

Early Pioneers of the Negro Leagues

Tobe Smith



by

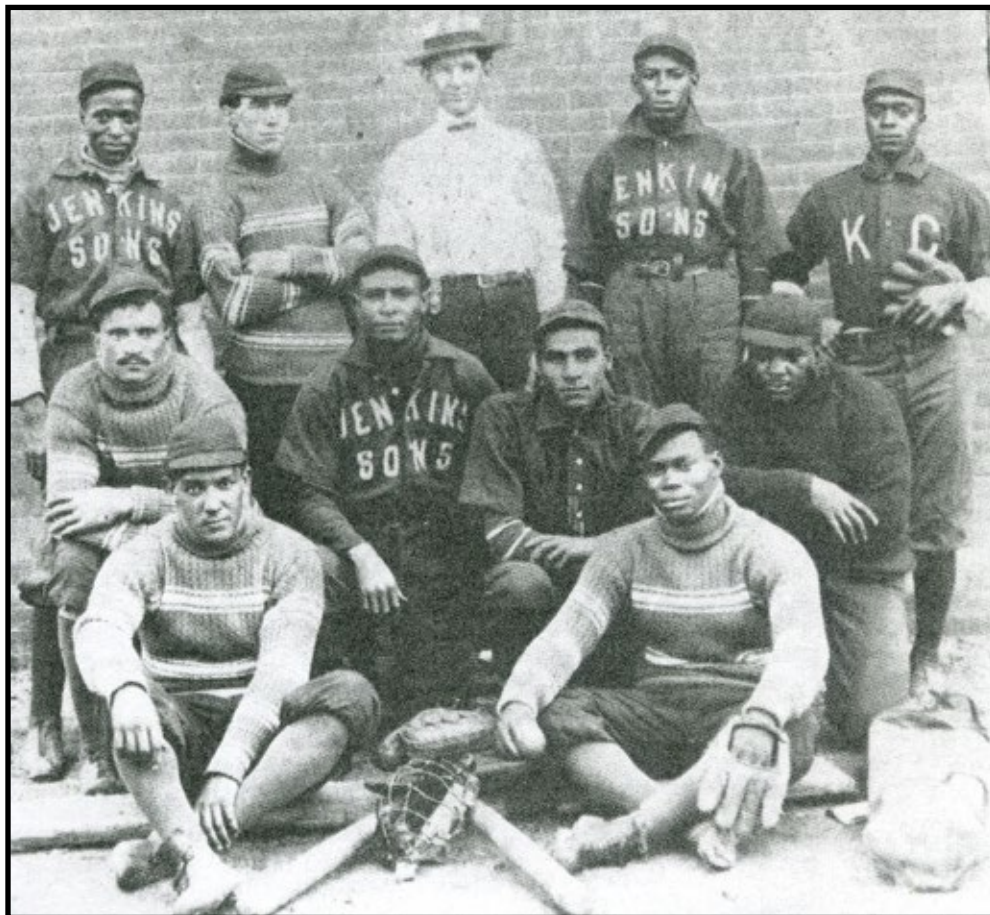
Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel



Jenkins Sons (1906)

(Back row left to right – Unknown, unknown, **Wesley Wilkins**, Gertha Page, unknown and William Houston..
 Middle row left to right – **Roy Dorsey**, **Tom Stearman**, Unknown, and Unknown. Front row left to right –
Ernest Mc Campbell, Arthur “Chick Pullman, and **Tom Mc Campbell**)



Jenkins Sons (1907)

(Back row left to right – **Wesley Wilkins**, **Tom Mc Campbell**, William Houston, **Bill Lindsay** and **Frank Evans**.
 Middle row left to right – **Ernest Mc Campbell**, **Fred Lee**, **Roy Dorsey** and **Tom Stearman**.
 Front row left to right – Arthur “Chick” Pullman and **Tullie Mc Adoo**.)

Tobe Smith was one of the early pioneers in Negro baseball in the United States. He is credited with bringing professional baseball to the Kansas City (KS) area. In 1908 his Kansas City Giants team entered the ranks of professional baseball and from 1908 through the 1912 season they fielded a strong team who took on all opponents and even won the “Colored World’s Championship” in 1909.

Early Black Baseball in Kansas City

Before the Kansas City Giants turned professional, all black baseball in Kansas City was amateur or semi-professional. The first recorded game between two black teams in Kansas City can be traced back to August 27, 1890 when the Kansas City Maroons beat the St. Louis Black Mohawks by a score of 12 to 2. The game was played at Exposition Park which was located at Montgall Ave and Truman Road in Kansas City.

Currently, the earliest newspaper reference to the Kansas City Giants that has been found is a short article that appeared in the Kansas City Star on May 16, 1904. The game was between the Giants and a team from Maywood. The Kansas City Giants won the game by a score of 5 to 3.

Besides the Kansas City Giants two of the other top black teams in Kansas City were Jenkins Sons (1906 and 1907) who were sponsored by the Jenkins Music Company and the Kansas City Monarchs (1908). When the Kansas City Giants turned professional Tobe Smith signed several players who had played for Jenkins Sons and the Kansas City Monarchs. Smith signed the following former Jenkins Sons players: Frank Evans, Roy Dorsey, Bill Lindsay, Dudley “Tullie” Mc Adoo, Ernest Mc Campbell, Tom Mc Campbell, Arthur “Chick” Pullman, Tom Stearman and Wesley Wilkins. Dudley “Tullie” Mc Adoo, Fred Lee, Bill Lindsay, Frank Evans, Ernest Mc Campbell, Tom Mc Campbell, Arthur Pullman, Tom Stearman and Wesley Wilkins had also played for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1907 and the early part of the 1908 season.



Kansas City Monarchs (1908)

(Back row left to right – Unknown, Unknown, William Houston, **Wesley Wilkins** and **Ernest Mc Campbell**. Middle row left to right – **Tullie McAdoo**, **Bill Lindsay**, Unknown and **Tom Mc Campbell**. Front row left to right – **Arthur “Chick” Pullman**, **Fred Lee** and **Tom Stearman**.)



Kansas City Monarchs (1908)

(Left to right – William Houston, Bert Wakefield, Tullie McAdoo, Wesley Wilkins, Bill Lindsay, Tom Mc Campbell, Arthur “Chick” Pullman, Frank Evans, Tom Stearman, Ernest Mc Campbell, Fred Lee and Robert “Frog” Lindsay.)

Smith Considers Taking the Giants Professional

Tobe Smith was a local Kansas City businessman who was also a big baseball fan. After backing the semi-professional Kansas City Giants since 1906 Tobe Smith considered taking his team professional in 1908. Factors that led Tobe to enter the realm of professional black baseball were:

- There were several black professional baseball teams around the country that were very successful. In the Midwest the Leland Giants were a prime example.
- His semi-professional team, the Kansas City Giants, would provide the nucleus of a competitive/professional team.
- The Kansas City area had a huge talent pool of outstanding ballplayers.
- Smith knew in order to make a professional baseball team successful it would require more than just good baseball players. Tobe knew that the team would need someone with strong business skills and he could more than fill that role.
- During the years that he owned the team Tobe Smith served as the business manager for the Giants.
- Not only did Kansas City not have a professional black professional baseball team but there was not a professional black baseball team in the entire state of Kansas.
- Kansas City also had an African American population that could support a professional baseball team.
- Smith also had access to Riverside Park which gave his team a home field.

