills bears watching—hustling all the time; never misses a chance to cop a good man; talks very little to any one on baseball, but brings results. It is a safe bet that he puts St. Louis to the front as far as colored baseball is concerned. He brought the St. Louis Giants from the woods to the limelight in two (2) years without any financial backing whatever. Oh, mercy! what will he do with such men as Noah Warrington and Ollie Jackson, two of the richest colored men in St. Louis? Watch him; he's a clever business man and a good mixer. One thing that can be truthfully said of this young man is that he has a host of friends and admirers who wish him well. From what Mills says, he expects to play his first game in the Southland March 12, 13, 14, at New Orleans, and from that time on his time will be well taken up until he reaches home for the opening game at the Giants Park, April 9, one day that is looked forward to by all the people of our race. A big day and a warm welcome will surely greet him and his braves when they return home.

H. H. WARMACK.

St. Louis Argus
12-19-10

Formation of the St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association

In the early part of 1911 Charles Mills brought together several St. Louis businessmen to form the St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association (SLGAA). The purpose of the new organization was to fund the operation of the Giants. The officers of the new organization were:

Officer	Office
Noah Warrington	President
Ollie Jackson	Treasurer
Charles Mills	Manager
Felix "Dick" Wallace	Team Captain

Warrington and Jackson were considered two of the wealthiest African-Americans in the St. Louis area. Noah Warrington was the owner of a popular restaurant by the name of the Gilt Edge Buffet and he also owned the Vendome Theater. Ollie Jackson was the president of the Modern Horseshoe Club which was considered at the time one of the finest establishments west of New York City.

FELIX WALLACE, OF THE ST. LOUIS GIANTS.

The St. Louis Giants management counts itself extremely lucky in signing up Felix Wallace for the season of 1911. The new man has an excellent record as an infielder—in fact, an all-round player who can play with success at most any station. Wallace played with the St. Paul Gophers in 1909, and was captain of



that well-known team. The season of 1910 he played third base for the Chicago Giants. Both of these teams are top-notchers. His important positions in them show well for Mr. Wallace. He will be leader of the St. Louis Giants, consequently great things are expected of him for 1911.

Felix "Dick" Wallace

St. Louis Giants
Team Captain

Freeman

12-19-10

Felix "Dick" Wallace had been hired away from the Chicago Giants. Wallace took over the position of team captain from Will McMurray. Dick Wallace would be a fixture for the St. Louis Giants for the next ten to fifteen years (1911-1913, 1915-1916, 1919-1921 and 1924).

The money raised by the formation of the SLGAA provided Mills the necessary funds for Charlie to sign the following "new" players: George "Chappie" Johnson (C), Tullie McAdoo (1B), Ben Taylor (P/1B), "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor (P) and Felix "Dick" Wallace (SS). These players plus the addition to the signing of Jimmie Lyons would enable the St. Louis Giants to move up to the next level in professional black baseball. According to a newspaper report that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on December 19, 1910, Charles Mills also signed Eugene Milliner (OF) to a contract for the 1911 season.

The St. Louis Giants started their 1911 season on February 28th when they left for Montgomery (AL) and a tour of the South. The Giants started the tour off on a positive note when they defeated the Montgomery Stars by a score of 7-1 on Sunday, March 5th. St. Louis also took the next two games they played against Montgomery. On March 16th and 17th the St. Louis Giants travelled to Mobile to play their local team and easily defeated them in both contests. After leaving Mobile the Giants travelled to New Orleans where they took on the New Orleans Eagles and beat them in both of the games played. As they traveled through the South the St. Louis Giants continued to pile up one impressive win after another.

The 1911 St. Louis Giants fielded an outstanding team and were considered a "real" professional ball club. In part this was due to Mills signing a left handed pitcher and outfielder by the name of Jimmie Lyons. When Jimmie Lyons joined the St. Louis Giants for the 1911 baseball season, he was a novice left-handed pitcher and part time outfielder. Felix "Dick" Wallace, team captain of the St. Louis Giants, recognized the true value that Jimmie Lyons offered his team and that was Jimmie's bat and his blazing speed. In order to take advantage of both of these attributes, Wallace converted Lyons into a full time outfielder which put him in the starting line-up everyday. Felix's decision paid huge benefits for both Lyons and the Giants the entire season.

Jimmie Lyons was the team's leading hitter during the 1911 season. Box scores have been found for fifteen (15) games that Lyons played for the Giants. In these 15 games Lyons went 22 for 57 for a .386 batting average. According to research by Negro League historian John Holway, Jimmie Lyons was the top hitter in the West for the 1911 season. Also contributing offensively during the season were professional ball players Sam Bennett (OF), Joe Hewitt (SS),

George “Chappie” Johnson (C), Tullie McAdoo (1B), Sam Mongin (3B), Will McMurray (C), Eugene Moore (OF), Candy Jim Taylor (3B), Ben Taylor (P/1B), Dick Wallace (2B) and H.P. Warmack (1B).



George “Chappie” Johnson
St. Louis Giants
Catcher

The St. Louis Giants had an excellent pitching staff of “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor (21-3), Ben Taylor (12-1) and Arthur Gilliard (12-5). These won-loss records are not considered to be complete. One newspaper account credits Ben Taylor with 30 wins for the 1911 season.

Offensively the St. Louis Giants were unstoppable. At one point in the 1911 season, the St. Louis Giants had played forty-four (44) games and scored 253 runs while limiting their opponents to just 69 tallies. The Giants averaged 5.75 runs per game and held their opponents to a mere 1.57 runs a game during this stretch.

St. Louis Giants Take On the Leland Giants

In June of 1911 the mighty Chicago Leland Giants traveled to St. Louis to play Charles Mills’ St. Louis Giants in a three game series. All of the games were reportedly well-attended. The opening day game drew 2,200 fans to Athletic Park and the crowd saw their St. Louis Giants defeat the Leland Giants by a score of 5-4. Johnny “Steel Arm” Taylor won game one in relief effort. The next day 2,600 fans attended the game and the attendance for game three was estimated at 2,600. Game two turned out to be a pitcher’s duel that ended up with Johnny “Steel Arm” Taylor (St. Louis) besting the legendary “Smokey Joe” Williams (Chicago) by a score of 2-1. Each pitcher gave up a mere four hits. Game three was just the opposite of game two. Both teams collected 27 hits (Chicago 14 and St. Louis – 13). Arthur Gilliard (St. Louis) beat Bill Gatewood (Chicago) by a score of 6-5. St. Louis’ three game sweep of one of the best black baseball teams in the country showed that they were a force to be reckoned with.

The St. Louis-Chicago series had implications way beyond to top teams playing each other. Lester Aglar Walton, editor of the New York Age, said it was a very positive sign that the timing may be right for the formation of a black league. Walton’s personal view was that the color line in baseball was because of “the white man’s fear in open competition.”

St. Louis Giants Compile an Impressive Record

A WONDERFUL RECORD.

The St. Louis Giants opened the season of 1911 with a record unsurpassed by any Negro baseball team for this year. Hustling Charles A. Mills, the peerless leader of this mighty aggregation, has established a baseball machine that is equal to any in this country. Out of a possible forty-four games they have lost ten of them.

This is the record, as follows:

In Montgomery, Ala., March 8, 1911—	7
St. Louis Giants.....	7
Montgomery Stars.....	1
Batteries—Gillard and McMurray.	
March 9, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	10
Montgomery Stars.....	6
Batteries—J. Taylor, Gilliard, B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In New Orleans, La., March 12, 1911—	
Ten innings—	
St. Louis Giants.....	6
New Orleans Eagles.....	5
Batteries—Gillard and McMurray.	
March 13, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	4
New Orleans Eagles.....	1
Batteries—B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In Mobile, Ala., March 15, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	12
Mobile Giants.....	2
Batteries—J. Taylor, Gilliard, B. Taylor and McMurray.	
March 16, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	8
Mobile Giants.....	1
Batteries—J. Taylor, Gilliard, B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In Meridian, Miss., March 18, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	12
Meridian Giants.....	1
Batteries—J. Taylor, Gilliard, B. Taylor and McMurray.	
March 19, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	16
Meridian Giants.....	2
Batteries—J. Taylor, Gilliard, B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In New Orleans, La., March 20, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	6
New Orleans Eagles.....	4
Batteries—B. Taylor, J. Taylor, Gilliard and McMurray.	
In Mobile, Ala., March 22, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	10
Kansas City Royal Giants.....	3
Batteries—J. Taylor and McMurray.	
Pensacola, Fla., March 23, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	6
Pensacola Giants.....	3
Batteries—J. Taylor and McMurray.	
March 24, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	3
Pensacola Giants.....	4
Batteries—B. Taylor and McMurray.	
March 25, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	13
Pensacola Giants.....	1
Batteries—Gillard and McMurray.	
In Mobile, Ala., March 26, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	4
Kansas City Royal Giants.....	2
Batteries—J. Taylor and McMurray.	
March 27, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	5
Kansas City Royal Giants.....	3
Batteries—B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In Memphis, Tenn., April 1, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	12
Memphis Tigers.....	9
Batteries—Gillard and McMurray.	
April 2, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	4
Memphis Tigers.....	3
Batteries—J. Taylor and McMurray.	
April 3, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
Memphis Tigers.....	3
Batteries—B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In West Baden, Ind., April 11, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
West Baden.....	6
Batteries—J. Taylor and McMurray.	

April 12, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	15
West Baden.....	4
Batteries—B. Taylor, Gilliard and McMurray.	
In St. Louis, Mo., April 16, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	16
West Baden.....	14
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
April 17, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	8
West Baden.....	3
Batteries—Gillard, B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In St. Louis, Mo., April 23, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	5
Brooklyn Royal Giants.....	13
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
April 24, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
Brooklyn Royal Giants.....	5
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
April 25, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
Brooklyn Royal Giants.....	12
Batteries—Gillard and Johnson.	
In St. Louis, Mo., May 1, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	6
All-Cubans.....	7
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 7, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	9
All-Cubans.....	6
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 8, 1911—11 innings—	
St. Louis Giants.....	5
All-Cubans.....	6
Batteries—Gillard and Johnson.	
May 9, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	6
All-Cubans.....	4
Batteries—B. Taylor, Johnson and McMurray.	
May 14, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	3
All-Cubans.....	2
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 15, 1911—11 innings—	
St. Louis Giants.....	4
All-Cubans.....	5
Batteries—Gillard and Johnson.	
May 16, 1911—10 innings—	
St. Louis Giants.....	4
All-Cubans.....	3
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
In St. Louis, Mo., May 21, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	2
Philadelphia Giants.....	3
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 22, 1911—11 innings—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
Philadelphia Giants.....	3
Batteries—Gillard and Johnson.	
May 23, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	8
Philadelphia Giants.....	2
Batteries—B. Taylor and McMurray.	
In West Baden, Ind., May 25, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	2
West Baden.....	2
Batteries—Gillard, B. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 26, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	10
West Baden.....	4
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 27, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	6
West Baden.....	5
Batteries—Gillard and Johnson.	
In St. Louis, Mo., May 29, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
Chicago Union Giants.....	8
Batteries—Gillard and Johnson.	

May 30, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	15
Chicago Union Giants.....	1
Batteries—B. Taylor and Johnson.	
May 30, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	15
Chicago Union Giants.....	4
Batteries—J. Taylor and Johnson.	
June 1, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	7
St. Louis Police Department.....	0
Batteries—Gillard and McMurray.	
June 4, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	15
Plutos (French Lick, Ind.).....	3
Batteries—B. Taylor, J. Taylor and McMurray.	
June 5, 1911—	
St. Louis Giants.....	16
Plutos (French Lick, Ind.).....	0
Batteries—Gillard and McMurray.	

This clever aggregation of Negro ball players consists of the following players:

Pitchers—A. Gilliard, B. Taylor, "Steel Arm" and Taylor.
H. Warmack, first base.
Captain F. Wallace, second base.
Joseph Hewitt, shortstop.
Samuel Mongen, third base.
James Lyons, left field.
Samuel Bennett, center field.
Eugene Moore, right field.
Chapple Johnson, catcher.
William McMurray, catcher.

Out of the possible forty-four games the St. Louis Giants have scored 353 runs, while their opponents have only scored 69 runs.

AMERICAN GIANTS RALLY AT FINISH.

By Cary B. Lewis.