When the Kansas City Giants went professional, they brought “big time” baseball to Kansas City. In addition Tobe booked games with the best teams that competed in the Midwest and South. The Buxton Wonders, Leland Giants, Minneapolis Keystones, New Orleans Eagles, San Antonio Black Bronchos, St. Louis Giants, French Lick Plutos and the West Baden Sprudels were some of the top teams that played the Kansas City Giants.



Tobe Smith with His Family

Even though Tobe Smith presented himself as the owner and business manager of the Kansas City Giants, he knew it would take a community effort to make the team successful. Smith would need support from fellow businessmen, the many social organizations and the general African American population of the Kansas City area.

Reportedly, Felix Payne financially helped back Tobe Smith in taking the Kansas City Giants professional. Payne was very well known in Kansas City. He was a very successful businessman, gambler, night club owner (Subway Club and Sunset Club) and politician. Payne's involvement with the Kansas City Giants can be supported by three things: Payne is in the team photo for the 1909 Kansas City Giants, box scores have been found that identify Payne actually playing for the Giants in 1909 and Payne attended a meeting with Tobe Smith in 1910 that was focused on developing a black league.

Kansas City Giants Turn Professional

The most important issue for Tobe Smith once he made the decision to have the Giants turn professional was signing a roster of players who could compete with the best teams in the Midwest. Tobe did an excellent job in recruiting players with proven ability and fielded the following roster for the 1908 season:

Kansas City Giants (1908)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Dudley "Tullie" McAdoo	OF	Tom Stearman
2B	Unknown	OF	Wesley Wilkins
SS	Robert "Frog" Lindsay	OF	Bill Wakefield
3B	Frank Evans		
C	Arthur "Chick" Pullman	P	Bill Lindsay

Fred Lee (OF), Ernest Mc Campbell and Tom Mc Campbell also played for the Kansas City Giants in 1908.

The Kansas City Giants called Riverside Park in Kansas City (KS) as their home field. The ball park was located at 2nd Ave and Franklin Ave which was adjacent to the Missouri River.

It appears that most of the teams that the Kansas City Giants played during their inaugural season as a professional ball club were semi-professional teams, town teams, company sponsored teams and other lower level competition.

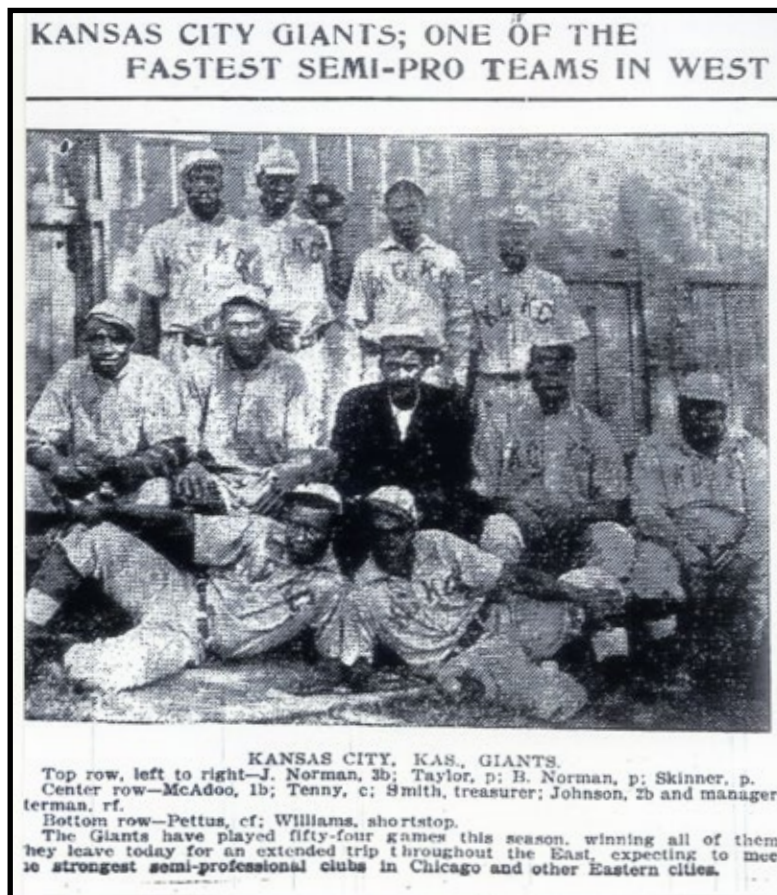
**The Kansas City Live Stock Exchanges will
play the Kansas City Giants at Riverside park
to-day. All players report at 12:30 o'clock.**

Kansas City Giants vs Kansas City Livestock Exchange

Kansas City Star
Kansas City, MO
09-06-08

During the season Kansas City was hit with a devastating flood and the Kansas City Giants lost over a month of their season.

Won-loss records for the Kansas City Giants 1908 season are not available at this time. More research needs to be conducted. Newspaper coverage seems to indicate that the Giants had a very good season in their first year as a professional baseball team.



Kansas City Giants (1909)

“Topeka Jack” Joins the Kansas City Giants

Prior to the start of the 1909 season, Tobe Smith brought in “Topeka Jack” Johnson as the manager of the team. Johnson was also the starting second baseman for the team. Like in 1908 the Giants continued to play their home games at Riverside Park. Their starting line-up for the 1909 Giants’ team was as follows:

Kansas City Giants (1909)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Dudley “Tullie” McAdoo	OF	Robert “Ginney” Robinson
2B	“Topeka Jack” Johnson	OF	Tom Stearman
SS	J. Williams	OF	Dee Williams
3B	Jim Norman		
C	William Tenny/Bill Pettus	P	Andrew Skinner
		P	Bill Lindsay

Chamberlain (first name unknown), Charles Childs, Roy Dorsey, Arthur Hardy, Bill Norman, Walter Taylor and Rube Washington also pitched for the Kansas City Giants during the 1909 season.

Also appearing for the Giants in 1909 were Charles “Red” Foster (1B /manager), Bob Gilkerson (SS), Fred Hicks (SS/C), Ashes Jackson (LF), Frog Lindsay (SS), Felix Payne, William Sloan (OF), Worthy Smith, Frank Thomas and Frank “Rabbit” Wilkins (CF).

Bill “Zack” Pettus was considered the team’s top hitter in 1909. Bill Lindsay and Andrew Skinner were the team’s top two pitchers during the season.



Kansas City Giants (1909)

(Back row left to right – Wilbur “Ashes” Jackson, Arthur Hardy, Felix Payne **“Topeka Jack” Johnson**, **Tobe Smith**, Unknown and Unknown. Front row left to right – **Dee Williams**, Unknown, **William Tenny**, Unknown, Worthy Smith, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown and **Robert “Ginney” Robinson**)

Kansas City Giants Claim Two Championships

KANSAS CITY (KANS.) GIANTS AND KANSAS CITY (MO.) ROYAL GIANTS IN CHAMPIONSHIP CON- TEST.

The Kansas Giants have held the inter-city championship for the past four years. Manager Jack Johnson of the Royal Giants, after leaving the employment of Mr. Smith, owner of the Kansas Giants, organized the Royal Giants of Missouri and styles them the champions of the Middle West. So in order to set the general public and fans right managers of the two teams have decided to play a series of five games. The following is the outcome of the series:

First game:

Kansas Giants 3, Royal Giants 0.