CHICAGO, Ill., July 16.—Last Sunday was a hot day and a hot game was played at Schorling's park between the American Giants and the St. Louis Giants. It was the beginning of a series of eleven games to be played in this city between the two teams. Fully 7,000 people saw the local team come out victorious in the ninth inning. The visitors had the game won in the seventh inning, with a score of 7 to 2. In the ninth, Hill, Duncan and Payne were on bases when Tenny made a hit and brought in two scores. The mighty Pierce came to bat, making a hit and brought in two more. Two scores had also been made in the eighth. It was a great rally. "Rube's" admirers jumped into the field, yelling frantically. Jack Johnson, champion heavyweight pugilist, pitched the first ball.

Foster stated that the crowd was the largest that ever attended a semi-pro baseball game. Five hundred extra chairs were placed in the field and fully five hundred stood. The two teams will play all the week and a big game for the coming Sunday. The score.

Am. G.	RHPAE	St. L. G.	RHPAE
Barber, 3b	.02201	Hewitt, ss	.12211
Hill, cf	.13100	Lyons, rf	.01210
Dunc'n, lf	.11200	Pryor, 3b	.33011
Payne, rf	.20200	Thomas, lf	.01300
Monroe, 2b	.01250	Bennett, cf	.12501
Taylor, ss	.11042	Wall'ce, 2b	.23220
Pierce, 1b	.22910	McAdoo, 1b	.01910
Petway, c	.00711	Johnson, c	.01210
Gatw'd, lb	.01100	Ball, p	.01130
Lindsay, p	.01120	Dism'kes, p	.00000
Dough'y, p	.12000		

Totals \$ 14 27 13 3	Totals . 7 15 25 10 3
American 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 2 4—8	St. Louis 2 0 2 0 1 0 2 0 0—7
Two-base hits—Hill, Bennett, Taylor.	
Three-base hit—Pryor. Struck out—By Lindsay, 3; by Dougherty, 3; by Ball, 1. Bases on balls—Off Ball, 2; off Lindsay, 3; off Dougherty, 1. Umpire—Goeckel.	

In the second game between the American Giants and the St. Louis Giants, the visitors won, 5 to 2, at Schorling's park. In the ninth McAdoo led off with a single and got to second on Johnson's out. Walter Bell batted for Lyons and singled. The next man up was passed intentionally, filling the bases. Dougherty hit Mongin, forcing in the winning run and Bennett hit safe, registering two more. The score:

St. L. G.	RHPAE	Am. G.	RHPAE
Wall'ce, 2b	.21161	Barber, ss	.21110
Hewitt, ss	.11101	Hill, cf	.01400
Mongin, 2b	.00010	Duncan, lf	.00001
Bennett, cf	.02200	Payne, rf	.00000
Thomas, lf	.01100	Pryor, 3b	.00321
Pryor, 3b	.01120	Monroe, 2b	.00150
McAdoo, 1b	.11300	Taylor, 3b	.01150
Johnson, c	.00611	Pierce, 1b	.01321
Lyons, rf	.02100	Petway, c	.01321
Ball, rf	.11000	Dough'ty, p	.00000
Dismuk's, p	.00132	Lindsay, p	.01000

Totals 5 10 27 13 5	Totals . 2 5 27 10 3
*Batted for Petway in ninth.	
St. Louis Giants 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 2—5	American Giants 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0—2
Three-base hit—Thomas. Struck out—By Dismukes, 2; by Dougherty, 3. Bases on balls—Off Dismukes, 2; off Dougherty, 2. Umpire—Becker. Time—3:00.	

Freeman
07-20-12

The only problem is that Jimmie Lyons did not return with the team. Instead Lyons signed with the Lincoln Giants and finished the season back East.

Another highlight of the 1911 season for the St. Louis Giants occurred in early September when the famed St. Paul Colored Gophers arrived in St. Louis for a three game series against the Giants. The first game was played on September 3rd and the Giants came away with a 9-8 win. The next day the Giants scored another one run victory when they defeated the Colored Gophers by a score of 11-10. St. Louis closed out the series on September 5th with a 2-1 win over St. Paul.

During the 1911 season Athletic Park was considered the home field for the St. Louis Giants. Athletic Park would be the home field for the St. Louis Giants from 1911 through the 1913 season. Box scores and line scores have been found for fifty-seven (57) games for the St. Louis Giants for their 1911 season against top level competition. St. Louis went 46-11 (.807) in these fifty-seven (57) outings. The St. Louis Giants along with the Chicago American Giants and Kansas City Giants were considered the top three teams in the West during the 1911 baseball season.

Some of the top teams that St. Louis dominated during the 1911 season were the Chicago Union Giants, French Lick Plutos, Kansas City Royal Giants, Lincoln Giants, Memphis Tigers, Meridian Giants, Mobile Giants, Montgomery Stars, New Orleans Eagles, Pensacola Giants, St. Paul Colored Gophers and West Baden Sprudels. Teams that gave the St. Louis Giants some trouble during the season were the Brooklyn Royal Giants (1-2), Philadelphia Giants (1-2) and the All Cubans (4-3).

During the off season Charles Mills made a change in the captain of the team. George "Chappie" Johnson replaced Felix "Dick" Wallace who concentrated on playing shortstop for the season. The Giants continued to play their home games at Athletic Park during the 1912 season.

Wesley "Whip" Pryor (.388), Sam Bennett (.356), Sam Mongin (.338), Joe Hewitt (.322) and Jules Thomas (.290) led the team in hitting. During the 1912 season Walter Ball, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, Frank "Lefty" Harvey, Ad Lankford, Jimmie Lyons, Archie Pate and Lee Wade all pitched for the St. Louis Giants.

During the 1912 season the St. Louis Giants and Chicago American Giants developed an intense rivalry that would last for years. The rivalry stemmed from the fact that several of the St. Louis players were from Chicago or had played for Chicago. This group of players included Walter Ball, Chappie Johnson, Jimmie Lyons, Wes Pryor and Felix "Dick" Wallace.

In one series that was played in Chicago in July extra seats had to be added to meet the demands of an over flowing crowd. According to an article that appeared in the Freeman newspaper on July 7th, Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants overcame a 4 to 7 deficit to take an 8 to 7 win in the first game. Behind the brilliant pitching of William "Dizzy" Dismukes, St. Louis took the second game by a score of 5-2. In another important series that was also played in July between Chicago and St. Louis, Chicago newspapers reported that going into the game with Chicago, Walter Ball of the St. Louis Giants had won 23 consecutive games. The American Giants defeated Ball and St. Louis by a score of 10-4.

Another highlight of the 1912 season for the St. Louis Giants was their series against the Brooklyn Royal Giants who were on a barnstorming tour of the Midwest. Charles Mills' Giants won two of the three games that the two teams played against each other.

The St. Louis Giants seemed to struggle against top level competition during the season. Thirty-nine (39) box scores and line scores have been found for St. Louis Giants for the 1912 season against top teams. In these thirty-nine games the Giants went 18-21 (.462). The Giants seemed to fair much better against lower level teams. A good example of this is that the St. Louis Giants won the St. Louis City League title for the 1912 season.

The 1913 St. Louis Giants team included Sam Bennett (OF), Bingo De Moss (2B), Henry Hannon (C), Joe Hewitt (SS), Tullie McAdoo (1B), Sam Mongin (3B), Eugene Moore (OF) and Dick Wallace (1B). Proctor (first name unknown), Alex Jones and Joe Smith all pitched for St. Louis in 1913.

Dick Wallace was the player-manager of the team in 1913 and they played their home games at Athletic Park during the season.

The St. Louis Giants had a very good season that was culminated in them winning their second straight St. Louis City League championship.

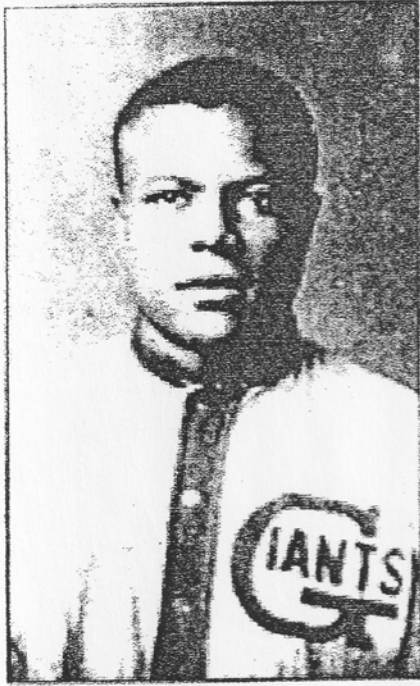
According to research by Gary Ashwill the St. Louis Giants were the second best team in the West in 1913. The Chicago American Giants were considered the top team in the West in 1913.



Tullie McAdoo
St. Louis Giants
1913

Financial Problems Hit the St. Louis Giants

Prior to the start of the 1914 baseball season, the St. Louis Giants Amusement Association disbanded. This left Charles Mills in a very difficult position because he lost the financial backing he depended upon to run the team. With this financial set back, Mills abandoned the practice of paying his players a monthly salary and instead went to a "co-operative" plan whereby the players got a percentage of the gate. This is just another example of Mills' precarious financial status that plagued him his entire career. Needless to say the players were not happy with Mills decision.



JIMMIE LYONS,
Left Field.



HEWITT,
Right Field.



"SPECK" WEBSTER,
Catcher.



BENNETT,
Center Field.

Charles Mills Signs Star Power for St. Louis Giants

ST. LOUIS GIANTS SURE THING NOW

Chas. A. Mills Closes Deal for
Kuebler's Park at 6100 N.
Broadway

PROPOSED STOCK COMPANY FAILS TO MATERIALIZE

Determined Little Manager Gets
Backing From White People of
\$2,500 Needed

A deal closed in baseball circles this week practically assures the re-organization of the St. Louis Giants this year. Manager Charles Mills had about given up hopes of resurrecting the once famous club because of the failure of the Negro business men to perfect their organization.

When he received a good offer from a white syndicate this week, his anxiety was over. A capital of \$2,500 has been placed at his disposal and the 1915 Giants are a surety. Kuebler's Park at 6100 N. Broadway will be remodeled and modernized and turned over to Mr. Mills in time for an early opening of the baseball season.

The best possible team will be put in the field and all fandom will again be happy.

To get star players will be a greater task, however, than if a deal could have been closed earlier. Nearly all of the old favorites are now signed up with other clubs and Mr. Mills may have to use some Federal League tactics to secure star players. It looks like a good opening for young talent and any players wishing a trial should call on Mr. Mills at his headquarters, Compton and Lawton. Fans can rest assured that every effort will be made to place a first-class team in the field, however, and some good baseball will be scheduled this summer.

There was only limited press coverage for the 1914 season. Some of the players that Charles Mills signed for the 1914 season were Sam Bennett (OF), Chappie Johnson (C), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Sam Mongin (2B), Whip Pryor (SS), Tullie Mc Adoo (1B) and Dick Wallace (SS).

It appears that the St. Louis Giants played primarily a traveling schedule during the 1914 season. Besides the St. Louis Giants, the other top teams in the West in 1914 were the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars and Indianapolis ABCs.

Mills and Kuebler Partner up for the Second Time

After a very difficult year in 1914 from a financial perspective, Charles Mills knew he needed to find an investor or an investment group before the start of the 1915 season or the very existence of his team could be in jeopardy. According to an article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on January 22nd, Mills' first attempt was to form a stock company but that never did materialize.

Charles Mills found the answer to his money troubles in developing a business arrangement with his old partner Conrad Kuebler. The deal made them co-owners of the St. Louis Giants. Mills and Kuebler had done business in the past and it proved financially rewarding for Kuebler. Conrad Kuebler provided the financing of \$ 2,500.00 for the team and Mills served as the field manager and business manager. Besides providing money to run the team, Conrad still owned a ball park. Kuebler Park was located at 6100 Broadway in St. Louis. According to the St. Louis Argus when Kuebler signed his deal with Mills, he promised to remodel the baseball stadium. The major areas of refurbishing of Kuebler Park included the following renovations: adding 192 box seats (only 41 were actually built), extending the bleachers down third base line to the left field foul pole, refurbishing the outfield fences, leveling of the outfield, planting new grass, remodeling the club house and installing concrete walk ways. It appears Conrad Kuebler spared no expense in making Kuebler Park one of the nicest and most beautiful ball parks in the country.

Mills' partnership with Conrad Kuebler also gave Charles Mills greater access to white semi-professional clubs and created better relationships when booking games.

With financing for the 1915 season in place, Charlie turned to the task of signing a team. With it already being February Mills initially thought he might experience problems signing players because many of his former players may have already signed with new teams.