Batteries—Kansas: Lindsey and Tennie; Royals: Lee, Buckney and Campbell.

Second game:

Royal Giants 5, Kansas Giants 0.

Batteries—Royals: Sparks and Campbell; Kansas: Taylor and Tennie.

Third game:

Kansas Giants 7, Royal Giants 3.

Batteries—Kansas: Dorsey and Tennie; Royals: Lee and Campbell.

Fourth game:

Kansas Giants 6, Royal Giants 2.

Batteries—Kansas Giants: Lindsey and Tennie; Royals: Sparks and Campbell.

Fifth game:

The game started out fine and was being hotly contested by both teams. Pitcher Childs of the Royals and Chamberlain of Kansas were both in great form and the day was fine; the fans were wild with excitement. The Kansas Giants scored 1 in the fourth and the score remained the same until the last half of the eighth, the Royals at bat. Childs hit for two bases; Toney grounded out; Williams, center fielder, hit for two bases, scoring Childs and tying the score. Johnson hit out the right field foul line by 20 inches, scoring Williams. Umpire Struman called it a fair ball and Captain Foster called his men off the field and refused to play the game out, as the umpire had been very raw against the Kansas Giants. Umpire Struman then declared the game 9 to 0 in favor of the Royal Giants.

Batteries—Kansas Giants: Chamberlain and Tennie; Royals: Childs and Campbell.

So the Kansas Giants will still wave their banner as champions of the inter-city and will enter the world's contest to be held in Chicago or New York City for the championship of the world.

KANSAS CITY GIANTS BEST LELAND GIANTS

Chicagoans Lose Two of Three Games
—Lindsey Strikes Out Sixteen Men
in Second Contest.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The halo of glory that has hung over Riverside Park through more than forty straight victories in the present baseball season, took the form and color of a nimbus of dark green hue Wednesday of last week. The mighty Giants of Kansas City, Kas., went down to defeat before the Leland Giants of Chicago in the first of a series of three games that are to decide which aggregation of Giants shall hold aloft the banner awarded to the champion Negro baseball club of the world. Fifteen hundred persons, who expected to see the Giants from the inkieside humbled, sat in grand stand and bleachers and saw their fond hopes wrecked. The score was 5 to 0. The score by innings:

	R.	H.	E.
Lelands	...	0	0
K. C. K's	...	0	0

Batteries—Ball and Booker; Taylor and Tenny.

The Kansas City Giants retrieved their lost glory at Riverside Park Thursday afternoon by downing the Leland Giants of Chicago in the second game of the series. Twenty-eight hundred persons, who saw the game yesterday, agreed that it was the hardest fought contest that has been witnessed at Riverside. The score was 3 to 1. Lindsey held the Leland Giants down to three hits and he struck out sixteen men. For the Lelands, Dougherty lasted four innings. Ball, who was substituted, did effective work until the eighth inning. The score by innings:

	R.	H.	E.
Lelands		0	0
K. C. K's		0	0

Batteries—Dougherty, Booker, Ball and Slaughter; Lindsey and Pettis.

In a closely contested game, witnessed by five thousand persons, the last of a series of three games between the Kansas City, Kas., Giants and the Leland Giants of Chicago, went to the Kansas City, Kas., team at Riverside Park in Kansas City, Kas., today. The score was 5 to 4. The large crowd which witnessed the game cheered continually for the Kansas City, Kas., team.

The game, from the first inning to the last, was between Norman, who pitched for the Chicago team, and Washington, the Kansas City, Kas., pitcher. Both pitched good ball. At the beginning of the third inning a section of the grandstand, twenty-five feet in length, gave way. Three hundred men and women fell to the ground, but no one was injured.

Following is the score of Friday's game by innings:

	R.	H.	E.
Lelands		0	1
K. C. K's		0	0

Batteries—Norman and Johnson; Washington and Pettis.

Heated Battle for the “City Championship”

In June of 1909 “Topeka Jack” Johnson left the Kansas City Giants and moved to Kansas City (MO) where he formed his own team that he named the “Kansas City Royal Giants.” Johnson automatically declared that his Kansas City Royal Giants were the “Champions of the Middle West.”

Tobe Smith immediately took exception to Johnson’s claims. The solution to the problem was to schedule a five game series for the “City Championship of Kansas City.” Bill Lindsay took the mound for the Kansas City Giants in game one. Lindsay pitched a shutout on the way to a 3-0 Kansas City Giants victory. Jack Johnson’s Kansas City Royal Giants responded by shutting out the Kansas City Giants 5 to 0 in game two. The battery of Roy Dorsey and William Tenny led the Kansas City Giants to a 7-2 win in game three. Bill Lindsay came back to pitch game four and came away with a 6 to 2 victory. This gave the Kansas City Giants a three games to one game lead over the Royal Giants. Game five proved to be a disaster. The game started out with both pitchers (Chamberlain for the Kansas City Giants and Childs for the Royal Giants) in what the Freeman newspaper called “in fine form.” The Kansas City Giants held a 1-0 going into the bottom of the eighth inning. Doubles by Childs and Williams tied the score. Then when Johnson hit a ball to right field that was called fair, Captain Foster of the Kansas City Giants pulled his team off the field in protest of what he thought was a bad call. When the Giants did not return to the field, Umpire Struman called the game and awarded it to the Royal Giants by a score of 9-0. Even with the contested game five, the Kansas City Royal Giants won the title and were declared the “City Champions of Kansas City.”

After their “City Championship” series, the Kansas City Giants left town and conducted a barnstorming tour of the Midwest that took them to Chicago. The highlight of the tour was a four game series against the Cuban Stars. The series was played in Chicago. The Cubans won the first two games of the series and the Kansas City Giants won the second two games. The Kansas City Giants returned to Kansas City after the series.

The Kansas City Giants continued to play into September. According to a Freeman news report the Giants played a four game series with San Antonio Black Bronchos team that featured an up and coming “Smokey Joe” Williams. No scores were provided by the newspaper. In addition to their series with San Antonio, the Kansas City Giants also went on a barnstorming tour of the Midwest. Their main competition on the tour was Superior (NB) where they played five games during the third week of July. The Giants also defeated Buxton 5-3 on the tour



Rube Foster
Leland Giants

Championship Series with the Leland Giants

The highlight for Tobe Smith’s Kansas City Giants 1909 season occurred in August when Rube Foster brought his Leland Giants team to Kansas City for a three game “championship” series that was played at Riverside Park. The Kansas City Journal billed the series in their newspaper as being for the “Colored Championship of the United States.” In addition the newspaper reported that the winner would receive a \$ 1,000 purse.

The Kansas City Giants approached game one with high hopes because according to newspaper reports, the home town Giants had won over forty (40) straight games on their home field. Game one of the series was played on August 25th at Riverside Park. Walter Ball pitched a shut out and led his Leland Giants team to a 5-0 victory in game one. There were 1,500 fans at the ball park for the game. Game two was the next day and was a must win



Leland Giants (1909)

for the Kansas City Giants. Approximately 2,800 fans showed up at Riverside Park to support their home team. Bill Lindsay took the mound for Kansas City and did not disappoint. Lindsay shut down the Leland Giants hitters. He struck out sixteen (16) Leland Giants batters on the way to a 3-1 win for Kansas City. With the series tied at one game each everything came down to game three which was played on August 27th. In a hard fought battle with over 5,000 fans in the stands, Kansas City came away with a narrow 5-4 win to claim the championship title. Bill Pettus led the Kansas City Giants in hitting during the series.