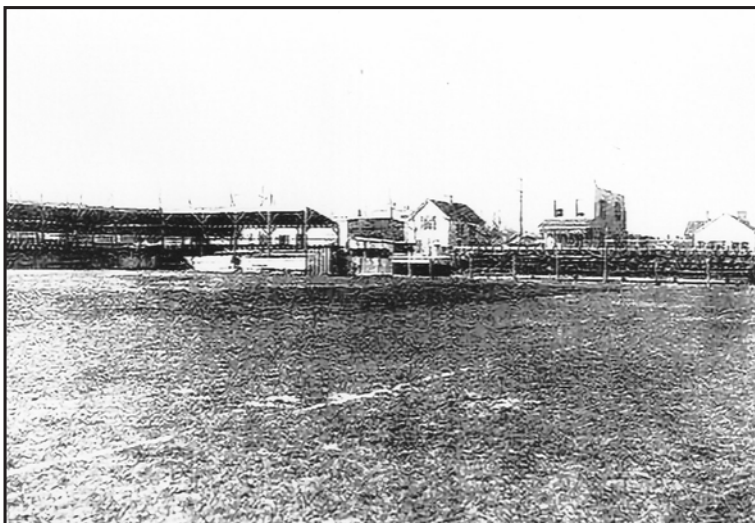
However, once the news got out that the St. Louis Giants were fielding a team for the 1915 season Charlie Mills was inundated with responses from players ready to return to St. Louis. Jimmie Lyons, Sam Bennett, Joe Hewitt, Tullie McAdoo and Chappie Johnson were some of the first to notify Mills that they were ready to sign with the Giants. According to a story that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on February 12th Charles Mills had already received over 50 letters from top players plus a significant number of requests from college players wanting a try-out. By the time the St. Louis Giants headed to New Orleans for spring training the majority of the roster was in place and there were several top college players in camp trying to win a spot on the final roster. Some of the young players competing for roster spots were Eddie Douglas (OF)(Ft. Worth), George Johnson (P)(Fort Worth), Leon Proctor (P)(Talladega College) and Samuel Simpson (P)(Wilberforce University). Also in camp was Harry Dixon who was a southpaw pitcher and had starred for the Chicago Giants the preceding season. Mills' biggest problem now was to select a 16 man roster out of the 65 players who had come to camp.

In a banner advertisement the St. Louis Argus announced that the St. Louis Giants would open their season on April 18th and the season would open with grand ceremonies including a band concert by the Great Western Band.



St. Louis Argus
04-16-15

The St. Louis Stars called the newly renovated Kuebler Field home for the 1915 season. The St. Louis Giants first game of the season in their new ball park was against the Belleville Maroons who were the champions of the St. Louis Trolley League. The Maroons featured a battery of former professional players. Joe Ryan of the Winnipeg State League was the opening day pitcher and Lloyd Wade of the Pittsburgh Nationals caught for Belleville. Employing former professionals from “white” organized ball made no difference to the St. Louis Giants. They dominated their white opponent and won the game easily by a score of 14-3. Andrew “String Bean” Williams got the win for St. Louis. Jimmie Lyons and Spec Webster both hit homeruns for the Giants. The attendance for the game was estimated at 4,300 fans which pleased both Kuebler and Mills.



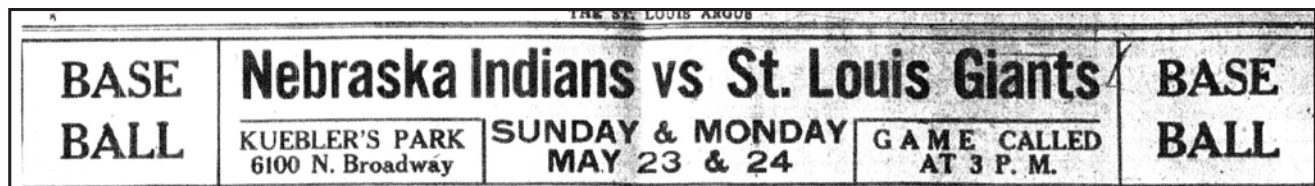
Kuebler Park

Home of the St. Louis Giants

In April of 1915 there were plans underway to form a “new” St. Louis City League. Teams that were projected to join the “league” were the St. Louis Giants, East St. Louis Giants, Belleville Maroons, Alpen Braus and two other teams to be determined at a later date. The St. Louis Argus projected that if the “league” actually materialized, that the St. Louis Giants would be the biggest drawing card and most likely win the “league” championship title. The “new” St. Louis City League started play in late May with games scheduled to be played on Saturday. The final listing of teams that played in the “league” was the St. Louis Giants, East St. Louis Giants, Alpen Braus and Miller’s All Stars. Four games have been found for the St. Louis Giants playing in the St. Louis City League during the 1915 season and the Giants won all four games.

It wasn’t until May that the first black team came to St. Louis to play the Giants. This team was the Southern Illinois Giants. In a Sunday match-up at Kuebler Park, the St. Louis Giants demolished their opponent in a 35-0 slugfest. Even though the fans enjoyed the game, Charles Mills cancelled the games for Monday and Tuesday and sent the Southern Illinois Giants back home.

Excitement and anticipation hit St. Louis and Kuebler Park on Sunday May 23rd when the Nebraska Indians came to town for a two game series. The Nebraska Indians were considered one of the top traveling teams in the country and would provide the first real test for Mills’ Giants. Up to this point in the season the St. Louis Giants had won their first seven games and proven to be invincible. They had scored 41 runs in their last 12 innings and in the first seven games of the season had scored 128 runs while their opponents could manage only 7 runs.



St. Louis Argus
05-21-15

Both of the games against the Nebraska Indians were hard fought. Andrew Williams pitched a one-hitter in the first game. Game one went 11 innings before the Giants scored the lone run of the game to give the Giants a 1-0 victory. In game two Jimmie Lyons scored in the ninth inning to give the Giants an 8-7 win. There were more than 3,000 fans in the stands at Kuebler Park for the second game of the series.

Lyons Stars for the St. Louis Giants

Jimmie Lyons started the 1915 regular season with St. Louis and got off on a hot streak that lasted all season. At the end of the year Jimmie had compiled a batting average of .390 and slugging percentage of .689 for the season. His complete hitting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1915	St. Louis	41	164	53	64	11	4	10	48	39	.390	.689

Other top hitters for the St. Louis Giants in 1915 were Felix “Dick” Wallace (.357), Tullie McAdoo (.333), Pearl “Spec” Webster (.333) and Lorenzo Cobb (.283). Reportedly the St. Louis Giants were the top hitting team in the West during the 1915 season. Dick Wallace also managed the team during the season.

Andrew "String Bean" Williams was the ace of the pitching staff. In an article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on October 8th, Williams had won 22 games of the 26 games that he had started. Bill Gatewood, Jimmie Lyons, Hub Miller, Joe Smith, (no first name) Crenshaw and (no first name) Thomas also pitched for St. Louis in 1915.

The St. Louis Giants played into early November and finished the year with what appears to have been a very successful season. Currently line scores and newspaper articles have been found for thirty-eight (38) ball games played by the St. Louis Giants in 1915. St. Louis posted a won-loss record of 30-6-2 (.833) in these 38 games. Based on the level of competition that the St. Louis Giants played a case can be made for them being considered one of the top two if not the best team in the West for the 1915 baseball season.

Financial Problems Continue for Mills

As had been his problem for years, Charles Mills had difficulty with finances and in locating a home field for his team for the upcoming 1916 season. When the 1916 season got underway on April 23rd with a game against Brock's All Stars, an investment group headed up by Richard D. Barrett controlled the St. Louis Giants. Barrett's group had wanted to lease Federal Park but Phil Ball who owned the stadium wanted a payment of \$ 10,000 for the season. When that deal fell through Barrett attempted to lease Athletic Park but it required too many repairs (at least \$ 5,000) to be a feasible site for the Giants.

MILLS AGAIN TO MANAGE THE GIANTS

Crafty Little Base Ball General Will
Pilot the Team for Ed Brock,
the South St. Louis Magnate

First Game Sunday at Brock's Park—
New Faces in the Line Up—Strong
Teams Already Booked

Charles A. Mills has again assumed
the management of the St. Louis Giants.
When Ed Brock, the South St. Louis
magnate, took over this famous aggre-
gation of diamond stars, last Friday,
he immediately did the wise thing by
appointing the only real baseball gen-
eral in St. Louis, Mills, to handle the
team.

The first game will be played Sun-
day with Jacob Kaiser's All Stars at
Brock's Park, 3600 S. Broadway. Game
starts at 3:15. A big parade will pre-
cede the game, starting at Compton
and Lawton at 1 o'clock. The admis-
sion will be: Bleachers 25c, Grand
Stand 35c.

St. Louis ended up playing their home games at Federal League Park (only a very few games), Brock's Park, Central High School Athletic Field and the Christian Brothers College Diamond during the 1916 season.

On April 4th the St. Louis Argus reported that behind the leadership of Richard Barrett a new colored league was being formed with teams in Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and St. Louis. A Cuban traveling team was also supposed to be a part of the new league.

Brock and Mills regain control of the St. Louis Giants

By the end of May Ed Brock and Charles Mills had taken over the operation of the St. Louis Giants from Richard Barrett's investor group. Barrett's team never got untracked during the first part of the season. In less than two month's of ownership, Richard Barrett had taken a championship team and turned them into a struggling team with a losing record.

In addition to taking over the financial controls of the Giants that made Ed Brock the principle owner of the team, Brock also proposed forming the St. Louis American Amusement Association with Charles Mills serving as the organization's business manager.

Felix "Dick" Wallace was the team captain for the 1916 St. Louis Giants season.

St. Louis Argus

05-26-16

The top hitters on the St. Louis Giants team were Frank Warfield (.343), Sam Bennett (.327), Jimmie Lyons (.289), Charlie Blackwell (.278) and Ted Kimbro (.276). The roster also included Sam Bennett (OF), Lorenzo Cobb (C), Bill Handy (2B), Joe Hewitt (OF), Tullie McAdoo (1B), Dick Wallace (SS) and Spec Webster (C).

Bill Gatewood was the ace of the pitching staff in 1916. The Giants pitching staff also included Big Bill Drake, Jimmie Lyons, Melton (no first name), Hub Miller, Moore (no first name), Robert Prior, Robert Saulter, Lee Wade, Frank Wickware and Andrew “String Bean” Williams during the season.

The St. Louis Giants played an extensive schedule in 1916 that continued on into October. Mills closed out the season for his team with a doubleheader against Dick Slack’s East St. Louis Giants (a white team) at Federal League Park that was played on October 15th. The double header was played for the title of Missouri-Illinois championship. Slack’s team needed to win both to claim the title. Mills squad only needed one win to bring home the championship because Mills team had beaten Slack’s squad a week earlier by the score of 3-2. There was also a \$ 500 side bet between Mills and Slack on the outcome of the series. The outcome of the series does not appear to have been reported in the local newspaper.

The won-loss record for the 1916 St. Louis Giants can be deceiving. It is important to note that the team started the season under the ownership and management of an investor group headed up by Richard Barrett. Under Barrett’s leadership the team played very poorly and their won-loss record reflected that. However, when Ed Brock and Charles Mills took over the team, the St. Louis Giants performed significantly different. The results of thirty-five (35) games have been found with Charles Mills as the manager. In these 35 games, the St. Louis Giants went 24-10-1 (.706). There is no question Mills turned around the team once he was in charge. The St. Louis Giants finished the 1916 season as one of the top teams in the West. Other leading teams in the West in 1916 were Chicago American Giants (40-26-3), Indianapolis ABCs (23-18-3), Cuban Stars West (35-34-2) and the All Nations (record not available).



St. Louis Giants (1916)

(Back row left to right – Bill Gatewood, William Drake, Harry Kimbro, Tullie McAdoo, Sam Bennett and Lee Wade.
Seated left to right – McKinley “Bunny” Downs, **Frank Warfield**, Dan Kennard, **Charles Mills**, **Dick Wallace**,
Jimmie Lyons and **Charles Blackwell**)

BASEBALL

GIANTS WILL OPEN SEASON AT FEDERAL PARK, MAY 6

Phil Ball Tries to Keep Negroes Out of Park at Grand and Laclede. Brock Enjoins Him From Removing Seats. Giants Have Five Year Lease

The St. Louis Giants have booked several games with local teams for the near future, but Mr. Brock says the championship schedule will not open until May 6, when the Giants will face the famous Cuban Stars at Federal Park.