It is important to note that both the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Gophers considered themselves to be the “Colored World Champions” for the 1909 season.



St. Paul Gophers (1909)

According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Freeman on February 9, 1910 the Kansas City Giants posted a record of 128-19-1 (.871) with a 54 game winning streak during the 1909 season. Besides their great winning record, the Kansas City Giants were very successful at the box office. According to one newspaper, the Giants averaged 7,800 fans every Sunday. Even though these numbers are most likely highly inflated, it appears that the Kansas City fans supported their team.

Smith Must Rebuild His Roster

Tobe Smith had very little time to enjoy his team's success and "championship season" before he had to start rebuilding his roster. First, "Topeka Jack" Johnson left the team in June of 1909 and moved to Kansas City (MO) to form his own team that he named the "Kansas City Royal Giants." "Topeka Jack" also took some of his Kansas City Giants team mates with him to the Royal Giants. Then several other players left to join the newly formed Oklahoma Monarchs. When all was said and done Tobe Smith lost all his starting line-up except his catcher (William Tenny and Bill Pettus) and one outfielder (Ginney Robinson). Fortunately, Tobe did have three of his starting pitchers (Bill Lindsay, Andrew Skinner and Walter Taylor) return for the 1910 season.

Kansas City Royal Giants !

A Standard Attraction in Base Ball.

Open to book First Class Teams. Kansas City is a live ball town. We have our own park. Direct car line. Address all communications to Kansas City Royal Giants, 1005 McGee Street, Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, GIANTS BASE BALL CLUB.

Record breakers for 1909, viz: 147 games played, 128 won. (54 consecutively). Would like to hear from first class teams. We have our own park, located one block from car line. Average Sunday attendance for 1909, 1,723. Address all communications to TOBE SMITH, 430 Washington Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
07-02-10

Jim Norman managed the Kansas City Giants in 1910 and Tobe Smith served as the team's business manager for the Giants during the season. The starting line-up for the 1910 Giants was as follows:

Kansas City Giants (1910)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Charles "Red" Foster	OF	Robert "Ginney" Robinson
2B	Elwood "Bingo" DeMoss	OF	Wesley "Rabbit" Wilkins
SS	Robert "Frog" Lindsay	OF	Merf Lindsay
3B	William "Ashes" Jackson/William Binga		
C	William Tenny/ Bill Pettus	P	Bill Lindsay

Kanas City Giants Dominate in 1910

ST. LOUIS TIGERS LOSE TO KANSAS CITY GIANTS

Hard Hitting by Giants Noses Stanley
Green's Sluggers Out of First
Game of Series of Four.

Special to THE FREEMAN.

ST. LOUIS, MO.—The Kansas City Giants defeated the St. Louis Tigers, Tuesday, in the first of their four-game series, by a score of 7 to 6, at Handlan's Park. The Tigers fought the Giants hard to break even in the series. Score:

	R.H.E.
Tigers	0 0 0 0 0 3 0 2 2—6 8 5
K. C. Giants..	0 0 2 1 0 1 0 1 2—7 10 4

Batteries—Tigers, Stevenson and Carey;
Kansas City Giants, Skinner and Hicks.
Struck out—By Stevenson, 6; by Skinner,
9. Bases on balls—Off Stevenson, 2; off
Skinner, 2. Hits—Off Stevenson, 10; off
Skinner, 8. Errors—Tigers, 5; Kansas
City Giants, 4. Attendance—500. Weather—
Fair. Umpire—Bradley.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
05-22-10

TOBE SMITH AND HIS GIANTS, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS.

Through the skill of this manager the Kansas City Giants have been able to play the best teams of the city—the Kansas City Blues and the R. S. Stephens, winners of the city league pennant for two years.

During this time, the Giants have been on their trail and fans of the two cities have tried every way to bring these two strong teams together, but the Stephens have always fought shy of the Giants.

Finally their manager agreed to play the Giants, and two games have resulted in victory for the Giants, who won 6 to 2 and 7 to 2.

During the season the Royal Giants have also been met and conquered, the Kansas City, Kans., Giants winning by a score of 6 to 2, the championship of the Missouri and Kansas negro teams.

The Giants played the Blues again, Sunday, Nov. 6, at Association park.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
06-04-10

KANSAS CITY (KAN.) WINS.

Plays 'Double-Header and Takes Both
Games.

The Kansas Giants romped home with two more victories Sunday in a double-header at Riverside Park. The Royal Giants went down to defeat before the Kansas boys.

First game:

Royals	3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—3
Kansas	3 0 0 1 0 3 0 1 x—8

Batteries: Kansas, Skinner and Tennie; Royals, Norman and Jones.

Second game:

Royals	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
Kansas	0 0 0 0 6 0 x—6

Batteries: Royals, Sunny Jim and Jones; Kansas, Jackson and Tennie.

The Kansas City (Kan.) Giants and the Kansas City (Mo.) Blues, of the American Association, will open a series of games Sunday, October 9, at Association Park. These games will be hotly contested as the Blues have always been a little shy of the Kansas boys. The series will be the closing of the season for the Giants. The entire team will winter in Kansas City, Kans., Mr. Smith having secured positions for all his boys.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
10-15-10

KANSAS CITY GIANTS.

Kansas City Giants were scheduled to play a series of four games with the Minneapolis Keystones. Rain prevented all but one. Score, 6 to 5 in favor of the Giants. Linsey and Teenie, battery for Kansas City.

In Winning mood the Kansas City Giants played the Prathers, a strong white team of the City League, five games and took all of them, as follows:

First game, 14-0; Linsey and Teenie, battery.

Second game, 3-0; Taylor and Teenie.

Third game, 3-2; Dorsey and Jackson.

Fourth game, 5-3; Chamberlain and Teenie.

Fifth game, 14-1; Taylor and Teenie.

—Notes—

Mr. Smith, owner of the Giants, is much pleased with their showing.

Red Foster is holding first sack down in great form. George Neal, third base; Bingo Moss, second base; Frog Lindsey, shortstop, are also playing in great form.

Mr. Smith says that he is more than pleased with his pitching staff—Bill Lindsey, Walter Taylor, Oscar Chamberlain and Roy Dorsey—the latter a young pitcher, who has been making good.

Outfield is perfect with M. Lindsey, W. Wilkerson and A. Jackson.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
11-12-10

Andrew Campbell (C), Oscar Chamberlain (P), Chiles (P), Roy Dorsey (P), Arthur Hardy (P), Fred Hicks (C), A. Jackson (P), George Neal (2B/3B), Jim Norman (P), Andrew Skinner (P), Walter Taylor (P) and Dee Williams (OF) also played for the Kansas City Giants in 1910.

Ashes Jackson was considered the team's top hitter and Bill Lindsay was the ace of the pitching staff during the 1910 season. Unfortunately for the Giants, Lindsay left the team during the season to sign with the Kansas City Cyclones.

During the season the Kansas City Giants played high profile series with the Leland Giants, Minneapolis Keystones and Kansas City Royal Giants. Several highlights of the 1910 season for Smith's Kansas City Giants were:

- Beating the Kansas City Royal Giants for the "City Championship of Kansas City."
- Defeating the R.S. Stephens baseball team who were the "City Champions" of the Kansas City "white" league in a two game series by the scores of 6-2 and 7-2.
- Defeated the Kansas City Royal Giants in a game that was promoted as the "Championship of Missouri and Kansas Negro Teams." Tobe's team won the game convincingly by a score 6-2.

In early August of 1910 Tobe Smith's team got a big boost when William Binga left the St. Paul Gophers and signed with the Kansas City Giants. With Tobe having both Bingo De Moss and William Binga in the infield at the same time he had a formidable defense. Binga spent the remainder of the 1910 season playing back and forth for the Kansas City Giants and the Oklahoma Giants.



William Binga
St. Paul Gophers
(standing - middle player)

The Kansas City Giants also played a series against the Kansas City Blues of the American Association that opened on October 9th. The two teams met again on November 6th at Association Park.

In November of 1910, Tobe Smith booked a game for his team with Johnny King's All Stars who featured Casey Stengel.

The Seamheads research team has located box scores and line scores for sixteen (16) games played by the Kansas City Giants during the 1910 season. Kansas City went 7-8-1 (.467) in these games. The Seamheads team rates the 1910 Kansas City Giants as the 5th best team in the West during the season.

From this researcher's perspective the Kansas City Giants had a very good season and should have finished the season with a won-loss record that would make them one of the top two or three teams in the Midwest.

Kansas City Giants Outclass Competition in 1911

KANSAS CITY GIANTS.

Finest Aggregation of Baseball Players in the West.

KANSAS CITY, Kan.—At last Kansas City has a baseball team, the fastest and finest aggregation of ball players in the West. Kansas City (Kan.) Giants is the name by which the club will be known, and they do not belie their name, for every baseball-playing one of them is a giant—if not in stature, then in ability—for they are one of the headiest and the cleanest all-round bunch of baseball huskies that ever touched a bat. And that goes! Even the Royal Giants say it goes—and they, above all others, ought to know, for they have received three of the sweetest dubbings, three of the most paining beatings any gang ever received in the annals of baseball, and they are now ready to doff their caps and own—even if they do it reluctantly—that the Kansas City Giants are the masters on the Western diamonds. In fact, they will go even farther than that; they will confess that the above mentioned team is the best, the fastest, the most accurate and hardest hitting combination of lords that ever donned baseball uniforms.

What is more, their downfall was witnessed by their friends. All three of their defeats were witnessed by their friends—friends that rooted and hooted and coiled, but the Kansas City (Kan.) Giants attended to business; and when the end of the game came, the Royal Giants were the most woe-begone and hopeless looking bunch of baseball players that ever graced a diamond.

Peace to their ashes. May their slumbers not be disturbed for eons and eons of years.

The score of those three games stand thus:

First game—11 to 2.

Second game—4 to 1.

Third game—3 to 7.

The Royals featured all three of their games by consistent rangling with the umpires, because they refused to call men safe that were out.

The true baseball fans of Kansas City wish to ask this question, believing that a correct answer may help the struggling Royals to win later in the season: Would not the presence of the owner of said team put an extra amount of ginger in the boys? Should he come out and see his boys revel in victory or drink the bitter dregs of defeat? We wonder.

THE K. C. GIANTS IN ACTION.

Another year of success is due the Kansas City Giants baseball club, under the management of Kansas Jack Johnson. It is expected that the season will be the best in the history of the club. Most of the boys of 1909-10 will play this season, as they are the boys who made the team famous in the past few years. They will play none but the best this season.

Franklin's Paper The Statesman
Denver, CO
03-25-11

PLAYING GREAT BALL.

Kansas City (Kan.) Giants Win Them All Throughout Iowa.

The Kansas City Giants seemed to be a complete puzzle to the Buckeye State boys meeting and defeated the following clubs:

June 6, Blackton 1, Giants 14; June 7, Leuioni 1, Giants 14; June 8, Humest 6, Giants 16; June 10, Bussie 1, Giants 12; June 11-12-13, Buxton 2-4-5, Giants 10-16-24; June 14, Morovia 1, Giants 11; June 15, Centerville 4, Giants 11. Sunday, June 18, Loraine, Kan., was defeated. Loraine Black Wonders 2, Giants 12.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
06-24-11

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
06-17-11

Plans for a Negro League

In January of 1911 the Freeman newspaper reported that Beauregard Moseley who was a black lawyer and business man from Chicago gathered the owners of the top teams in the Midwest for a meeting in Chicago to discuss the feasibility of forming a professional league for black baseball teams. The “league” was to be called the “National League of Ball Players.” Cities that were represented at the meeting were Chicago, Columbus, Kansas City (KS), Kansas City (MO), Louisville, Mobile, New Orleans and St. Louis. Tobe Smith and Felix Payne represented Kansas City (KS) and the Kansas City Giants at the meeting.

Immediately after the conference concluded there was a meeting held and officers were elected to move the project forward. Beauregard Moseley was elected as the President, Felix Payne was elected as Secretary and Tobe Smith was selected as a Commissioner. Provisions were even made to collect \$ 100 from each team wishing to join the “league.” After much consideration the project did not go anywhere. All of the owners were reportedly very enthusiastic but very few of them had the financial resources to support a league.

Tobe Smith and “Topeka Jack” Resolve Their Issues

“Topeka Jack” Johnson returned to manage the Kansas City Giants for their 1911 season. The starting line-up for the 1911 Giants was as follows:

Kansas City Giants (1911)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	“Topeka Jack” Johnson	OF	Dee Williams
2B	Bingo De Moss	OF	Eugene Milliner
SS	Ashes Jackson	OF	Robert “Ginney” Robinson
3B	Jim Norman		
C	William Tenny	P	Billy Norman



“Topeka Jack” Johnson
(Standing back row)

Otto Bolden (C), Chambers (first name unknown) (P), Roy Dorsey (P), Arthur Hardy (P), Charles “Chick” Harper, Jackson, Hurley McNair (OF/P), Andrew Skinner (P) and Rube Washington (P) also played for the Kansas City Giants during the 1911 season.

Dee Williams was the team’s top hitter and Bill Norman was the ace of the pitching staff in 1911.

In June of 1911 the Kansas City Giants played a three game series against their arch rivals the Kansas City Royal Giants. Tobe Smith’s team swept the series by the scores of 11-2, 4-1 and 8-7. When the Freeman reported the series, the newspaper labeled the Kansas City Giants as the “Finest Aggregation of Baseball Players in the West.”

After defeating the Kansas City Royals, the Kansas City Giants went on a barnstorming tour of Iowa. They played games against Blackton (14-1), Leuioni (14-1), Humest (16-6), Bussie (12-1), Buxton Wonders (10-2, 16-4 and 24-5),



Hurley McNair

Morovia (11-1), Centerville (11-4) and Loraine Black Wonders (12-2). They played ten games on the road and won all ten outings. The Giants scored 140 runs in these ten games for an amazing average of fourteen (14) runs a game.

In September of 1911, Tobe Smith signed Hurley McNair. The young McNair was both a pitcher and outfielder when he signed with the Kansas City Giants. On September 16th Hurley took the mound for Kansas City in a game against Rube Foster and his Chicago American Giants team. In a game that went ten innings Hurley scattered seven hits and struck out five while beating the American Giants 3 to 2. McNair got the win for Kansas City and Rube Foster took the loss for Chicago. Another example of Hurley's pitching prowess occurred in October of the post season when he pitched a one hitter against the Kansas City Blues who had finished the season in second place in the American Association. The game was called after seven innings because of darkness with a 0-0 score.