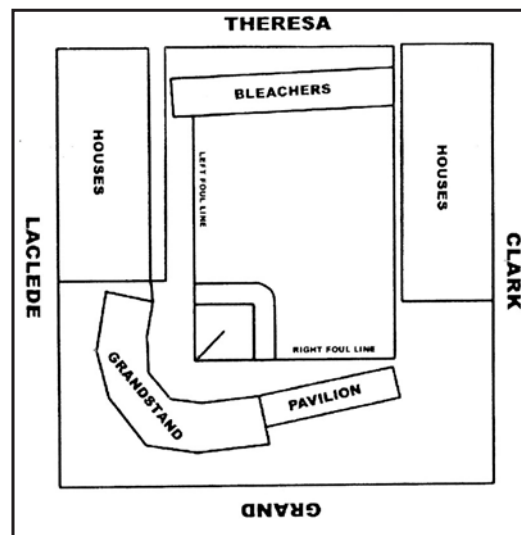
Brock has been having some trouble with Phil Ball, owner of the Browns, who it seems is anxious to keep the Negro team out of the park at Grand and Laclede. Brock has signed the leading stars on the diamond for this season and the Giants bid fair to outdraw the American League Club. Ball's lease expires April 9 and to handicap the Colored club he attempted to remove the seats from the grandstand. This being against the law and contrary to agreement with Mr. Hanlan, the owner, he was enjoined by Brock. Brock has secured a five year lease beginning April 10. He offered to take the park earlier and pay Ball for the time, but this was refused. However, everything will be O. K. The Giants will play the East Saint Louis Giants on the east side grounds Sunday, Easter, at 3 p. m. Joe Hewett will be captain of the team until Captain Pettes and the eastern players arrive next week.

St. Louis Giants Start 1917 Season with a Disaster

Over the years Charles Mills had numerous financial partners. The two primary reasons for this was that Mills never had the capital of his own to run a first class team and he was never able to secure a long term ball park for the team.

Before the start of the 1917 baseball season, the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis published a story that Charles Mills would not manage the St. Louis Giants for the 1917 season. The Freeman reported that the team would be managed by a "syndicate of well-known colored men." Richard D. Barrett was the business manager of the investment group.

The status of the management and ownership of the St. Louis Giants was clarified on April 6th when the St. Louis Argus newspaper reported that Ed Brock (white) would run the team. The rationale for Ed Brock taking over the St. Louis Giants was that he held a five year lease on Federal League Park and this would be a perfect place for the Giants to play their home games. Federal League Park was built in 1914 to serve as the home of the St. Louis Terriers of the Federal League which only lasted two years. Federal League Park is sometimes referred to as Handlan's Park or Steinger Field. The park was located at the corner of Grand Avenue and Laclede Avenue.



Federal League Park Site Plan

St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat
01-30-14

Brock Gives Up Federal Park

**GIANTS COMPELLED TO SEEK
HOME IN EAST ST. LOUIS
Scheduled to Play Strongest Clubs**

After being baffled about from park to park for the past few years, the St. Louis Giants have been finally compelled to go to East St. Louis for a home. Polo Park has been selected and it is stated that the Illinoisans were so glad to get the crack St. Louis club that the white club has been disbanded and a \$150 guarantee forfeited to the league. This hits St. Louis a hard blow, but commends the support of our boys to all of the fans on this side.

It is clearly indicated, by recent developments that the owners of the league clubs are opposing Negro baseball in this city and are determined to shut them out of all parks.

Although Brock had claimed to hold and did exhibit, a five-year lease of Federal Park, he suddenly threw his hands up last week, claiming he had lost it and was broke. The whole transaction looks fishy.

The players were left stranded and some of the boys have left the city but their places have been filled and the St. Louis Giants Co-operative Baseball Club has been organized, with Richard Barrett as business manager and Jimmie Lyons as captain. Barrett had accepted a position as secretary and booking agent for Brock and when he heard of the players' plight, he called the boys together and told them he had heard from C. I. Taylor, of the Indianapolis A. B. C.'s

The St. Louis Giants faced a significant complication going into the 1917 season. Philip Ball, owner of the St. Louis Browns, whose lease of Federal League Park expired the day before Ed Brock's lease on the stadium went into effect, removed all the seats in the grandstand area of the stadium. Not wanting a black team playing in Federal League Park or really anywhere in St. Louis, Ball also filed a lawsuit in municipal court that prevented Ed Brock from being able to execute his contract for the lease of the stadium. Not being able to open the season at Federal League Park was bad enough, but Ed Brock had already spent \$ 3,000.00 in renovations of the ball park. Brock's tenure in the leadership role of the St. Louis Giants started off disastrously and ended quickly. These financial setbacks reportedly put Brock in a financial position that forced him to give up his position with the Giants.

The St. Louis Giants planned an opening date of May 6th for their first game of the 1917 season.

Mills returns to the St. Louis Giants

With the exodus of Ed Brock, the St. Louis Giants were taken over by the investor group known as the St. Louis Giants Co-operative Baseball Club. The new organization was headed up by Richard Barrett and J.H. Haynes. Their first official act was to bring back Charles Mills to manage the ball club.

According to a newspaper article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on May 11th, Jimmie Lyons began the season with the St. Louis Giants as their team captain and started in the outfield. When Lyons left the club, William "Bill" Pettus became the team captain. Key players on the 1917 team were Sam Bennett (OF), Charles Blackwell (OF), Bunny Downs (2B), Lorenzo Cobb (C), Bill Gatewood (P), Joe Hewitt (SS), Dan Kennard (C), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Tullie McAdoo (1B) and Robert Prior (P).

There was very little press coverage for the 1917 St. Louis Giants so batting and pitching statistics can't be presented with this research.

With Mills back in control of the Giants, he moved the team to Polo Park in East St. Louis (IL) for the 1917 season. They also played several home games at Brock's Park which was located at 3600 Broadway. The St. Louis Giants, however, spent the majority of the season as a traveling ball club and didn't play their first game in St. Louis until June 3rd. St. Louis has been rated by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team as the eighth best team in the West in 1917. From this researcher's perspective there have not been enough games found to accurately rate the 1917 St. Louis Giants.

World War I Impacts Professional Baseball

World War I had a devastating impact on professional baseball in the United States. Some of the top black ball players from the West that got drafted into military service to support the war effort included Oscar Charleston, Mortie Clark, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, Jude Gans, Jim Jeffries, Dicta Johnson, Tom Johnson, Jimmie Lyons, Dave Malarcher, Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware and Bobby Williams.

Did the St. Louis Giants Field a Team in 1918 ?

Most researchers agree that because of all the issues related to World War I and after an incredibly difficult year in 1917, Charles Mills did not field a team for the 1918 season.

However, Negro League researcher John Holway reports that he has found two games that the St. Louis Giants played during the 1918 season. Holway does not report the dates or any particulars of these two games. The box scores that Holway found included the following players: Tullie McAdoo (1B), Bunny Downs (2B), Frank Warfield (SS), Felix Wallace (3B), Dan Kennard (C), Charles Blackwell (OF), Sam Bennett (OF), Jimmie Lyons (OF/P), Bill Gatewood (P) and Lee Wade (P).

Charles Mills Re-organizes the St. Louis Giants

After being out of baseball for the 1918 season, Charles Mills reformed the St. Louis Giants for the 1919 baseball season. In order to field a team for the 1919 season, Mills brought in three new investors. They were Perry H. Harris, M.C. Whitlor and John Haynes. In addition to funding the team the investment group also secured grounds at 6000 North Broadway and Clarence near the Taylor Avenue trolley line to build a new grandstand, bleachers and club house.



Charles Blackwell
St. Louis Giants

Dick Wallace was signed as the field manager and the team played their home games at Giants Park in St. Louis.

The 1919 St. Louis Giants were led by the hitting of Charlie Blackwell (OF), Sam Bennett (OF), Dan Kennard (C), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Tullie McAdoo, Robert "Bow Legs" Scott (OF) and Dick Wallace (SS). Bill Drake, Bill Gatewood, John Finner and Fred Daniels comprised the starting rotation for St. Louis for the season.

In the September 26, 1919 issue of the St. Louis Argus the financials of the St. Louis Giants were published. According to Charles Mills, the team had \$ 5,863.33 in grounds and building improvement. They also had \$ 3,700.00 in payroll and park expenses. In addition they employed 23 people (players and staff). The St. Louis Giants were profitable and that made Charles Mills very proud.

According to research by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team the St. Louis Giants were the sixth best team in the West for the 1919 season.

Founding of the St. Louis Giants Baseball and Amusement Company

On January 16, 1920 the St. Louis Argus reported that a group of investors had gotten together and formed the St. Louis Giants Baseball and Amusement Company. The shareholders of the "new" company were Louis J. Mills (100 shares), John H. Haynes (100 shares), Charles Mills (10 shares) and Lorenzo S. Cobb (10 shares).

St. Louis Giants Baseball And Amusement Company
To The Investor, A Safe And Sane Investment

**Elements Of Safety In The St. Louis
Giants Baseball And Amusement
Company (Common) Stock**

The St. Louis Giants Baseball and Amusement Company is incorporated for \$10,000 under the laws of the State of Missouri, controls leasehold on grounds located at Broadway and Clarence Av., has improved the grounds and built stands to the amount of \$4,863.00 and expects to build additional stands this summer.

IS NOW OFFERING

180 Shares of Common Stock for sale at \$25 a share for cash. For the small investor you cannot beat it. for cash, Paying 6 per cent at the least. For the small investor you cannot beat it.

By the month of August this year, this same stock, now selling for \$25.00 a share, cannot be purchased for three times the amount.

Rapid and solid growth in baseball is an assurance of a **SAFE INVESTMENT.**

WHILE THE ISSUE LASTS, this Stock will be for sale to the general public on application.

Address
LORENZA S. COBB, Executive Secretary
3208 Lawton Ave. Phone, Bell, Bomont 2273

St. Louis Giants
Stock Offering

St. Louis Argus
01-16-20

Founding of the Negro National League

Prior to the start of the 1920 baseball season Andrew "Rube" Foster, owner of the Chicago American Giants, held a meeting of the owners of the top black teams in the West. These meetings were held on February 13th and 14th of 1920 at the YMCA in Kansas City (Missouri) for the purpose of organizing the Negro National League (NNL). Some of the owners who attended the meeting were Andrew "Rube" Foster (Chicago American Giants), John "Tenny" Blount (Detroit Stars), Joe Green (Chicago Giants), C.I. Taylor (Indianapolis ABC's) and J.L. Wilkinson (Kansas City Monarchs). Lorenzo Cobb represented Charles Mills, owner of the St. Louis Giants, because he was ill. W.S. Ferrance, secretary of the St. Louis Giants, also attended the meeting. At the end of the meeting a "league" constitution was ratified and Rube Foster was elected as the President and C.I. Taylor Vice-President of the Negro National League. Each of the eight clubs that joined the new league paid a \$ 500 franchise fee.



Andrew "Rube" Foster

The formation of the Negro National League did not happen over night. In December of 1907 a meeting had been held at the offices of the Freeman newspaper in Indianapolis to discuss the formation of the "National Colored Baseball League." Among those attending this meeting were Frank Leland, Rube Foster and other owners of some of the top black teams in the West.

In addition Rube Foster had proposed a black league in 1912. Cities that Rube Foster envisioned in the league included Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Louisville and St. Louis.

According to a letter by C.I. Taylor that was printed in the Indianapolis Freeman on May 5th of 1915, he and Andrew "Rube" Foster had been corresponding and planning for a national black league since the fall of 1914.

According to Rube Foster one of the major issues facing the Negro National League that would impact their inaugural season was players' contracts. In an effort to deal with this issue and provide more parity in the "league" Rube Foster made the following edicts:

1. Oscar Charleston was sent from the Chicago American Giants to the Indianapolis ABCs.
2. Sam Crawford went to the Kansas City Monarchs.
3. Dick Whitworth was sent to the Detroit Stars.
4. The Detroit Stars returned Jose Mendez and John Donaldson to the Kansas City Monarchs.
5. Jimmie Lyons was sent from the St. Louis Giants to the Detroit Stars. Lyons going to Detroit was absurd because he had spent the 1919 season with the St. Louis Giants and before that had spent parts of 1918 and 1919 in the military. Speculation was that Rube Foster's friendship with Tenny Blount, owner of the Detroit Stars, sent Lyons to Detroit as a personal favor to Blount.

When the Negro National League (NNL) meetings were held, W.S. Ferrnce representing Charles Mills and the St. Louis Giants brought up the following concerns and grievances:

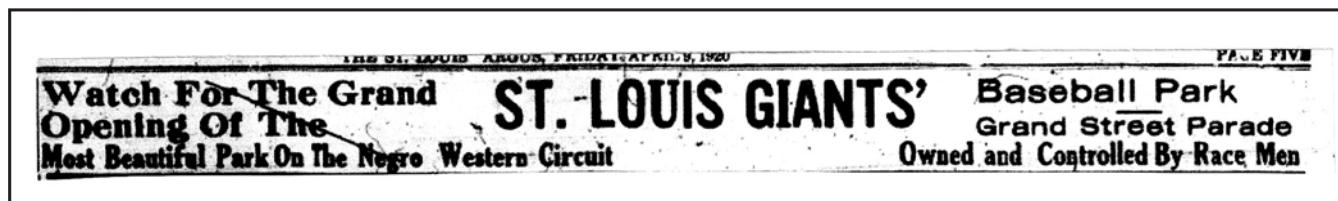
1. Reinforced Ed Bolden's (owner of the Hilldale club) position that the Negro National League was primarily a booking agency headed up by Rube Foster.
2. Criticized what he called Rube Foster's "czar-like" rule over the Negro National League.
3. Took exception and demanded an explanation as to why Jimmie Lyons had been taken from the St. Louis Giants roster and assigned to the Detroit Stars.
4. Supported teams being able to book their own games, especially outside the Negro National League regular season schedule.
5. Opposed having to pay 5 % of the gate to the Negro National League for each "league" game that was played. Rube Foster promised that a new booking policy would be developed but it never did materialize.
6. Voiced his displeasure on how disputes were handled especially when they involved the Chicago American Giants.

St. Louis Joins the Negro National League

Even with all the problems and concerns expressed by St. Louis Giants management, Charles Mills paid his \$ 500 franchise fee and the St. Louis Giants were a member of the Negro National League. “Dick” Wallace was the player/manager for the St. Louis Giants in 1920. The team played their home games at Giants Park located at 6000 North Broadway at 60th Street in St. Louis.

The St. Louis Giants team that Charles Mills fielded for the inaugural 1920 Negro National League season turned out to be a second division club with a losing record. Charles Blackwell (.316), Lorenzo Cobb (.308), Doc Dudley (.302), Dan Kennard (.290), Sidney Brooks (.277), Lee Hill (.274) and Dick Wallace (.253) led the team in hitting.

Big Bill Drake (11-14) was the ace of the Giants’ pitching staff. John Finner (8-6), Wayne Carr (6-9), Jimmy Oldham (2-1), Joe Casey (1-0), Louis Danage (1-0) and Luther Farrell (1-5) also pitched for the 1920 Giants. One of the Giants’ pitching highlights of the 1920 season was when in early June Jimmy Oldham pitched a one-hitter in a 2-1 St. Louis victory. Oldham had a no-hitter going with two outs in the ninth inning before giving up the only hit of the game to his opponent.



St. Louis Argus
04-09-20

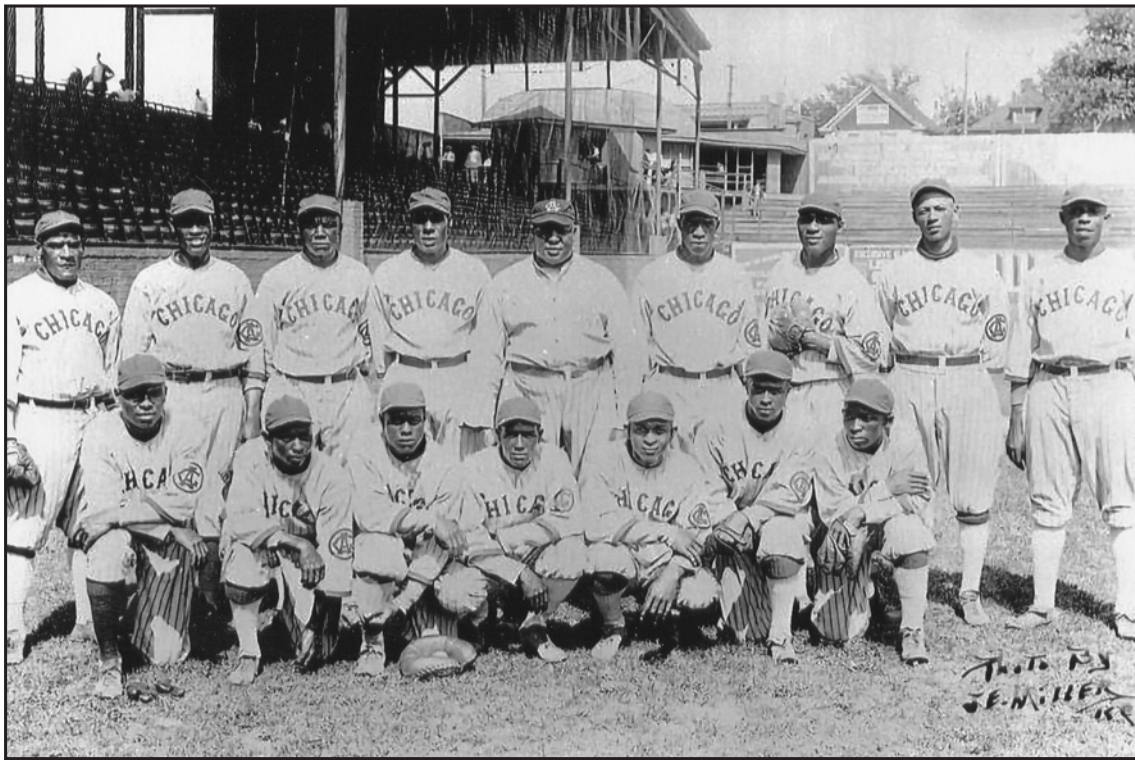
The St. Louis Giants opened their 1920 Negro National League season on May 9th with a 2-1 loss to the Kansas City Monarchs. Rube Currie got the win for Kansas City and John Finner took the loss for St. Louis.

Researchers differ on the “league” won-loss records of the eight teams that played in the inaugural season of the Negro National League season in 1920. Presented here is the research of two of the top Negro League researcher teams (Larry Lester/Dick Clark and Gary Ashwill – Seamheads) for the 1920 Negro National League season. Both research groups agree in the final order of standings, but Ashwill’s group appears to have found significantly more “official” Negro National League box scores for games for the 1920 season.

Negro National League (1920)

Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark				Research by Gary Ashwill (Seamheads)			
1920	Games	Record	Pct.	1920	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	45	32-13	.711	Chicago American Giants	62	43-17-2	.710
Detroit Stars	58	35-23	.603	Detroit Stars	64	37-27	.578
Kansas City Monarchs	70	41-29	.586	Kansas City Monarchs	79	44-33-2	.570
Indianapolis ABCs	74	39-35	.527	Indianapolis ABC's	86	44-38-4	.535
Cuban Stars	45	21-24	.467	Cuban Stars (West)	69	35-34	.507
St. Louis Giants	57	25-32	.439	St. Louis Giants	72	32-40	.444
Dayton Marcos	26	8-18	.308	Dayton Marcos	52	16-36	.308
Chicago Giants	28	4-24	.143	Chicago Giants	36	5-31	.139

(Note – The Bacharach Giants were an Associate Member of the “league” in 1920.)



**Chicago American Giants
Negro National League Champions
1920**

(Back row left to right – **Cristobal Torriente**, Tom Johnson, Unknown, Unknown **Andrew “Rube” Foster**, **Bingo DeMoss**, Leroy Grant, Tom Williams and Jack Marshall. Kneeling left to right – Jim Brown, Otis Starks, George Dixon, **Dave Malarcher**, **Dave Brown**, Unknown and John Reese.)

Both research teams agree that the St. Louis Giants finished the 1920 season in 6th Place in the final Negro National League standings. They were seventeen (17) games behind the pennant winning Chicago American Giants. The results for twenty-two (22) games in which the St. Louis Giants played a “non-league” opponent have also been found. In these twenty-two (22) games the St. Louis Giants had an impressive won-loss record of 19-3 (.864).

The Negro National League proved to be the first successful baseball league featuring black baseball players.

After the regular season Charles Mills booked a four game series against the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League who had finished the season in fifth place for the regular season. The St. Louis Giants won the first game by a score of 5-4 with John Finner getting the win with a strong appearance in relief. Game one of the series was played at Giants Park with 6,000 fans in attendance. The St. Louis Cardinals won games two and three by shut out pitching from Jesse “Pop” Haines and Ferdie Schupp. Mills refused to let his St. Louis Giants play game four because according to Mills, the Giants had not been paid what they had been promised for the first three games.

The St. Louis Giants also played a post season game against Casey Stengel’s Philadelphia Nationals. The game was played in St. Louis.

On December 3rd and 4th Charles Mills attended the Negro National League meeting which was held at the YMCA in Indianapolis (IN). All of the owners of the “league” teams and leading black sports writers from around the country were in attendance at the meeting.

The major issues discussed at the Negro National League meeting were as follows:

- The Dayton Marcos lost their franchise and were replaced by the Columbus Buckeyes.
- The Bacharach Giants, Hilldale and the Pittsburgh Keystones were given “associate member” status.
- The 1920 Negro National League season was declared a huge success with approximately 700,000 fans attending “league” games.
- Charles Mills and his legal advisor Judge Homer Phillips announced that the St. Louis Giants were expanding their “grounds” to accommodate 10,000 fans.
- The major topic of discussion was player contracts and players jumping from one team to another. This issue was partially resolved when a list of players under contract or held in reserve was submitted to the “league” office.

Mills Fields His Best Team Ever

On January 15, 1921 the St. Louis Baseball and Amusement Company had their annual meeting. Charles Mills was elected as President and Lorenzo Cobb was elected as Secretary. Joining the organization as a major stock holder was Dr. Samuel Shepard.



St. Louis Argus
01-07-21

The St. Louis Giants left town on March 19th and traveled to New Orleans to conduct spring training. During spring training the Giants played the Caulfield Ads from New Orleans. After the conclusion of spring training the St. Louis Giants played their way back to St. Louis making stops in Lake Charles (LA), Dallas, Fort Worth, Hot Springs (AR) and several other cities.

Prior to the start of the 1921 season Charles Mills pulled off a real coup when he signed Oscar Charleston who had been playing for the Indianapolis ABCs. The 1921 St. Louis Giants were the best team that Charles Mills ever fielded. His starting line-up for the 1921 Negro National League season was as follows:

St. Louis Giants (1921)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Tullie McAdoo	.215	OF	Charles Blackwell	.405
2B	Eddie Holtz	.176	OF	Oscar Charleston	.433
SS	Joe Hewitt	.253	OF	Doc Dudley	.306
3B	Sam Mongin	.222			
C	Dan Kennard	.325	P	Big Bill Drake	17-11

Sam Bennett (.285) and Sidney Brooks (.309) were the team’s top two utility players in 1921.

Felix “Dick” Wallace was the player manager of the 1921 team and they played their home games at Giants Park.

St. Louis Giants
 Negro National League
 1921

PAGE TWELVE

THE ST. LOUIS ARGUS, FRIDAY, APR. 8, 1921

St. Louis Giants Will Play Their First Game At Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Local National League Stars, Now On A Triumphant Tour of The South, Will Make Their First Appearance Here Against The HURON DAKOTA LEAGUE CLUB, Best In The Northwest.

The Giants Will Open The Negro League Season At Kansas City, Sat. April 30

See Them First at
 Giants' Park, 6000 N. Broadway
 SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Reserve Box Seat
 Tickets Now
 For The Big Game
 SUNDAY, APRIL 24
 PHONE, BOMONT 1043
 Reservations Already Coming In.



JOE HEWITT



SAM MANGIN



RICHARD WALLACE



CHARLES BLACKWELL



DAN KENNARD



OSCAR CHARLESTON



TULLIE McADOO



WILLIAM DRAKE



EDDIE HOLTZ



DOC DUDLEY

THE ABOVE PHOTOS ARE OF MEN WHO ARE SURE TO MAKE THE 1921 ST. LOUIS GIANTS. Also—Del Clarke, 2nd Baseman; Dr. Dudley, the sensational outfielder; John Finner, pitcher; and Sam Mangin, Infielder.