Series vs St. Paul Gophers

In late August the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Gophers played a four game series. The first game was played on August 27th. Behind the hitting of Dee Williams who went 4 for 5 with a double and home run, the Giants got an 8-2 win. In game two the Kansas City Giants scored eleven (11) runs in the first inning and went on to a 13-10 slugfest win. Game three was no different for the Kansas City Giants; they were awesome. The Giants got seventeen (17) hits and went on to a 12-0 victory. Catcher William Tenny went four for six and Dee Williams hit another homerun. The first three games of the series were played at Riverside Park and game four was played at Stevens Park. The St. Paul Gophers fared no better at Stevens Park than they had at Riverside. Charles "Chick" Harper pitched a brilliant game and helped his cause with two doubles. Eugene Milliner was the hitting star for Kansas City with a triple, two singles and two stolen bases. Kansas City finished sweeping the series with an 11-0 win in the fourth game. Dee Williams was the hitting star for the Kansas City Giants. He went 9 for 19 with three homeruns and twenty-two (22) total bases.

During the 1911 season the Kansas City Giants held victories over such top teams as the Canton All Stars w/Tom Baird, Buxton Wonders (Giants beat them five times), Kansas City Cyclones and the Kansas City Royal Giants. When Tobe Smith sent his team on a Midwestern barnstorming tour, they beat the Chicago American Giants.

After a successful road trip through Iowa, the Kansas City Giants returned home to play the Leland Giants in a five game series. Kansas City continued their hard hitting and won four of the five games by the scores of 12-3, 19-4, 13-7 and 7-2.

KANSAS CIT GIANTS WIN.	
Leland Giants Outclassed—Some Slugging Matches at Kansas City., Mo.	
KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The Kansas City Giants won four of the five games played with the Leland Giants last week. The game was full of excitement from beginning to end. Heavy hitting and runs made were the striking features of the games. The scores:	
First game—	
Leland Giants	0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0—2
K. C. Giants.....	4 1 0 1 1 1 2 2 *—12
Second game—	
Leland Giants	0 0 0 0 0 0 3 4 0—7
K. C. Giants.....	1 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 1—4
Third game—	
Leland Giants	0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 3—4
K. C. Giants.....	4 1 6 3 2 0 3 0 *—19
Fourth game—	
Leland Giants ...	0 0 0 2 2 0 2 0 0—7
K. C. Giants.....	0 0 2 0 4 2 2 0 *—11
Fifth game—	
Leland Giants	0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0—2
K. C. Giants.....	0 2 2 3 0 0 0 0 *—7

Kansas City Giants

Win Four of Five
From

Leland Giants

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
07-15-11

According to newspaper reports the Kansas City Giants had a thirty (30) game winning streak and ended the season with an impressive won-loss record of 46-9 (.836). In the post season the Giants played a three game series in October against the Kansas City Blues of the American Association. The Plaindealer newspaper of Topeka (KS) acknowledges the Kansas City Giants as the “Negro Champions of the Missouri Valley” at the end of the 1911 season.

The Seamheads research team has located twenty-five (25) box scores and line scores for the Kansas City Giants for their 1911 season. The Giants, who were considered the second best team in the West, compiled an excellent won-loss record of 18-7 (.720) in these twenty-five outings.

Tragedy struck the team in the post season of 1911 when their star outfielder Dee Williams was shot to death.



Buxton Wonders

(Kansas City Giants beat them 5 straight in 1911)

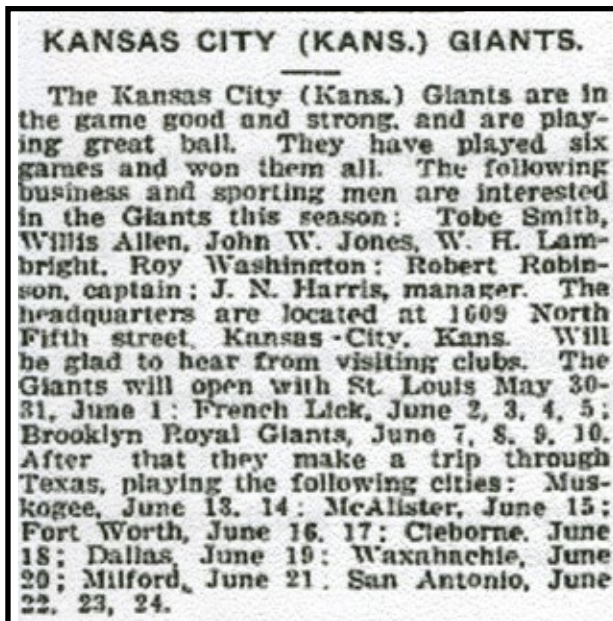
Tobe Smith Fades from the Scene

The Kansas City Giants played great baseball in 1911 but that did not carry over to their 1912 campaign.

It is presently unclear as to what role Tobe Smith played on the Kansas City Giants team in 1912. Several things that we do know are:

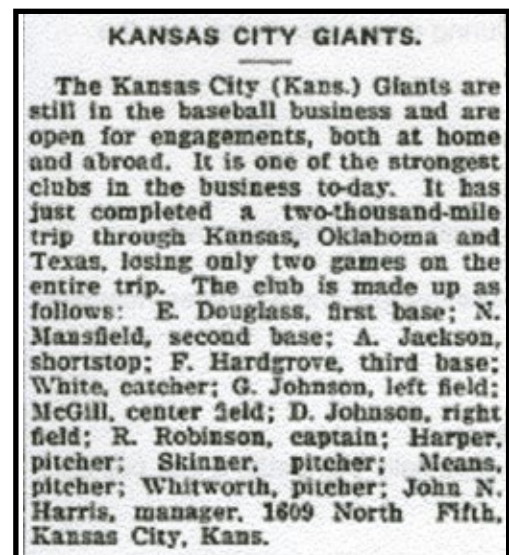
- Tobe Smith was with the team as the owner/operator through the end of at least the 1911 season. The Plainedealer newspaper of Topeka (KS) references Tobe as the manager of the Kansas City Giants in their October 13th of 1911 story covering the Giants playing the Kansas City Blues.
- The Freeman newspaper published an article in their May 18, 1912 edition that lists Tobe Smith as one of the Kansas City businessmen that are “interested” in the Kansas City Giants for the upcoming season. Other businessmen listed are Willis Allen, John W. Jones, W.H. Lambright and Roy Washington.
- This Freeman article also lists J.N. Harris as the manager of the team and the business address listed for the Giants belonged to Harris not Tobe Smith.
- Currently no primary source documentation after the May 18th Freeman article has been found for Tobe Smith being associated with the Kansas City Giants.
- The when and why of Tobe Smith stepping away from the Kansas City Giants is still unknown.

We do know is that the team had a complete turnover in their roster from 1911 to 1912. Only pitchers Andrew Skinner and Charles “Chick” Harper were holdovers from the 1911 squad. When the new roster for the 1912 Kansas City Giants was complete, the Giants did not field a team that was anywhere close to the same caliber of the 1911 squad.



Tobe Smith Supports Giants

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
05-18-12



Kansas City Giants Roster

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
07-20-12

The 1912 Kansas City Giants were managed by John N. Harris and their starting line-up included:

Kansas City Giants (1912)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Eddie Douglass	OF	G. Johnson
2B	N. Mansfield	OF	D. Johnson
SS	A. Jackson	OF	Mc Gill
3B	F. Hardgrove		
C	White	P	Andrew Skinner

Chick Harper, Tommy Means and Dick Whitworth also pitched for the Kansas City Giants in 1912.

Eddie Douglas and Dick Whitworth were the only two players of notoriety to play for the 1912 Kansas City Giants.

The Kansas City Giants opened the season with six straight wins. On May 30th they played the St. Louis Giants. They followed up their game with St. Louis with a 4-0 win over Gladstone (KS). Then they had back to back series with the French Lick Plutos and Brooklyn Royal Giants. In mid June the Giants went on a barnstorming tour through Oklahoma and Texas. Cities they played during the tour were Muskogee (OK), McAlester (OK), Fort Worth (TX), Cleburne (TX), Dallas (TX), Waxahachie (TX), Milford (TX) and San Antonio (TX).

It appears that the Kansas City Giants struggled during the first part of the season. Early in the season they lost several games to French Lick and dropped four outings to the Kansas City Royal Giants. The Kansas City Giants got a real break when the Kansas City Royal Giants disbanded during the season.

According to newspaper reports the Kansas City Giants went on a winning streak and took 25 of the last 26 games they played. It is important to note that there were no details provided to substantiate this win streak.

From this researcher's perspective an article that appeared in the Freeman on July 20th really speaks to the condition of the team. The article focused on the fact that the team was "still in business and are open for engagements both at home and abroad."

During the 1912 season, Harris evidently promoted his Kansas City Giants team as the "Colored Champions of the Country" but two straight defeats by the scores of 5-3 and 6-4 to the Stors Triumphs (semi-pro team in Omaha, NB) clearly pointed to the fact that they were definitely not a team that was of championship caliber.

Kansas City Giants after Tobe Smith

Going into the 1913 season, the Kansas City Giants were no longer regarded as a professional team. Research indicates that the Kansas City Giants played as an amateur/semi-professional team through at least the 1917 season. The Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis (IN) listed the Kansas City Giants as one of the prominent black baseball teams in the Midwest in 1917. Reportedly, the Kansas City Giants disbanded during World War I. In later years there would be a number of teams in Kansas City that went by the name "Kansas City Giants" but none of them can be traced back to the Giants teams that were owned and operated by Tobe Smith.

Even though Tobe Smith's career in professional baseball was very short he had a dramatic impact on Negro baseball in Kansas City and is considered one of the early pioneers in black baseball.

Kansas City Giants Players



"Topeka Jack" Johnson



Arthur "Chick" Pullam



Dudley "Tullie" Mc Adoo



Elwood "Bingo" De Moss

Profiles of Prominent Kansas City Giants Players

Elwood “Bingo” De Moss - He is considered one of the best second basemen in the history of Negro League baseball. Bingo played for the Kansas City Giants in 1910 and 1911. During his career he played for the Topeka Giants (1905), Kansas City Giants (1910-1911), Oklahoma Giants (1910), Oklahoma Monarchs (1910), West Baden Sprudels (1912-1914), French Lick Plutos (1912), Chicago Giants (1913), Chicago American Giants (1913), Indianapolis ABCs (1915-1916), Bowser’s ABCs (1916), Royal Poinciana Hotel (1916-17), Chicago American Giants (1917-1925), Indianapolis ABC’s (1926) and Detroit Stars (1927-1930). After his playing career he continued to manage and coach black baseball teams. Some of these teams that he managed and coached were All Cubans (1933), Cleveland Giants (1933), Chicago Brown Bombers (1942-1943) and Brooklyn Brown Dodgers (1945).

Eddie Douglas - He started his professional baseball career with the Kansas City Giants in 1912. Eddie was a first baseman who also played with the Brooklyn Royal Giants (1918-1925) during his career. Douglas also played first base in Cuba for the Santa Clara Leopards during the winter of 1923-24. The Leopards are considered one of the two best teams in Cuban baseball history.

Charles “Red” Foster - He played first base in late 1909 and 1910 for the Kansas City Giants. When “Topeka” Jack Johnson left the team in June of 1909, Red stepped in as the Captain of the team. During his career he also played for the Birmingham Giants (1907-1908), San Antonio Black Bronchos (1909), Kansas City Royal Giants (1911) and the Oklahoma Monarchs (1911).

Charles “Chick” Harper - He was one of the starting pitchers for the 1911 Kansas City Giants. He also played for the Kansas City Royal Giants (1912), Chicago Union Giants (1916), Detroit Stars (1920) and the Kansas City Monarchs (1920). Besides being a very good pitcher, Chick was also known for his hitting. In the 71 box scores for games that have been located with him in the line-up, Harper compiled a career batting average of .327 (74 for 226 with 7 homeruns) with an amazing .522 slugging average.

Wilbur “Ashes” Jackson - He played for the Kansas City Giants for three seasons from 1909-1911. In 1912 he joined the Kansas City Royal Giants.

John Thomas “Topeka Jack” Johnson - In 1909 and 1911 Johnson was the player/manager of the Kansas City Giants. Under his leadership, the Kansas City Giants defeated the Leland Giants for the “Colored Championship of the World” with a record of 128-19 (.871). During his professional baseball career he played for the Chicago Union Giants (1903-1905 and 1907), Topeka Giants (1906 and 1917), Minneapolis Keystones (1908) and Kansas City Royal Giants (1909-1910). As a manager, he led the Topeka Giants to an outstanding record of 94-16 (.810) in 1906. Besides being a manager, he was an infielder and only an average hitter. When he wasn’t playing baseball, he was a professional boxer and trainer.

Bill “The Kansas Cyclone” Lindsay - In 1908 Bill started playing semi-professional baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs. When Tobe Smith formed the Kansas City Giants, Bill Lindsay was one of the first players he signed. Bill was the ace of the pitching staff for the Giants from 1908-1910. He also played for the Leland Giants 1910-1911 before moving to the Chicago American Giants where he played from 1911-1914. Bill’s career came to an abrupt end when he was hospitalized in 1914 for a urinary tract infection. After nine days, Bill Lindsay passed away at the age of twenty-three (23). The cause of death was listed as uremia and sepsis. Only a limited number of box scores (46) have been found for Lindsay’s career. In these 46 games he posted a won-loss record of 28-11 (.718) with 242 struck outs in 341.2 innings.

Dudley “Tullie” McAdoo - He played first base for the Kansas City Giants in 1908 and 1909. After playing for the Kansas City Giants, Tullie played Negro baseball from 1910 to 1924. Some of the Negro baseball teams he played for were the Topeka Giants, Salt Lake City Occidentals, French Lick Plutos, St. Louis Giants, Chicago Giants, St. Louis Stars and Cleveland Browns. Most of his career was spent with the St. Louis Giants. The Seamheads research team has located 420 Negro baseball games in which in played. Tullie went 341 for 1485 for a modest career batting average of .230.

Eugene “Gabby” Milliner - He played for the Kansas City Giants during their 1911 season and was one of the team’s leading hitters with a .280 batting average and .400 slugging percentage. Milliner started his professional baseball career in 1902 with the Chicago Union Giants. During his career he played for the Chicago Union Giants (1902-1903), Brooklyn Royal Giants (1906-1907), St. Paul Gophers (1909), Kansas City Giants (1911) and Kansas City Royal Giants (1912). The Hot Springs (AR) native was known as an outstanding hitter during his entire career.