St. Louis Giants (1921)

Starting Line-Up

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Tullie McAdoo	OF	Charles Blackwell
2B	Eddie Holtz	OF	Oscar Charleston
SS	Joe Hewitt	OF	Doc Dudley
3B	Sam Mongin		
C	Dan Kennard	P	Bill Drake
		P	John Finner

During the 1921 Negro National League season Oscar Charleston and Charles Blackwell were considered the top two players in the Negro National League. Oscar Charleston and Charles Blackwell's hitting statistics for the 1921 season were as follows:

Player	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Oscar Charleston	77	284	104	123	17	12	15	91	32	.433	.512
Charles Blackwell	79	294	88	119	20	11	12	89	25	.405	.478

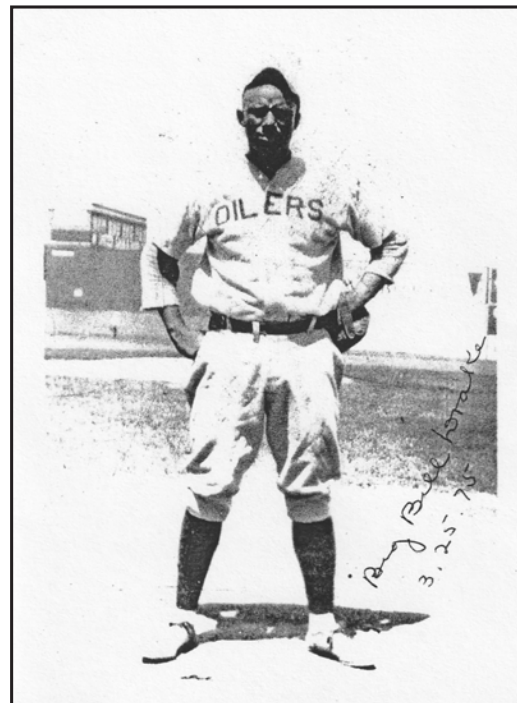


Oscar Charleston
St. Louis Giants
1921

St. Louis opened their Negro National League season on a positive note on April 30th against the Kansas City Monarchs. The game was played in Kansas City with approximately 3,000 fans in attendance. Charles Blackwell hit a two run home run in the top of the ninth inning to give the Giants a 6-4 win. John Finner got the win for St. Louis and Rube Currie was charged with the loss for Kansas City.

Their first game of the Negro National League Season played at home on May 8th against the Chicago Giants. Behind the shutout pitching of Big Bill Drake, the St. Louis Giants easily defeated the Chicago Giants by a score of 9-0.

Big Bill Drake
St. Louis Giants
1921



The pitching staff for the 1921 Giants was anchored by Bill Drake (22-11), Jimmy Oldham (12-5) and John Finner (11-7). Also pitching for St. Louis in 1921 were Deacon Meyers (4-2), James "Buddy" Field (3-4), Otis "Lefty" Starks (2-3), Herbert Smith (2-2), Perry Hall, (1-0), Wayne Carr (1-4), Sidney Brooks (0-3), Salvador Poree (0-0) and Oscar Charleston (0-0). According to research by John Holway, Big Bill Drake led the Negro National League in wins (22) and in strikeouts (132). The won-loss records for the Giants' pitching staff presented here are for games against both "league" and "non-league" opponents.

The St. Louis Giants opened their regular season on April 24th with a three game series against Doc Andrews' Huron South Dakota League Club. Behind the pitching of Wayne Carr and Jimmie Oldham the Giants beat Huron by a score of 7-1 in game one. The results for games two and three have not been located.

THE ST. LOUIS ARGUS, FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1921

Official Opening Nat'l Association Colored **BASEBALL** Season Of 1921, At
GIANTS' PARK

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday May 8 to 12

St. Louis Giants vs. Chicago Giants

GAMES CALLED 3 P.M. BOX SEATS RESERVED. PHONE: GIANTS' HEADQUARTERS ——— BOMONT 1843
SHAW PHARMACY ——— LIN. 4912, DEL. 171

St. Louis Argus

05-06-21

The St. Louis Giants had an excellent season in 1921 in “league” play. They finished in second place in the final Negro National League standings behind the Chicago American Giants who repeated as champions of the “league.” According to an article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on October 28th the St. Louis Giants led the Negro National League in road wins and were third in games won at home.

The final standings for the 1921 Negro National League season are different depending on your research source.

Negro National League (1921)

Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark

Final Standings Published in St. Louis Argus
on 10-28-21

1921	Games	Record	Pct.	1921	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	64	42-22	.656	Chicago American Giants	65	43-22	.662
Kansas City Monarchs	81	50-31	.617	St. Louis Giants	72	42-30	.583
St. Louis Giants	68	40-28	.588	Kansas City Monarchs	91	53-38	.582
Detroit Stars	64	32-32	.500	Detroit Stars	66	33-33	.500
Indianapolis ABCs	73	35-38	.479	Indianapolis ABCs	78	38-40	.487
Cincinnati Cubans	68	29-39	.426	Columbus Buckeyes	72	32-40	.444
Columbus Buckeyes	63	25-38	.397	Cincinnati Cuban Stars	71	29-42	.408
Chicago Giants	42	10-32	.238	Chicago Giants	45	10-35	.222
Bacharach Giants	45	26-19	.578	Bacharach Giants	No won-loss records reported.		
(Associate Member)							

According to the research of Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team the St. Louis Giants were 46-33-1 (.582) in play against all levels of competition and 42-33 (.560) in “league” play. Negro League researcher John Holway credits the 1921 St. Louis Giants with a record of 54-30 (.643) in games against all levels of competition.

Two of the things that make it so difficult to evaluate the performance of Negro League teams is that apparently the “league” did not play or enforce a regular “league” schedule and that some teams did not report all of their games played to the “league” office. A review of the two different resources for the 1921 Negro National League season reveals two major issues. First, only two teams (Columbus and St. Louis) played the same number of games for the season according to the won-loss records as reported by the St. Louis Argus and Baltimore Afro-American. In the research reported by Larry Lester and Dick Clark only two teams (Cincinnati and St. Louis) played for same number of games for the 1921 season. Secondly, there was a wide discrepancy in the total number of “league” games played by individual teams. For example a review of the “final” Negro National League standings for the 1921 season as published in the St. Louis Argus and Baltimore Afro-American reveals that the Kansas City Monarchs played more than twice as many “league” games as the Chicago Giants.

BASEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE PARK, Grand and Dodier

Double Header, This Sunday, October 9

SEATS FOR EVERYONE

BLEACHERS	50c
PAVILION	75c
GRAND STAND	\$1.00
General Admission	
BACK BOXES	\$1.33
Including Grand Stand	
FRONT BOXES	\$1.50
Including Grand Stand	
WAR TAX INCLUDED	

St. L. Cardinals vs St. L. Giants

NATIONAL LEAGUE BATTING CHAMPIONS (First Game 1 O'clock) NAT'L NEGRO LEAGUE BATTING CHAMPIONS

Also Returns From World's Series Game Reported as Played

Single GAMES--MONDAY and TUES., OCT. 10th and 11th, 3 p. m.

Don't Miss The Double Header and World Series Returns Sunday 1 P. M.

Box Seats on Sale at Giant's Headquarters, Bom. 1043, Leonard and Laclede

One Half of Grand Stand

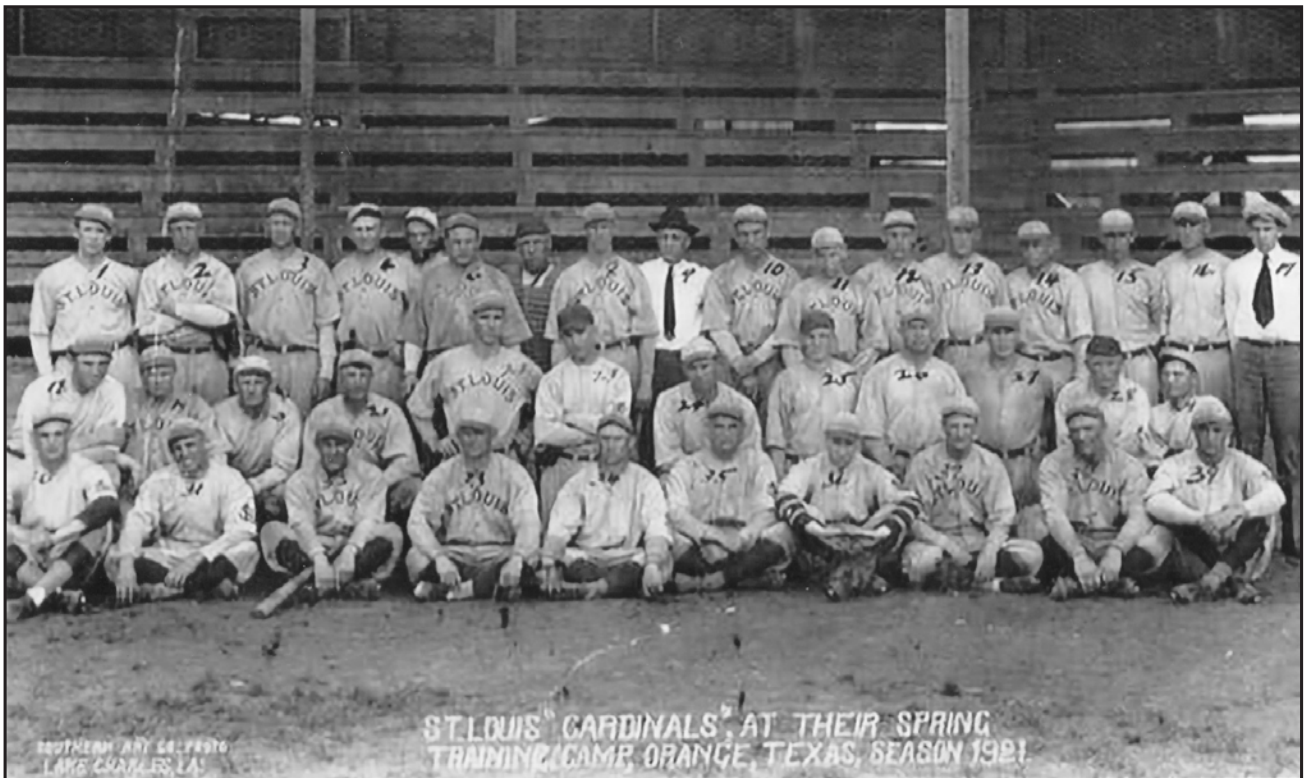
JUST BRING GIANTS' BENCH

Reserved For Colored Patrons

Best Seats In The Park

St. Louis Argus
10-07-21

After the Negro National League season, Charles Mills arranged for his team to play the St. Louis Cardinals in a five game exhibition series. The series almost never took place because the Cardinals required just a large guarantee. The Cardinals had a very good team led by the hitting of Rogers Hornsby and had finished in third place in the final National League standings. The series started on October 3rd and was played at American League Park. The St. Louis Cardinals won four of the five games played. The St. Louis Giants lone win came in game two behind a homerun by Oscar Charleston and the outstanding pitching of Jimmy Oldham. The Giants won the game by a score of 6-2. The Giants got excellent hitting against the Major Leaguers but their pitchers struggled on the mound. St. Louis Giants pitchers gave up 47 hits in 146 at bats for the Cardinals for a .322 team batting average. Joe Hewitt and Oscar Charleston led the way for the Giants in hitting. Hewitt went 6 for 16 for a .375 batting average and Charleston went 8 for 22 for a .364 average.



St. Louis Cardinals
National League

Mills Sells the Giants

Before the start of the 1922 Negro National League baseball season, Andrew “Rube” Foster who was President of the Negro National League was determined to replace Charles Mills as the owner of the St. Louis franchise with new ownership. Negro National League meetings were held from January 26-28, 1922 at the Appomattox Club in Chicago for Foster to begin this process. The rift between Charles Mills and Rube Foster stemmed from several incidents.

- Charles Mills and C.I. Taylor were adamantly against paying Rube Foster a 5 % booking fee for all “league” games. Reportedly, Rube Foster received \$ 11,200.00 in fees for booking games for the 1920 Negro National League season and the “league” did not get a dime of the money. Foster was in reality a one man booking agency. From this researcher’s perspective this started the rift between Mills and Foster that would ultimately cost Mills his Negro National League franchise and team.
- According to Rube Foster, Charles Mills had “exercised poor judgment in operating the team.” Reportedly most of these issues were related to financial matters.
- The St. Louis Giants reportedly accumulated debt to the players for salaries that were not paid when they were due.
- Foster claimed that Charles Mills and St. Louis Giants management had diminished the team’s revenue potential. Foster did not elaborate on this accusation.
- Frank Young, sports writer for the Chicago Defender, surmised that part of Foster’s problem with Mills was his team’s failure and unwillingness to complete a post season exhibition series with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1920.
- In addition, according to Rube Foster, the St. Louis Giants wanted to stay in the “league” but could not pay the \$ 1,000.00 deposit prior to the start of the 1922 season.