Hurley McNair - He played briefly for the Kansas City Giants in 1911 and 1913. Hurley is considered one of the best Negro League baseball players of all time. His career started in 1910 with the Houston Black Buffaloes and ended in 1937 with the Cincinnati Tigers. Over his career he compiled a career batting average of .331 with a .489 slugging average. Some of the teams he played for early in his career were the Houston Black Buffaloes (1910), St. Paul Gophers (1910), Minneapolis Keystones (1910-1911), Chicago Giants (1911-1913 and 1915), Chicago Union Giants (1913-1914 and 1916), Kansas City Royal Giants (1914), All Nations (1917), Lost Island Giants (1917), Chicago Union Giants (1919) and the Detroit Stars (1919). When the Negro National League was formed, McNair signed with the Kansas City Monarchs whom he played for from 1920-1927. He also played for the Detroit Stars (1928), Gilkerson Union Giants (1929-1931), John Donaldson's All Stars (1932), Arkansas Beavers (1933), Kansas City Monarchs (1934) and Cincinnati Tigers (1937). Hurley ended his Negro League baseball career as an umpire (1942-1946).

William "Bill" Norman - He was the brother of "Big Jim" Norman. Bill pitched for the Kansas City Giants in 1909 and 1911. He also played for the Topeka Giants (1906), Chicago Union Giants (1908), Leland Giants (1908-1909), Chicago Giants (1910) and the Leland Giants (1911).

James "Big Jim" Norman - He played third base for the Kansas City Giants in 1909 and 1911. Jim also managed the team during the 1910 season. In addition to the Kansas City Giants he also played for the Topeka Giants (1906), French Lick Plutos (1912-1914) and Chicago American Giants (1914). During his career he was known as a solid hitter with some power who more than covered his third base position.

Bill "Zack" Pettus - He caught for the Kansas City Giants in 1909 and 1910. In the 15 games for which box scores have been found for the 1909 season, Bill batted .295 for the Giants. Pettus started playing professional baseball in 1902 for Albuquerque (NM). After playing for teams in San Francisco, Oakland, Sante Fe and Los Angeles, Bill joined the Kansas City Giants in 1909. In 1910 he joined the Chicago Giants and played for numerous other teams through the 1921 season. Some of the Negro League teams he played for were the New York Lincoln Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants, New York Lincoln Stars, St. Louis Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Hilldale, Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Richmond Giants and the Harrisburg Giants. Box score have been found for 358 Negro League games in which he played. In 1337 at bats in these 358 games, he collected 417 hits for an impressive .312 career batting average and .479 slugging percentage.

Robert "Ginney" Robinson - He was one of the Kansas City Giants starting outfielders for three years from 1909-1911. Before signing with Tobe Smith, Ginney had played for the Chicago Columbia Giants (1901-1902), Algona Brownies (1903), Chicago Leland Giants (1905-1906) and Chicago Union Giants (1907-1908). According to seventy (70) box scores located by the Seamheads research team, Robinson went 66 for 252 for a .262 batting averages.

Andrew Skinner - During the 1909 and 1911 Kansas City Giants seasons, Skinner who was a left hander was considered on of the team's top two pitchers.

William Tenny - He was a catcher for the Kansas City Giants from 1909-1911. In 1911 he led the Giants in hitting with a .395 batting average (34 for 86). Tenny left Kansas City in 1912 and signed with the French Lick Plutos. He was considered a very good hitter during his career.

Dick Whitworth - Before he began his Negro League career, Dick pitched for the Kansas City Giants during the 1912 season. During his Negro League career Whitworth played for the Chicago Union Giants (1914), Chicago American Giants (1915-1919), Royal Poinciana Hotel (1917-18), Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1919), Hilldale (1920-1921) and Chicago American Giants (1922-1924). The Seamheads research team credit Dick with an impressive record of 73-35 (.676) in Negro League games.

Dee Williams - He started his professional baseball career with the Buxton Wonders in 1909. Dee was recruited by Tobe Smith to come to Kansas City Giants in 1909 and moved to the Kansas City Royal Giants at the start of the 1910 season before returning to the Kansas City Giants late in the 1910 season. He was one of the starting outfielders for the Kansas City Giants in 1911 season. Thirty-one (31) box scores have been found for Dee playing for the Giants. During his two seasons with the Kansas City Giants he was the team's leading hitter with a .287 batting average (39 for 136) with a .537 slugging average. Tragically he was shot to death during the 1911 season. He was dead at the age of 27.

Selected Career Highlights

- Tobe Smith was the owner and business manager of the Kansas City Giants from 1906-1912.
- He is credited with bringing black professional baseball to Kansas City and the state of Kansas.
- The Kansas City Giants were the “City Champions” of Kansas City for five straight years from 1905-1909.
- Smith’s 1909 Kansas Giants team posted a won-loss record of 128-19 (.871) with a 54 game winning streak during the season.
- The 1909 Kansas City Giants defeated the Leland Giants for the title of “Colored World Champions.”
- Tobe Smith took a local semi-professional team to a “Colored World Championship” in less than two years.
- In 1910 the Kansas City Giants defeated the Kansas City Royal Giants for the “City Championship” of Kansas City. This gave the Kansas City Giants six straight “City Championships.”
- The Kansas City Giants and Kansas City Royal Giants also played a game in 1911 for the title of “Champions of Missouri and Kansas Negro Teams.” Tobe Smith’s team won the game by a score of 6-2.
- Tobe’s Giants defeated the R.S. Stephens baseball team who were the “City Champions” of the white Kansas City League in a two game series. The Kansas City Giants won the first game by a score of 6-2 and the second game by a score of 7-2.
- The 1911 Kansas City Giants team reportedly had a thirty (30) game win streak during the season and finished the year with a record of 46-9 (.836).
- In June of 1911 the Freeman newspaper called the Kansas City Giants the “Finest Aggregation of Baseball Players in the West.”
- The Plaindealer newspaper of Topeka (KS) acknowledges the Kansas City Giants as the “Negro Champions of the Missouri Valley” in a story that appeared in their October 13, 1911 edition of the newspaper.
- Even though his career in professional Negro baseball was very short, Tobe Smith was a true pioneer in black baseball in the United States.

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, GIANTS BASE BALL CLUB.
Record breakers for 1909, viz: 147 games played, 128 won, (54 consecutively). Would like to hear from first class teams. We have our own park, located one block from car line. Average Sunday attendance for 1909, 1,723. Address all communications to TOBE SMITH, 430 Washington Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas.

Kansas City Giants

“Colored World’s Champions”
1909

During the 1909 season, the Kansas City Giants defeated the Kansas City Royal Giants for the “City Championship of Kansas City” and then defeated the Leland Giants for the “Colored World’s Championship.”

The Kansas City Giants had an unbelievable won-loss record of 128-19 (.871) for the 1909 season.



Kansas City Giants (1909)

(Back row left to right – **Wilbur “Ashes” Jackson**, Arthur Hardy, Felix Payne **“Topeka Jack” Johnson**, **Tobe Smith**, Unknown and Unknown. Front row left to right – **Dee Williams**, Unknown, **William Tenny**, Unknown, **Worthy Smith**, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown and **Robert “Ginney” Robinson**)