Negro National League Meeting (1922)

Ironically, after the best season of his career, Charles Mills was faced with the distinct possibility of losing his team.

Without any question, Charles Mills and the St. Louis Giants had been faced with a number of challenges and problems over the years. Even though there were significant differences between Foster and Mills, Rube Foster could have taken into consideration the following factors that had impacted Charles Mills' ability to manage his ball club:

1. The St. Louis Giants were plagued by numerous changes in management, investors and ownership over the years but they always fielded a quality team and paid their bills.
2. In defense of Charles Mills he wasn't independently wealthy but always maintained a role in the team's management as with the manager or co-owner.
3. In addition the St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association (SLGAA) had always been run professionally but when they disbanded after their first barnstorming tour of the East, Charles Mills was left by himself to operate the team.
4. Philip Ball dealt the St. Louis Giants and Ed Brock a deadly blow when he destroyed Brock's opportunity to lease Federal League Park.
5. The St. Louis Giants had lost several players to World War I.

Charles Mills had overcome all of these problems and more to keep the St. Louis Giants operating. Rube Foster was not willing to take into consideration any of these extenuating circumstances. Foster wanted Mills out and that was that.

When it became evident that Charles Mills was on his way out as the owner of the St. Louis franchise for the Negro National League, a group of St. Louis businessmen formed the St. Louis Giants Baseball Club and Amusement Association. This group should not be confused with the St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association which was formed in 1911. The goal of the "new" group was to preserve St. Louis' franchise in the Negro National League. The group was headed up by Dr. Samuel Shepard, Richard Kent and Dr. J.W. McClelland.

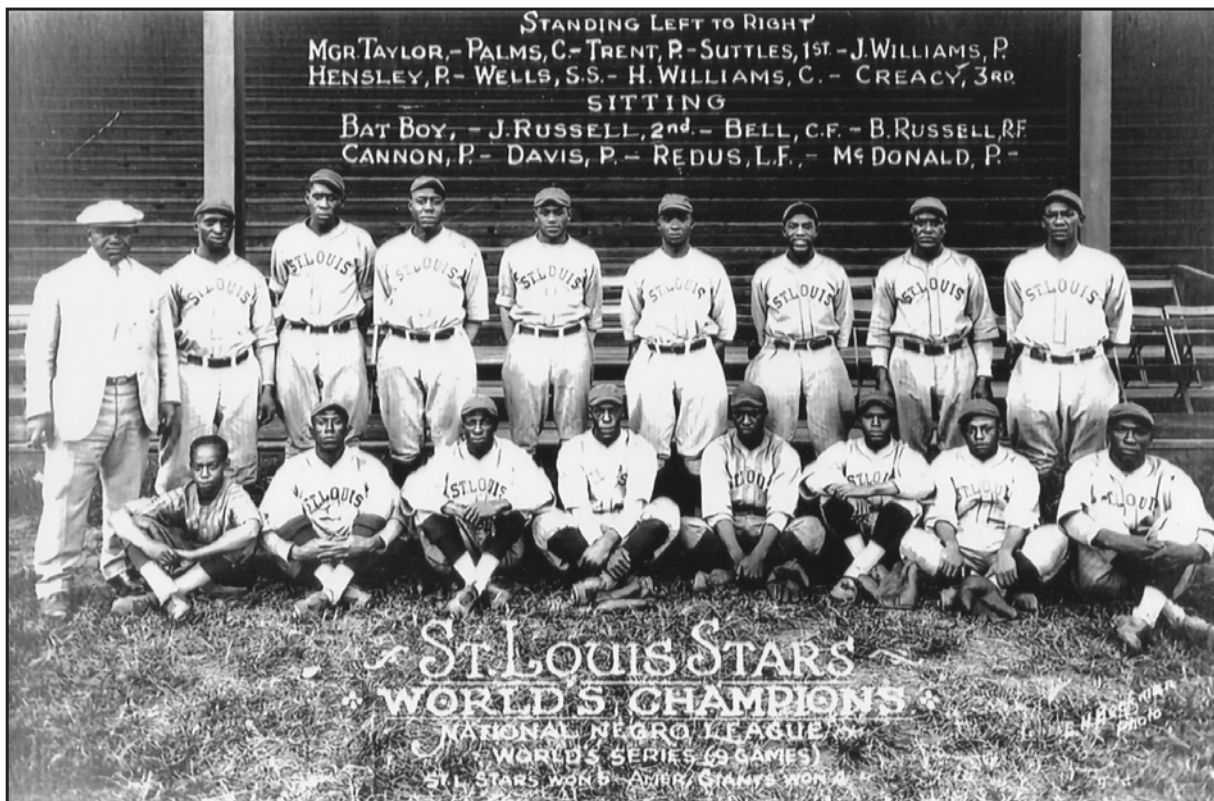
On March 31, 1922 the Baltimore Afro-American reported that Dr. Samuel Shepard and Richard "Dick" Kent had purchased the St. Louis franchise. The first thing that Shepard, Kent and the "new" investors group did when they bought the team was to schedule a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Negro National League (Rube Foster, C.I. Taylor and J.L. Wilkinson). After several intense meetings, the St. Louis investor group was given 15 days to provide evidence as to why the St. Louis Giants should be allowed to continue to participate in the "league."

Ultimately, St. Louis was allowed to have a franchise in the Negro National League. Once this became official, the new management team changed the name of the team to the "St. Louis Stars." With the sale of the team the legacy of the St. Louis Giants was no more.

St. Louis Stars Continue Tradition of Negro League Baseball in St. Louis.

In mid-April of 1922 the Chicago Defender reported that with a new ownership group in place, St. Louis would be allowed to continue to have a franchise in the Negro National League. Dr. Sam Shepard ran the St. Louis Stars as the team's business manager and Bill Gatewood was selected to be the team's player-manager. The St. Louis Stars then signed the entire roster from Charles Mills' St. Louis Giants team with the exception of Oscar Charleston. In addition the new ownership group built a new ball park for their team that they called "Stars Park." The new stadium was located at 130 South Compton Avenue which is where Compton Avenue and North Market Street meet. This was in the heart of the St. Louis African American community. The new stadium had a seating capacity of 10,000 fans.

The St. Louis Stars developed into a very strong organization and a winning tradition. The Stars won the Negro National League title in 1928, 1930 and 1931.



St. Louis Stars (1928)
Negro National League Champions

(Standing left to right – **James “Candy Jim” Taylor**, Clarence Palm, Ted Trent, **George “Mule” Suttles**, John Williams, “Eggie” Hensley, **Willie Wells**, Henry Williams and A.D. “Dewey” Crecacy.
 Front row left to right – Norman James, John Henry Russell, **James “Cool Pappa” Bell**, Branch Russell, Richard Carron, Roosevelt Davis, Wilson “**Frog**” Redus and Luther McDonald.)

Life after the Negro National League

According to most Negro League baseball historians after he sold the St. Louis Giants, Charles Mills seemed to fade away from the baseball scene. Some researchers credit Mills with making one more appearance in professional baseball when he backed and managed the St. Louis Black Sox in 1924. The St. Louis Black Sox appear to have been a low level semi-professional team who were based in St. Louis during the 1920’s. It appears that the Black Sox team that Charles Mills funded and managed only lasted one season. According to most baseball researchers this was Charles Mills’ final foray in “big time” professional baseball.

Our research has revealed that after Charles Mills lost control of or sold the St. Louis Giants team that played in the Negro National League in 1920 and 1921, Mills remained very active in professional baseball but his focus changed. He went from the national stage and attention of the Negro National League to owning/managing a lower level independent baseball team. When the new owners of the St. Louis Giants changed the name of the team to the St. Louis Stars, this gave Charles Mills the opportunity to organize a “new” St. Louis Giants team. Mills’ “new” St. Louis Giants team played an independent schedule generally against lower level opponents like the Anchor Baseball Club, Brown Shoes, C. & N.W. Railroad, Evansville Crescents, Jersey City Red Sox, Litchfield (IL), Metropolitan Stars, Murphysboro (IL), Our Club, Reichert Giants, Springfield Union Giants, Trenton and the Y.I.A. Baseball Club.

In an attempt to promote the Giants' games and draw as big a crowd as possible, Charles Mills employed several "old" St. Louis Giants star players who had good name recognition. Some of the former stars of the "old" St. Louis Giants that Mills hired to play for the "new" St. Louis Giants were Sam Bennett (OF), Charles Blackwell (OF), Bill Gatewood (P), Joe Hewitt (SS) and Dick Wallace (manager/player).

During the time that Charles Mills owned his "new" version of the St. Louis Giants, the team called Vandeventer Lot II, Easton Street Park and Market Street Park as their home fields.

It is very important to keep in mind two factors when you are researching the St. Louis Giants after their 1921 season.

1. Newspapers occasionally referred to the St. Louis Stars as the St. Louis Giants. This error took place because the team had been the Giants for so many years and newspaper reporters were just accustomed to calling the St. Louis franchise the "Giants." This error was especially true during the 1922 and 1923 seasons.
2. The media sometimes referred to the "East St. Louis Giants" as the "St. Louis Giants." The East St. Louis Giants had been a strong independent team during the 1920's and through the 1930's. Dropping the "East" from the front of the team's name was a common error. The real key to determining the true identity of the team is to review the roster or box score.

It is still unclear if Mills fielded a St. Louis Giants team in 1922. Several references have been found for a St. Louis Giants team in 1922 but when the roster/box scores were reviewed what you find is that the team was really the St. Louis Stars.

Charles Mills definitely fielded a St. Louis Giants team during the 1923 baseball season. Newspaper accounts for two games have been found in July for Mills' Giants. These games were played against Litchfield (IL) and the Anchor Baseball Club.

The highlight of the 1924 baseball season for Charles Mills and the St. Louis Giants was their barnstorming tour of the East. On the tour Mills billed his team "as the greatest colored club in the West." The 1924 roster of the St. Louis Giants included former Giants' star players Tullie McAdoo (1B), Sam Bennett (OF) and Dick Wallace (3B). Other players on the team were Charles Brooks (OF), Cooper (OF), Harris (SS), Miles (OF), Percy Miller (P) and Wilson (2B).

Currently no information has been found for the 1925 and 1926 seasons for the St. Louis Giants. This is not to say that they did not exist; we are still researching.

In 1927 Charles Mills fielded a roster that included Augusta (P), Sam Bennett (3B), Charles Brooks (OF), Drake (OF), Getson (1B), Wilson (2B), Wonbeck (C) and Charles Zomphier (SS). One box score has been found for the team. St. Louis beat the Reichert Giants who were a strong independent team by a score of 10-2.

Going into the 1928 season Charles Mills was determined to field an incredibly strong team and put the team on the road with a schedule that included a barnstorming tour of the East. Former St. Louis Giants manager Dick Wallace was hired to manage the 1928 team. The 1928 St. Louis Giants were led by the hitting of Charles Blackwell (OF), Brooks (1B), Chapman (OF) and Joe Hewitt (SS). Other position players on the team were P. Burgett (C), Chase (3B), Dell Clark (2B), Ellis (SS/3B), Claude Gee (2B), Hyde (SS)/OF), Morris (OF), Mitch Murray (C), Newman (OF), J. Smith (C) and Wyatt (1B). Only last names for many of these players are listed because box scores traditionally only list the last name with the possibility of an initial for the first name. Bill Gatewood and Robert "Frog" Holsey were considered the top two pitchers for the 1928 St. Louis Giants. Also pitching for the St. Louis Giants during the season were Addison, Augustus, Crowder, Dixon, Henderson and Trittlet.

ST. LOUIS WHIPS REICHERTS, 10-2

The Reichert Giants dropped the third and final game of the series with St. Louis, 10 to 2, at Bosse Field yesterday afternoon.

Augusta, who did the pitching for the visiting team, pitched a real game, and only six scattered safeties were gathered off his offerings. Besides doing a nice job on the mound, the colored pitcher drove out a double, scored twice, and stole two bases. He was in no danger at any stage of the game.

Harris, shortstop on the Giants, was the outstanding player on the losers. The little fellow rapped two safeties out of three trips to the plate, and did some snappy fielding.

Reichert Giants	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Pritchett, lf	4	1	1	2	0	0
Augusta, ss	4	0	2	1	1	1
Scott, lb	2	1	0	3	2	1
McKell, 1b-p	4	0	0	2	1	0
Giffin, 2b	4	0	2	0	3	0
Cornelius, cf	4	0	1	1	0	0
Charleston, c	0	0	0	0	0	0
English, c	3	0	0	7	1	1
Terry, p	3	0	0	1	1	2
Augusta, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finnan, rf	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	2	6	27	10	5
St. Louis Giants	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Zornheir, ss	4	1	1	3	2	1
Wornbeck, c	5	1	2	8	2	1
Boss, lf	5	2	2	2	0	0
Wilson, 2b	5	0	2	1	4	1
Drake, lf	5	1	2	1	0	0
Brooks, cf	5	1	2	1	2	0
Bennett, 3b	5	1	1	0	0	0
Gerson, 1b	3	1	0	9	0	0
Augusta, p	3	2	1	2	1	0
Totals	40	10	13	27	11	3
St. Louis	200	610	160	10		
Reichert Giants	000	101	000	2		

Two base hits—Harris, Brooks, Boss (2). Stolen bases—Pritchett, Harris, Boss, Zornheir, Augusta (2).

On their Eastern barnstorming tour Mills billed his 1928 squad as “the best independent baseball club in the country.” According to newspaper accounts, the St. Louis Giants’ tour of the East was very successful. Newspaper reports credit the Giants with a won-loss record of 11-5 against top level teams. Some of the top teams that they played and the Giants’ won-loss records were as follows: Bacharach Giants (2-2), Baltimore Black Sox (1-1), Hilldale (3-1), Homestead Grays (3-1) and Jersey City (2-0). These records only reflect a portion of the teams St. Louis played on their tour of the East.

Two other box scores have been found for the 1928 season. These were located in The Dailey Independent newspaper from Murphysboro (IL) which was published on June 11, 1928. The St. Louis Giants played a doubleheader against Brown Shoes in Murphysboro. Appearing in these two games for the Giants were veteran St. Louis stars Charles Blackwell (OF), Joe Hewitt (SS) and Bill Gatewood (P). The St. Louis Giants lost both ball games by the scores of 12-7 and 5-4. According to the newspaper, the Giants returned to St. Louis immediately after the game.

Former St. Louis Giants star player Sam Bennett managed Charles Mills’ 1929 St. Louis Giants team. Appearing on the roster for the 1929 Giants were Charles Brooks (1B), Dixon (P), Bill Gatewood (P), John Finner (P), Joe Hewitt (SS) and Charles Zomphier (SS). According to newspaper accounts the 1929 St. Louis Giants were a “crack colored club.”

Although not confirmed through primary source documentation, there is a high level of probability that Charles Mills owned the St. Louis Giants teams of the early to mid 1930’s.

Documentation has been found for two St. Louis Giants teams from the 1930’s. In 1932 the St. Louis Giants played the Springfield Union Giants and beat them by a score of 12-5. The Giants’ battery for the game was Garner (P) and Scott (C). A roster for the St. Louis Giants team from the 1935 season has also been uncovered. The key on this team was a young outfielder by the name of Luke Easter. Luke went on to star in the Negro Leagues with the Homestead Grays and then played six seasons with the Cleveland Indians of the American League.

Evansville Courier and Press

Evansville, IN
09-06-27

Passing of a Legend

Charles Alexander Mills passed away in St. Louis on March 23, 1944. He was in his mid-sixties. Mills was laid to rest at Saint Peter’s Cemetery in St. Louis (MO). He was buried in an unmarked grave located at Section 4 Lot 179 Grave 5.

Like so many other Negro League players and owners he left this world in obscurity and his legacy has been long forgotten. The Center for Negro League Baseball Research is in the process of getting a grave marker for Mr. Mills’ grave.

St. Louis Giants

Won-Loss Record

Year	League	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.	Rank
1909	Independent	4	0	0	1.000	-
1910	Independent	9	1	0	.900	-
1911	Independent	46	11	0	.807	2 nd
1912	Independent	18	21	0	.462	5 th
1913	Independent	4	2	0	.667	2 nd
1914	Independent	2	0	0	1.000	-
1915	Independent	30	6	2	.833	1 st /2 nd
1916	Independent	24	10	1	.706	2 nd /3 rd
1917	Independent	2	2	0	.500	8 th
1918	No Team	-	-	-	-	-
1919	Independent	6	10	0	.375	6 th
1920	Negro National League	32	40	0	.444	6 th
1920	Non-League	19	3	0	.864	-
1920	Exhibition	1	2	0	.333	-
1921	Negro National League	46	33	1	.582	2 nd /3 rd
1921	Non-League	2	1	0	.667	-
1921	Exhibition	1	4	0	.250	-
1924	Independent	1	1	0	.500	-
1927	Independent	1	0	0	1.000	-
1928	Independent	11	7	0	.611	-
1929	Independent	0	2	0	.000	-
1932	Independent	1	0	0	1.000	-
	Total	260	156	4	.625	-

- Notes:
1. Most of the won-loss records have not been uncovered for the St. Louis Giants from 1906-1910.
 2. The above records are not considered to be anywhere close to complete.
 3. For the years where there are two listings for the rank of the team, this is because major researchers differ on the team's placement as compared to other teams in the West.
 4. When the 1916 season started the St. Louis Giants were under the management of Richard Barrett and the team performed very poorly with a losing record. The statistics presented here are only for the games played when Ed Brock and Charles Mills took over the team in May of 1916.
 5. The St. Louis Giants appear not to have fielded a team for the 1918 season.
 6. The St. Louis Giants played in the Negro National League in 1920-1921.
 7. Researchers differ on the St. Louis Giants final won-loss record for the 1921 season. According to Negro League researcher John Holway, the 1921 St. Louis Giants had a record of 54-30 (.643), Larry Lester & Dick Clark credit the Giants with a record of 40-28 (.588) and Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team list the Giants with a 42-30 (.583) won-loss record.
 8. Most of the St. Louis Giants games from 1922 through the mid 1930's are still missing.

Assessing the Career of Charles Mills

- Even though Charles Mills is credited with taking the St. Louis Giants from a low level amateur team to one of the best black professional clubs in the West, he consistently had **to take on financial partners and investors**. Mills undoubtedly had more financial partners and investors than any other owner in the history of black baseball in the United States.

Charles Mills' lack of financial stability made it difficult for him and the St. Louis Giants to establish long term relationships with white owners of amateur and semi-professional teams in the St. Louis area.

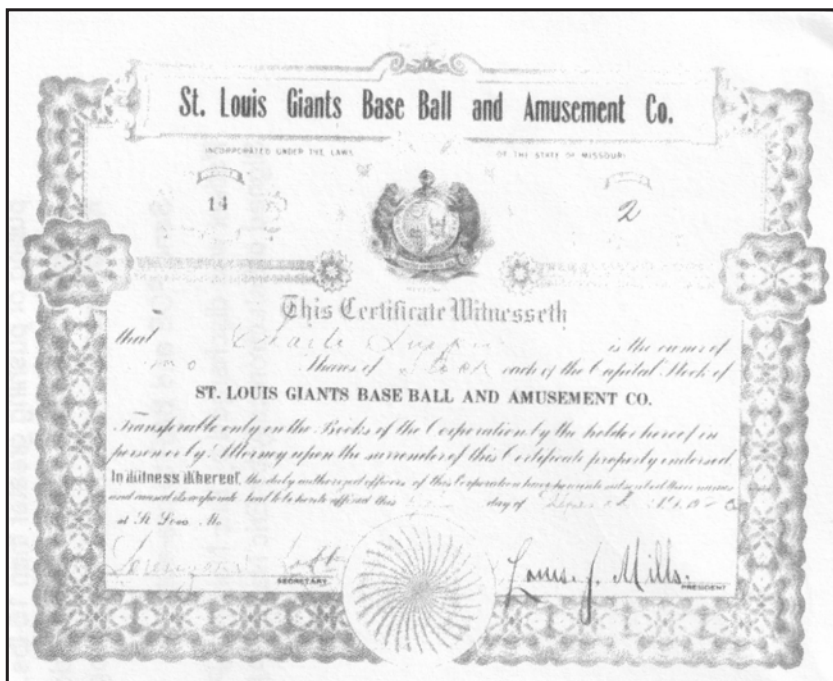
- Even though he didn't achieve the same level of success and notoriety of Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants or C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABCs, Charles Mills' St. Louis Giants were a **top flight and very respectable ball club**. Mills could never break the stranglehold that the Chicago American Giants and Indianapolis ABCs had on being considered one of the best two black baseball teams in the West.
- Current research credits the St. Louis Giants under the leadership of Charles Mills with a **won-loss record of 260-156-4 (.625)**.
- There is a significant **problem with missing statistics** for St. Louis Giants games. Only a small portion of the games that Charles Mills' St. Louis Giants played from 1906 through 1921 have been uncovered.
- Besides the lack of money, Mills also had an **extremely difficult time securing a long term ball park for his team**. The St. Louis Giants called no less than eight ball parks their home field during the time that Charles Mills owned or ran the ball club. Several of these ball parks were not close to the African-American neighborhoods and this made it more difficult for many black fans to get to the stadium.

The St. Louis Giants called the following ball parks home field over the course of their history: Kuebler Park (1906-1910 and 1915), Athletic Park (1911-1913), Federal League Park (1916-1917), Central High School Athletic Field (1916), Christian Brothers College Diamond (1916), Brock's Park (1916-1917), Polo Park (East St. Louis) (1917) and Giants Park (1918-1921). There is a distinct possibility that the St. Louis Giants may have had other home fields during their career. Further research is needed to confirm this.

- Charles Mills was **extremely dedicated to the St. Louis Giants**. Every time he was faced with a challenge that could bring about the end of the team, Charles Mills faced the problem and prevailed. One good example of this is when after being out of baseball during the 1918 season Charles Mills reorganized the team for the 1919 baseball season.
- During the heyday of their career, Mills kept **frequent banner advertisements** in the St. Louis Argus to promote his team's games.
- Reportedly, Charles Mills was **not very successful in building a long term relationship with the black fan base** in St. Louis.
- Charles Alexander Mills was a **true pioneer** of black baseball in the Midwest. His legacy which has been long forgotten needs to be preserved for generations to come.

Selected Career Highlights

- Charles Mills is credited with bringing “big time” black baseball to St. Louis.
- Mills owned, operated and/or managed the St. Louis Giants from 1906 to the end of the 1921 season when the team was sold to an investment group headed up by Dr. Samuel Shepard.
- The St. Louis Giants were considered one of the top teams in the West in 1910.
- In 1911 and 1913 the St. Louis Giants were considered the second best team in the West.
- The St. Louis Giants won the 1912 and 1913 St. Louis City League title.
- A case can be made for the St. Louis Giants being the best team in the West in 1915.
- Mill’s St. Louis Giants were an inaugural member of the Negro National League in 1920.
- After both the 1920 and 1921 Negro National League season, Charles Mills booked an exhibition series against the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League.
- According to the Baltimore Afro-American the St. Louis Giants finished the 1921 Negro National League season in second place in the final “league” standings.
- Reportedly, Charles Mills funded and managed the St. Louis Black Sox in 1924.
- After he lost control of or sold the St. Louis Giants to an investment group headed up by Dr. Sam Shepard, Charles Mills formed a “new” version of the St. Louis Giants when the name of his original team was changed to the St. Louis Stars. Mills “new” St. Louis Giants team played from 1923 until the mid 1930’s.
- Over the course of his career as the owner/officer/manager of the St. Louis Giants, Charles Mill’s teams were very successful. Current research credits his teams with a won-loss record of 260-156-4 (.625).



St. Louis Giants
Stock Certificate
1922

St. Louis Giants
Negro National League
1920

The St. Louis Giants were one of the eight teams to play in the inaugural season of the Negro National League in 1920. The teams that played in the first season of the Negro National League were the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars, Dayton Marcos, Detroit Stars, Indianapolis ABCs, Kansas City Monarchs and the St. Louis Giants.

The starting line-up for the 1920 St. Louis Giants was as follows:

St. Louis Giants (1920)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Tullie McAdoo	OF	Charles Blackwell
2B	Lunie Danage	OF	Sidney Brooks
SS	Eddie Holtz	OF	Doc Dudley
3B	Dick Wallace		
C	Dan Kennard	P	Bill Drake
		P	John Finner



St. Louis Giants (1920)
 Negro National League